



Footprinting & Social Engineering

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Footprinting

Just like bank robbers would scout a place before committing a crime to get a full picture (to minimize chances of being caught) so should we get a full picture of an organizations network to understand any vulnerabilities.

Some things to keep in mind:

- The word “reconnaissance” could also be heard in place of “footprinting.”
- Passive footprinting is legal information gathering.
- Active reconnaissance will likely get you noticed as it can include DNS zone transfers, interacting with web servers, and port scans.



<https://www.freepik.com/vectors/internet> created by
vectorjuice - www.freepik.com

OSINT (Open Source Intelligence) Tools

Free and open source- a few of my favorites:

Tool	Function
FOCA www.elevenpaths.com/labstools/foca/index.html	Extract metadata from documents on websites to reveal the document creator's network logon and email address, information on IP addresses of internal devices, and more.
Maltego www.maltego.com	Discover relevant files, email addresses, and other important information with this powerful graphic user interface (GUI) tool.
Netcraft Site Report https://sitereport.netcraft.com	Uncover the underlying technologies that a website operates on.
WayBackMachine https://archive.org/web	Search through previous versions of the website to uncover historical information about a target.

Did you know?

- That the Department of Defense (DoD) employees are trained to look out for terrorists' groups specifically looking for information on them. These groups gather tiny bits of intelligence to create a larger picture through rather simple means of:
 - Facebook
 - LinkedIn
 - Twitter
 - Other social media accounts



<https://www.freepik.com/vectors/hacker-hacking> Hacker hacking vector created by freepik - www.freepik.com

Competitive Intelligence

- A practice that companies have been doing for a long time.
- As a security professional, you should be able to tell an organization what their competitors can gather from them so they can limit what is made public. This keeps information private and confidential.

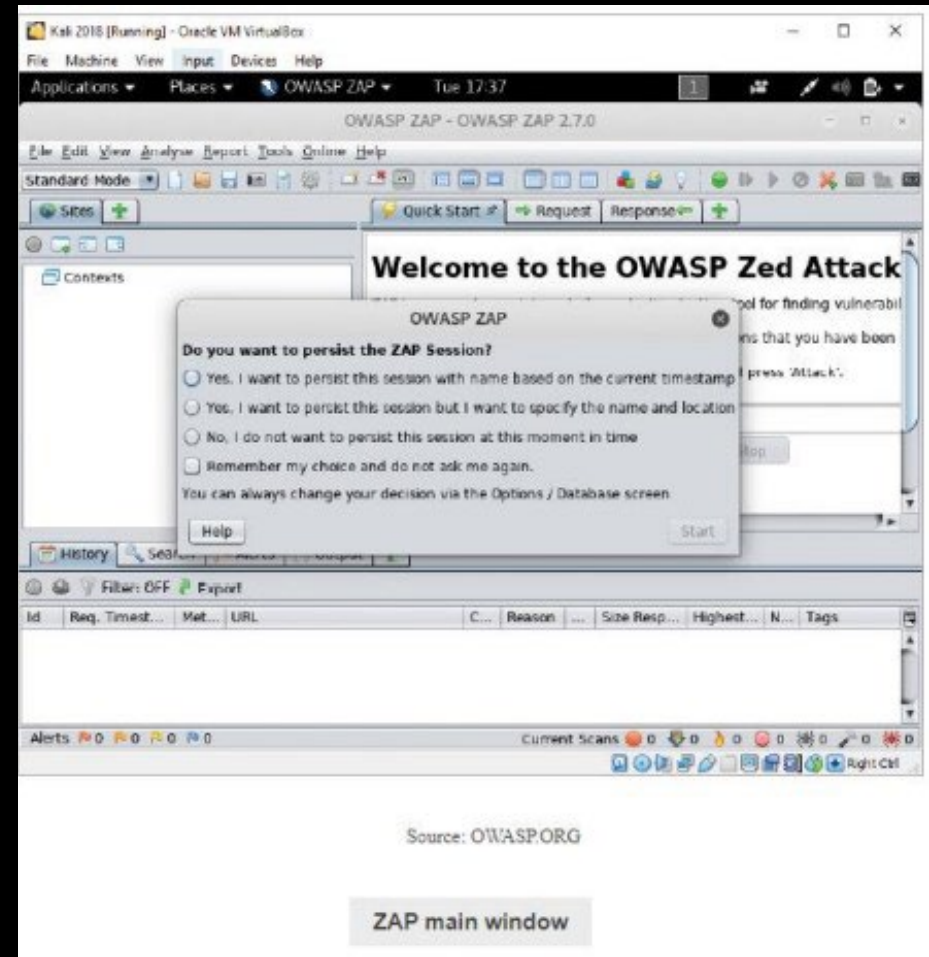


Analyzing a Company's Website

- An attack usually starts on a company's website, which is an easy info grab.
- Websites are called web applications.
- Web applications are programs that reside on web servers.
- A website is a program.
- Many free tools are available for Linux, macOS, and windows to gather information about a company's website.
- **** WARNING ** Only scan websites when you have explicit permission, as it is an attack.**

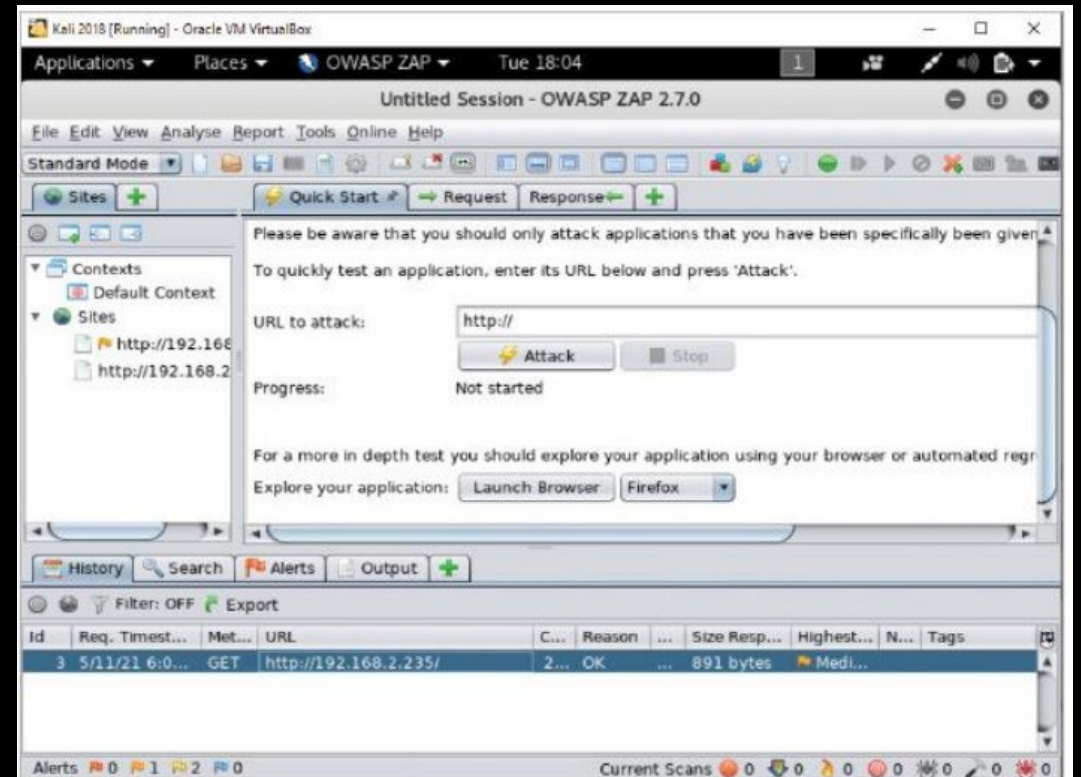
Zed Attack Proxy (ZAP)

