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CompTIA PenTest+ Certification Exam Objectives

EXAM NUMBER: PT0-003

CompTIA

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CompTIA PT0-003 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	- 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.
Topic 2	- Attacks and Exploits: 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.
Topic 3	- Engagement Management: 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.
Topic 4	- Post-exploitation and Lateral Movement: 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.
Topic 5	- Vulnerability Discovery and Analysis: 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.

CompTIA PenTest+ Exam Sample Questions (Q176-Q181):

NEW QUESTION # 176
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. Keeping hashes created by both methods for compatibility
- B. Replacing the SHA-256 algorithm to something more secure
- C. Rehashing all old passwords with the new code
- D. Changing passwords that were created before this code update

Answer: D

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 # 177

A penetration testing team wants to conduct DNS lookups for a set of targets provided by the client. The team crafts a Bash script for this task. However, they find a minor error in one line of the script:
1 #!/bin/bash
2 for i in $(cat example.txt); do
3 curl $i
4 done
Which of the following changes should the team make to line 3 of the script?

- A. systemd-resolve $i
- B. resolvconf $i
- C. host $i
- D. rndc $i

Answer: C

Explanation:
Script Analysis:
Line 1: #!/bin/bash - This line specifies the script should be executed in the Bash shell.
Line 2: for i in $(cat example.txt); do - This line starts a loop that reads each line from the file example.txt and assigns it to the variable i.
Line 3: curl $i - This line attempts to fetch the content from the URL stored in i using curl. However, for DNS lookups, curl is inappropriate.
Line 4: done - This line ends the loop.
Error Identification:
The curl command is used for transferring data from or to a server, often used for HTTP requests, which is not suitable for DNS lookups.
Correct Command:
To perform DNS lookups, the host command should be used. The host command performs DNS lookups and displays information about the given domain.
Corrected Script:
Replace curl $i with host $i to perform DNS lookups on each target specified in example.txt.
Pentest References:
In penetration testing, DNS enumeration is a crucial step. It involves querying DNS servers to gather information about the target domain, which includes resolving domain names to IP addresses and vice versa.
Common tools for DNS enumeration include host, dig, and nslookup. The host command is particularly straightforward for simple DNS lookups.
By correcting the script to use host $i, the penetration testing team can effectively perform DNS lookups on the targets specified in example.txt.

NEW QUESTION # 178
Which of the following protocols would a penetration tester most likely utilize to exfiltrate data covertly and evade detection?

- A. FTP
- B. SMTP
- C. HTTPS
- D. DNS

Answer: D

Explanation:
Covert data exfiltration is a crucial aspect of advanced penetration testing. Penetration testers often need to move data out of a network without being detected by the organization's security monitoring tools. Here's a breakdown of the potential methods and why DNS is the preferred choice for covert data exfiltration:
* FTP (File Transfer Protocol) (Option A):
* Characteristics: FTP is a clear-text protocol used to transfer files.
* Drawbacks: It is easily detected by network security tools due to its lack of encryption and distinctive traffic patterns. Most modern networks block or heavily monitor FTP traffic to prevent unauthorized file transfers.
* References: The use of FTP in penetration testing is often limited to environments where encryption is not a concern or for internal transfers where monitoring is lax. It's rarely used for covert exfiltration due to its high detectability.
* HTTPS (Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure) (Option B):

* Characteristics: HTTPS encrypts data in transit, making it harder to inspect by network monitoring tools.
* Drawbacks: While HTTPS is more secure, large amounts of unusual or unexpected HTTPS traffic can still trigger alerts on sophisticated security systems. Its usage for exfiltration depends on the network's normal traffic patterns and the ability to blend in.
* References: HTTPS is used when there is a need to encrypt data during exfiltration. However, it can still be flagged by traffic analysis tools if the data patterns or destinations are unusual.
* SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol) (Option C):
* Characteristics: SMTP is used for sending emails.
* Drawbacks: Like FTP, SMTP is not inherently secure and can be monitored. Additionally, large or frequent email attachments can trigger alerts.
* References: SMTP might be used in some exfiltration scenarios but is generally considered risky due to the ease of monitoring email traffic.
* DNS (Domain Name System) (Option D):
* Characteristics: DNS is used to resolve domain names to IP addresses and vice versa.
* Advantages: DNS traffic is ubiquitous and often less scrutinized than other types of traffic. Data can be encoded into DNS queries and responses, making it an effective covert channel for exfiltration.
* References: Many penetration tests and red team engagements leverage DNS tunneling for covert data exfiltration due to its ability to bypass firewalls and intrusion detection systems. This technique involves encoding data within DNS queries to an attacker-controlled domain, effectively evading detection.
Conclusion: DNS tunneling stands out as the most effective method for covert data exfiltration due to its ability to blend in with normal network traffic and avoid detection by conventional security mechanisms.
Penetration testers utilize this method to evade scrutiny while exfiltrating data.

NEW QUESTION # 179

A penetration tester writes the following script to enumerate a /24 network:

```
1 #!/bin/bash
2 for i in {1..254}
3 ping -c1 192.168.1.$i
4 done
```

The tester executes the script, but it fails with the following error:

```
-bash: syntax error near unexpected token 'ping'
```

Which of the following should the tester do to fix the error?

- A. Add do after line 2
- B. Replace $i with ${i}
- C. Replace bash with zsh
- D. Replace {1..254} with $(seq 1 254)

Answer: D

Explanation:
The missing do keyword is the reason for the syntax error. Bash for loops must include a do statement before executing commands within the loop.
Corrected script:

```
#!/bin/bash
for i in {1..254}; do
ping -c1 192.168.1.$i
done
```

From the CompTIA PenTest+ PT0-003 Official Study Guide (Chapter 4 - Scanning and Enumeration):
"In Bash scripting, control structures like for-loops require correct syntax, including the 'do' keyword for loop logic to execute properly." Reference: Chapter 4, CompTIA PenTest+ PT0-003 Official Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 180

A penetration tester has been hired to examine a website for flaws. During one of the time windows for testing, a network engineer notices a flood of GET requests to the web server, reducing the website's response time by 80%. The network engineer contacts the penetration tester to determine if these GET requests are part of the test. Which of the following BEST describes the purpose of checking with the penetration tester?

- A. DDoS defense

- B. Deconfliction
- C. Rescheduling
- D. Situational awareness

Answer: B

Explanation:
https://redteam.guide/docs/definitions/
Deconfliction is the process of coordinating activities and communicating information to avoid interference, confusion, or conflict among different parties involved in an operation. The network engineer contacted the penetration tester to check if the GET requests were part of the test, and to avoid any potential misunderstanding or disruption of the test or the website. The other options are not related to the purpose of checking with the penetration tester.

NEW QUESTION # 181
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