

Assessment Methodologies Information Gathering

Passive Information Gathering:

No direct interaction with the target

- **Goal:** Stay stealthy, avoid detection
- **Sources:** WHOIS, DNS records, Google dorking, Social media, Job Postings, Public websites (e.g., LinkedIn, GitHub)
- **Tools:** Maltego, theHarvester, recon-ng, Google, Shodan, crt.sh (certificate transparency logs)

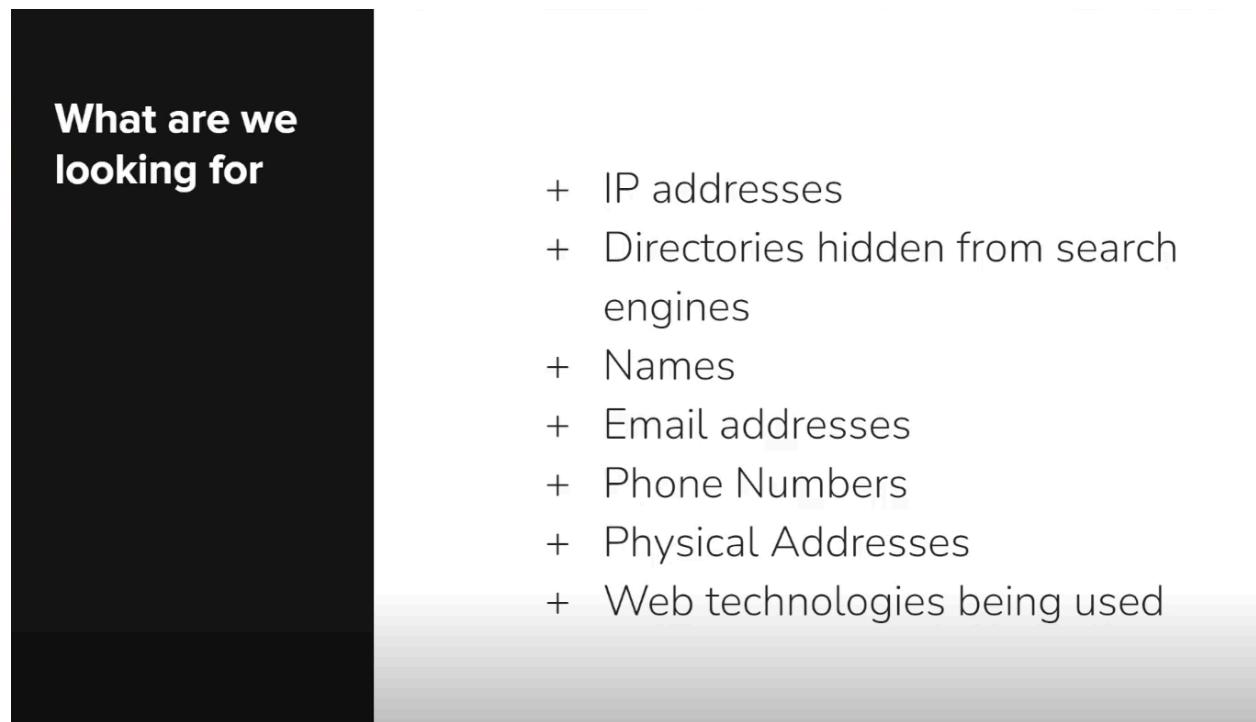
Active Information Gathering:

Direct interaction with the target system

- **Goal:** Collect detailed data (may trigger alerts)
- **Examples:** Port scanning (Nmap), Banner Grabbing, OS Detection, DNS zone Transfers, Service enumeration
- **Tools:** Nmap, Netcat, Dirb/Dirbuster, Nikto, Wappalyzer, WhatWeb

What Information Are We Looking For?