- An HTTP proxy that processes HTTP requests between the browser and the user.
- Can be downloaded for free at www.zaproxy.org.
- A tool to gather information about a companies and any potential vulnerabilities.
- You can download a virtual box appliance called Metasploitable2 and is intended as a target for a scan
<https://sourceforge.net/projects/metasploitable/files/Metasploitable2>.
- Need to have java downloaded
www.java.com.



Zed Attack Proxy (ZAP)

- ZAP has a feature, “Launch Browser” on Quick Start tab that configures for browser traffic to direct to ZAP proxy.
- To launch feature, select Quick Start tab, choose the browser you want to use from drop-down menu (next to Launch Browser button) then click on Launch Browser button.

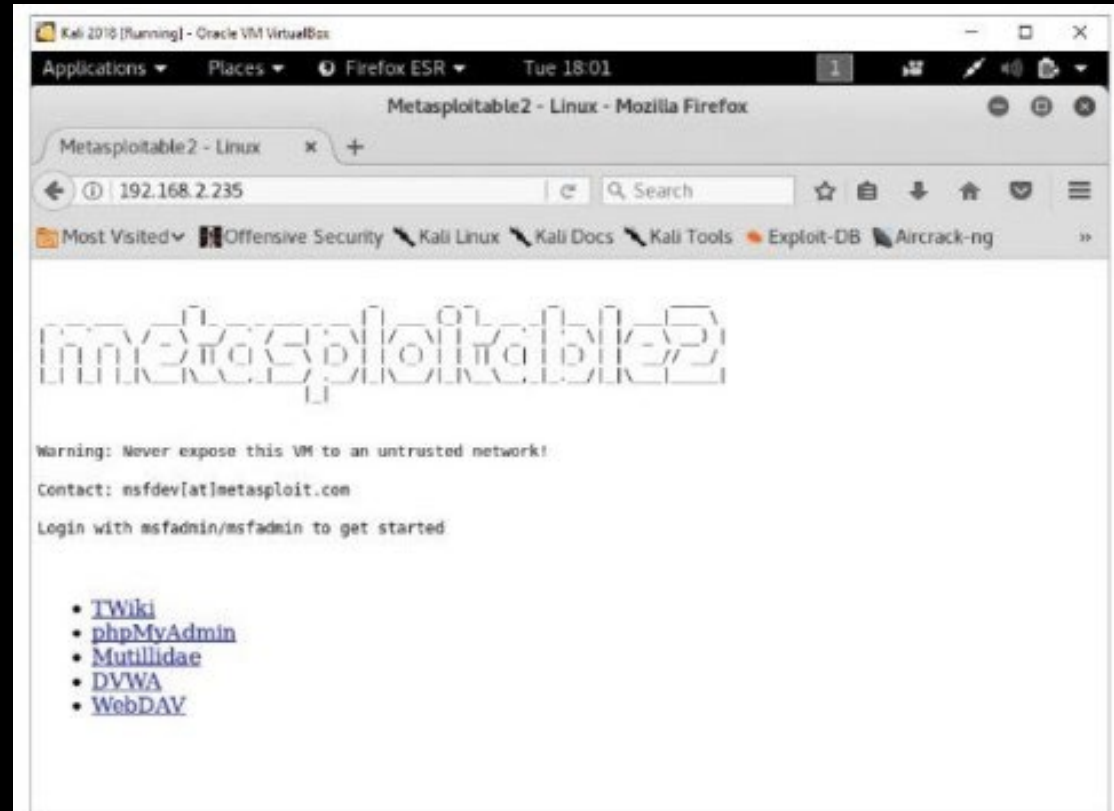


Source OWASP.ORG

ZAP Launch Browser

Zed Attack Proxy (ZAP)

- After configuration, you can use ZAP to navigate to target site.

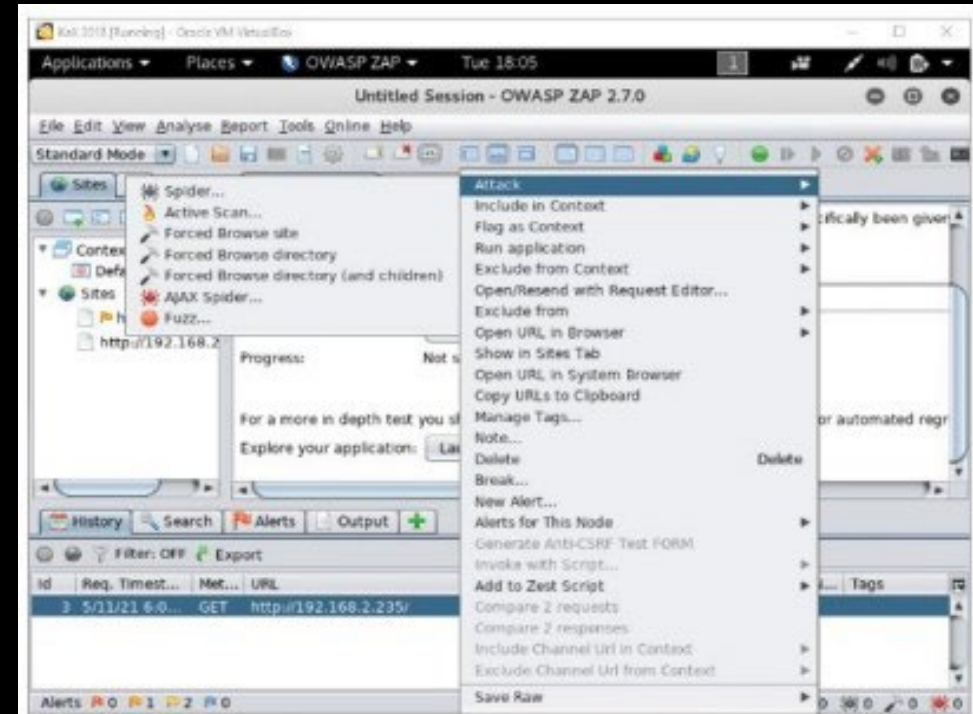


Source OWASP.ORG

Target website open in ZAP-launched browser

Zed Attack Proxy (ZAP)

- The target website will now be in the History tab.
- Right-click on the site, point to Attack in the shortcut menu, then click “Spider.”
- A pop-up window will appear and click “Start Scan” to begin spidering of the site.

