

Deployment Of Web Application Scanner - N-Stalker

By Michael Emil Santos

Introduction:

Web Application Vulnerability Scanners are automated tools that scan web applications. It is designed to help security professionals identify security vulnerabilities in web applications and websites, such as Cross-site scripting, SQL Injection, Command Injection, Path/directory traversal and insecure server configuration. **N-Stalker** Web Application Scanner is applied to check the Badstore website vulnerability in this lab and we will practice how to use it and address benefits of such a tool.

The website BadStore.net was created to demonstrate the widespread security vulnerabilities that are present in many programmes that are accessible via internal networks, extranets, and the Internet. Many people tasked with designing operating, and securing Web Applications have never seen the variety of attacks available to compromise these applications – or what they can do to protect these applications. To run the BadStore.net application, it can be used under a virtual environment, such as VirtualBox or VMWare.

This project demonstrates the use of N-Stalker, a web application vulnerability scanner, to identify security gaps in a web application (BadStore.net). The scan aimed to detect common vulnerabilities like Cross-Site Scripting (XSS), SQL Injection, and insecure configurations, providing actionable recommendations to improve the application's security.

Project Objectives and Steps

1. Setting Up the Target Web Application

- **Objective:** Deploy BadStore.net in a virtual environment to simulate a vulnerable web application.
- **Steps:** Installed and configured BadStore.net as the target for testing, representing a realistic security assessment scenario.

2. Running the N-Stalker Vulnerability Scan

- **Objective:** Identify web application vulnerabilities by performing a comprehensive scan.
- **Steps:** Configured N-Stalker with the OWASP Policy and ran a full scan. N-Stalker detected common web security issues, including XSS, HTTP Parameter Pollution, and insecure cookie configurations.

3. Analyzing the Report and Findings

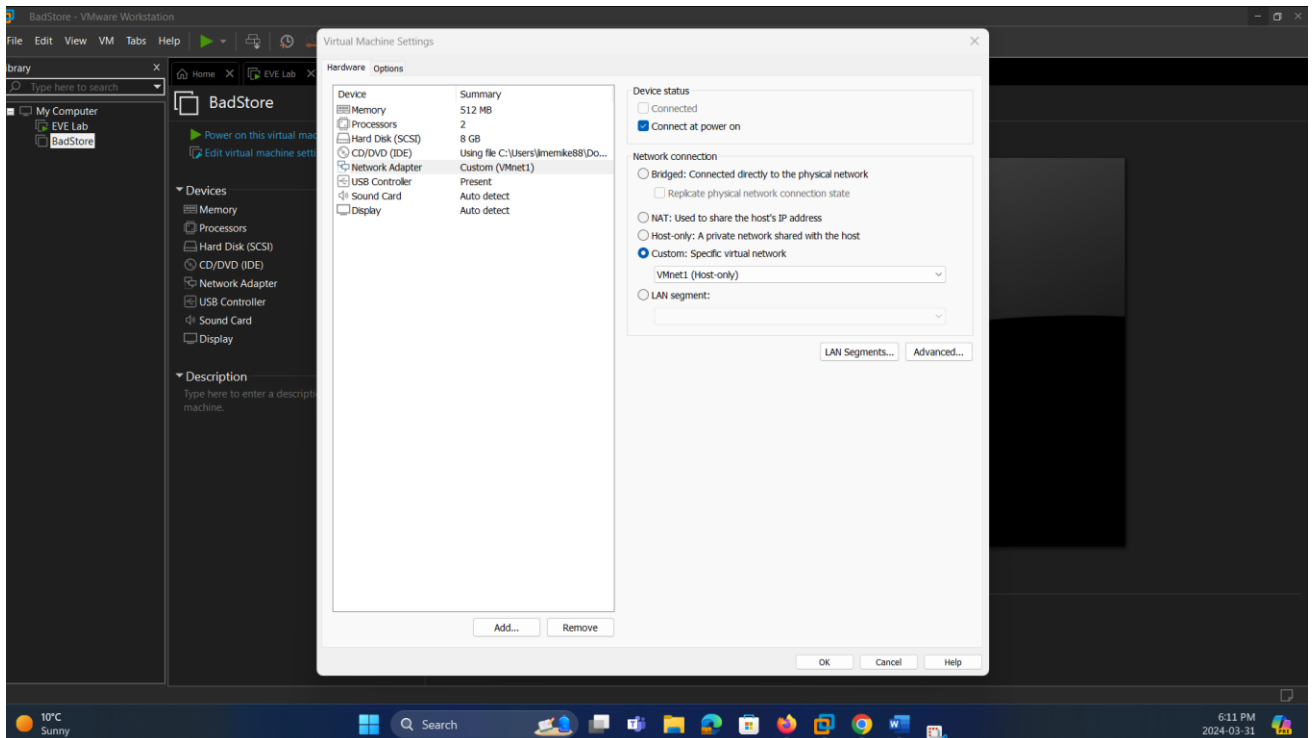
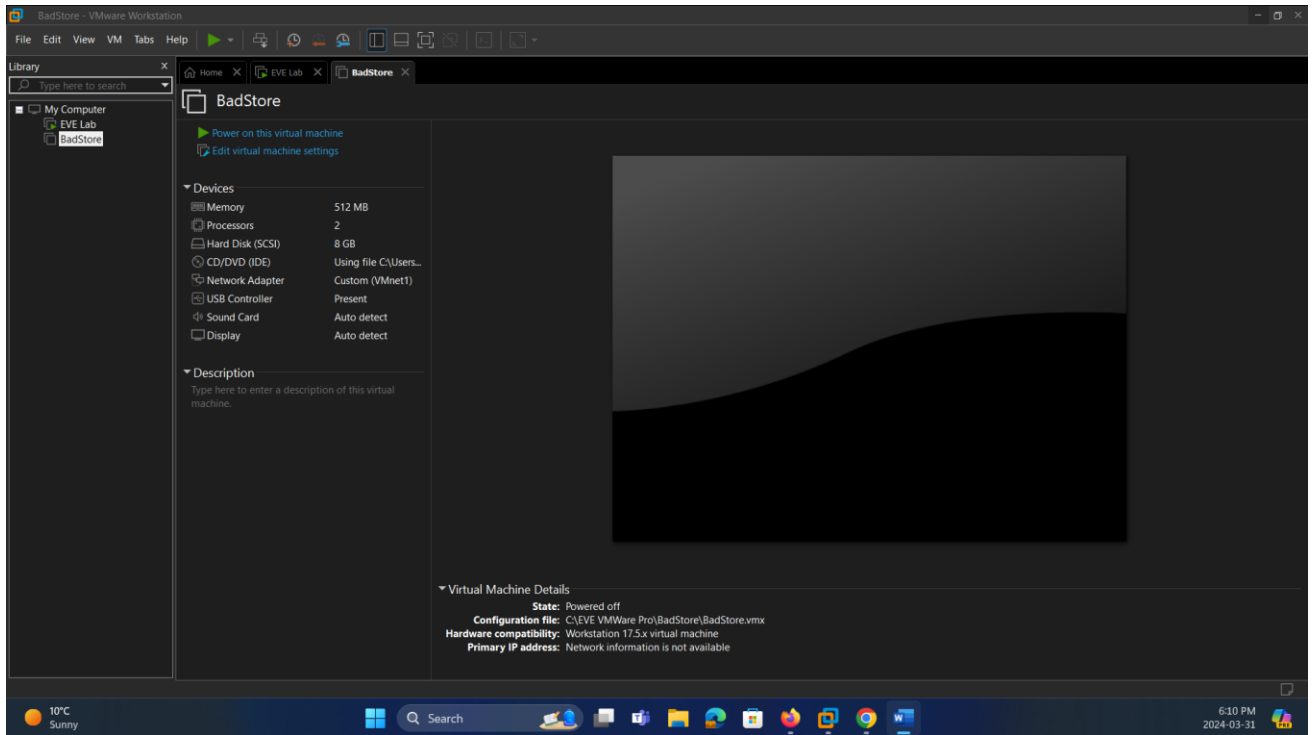
- **Objective:** Review scan results and prioritize vulnerabilities for remediation.
- **Steps:** Examined the report to understand detected issues, severity levels, and detailed insights into vulnerabilities like Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF) and insecure authentication methods.

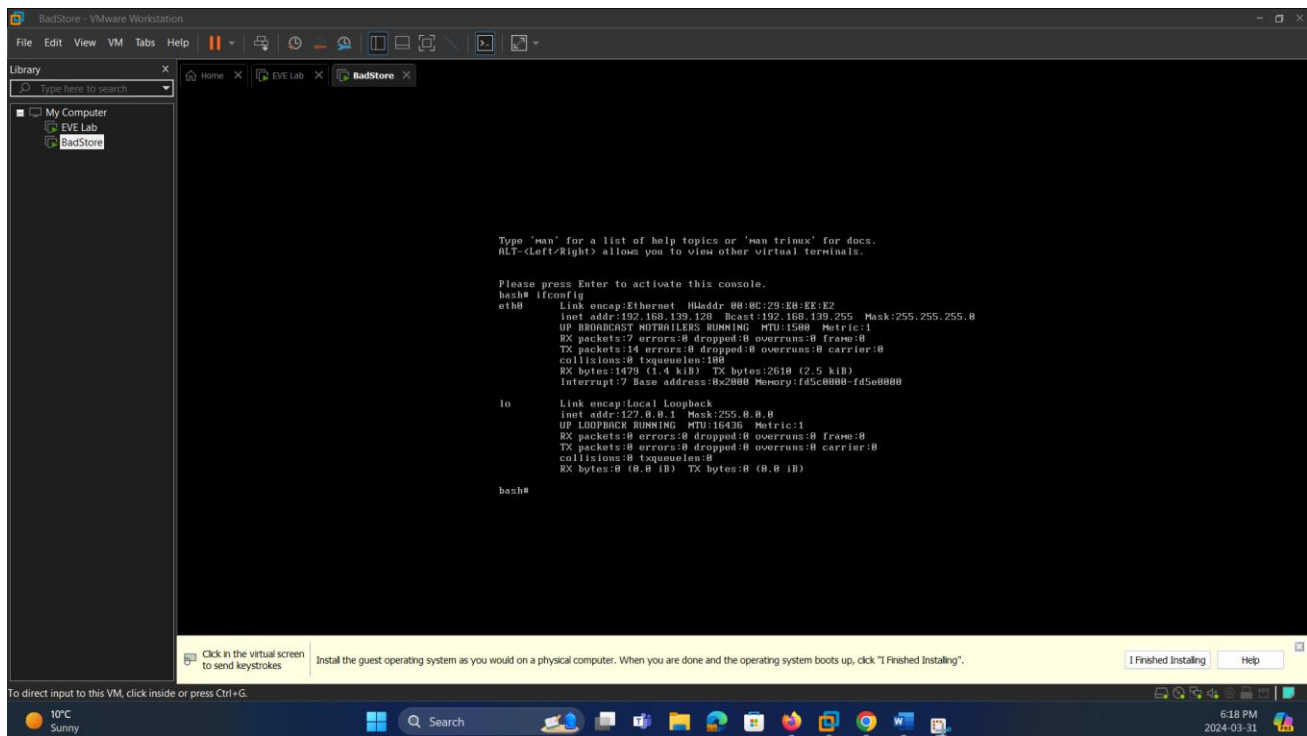
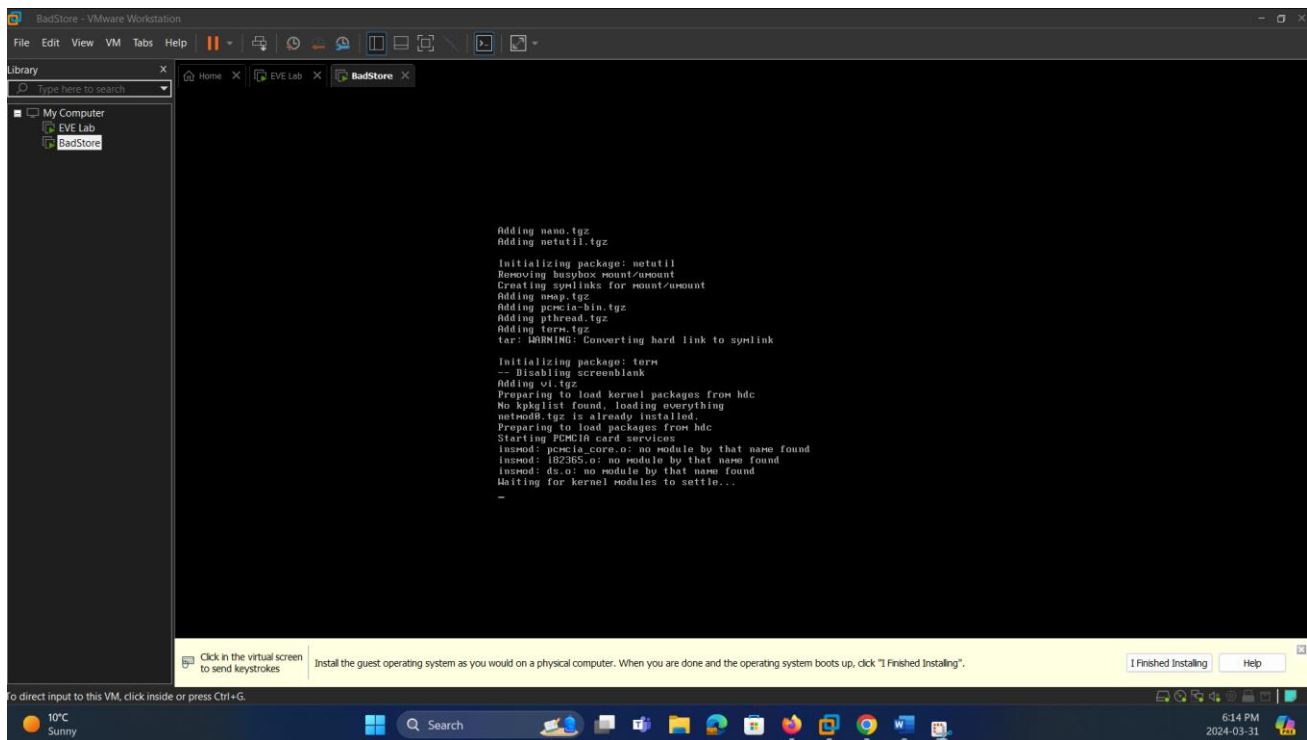
4. Recommendations for Security Enhancement

- **Objective:** Provide a roadmap to mitigate identified risks and strengthen the application's security.
- **Steps:** Developed recommendations focusing on secure coding practices, implementing secure cookie attributes, and updating protocols. Prioritized actions based on severity to address critical vulnerabilities first.

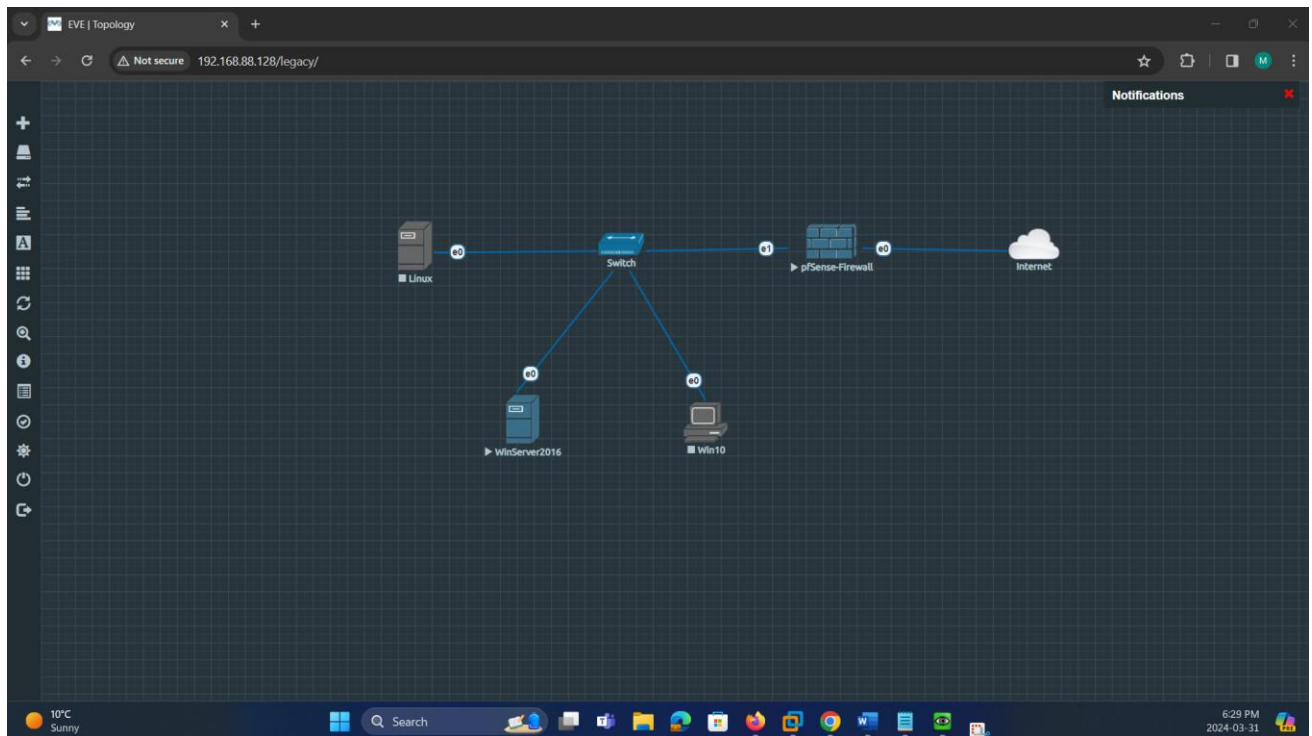
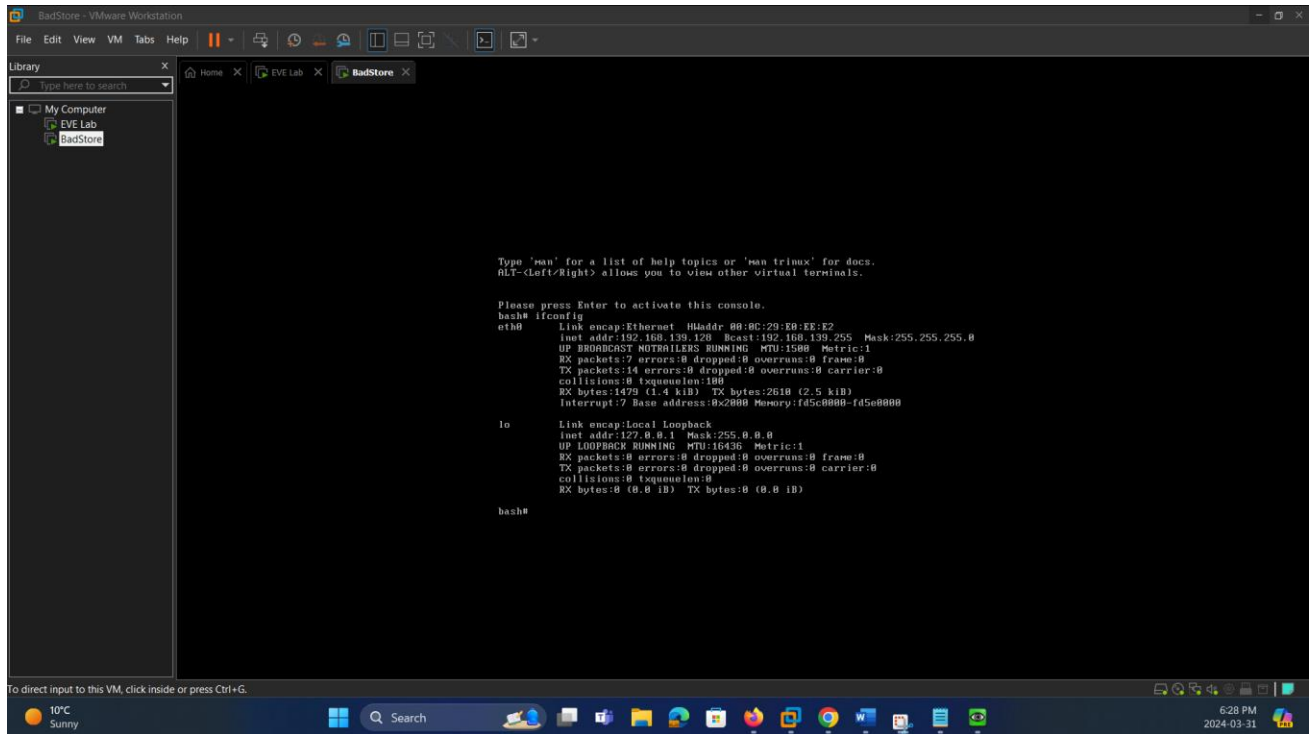
Lab Requirements

