Term: Spring 2025

Laboratory Exercise 4.1 – Advanced Port Scanning

1. Overview

In this lab, students will learn how Metasploit and Nmap can be combined to streamline the scanning process. Students will learn how to find open ports, how to find the services running on those ports, how to further enumerate discovered ports, and how to save the results for reporting. Students will use the latest Cyber Range: Kali Linux with Metasploitable Environment for this lab to perform port scanning and enumeration.

2. Resources Required

This exercise requires the latest Kali Linux with Metasploitable3 Environment running in the Cyber Range.

3. Initial Setup

For this exercise, you will log in to your Cyber Range account and select the Environment: Kali Linux with Metasploitable3, then click "start" to start your environment and "join" to get to your Linux desktop login. Log in using these credentials:

Username: **student** Password: **student**

4. Tasks [Knowledge of Nmap and Networking protocols is essential]

Task 1: Advanced command line scanning with Nmap and Metasploit

Review and refer to the following Nmap cheat sheets during this lab:

- cheatsheet from SANS
- StationX

Complete the following:

- 1. Open a terminal window.
- 2. Type **sudo su** to become root.
- 3. Type **service postgresql start** since Metasploit uses the PostgreSQL database.
- 4. Type msfdb init to initialize the Metasploit database.
- 5. Type msfconsole to start the Metasploit framework.
- 6. Type **db_status** to verify that the database has connectivity. You should see the "[*] postgresql connected to msf" message as displayed in the image below.

Term: Spring 2025

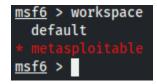
```
msf6 > db_status
[*] Connected to msf. Connection type: postgresql.
msf6 > ■
```

If the database does not have connectivity or you accidentally started the framework before starting the database, exit out of the terminal and repeat steps 1, 2, 5, and 6. This should do the trick. If for some reason it does not, exit out of the terminal and complete steps 1-6 again.

Before we start scanning, we want to create a workspace for our scans. This will make it easier to find the scans at a later time when we complete our reports. It will also prevent the issue of polluting the database when we need to work on more than one project.

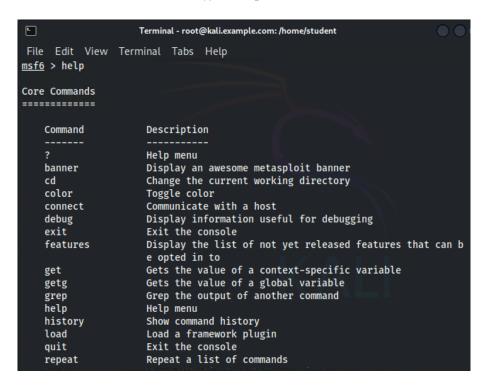
Complete the following:

- 1. Type workspace --add metasploitable and press enter.
- 2. Type **workspace** to verify you are working in the metasploitable workspace. There will be an asterisk followed by the word "metasploitable" in red font as you see in the below image.

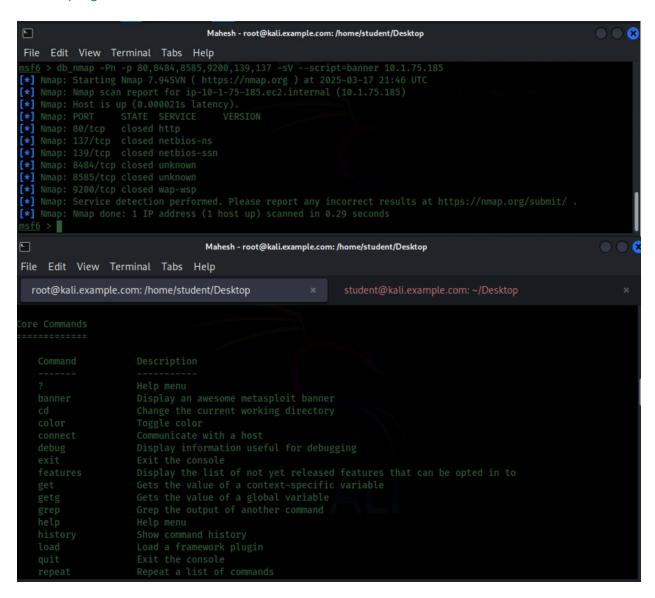


Term: Spring 2025

We have now created our very own workspace. Our scans will be saved automatically in the workspace. To check the Database Backend Commands, type **help**.



Term: Spring 2025



Take notice of the **hosts**, **services**, and **notes**. We will be calling on these when we write reports or when we pick up where we left off. This way we do not have to complete the scans again. They are all saved in the workspace database.

