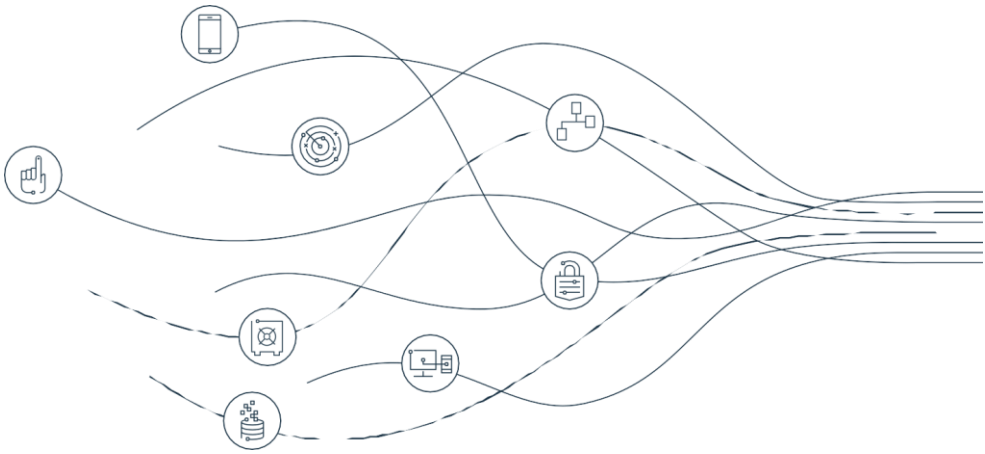
Endpoint Security Practices

Lab 3

Version: 2021.02.08



IBM

Contents

Preface

Overview

In this lab, we are going to put ourselves into the shoes of the attacker, and Footprint a network. We will then implant ourselves as a new user in the system to begin taking control. In the latter half of the lab, we will cover some defences and industry best practices that can keep us safe.

Estimated Time to Complete: 120 mins

Objectives:

This lab requires you to complete six Milestones:

1. Unsecured DVR and DDOS Attacks
2. Footprinting
3. Misconfiguration / Bruteforce
4. Take Control
5. Network Protection Practices
6. X-Force Exchange

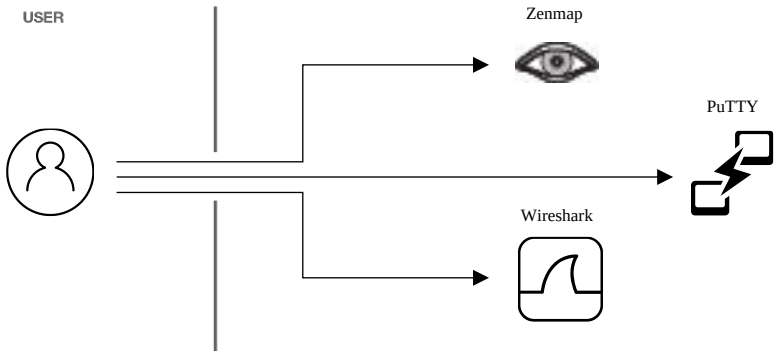
Tools


Zenmap


Wireshark


PuTTY

Flow



1. The User will follow the steps of an online attack by utilizing both Zenmap and Wireshark to find security flaws.
2. We will then defend ourselves from these types of attacks by implementing a Secure Shell with PuTTY.

Milestone 1: Unsecured DVR and DDOS Attacks

How often have you had an app or system push an update without any input from yourself? Maybe at some point you enabled automatic updates and forgot about it, or maybe you fell victim to a forced update. The reality is that everyday thousands of devices connected to the internet go through unmonitored updates. These devices, though they may not contain much sensitive data themselves, are targets for Cybercriminals as they can easily invade the device and, with a little malware, turn the device into a weapon. The weapon is ultimately known as a Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) Attack, which uses thousands of internet devices to access one server at the same time, resulting in the inevitable collapse of the server.

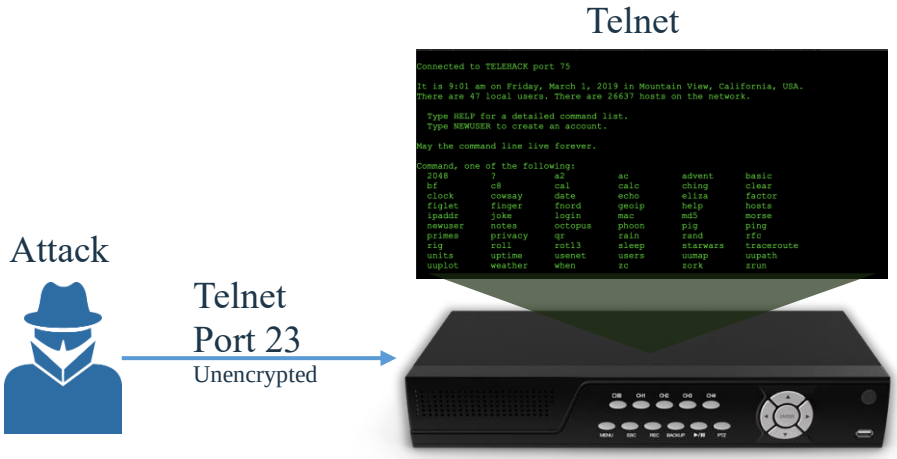
In this scenario we will cover the first three steps the cybercriminal implements to perform a DDoS attack as well as cover some industry best practices to defend yourself.

Steps to Implement a Malicious DDoS Attack

1. **Footpinting**
2. **Misconfiguration** / Bruteforce
3. **Take control**
4. Plant Botnet
5. Run Command and Control
6. Launch DDoS attack
7. Ransomware

The victim is an avid tv watcher and a loyal customer to his entertainment company of choice. So loyal they rent their DVR from them without any thought of security for themselves. Unfortunately for the victim, this company also held security as an afterthought.

One night while the victim is sleeping his DVR pushes an automatic update through an unsecured Telnet connection. This leaves a vulnerability in the victim's network that he may be unaware of, but a searching cybercriminal will soon discover.

