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Introduction to Penetration Testing Practice Seminar

PA211 Advanced Topics of Cyber Security

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Goals of this seminar

- Become **acquainted** with:
 - **System under test** (target) in the pentesting sandbox.
 - **Your teammates.**

Pentesting Sandbox

Pentesting sandbox – Preparation

1. Run `pa211_setup` command – **only on school computers (nymfe)**.
2. Clone a new repository with the target (pentesting sandbox):
<https://gitlab.fi.muni.cz/cybersec/pa211/pentesting.git>
3. Change directory to `pentesting`. This directory contains `Vagrantfile`.
4. Run `vagrant up`.

Pentesting sandbox – Description

- **Two hosts** in the same LAN 10.1.26.0/24.
- **Kali Linux** (attacker machine) is here for you (pentester).
- Server machine runs the **target system**.
- You can access the target (server) from Kali (attacker) via **CLI** (SSH) or **GUI** (VirtualBox) console.
- You can also access **web applications at the target** using SSH port forwarding (see next slide).

Pentesting sandbox – Local browser access

1. Set up port forwarding to be able to use your browser at the host to access the target:

```
vagrant ssh server -- -ND 9050
```

Let it run in the background.

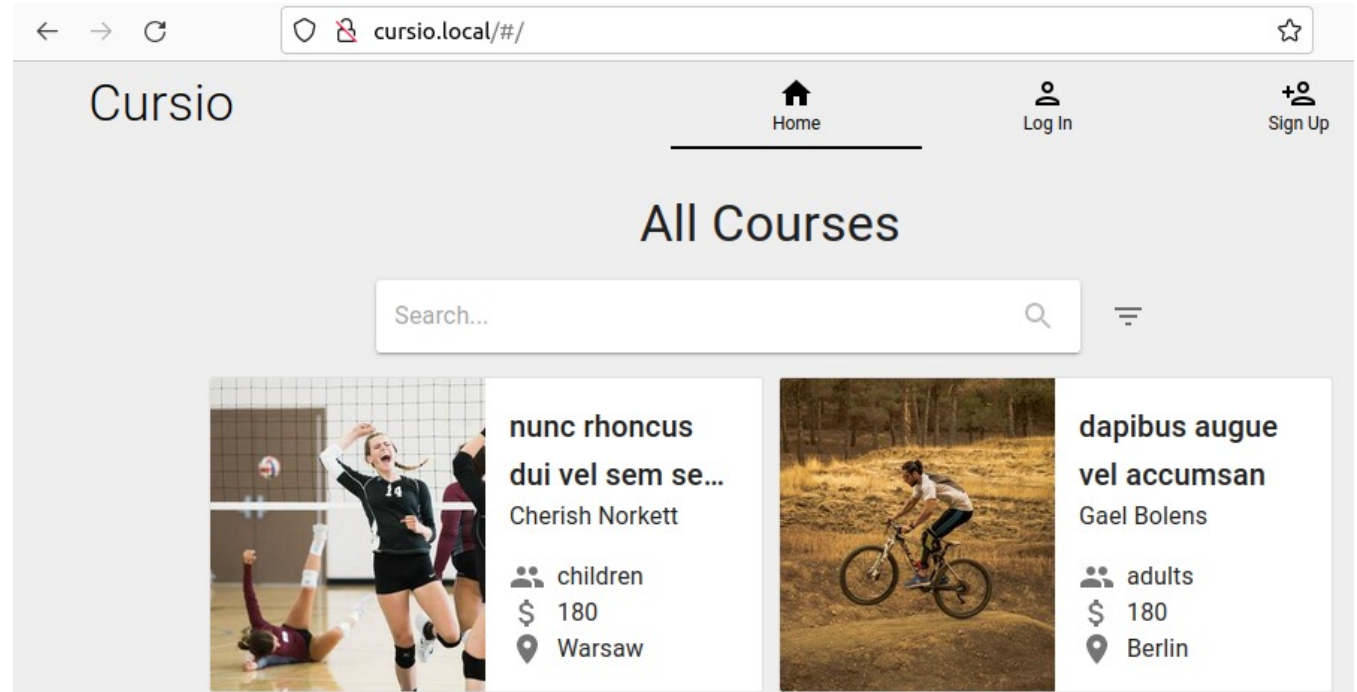
2. Set up Firefox **at your host** (nymfe) [steps in README.md](#).

If you cannot connect to Cursio, check you have set the SOCKS proxy in Firefox according to the screenshot in the README.

Pentesting sandbox – Check the target app

Verify that you can **access the target** at <http://cursio.local> using Firefox at your attacker or your local host.

1. Open GUI console and log in the Kali using kali as username and password. Open Firefox at Kali and visit Cursio.
2. Or, if you use local browser access: open Firefox at your local and visit Cursio.



Pentesting sandbox – Check networking

- Kali Linux has IP 10.1.26.23.
- The target has IP 10.1.26.9.
- Check whether you can ping *curso.local* from the attacker:

```
vagrant ssh attacker
```

```
ping curso.local
```


Troubleshooting

- **Destroy** and (re)**create** a virtual machine:
 - `vagrant destroy <machine_name> -f`
 - `vagrant up <machine_name>`
- If Ansible provisioning **fails**, rerun tasks with:
 - `vagrant provision <machine_name>`
- List **open ports** the on server:
 - `sudo netstat -tulpn`

The target

Cursio application – I

- Cursio is a **web portal** for offering and searching various **courses and free-time activities**.
- **Users** can create and manage their user accounts, including changing their e-mail or password and editing their profile picture and user description.
- **Registered users** can create courses and sign up for courses created by other users.

Cursio application – II

- Each course is classified by target age group, location, and general type.
- Courses are filtered by their categories or by using a full-text search feature.
- The **front-end application with the API server** provides the most significant **attack surface** of the sandbox.

Scope of the pentest

- The server machine hosting Cursio.
- IP address 10.1.26.9 within the pentesting sandbox.

Rules of engagement

- Each of you is provided with a testing instance (this will NOT happen in practice).
- Using social engineering is **forbidden**.
- If you break your sandbox, feel free to recreate it using `vagrant destroy` and `vagrant up`.
- Do not share your findings with other teams.
- Do not share the sandbox outside the class.
- Contact person: Ádám Ruman <469068@muni.cz>

Your task for today

- **Familiarize yourselves with the pentesting sandbox.**
- You are expected to **interact with the application** and **observe** various **features, API calls,** and **user roles.**
- Note the sandbox contains **more targets than the web portal.**
- Remember, you are a team. **Work in a team, and share what you find with other team members.**
- Next week: actual pentesting (using tools at Kali).

Recommendation for teamwork

- Create a shared document for your findings
- Establish a secure communication channel for your team:
 - MS Teams, [Keybase](#), ...
- Agree on a time window for working outside the class (will be necessary next week)

How was it today?

Please fill in an **anonymous** exit ticket:

<https://muni.cz/go/pa211-22-05>



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