- Passive Information Gathering
 - Identifying IP addresses & DNS information.
 - + Identifying domain names and domain ownership information.
 - + Identifying email addresses and social media profiles.
 - + Identifying web technologies being used on target sites.
 - + Identifying subdomains.
- Active Information Gathering
 - + Discovering open ports on target systems.
 - + Learning about the internal infrastructure of a target network/organization.
 - + Enumerating information from target systems.



commands

- `host <target-website>` (get IPs v4/v6 & mail server)

- `curl -I <target-website>` (to see the https headers)
- `whois <command, eg. host>` (what to know about the tool or command)
- always look for `robots.txt & sitemap.xml`

web technology discovery

- Wappalyzer
- builtwith
- whatruns
- `whatweb <targeted-website>` (kali tool)

to download the website

- Webhtrack (Linux tool)

to get **registration info** about a domain name or IP address, registry domain id, registrar url, **organization that owns a domain/IP**

- `whois <targeted name>`

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~/eJPT]
$ whois zonetransfer.me
Domain Name: zonetransfer.me
Registry Domain ID: a3d67726c8644075af0760dccfc9dbc7-DONUTS
Registrar WHOIS Server: domains.meshdigital.com
Registrar URL: http://www.domainbox.com
Updated Date: 2024-12-03T11:40:43Z
Creation Date: 2011-12-27T15:34:08Z
Registry Expiry Date: 2028-12-27T15:34:08Z
Registrar: Mesh Digital Limited
Registrar IANA ID: 1390
Registrar Abuse Contact Email: abuse@domainbox.com
Registrar Abuse Contact Phone: +1.8779770099
Domain Status: clientDeleteProhibited https://icann.org/epp#clientDeleteProhibited
Domain Status: clientRenewProhibited https://icann.org/epp#clientRenewProhibited
Domain Status: clientTransferProhibited https://icann.org/epp#clientTransferProhibited
Domain Status: clientUpdateProhibited https://icann.org/epp#clientUpdateProhibited
Registry Registrant ID: REDACTED
Registrant Name: REDACTED
Registrant Organization: Domains By Proxy, LLC
