Practice Labs - Ethical Hacker v10

Hacking Web Servers

Introduction

Webserver
Slowloris
HTTPrint
Directory Traversal
Brute-force
DirBuster
Metasploit Framework
WebDAV
Ethical Hacking

Welcome to the **Hacking Webservers** Practice Lab. In this module, you will be provided with the instructions and devices needed to develop your hands-on skills.

Learning Outcomes

In this module, you will complete the following exercises:

- Exercise 1 - Exploiting the Webserver Vulnerabilities
- Exercise 2 - Preventing Webserver Exploitations

After completing this lab, you will be able to:

- Perform a Slowloris Attack on a Webserver
- Enumerate a Webserver using HTTPrint
- Perform Directory Traversal Attack
- Perform Web Application Brute Forcing Using DirBuster
- Use Skipfish to Perform Webserver Reconnaissance
- Find Files on a Webserver using Metasploit Framework
- Scan for Options on a Webserver using Metasploit Framework
- Find the Webserver Version using Metasploit Framework
- Check for WebDAV on a Webserver using Metasploit Framework
- Use Common Methods to Prevent Webserver Exploitation
- Disable HTTP TRACK and TRACE Verbs in Internet Information Services (IIS)

Exam Objectives

The following exam objectives are covered in this lab:

- **3.2** Information Security Attack Detection
- **3.3** Information Security Attack Prevention

> ***Note:*** *Our main focus is to cover the practical, hands-on aspects of the exam objectives. We recommend referring to course material or a search engine to research theoretical topics in more detail.*

Lab Duration

It will take approximately **1 hour** to complete this lab.

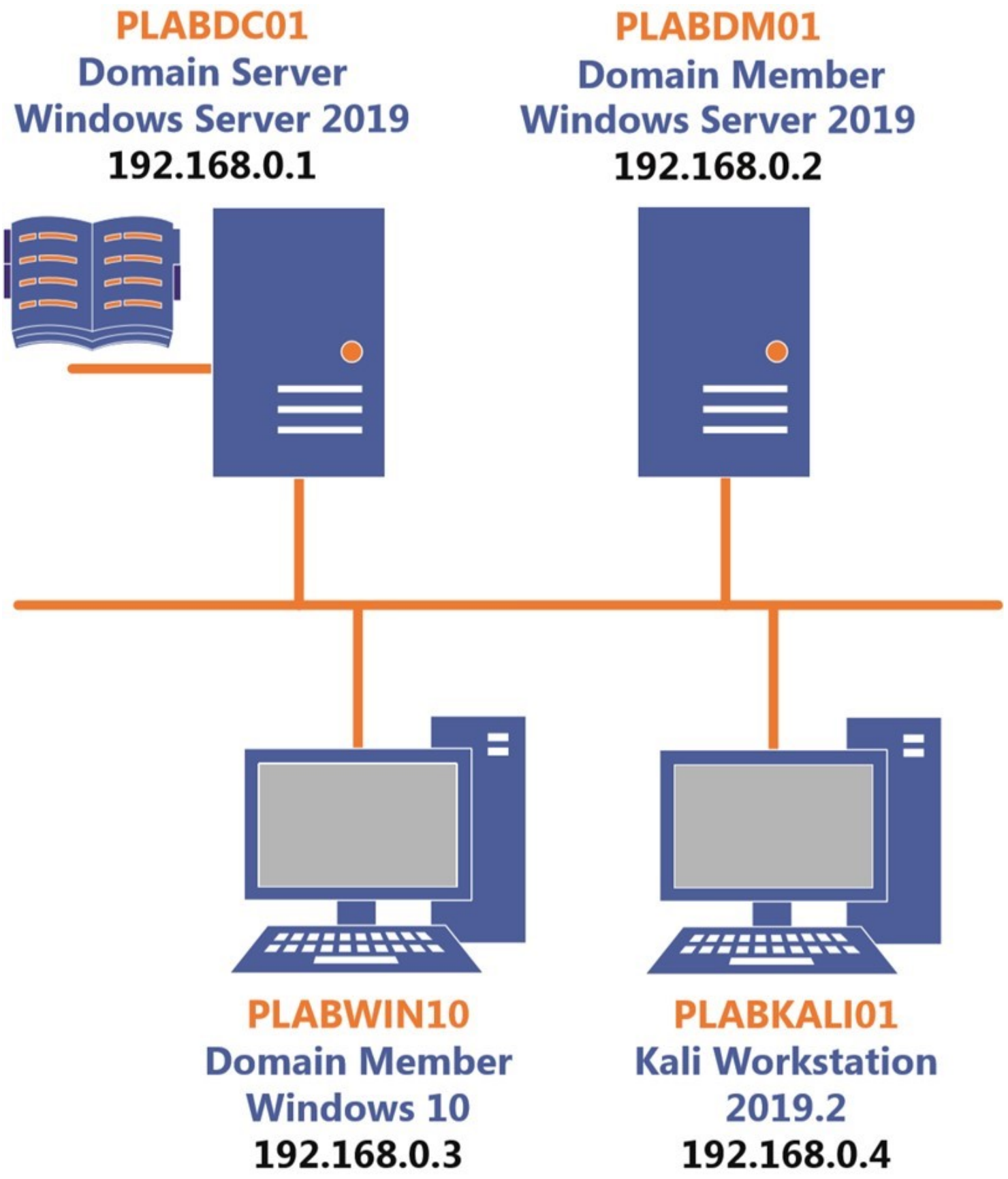
Help and Support

For more information on using Practice Labs, please see our **Help and Support** page. You can also raise a technical support ticket from this page.

Click **Next** to view the Lab topology used in this module.

Lab Topology

During your session, you will have access to the following lab configuration.



Depending on the exercises, you may or may not use all of the devices, but they are shown here in the layout to get an overall understanding of the topology of the lab.

- **PLABDC01 -** (Windows Server 2019 - Domain Server)
- **PLABDM01 -** (Windows Server 2019 - Domain Controller)
- **PLABWIN10 -** (Windows 10 - Workstation)
- **PLABKALI01 -** (Kali 2019.2 - Linux Kali Workstation)

Click **Next** to proceed to the first exercise.

Exercise 1 - Exploiting the Webserver Vulnerabilities

A Webserver is designed to host Websites and Web applications. It uses HTTP as the base protocol for delivering the content to the users, who can either be on the intranet or the Internet. The security of a Webserver becomes critical because if it is compromised, then the hosted Website or Web application is also compromised. The attacker can gain access to the Webserver by exploiting one or more vulnerabilities.

The vulnerabilities can be inherent to the Webserver, which means that they are bugs or defects within the Webserver code. Other Webserver vulnerabilities can be external, such as:

- Insufficient permissions on files and directories
- Unnecessary services running
- Unnecessary ports open
- Default configuration being used

This is not an exhaustive list but provides an overview of the type of vulnerabilities that can be present in a Webserver.

An attacker, depending on the vulnerabilities found, can perform one or more attacks on the Webserver. Some of these attacks are:

- Denial-of-Service (DoS)
- Directory traversal
- DNS amplification

- DNS server hijacking
- Man-in-the-middle
- Sniffing
- Webserver misconfiguration

In this exercise, you will learn to exploit some of these vulnerabilities.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this exercise, you will be able to:

- Perform a Slowloris Attack on a Web Server
- Enumerate a Webserver using HTTPrint
- Perform Directory Traversal Attack
- Perform Web Application Brute Forcing Using DirBuster
- Use Skipfish to Perform Webserver Reconnaissance
- Find Files on a Webserver using Metasploit Framework
- Scan for Options on a Webserver using Metasploit Framework
- Find the Webserver Version using Metasploit Framework
- Check for WebDAV on a Webserver using Metasploit Framework

Your Devices

You will be using the following devices in this lab. Please power these on now.

- **PLABDC01 -** (Windows Server 2019 - Domain Server)
- **PLABWIN10 -** (Windows 10 - Workstation)
- **PLABKALI01 -** (Kali 2019.2 - Linux Kali Workstation)

Task 1 - Perform a Slowloris Attack on a Webserver

Slowloris is an effective Denial-of-Service attack tool that uses low bandwidth. It triggers and sends partial HTTP requests to a Webserver and continues sending to prevent sockets from being closed. The Webserver cannot close the sockets on its own and continues opening the sockets as the requests are received from Slowloris. Finally, the requests sent by Slowloris overwhelm the Webserver, and when the Webserver's maximum connection limit is reached, it starts to deny the legitimate requests. To prevent this attack, you can use some of the following methods:

- Use hardware-based load balancers that do not accept the partial http requests.
- Limit the connections to the Webserver in a firewall, such as Iptables
- Configure the timeout in the Webserver configuration

To perform the Slowloris attack on a Webserver, perform the following steps:

Step 1

Ensure you have powered on all the devices listed in the introduction and connect to **PLABKALI01**.

Credentials are:

Username:

`root`

Password:

`Passw0rd`

The desktop of **PLABKALI01** is displayed.

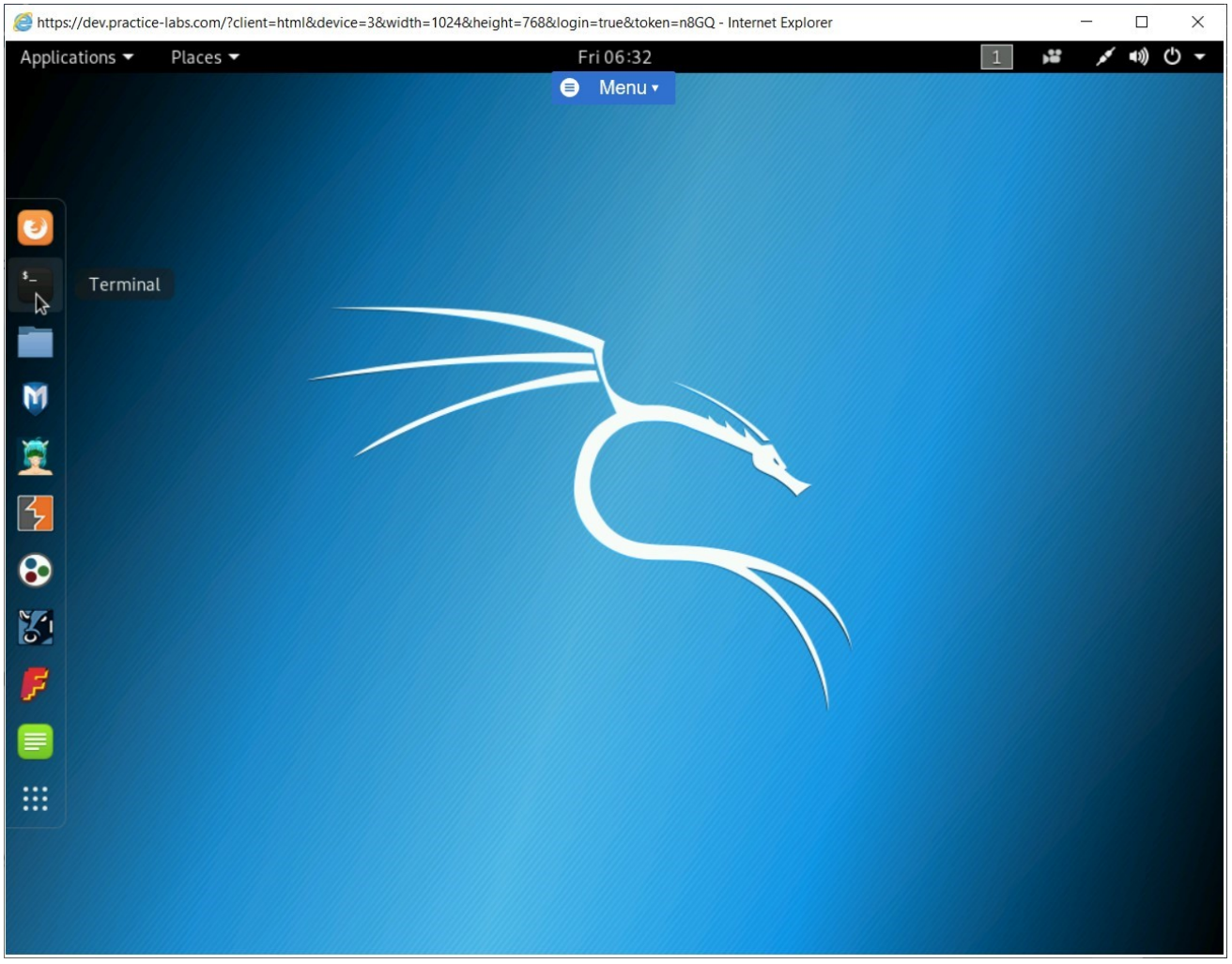


Figure 1.1 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Showing the desktop of PLABKALI01.

Step 2

On the desktop, in the left pane, click the **Terminal** icon.

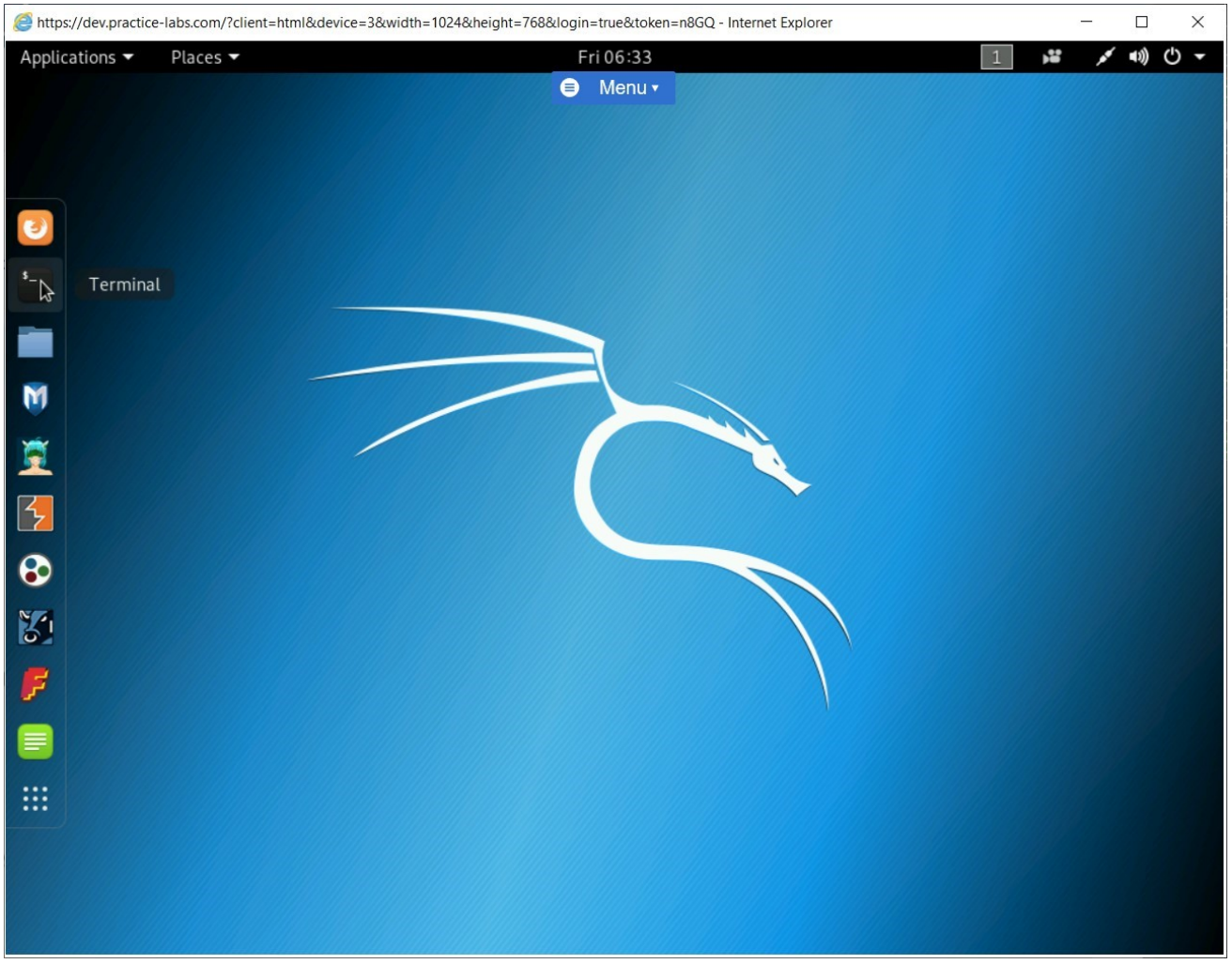


Figure 1.2 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Clicking the Terminal icon in the left pane.

Step 3

Slowloris is a Perl-based tool. Therefore, you need to install **Perl** on Kali Linux. To do this, type the following command:

```
apt-get install perl
```

Press **Enter**.

