WEEK 6 – TASK 6.1P Answer Sheet

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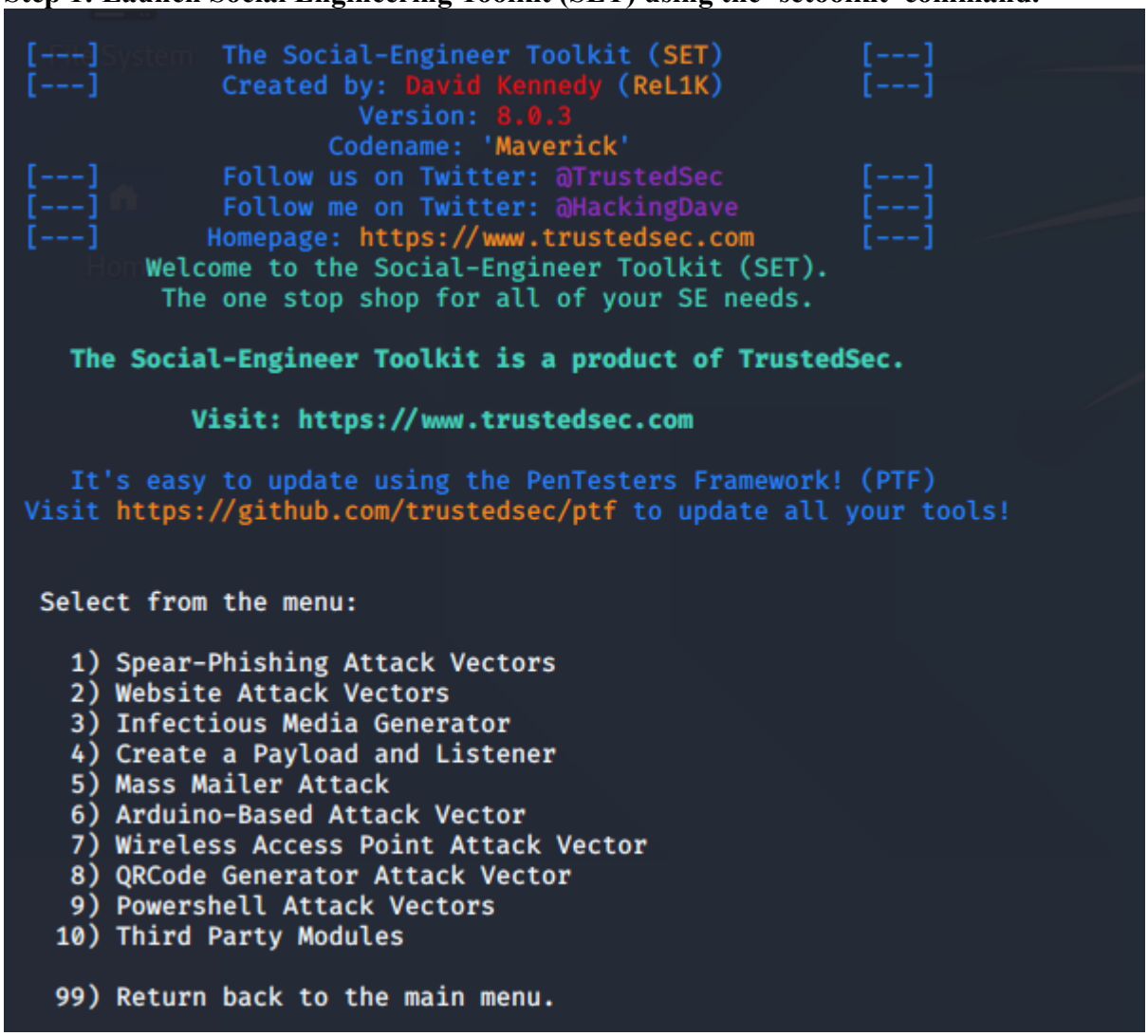
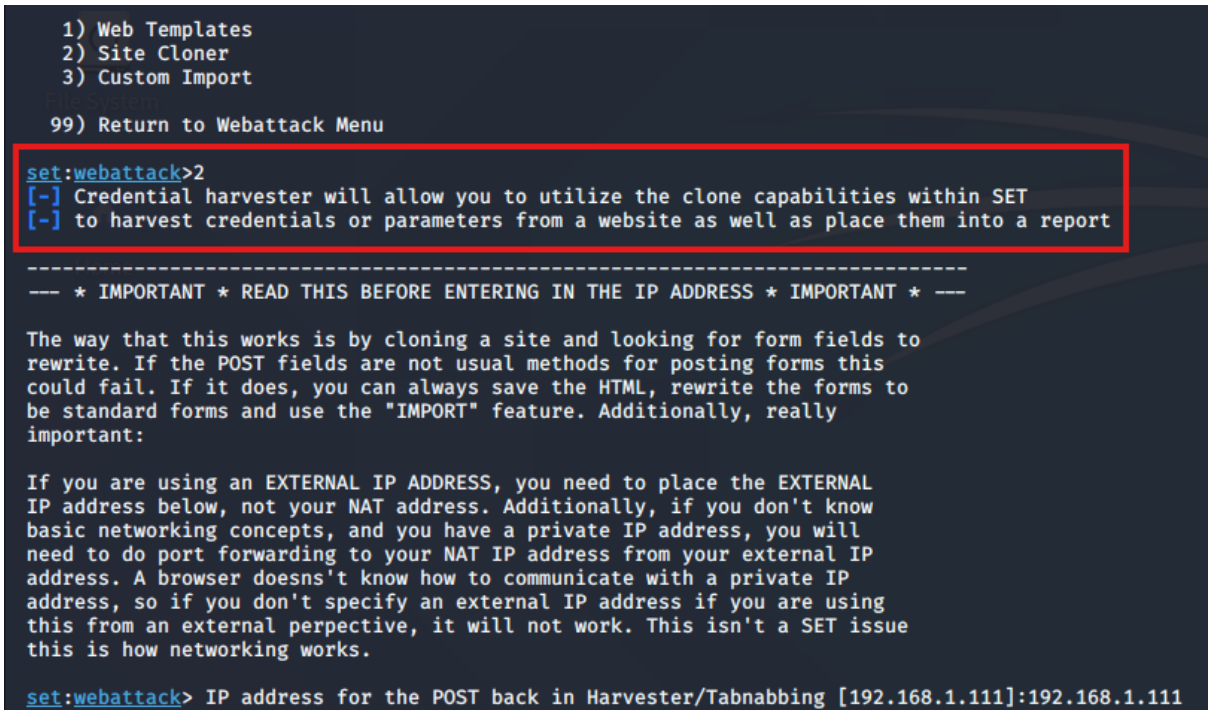
Task Overview: In this activity, you will create a fake website (Github) and then send a phishing email to the user to update his/her credentials on Facebook.

