

NMAP

Fundamentals

@sidorocs

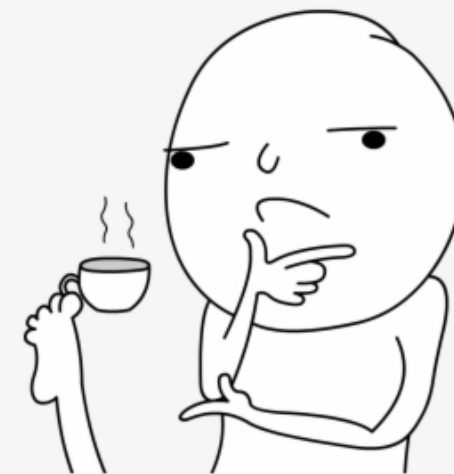


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Survey

Who uses nmap regularly ? Who occasionally uses it ? who never used it ?



01

What's nmap

Gives a short
introduction about
nmap and its basic
uses

02

Under the hood

Understanding
advanced nmap
options, and what is
really happening
behind the CLI

03

Scripting

Experiment custom NSE
script

Introduction



Nmap = network mapper

- Released as a simple Linux-only port scanner in 1997
- Open source and under constant development
- Multiple features released over the time...
- If you are interested, you can go deeper in nmap history :
<https://nmap.org/book/history-future.html>

What are nmap uses ?

Mapping an infrastructure

Gain a clear overview of the network by identifying all connected devices, services, and their relationships.

Identify entry point & insecure configuration

Detect exposed services and open ports that could be leveraged by attackers to gain unauthorized access.

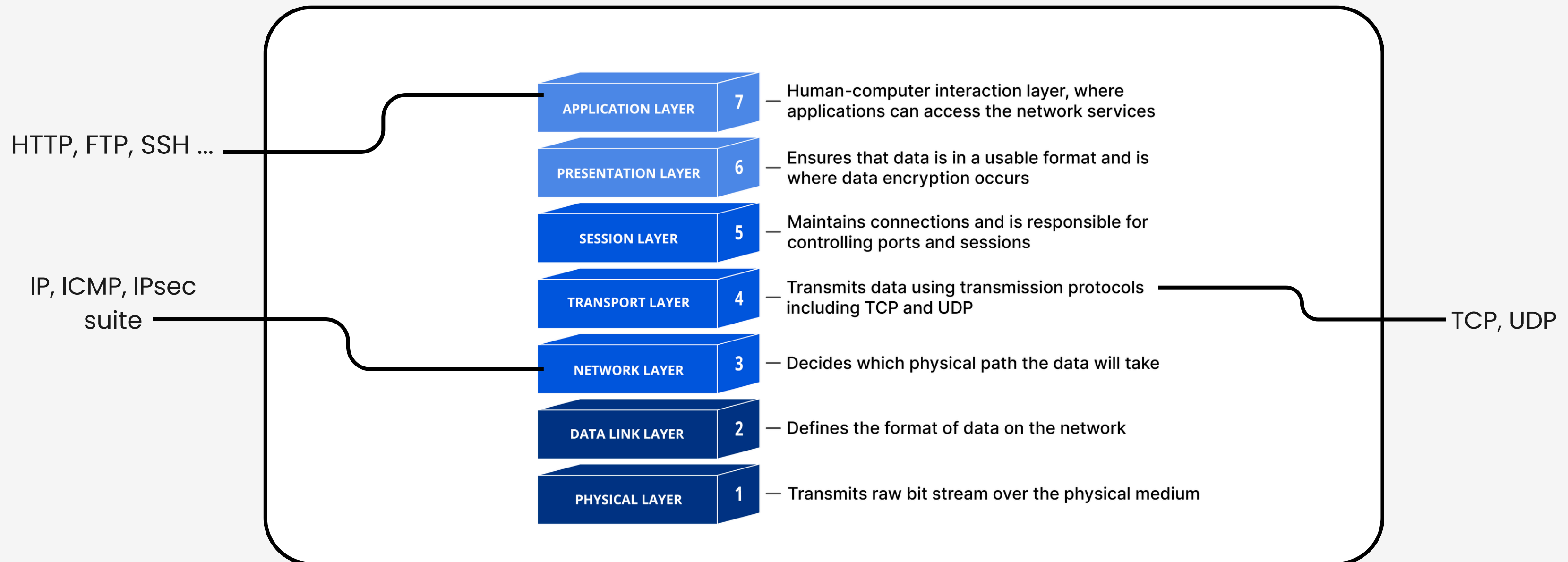
Check firewall and IDS settings

Usefull to test firewall behaviour and IDS rules using decoys, packets fragmentation ...

Recall – Basic Network notion

OSI model

The Open Systems Intercommunication (OSI) model is a conceptual model that represents how network communications work

