

This syllabus is subject to changes and revisions throughout the course.

CFRS 767 – 001 - Fall, 2013

**Advanced Topics in Computer Forensics – Penetration testing forensics
George Mason University**

Syllabus

Administrative Information

Instructor: **Tahir Khan**
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Office hours: By appointment
Classes: Thursday, 19:20 – 22:00 - Nguyen Engineering Building 1505

Course Description

CFRS 767-001 - Advanced Topics – Penetration testing forensics (3:3:0)

Prerequisites: TCOM 548 and TCOM 556 or TCOM 562; a working knowledge of computer operating systems (e.g. CS 471 or equivalent), networking or permission from instructor. This course will cover the full life cycle of penetration testing ranging from passive and active reconnaissance, vulnerability assessment, and exploitation via various methods, post-exploitation and pivoting, reporting writing and post incident forensics.

Required Skills and Hardware/Software

Students are **expected** to have an **understanding** of the following items:

- TCP/IP and its underlying protocols including
 - Routing and other basic networking knowledge (DNS, ICMP, etc)
- HTTP Protocol including verbs, status codes and parameters
- Various encoding formats used in a web environment
- Windows / Linux command line knowledge
- Basic scripting (Bash, batch file, python or powershell)
- Knowledge and understanding of virtual machines and their operation
- A PC that can run VMWare (v9) **AND** VirtualBox (4.2.x)
- A configured Android Virtual Machine (See attachment A)

Tools used during the course

- Nmap
- Hydra
- Sqlmap
- Metasploit
- Nikto
- Nessus / Openvas / EEye
- Arachni
- W3af
- Skipfish
- Burpsuite*
- Logparser
- Kali Linux*

**Please have these installed and working before the first class.*

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Textbooks

Available Online @ <http://library.gmu.edu/> (Search for book title)

Required Text:

Title: The Basics of Hacking and Penetration Testing: Ethical Hacking and Penetration Testing Made Easy

Author: Patrick Engebretson

Publisher: Syngress (2011)

ISBN-10: 1597496553 / ISBN-13: 978-1597496551

Optional Text:

Title: Microsoft Log Parser Toolkit: A complete toolkit for Microsoft's undocumented log analysis tool

Author: Gabriele Giuseppini, Mark Burnett, Jeremy Faircloth, Dave Kleiman

Publisher: Syngress (2005)

ISBN-10: 1932266526 / ISBN-13: 978-1932266528

Topics

1. Ethics / Scoping
2. Passive /Active reconnaissance
3. Mobile app reconnaissance
4. Vulnerability assessment
5. Exploitation
6. Brute forcing
7. Header modification
8. Parameter tampering
9. Session hijacking
10. Command execution/injection
11. File inclusion / Web shells
12. SQL Injection
13. Cross site scripting (XSS)
14. Privilege escalation
15. Pivoting
16. Broken authentication
17. Report writing
18. Post incident log review

Technology

Because this is a computer classroom, we will frequently be using the internet as a means to enhance our discussions. We will also be using the computers for our in-class lab assignments. Please be respectful of your peers and your instructor and do not engage in activities that are unrelated to the class. Such disruptions show a lack of professionalism and may affect your participation grade.

Goal

The goal of this course is to teach students the basics of penetration testing and post incident forensics. Students will learn a variety of methods to test the security and protection mechanisms of systems as well as how to bypass them. By learning how to “attack” a system, students will learn to identify the various artifacts that are left behind after a real world “attack”.

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Grading

Grades will be assessed on the following components:

(30%) Assignments

(3 Assignments @ 10% each)

(30%) Mid term

(30%) Final paper and penetration testing report

(10%) Presentation on final paper

These components are outlined in the following sections.

Assignments

Assignments will be given throughout the course. They are due on the date presented on the syllabus. Each assignment will be relevant to the current topics. Upon receipt of all the assignments, they will be covered in class. It is imperative that students turn assignments on time as they are covered in class on the day they are due. Assignments may consist of a virtual machine or short essay questions.

Midterm

Students will utilize the various skills and techniques learned in class to perform a variety of activity and simulated attacks in a mobile environment. Students have the option of working alone or in a pair and will “attack” a mobile application as a simulated entry point to a fictitious corporation. Students will write a paper detailing the actions taken and the outcome of their results. See the midterm attachment for further details.

Final Project

The final project will consist of two virtual machines running unknown operating systems and unknown services. Students must successfully bypass security mechanisms of the virtual machines and exploit the systems utilizing the techniques and skills learned throughout the semester. Additionally, the students must create a report detailing the findings and a presentation on virtual machines issued. The presentation should be in PowerPoint format and must be professional. See the final attachment for further details.

Presentation

Each student must present their section of the final presentation. Students are expected to know the material they are presenting and to expect a question and answer session. A soft copy of the PowerPoint (.ppt) file must be submitted prior to the presentation.

Participation

Throughout the semester there will be hands on exercises and labs to demonstrate the various tools and techniques covered in class. Students are expected to participate in the exercises. In-class assignments are a factor in the overall grade.

