

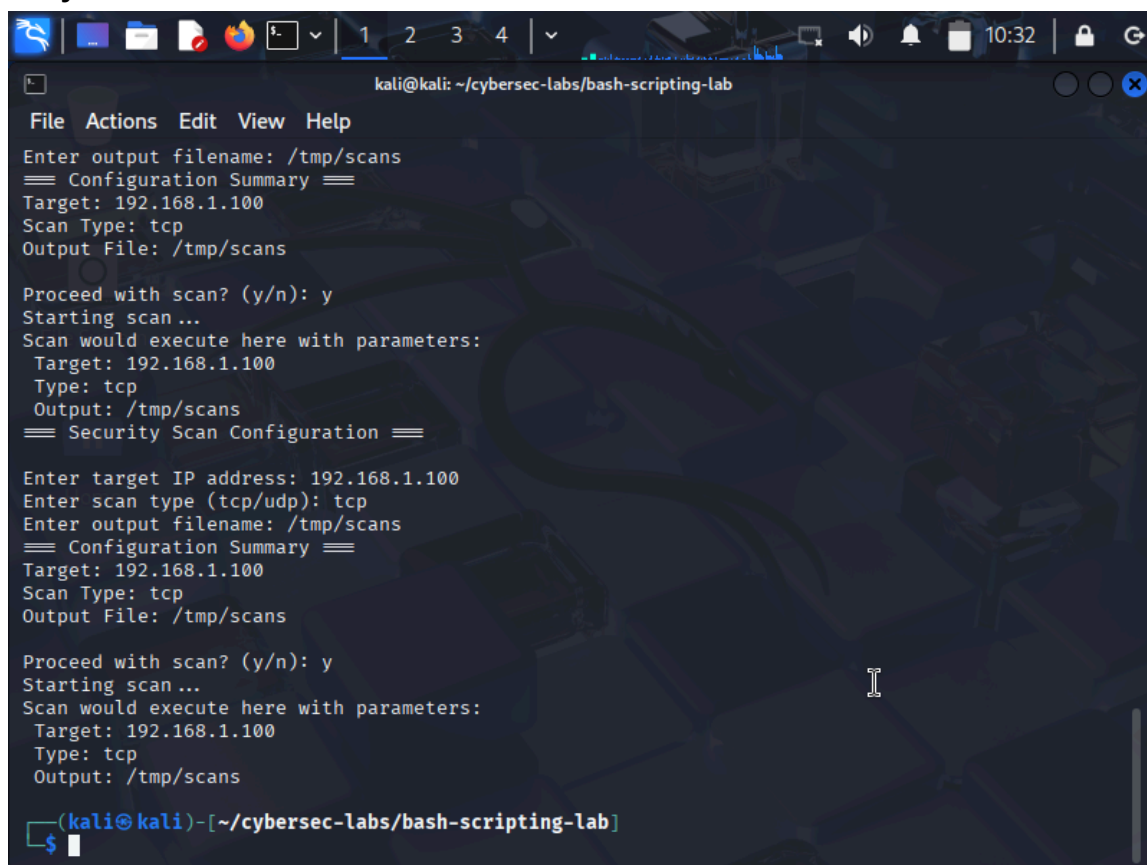
Lab 6: Linux Basics Part 6 - Bash Scripting

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Introduction:

Bash scripting is an indispensable skill for cybersecurity professionals, serving as the foundation for automating repetitive tasks, enabling the rapid deployment of security tools, and facilitating the creation of custom utilities. Security analysts rely on scripts to automate log analysis, monitor system changes, and efficiently process large datasets, while penetration testers use them for reconnaissance automation, exploit development, and post-exploitation activities.

Body:

A screenshot of a Kali Linux terminal window. The window title is 'kali@kali: ~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab'. The terminal shows the execution of a script with the following text:

```
File Actions Edit View Help
Enter output filename: /tmp/scans
=== Configuration Summary ===
Target: 192.168.1.100
Scan Type: tcp
Output File: /tmp/scans

Proceed with scan? (y/n): y
Starting scan...
Scan would execute here with parameters:
  Target: 192.168.1.100
  Type: tcp
  Output: /tmp/scans
=== Security Scan Configuration ===

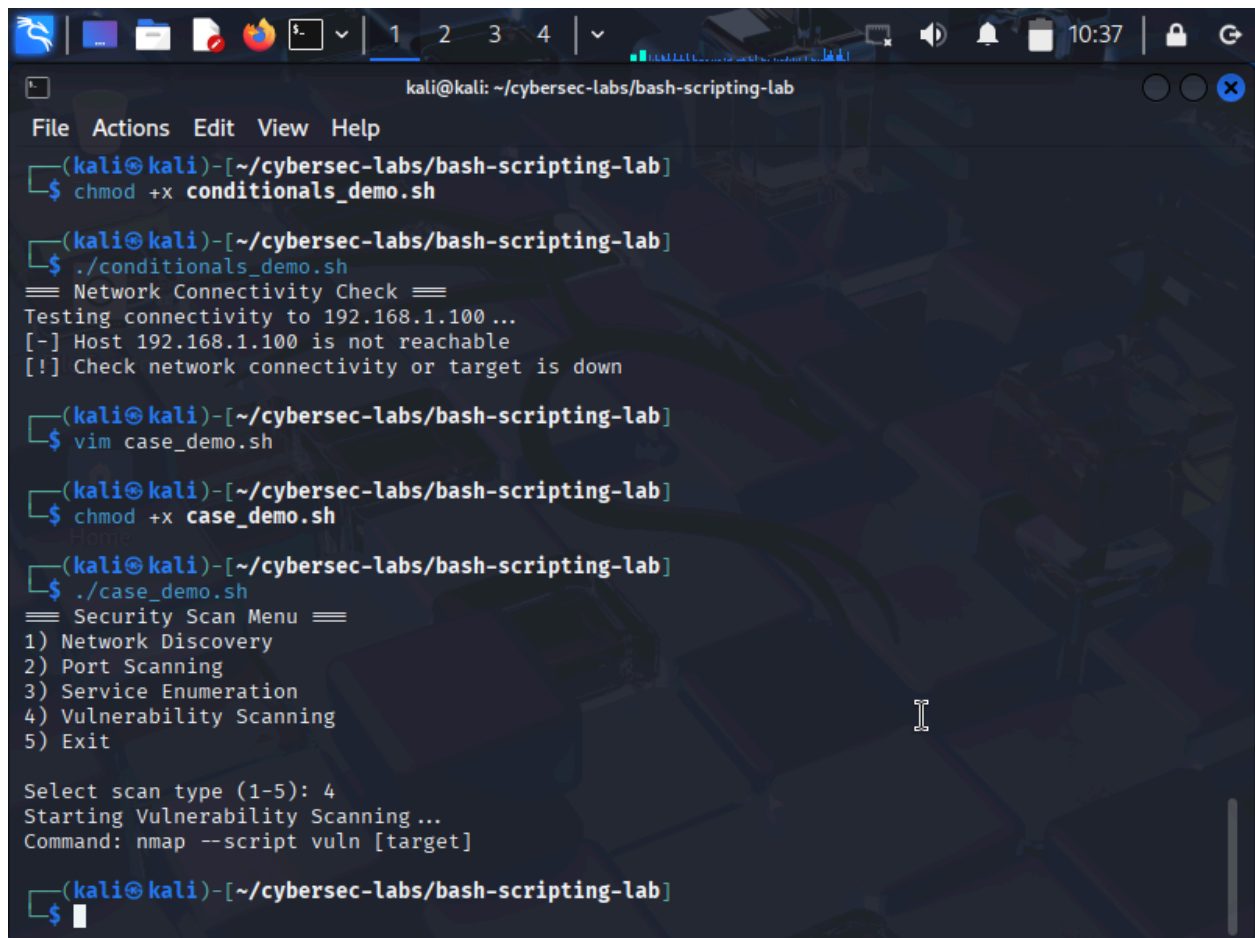
Enter target IP address: 192.168.1.100
Enter scan type (tcp/udp): tcp
Enter output filename: /tmp/scans
=== Configuration Summary ===
Target: 192.168.1.100
Scan Type: tcp
Output File: /tmp/scans

Proceed with scan? (y/n): y
Starting scan...
Scan would execute here with parameters:
  Target: 192.168.1.100
  Type: tcp
  Output: /tmp/scans

(kali@kali) - [~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab]
```

Established foundational scripting knowledge by creating basic security assessment scripts using both nano and vim editors. Implemented variable handling for configuration management, including target IP addresses, scan parameters, and system information collection. Developed interactive scripts with user input validation for security scan configuration.