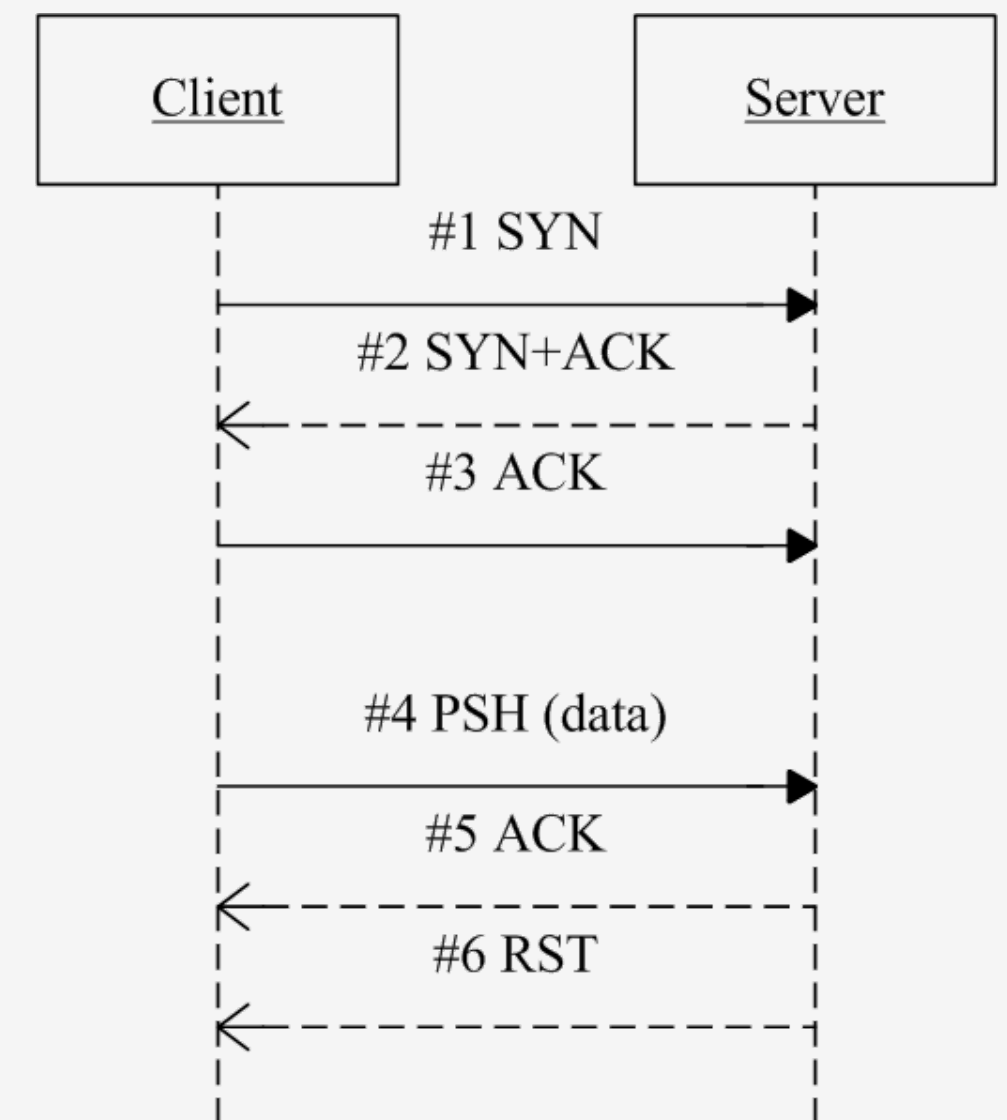


Recall – Basic Network notion

TCP (Transmission Control Protocol) uses a three-way handshake (aka TCP-handshake, three message handshake, and/or SYN-SYN-ACK) to set up a TCP/IP connection.

TCP Handshake

Transmission Control Protocol



Recall – Basic Network notion

UDP

User datagram protocol

No handshake, no control on the sequence ... I
mean almost ...



nmap basic uses

- Host discovery
- Port scanning
- Service enumeration and detection
- OS detection
- Scriptable interaction with the target service (Nmap Scripting Engine)

nmap functions overview

nmap has several functions
for different purposes

nmap basic uses

nmap functions overview

nmap has several functions
for different purposes

- Host discovery
- Port scanning
- Service enumeration and detection
- OS detection
- Scriptable interaction with the target service (Nmap Scripting Engine)

Basic nmap command :



```
nmap <scan type> <options> <target(s)>
```



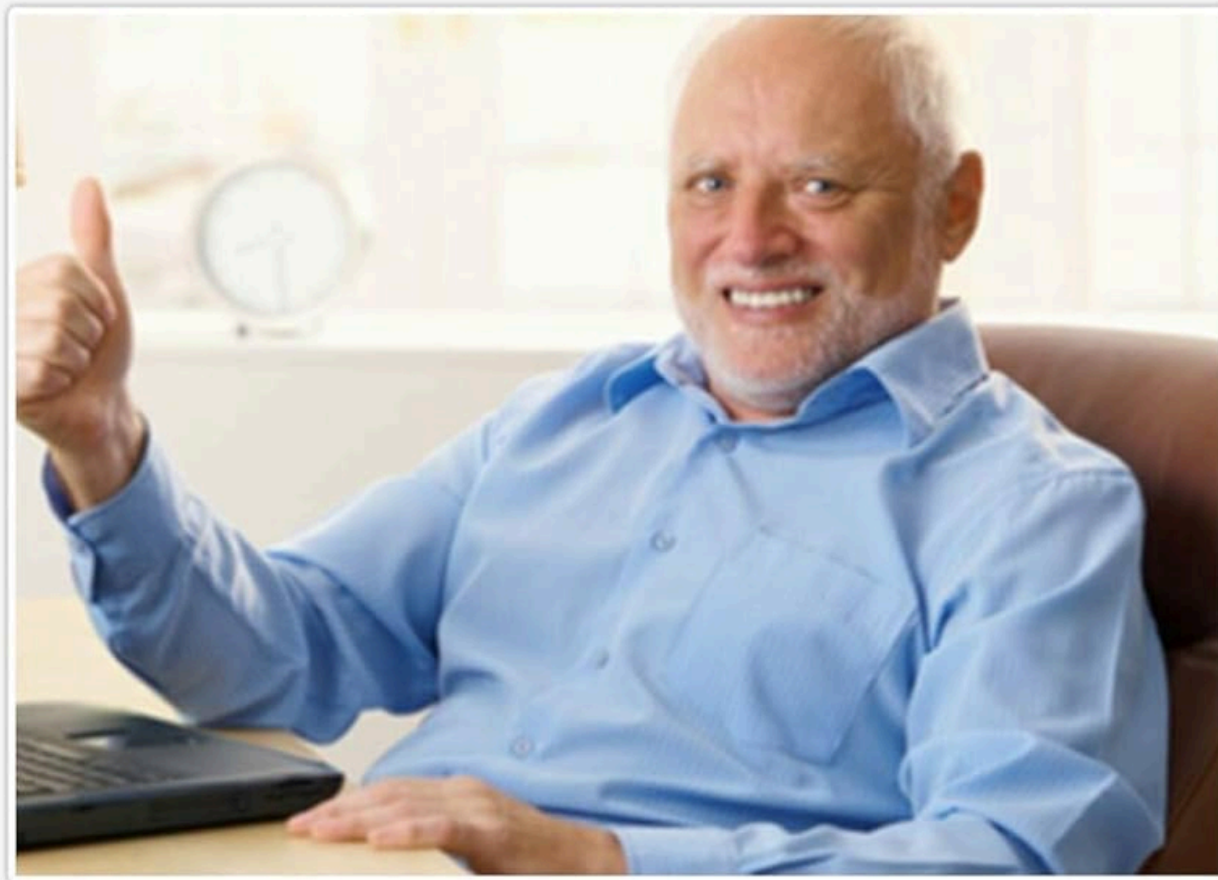
```
[Aug 28, 2025 - 22:44:45 (CEST)] exegol /workspace # nmap 10.10.10.245
Starting Nmap 7.93 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-08-28 22:44 CEST
Nmap scan report for 10.10.10.245
Host is up (0.021s latency).
Not shown: 997 closed tcp ports (reset)
PORT      STATE SERVICE
21/tcp    open  ftp
22/tcp    open  ssh
80/tcp    open  http

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 1.51 seconds
```

EZ nmap

**You found your open
ports – COOL !**

I guess that's all for nmap



**Thanks for your
attention !**

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Detection (ICMP – arp prob)

What will nmap do ?

Before any port scan, nmap will try to figure out whether the host is up or not

- By default : ICMP echo prob discovery

```
[Aug 28, 2025 - 23:19:59 (CEST)] exegol /workspace # nmap 10.10.10.245 --packet-trace -sn
Starting Nmap 7.93 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-08-28 23:20 CEST
SENT (0.0169s) ICMP [10.10.14.5 > 10.10.10.245 Echo request (type=8/code=0) id=25433 seq=0] IP [ttl=52 id=54081 iplen=28 ]
SENT (0.0169s) TCP 10.10.14.5:33661 > 10.10.10.245:443 S ttl=54 id=20010 iplen=44 seq=2868062457 win=1024 <mss 1460>
SENT (0.0169s) TCP 10.10.14.5:33661 > 10.10.10.245:80 A ttl=51 id=39894 iplen=40 seq=0 win=1024

...

RCVD (0.0339s) ICMP [10.10.10.245 > 10.10.14.5 Echo reply (type=0/code=0) id=25433 seq=0] IP [ttl=63 id=24334 iplen=28 ]

...

Nmap scan report for 10.10.10.245
Host is up (0.017s latency).
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 1.00 seconds
```

But he can also perform :

- ARP prob discovery (-PR)
- ICMP timestamp request (-PP)
- TCP/UDP prob discovery (-PS, -PU)

→ read the official documentation !

