

## **Final Security Report**

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CTEC 402: Software and OS Security

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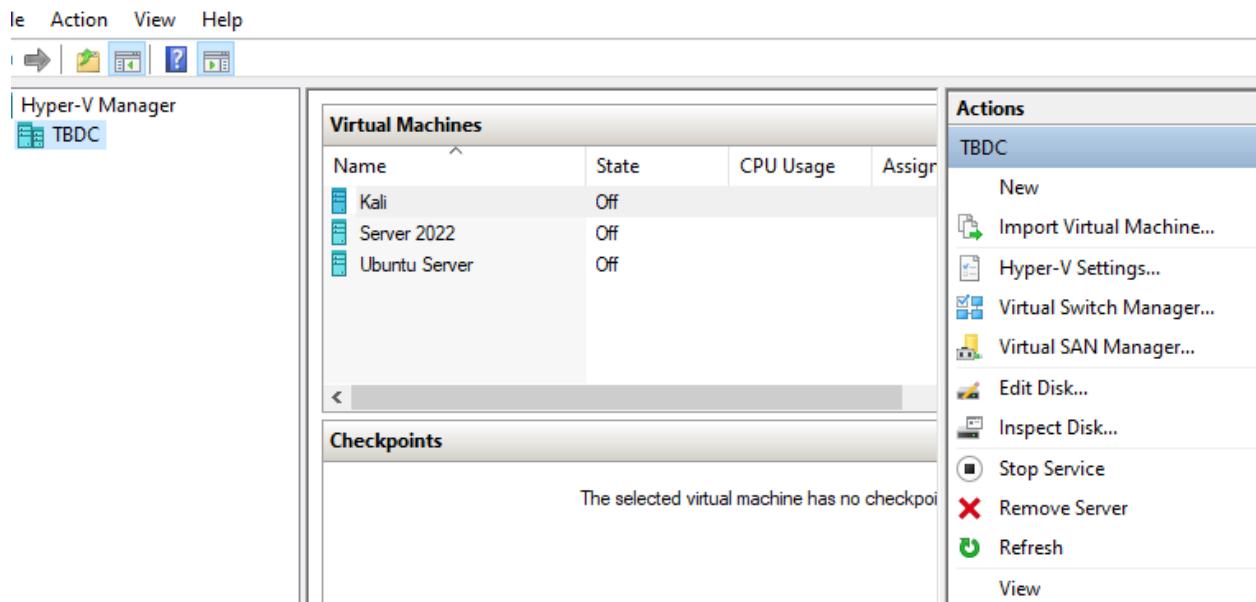
March 13, 2025

## Security Hardening Report

This report will document the configuration process and installation of the infrastructure of the financial institution, Starlings Savings. It will provide detailed descriptions of hardening techniques and best practices implemented on servers to enhance their security. This document outlines applications for the latest patches, firewall configuration, and installation of services. In addition, a thorough vulnerability assessment was conducted, and findings from this scan will be presented to identify potential weaknesses within the infrastructure. Recommendations for mitigating these vulnerabilities will be discussed. Along with future steps to improve overall security measures of the company.

## OS Installation and Configurations

On hard drive installed window server 2022, window sever 2019, and windows 11 pro. On window sever 2022 installed virtual machines of Ubuntu Server, Kali, and window server 2022.



On domain controller installed AD, DNS, and DHCP roles onto server.

The screenshot shows the Windows Server Manager dashboard. On the left, a sidebar lists 'Dashboard', 'Local Server', 'All Servers', 'AD DS', 'DHCP', 'DNS', 'File and Storage Services' (with a plus sign), and 'Hyper-V'. The main area displays 'ROLES AND SERVER GROUPS' with the following details:

- AD DS**: 1 instance. Includes Manageability, Events, Services, Performance, and BPA results.
- DHCP**: 1 instance. Includes Manageability, Events, Services, Performance, and BPA results.
- DNS**: 1 instance. Includes Manageability, Events, Services, Performance, and BPA results.
- File and Storage Services**: 1 instance. Includes Manageability, Events, Services, Performance, and BPA results.
- Hyper-V**: 1 instance. Includes Manageability, Events, Services, Performance, and BPA results.
- Local Server**: 1 instance. Includes Manageability, Events, Services, Performance, and BPA results.
- All Servers**: 1 instance. Includes Manageability, Events, Services, Performance, and BPA results.

A top banner prompts 'Create a server group' and 'Connect this server to cloud services'.

Next, created an organization unit for Staling Savings Bank and then created additional organization units for departments under the original. These departments include tellers, sales, marketing, loan officers, information technology, human resources, and finance. After completing this, the process continued by creating security groups with the names of each department. User were then added to each security group, here is an example of the security groups for departments HR and tellers.

File Action View Help

Active Directory Users and Computers [TBDC.starlingssavings.com]

	Description
Saved Queries	
starlingssavings.com	
>  Builtin	
>  Computers	
>  Domain Controllers	
>  ForeignSecurityPrincipal	
>  Managed Service Account	
>  starlingssaving	
>  Finance	
>  Human Resources	
>  IT	
>  Loan Officers	
>  Marketing	
>  Sales	
>  Tellers	
Users	
Tellers	Organizational...
Sales	Organizational...
Marketing	Organizational...
Loan Officers	Organizational...
IT	Organizational...
Human Res...	Organizational...
Finance	Organizational...

File Action View Help

Active Directory Users and Com

Name	Type	Description
Tellers	Security Group...	