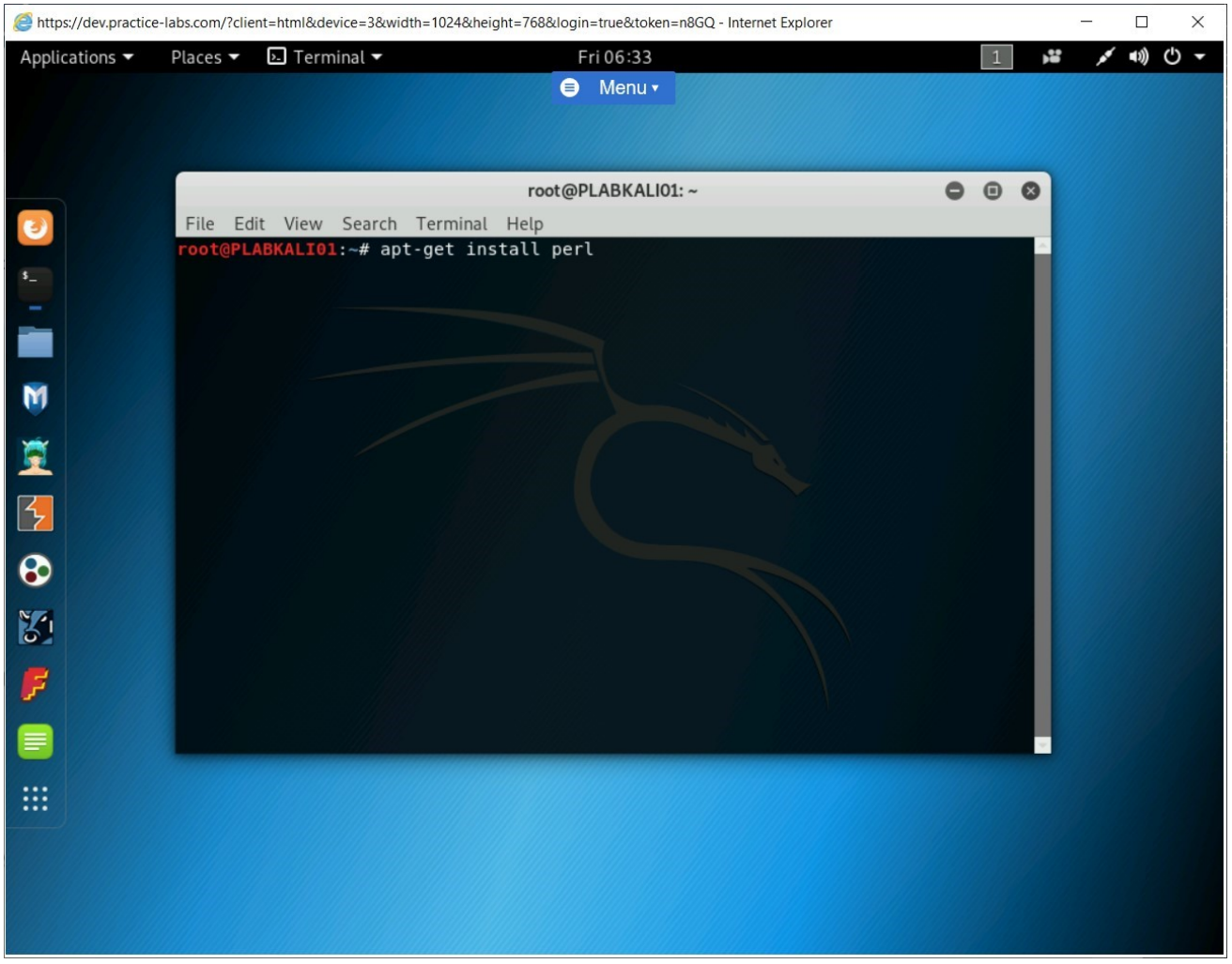


Figure 1.3 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Entering the apt-get command to install perl.

> ***Note:*** *The installation may take a couple of minutes to complete.*

Step 4

Clear the screen by entering the following command:

```
clear
```

Next, you need to install Slowloris. To do this, type the following command:

```
git clone https://github.com/amittttt/slowloris.pl
```

Press **Enter**.

Slowloris is now installed on Kali Linux.

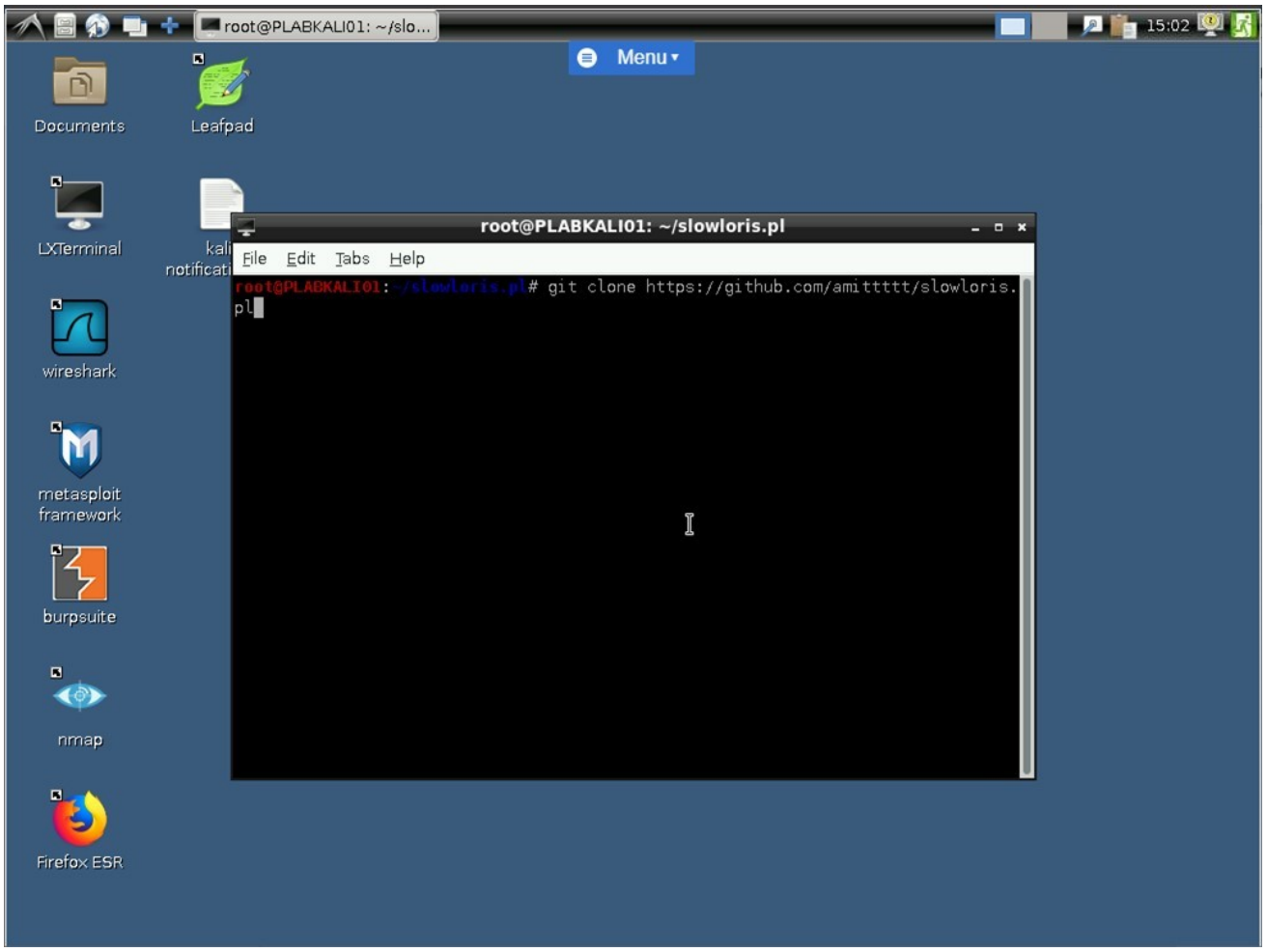


Figure 1.5 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Showing the cloned Slowloris package from GitHub.

Step 5

Clear the screen by entering the following command:

```
clear
```

To navigate to the slowloris directory, type the following command:

```
cd slowloris.pl
```

Press **Enter**.

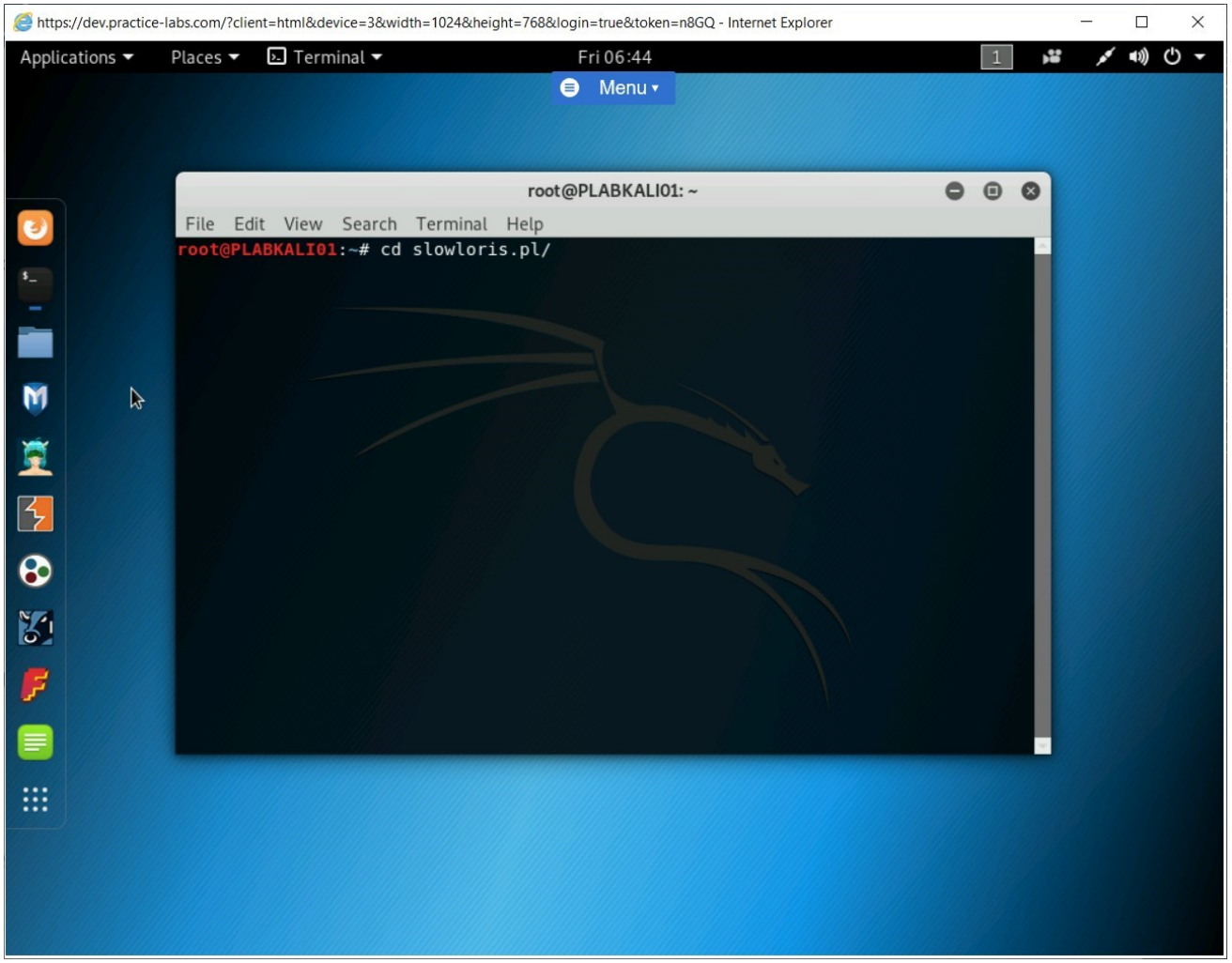


Figure 1.6 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Navigating to the slowloris.pl directory.

Step 6

Now, you will execute the **slowris.perl** script. To do this, type the following command:

```
perl slowloris.pl -dns 192.168.0.10
```

Press **Enter**. Notice that **Slowloris** has started to consume sockets.

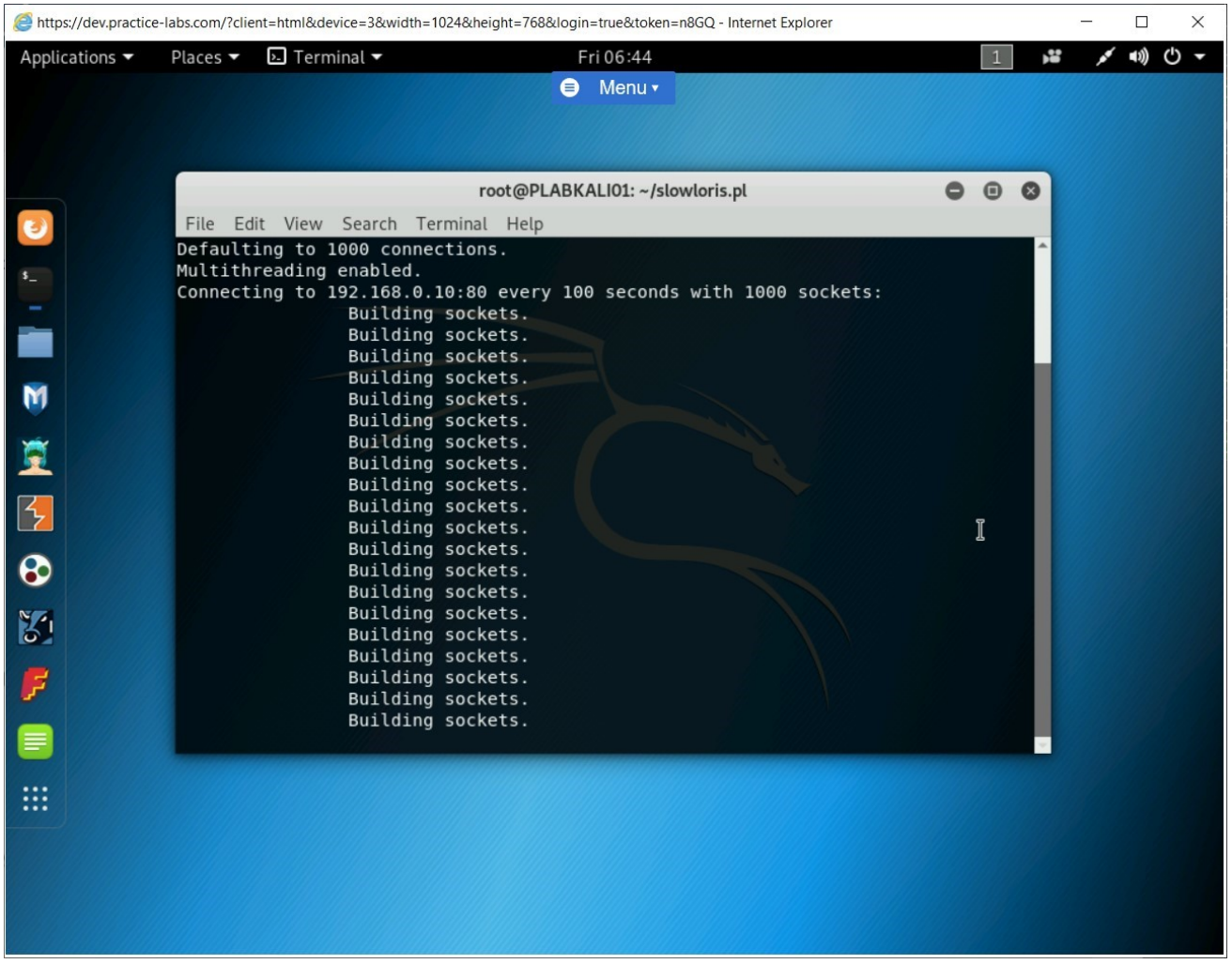


Figure 1.7 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Showing the slowloris command consuming sockets.

Step 7

Let's connect to the Website running on **192.168.0.10**. Connect to **PLABWIN10**. The desktop of **PLABWIN10** is displayed.

In the **Type here to search** text box, type the following:

```
Internet Explorer
```

From the search results, select **Internet Explorer**.