(You can also disable host discovery for your scans)

Scan type

multiple scan type for multiple purposes

TCP, UDP, other stuff ...

- Different TCP scans
- UDP scan
- Weird TCP scans (send weird TCP packet just to see if the server will respond by a RST or not) for firewall bypasses
- zombie scan (WTF)
- Other scan ... (deprecated for some of them)



```
[Aug 28, 2025 - 22:44:45 (CEST)] exego1 /workspace # nmap -h
Nmap 7.93 ( https://nmap.org )
Usage: nmap [Scan Type(s)] [Options] {target specification}
```

...

SCAN TECHNIQUES:

```
-sS/sT/sA/sW/sM: TCP SYN/Connect()/ACK/Window/Maimon scans
-sU: UDP Scan
-sN/sF/sX: TCP Null, FIN, and Xmas scans
--scanflags <flags>: Customize TCP scan flags
-sI <zombie host[:probeport]>: Idle scan
-sY/sZ: SCTP INIT/COOKIE-ECHO scans
-sO: IP protocol scan
-b <FTP relay host>: FTP bounce scan
```

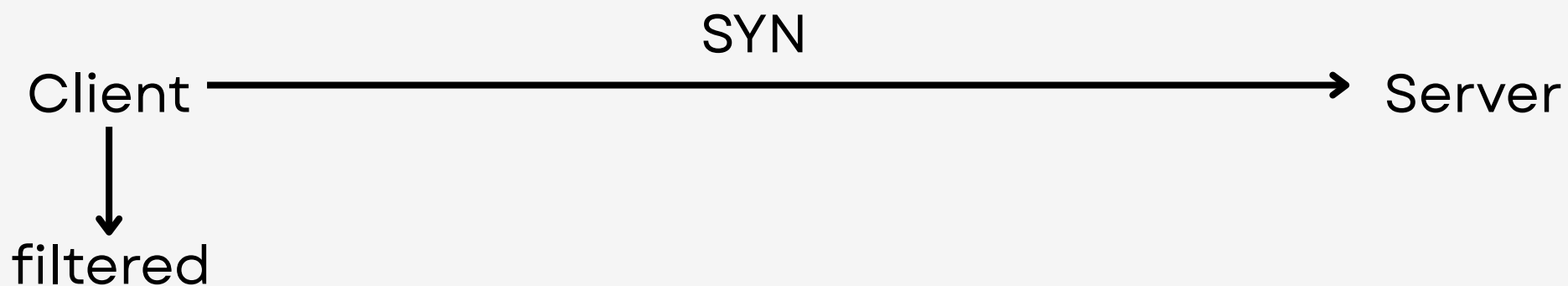
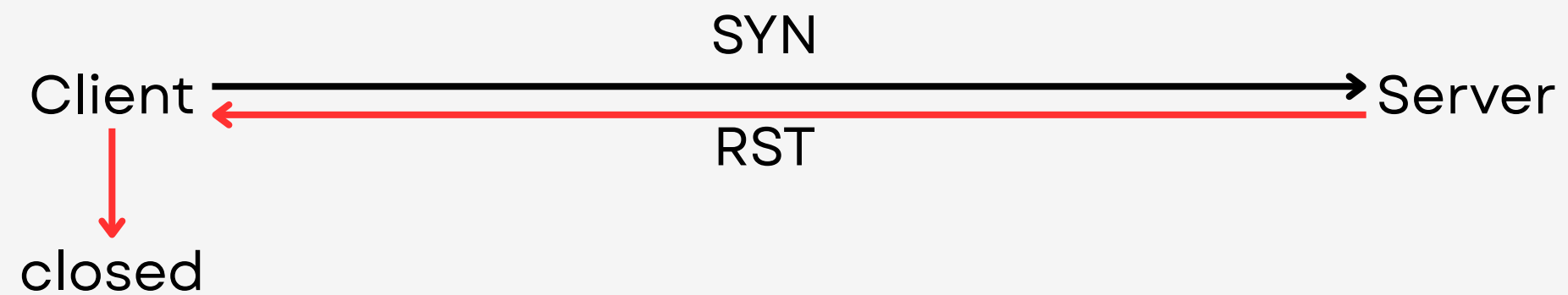
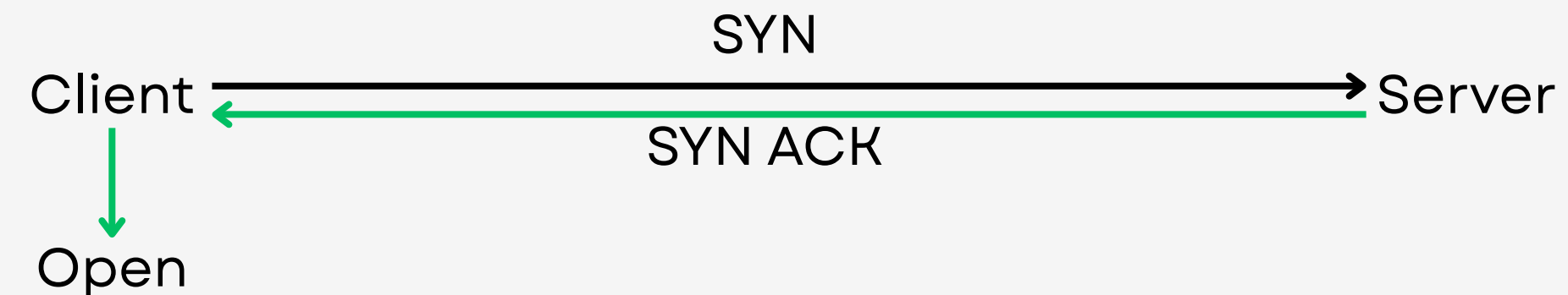
...

TCP Scan

**nmap tcp scan
in a nutshell :
SYN scan**

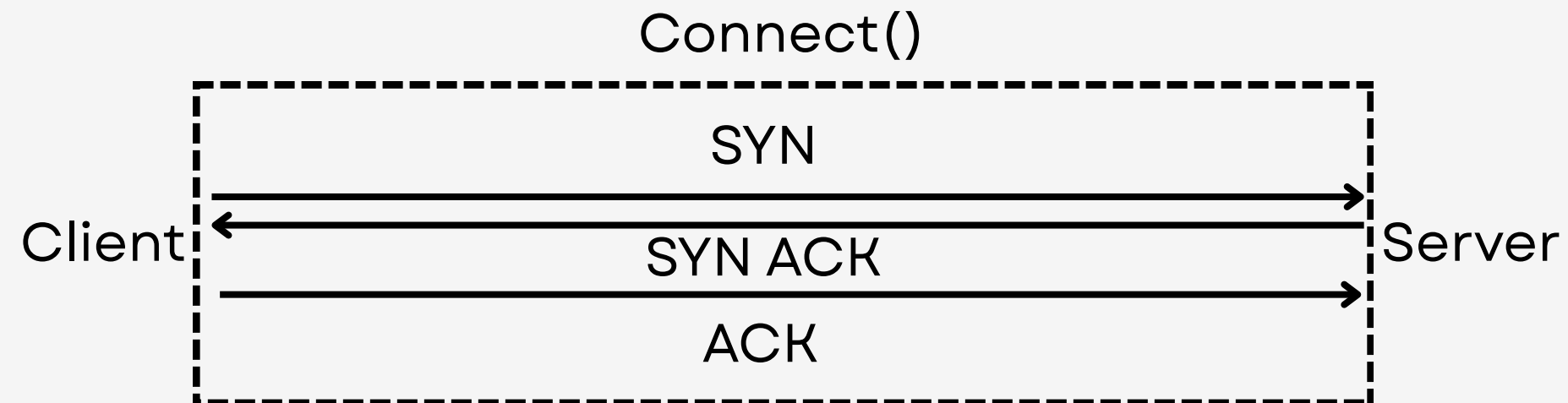
SYN scan : only in root mode

SYN can only be performed with root permissions (or the CAP_NET_RAW capability) because nmap handly craft network packets and read the responses packtes whereas connect scan can be performed as an unprivileged user because it uses the connect() function from the API.



