Network Scanner Using Nmap

Internship Project Report

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1. OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of this internship project is to gain a thorough understanding of network scanning concepts and to practically implement these concepts using the Nmap (Network Mapper) tool. Network scanning is a foundational activity in cybersecurity that helps security professionals discover and analyze devices, services, and potential weaknesses within a network infrastructure.

This project focuses on identifying live hosts within a network, discovering open and accessible ports, detecting running services along with their versions, identifying the operating system of target machines, and recognizing different types of devices connected to the network such as computers, routers, and other network-enabled systems. These activities help in building a clear picture of the network architecture and its exposure to potential threats.

Another important objective of this project is to provide hands-on practical experience in network reconnaissance, which is a critical phase in both defensive and offensive cybersecurity operations. By performing authorized scans in a controlled and ethical environment, this project demonstrates how security analysts and network administrators assess network visibility, monitor system availability, and identify possible security misconfigurations.

Additionally, this project aims to enhance the intern's technical skills in using industry-standard security tools, interpreting scan results, and documenting findings in a professional manner. The knowledge gained through this project helps in understanding how proactive network assessment contributes to strengthening overall organizational security and reducing the risk of cyber attacks.

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2. TOOLS USED

The following tools and technologies were used to successfully complete this project:

2.1 Kali Linux

Kali Linux is a Debian-based penetration testing operating system widely used by cybersecurity professionals. It comes pre-installed with various security assessment tools, including Nmap.

2.2 Nmap (Network Mapper)

Nmap is an open-source network scanning tool used for host discovery, port scanning, service enumeration, and operating system detection.

2.3 VMware Workstation

VMware Workstation was used to create a virtual environment for safely running Kali Linux without affecting the host system.

2.4 Target Network

A local authorized network was used as the scanning target to ensure ethical and legal compliance.

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3. METHODOLOGY

The methodology followed in this project was systematic and aligned with real-world cybersecurity practices. The project was divided into multiple stages.

3.1 Environment Setup (Initial Stage)

In the initial stage, VMware Workstation was installed on the host system, and Kali Linux was configured as a virtual machine. The network adapter was set to NAT mode to allow controlled network access.

Once the environment was ready, basic network connectivity was verified.

Nmap Version Check

Command Used:
nmap –version

Explanation:
Checks the installed Nmap version and confirms that the tool is available in the system.

Scan a Single IP

Command Used:
nmap 10.85.57.71

Explanation:
Scans a single IP address to identify open ports and basic network exposure.

Scan a Hostname

Command Used:
nmap example.com

Explanation:
Scans a target system using its hostname instead of an IP address.

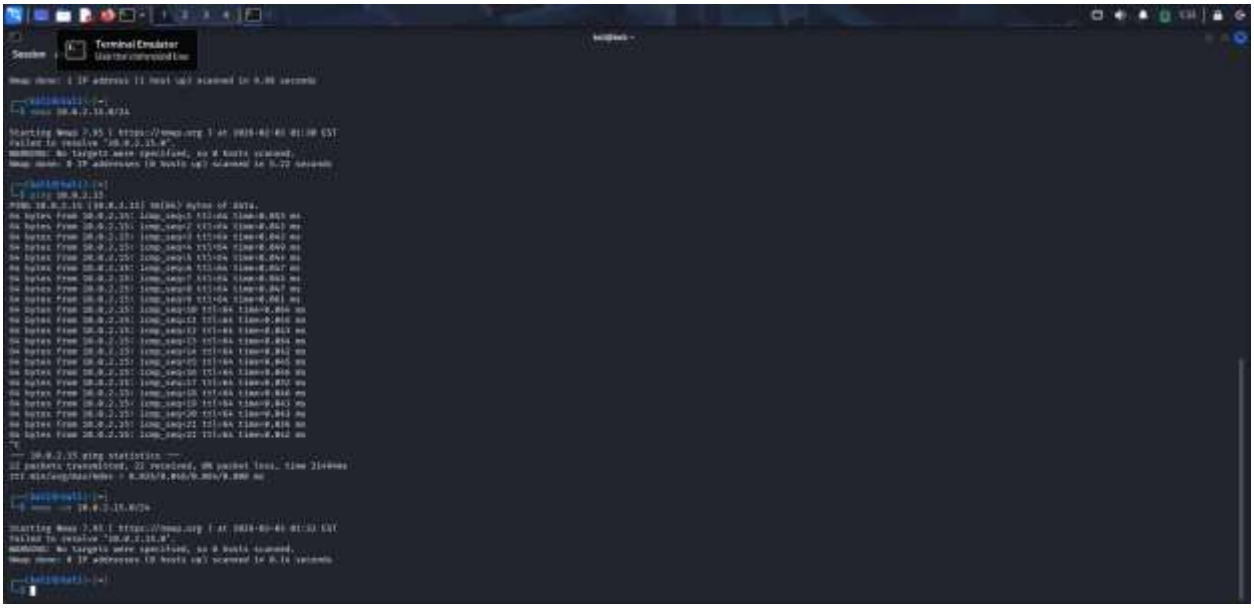
Scan Entire Network

Command Used:
nmap 10.85.57.0/24

Explanation:
Scans all devices in the specified network range.

