

INTRODUCTION TO CYBERSECURITY

ASSIGNMENT REPORT

A dark blue rectangular card with white text. At the top left is a small purple icon of a globe with a lock. To its right is the title 'Introduction to Cyber Security'. Below the title is a paragraph of text, followed by a bulleted list of four items. Then is another paragraph, followed by the heading 'No Prior Knowledge' and a single bullet point. At the bottom left is a green button with a play icon and the text 'Resume Learning'.

 **Introduction to Cyber Security**

Cyber Security is a huge topic, and it can be challenging to know where to start. This path will give you a hands-on introduction to different areas within cyber, including:

- Careers in Cyber Security
- Offensive Security; hacking your first application
- Defensive Security; defending against a live cyber attack
- Exploring security topics in the industry

Completing this learning path will give you the knowledge to kick start your cyber journey.

No Prior Knowledge

- You need no prerequisite to start this pathway! Just enthusiasm and excitement to learn!

 [Resume Learning](#)

**Peter Kinyumu,
cs-sa07-24067,
May 15th, 2024.**

1. INTRODUCTION

This module provides an introduction to cybersecurity and foundational knowledge of the different careers in cybersecurity. It introduces the two major paths in cybersecurity: offensive security and defensive security. The offensive security room guides us through hacking our first application, a fake bank, and exploiting IDOR within a web app. In contrast, the defensive security room introduces us to the world of digital forensics and teaches us how to uncover traces left behind by attackers by exploring file metadata information.

2. ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

1. Introduction to cybersecurity

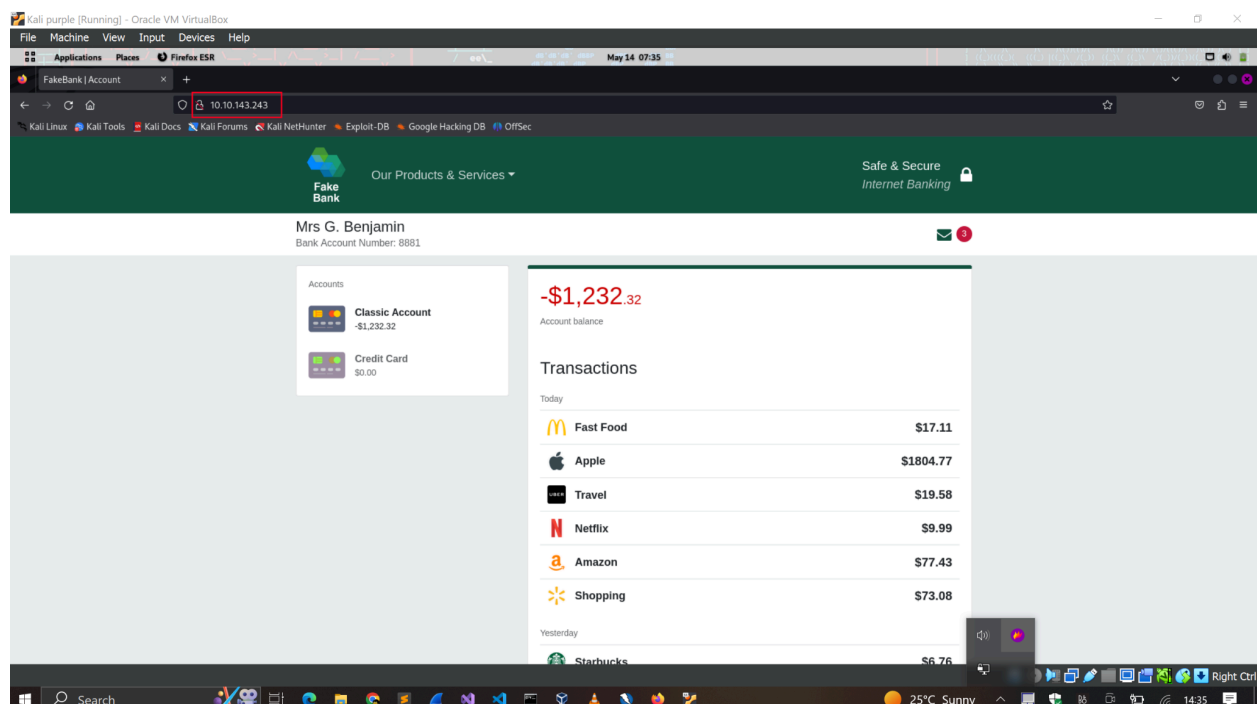
a. Which of the following options better represents the process where you simulate a hacker's actions to find vulnerabilities in a system?