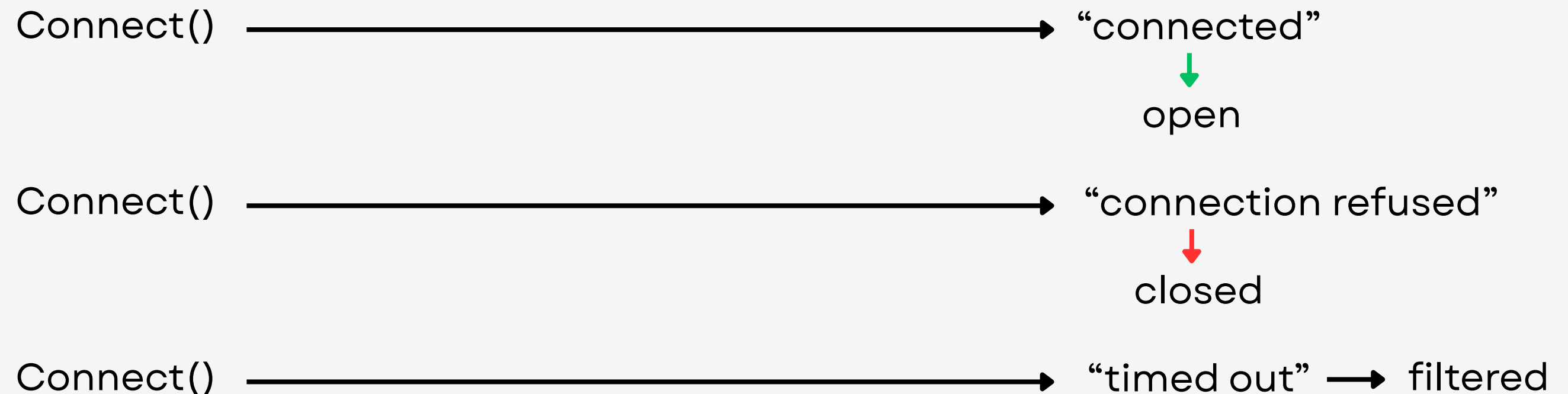
TCP Scan

**nmap tcp scan
in a nutshell :
connect scan**



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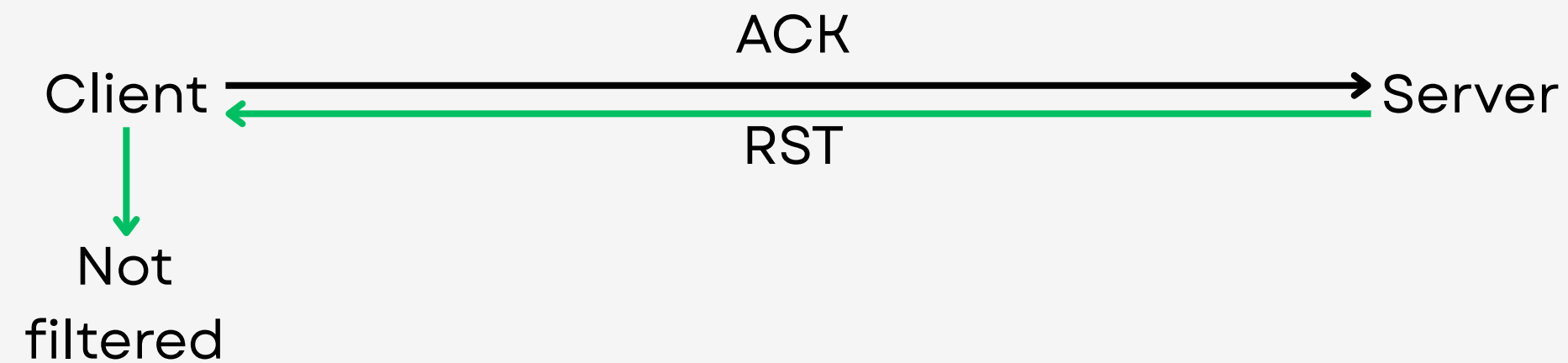


TCP Scan

**nmap tcp scan
in a nutshell :
ACK scan**

ACK scan

ACK scan is a scan type used to identify filters or firewall. If a port respond RST to an ACK packet with no prior TCP handshake, it will considered as not filtered. In case there is no response from the server, the port will be marked as filtered.



TCP Scan

**nmap tcp scan
in a nutshell :
Other scans ...**

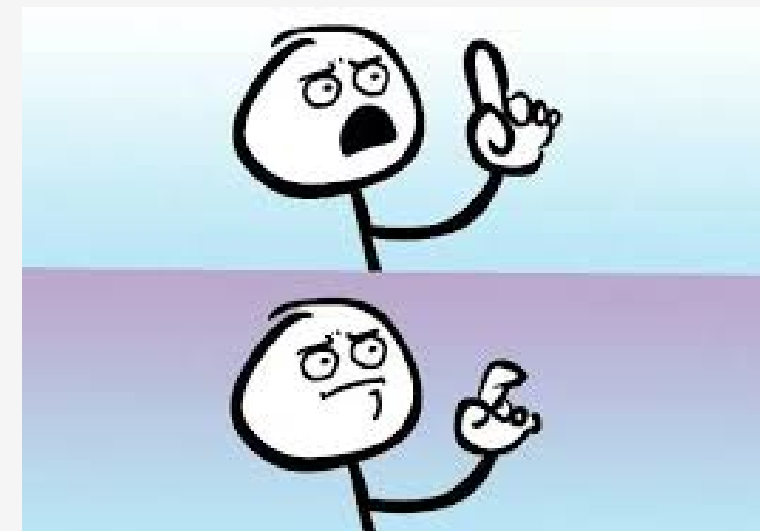
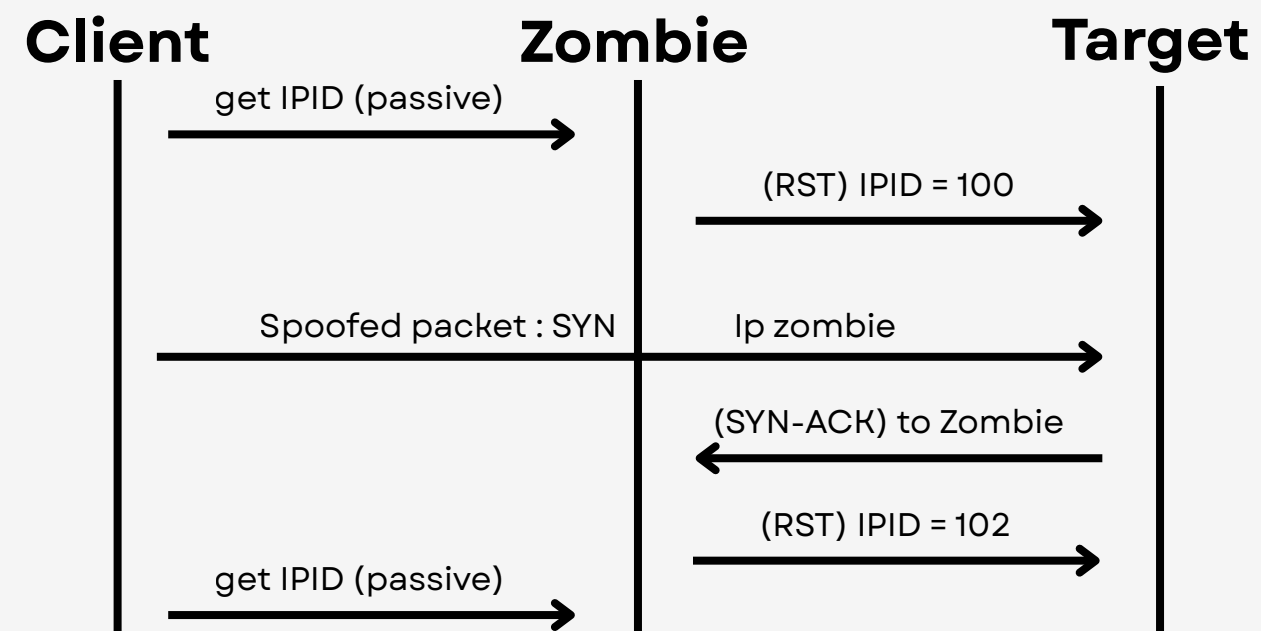
Window scan