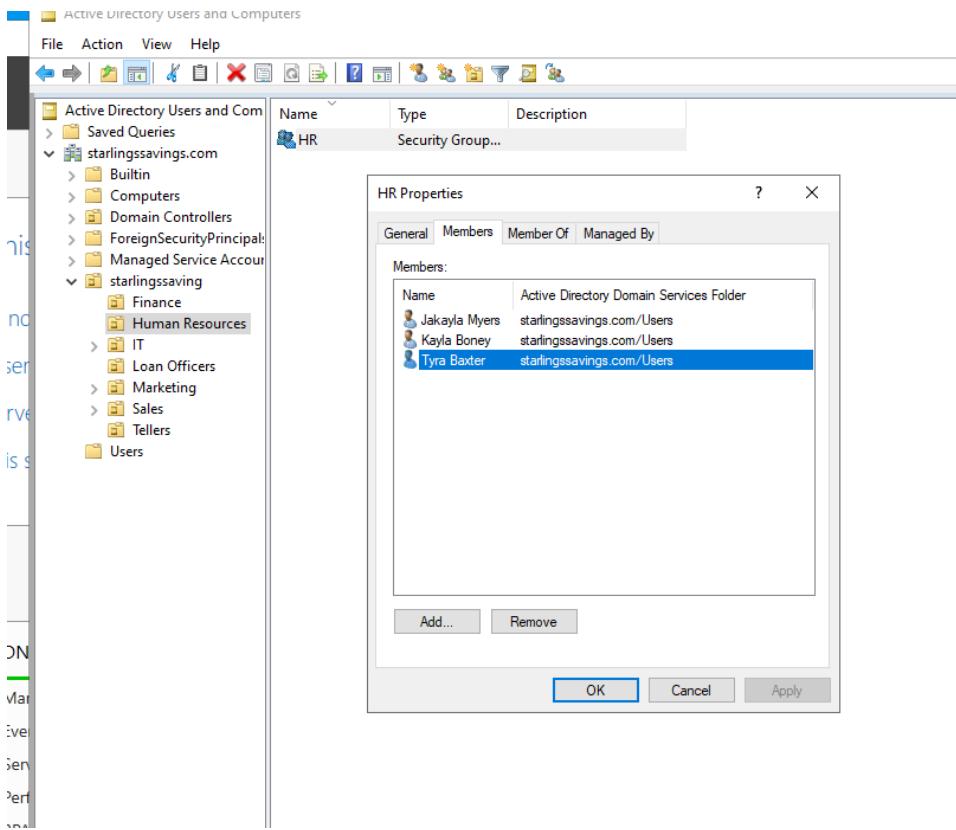
Tellers Properties

General Members Member Of Managed By

Members:

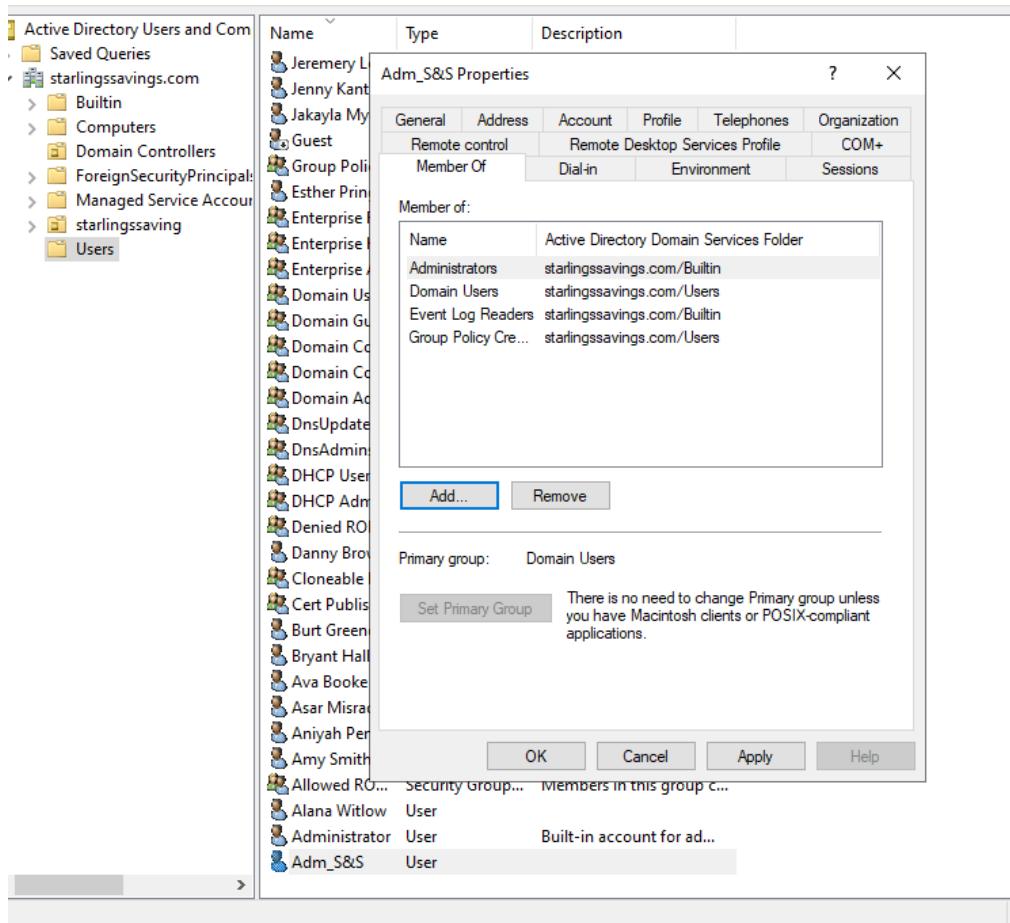
Name	Description
Ava Booke	starlingssavings.com/Users
Jeremy Led...	starlingssavings.com/Users
Johnny Coach	starlingssavings.com/Users

Add... Remove OK Cancel Apply



## Hardening Techniques

A secondary Administrator account was created, but instead of placing it in Domain Admin group the account was set up with minimum permission. This allows administrators to login this account and still complete task but don't have domain admin privileges. They can still add DNS records, create users, and implement group policies etc.



Implemented a password policy for users in all departments. There is a 12-character limit minimum and enabled password complexity. Every three months users must rest their password. Also, users are only allowed to make 3 login attempts and when they are not able to login they will be locked out of that account for a day. This makes it difficult for hackers to make multiple login attempts.

The screenshot shows the Windows Local Security Settings dialog box. It has three main sections: Account Policies/Password Policy, Account Policies/Account Lockout Policy, and Local Policies/Security Options. The Account Policies/Password Policy section is currently selected.

Policy	Setting
Enforce password history	24 passwords remembered
Maximum password age	90 days
Minimum password age	2 days
Minimum password length	12 characters
Password must meet complexity requirements	Enabled

