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Introduction

Nmap (Network Mapper) is an open-source and versatile network scanning tool widely used in cybersecurity and IT fields. Developed by Gordon Lyon (Fyodor), it helps security professionals, network administrators, and penetration testers to map out networks, discover active hosts, and identify open ports and services. With its extensive scripting engine and wide range of scan options, Nmap is an essential tool for network auditing and security analysis.

Key Features of Nmap

Nmap is a powerful tool with a variety of features designed for network discovery, analysis, and security assessment. Here are its key features:

1. Network Discovery

- Identifies active hosts within a network.
- Maps the network topology, uncovering relationships between devices.

2. Port Scanning

- Scans for open, closed, or filtered ports on target systems.
- Supports scanning individual ports, specific port ranges, or all 65,535 ports.

3. Service Version Detection

- Determines the type and version of services running on open ports.
- Helps identify vulnerabilities associated with outdated services.

4. Operating System Detection

- Detects the operating system of target devices, including version details and hardware information.
- Useful for profiling target systems during penetration testing.

5. Scripting Engine (NSE)

- Executes custom or built-in scripts to perform advanced tasks such as:
 - Vulnerability detection.
 - Malware identification.
 - Service enumeration.
 - Network policy compliance checks.
- Includes pre-built scripts for specific use cases, such as identifying CVEs or SQL injection.

6. Aggressive Scanning

• Combines service version detection, OS detection, and traceroute in a single scan to gather comprehensive data about a target.

7. Output Customization

- Generates reports in multiple formats:
 - o Normal (-oN), XML (-oX), and grepable (-oG) formats.
 - Supports saving outputs for later analysis or integration with other tools.

8. Flexible Scanning Techniques

- Offers a variety of scan modes to suit different needs:
 - SYN Scan (-sS): Stealthy and efficient.
 - TCP Connect Scan (-sT): Establishes a full TCP connection.
 - UDP Scan (-sU): Explores open UDP ports.
 - Ping Scan (-sP): Detects live hosts without performing port scans.

9. IPv6 Support

 Fully supports IPv6 scanning to accommodate modern network configurations.

10. Speed and Timing Control

- Adjustable scanning speed to balance efficiency and stealth.
 - -T4 for fast scans.
 - -T0 for highly stealthy scans.

11. Traceroute

- Maps the path packets take to reach the target.
- Identifies intermediate devices and networks in the route.

12. Vulnerability Assessment

- Leverages NSE scripts to detect specific vulnerabilities and misconfigurations, such as:
 - SQL injection.
 - Weak SSL/TLS ciphers.
 - Open SMB shares.

13. Advanced Packet Manipulation

• Customizes packet data, length, and checksum to evade detection or tailor scans for specific targets.

14. Security and Privacy Testing

- Detects web application vulnerabilities, HTTP headers, and SSL certificate issues.
- Performs brute-forcing and checks for anonymous login possibilities in FTP or SMB protocols.

Categories of Commands

- Basic Scans: Commands for scanning single targets, multiple targets, ranges, or subnets.
- Port Scans: Includes specific port scans, all-port scans, and common-port scans
- Service and OS Detection: Commands for identifying service versions and operating systems.
- Advanced Scans: Techniques like TCP connect, SYN, and UDP scans, as well as aggressive scanning.
- Output Options: Saving results in various formats (normal, XML, grepable, all formats).
- Script Usage: Leveraging Nmap scripts for vulnerability detection, HTTP enumeration, and more.
- Vulnerability Scanning: Scripts targeting specific CVEs and weaknesses like SQL injection, XSS, and SSL/TLS issues.
- Miscellaneous Options: Includes traceroute, adjusting scan speeds, and customized packet settings.

