

# Analysis of Metasploit Framework

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## COMP 8506 – Assignment 4

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## Objective

The purpose of this assignment is to become familiar with the Metasploit framework by using graphical tools like Armitage, Meterpreter, and SET. Metasploit is great framework that allows attackers to craft or build their own specific tools that can be used to carry out a variety of exploitations or attacks on a host machine. This entire experiment (Parts 1-3) evolves around automating and masking a variety of exploits and backdoors on a given victim machine with intentions of running post-exploitation attacks without raising any flags from the firewall or IDS.

## Tools Used

### 1. Armitage

Armitage is a full-frontal application that revolves around the Metasploit framework. This toolkit helps us visualize target host machines, recommends specific exploits, and finally exposing the post-exploitation features that will be shown in the next section.

### 2. IExpress

A powerful tool provided in the Windows platform that can be used to create self-extracting packages from a set of files that can be executed as a single program. For this experiment in part 1, we used IExpress to combine and hide our payloads crafted from Meterpreter with a legitimate program like notepad.exe or calc.exe.

### 3. Social Engineering Toolkit (SET)

A social engineering attack toolkit known to be a great penetration testing platform that Kali has to offer. SET is designed to perform advanced attacks against a network's weakest link (the human/user element). This tool contains a variety of attacks designed to be targeted and focused against a person or organization during a penetration test.

### 4. Bash Bunny

Bash Bunny is a simple, yet powerful multi-functional USB stick that can be used for penetration testing on a given host machine. This USB contains a variety of attack vectors that ranges from keystroke injections attacks, exfiltration, and other forms of exploits.

### 5. Rubber Ducky

Rubber Ducky is a device that resembles a regular USB flash drive, but acts based on the script provided by the attacker. For this experiment (part 3), we used this stick to carry out an automated script that disables the victim's firewall and injects the payload. When connected to the computer, the script acts as a keyboard and quickly enters all its commands.

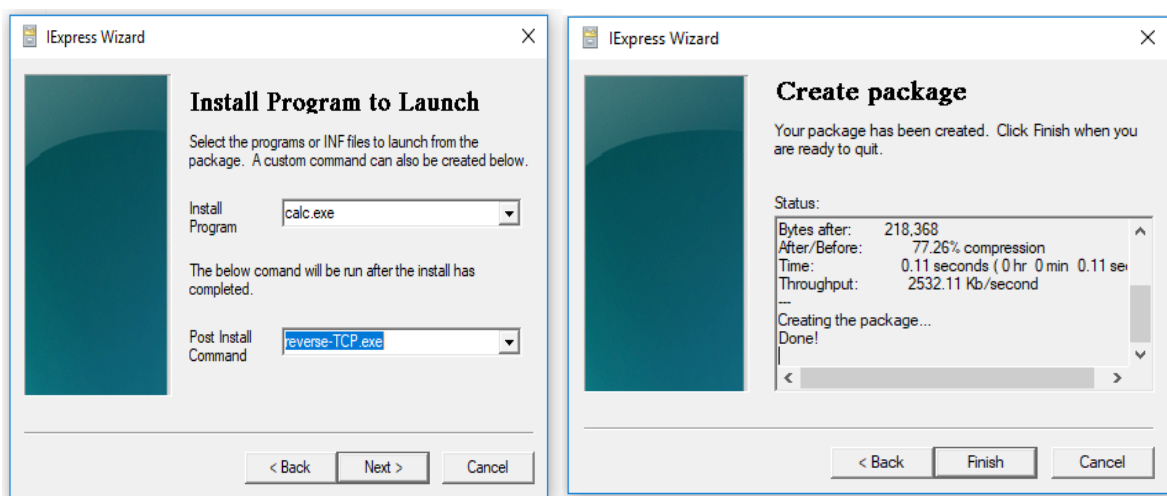
### 6. Wireshark

For this exercise, we used Wireshark to capture and analyze the traffic between two machines. In this case, we were mainly sniffing for packets sent from the victim machine to indicate that our backdoor has been successful and that our exploit is fully operational.

