Project Report

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Group Members:

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August 12, 2025

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.

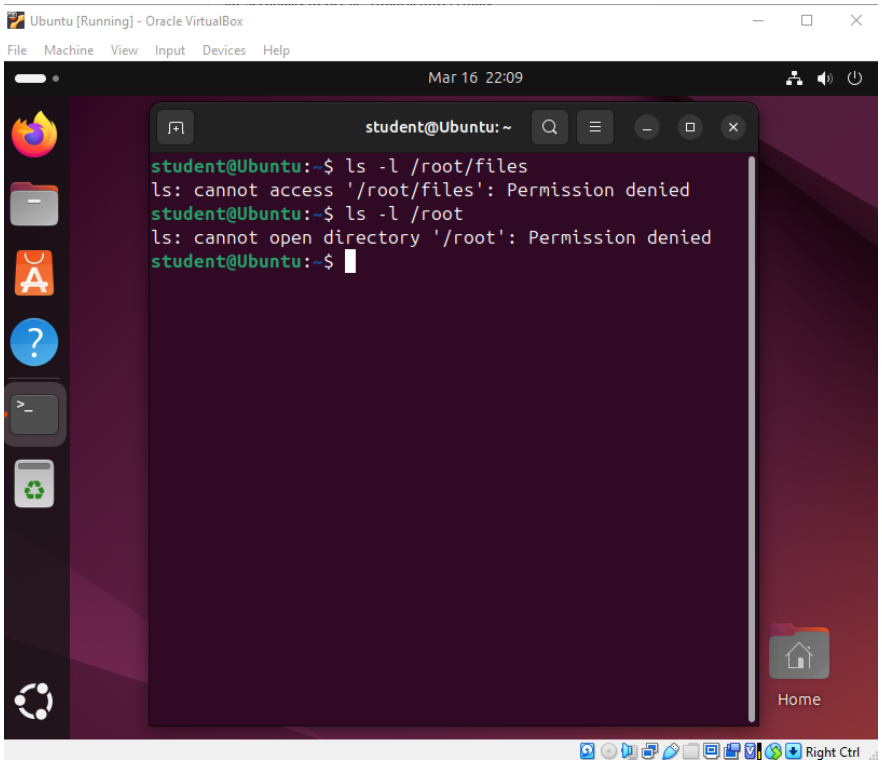


Figure 1: Access via Local Login

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.

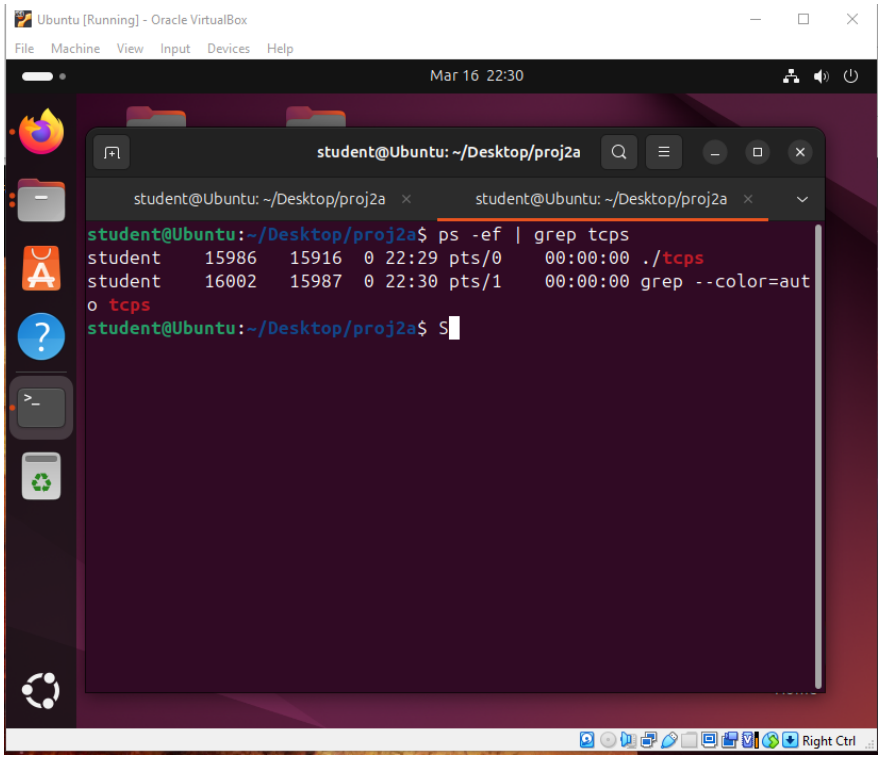


Figure 3: User ID Running echo Program

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

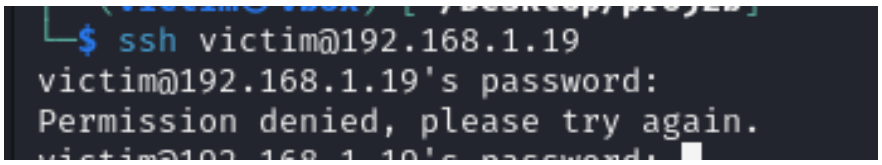


Figure 4: User ID Running SSH Service

Section III (Task II)