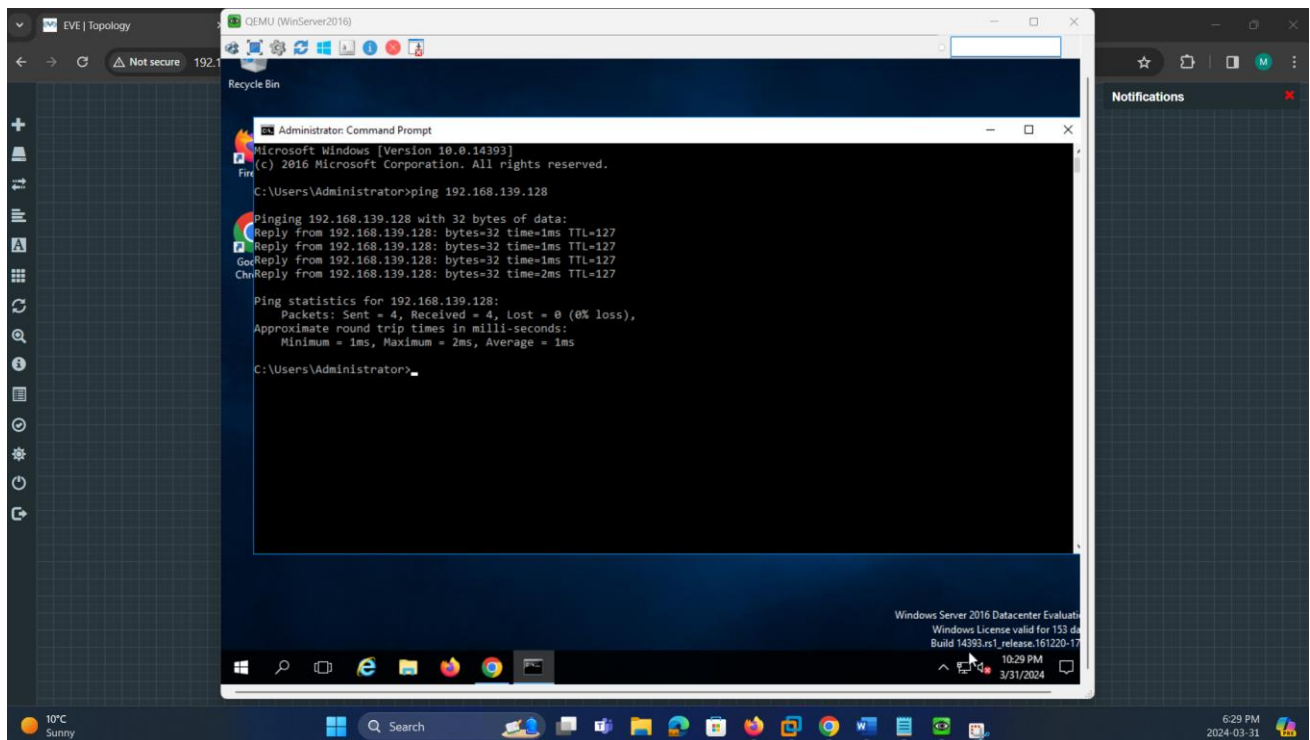
1. Configuring and Running Badstore in Virtual Machine Application (VMWare)



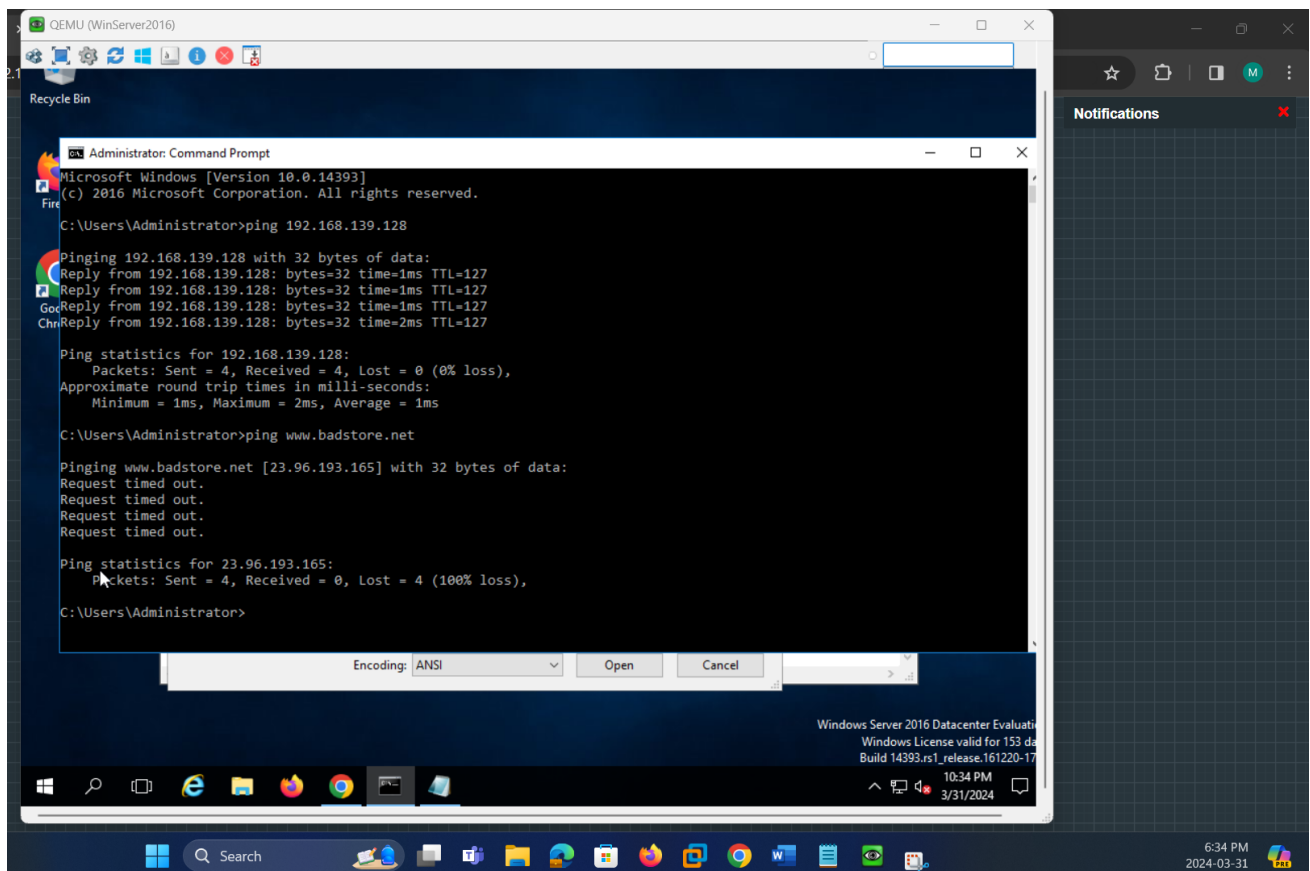


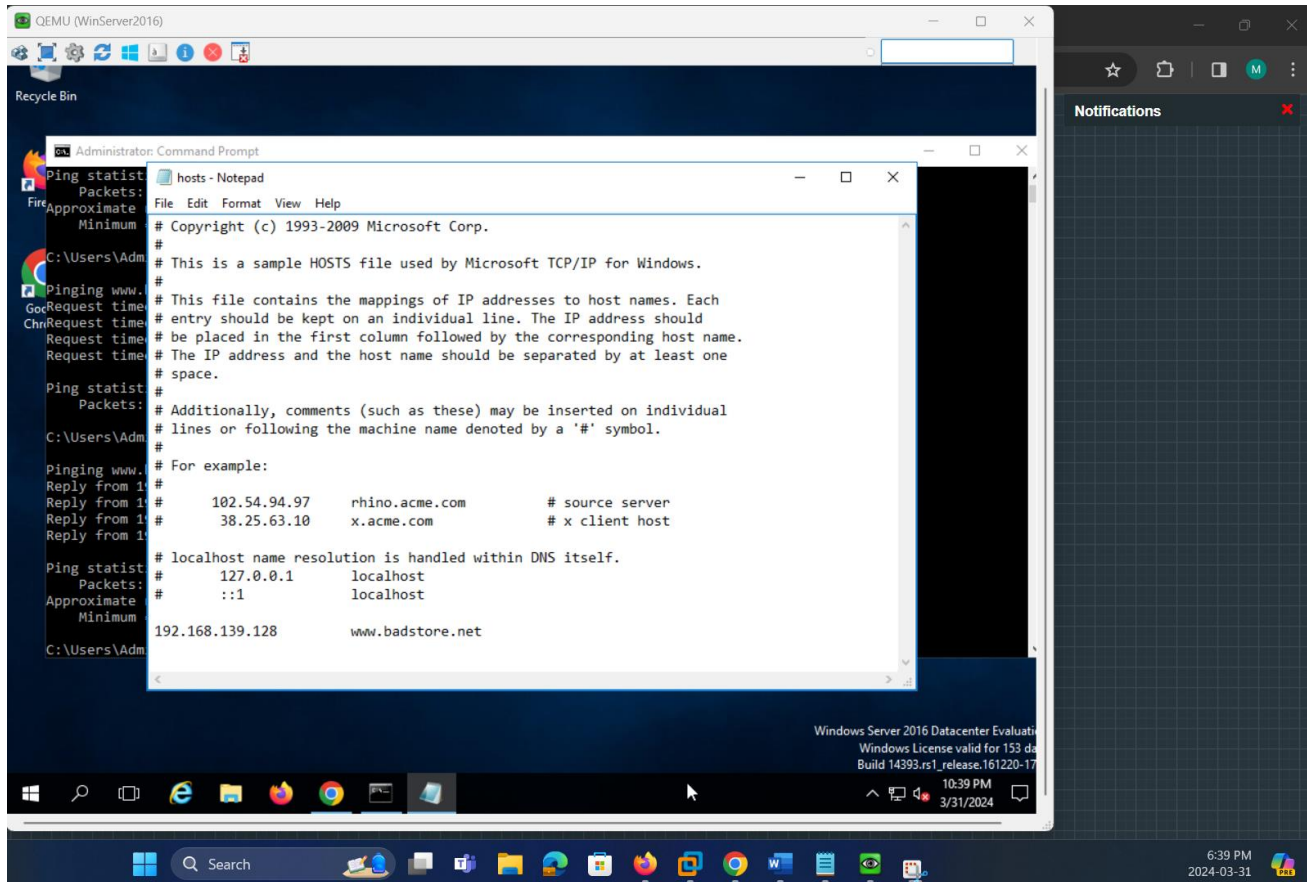
IP Address of Badstore: 192.168.139.128

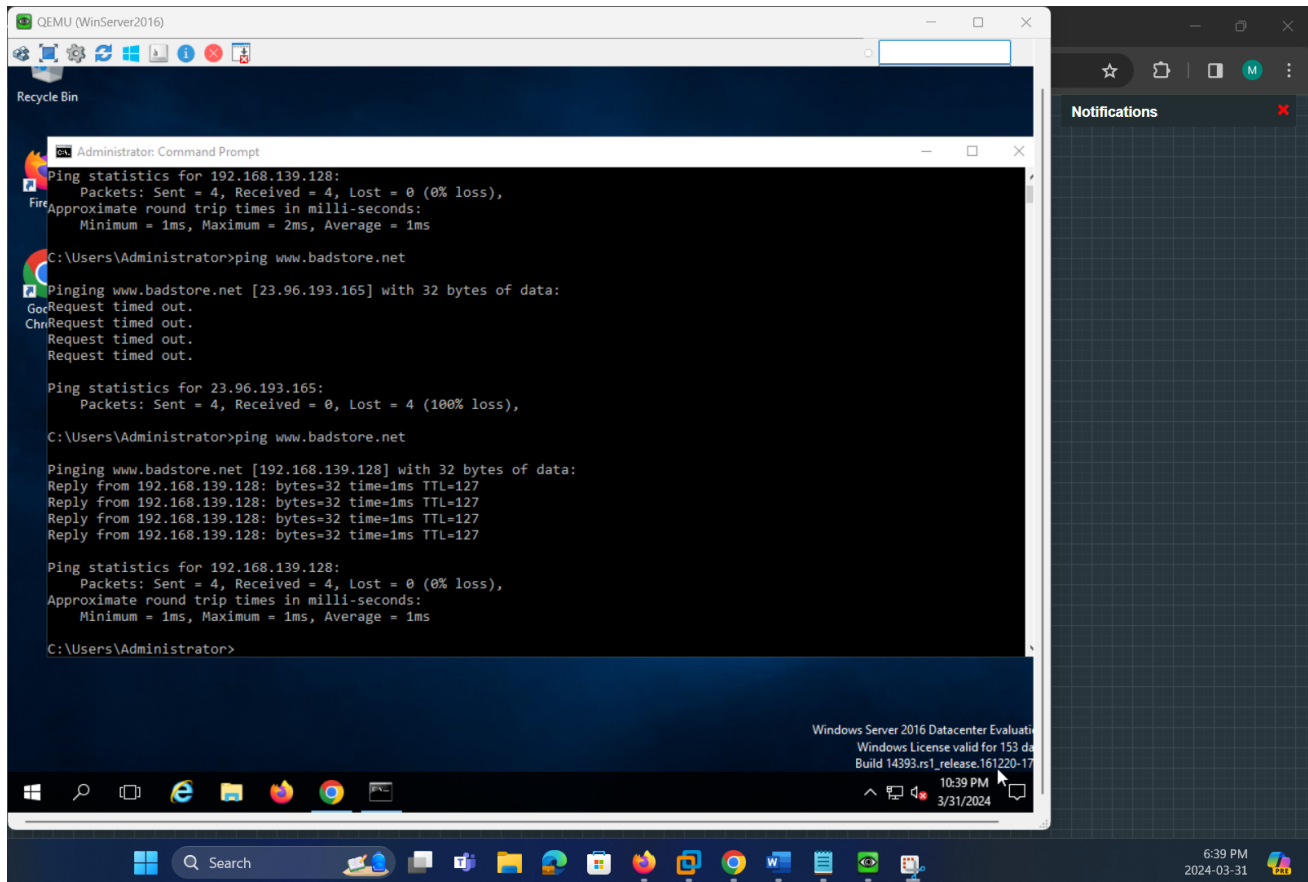


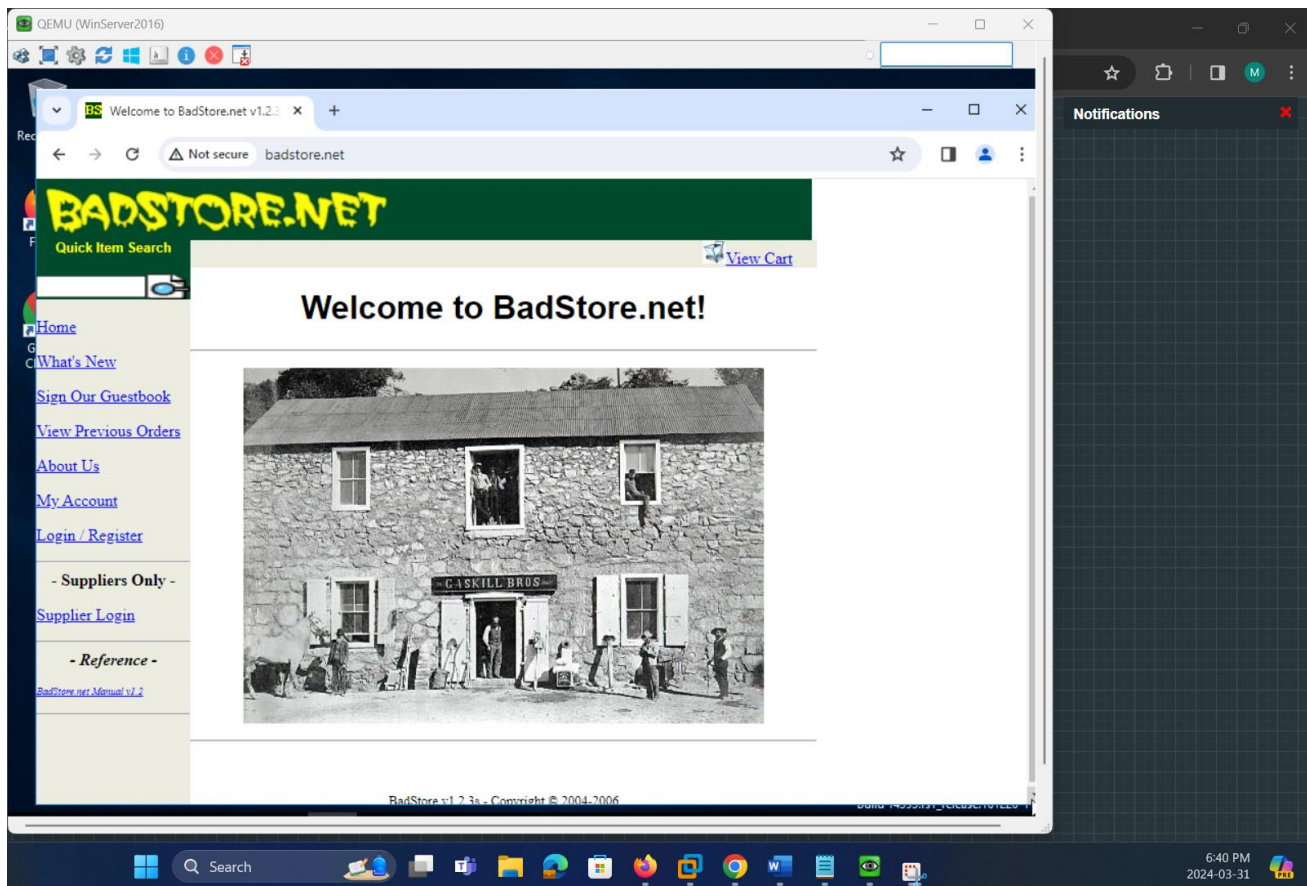


Conducted ping test to badstore IP Address from Windows 2016 Server VM – EVE Lab VM to BadStore VM