List Active Hosts

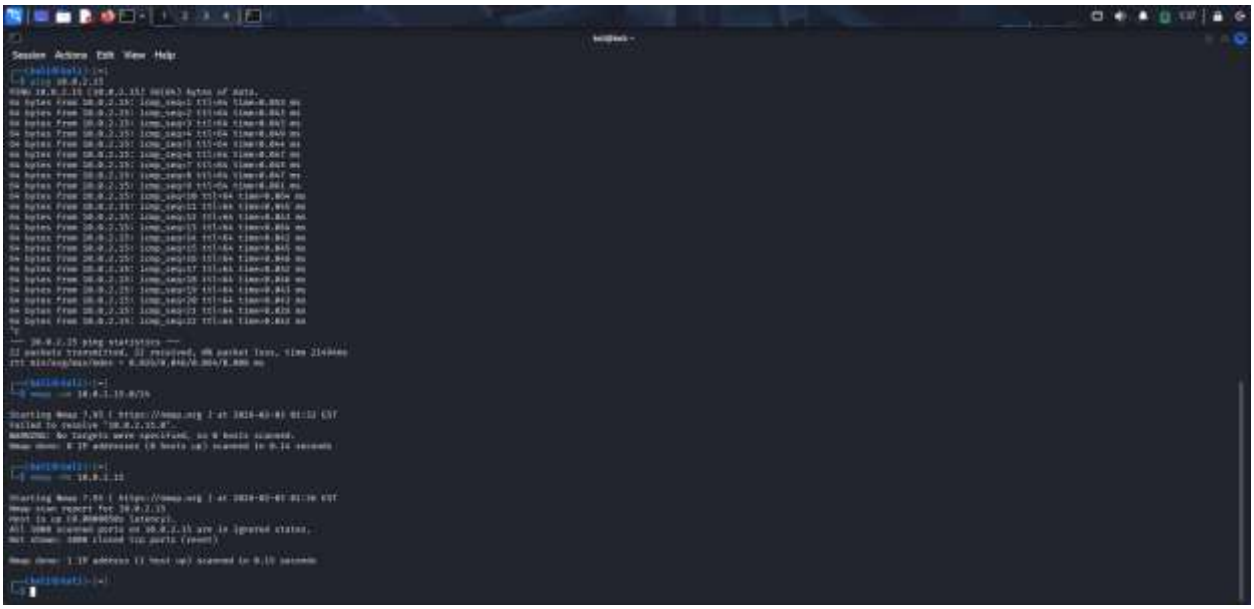
Command Used:
nmap -sn 10.85.57.0/24



Explanation:
Lists only active hosts without performing port scanning.

Skip Host Discovery

Command Used:
nmap -Pn 10.85.57.71



Explanation:
Skips ping checks and assumes the target is online.

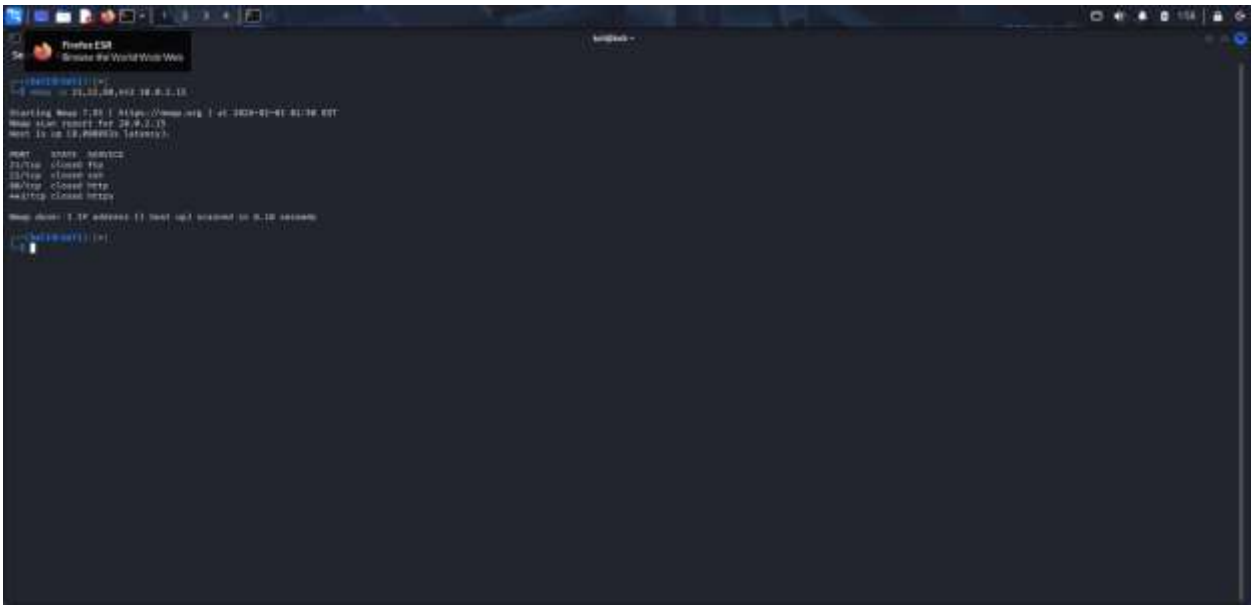
Scan Specific Port

Command Used:
nmap -p 80 10.85.57.71

Explanation:
Scans a specific port on the target system.