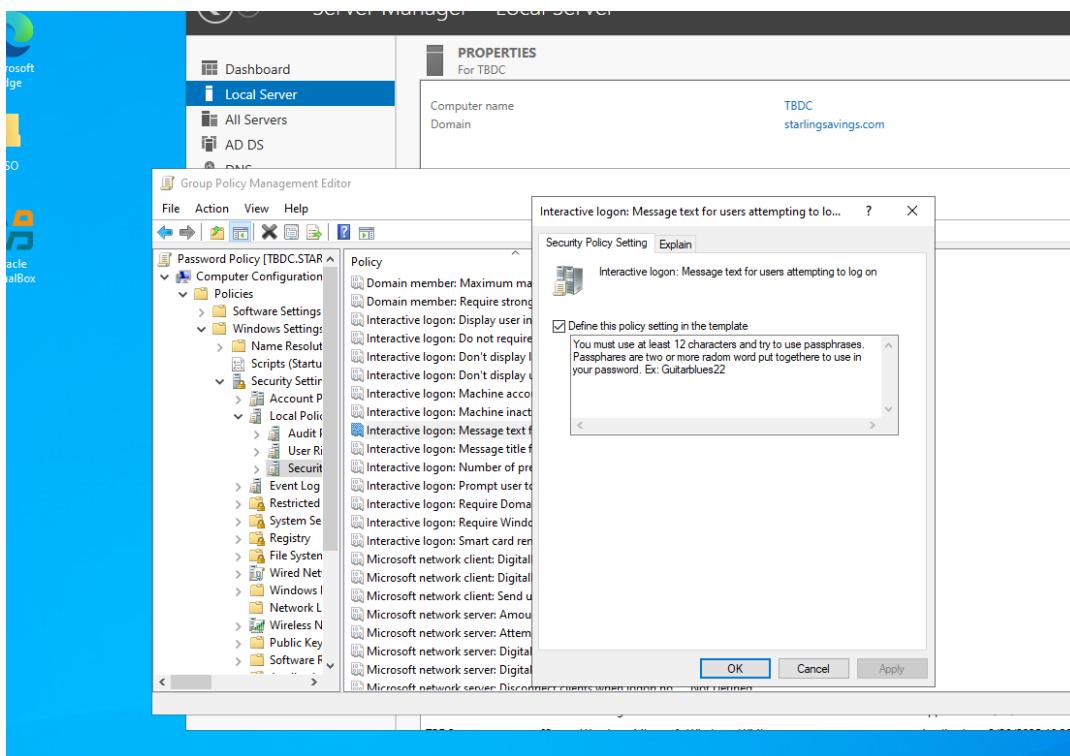
  

Policy	Setting
Account lockout duration	1440 minutes
Account lockout threshold	3 invalid logon attempts
Reset account lockout counter after	1440 minutes

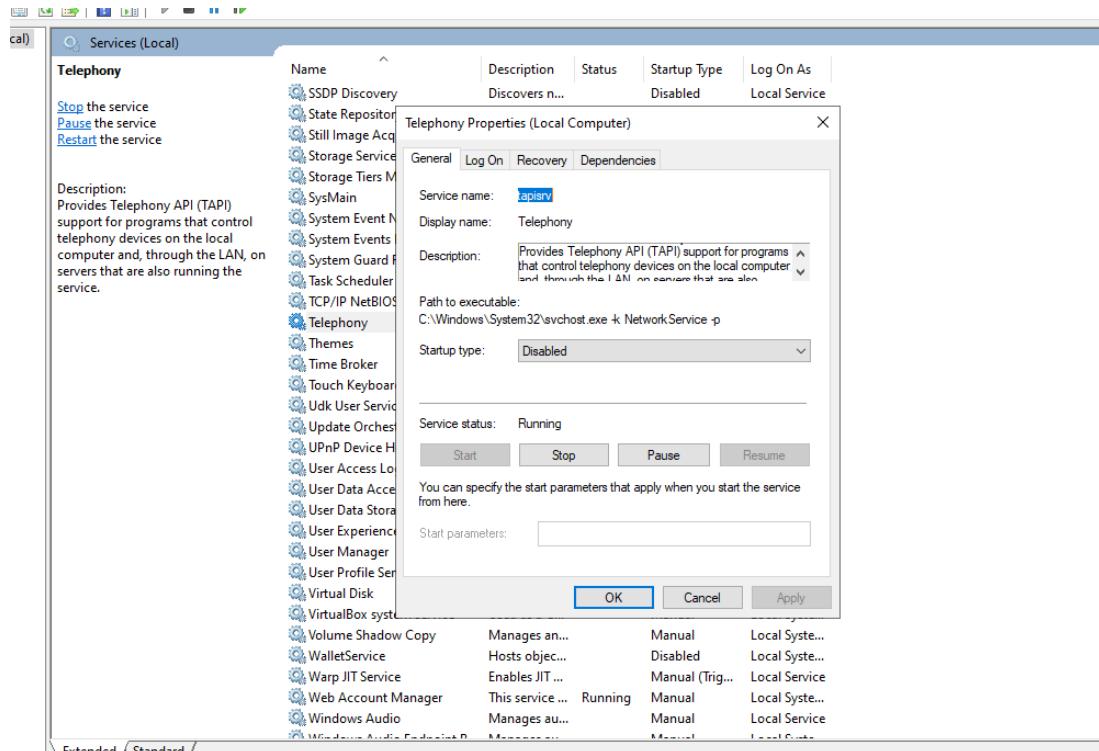
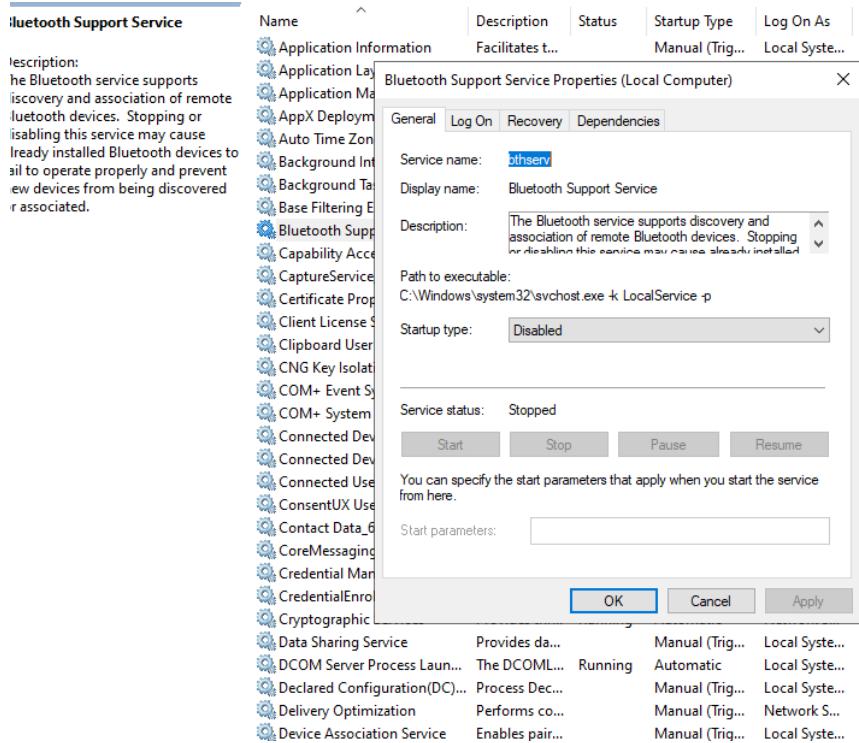
  

Policy	Setting
Local Policies/Security Options	

Added a password banner that explains to users the password requirements and encourages users to use passphrases. A passphrase is when you put two or more random words together. This technique makes it harder for hackers to use password cracking software.