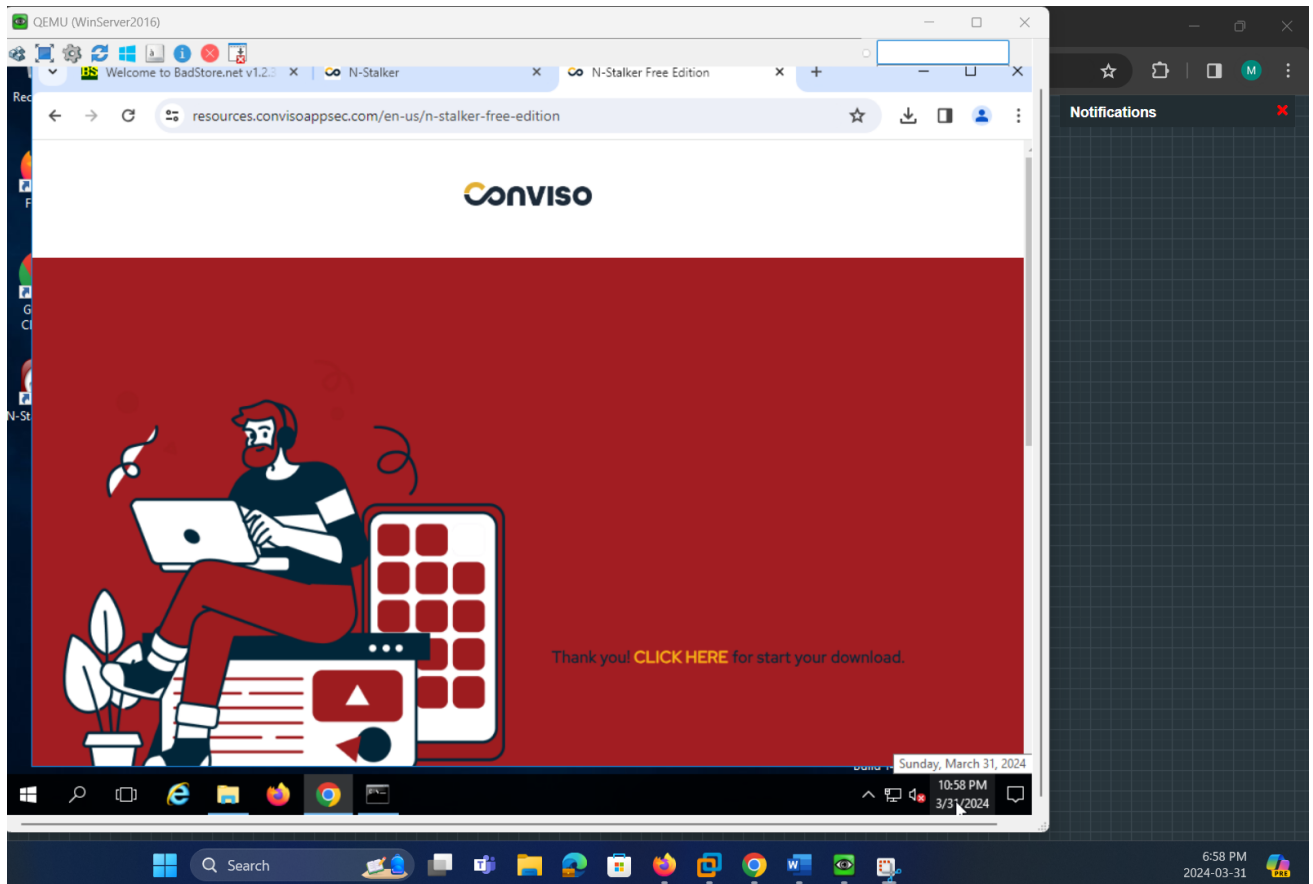


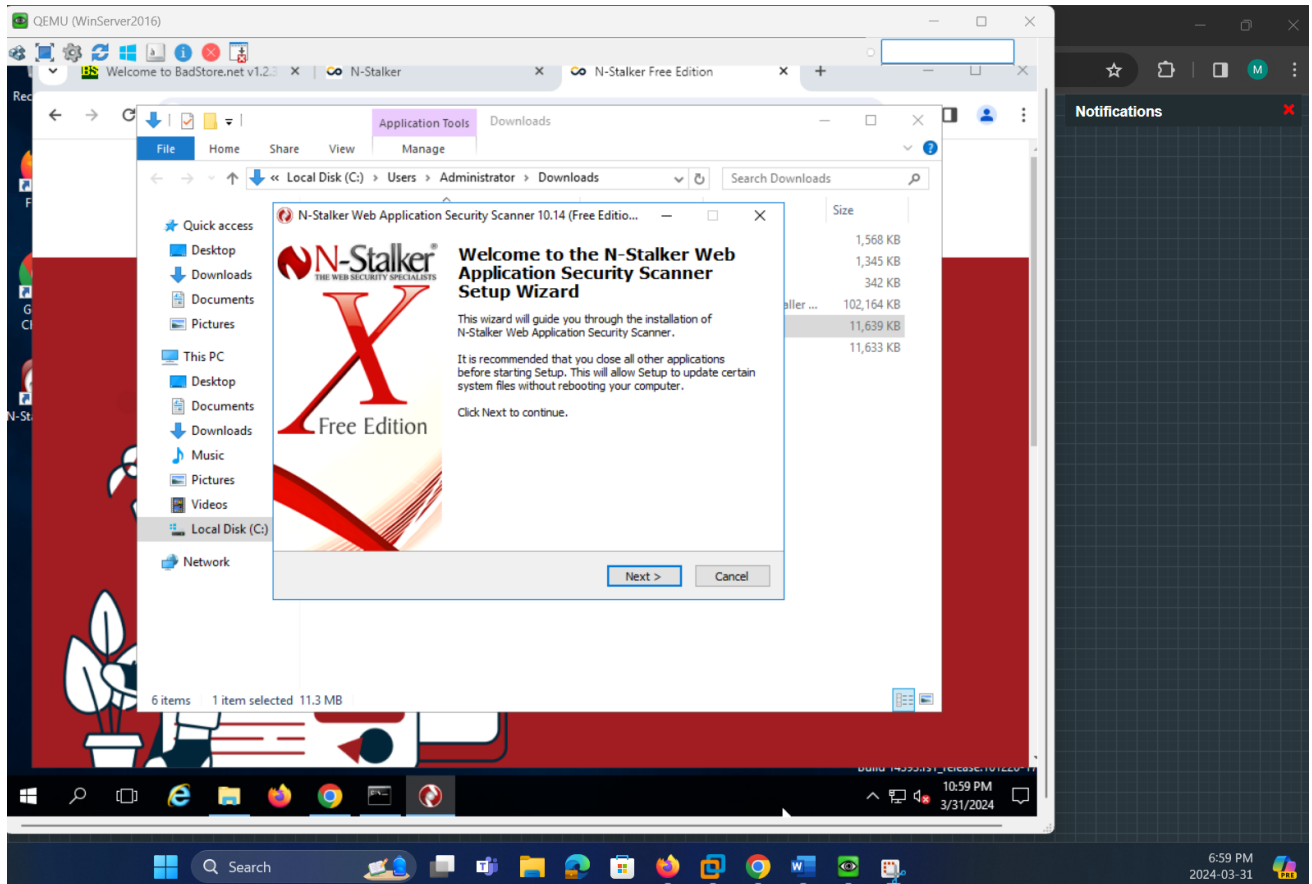


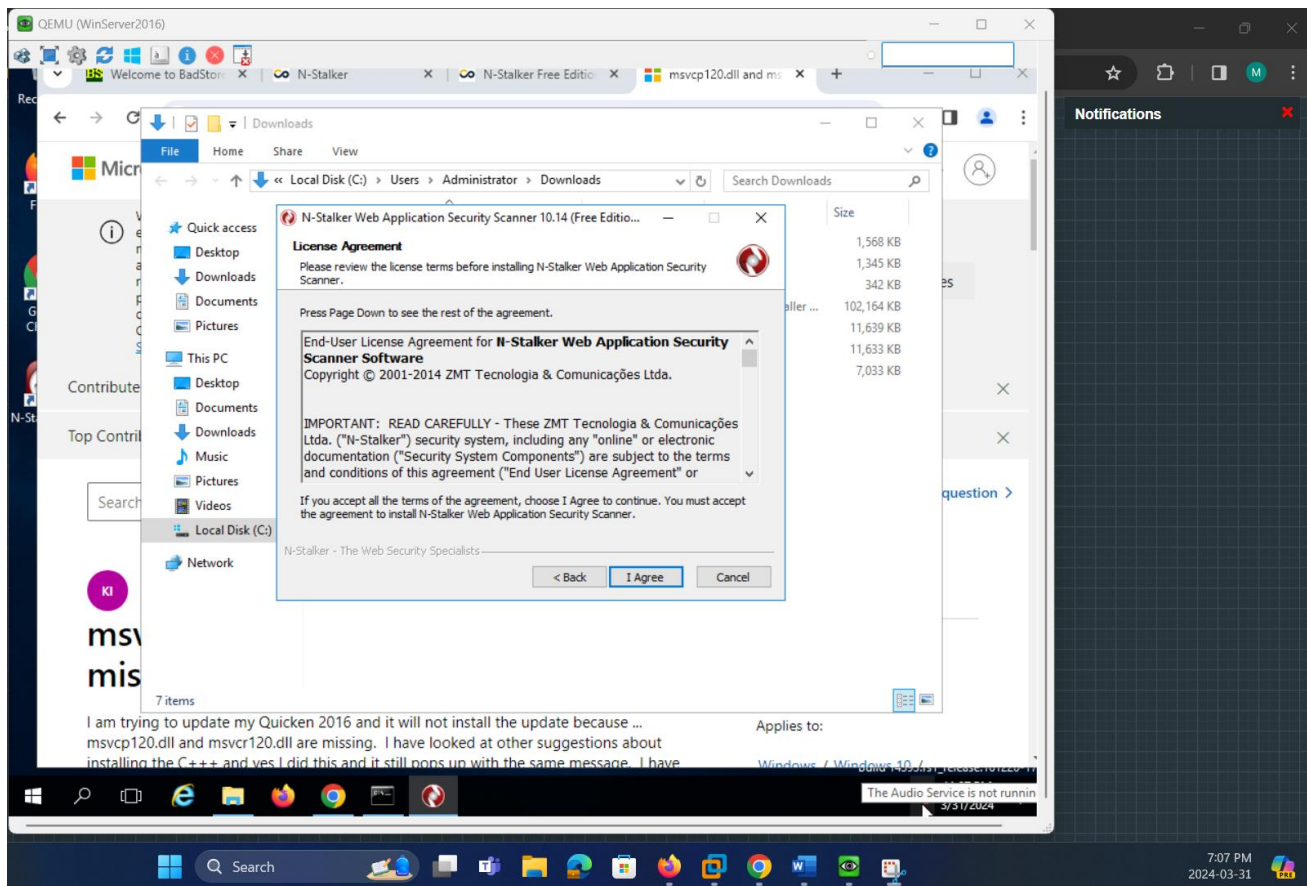


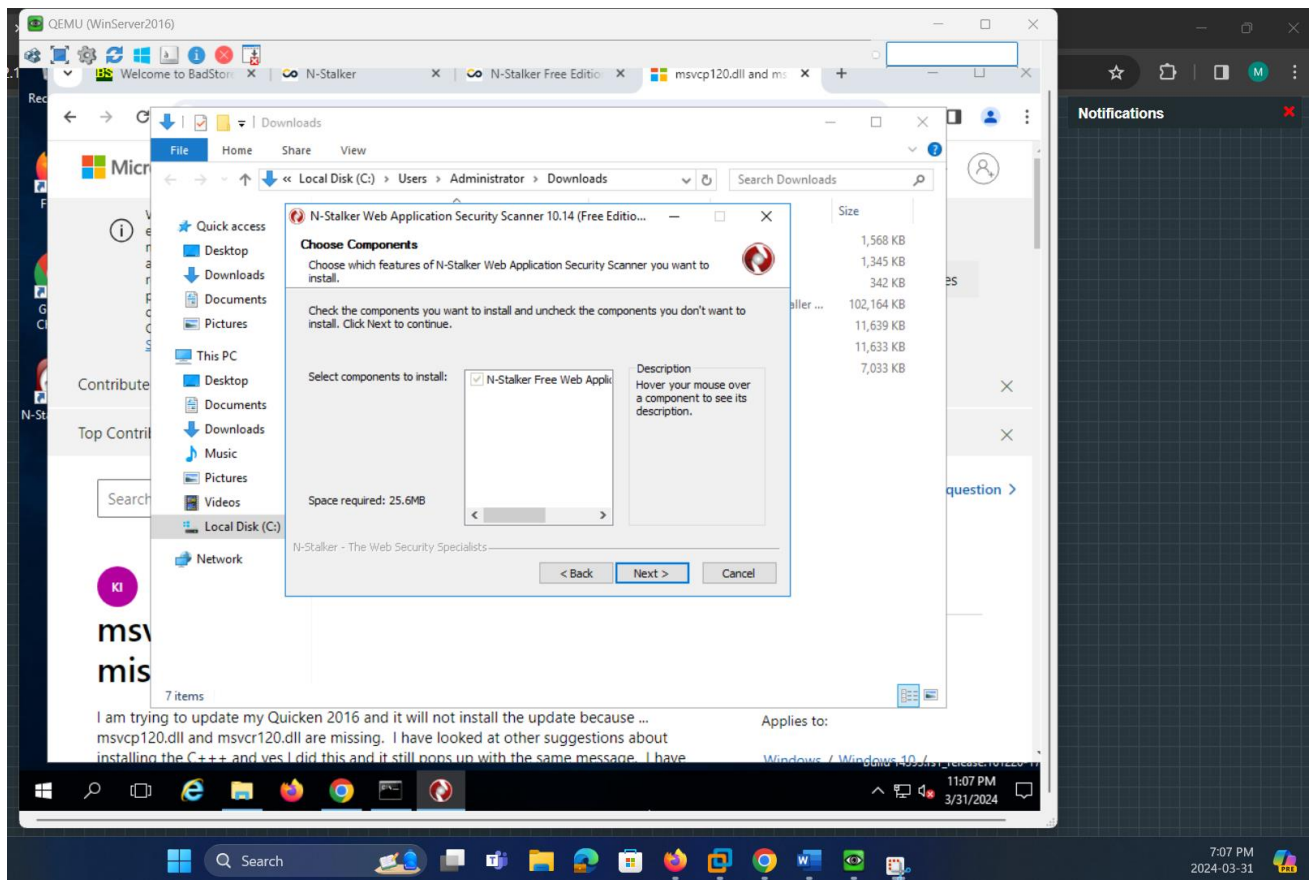
Configured hosts file of Windows Server 2016 and added IP Address of Badstore.Net for DNS Resolution
IP Address: 192.168.139.128 = www.badstore.net

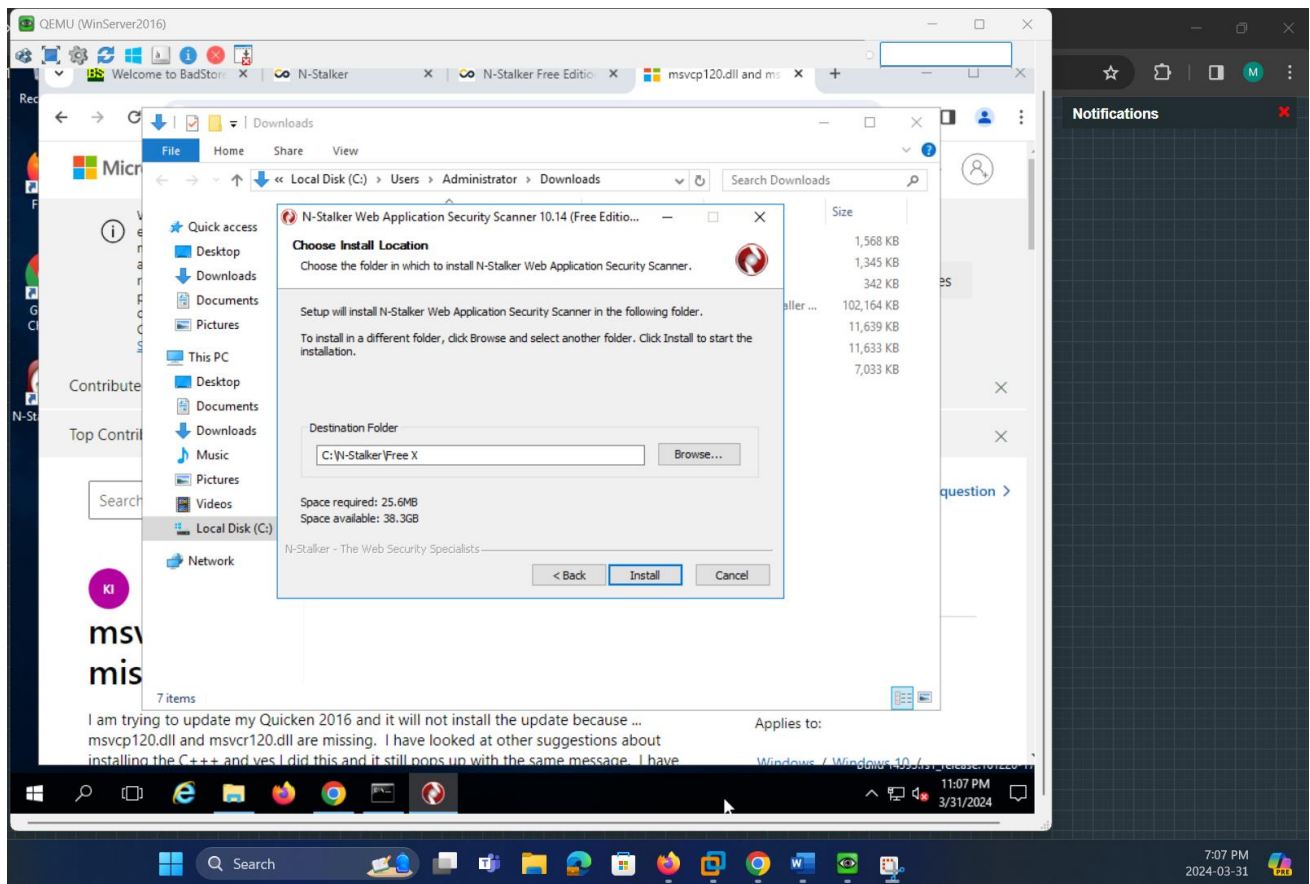
2. Downloading and Installing N-Stalker on Windows 2016 Server VM