- Offensive Security
- Defensive Security

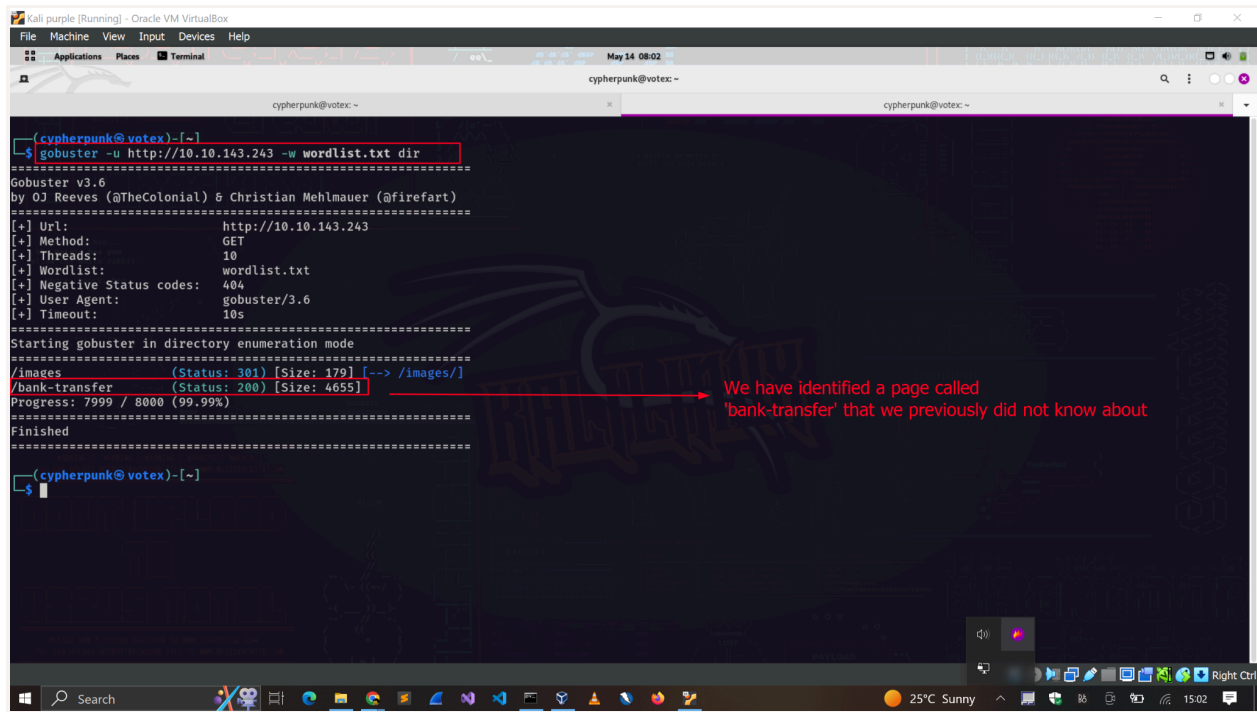
Offensive security is the correct answer because it involves breaking into computer systems to find loopholes and mitigate them before the attacker finds them.

b. Hacking your first machine

The machine I had access to from the challenge is the web application below called FakeBank.



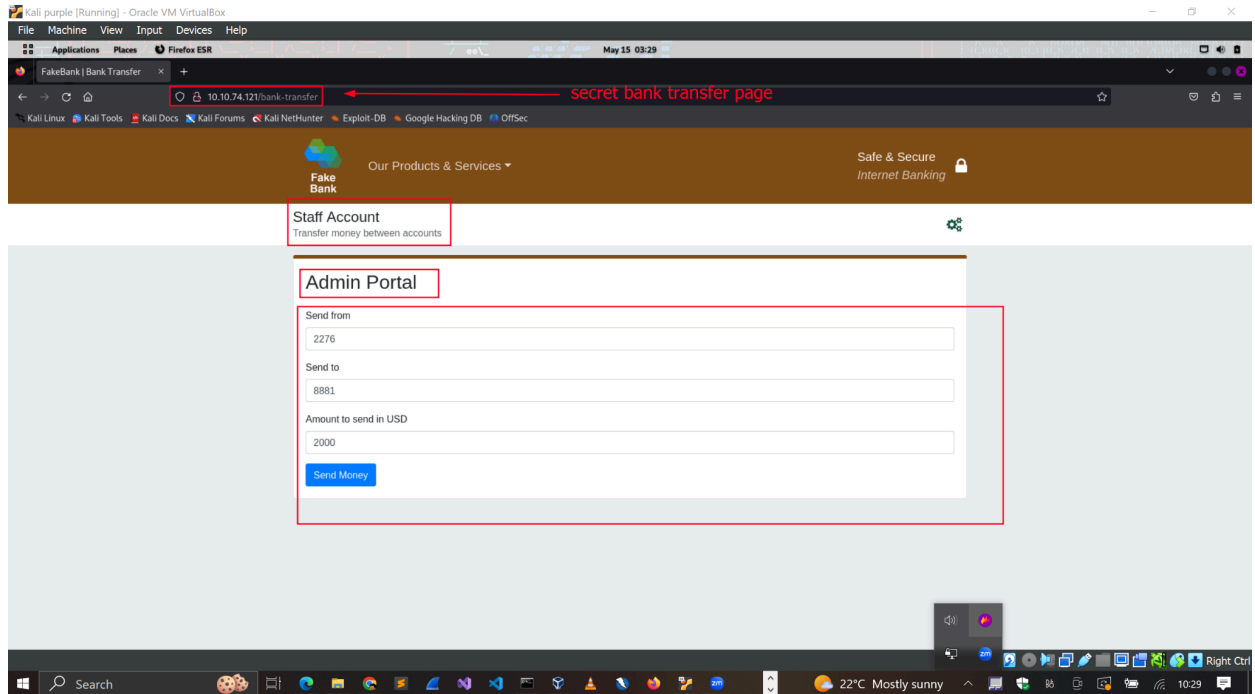
The first step was to use a tool called gobuster to perform a directory enumeration of the site, a brute-force approach to listing all pages that exist on the site using a list of potential directory names. The command used was `gobuster -u http://fakebank.com -w wordlist.txt dir.`



