

Task 1: Network Scanning using Nmap

Step 1: Task Understanding

I started by understanding the task objective: to perform a local network scan using Nmap and identify open ports to learn about network exposure.

Step 2: Nmap Installation

I downloaded and installed Nmap from its official website:

 <https://www.kali.org/tools/nmap/>

I ensured it was properly added to the system PATH so I could use it in the Command Prompt.

Step 3: Finding Local IP Range

Using the command `ipconfig`, I found my IPv4 address (192.168.1.9) and identified the network range as 192.168.1.0/24.

```
Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.26100.3915]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\deepi>ipconfig

Windows IP Configuration

Ethernet adapter Ethernet 2:

    Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . : 
    Link-local IPv6 Address . . . . . : fe80::d135:5ffc:1173:cddc%7
    IPv4 Address. . . . . : 192.168.56.1
    Subnet Mask . . . . . : 255.255.255.0
    Default Gateway . . . . . : 

Ethernet adapter Ethernet 3:

    Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . : 
    Link-local IPv6 Address . . . . . : fe80::68a3:f26d:4e9b:57ee%21
    IPv4 Address. . . . . : 192.168.92.1
    Subnet Mask . . . . . : 255.255.255.0
    Default Gateway . . . . . : 

Wireless LAN adapter Local Area Connection* 1:

    Media State . . . . . : Media disconnected
    Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . : 

Wireless LAN adapter Local Area Connection* 2:

    Media State . . . . . : Media disconnected
    Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . : 

Ethernet adapter VMware Network Adapter VMnet1:

    Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . : 
    Link-local IPv6 Address . . . . . : fe80::3d86:2b7:d3d8:fd9b%4
    IPv4 Address. . . . . : 192.168.197.1
    Subnet Mask . . . . . : 255.255.255.0
    Default Gateway . . . . . : 

Ethernet adapter VMware Network Adapter VMnet8:

    Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . : 
    Link-local IPv6 Address . . . . . : fe80::3c9:5c69:c0e3:9856%10
    IPv4 Address. . . . . : 192.168.226.1
    Subnet Mask . . . . . : 255.255.255.0
    Default Gateway . . . . . :
```

Wireless LAN adapter Wi-Fi:

```
Connection-specific DNS Suffix . :  
IPv6 Address. . . . . : 2401:4900:1cc8:9379:6561:da49:594f:16a6  
Temporary IPv6 Address. . . . . : 2401:4900:1cc8:9379:3cb6:46f3:ee7:5c77  
Link-local IPv6 Address . . . . . : fe80::2b48:8e2:e8fd:27ec%20  
IPv4 Address. . . . . : 192.168.1.9  
Subnet Mask . . . . . : 255.255.255.0  
Default Gateway . . . . . : fe80::324f:75ff:fe76:177%20  
                          192.168.1.1
```

Ethernet adapter Bluetooth Network Connection:

```
Media State . . . . . : Media disconnected  
Connection-specific DNS Suffix . :
```

Ethernet adapter vEthernet (WSL (Hyper-V firewall)):

```
Connection-specific DNS Suffix . :  
Link-local IPv6 Address . . . . . : fe80::c8b7:5c42:33fc:f625%64  
IPv4 Address. . . . . : 172.25.208.1  
Subnet Mask . . . . . : 255.255.240.0  
Default Gateway . . . . . :
```

Step 4: Running the TCP SYN Scan

Command used: `nmap -sS 192.168.1.0/2`

This performed a TCP SYN scan to discover live devices and their open ports.

```
Command Prompt

C:\Users\deepi>nmap -sS 192.168.1.0/24
Starting Nmap 7.94 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-06-23 17:03 India Standard Time
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.1
Host is up (0.0071s latency).
Not shown: 989 closed tcp ports (reset)
PORT      STATE      SERVICE
21/tcp    filtered  ftp
22/tcp    filtered  ssh
23/tcp    filtered  telnet
53/tcp    open       domain
80/tcp    open       http
139/tcp   filtered  netbios-ssn
161/tcp   filtered  snmp
443/tcp   open       https
445/tcp   filtered  microsoft-ds
3517/tcp  filtered  802-11-iapp
8082/tcp  filtered  blackice-alerts
MAC Address: 30:4F:75:76:01:77 (Dasan Network Solutions)

Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.4
Host is up (0.015s latency).
All 1000 scanned ports on 192.168.1.4 are in ignored states.
Not shown: 1000 closed tcp ports (reset)
MAC Address: 12:3D:1B:4D:B3:81 (Unknown)

Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.5
Host is up (0.0058s latency).
All 1000 scanned ports on 192.168.1.5 are in ignored states.
Not shown: 1000 closed tcp ports (reset)
MAC Address: 06:25:FA:BF:40:1C (Unknown)

Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.7
Host is up (0.012s latency).
All 1000 scanned ports on 192.168.1.7 are in ignored states.
Not shown: 1000 closed tcp ports (reset)
MAC Address: 32:F0:45:62:8B:B3 (Unknown)

Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.9
Host is up (0.00063s latency).
Not shown: 994 closed tcp ports (reset)
PORT      STATE      SERVICE
135/tcp    open       msrpc
139/tcp    open       netbios-ssn
445/tcp    open       microsoft-ds
902/tcp    open       iss-realsecure
912/tcp    open       apex-mesh
3306/tcp   open       mysql

Nmap done: 256 IP addresses (5 hosts up) scanned in 48.14 seconds
```