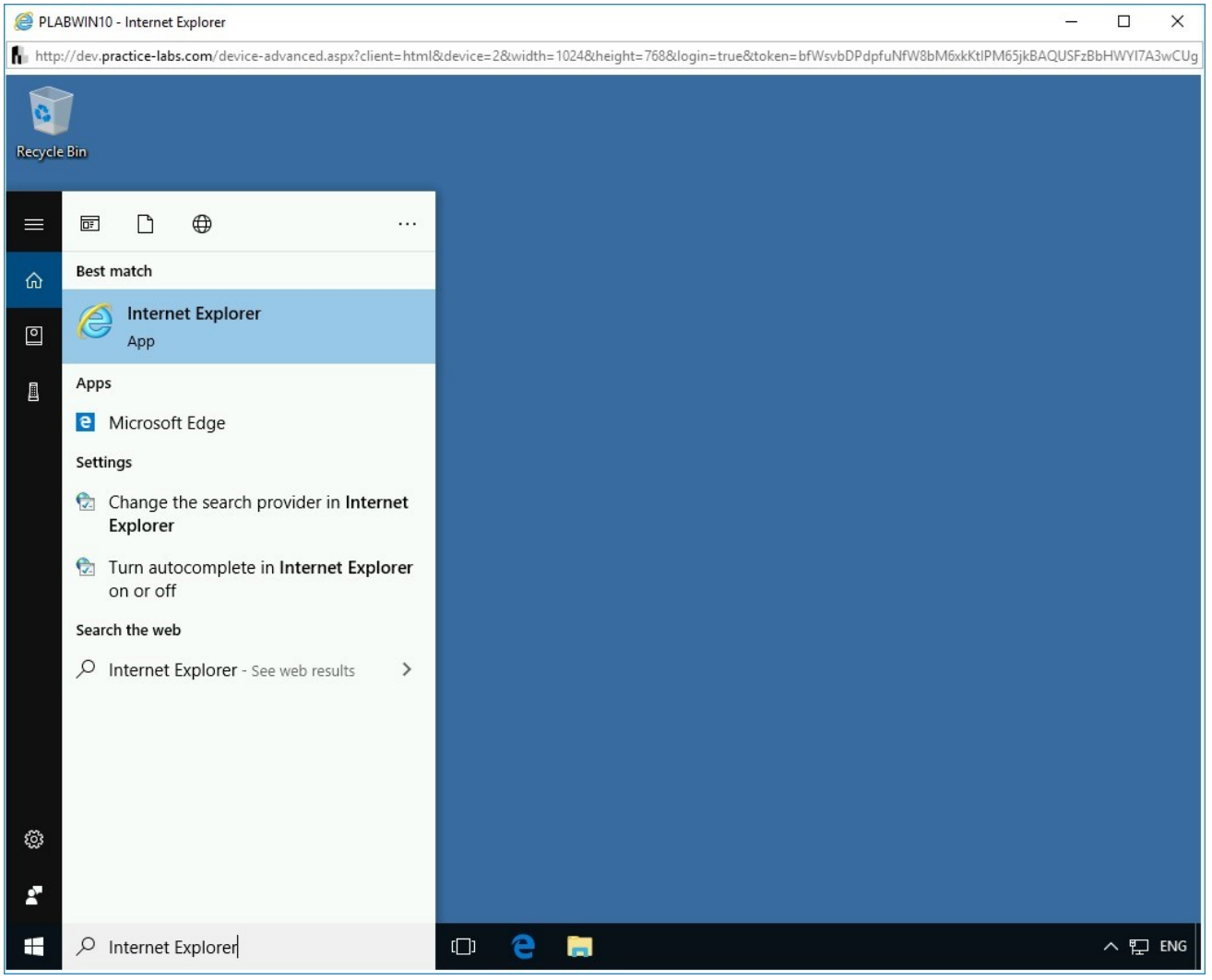


Figure 1.8 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Selecting Internet Explorer from the search results.

Step 8

The **Internet Explorer** window is displayed. In the address bar, type the following URL:

```
http://192.168.0.10/bWAPP
```

Press **Enter**. Notice the error. The Website fails to load.

> ***Note:*** *It may load in some cases, but it will eventually time out or become unresponsive.*

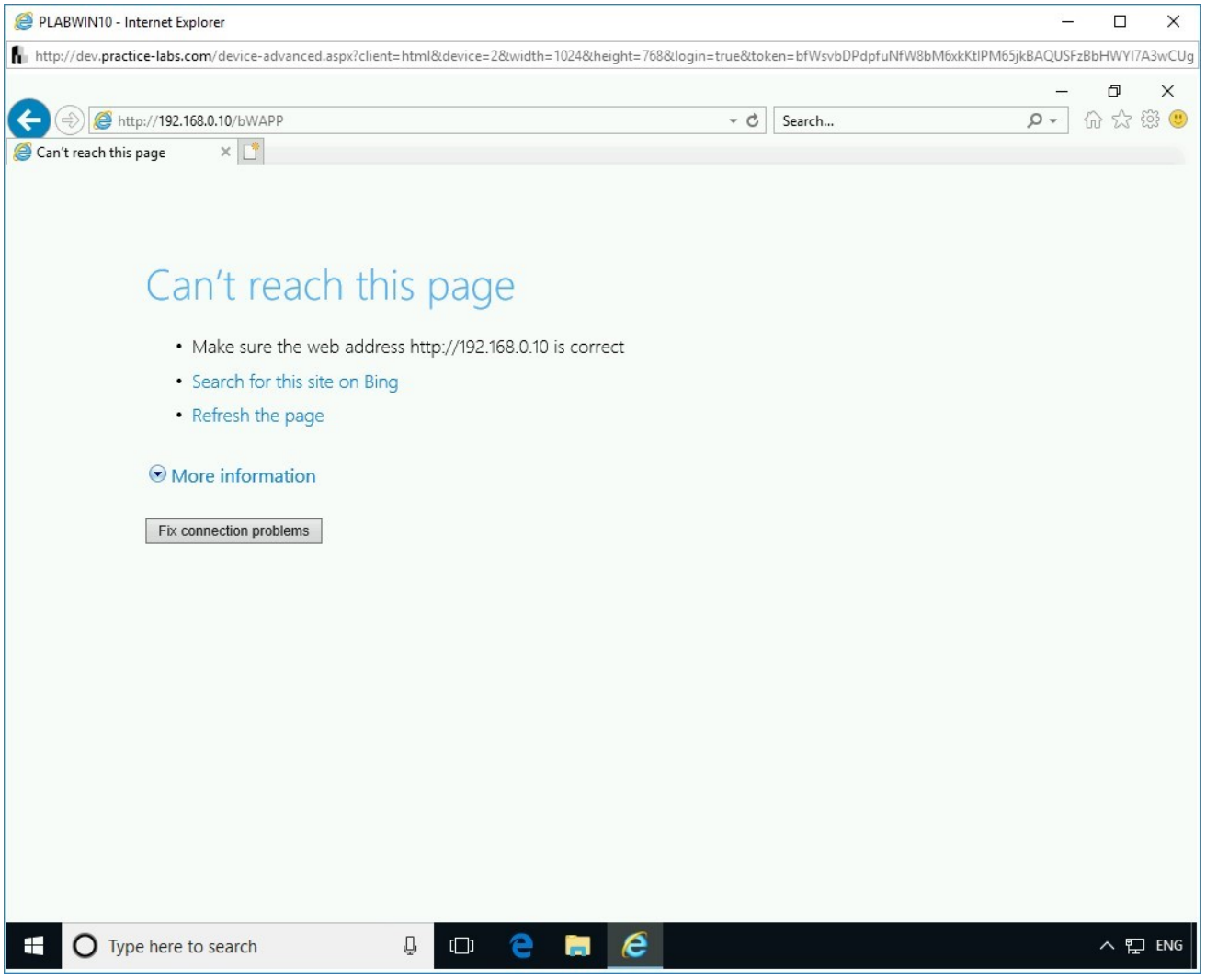


Figure 1.9 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Showing the error in loading the webpage.

Step 9

Switch back to **PLABKALI01**. Notice that **Slowloris** is consuming sockets continuously.

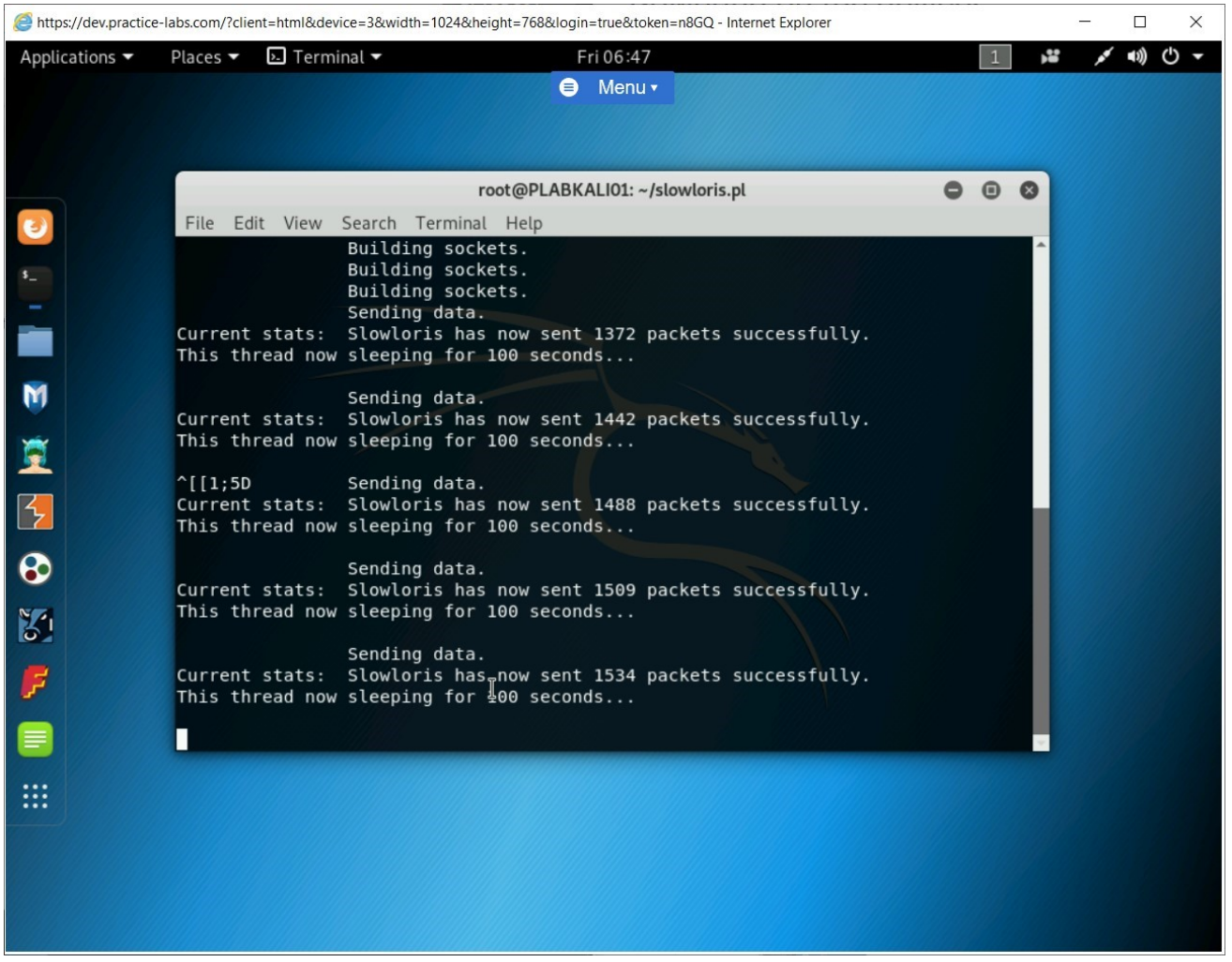


Figure 1.10 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Showing the slowloris command consuming sockets.

Step 10

Press **Ctrl + C** to terminate the **slowloris** command.

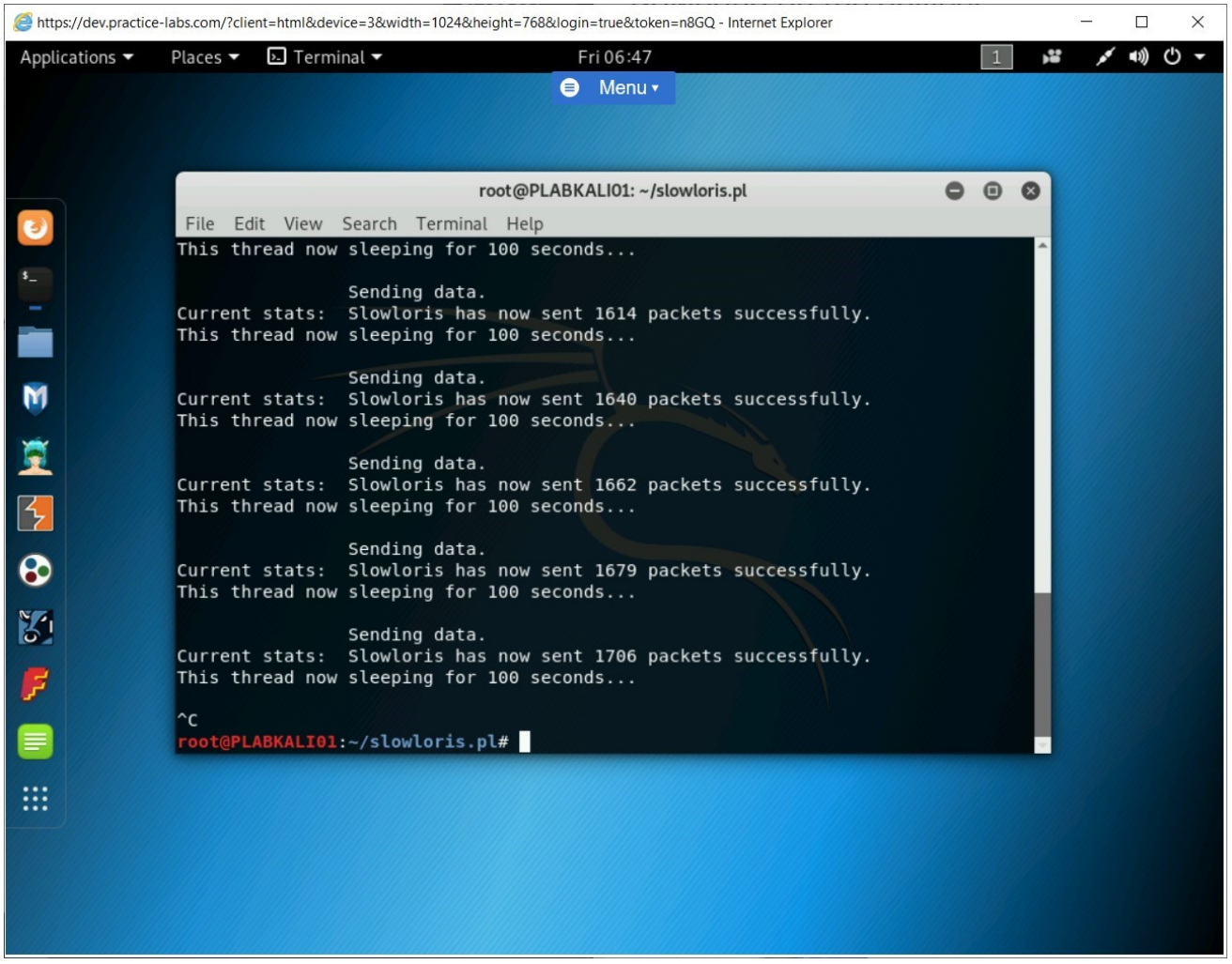


Figure 1.11 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Pressing the Ctrl + c keys to terminate the slowloris command.

Step 11

Switch back to **PLABWIN10**. You can now attempt to reload the website in **PLABWIN10**. You can press **F5** or **Fn + F5**.

Notice that the website now loads without any issue.

Close the **Internet Explorer** window on **PLABWIN10**. Exit from the terminal window on **PLABKALI01**.