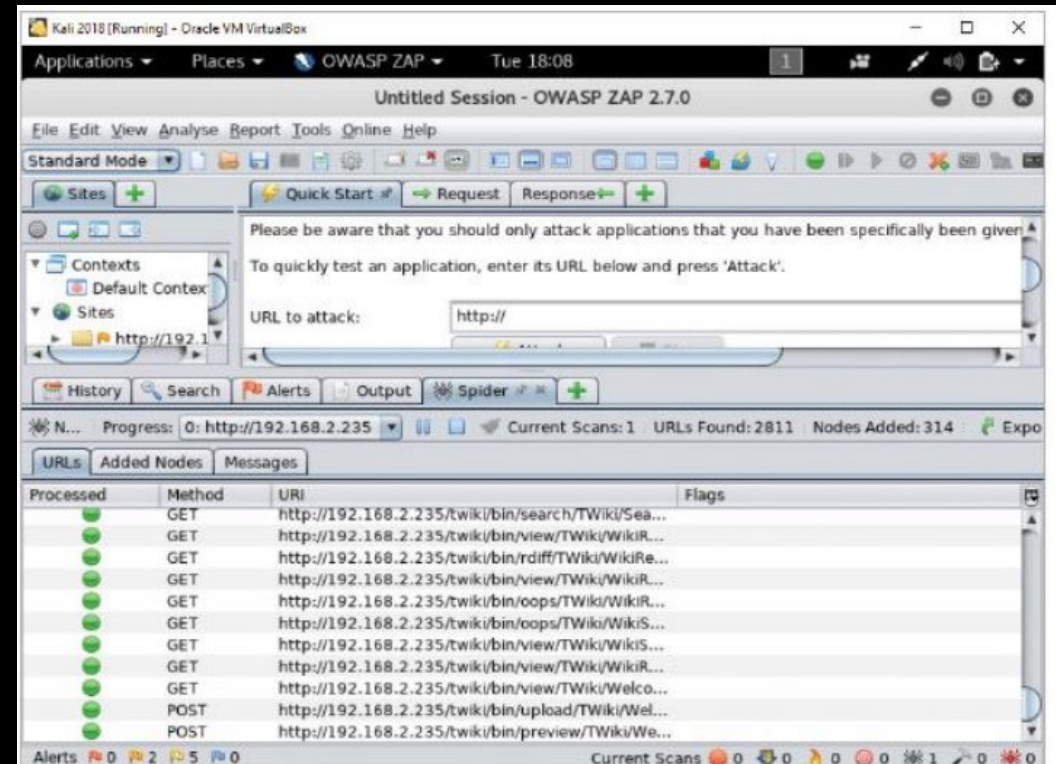


Source OWASP.ORG

Executing a spider (crawl) of targeted website

Zed Attack Proxy (ZAP)

- Spidering (or crawling) is a way to map a website, it explores every nook and is not an attack.

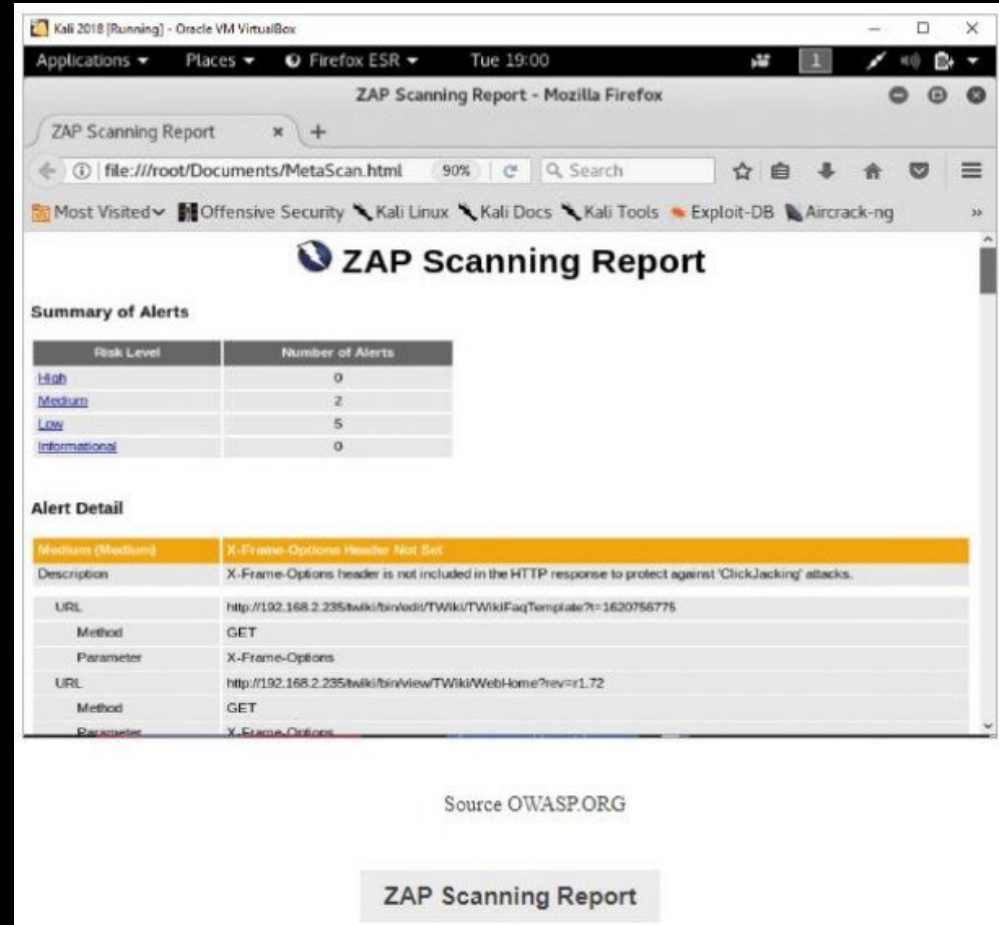


Source OWASP.ORG

Displaying filenames of content on a website

Zed Attack Proxy (ZAP)

- After conducting the spidering, you can then use the ZAP attack.
- It is an active attack that consists of two steps: spidering and then sending a series of requests specifically to seek out vulnerabilities on the web server.
- Once complete you can view the vulnerabilities in the Alerts tab and even export to an HTML report.