TaskA1

Step 1: Launch Social Engineering Toolkit (SET) using the 'setoolkit' command.

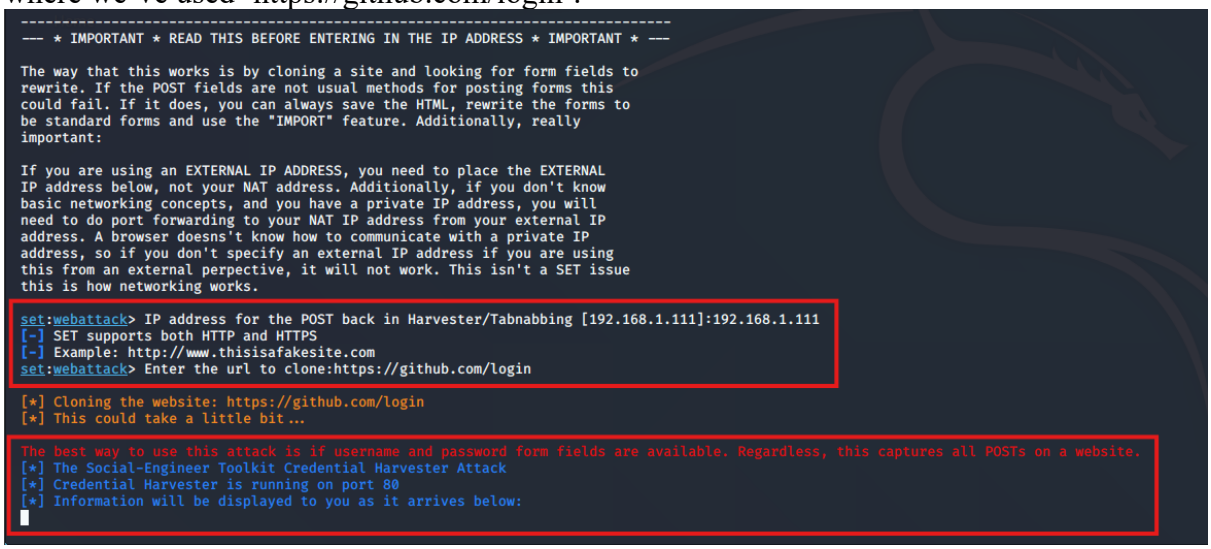


Step 2: Navigate to Website Attack Vectors (2) > Credential Harvester (3) > Site Cloner (2)



Step 3: Configure Credential Harvester Settings

After reading the module disclaimers, the tool prompts you to enter the source IP. This is the IP address that the website will be cloned to. Next, the tool prompts you for the target URL where we've used 'https://github.com/login'.



The credential harvester tool is now running on port 80, waiting to receive credentials entered into the cloned website. When the tool detects credentials, it will display them on this terminal.