- Shebang notation (`#!/bin/bash`)
- Command substitution for dynamic data
- Interactive user prompts with validation
- Script structure and documentation standards



```
kali@kali: ~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab
File Actions Edit View Help
(kali@kali)-[~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab]
$ chmod +x conditionals_demo.sh

(kali@kali)-[~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab]
$ ./conditionals_demo.sh
=== Network Connectivity Check ===
Testing connectivity to 192.168.1.100 ...
[-] Host 192.168.1.100 is not reachable
[!] Check network connectivity or target is down

(kali@kali)-[~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab]
$ vim case_demo.sh

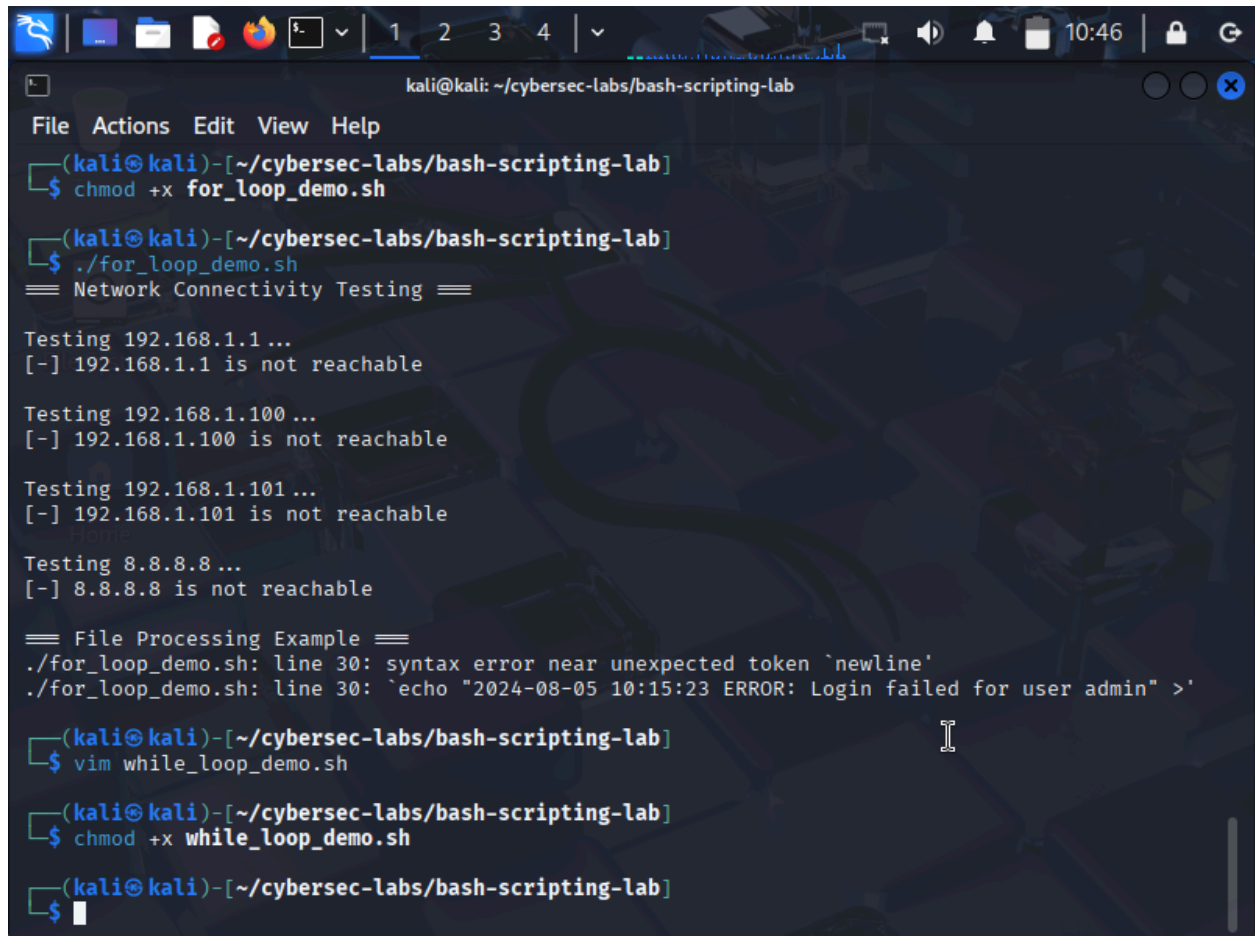
(kali@kali)-[~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab]
$ chmod +x case_demo.sh

(kali@kali)-[~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab]
$ ./case_demo.sh
=== Security Scan Menu ===
1) Network Discovery
2) Port Scanning
3) Service Enumeration
4) Vulnerability Scanning
5) Exit

Select scan type (1-5): 4
Starting Vulnerability Scanning...
Command: nmap --script vuln [target]

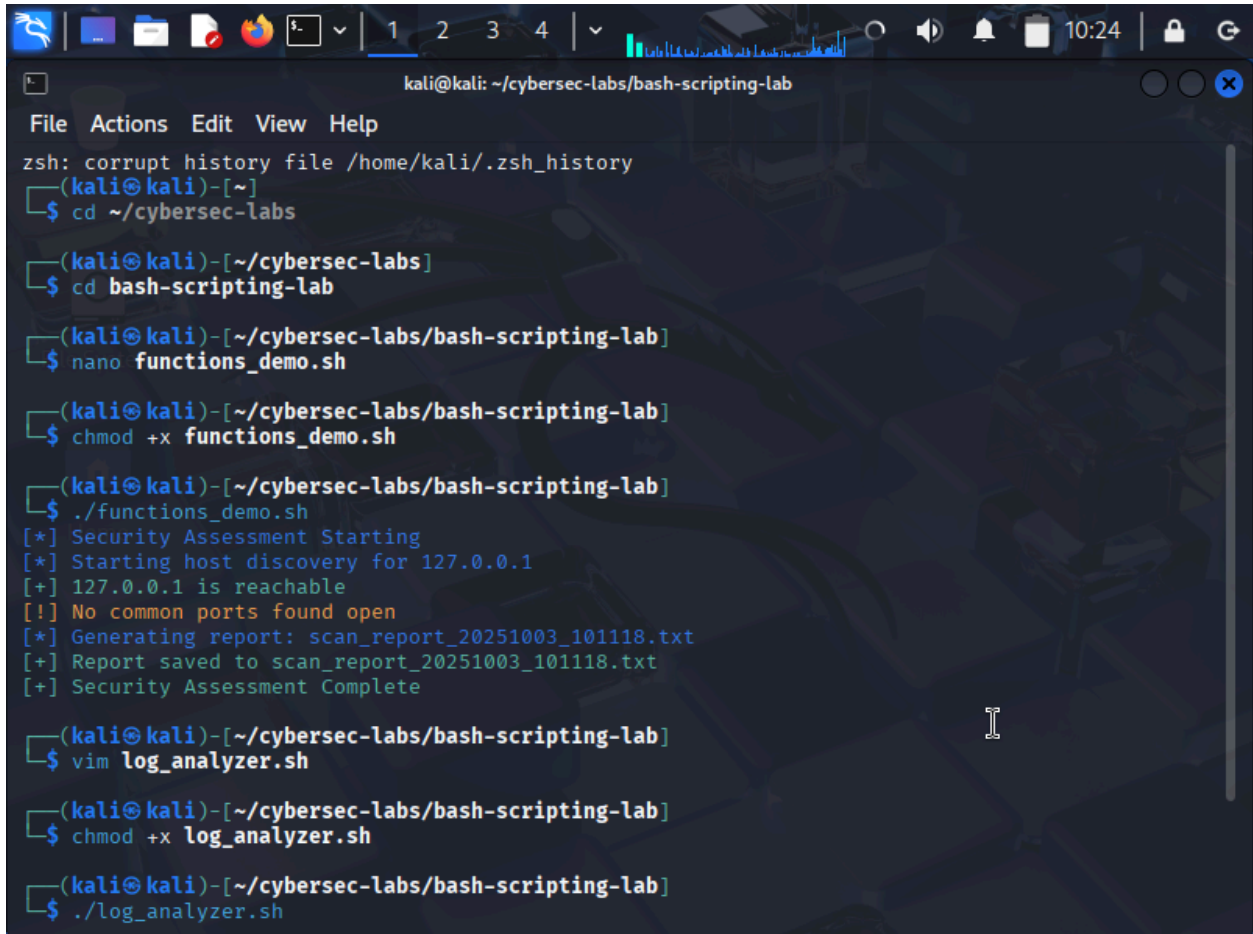
(kali@kali)-[~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab]
$
```

