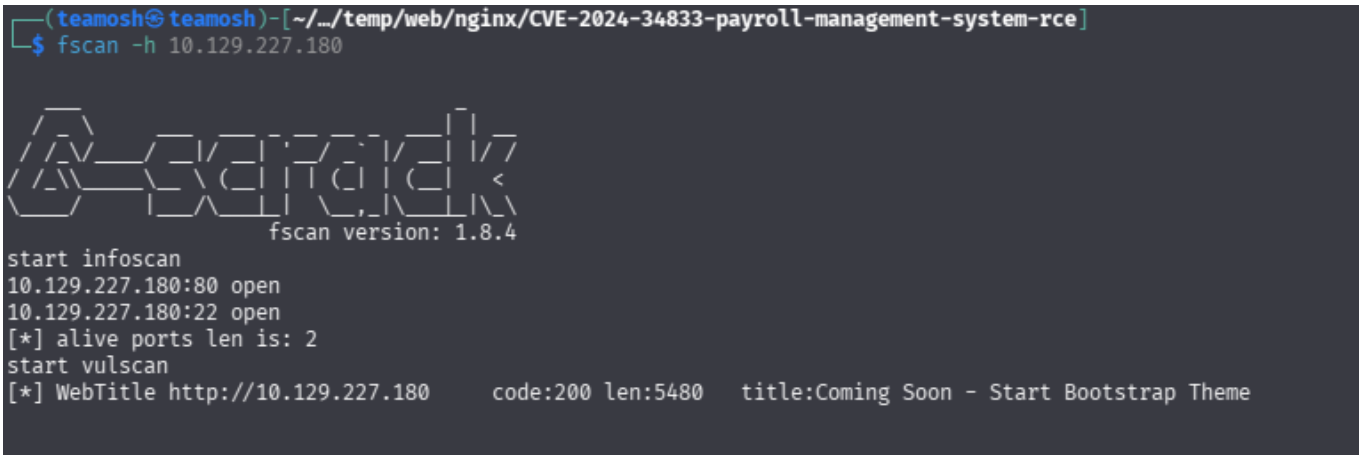
Linux machine that tests your #enumeration #osint #priv-esc #sudo-l #sqlmap #lfi #dig skills.

User flag

Enumeration:

fscan :

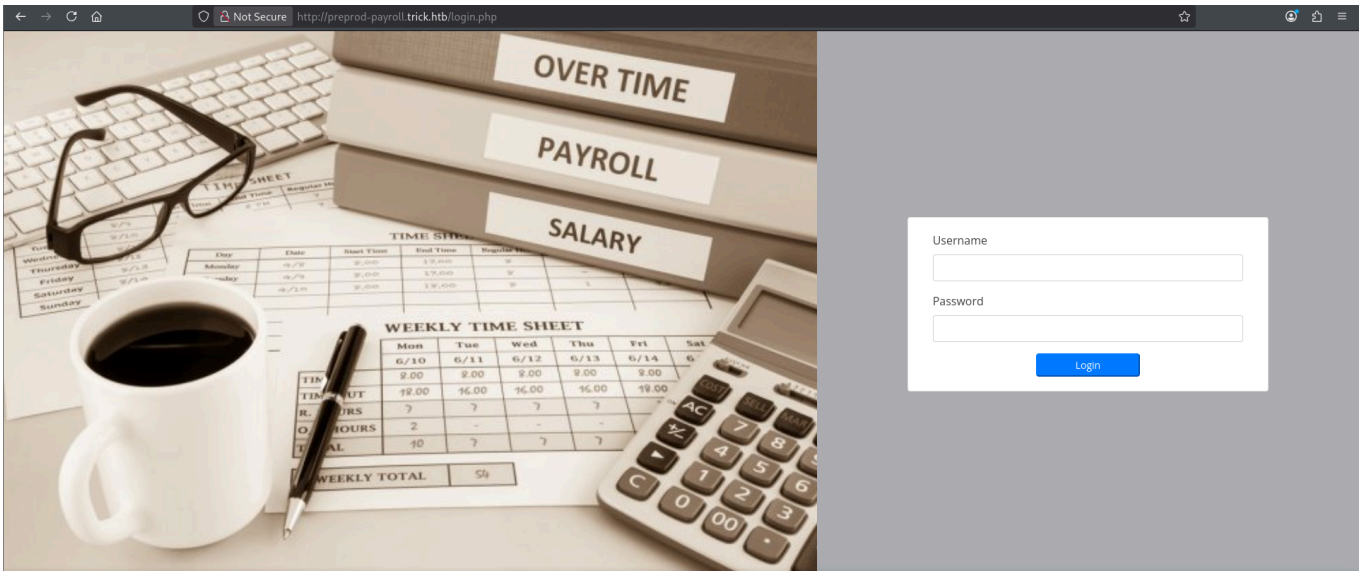



```
Website is empty, so we enumerate further > DNS -> reverse lookup
```

```
┌──(teamosh㉿teamosh)-[~]
└─$ dig @10.129.227.180 -x 10.129.227.180

; <<>> DiG 9.20.15-2-Debian <<>> @10.129.227.180 -x 10.129.227.180
; (1 server found)
;; global options: +cmd
;; Got answer:
;; ->>HEADER<<- opcode: QUERY, status: NOERROR, id: 22673
;; flags: qr aa rd; QUERY: 1, ANSWER: 1, AUTHORITY: 1, ADDITIONAL: 3
;; WARNING: recursion requested but not available

;; OPT PSEUDOSECTION:
; EDNS: version: 0, flags:; udp: 4096
; COOKIE: 65d7a0619c6c6a7d7d11c0086971270c74059962d89ab4d1 (good)
;; QUESTION SECTION:
;180.227.129.10.in-addr.arpa.   IN      PTR

;; ANSWER SECTION:
180.227.129.10.in-addr.arpa. 604800 IN  PTR     trick.htb.

;; AUTHORITY SECTION:
227.129.10.in-addr.arpa. 604800 IN      NS      trick.htb.

;; ADDITIONAL SECTION:
trick.htb.              604800  IN      A       127.0.0.1
trick.htb.              604800  IN      AAAA    ::1

;; Query time: 96 msec
;; SERVER: 10.129.227.180#53(10.129.227.180) (UDP)
;; WHEN: Wed Jan 21 15:20:43 AST 2026
;; MSG SIZE  rcvd: 165
```