Registrant Street: REDACTED
```

Finding the organization that owns a domain/IP

DNS Recon

- dnsrecon (used for get the name server & ips)
- dnsdumpster.com

detect firewalls or how to identify weather a website is being protected by proxy or firewall

- `Wafw00f <target-website>` (WAF Detection with Wafw00f tool of Linux)
- `Whatwaf -u <target.com>`
- `nmap -p 80,443 --script http-waf-detect --script-args http-waf-detect.uri=/ target.com`
- `dig target.com`

subdomain finder tools

- `sublist3r -d example.com -o subdomains.txt`
- `amass enum -passive -d example.com`
- `assetfinder --subs-only example.com`
- `crt.sh/Hunter.io` (online websites)

Google Dorks

Purpose	Dork Query Example
Find subdomains	site:*.example.com -www
List directories	site:example.com inurl:/admin
Exposed login pages	site:example.com inurl:login
Public exposed documents	site:example.com filetype:pdf
Discover config files	intitle:index.of config
Find cameras / CCTVs	inurl:/view/index.shtml
Discover email lists	intext:@example.com
Look for SQL error messages	intext:"you have an error in your sql syntax"
Find PHPMyAdmin access	intitle:"phpMyAdmin" "Welcome to phpMyAdmin"
Find backup files	intitle:index.of "backup" or filetype:bak
Sensitive files (env, log)	filetype:env OR filetype:log site:example.com
Git repositories	inurl:.git site:example.com

Filetype Dorks (Leak Detection)

site:example.com filetype:pdf

site:example.com filetype:xls

site:example.com filetype:log

site:example.com filetype:env

site:example.com filetype:sql

🛠️ Technology Detection

site:example.com inurl:wp-content # WordPress

site:example.com inurl:php? # PHP in use

site:example.com ext:jsp # Java server pages

wayback machine for tracking a website or see the older version of the website

- Google Hacking Database

Email Harvesting With theHarvester

- theHarvester -d example.com -b google

- It gathers valuable **enumeration data** like: Email addresses, Subdomains, Hosts, URLs, Open ports, Employee names

Leaked Password Databases