Scan Multiple Ports

Command Used:
nmap -p 22,80,443 10.85.57.71



Explanation:
Scans multiple selected ports simultaneously.

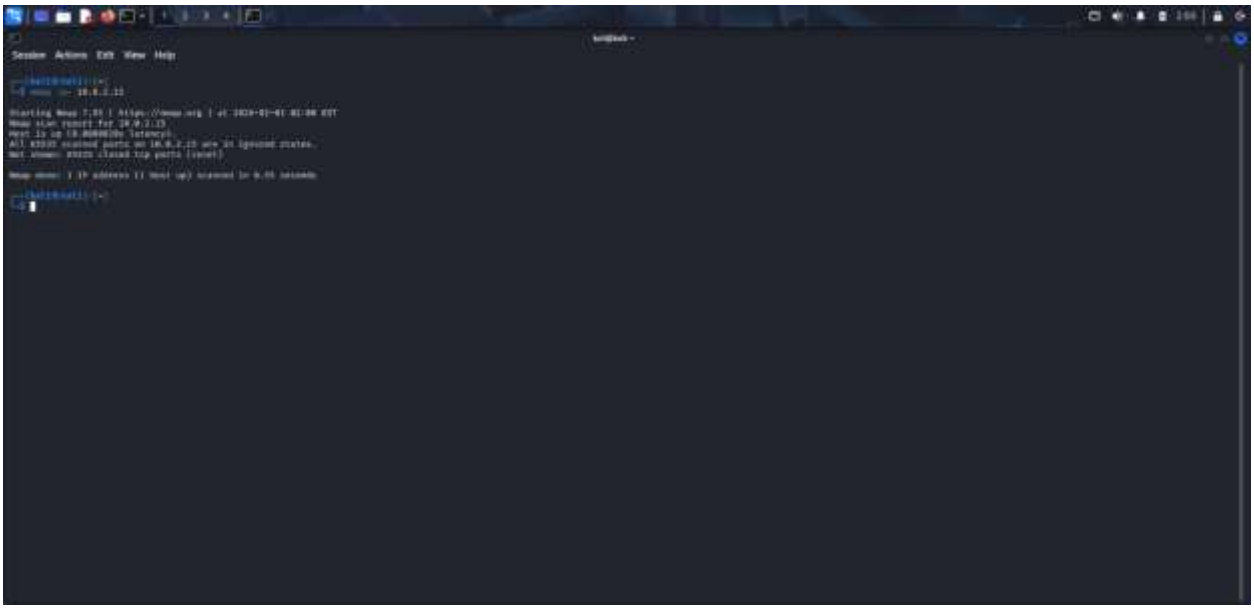
Scan Port Range

Command Used:
nmap -p 1-1000 10.85.57.71

Explanation:
Scans a defined range of ports.

Scan All Ports

Command Used:
nmap -p- 10.85.57.71



Explanation:
Scans all 65,535 TCP ports.