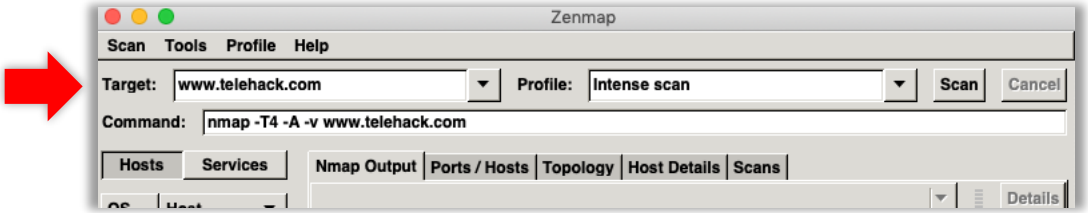


Milestone 2: Footprinting

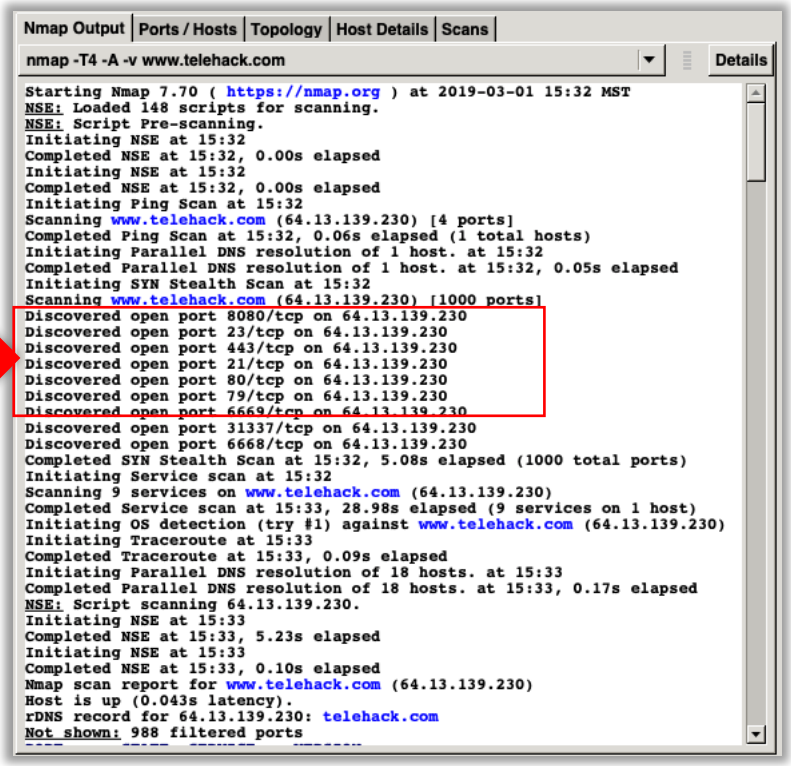
Network Mapping

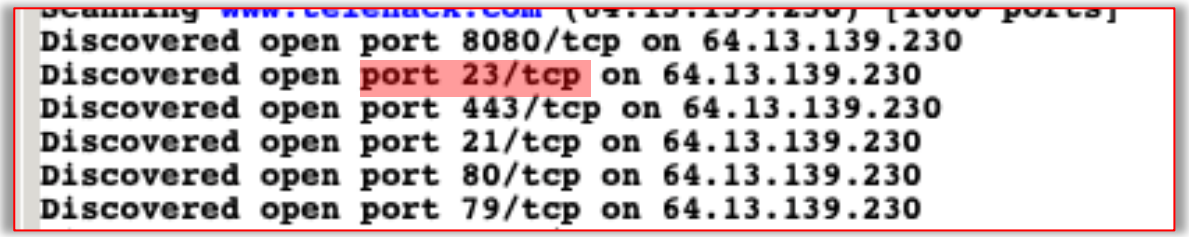
To be able to pull off a successful cyberattack, the attacker needs to know where to strike. This online reconnaissance is often referred to as "Footprinting." Hackers will use tools such as Zenmap to scan networks and discover unsecured open ports.

1. Open Zenmap (Installation instructions can be found in the previous lab if needed)



2. In the Target field input www.telehack.com
3. Click "Scan"
4. Notice the discovered open ports, you may have to scroll back to the top of the generated report
5. We can see that this security system is misconfigured because Port 23, the port Telnet uses for unsecure communications, is still open.





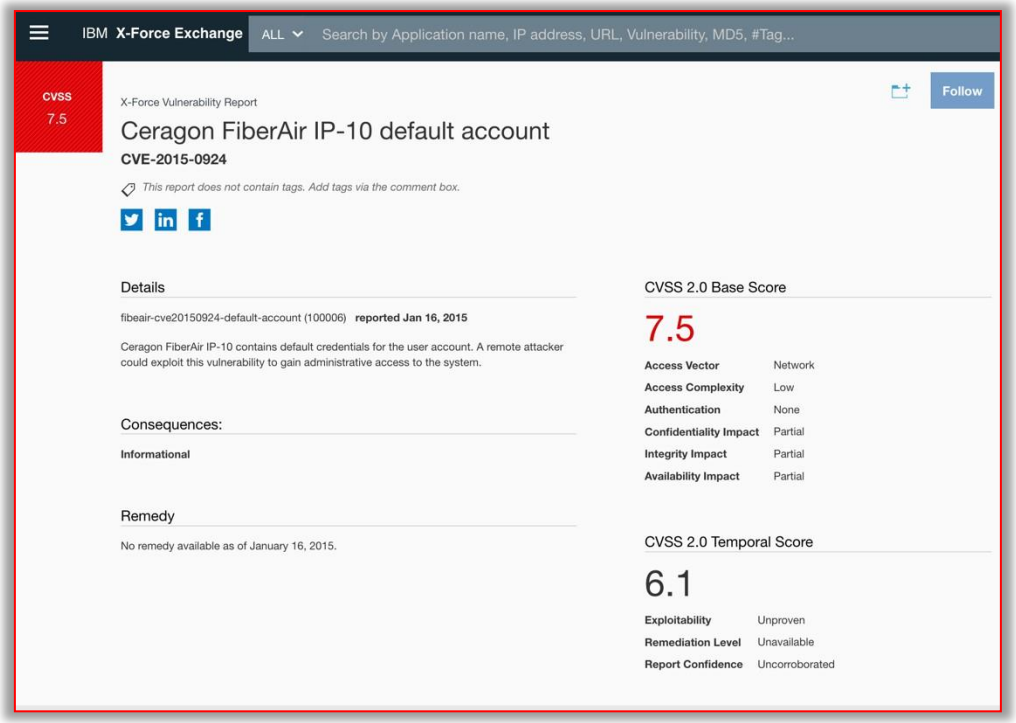
Milestone 3: Misconfiguration / Bruteforce

In the following section, we will describe a general methodology to take advantage of a specific IOT misconfiguration:

- Now that we have confirmed that TCP port 23 for Telnet is open on the IOT device, the next step would be to investigate more details about any potential vulnerabilities disclosed for this specific device.
- As an example, let's say an attacker found an open port on Ceragon FiberAir IP-10 bridges, as we reviewed in the lecture, those devices have a known vulnerability with the following identifier: CVE-2015-0924. Please refer to the following table:

CVE ID	Product	Vulnerability
CVE-2015-0924	Ceragon FiberAir IP-10 bridges	Default password for the root account
CVE-2015-2897	Sierra Wireless AirLink ES, GX, and LS devices	Hardcoded root accounts
CVE-2015-7251	ZTE ZXHN H108N R1A devices	Hardcoded password of root for the root account
CVE-2015-7289	Arris DG860A, TG862A, and TG862G devices	Hardcoded administra- tor password derived from a serial number

- By searching on X-Force Exchange (XFE) and other Threat Intelligence platforms, you can find all the technical details about CVE-2015-0924. Click on the link below to review this information on XF: https://exchange.xforce.ibmcloud.com/vulnerabilities/cve-2015-0924



- As a result of your investigation, you might be able to find the “root” password to get access to the device or you can just try to Bruteforce the root password using the Telnet service we discovered using Nmap.

Milestone 4: Take Control

Create New User

Once the attacker has successfully entered into the DVR Network, the first thing he will do is create himself as a new user.

1. Navigate to telehack.com to simulate the user gaining access to an unsecured device.

In the command line input:

```
newuser
```

2. You will need to verify that you 13 years or older as well as read the privacy policy.
3. Enter your desired Username. Your Username must be within 2-9 characters, begin with a lowercase letter, and may contain letters or numbers.
4. Once you have decided on a Username, input the password. It must be at least 6 characters long.

View Other Users

Now that the attacker has made himself a completely legitimate user profile, he now has access to sensitive information such as User data.

In the command line input:

```
users
```

1. You can scroll down the list to see all of the users on the network as well as their last status, when they were last online, and where they are located.
2. When long lists like this are generated, you can hit enter to move line by line or spacebar to move quickly
3. Hold “Control” and hit “c” to stop a list or command

Finger

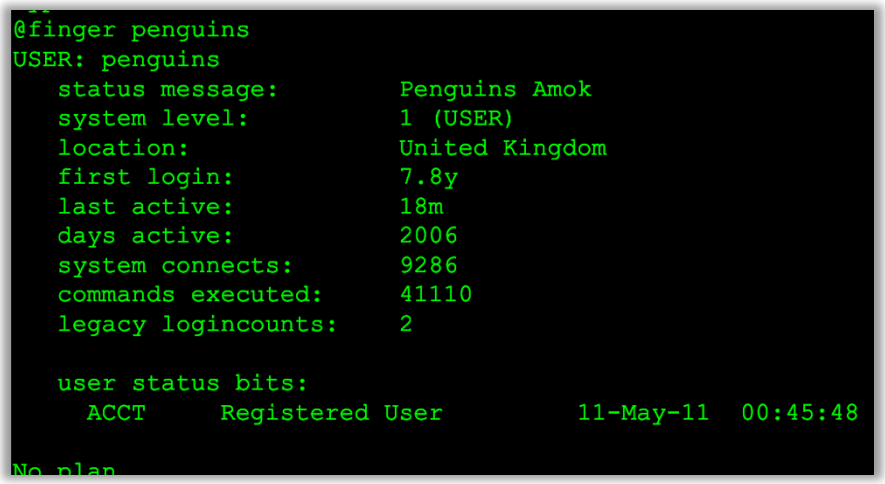
With access to all the users on the network the attacker can use the finger command to pull extra information from each of those users.

1. Find a lab partner or grab a random name from the user list and in the command line input:

```
Finger <user>
```

With <user> replaced by the actual username of your choice.

2. Using this command, you will not only pull location and last login of the user, but also when they first made their account, how many times they have connected to the system, and the number of commands the user has executed. Some users even have status bits connected to their account so you can see what they were last working on.



View Files

Once connected to the network, it isn't only user information that is in danger, but also any documents, paperwork, even programs and services kept on that network are now fair game to the attacker.

1. When logged in as a user, in the command line input:

```
ls
```

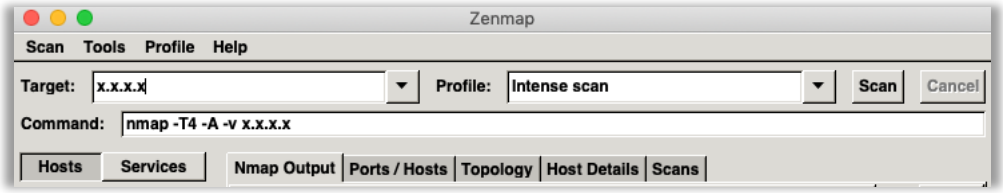
2. A list of all the files and services stored on that network will display

```
@ls
  advent.gam        againstip.txt     basic.man         basic15.a2
  bbslist.txt       changelog.txt     colossus.txt      command.txt
  crackdown.txt     do-well.txt       etewaf.txt        finger.txt
  fnord.txt         future.txt        hammurabi.bas     ien137.txt
  jfet.a2           johnnycode.txt    k-rad.txt         learncode.txt
  leaves.txt        lem.bas           lostpig.gam       mastermind.bas
  notes.txt         oregon.bas        porthack.exe      privacy.txt
  rogue.gam         rootkit.exe       satcom.man        starwars.txt
  sysmon.txt        telehack.txt      underground.txt   unix.txt
  wardial.exe       wumpus.bas        xmodem.exe        zork.gam
```