Window scan will send an ACK and check the Window field number. if it is 0 → closed, if it is a non-zero value → open

Null - FIN - Xmas scan

No TCP flag will be sent (SYN, FIN, whatever ...), no response → open, Response (RST) → closed ... Stealth but deprecated because modern systems will reply RST. Same for the FIN scan, but we send a FIN flag. XMAS scan will send FIN + URG + PSH flags in the same packet.

Zombie scan



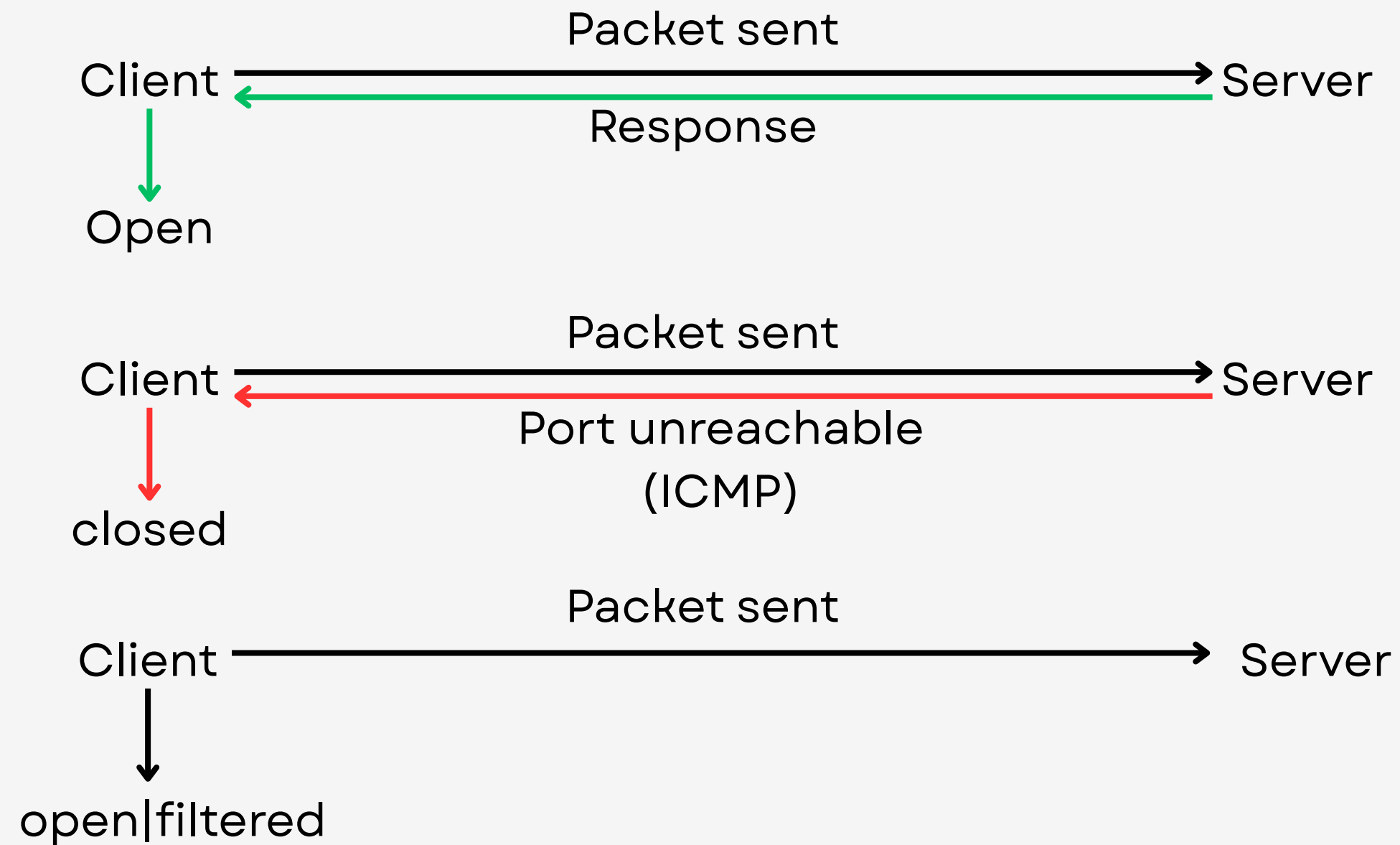
We perform a difference between the first measure and the last measure, in order to see if the target responded to the zombie. This scan has a lot of limitations since IDS can check for spoofed packets, IPID randomized, if the zombie is not idle and sent a lot of packets ...

UDP Scan

ZzZzZzZ

UDP scan

Nmap will send several UDP packet with different payloads (some are adapted to the application that usually runs on the port).



Version scan

**Fingerprinting as much
as possible**

- For HTTP, sending HTTP request and try to read the server version in header, in 404 response ...
- For SSH, the version is in the TCP banner etc.