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

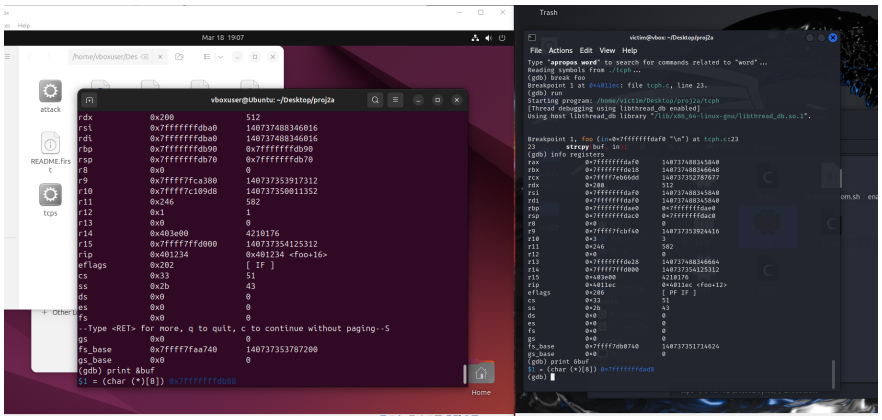


Figure 5: GDB breakpoint at both machines

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

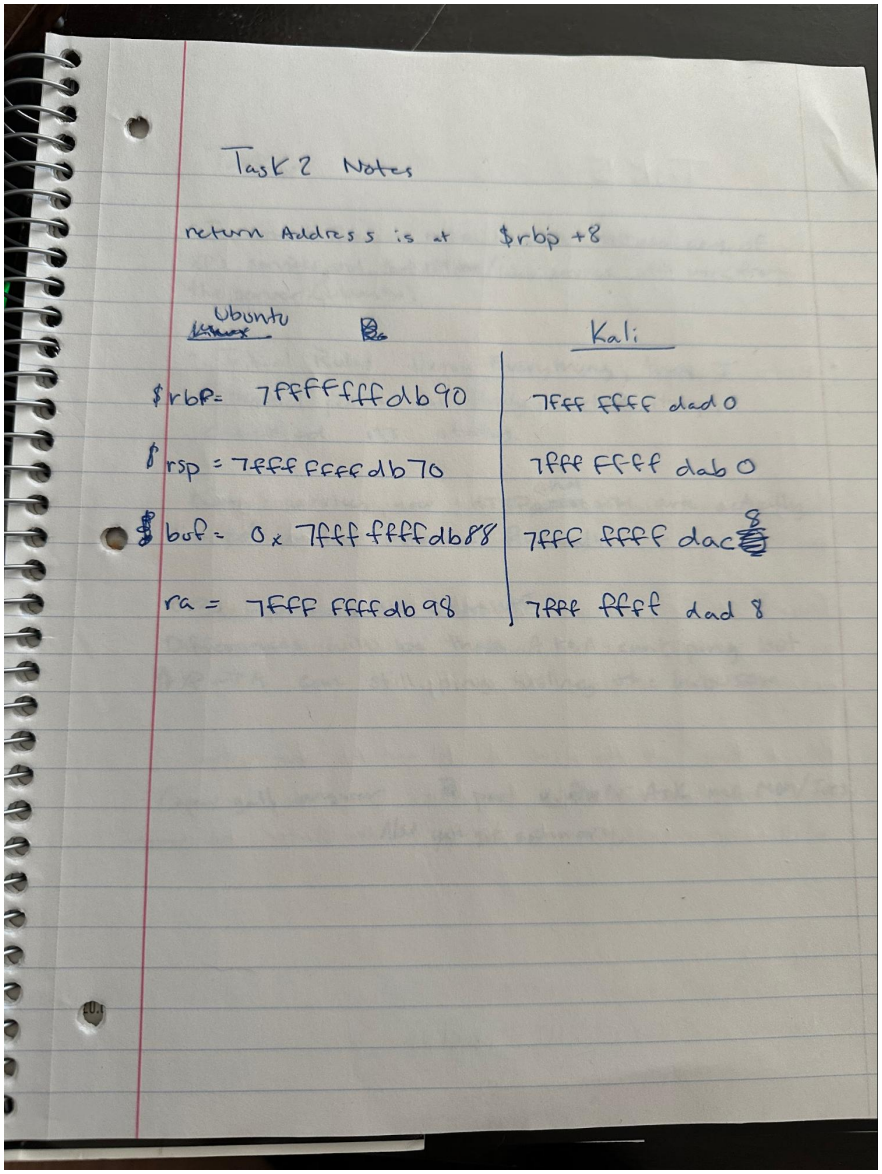


Figure 6: Values in A1 and B1

Section IV (Task III)