Now we are ready to start scanning the system. There are several ways to discover hosts. Different tactics are used if ports are filtered. We are trying to find a specific target holding the Metasploitable 3 content. Below are several ways to complete the task. Try them all if time permits. We will start with a few simple commands and scans first as a brief refresher.

Complete the following:

1. Type **ip addr show** to discover your current network configurations.

Term: Spring 2025

2. Write down in the space provided or take note of your IP:

```
msf6 > ip addr show
[*] exec: ip addr show
1: lo: <LOOPBACK,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 65536 qdisc noqueue state UNKNOWN group defaul
t qlen 1000
    link/loopback 00:00:00:00:00:00 brd 00:00:00:00:00:00
    inet 127.0.0.1/8 scope host lo
       valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
    inet6 ::1/128 scope host noprefixroute
       valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
2: eth0: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 9001 qdisc mq state UP group defa
ult glen 1000
    link/ether 0a:ff:fc:a0:18:39 brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
    inet 10.1.140.193/20 brd 10.1.143.255 scope global dynamic eth0
       valid_lft 3115sec preferred_lft 3115sec
    inet6 fe80::8ff:fcff:fea0:1839/64 scope link proto kernel_ll
       valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
<u>msf6</u> >
```

```
msf6 > ip addr show
[*] exec: ip addr show

1: lo: <LOOPBACK,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 65536 qdisc noqueue state UNKNOWN group default qlen 1000
    link/loopback 00:00:00:00:00:00 brd 00:00:00:00:00
    inet 127.0.0.1/8 scope host lo
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
    inet6 ::1/128 scope host noprefixroute
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever

2: eth0: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 9001 qdisc mq state UP group default qlen 1000
    link/ether 0e:9a:93:96:83:a5 brd ff:ff:ff:ff
    inet 10.1.75.185/20 brd 10.1.79.255 scope global dynamic eth0
        valid_lft 2954sec preferred_lft 2954sec
    inet6 fe80::c9a:93ff:fe96:83a5/64 scope link proto kernel_ll
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever

msf6 >
```

This is our machine, but we have also discovered the subnet with this tactic. In future scans, we don't want to scan ourselves. We can exclude this machine with <code>--exclude <ip address></code> in our scans. It is a good idea to remember this as in many situations your host will have many ports and services that can be found. Thus, polluting the results. Take a screenshot and name it <code>lipaddrshow</code>. Save it in a folder named scanning.

The following commands will help you find the target Metasploitable machine. Open a new terminal window and become root. Type the following:

```
nmap -sS -Pn -v -p 22 10.1.75.185/20 | grep 'open'
nmap -sS -Pn -p 22 10.1.75.185/20 | grep -B4 'open'
```

Term: Spring 2025

Write down the IP address or copy and paste it into your notes

The reason this works is because we disable ping, and know that port 22 is open only on a few machines. The /20 scans the subnet but it is much faster if we only scan port 22. The first command shows verbosity (the amount that is printed to the display while the command is running) pipes that into grep, and searches for "open " ones. The second command drops verbose and adds -B4 which shows the 4 lines before the regex match. Scanning the entire subnet with -p- will take about 20 minutes. Whereas, the other scans take about 10 seconds. You can streamline your pen-testing processes by knowing more about powerful Linux tools like grep and Nmap.

Answer the following questions:

1. What is the host IP on the Metasploitable machine (every student will have a different IP)?

10.1.75.185

2. Take a screenshot of the results name it 2target and save it in the scanning folder.

Term: Spring 2025

```
msf6 > nmap -sS -Pn -p 22 10.1.75.185/20 | grep -B4 'open'
[★] exec: nmap -sS -Pn -p 22 10.1.75.185/20 | grep -B4 'open'

Nmap scan report for ip-10-1-70-221.ec2.internal (10.1.70.221)
Host is up (0.000096s latency).

PORT STATE SERVICE
22/tcp open ssh
---
Nmap scan report for ip-10-1-75-185.ec2.internal (10.1.75.185)
Host is up (0.000043s latency).

PORT STATE SERVICE
22/tcp open ssh
msf6 > ■
```

Task 2: Discovering open ports and services with Metasploit and Nmap

Return to the terminal window with the Metasploit Framework running, at the msf6> prompt complete the following:

[IMPORTANT: This VM's Metasploitable IP is 10.1.130.245; everywhere you see this replace it with your Metasploitable IP.]