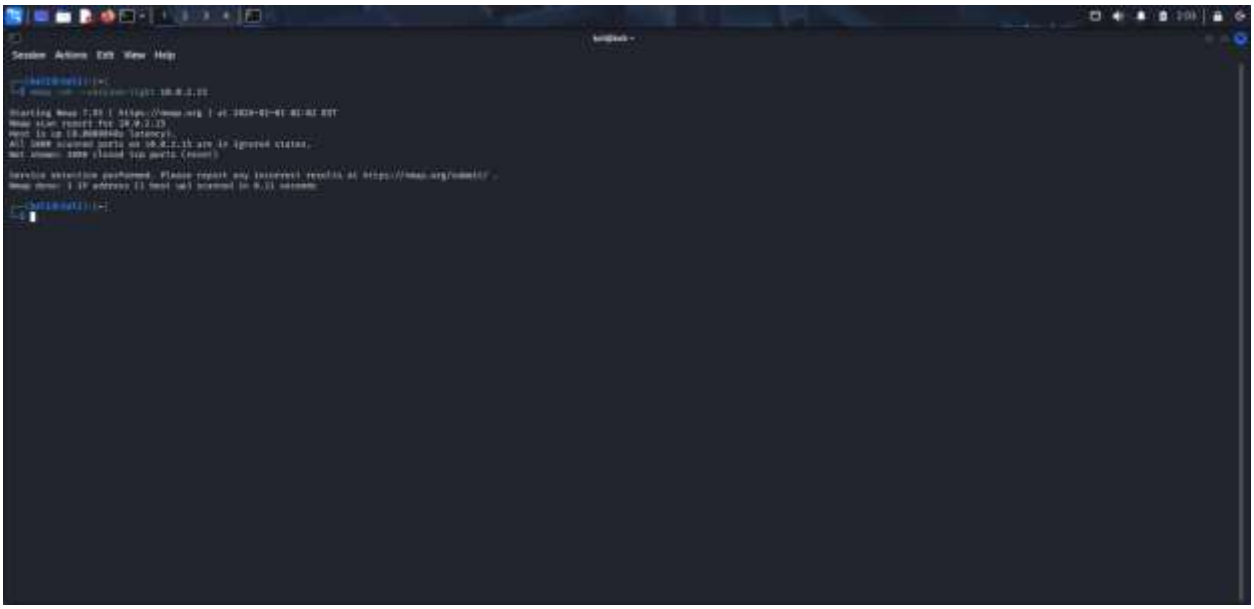
Detect Service Version

Command Used:
nmap -sV 10.85.57.71

Explanation:
Detects running services and their version numbers.

Light Version Detection

Command Used:
nmap -sV --version-light 10.85.57.71



Explanation:
Performs faster service detection using fewer probes.

OS Detection

Command Used:
nmap -O 10.85.57.71

Explanation:
Identifies the operating system of the target machine.

Aggressive OS Detection

Command Used:
nmap -O --osscan-guess 10.85.57.71

Explanation:
Aggressively guesses the operating system when detection is difficult.

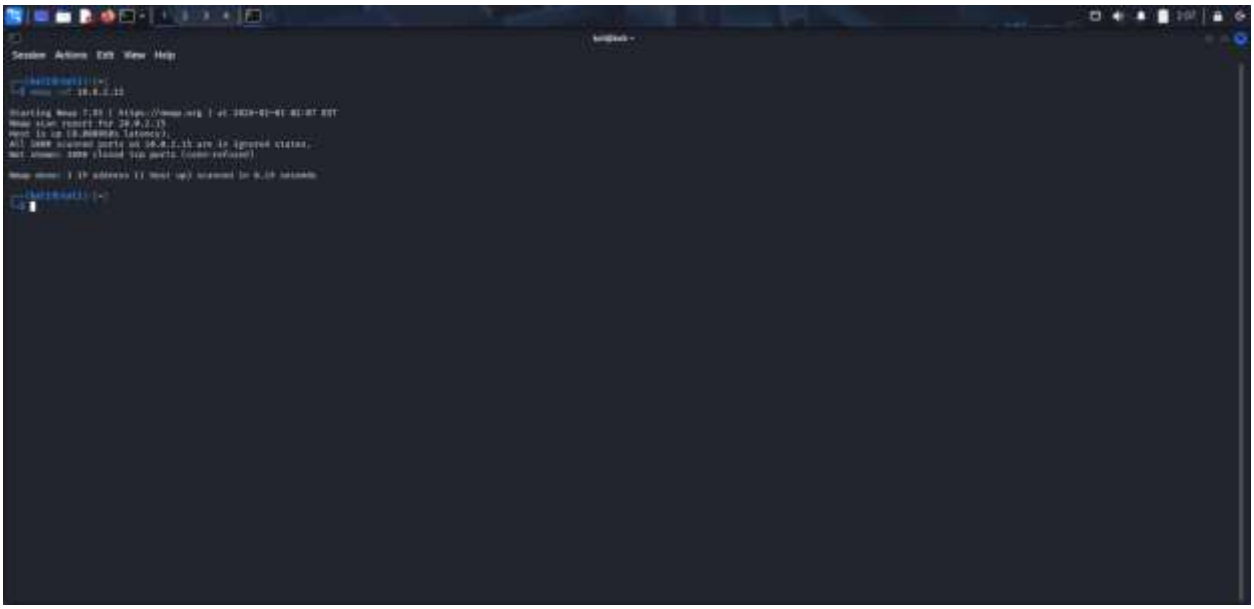
Stealth Scan (SYN)

Command Used:
nmap -sS 10.85.57.71

Explanation:
Performs a stealthy SYN scan to reduce detection.

TCP Connect Scan

Command Used:
nmap -sT 10.85.57.71



Explanation:
Uses full TCP connections to scan ports.