1. Screenshot showing exploitation of the echo program.

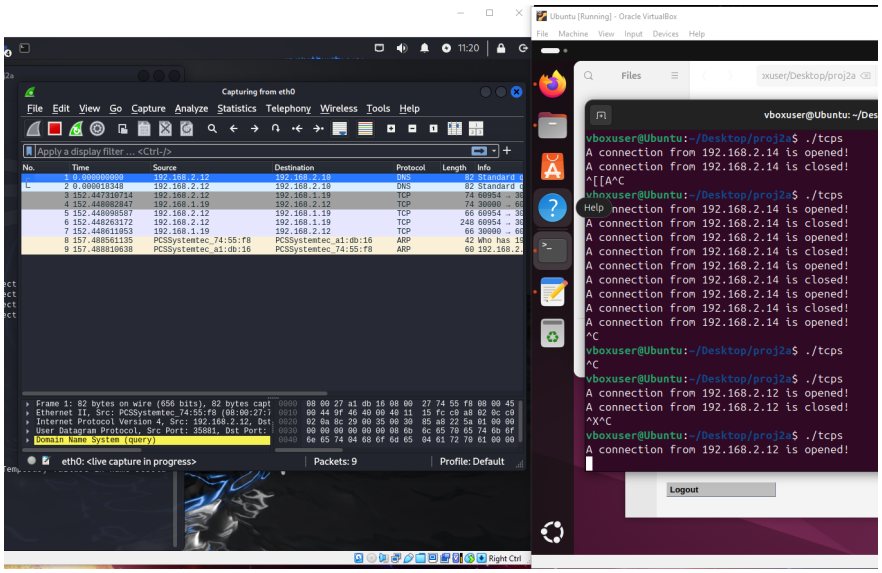


Figure 7: Echo program successfully exploited and wireshark packet in exploit

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.

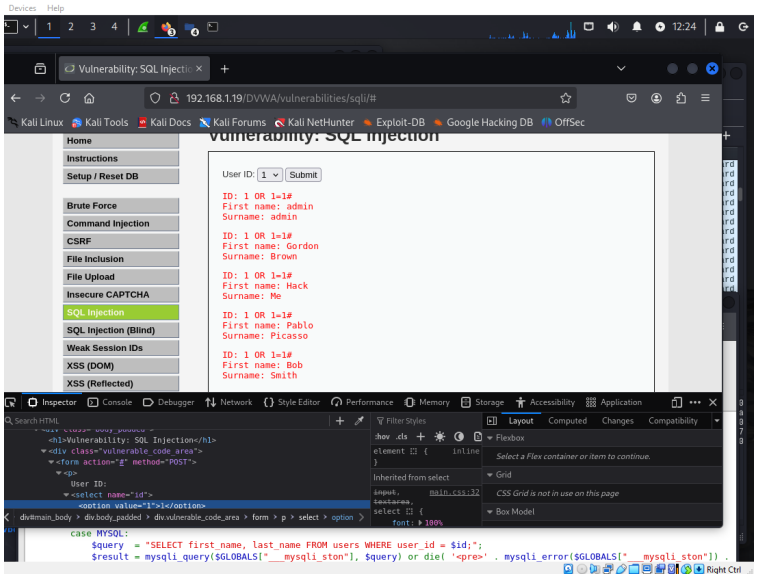


Figure 8: Screenshot of SQL injection and Webpage with names, and IDS

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`.

