

## Module 03: Information Security Threats and Vulnerability Assessment

### Scenario

A threat is a potential occurrence of an undesirable event that can eventually damage and disrupt the operational and functional activities of an organization. Threat can be any type of entity or action performed on physical or intangible asset that can disrupt the security. The existence of threats may be accidental, intentional, or due to the impact of some other action. Attackers use cyber threats to infiltrate and steal data such as individual's personal information, financial information, and login credentials. They can also use the compromised system to perform malicious activities and launch further attacks. The criticality of a threat is based on how much damage it will cause, or how uncontrollable it is, or how complicated it is to identify the latest discovered threat incident in advance. Threats to data assets cause loss of confidentiality, integrity, or availability (CIA) of data. They also result in data loss, identity theft, cyber sabotage, and information disclosure.

The lab activities in this module provide first-hand experience with various techniques that attackers use to write and propagate malware. You will also learn how to effectively perform vulnerability assessment to determine security vulnerabilities in the target system or network.

### Objective

The objective of the lab is to create malware and perform other tasks that include, but are not limited to:

- Create a Trojan and exploit a target machine
- Create a virus to infect the target machine
- Perform vulnerability assessment to identify security vulnerabilities in the target system or network

### Overview of Threats

Following are various sources from which threats originate and can be broadly classified as natural threats, unintentional threats, and intentional threats.

- **Natural Threats:** Natural factors such as fires, floods, power failures, lightning, meteor, and earthquakes are potential threats to the assets of an organization. For example, these may cause severe physical damage to computer systems.
- **Unintentional Threats:** Unintentional threats are threats that exist due to the potential for unintentional errors occurring within the organization. Examples

include insider-originating security breaches, negligence, operator errors, unskilled administrators, lazy or untrained employees, and accidents.

- **Intentional Threats:** There are two sources of intentional threats.
- **Internal Threats:** Most computer and Internet-related crimes are insiders or internal attacks. These threats are performed by insiders within the organization such as disgruntled or negligent employees and harm the organization intentionally or unintentionally. Most of these attacks are performed by privileged users of the network.
- **External Threats:** External attacks are performed by exploiting vulnerabilities that already exist in the network, without the assistance of insider employees. Therefore, the potential to perform an external attack depends on the severity of the identified network weaknesses.

## Lab Tasks

Ensure that the **Windows Defender Firewall is Turn off** on the machines you are using for the lab tasks in this module, as it blocks and deletes malware as soon as it is executed.

We can use numerous tools and techniques to gain access to the target network or machine. Recommended labs that will assist you in learning various malware attack and vulnerability assessment techniques include:

1. Create a Trojan to gain access to the target system
  - Create a Trojan server using Theef RAT trojan
  - Gain control over a victim machine using the njRAT RAT Trojan
2. Create a virus to infect the target system
  - Create a virus using the JPS Virus Maker Tool and infect the target system
3. Perform vulnerability assessment to identify security vulnerabilities in the target system or network
  - Perform vulnerability analysis using OpenVAS

## Lab 1: Create a Trojan to Gain Access to the Target System

### Lab Scenario

A Trojan is wrapped within or attached to a legitimate program, meaning that the program may have functionality that is not apparent to the user. Furthermore, attackers use victims

as unwitting intermediaries to attack others. They can use a victim's computer to commit illegal DoS attacks.

A compromised system can affect other systems on the network. Systems that transmit authentication credentials such as passwords over shared networks in clear text or a trivially encrypted form are particularly vulnerable. If an intruder compromises a system on such a network, he or she may be able to record usernames and passwords or other sensitive information.

Additionally, a Trojan, depending on the actions it performs, may falsely implicate a remote system as the source of an attack by spoofing, thereby causing the remote system to incur a liability. Trojans enter the system by means such as email attachments, downloads, and instant messages.

The lab tasks in this exercise demonstrate how easily hackers can gain access to the target systems in the organization and create a covert communication channel for transferring sensitive data between the victim computer and the attacker.

### **Lab Objectives**

- Create a Trojan Server using Theef RAT Trojan
  - Gain Control over a Victim Machine using the njRAT RAT Trojan
- 

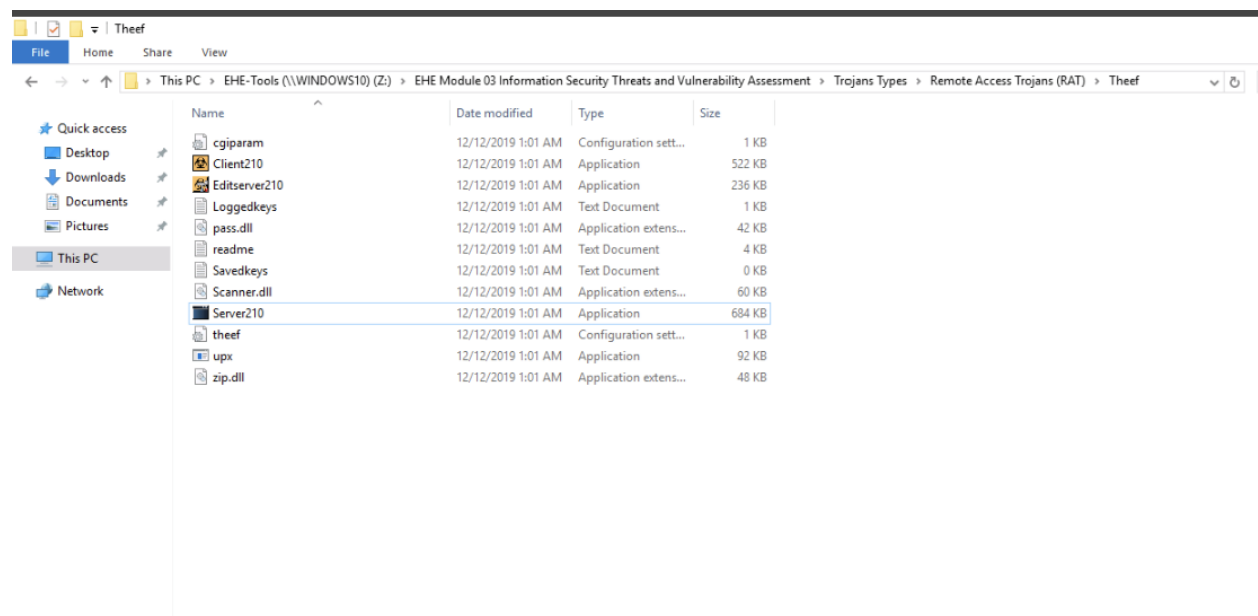
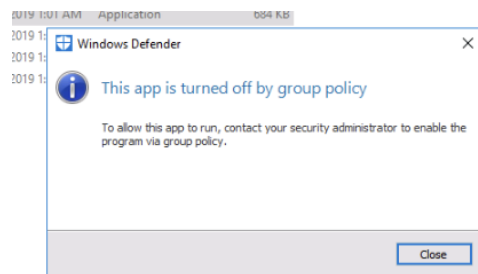
#### **Task 1: Create a Trojan Server using Theef RAT Trojan**

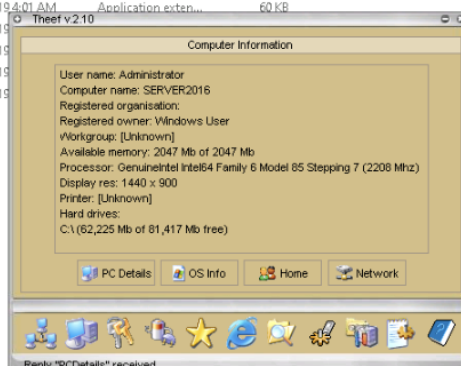
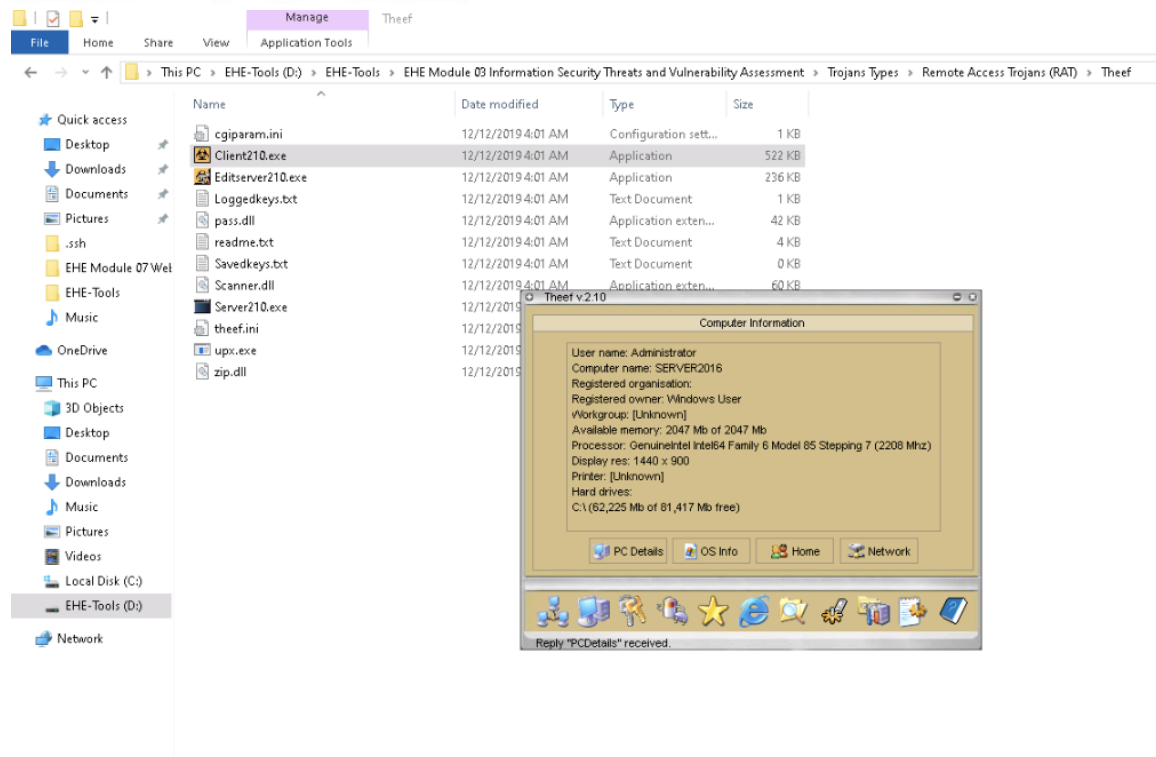
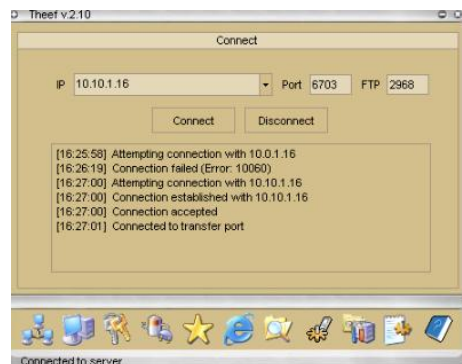
Attackers use Remote Access Trojans (RATs) to infect the target machine to gain administrative access. RATs help an attacker to remotely access the complete GUI and control the victim's computer without his/her awareness. They can perform screening and camera capture, code execution, keylogging, file access, password sniffing, registry management, and other tasks. The virus infects victims via phishing attacks and drive-by downloads and propagates through infected USB keys or networked drives. It can download and execute additional malware, execute shell commands, read and write registry keys, capture screenshots, log keystrokes, and spy on webcams.

Theef is a Remote Access Trojan written in Delphi. It allows remote attackers access to the system via port 9871. Theef is a Windows-based application for both client and server. The Theef server is a virus that you install on a target computer, and the Theef client is what you then use to control the virus.

The versions of the created client or host, and the appearance of its website, may differ from that of this lab. However, the actual process of creating the server and the client is the same.