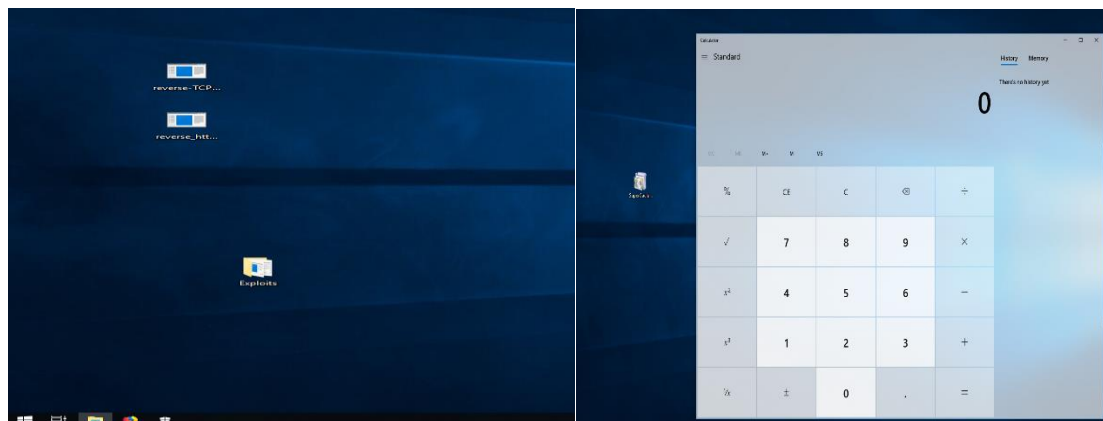
## Part 1 – Post exploitation with Armitage and Meterpreter

For this assignment, we first used Armitage to graphically lay out the target machines on the network via Nmap (Scan for OS). This tool was beneficial for us throughout the experiment as it contains the tools capable in producing the desired exploits to deploy on the target machines and keeping the client session active during post-exploitation to carry out a variety of attacks like enabling screenshots, key-logging, or any other critical components on the victim's end. The process begins by using Meterpreter to create the exploitation via an executable backdoor, then planting the program on the victim's machine, deploying the backdoor, maintaining an active session between the attacking machine and victim machine, and deploying a post-exploitation attack i.e. key logging.

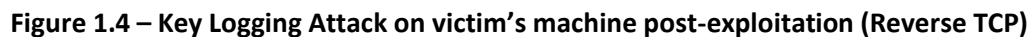
**Figure 1.1 – Using IExpress on Windows to merge a regular executable with backdoor program**



**Figure 1.2 – Backdoor program waiting to be executed after user run's calculator app**

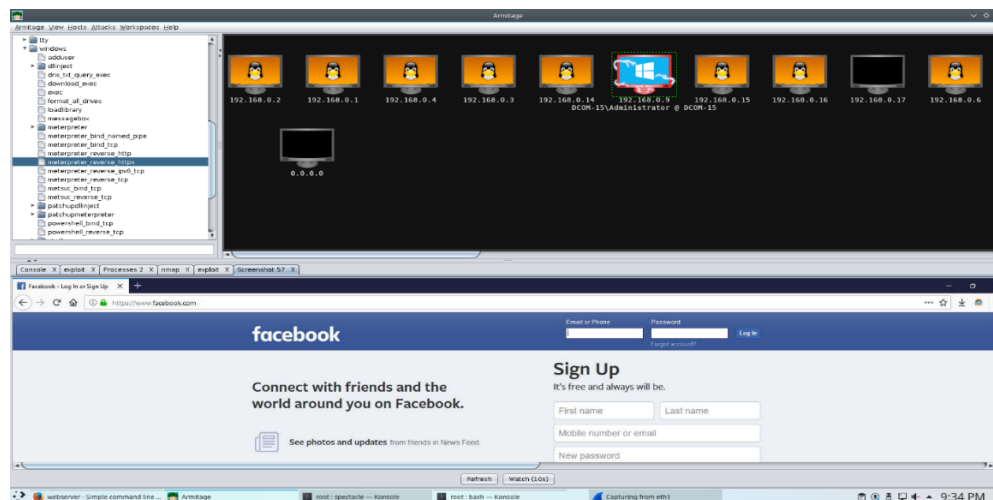


### Figure 1.3 – Host Migration on victim's machine post-exploitation (Reverse TCP)



As a post-exploitation attack, we decided to go forward with an active key-logging session that will be captured on the victim's machine. Before logging the key strokes, we migrated the current Armitage process with our backdoor program which is depicted in figure 1.3. The purpose of cloning the process (migration) is to make sure that if our current exploited session resets and closes for some odd reason, we would still have an active connection which is most suitable for such activity in key-logging. Once the migration is successful and the process is cloned, we began our attack by initializing the key-logger on the victim's machine as shown in figure 1.4. Based on the results of this attack, it can be concluded as a successful attempt of logging the user's keystrokes as we were able to trace down a specific username and password used on a social media account and every action the user performs on their machine.