Installation Steps

1. Windows

- 1. Download the installer:
 - Visit the official Nmap download page.
 - Select the Windows installer (e.g., nmap-setup.exe).
- 2. Run the installer:
 - Double-click the downloaded file to start the installation wizard.
 - Follow the prompts to choose installation options.
- 3. Verify Installation:
 - Open the command prompt and type:
 - o cmd
 - nmap --version

2. Linux

- 1. Using Package Manager:
 - For Debian/Ubuntu:
 - sudo apt update
 - sudo apt install nmap
 - For RHEL/CentOS/Fedora
 - sudo yum install nmap
 - Or for Fedora:
 - sudo dnf install nmap

3. macOS

- Using Homebrew:
 - Install Homebrew if not already installed:
 - /bin/bash -c "\$(curl -fsSL https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Homebrew/install/HEAD/install.sh)
 - o Install Nmap
 - brew install nmap

Nmap commands

Command 1 1	Description
nmap <target></target>	Basic scan of a target.
nmap <target1> <target2></target2></target1>	Scan multiple targets.
nmap 192.168.1.1-50	Scan a range of IPs.
nmap 192.168.1.0/24	Scan an entire subnet.
nmap -p 22,80,443 <target></target>	Scan specific ports.
nmap -p- <target></target>	Scan all ports.
nmap -sV <target></target>	Detect service version.
nmap -O <target></target>	Detect the operating system.
nmap -sT <target></target>	Perform a TCP connect scan (full connection).
nmap -sS <target></target>	Perform a SYN scan (stealth).
nmap -sU <target></target>	Perform a UDP scan.
nmap -A <target></target>	Conduct an aggressive scan (version, OS, scripts).
nmap -Pn <target></target>	Disable host discovery (ping).
nmap -sL <target></target>	List targets without scanning.
nmap -sn <target></target>	Perform a ping scan to determine if hosts are alive.
nmap -oN output.txt	Save output in normal format.
nmap -oX output.xml	Save output in XML format.
nmap -oG output.gnmap	Save output in grepable format.
nmapscript <script></td><td>Run a specific script.</td></tr><tr><td>nmaptop-ports <number></td><td>Scan the most common ports.</td></tr><tr><td>nmapscript vuln <target></td><td>Run vulnerability detection scripts.</td></tr><tr><td>nmap -6 <target></td><td>Perform IPv6 scanning.</td></tr><tr><td>nmap -T4 <target></td><td>Adjust scan speed.</td></tr><tr><td>nmapversion-all</td><td>Perform detailed version detection.</td></tr><tr><td>nmaptraceroute <target></td><td>Perform traceroute to determine the route.</td></tr><tr><td>nmapscript=http-* <target></td><td>Run HTTP-related scripts.</td></tr><tr><td>nmap -sC <target></td><td>Run default category scripts.</td></tr></tbody></table></script>	

nmap --script-timeout <time> nmap --max-retries <num> nmap --scan-delay <time> nmap --data-length <length> nmap --ttl <value> nmap -D <decoys> <target> nmap --spoof-mac <MAC address> nmap --exclude <targets> nmap --exclude-file <file> nmap --reason nmap --defeat-rst-ratelimit nmap --append-output nmap --badsum <target> nmap -sN <target> nmap -sF <target> nmap -sX <target> nmap --script=ftp-anon <target>

nmap --script=ftp-anon <target>
nmap --script=dns-cache-snoop

nmap --script=http-stored-xss

nmap --script=ssl-enum-ciphers

nmap --script=http-robots.txt

nmap --script=http-sitemap-generator

nmap -PE <target>

nmap -PR <target>

nmap --script=http-waf-detect

Set timeout for scripts.

Set maximum retries for probe attempts.

Set delay between packets during a scan.

Adjust packet data length for probes.

Set TTL (Time-To-Live) value for packets.

Use decoys to hide the source of the scan.

Spoof the MAC address of the scanning machine.

Exclude specific targets from the scan.

Exclude targets listed in a file.

Show reasons for host or port state changes.

Bypass target's RST rate-limiting mechanisms.

Append scan results to an existing output file.