The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "ZAP Scanning Report - Mozilla Firefox". The address bar shows the file path "file:///root/Documents/MetaScan.html". The page content includes a "Summary of Alerts" table and an "Alert Detail" section.

Summary of Alerts

Risk Level	Number of Alerts
High	0
Medium	2
Low	5
Informational	0

Alert Detail

Medium (Medium)	X-Frame-Options Header Not Set
Description	X-Frame-Options header is not included in the HTTP response to protect against 'ClickJacking' attacks.
URL	http://192.168.2.235/twiki/bin/view/TWiki/TWikiFAQTemplate?rev=1620756775
Method	GET
Parameter	X-Frame-Options
URL	http://192.168.2.235/twiki/bin/view/TWiki/WebHome?rev=1.72
Method	GET
Parameter	X-Frame-Options

Source OWASP.ORG

ZAP Scanning Report

Domain Dossier

Domain Dossier Investigate domains and IP addresses

domain or IP address

☒ domain whois record ☐ DNS records ☐ traceroute

☐ network whois record ☐ service scan

user: anonymous [60.159.60.194]
balance: 49 units
[log in](#) | [account info](#) [Centralops.net](#)

Do you see Whois records that are missing contact information?
[Read about reduced Whois data due to the GDPR.](#)

Address lookup

canonical name **mit.edu.**

aliases

addresses **23.15.155.124**
2600:1408:c400:795::255e
2600:1408:c400:791::255e

Domain Whois record

Queried [whois.educause.net](#) with "mit.edu"...

Domain Name: MIT.EDU

Registrant:

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
77 Massachusetts Ave
Cambridge, MA 02139
USA

Administrative Contact:

Mark Sillis
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
MIT Room W92-167, 77 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139-4307
USA
+1.617.324.5900
mark@mit.edu

Source: centralops.net

Viewing information with the Domain Dossier Whois utility

- Domain Dossier and [whois.domaintools.com](https://centralops.net/co/domaindossier.aspx) Whois function is passive reconnaissance and a useful footprinting tool to know.
 - You can gain knowledge about network configuration that could be used in an attack.
1. Go to <https://centralops.net/co/domaindossier.aspx>.
 2. Type mit.edu in the IP address text box, check domain whois record check box, click “go.”
 3. Scroll to view the displayed information.

HTTP client errors

Error	Description
400 Bad Request	Request not understood by server
401 Unauthorized	Request requires authentication
402 Payment Required	Reserved for future use
403 Forbidden	Server understands the request but refuses to comply
404 Not Found	Unable to match request
405 Method Not Allowed (Note: Methods are covered later in this module.)	Request not allowed for the resource
406 Not Acceptable	Resource doesn't accept the request
407 Proxy Authentication Required	Client must authenticate with proxy
408 Request Timeout	Request not made by client in allotted time
409 Conflict	Request couldn't be completed because of an inconsistency
410 Gone	Resource is no longer available
411 Length Required	Content length not defined
412 Precondition Failed	Request header fields evaluated as false
413 Request Entity Too Large	Request is larger than server is able to process
414 Request-URI (uniform resource identifier) Too Long	Request-URI is longer than the server is willing to accept

Using HTTP Basics

Because HTTP uses port 80 and HTTPS uses 443, you can learn a lot about a web server by understanding error codes.

Using HTTP Basics

By understand HTTP server error codes, you could possibly learn the OS that the computer is using.



- Learning HTTP methods is helpful, and though it is not necessary to understand everything, learning the basic GET HTTP/1.1 helps.
- By learning HTTP methods, you can send requests to a web server and determine the OS being used, which is a first step to learning about any vulnerabilities.

HTTP server errors

Error	Description
500 Internal Server Error	Request couldn't be fulfilled by the server
501 Not Implemented	Server doesn't support the request
502 Bad Gateway	Server received invalid response from the upstream server
503 Service Unavailable	Server is unavailable because of maintenance or overload
504 Gateway Timeout	Server didn't receive a timely response
505 HTTP Version Not Supported	HTTP version not supported by the server

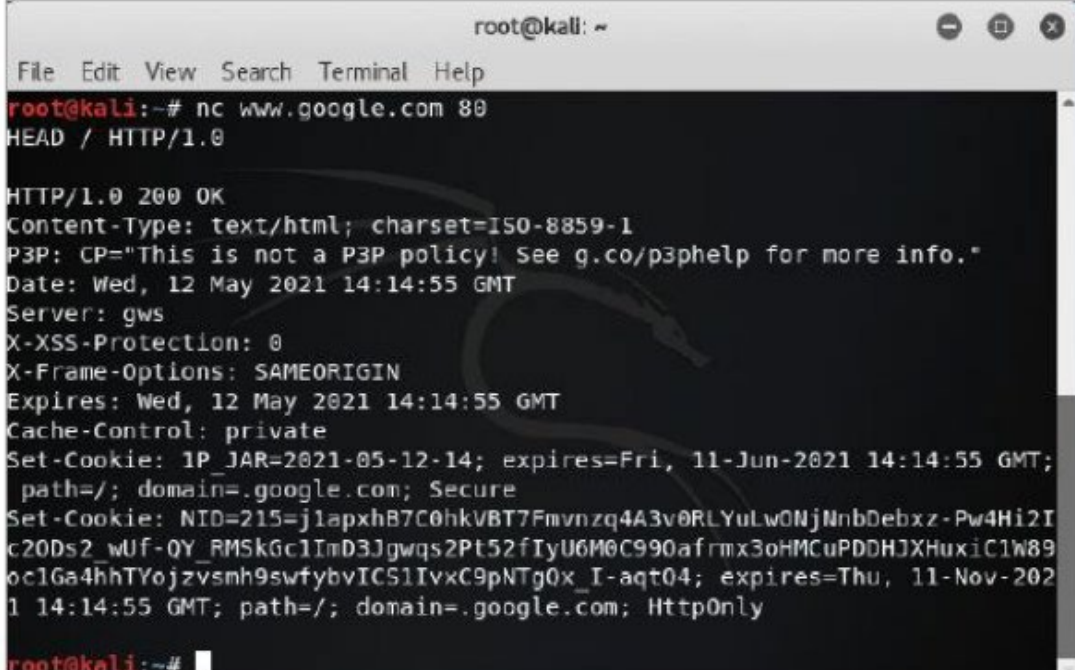
HTTP methods

Method	Description
GET	Retrieves data by URI
HEAD	Same as the GET method, but retrieves only the header information of an HTML document, not the document body
OPTIONS	Requests information on available options
TRACE	Starts a remote Application-layer loopback of the request message
CONNECT	Used with a proxy that can dynamically switch to a tunnel connection, such as Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) or Transport Layer Security (TLS)
DELETE	Requests that the origin server delete the identified resource
PUT	Requests that the entity be stored under the Request-URI
POST	Allows data to be posted (i.e., sent to a web server)

Using HTTP Methods

- A valid place to start is by using nc command to connect to port 80 (as most likely vulnerable) then use HTTP methods to probe.
1. Use a computer with Kali Linux installed.
 2. In the terminal type “nc www.google.com 80” and hit Enter.
 3. Then type OPTIONS / HTTP/1.1 and hit Enter.
 4. Then type HOST:127.0.0.1 and hit Enter twice for header information.

