**STEP 1: Information Security Framework Design**

**1.1 Overview of the Security Framework**

The proposed Information Security Framework is designed to protect cloud-based enterprise environments from common security threats such as unauthorized access, data breaches, misconfigurations, and compliance violations. The framework follows a **layered security approach** and aligns with international standards such as **ISO/IEC 27001**.

The framework integrates:

- Asset classification
- Risk assessment and risk treatment
- Encryption for data protection
- Strong authentication and access control mechanisms

This structured approach ensures confidentiality, integrity, and availability (CIA triad) of cloud resources.

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**1.2 Asset Classification**

Asset classification helps identify and prioritize resources that require protection based on their sensitivity and business impact.

**Asset Classification Table**

| Asset Category | Asset Description | Classification |
|---|---|---|
| Data Assets | Customer data, credentials, logs | Confidential |
| Application Assets | Cloud-hosted web application | Critical |
| Infrastructure Assets | Virtual machines, cloud storage | High |
| Network Assets | Firewalls, VPC, load balancers | High |
| Identity Assets | User accounts, admin credentials | Critical |

**Purpose:**

- Ensures appropriate security controls are applied
- Supports compliance with **ISO/IEC 27001 – A.8 (Asset Management)**

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### 1.3 Risk Assessment Methodology

Risk assessment is conducted to identify threats, vulnerabilities, and their potential impact on cloud assets.

#### Risk Calculation Formula

*Risk = Likelihood × Impact*

#### Risk Rating Scale

| Level | Likelihood | Impact |
|---|---|---|
| Low | 1 | 1 |
| Medium | 2 | 2 |
| High | 3 | 3 |

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#### Sample Risk Assessment Table

| Threat | Asset Affected | Likelihood | Impact | Risk Score | Risk Level |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Data Breach | Cloud Database | 3 | 3 | 9 | High |
| Unauthorized Access | User Accounts | 3 | 2 | 6 | Medium |
| Network Sniffing | Data in Transit | 2 | 3 | 6 | Medium |
| Misconfiguration | Cloud Storage | 2 | 2 | 4 | Medium |

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### 1.4 Risk Treatment Strategy

Each identified risk is handled using one of the following strategies:

| Risk | Treatment Strategy | Security Control |
|---|---|---|
| Data Breach | Mitigate | Encryption (AES, RSA) |
| Unauthorized Access | Mitigate | MFA + RBAC |
| Network Attacks | Mitigate | TLS, Firewall |
| Low Impact Risk | Accept | Monitoring |

**ISO Mapping:**

- **A.6 – Risk Assessment and Treatment**

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**STEP 2: Encryption Mechanisms**

**2.1 Importance of Encryption in Cloud Security**

Encryption ensures that sensitive data remains protected even if unauthorized access occurs. The framework uses:

- **Symmetric encryption** for data at rest
- **Asymmetric encryption** for data in transit and key exchange

---

**2.2 Data at Rest – Symmetric Encryption**

**Algorithm Used**

- **AES (Advanced Encryption Standard – 256 bit)**

**Why AES?**

- High performance
- Widely accepted industry standard
- Suitable for large volumes of cloud data

**Implementation Using OpenSSL**

openssl enc -aes-256-cbc -salt -in data.txt -out data.enc

**Explanation:**

- data.txt → original data
- data.enc → encrypted file
- AES protects stored cloud data from unauthorized access

**ISO Mapping:**

- **A.10 – Cryptographic Controls**

---

### 2.3 Data in Transit – Asymmetric Encryption

**Algorithm Used**

- **RSA (2048-bit)**

**Purpose**

- Secure key exchange
- Enable HTTPS / TLS communication
- Prevent Man-in-the-Middle (MITM) attacks

**Key Generation Using OpenSSL**

openssl genrsa -out private.key 2048

openssl rsa -in private.key -pubout -out public.key

**Explanation:**

- Public key encrypts data
- Private key decrypts data
- Used in secure cloud communication channels

---

### 2.4 Encryption Summary

| Data Type | Encryption Type | Algorithm |
|---|---|---|
| Data at Rest | Symmetric | AES-256 |
| Data in Transit | Asymmetric | RSA + TLS |

**STEP 3: Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) and Role-Based Access Control (RBAC)**

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### 3.1 Authentication and Authorization in Cloud Security

In cloud-based enterprises, authentication and authorization are critical to prevent unauthorized access to sensitive systems and data. Authentication verifies the identity of a user, while authorization determines what actions the user is allowed to perform.

To strengthen access control, this framework integrates **Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)** and **Role-Based Access Control (RBAC)**.

---

### 3.2 Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)

#### 3.2.1 Overview of MFA

Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) enhances security by requiring users to provide **two or more independent authentication factors** before granting access. This reduces the risk of account compromise even if passwords are stolen.