TaskA2

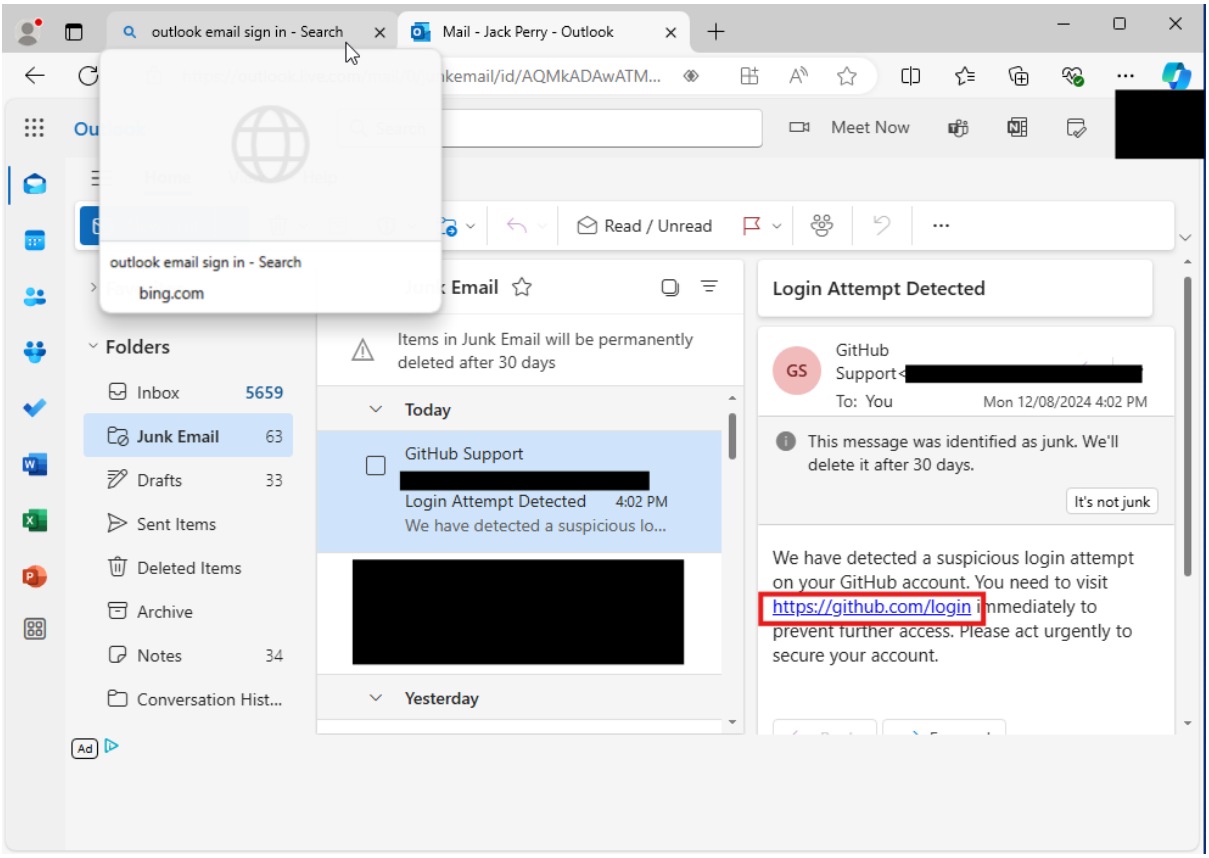
Step 1: Preparing the email

Opening a new terminal, we launch another instance of SET and navigate to Mass Mailer (5) > Single Email Address (1)

Next, we enter the targets email address which the malicious email will be sent to, followed by the attacking (Gmail) address we'll be using. SET allows us to craft the email using HTML to send directly to the target.

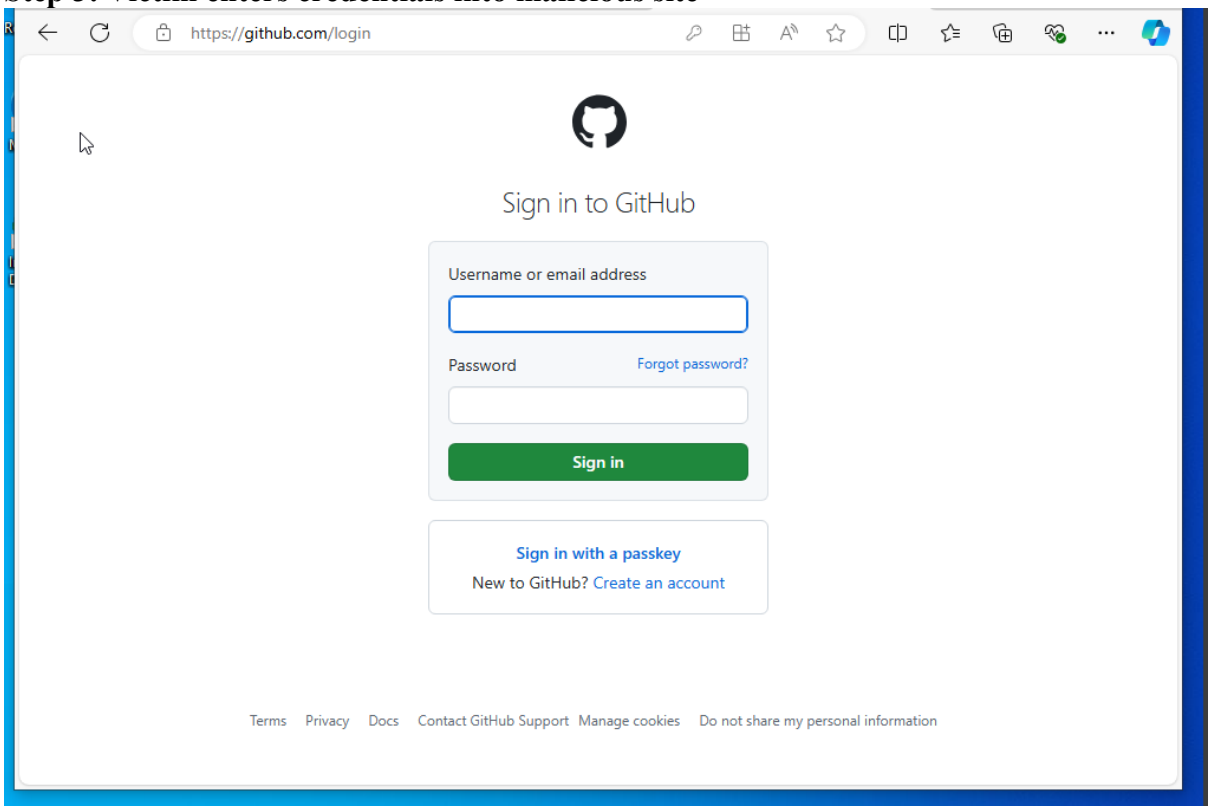
Step 2: Victim accesses the email

Here we can see after accessing the victims email address, the malicious email containing the malicious link.