**Figure 1.5 – Screenshot Attack on victim's machine post-exploitation (Reverse HTTPS)**



The other payload we decided to unload on the victim was a reverse https that is then integrated with the calc.exe program through IExpress. Once the payload has been executed on the victim's machine, we decided to use the live-screenshot feature as a form of a post-exploitation attack. As shown in figure 1.5, we were able to capture a screenshot of a specific instance which would be the user accessing their social media account. This can be considered a useful form of a passive reconnaissance as we are capturing as much information as we can about the user without alerting their firewall. To conclude from this experiment, the combination of Armitage, Meterpreter, and IExpress proved to be a very powerful tool that gives us a glimpse how simple it is to unload malicious payloads on a victim's machine.

A recommendation to prevent something like this from happening would involve having a real-time anti-spyware protection set up and integrated with a well-designed IDS. Having a service that is actively scanning can be more worth-while to protect systems from adware, Trojan, and any other

spyware infections before those are executed. A well-designed IDS goes together with the anti-spyware because gives administrators indicators of odd traffic in their network if the backdoor is active and data is being transmitted to an unauthorized user.

## Part 2 – The Social Engineering Toolkit (SET)

Figure 2.1 – Victim machine using credentials to log on to a social media account

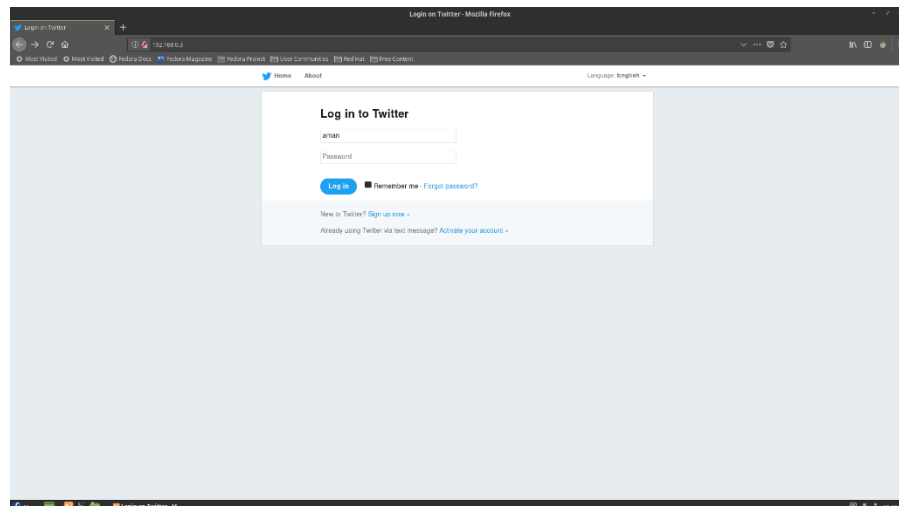
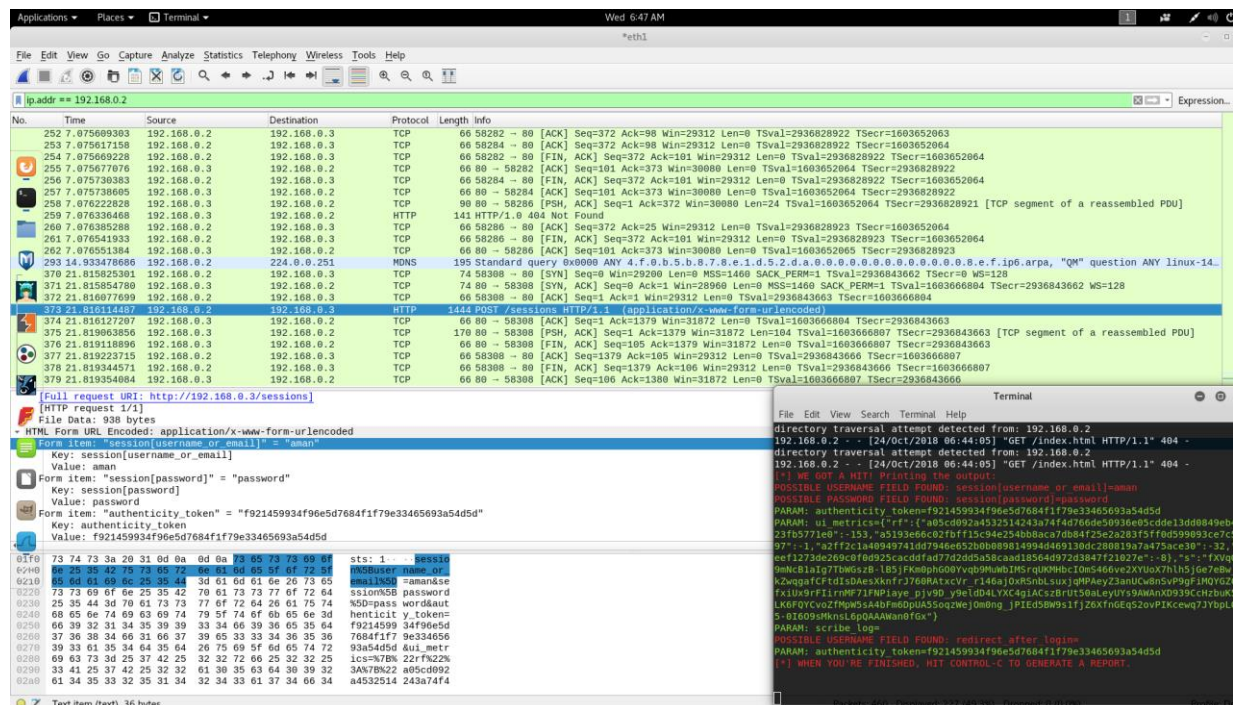