- 1. Type db nmap 10.1.75.185 and press enter.
- 2. Type db nmap -F -sS -n -v --open --reason 10.1.75.185 and press enter.

```
22/tcp open ssh

msf6 > db_nmap 10.1.75.185

[*] Nmap: Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-03-17 22:25 UTC

[*] Nmap: Nmap scan report for ip-10-1-75-185.ec2.internal (10.1.75.185)

[*] Nmap: Host is up (0.0000030s latency).

[*] Nmap: Not shown: 998 closed tcp ports (reset)

[*] Nmap: PORT STATE SERVICE

[*] Nmap: 22/tcp open ssh

[*] Nmap: 3389/tcp open ms-wbt-server

[*] Nmap: Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 0.09 seconds
```

Term: Spring 2025

,m

Command breakdown:

- -F is a fast scan of the top 100 ports
- -sS is a syn scan or TCP port scan
- -n for host discovery; do not resolve DNS
- -v This increases the verbosity level (how much is printed to your display) use -vv for greater effect
- --reason this will output the reason a port is in its current state
- --open this will show only open ports

To view current host results stored in your workspace type hosts.

To view the current services stored in your workspace type services.

We could scan for all the ports on the host instead of only the top 100 by using a -p- instead of -F; however, this would take some time. Note that the environment in the Cyber Range is always changing. If this scan takes too long, it can be terminated early with CTRL+c. If this is the case, you may not be able to answer the questions.

Open a new terminal window and complete the following:

- 1. Type **sudo su** and press enter.
- 2. Type msfconsole and press enter.
- Type workspace metasploitable and press enter.
- 4. Type db_nmap -T4 -p- -sS -n -v --open --reason <target IP> and press enter.

Term: Spring 2025

```
msf6 > workspace metasploitable
[*] Workspace: metasploitable
msf6 > db_nmap -T4 -p- -sS -n -v --open --reason 10.1.75.185
[*] Nnap: Starting Nmap 7.945VN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-03-17 22:28 UTC
[*] Nmap: Initiating SYN Stealth Scan at 22:28
[*] Nmap: Scanning 10.1.75.185 [65535 ports]
[*] Nmap: Discovered open port 3389/tcp on 10.1.75.185
[*] Nmap: Discovered open port 22/tcp on 10.1.75.185
[*] Nmap: Discovered open port 22/tcp on 10.1.75.185
[*] Nmap: Completed SYN Stealth Scan at 22:28, 0.69s elapsed (65535 total ports)
[*] Nmap: Nmap scan report for 10.1.75.185
[*] Nmap: Nmap scan report for 10.1.75.185
[*] Nmap: Host is up, received localhost-response (0.0000030s latency).
[*] Nmap: Not shown: 65533 closed tcp ports (reset)
[*] Nmap: PORT STATE SERVICE REASON
[*] Nmap: 22/tcp open ssh syn-ack ttl 64
[*] Nmap: 22/tcp open ssh syn-ack ttl 64
[*] Nmap: Read data files from: /usr/bin/../share/nmap
[*] Nmap: Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 0.78 seconds
[*] Nmap: Raw packets sent: 65535 (2.884MB) | Rcvd: 131072 (5.505MB)
msf6 >
```

Now we can continue with other scans while this one scans in the background.

Answer the following questions:

1. What services did you find and what ports were running?

```
SSH on port 22/tcp
Microsoft SQL Server (ms-wbt-server) on port 3339/tcp
```

2. Take a screenshot of the results name it 3ServicesPorts and save it in the scanning folder.

```
Image: metasptoitable
msf6 > db_mmap -T4 -p- -sS -n -v --open --reason 10.1.75.185
[*] Nmap: Starting Nmap 7.945VN (https://mmap.org ) at 2025-03-17 22:28 UTC
[*] Nmap: Initiating SYN Stealth Scan at 22:28
[*] Nmap: Scanning 10.1.75.185 [65535 ports]
[*] Nmap: Discovered open port 3389/tcp on 10.1.75.185
[*] Nmap: Discovered open port 22/tcp on 10.1.75.185
[*] Nmap: Completed SYN Stealth Scan at 22:28, 0.69s elapsed (65535 total ports)
[*] Nmap: Nmap scan report for 10.1.75.185
[*] Nmap: Nmap is up, received localhost-response (0.0000030s latency).
[*] Nmap: Nmap is up, received localhost-response (0.0000030s latency).
[*] Nmap: PORT STATE SERVICE REASON
[*] Nmap: PORT STATE SERVICE REASON
[*] Nmap: 22/tcp open ssh syn-ack ttl 64
[*] Nmap: 3389/tcp open ms-wbt-server syn-ack ttl 64
[*] Nmap: Read data files from: /usr/bin/../share/nmap
[*] Nmap: Read data files from: /usr/bin/../share/nmap
[*] Nmap: Raw packets sent: 65535 (2.884MB) | Rcvd: 131072 (5.505MB)
[*] Nmap: Raw packets sent: 65535 (2.884MB) | Rcvd: 131072 (5.505MB)
[*] Nmap: Scont -/scanning/3ServicesPorts.png
```

Task 3: Run a UDP scan using Metasploit and Nmap

If there were an SNMP (Simple Network Management Protocol), NetBIOS, or ISAKMP/IKE service running, performing a UDP scan can discover this. The switch -sU is a UDP scan.