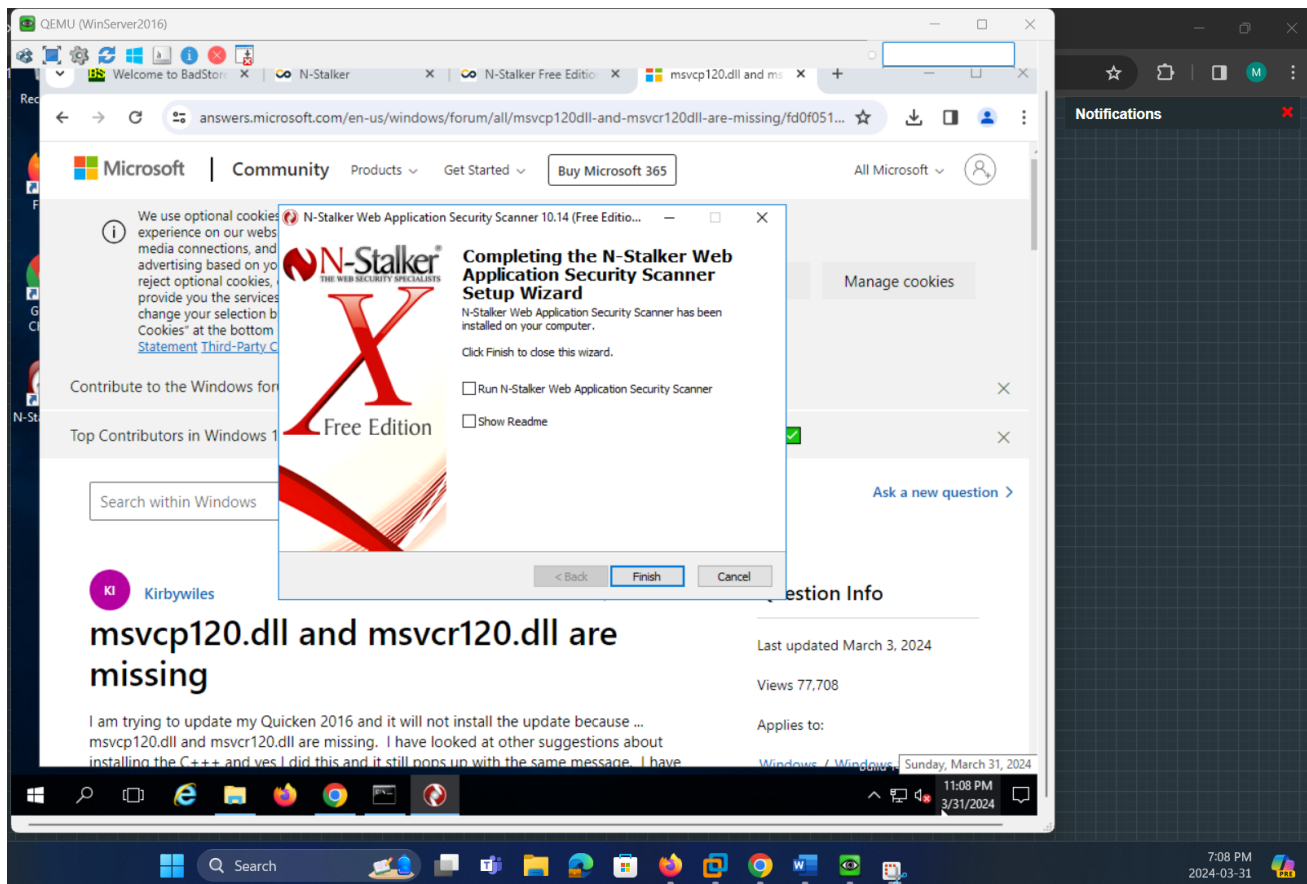


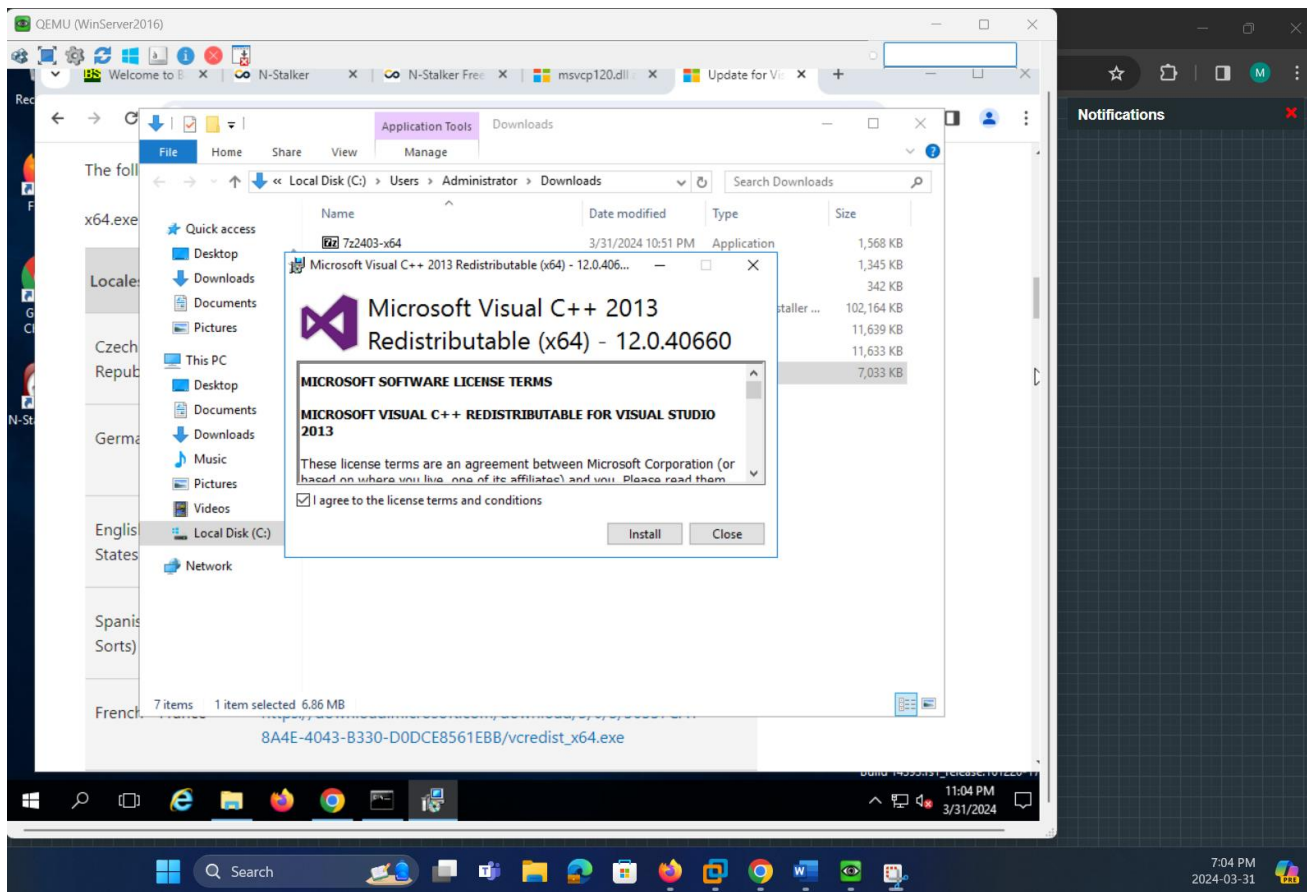


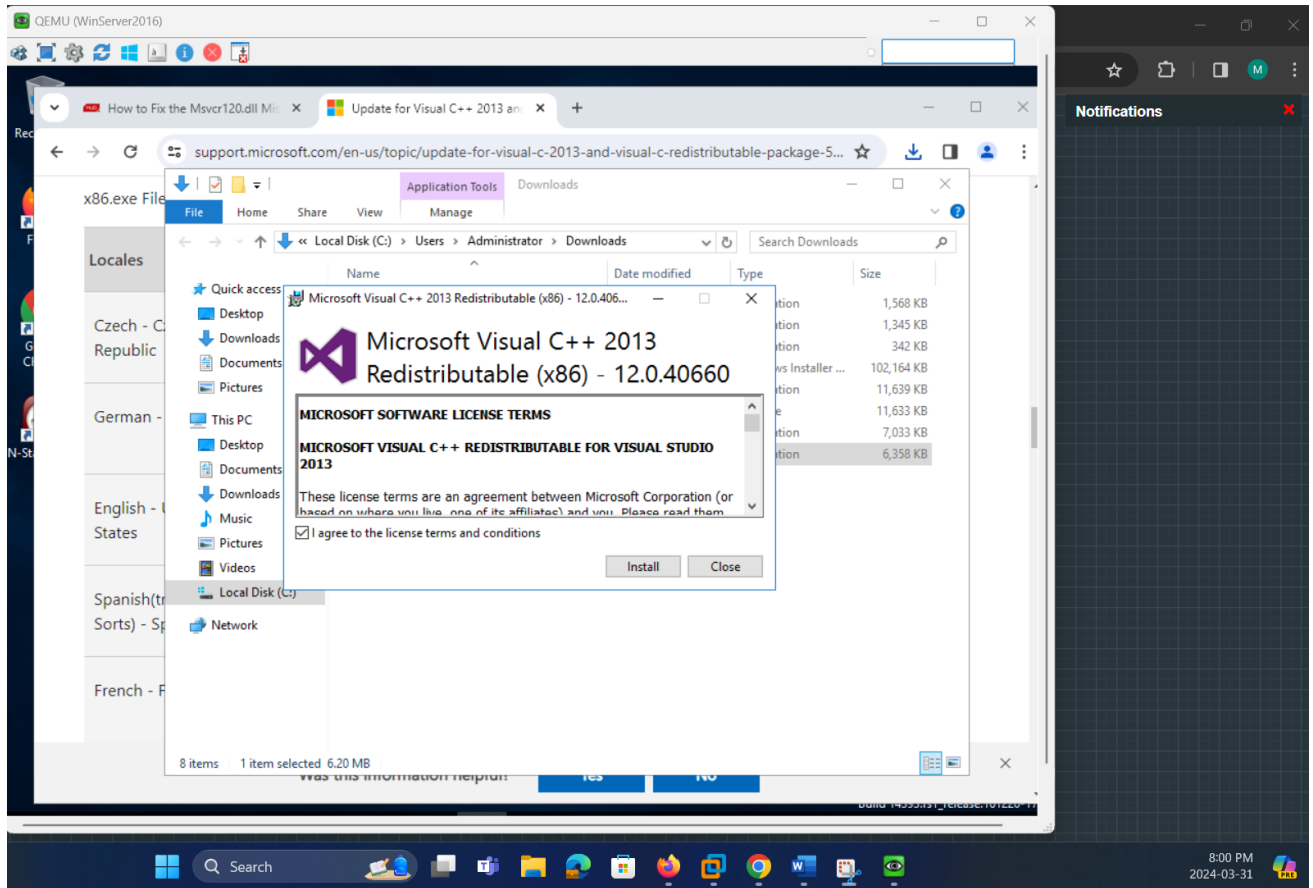


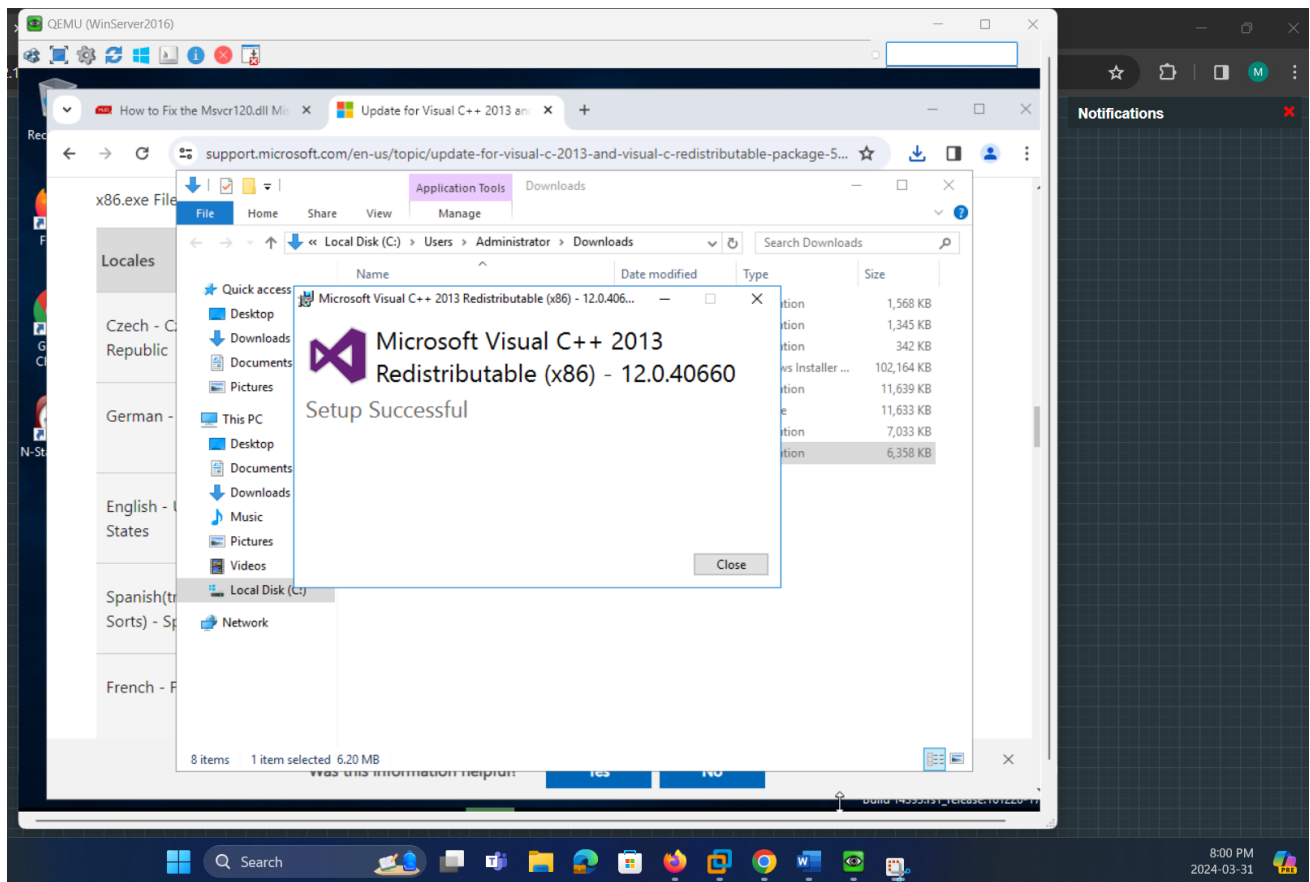


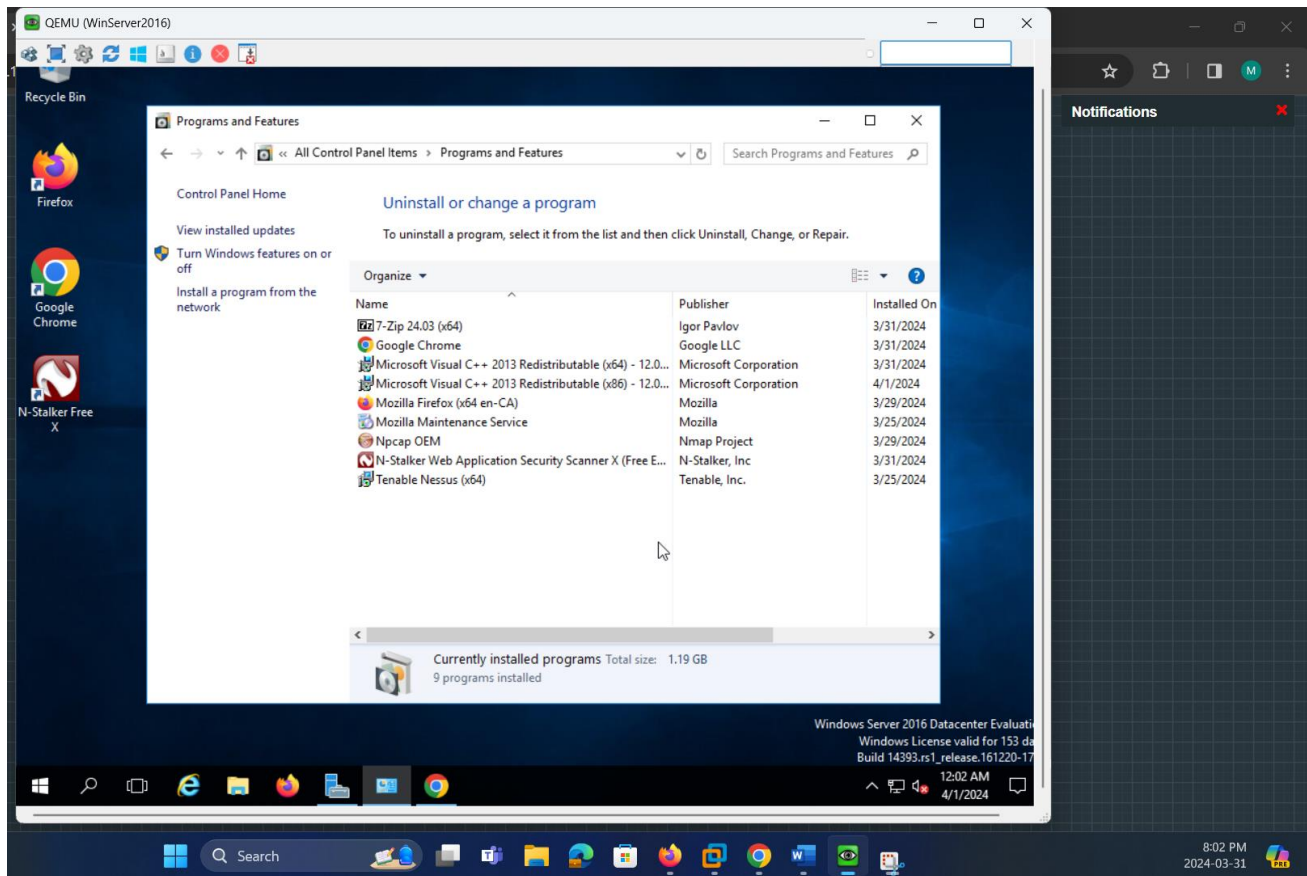