Generally, an attacker might send a server executable to the victim machine and entice the victim into running it. In this lab, for demonstration purposes, we are directly executing the file on the victim machine, **Windows Server 2016**.





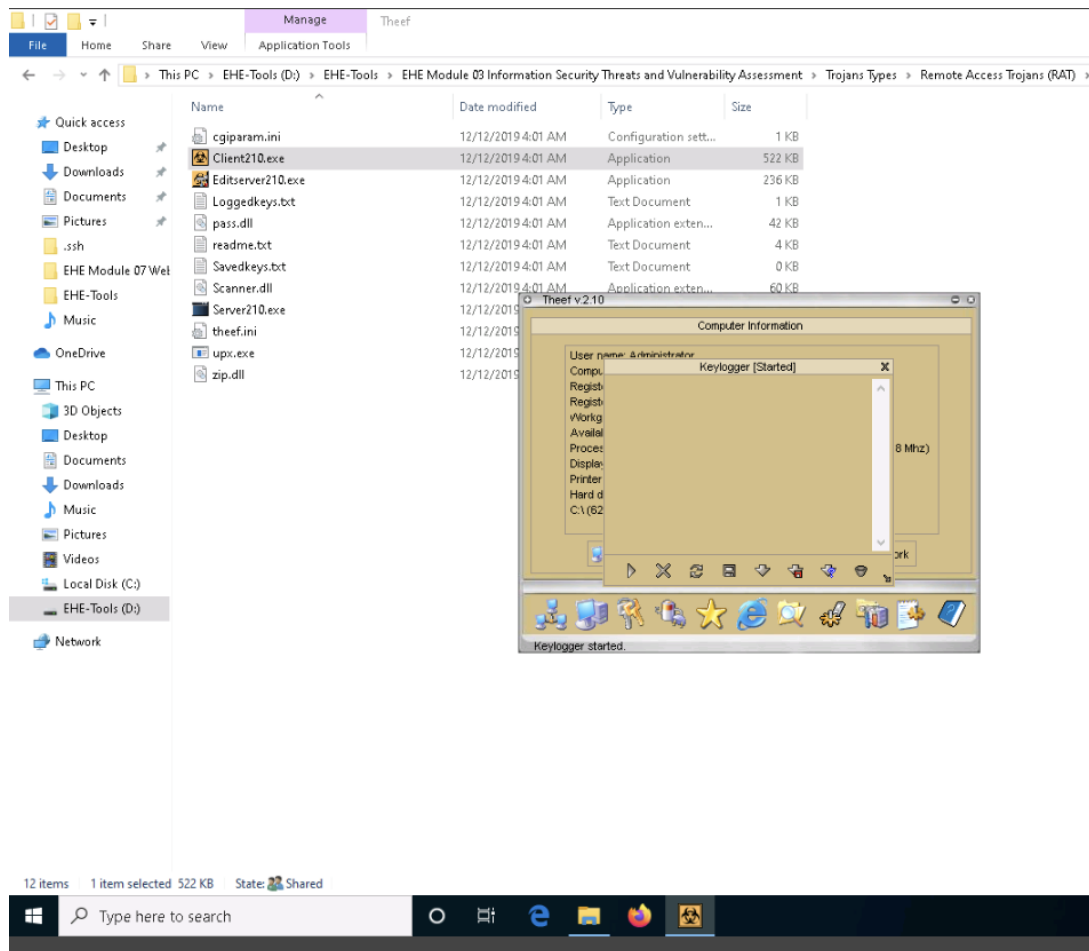
File Explorer window showing the contents of the 'EHE-Tools' folder. The address bar indicates the path: This PC > EHE-Tools (D:) > EHE-Tools > EHE Module 03 Information Security Threats and Vulnerability Assessment > Trojans Types > Remote Access Trojans (RAT) > Thief.

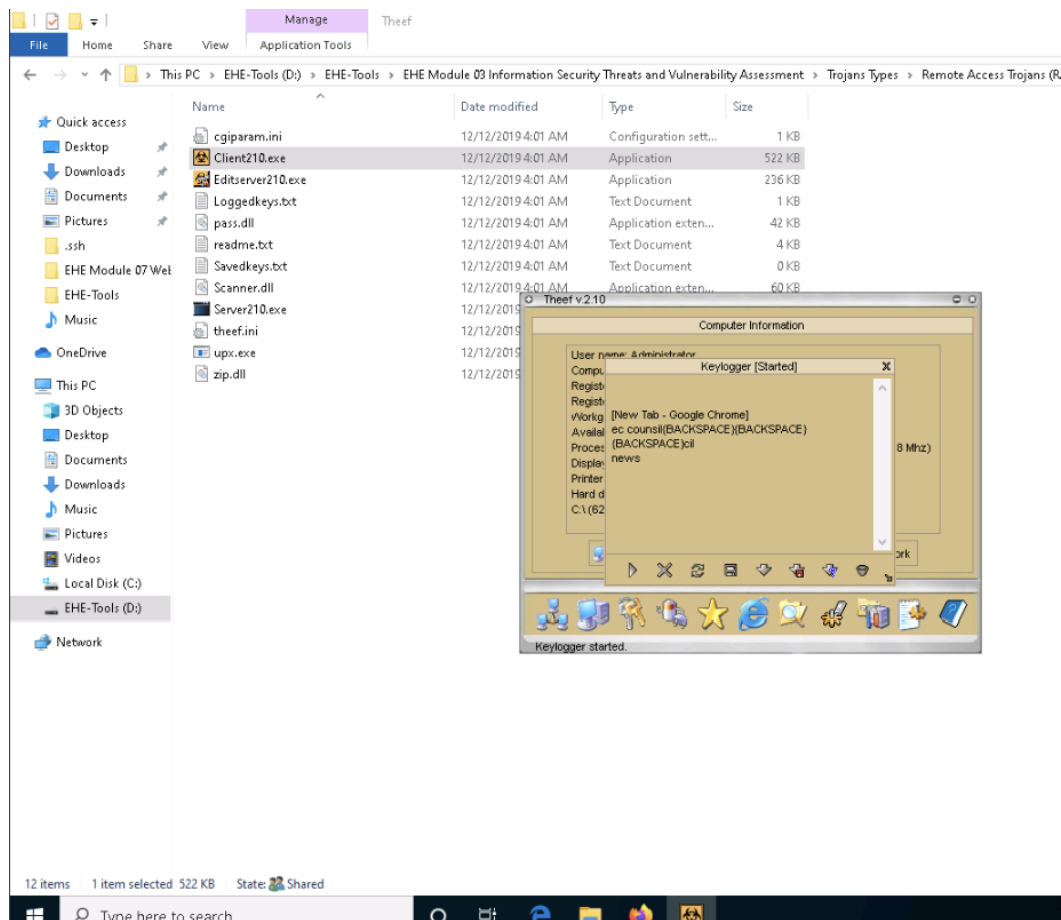
The file list includes:

Name	Date modified	Type	Size
cgiparam.ini	12/12/2019 4:01 AM	Configuration sett...	1 KB
Client210.exe	12/12/2019 4:01 AM	Application	522 KB
Editserver210.exe	12/12/2019 4:01 AM	Application	236 KB
Loggedkeys.txt	12/12/2019 4:01 AM	Text Document	1 KB
pass.dll	12/12/2019 4:01 AM	Application exten...	42 KB
readme.txt	12/12/2019 4:01 AM	Text Document	4 KB
Savedkeys.txt	12/12/2019 4:01 AM	Text Document	0 KB
Scanner.dll	12/12/2019 4:01 AM	Application exten...	60 KB
Server210.exe	12/12/2019 4:01 AM	Application	236 KB
thief.ini	12/12/2019 4:01 AM	Text Document	1 KB
upx.exe	12/12/2019 4:01 AM	Application	1 KB
zip.dll	12/12/2019 4:01 AM	Application exten...	60 KB

Overlaid on the File Explorer is a screenshot of a Windows XP desktop. The desktop background is a light blue gradient. The taskbar at the bottom contains several icons, including the Start button, Internet Explorer, and various application icons. A window titled 'Thief v2.10' is open, displaying a 'Computer Information' dialog box. The dialog box shows system details such as 'User name', 'Computer name', 'Registered owner', 'Workgroup', 'Available memory', 'Processors', 'Display resolution', 'Printer', 'Hard drive', and 'C:\ (62,2 GB)'. The 'Task Manager' window is also visible in the background.

At the bottom of the File Explorer window, the status bar shows: 12 items | 1 item selected | 522 KB | State: Shared.





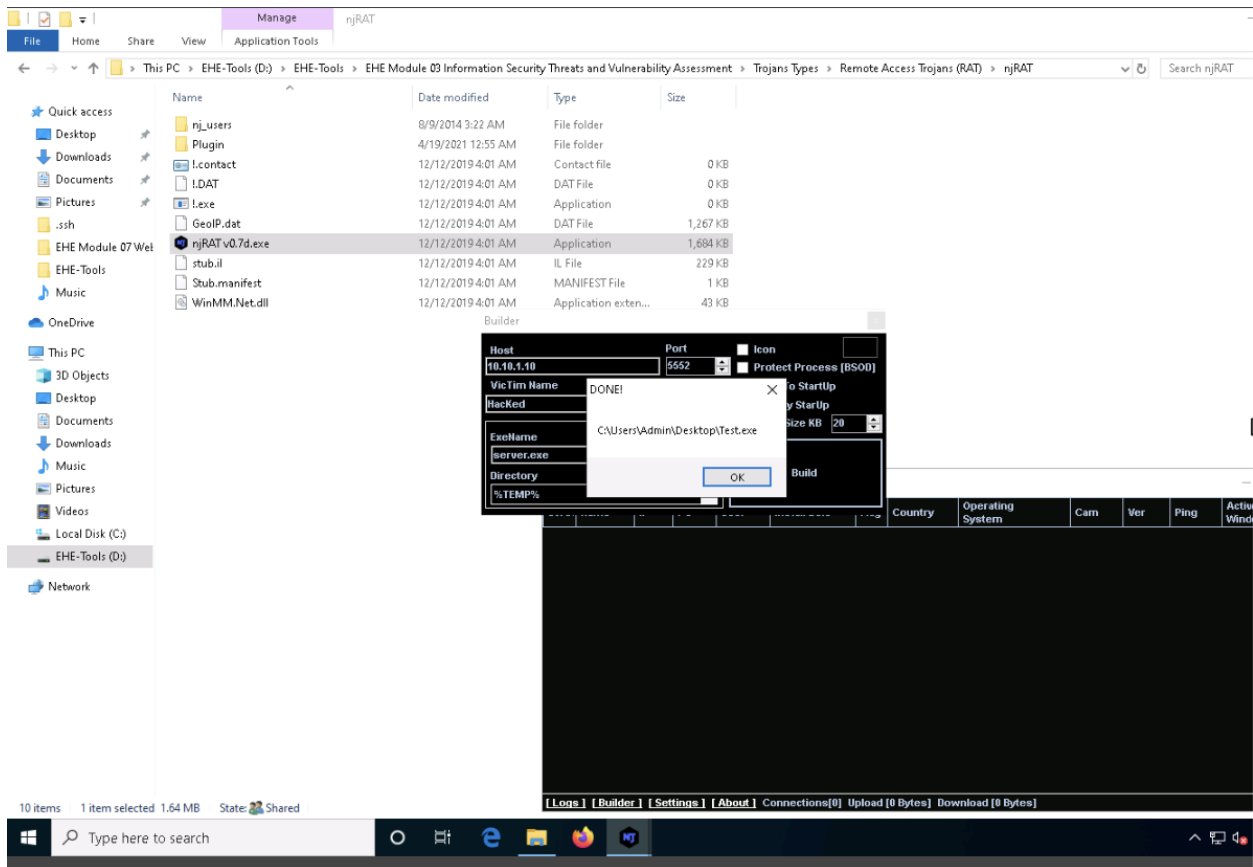
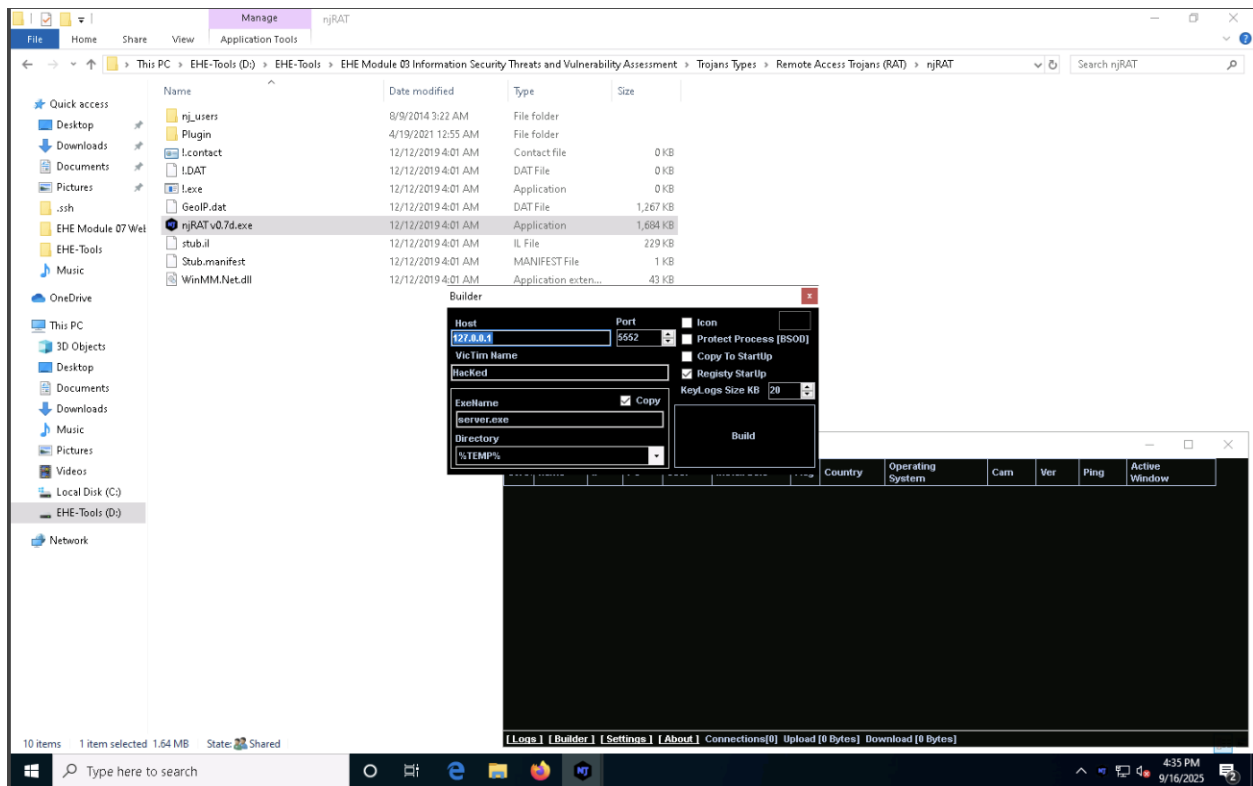
## Task 2: Gain Control over a Victim Machine using the njRAT RAT Trojan