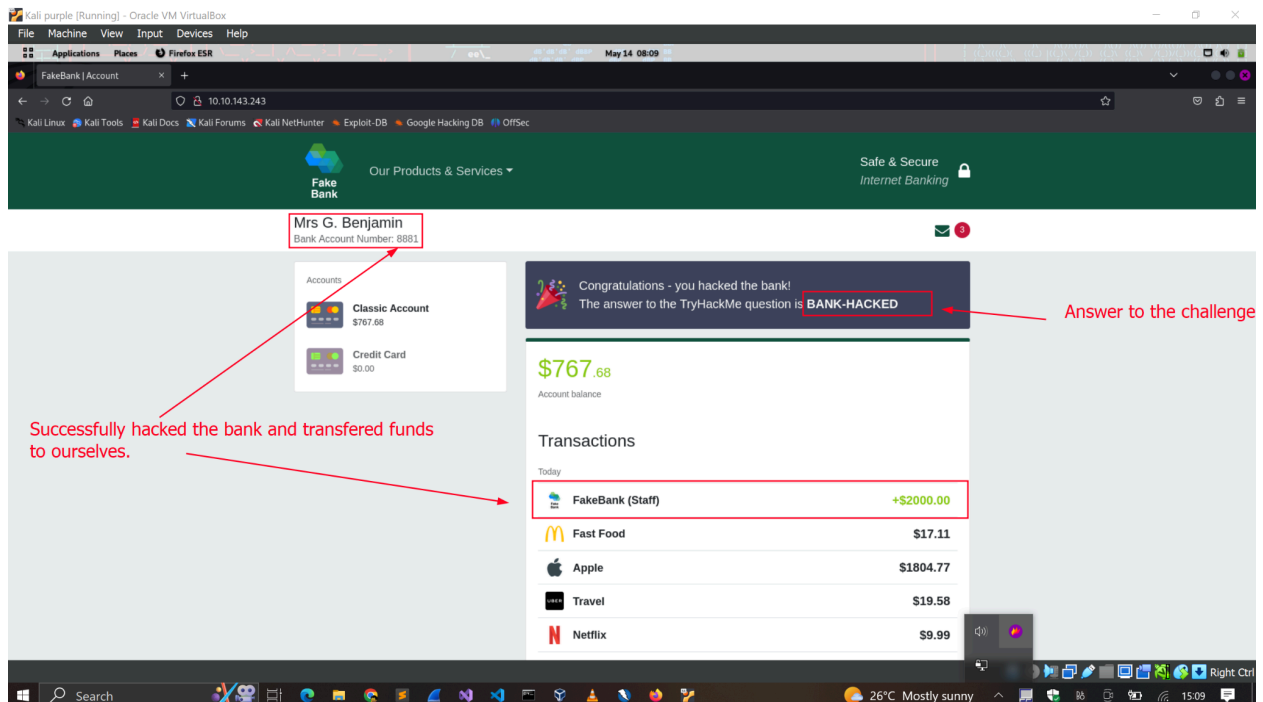
```
(cypherpunk@votex)-[~]
$ gobuster -u http://10.10.143.243 -w wordlist.txt dir
=====
Gobuster v3.6
by OJ Reeves (@TheColonial) & Christian Mehlmauer (@firefart)
=====
[+] Url: http://10.10.143.243
[+] Method: GET
[+] Threads: 10
[+] Wordlist: wordlist.txt
[+] Negative Status codes: 404
[+] User Agent: gobuster/3.6
[+] Timeout: 10s
=====
Starting gobuster in directory enumeration mode
=====
/images (Status: 301) [Size: 179] [--> /images/]
/bank-transfer (Status: 200) [Size: 4655]
Progress: 7999 / 8000 (99.99%)
Finished
=====
(cypherpunk@votex)-[~]
$
```

We have identified a page called 'bank-transfer' that we previously did not know about

From the command output, we uncovered a hidden path(directory) within the website that we did not know about before, the `bank-transfer` page. With the secret page we've identified, we can try to access it from the fakebank site.



Viola! We have access to an admin page that allows us to transfer funds between accounts! When we transfer \$2000 to ourselves as per the challenge, we get the answer to the question.



2. Introduction to Offensive Security

Web application security risks

Being able to brute-force a login for unlimited attempts without locking down the account falls under Identification and Authentication Failure. Saving passwords in cleartext is a vulnerability that falls under cryptographic failure.

The screenshot shows a quiz interface with two questions. The first question asks for the category of a security risk where a login page allows unlimited attempts without locking the account. The answer is 'Identification and Authentication Failure'. The second question asks for the category of a security risk where usernames and passwords are sent in cleartext. The answer is 'Cryptographic Failure'. Below the quiz is a task titled 'Task 3: Practical Example of Web Application Security'. At the bottom, there is a table with columns: 'Created by', 'Room Type', 'Users in Room', and 'Created'.

Answer the questions below

You discovered that the login page allows an unlimited number of login attempts without trying to slow down the user or lock the account. What is the category of this security risk?

Identification and Authentication Failure ✓ Correct Answer

You noticed that the username and password are sent in cleartext without encryption. What is the category of this security risk?

Cryptographic Failure ✓ Correct Answer

Task 3 Practical Example of Web Application Security

Created by	Room Type	Users in Room	Created
------------	-----------	---------------	---------

In this section, we'll be exploiting the Inventory management system shown below.

The screenshot shows a web browser with multiple tabs. The active tab is 'tryhackme.com/room/introwebapplicationsecurity'. The page content includes a tutorial on IDOR (Insecure Direct Object Reference) with examples of how an attacker can exploit sequential IDs to access unauthorized data. On the right, there is an 'Instructions' box for an inventory management system. Below the instructions is a screenshot of the 'Inventory Management System' interface, which shows a grid of images for different products: a bicycle, a scooter, and a motorcycle. The interface also has a navigation bar with 'Main', 'Planned Shipments', 'Inventory', and 'Your Activity' tabs.

Room progress (75%)

provide us with that image even if we figured out its name. In general, an IDOR vulnerability can occur if too much trust has been placed on that input data. In other words, the web application does not validate whether the user has permission to access the requested object.

Just providing the correct URL for a user or a product does not necessarily mean the user should be able to access that URL. For instance, consider the product page `https://store.tryhackme.thm/products/product?id=52`. We can expect this URL to provide details about product number 52. In the database, items would be assigned numbers sequentially. The attacker would try other numbers such as 51 or 53 instead of 52; this might reveal other retired or unreleased products if the web application is vulnerable.

Let's consider a more critical example; the URL `https://store.tryhackme.thm/customers/user?id=16` would return the user with `id=16`. Again, we expect the users to have sequential ID numbers. The attacker would try other numbers and possibly access other user accounts. This vulnerability might work with sequential files; for instance, if the attacker sees `007.txt`, the attacker might try other numbers such as `001.txt`, `006.txt`, and `008.txt`. Similarly, if you were ID number 16 and ID number 17 was another user, by changing the ID to 17, you could see sensitive data that belongs to another user. Likewise, they can change the ID to 16 and see sensitive data that belongs to you. (Of course, we assume here that the system is vulnerable to IDOR.)

Click on "View Site," and let's see this in action. You will see a page showing an Inventory Management System. If you click on the "Planned Shipments" tab, you will discover that an attacker has managed to mix things up as part of sabotage plans. Notice how they send the wrong tires to each assembly line; for instance, they assign scooter tires and motorcycle tires to bike assembly! If left unfixed, all tires will go to the wrong assembly.