For the OS scan, nmap will focus his guess on a lot of parameters :

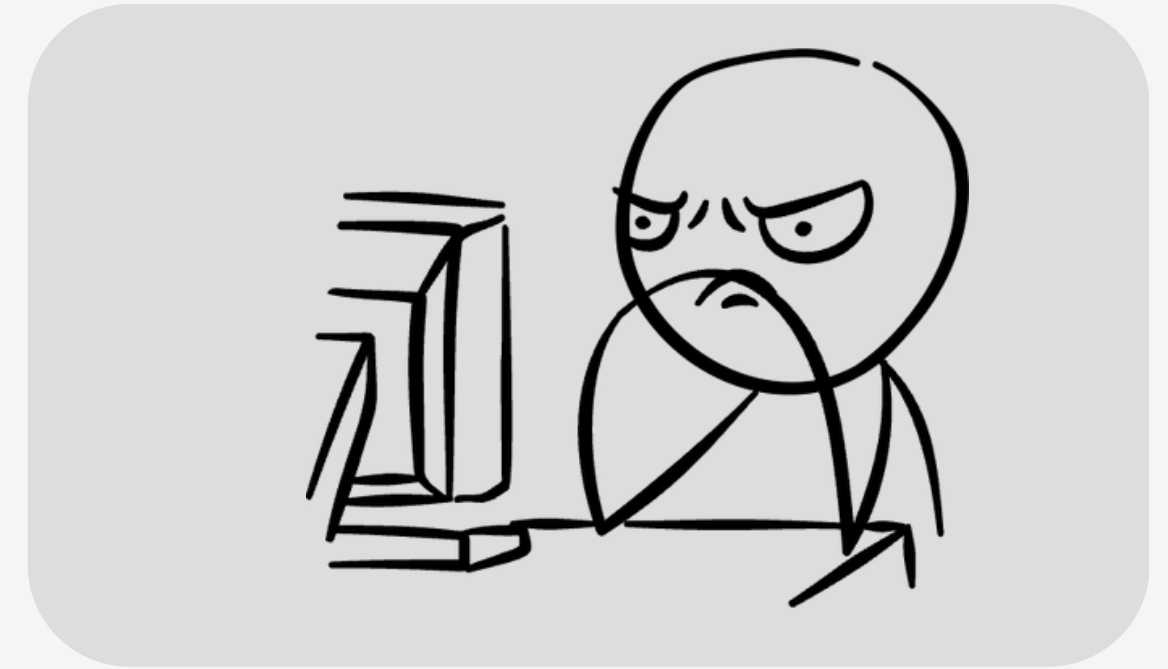
- TCP option values (window size, MSS, timestamps, window scale)
- behavior in response to abnormal packets
- ICMP responses and their fields.

→ Signature of each OS stored in `/usr/share/nmap/nmap-os-db`

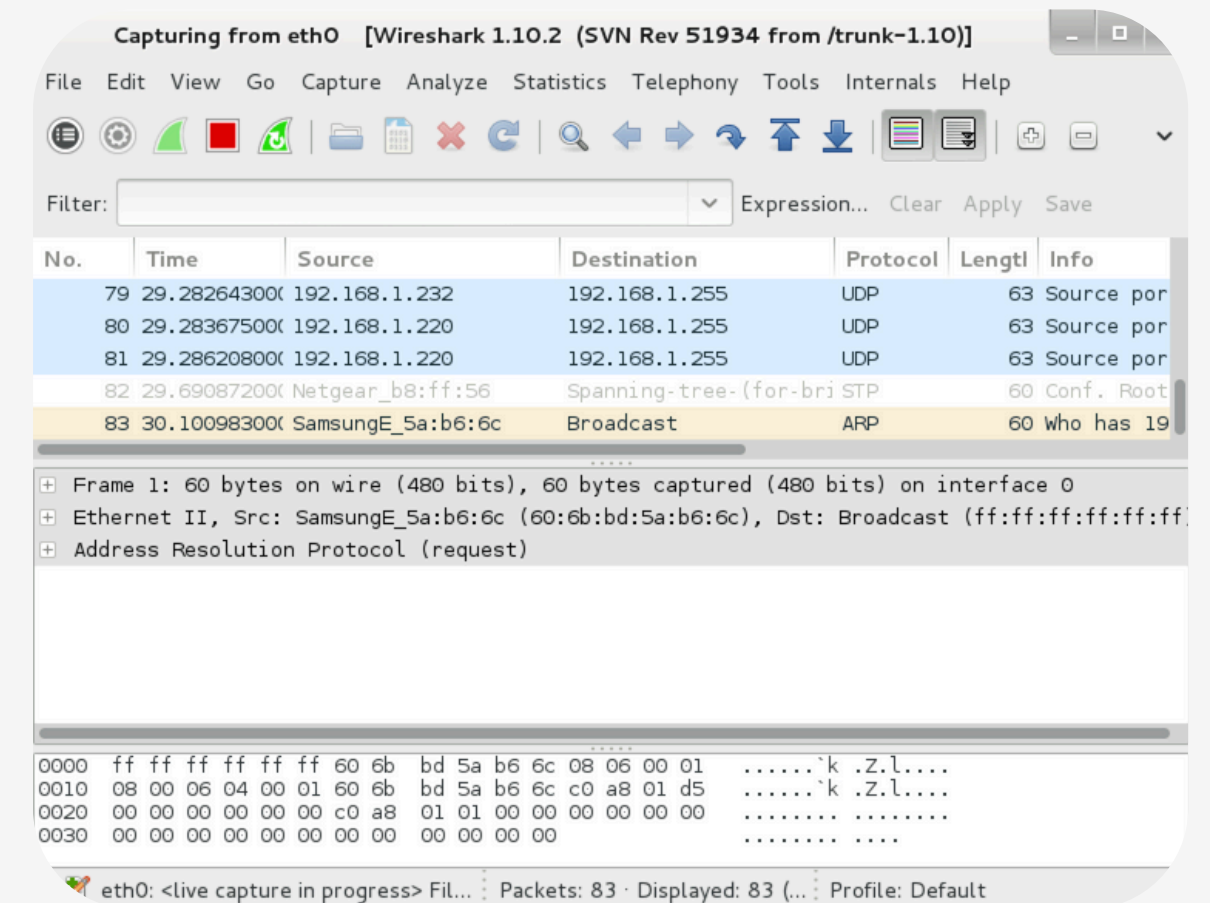
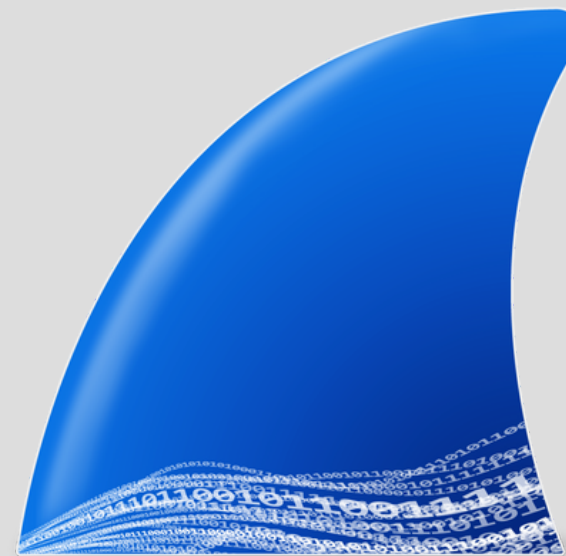
```
NSOCK INFO [0.3450s] nsock_trace_handler_callback(): Callback: READ SUCCESS for EID 18 [127.0.0.1:22]
(40 bytes): SSH-2.0-OpenSSH_9.2p1 Debian-2+deb12u7..
Service scan match (Probe NULL matched with NULL line 3525): 127.0.0.1:22 is ssh. Version: |OpenSSH|
9.2p1 Debian 2+deb12u7|protocol 2.0|
```

```
NSE: TCP 127.0.0.1:58640 < 127.0.0.1:8000 | 00000000: 48 54 54 50 2f 31 2e 30 20 35 30 31 20 55 6e 73
HTTP/1.0 501 Uns
00000010: 75 70 70 6f 72 74 65 64 20 6d 65 74 68 6f 64 20 upported method
00000020: 28 27 50 4f 53 54 27 29 0d 0a 53 65 72 76 65 72 ('POST') Server
00000030: 3a 20 53 69 6d 70 6c 65 48 54 54 50 2f 30 2e 36 : SimpleHTTP/0.6
00000040: 20 50 79 74 68 6f 6e 2f 33 2e 31 31 2e 32 0d 0a Python/3.11.2
00000050: 44 61 74 65 3a 20 4d 6f 6e 2c 20 30 36 20 4f 63 Date: Mon, 06 Oc
00000060: 74 20 32 30 32 35 20 31 35 3a 31 38 3a 30 37 20 t 2025 15:18:07
00000070: 47 4d 54 0d 0a 43 6f 6e 6e 65 63 74 69 6f 6e 3a GMT Connection:
00000080: 20 63 6c 6f 73 65 0d 0a 43 6f 6e 74 65 6e 74 2d close Content-
00000090: 54 79 70 65 3a 20 74 65 78 74 2f 68 74 6d 6c 3b Type: text/html;
000000a0: 63 68 61 72 73 65 74 3d 75 74 66 2d 38 0d 0a 43 charset=utf-8 C
000000b0: 6f 6e 74 65 6e 74 2d 4c 65 6e 67 74 68 3a 20 33 ontent-Length: 3
000000c0: 35 37 0d 0a 0d 0a go(f, seed, [])
}
```