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Schedule

Lecture	Date	Topic	Reading Assignments	Assignments Info
			<p>Read up on HTTP, IP and network protocols http://net.tutsplus.com/tutorials/tools-and-tips/http-the-protocol-every-web-developer-must-know-part-1/ http://www.tutorialspoint.com/http/what_is_http.htm http://www.tutorialspoint.com/http/http_messages.htm http://www.tutorialspoint.com/http/http_methods.htm http://www.tutorialspoint.com/http/http_header_fields.htm http://www.tutorialspoint.com/http/http_status_codes.htm http://www.tutorialspoint.com/http/http_message_example.htm https://www.syss.de/fileadmin/ressources/040_veroeffentlichungen/dokumente/Code_of_Ethics_Penetration_Testers.pdf http://www.pen-tests.com/penetration-testing-vs-ethical-hacking.html http://www.eccouncil.org/Certification/licensed-penetration-tester</p>	
Week 1	Aug 29	Introduction and overview penetration testing Scoping / Ethics / Basics	Read Chapter 2 for next week	
Weeks 2	Sept 5	-Passive reconnaissance. Lecture will cover ways to obtain data on a target without ever hitting the target. Additionally we will cover active reconnaissance and building the overall picture	<p>Read Chapter 3 for next week Please have: Kali Linux, Burpsuite, Genymotion, Firefox, NMap, Burpsuite CA installed on AVD. See attachment A for AVD installation instructions</p>	Assignment 1 issued
Week 3	Sept 12	-Active reconnaissance. Students will learn the art of active reconnaissance. Students will use nmap, nikto and other open-source tools to actively scan a target.		
Week 4	Sept 19	-Assignment 1 review. Establishing a target list. Students will take gathered information from their reconnaissance and build a target list that is focused.	Read pages 108-114 for next week	Assignment 1 due
		-Vulnerability assessment. Students will use open source / free tools to assess the weakness and vulnerabilities of the systems on the target list. Tools such as: Openvas, Nessus will be used	Read pages 67-70 for next week.	
Week 5	Sept 26	-Exploitation. Students will use open source tools to perform brute force attacks on username / passwords, and other mutable parameters such as verbs, methods, etc. An intro to Metasploit will also done.	<p>Read pages 115-116 for next week Review HTTP Headers/Parameters for next week. View video in course content/tutorials for burpsuite - HTTP tutorial - HTTP Methods, HTTP Header Fields</p>	

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Week 6	Oct 3	-Header modification and tampering. Students will utilize open source tools to tamper with HTTP Headers and parameters. Building upon skills learned from the brute force lecture, students will attempt to brute force headers to learn about the system they are attacking. Attacks may be performed from workstations as well as mobile devices	Read pages 121-125 for next week Read http://www.blackhatlibrary.net/Command_Injection Read https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Command_Injection	
Week 7	Oct 10	-Cross site scripting: Students will learn what cross site scripting is, and how XSS can be used to further the attack process. Students will learn the difference how to gain further access into systems with XSS.	Read chapter 7 for next week Please read and review the Penetration Testing Framework: http://www.vulnerabilityassessment.co.uk/Penetration%20Test.html	
		-Command Injection: Students will learn what command injection is and how to determine if a system is vulnerable. Students will take knowledge from previous classes to learn where command injection is possible, and how to automate the scanning process.	Please read and review a sample report: http://www.offensive-security.com/penetration-testing-sample-report.pdf	
Week 8	Oct 17	-Midterm review. Students will have time to discuss the midterm, have questions answered and see solutions.	Read and view for next week http://projects.webappsec.org/w/page/13246955/Remote%20File%20Inclusion	Midterm Due
		-Report writing: Students will learn how to take all the information gathered during a penetration test and report on it in a concise and professional manner.	http://securityxplored.com/remote-file-inclusion.php http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Session_hijacking http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZtZPR-TAEZw Final Project Overview	
Week 9	Oct 24	-File Inclusion: Students will learn what file inclusion is, and how to perform advanced attacks utilizing file inclusion, including uploading web shells, backdoors, etc.	Read pages 116-120 for next week Read https://www.owasp.org/index.php/SQL_Injection for next week Read http://resources.infosecinstitute.com/sql-injection-http-headers/ for next week	Assignment 2 issued
		-Session hijacking. Students will utilize open source tools to perform MITM attacks and session hijacking. Students will learn how session fixation and hijacking can occur and how it can be used to bypass authentication systems		
Week 10	Oct 31	-SQL Injection: Students will learn what SQL Injection is, how to potentially identify it, and how to use it to exploit a system. Additionally, students will learn advanced SQL injection techniques, and how they can bypass WAF's and other security mechanisms in place to prevent SQL injection.	Read pages 70-81 for next week Read and understand http://www.offensive-security.com/metasploit-unleashed/Main_Page for next week. You don't have to know all of it, just get familiar with it.	Assignment 2 due Assignment 3 issued