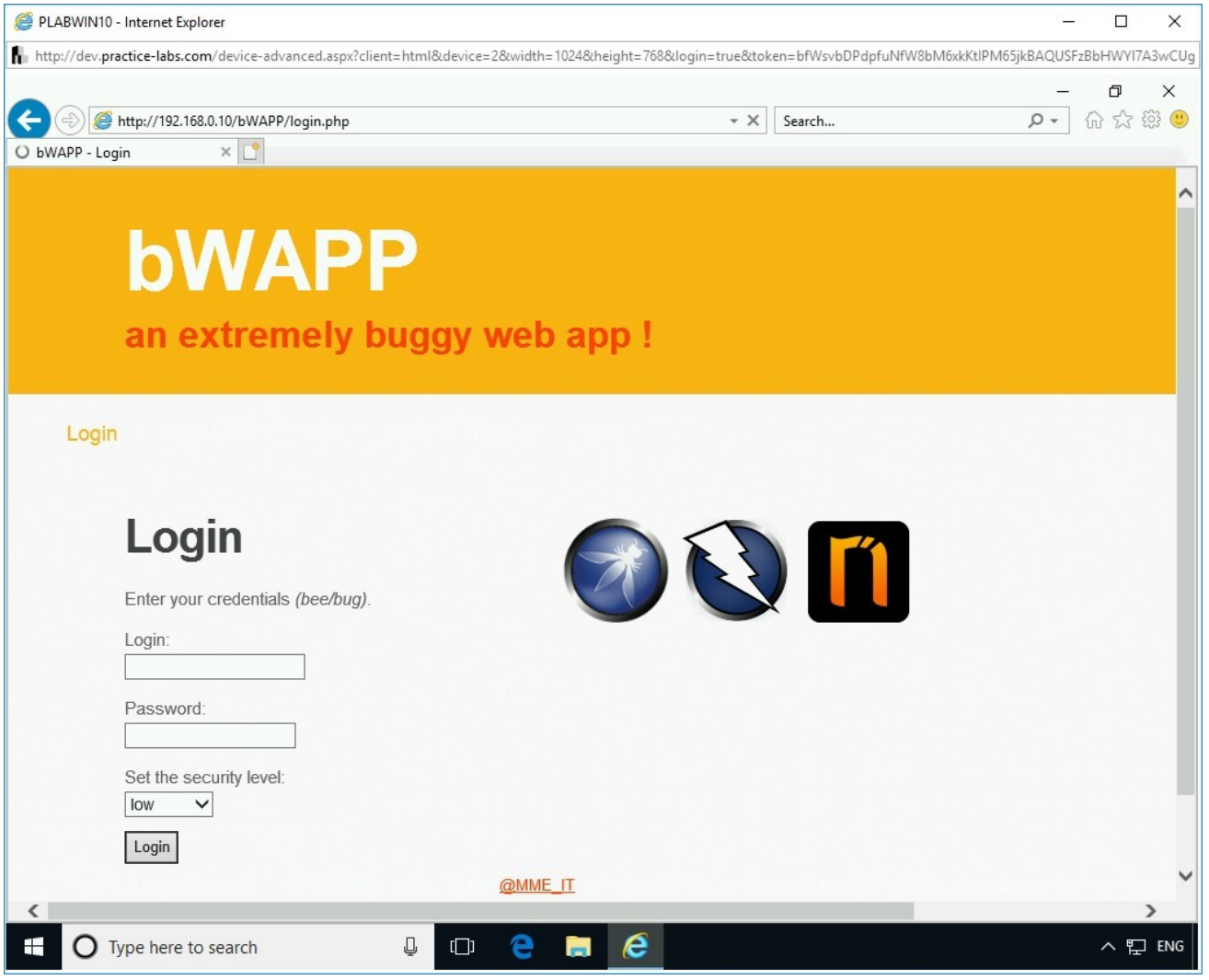


Figure 1.12 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Showing the Webpage loading without any error.

Task 2 - Enumerate a Web Server using HTTPrint

Other than using the command line tools, you can also use HTTPrint to enumerate a Webserver. In this task, you will learn to use HTTPrint to enumerate a Webserver.

> ***Note:*** *HTTPrint can be downloaded from www.net-square.com/httprint.html*

Step 1

Ensure you have powered the required devices. Connect to **PLABWIN10**.

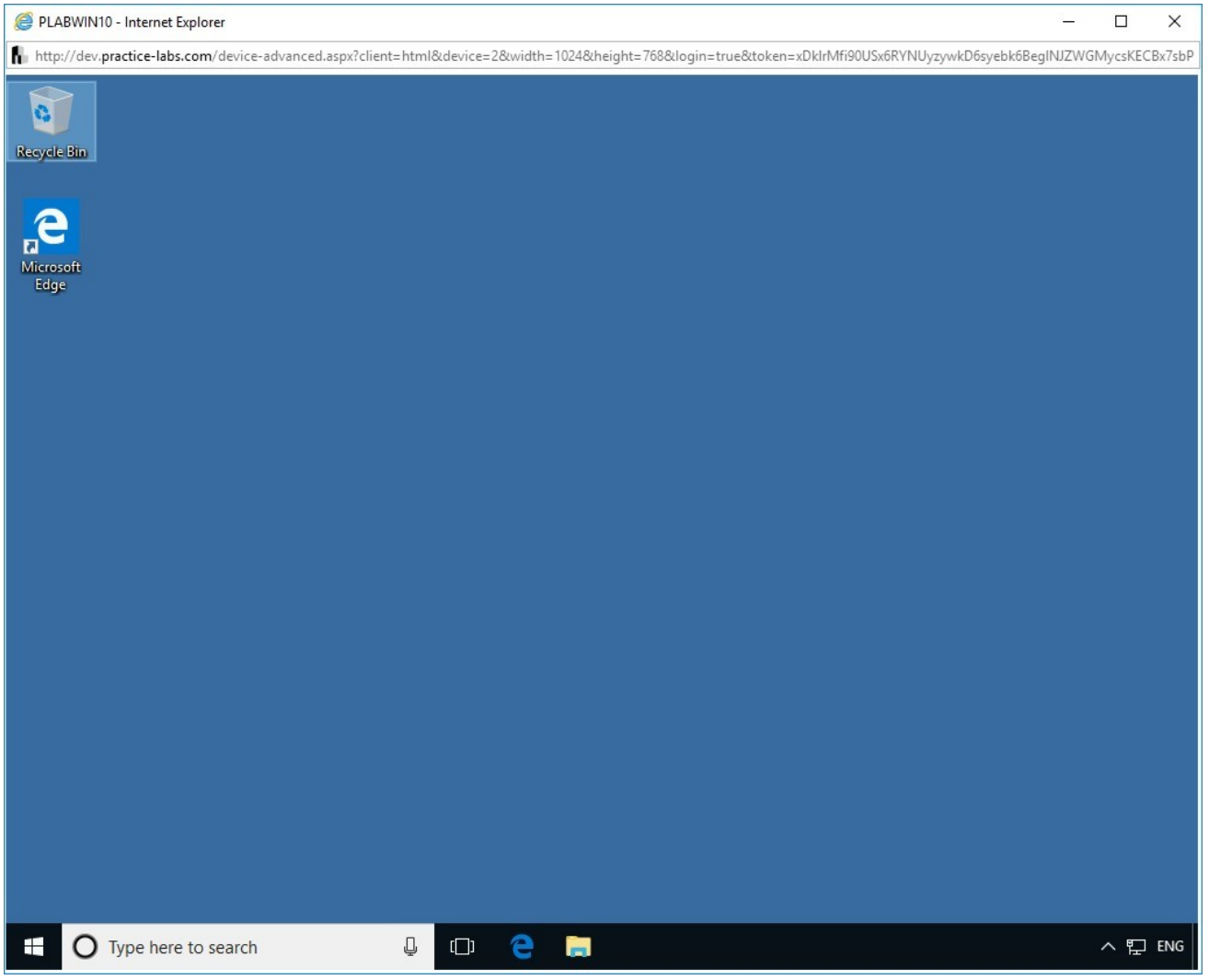


Figure 1.13 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Showing the desktop of PLABWIN10.

Step 2

In the **Type here to search** text box, type the following:

```
Internet Explorer
```

From the search results, select **Internet Explorer**.

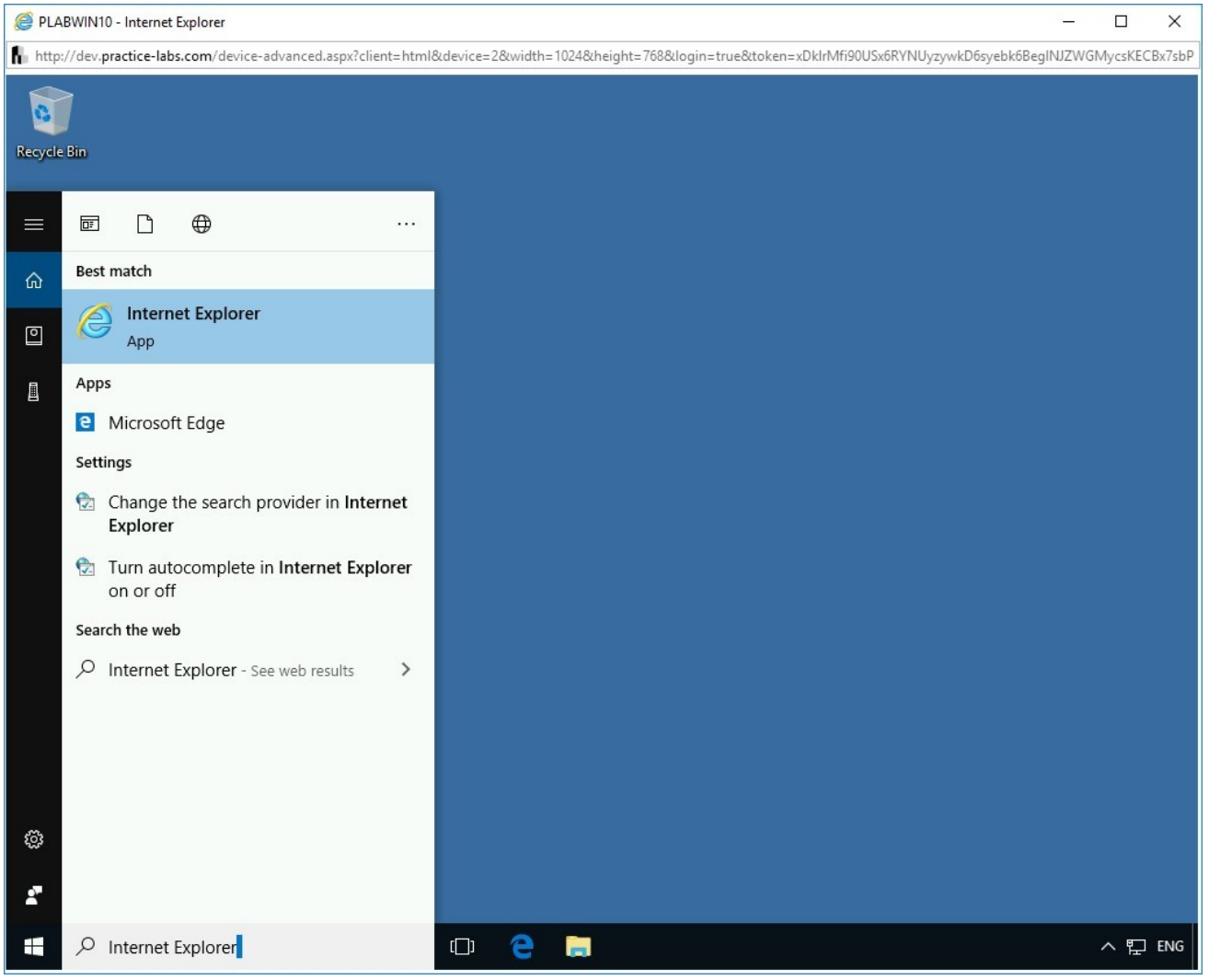


Figure 1.14 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Selecting Internet Explorer from the search results.

Step 3

On the **Intranet** homepage, click **Tools**.

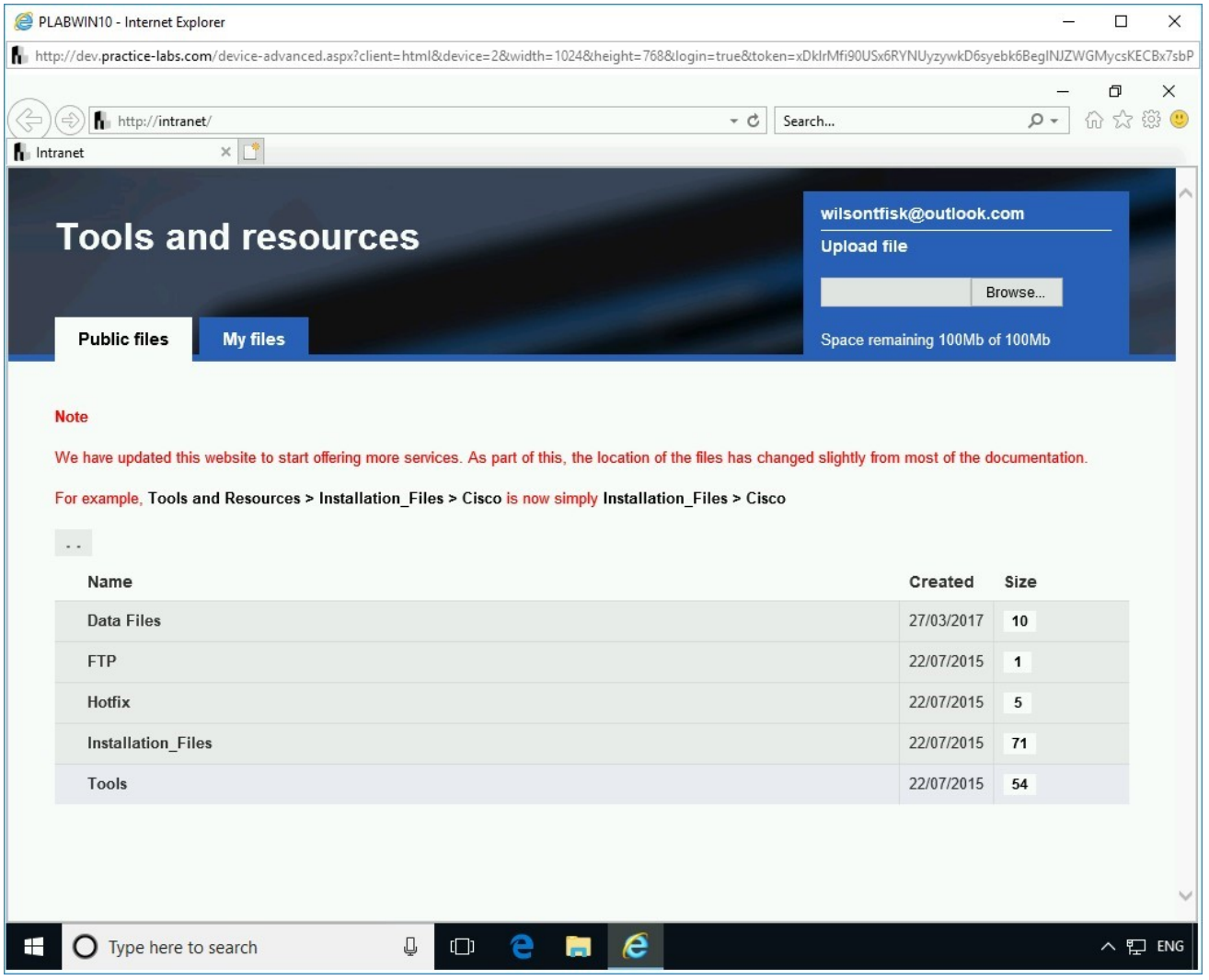


Figure 1.15 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Clicking Tools on the Intranet homepage.

Step 4

On the **Tools** Webpage, click **Hacking Tools**.

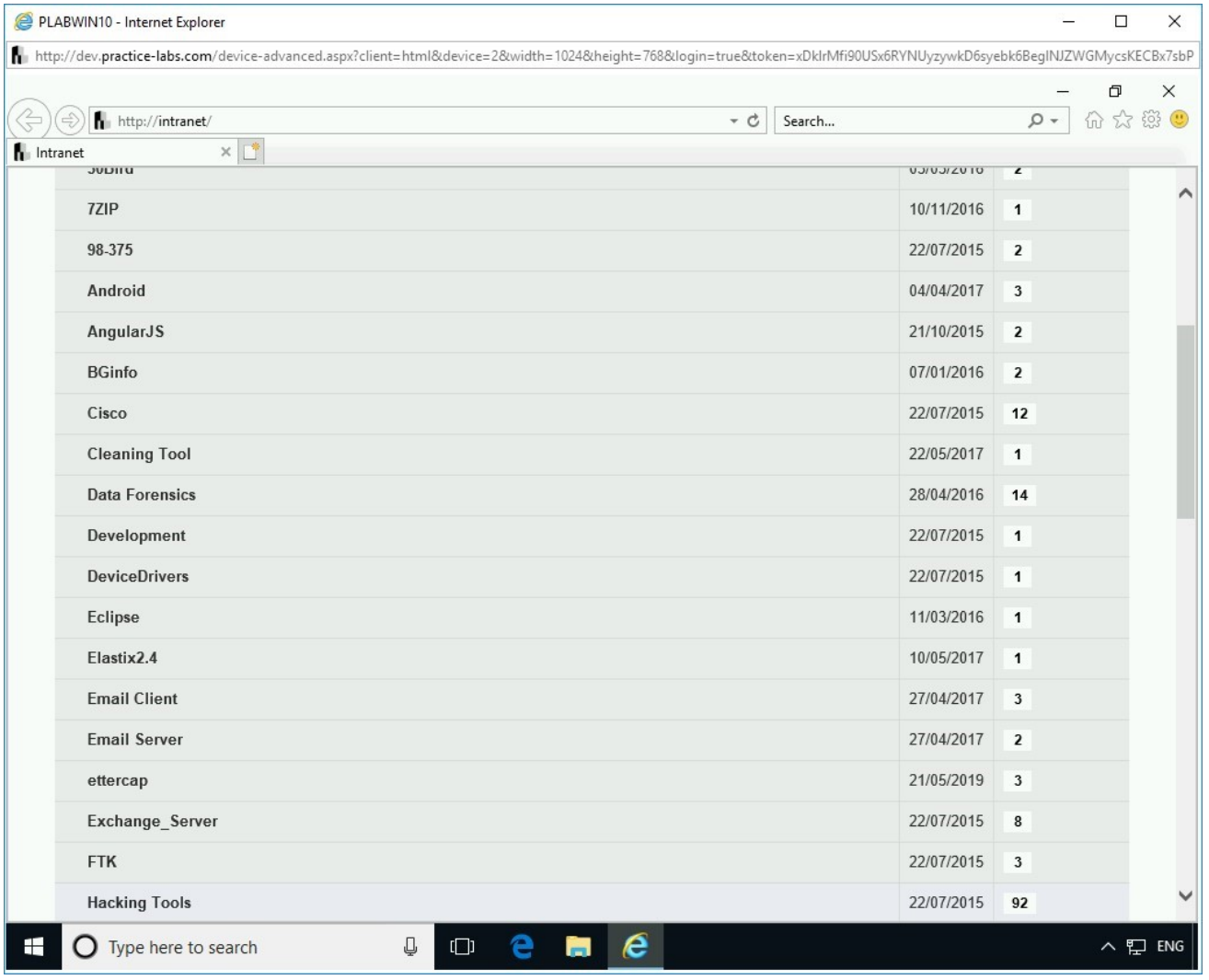


Figure 1.16 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Clicking Tools on the Intranet homepage.