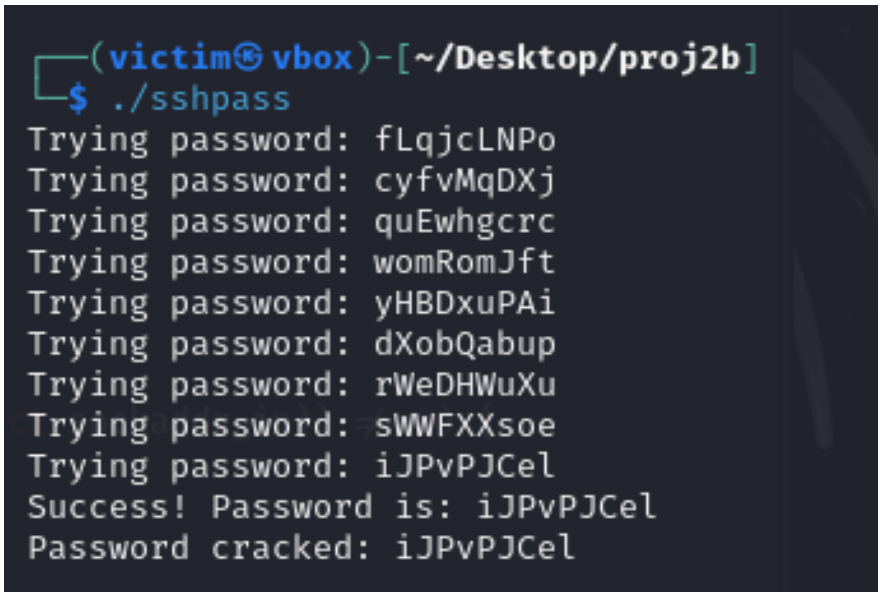


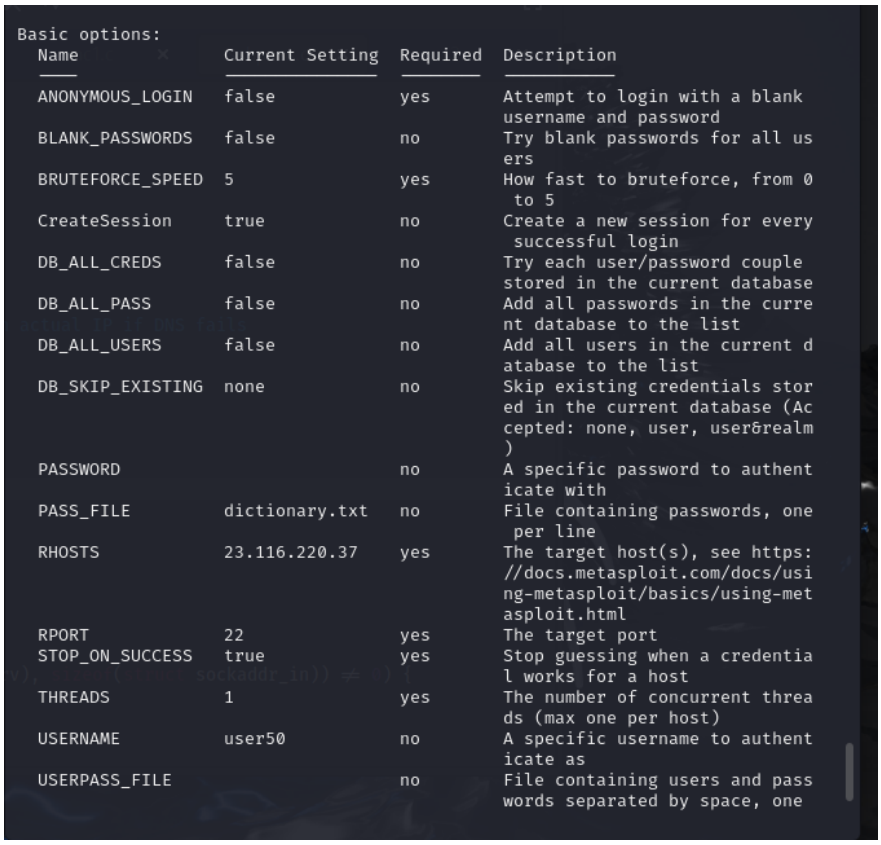
Figure 9: Brute-force test on SSH for user50

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:

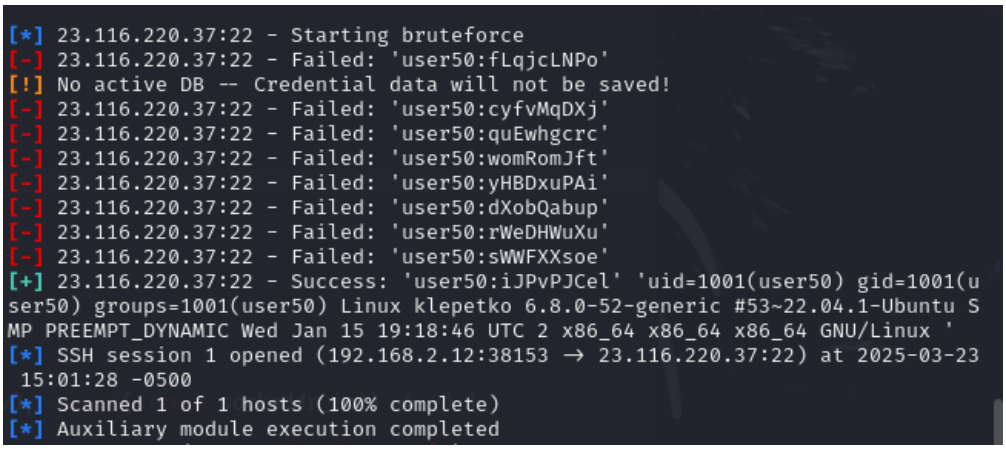
1. Screenshot of parameters of ssh login module (`info` command).



```
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 us
                                               ers
  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 curre
                                               nt database to the list
  DB_ALL_USERS      false            no        Add all users in the current d
                                               atabase to the list
  DB_SKIP_EXISTING  none             no        Skip existing credentials stor
                                               ed in the current database (Ac
                                               cepted: none, user, user&realm
                                               )
