

Lab 11.12: Hardening SSH servers

IN618 Security

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Introduction

SSH servers that are exposed to the Internet are typically subject to round-the-clock malicious login attempts. But while these are annoying, they shouldn't present a serious threat to any well configured server. We just saw how we can login into servers without a password. The next logical step is to make it so that you can't log into servers *with* a password.

1 Procedure

The settings we need to change are in `/etc/ssh/sshd_config`. Edit that file, changing two things:

1. Change `PermitRootLogin` to `no`;
2. Change `PasswordAuthentication` to `no` (and uncomment that line if necessary).

Once you make these changes, restart `sshd` with the command `sudo service ssh restart`.