Figure 2.2 – Full SET website vector attack on a target host machine



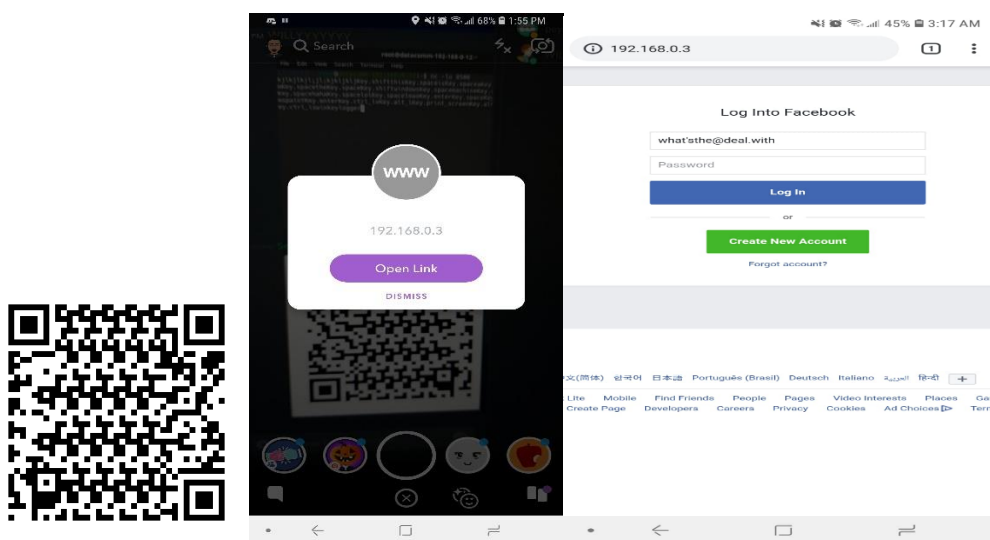
For the first type of SET exploitation, the method used would involve using a fake website that is made to look like it is a legitimate website or even a dupe of another well-known website such as Facebook or Twitter. As seen in figures 2.1 and 2.3, the website being mimicked includes Twitter's and



Facebook's login page, where the login name and password is entered by an unsuspecting person and after entering their credentials then attempting login, they'll be redirected to the actual site's login.