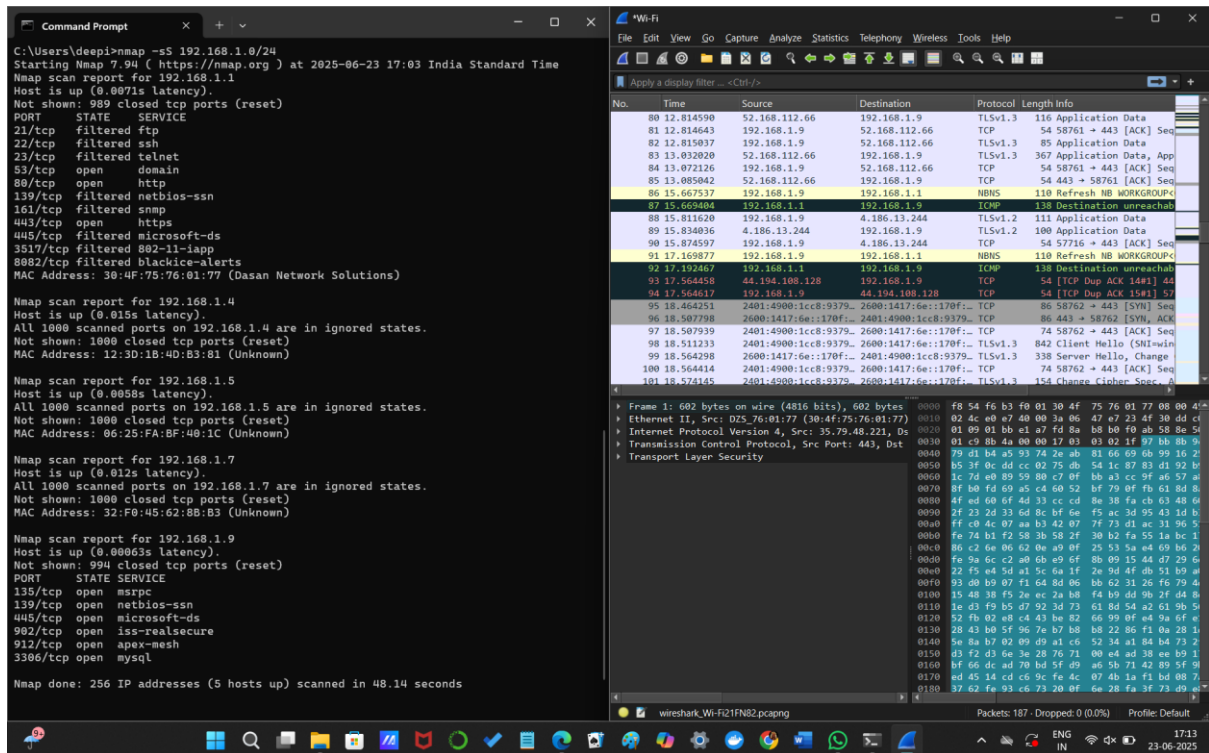
Step 5: Saving the Scan Results

Command used: `nmap -sS 192.168.1.0/24 > scan_result.txt`

This saved the results to a text file for documentation.

Step 6: (Optional) Wireshark Usage

I opened Wireshark, selected my network interface, and captured traffic during the scan to visualize the packets being exchanged.



Step 7: Analyzing the Results

I reviewed the open ports and IPs found in the scan. Then I researched what services commonly run on those ports and identified possible risks.

Step 8: GitHub Submission

I uploaded the scan_result.txt file and a detailed README.md to my GitHub repository along with the answers to the interview questions.

What I Learned

- How to identify IP ranges and scan a local network using Nmap
- The working of TCP SYN scans
- How to observe network traffic using Wireshark
- The significance of port scanning and open ports
- Basics of network reconnaissance and network security

Key Topics Covered

- Port Scanning
- TCP SYN Scan
- IP Ranges
- Network Reconnaissance
- Open Ports
- Network Security Basics

Interview Questions:

1. What is an open port?

An open port is a network port that is configured to accept incoming connections. It indicates that a service or application is actively listening and can be accessed remotely.

2. How does Nmap perform a TCP SYN scan?

Nmap sends a SYN (synchronize) packet to the target port. If it receives a SYN-ACK (acknowledgement) response, it identifies the port as open. If it receives an RST (reset) response, the port is closed. Since the full TCP handshake isn't completed, this scan is fast and stealthy.

3. What risks are associated with open ports?

Open ports can expose vulnerable services to attackers. If those services are misconfigured or outdated, they can be exploited to gain unauthorized access, install malware, or gather sensitive data.

4. Explain the difference between TCP and UDP scanning.

TCP scanning uses a reliable, connection-based protocol and gives clearer results based on responses. UDP scanning is connectionless and more stealthy, but harder to interpret since many services don't reply unless queried correctly.

5. How can open ports be secured?

Open ports can be secured by using firewalls to block unused ports, disabling unnecessary services, using strong authentication, applying patches and updates, and regularly monitoring network traffic.

6. What is a firewall's role regarding ports?

A firewall filters incoming and outgoing network traffic. It can block or allow specific ports and services, helping to reduce the attack surface and prevent unauthorized access.

7. What is a port scan and why do attackers perform it?

A port scan is a method of probing a host for open ports. Attackers perform it to identify which services are running and look for vulnerabilities they can exploit to gain access or cause damage.

8. How does Wireshark complement port scanning?

Wireshark captures and analyzes live network traffic. It helps visualize how scanning traffic looks on the network and how devices respond to scanning attempts, making it useful for learning and detecting suspicious behavior.