Implemented if-then-else statements and case structures for network connectivity testing and service enumeration. Created scripts that intelligently respond to system states, such as checking host reachability before port scanning and providing contextual recommendations based on discovered services. Technical Challenge: Managing nested conditionals for multi-stage security checks while maintaining code readability.



```
kali@kali: ~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab
File Actions Edit View Help
(kali@kali)-[~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab]
$ chmod +x for_loop_demo.sh
(kali@kali)-[~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab]
$ ./for_loop_demo.sh
== Network Connectivity Testing ==
Testing 192.168.1.1 ...
[-] 192.168.1.1 is not reachable
Testing 192.168.1.100 ...
[-] 192.168.1.100 is not reachable
Testing 192.168.1.101 ...
[-] 192.168.1.101 is not reachable
Testing 8.8.8.8 ...
[-] 8.8.8.8 is not reachable
== File Processing Example ==
./for_loop_demo.sh: line 30: syntax error near unexpected token `newline'
./for_loop_demo.sh: line 30: `echo "2024-08-05 10:15:23 ERROR: Login failed for user admin" >'
(kali@kali)-[~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab]
$ vim while_loop_demo.sh
(kali@kali)-[~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab]
$ chmod +x while_loop_demo.sh
(kali@kali)-[~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab]
$
```