Anyone not suspicious of this would think they just entered their password wrong and try again and never know they've leaked their credentials as seen in figures 2.2 and 2.4. From the attacking host's pc where the malicious website is setup, SET listens to the information being entered and outputs it to the terminal. The result of this piped message displays all the information on the unsuspecting person's login attempt.

**Figure 2.3 – QR Code scanned on a mobile device access with victim accessing Facebook**



**Figure 2.4 - Full SET website vector attack on a target host machine**

```
When you have the QRCode Generated, select an additional attack vector within SET and
deploy the QRCode to your victim. For example, generate a QRCode of the SET Java Applet
and send the QRCode via a mailer.

Enter the URL you want the QRCode to go to (99 to exit): http://192.168.0.3
[*] QRCode has been generated under /root/.set/reports/qrcode_attack.png
```

```
POSSIBLE USERNAME FIELD FOUND: email=what'sthe@deal.with
POSSIBLE PASSWORD FIELD FOUND: pass=airplanes
PARAM: prefill_contact_point=what's+the
PARAM: prefill_source=browser_dropdown
PARAM: prefill_type=contact_point
PARAM: first_prefill_source=browser_dropdown
PARAM: first_prefill_type=contact_point
PARAM: had_cp_prefilled=true
POSSIBLE PASSWORD FIELD FOUND: had_password_prefilled=false
PARAM: ab_test_data=AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH
[*] WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED, HIT CONTROL-C TO GENERATE A REPORT.

[*] WE GOT A HIT! Printing the output:
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Since the main weakness to these attacks are the users themselves (human weakness), a recommendation for an organization to avoid social engineering attacks would be to educate the

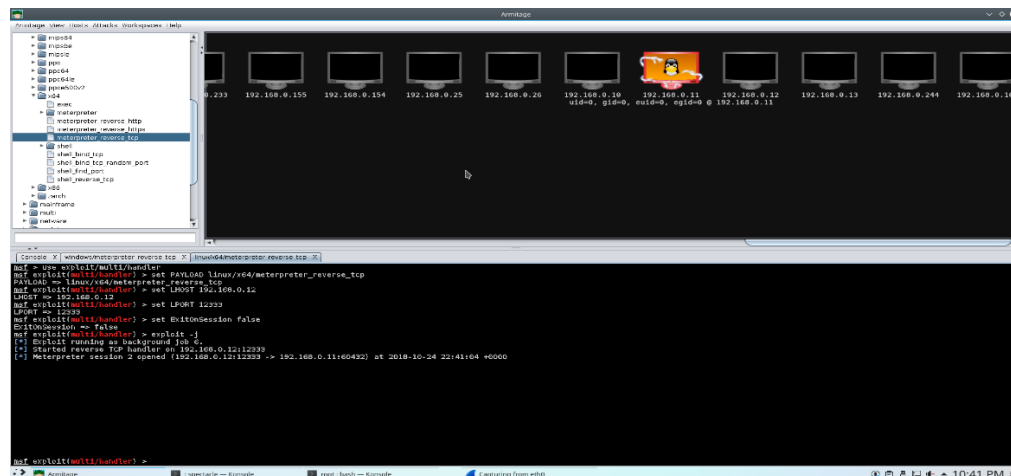