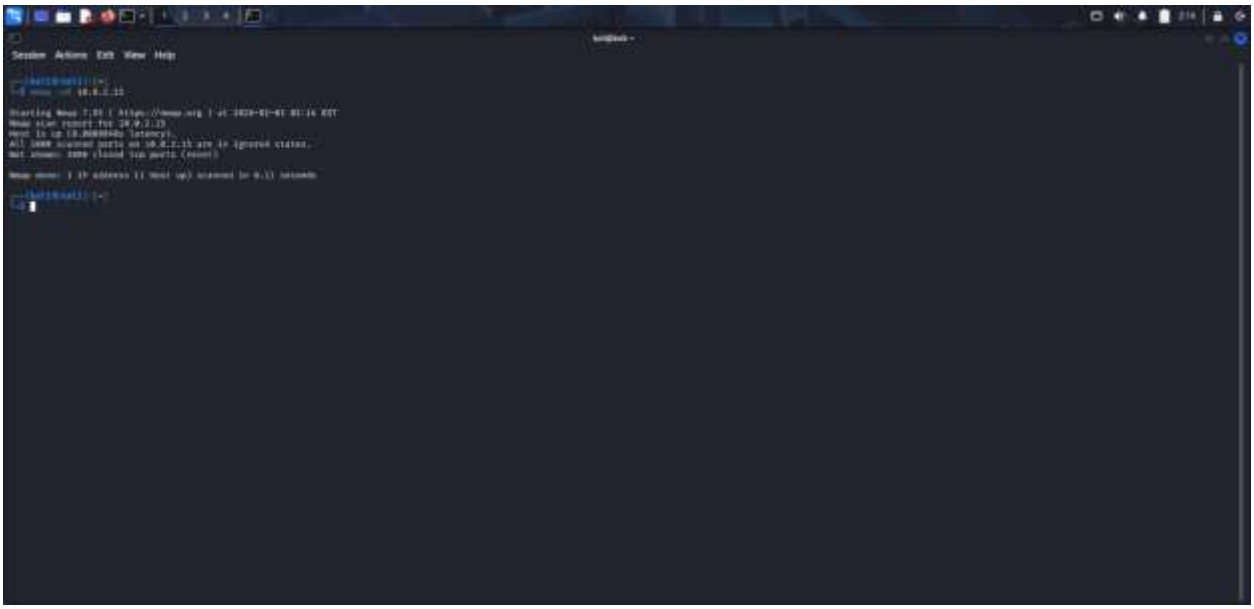
UDP Scan

Command Used:
nmap -sU 10.85.57.71

Explanation:
Scans UDP ports to identify UDP-based services.

FIN Scan

Command Used:
nmap -sF 10.85.57.71



Explanation:
Uses FIN packets to bypass some firewall rules.

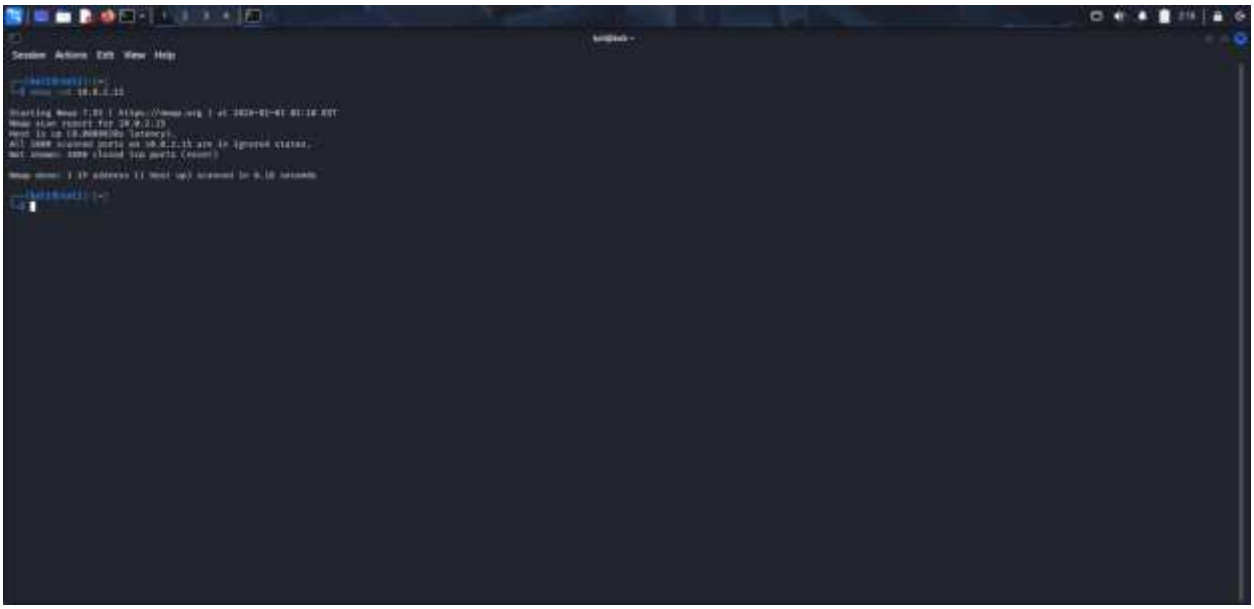
NULL Scan

Command Used:
nmap -sN 10.85.57.71

Explanation:
Sends packets with no TCP flags set.

Xmas Scan

Command Used:
nmap -sX 10.85.57.71



Explanation:
Sends packets with FIN, PSH, and URG flags enabled.