Following the link to the malicious site we reach the fake login page:

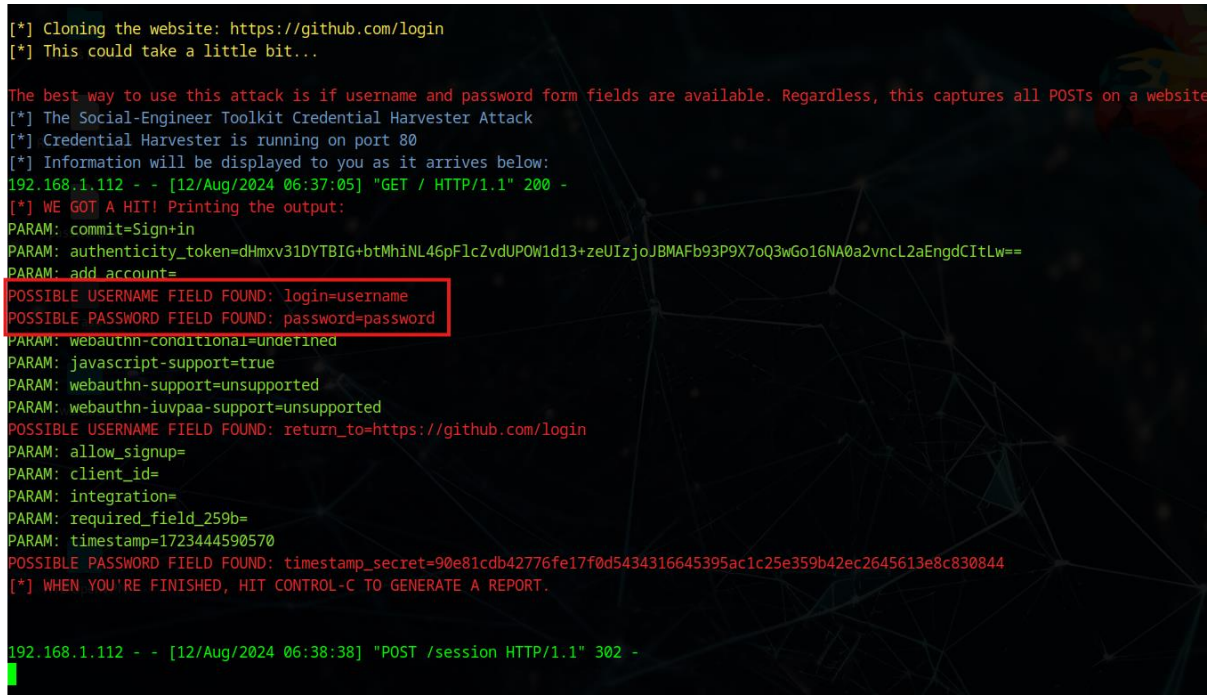
Step 3: Victim enters credentials into malicious site



Step 4: Site cloner tool listens and logs credentials entered

After entering the credentials:
Login – user
Password – password

We see the credentials are sent to the listening terminal.



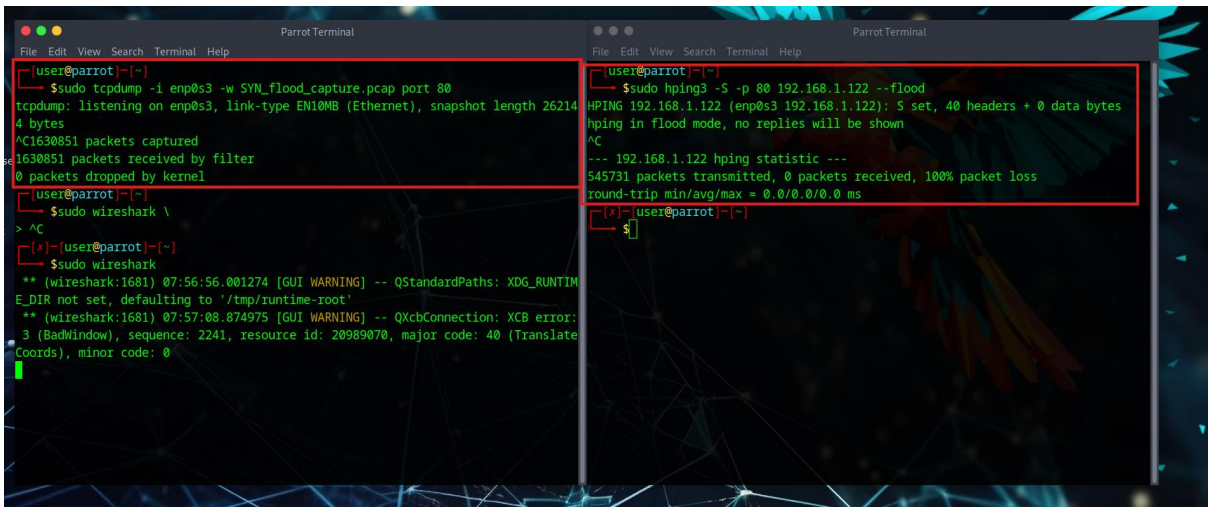
How the attack works?

Credential stuffing is a type of phishing tool available from the social engineering toolkit. Using the website attack vectors we were able to use the website cloning tool to clone the github login page exactly. The toolkit then hosted the fake website on the address we specified and began listening for activity. We then used the mass emailer tool to send a single email to our target. We specified the target and source address and then began filling out the body of the email. Here we applied social engineering tactics such as the subject name to make the email look and appear legitimate to convince the victim to trust the malicious email. In a real world application, attackers would create either fake emails with names that appear legitimate or implement third party tools to spoof the source address.

