Integrated Network Reconnaissance and Traffic Analysis Toolkit

A multi-phase cybersecurity project combining automated scanning, host enumeration, and packet-level monitoring using Metasploit, Nmap, Bash scripting, and Wireshark.

Part 1: Environment Preparation and Active Network Scanning

launching a full TCP SYN scan, and enumerating discovered hosts and services.

This phase covers IP address validation, initializing the Metasploit environment,

Kali VM IP Address Configuration

```
parvaparikh17@24hours: ~
File Actions Edit View Help
   -(parvaparikh17⊛24hours)-[~]

—
$ ip addr show

1: lo: <LOOPBACK, UP, LOWER_UP> mtu 65536 qdisc noqueue state UNKNOWN group default qlen 1000
    link/loopback 00:00:00:00:00:00 brd 00:00:00:00:00:00
    inet 127.0.0.1/8 scope host lo
       valid lft forever preferred lft forever
    inet6 ::1/128 scope host noprefixroute
       valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
2: eth0: <BROADCAST, MULTICAST, UP, LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc fq_codel state UP group default ql
en 1000
    link/ether 00:0c:29:8c:3d:cd brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
    inet 172.16.221.128/24 brd 172.16.221.255 scope global dynamic noprefixroute eth0
       valid_lft 1779sec@preferred_lft 1779sec
    inet6 fe80::20c:29ff-fe8c:3dcd/64 scope link noprefixroute
       valid lft forever preferred lft forever
```

Displays the Kali Linux VM's assigned IP address 172.16.221.128, confirming its position in the 172.16.221.0/24 subnet used for internal scanning.

Launching PostgreSQL and Metasploit Console

```
parvaparikh17@24hours: ~
   Actions Edit View
  (parvaparikh17⊛ 24hours)-[~]
sudo service postgresql start
[sudo] password for parvaparikh17:
  (parvaparikh17⊛ 24hours)-[~]
  msfconsole
Metasploit tip: Save the current environment with the save command,
future console restarts will use this environment again
%%
            9696
```

PostgreSQL is started to support Metasploit's database-backed workspace. Metasploit is then launched to begin the reconnaissance workflow.

Full TCP SYN Scan in Metasploit Workspace

```
parvaparikh17@24hours: ~
    Actions Edit View Help
msf6 > workspace --add reconlab
   Workspace 'reconlab' already existed, switching to it.
   Workspace: reconlab
msf6 > workspace reconlab
   Workspace: reconlab
msf6 > db nmap -sS -T4 -p -v --open --reason 172.16.221.0/24
[*] Nmap: Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-06-12 16:54 EDT
   Nmap: Initiating ARP Ping Scan at 16:54
[*] Nmap: Scanning 255 hosts [1 port/host]
   Nmap: Completed ARP Fring Scan at 16:54, 1.85s elapsed (255 total hosts)
💌 Nmap: Initiating Parellel DNS resolution of 3 hosts. at 16:54
   Nmap: Completed Parallel DNS resolution of 3 hosts. at 16:54, 0.03s elapsed
[*] Nmap: Initiating Parallel DNS resolution of 1 host. at 16:54
   Nmap: Completed Parallel DNS resolution of 1 host. at 16:54, 0.02s elapsed
[*] Nmap: Initiating SYN Stealth Scan at 16:54
   Nmap: Scanning 3 hosts [65535 ports/host]
[*] Nmap: Completed SYN Stealth Scan against 172.16.221.2 in 4.47s (2 hosts left)
   Nmap: Discovered open port 5000/tcp on 172.16.221.1
[*] Nmap: Completed SYN Stealth Scan against 172.16.221.1 in 101.17s (1 host left)
   Nmap: Completed SYN Stealth Scan at 16:56, 114.53s elapsed (196605 total ports)
   Nmap: Nmap scan report for 172.16.221.1
   Nmap: Host is up. received arp-response (0.00052s latency).
   Nmap: Not shown: 36435 filtered tcp ports (no-response), 29099 closed tcp ports (reset)
   Nmap: Some closed ports may be reported as filtered due to --defeat-rst-ratelimit
   Nmap: PORT
                   STATE SERVICE REASON
[*] Nmap: 5000/tcp open upnp syn-ack ttl 64
   Nmap: MAC Address: 2E:CA:16:E0:E7:65 (Unknown)
[*] Nmap: Initiating SYN Stealth Scan at 16:56
   Nmap: Scanning 172.16.221.128 [65535 ports]
[*] Nmap: Completed SYN Stealth Scan at 16:56, 0.17s elapsed (65535 total ports)
   Nmap: Read data files from: /usr/share/nmap
   Nmap: Nmap done: 256 IP addresses (4 hosts up) scanned in 116.81 seconds
   Nmap: Raw packets sent: 366139 (16.102MB) | Rcvd: 225724 (9.291MB)
```

Created a new reconlab workspace and ran a full TCP SYN scan on 172.16.221.0/24, capturing host, port, and service data for all devices in the subnet.