Send packets with invalid checksums.

Perform a Null scan (packets with no flags set).

Perform a FIN scan (packets with only the FIN flag set).

Perform an Xmas scan (packets with FIN, PSH, and URG flags).

Check for anonymous FTP login.

Check DNS cache snooping vulnerabilities.

Check for stored XSS vulnerabilities.

Check SSL/TLS cipher suites.

Retrieve and analyze robots.txt files.

Generate sitemaps for web applications.

Use ICMP echo requests for host discovery.

Use ARP requests for host discovery on local networks.

Detect Web Application Firewalls.

nmap --randomize-hosts <targets> nmap --min-hostgroup <number> nmap --max-hostgroup <number> nmap --min-parallelism <number> nmap --max-parallelism <number> nmap -sW <target> nmap -sM <target> nmap -sZ <target> nmap --unprivileged nmap --send-ip nmap --disable-arp-ping nmap --ip-options <options> nmap --script=smb-vuln-ms08-067 nmap --script=http-sql-injection nmap --script=http-userdir-enum nmap --script=http-shellshock nmap --script=mysql-empty-password nmap --script=http-vuln-cve-2020-3452 nmap --script=ssh-auth-methods nmap --script=firewalk

nmap --script=rdp-enum-encryption

Randomize the order of hosts scanned. Set minimum number of hosts in a scan group. Set maximum number of hosts in a scan group. Set the minimum number of parallel scans. Set the maximum number of parallel scans. Perform a TCP Window scan. Perform a TCP Maimon scan. Perform an SCTP INIT scan. Run Nmap in unprivileged mode. Use raw IP packets instead of higher-level protocols. Disable ARP ping during host discovery. Use specific IP options in packets. Check for SMB vulnerabilities like MS08-067. Detect SQL injection vulnerabilities. Enumerate user directories on HTTP servers. Check for Shellshock vulnerability. Check for empty password vulnerabilities in MySQL. Check for a specific CVE vulnerability. Enumerate supported SSH authentication methods. Analyze firewall rules.

Enumerate RDP encryption settings.

nmap --script=smb-enum-shares nmap --script=smb-enum-users nmap --script=imap-capabilities nmap --script=pop3-capabilities nmap --script=http-auth nmap --script=ssl-heartbleed nmap --script=ftp-bounce nmap --script=ldap-rootdse nmap --script=rdp-vuln-ms12-020 nmap --script=ntp-monlist nmap --script=snmp-brute nmap --script=ip-geolocation-* nmap --dns-servers <servers> nmap --script=dns-recursion nmap --script=dns-zone-transfer nmap --resolve-all nmap --script=dns-service-discovery nmap --script=tls-nextprotoneg nmap --script=ssl-cert-introspection nmap --script=ntp-info nmap --script=http-grep nmap --script=smtp-commands nmap --script=vnc-info nmap --script=ftp-proftpd-backdoor nmap --osscan-limit nmap --osscan-guess

List SMB shared resources. Enumerate users on SMB systems. Check capabilities of an IMAP server. Check capabilities of a POP3 server. Test HTTP authentication methods. Test for Heartbleed vulnerability in SSL/TLS. Check for FTP bounce vulnerability. Query LDAP RootDSE information. Test for MS12-020 vulnerability in RDP. Retrieve the list of recent connections from an NTP Perform brute-force attacks on SNMP. Retrieve geolocation data for scanned IP addresses. Specify custom DNS servers for scans. Test if a DNS server allows recursion. Test for DNS zone transfer vulnerabilities. Resolve all IPs before scanning. Discover services running on DNS. Test Next Protocol Negotiation in TLS. Analyze SSL certificates in-depth. Gather information about NTP servers. Search for specific patterns in HTTP responses. Enumerate SMTP commands supported by a server. Gather information about VNC services. Check for ProFTPD backdoor vulnerability. Limit OS detection to promising targets.

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Guess the operating system when detection is

inconclusive.