employees or users on the types of attacks out there, how to recognize these sites, and how to avoid falling for the trap. Another important factor is to pay attention to the URL of website, specifically the domain name as most phishing sites involve a variation of different spellings.

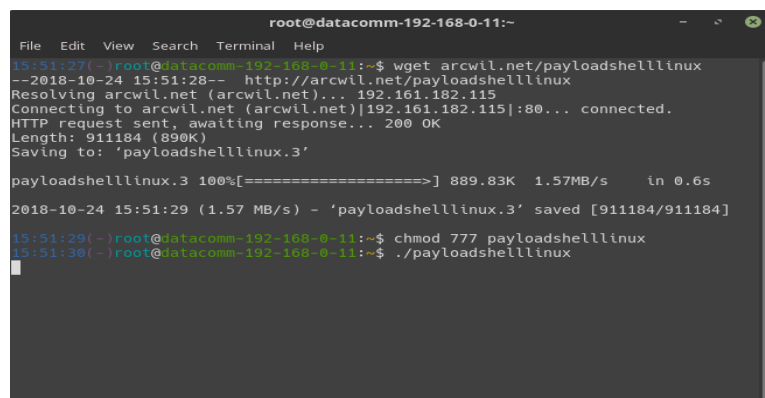
## Part 3 – Keystroke Injection Attack (Rubber Ducky and Bash Bunny)

Our first attack was to spawn a reverse shell on a Linux victim machine which meant turning our machine into a listener that takes in UDP transmissions from the victim. As shown in figure 3.1, we created a payload using Meterpreter through Armitage (Reverse TCP) and uploaded it to a remote server. We then created a Ducky script to download and actively run the payload. The biggest constraint that we came across was running these scripts on a locked machine since Ducky and Bunny only imitate keyboards.

**Figure 3.1 – Reverse Shell on compromised Linux machine shown through Armitage**



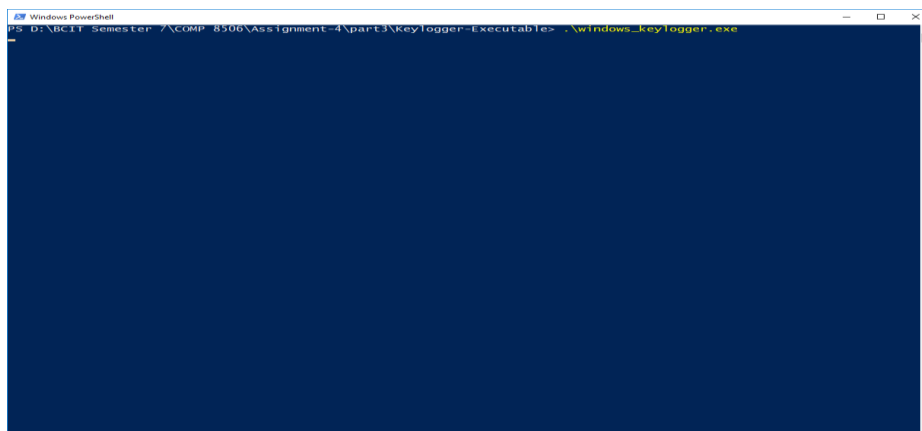
**Figure 3.2 - Payload post exploitation on compromised Linux Machine**



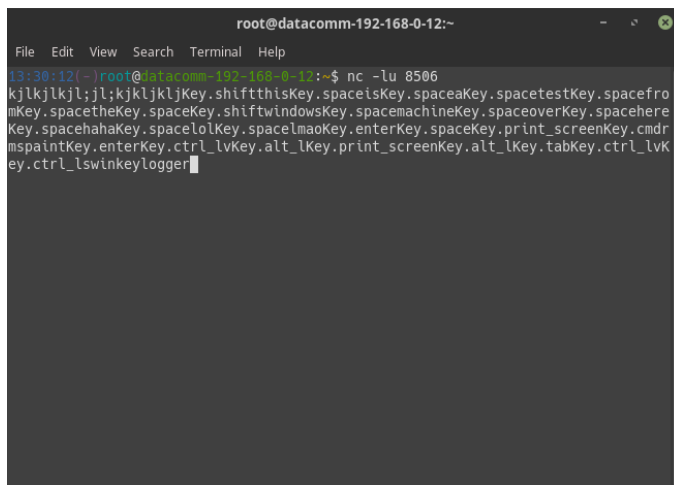
The reverse shell attacks were verified through our host view in Armitage, shown in figure 3.1 by the red computer with lightning on it. Once the shell is actively running, we have complete control of the computer. Figure 3.2 presents a screenshot of the terminal that is running the payload, along with the commands used to start it running. This is the result of plugging our device into the machine and having it automatically run our commands. In a real attack, this would be hidden from the user once running.

In addition to the reverse shell, we also created a keylogger for the victim to run. The script only differs in the file that it downloads. Once deployed and actively running, the keylogger sends all keystrokes via UDP to a netcat server which can be shown in figure 3.3 and 3.4. We can view the output on the netcat session, or we can pipe it to a file for later use. Figure 3.3 shows our keylogging script payload being executed on the victim's Windows machine and then figure 3.4 displays the piped messages to our console through our netcat listener (Port 8506).