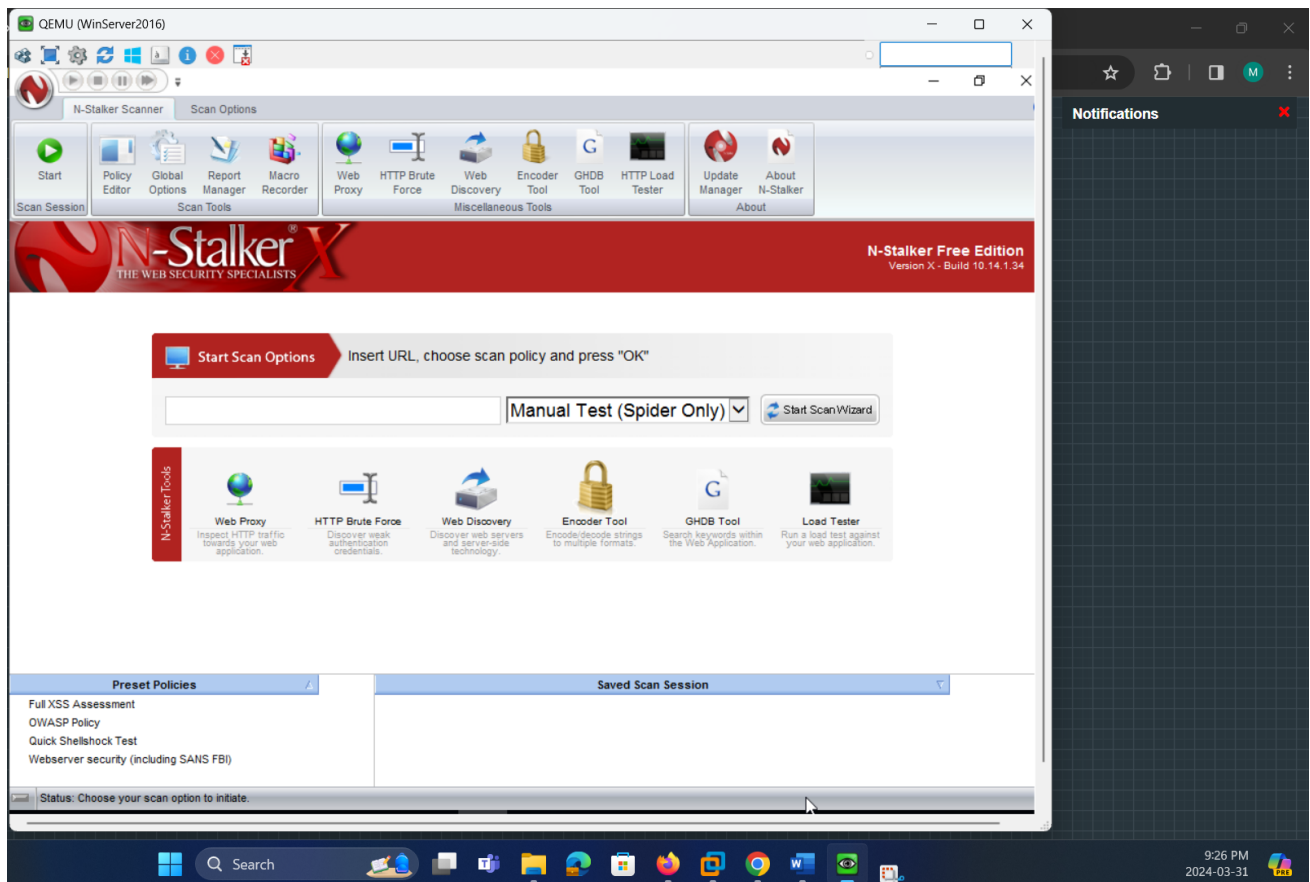


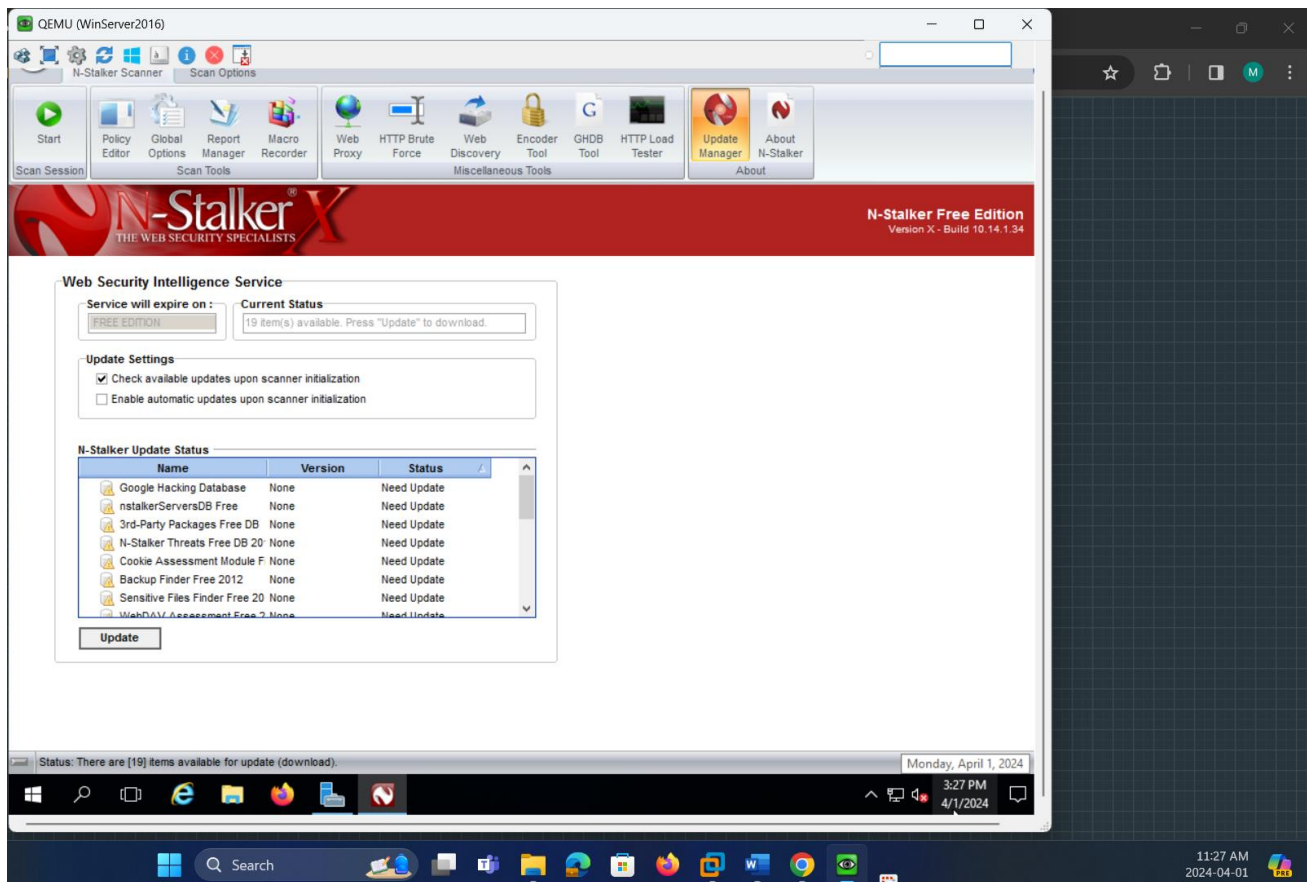


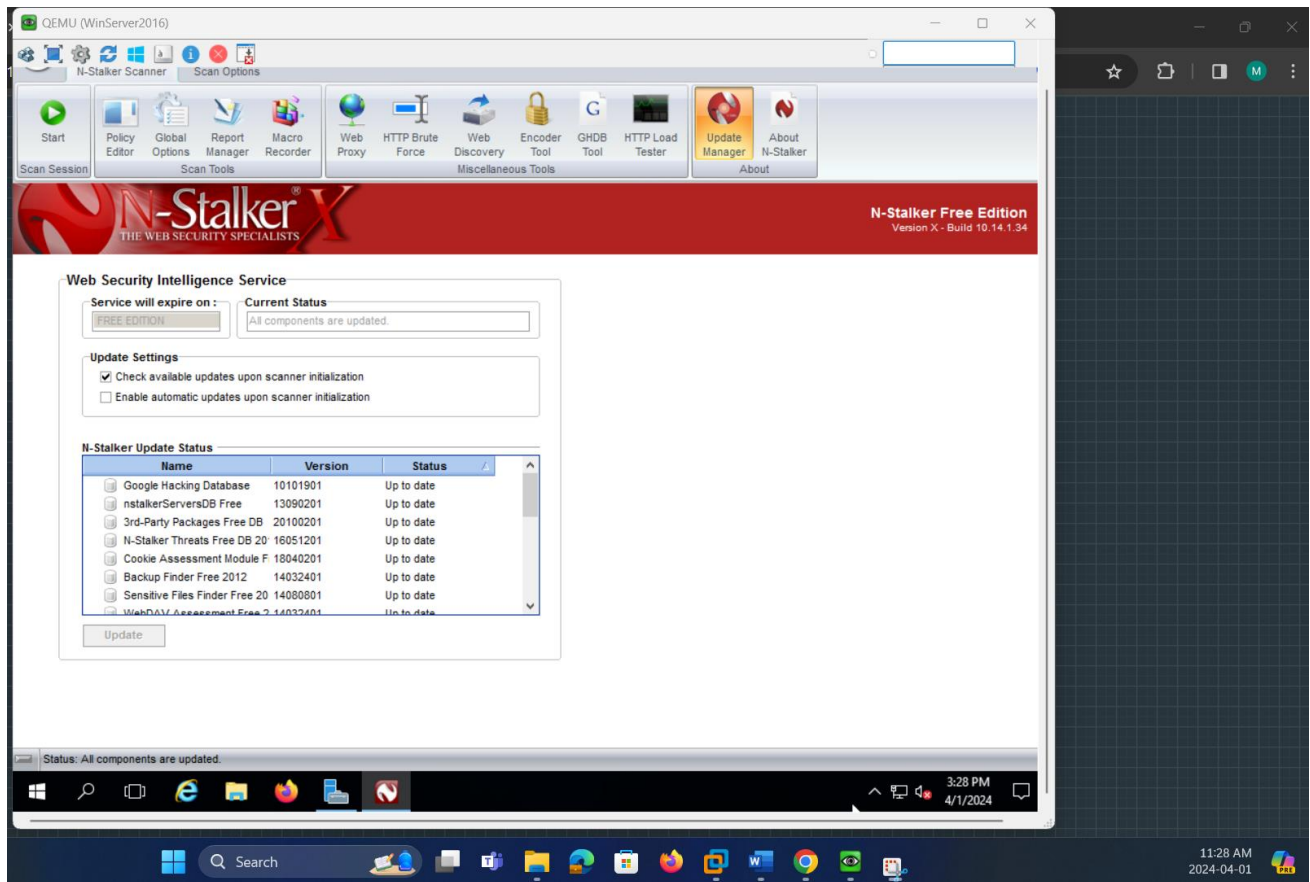


Installed required Visual C++ 2013 and Visual C++ Redistributable Packages x64 and x86 for Windows 2016 Server VM.