Discovered Hosts and Open Services



Used hosts and services commands in Metasploit to confirm that 172.16.221.1 is live and has port 5000/tcp open running a UPNP service.

Part 2: Recon Automation and Scripted Execution

Conducted automation of Metasploit scan process and the integration of traffic capture through Wireshark

Opening Recon Toolkit Directory

```
msf6 > nano scan.sh
[*] exec: nano scan.sh
```

Navigated to the custom Recon Toolkit directory and prepared to edit the scan automation file.

Writing scan.sh Script for Automation

```
E
                                  parvaparikh17@24hours: ~/Recon-Toolkit
     Actions Edit View Help
  GNU nano 8.4
                                                 scan.sh *
#!/bin/bash
SUBNET="172.16.221.0/24"
WORKSPACE="autolab"
echo "[+] Starting PostgreSQL ... "
sudo service postgresql start
echo "[+] Launching Metasploit with workspace: $WORKSPACE"
msfconsole -q -x "
workspace -- add $WORKSPACE;
workspace $WORKSPACE;
db nmap -sS -T4 -F -v --open --reason $SUBNET;
hosts:
services:
```

Displays the full script used to automate PostgreSQL startup, workspace creation, and subnet scanning from within Metasploit.

Launching Wireshark for Packet Capture

Wireshark is started with elevated privileges to monitor live traffic during recon scans, saving the capture as a .pcap file.

Executing scan.sh for Automated Recon

```
s cd ~/Recon-Toolkit
  -(narvanarikh17@ 24hours)-[~/Recon-Toolkit
[+] Starting PostgreSQL ...
sudo] password for parvaparikh17:
+] Launching Metasploit with workspace: autolab
   Workspace 'autolab' already existed, switching to it.
   Workspace: autolab
   Workspace: autolab
   Nmap: Starting Nmap 7.95 (https://nmap.org) at 2025-06-12 17:29 EDT
   Nmap: Initiating ARP Ping Scan at 17:29
   Nmap: Scanning 255 hosts [1 port/host]
   Nmap: Completed ARP Ping Scan at 17:29, 1.84s elapsed (255 total hosts)
   Nmap: Initiating Parallel DNS resolution of 3 hosts. at 17:29
   Nmap: Completed Parallel DNS resolution of 3 hosts, at 17:29, 0.04s elapsed
   Nmap: Initiating Parallel DNS resolution of 1 host. at 17:29
   Nmap: Completed Parallel DNS resolution of 1 host. at 17:29, 0.03s elapsed
   Nmap: Initiating SYN Stealth Scan at 17:29
   Nmap: Scanning 3 hosts [100 ports/host]
   Nmap: Discovered open port 5000/tcp on 172.16.221.1
   Nmap: Completed SYN Stealth Scan against 172.16.221.1 in 0.04s (2 hosts left)
   Nmap: Completed SYN Stealth Scan against 172.16.221.2 in 0.04s (1 host left)
   Nmap: Completed SYN Stealth Scan at 17:29, 1.93s elapsed (300 total ports)
   Nmap: Nmap scan report for 172.16.221.1
   Nmap: Host is up, received arp-response (0.00021s latency).
         Not shown: 99 closed tcp ports (reset)
   Nmap: PORT
                   STATE SERVICE REASON
   Nmap: 5000/tcp open upnp
                                 syn-ack ttl 64
   Nmap: MAC Address: 2E:CA:16:E0:E7:65 (Unknown)
   Nmap: Initiating SYN Stealth Scan at 17:29
   Nmap: Scanning 172.16.221.128 [100 ports]
   Nmap: Completed SYN Stealth Scan at 17:29, 0.03s elapsed (100 total ports)
   Nmap: Read data files from: /usr/share/nmap
   Nmap: Nmap done: 256 IP addresses (4 hosts up) scanned in 3.99 seconds
   Nmap: Raw packets sent: 1013 (36.380KB) | Rcvd: 409 (16.672KB)
Hosts
address
                                      os_name os_flavor os_sp
                                                                  purpose info comments
172.16.221.1 2E:CA:16:E0:E7:65
                                       Unknown
                                                                  device
Services
host
                   proto
                          name
                                 state
172.16.221.1
             5000 tcp
```