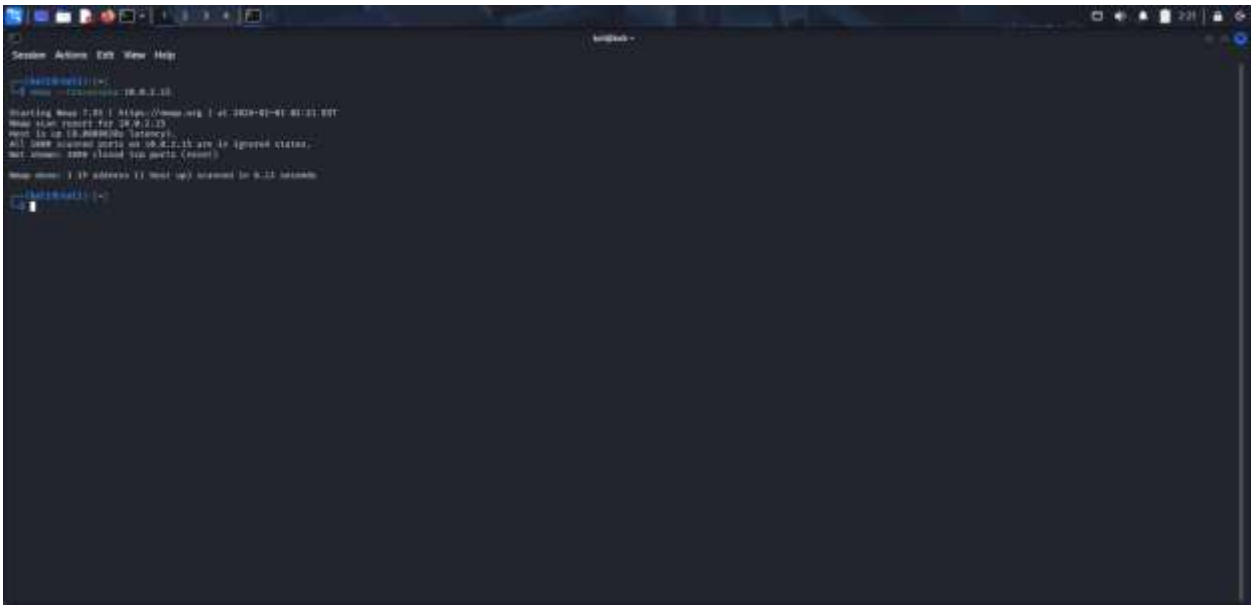
Aggressive Scan

Command Used:
nmap -A 10.85.57.71

Explanation:
Performs OS detection, service detection, script scanning, and traceroute.

Traceroute

Command Used:
nmap --traceroute 10.85.57.71



Explanation:
Displays the network path between scanner and target.

Fragment Packet Scan

Command Used:
nmap -f 10.85.57.71

Explanation:
Fragments packets to evade firewall inspection.

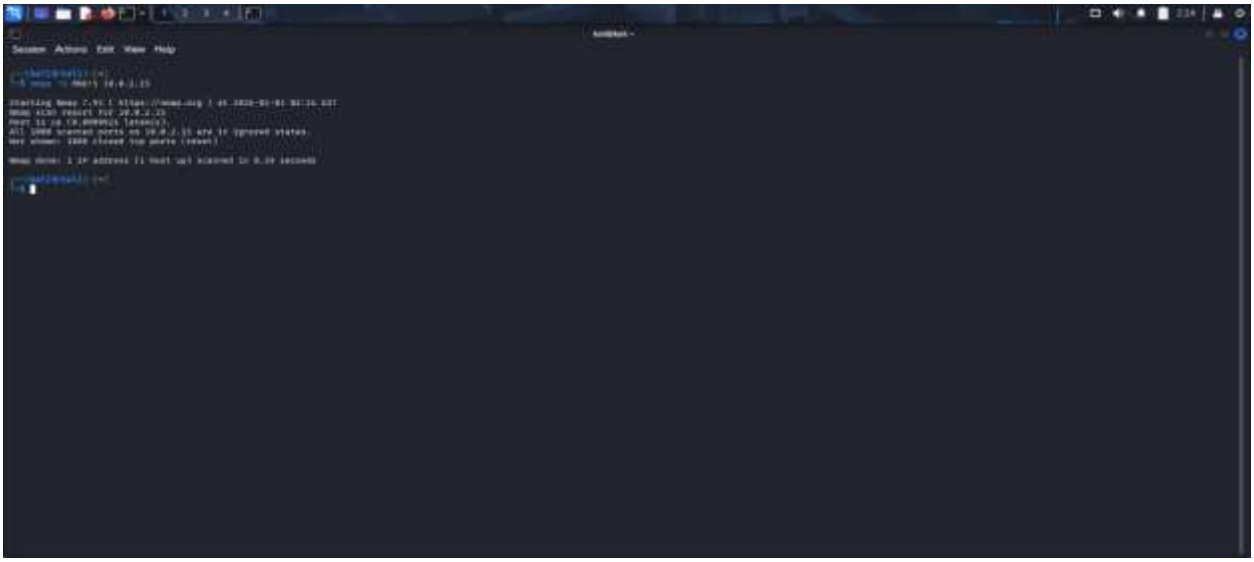
Decoy Scan

Command Used:
nmap -D RND:5 10.85.57.71

Explanation:
Uses decoy IP addresses to hide the real scanning source.