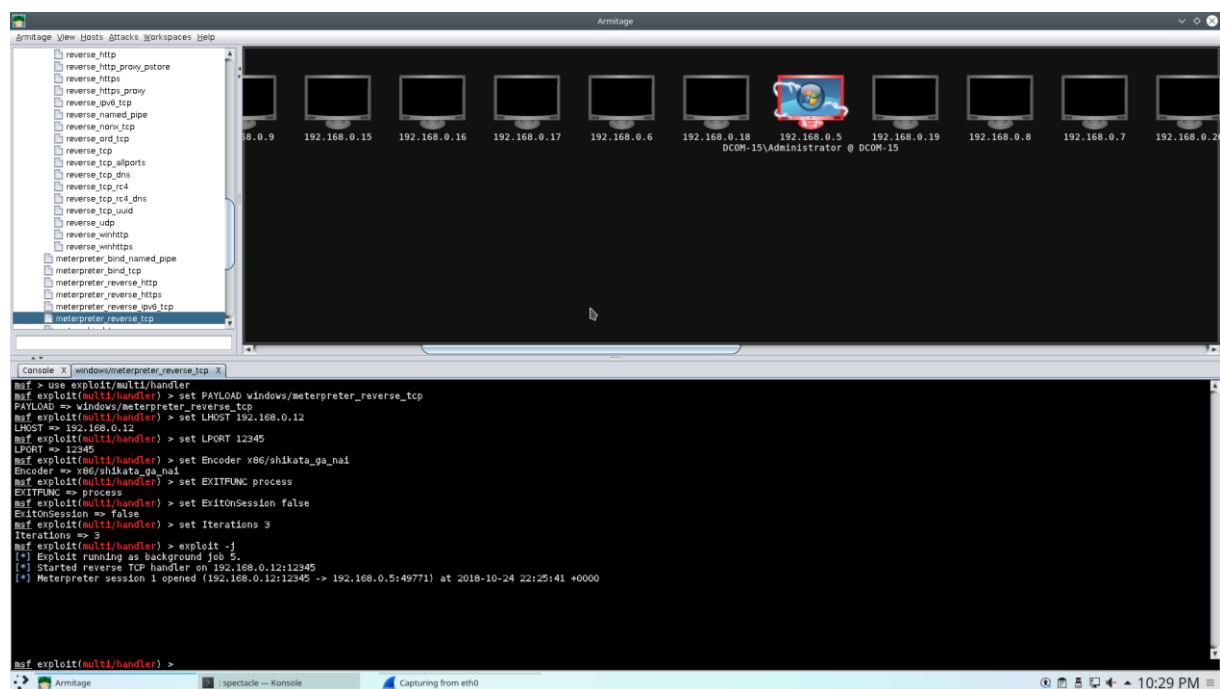
**Figure 3.3 – Keylogging Payload being executed on Windows victim machine**



**Figure 3.4 – Keylogging being piped to our machine via netcat**



**Figure 3.5 – Reverse Shell on compromised Windows machine shown through Armitage**



The attacks on the Windows machine look identical on the attacker side, with the only difference being the victim being on a Windows machine. The Ducky and Bunny scripts function in the same way as the Linux versions, but have an additional step of bypassing UAC and disabling Windows Defender. As our keylogger 'server' is a netcat listener, no changes are needed, and keystrokes are recorded as normal for which it can be shown in figure 3.4.

Based on the results of this experiment, our recommendations on how an organization could protect its network or users against this exploit would be educating their employees and admins about leaving their physical hardware unattended. By plugging in a USB and having it perform keyboard injections, it shows the simplicity of the levels an attacker can go through just to exploit your machine. An employee or administrator should try to avoid leaving their machines unattended and if that is the case, the best way to prevent this from happening is to put the computer in locked mode (OS lock and not physical lock) as keyboards scripts are useful if the computer is unlocked. The other recommendation that can prevent this from happening is to have administrators disable USB ports when giving out machines to the employees or digitally disabling unauthorized USB drives from installing the driver on the machine.