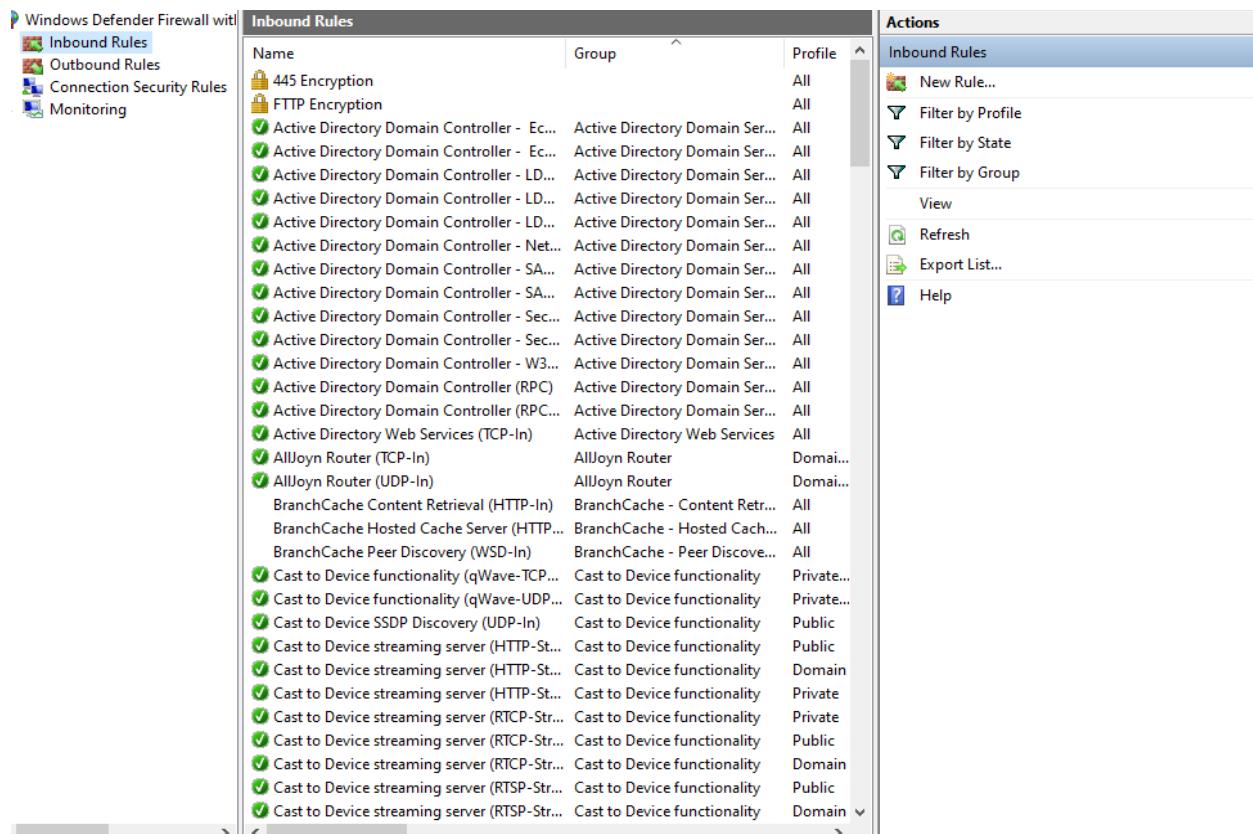
In Microsoft server services disabled the Bluetooth support service so users are not able to connect unauthorized devices to network. Then disabled telephony service since there isn't no telephone devices on the local computer or through a LAN.



Created rule on firewall defender to encrypt and filter port 445, 20, 21. Encrypting traffic

on port 445 helps protect sensitive data that is being transmitted over the network, for example

files. Encrypting FTP (port 20 and 21) traffic ensures that data transfers between client and server are protected from attacks like eavesdropping and man in the middle attacks. Filtering both of these reports can help prevent threat actors from gaining unauthorized access to sever files and systems.



The screenshot shows the Windows Defender Firewall with Advanced Security interface. The left pane displays a navigation tree with 'Inbound Rules' selected. The right pane is titled 'Inbound Rules' and contains a detailed list of rules. The columns are 'Name', 'Group', and 'Profile'. The 'Actions' pane on the right includes options for 'New Rule...', 'Filter by Profile', 'Filter by State', 'Filter by Group', 'View', 'Refresh', 'Export List...', and 'Help'.

Name	Group	Profile
445 Encryption		All
FTP Encryption		All
Active Directory Domain Controller - Ec...	Active Directory Domain Ser...	All
Active Directory Domain Controller - Ec...	Active Directory Domain Ser...	All
Active Directory Domain Controller - LD...	Active Directory Domain Ser...	All
Active Directory Domain Controller - LD...	Active Directory Domain Ser...	All
Active Directory Domain Controller - Net...	Active Directory Domain Ser...	All
Active Directory Domain Controller - SA...	Active Directory Domain Ser...	All
Active Directory Domain Controller - SA...	Active Directory Domain Ser...	All
Active Directory Domain Controller - Sec...	Active Directory Domain Ser...	All
Active Directory Domain Controller - Sec...	Active Directory Domain Ser...	All
Active Directory Domain Controller - W3...	Active Directory Domain Ser...	All
Active Directory Domain Controller (RPC)	Active Directory Domain Ser...	All
Active Directory Domain Controller (RPC-In)	Active Directory Domain Ser...	All
Active Directory Web Services (TCP-In)	Active Directory Web Services	All
AllJoyn Router (TCP-In)	AllJoyn Router	Domai...
AllJoyn Router (UDP-In)	AllJoyn Router	Domai...
BranchCache Content Retrieval (HTTP-In)	BranchCache - Content Retr...	All
BranchCache Hosted Cache Server (HTTP-In)	BranchCache - Hosted Cach...	All
BranchCache Peer Discovery (WSD-In)	BranchCache - Peer Discove...	All
Cast to Device functionality (qWave-TCP...)	Cast to Device functionality	Private...
Cast to Device functionality (qWave-UDP...)	Cast to Device functionality	Private...
Cast to Device SSDP Discovery (UDP-In)	Cast to Device functionality	Public
Cast to Device streaming server (HTTP-St...)	Cast to Device functionality	Public
Cast to Device streaming server (HTTP-St...)	Cast to Device functionality	Domain
Cast to Device streaming server (HTTP-St...)	Cast to Device functionality	Private
Cast to Device streaming server (RTCP-Str...)	Cast to Device functionality	Private
Cast to Device streaming server (RTCP-Str...)	Cast to Device functionality	Public
Cast to Device streaming server (RTSP-Str...)	Cast to Device functionality	Domain
Cast to Device streaming server (RTSP-Str...)	Cast to Device functionality	Public
Cast to Device streaming server (RTSP-Str...)	Cast to Device functionality	Domain

## Methodology

Conducted vulnerability scan on sever components with tools including Nmap, PowerShell, and Nessus. Nessus is software used to identify security weaknesses in the company's network and operating systems. Nmap is used to scan ports, Ip addresses, and detect vulnerabilities.

