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Thread: [Beginner's Guide: Finding and Checking Network Weaknesses with Shodan and Nmap](#)

Sutil - July 3, 2023, 11:08 am

?Greetings everyone,

Today, I'd like to delve into a comprehensive guide on how to effectively use Shodan, a specialized search engine for internet-connected devices, along with Nmap, a potent network scanning tool, for the purpose of identifying potential targets and scanning for vulnerabilities. Please note that this guide is intended solely for educational purposes. It's crucial to obtain proper authorization before conducting any network scanning activities.

Step 1: Identifying Targets with Shodan

Shodan is a unique search engine that indexes internet-connected devices ranging from webcams and printers to industrial controls. After creating an account and obtaining an API key, you can use Shodan's search functionality to find specific devices or even all devices within a certain geographical area. For instance, to find all web servers in New York, you could enter "http city:"New York"".

Step 2: Setting Up Nmap

Nmap is a versatile tool available for Windows, Linux, and Mac. You can download it from the [official Nmap website](#). Linux users can also use their package manager to install Nmap (e.g., `sudo apt-get install nmap` for Debian-based distributions).

Step 3: Conducting a Basic Nmap Scan

After identifying a target with Shodan, you can proceed to scan it with Nmap. The command `nmap [target]` initiates a basic scan. Replace `[target]` with the IP address or domain name of your target.

Step 4: Performing a Port Range Scan

By default, Nmap scans the 1000 most commonly used ports. To scan a specific range of ports, use the `-p` option: `nmap -p 20-80 [target]`.

Step 5: Detecting OS and Services

The `-A` option allows you to detect the operating system and services running on the target: `nmap -A [target]`.

Step 6: Utilizing Nmap Scripts for Vulnerability Scanning

Nmap's NSE (Nmap Scripting Engine) uses scripts to identify vulnerabilities. To utilize this feature, use the `--script` option followed by the vulnerability category. For instance, `nmap --script vuln [target]` scans the target for vulnerabilities.

Step 7: Saving Scan Results

You can save your scan results to a file using the `-oN` option: `nmap -oN output.txt [target]`.

Remember, both Shodan and Nmap are powerful tools that should be used responsibly and ethically. For more in-depth information on the features of Shodan and Nmap and how to use them, refer to the [official Shodan documentation](#) and the [official Nmap documentation](#).

Stay safe and ethical in your hacking endeavors!

Best,
Sutil

Monyito666 - *July 4, 2023, 3:30 pm*

Thank you for this very informative guide, keep on sharing sir!