Complete the following:

Term: Spring 2025

1. Type db nmap -sU -n -v --open --reason <target IP> and press enter.

Answer the following questions:

1. What services did you find?

68/udp open | filtered dhcpc. The service associated with this port **is dhcpc** but there is no response from the service,nmap couldn't confirm whether it is truly open or filtered by firewall.

2. Take a screenshot of the results and name it appropriately.

```
msf6 > db_nmap -sU -n -v --open --reason 10.1.75.185
[*] Nmap: Starting Nmap 7.945VN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-03-17 22:34 UTC
[*] Nmap: Initiating UDP Scan at 22:34
[*] Nmap: Scanning 10.1.75.185 [1000 ports]
[*] Nmap: Completed UDP Scan at 22:34, 1.36s elapsed (1000 total ports)
[*] Nmap: Nmap scan report for 10.1.75.185
[*] Nmap: Maps tost is up, received localhost-response (0.0000040s latency).
[*] Nmap: Not shown: 999 closed udp ports (port-unreach)
[*] Nmap: PORT STATE SERVICE REASON
[*] Nmap: PORT STATE SERVICE REASON
[*] Nmap: Read data files from: /usr/bin/../share/nmap
[*] Nmap: Read data files from: /usr/bin/../share/nmap
[*] Nmap: Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 1.42 seconds
[*] Nmap: Raw packets sent: 1045 (49.304KB) | Rcvd: 2088 (127.586KB)
msf6 > [*]
```

Task 4: Service Version Scanning

Before we continue, we want to get more information on the services that are running. The switch **-sV** will search for service versions, and the **-sC** will use default scripts (OS detection, service, fragmentation) and is considered invasive. You can view the default scripts <u>here</u>.

Complete the following:

- Type db_nmap -sS -sV -sC -v -n -p <list of ports found> <target
 IP> and press enter.
- 2. My Example: db_nmap -sS -sV -sC -v -n -p 21,22,80,445,631,3000,3306,8181,3389,8484,8585,9200,49153,49202,49203 10.1.163.125

Answer the following questions:

1. What new information was discovered?

The scan found two open ports on 10.1.75.185:

Port 22/tcp → Open SSH service (OpenSSH 9.7p1 Debian 5, Protocol 2.0) Port 3389/tcp → Open Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP)

Term: Spring 2025

Other ports that were scanned (21, 80, 445, 631, 3000, 3306, 8181, 8484, 8585, 9200, 49153, 49202, 49203) were closed.

The system is running Linux OS (CPE: o:linux:linux_kernel).

2. Take a screenshot of the results and name it appropriately.

Task 5: Cleaning up your hosts' list

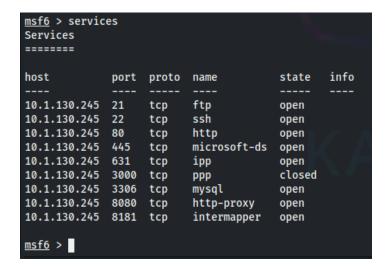
So, now that we have completed several scans, we may want to clean up our hosts list. If you do not have any extra hosts, this part of the lesson is for information purposes only.

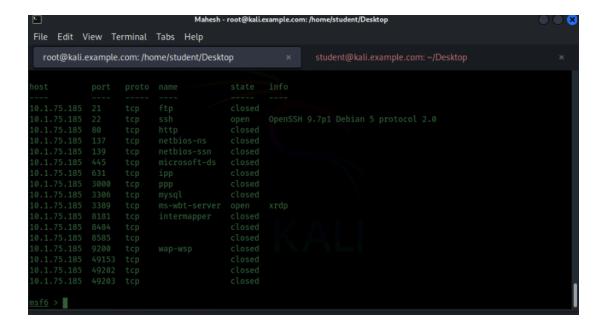
The only host we want on the list is the Metasploitable machine. To do this, we type **hosts** in the msfconsole to view our hosts. If we have any hosts other than our Metasploitable target, they need to be deleted.

To do this, we type **hosts** -d <host IP we want deleted>. Once we have deleted the hosts that are out of our scope, we should be left with only the Metasploitable host. In my case, that is 10.1.130.245. The last screenshot is of the Metasploit services database found by typing **services** and pressing enter in the msfconsole.

services

Term: Spring 2025





5. References:

https://www.aelius.com/njh/subnet sheet.html

https://nmap.org/book/nse-usage.html

https://nmap.org/nsedoc/categories/default.html