- Haveibeenpwned.com

←=====active information gathering=====→

#DNS Zone Transfers

use to get the dns-record (eg. Host's addresses, Name Servers, Mail (MX) Servers, Trying Zone Transfers and getting Bind Versions) or scan the internal network

- `dnsenum <targeted-website>`
- `dig axfr <name server> <targeted-website>` (eg. `dig axfr @nsztm1.digi.ninja zonetransfer.me`)
- `Fierce -dns <targeted-website>`

Nmap(Host Discovery With Nmap)

- Ip a or ifconfig (to get my own ip (my ip is under the 'eth0' , inet 192.168.146.183))
- `nmap -sn 192.168.146.183/24` or `arp-scan -l` or `netdiscover` (to find the active device IPs in the some network)

Port Scanning With Nmap

-

first lab CTF 1

- ▼ my ip 10.1.0.4

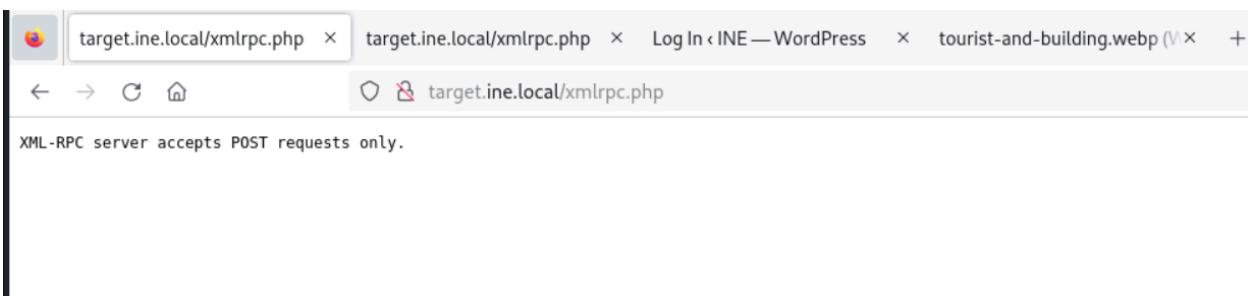
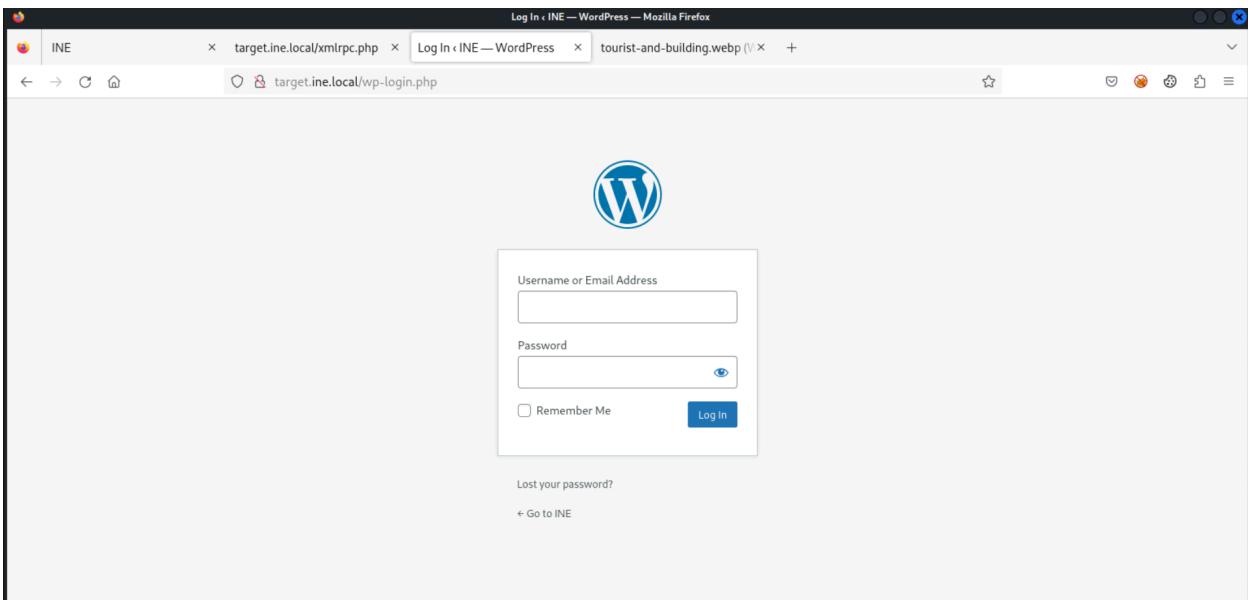
```
[root@INE ~]# nmap -sn 10.1.0.4/16
Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-05-22 21:12 IST
Nmap scan report for 10.1.0.1
Host is up (0.000015s latency).
MAC Address: 02:42:78:C6:71:9B (Unknown)
Nmap scan report for traefik-proxy.no-internet (10.1.0.2)
Host is up (0.000019s latency).
MAC Address: 02:42:0A:01:00:02 (Unknown)
Nmap scan report for plrihfkteugv18sn4m6oz5q7p.no-internet (10.1.0.3)
Host is up (0.000055s latency).
MAC Address: 02:42:0A:01:00:03 (Unknown)
Nmap scan report for z9s0nyeq8ee1yuudctuv54w8.no-internet (10.1.0.5)
Host is up (0.000030s latency).
MAC Address: 02:42:0A:01:00:05 (Unknown)
Nmap scan report for khdu2iy37v9m1csptbsr3lvpd.no-internet (10.1.0.6)
Host is up (0.000049s latency).
MAC Address: 02:42:0A:01:00:06 (Unknown)
Nmap scan report for c27xipaoq94gwuslmkhokaypi.no-internet (10.1.0.7)
Host is up (0.000042s latency).
MAC Address: 02:42:0A:01:00:07 (Unknown)
Nmap scan report for gvtvv5gp7tdaqeu1ykvrjdhm.no-internet (10.1.0.8)
Host is up (0.000033s latency).
MAC Address: 02:42:0A:01:00:08 (Unknown)
Nmap scan report for INE (10.1.0.4)
Host is up.
```

target.ine.local (192.85.46.3) || target.ine.local has address 192.47.84.3

- <http://target.ine.local/wp-login.php>