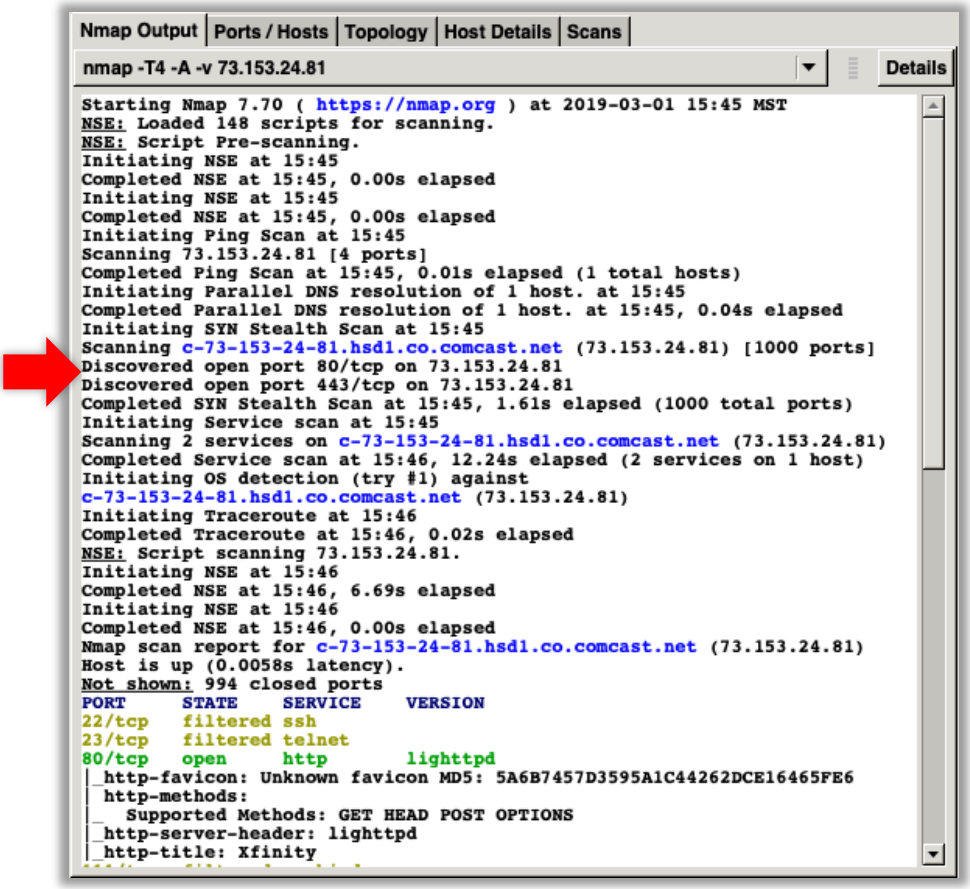
Milestone 5: Network Protection Practices

We know that Telnet is an unsecured connection that can be used to access your network. In order to ensure we are not susceptible to this vulnerability, we can utilize a Secure Shell (SSH) and ensure port 23 is not open. In the next steps we are going to monitor a protected network and verify that information is encrypted.

1. Find your IP Address.
2. This time input your personal IP Address into the Target for Zenmap and hit “Scan”.



3. Review the generated report. Do you still see an open port 23? What ports do you have open?



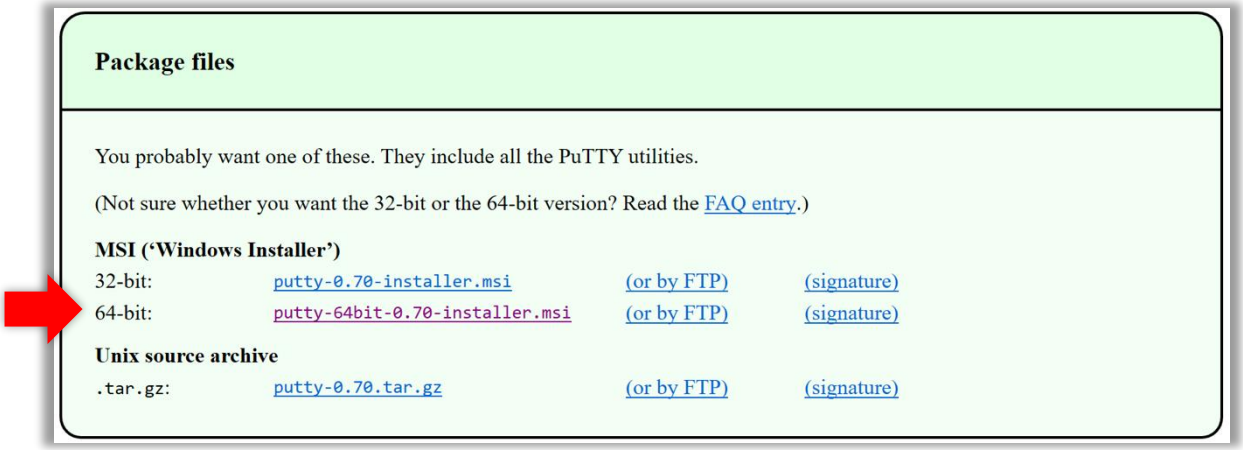
SSH

A Secure Shell (SSH) wraps your connection in an encrypted layer so even if an attacker can sniff the packet sent, they will not be able to acquire any useful information.

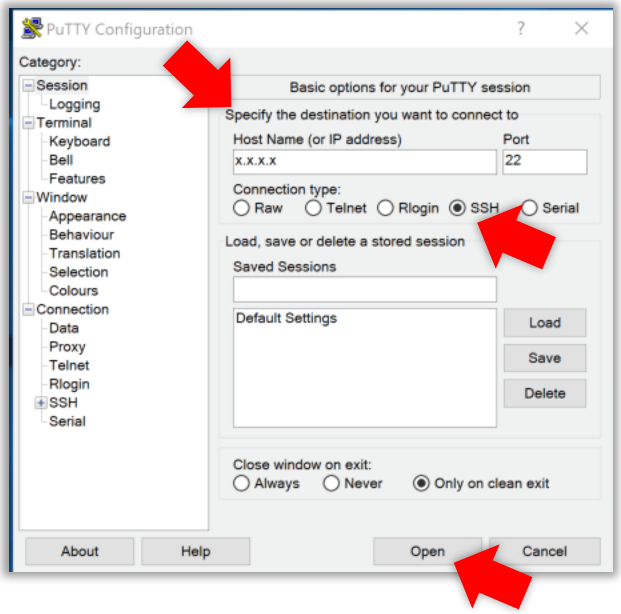
SSH Windows Installation and Use

Windows does not have a built in Secure Shell so we will need to download a third-party program. For this lab we recommend PuTTY.

1. Navigate to the PuTTY download link found here.
2. Scroll down the page to find the correct download package for your operating system.



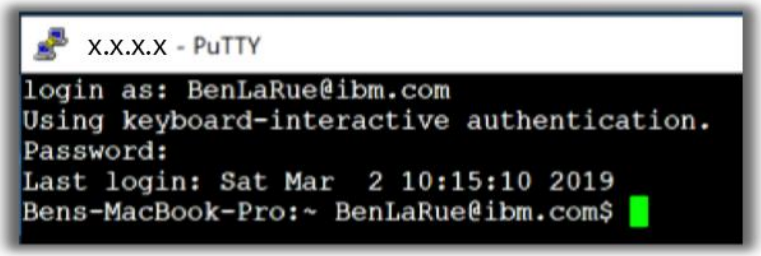
3. Download and run the installer.
4. Click through the installer and read through the ReadMe.
5. PuTTY is ready for use! Open the program, input the IP Address of device you wish to connect with, and hit "open."



