Penetration reconnaissance testing in metasploitable - 4geeks

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Objective:

To conduct a comprehensive security assessment of the Metasploit virtual machine, including enumeration of target services, collection of system information, identification of open ports, and execution of a vulnerability scan to identify potential security weaknesses.

Scope:

The scope of this engagement includes the reconnaissance and scanning of the target system to identify potential vulnerabilities, gather system information, enumerate active services, and assess security weaknesses.

Tools Used for Analysis:

The tools utilized for this assessment include Kali Linux for its comprehensive suite of penetration testing tools, and Nmap for network discovery, port scanning, and service enumeration.

ANALYSIS 3 most dangerous vulnerabilities:

- 1. vsFTPd 2.3.4 Backdoor (CVE-2011-2523):
 - Port: 21 (FTP)
 - Impact: Critical. Full system compromise due to remote command execution.
 - Reference: CVE-2011-2523
 - Description: This vulnerability exists in vsFTPd version 2.3.4, where a backdoor was introduced that allows remote attackers to gain root access to the server. It enables attackers to execute arbitrary commands with root privileges.
- 2. RMI Registry Remote Code Execution (CVE-2010-4476)
 - Port: 1099 (RMI Registry)
 - Impact: Critical. Remote code execution on the affected system, which could lead to full compromise.
 - Reference: Metasploit Module for RMI Registry
 - Description: The default configuration of the RMI registry allows classes to be loaded from remote URLs. An attacker can exploit this flaw to load arbitrary classes, potentially leading to remote code execution.
- 3. SSL/TLS Vulnerabilities (Weak DH Group & POODLE)
 - Port: 443 (SSL/TLS)
 - Impact: Both of these SSL/TLS vulnerabilities put encrypted traffic at risk, allowing attackers
 to potentially intercept sensitive information, decrypt it, or conduct man-in-the-middle (MITM)
 attacks.
 - References: Weak DH Group, POODLE CVE-2014-3566
 - Description: Weak DH Group (CVE-2016-0800): The Diffie-Hellman key exchange uses weak parameters (Group 1), making the connection vulnerable to passive eavesdropping attacks.
 POODLE (CVE-2014-3566): SSL 3.0 is vulnerable to padding oracle attacks, allowing an attacker to decrypt parts of the encrypted communication.

Mitigation strategy based on the vulnerabilities and open ports encountered in the scans

Patch OS and Services

- Update the system to a supported version of Linux.
- Enable automatic updates for security patches.

Close Unnecessary Ports

- Block unused ports (FTP, Telnet, NFS, etc.) using a firewall.
- Restrict access to critical ports (SSH, MySQL, PostgreSQL).

Use Strong Authentication and Encryption

- Replace Telnet with SSH.
- Use SSL/TLS for SMTP, HTTP, and MySQL.
- Use SFTP instead of FTP for secure file transfers.

Harden SMB and Network Shares

- Disable SMB if not needed.
- Enable SMB message signing.
- Limit SMB access to trusted networks only.

Limit User Privileges

- Use the principle of least privilege for user access.
- Disable unnecessary services (exec, login, shell).

Secure Database Services

- Restrict MySQL/PostgreSQL to local-only access.
- Use strong passwords and encryption for database connections.

Disable Unnecessary or Unknown Services

- Investigate and disable unknown services.
- Audit services regularly to ensure only necessary ones are running.

Improve Time Synchronization and Logging

- Sync system time using NTP.
- Enable logging and secure log storage.

Conduct Regular Security Audits

- Regularly scan for vulnerabilities using tools like Nessus or OpenVAS.
- Perform internal and external penetration testing.

Implement IDS/IPS

- Deploy an Intrusion Detection/Prevention System (e.g., Snort, Suricata).
- Consider using honeypots to detect malicious activity.

Summary of the system info:

Host: 192.168.1.12 (reachable with 0.0016s latency)

Device Type: General-purpose device

Operating System: Linux 2.6.X (specifically, Linux kernel versions 2.6.9 to 2.6.33)

MAC Address: 08:00:27:D5:A7:85 (Oracle VirtualBox NIC)

NetBIOS Name: METASPLOITABLE

SMB Info:

Protocol: SMB2 (with some issues during negotiation)

Message Signing: Disabled (which is risky)

SMB OS: Samba 3.0.20-Debian

Host Name: metasploitable.localdomain

Account: No account used; authentication set to "user" level

System Time: 2025-04-12, 00:23:15 (timezone: EDT) Traceroute: 1 hop to 192.168.1.12 (RTT: 1.57 ms)