Instructions

This inventory management system manages all the shipments related to tires. A competitor sent a group of malicious actors to sabotage our logistics. The attackers used the account of one of the employees and mixed up the planned shipments. If incorrect shipments are sent, production will be delayed.

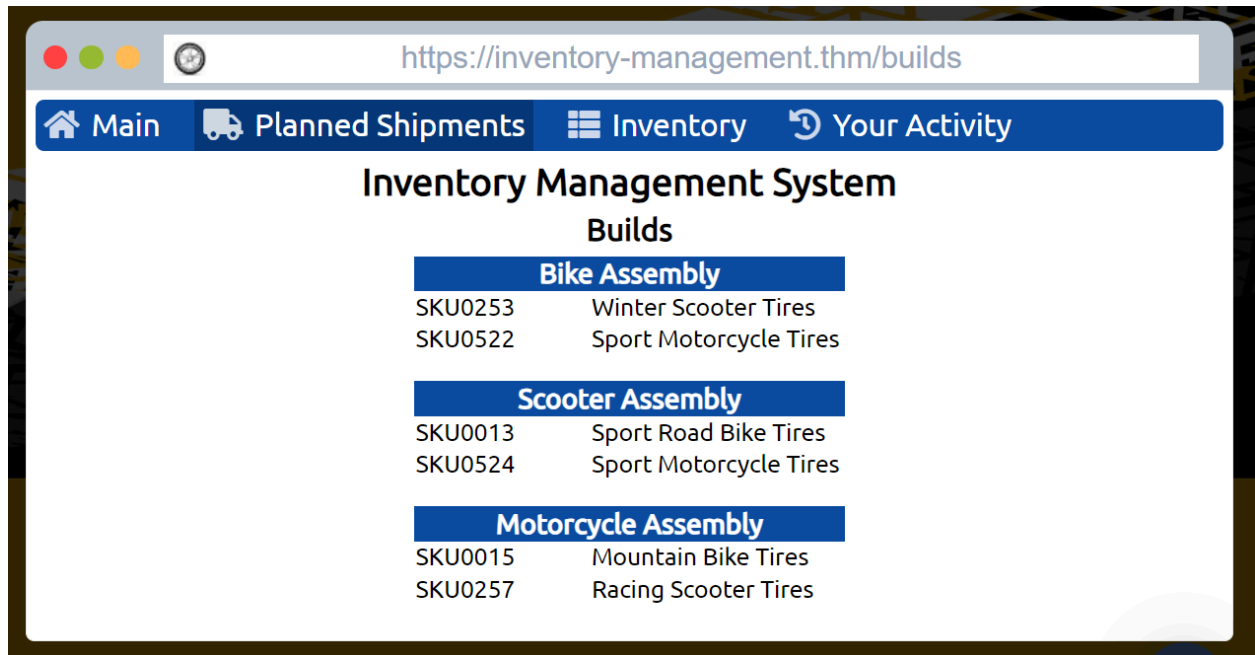
https://inventory-management.thm/

Main Planned Shipments Inventory Your Activity

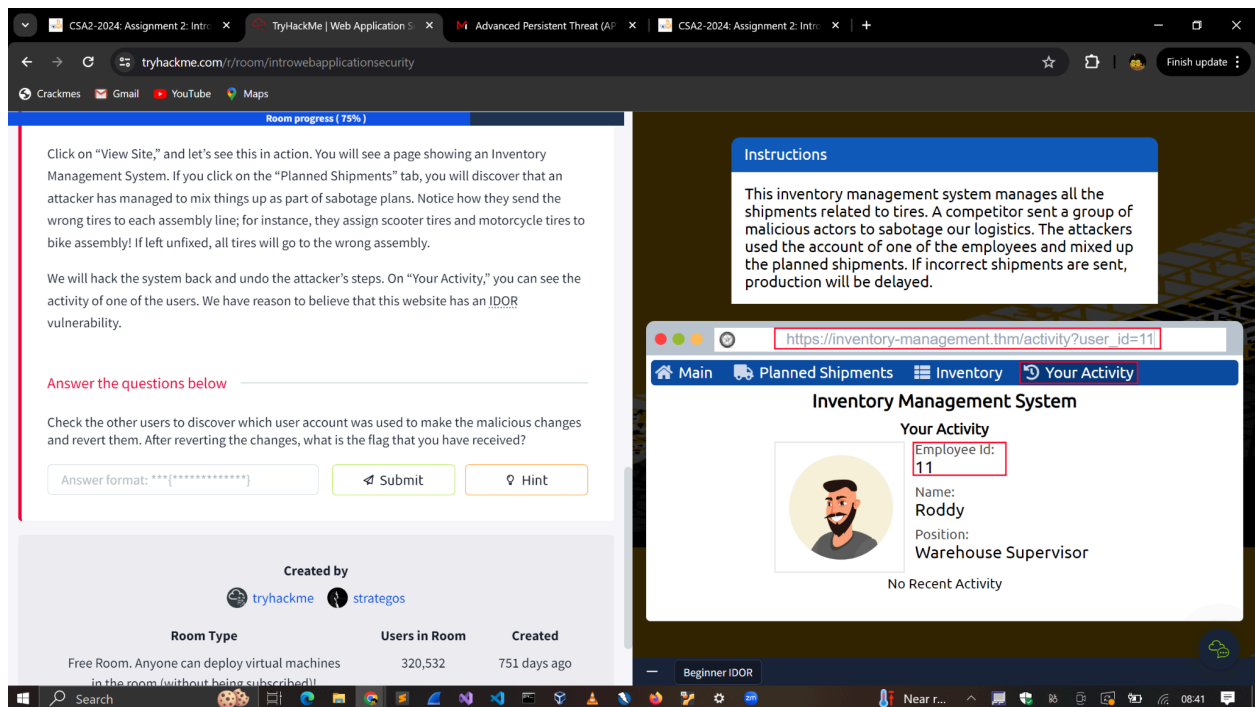
Inventory Management System Orders

Beginner IDOR

When we access planned shipments, we discover that somethings have been mixed up. An attacker has hacked the system and sent the wrong tyres to the wrong assembly line. Our job is to hack back and revert the changes.