Double-check that the connection type is set to SSH.

6. You will be prompted for the user login information just like any connection request.

7. Once connected you will have the same capabilities that the Telnet connection provided.



8. Select the desktop as the chosen directory and look at all the files stored.
   To do this, Input

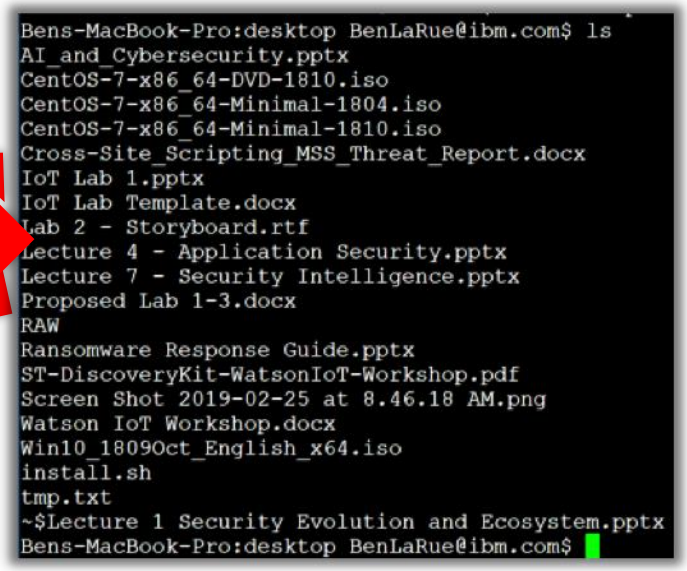
```
cd desktop
```

You will know you are in the chosen directory by it being displayed before your username.

9. Now we will look at the files just as we did with the Telnet connection.
   In the command line input:

```
ls
```

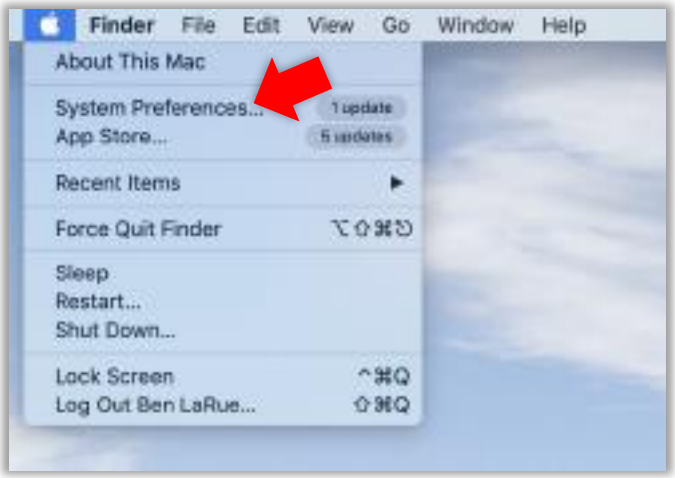
All the files stored in that directory are displayed to us, exactly like the Telnet connection.



SSH Mac Activation

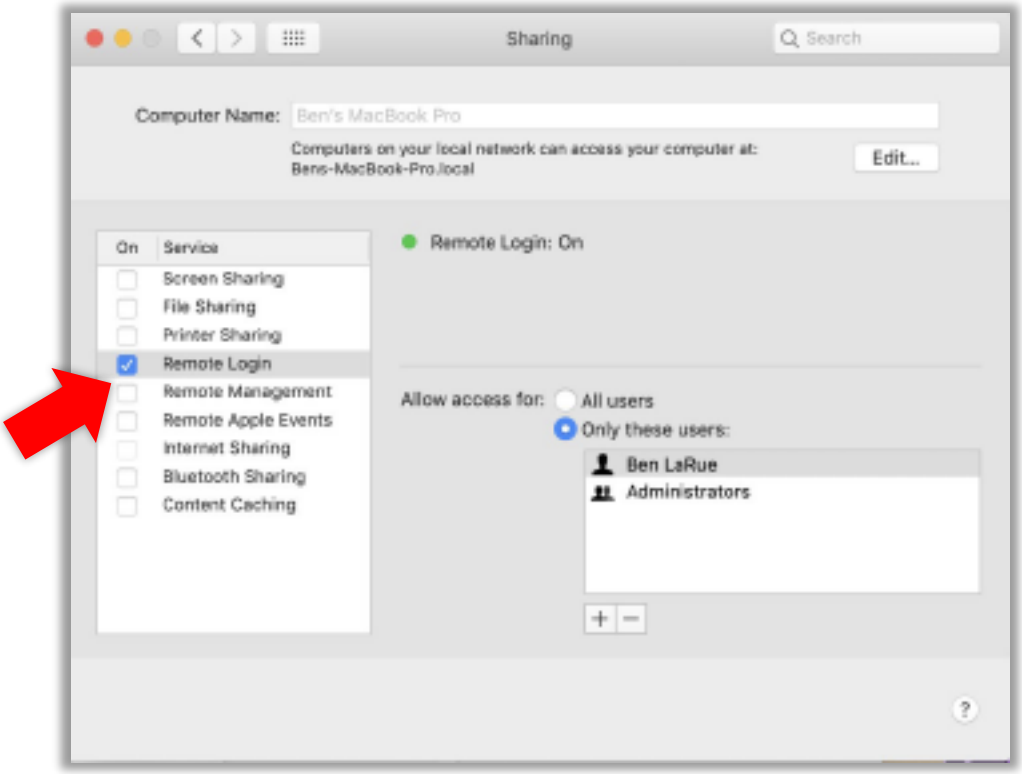
Mac has a built in Secure Shell connection, so we simply need to go through the steps to activate it. However, we do need to enable Remote Login through Sharin in System Preferences in order to enable the SSH Server.

1. Navigate to “System Preferences”.

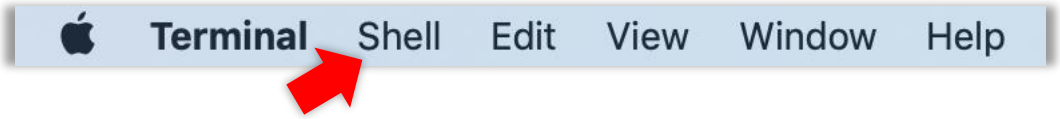


2. Click on “Sharing”.

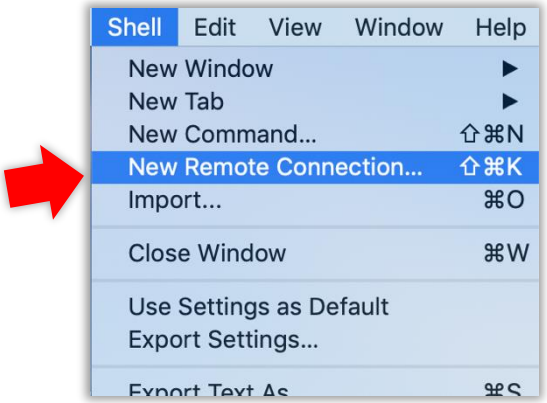
3. Check the box next to “Remote Login”. This will allow an external login to our system.