Summary of the full port scan:

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Host: 192.168.1.12 (up with 0.00093s latency)
Open Ports: 22 open ports in total:
Common Services:
FTP (21), SSH (22), Telnet (23), SMTP (25), HTTP (80), RPCBind (111)
NetBIOS (139), Microsoft DS (445), MySQL (3306), PostgreSQL (5432), VNC (5900)
IRC (6667), AJP13 (8009), X11 (6000), and others (like NFS, distccd, msgsrvr)
Uncommon Services: Several unknown services on ports 8180, 38728, 48772, 58693, and 59207
MAC Address: 08:00:27:D5:A7:85 (Oracle VirtualBox NIC)
```

The system has a large number of open ports, including services like FTP, SSH, MySQL, Post-greSQL, and VNC, which could be potential entry points. Some ports also run obscure or unknown services.

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145/tcp
3306/tcp
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Based on Nmap results, here's a brief analysis of the vulnerabilities found across the system:

1. vsFTPd 2.3.4 Backdoor (CVE-2011-2523)

Port: 21 (FTP)

Risk: High. The vsFTPd version 2.3.4 contains a backdoor allowing remote command execution with root privileges.

Exploit: Remote code execution via FTP service (testable with commands like id).

Fix: Upgrade vsFTPd to a patched version.

RMI Registry Remote Code Execution (CVE-XXXX-XXXX)

Port: 1099 (RMI)

Risk: High. The RMI registry's default configuration allows remote code execution by loading malicious classes from remote

URLs.

Exploit: Potential for a remote attacker to execute arbitrary code.

Fix: Disable class loading from remote URLs or configure RMI registry securely.

3. SSL/TLS Vulnerabilities

Port: Multiple (443, 3306, 5432, etc.)

Weak DH Group (CVE-XXXX-XXXX): Uses weak Diffie-Hellman groups susceptible to passive eavesdropping. CCS Injection (CVE-2014-0224): MITM vulnerability that allows attackers to hijack sessions. POODLE (CVE-2014-3566): Vulnerable to a padding oracle attack allowing cleartext data leakage.

Risk: Medium to High. These vulnerabilities could allow attackers to intercept sensitive information or hijack secure sessions.

Fix: Update OpenSSL to a version patched for these issues and disable SSL 3.0.

4. XSS and CSRF Vulnerabilities

Port: 80 (HTTP)

Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF): Forms on various paths like /dvwa/login.php, /twiki/TWikiDocumentation.html, and /mutil-lidae/index.php are susceptible to CSRF, allowing an attacker to perform actions on behalf of a user.

XSS: No stored XSS found, but other potential XSS issues were identified.

Risk: Medium. CSRF could allow unauthorized actions without user consent, while XSS may expose users to malicious scripts.

Fix: Implement CSRF tokens in forms and sanitize user input to prevent XSS.

5. UnrealIRCd Backdoor

Port: 6667 (IRC)

Risk: High. The UnrealIRCd service is likely compromised, exposing the system to a backdoor.

Exploit: Remote attackers may gain unauthorized access via this backdoor.

Fix: Replace the trojaned UnrealIRCd with a clean, patched version.

Missing HttpOnly Flag in Cookies

Port: 80 (HTTP)

Risk: Low. The absence of the HttpOnly flag in cookies makes them vulnerable to theft via client-side scripts.

Fix: Add the HttpOnly flag to cookies to mitigate this risk.

7. Weak Authentication and Exposed Admin Folders

Port: 80 (HTTP)

Admin Folders: Potentially exposed admin pages, like /admin/ and /admin/login.html, may allow unauthorized access to sensitive functions.

Fix: Secure these pages with proper authentication and restrict access.

8. NFS and SMB Vulnerabilities

Port: 2049 (NFS), 445 (Microsoft-DS)

Risk: Medium. Exposed NFS and SMB services can be exploited for unauthorized access to shared files or resources.

Fix: Restrict access to these services through firewalls or VPNs.

9. SQL Injection

Port: 80 (HTTP)

Risk: Medium. Several URLs were identified as potentially vulnerable to SQL Injection, particularly in /dav/?C=S%3BO%3DA%27 OR sqlspider.

Fix: Implement prepared statements and proper input validation to prevent SQL injection.

10. HTTP TRACE Method

Port: 80 (HTTP)

Risk: Low. The TRACE HTTP method can be exploited to gather information about HTTP headers, potentially revealing sensitive data like cookies.

Complete nmap vulnerability scan results