3. Running and Configuring N-Stalker Application in Windows 2016 Server VM

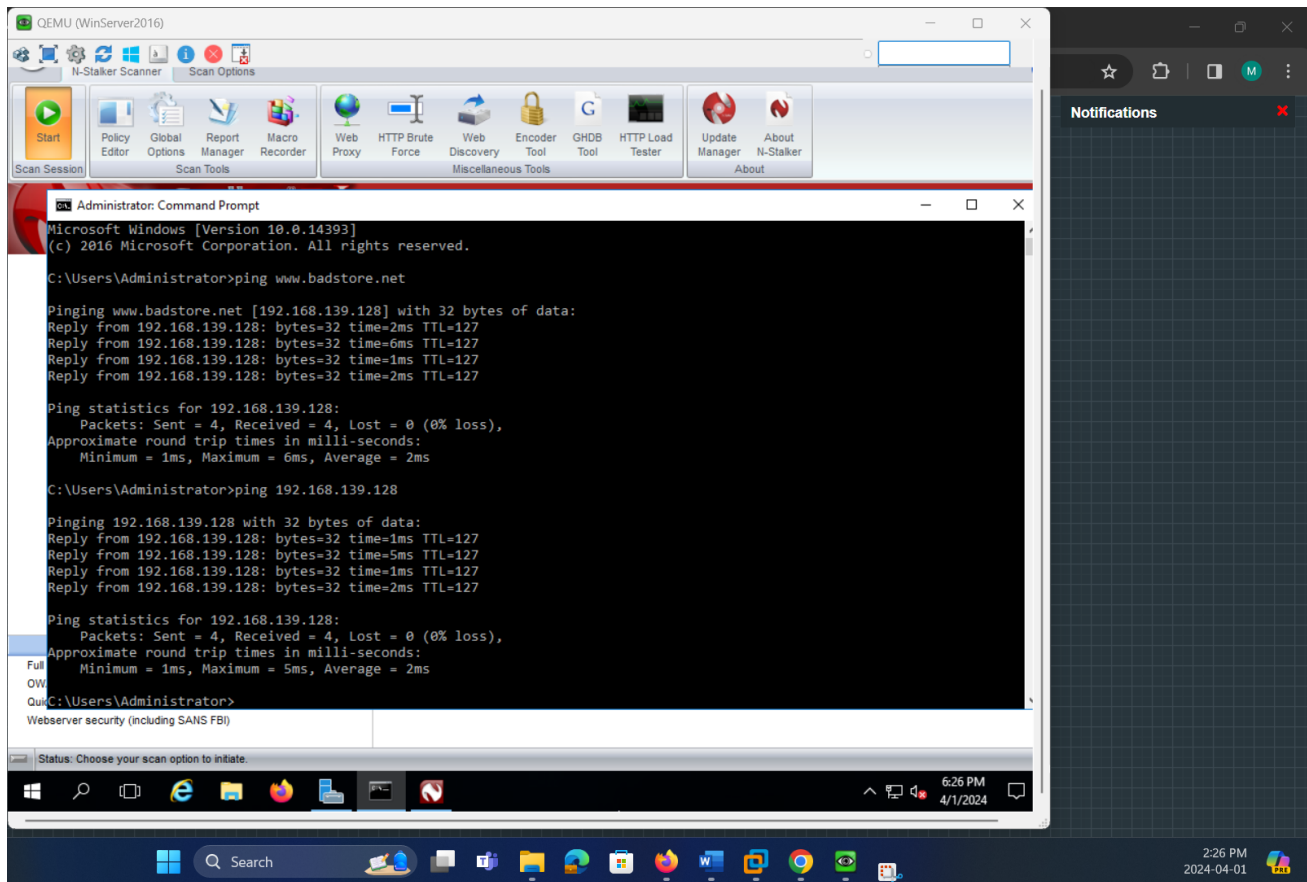


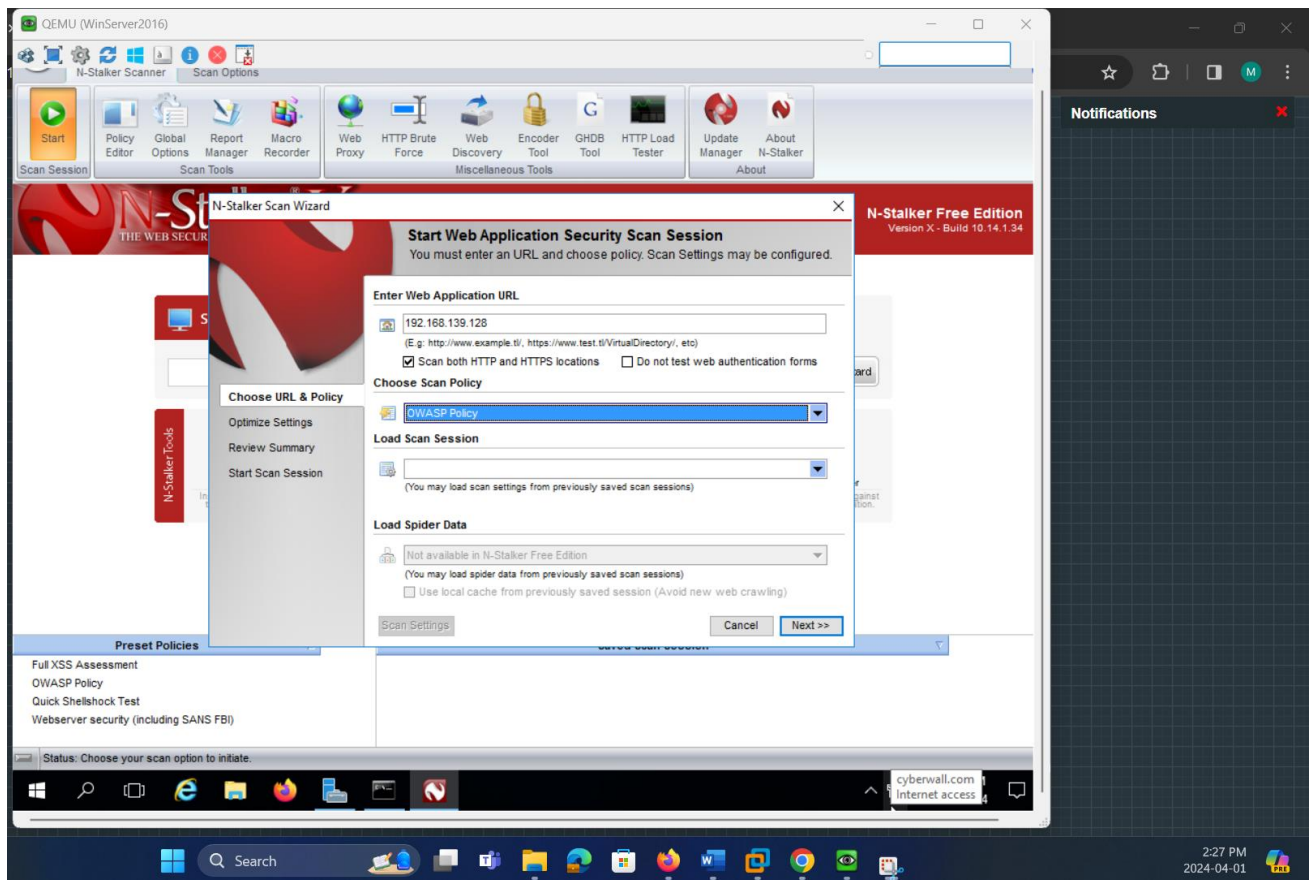


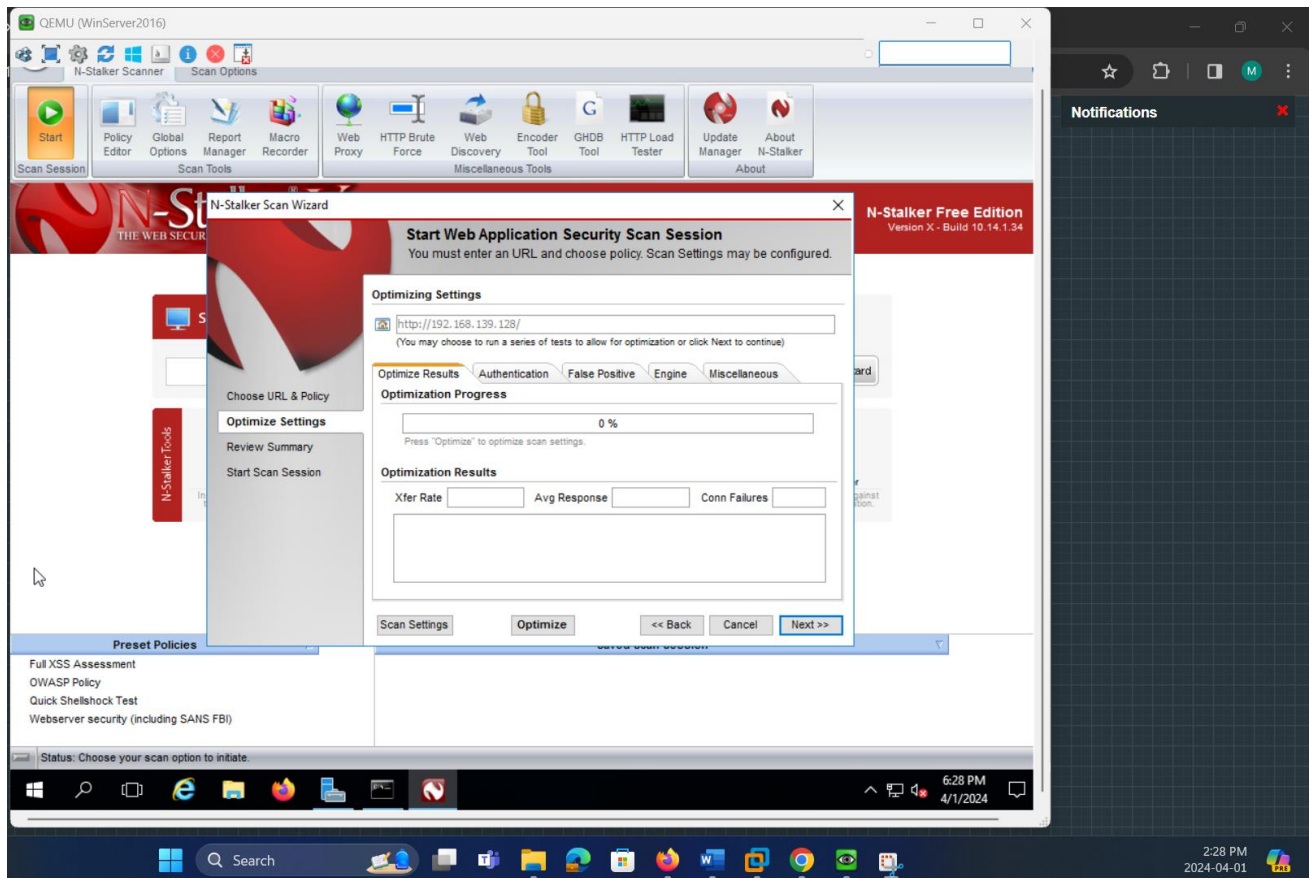


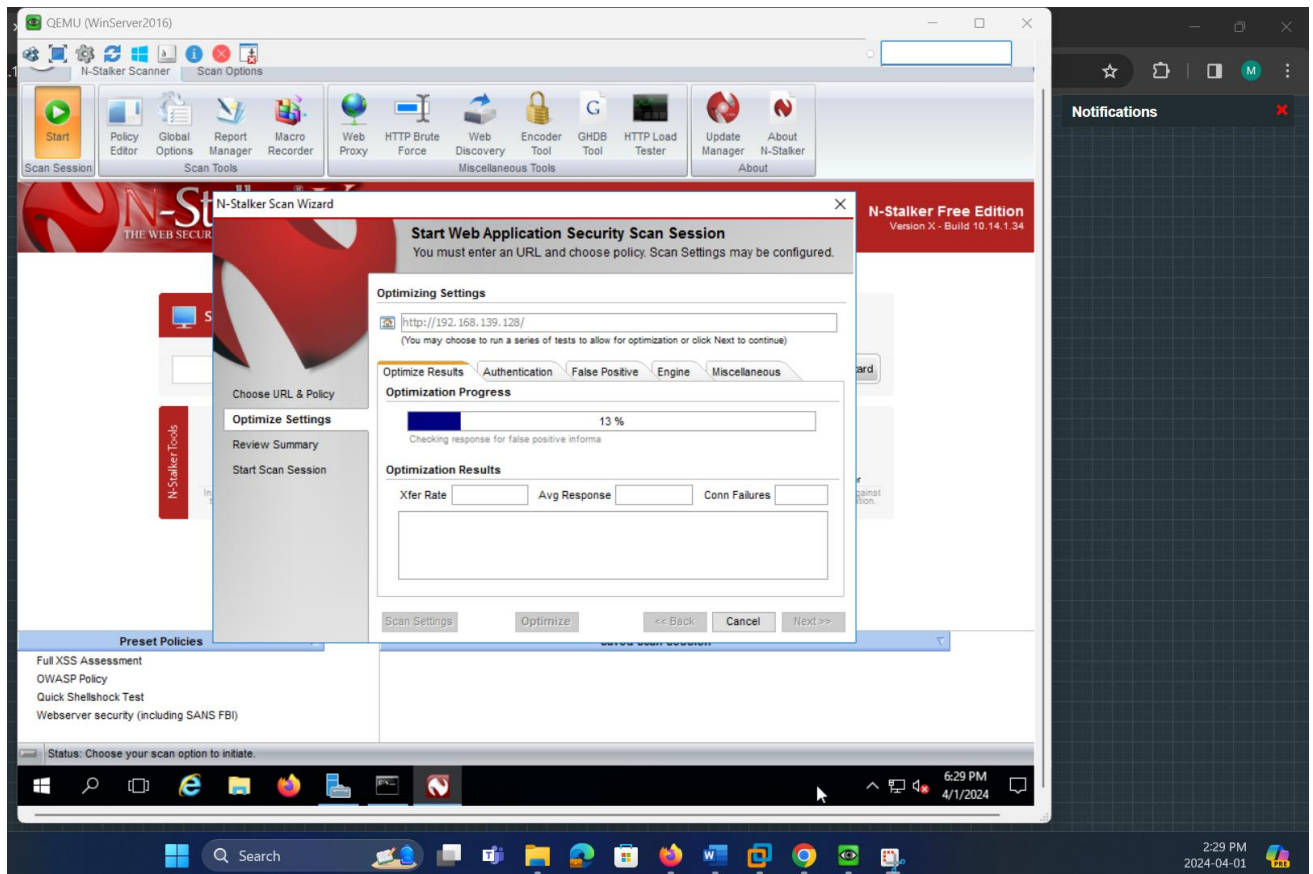
Updated Manager for Required Files and N-Stalker Updates

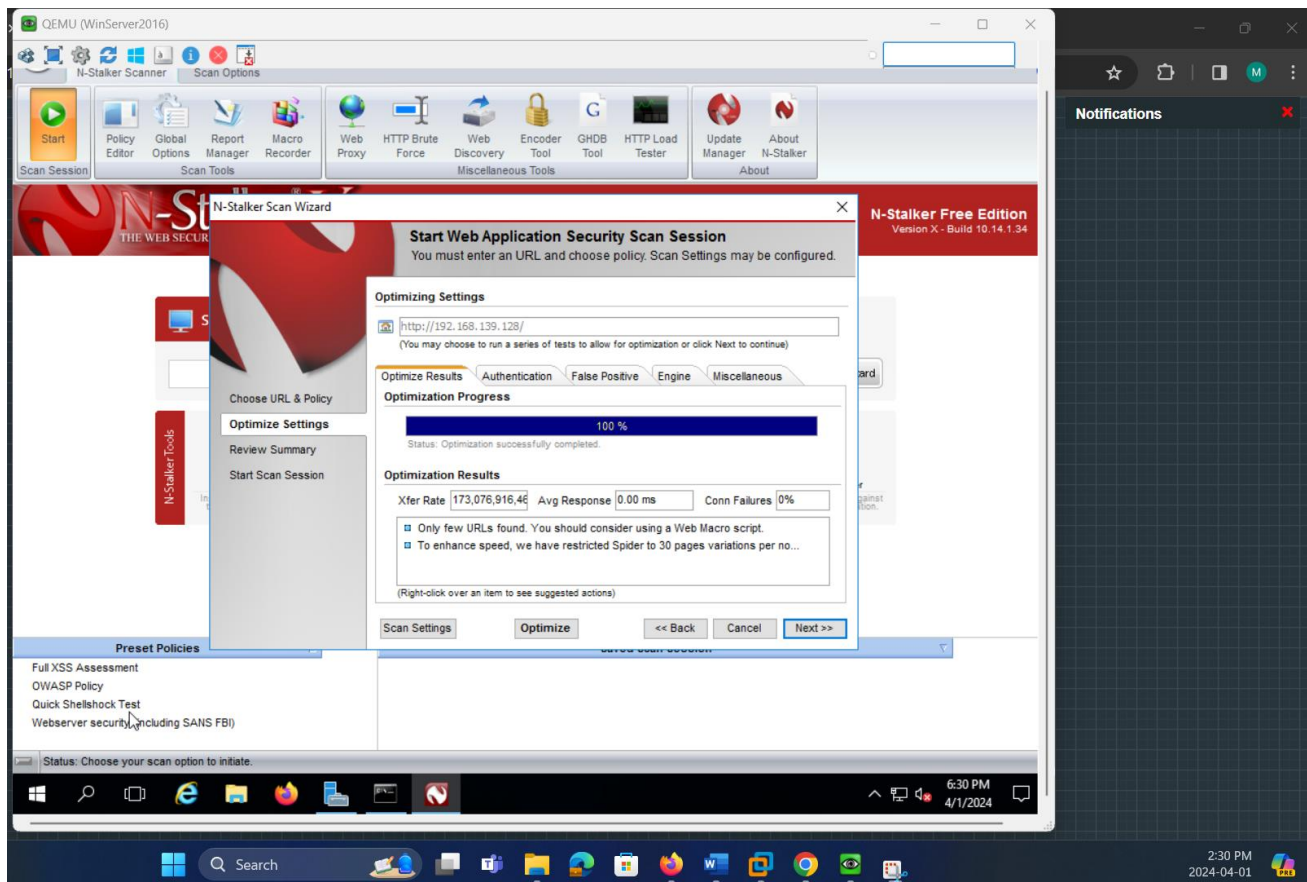
4. Scanning www.badstore.net

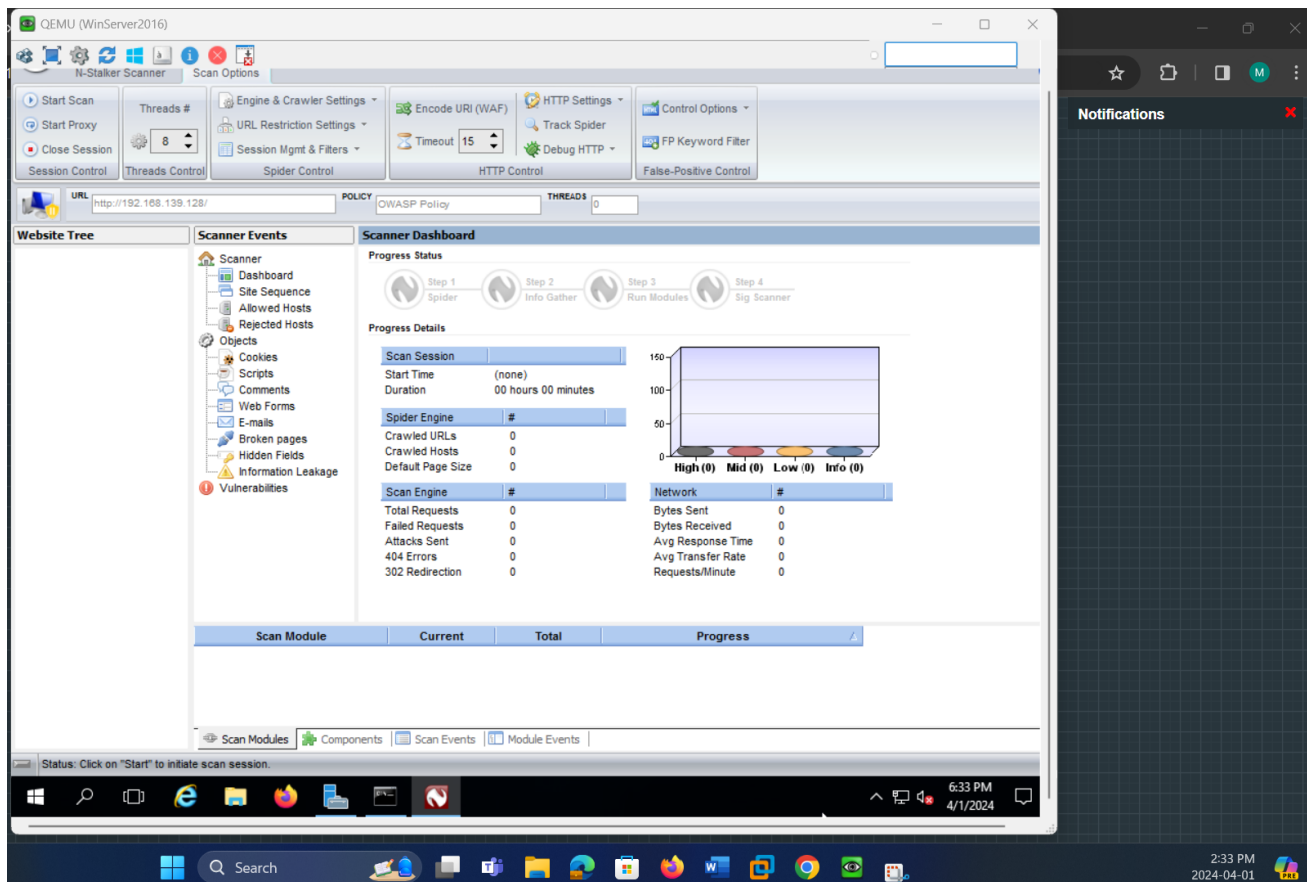












QEMU (WinServer2016)

Start Scan

Start Proxy

Close Session

Threads #

8

Threads Control

Engine & Crawler Settings

URL Restriction Settings

Session Mgmt & Filters

Encode URI (WAF)

Timeout 15

HTTP Settings

Track Spider

Debug HTTP

Control Options

FP Keyword Filter

False-Positive Control

URL

http://192.168.139.128/

POLICY

OWASP Policy

THREADS

1/8

Website Tree

Scanner

Dashboard

Site Sequence

Allowed Hosts

Rejected Hosts

Objects

Cookies

Scripts

Comments

Web Forms (1)

E-mails

Broken pages

Hidden Fields (1)

Information Leakage

Vulnerabilities

Scanner Events

Scanner

Dashboard

Site Sequence

Allowed Hosts

Rejected Hosts

Objects

Cookies

Scripts

Comments

Web Forms (1)

E-mails

Broken pages

Hidden Fields (1)

Information Leakage

Vulnerabilities

Scanner Dashboard

Progress Status

Step 1 Spider

Step 2 Info Gather

Step 3 Run Modules

Step 4 Sig Scanner

Progress Details

Scan Session

Start Time Apr 1, 2024 18:34:21

Duration 0 Hours 0 Minutes

Spider Engine

Crawled URLs 0

Crawled Hosts 1

Default Page Size 0

Scan Engine

Total Requests 4

Failed Requests 0

Attacks Sent 2

404 Errors 1

302 Redirection 0

Network

Bytes Sent 1,160

Bytes Received 8,967

Avg Response Time 0.01 s

Avg Transfer Rate 3.37 Mb/s

Requests/Minute 0

Scan Module

Current

Total

Progress

Scan Modules

Components

Scan Events

Module Events

Status: Loading URL [robots.txt]

6:34 PM

4/1/2024

Notifications

Search

2:34 PM

2024-04-01

QEMU (WinServer2016)

Start Scan

Start Proxy

Close Session

Threads #

8

Session Control

Threads Control

Engine & Crawler Settings

URL Restriction Settings

Session Mgmt & Filters

Encode URI (WAF)

Timeout 15

HTTP Settings

Track Spider

Debug HTTP

Control Options

FP Keyword Filter

False-Positive Control

URL

http://192.168.139.128/

POLICY

OWASP Policy

THREADS

2/8

Website Tree

Scanner

Dashboard

Site Sequence

Allowed Hosts

Rejected Hosts

Objects

Cookies (2)

Scripts (2)

Comments

Web Forms (26)

E-mails (6)

Broken pages (15)

Hidden Fields (19)

Information Leakage (1)

Vulnerabilities

http://192.168.139.128/

Scanner Dashboard

Progress Status

Completed Spider

Step 2 Info Gather

Step 3 Run Modules

Step 4 Sig Scanner

Progress Details

Scan Session

Start Time Apr 1, 2024 18:34:21

Duration 0 Hours 1 Minutes

Spider Engine

Crawled URLs 31

Crawled Hosts 1

Default Page Size 8,524 bytes

Scan Engine

Total Requests 51

Failed Requests 0

Attacks Sent 16

404 Errors 4

302 Redirection 0

Network

Bytes Sent 19,707

Bytes Received 115,701

Avg Response Time 0.01 s

Avg Transfer Rate 1.97 Mb/s

Requests/Minute 51.00 req/min

High (16) Mid (36) Low (4) Info (19)

Scan Module

Current

Total

Progress

WebServer Infrastructure Ass 0

2

0 %

HTTP Method Finder 0

11

0 %

N-Stalker Spider Module 30

30

100 %

File Extensions Finder 10

10

100 %

Status: OpenSSL CVE-2014-0224 CCS Injection at [/]

Search

2:35 PM

2024-04-01

Notifications

QEMU (WinServer2016)

Start Scan

Start Proxy

Close Session

Threads #

8

Session Control

Threads Control

Engine & Crawler Settings

URL Restriction Settings

Session Mgmt & Filters

Spider Control

Spider Control

Encode URI (WAF)

Timeout 15

HTTP Settings

Track Spider

Debug HTTP

HTTP Control

HTTP Control

Control Options

FP Keyword Filter

False-Positive Control

Control Options

Control Options

URL

http://192.168.139.128/

POLICY

OWASP Policy

THREADS

0/8

Website Tree

Scanner

Dashboard

Site Sequence

Allowed Hosts

Rejected Hosts

Objects

Cookies (2)

Scripts (2)

Comments

Web Forms (26)

E-mails (6)

Broken pages (15)

Hidden Fields (19)

Information Leakage (1)

Vulnerabilities

http://192.168.139.128/

Scanner Dashboard

Progress Status

Completed Spider

Step 2 Info Gather

Completed Run Modules

Completed Sig Scanner

Progress Details

Scan Session

Start Time

Apr 1, 2024 18:34:21

Duration

0 Hours 4 Minutes

Spider Engine

Crawled URLs

31

Crawled Hosts

1

Default Page Size

8,524 bytes

Scan Engine

Total Requests

583

Failed Requests

0

Attacks Sent

384

404 Errors

51

Network

Bytes Sent

288,595

Bytes Received

1,020,877

Avg Response Time

0.01 s

Avg Transfer Rate

1.44 Mb/s

High (20)

Mid (50)

Low (5)

Info (19)

Scan Module

Current

Total

Progress

Sensitive Files Search Assess 1

312

0 %

WebServer Infrastructure Ass 4

5

80 %

3rd-Party Package Scanner 162

163

99 %

N-Stalker Spider Module 30

30

100 %

File Extensions Finder 10

10

100 %

HTTP Method Finder 11

11

100 %

Cross-Site Scripting Assessme 936

936

100 %

Information Leakage Assessme 48

48

100 %

Status: Running attack signature [SiteMinder Administration page is available] for [192.168.139.128]