TaskA3

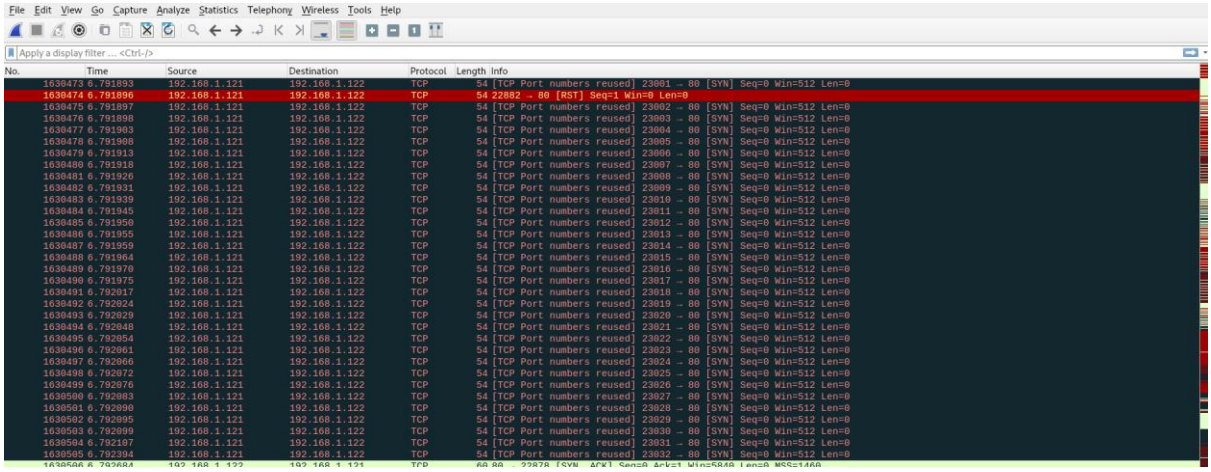
Here, in one terminal we use tcpdump to begin capturing network traffic. We use the -i option to specify the network interface which is enp0s3 on this parrot machine. The -w option instructs the program to export captured data to the specified .pcap file instead of displaying the output to the terminal and finally, specifying to capture on port 80.

Our second terminal is used to send SYN packets to the victim machine.'hping3' is a command line tool used to send TCP/IP packets typically for network testing and security auditing purposes. The -S option is used to specify SYN packets while the final –flood option indicates to continuously deliver packets to the target.



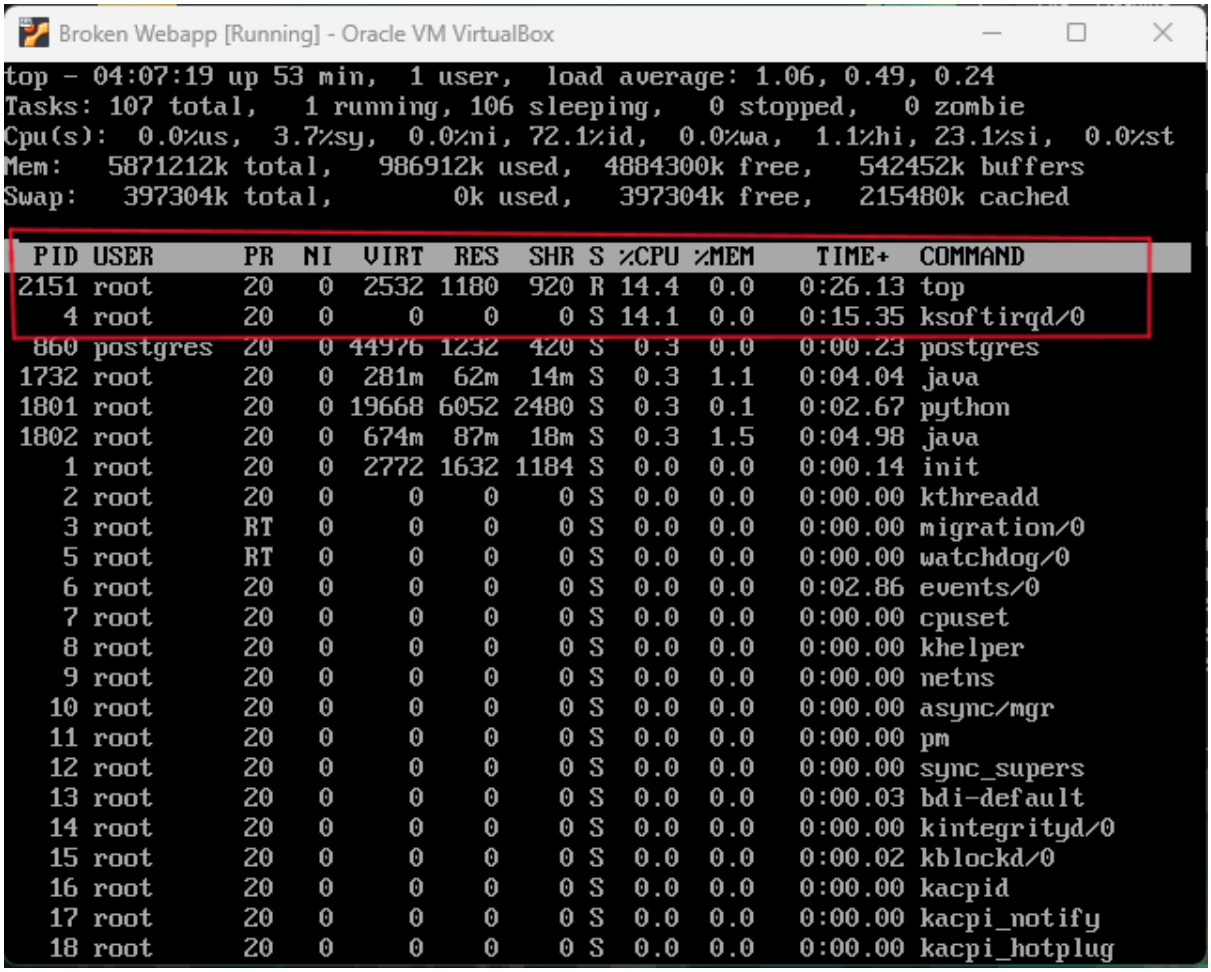
One of the easiest ways we can identify the DoS attack through the '.pcap' file is the unusually high amount of TCP packets sent from the source 192.168.1.121 to the destination 192.168.1.122. Another indicator of a DoS attack is an unusual amount of SYN packets without corresponding ACK or SYN-ACK packets to indicate an established connection. Through the '.pcap' analysis we can identify there's a source device (192.168.1.121) sending an unusually high amount of packets to port 80 without establishing a connection

TCP packets from target to victim with no SYN-ACK responses.