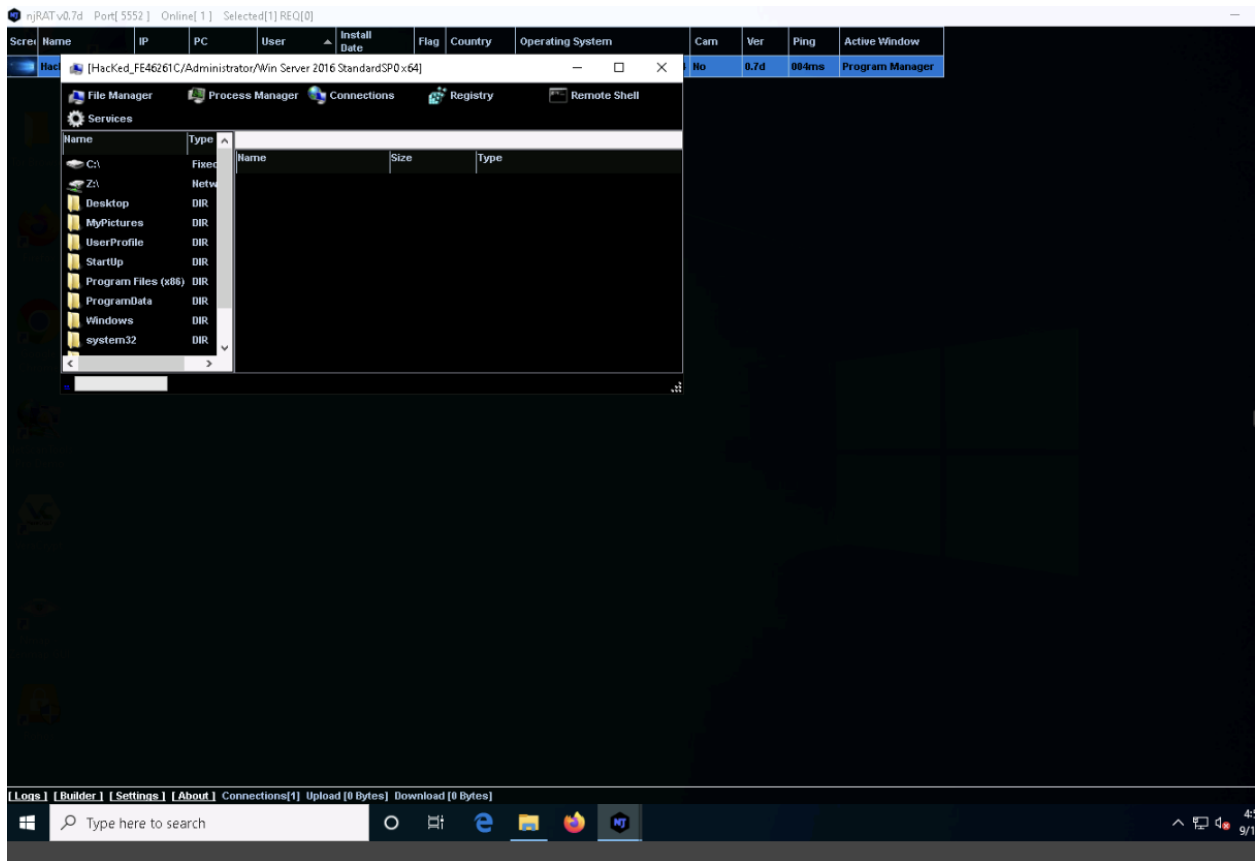
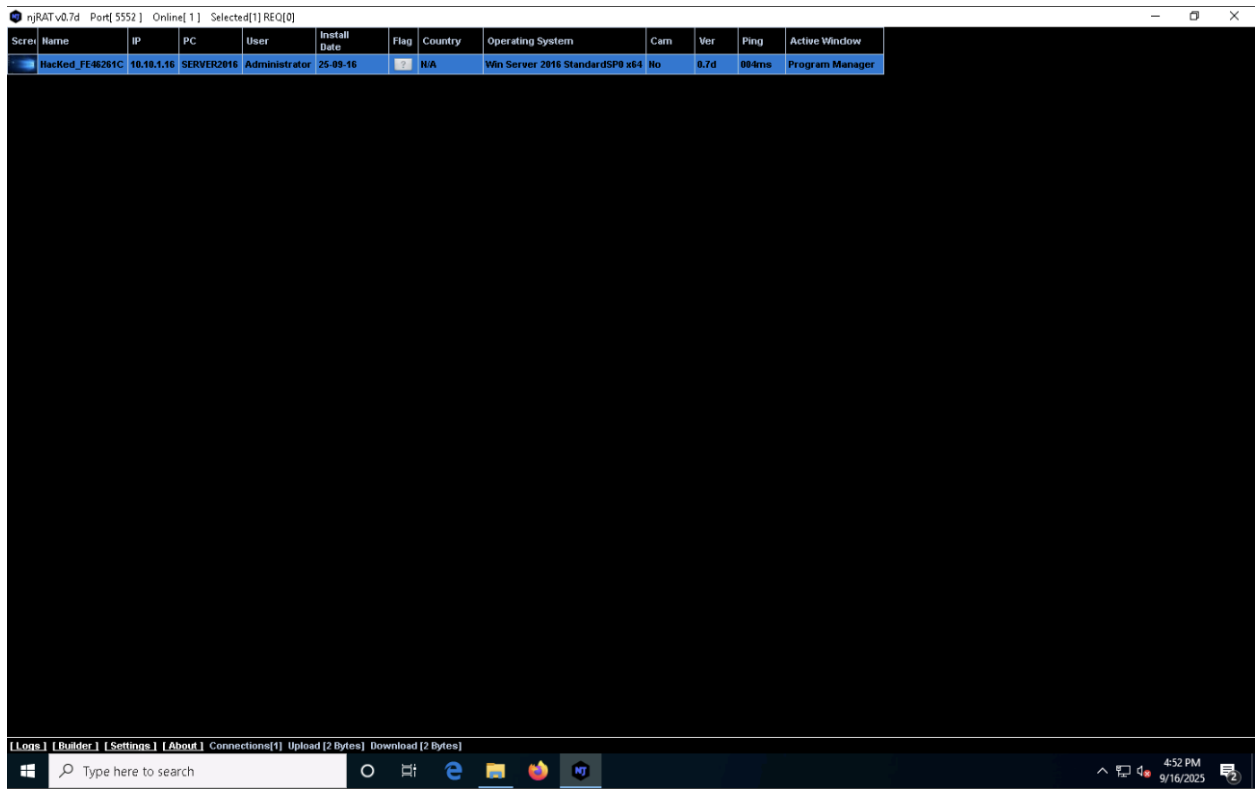
njRAT is a RAT with powerful data-stealing capabilities. In addition to logging keystrokes, it is capable of accessing a victim's camera, stealing credentials stored in browsers, uploading and downloading files, performing process and file manipulations, and viewing the victim's desktop.