Step 5

Locate and click **httprint_win32_301.zip**.

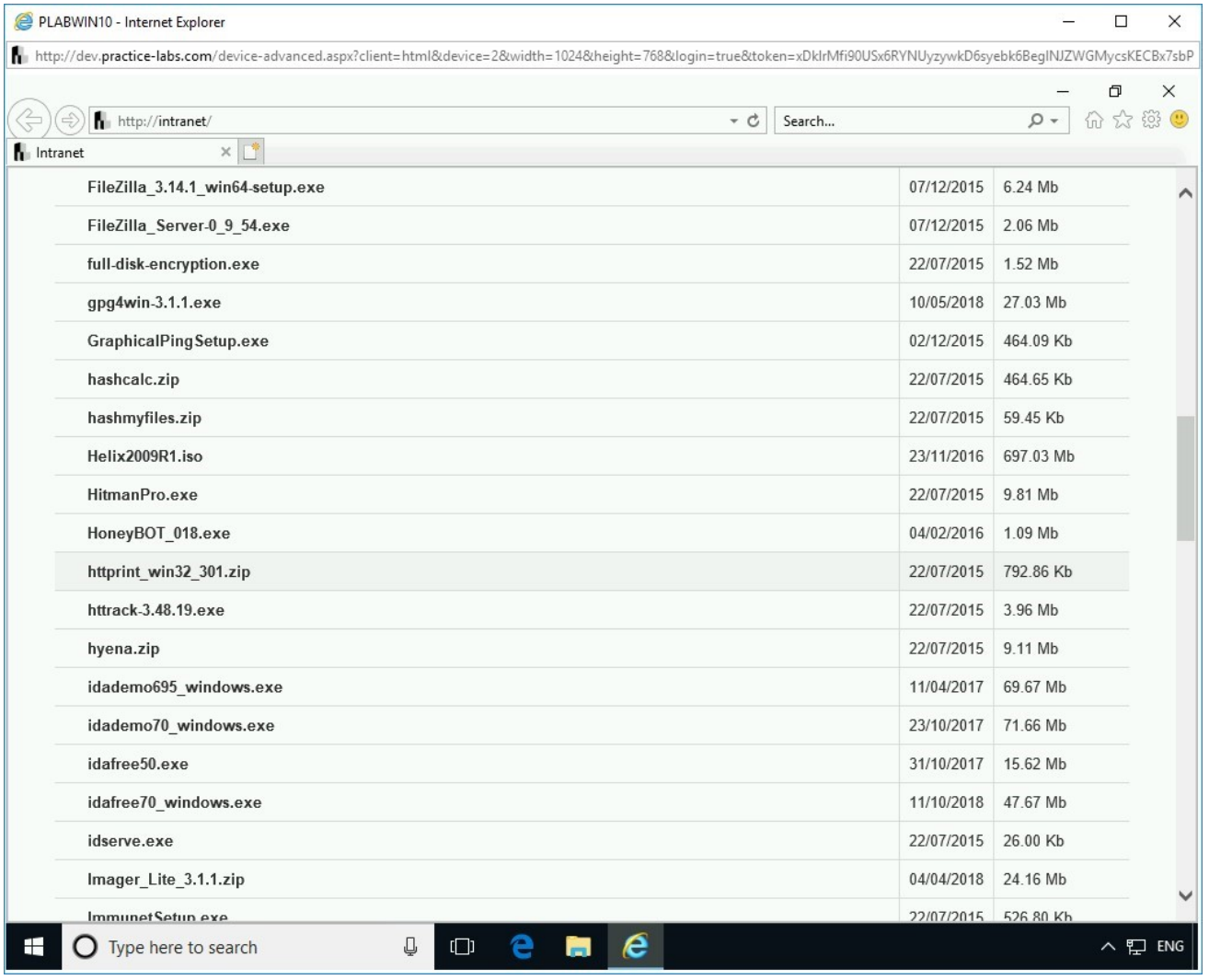


Figure 1.17 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Clicking Tools on the Intranet homepage.

Step 6

In the notification bar, click **Save**.

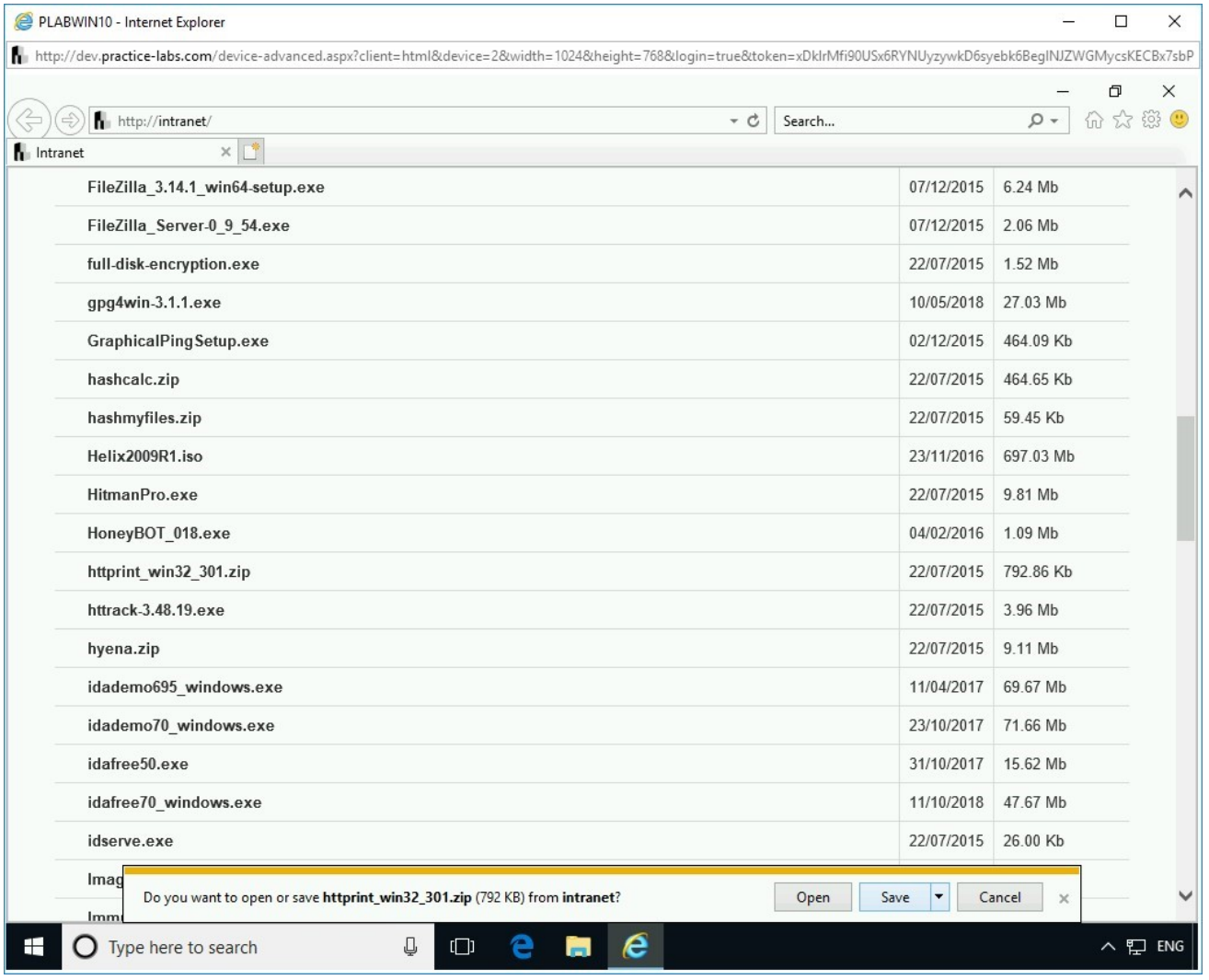


Figure 1.18 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Clicking Tools on the Intranet homepage.

Step 7

In the notification bar, click **Open folder**.

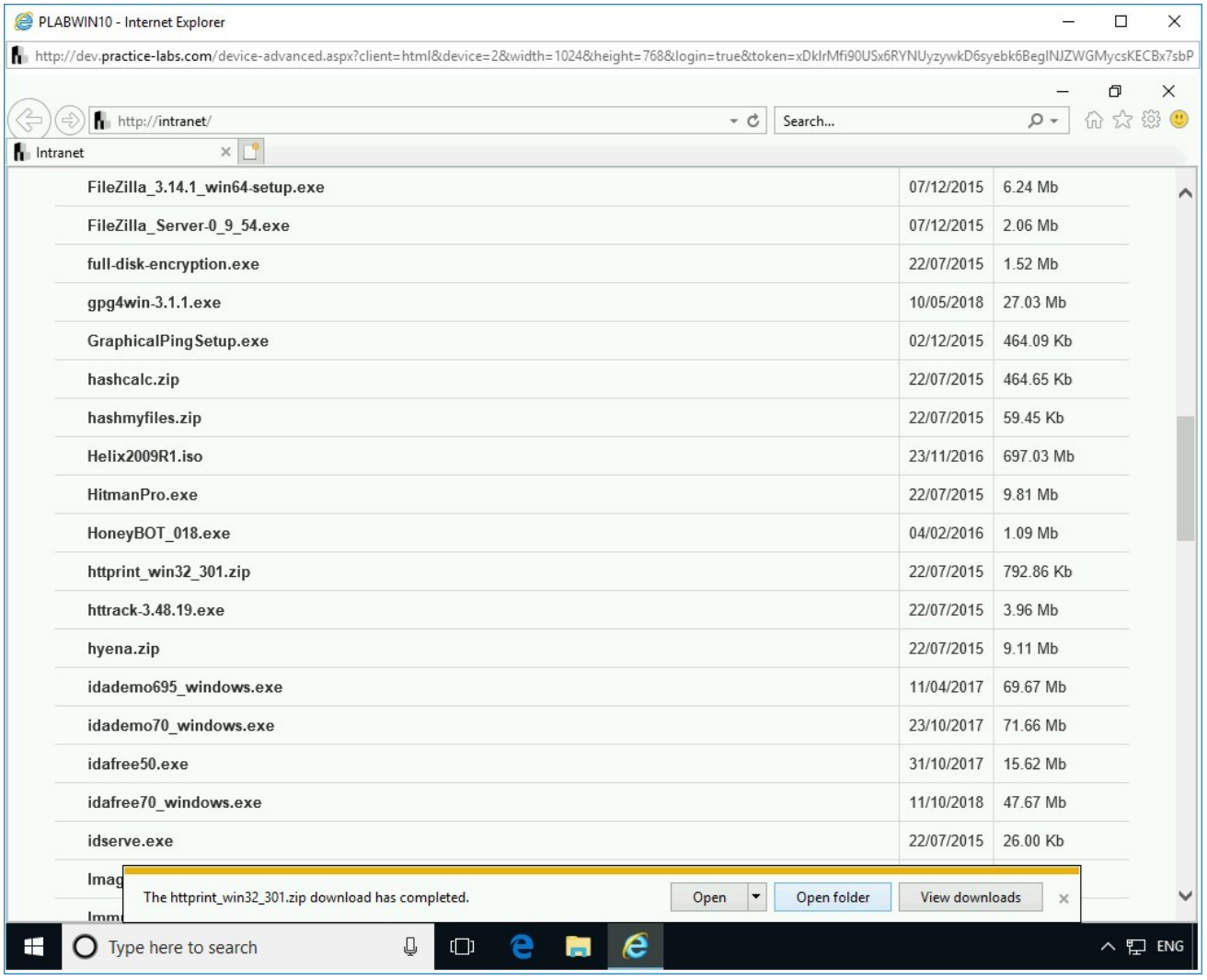


Figure 1.19 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Clicking Tools on the Intranet homepage.

Step 8

The **File Explorer** window is now open. You will need to extract the files from the zip file.

> **Alert:** If you run HTTPrint from the zip file, then it will not be able to load the signature file.

Right-click **httprint_win32_301** and select **Extract All**.

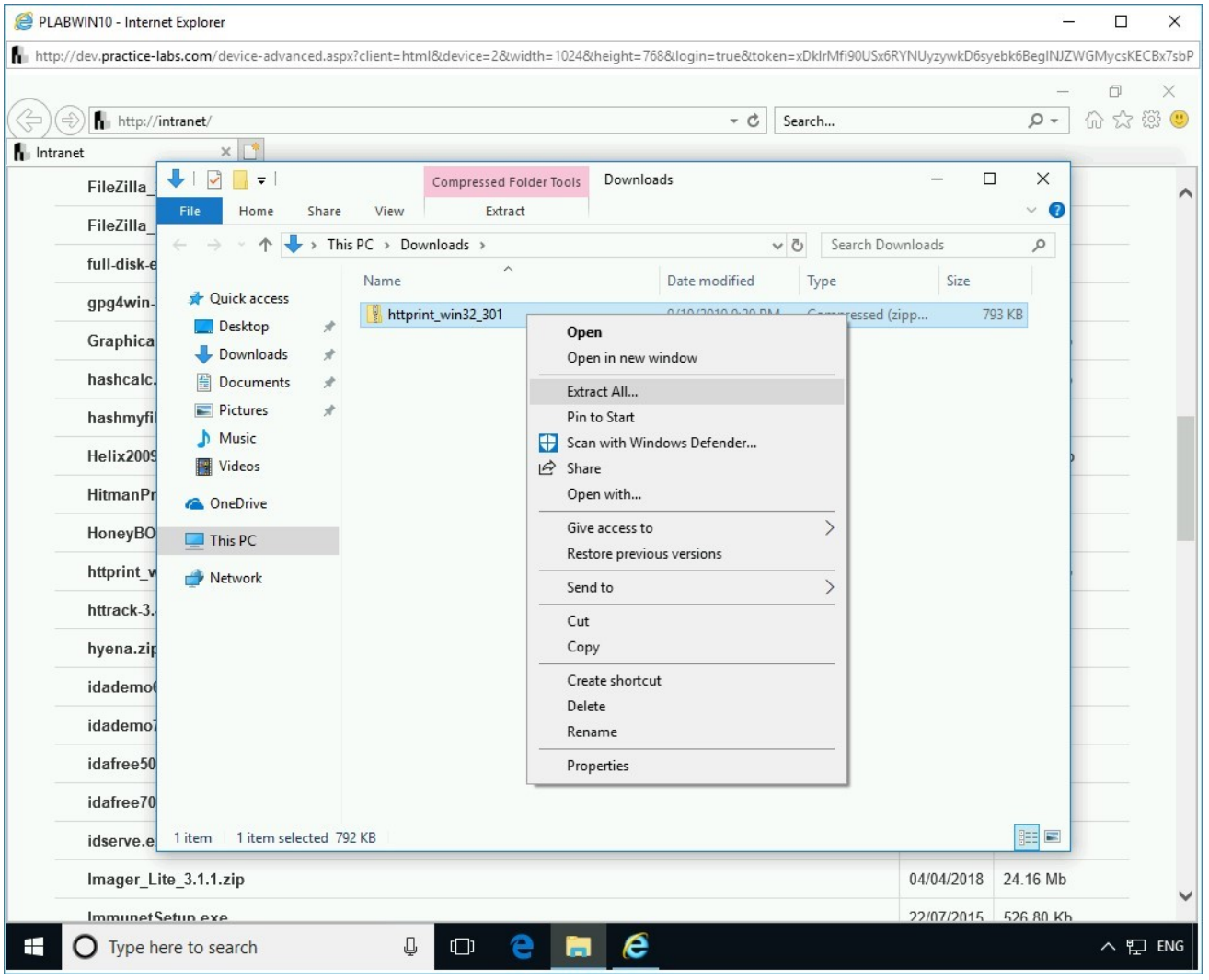


Figure 1.20 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Selecting the Extract All option from the context menu.

Step 9

The **Extract Compressed (Zipped) Folders** dialog box is displayed. Keep the default path and click **Extract**.