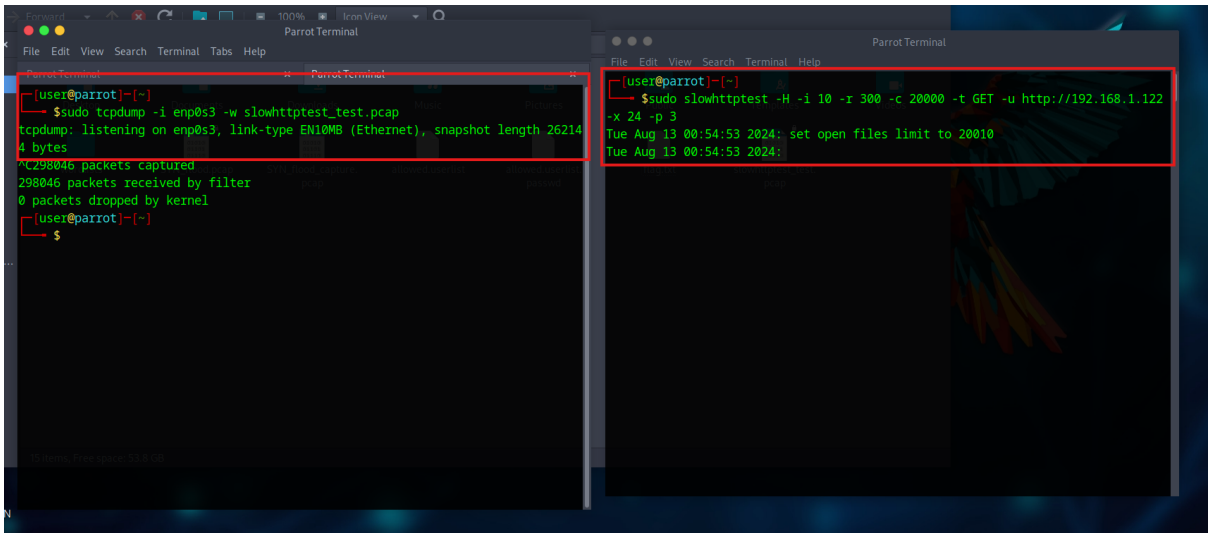
Another method we can use to identify the presence of a DoS attack is by observing system resource usage. In Linux, top provides similar functionality to windows task manager in displaying the user with an overview of system processes including CPU and Memory usage. During the SYN_flood attack we saw a spike in ksoftirqd/0 CPU usage. This process handles interruptions in the kernal caused by network traffic and the spike we observed is yet another indication of the attack.

OWASP VM – TOP Output During SYN_flood attack



TaskA4

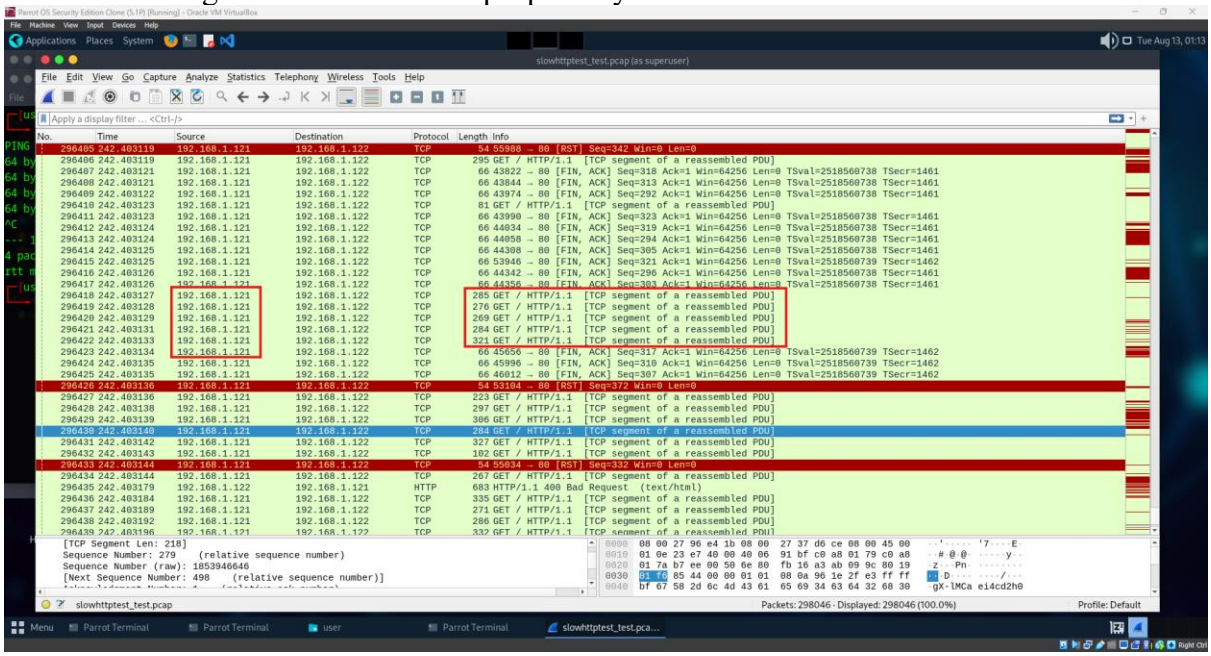
'slowhttptest' is a command line tool used to perform a sloworis-style DoS attack. This attack method sends incomplete HTTP requests to the target to continuously exhaust resources by not allowing the server to establish a connection, preventing it from being able to process any legitimate requests. I've set up a terminal using tcpdump to capture network traffic and analysis the attack and prepared another terminal to launch the attack.