Developed for loops to iterate through target lists and port ranges, enabling efficient bulk scanning operations. Implemented while loops for continuous security monitoring with time-based constraints. Created log file processing workflows that automatically analyze multiple files for security indicators. Key Achievement: Successfully automated network connectivity testing across multiple targets with parallel port scanning capabilities.

A terminal window on a Kali Linux system. The window title is 'kali@kali: ~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab'. The terminal shows a sequence of commands and their outputs. The user starts by navigating to the directory and running a script. The script performs a security assessment, including host discovery and port scanning. The output is color-coded: green for success/info, yellow for warnings, and red for errors. The script generates a report file. The user then edits a log analyzer script and runs it.

```
kali@kali: ~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab
File Actions Edit View Help
zsh: corrupt history file /home/kali/.zsh_history
(kali@kali)-[~]
$ cd ~/cybersec-labs

(kali@kali)-[~/cybersec-labs]
$ cd bash-scripting-lab

(kali@kali)-[~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab]
$ nano functions_demo.sh

(kali@kali)-[~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab]
$ chmod +x functions_demo.sh

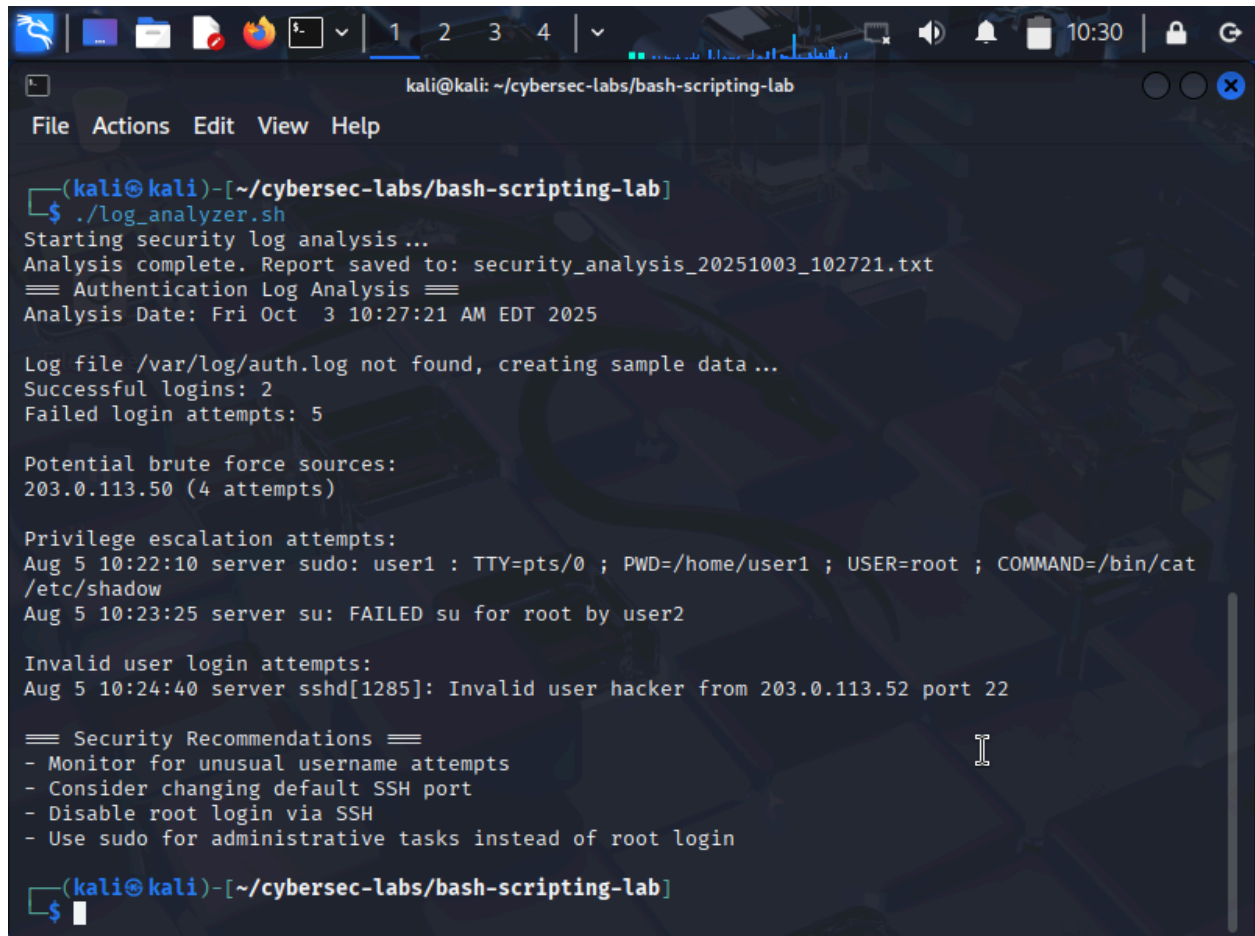
(kali@kali)-[~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab]
$ ./functions_demo.sh
[*] Security Assessment Starting
[*] Starting host discovery for 127.0.0.1
[+] 127.0.0.1 is reachable
[!] No common ports found open
[*] Generating report: scan_report_20251003_101118.txt
[+] Report saved to scan_report_20251003_101118.txt
[+] Security Assessment Complete

(kali@kali)-[~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab]
$ vim log_analyzer.sh

(kali@kali)-[~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab]
$ chmod +x log_analyzer.sh

(kali@kali)-[~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab]
$ ./log_analyzer.sh
```