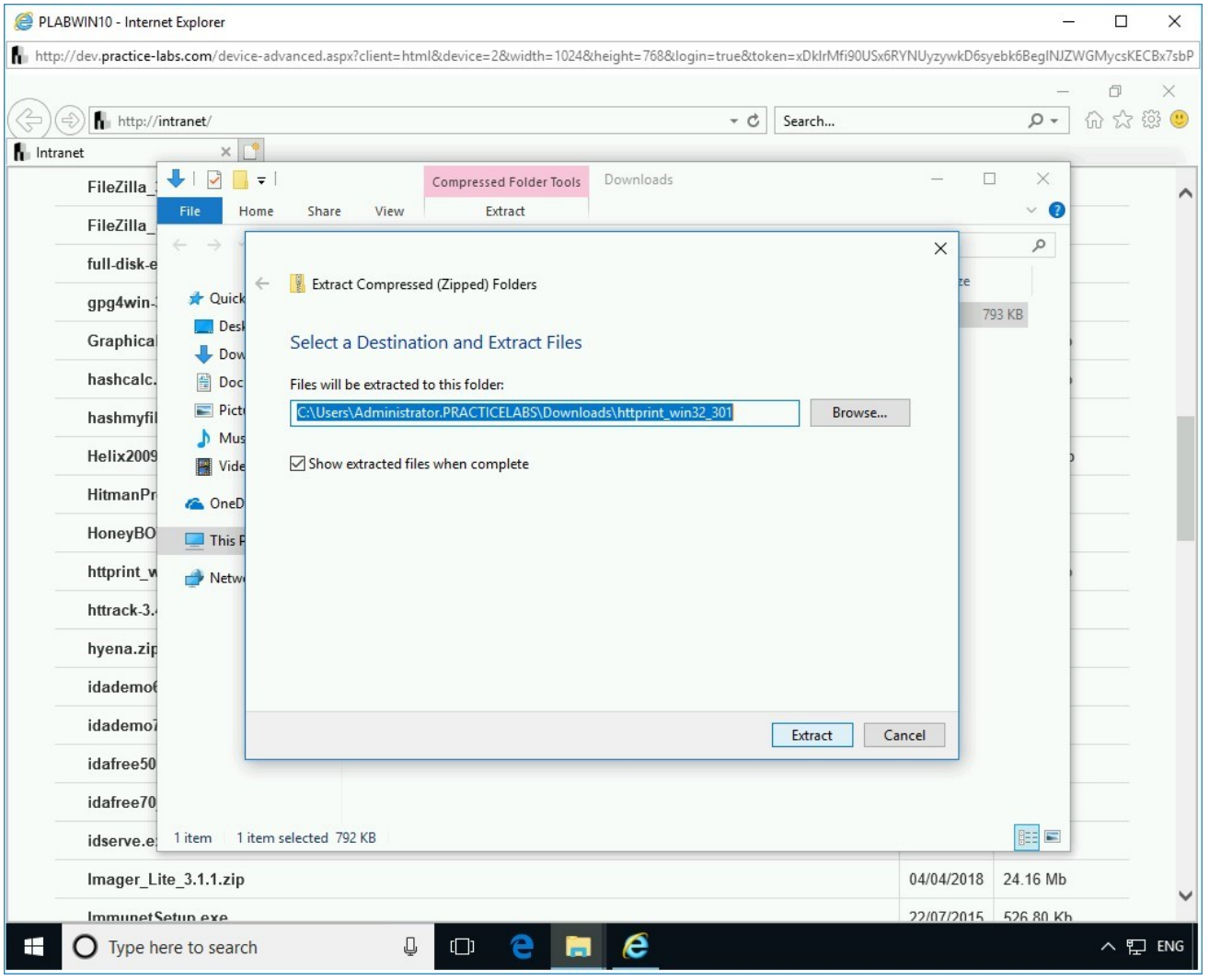


Figure 1.21 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Showing the Extract Compressed (Zipped) Folders dialog box and clicking the Extract button.

Step 10

Notice that a new **File Explorer** window is opened. Double-click the **httprint_301** folder.

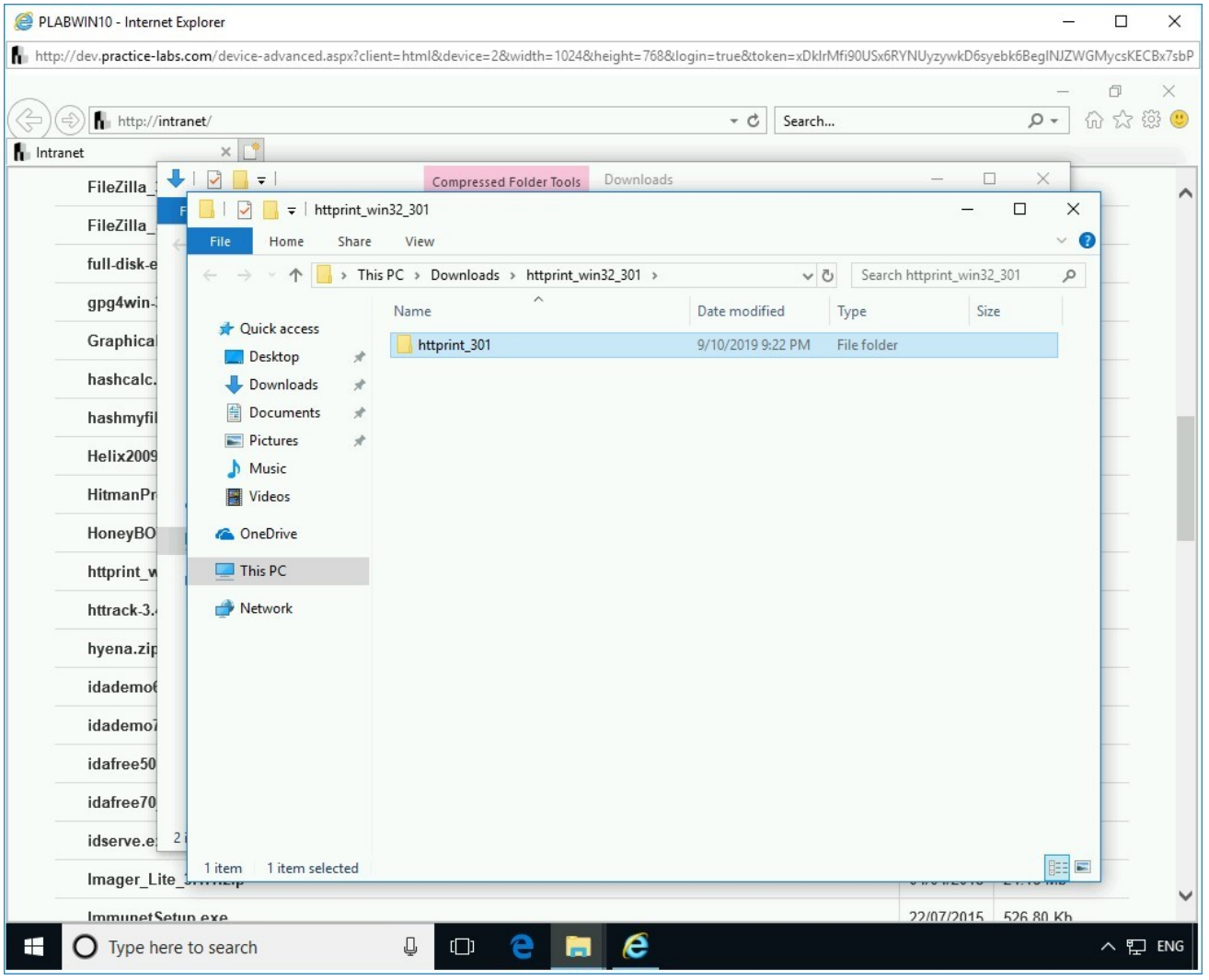


Figure 1.22 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Double-clicking the httprint_301 folder.

Step 11

Double-click the **win32** folder.

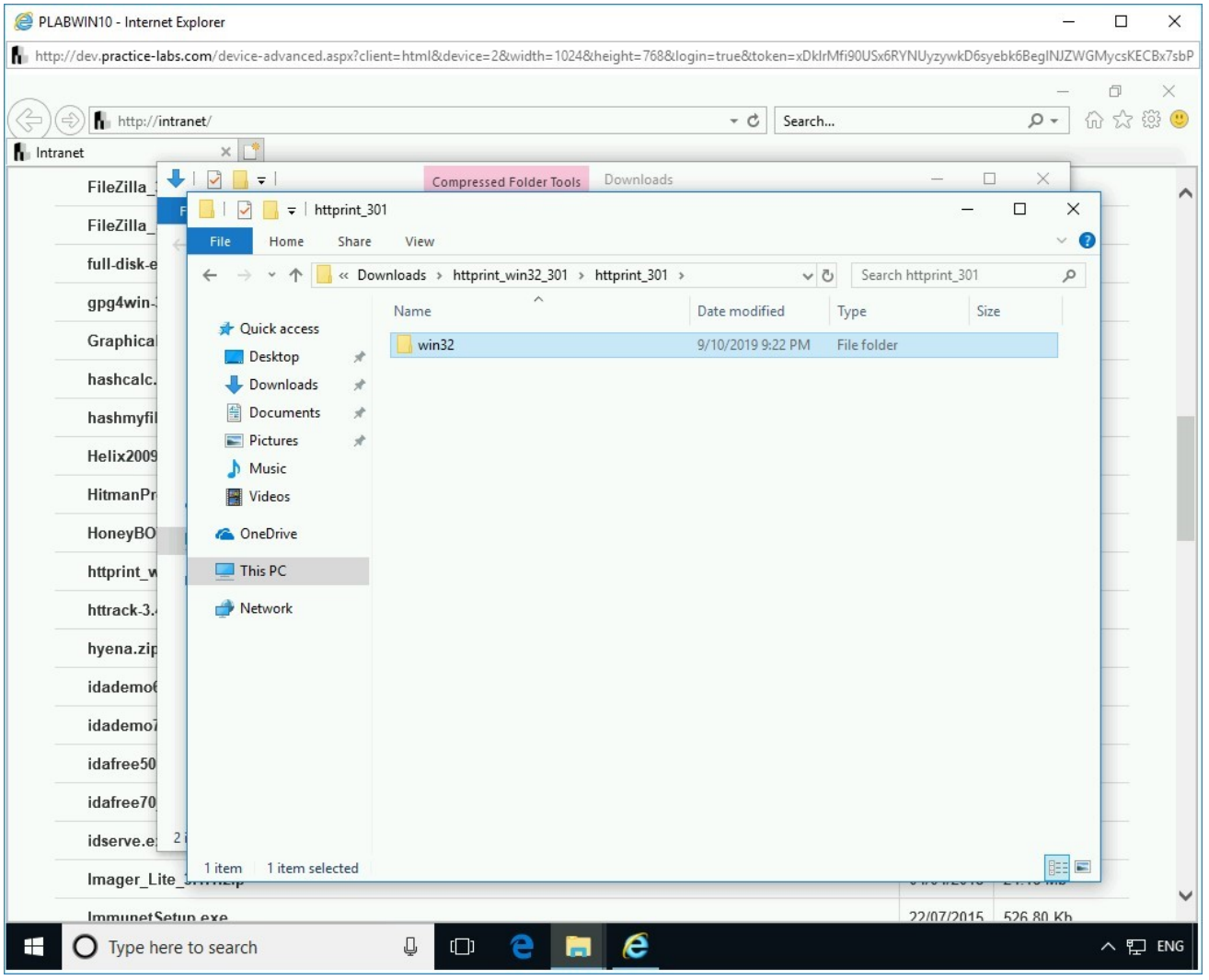


Figure 1.23 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Double-clicking the win32 folder.

Step 12

You are now in the **httprint_301\win32** folder. Double-click **httprint_gui**.

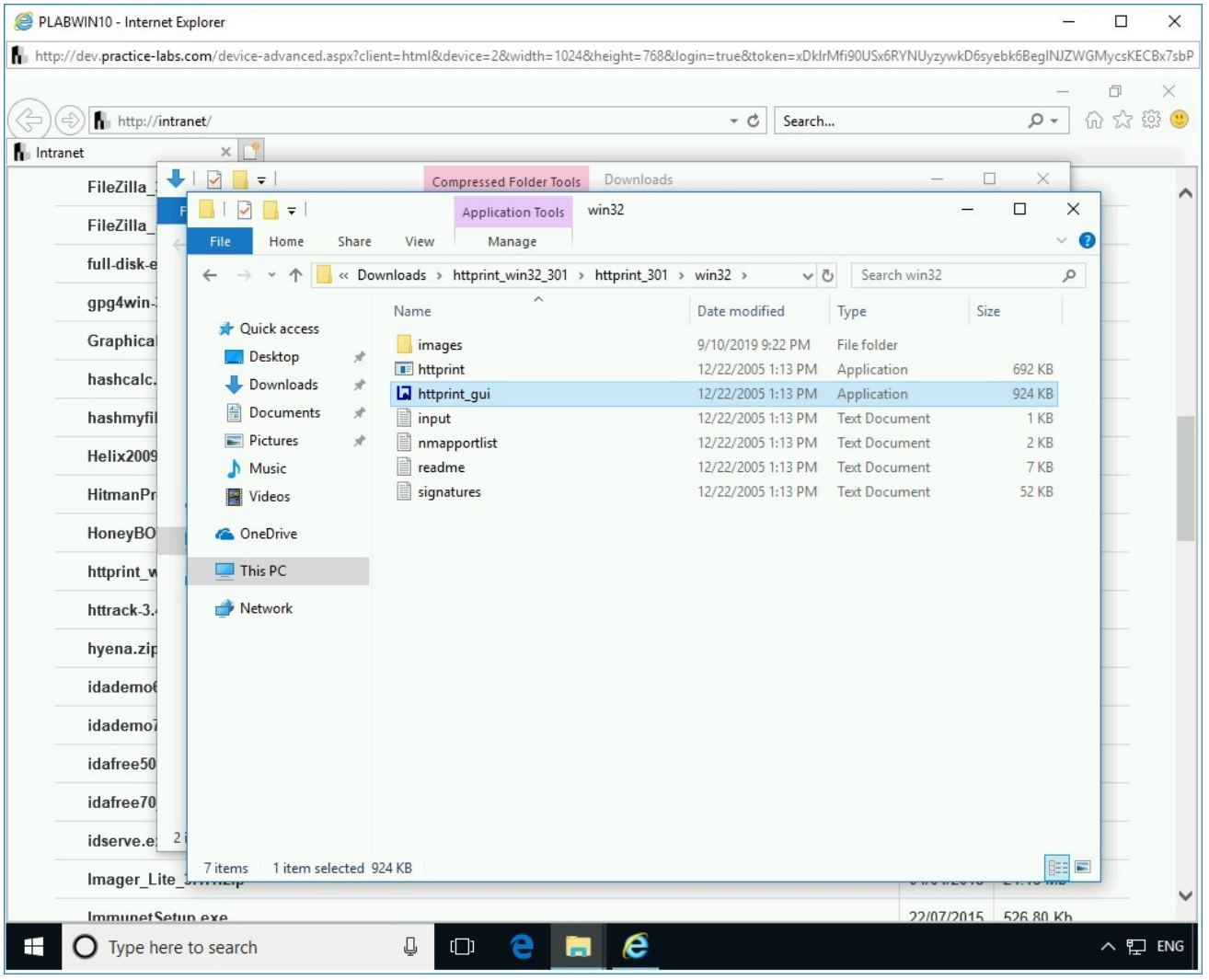


Figure 1.24 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Double-clicking httprint_gui..

Step 13

> ***Note:*** *If the Open File - Security Warning dialog box is displayed, click Run.*

The **httprint version 0.301** window is displayed.