We got our domain, so we try zone transfer, which was succesful and gave us a new endpoint with login page.

```
┌──(teamosh㉿teamosh)-[~/htb/temp/web]
└─$ dig axfr @10.129.227.180 trick.htb

; <<>> DiG 9.20.15-2-Debian <<>> axfr @10.129.227.180 trick.htb
; (1 server found)
;; global options: +cmd
trick.htb.              604800  IN      SOA     trick.htb. root.trick.htb. 5 604800 86400 2419200 604800
trick.htb.              604800  IN      NS      trick.htb.
trick.htb.              604800  IN      A       127.0.0.1
trick.htb.              604800  IN      AAAA    ::1
preprod-payroll.trick.htb. 604800 IN    CNAME   trick.htb.
trick.htb.              604800  IN      SOA     trick.htb. root.trick.htb. 5 604800 86400 2419200 604800
;; Query time: 352 msec
;; SERVER: 10.129.227.180#53(10.129.227.180) (TCP)
;; WHEN: Wed Jan 21 15:22:34 AST 2026
;; XFR size: 6 records (messages 1, bytes 231)
```



By using wappalyzer we identify that it is php and later by analyzing login page request\response we can see that it is vulnerable to sqli. Response seems weird and UNION works strangely so the safe bet is trying time-based sqlmap, which was successfull -> enumerate db -> dump account (administrator credentials), which were useless, but after checking permissions we can see that we have FILE permissions, which is basically LFI on crack. Test it using /etc/passwd -> found user michael -> try to enumerate further.

Since we know that it is nginx, we can try to read nginx conf files like "/etc/nginx/sites-enabled/default", which was successful and opened us a new endpoint that uses michael's permissions - reprod-marketing.trick.htb. The site itself is useless, but by navigating through pages we see that endpoints are being passed as files with extentions -> possible LFI exploit -> ../ does not work, so we try to bypass it using ....// , which works and now we can read michael's files.

TIP: catch request like that in burp and import it to a file directly, it saves you time and prevents you from troubleshooting and tackling SSH PRIVATE KEY syntax errors