## Services Scan

In PowerShell a command can be run to lists all the services currently running on the server. While running this command, it was observed that some services weren't running. For example, BITS, DPS, CryptSv, EFS and W32Time were not running. BITS (Background Intelligence Transfer Service) is used to transfer files in the background. Since it is not running, the server could miss critical updates and be exposed to vulnerabilities. CryptSV (Cryptographic Services) manages all cryptographic operations. Without this running, the server might have issues with creating digital signatures, verifying software installation, and managing certificates. All of these operations are crucial for authentication and maintaining a secure environment. DPS (Diagnostic Policy Service) detects and troubleshoots problems within your system. This service also logs diagnostic information about the issue and notifies users. Without running this service, the server won't be able to diagnose any problems within the system which could lead to undetected errors. W32Time (Window Time) is what synchronizes the date and time for all servers and clients connected to them. Without this service, running time stamps of logs for security protocols, authentication, and Kerberos could be affected. EFS (Encryption File System) enables files to be encrypted. As a banking institution we must comply with the Payment Card Industry Security Standards. Which requires the protection of card holder data with encryption. Without this service running Starling Savings is not in compliance with PCI DSS. Sensitive information on servers is at this point exposed. If threat actors gain access to systems, they will have access to our files content. To combat this, enabling EFS service and setting stricter access controls on accounts.

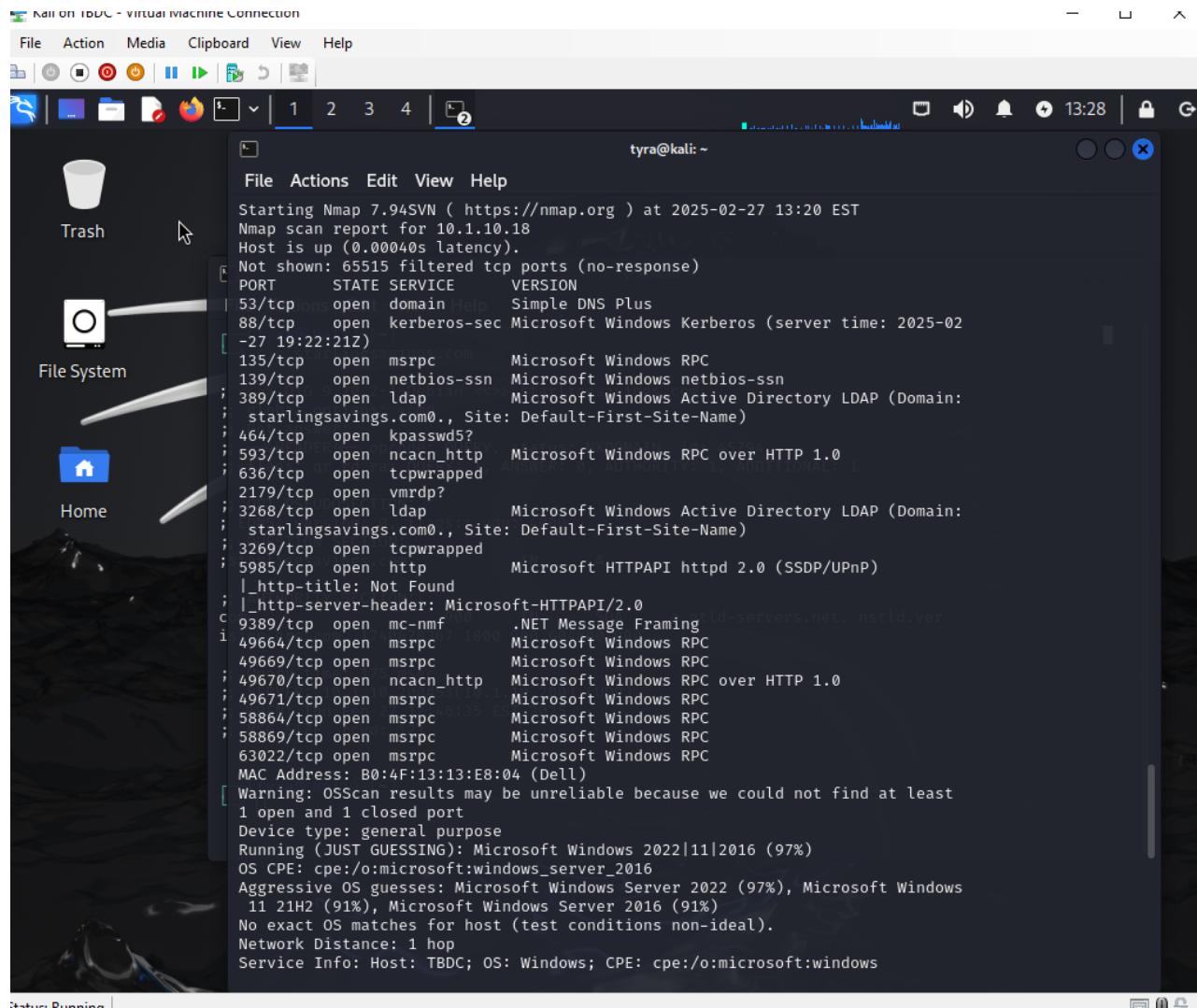
```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Users\Administrator> Get-Service

Status   Name           DisplayName
-----  ~~~~~~
Running  ADWS          Active Directory Web Services
Stopped A1Router      AllJoyn Router Service
Stopped ALG           Application Layer Gateway Service
Stopped AppIDSvc      Application Identity
Stopped AppInfo        Application Information
Stopped AppLgmt        Application Management
Stopped AppReadiness   App Readiness
Stopped AppVClient     Microsoft App-V Client
Stopped AppXSvc        AppX Deployment Service (AppXSVC)
Stopped AudioEndpointBu... Windows Audio Endpoint Builder
Stopped Audiosrv       Windows Audio
Stopped AxInstSV       ActiveX Installer (AxInstSV)
Running  BFE           Base Filtering Engine
Stopped BITS          Background Intelligent Transfer Ser...
Running  BrokerInfrastru... Background Tasks Infrastructure Ser...
Stopped bthserv        Bluetooth Support Service
Running  camsvc         Capability Access Manager Service
Stopped CaptureService_... CaptureService_7c917
Running  cbdhsvc_7c917  Clipboard User Service_7c917
Running  CDPsvc         Connected Devices Platform Service
Running  CDPUUserSvc_7c917 Connected Devices Platform User Ser...
Stopped CertPropSvc    Certificate Propagation
Stopped ClipSVC        Client License Service (ClipSVC)
Stopped COMSysApp      COM+ System Application
Stopped ConsentUXUserSv... ConsentUX User Service_7c917
Running  CoreMessagingRe... CoreMessaging
Stopped CredentialEnrol... CredentialEnrollmentManagerUserSvc_...
Running  CryptSvc       Cryptographic Services
Stopped CscService     Offline Files
Running  DcomLaunch     DCOM Server Process Launcher
Stopped dcsvc          Declared Configuration(DC) service
Stopped defragsvc     Optimize drives
Stopped DeviceAssociati... DeviceAssociationBroker_7c917
Stopped DeviceAssociati... Device Association Service
Stopped DeviceInstall   Device Install Service
Stopped DevicePickerUse... DevicePicker_7c917
Stopped DevicesFlowUser... DevicesFlow_7c917
Stopped DevQueryBroker  DevQuery Background Discovery Broker
Running  Dfs            DFS Namespace
Running  DFSR          DFS Replication
Running  Dhcp          DHCP Client
Stopped diagnosticshub... Microsoft (R) Diagnostics Hub Stand...
Running  DiagTrack      Connected User Experiences and Tele...
Running  DispBrokerDeskt... Display Policy Service
Stopped DMEnrollmentSvc Device Management Enrollment Service
Stopped dmwappushservice Device Management Wireless Applicat...
Running  DNS            DNS Server
Running  DnsCache       DNS Client
Stopped DoSvc          Delivery Optimization
Stopped dot3svc        Wired AutoConfig
Running  DPS             Diagnostic Policy Service
Stopped DsmSvc         Device Setup Manager
Stopped DsRoleSvc      DS Role Server
Stopped DsSvc          Data Sharing Service
Stopped Eaphost        Extensible Authentication Protocol
Stopped edgeupdate     Microsoft Edge Update Service (edge...
Stopped edgeupdatem    Microsoft Edge Update Service (edge...
Stopped EFS            Encrypting File System (EFS)
Stopped embeddedmode   Embedded Mode
```