****** Notice what the HEAD method produced, that the connection was closed. Not surprising, as it is Google. ******



```
root@kali: ~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
root@kali:~# nc www.google.com 80
HEAD / HTTP/1.0

HTTP/1.0 200 OK
Content-Type: text/html; charset=ISO-8859-1
P3P: CP="This is not a P3P policy! See g.co/p3phelp for more info."
Date: Wed, 12 May 2021 14:14:55 GMT
Server: gws
X-XSS-Protection: 0
X-Frame-Options: SAMEORIGIN
Expires: Wed, 12 May 2021 14:14:55 GMT
Cache-Control: private
Set-Cookie: 1P_JAR=2021-05-12-14; expires=Fri, 11-Jun-2021 14:14:55 GMT; path=/; domain=.google.com; Secure
Set-Cookie: NID=215=j1apxhB7C0hkVBT7Fmvnzq4A3v0RLYuLw0NjNnbDebxz-Pw4Hi2Ic20Ds2_wUf-QY_RMSkGc1ImD3Jgwqs2Pt52fIyU6M0C990afmx3oHMCuPDDHJXHuxiC1W89oc1Ga4hhTYojzVsnh9swfybvICS1IvxC9pNTg0x_I-aqt04; expires=Thu, 11-Nov-2021 14:14:55 GMT; path=/; domain=.google.com; HttpOnly

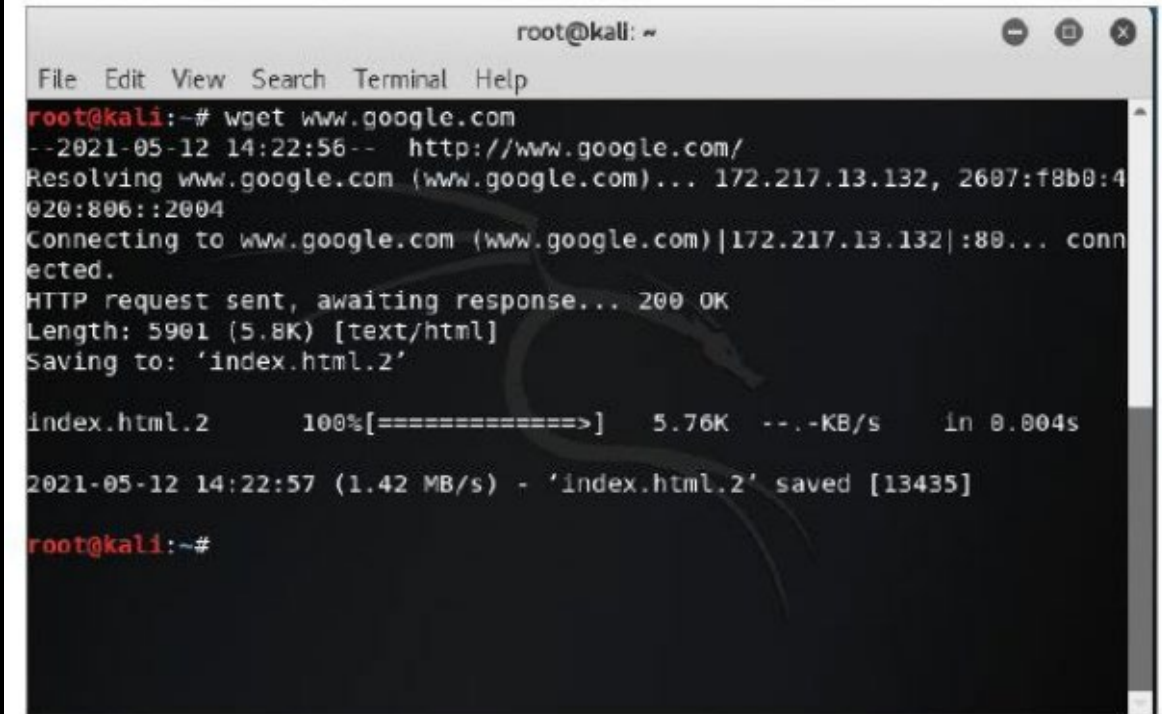
root@kali:~#
```

Source: Kali Linux

Using the HEAD HTTP method

Using HTTP Methods

- Next, type “wget www.google.com” and hit Enter. It will download the index page from the website in HTML code.

A terminal window titled 'root@kali: ~' with a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Search, Terminal, Help). The terminal shows the execution of the 'wget www.google.com' command. It displays the URL, IP resolution, connection status, HTTP response (200 OK), file length (5901 bytes), and saving progress to 'index.html.2'. A progress bar shows 100% completion. The final status line indicates the file was saved in 0.004s. The prompt returns to 'root@kali:~#'.

```
root@kali:~# wget www.google.com
--2021-05-12 14:22:56--  http://www.google.com/
Resolving www.google.com (www.google.com)... 172.217.13.132, 2607:f8b0:4
020:806::2004
Connecting to www.google.com (www.google.com)|172.217.13.132|:80... conn
ected.
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 200 OK
Length: 5901 (5.8K) [text/html]
Saving to: 'index.html.2'

index.html.2      100%[=====>]   5.76K  ---KB/s   in 0.004s

2021-05-12 14:22:57 (1.42 MB/s) - 'index.html.2' saved [13435]

root@kali:~#
```