Firstly, the -H option is used to specify the header type for the attack which in this case, is a sloworis HTTP header style. This option specifically sends partial HTTP headers preventing the target from establishing a connection and continually using resources.

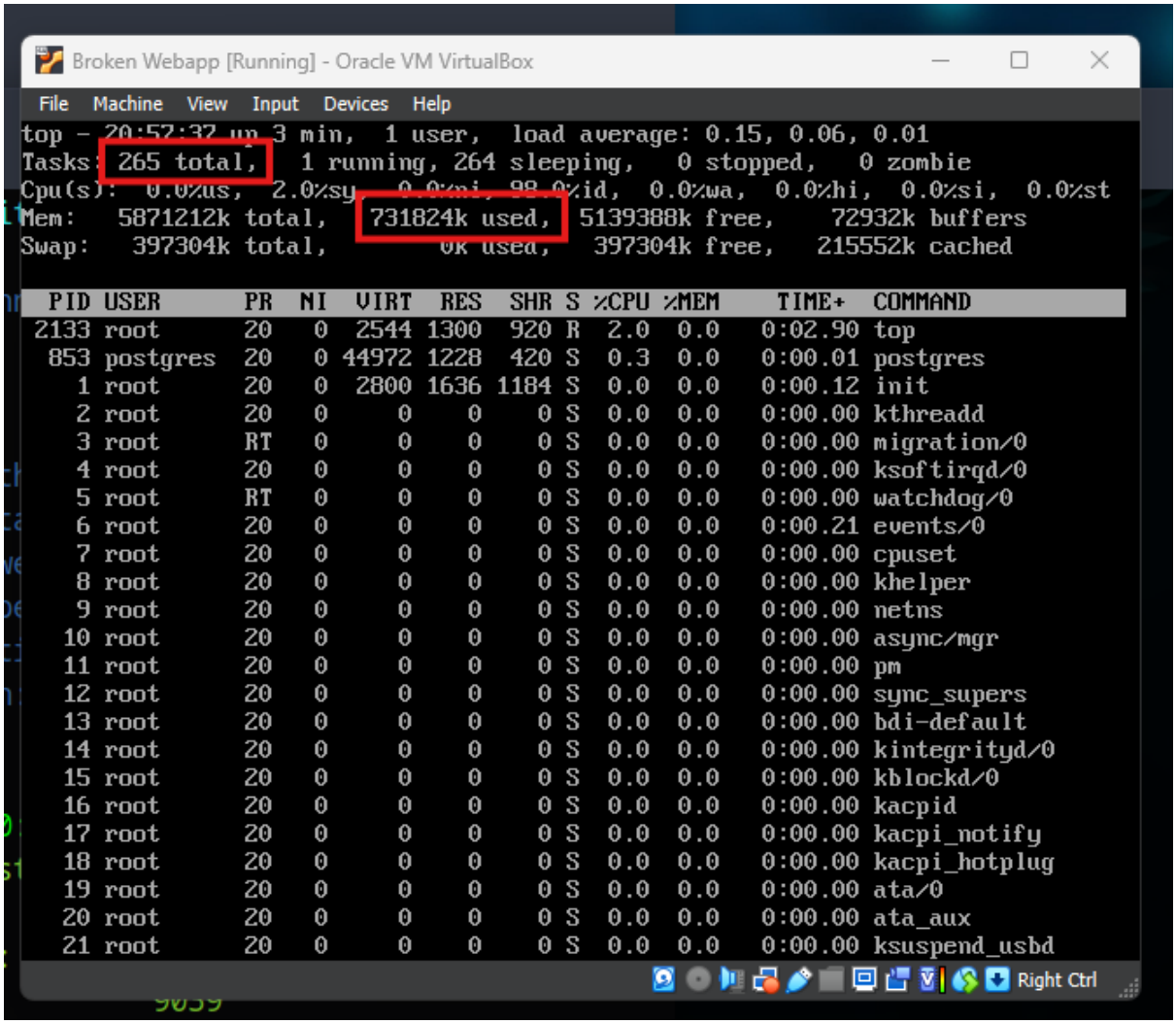
The following set of options begin to specify the attack rate. -i specifies the interval (in seconds) between sending HTTP headers to keep the connection alive. -r determines the rate of connections per second meaning the tool will attempt 300 connections per second. Lastly, -c specifies the total amount of connections to open and use throughout the attack.

-t determines the request type. In our case we used HTTP GET requests which can be identified throughout the wireshark '.pcap' analysis:



-u specifies the target device URL which is the vulnerable OWASP VM. -x specifies the timeout limit in seconds. Here, if the server hasn't responded within 24 seconds the connection will time out. Lastly, -p defines the amount of follow-up probes. These refer to the amount of additional (follow-up) requests sent on each connection.