## Vulnerability Scan

Nmap has the ability to see what ports are opened on a network. The scan showed that ports were open on servers like 3389, 5985, and 3268. Port 3389 is used to regulate remote access to servers and devices. Then port 5985 is used for remote http communication (WinRm), this allows operating systems and hardware to communicate. But this port is susceptible to web-based attacks like cross site scripting. In addition, port 3389 is susceptible to remote code execution and brute force attacks. Since most of the employees will be on premises, it would be best to close port 3389 so it won't be left exposed. Then flitter access controls to port 5985 since

only administrators should have remote access to services like PowerShell. Finally, port 3268 is used for the global catalog in Active Directory which allows for faster LDAP queries. These sessions are unencrypted on port 3268 so it would be best to configure the sever to use port 3269 for encrypted communications.



```

Nmap on TBDC - Virtual Machine Connection
File Action Media Clipboard View Help
File System Home
Trash File System Home
tyra@kali: ~
File Actions Edit View Help
Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-02-27 13:20 EST
Nmap scan report for 10.1.10.18
Host is up (0.00040s latency).
Not shown: 65515 filtered tcp ports (no-response)
PORT      STATE SERVICE      VERSION
53/tcp    open  domain      Simple DNS Plus
88/tcp    open  kerberos-sec Microsoft Windows Kerberos (server time: 2025-02-27 19:22:21Z)
135/tcp   open  msrpc       Microsoft Windows RPC
139/tcp   open  netbios-ssn Microsoft Windows netbios-ssn
389/tcp   open  ldap        Microsoft Windows Active Directory LDAP (Domain: starlingsavings.com0., Site: Default-First-Site-Name)
464/tcp   open  kpasswd5?
593/tcp   open  ncacn_http Microsoft Windows RPC over HTTP 1.0
636/tcp   open  tcpwrapped
2179/tcp  open  vmrpdp?
3268/tcp  open  ldap        Microsoft Windows Active Directory LDAP (Domain: starlingsavings.com0., Site: Default-First-Site-Name)
3269/tcp  open  tcpwrapped
5985/tcp  open  http       Microsoft HTTPAPI httpd 2.0 (SSDP/UPnP)
|_http-title: Not Found
|_http-server-header: Microsoft-HTTPAPI/2.0
9389/tcp  open  mc-nmf     .NET Message Framing
49664/tcp open  msrpc       Microsoft Windows RPC
49669/tcp open  msrpc       Microsoft Windows RPC
49670/tcp open  ncacn_http Microsoft Windows RPC over HTTP 1.0
49671/tcp open  msrpc       Microsoft Windows RPC
58864/tcp open  msrpc       Microsoft Windows RPC
58869/tcp open  msrpc       Microsoft Windows RPC
63022/tcp open  msrpc       Microsoft Windows RPC
MAC Address: B0:4F:13:E8:04 (Dell)
Warning: OSScan results may be unreliable because we could not find at least
1 open and 1 closed port
Device type: general purpose
Running (JUST GUESSING): Microsoft Windows 2022|11|2016 (97%)
OS CPE: cpe:/o:microsoft:windows_server_2016
Aggressive OS guesses: Microsoft Windows Server 2022 (97%), Microsoft Windows 11 21H2 (91%), Microsoft Windows Server 2016 (91%)
No exact OS matches for host (test conditions non-ideal).
Network Distance: 1 hop
Service Info: Host: TBDC; OS: Windows; CPE: cpe:/o:microsoft:windows
Status: Running

```

## Microsoft Defender Updates

In PowerShell command was run to list all of Microsoft Defender updates and ensure that the latest updates were installed. The last update ran was on the twenty eighth of February and Microsoft Defender is running normally. It is important to keep this antivirus software up to date