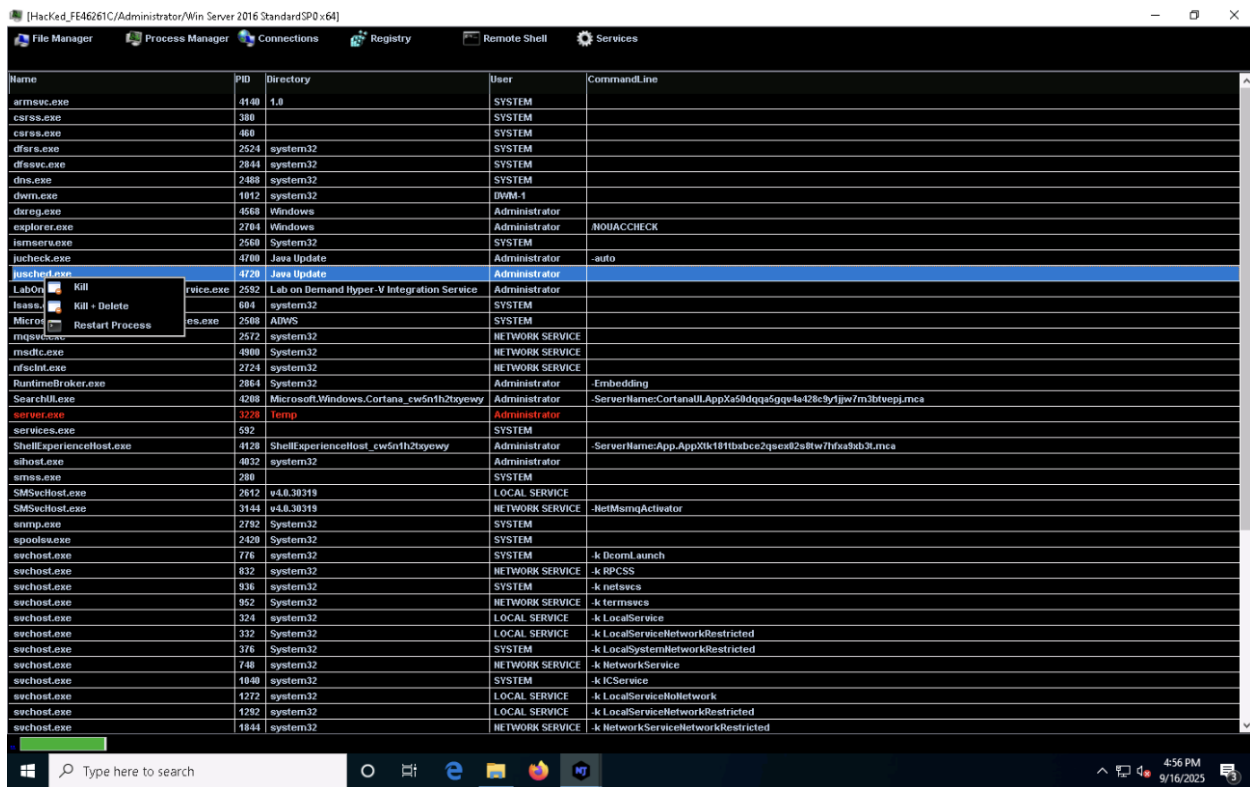
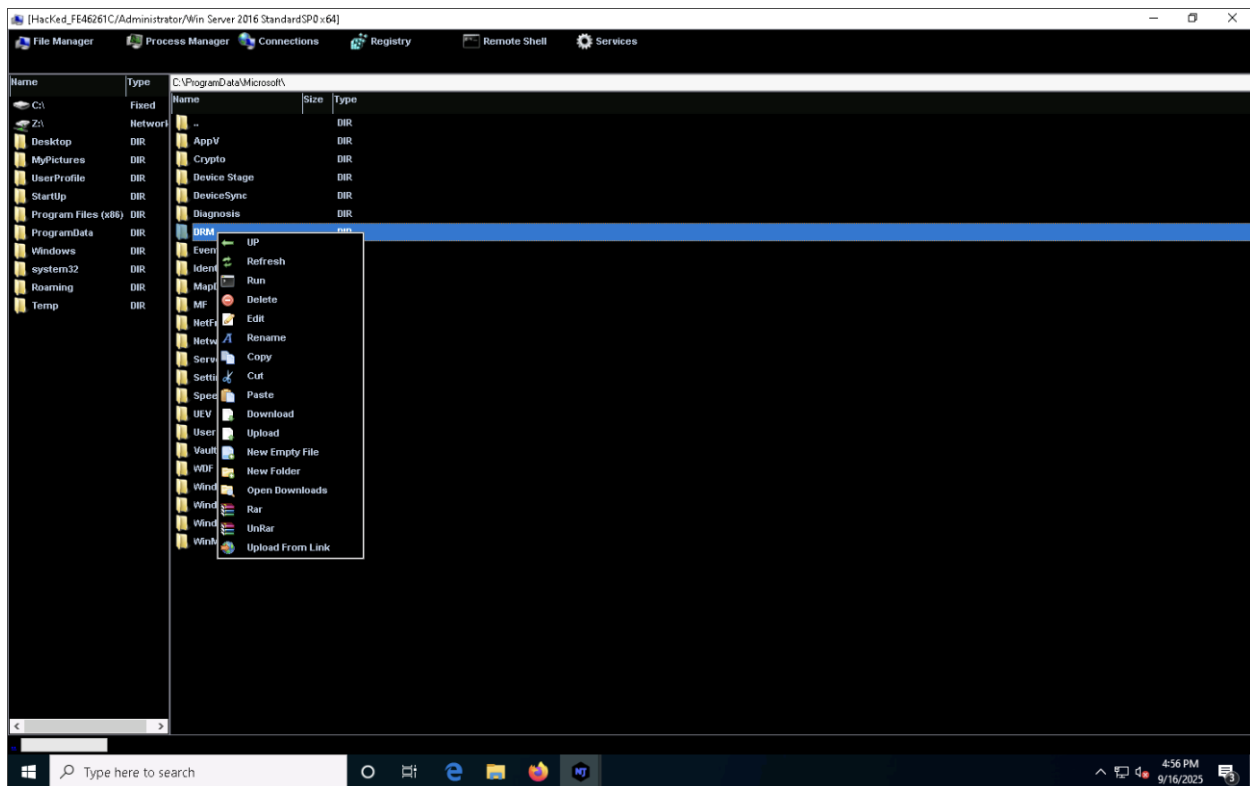
This RAT can be used to control Botnets (networks of computers), allowing the attacker to update, uninstall, disconnect, restart, and close the RAT, and rename its campaign ID. The attacker can further create and configure the malware to spread through USB drives with the help of the Command and Control server software.

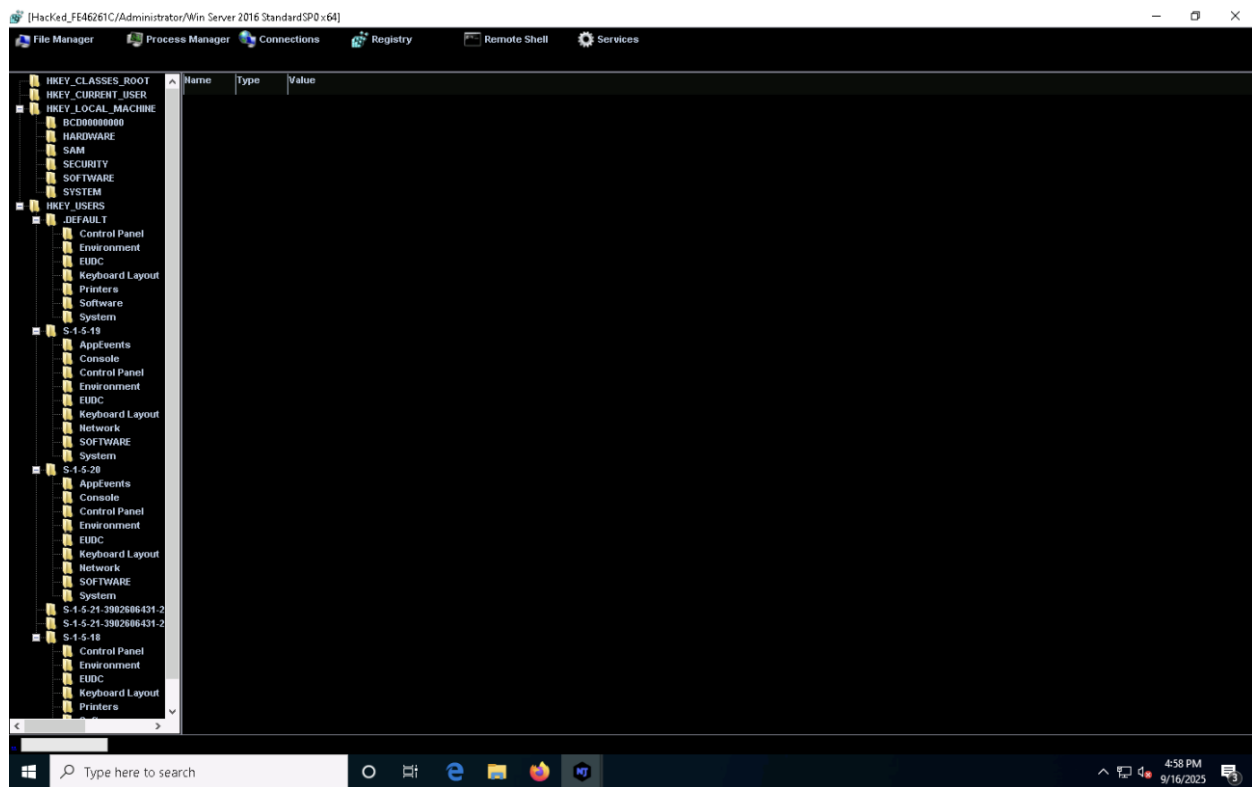
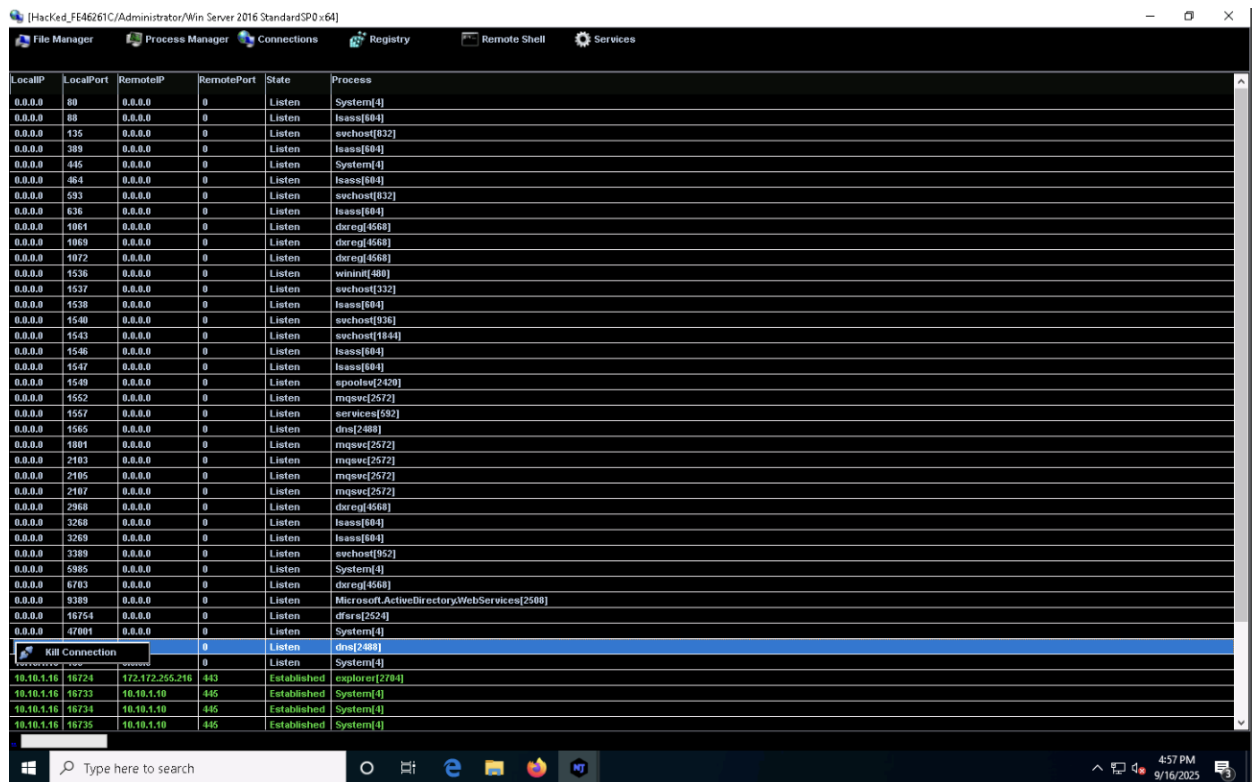
Here, we will use the njRAT Trojan to gain control over a victim machine.