Trouble shouting with nmap



- `--packet-trace` : will show all packets send and received and their content
- Wireshark



Firewall

IDS, IPS, Firewall ...

- **Firewalls**

A firewall monitors network traffic and enforces rules to allow, ignore, or block connections, preventing unauthorized or potentially dangerous access.

- **IDS/IPS**

An IDS detects and reports potential attacks by analyzing network traffic for known patterns, while an IPS takes active measures to block or prevent detected threats.

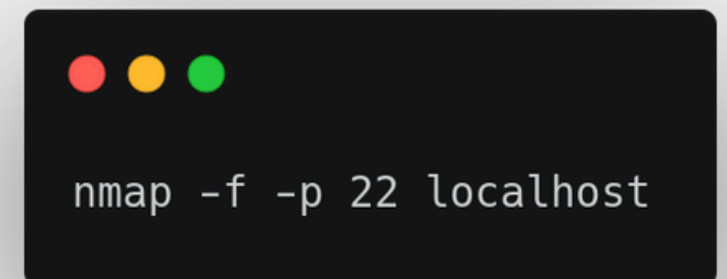


Bypassing firewall ?

**IDS, IPS, Firewall ...
Fragmented packets**

- ACK scan : used to detect firewall rules
- IP spoofing
- MAC Address spoofing
- Packet fragmentation
- Decoys : Nmap will send multiple packets with different (and existing) IP addresses and insert attacker's IP address into this set
- Using other source port (like 53 - DNS port)

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
1	0.000000000	127.0.0.1	127.0.0.1	IPv4	42	Fragmented IP protocol (proto=TCP 6, off=0, ID=2bf7) [Reassembled in #3]
2	0.000013270	127.0.0.1	127.0.0.1	IPv4	42	Fragmented IP protocol (proto=TCP 6, off=8, ID=2bf7) [Reassembled in #3]
3	0.000018508	127.0.0.1	127.0.0.1	TCP	42	52142 → 22 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460
4	0.000062089	127.0.0.1	127.0.0.1	TCP	58	22 → 52142 [SYN, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=1 Win=65495 Len=0 MSS=65495
5	0.000076756	127.0.0.1	127.0.0.1	TCP	54	52142 → 22 [RST] Seq=1 Win=0 Len=0



```
nmap -f -p 22 localhost
```



Bypassing firewall ?

IDS, IPS, Firewall ... Decoys

- ACK scan : used to detect firewall rules
- IP spoofing
- MAC Address spoofing
- Packet fragmentation
- Decoys : Nmap will send multiple packets with different (and existing) IP addresses and insert attacker's IP address into this set
- Using other source port (like 53 - DNS port)

```
nmap <target ip> -p 80 -sS -Pn -n --disable-arp-ping --packet-trace -D RND:5

Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2020-06-21 16:14 CEST
SENT (0.0378s) TCP <random ip>:59289 > <target ip>:80 S ttl=42 id=29822 iplen=44 seq=3687542010
win=1024 <mss 1460>
SENT (0.0378s) TCP <your ip>:59289 > <target ip>:80 S ttl=59 id=29822 iplen=44 seq=3687542010 win=1024
<mss 1460>
SENT (0.0379s) TCP <random ip>:59289 > <target ip>:80 S ttl=37 id=29822 iplen=44 seq=3687542010
win=1024 <mss 1460>
SENT (0.0379s) TCP <random ip>:59289 > <target ip>:80 S ttl=38 id=29822 iplen=44 seq=3687542010
win=1024 <mss 1460>
SENT (0.0379s) TCP <random ip>:59289 > <target ip>:80 S ttl=39 id=29822 iplen=44 seq=3687542010
win=1024 <mss 1460>
SENT (0.0379s) TCP <random ip>:59289 > <target ip>:80 S ttl=55 id=29822 iplen=44 seq=3687542010
win=1024 <mss 1460>
RCVD (0.1370s) TCP <target ip>:80 > <random ip>:59289 SA ttl=64 id=0 iplen=44 seq=4056111701 win=64240
<mss 1460>
Nmap scan report for <target ip>
Host is up (0.099s latency).

PORT      STATE SERVICE
80/tcp    open  http

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 0.15 seconds
```

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NSE introduction

Nmap script engine

Nmap Script Engine

The Nmap Scripting Engine (NSE) is an extensible framework that allows Nmap to run scripts to automate a wide range of network tasks, from service discovery to vulnerability detection.

Because scripts can perform intrusive actions, they range from non-destructive probes to potentially disruptive tests, so they should only be run against authorized targets. NSE greatly expands Nmap's flexibility by enabling custom checks, automation, and integration with external data sources.

- Script in Lua
 - Different categories (vuln, safe, discovery ...)
 - Can be very intrusive and be responsible of crash or denial of service
- (so be careful using it on authorized targets)

NSE introduction

Nmap script engine

Exemple of well known (and useful) scripts

- vuln : script group that will test CVEs related tests on the target in order to determine whether the target is vulnerable or not
- http-brute : script that will bruteforce http authentication (basic, digest and NTLM auth are handled), very basic creds
- FTP anon : will test if you can connect to a FTP server as anonymous
- SMB OS discovery : will guess the operating system of the SMB server
- Other protocol specific scripts ...