Spoof MAC Address

Command Used:
nmap --spoof-mac random 10.85.57.71



Explanation:
Changes the MAC address of the scanning system.

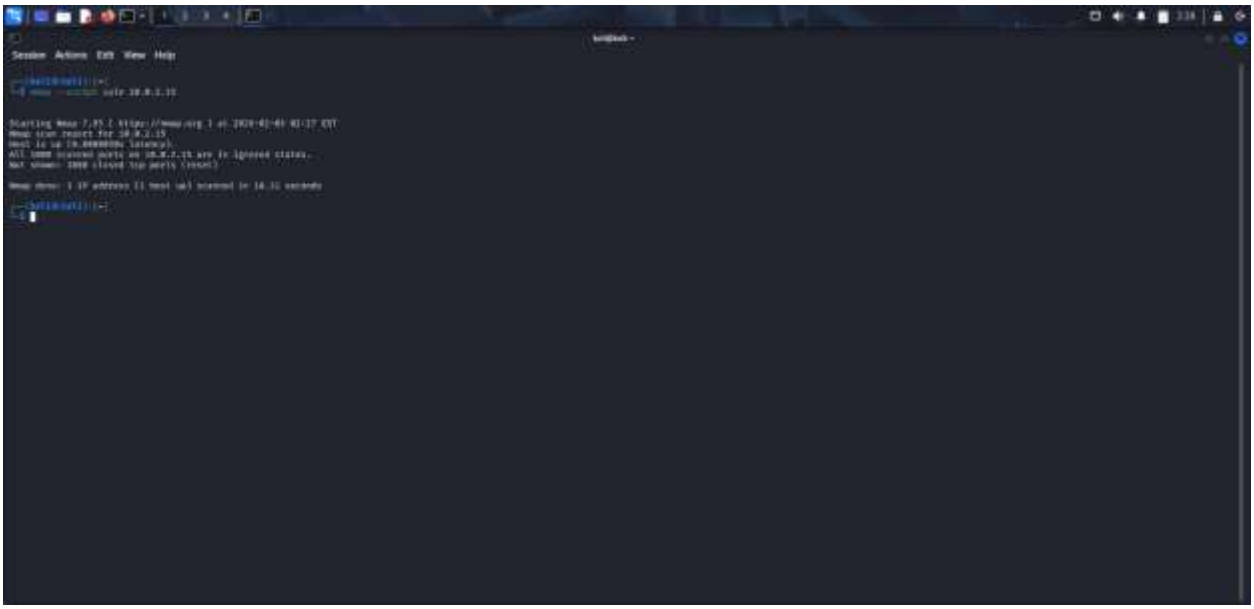
Default Script Scan

Command Used:
nmap -sC 10.85.57.71

Explanation:
Runs default Nmap scripts for basic security checks.

Vulnerability Scan

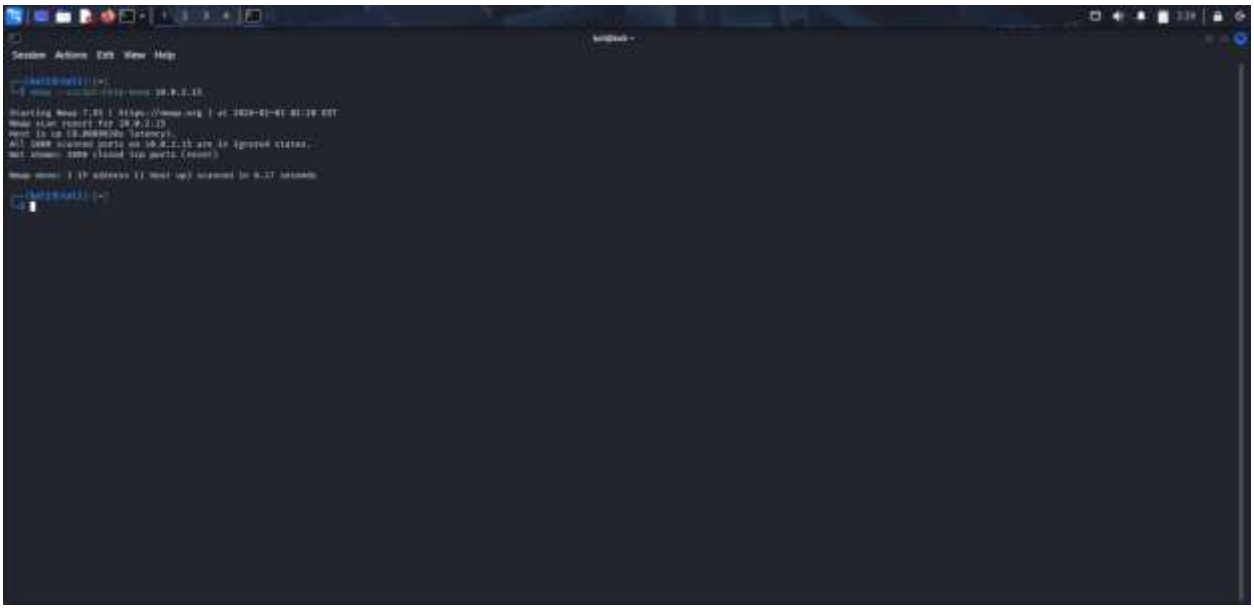
Command Used:
nmap --script vuln 10.85.57.71



Explanation:
Scans the target for known vulnerabilities.