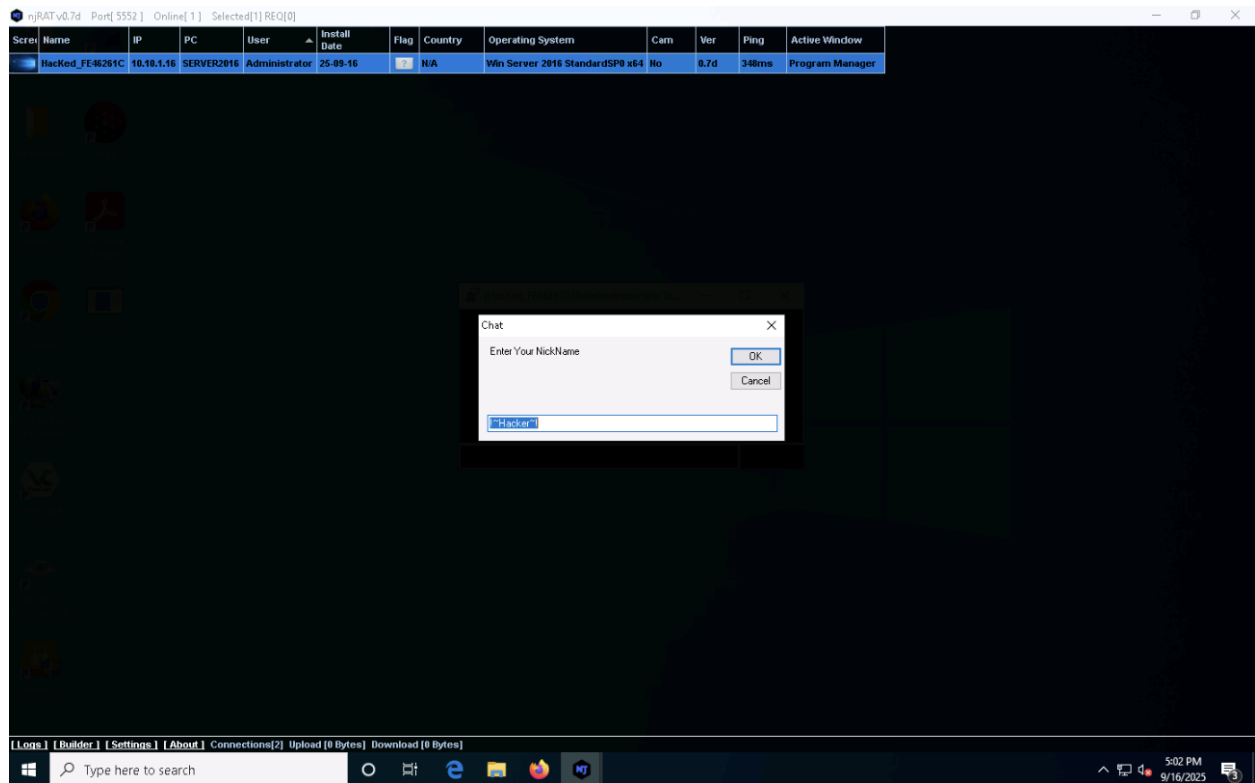


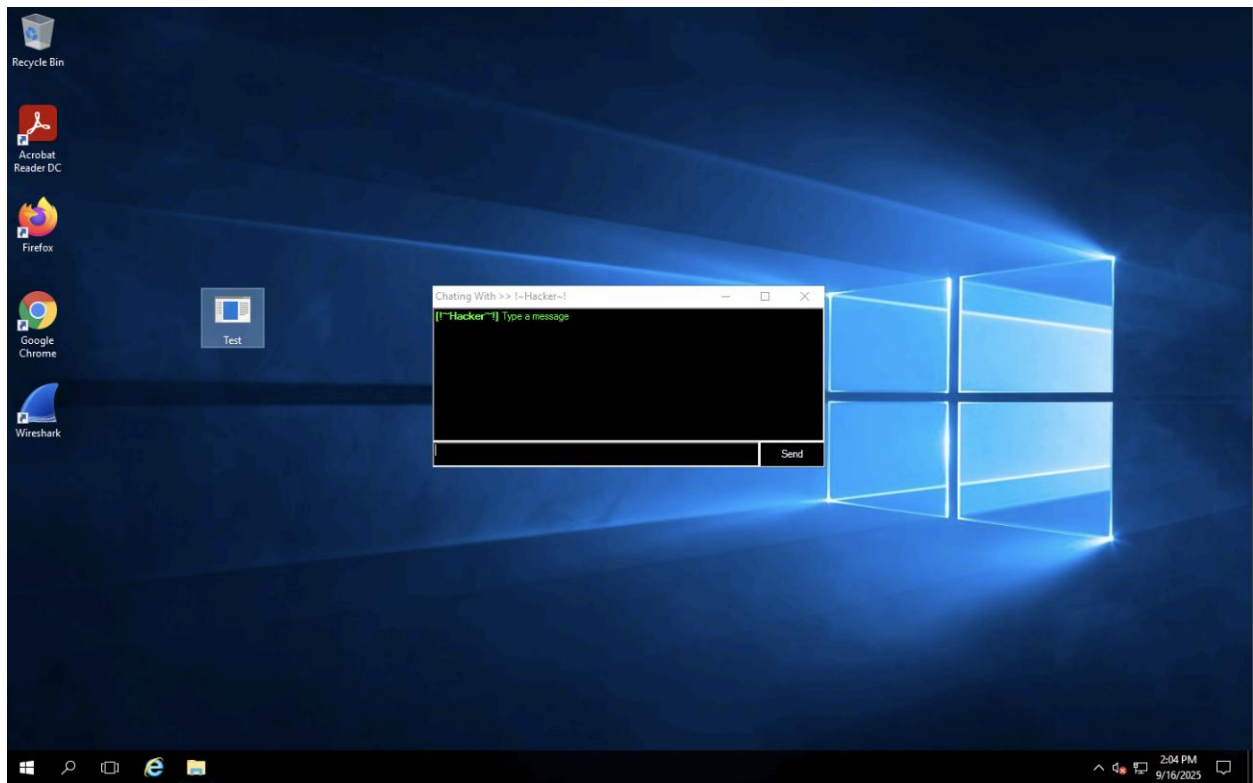
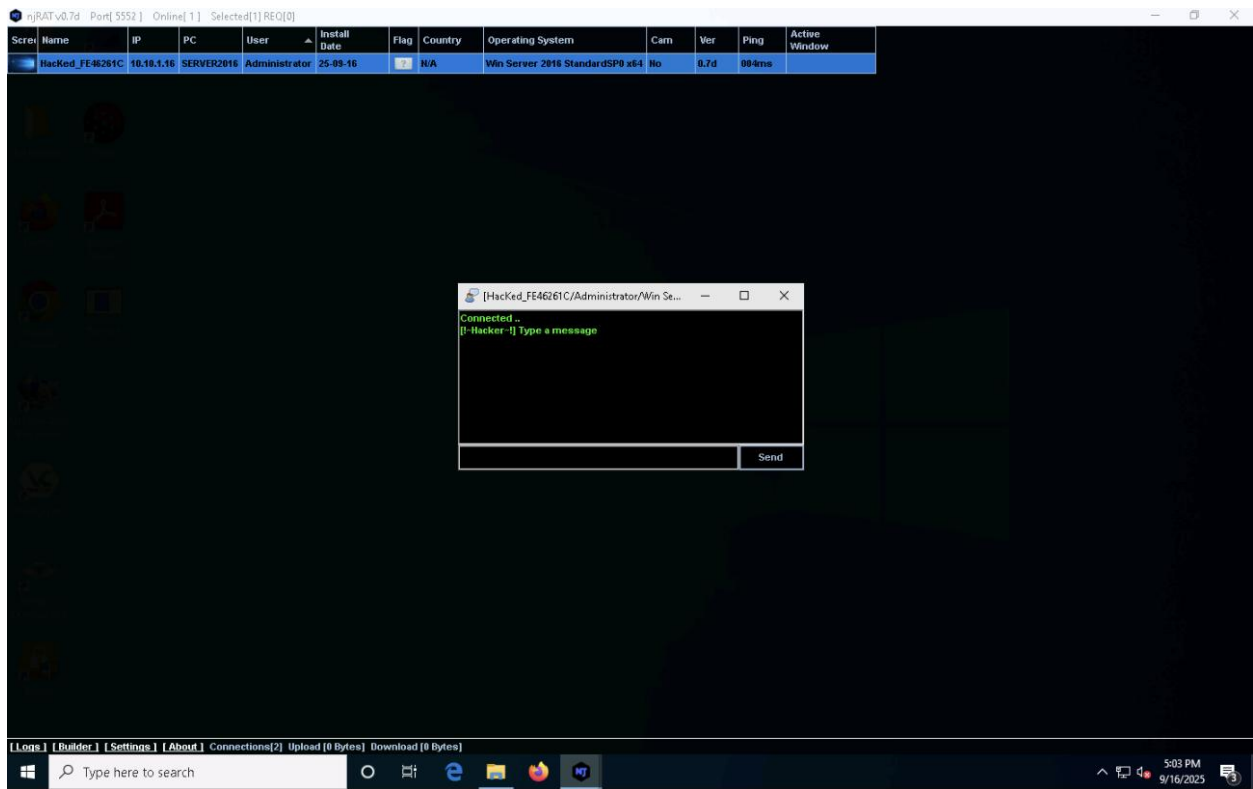


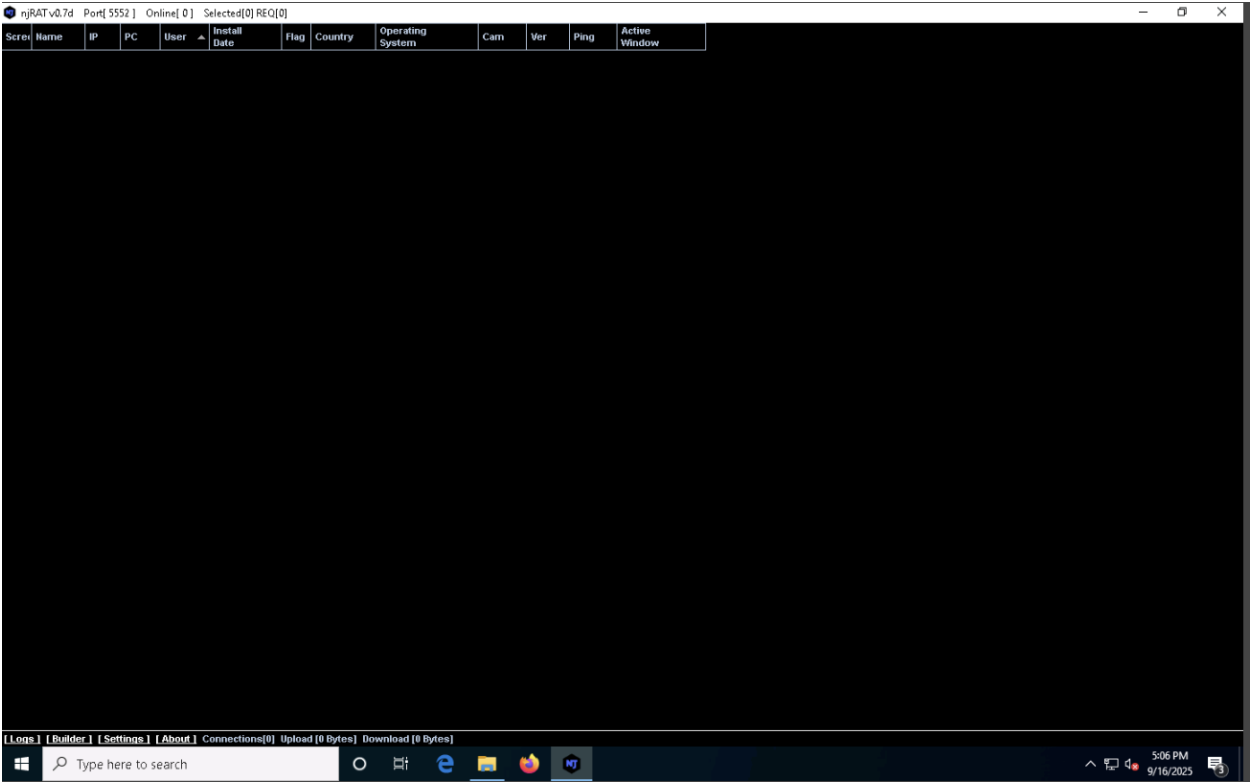
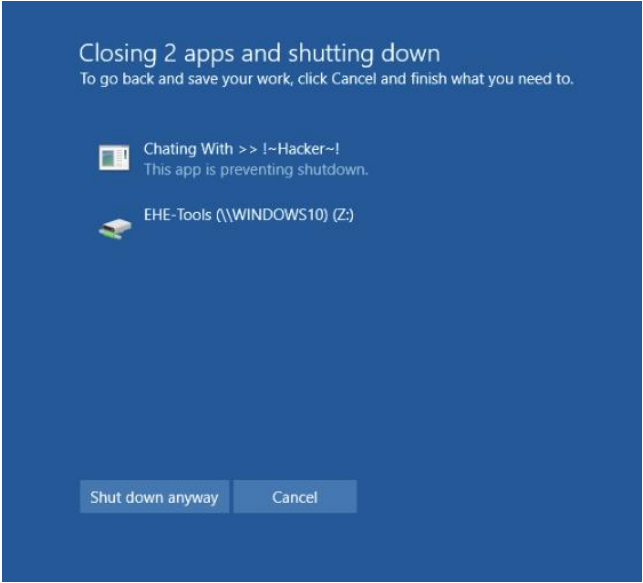