When we look at your **Your activity** tab, we note that the employee id is used in the request to access the employee information. That means we can pass any employee id like 12 and perhaps we can view information of other employees. This poses a risk called IDOR (Indirect Object Reference)



So, our goal is to discover which user account was used to make the malicious changes and revert them. Guessing different employee IDs from 1... we uncover that the user account with employee ID 9 (Database administrator) was used to make the malicious changes.

Room progress (75%)

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We will hack the system back and undo the attacker's steps. On "Your Activity," you can see the activity of one of the users. We have reason to believe that this website has an IDOR vulnerability.

Answer the questions below

Check the other users to discover which user account was used to make the malicious changes and revert them. After reverting the changes, what is the flag that you have received?

Answer format: ***{*****}

Submit Hint

Created by tryhackme strategos

Room Type Free Room. Anyone can deploy virtual machines

Users in Room 320,532

Created 751 days ago

Beginner IDOR

https://inventory-management.thm/activity?user_id=9

Inventory Management System

Your Activity

Employee Id: 9

Name: Alya

Position: Database Administrator

Type	Data	Action
SKU Change	Inventory SKU0013 Changed	Revert
SKU Change	Inventory SKU0015 Changed	Revert
SKU Change	Inventory SKU0253 Changed	Revert
SKU Change	Inventory SKU0257 Changed	Revert
SKU Change	Inventory SKU0522 Changed	Revert
SKU Change	Inventory SKU0524 Changed	Revert

Let's revert the changes. We get the flag.

Room progress (75%)

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Beginner IDOR

https://inventory-management.thm/activity?user_id=9

Inventory Management System

Your Activity

Employee Id: 9

Name: Alya

Position: Database Administrator

Type	Data	Action
SKU Change	Inventory SKU0013 Changed	Revert
SKU Change	Inventory SKU0015 Changed	Revert
SKU Change	Inventory SKU0253 Changed	Revert
SKU Change	Inventory SKU0257 Changed	Revert
SKU Change	Inventory SKU0522 Changed	Revert
SKU Change	Inventory SKU0524 Changed	Revert

Alya fixed the Inventory Management System!

THM{IDOR_EXPLORED}

3. Introduction to Defensive Security

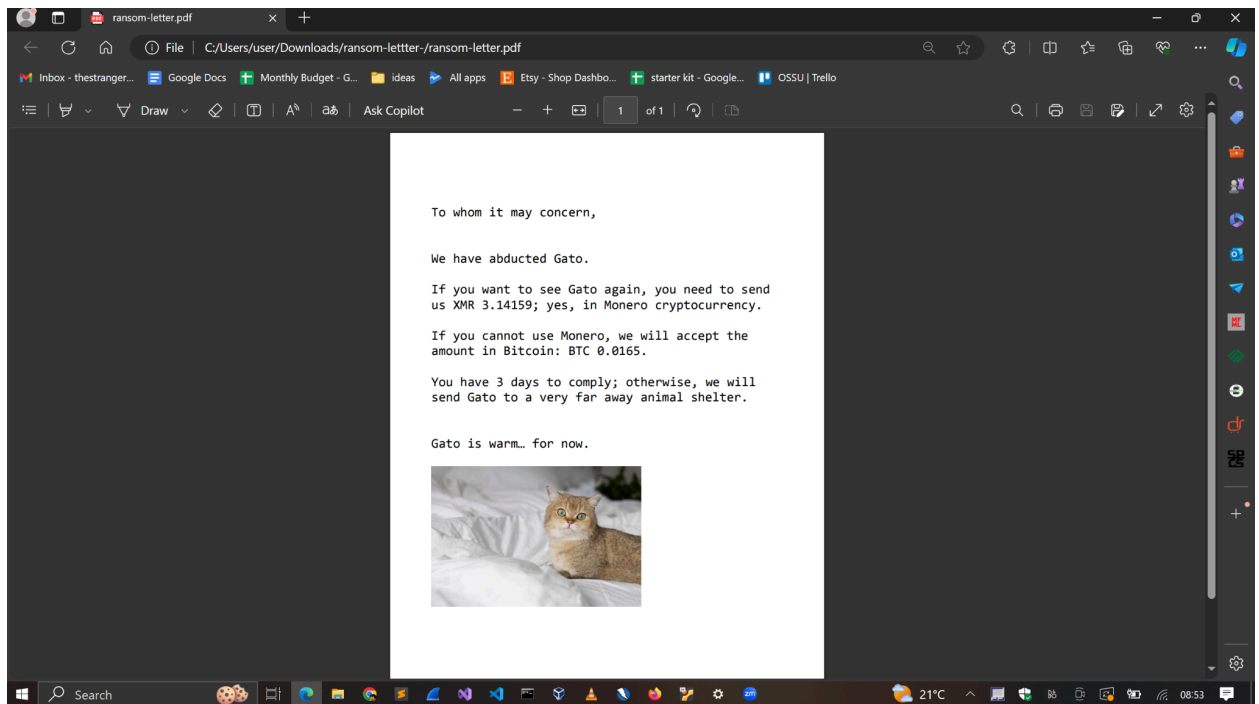
Introduction to Digital Forensics

- a. **It is essential to keep track of who is handling it at any point in time to ensure that evidence is admissible in the court of law. What is the name of the documentation that would help establish that?**

Chain of custody, in legal contexts, is the chronological documentation or paper trail that records the sequence of custody, control, transfer, analysis, and disposition of materials, including physical or electronic evidence. This protects its integrity and ensures it is admissible in court.