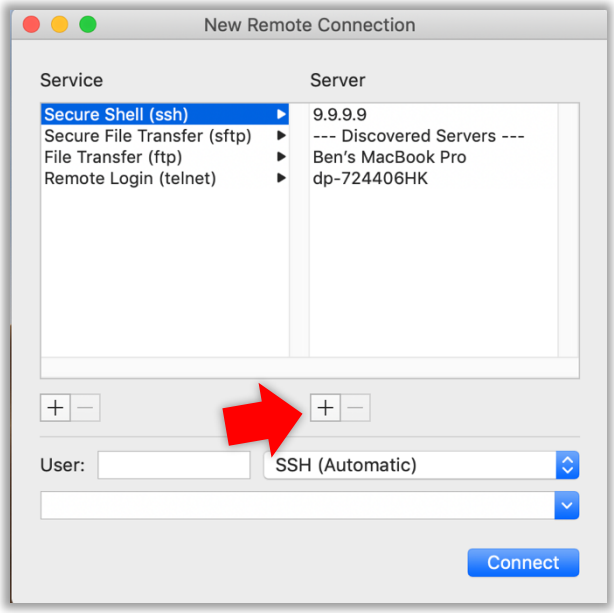
4. Open your Terminal. Click on the magnifying glass at the top right and type Terminal.
5. With the Terminal open, at the top left of your screen click “Shell.”



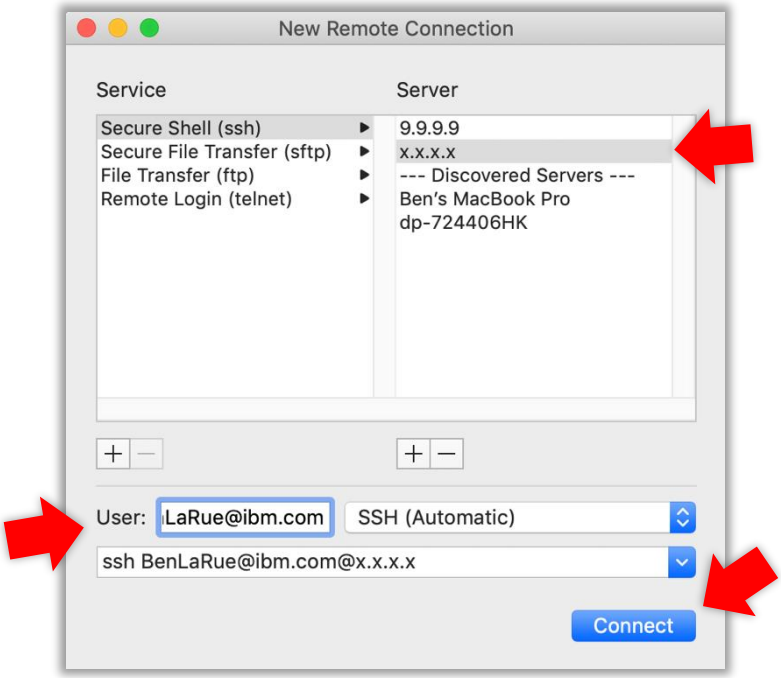
6. Then choose “New Remote Connection.”



7. Select the “Secure Shell (ssh)” service and then under the Server column hit the “+” to enter a new IP.



8. Enter the IP Address of the device you wish to connect to. Now enter the user and with the correct IP selected hit “Connect.”

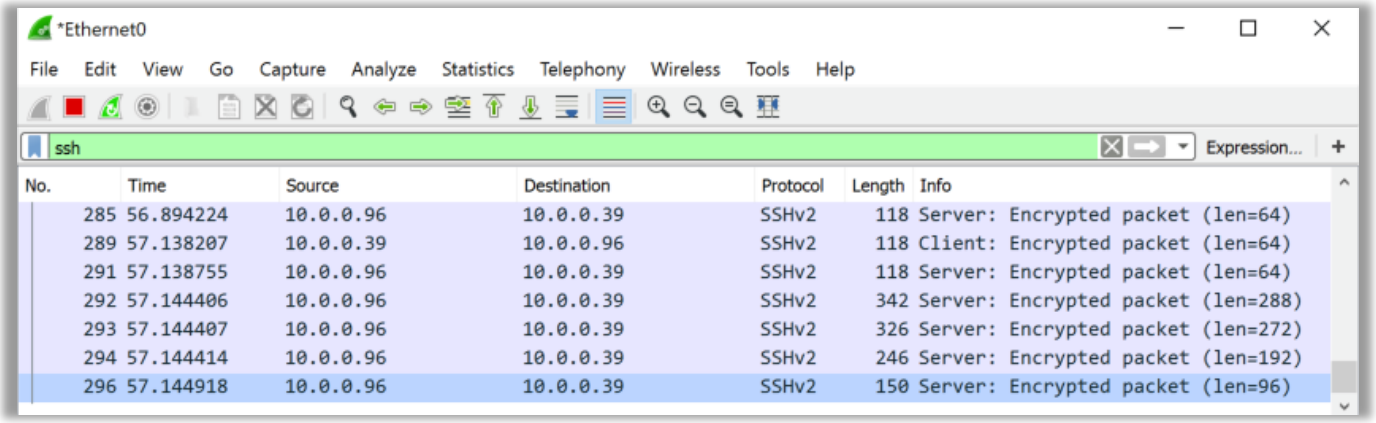


9. Enter the password and you have gained remote access. Follow steps 8 and 9 from the previous Windows section to choose a directory and look at stored files.

SSH Capabilities – Data is Encrypted

We've shown that SSH provides the same capabilities as Telnet, but Telnet is an old form of connection that is riddled with vulnerabilities. The Secure Shell wraps all of your communication and other data in layers of encryption so even when an attacker is using a sniffer on your data packets, they won't be able to see any sensitive information.