**Observation:** Opened Remote Shell from the njRAT client interface. The shell displayed a Windows Server 2016 command prompt environment, but the interface did not accept

input. The expected command (ipconfig /all) could not be entered. This indicates that the lab environment provides a visual demonstration of RAT capabilities but restricts live interaction for security reasons.







Task Manager

File Options View

Processes Performance Users Details Services

Name	1% CPU	16% Memory
> Microsoft Distributed Transacti...	0%	2.2 MB
> Microsoft.ActiveDirectory.WebS...	0%	14.1 MB
> Microsoft® Volume Shadow Co...	0%	1.2 MB
Runtime Broker	0%	1.4 MB
Search	0%	7.6 MB
server (32 bit)	0%	0.9 MB
> SMSvcHost.exe	0%	3.3 MB
> SMSvcHost.exe (3)	0%	5.4 MB
> SNMP Service	0%	2.5 MB
> Spooler SubSystem App	0%	4.4 MB
> Virtual Disk Service	0%	1.9 MB
> Windows NT Distributed File Sy...	0%	1.3 MB
> Windows NT Intersite Messagin...	0%	1.1 MB
Windows Shell Experience Host	0%	10.7 MB
WMI Provider Host	0%	3.6 MB
WMI Provider Host	0%	1.5 MB
Windows processes (33)		
> appmodel (2)	0%	3.4 MB
Client Server Runtime Process	0%	1.1 MB
Client Server Runtime Process	0%	1.2 MB
Desktop Window Manager	0%	18.2 MB
> ftpsvc	0%	3.5 MB
> Local Security Authority Proces...	0%	30.3 MB
> Service Host: BranchCache	0%	18.1 MB

## Lab 2: Create a Virus to Infect the Target System

### Lab Scenario

Viruses are the scourges of modern computing. Computer viruses have the potential to wreak havoc on both business and personal computers. The lifetime of a virus depends on its ability to reproduce. Therefore, attackers design every virus code in such a manner that the virus replicates itself n number of times, where n is a number specified by the attacker.

Virus reproduces its own code while enclosing other executables, and spreads throughout the computer. Viruses can spread the infection by damaging files in a file system. Some viruses reside in the memory and may infect programs through the boot sector. A virus can also be in an encrypted form.

### Lab Objectives

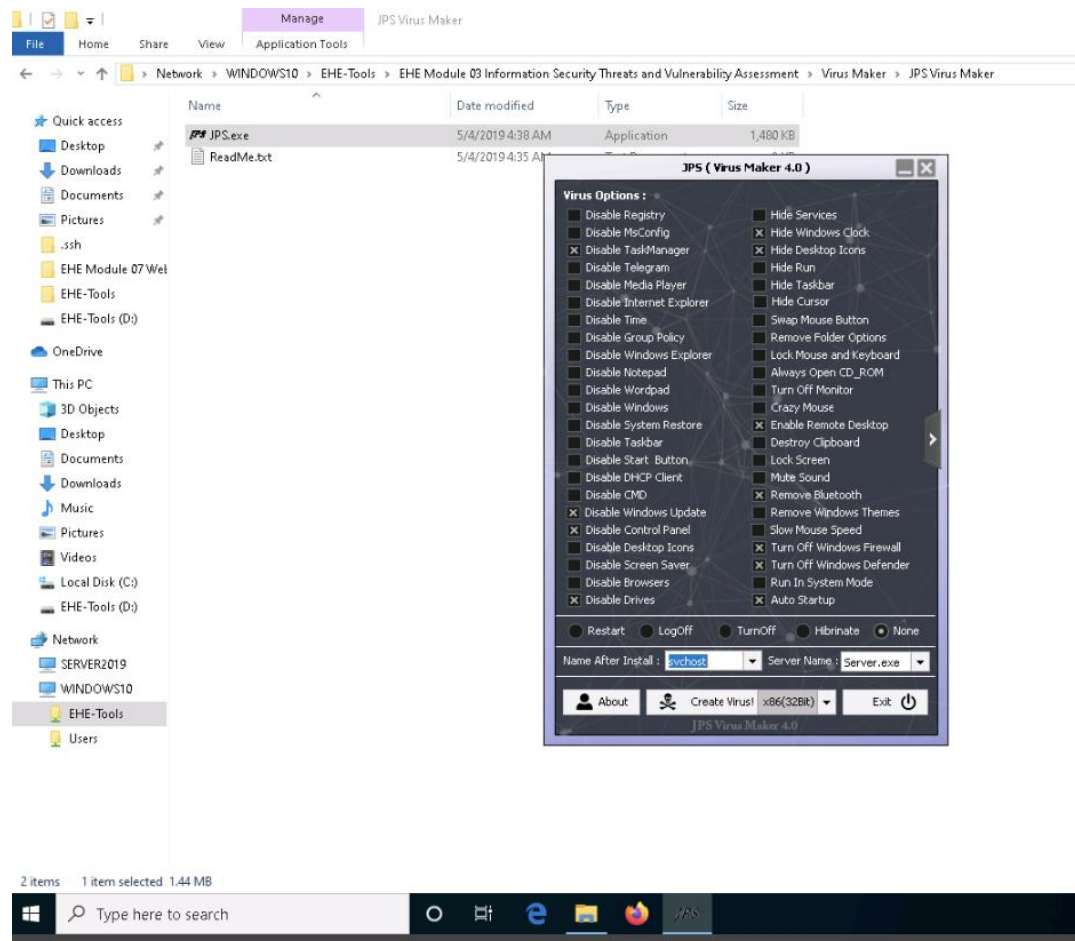
- Create a Virus using the JPS Virus Maker Tool and Infect the Target System

#### Task 1: Create a Virus using the JPS Virus Maker Tool and Infect the Target System

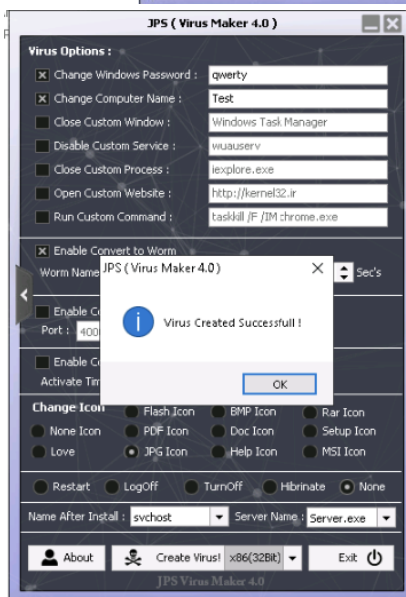
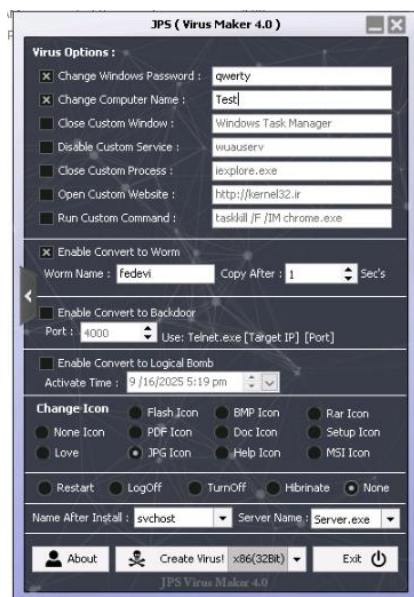
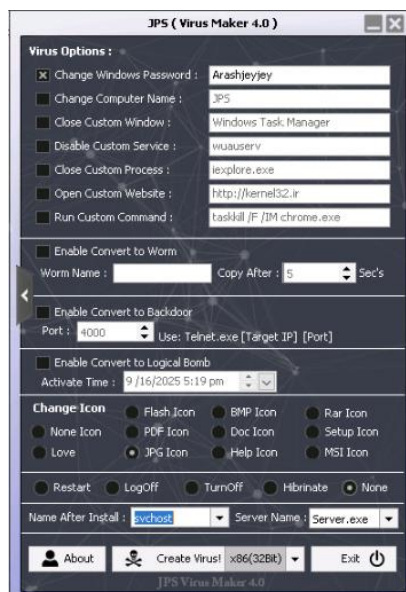
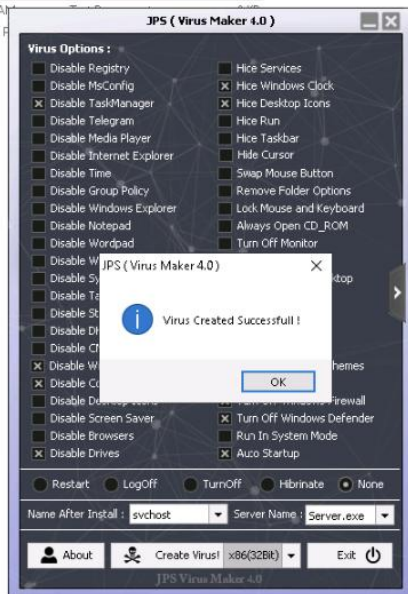
The JPS Virus Maker tool is used to create its own customized virus. This tool has many options for building that can be used to create a virus. Some of the tool's features are auto-



start, shutdown, disable security center, lock mouse and keyboard, destroy protected storage, and terminate windows. We can use the JPS Virus Maker Tool as a proof of concept to audit perimeter security controls in an organization.