since it is a requirement of PCI DSS. Also, according to NIST guidelines for sever security this is a best practice (Scarfone et al., 2008). Which ensure systems are protected against new attacks techniques and malware.

```

Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Users\Administrator> Update-MpSignature
PS C:\Users\Administrator> Get-MpComputerStatus

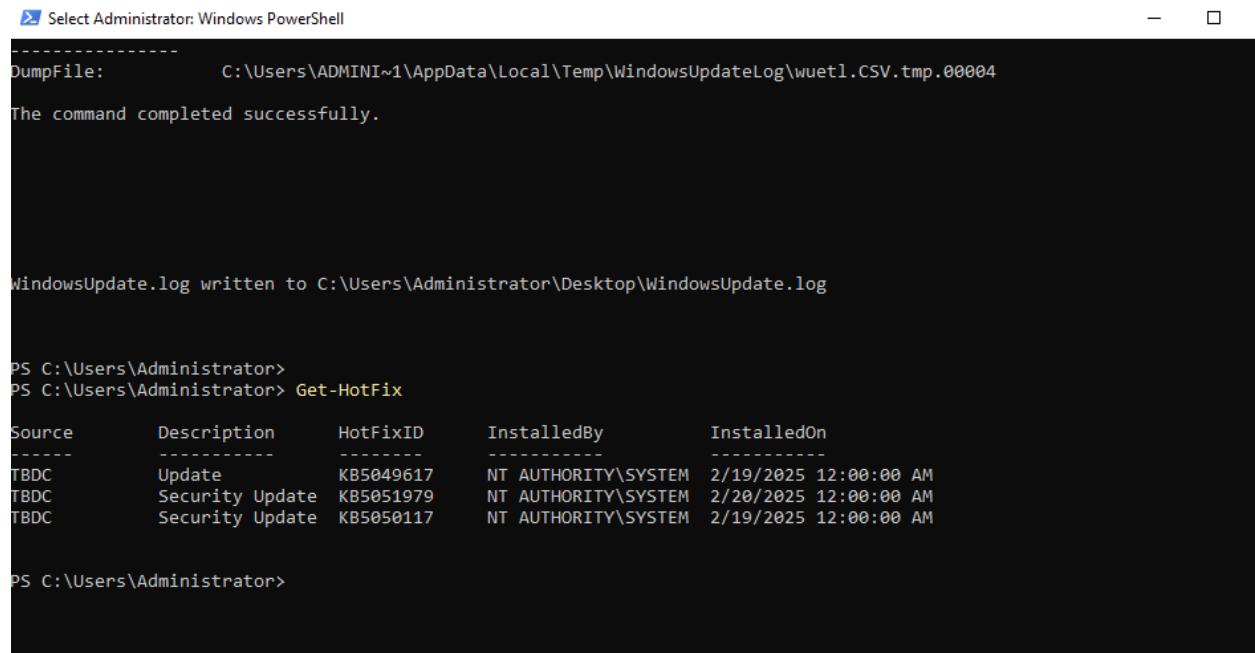
AMEngineVersion          : 1.1.25010.7
AMProductVersion         : 4.18.24090.11
AMRunningMode            : Normal
AMServiceEnabled          : True
AMServiceVersion          : 4.18.24090.11
AntispywareEnabled        : True
AntispywareSignatureAge   : 0
AntispywareSignatureLastUpdated : 2/28/2025 1:24:26 AM
AntispywareSignatureVersion : 1.423.160.0
AntivirusEnabled          : True
AntivirusSignatureAge     : 0
AntivirusSignatureLastUpdated : 2/28/2025 1:24:25 AM
AntivirusSignatureVersion : 1.423.160.0
BehaviorMonitorEnabled    : True
ComputerID                : DDF15508-C4F4-CE67-FFCD-AE9C7C1E1878
ComputerState              : 0
DefenderSignaturesOutOfDate : False
DeviceControlDefaultEnforcement :
DeviceControlPoliciesLastUpdated : 12/31/1600 7:00:00 PM
DeviceControlState         : Disabled
FullScanAge                : 4294967295
FullScanEndTime             :
FullScanOverdue             : False
FullScanRequired            : False
FullScanSignatureVersion    :
FullScanStartTime           :
InitializationProgress      : ServiceStartedSuccessfully
IoavProtectionEnabled       : True
IsTamperProtected          : True
IsVirtualMachine            : False
LastFullScanSource          : 0
LastQuickScanSource         : 2
NISEnabled                  : True
NISEngineVersion            : 1.1.25010.7
NISSignatureAge              : 0
NISSignatureLastUpdated     : 2/28/2025 1:24:25 AM
NISSignatureVersion          : 1.423.160.0
OnAccessProtectionEnabled   : True
ProductStatus               : 524288
QuickScanAge                 : 8
QuickScanEndTime             : 2/19/2025 3:58:10 PM
QuickScanOverdue             : False
QuickScanSignatureVersion    : 1.421.1968.0
QuickScanStartTime           : 2/19/2025 3:57:36 PM
RealTimeProtectionEnabled   : True
RealTimeScanDirection        : 0
RebootRequired               : False
SmartAppControlExpiration   :
SmartAppControlState         : Off
TamperProtectionSource       : UI
TDTCapable                  : N/A
TDTMode                      : N/A
TDTSiloType                  : N/A
TDTStatus                     : N/A
TDTTelemetry                 :
TroubleShootingDailyMaxQuota :
TroubleShootingDailyQuotaLeft :
TroubleShootingEndTime        :
TroubleShootingExpirationLeft :

```

The command nslookup was ran to show that DNS server is properly functioning and has the right IP address associated with it. When command was running domain name, starlingssavings.com it showed the domain controller Ip address as 10.1.10.18.