Source: Kali Linux

Using the WGET HTTP method

Detecting Cookies and Web Bugs

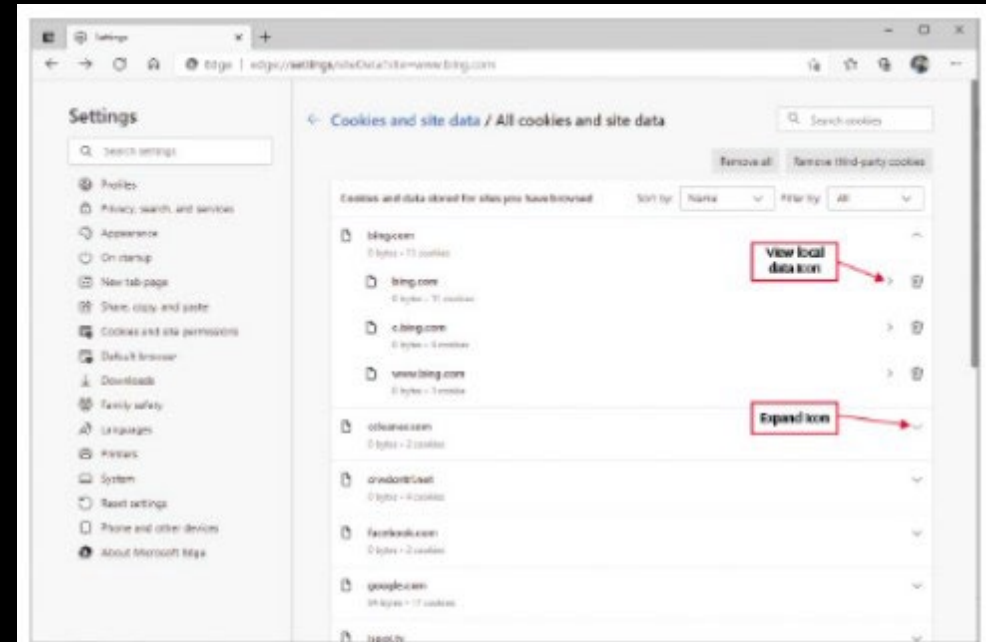


Photo by Lisa Fotios: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/macro-photography-of-pile-of-3-cookie-230325/>

- A cookie is a text file generated by a web server and stored on a user's browser. Security issues can arise because some information stored in a cookie could be used to attack a computer or server.
- A web bug is a 1-pixel x 1-pixel image file referenced in an tag, and it usually works with a cookie.
- Web beacon is a hidden graphic or piece of code embedded in a webpage to track user activity and harvest information (one kind is JavaScript).
- Good idea to have a tool to detect web bugs and JavaScript web beacons or to look through webpages to see if any exist.

Discovering Cookies in Webpages

1. Using Windows, open Microsoft Edge.
2. Click Settings and more button (upper-right corner) and click Settings.
3. Click on Cookies and site permission and then click Manage and delete cookies and site data.
4. Click See all cookies and site data link in which cookies will be displayed depending on what websites you have visited using the browser.

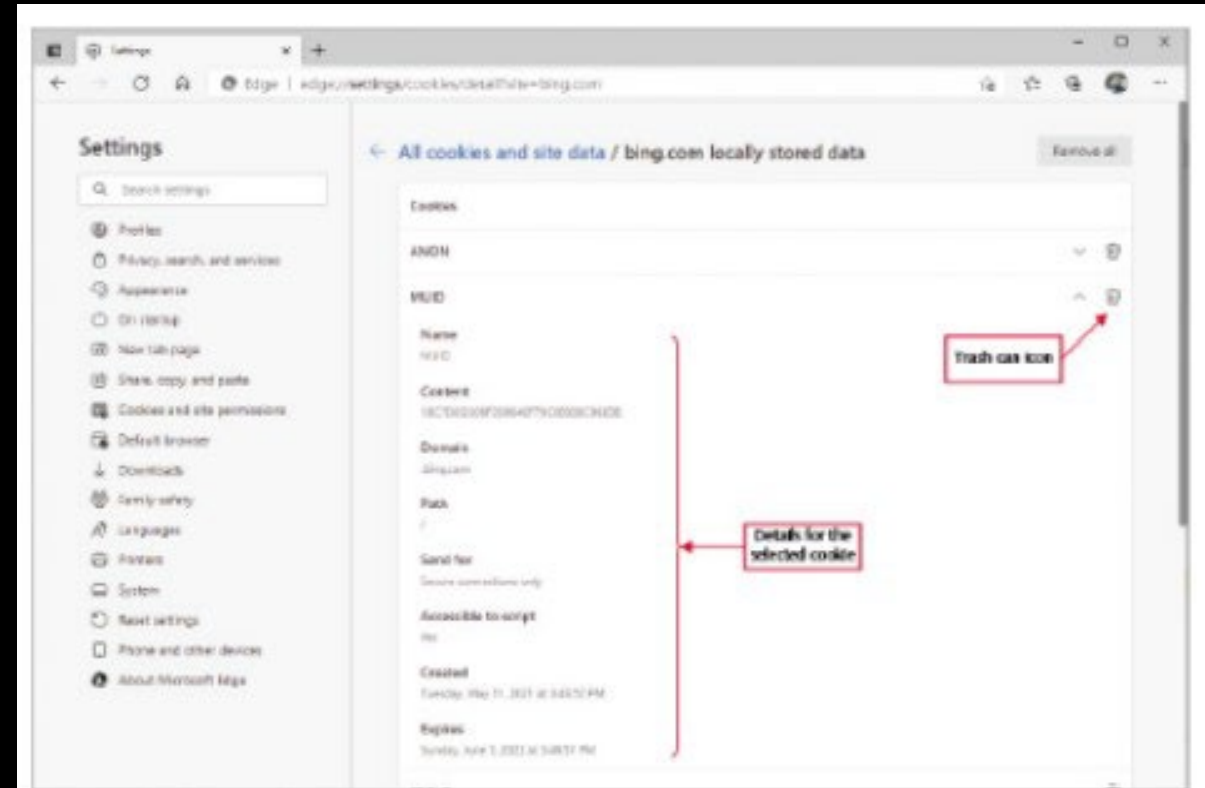


Source: Microsoft

Edge browser cookies and site data

Discovering Cookies in Webpages

5. Click on the expand icon of a listed website to view specific cookie groups.
6. Click the View local data icon to display the specific cookies in the group.
7. Click expand icon to see the data stored in the cookie and you can delete the cookies if you wish.
8. Check to see if you have cookies from Amazon.com, if so, delete them.
9. Open www.amazon.com and search for shoes.
10. Refresh the cookie page and expand the amazon.com entry and see if it contains any personal information.



Source: Microsoft

Examining Web Beacons and Privacy



- Web beacons are considered to be more invasive, and it is good to understand how companies use them to gather information.
1. Open a browser in Windows and go to https://en.Wikipedia.org/wiki/web_beacon.
 2. Read article, taking note of methods used.
 3. Search the web using the term “web beacons” combined with names of social media companies and take note of findings in results and you will be shocked to see what is being monitored.