1. Open Wireshark (installation instructions can be found in previous lab).
2. Point at your network and capture the data packets transferred during the SSH connection

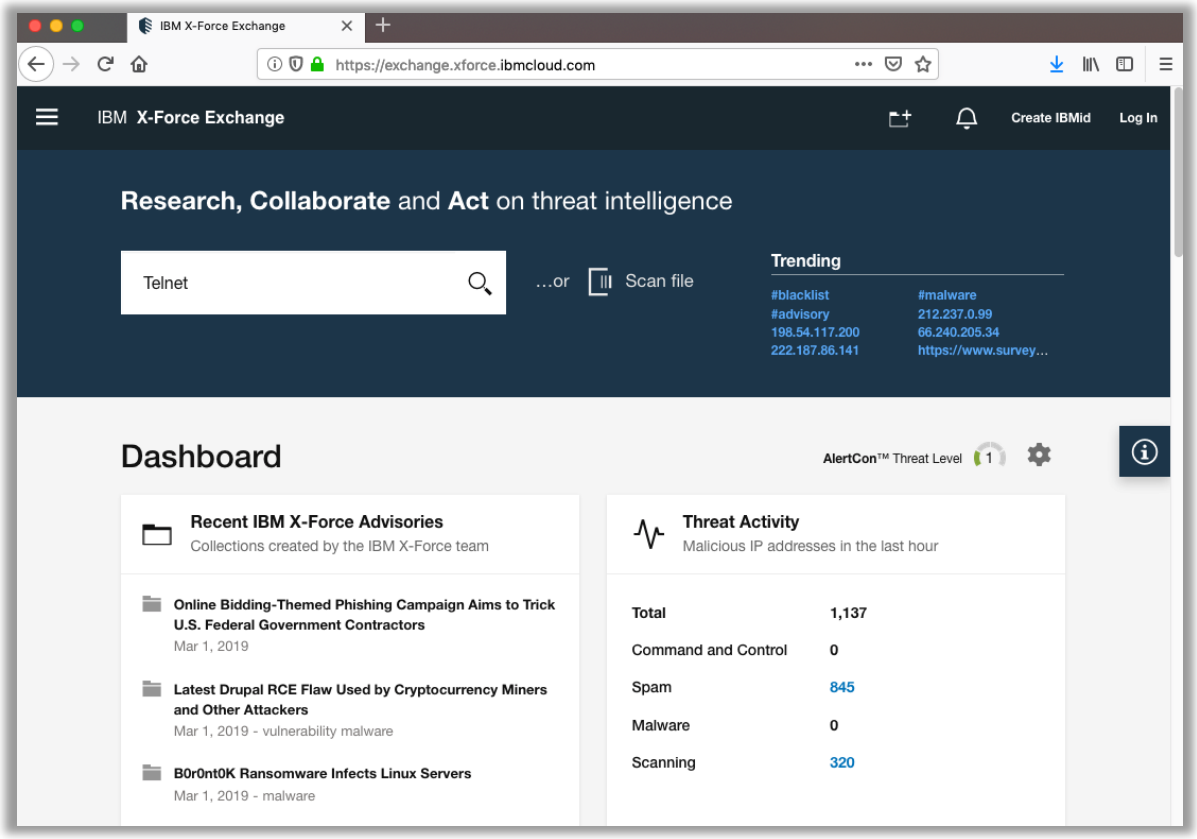


3. Notice all data packets are encrypted!

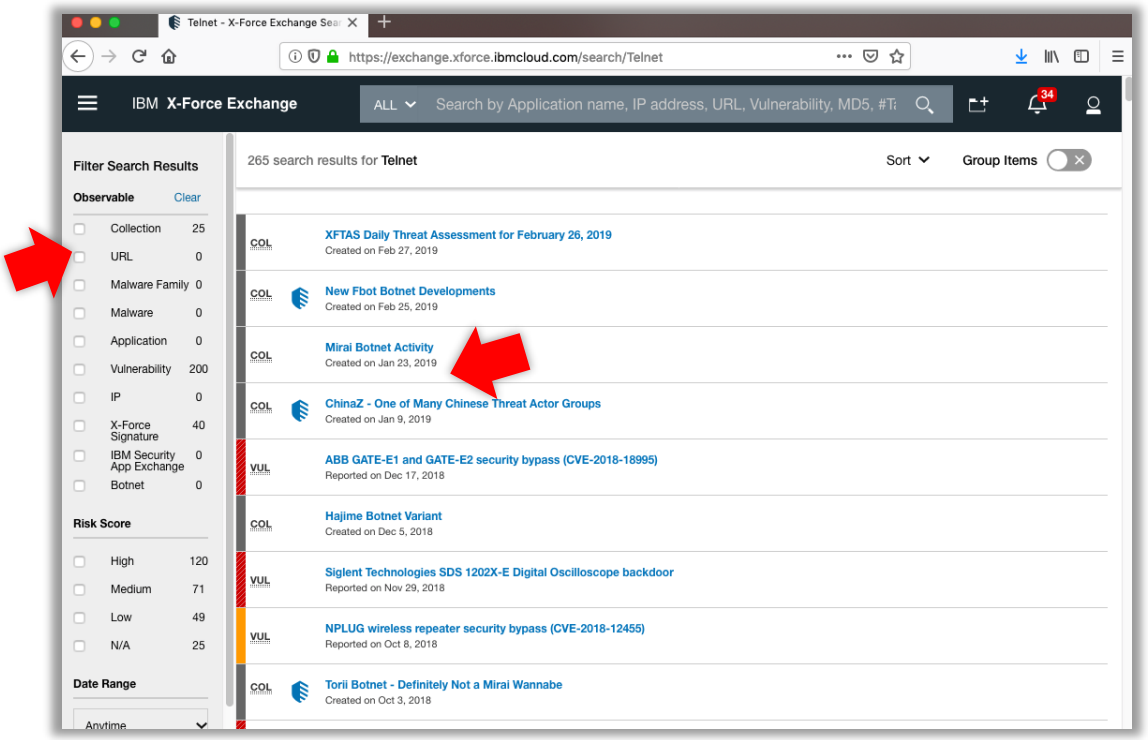
Milestone 6: X-Force Exchange

Other than using programs like Secure Shells to keep us safe we can utilize services who, 24/7, monitor cyber threats. IBM's X-Force Exchange is just one such company.