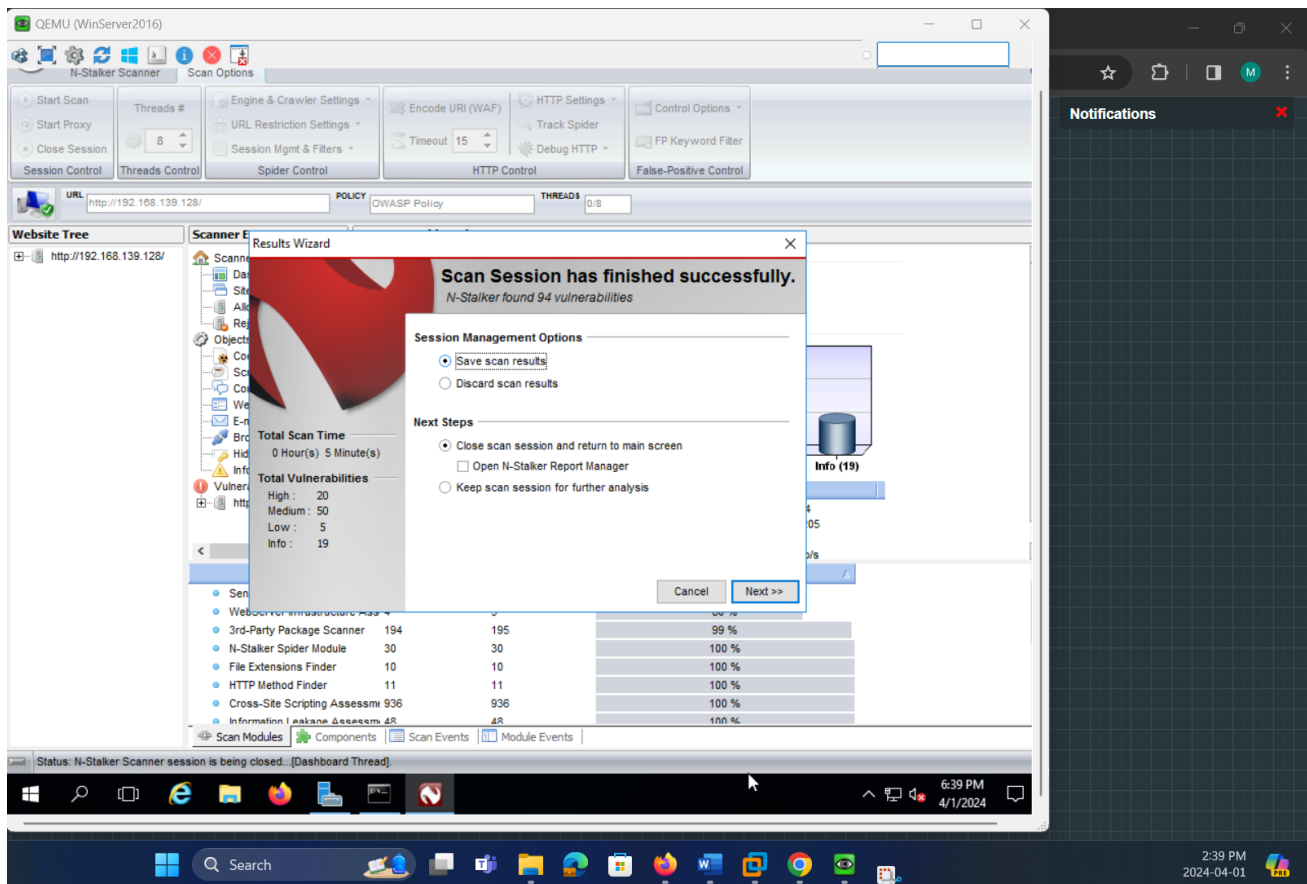
Windows Taskbar

Search

6:38 PM

4/1/2024

Notifications



QEMU (WinServer2016)

Start Scan

Start Proxy

Close Session

Threads #

8

Engine & Crawler Settings

URL Restriction Settings

Session Mgmt & Filters

Encode URI (WAF)

Timeout 15

HTTP Settings

Track Spider

Debug HTTP

Control Options

FP Keyword Filter

False-Positive Control

URL

http://192.168.139.128/

POLICY

OWASP Policy

THREADS

0/8

Website Tree

Scanner Events

Scanner Dashboard

Progress Status

Completed Spider

Step 2 Info Gather

Completed Run Modules

Completed Sig Scanner

Progress Details

Scan Session

Start Time Apr 1, 2024 18:34:21

Duration 0 Hours 5 Minutes

Spider Engine

Crawled URLs 31

Crawled Hosts 1

Default Page Size 8,524 bytes

Scan Engine

Total Requests 605

Failed Requests 0

Attacks Sent 384

404 Errors 53

Network

Bytes Sent 299,244

Bytes Received 1,105,205

Avg Response Time 0.01 s

Avg Transfer Rate 1.45 Mb/s

Component Name

URL Location

Comments

Web Server Information Found

Web Server Technology Detected

Password Web Form Found

Scan Modules

Components

Scan Events

Module Events

Status: Committing temporary database...[WAIT]

6:42 PM

4/1/2024

Notifications

2:42 PM

2024-04-01

32

QEMU (WinServer2016)

N-Stalker Scanner

Scan Options

Start Scan

Start Proxy

Close Session

Threads #

8

Engine & Crawler Settings

URL Restriction Settings

Session Mgmt & Filters

Encode URI (WAF)

Timeout 15

HTTP Settings

Track Spider

Debug HTTP

Control Options

FP Keyword Filter

False-Positive Control

URL

http://192.168.139.128/

POLICY

OWASP Policy

THREADS

0/8

Website Tree

http://192.168.139.128/

Scanner Events

Scanner Dashboard

Progress Status

Completed Spider

Step 2 Info Gather

Completed Run Modules

Completed Sig Scanner

Progress Details

Scan Session

Start Time Apr 1, 2024 18:34:21

Duration 0 Hours 5 Minutes

Spider Engine #

Crawled URLs 31

Crawled Hosts 1

Default Page Size 8,524 bytes

Scan Engine #

Total Requests 605

Failed Requests 0

Attacks Sent 364

404 Errors 53

Network #

Bytes Sent 299,244

Bytes Received 1,105,205

Avg Response Time 0.01 s

Avg Transfer Rate 1.45 Mb/s

High (20)

Mid (50)

Low (5)

Info (19)

[04/01/2024 18:34:45] ZhtmlParser(): Auto-complete feature is not disabled on a password-based form [/cgi-bin/badstore.cgi?action=loginregister]

[04/01/2024 18:34:45] ZhtmlParser(): Auto-complete feature is not disabled on a password-based form [/cgi-bin/badstore.cgi?action=loginregister]

[04/01/2024 18:34:46] ZhtmlParser(): Auto-complete feature is not disabled on a password-based form [/cgi-bin/badstore.cgi?action=supplierlogin]

Scan Modules

Components

Scan Events

Module Events

Status: Committing temporary database...[WAIT]

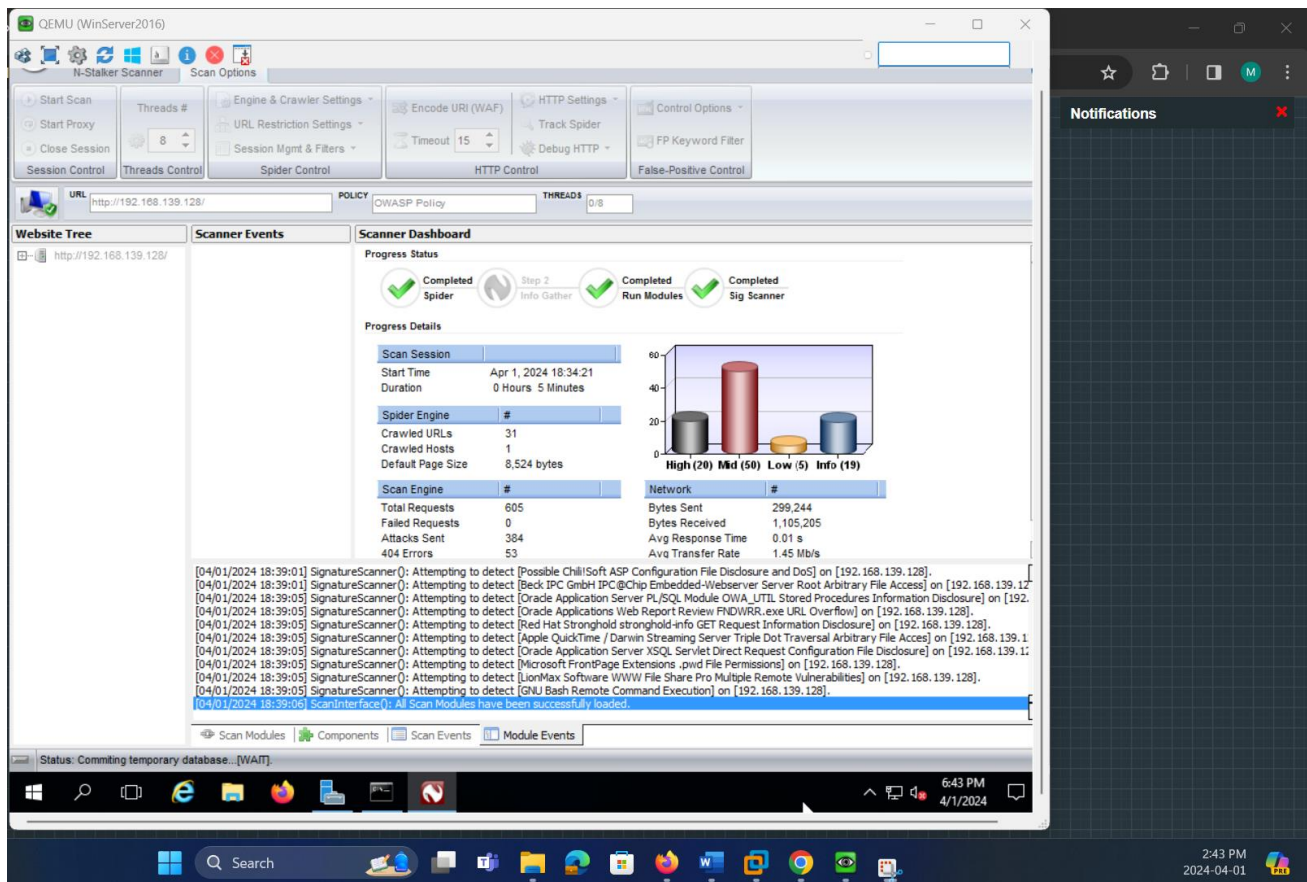
6:43 PM

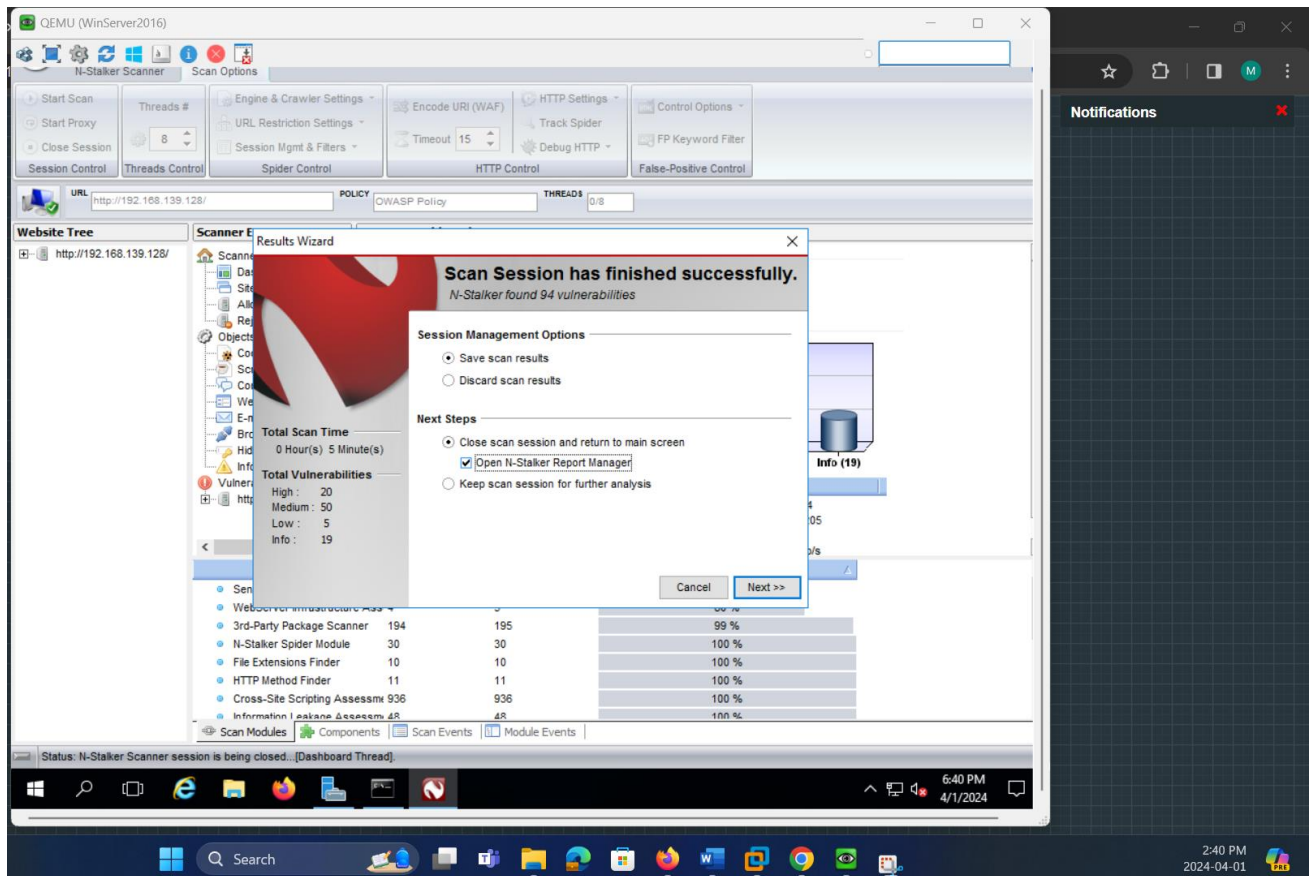
The Audio Service is not running

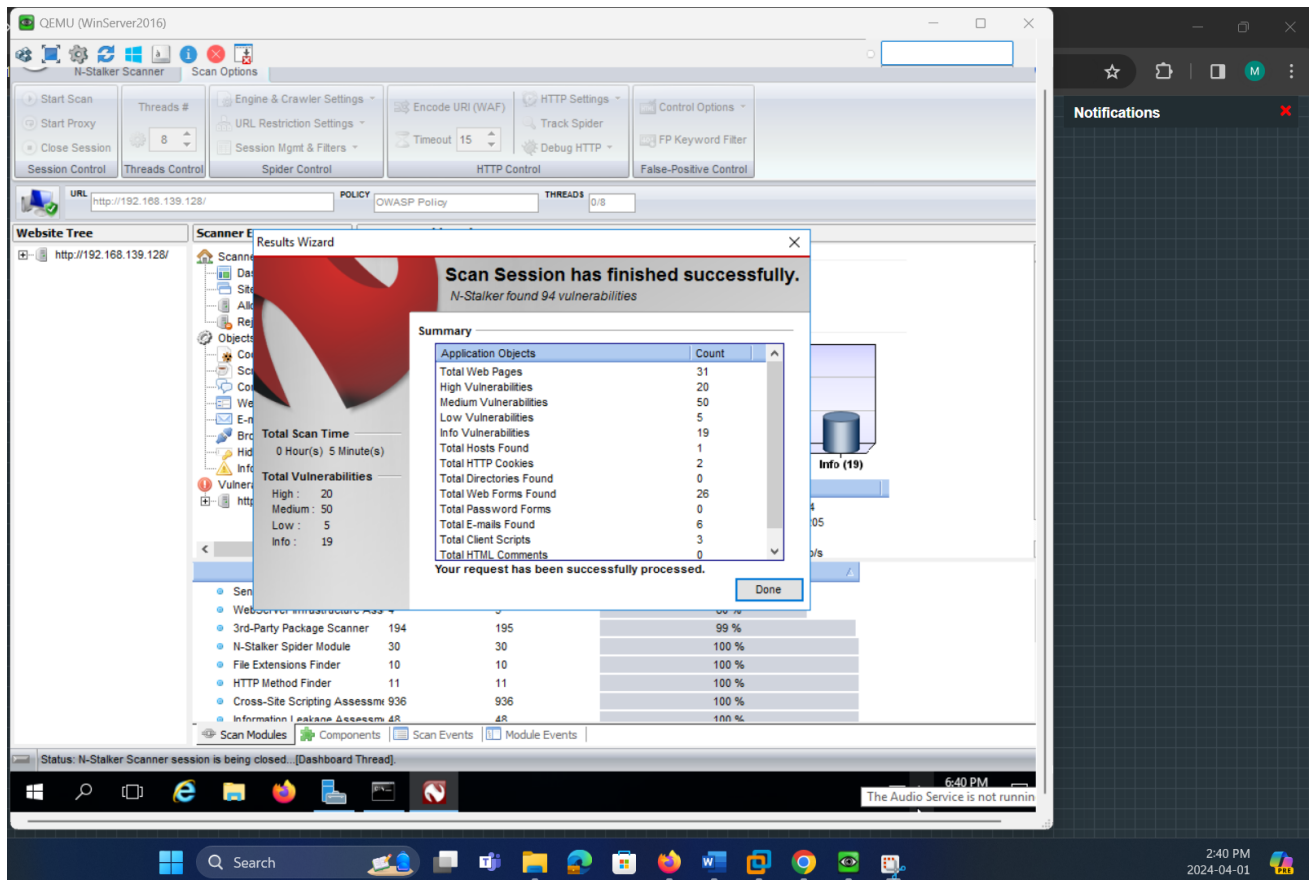
Notifications

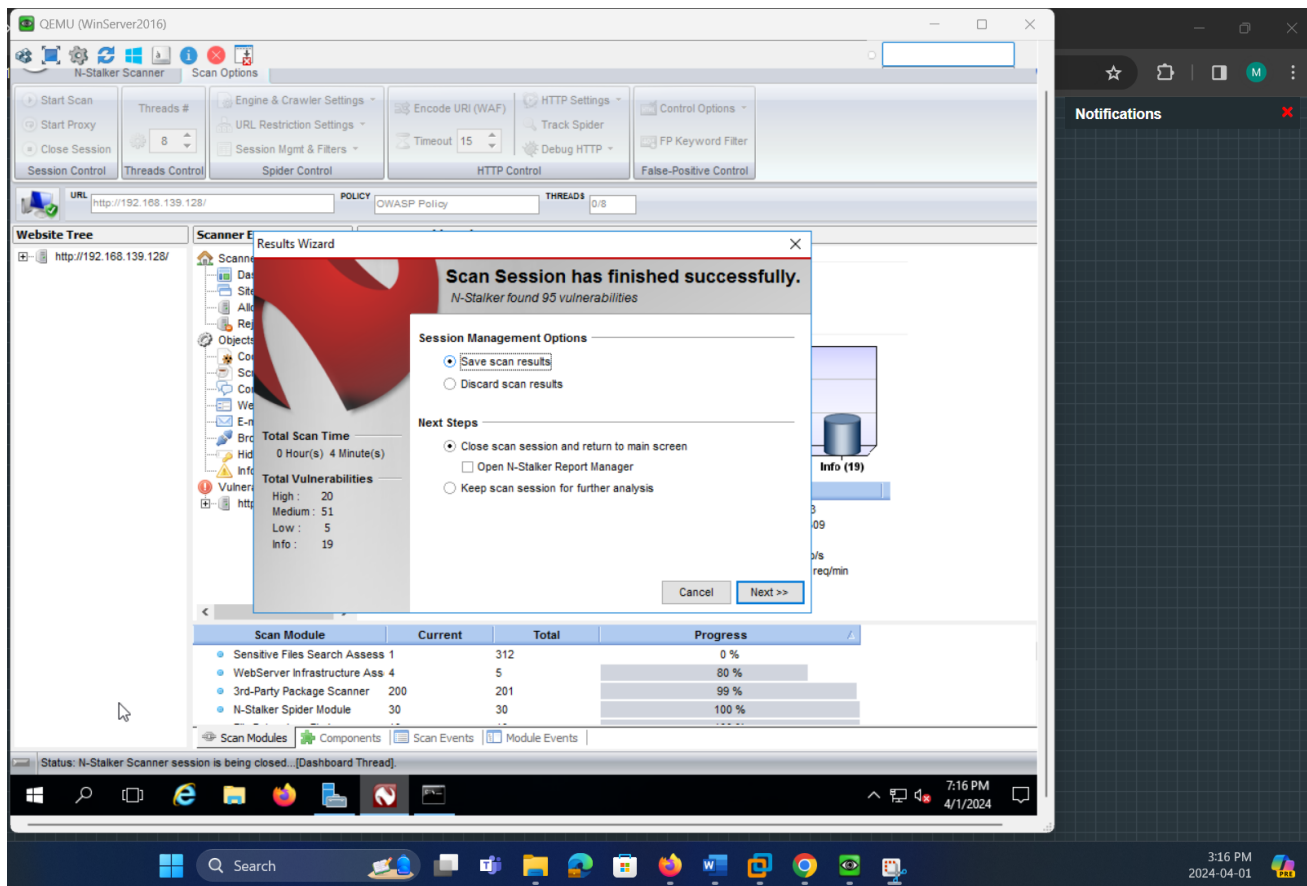
2:43 PM

2024-04-01









5. Scan Results of www.badstore.net (192.168.139.128) – Generating Technical Report and Interpreting Reports

QEMU (WinServer2016)

Start

Policy Editor

Global Options

Report Manager

Macro Recorder

N-Stalker Scanner

Scan Options

Web Proxy

HTTP Brute Force

Web Discovery

Encoder Tool

GHDB Tool

HTTP Load Tester

Update Manager

About N-Stalker

Scan Session

Scan Tools

Miscellaneous Tools

About

Available Scan Sessions

http://192.168.139.128/

Apr 1, 2024 19:10:13

Apr 1, 2024 18:34:21

Report Manager | Session Information Dashboard

Progress Status

Completed Spider

Step 2 Info Gather

Step 3 Run Modules

Step 4 Sig Scanner

Progress Details

Scan Session

Start Time Apr 1, 2024 19:10:13

Duration 0 Hours 4 Minutes

Spider Engine

Crawled URLs 31

Crawled Hosts 1

Default Page Size 8,648 bytes

Scan Engine

Total Requests 605

Failed Requests 0

Attacks Sent 384

404 Errors 53

302 Redirection 0

Network

Bytes Sent 299,233

Bytes Received 1,166,309

Avg Response Time 0

Avg Transfer Rate 1.54 Mb/s

Requests/Minute 0

Report Manager | Control Panel

Scan Session Details

URL http://192.168.139.128/

Policy OWASP Policy

File 47f882825bfa389d3e6bd34a895761db0566c68a.sdb

Scan Session Objects

Cookies 2

Web Forms 26

E-mail Address 13

Script Blocks 2

Comment Blocks 0

Script Files 1

Hidden Directories 0

Status: Choose the desired URL and right-click for more options.