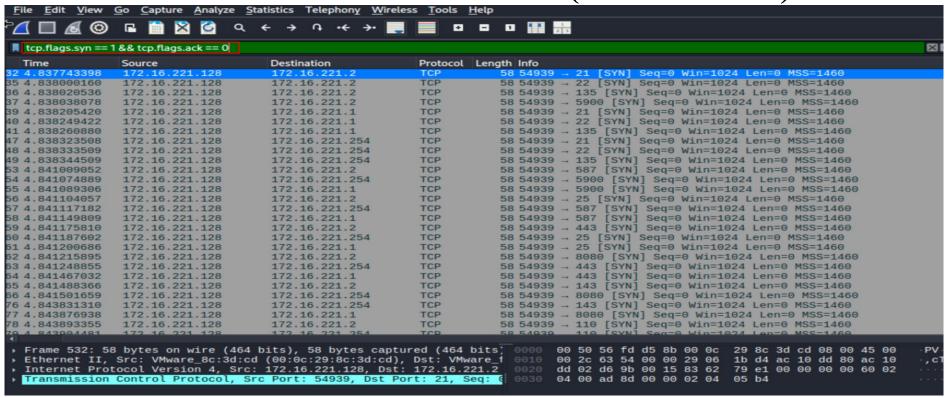
The automation script is executed, launching a full scan and logging host/service output, enabling reproducible recon workflows.

Part 3: Packet-Level Network Visibility with Wireshark

This phase captures and analyzes live network traffic generated by the Nmap scan.

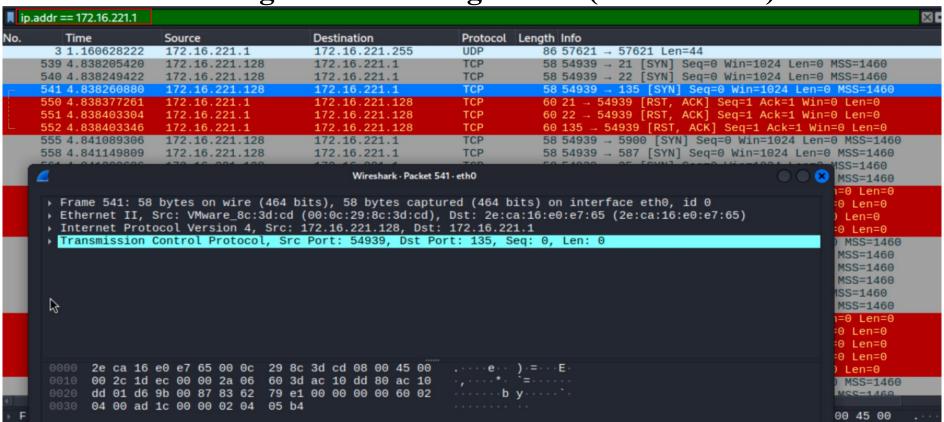
Using Wireshark, filters are applied to isolate SYN packets, host-specific communication, closed port responses, and traffic to an open port—providing full visibility into how network reconnaissance appears at the packet level.

Filtered View of SYN Packets (Scan Initiation)



Applied the filter tcp.flags.syn == 1 && tcp.flags.ack == 0 to isolate TCP SYN packets sent by Nmap, indicating attempted connections to various destination ports.

Isolating Traffic to Target Host (172.16.221.1)



Used **ip.addr** == **172.16.221.1** to view all traffic between the attacker and the discovered host. The expanded pane shows a SYN packet to port 135.