Photo by Marta Branco: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/closeup-photo-of-black-and-blue-keyboard-1194713/>

Using Domain Name System Zone Transfers

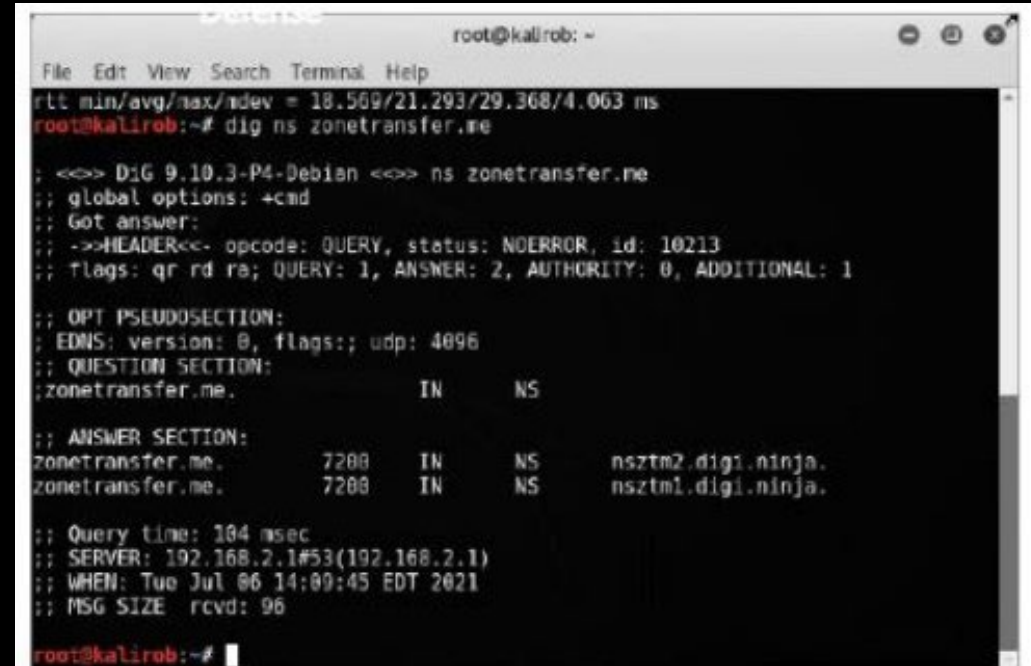
- Domain Name System (DNS) is used to resolve hostnames to IP addresses and vice-versa, but it is vulnerable to network attacks.
- A zone transfer is a process by which when you determine what name server a company is using, you can attempt to transfer all the records for which the DNS server is responsible.
- Zone transfers are done with the dig command.
- Look for a DNS server containing a SOA record
- SOA records show which zones or IP addresses the DNS server is responsible.
- After finding the primary DNS server, do another zone transfer to see all host computers on the company network (gives you a diagram, great for footprinting).
- This can be used to attack servers or computers on the same network infrastructure.



Photo by panumas nikhomkhai: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/close-up-photo-of-mining-rig-1148820/>

Identifying IP Addresses by Using Zone Transfers

1. Using Kali Linux, open a terminal shell and enter the command “dig ns zonetransfer.me” and hit Enter. In the picture you see two server names nsztm1.digi.ninja and nsztm2.digi.ninja. This means that the DNS was configured incorrectly leaving the network vulnerable to attacks.
 2. Perform a zone transfer on nsztm1.digi.ninja DNS server by typing command “dig axfr @nsztm1.digi.ninja zonetransfer.me” and hit Enter. After a while, a few records should appear.
 3. Do the zone transfer again, but this time use the | less parameter by typing “dig axfr @nsztm1.digi.ninja zonetransfer.me | less” and hit Enter.
 4. Press Enter to view additional records and when done press q.
- If an attack works, copy all files and data obtained in the hack to a disk or thumb drive as soon as possible.



```
root@kalirob: ~  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
rtt min/avg/max/ndev = 18.569/21.293/29.368/4.063 ms  
root@kalirob:~# dig ns zonetransfer.me  
  
; <<>> DiG 9.10.3-P4-Debian <<>> ns zonetransfer.me  
;; global options: +cmd  
;; Got answer:  
;; ->HEADER<- opcode: QUERY, status: NOERROR, id: 10213  
;; flags: qr rd ra; QUERY: 1, ANSWER: 2, AUTHORITY: 0, ADDITIONAL: 1  
  
;; OPT PSEUDOSECTION:  
; EDNS: version: 0, flags:;, udp: 4096  
;; QUESTION SECTION:  
;zonetransfer.me.                IN      NS  
  
;; ANSWER SECTION:  
zonetransfer.me.                7200    IN      NS      nsztm2.digi.ninja.  
zonetransfer.me.                7200    IN      NS      nsztm1.digi.ninja.  
  
;; Query time: 104 msec  
;; SERVER: 192.168.2.1#53(192.168.2.1)  
;; WHEN: Tue Jul 06 14:09:45 EDT 2021  
;; MSG SIZE rcvd: 96  
  
root@kalirob:~#
```

Source: Kali Linux

Using the dig command

Social Engineering



- Social engineering uses the art of deception to extract valuable information from well-meaning people who are trying to be helpful.
- The best defense against this tactic is training people in an organization on what to look out for.
- One of the biggest security threats to networks as they are most difficult to protect against.
- Why crack a password when you can just ask for one?
- It is the study of human behavior.
- Humans are the weakest link in security, and those in an organization must be trained and tested regularly.

Photo by Pixabay: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/door-handle-key-keyhole-279810/>

Social Engineering Techniques

Social Engineers use many techniques to try to gain information out of people which includes:

- Urgency- Saying that something drastic will happen unless the information is gathered quickly.
- Quid pro quo- Promising desired results for the victim if the information is provided immediately.
- Status quo- Will tell the victim that everyone else is doing it, so they should too.
- Kindness- The most dangerous weapon because majority of people are kind- a victim will help a person of who has a problem or a need to be fixed.
- Position- Convincing the victim that you are in a position of authority or of higher rank to get what is desired quickly.

****** You should never use social-engineering tactics unless you have specific permission. All tests should be documented as well as any people of whom tests were performed on. Confidentiality is also key. ******



Photo by Andrea Piacquadio: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/smiling-formal-male-with-laptop-chatting-via-phone-3760263/>

The Art of Shoulder Surfing

- Another skill mastered by Social Engineers is to read what a user inputs on their keyboards, primarily for passwords and login names. Could also be utilized at ATM's or in at a checkout for a PIN, which is identity theft.
- Smartphone cameras are utilized to capture credit card numbers.
- Shoulder surfers train themselves to memorize the key positions and they pay attention to the location of what was pressed.
- They know popular letter substitutions like @ for a or \$ for s. Typing a password slow (special characters) makes it easier for the shoulder surfer.
- To prevent these attacks, users must be taught not to type their credentials when someone is behind them or even nearby, or when someone is even on their cell phone (because of the cameras).
- Place displays away from doors or cubicle entries helps.
- If observed, users should change passwords immediately.