```
[root@INE ~/hts-cache/http:/target.ine.local]
[root@INE ~/hts-cache/http:/target.ine.local]# ls
index.php  '?p=2'    wp-admin   wp-includes  'wp-login.php?action=lostpassword'  'xmlrpc.php?rsd'
?p=1'       robots.txt  wp-content  wp-login.php 'wp-login.php?redirect_to=http%3A%2F%2Ftarget.ine.local%2Fwp-admin%2F%26reauth=1'
```

<http://target.ine.local/wp-login.php>



```

[~] (root@INE) [~]
# gobuster dir -u http://target.ine.local/ -w /usr/share/wordlists/dirb/common.txt
=====
Gobuster v3.6
by OJ Reeves (@TheColonial) & Christian Mehlmauer (@firefart)
=====
[+] Url:          http://target.ine.local/
[+] Method:       GET
[+] Threads:      10
[+] Wordlist:     /usr/share/wordlists/dirb/common.txt
[+] Negative Status codes: 404
[+] User Agent:   gobuster/3.6
[+] Timeout:      10s
=====
Starting gobuster in directory enumeration mode
=====
/.htaccess        (Status: 403) [Size: 281]
/.hta             (Status: 403) [Size: 281]
/.htpasswd        (Status: 403) [Size: 281]
/index.php        (Status: 301) [Size: 0] [→ http://target.ine.local/]
/robots.txt       (Status: 200) [Size: 108]
/server-status    (Status: 403) [Size: 281]
/wp-admin         (Status: 301) [Size: 323] [→ http://target.ine.local/wp-admin/]
/wp-content       (Status: 301) [Size: 325] [→ http://target.ine.local/wp-content/]
/wp-includes      (Status: 301) [Size: 326] [→ http://target.ine.local/wp-includes/]
Progress: 4614 / 4615 (99.98%)
/xmlrpc.php       (Status: 405) [Size: 42]
=====
Finished
=====
```

<http://target.ine.local/wp-includes/>

Name	Last modified	Size	Description
Parent Directory		-	
ID3/	2024-05-07 15:52	-	
IXR/	2024-05-07 15:52	-	
PHPMailer/	2024-05-07 15:52	-	
Requests/	2024-05-07 15:52	-	
SimplePie/	2024-05-07 15:52	-	
Text/	2024-05-07 15:52	-	
?admin-bar.php	2024-03-04 21:50	36K	
?assets/	2024-05-07 15:52	-	
?atomlib.php	2022-04-21 11:24	12K	
?author-template.php	2023-05-14 17:58	19K	
?block-bindings.php	2024-02-16 12:55	5.5K	
?block-bindings/	2024-05-07 15:52	-	
?block-editor.php	2023-09-27 17:40	27K	
?block-i18n.json	2021-08-11 09:08	316	
?block-patterns.php	2024-02-27 21:05	13K	
?block-patterns/	2024-05-07 15:52	-	
?block-supports/	2024-05-07 15:52	-	

```
only if you manually add a registry key. This fix is not yet
confirmed. (detected by getID3())
* CDex v1.40 (fixed by v1.50b7) writes non-compliant Ogg comment
  strings, supposed to be in the format "NAME=value" but actually
  written just "value" (detected by getID3())
* Oggenc 0.9-rc3 flags the encoded file as ABR whether it's
  actually ABR or VBR.
* iTunes (versions "v7.0.0.70" is known-guilty, probably
  other versions are too) writes ID3v2.3 comment tags using an
  ID3v2.2 frame name (3-bytes) null-padded to 4 bytes which is
  not valid for ID3v2.3+
```

```
└─(root@INE)-[~]
# nmap -p- 10.1.0.4
Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-05-23 12:35 IST
Nmap scan report for INE (10.1.0.4)
Host is up (0.000012s latency).
Not shown: 65533 closed tcp ports (reset)
PORT      STATE SERVICE
3389/tcp  open  ms-wbt-server
45654/tcp open  unknown

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 1.47 seconds
```

```

└──(root@INE)-[~]
    # nmap -Pn -p- 192.35.21.3
Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-05-23 12:37 IST
Nmap scan report for target.ine.local (192.35.21.3)
Host is up (0.000027s latency).
Not shown: 65534 closed tcp ports (reset)
PORT      STATE SERVICE
80/tcp    open  http
MAC Address: 02:42:C0:23:15:03 (Unknown)

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 2.88 seconds

└──(root@INE)-[~]
    # nmap -Pn -p- 192.35.21.2
Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-05-23 12:38 IST
Nmap scan report for INE (192.35.21.2)
Host is up (0.000011s latency).
Not shown: 65533 closed tcp ports (reset)
PORT      STATE SERVICE
3389/tcp  open  ms-wbt-server
45654/tcp open  unknown

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 1.63 seconds

└──(root@INE)-[~]
    # nmap -Pn -p- 10.1.0.4
Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-05-23 12:38 IST
Nmap scan report for INE (10.1.0.4)
Host is up (0.000011s latency).
Not shown: 65533 closed tcp ports (reset)
PORT      STATE SERVICE
3389/tcp  open  ms-wbt-server
45654/tcp open  unknown

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 1.57 seconds

└──(root@INE)-[~]
    #

```

```

└──(root@INE)-[~]
    # nmap -Pn -F -sV 192.35.21.2
Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-05-23 12:53 IST
Nmap scan report for INE (192.35.21.2)
Host is up (0.000010s latency).
Not shown: 99 closed tcp ports (reset)
PORT      STATE SERVICE      VERSION
3389/tcp  open  ms-wbt-server xrdp

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 11.33 seconds

```