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Week 11	Nov 7	<p>-Exploitation of vulnerabilities: Students will learn to identify weak and outdated software, and target attacks specifically to that software to gain a foothold within a network. Metasploit and other open source tools will be used to further the attack process.</p> <p>-Privilege escalation: Students will learn how to escalate privileges on systems with Metasploit and also will learn about other techniques to gain higher level accounts on systems.</p>	<p>Read pages 127-140 for next week http://www.offensive-security.com/metasploit-unleashed/Pivoting http://www.offensive-security.com/metasploit-unleashed/Persistent_Backdoors</p>	Final Issued Assignment 3 due
Week 12	Nov 14	<p>-Maintaining persistence: Students will learn how to maintain persistence within a network after successful exploitation. Students will learn various techniques that will allow them to add users, create backdoors, etc.</p> <p>-Pivoting and lateral movement: Students will learn how to pivot from one system to the next and move laterally across a network to further the penetration test.</p>	<p>Read http://www.csoonline.com/article/570813/data-exfiltration-how-data-gets-out for next week Read chapter 2 (Log parser book) for next week Read http://www.symantec.com/connect/articles/forensic-log-parsing-microsofts-logparser for next week</p>	
Week 13	Nov 21	<p>-Data Exfiltration: Students will learn the basics of data exfiltration techniques that can be applied</p> <p>-Post incident forensics: Students will learn how to identify and classify an attack as well as determine the attack vector based on log view and system forensics</p>	<p>Please prepare for your presentation. Students will be picked at random to present their findings.</p>	
Weeks 14	Dec 5	<p>Final Presentations: Students will present their reports. Additional review/questions</p>		Final paper due December 5th
Weeks 15	Dec 12	<p>Final Presentations: Students will present their reports. Additional review/questions</p>		

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Important Dates

Please visit <http://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars/> and view important dates for the current semester.

Call 703-993-1000 for recorded information on campus closings (e.g. due to weather).

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend each class, to complete any required preparatory work (including assigned reading) and to participate actively in lectures, discussions and exercises. As members of the academic community, all students are expected to contribute regardless of their proficiency with the subject matter.

Students are expected to make prior arrangements with Instructor if they know in advance that they will miss any class and to consult with the Instructor if they miss any class without prior notice.

Departmental policy requires students to take exams at the scheduled time and place, unless there are truly compelling circumstances supported by appropriate documentation. Except in such circumstances, failure to attend a scheduled exam may result in a grade of zero (0) for that exam.

Communications

Communication on issues relating to the individual student should be conducted using email or telephone. Email is the preferred method – for urgent messages, you should also attempt to contact the Instructor via telephone. Email messages from the Instructor to all class members will be sent to students' GMU email addresses – if you use another email account as your primary address, you should forward your GMU email to that account. Lecture slides are complements to the lecture process, not substitutes for it - access to lecture slides will be provided as a courtesy to students provided acceptable attendance is maintained.

Academic Integrity

GMU is an Honor Code university; please see the Office for Academic Integrity for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task. When you rely on someone else's work in an aspect of the performance of that task, you will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask for guidance and clarification. Students are required to be familiar and comply with the requirements of the GMU Honor Code @ <http://honorcode.gmu.edu/>. All assessable work is to be completed by the individual student. Students must **NOT** collaborate on the project reports or presentation without explicit prior permission from the Instructor.

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Disability Accommodations

If you have a learning or physical difference that may affect your academic work, you will need to furnish appropriate documentation to the Office of Disability Services. If you qualify for accommodation, the ODS staff will give you a form detailing appropriate accommodations for your instructor. In addition to providing your professors with the appropriate form, please take the initiative to discuss accommodation with them at the beginning of the semester and as needed during the term. Because of the range of learning differences, faculty members need to learn from you the most effective ways to assist you. If you have contacted the Office of Disability Services and are waiting to hear from a counselor, please tell me.

Diversity

George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study and personal growth.

An emphasis upon diversity and inclusion throughout the campus community is essential to achieve these goals. Diversity is broadly defined to include such characteristics as, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Diversity also entails different viewpoints, philosophies, and perspectives. Attention to these aspects of diversity will help promote a culture of inclusion and belonging, and an environment where diverse opinions, backgrounds and practices have the opportunity to be voiced, heard and respected.

The reflection of Mason's commitment to diversity and inclusion goes beyond policies and procedures to focus on behavior at the individual, group and organizational level. The implementation of this commitment to diversity and inclusion is found in all settings, including individual work units and groups, student organizations and groups, and classroom settings; it is also found with the delivery of services and activities, including, but not limited to, curriculum, teaching, events, advising, research, service, and community outreach.

Acknowledging that the attainment of diversity and inclusion are dynamic and continuous processes, and that the larger societal setting has an evolving socio-cultural understanding of diversity and inclusion, Mason seeks to continuously improve its environment. To this end, the University promotes continuous monitoring and self-assessment regarding diversity. The aim is to incorporate diversity and inclusion within the philosophies and actions of the individual, group and organization, and to make improvements as needed.

Privacy

Students must use their MasonLive email account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. See <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for more information.