Designed reusable functions for common security tasks, including colored output formatting, port checking, host discovery, and report generation. This modular approach significantly improved code maintainability and enabled rapid development of complex security tools. Implementation Highlight: Created a comprehensive host discovery function that automatically scans common ports and generates formatted reports.



```
(kali@kali)-[~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab]
$ ./log_analyzer.sh
Starting security log analysis ...
Analysis complete. Report saved to: security_analysis_20251003_102721.txt
== Authentication Log Analysis ==
Analysis Date: Fri Oct 3 10:27:21 AM EDT 2025

Log file /var/log/auth.log not found, creating sample data...
Successful logins: 2
Failed login attempts: 5

Potential brute force sources:
203.0.113.50 (4 attempts)

Privilege escalation attempts:
Aug 5 10:22:10 server sudo: user1 : TTY=pts/0 ; PWD=/home/user1 ; USER=root ; COMMAND=/bin/cat /etc/shadow
Aug 5 10:23:25 server su: FAILED su for root by user2

Invalid user login attempts:
Aug 5 10:24:40 server sshd[1285]: Invalid user hacker from 203.0.113.52 port 22

== Security Recommendations ==
- Monitor for unusual username attempts
- Consider changing default SSH port
- Disable root login via SSH
- Use sudo for administrative tasks instead of root login

(kali@kali)-[~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab]
$
```

Developed an automated security log analyzer capable of processing authentication logs to identify:

- Failed login attempts and brute force patterns
- Privilege escalation attempts
- Invalid user access attempts
- Security recommendations based on findings