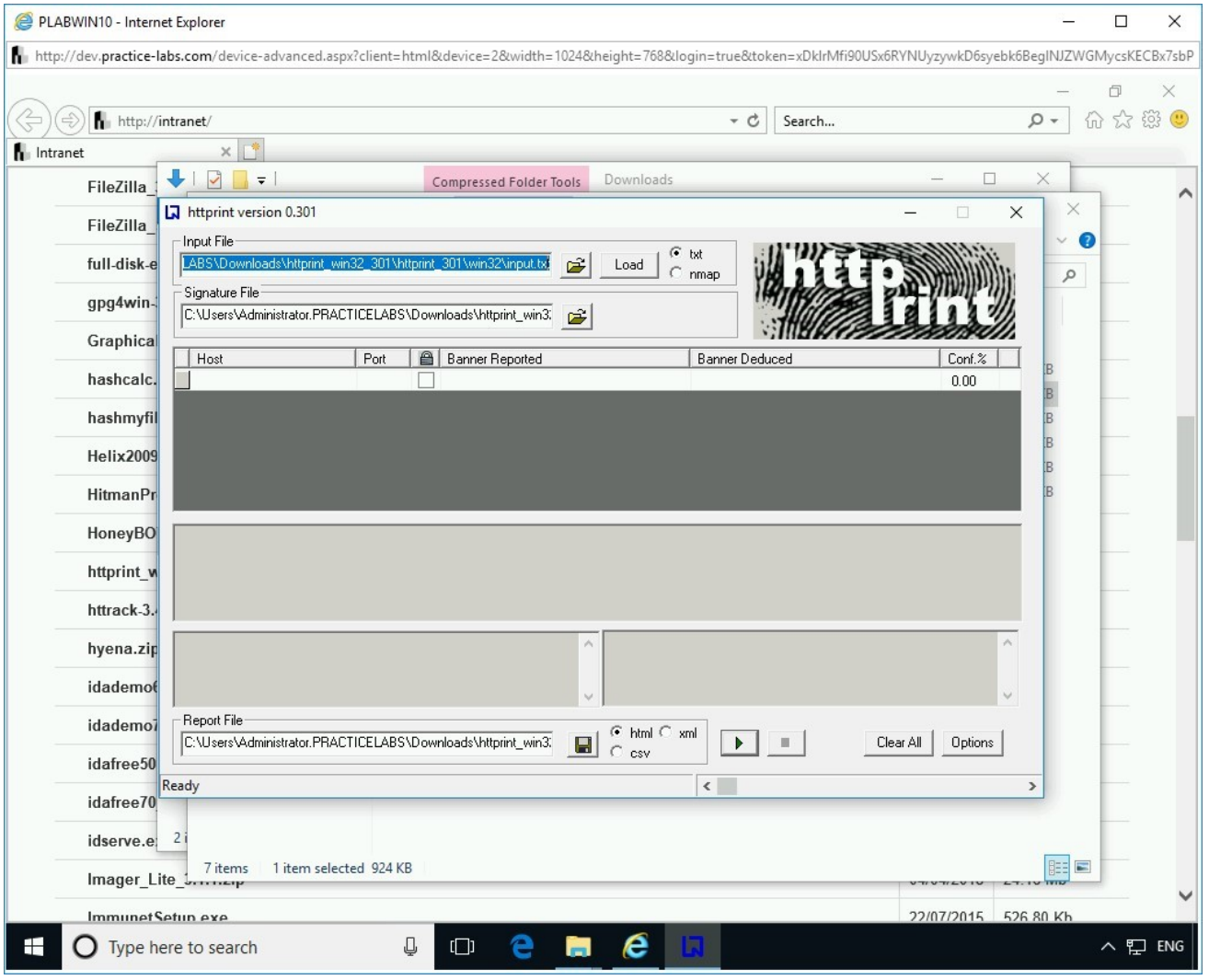


Figure 1.25 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Showing the httprint version 0.301 window.

Step 14

Enter the following information:

Host:

```
192.168.0.10
```

Port:

```
80
```

Click **Start**.

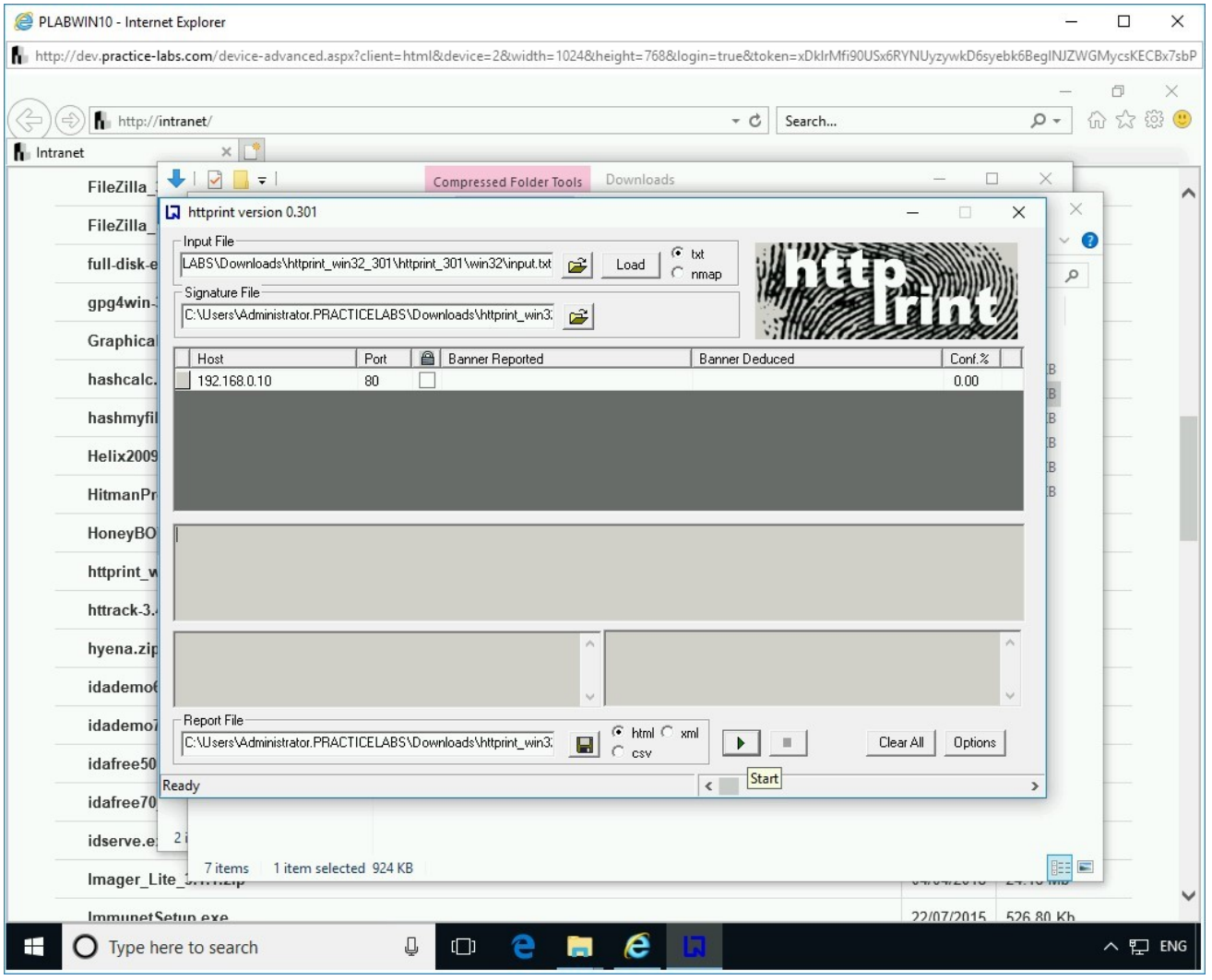


Figure 1.26 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Entering the IP address in the Host column and clicking Start.

Step 15

The **httprint_gui** dialog box is displayed. It prompts with a message that **httprint** is now completed. Click **OK**.

Note that a set of parameters are displayed as a result.

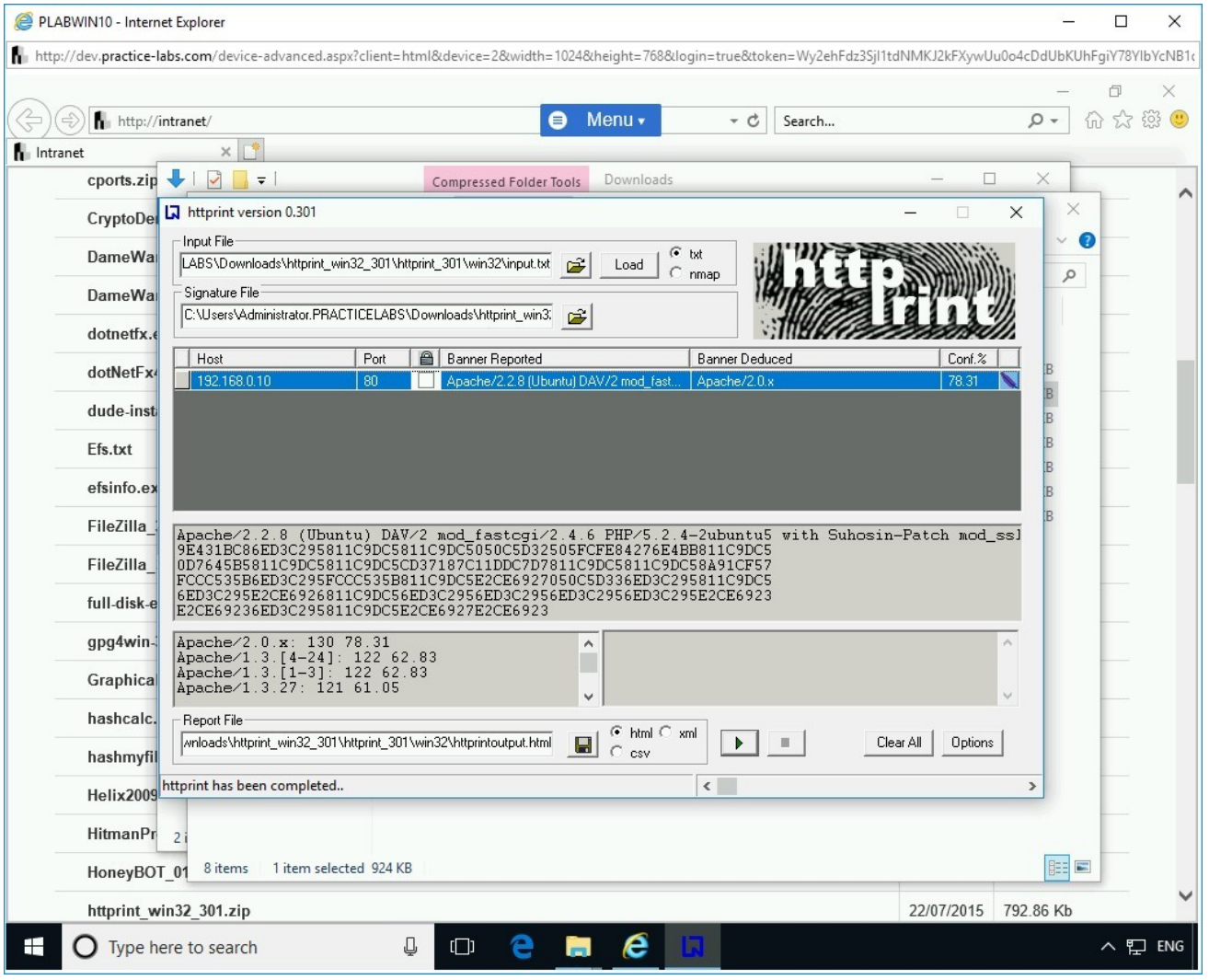


Figure 1.27 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Showing the output with the Webserver information.

Step 16

Let's save the file. Click the **floppy disk** icon.

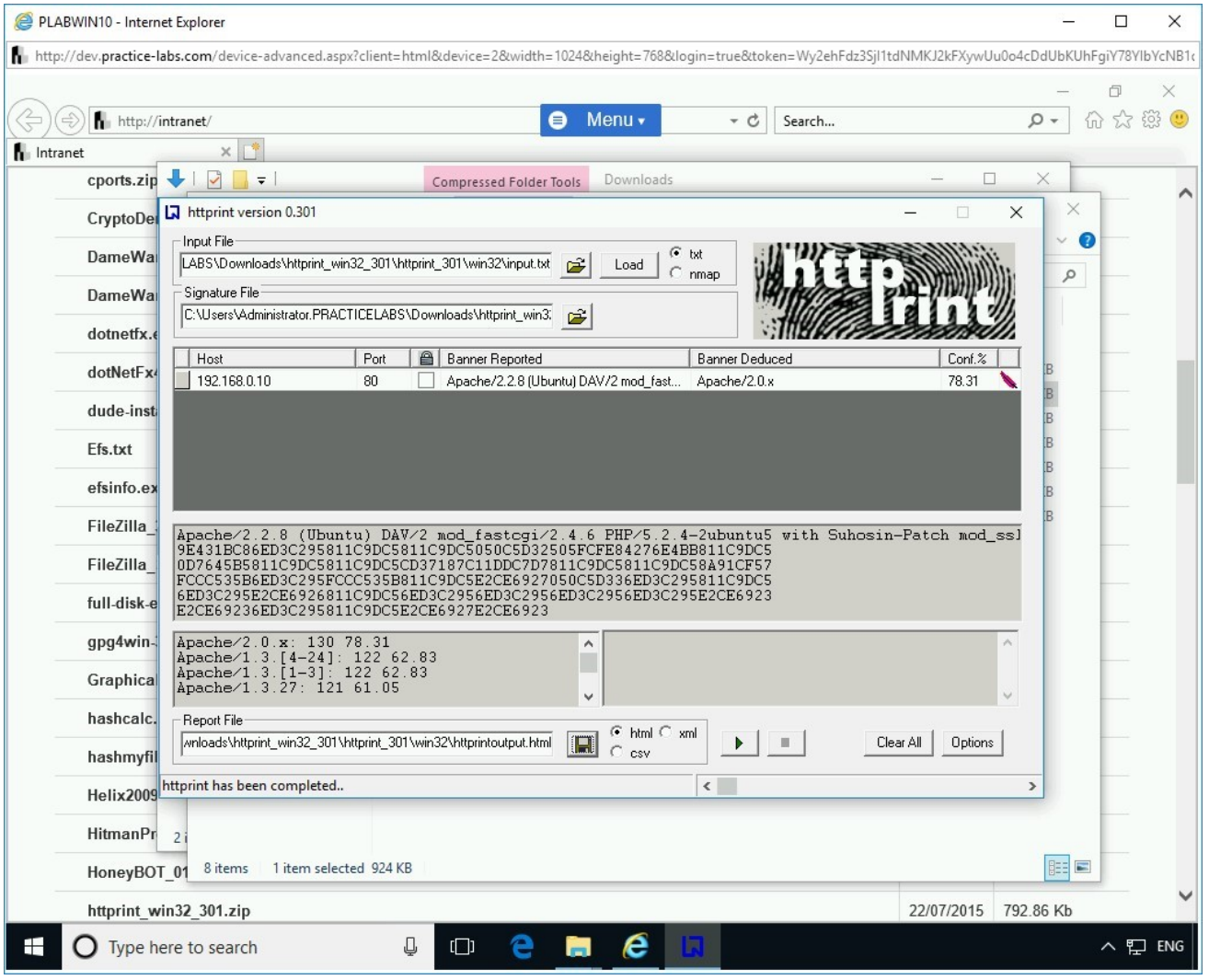


Figure 1.28 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Clicking the Floppy icon to save the file.

Step 17

The **Save As** dialog box is displayed. Keep the default name and click **Save**.

> **Note**: *Make sure you note the path where you are downloading the report. If prompted to overwrite an existing report, go ahead and overwrite it. Else, you can save the report with a new name.*

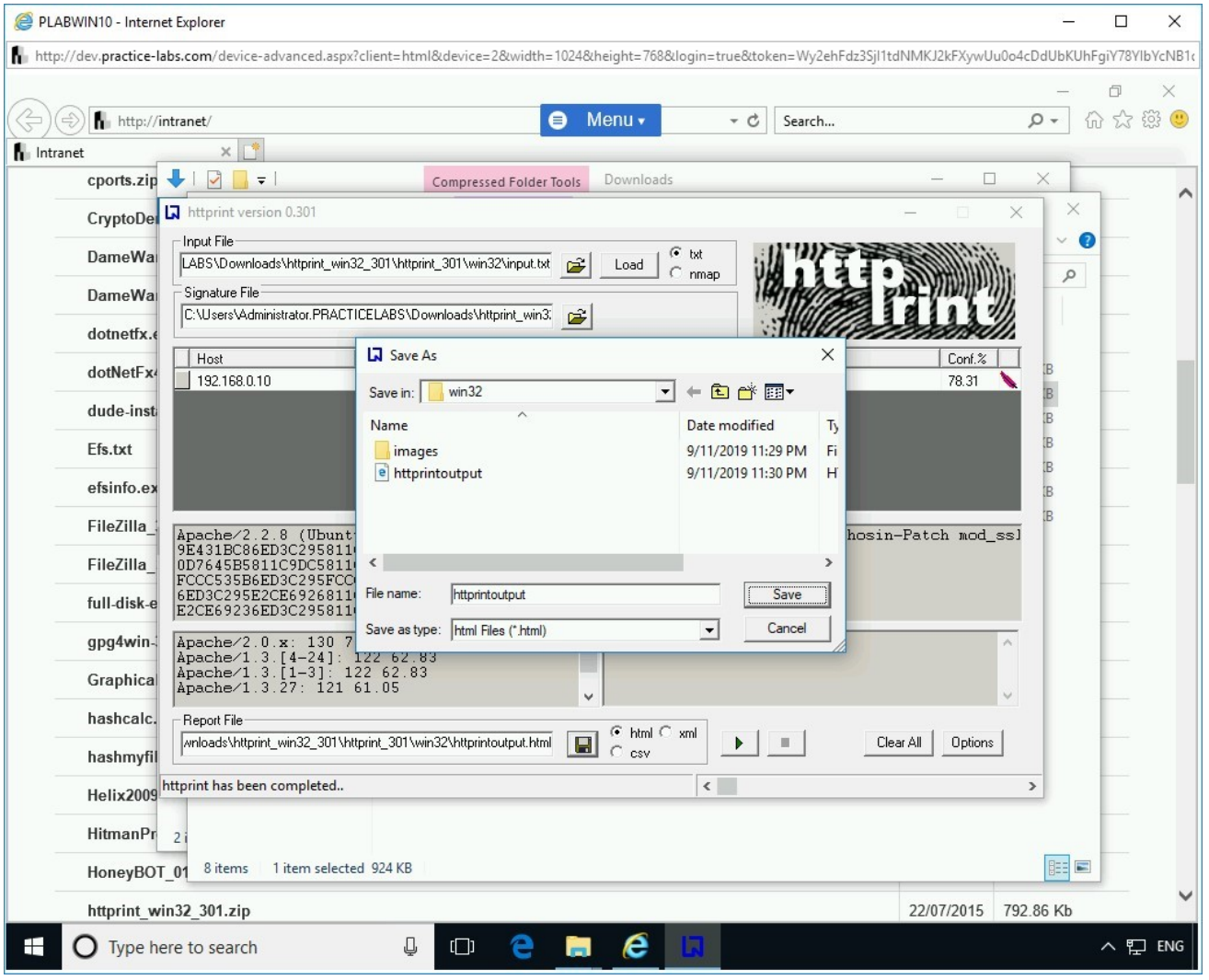


Figure 1.29 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Saving the output in the Save As dialog box and clicking Save.