  PASSWORD                           no        A specific password to authent
                                               icate with
  PASS_FILE         dictionary.txt   no        File containing passwords, one
                                                per line
  RHOSTS            23.116.220.37    yes       The target host(s), see https:
                                               //docs.metasploit.com/docs/usi
                                               ng-metasploit/basics/using-met
                                               asploit.html
  RPORT             22               yes       The target port
  STOP_ON_SUCCESS   true             yes       Stop guessing when a credentia
                                               l works for a host
  THREADS           1                yes       The number of concurrent threa
                                               ds (max one per host)
  USERNAME          user50           no        A specific username to authent
                                               icate as
  USERPASS_FILE                      no        File containing users and pass
                                               words 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(u
ser50) groups=1001(user50) Linux klepetko 6.8.0-52-generic #53~22.04.1-Ubuntu S
MP 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).

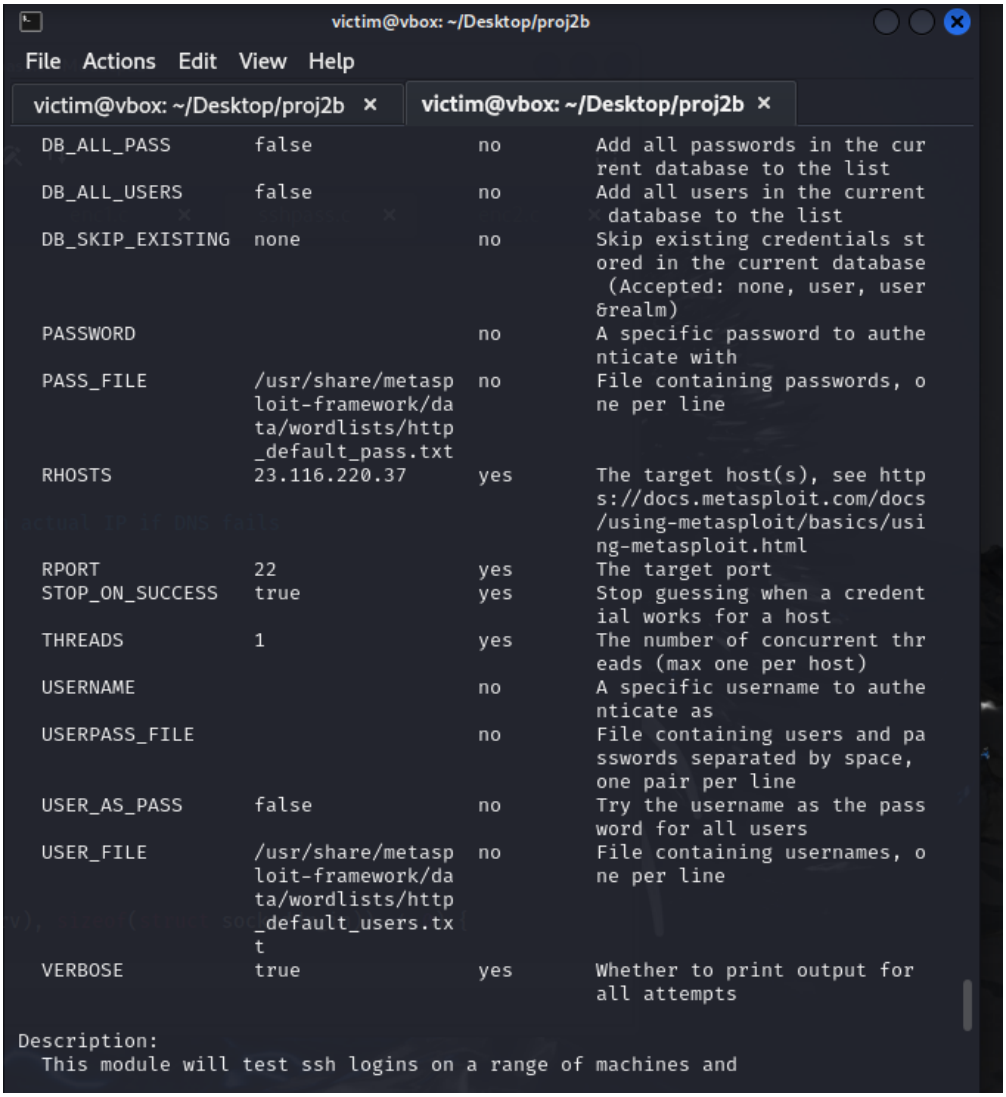


Figure 12: SSH login module parameters with username dictionary

5. Screenshot finding correct username and password.

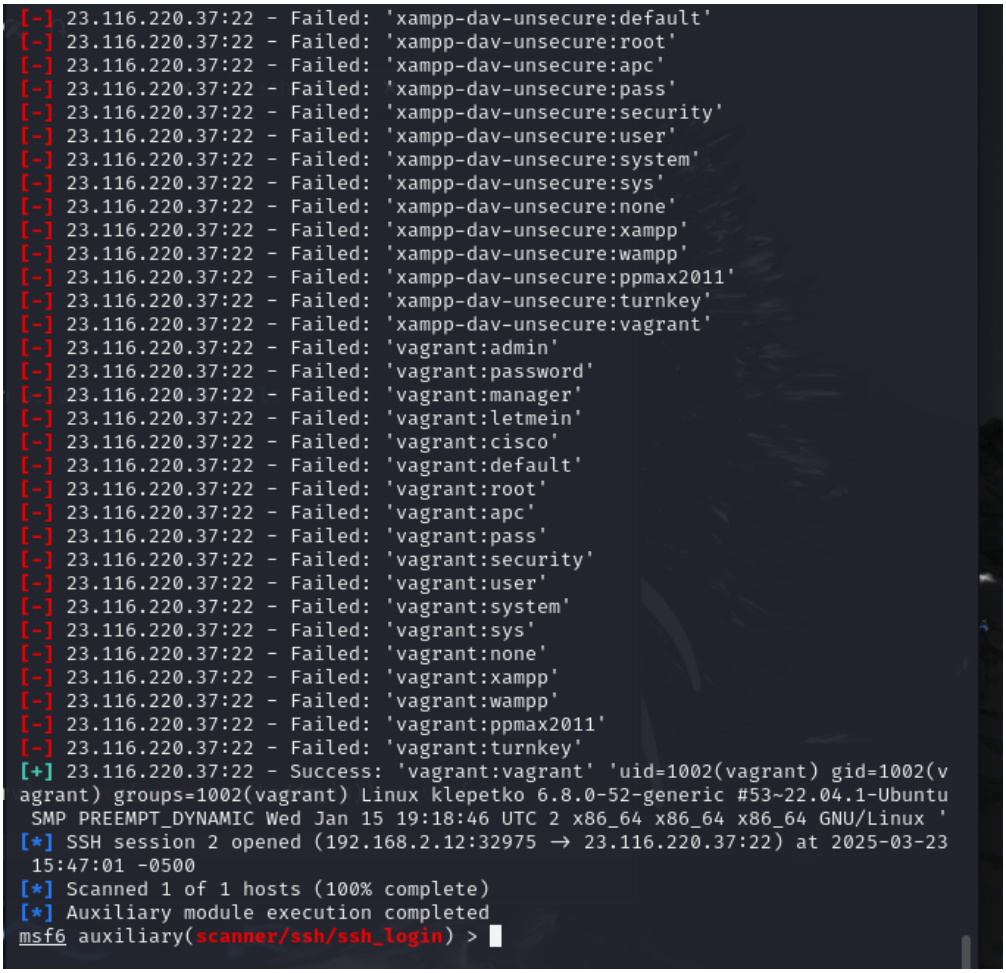