5/4/2019 4:38 AM Application 1,480 KB  
 5/4/2019 4:35 AM  
 9/16/2025 5:21 PM

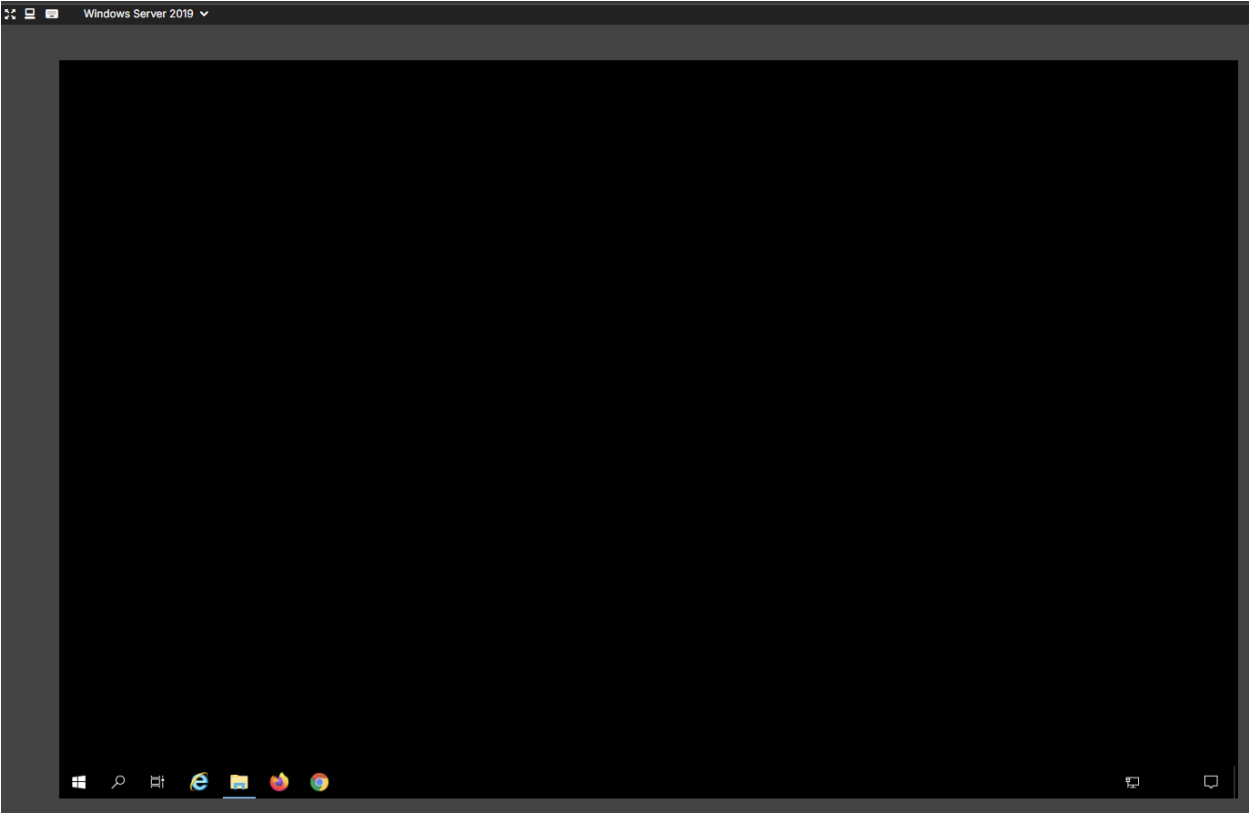


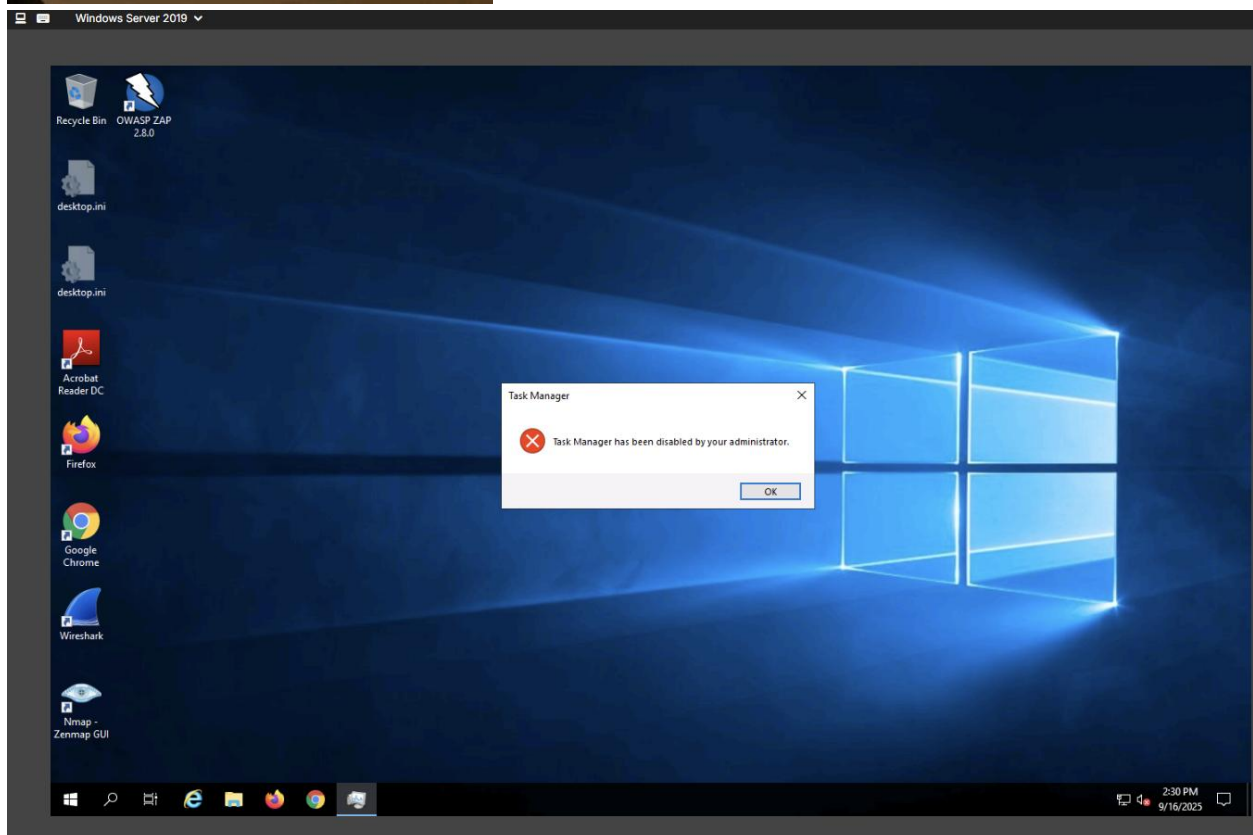
JPS Virus Maker

File Home Share View

Network > WINDOWS10 > EHE-Tools > EHE Module 03 Information Security Threats and Vulnerability Assessment > Virus Maker > JPS Virus Maker

	Name	Date modified	Type	Size
Quick access	JPS.exe	5/4/2019 4:38 AM	Application	1,480 KB
Desktop	ReadMe.txt	5/4/2019 4:35 AM	Text Document	2 KB
Downloads	Server.exe	9/16/2025 5:24 PM	Application	35 KB
Documents				
Pictures				
.ssh				
EHE Module 07 Wet				
EHE-Tools				
EHE-Tools (D:)				
OneDrive				





## Lab 3: Perform Vulnerability Assessment to Identify Security Vulnerabilities in the Target System or Network

### Lab Scenario

The information gathered in the previous labs might not be sufficient to reveal potential vulnerabilities of the target: there could be more information available that may help in finding loopholes. As an ethical hacker, you should look for as much information as possible using all available tools. This lab will demonstrate other information that you can extract from the target using various vulnerability assessment tools.

## Lab Objectives

- Perform Vulnerability Analysis using OpenVAS

## Task 1: Perform Vulnerability Analysis using OpenVAS

OpenVAS is a framework of several services and tools offering a comprehensive and powerful vulnerability scanning and vulnerability management solution. Its capabilities include unauthenticated testing, authenticated testing, various high level and low-level Internet and industrial protocols, performance tuning for large-scale scans, and a powerful internal programming language to implement any vulnerability test. The actual security scanner is accompanied with a regularly updated feed of Network Vulnerability Tests (NVTs)-over 50,000 in total.

Here, we will perform a vulnerability analysis using OpenVAS.