Unfiltered View of Network Scan Traffic

Apply a display filter <ctrl-></ctrl->							
No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length Info		
	839 4.856425989	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.2	TCP	58 54939 → 4899 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460		
	840 4.856438323	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.1	TCP	58 54939 → 1029 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460		
	841 4.856440698	172.16.221.1	172.16.221.128	TCP	60 2049 → 54939 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=0 Len=0		
	842 4.856440740	172.16.221.2	172.16.221.128	TCP	60 1029 → 54939 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=32767 Len=0		
	843 4.856451365	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.2	TCP	58 54939 → 8008 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460		
	844 4.856461116	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.1	TCP	58 54939 → 8000 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460		
⊱	845 4.856471908	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.2	TCP	58 54939 → 37 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460		
	846 4.856506951	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.1	TCP	58 54939 → 4899 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460		
	847 4.856507285	172.16.221.2	172.16.221.128	TCP	60 8000 → 54939 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=32767 Len=0		
	848 4.856507326	172.16.221.1	172.16.221.128	TCP	60 32768 → 54939 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=0 Len=0		
	849 4.856507368	172.16.221.1	172.16.221.128	TCP	60 1029 → 54939 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=0 Len=0		
	850 4.856507368	172.16.221.2	172.16.221.128	TCP	60 4899 → 54939 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=32767 Len=0		
	851 4.856523119	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.2	TCP	58 54939 → 2121 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460		
	852 4.856533494	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.1	TCP	58 54939 → 8008 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460		
	853 4.856544828	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.2	TCP	58 54939 → 179 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460		
	854 4.856547662	172.16.221.1	172.16.221.128	TCP	60 8000 → 54939 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=0 Len=0		
	855 4.856547662	172.16.221.2	172.16.221.128	TCP	60 8008 → 54939 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=32767 Len=0		
	856 4.856547703	172.16.221.2	172.16.221.128	TCP	60 37 → 54939 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=32767 Len=0		
	857 4.856556870	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.1	TCP	58 54939 → 37 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460		
	858 4.856564287	172.16.221.1	172.16.221.128	TCP	60 4899 → 54939 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=0 Len=0		
	859 4.856570829	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.2	TCP	58 54939 → 631 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460		
	860 4.856629541	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.1	TCP	58 54939 → 2121 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460		
	861 4.856644958	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.2	TCP	58 54939 → 5666 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460		
	862 4.856654208	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.1	TCP	58 54939 → 179 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460		
	863 4.856667084	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.2	TCP	58 54939 → 49154 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460		
	864 4.856677668	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.1	TCP	58 54939 → 631 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460		
	865 4.856672668	172.16.221.1	172.16.221.128	TCP	60 8008 → 54939 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=0 Len=0		
	866 / 85667270Q	170 16 001 0	170 16 001 108	TCD	60 2121 5/030 [DST ACK] Sec-1 Ack-1 Win-22767 Len-0		

Displays raw, unfiltered TCP traffic during the Nmap scan, capturing SYN, SYN-ACK, and RST-ACK packets to provide a complete timeline of scanning behavior.

Filtering by Open Port 5000 Traffic

		X 0 Q + >	0 ·← →· 📘 🔳 🖪		1 1 2 3				
No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length Info				
	646 4.847710202	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.2	TCP	58 54939 → 5000 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460				
	657 4.847805582	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.1	TCP	58 54939 → 5000 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460				
	665 4.847914379	172.16.221.2	172.16.221.128	TCP	60 5000 → 54939 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=32767 Len=0				
	669 4.848209517	172.16.221.1	172.16.221.128	TCP	60 5000 → 54939 [SYN, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=1 Win=65535 Len=0 MS				
	674 4.848235227	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.1	TCP	54 54939 → 5000 [RST] Seq=1 Win=0 Len=0				
	969 6.143004890	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.1	TCP	58 54944 → 5000 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460				
	973 6.143592960	172.16.221.1	172.16.221.128	TCP	60 5000 → 54944 [SYN, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=1 Win=65535 Len=0 MS				
	974 6.143623170	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.1	TCP	54 54944 → 5000 [RST] Seq=1 Win=0 Len=0				
	990 6.246093423	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.254	TCP	58 54939 → 5000 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460				
	996 6.346462461	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.254	TCP	58 54941 → 5000 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460				
	,								

Applied the filter tcp.port == 5000 to focus on communication involving the open UPNP service discovered earlier, helping verify valid responses.

This project demonstrates a full-spectrum approach to internal network reconnaissance, combining attacker-side scanning with defender-side traffic analysis. By leveraging Metasploit, Nmap, and Wireshark in a controlled environment, I was able to identify active hosts, enumerate services, and observe scan behavior at the packet level. The addition of automation through scripting further streamlined the process, making it efficient and repeatable. Altogether, this work reflects both a practical understanding of offensive recon techniques and an analytical ability to interpret how those actions appear from a defensive perspective.