---

#### 3.2.2 Authentication Factors

MFA uses the following factors:

| Factor Type | Example | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Something you know | Password, PIN | Knowledge-based authentication |
| Something you have | OTP, Smart card, Authenticator app | Possession-based authentication |
| Something you are | Fingerprint, Face ID | Biometric authentication |

---

#### 3.2.3 MFA Implementation Flow

1. User enters username and password
2. System sends a One-Time Password (OTP) or requests authenticator approval
3. User verifies the second factor
4. Access is granted to cloud resources

---

#### 3.2.4 Benefits of MFA

- Prevents unauthorized access even if credentials are compromised
- Protects against phishing and brute-force attacks
- Enhances compliance with security standards

**ISO/IEC 27001 Mapping:**

- **A.9 – Access Control**

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### 3.3 Role-Based Access Control (RBAC)

#### 3.3.1 Overview of RBAC

Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) restricts system access based on predefined user roles. Instead of assigning permissions to individual users, permissions are assigned to roles, and users are assigned to roles.

This approach simplifies access management and improves security.

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#### 3.3.2 Defined Roles in the Framework

| Role | Description | Permissions |
|---|---|---|
| Admin | System administrator | Full system access |
| Manager | Department manager | Read and limited write access |
| User | Regular employee | Read-only access |

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#### 3.3.3 RBAC Implementation Process

1. Define roles based on organizational structure
2. Assign permissions to each role
3. Assign users to roles
4. Enforce access policies in the cloud environment

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#### 3.3.4 Benefits of RBAC

- Prevents privilege escalation
- Reduces misconfigurations
- Simplifies access audits
- Supports least privilege principle

**ISO/IEC 27001 Mapping:**

- **A.9.1 – Business Requirements for Access Control**
- **A.9.2 – User Access Management**

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### 3.4 Integration of MFA and RBAC

In the proposed framework, MFA and RBAC are integrated to provide layered access security.

**Access Flow:**

1. User authenticates using MFA
2. System verifies role using RBAC policies
3. User is granted access based on role permissions

This layered approach ensures that only authenticated and authorized users can access cloud resources.

---

### 3.5 Security Advantages of MFA + RBAC Integration

| Threat | Mitigation Control |
|---|---|
| Credential theft | MFA |
| Insider threats | RBAC |
| Privilege abuse | RBAC |
| Phishing attacks | MFA |
| Unauthorized access | MFA + RBAC |

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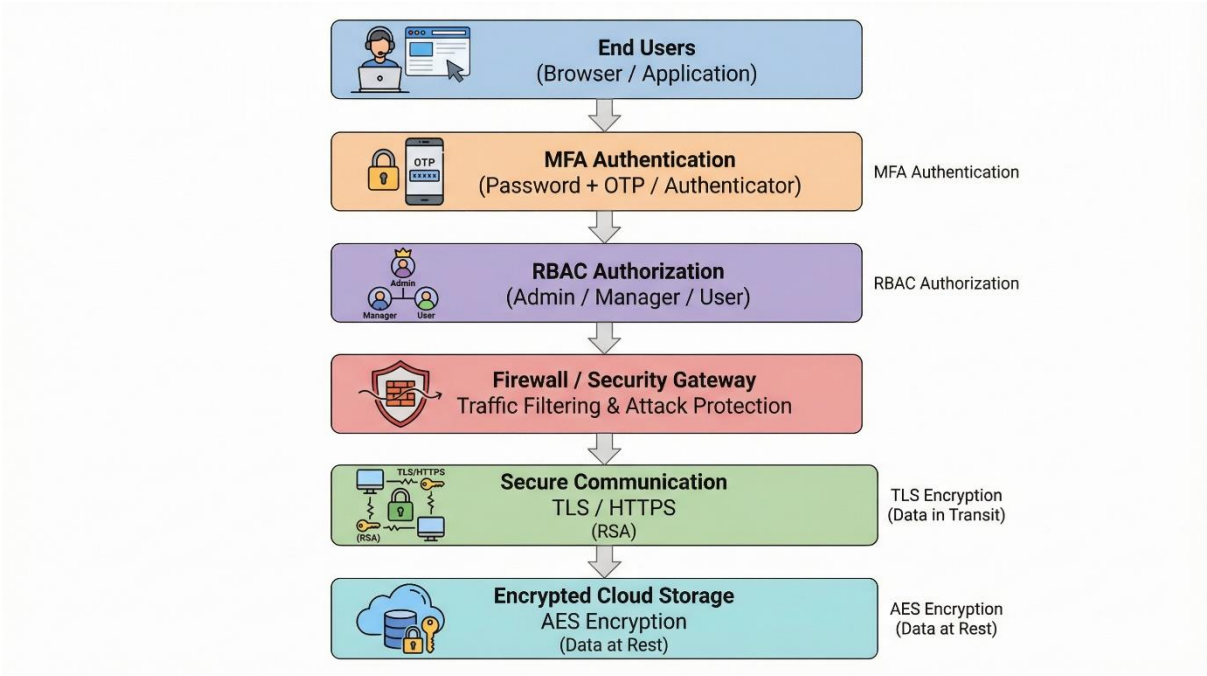
### 3.6 Summary