Parrot OS Desktop Environment (Xfce) showing a terminal window with the following output:

```

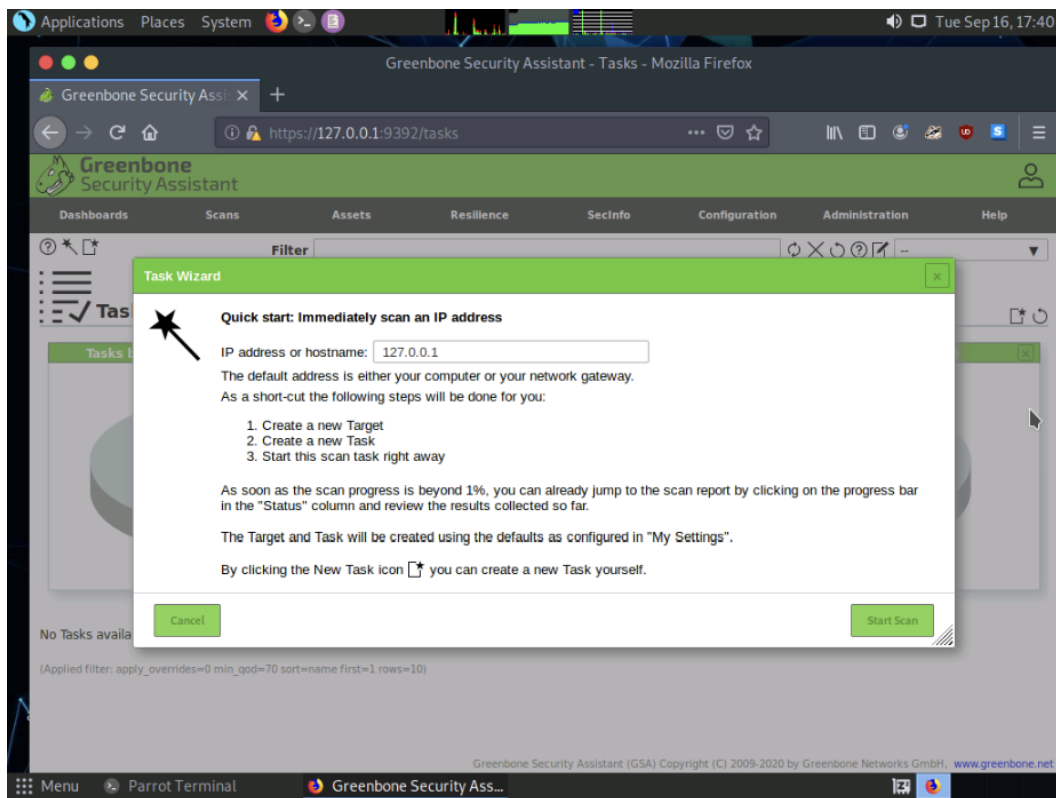
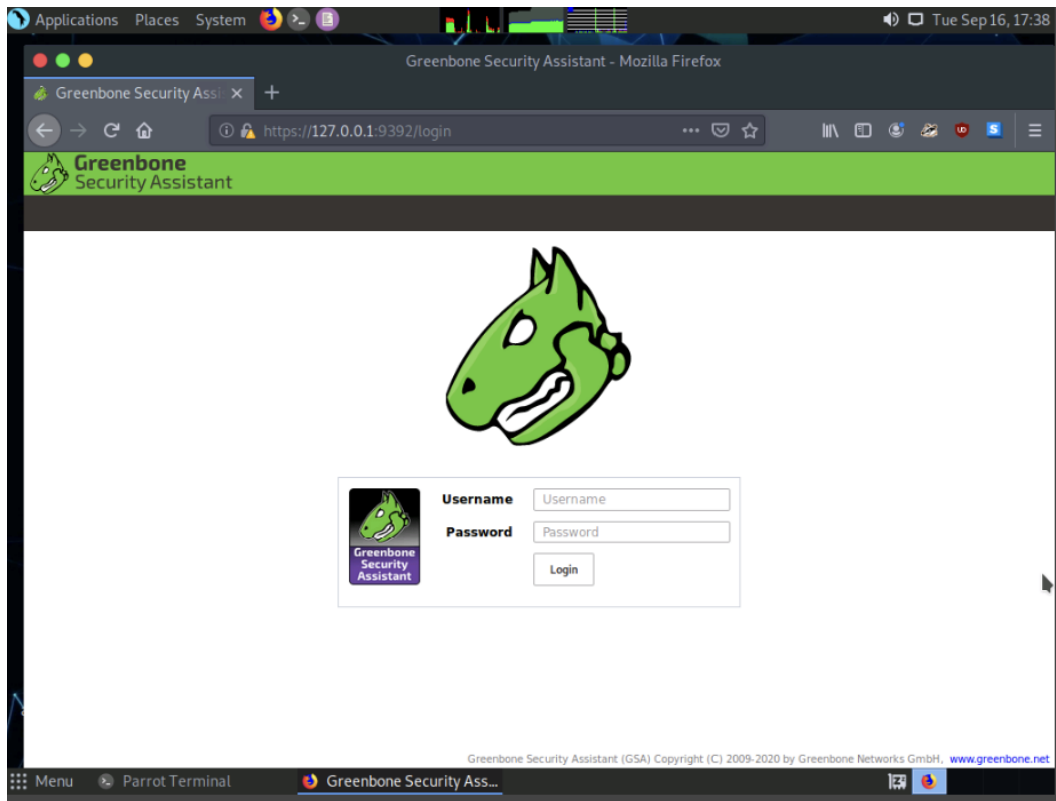
Sep 16 17:33:02 parrot systemd[1]: gvm.service: Can't open PID file /run/gvm/gv
md.pid (yet?) after start: Operation not permitted
Sep 16 17:33:23 parrot systemd[1]: Started Open Vulnerability Assessment System
attacker's Manager Daemon.

● ospd-openvas.service - OSPD OpenVAS
   Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/ospd-openvas.service; enabled; vendor p
reset: enabled)
   Active: active (running) since Tue 2025-09-16 17:33:02 EDT; 2min 20s ago
   Process: 648 ExecStart=/usr/bin/ospd-openvas --unix-socket=/run/ospd/ospd.s
ock --pid-file=/run/ospd/ospd-openvas.pid (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
   Main PID: 895 (ospd-openvas)
   Tasks: 3 (Limit: 4637)
   Memory: 672.1M
   CGroup: /system.slice/ospd-openvas.service
           └─895 /usr/bin/python3 /usr/bin/ospd-openvas --unix-socket=/run/osp
d/ospd.sock --pid-file=/run/ospd/ospd-openvas.pid

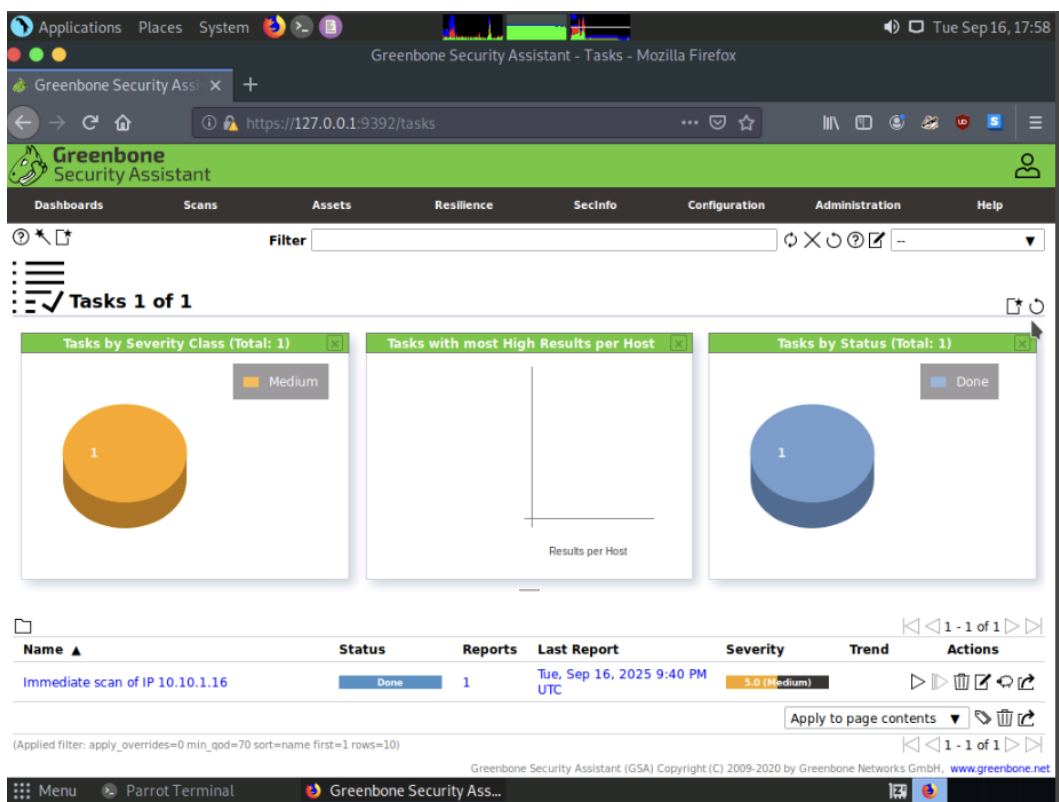
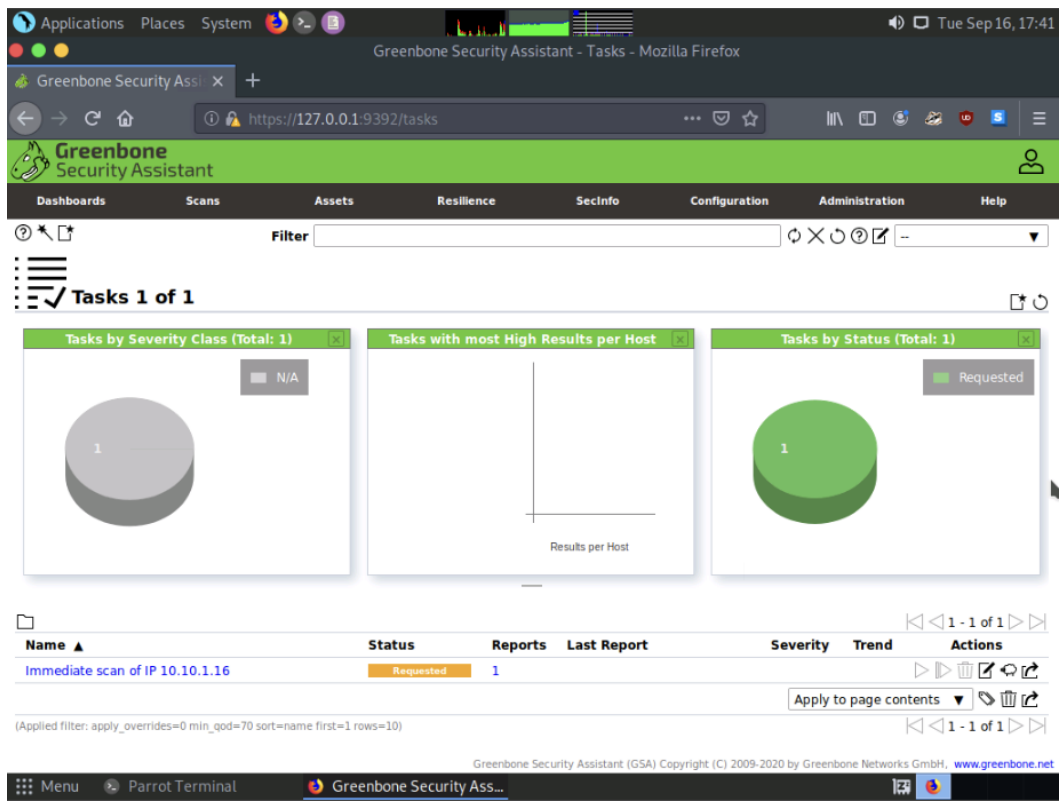
Sep 16 17:32:58 parrot systemd[1]: Starting OSPD OpenVAS...
Sep 16 17:33:02 parrot systemd[1]: Started OSPD OpenVAS.

[*] Opening Web UI (https://127.0.0.1:9392) in: 5... 4... 3... 2... 1...
[root@parrot]~#

```







Applications Places System Tue Sep 16, 17:59

Greenbone Security Assistant - Report Details - Mozilla Firefox

Greenbone Security Assistant

Dashboards Scans Assets Resilience Secinfo Configuration Administration Help

Filter

**Repo** Tue, Sep 16, 2025 9:40 PM UTC **rt:** Done ID: 6925bef9-8c8e-468b-bf94-f5ef86cf530b Created: Tue, Sep 16, 2025 9:41 PM UTC Modified: Tue, Sep 16, 2025 9:58 PM UTC Owner: admin

Information	Results (3 of 47)	Hosts (0 of 0)	Ports (0 of 0)	Applications (0 of 0)	Operating Systems (0 of 1)	CVEs (0 of 0)	Closed CVEs (0 of 0)	TLS Certificates (0 of 0)	Error Messages (0 of 0)	User Tags (0)
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Vulnerability

Vulnerability	Severity	QoD	Host IP	Name	Location	Created
DCE/RPC and MSRPC Services Enumeration Reporting	5.0 (Medium)	80 %	10.10.1.16		135/tcp	Tue, Sep 16, 2025 9:53 PM UTC
SSL/TLS: Report Weak Cipher Suites	4.3 (Medium)	98 %	10.10.1.16		3389/tcp	Tue, Sep 16, 2025 9:52 PM UTC
TCP timestamps	2.6 (Low)	80 %	10.10.1.16		general/tcp	Tue, Sep 16, 2025 9:43 PM UTC

(Applied filter: apply\_overrides=0 levels=hml rows=100 min\_qod=70 first=1 sort=reverse=severity)

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Menu Parrot Terminal Greenbone Security Ass...

Applications Places System Tue Sep 16, 18:00

Greenbone Security Assistant - Report Details - Mozilla Firefox

Greenbone Security Assistant

Dashboards Scans Assets Resilience Secinfo Configuration Administration Help

Filter

**Repo** Tue, Sep 16, 2025 9:40 PM UTC **rt:** Done ID: 6925bef9-8c8e-468b-bf94-f5ef86cf530b Created: Tue, Sep 16, 2025 9:41 PM UTC Modified: Tue, Sep 16, 2025 9:58 PM UTC Owner: admin

Information	Results (3 of 47)	Hosts (1 of 1)	Ports (2 of 26)	Applications (0 of 0)	Operating Systems (1 of 1)	CVEs (1 of 1)	Closed CVEs (9 of 9)	TLS Certificates (0 of 0)	Error Messages (0 of 0)	User Tags (0)
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Vulnerability

Vulnerability	Severity	QoD	Host IP	Name	Location	Created
DCE/RPC and MSRPC Services Enumeration Reporting	5.0 (Medium)	80 %	10.10.1.16		135/tcp	Tue, Sep 16, 2025 9:53 PM UTC

**Summary**

Distributed Computing Environment / Remote Procedure Calls (DCE/RPC) or MSRPC services running on the remote host can be enumerated by connecting on port 135 and doing the appropriate queries.

**Detection Result**

Here is the list of DCE/RPC or MSRPC services running on this host via the TCP protocol:

Port: 1536/tcp

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Menu Parrot Terminal Greenbone Security Ass...



### **Module 03: Information Security Threats and Vulnerability Assessment – Lab Summary**

This module demonstrated how attackers create and deploy malware and how defenders can assess system vulnerabilities.

In **Lab 1**, I explored Remote Access Trojans (Theef and njRAT). The Theef server executable was blocked by Windows Defender group policy, highlighting built-in OS protections. The njRAT client successfully launched but the remote shell was non-interactive, demonstrating RAT capabilities in a controlled environment without live execution.

In **Lab 2**, I used the JPS Virus Maker tool to generate a proof-of-concept virus, reinforcing how malicious code can be customized with disruptive payloads.

In **Lab 3**, I performed a vulnerability assessment using OpenVAS, which provided experience with scanning hosts, identifying vulnerabilities, and analyzing results through Greenbone Security Assistant.

Together, these labs reinforced key concepts of malware creation, propagation, and detection, as well as the importance of vulnerability management in protecting organizational systems.