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Date: 11/08/2023

LAB ASSIGNMENT NO:05

<u>Aim:</u> To explore hashdeep tool in kali linux for generating, matching and auditing hash of files.

<u>Lab Outcome Attained:</u> Demonstrate Key management, distribution and user authentication.

Theory:

What is the need of hashing? List different hashing algorithms.

Hashing serves several important purposes in computer science and information security:

- 1. Data Integrity: Hashing is used to verify the integrity of data. By generating a hash value (digest) of the original data, any changes to the data will result in a different hash value. This makes it useful for ensuring that data has not been tampered with during storage or transmission.
- 2. Password Storage: Hashing is commonly used for storing passwords securely. Instead of storing actual passwords, systems store the hash of the password. When a user logs in, their entered password is hashed and compared to the stored hash, providing security even if the stored hashes are compromised.
- 3. Digital Signatures: Hashing is a crucial component of digital signatures. A hash of a message is signed with a private key to create a digital signature. Recipients can then verify the signature using the corresponding public key and compare the hash of the received message with the hash in the signature to ensure the message's authenticity and integrity.
- 4. Efficient Data Retrieval: Hashing is used in data structures like hash tables to quickly retrieve information based on a key. This provides efficient data retrieval in cases where a large amount of data needs to be stored and accessed.
- 5. Data Comparison: Hashing is useful for comparing large datasets. Instead of comparing the entire datasets, you can compare their hash values to quickly determine if they are the same or different.
- 6. Cryptography: Hash functions are used in cryptographic protocols for tasks such as generating unique identifiers (e.g., UUIDs), deriving keys, and creating message authentication codes.
- 7. Distributed Systems: Hashing is employed to distribute data evenly across multiple servers in distributed systems, aiding load balancing and fault tolerance.

Roll No: 09 Name: Shreya Bagade

Date: 11/08/2023

Different hashing algorithms exist, each with its own properties, strengths, and weaknesses. Here are some commonly used hashing algorithms:

- 1. MD5 (Message Digest Algorithm 5): Once widely used, MD5 is now considered insecure due to vulnerabilities that allow collision attacks.
- 2. SHA-1 (Secure Hash Algorithm 1): Similar to MD5, SHA-1 is now considered weak and unsuitable for secure applications due to vulnerabilities.
- 3. SHA-256 (Secure Hash Algorithm 256): A part of the SHA-2 family, SHA-256 is widely used for data integrity and security. It produces a 256-bit hash value.
- 4. SHA-3 (Secure Hash Algorithm 3): A recent addition to the family of secure hash algorithms, designed to provide increased security and resistance to attacks.
- 5. berypt: A hash function specifically designed for securely hashing passwords, using a work factor that can be increased over time to counteract increasing computational power.
- 6. Argon2: A modern and memory-hard password hashing algorithm designed to resist attacks like brute force and GPU cracking.
- 7. Whirlpool: A cryptographic hash function that offers a larger bit size and is considered secure for various applications.
- 8. RIPEMD (RACE Integrity Primitives Evaluation Message Digest): A family of hash functions offering different bit sizes, designed as an alternative to the MD5 and SHA-1.
- 9. BLAKE2: A high-speed cryptographic hash function that is an improvement over its predecessor, BLAKE.

Write the commands used for generating hash values, matching them with stored hash values and auditing using hashdeep tool.

'hashdeep' is a command-line tool that is used for generating hash values, matching them with stored hash values, and performing audits to verify the integrity of files and directories. It's a useful tool for ensuring data integrity and conducting forensics investigations. Here are some common commands and their purposes using the 'hashdeep' tool:

1. Generating Hash Values:

To generate hash values for files and directories, you can use the following command:

Roll No: 09

Name: Shreya Bagade Date: 11/08/2023

hashdeep -r -c SHA256 -l -vvv /path/to/directory > hash.txt

- `-r`: Recursively process directories.
- '-c': Specify the hash algorithm ('SHA256' in this example).
- '-l': Display file path for each hash entry.
- `-vvv`: Increase verbosity level.
- '/path/to/directory': The directory you want to generate hash values for.
- 'hash.txt': Output file where hash values will be stored.

2. Matching Hash Values:

To match generated hash values with stored hash values and check for any discrepancies, use:

hashdeep -r -k hash.txt /path/to/directory

- `-r`: Recursively process directories.
- '-k': Use a known hash values file (previously generated using 'hashdeep').
- 'hash.txt': The file containing the stored hash values.
- '/path/to/directory': The directory to be audited against the stored hash values.