1. Navigate to X-Force Exchange and login with your IBM id.
2. Input Telnet into the search.

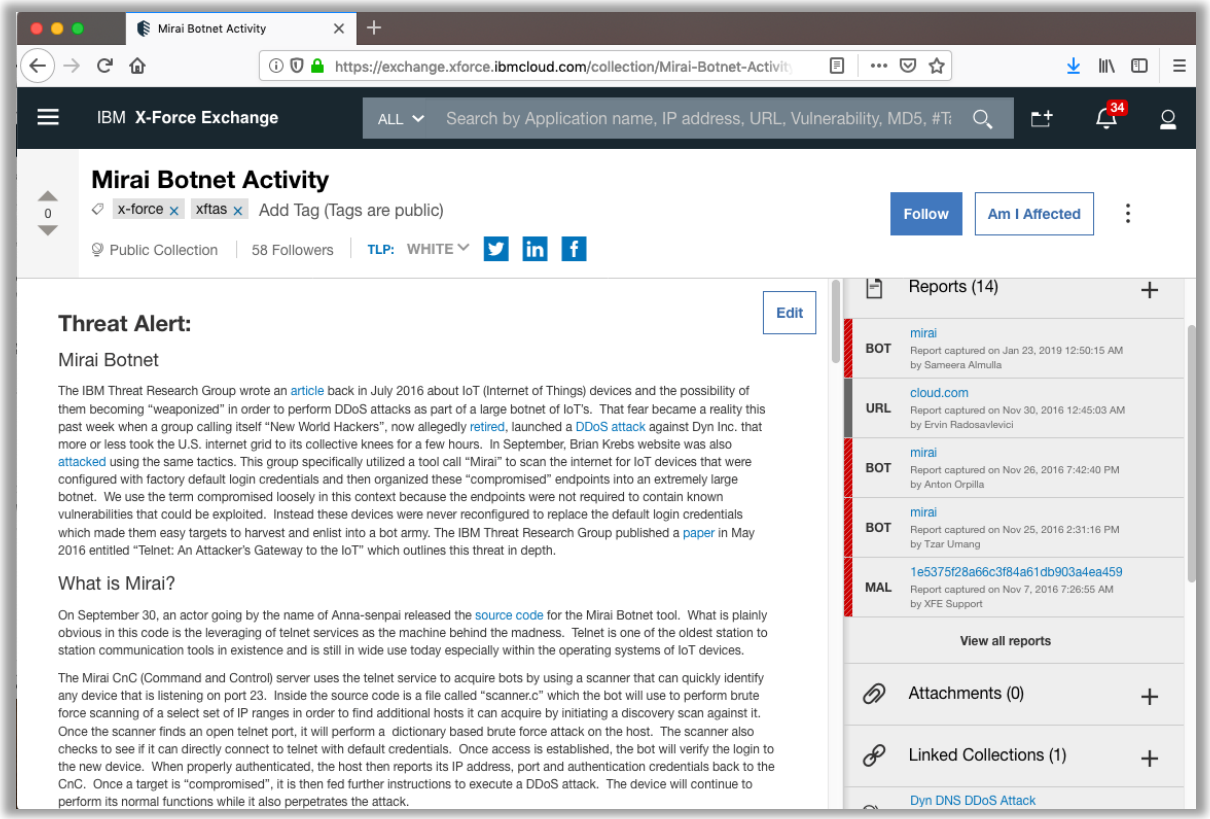


3. The “Collections” will show what type of attacks are happening.

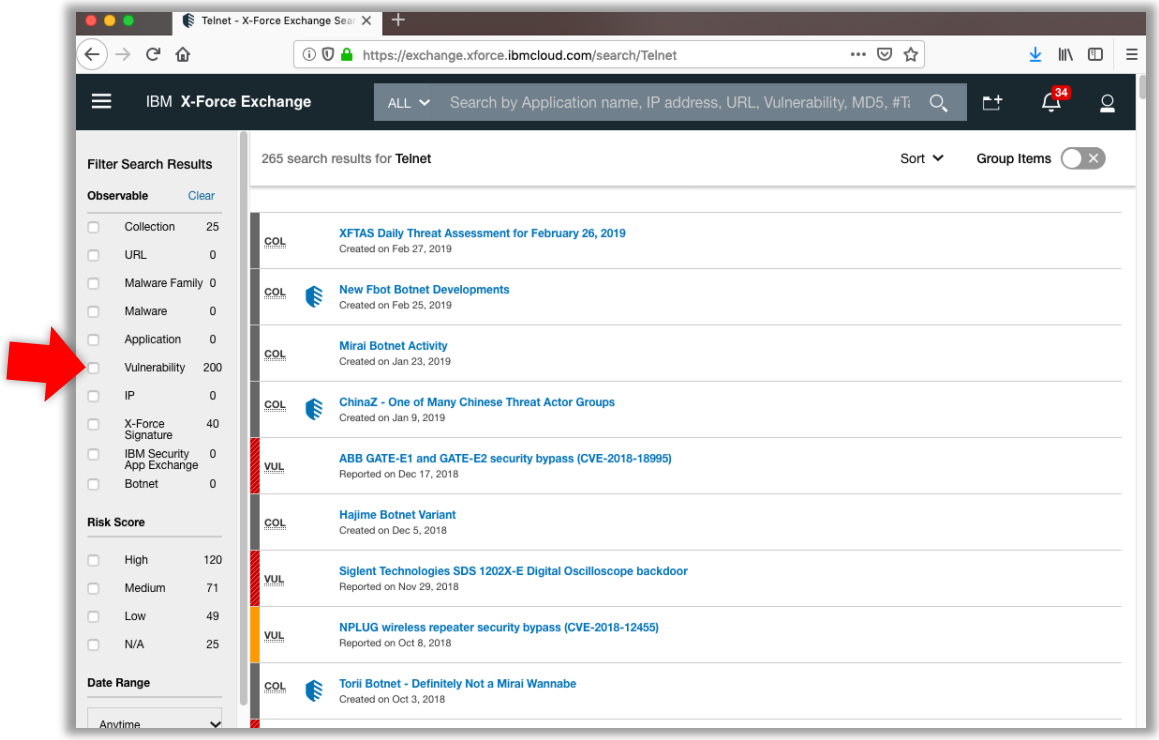


We can see that Mirai is a botnet that attacks through Telnet and has been active recently.

4. Click into Mirai Botnet Activity. This gives us a more in depth description of the alert and what Mirai is.



5. Return back to the Telnet search. This time we are going to take a look at vulnerabilites.



6. The vulnerabilites are reports detailing what systems are in the most danger from this type of attack.
7. Click into any vulnerability and scroll down to the “Affected Products”

X-Force Exchange keeps track of the products that are vulnerable to a type of attack.

With 24/7 monitoring, collections, and reports on vulnerabilities; X-Force Exchange is an extremely useful tool for any security expert.