- b. **Our cat, Gato, has been kidnapped. The kidnapper has sent us a document with their requests.**

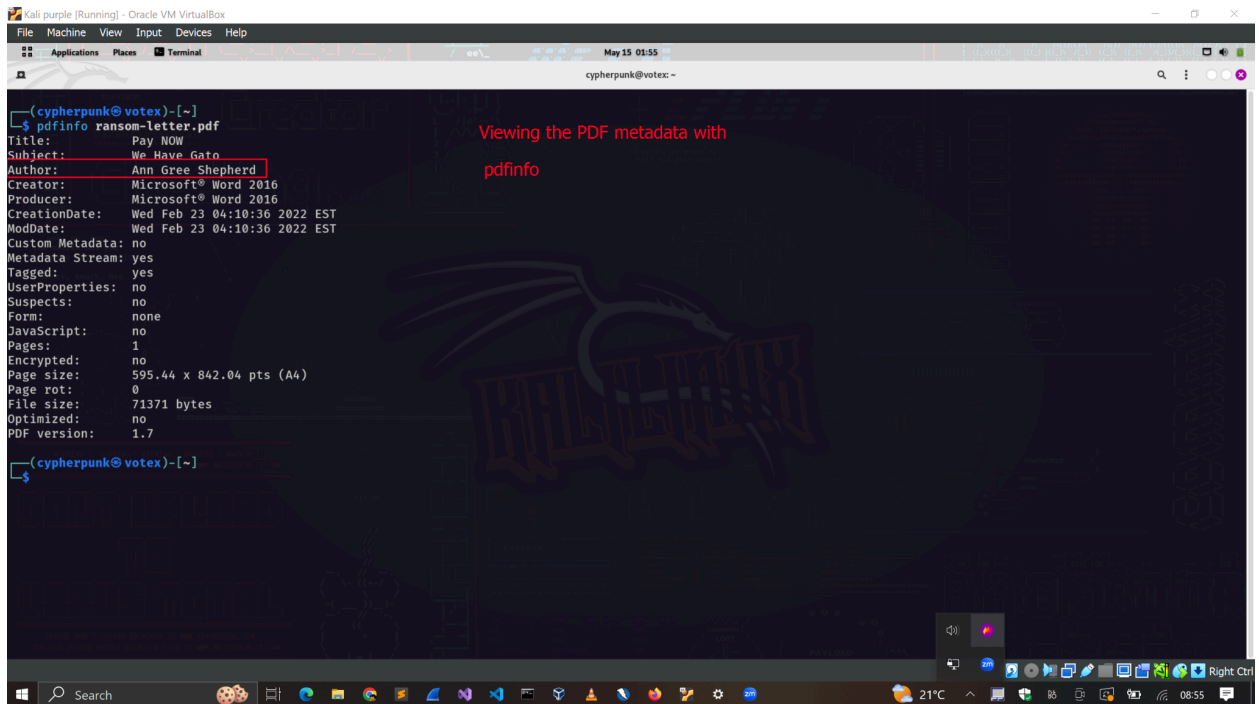
Our goal is to analyze the metadata information to uncover some evidence details about the hacker.



Metadata refers to data about data. Every file contains some properties about itself like the creation time, modification time, size, sometimes even geolocation information for images. We can leverage this to analyze the information of the files sent by the attacker and see what we can identify.

The **pdfinfo** command can be used to view the metadata information of any pdf file.