Photo by Eduardo Soares: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/person-pressing-keys-of-an-atm-5497951/>

The Art of Dumpster Diving

- Another method used by social engineers is dumpster diving.
- They can gain valuable information such as old computer documentation that would show OS and potential vulnerabilities, notes which could include passwords and many other treasure troves.
- Users must be educated on how to dispose of trash.
- Disks should be formatted with “disk-cleaning” software that writes binary 0s on all portions of the disks.
- Old computers should be discarded offsite.
- Before being thrown away, these items should be in a locked room.
- All documents should be shredded.



Photo by Christian Naccarato: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/city-road-sunny-street-4124936/>

The Art of Dumpster Diving

- Items that could be used to gain information could include:
 - Company calendars
 - Meeting schedules
 - Employee vacations
 - Financial reports
 - Interoffice memos
 - Discarded digital media
 - Company organizational charts showing managers' names
 - Resumes of employees
 - Company policies or systems and procedures manuals
 - Professional journals or magazines
 - Utility bills
 - Solicitation notices from outside vendors
 - Regional manager reports
 - Quality assurance reports
 - Minutes of meetings
 - Federal, state, or city reports
 - Employee charge card receipts



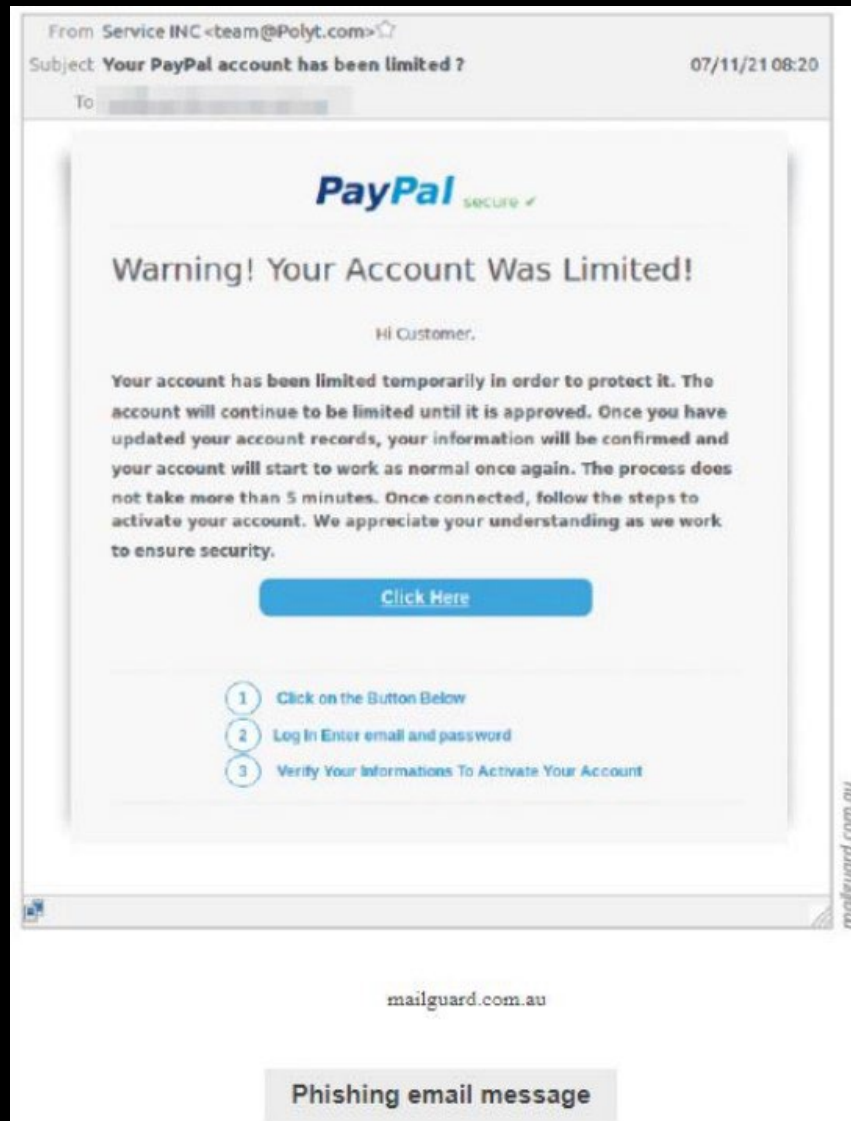
Photo by Steve Johnson: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/focus-photo-of-yellow-paper-near-trash-can-850216/>

The Art of Piggybacking

- Piggybacking is trailing closely behind an employee who has access to an area without the employee realizing you didn't use a PIN or a security badge to the area.
- Skilled piggybackers watch how authorized personnel enter areas and wait to join them.
- They can also rely on a kind stranger to hold open a door with the stranger thinking that they actually are authorized to enter.
- Some will wear a fake badge and try to pass off as a person authorized to enter and if it does not work, will use their personal skills to back out.
- Employees or authorized users should never let someone in through the door, even if they know them and everyone should use their proper access cards.
- Turnstiles can help, but the best way to prevent piggybacking is to train personnel.



Photo by Charlotte May: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/crop-person-turning-door-handle-while-entering-house-5825403/>



Phishing

- Everyone has had a phishing email at some point in their lives and it usually comes with a message that you need to update your account, but then eventually someone will click, give their personal data, and real money is lost.
- Look out for greetings that do not mention your name, spelling, and grammar errors.
- Spear phishing is more dangerous to companies as it is an attack carried out by email that combines social engineering with exploiting any vulnerabilities where millions of dollars have been lost.
- The goal is to entice recipients in an organization to open a malicious link on the organization's network.
- Security consulting companies will include it in their testing, using tools such as Metasploit, email authentication technologies, and creating training for users on what to look for.

In Closing:

- How much time did I spend reading and preparing the slides? I spent 11 1/2 hours on reading, studying, and preparing the slides.
- The most interesting part of the chapter was Social Engineering. I always find it fascinating how people are so willing to give away information voluntarily.
- The most difficult part of the chapter was learning about using HTTP methods. I am just not that familiar, so I was intently studying this part.
- A topic I would still want to learn more about from this chapter would have to be what I considered to be the most difficult, using HTTP methods. I find that I have not encountered this in any of my labs and if I have, I do not remember, but it is important so it is something I will dive deeper into.