### **Security Update and Patches**

Get-Hotfix command in PowerShell was ran to show security updates and patches that are installed on the server. The last updates that were installed last week on February nineteenth and twentieth.



```

PS Select Administrator: Windows PowerShell
-----
DumpFile: C:\Users\ADMINI~1\AppData\Local\Temp\WindowsUpdateLog\wuetl.CSV.tmp.00004
The command completed successfully.

WindowsUpdate.log written to C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop\WindowsUpdate.log

PS C:\Users\Administrator>
PS C:\Users\Administrator> Get-HotFix

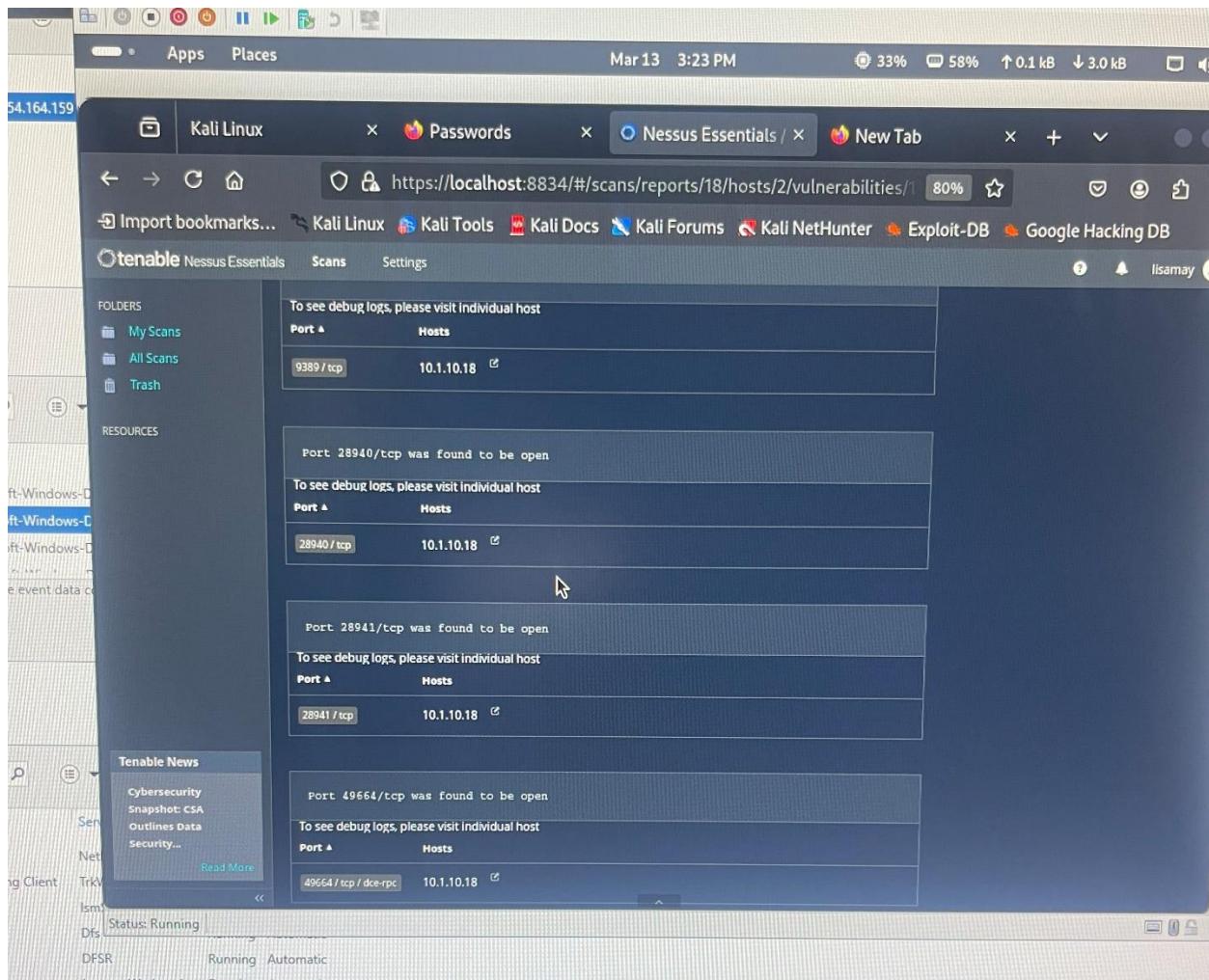
Source      Description      HotFixID      InstalledBy      InstalledOn
-----      -----      -----      -----
TBDC        Update          KB5049617    NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM 2/19/2025 12:00:00 AM
TBDC        Security Update KB5051979    NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM 2/20/2025 12:00:00 AM
TBDC        Security Update KB5050117    NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM 2/19/2025 12:00:00 AM

PS C:\Users\Administrator>

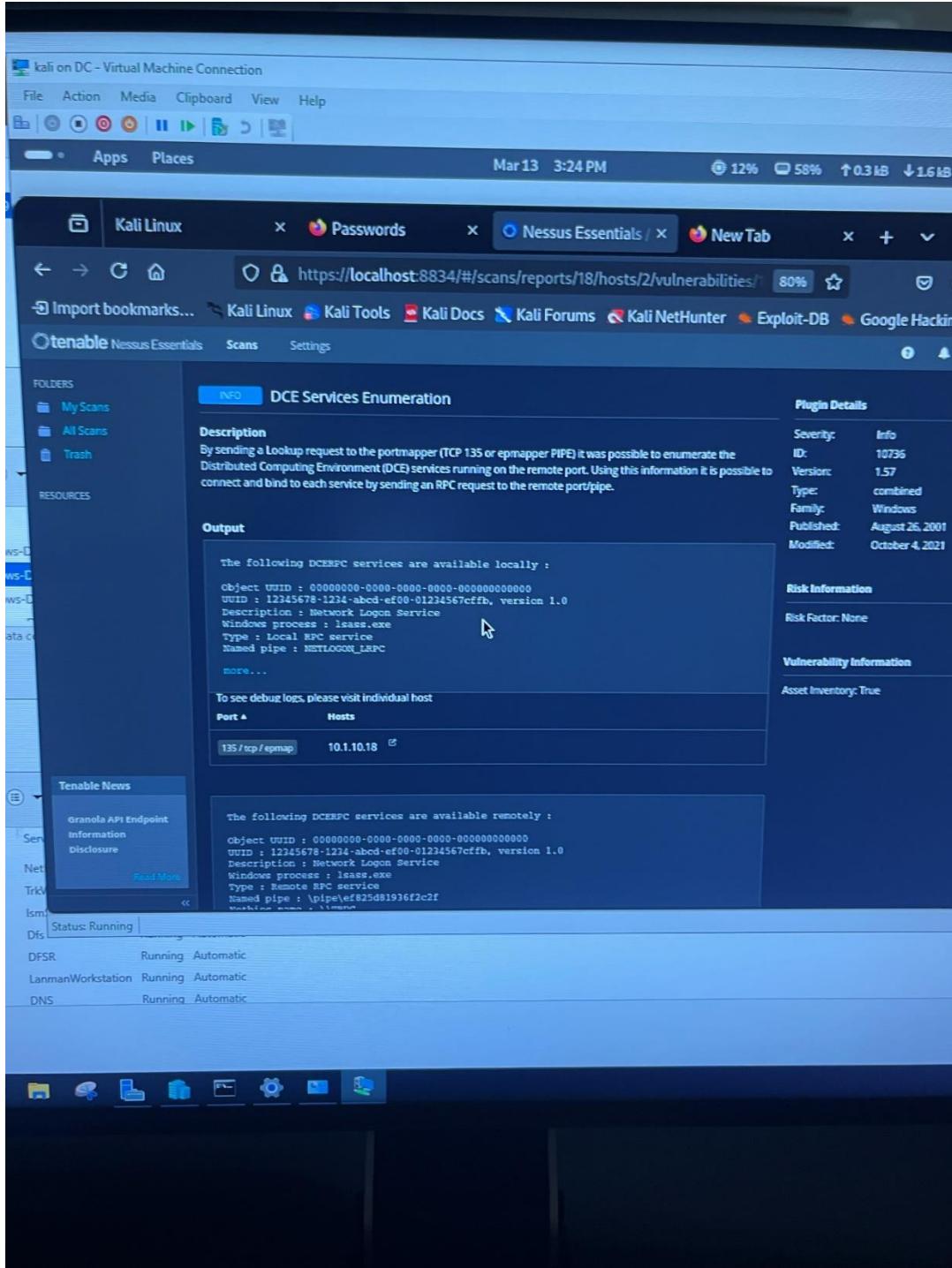
```

### **Nessus Scan**

Started off by running Active Directory scan, it showed that ports 9389,28940, 28941, 28941, 49664 where opened. Both port 9389 and port 28940 could be exploited by attackers to gain higher privileges on the system and could eventually lead to control over the domain. Port 28941 allows attackers to execute arbitrary code remotely and lead to data breaches.



The next scan ran was an advanced network scan, it pointed out that the domain controller had a DCE Services Enumeration vulnerability on port 135. Exposed details about DCE/RPC services, potentially could aid attackers in planning exploits. Attackers might use enumerated services to move across the network, targeting other connected systems.



## Conclusion

Overall, ensuring a secure operating system installation was the key component of developing a strong security posture. By removing unnecessary components and services reduced the attacks surface. As well as disabling unnecessary ports, it is also essential to reducing potential attack vectors. Although more ports like 135, 9389, 2698, and 28941 should have had restrictions implemented. It was also important to keep severs up to date with the latest patches to mitigate vulnerabilities.

## References

Scarfone, K., Jansen, W., & Tracy, M. (2008, July 25). *Guide to General Server Security*.

Csrc.nist.gov. <https://csrc.nist.gov/pubs/sp/800/123/final>

Wilson, R. (2023). *ComTIA PenTest+ Guide to Penetration Testing* (1st ed.). Cengage Learning.

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