The integration of Multi-Factor Authentication and Role-Based Access Control significantly strengthens cloud security by ensuring that only verified users with appropriate privileges can access sensitive resources. This approach aligns with industry best practices and international security standards.

**STEP 4: Cloud Security Architecture Diagram**

**4.1 Overview of Cloud Security Architecture**

The Cloud Security Architecture represents how security controls are layered within a cloud-based enterprise to protect data, applications, and infrastructure. The proposed architecture follows a **defense-in-depth approach**, ensuring security at multiple levels.



### 4.2 Components of the Architecture

**1️⃣ User Layer**

- End users access cloud services through browsers or applications
- Users must authenticate before accessing resources

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**2️⃣ Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)**

- Verifies user identity using password + OTP/authenticator
- Prevents unauthorized access due to stolen credentials

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**3️⃣ Role-Based Access Control (RBAC)**

- Assigns permissions based on user roles (Admin, Manager, User)
- Ensures least privilege access

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**4️⃣ Firewall / Security Gateway**

- Filters incoming and outgoing traffic
- Blocks unauthorized network access
- Protects against common attacks

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**5️⃣ Secure Communication (TLS/HTTPS)**

- Encrypts data in transit
- Prevents Man-in-the-Middle (MITM) attacks

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**6️⃣ Encrypted Cloud Storage**

- Stores sensitive data using AES encryption
- Ensures data confidentiality at rest

**STEP 5: Risk Assessment Report**

**5.1 Purpose of Risk Assessment**

Risk assessment is performed to identify potential threats and vulnerabilities in a cloud-based enterprise environment and evaluate their impact on organizational assets. This process helps in selecting appropriate security controls to reduce risks to an acceptable level.

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**5.2 Identified Assets**

| Asset ID | Asset Name | Asset Type |
|---|---|---|
| A1 | Cloud Database | Data |
| A2 | User Accounts | Identity |
| A3 | Cloud VM | Infrastructure |
| A4 | Network Traffic | Network |
| A5 | Cloud Storage | Storage |

---

**5.3 Threats and Vulnerabilities**

| Threat ID | Threat Description | Vulnerability |
|---|---|---|
| T1 | Data breach | Weak encryption |
| T2 | Unauthorized access | Weak authentication |
| T3 | Man-in-the-Middle attack | Unencrypted traffic |
| T4 | Insider misuse | Excessive privileges |
| T5 | Misconfiguration | Poor access policies |

---

### 5.4 Risk Evaluation Matrix

**Risk Formula:**

Risk = Likelihood × Impact

| Threat | Asset | Likelihood | Impact | Risk Score | Risk Level |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Data breach | Cloud DB | 3 | 3 | 9 | High |
| Unauthorized access | User accounts | 3 | 2 | 6 | Medium |
| MITM attack | Network traffic | 2 | 3 | 6 | Medium |
| Insider misuse | Cloud VM | 2 | 3 | 6 | Medium |
| Misconfiguration | Cloud storage | 2 | 2 | 4 | Medium |

---

### 5.5 Risk Mitigation Controls

| Risk | Mitigation Control |
|---|---|
| Data breach | AES encryption |
| Unauthorized access | MFA + RBAC |
| MITM attack | TLS / HTTPS |
| Insider threats | RBAC + logging |
| Misconfiguration | Security policies |

---

### 5.6 Risk Assessment Summary

The risk assessment highlights that encryption, access control, and secure communication are critical to reducing cloud security risks. The implemented controls significantly lower the likelihood and impact of major threats.

## Conclusion & Future Enhancements

### 6.1 Conclusion

This project successfully designed and implemented a comprehensive information security framework for a cloud-based enterprise. The framework integrates asset classification, risk assessment, encryption techniques, Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA), and Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) to enhance the overall security posture.

Practical implementation using industry-standard tools such as OpenSSL, Wireshark, and Metasploit provided hands-on experience in encryption, traffic analysis, and vulnerability assessment. The framework aligns with ISO/IEC 27001 standards and effectively addresses common cloud security challenges.