NSE introduction

Nmap script engine

Example : Eternal Blue detection

```
zenmap
Scan Tools Profile Help
Target: 10.10.10.4
Profile:
Command: nmap -p 445 --script vuln 10.10.10.4

Hosts Services
OS Host
10.10.10.4

Nmap Output
Ports / Hosts Topology Host Details Scans
nmap -p 445 --script vuln 10.10.10.4

Starting Nmap 7.70 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2019-08-04 13:01 EDT
Nmap scan report for 10.10.10.4
Host is up (0.071s latency).

PORT      STATE SERVICE
445/tcp    open  microsoft-ds

Host script results:
|_ samba-vuln-cve-2012-1182: NT_STATUS_ACCESS_DENIED
|_ smb-vuln-ms08-067:
|   VULNERABLE:
|   Microsoft Windows system vulnerable to remote code execution (MS08-067)
|   State: VULNERABLE
|   IDs: CVE:CVE-2008-4250
|   The Server service in Microsoft Windows 2000 SP4, XP SP2 and SP3, Server 2003 SP1 and SP2,
|   Vista Gold and SP1, Server 2008, and 7 Pre-Beta allows remote attackers to execute arbitrary
|   code via a crafted RPC request that triggers the overflow during path canonicalization.
|
|   Disclosure date: 2008-10-23
|   References:
|   https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/security/ms08-067.aspx
|   https://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2008-4250
|_ smb-vuln-ms10-054: false
|_ smb-vuln-ms10-061: ERROR: Script execution failed (use -d to debug)
|_ smb-vuln-ms17-010:
|   VULNERABLE:
|   Remote Code Execution vulnerability in Microsoft SMBv1 servers (ms17-010)
|   State: VULNERABLE
|   IDs: CVE:CVE-2017-0143
|   Risk factor: HIGH
|   A critical remote code execution vulnerability exists in Microsoft SMBv1
|   servers (ms17-010).
|
|   Disclosure date: 2017-03-14
|   References:
|   https://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2017-0143
|   https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/security/ms17-010.aspx
|   https://blogs.technet.microsoft.com/msrc/2017/05/12/customer-guidance-for-wannacrypt-attacks/

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 15.67 seconds
```

Basic NSE script

Lua lua land

```
-- myscript.nse
local nmap      = require "nmap"
local stdnse    = require "stdnse"
local shortport = require "shortport"

description = [[
Simple description: what the script does (one or two lines).
]]

author = "Your Name"
license = "Same as Nmap--See https://nmap.org/book/man-legal.html"
categories = {"discovery","safe"} -- choisir une catégorie appropriée

-- Quand exécuter : portrule (sur un port/service) ou hostrule (sur l'hôte)
portrule = shortport.port_or_service(80, "http")

-- action: la fonction appelée par Nmap; host et port fournis si portrule
action = function(host, port)
    -- Exemple basique: collecter des infos et renvoyer un string ou table
    local res = {}
    table.insert(res, "Found something simple on " .. host.ip .. ":" .. port.number)
    -- stdnse.format_output aide la présentation, accepte string/table/nil
    return stdnse.format_output(true, res)
end
```


Basic NSE script

CVE-2021-31166

Why

I recently wrote an exploit for CVE-2021-31166, it exploit CVE-2021-31166 and CVE-2021-31166. A pentester should use <https://github.com/mauricelambert/CVE-2021-31166>, but in SOC teams we need to know the specific vulnerability to fix it properly, which is why i wrote this exploit.

Description

I propose pure python, powershell, ruby scripts and metasploit, nmap modules to attack a vulnerable IIS Web Server (perform a DOS attack to crash (blue screen) the server).

Payload is very simple:

- `Accept-Enconding: something, ,`
- Replace `something` with whatever header value you want
- Should match with: `Accept-Enconding: (\w|[\~/\.-]|%[\0-9a-fA-F]{2})+, \s+,`

Vulnerability that allows an attacker to perform a buffer overflow over the “Accept-Encoding” HTTP field. Sending specific payloads lead to a crash of the service and hence, a BSOD :(

Some remarks

- Do not forget to include HTTP library
- Output are sent to the stdnse with table

```
-- Run on common HTTP ports / services
portrule = shortport.http

action = function(host, port)
    -- read optional script arg to override max size
    local maxbody = stdnse.get_script_args("http-show-page.max_body") or DEFAULT_MAX_BODY

    -- Build the request path (root). Could be extended via script-args if needed.
    local path = "/"

    -- Perform HTTP GET. http.get returns a response table (or nil + error).
    local response, err = http.get(host, port, path)
    if not response then
        return ("HTTP request failed: %s"):format(err or "unknown error")
    end

    -- response may contain .status, .body, .headers
    local status = response.status or "unknown"
    local body = response.body or ""
    local headers = response.header or response.headers or {}

    -- Build a nice output table
    local result = {
        ("HTTP %s %s:%d%s"):format(status, host.ip, port.number, path),
        ("Headers:"),
    }

    -- Add a few headers (if present)
    for k,v in pairs(headers) do
        table.insert(result, ("%s: %s"):format(k, v))
    end

    table.insert(result, ("\nBody (first %d bytes):"):format(maxbody))
    table.insert(result, outbody)

    return stdnse.format_output(true, result)
end
```

Your turn – DEMO

You have to use your own script to get the flag on the following network protocol

Goal : *when a client connect to the server, the server will choose one index from 1 to 10. The client can request the target asking what is the value of an index. The client can do it as much as possible.*

You need to automate that !

The protocol is quite simple, when you connect to the server in TCP, you can perform the following functions :

- **"INFO"** : will give you informations on the protocole (same as what I am explaining right now)
- **"DISCOVER"** : will give you a session UUID
- **"QUERY <UUID> <ID>"** : will return you 1 or 0, the ID will go from 1 to 10, the UUID is the UUID session previously obtained
- **"VERIFY <UUID> <ID>"** : will give you the flag if the ID submitted is the ID set to 1

04

Bonus – Legal consideration

To scan or not to scan ?

Disclaimer

I'm not a legal expert, and this section is based on my understanding of publicly available information. It's possible that I may have misunderstood or oversimplified certain legal aspects. Please consult a qualified professional or legal advisor for authoritative guidance.

Laws – rules

**From nmap's
documentation**

What can we do ?

“When used properly, Nmap helps protect your network from invaders.

But when used improperly, Nmap can (in rare cases) get you sued, fired, expelled, jailed, or banned by your ISP.”

nmap.org

Laws – rules

**From nmap's
documentation**

Law ? Depends where ...

US : Port scanning as such is not criminalized under federal law.

The Computer Fraud and Abuse Act criminalizes unauthorized access to a protected computer. Since port scanning is not considered an intrusion, it is **not penalized per se**.

The determining factors are intent and subsequent actions (intrusion, denial of service, etc.).

France : There is no specific law targeting port scanning ... BUT, scanning can be reinterpreted as an attempt at unauthorized access or a malicious reconnaissance act, under the Criminal Code (e.g., Articles 323-1 and following: fraudulent access, interference or alteration).

In particular, using scanning to gather information about possible vulnerabilities or to enable unauthorized access gives rise to a presumption of malicious intent.

Laws – rules

**From nmap's
documentation**

Solutions ?

- **Obtain explicit written authorization covering the scope, purpose, etc.**
- Perform minimal scanning (e.g., targeting only one port if the goal is to debug a single service).
- Use non-intrusive scan techniques (e.g., SYN scan, polite/stealth mode), and avoid using --script vuln.
- Do not attempt obfuscation techniques.
- Always justify the scan with professional or technical objectives.

References

- OSI model explanation : <https://www.cloudflare.com/fr-fr/learning/ddos/glossary/open-systems-interconnection-model-osi>
- <https://www.freecodecamp.org/news/keep-calm-and-hack-the-box-legacy/>
- <https://nmap.org>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nX9JXI4I3-E> (conf DEF CON 22 Mass scanning the internet)
- <https://github.com/mauricelambert/CVE-2021-31166>
- <https://svn.nmap.org/nmap/scripts/smb-vuln-ms17-010.nse>

Thank You

FOR YOUR TIME



<https://sidorocs.github.io>