I. Using pdftinfo, find out the author of the attached PDF file, ransom-letter.pdf.



```
(cyberpunk@votex)-[~]
$ pdftinfo ransom-letter.pdf
Title:      Pay NOW
Subject:    We Have Gato
Author:     Ann Gree Shepherd
Creator:    Microsoft® Word 2016
Producer:   Microsoft® Word 2016
CreationDate: Wed Feb 23 04:10:36 2022 EST
ModDate:    Wed Feb 23 04:10:36 2022 EST
Custom Metadata: no
Metadata Stream: yes
Tagged:     yes
UserProperties: no
Suspects:   no
Form:       none
JavaScript: no
Pages:      1
Encrypted:  no
Page size:  595.44 x 842.04 pts (A4)
Page rot:   0
File size:  71371 bytes
Optimized:  no
PDF version: 1.7

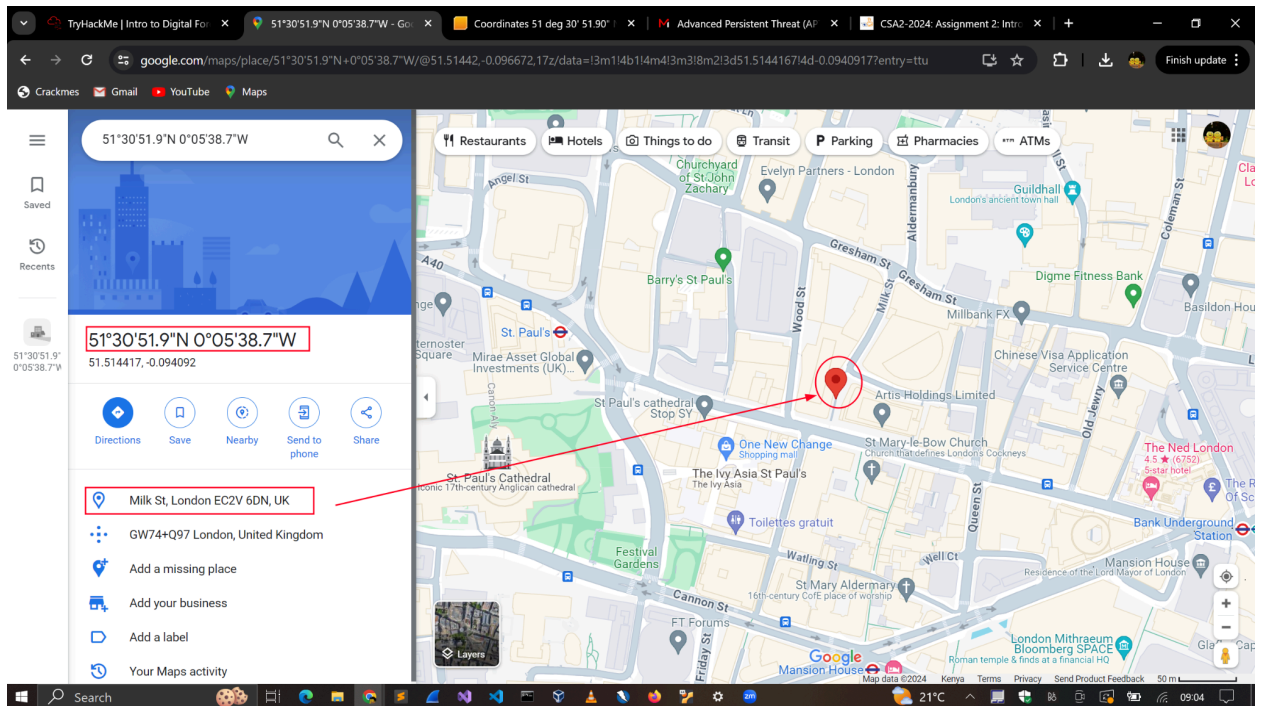
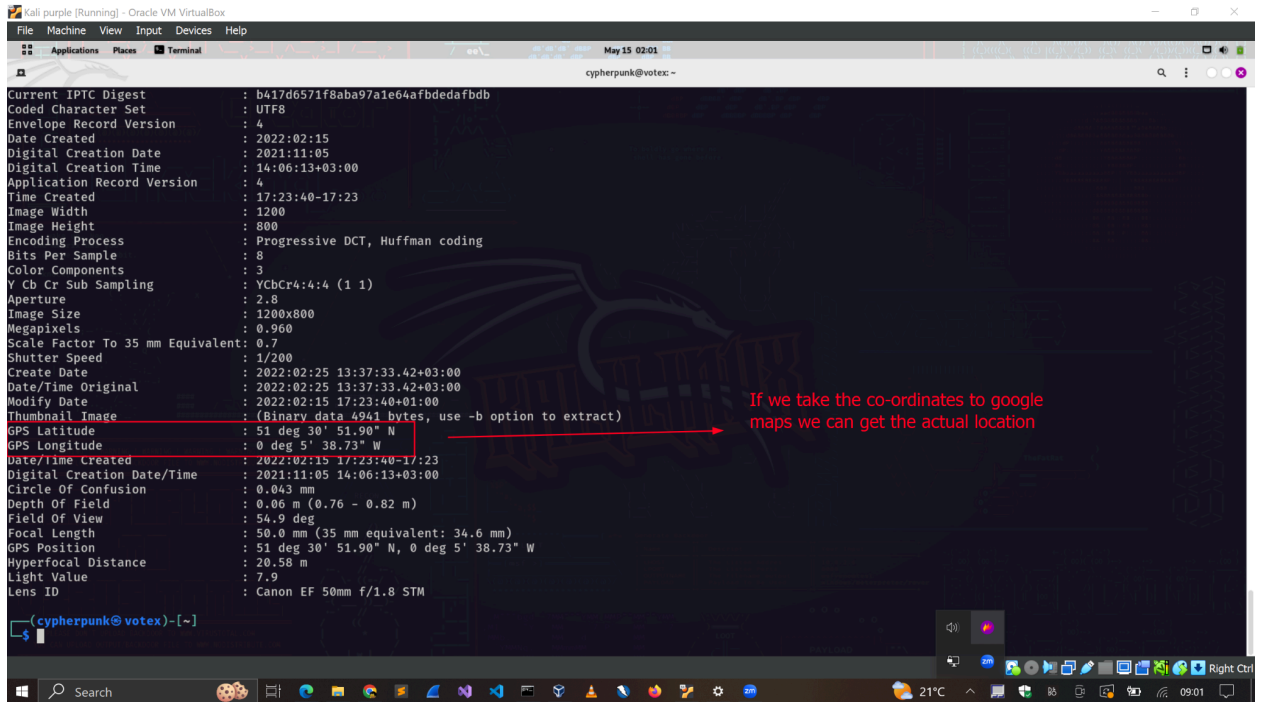
(cyberpunk@votex)-[~]
$
```

Viewing the PDF metadata with
pdftinfo

EXIF(Exchangeable Image File Format) is the metadata information for image files. This information may contain the camera model used to capture the info, date and time and sometimes the geolocation position where the image was captured.

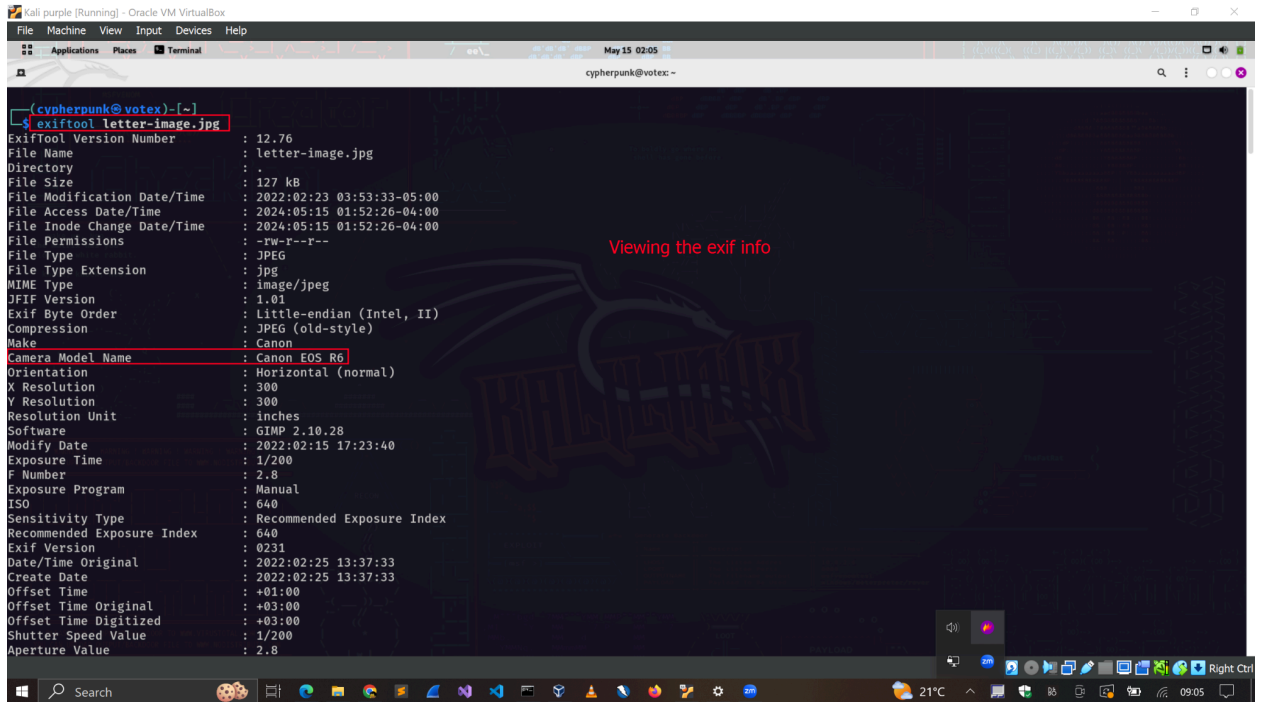
II. Using exiftool or any similar tool, try to find where the kidnappers took the image they attached to their document. What is the name of the street?

```
exiftool image-letter.jpg
```