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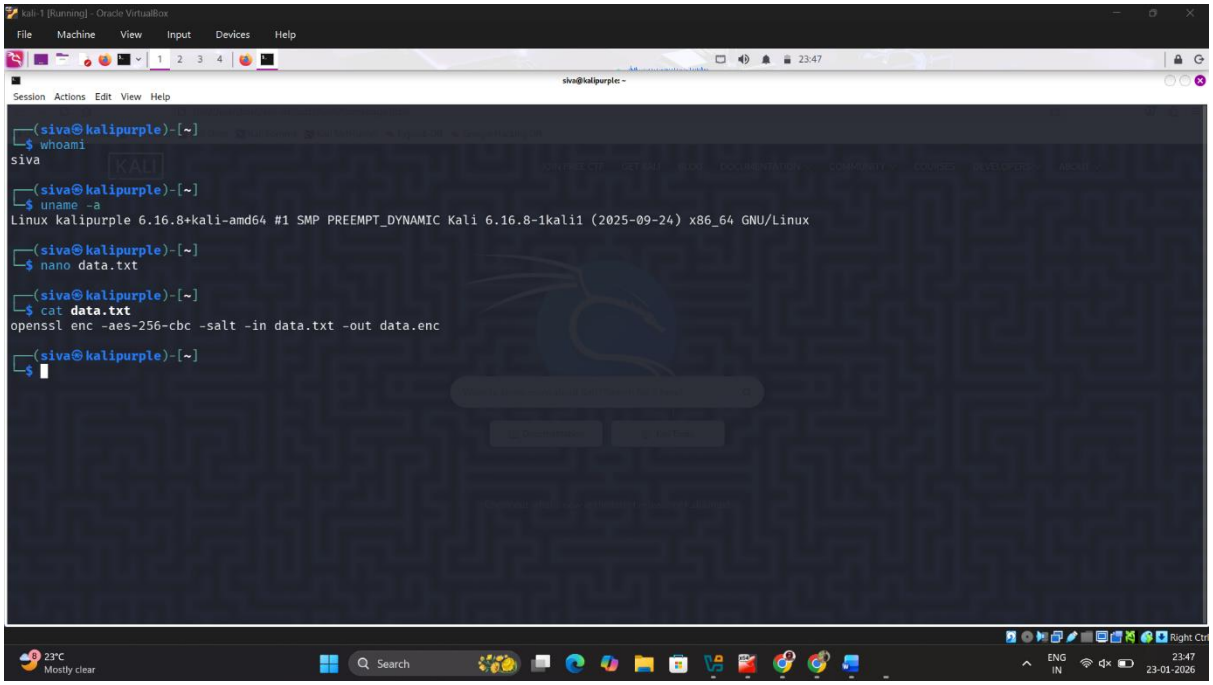
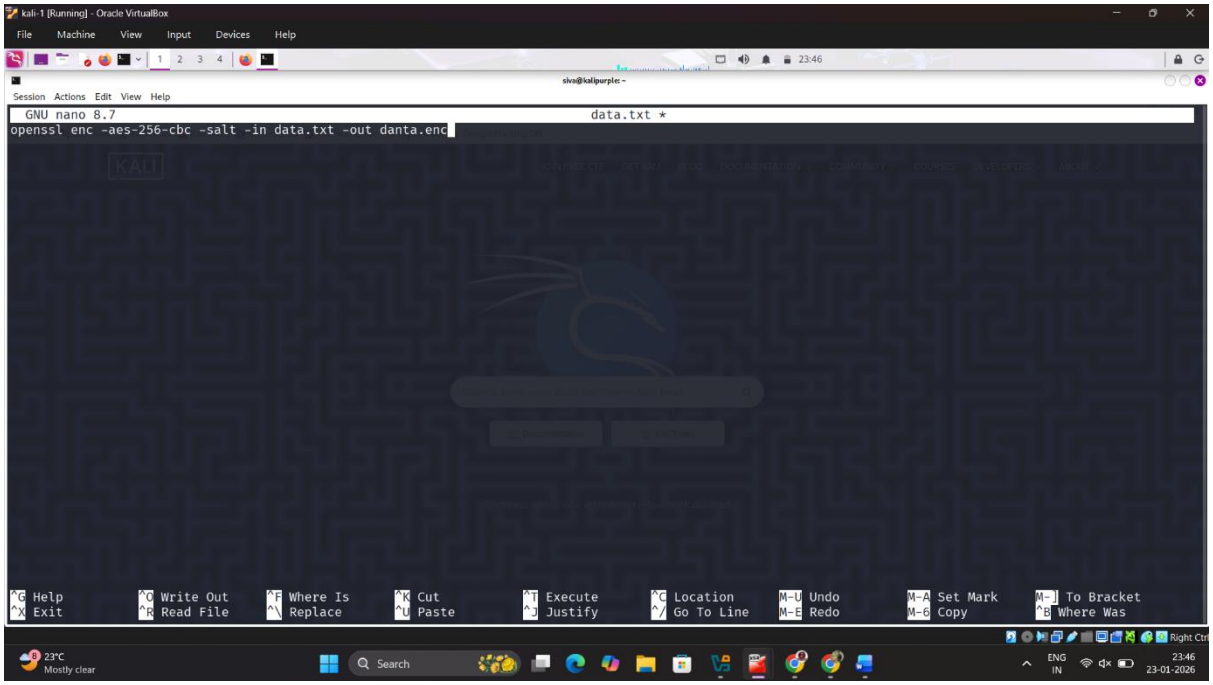
### 6.2 Future Enhancements