Technical Difficulty: This exercise presented significant challenges with indentation and script structure, requiring careful attention to syntax for proper execution.

```
kali@kali: ~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab
File Actions Edit View Help
(kali@kali)-[~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab]
$ ./network_recon.sh -n "192.168.1.0/24"
./network_recon.sh: line 75: syntax error near unexpected token `newline'
./network_recon.sh: line 75: `echo "# This would run: nmap -sS -p 1-1000 $target" >>'

(kali@kali)-[~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab]
$ nano network_recon.sh

(kali@kali)-[~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab]
$ chmod +x network_recon.sh

(kali@kali)-[~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab]
$ ./network_recon.sh -n "192.168.1.0/24"
== Network Reconnaissance Script ==
Target network: 192.168.1.0/24
Output directory: ./recon_results
Timestamp: 20251003_104804

[*] Starting host discovery for 192.168.1.0/24
[+] Host discovery completed. Results saved to: ./recon_results/host_discovery_20251003_104804.txt
[*] Starting port scanning
[+] Port scanning completed. Results saved to: ./recon_results/port_scan_20251003_104804.txt
ls: cannot access './recon_results/*_20251003_104804': No such file or directory
[+] Summary report generated: ./recon_results/reconnaissance_summary_20251003_104804.txt

== Reconnaissance Complete ==
Check the output directory for detailed results: ./recon_results

(kali@kali)-[~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab]
$
```

Created a command-line tool for automated network reconnaissance with argument parsing, modular scanning functions, and comprehensive reporting. The script accepts network ranges as input and generates timestamped reports of discovered hosts and open ports.

- Command-line argument parsing with `getopts`
- Output directory management
- Multi-stage scanning workflows
- Summary report generation


```
kali@kali: ~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab
File Actions Edit View Help
2025-10-06 11:09:13 [INFO] Security monitoring cycle completed
(kali@kali)-[~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab]
$ ./security_monitor.sh --report
Security Monitoring Report
=====
Generated: Mon Oct 6 11:09:22 AM EDT 2025
Hostname: kali
Uptime: 11:09:22 up 1:09, 2 users, load average: 0.26, 0.19, 0.16

System Information:
- CPU Usage: 0.0
- Memory Usage: 783Mi/1.9Gi
- Disk Usage: 32%
- Load Average: 0.26 0.19 0.16 1/416 28762

Network Status:
- Active connections: 0
- Listening ports: 0

Recent Security Events:
2025-10-06 11:06:34 [ALERT] Suspicious process detected: nc
root      6 0.0 0.0      0 0 ?      I<  10:00 0:00 [kworker/R-sync_wq]
kali     1045 0.0 0.3 381128 7468 ?      Ssl 10:00 0:00 /usr/libexec/at-spi-bus-launcher
2025-10-06 11:06:34 [INFO] Security monitoring cycle completed
2025-10-06 11:08:06 [INFO] Starting security monitoring cycle
2025-10-06 11:08:06 [ALERT] High number of failed login attempts detected:6
2025-10-06 11:08:06 [ALERT] IP 203.0.113.51: 3 failed attempts
2025-10-06 11:08:06 [ALERT] IP 203.0.113.50: 3 failed attempts
2025-10-06 11:08:07 [ALERT] Suspicious process detected: nc
root      6 0.0 0.0      0 0 ?      I<  10:00 0:00 [kworker/R-sync_wq]
kali     1045 0.0 0.3 381128 7468 ?      Ssl 10:00 0:00 /usr/libexec/at-spi-bus-launcher
2025-10-06 11:08:07 [INFO] Security monitoring cycle completed
2025-10-06 11:09:13 [INFO] Starting security monitoring cycle
2025-10-06 11:09:13 [ALERT] High number of failed login attempts detected:6
2025-10-06 11:09:13 [ALERT] IP 203.0.113.51: 3 failed attempts
2025-10-06 11:09:13 [ALERT] IP 203.0.113.50: 3 failed attempts
2025-10-06 11:09:13 [ALERT] Suspicious process detected: nc
root      6 0.0 0.0      0 0 ?      I<  10:00 0:00 [kworker/R-sync_wq]
kali     1045 0.0 0.3 381128 7468 ?      Ssl 10:00 0:00 /usr/libexec/at-spi-bus-launcher
2025-10-06 11:09:13 [INFO] Security monitoring cycle completed
2025-10-06 11:09:23 [INFO] Security report generated: /tmp/security_report_20251006_110922.txt
(kali@kali)-[~/cybersec-labs/bash-scripting-lab]
$
```

Developed the most complex script of the lab—a full-featured security monitoring system with multiple detection capabilities:

- SUID file baseline comparison
- Failed login attempt tracking
- System resource monitoring (CPU, memory, disk)
- Suspicious process detection
- Network connection analysis
- Automated security report generation

Technical Challenges: This exercise combined all previous concepts into a single comprehensive tool. While indentation issues were minimal, several syntax errors and typos required careful debugging. The script supports multiple operational modes (daemon, check, report) for flexible deployment