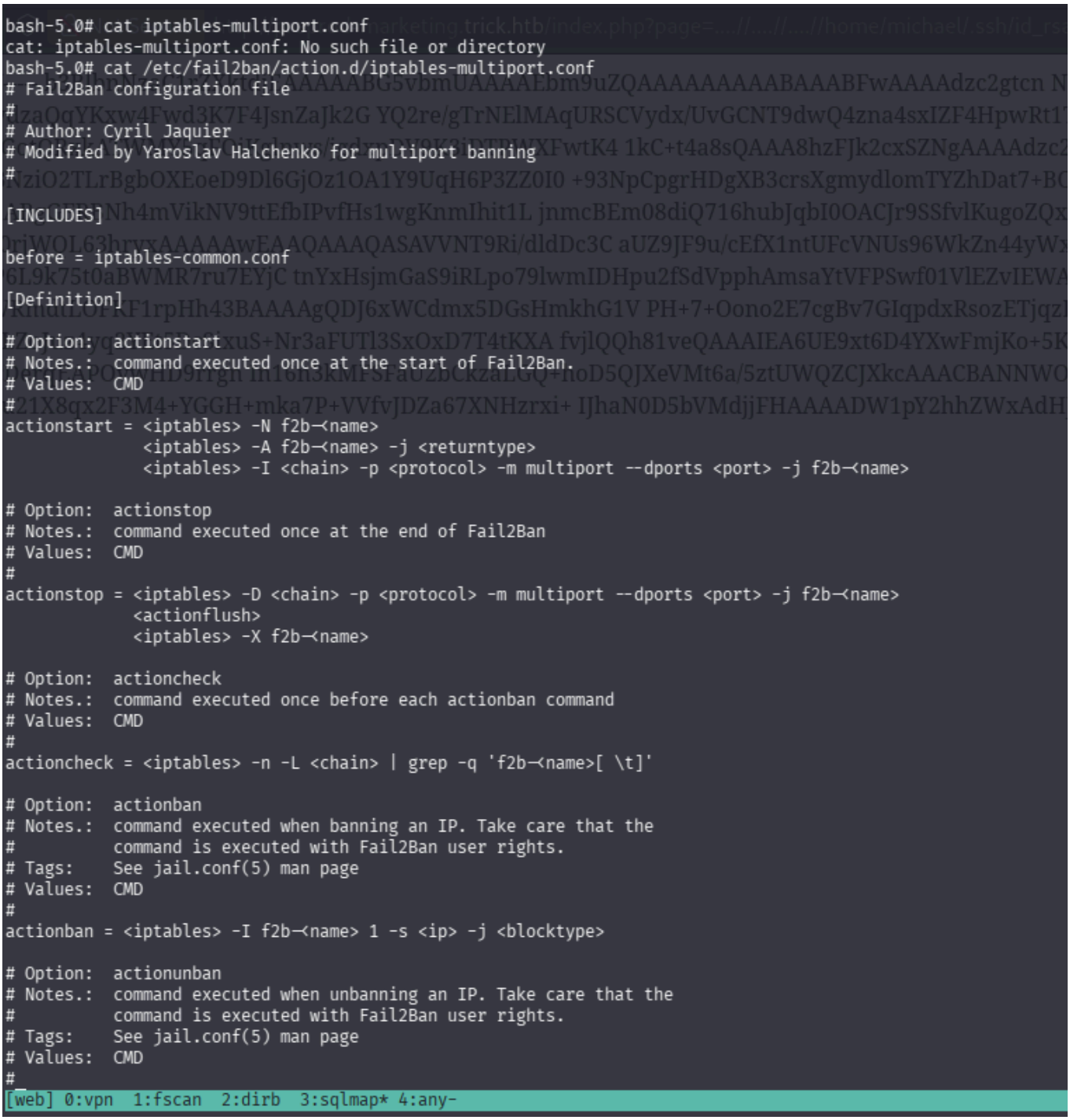
After logging in, we get user flag.

Root flag

Like a real chad, you type "sudo -l" and encounter the following text:

```
michael@trick:~/$ sudo -l
Matching Defaults entries for michael on trick:
    env_reset, mail_badpass,
secure_path=/usr/local/sbin\:/usr/local/bin\:/usr/sbin\:/usr/bin\:/sbin\:/bin

User michael may run the following commands on trick:
    (root) NOPASSWD: /etc/init.d/fail2ban restart
```

Basically you can "sudo etc/init.d/fail2ban restart" on the system. After reading and researching what fail2ban is, we understand that it is a service design to ban\block bad boys that are trying to bruteforce\hack into our server.
 We go to /etc/fail2ban/ and do "ls -la" and see that everything is root, except "/etc/init.d/fail2ban restart", which is under "security" group, fortunately michael is in security as well (you can check taht by typing "id"), which means we can modify that directory. The key file there is "iptables-multiport.conf" that contains the following (Honestly, I identified that using trial and error + ChatGPT, maybe there is another files that can be changed, but only this one seemed to work):



Here we can see the "actionban" row, which is responsible for - "what to do when banning". So we change that to any command (In my scenario I just gave -s permission to /bin/bash), which will run with root priveleges.

Perfect, now we just need to restart the service and evoke banning behavior. It can be done easily by using hydra for user michael, which "should" ban our IP, but instead runs our malicious command.

```
bash-5.0# ls -la /bin/bash
-rwsr-sr-x 1 root root 1168776 Apr 18  2019 /bin/bash
bash-5.0# id
uid=1001(michael) gid=1001(michael) euid=0(root) egid=0(root) groups=0(root),1001(michael),1002(security)
bash-5.0# _
[web] 0:vpn  1:fscan  2:dirb  3:sqlmap* 4:any-
```