The framework can be further enhanced by:

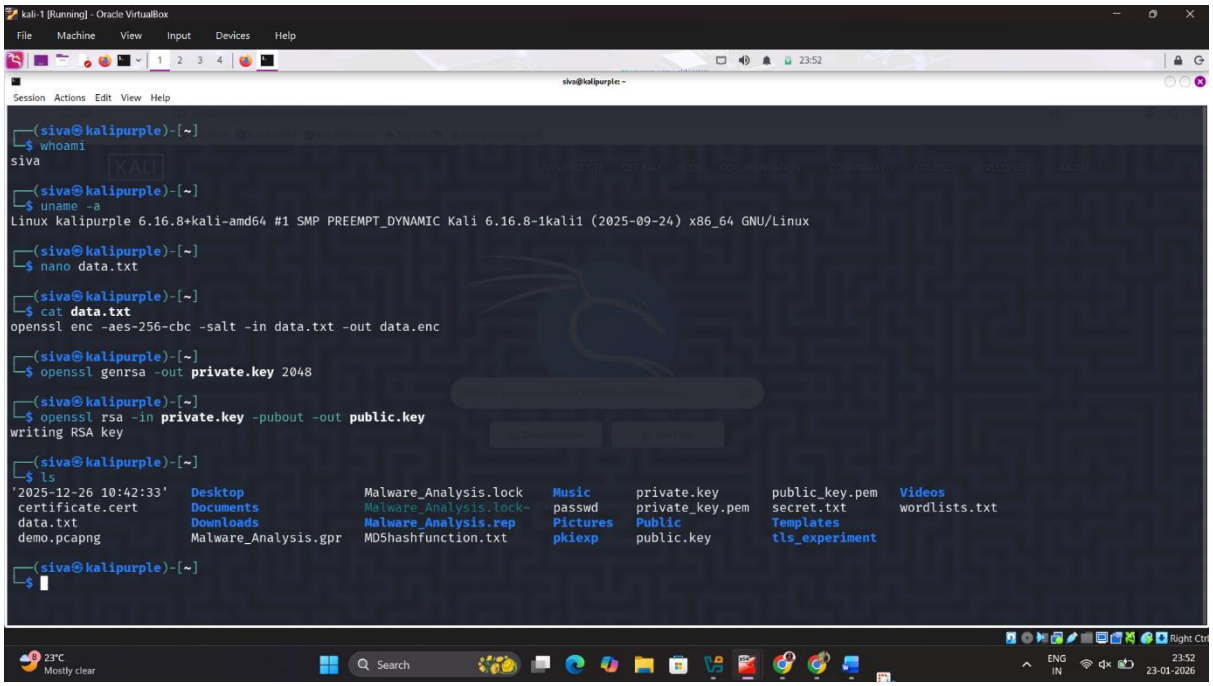
- Implementing Attribute-Based Access Control (ABAC)
- Integrating Security Information and Event Management (SIEM)
- Automating compliance monitoring
- Using AI-based threat detection
- Deploying Zero Trust Architecture

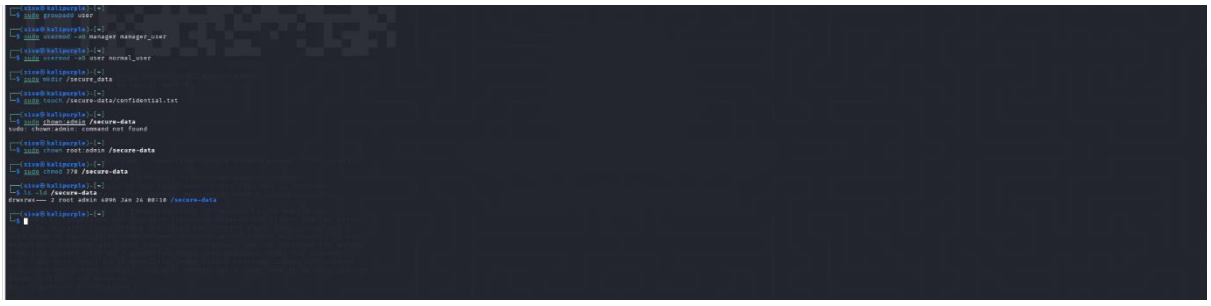
SCREENSHOTS:



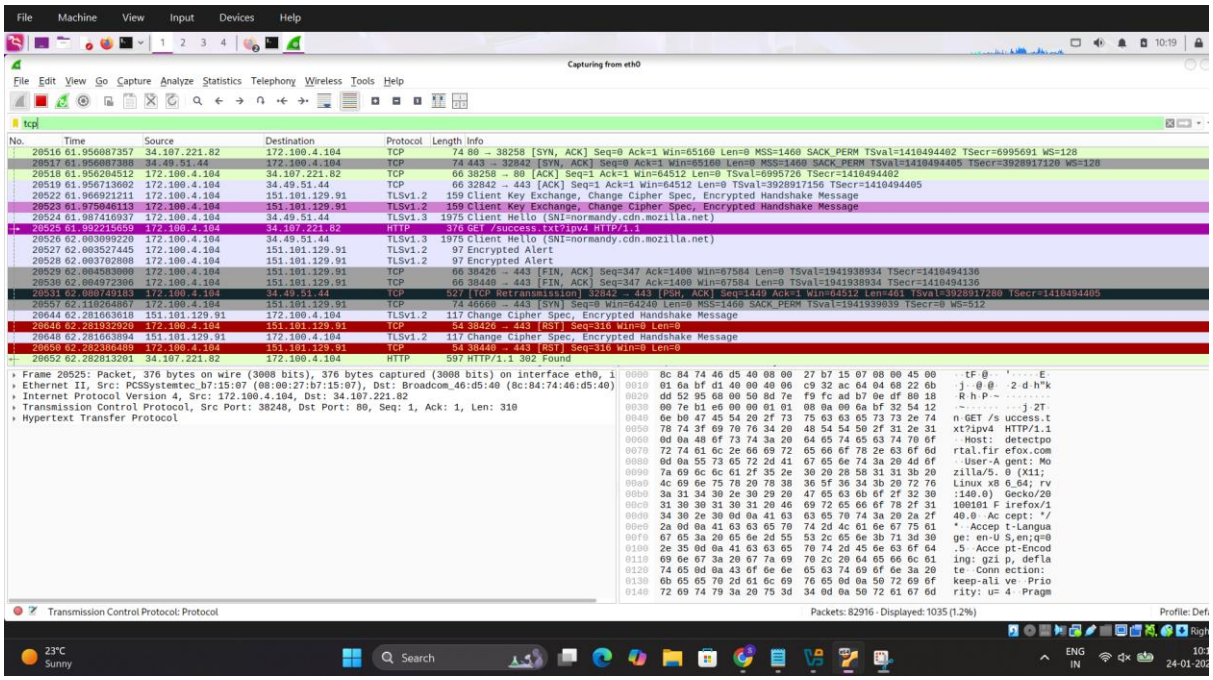
MFA, RBAC CREATION:



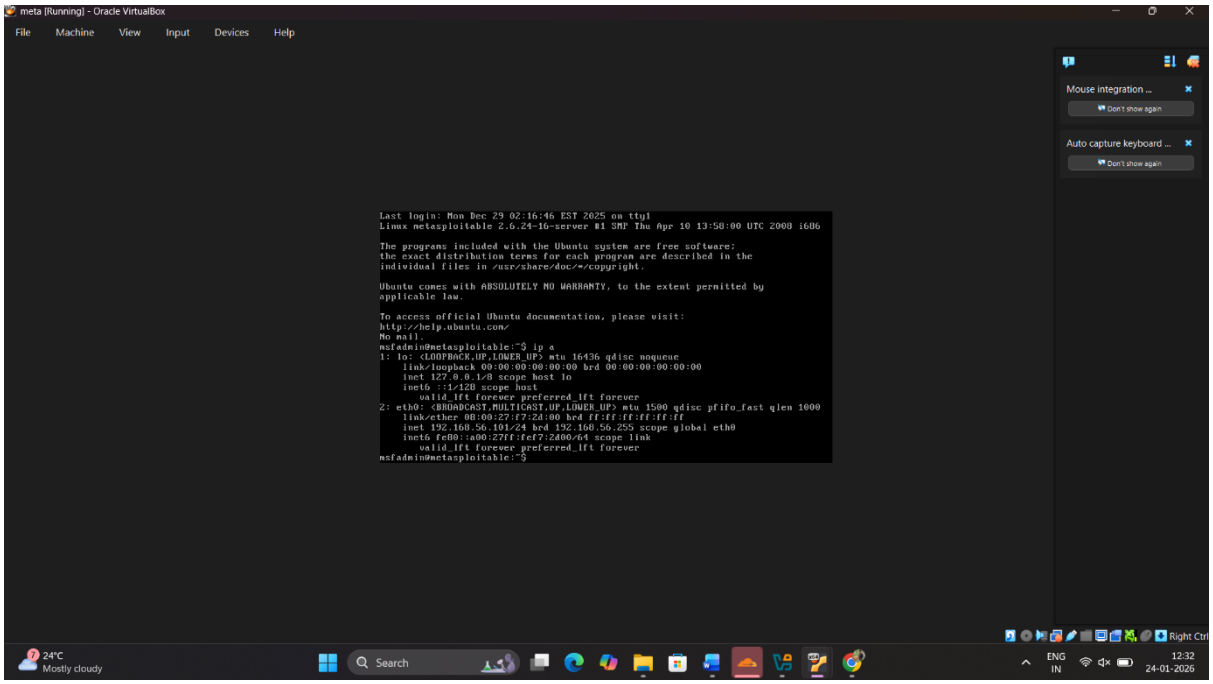



```
┌──(siva㉿kalipurple)-[~]
└─$ groups admin_user
admin_user : admin_user admin

┌──(siva㉿kalipurple)-[~]
└─$ groups manager_user
manager_user : manager_user manager

┌──(siva㉿kalipurple)-[~]
└─$ groups normal_user
normal_user : normal_user user
```

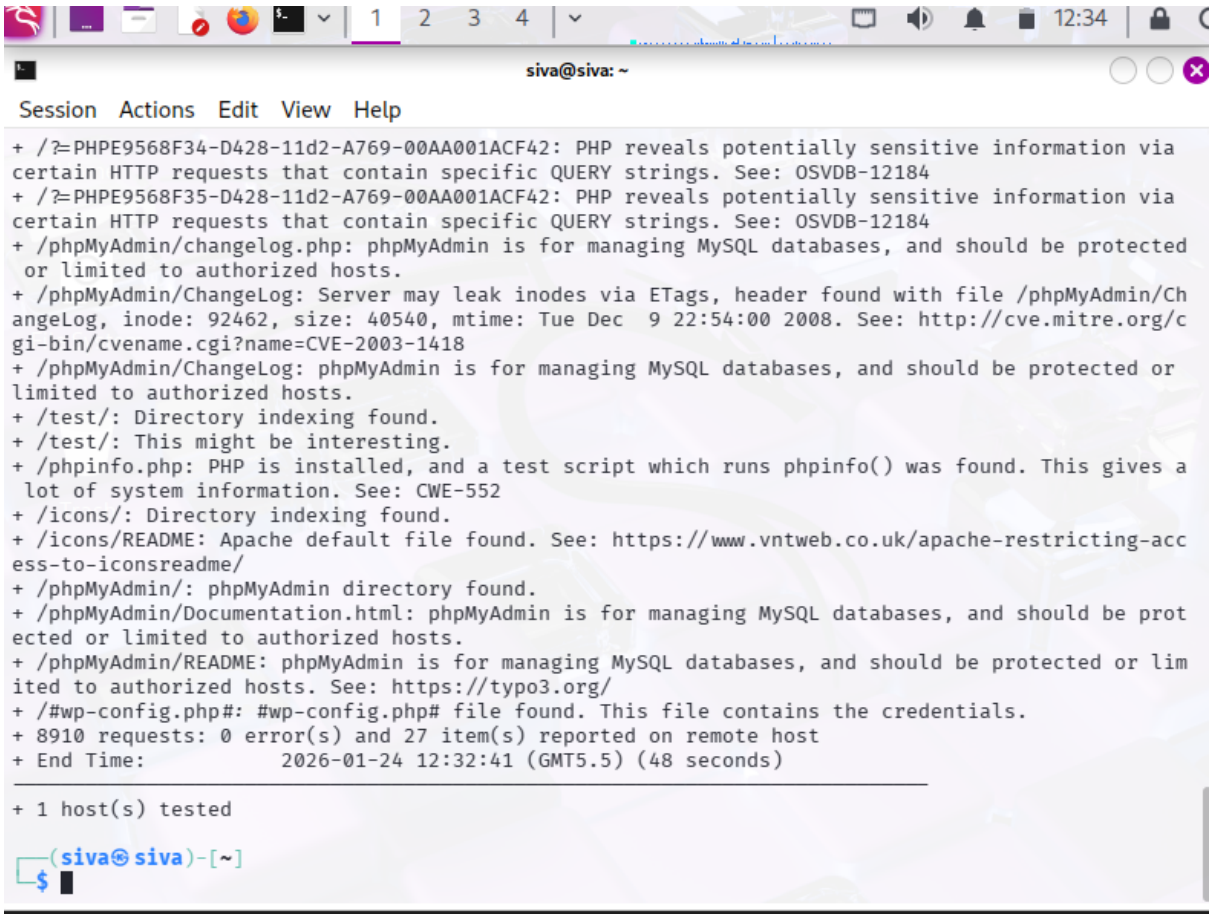
**Network traffic captured using Wireshark showing TLS-encrypted communication over TCP (HTTPS), demonstrating secure data transmission:**