The street where the image was captured is the **Milk Street** in London.

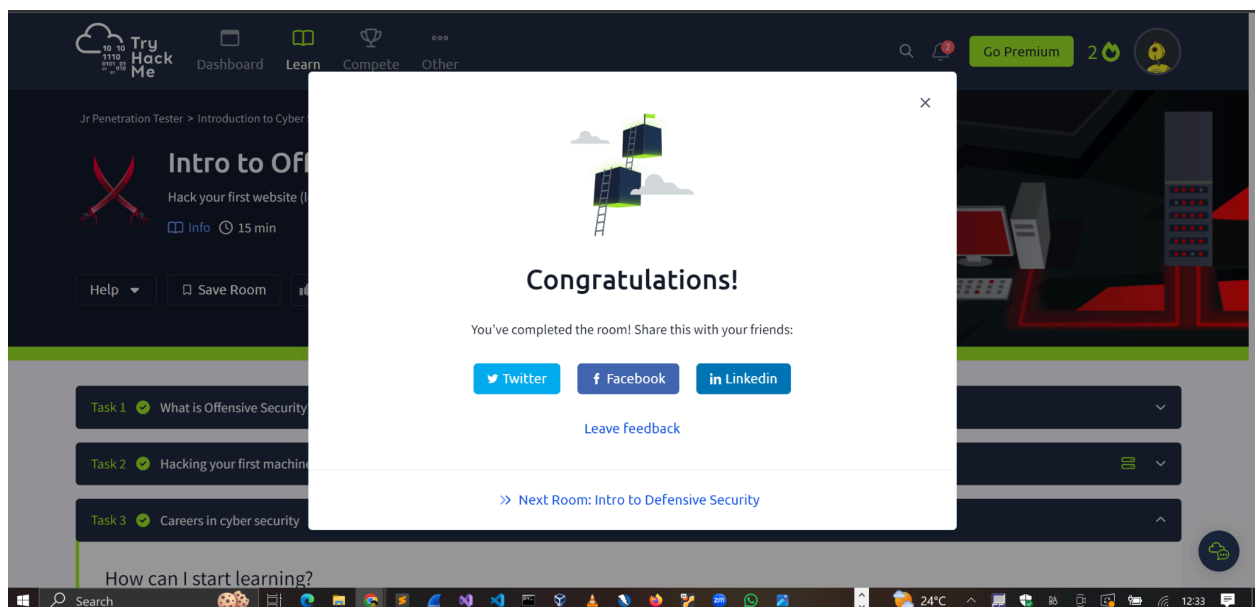
III. What is the model name of the camera used to take this photo?



```
(cypherpunk@vortex)-[~]
$ exiftool letter-image.jpg
ExifTool Version Number      : 12.76
File Name                    : letter-image.jpg
Directory                   : .
File Size                    : 127 kB
File Modification Date/Time  : 2022:02:23 03:53:33-05:00
File Access Date/Time       : 2024:05:15 01:52:26-04:00
File Inode Change Date/Time  : 2024:05:15 01:52:26-04:00
File Permissions             : -rw-r--r--
File Type                   : JPEG
File Type Extension         : jpg
MIME Type                   : image/jpeg
JFIF Version                 : 1.01
Exif Byte Order              : Little-endian (Intel, II)
Compression                 : JPEG (old-style)
Make                        : Canon
Camera Model Name            : Canon EOS R6
Orientation                  : Horizontal (normal)
X Resolution                 : 300
Y Resolution                 : 300
Resolution Unit              : inches
Software                    : GIMP 2.10.28
Modify Date                  : 2022:02:15 17:23:40
Exposure Time                : 1/200
F Number                    : 2.8
Exposure Program             : Manual
ISO                          : 640
Sensitivity Type             : Recommended Exposure Index
Recommended Exposure Index   : 640
Exif Version                 : 0231
Date/Time Original           : 2022:02:25 13:37:33
Create Date                  : 2022:02:25 13:37:33
Offset Time                  : +01:00
Offset Time Original         : +03:00
Offset Time Digitized        : +03:00
Shutter Speed Value          : 1/200
Aperture Value               : 2.8
```

3. MODULE COMPLETION

There was no sharable link provided for the completion of the three specific rooms.



4. CONCLUSION

This was a very insightful lesson on the introduction to cybersecurity. I have learnt about directory enumeration, which is discovering hidden directories within a web application that could provide a way to gain unauthorised access. I learned how to achieve this using a tool called **gobuster**. Additionally, I have learned about web application security risks and vulnerabilities like Broken access control and Cryptographic failures and managed to exploit an IDOR vulnerability within a web application. Lastly, I learned about digital forensics and how to use tools like **exiftool** and **pdfinfo** to investigate the metadata information of files.

This was a fun experience, and I look forward to exploiting more web vulnerabilities and catching attackers with more digital forensics skills.