Figure 13: Finding correct username and password using dictionary attack
Vagrant : vagrant

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.

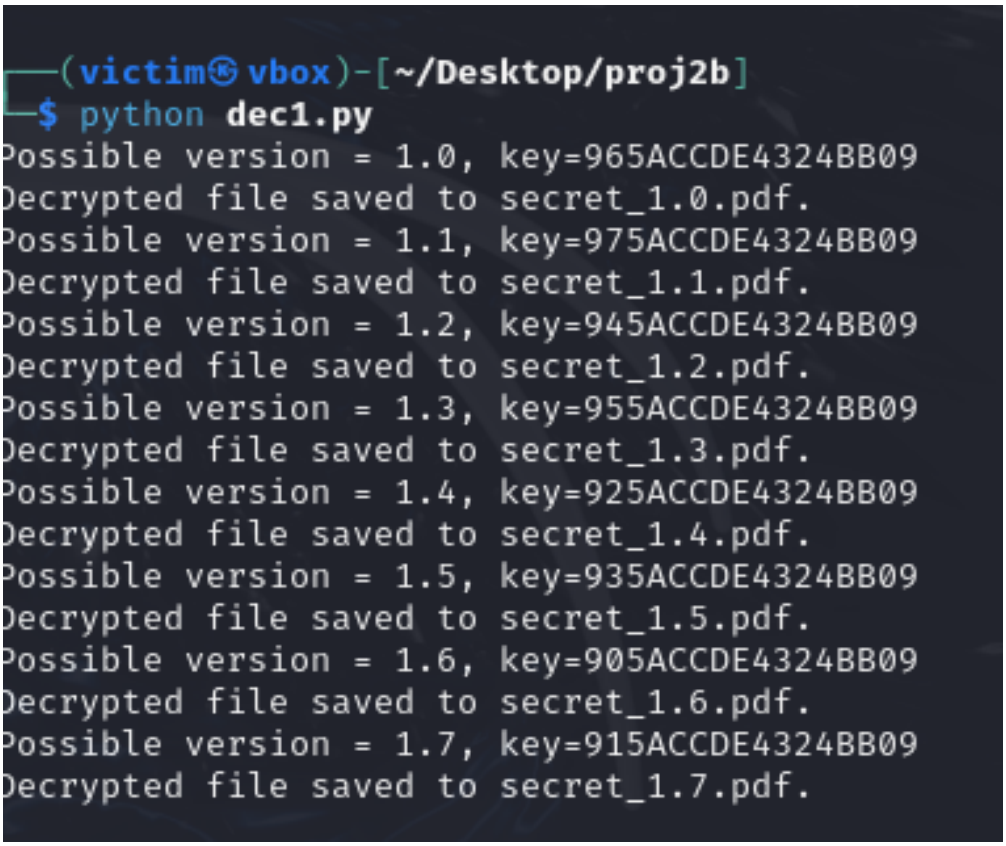


Figure 14: Cryptoanalysis program retrieving encryption key

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

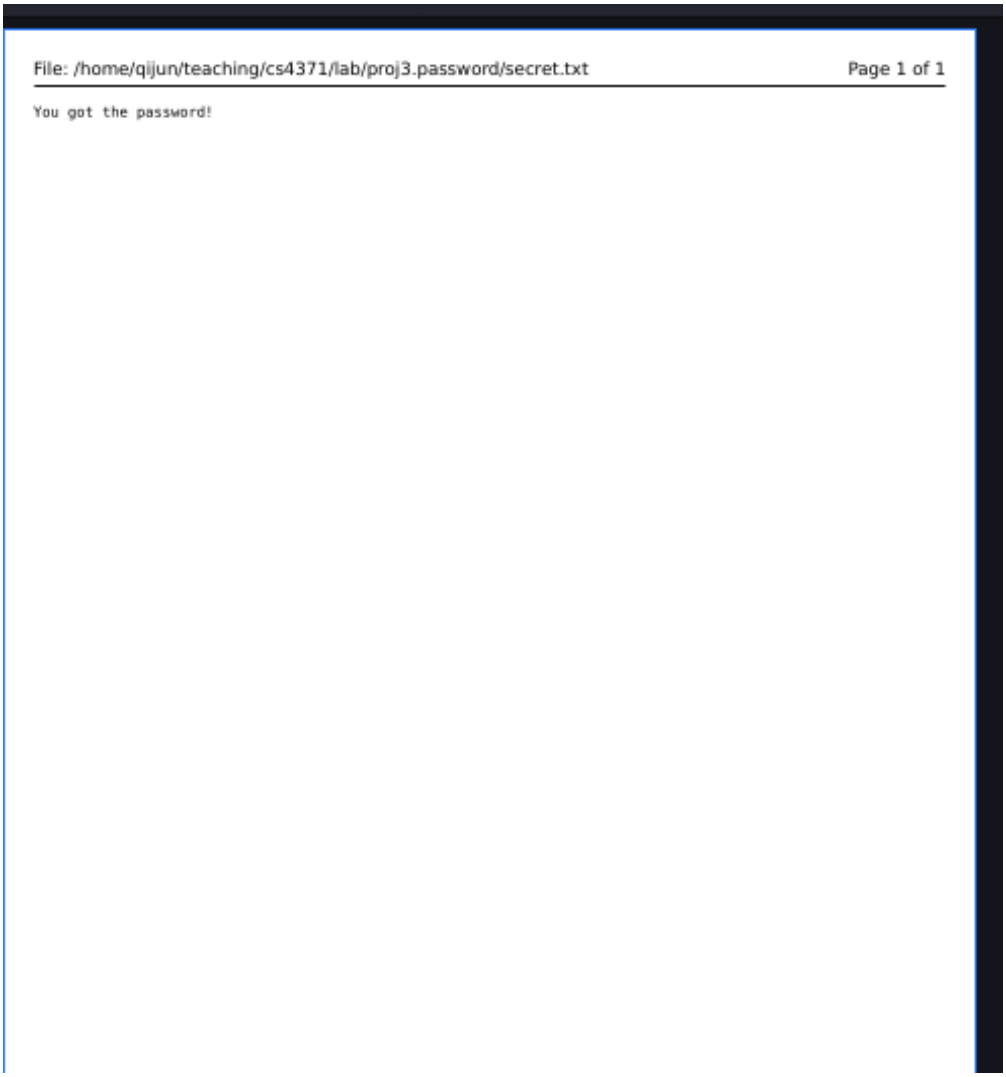


Figure 15: Content of encrypted filey

Section IX (Task VII)

1. Screenshot of DES program deciphering the test file.

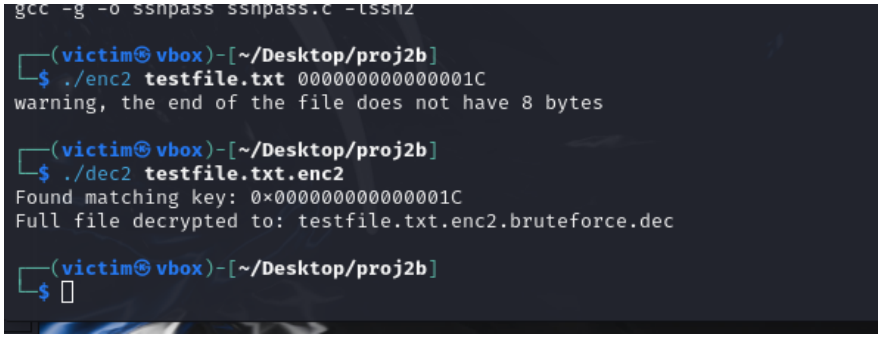


Figure 16: DES program deciphering the test file

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

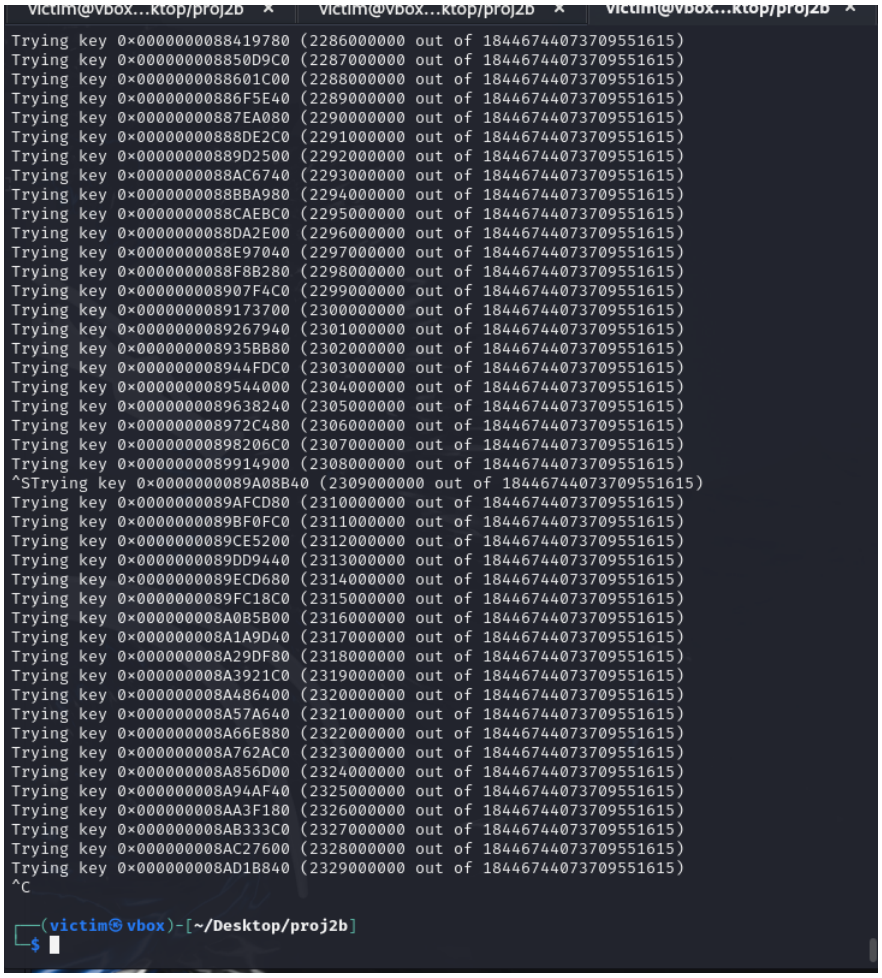


Figure 17: DES brute-force cracking of secret.pdf.enc2

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.