## Metasploitable Virtual Machine Setup and Target Identification:




```
┌──(siva㉿siva)-[~]
└─$ nikto -h 192.168.56.101
- Nikto v2.5.0
---------------------------------------------------------------------------
+ Target IP:          192.168.56.101
+ Target Hostname:    192.168.56.101
+ Target Port:        80
+ Start Time:         2026-01-24 12:31:53 (GMT5.5)
---------------------------------------------------------------------------
+ Server: Apache/2.2.8 (Ubuntu) DAV/2
+ /: Retrieved x-powered-by header: PHP/5.2.4-2ubuntu5.10.
+ /: The anti-clickjacking X-Frame-Options header is not present. See: https://developer.mozilla
.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTTP/Headers/X-Frame-Options
+ /: The X-Content-Type-Options header is not set. This could allow the user agent to render the
 content of the site in a different fashion to the MIME type. See: https://www.netsparker.com/we
b-vulnerability-scanner/vulnerabilities/missing-content-type-header/
+ Apache/2.2.8 appears to be outdated (current is at least Apache/2.4.54). Apache 2.2.34 is the
EOL for the 2.x branch.
+ /index: Uncommon header 'tcn' found, with contents: list.
+ /index: Apache mod_negotiation is enabled with MultiViews, which allows attackers to easily br
ute force file names. The following alternatives for 'index' were found: index.php. See: http://
www.wisec.it/sectou.php?id=4698ebdc59d15,https://exchange.xforce.ibmcloud.com/vulnerabilities/82
75
+ /: Web Server returns a valid response with junk HTTP methods which may cause false positives.
+ /: HTTP TRACE method is active which suggests the host is vulnerable to XST. See: https://owas
p.org/www-community/attacks/Cross_Site_Tracing
+ /phpinfo.php: Output from the phpinfo() function was found.
+ /doc/: Directory indexing found.
+ /doc/: The /doc/ directory is browsable. This may be /usr/doc. See: http://cve.mitre.org/cgi-b
```


1 2 3 4
12:34
siva@siva: ~
Session Actions Edit View Help
+ /?=PHPE9568F34-D428-11d2-A769-00AA001ACF42: PHP reveals potentially sensitive information via certain HTTP requests that contain specific QUERY strings. See: OSVDB-12184
+ /?=PHPE9568F35-D428-11d2-A769-00AA001ACF42: PHP reveals potentially sensitive information via certain HTTP requests that contain specific QUERY strings. See: OSVDB-12184
+ /phpMyAdmin/changelog.php: phpMyAdmin is for managing MySQL databases, and should be protected or limited to authorized hosts.
+ /phpMyAdmin/ChangeLog: Server may leak inodes via ETags, header found with file /phpMyAdmin/ChangeLog, inode: 92462, size: 40540, mtime: Tue Dec 9 22:54:00 2008. See: http://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2003-1418
+ /phpMyAdmin/ChangeLog: phpMyAdmin is for managing MySQL databases, and should be protected or limited to authorized hosts.
+ /test/: Directory indexing found.
+ /test/: This might be interesting.
+ /phpinfo.php: PHP is installed, and a test script which runs phpinfo() was found. This gives a lot of system information. See: CWE-552
+ /icons/: Directory indexing found.
+ /icons/README: Apache default file found. See: https://www.vntweb.co.uk/apache-restricting-access-to-iconsreadme/
+ /phpMyAdmin/: phpMyAdmin directory found.
+ /phpMyAdmin/Documentation.html: phpMyAdmin is for managing MySQL databases, and should be protected or limited to authorized hosts.
+ /phpMyAdmin/README: phpMyAdmin is for managing MySQL databases, and should be protected or limited to authorized hosts. See: https://typo3.org/
+ /#wp-config.php#: #wp-config.php# file found. This file contains the credentials.
+ 8910 requests: 0 error(s) and 27 item(s) reported on remote host
+ End Time: 2026-01-24 12:32:41 (GMT5.5) (48 seconds)
+ 1 host(s) tested
(siva㉿siva)-[~]
$