Specific Script Scan

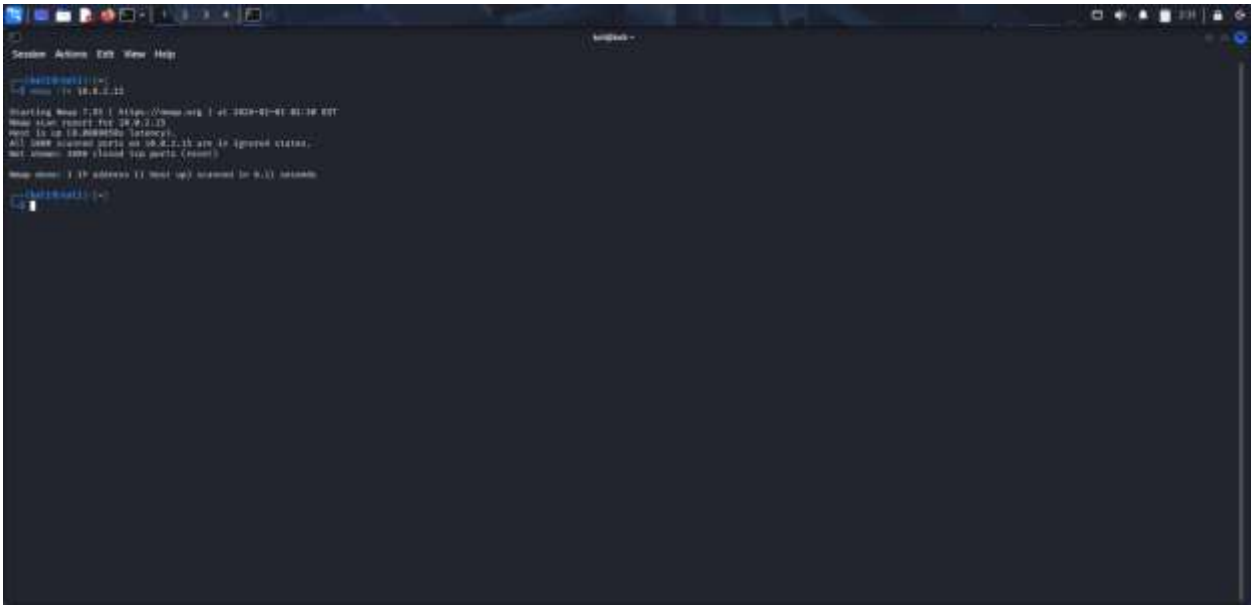
Command Used:
nmap --script http-title 10.85.57.71



Explanation:
Runs a specific Nmap script on the target.

Faster Timing Scan

Command Used:
nmap -T4 10.85.57.71



Explanation:
Increases scanning speed using aggressive timing.

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4. SCAN RESULTS

The scans produced valuable information about the target system.

4.1 Host Status

- Target IP: 10.85.57.71
- Host Status: Active (Up)

4.2 Open Ports Identified

- Port 22: SSH
- Port 80: HTTP (if applicable)

4.3 Services Detected

- SSH service running for remote access
- Web service running for HTTP communication

4.4 Operating System

- The target system was identified as a Linux-based operating system (accuracy depends on scan results).

4.5 Device Identification

- The target device was identified as a network-connected system responding to standard network probes.

Screenshots of all commands and outputs were captured and included for verification.

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5. SECURITY ANALYSIS

Network scanning provides insight into potential security risks. The following observations were made:

- Open ports can be exploited if unnecessary services are exposed.
- Services running outdated versions may contain known vulnerabilities.
- OS fingerprinting information can help attackers plan targeted attacks.

Security Recommendations:

- Close unused ports using firewall rules.
- Keep services updated with latest patches.
- Implement intrusion detection and monitoring.
- Restrict network access using access control policies.

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6. CONCLUSION

This internship project successfully demonstrated the use of Nmap for network scanning and reconnaissance. Through systematic scanning techniques, the project identified live hosts, open ports, running services, and operating system details.

The project provided practical exposure to real-world cybersecurity assessment techniques and highlighted the importance of securing network services. This experience enhanced understanding of how security professionals evaluate and protect network infrastructure.

REFERENCES

1. Nmap Official Documentation
2. Kali Linux Documentation
3. VMware Workstation User Guide
4. Cybersecurity Network Scanning Best Practices