3. Auditing and Verifying:

To perform an audit and verify the integrity of files against stored hash values, use:

hashdeep -r -k -a -v -v hash.txt /path/to/directory

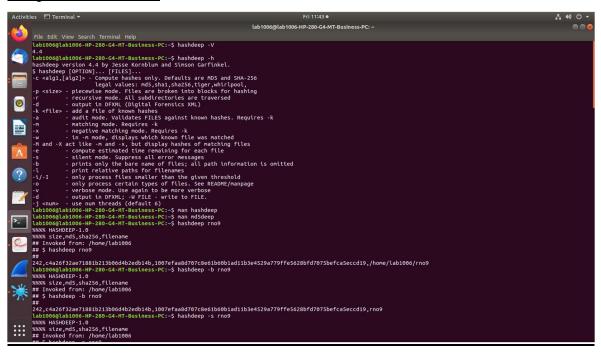
- `-r`: Recursively process directories.
- `-k`: Use a known hash values file.
- `-a`: Perform an audit to verify files.
- `-v -v`: Increase verbosity level.
- 'hash.txt': The file containing the stored hash values.
- `/path/to/directory`: The directory to be audited.

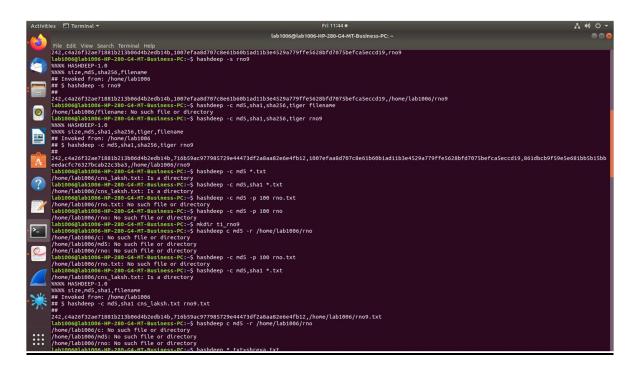
'hashdeep' supports multiple hash algorithms like SHA-1, SHA-256, MD5, etc. You can replace the '-c' option with the desired hash algorithm and adjust the other options as needed. It's important to keep the generated hash values and the tool itself in a secure location to prevent tampering.

Roll No: 09

Name: Shreya Bagade Date: 11/08/2023

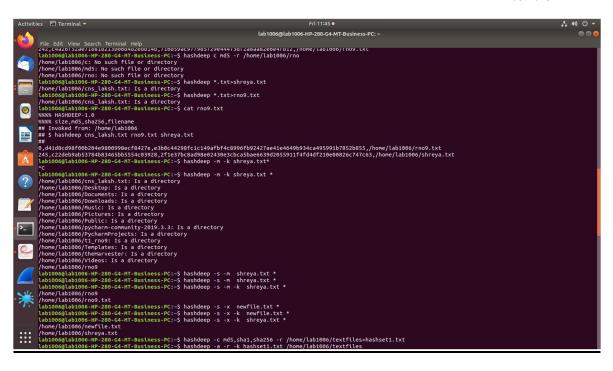
Output Screenshots:

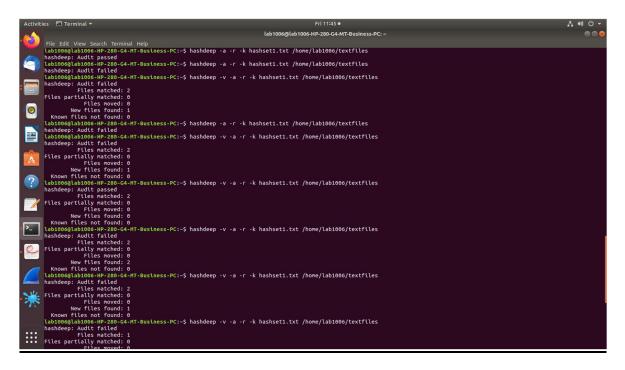




Roll No: 09

Name: Shreya Bagade Date: 11/08/2023





Roll No: 09 Name: Shreya Bagade Date: 11/08/2023

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Conclusion: This experiment involved the exploration of the hashdeep tool in Kali Linux for generating, matching, and auditing file hashes has provided valuable insights into maintaining data integrity and security. Through this tool, we have gained the ability to generate hash values for files and directories, which act as unique fingerprints, ensuring the integrity of data throughout storage and transmission.