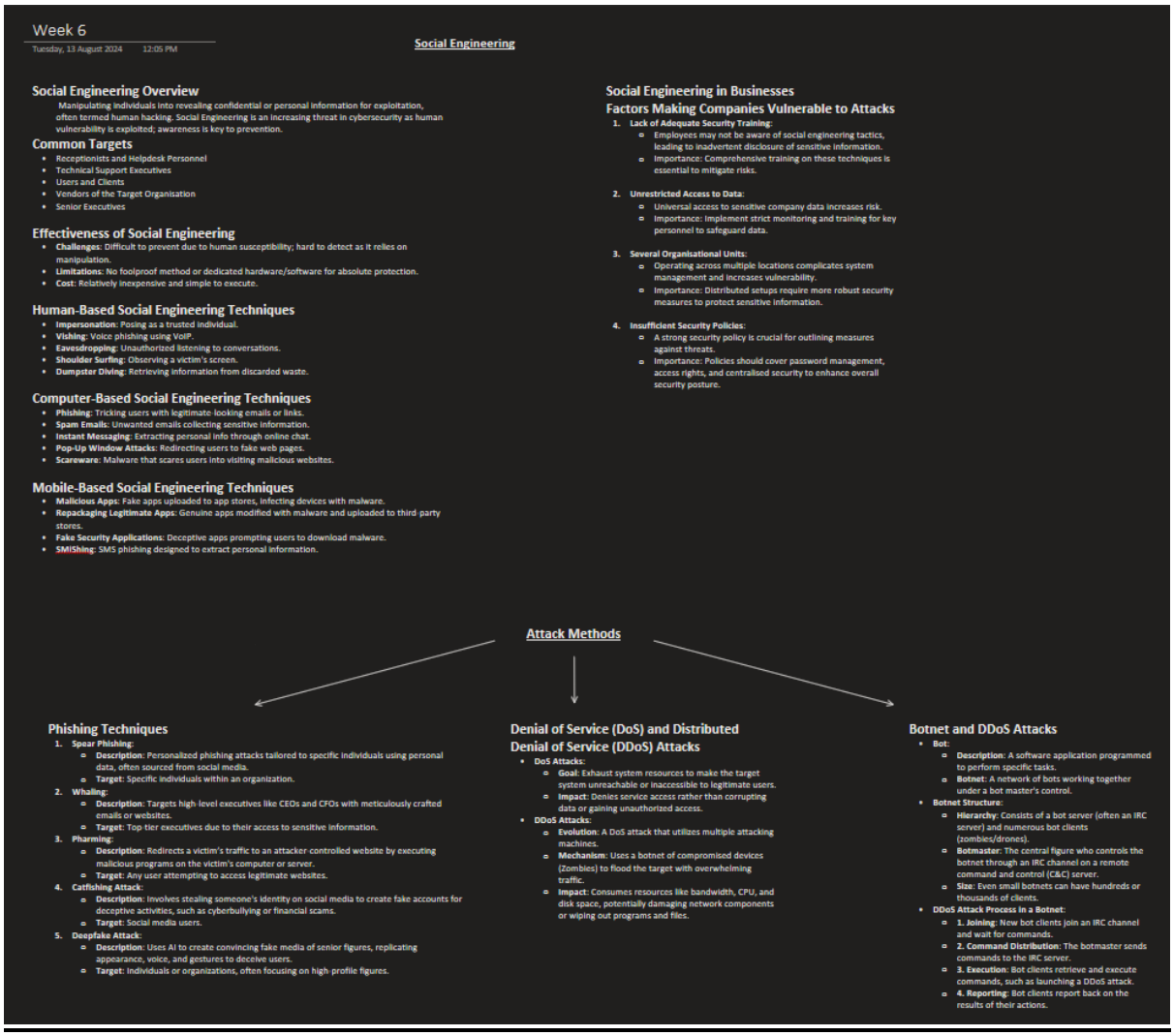
Ultimately, this attack can be used professionally to stress test network resources to test security mechanisms or server limitations. Alternatively, this type of attack can be used by attackers to exhaust a network of it's resources leaving it incapable of performing legitimate actions. The command we used uses the slowhttptest command-line tool to open 20,000 ports and begin sending partial HTTP GET requests to the OWASP machine. The 300 rate of connection (-r) we've used aims to continually establish new connections keeping the victim under constant pressure.



To confirm the attack was successful, I used tcpdump and analysed the captured traffic in wireshark. Here we could see the high number of HTTP GET requests from the attacker source IP to the victim destination IP to confirm the connection was established and the packets were delivered. To better observe the impact of this attack, I used top, a linux resource manager to observe any relevant changes in usage. Two major identifiers are the increase in tasks from 108 at resting state to 265 during the attack. Here the increase in tasks highlights the server increasing resources to handle the incoming flood of traffic. Additionally, the jump in memory usage from a normal state of 507884k to 731824k highlights the server holder onto more data as it attempts to process the requests.

Using Wiresharks I/O graph we can apply filters and get a graphical representation of the network traffic to further confirm the success of our attack. Here, at the beginning, we see a gradual increase in TCP packets. These are the partial HTTP GET requests the attacker is sending to the victim and gradual increase outlines the connections being opened and the traffic being sent. I also applied a http filter to display the victim responses. Here, the http responses from the server side are expected to be low as the packets the host is sending are not intended to establish a legitimate connection and therefore warrant a successful server response.

Evidence of Learning



Reflection on Content

I found this weeks pass task and content to be both informative and enjoyable. Social engineering is a fast-arising security concern within the cyber security field that has no simple solution. This weeks content accurately highlighted why social engineering attacks are becoming increasingly popular, especially for attackers with limited technical knowledge of computer systems. More so, I found this weeks pass task was a great exercise to highlight the simplistic nature of social engineering attacks while observing how dangerous they can be.