7:59 PM 4/1/2024

Notifications

3:59 PM 2024-04-01

38

QEMU (WinServer2016)

Start

Policy Editor

Global Options

Report Manager

Macro Recorder

N-Stalker Scanner

Scan Options

Web Proxy

HTTP Brute Force

Web Discovery

Encoder Tool

GHDB Tool

HTTP Load Tester

Update Manager

About N-Stalker

Available Scan Sessions

http://192.168.139.128/

Apr 1, 2024

Apr 1, 2024

Technical Report

Executive Report

Generate RTF

Generate PDF

Report Manager | Session Information Dashboard

Progress Status

Step 1 Info Gather

Step 2 Run Modules

Step 3 Sig Scanner

Progress Details

Scan Session

Start Time

Duration

Apr 1, 2024 19:10:13

0 Hours 4 Minutes

Spider Engine

#

Crawled URLs

31

Crawled Hosts

1

Default Page Size

8,648 bytes

Scan Engine

#

Total Requests

605

Failed Requests

0

Attacks Sent

384

404 Errors

53

302 Redirection

0

Network

#

Bytes Sent

299,233

Bytes Received

1,166,309

Avg Response Time

0

Avg Transfer Rate

1.54 Mb/s

Requests/Minute

0

High (20)

Mid (51)

Low (5)

Info (19)

Report Manager | Control Panel

Scan Session Details

URL

Policy

File

http://192.168.139.128/

OWASP Policy

47f882825bfa389d3e6bd34a895761db0566c68a.sdb

Scan Session Objects

Cookies

Web Forms

E-mail Address

Script Blocks

Comment Blocks

Script Files

Hidden Directories

2

26

13

2

0

1

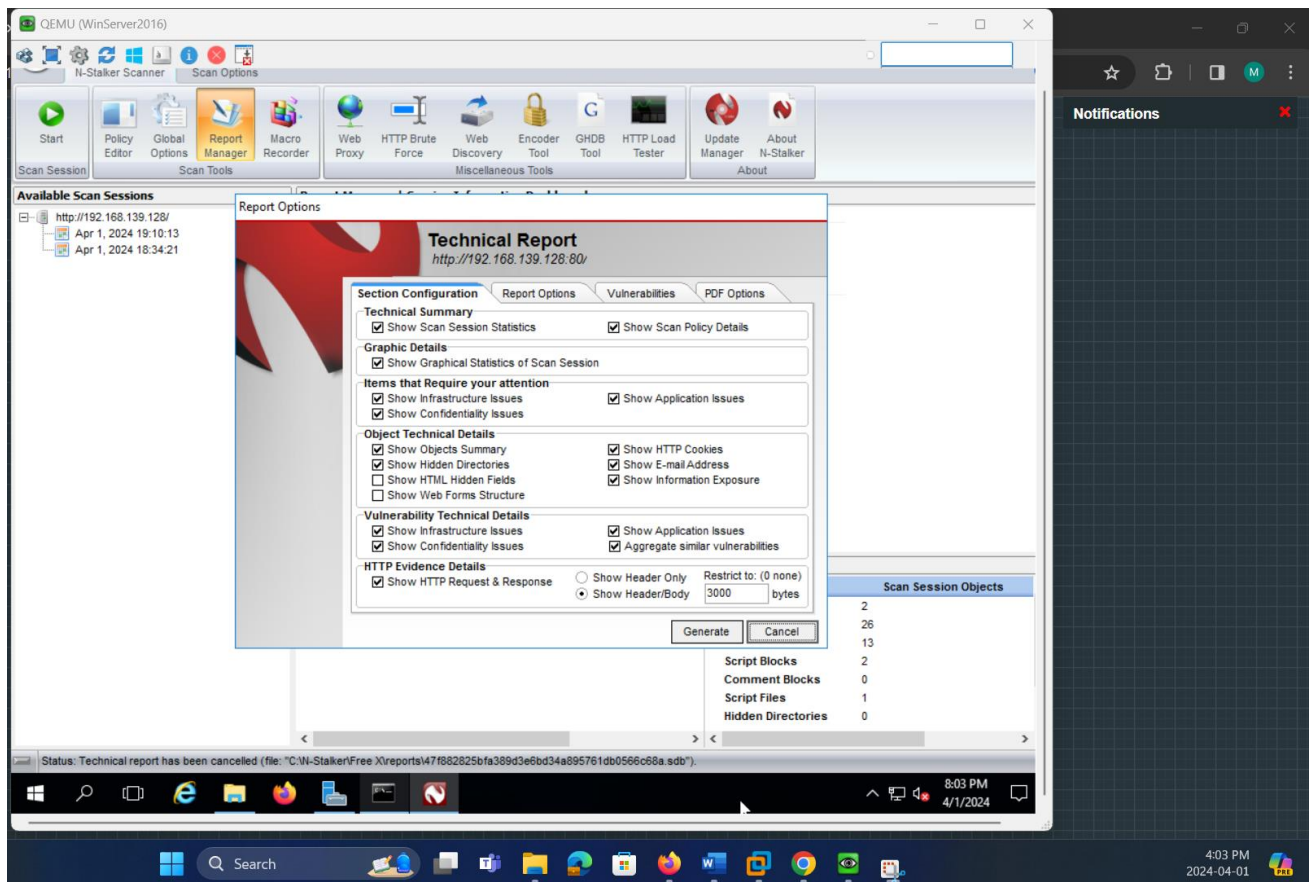
0

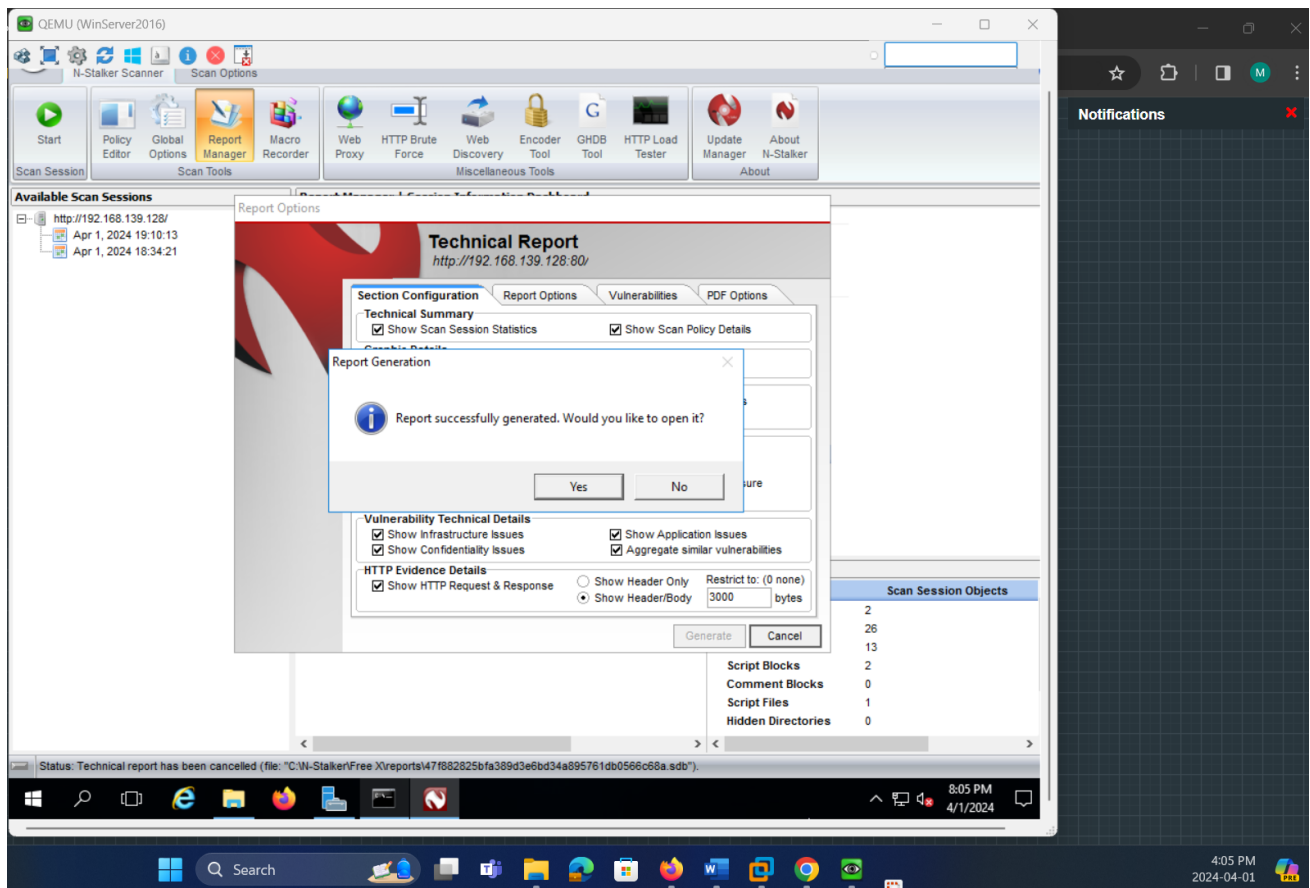
Status: Technical report has been cancelled (file: "C:\N-Stalker\Free X\reports\47f882825bfa389d3e6bd34a895761db0566c68a.sdb").

8:01 PM
4/1/2024

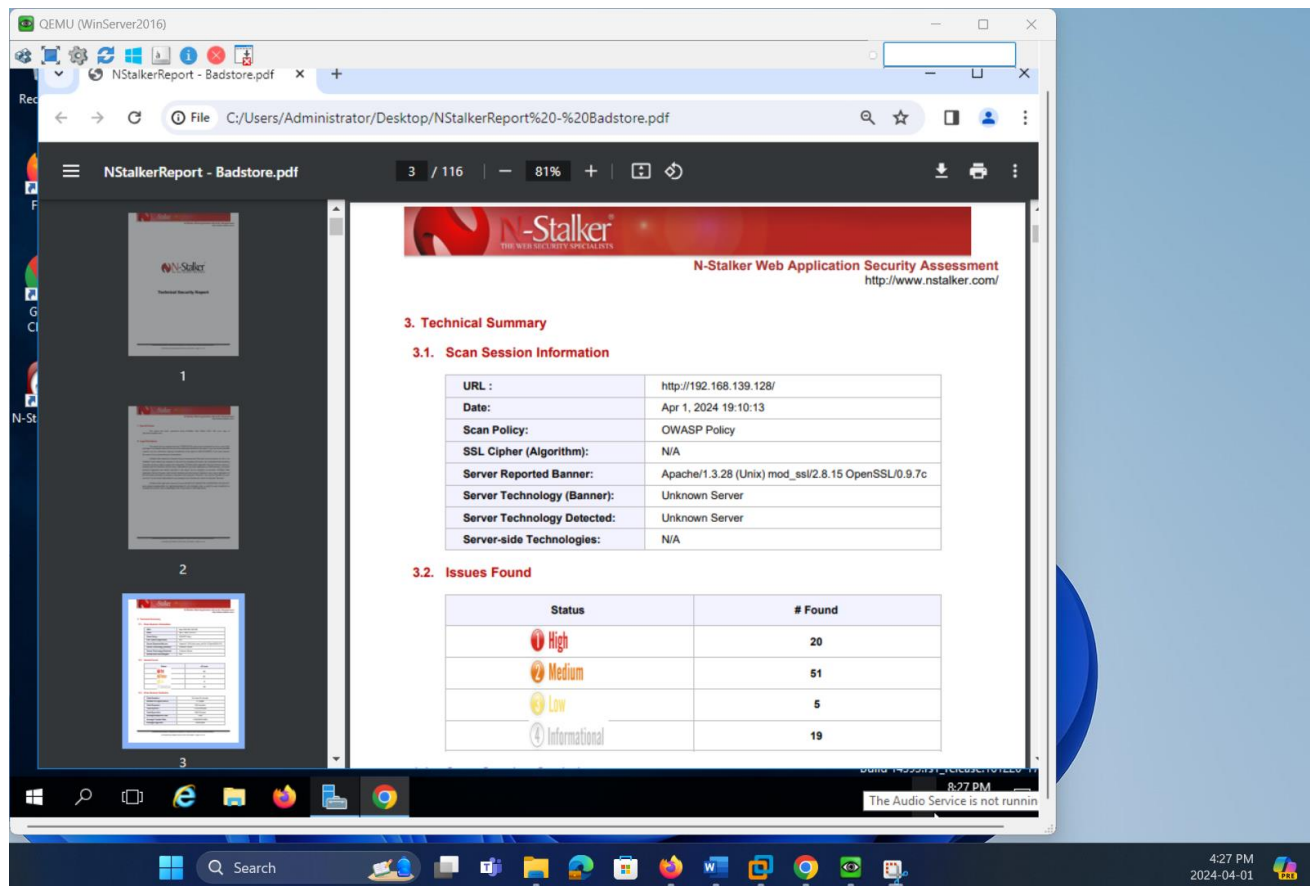
Notifications

4:01 PM
2024-04-01









Based on the provided report from the N-Stalker Web Application Security Assessment, here is a general interpretation of the scan results:

1. **Vulnerable Server and Software:** The web server is running older, vulnerable versions of Apache, mod_ssl, and OpenSSL, which have numerous known security vulnerabilities. These vulnerabilities range from information disclosure to remote code execution and denial of service.
2. **Vulnerabilities Detected:**
 - **Cross-site Scripting (XSS):** The report indicates multiple occurrences where XSS is possible, which could allow attackers to execute scripts in a user's browser to hijack sessions, deface web sites, or conduct phishing attacks. (CVSS Scores, n.d.)
 - **HTTP Parameter Pollution:** This vulnerability can lead to application behavior corruption by manipulating query parameters. (National Vulnerability Database, n.d.)
 - **Cross-site Request Forgery (CSRF):** Identified vulnerabilities that could allow attackers to perform actions on behalf of legitimate users without their consent.
 - **Insecure Cookie Handling:** Some cookies are found without the HttpOnly flag, making them susceptible to access via client-side scripts. (mitre, n.d.)
 - **Clickjacking:** The application could be vulnerable to clickjacking, where a user is tricked into clicking something different from what the user perceives, effectively hijacking interactions meant to go to another site.

- **Information Disclosure:** Several issues related to the disclosure of sensitive information have been found, including directory listings and downloadable objects that might contain sensitive data.
- 3. **Security Bypass and Information Exposure:** Multiple CVEs (Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures) are listed, each representing a different security risk. Many of these are related to OpenSSL and can lead to severe issues like security bypass, denial of service, information exposure, and potentially remote attacks.
- 4. **Recommended Actions:** Although the detailed remediation steps are not available in the report snippets (likely due to the use of the free edition of the scanner), the general recommendation is to update the vulnerable software to the latest, non-vulnerable versions. It's also advised to implement security best practices like disabling unnecessary HTTP methods, setting HttpOnly flags on cookies, and ensuring the application does not reveal detailed error messages or server versions.
- 5. **Risk of Unpatched Vulnerabilities:** The report suggests the presence of many outdated and unpatched vulnerabilities that can significantly compromise the security of the application and the server. It's essential to address these issues promptly.
- 6. **Confidentiality Risks:** The presence of exposed directories and downloadable files can pose significant risks if they contain sensitive information that should not be publicly accessible.

In summary, the report highlights critical security issues that need to be addressed to protect the web application and its users from potential exploits. It's crucial to review each finding in detail, prioritize based on risk, and apply the necessary security patches and configuration changes. For a complete and comprehensive resolution of these issues, upgrading to a full-featured version of the security scanner that provides detailed fixes and further information would be beneficial.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

The exercise using the N-Stalker Web Application Security Scanner has provided valuable insights into the security posture of the scanned web application – www.badstore.net. The results indicate several critical and high-risk vulnerabilities that must be addressed to protect the integrity, confidentiality, and availability of the web application and its underlying systems. Following are the general conclusions for the laboratory assignment:

1. **Outdated Software:** The web server and associated modules are running outdated versions with known vulnerabilities. Updating to the latest, secure versions is a critical step. (OWASP Top Ten, n.d.)
2. **Vulnerability Management:** There is a clear need for ongoing vulnerability management and regular security assessments to identify and remediate new and existing security risks.
3. **Security Hardening:** The web application requires security hardening measures, such as implementing secure cookie attributes, correcting server configurations to prevent clickjacking, and eliminating cross-site scripting vulnerabilities. (13 Best Practices for Improving Web Application Security, n.d.)
4. **Risk Mitigation:** Addressing the highlighted CVEs and other detected issues will greatly reduce the potential for exploitation by attackers.

5. **Compliance and Best Practices:** Ensuring compliance with industry security standards and best practices, like OWASP recommendations, will fortify the application's defense against common web threats. (15 Application Security Best Practices, n.d.) (Web Application Security Best Practices: A Developer's Guide, n.d.)
6. **Awareness and Training:** The exercise emphasizes the need for developer and administrator training on security awareness to prevent introducing vulnerabilities during development and maintenance.
7. **Security Culture:** Building a proactive security culture within the organization can lead to better security practices being followed consistently.
8. **Investment in Security Tools:** The results may suggest that investing in a full version of the security scanner or other advanced security tools could be beneficial for deeper insights and guidance on remediation.
9. **Regular Updates and Patching:** It's evident that regular software updates and patch management processes are vital to maintaining a secure environment.

Overall, the exercise serves as an important reminder of the necessity of web application security and the need for continuous improvement of security measures to safeguard against evolving cyber threats.

References

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