Step 18

When prompted to overwrite the existing file, click **Yes**.

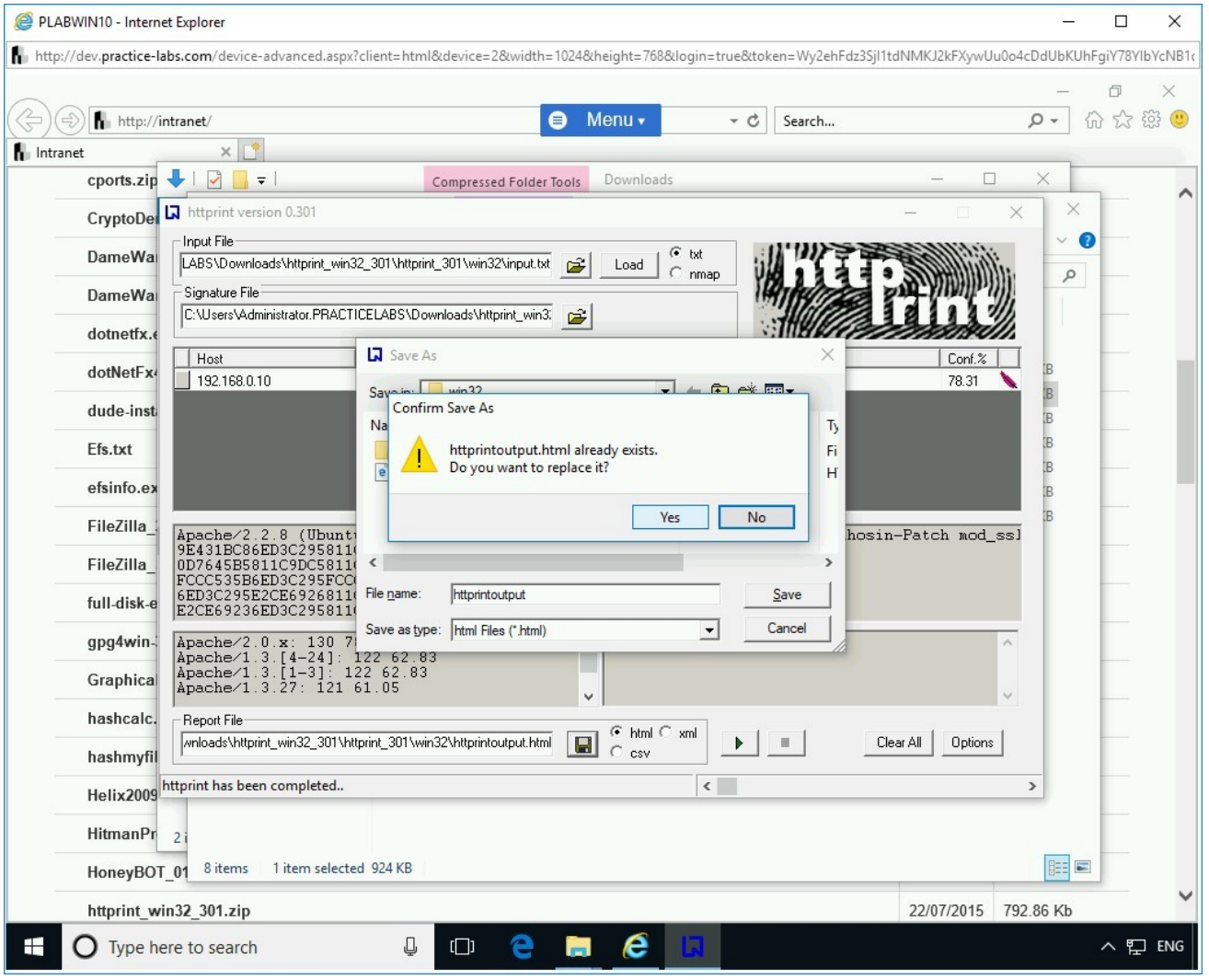


Figure 1.30 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Clicking Tools on the Intranet homepage.

Step 19

Minimize **HTTPrint** and navigate to the directory where you saved the report. Double-click the file to open it.

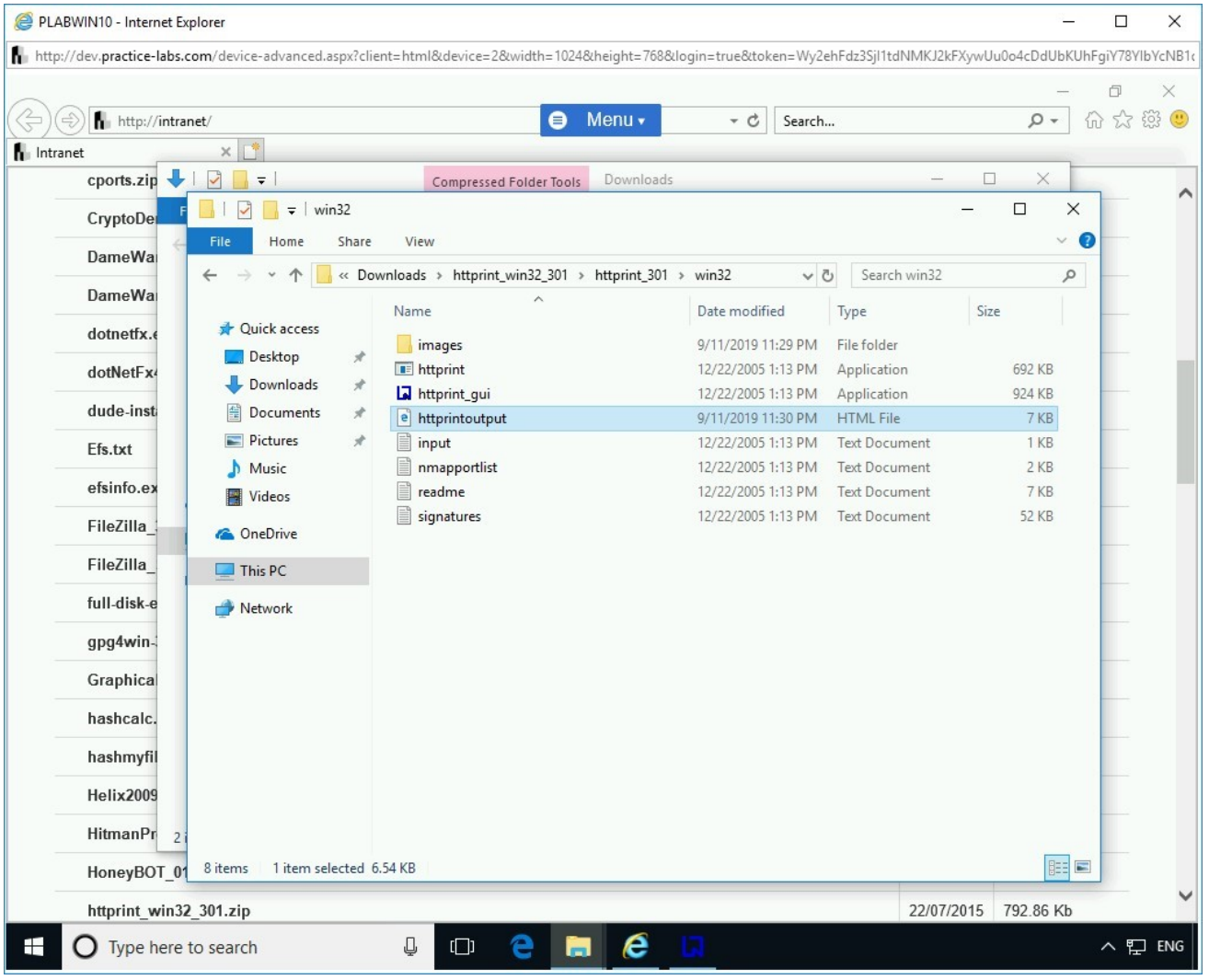


Figure 1.31 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Navigating to the win32 directory and double-clicking the HTML file.

Step 20

The **Internet Explorer** opens the report since it is in the **HTML** format.

It is the same information that you viewed within the **HTTPrint** tool. Close the **Edge** browser.

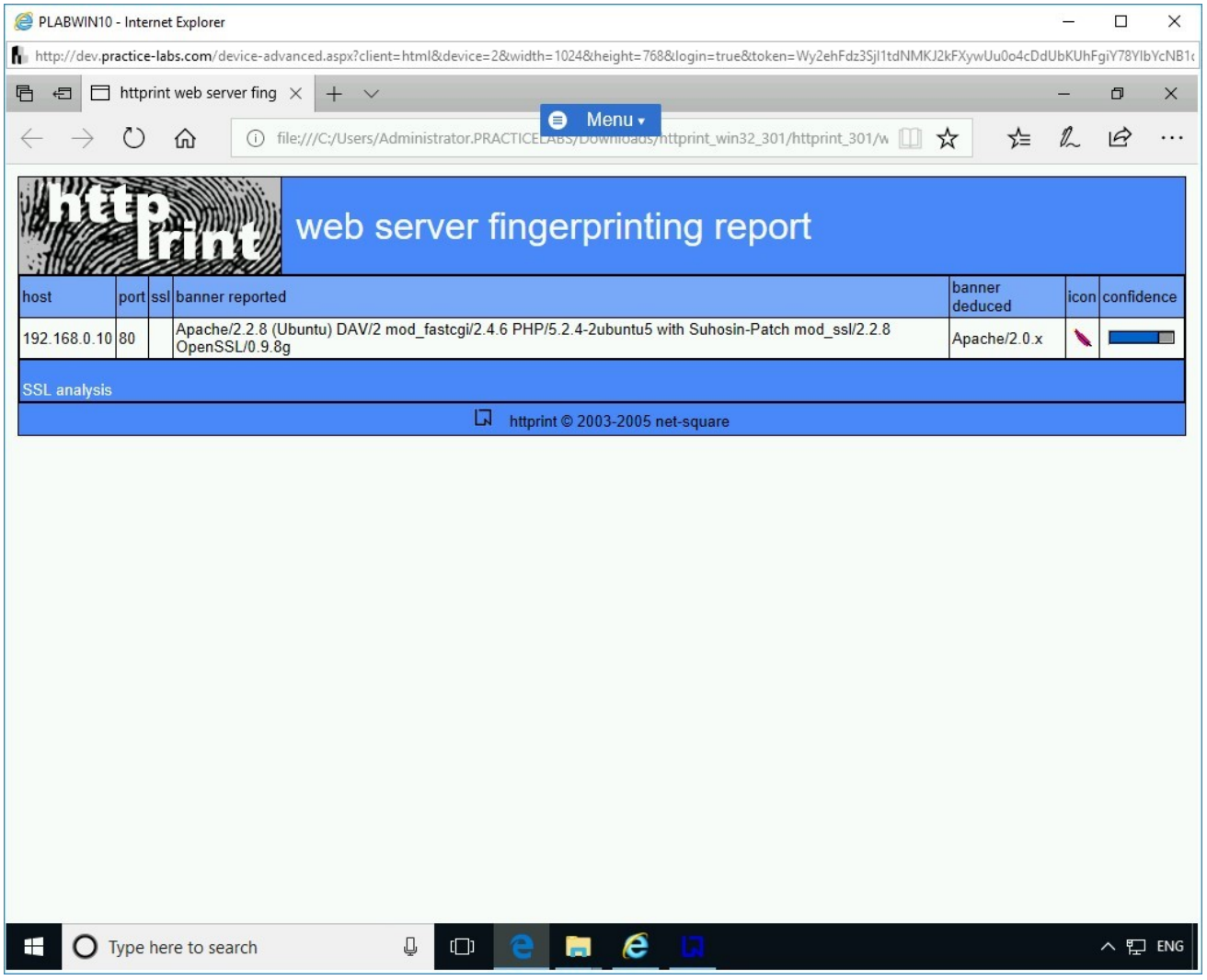


Figure 1.32 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Showing the Webserver enumeration details in an HTML file.

Step 21

Switch back to the **HTTPrint** tool. Click **Clear All**.

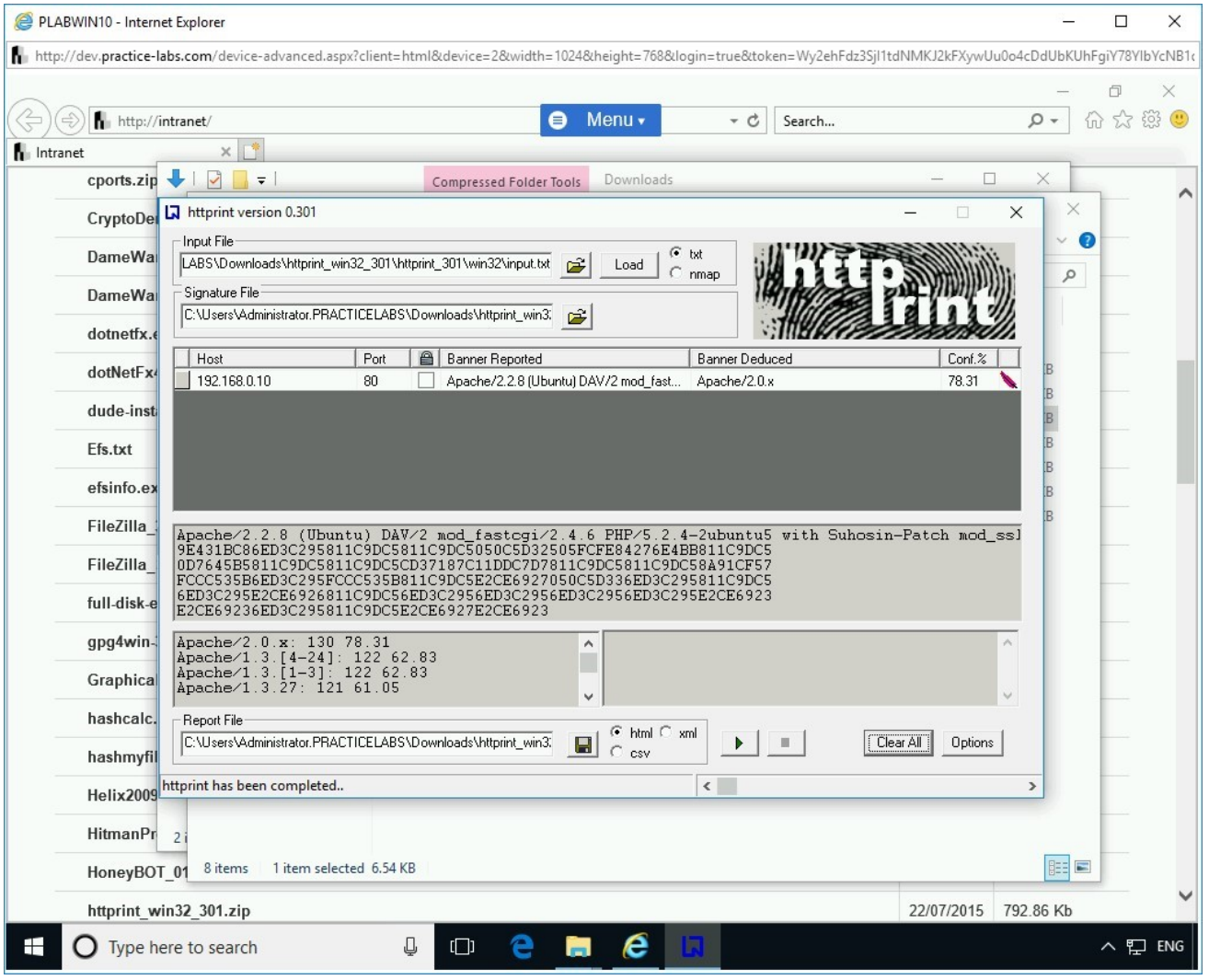


Figure 1.33 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Clicking Tools on the Intranet homepage.

Step 22

Enter the following information:

Host:

```
www.google.com
```

Port:

80

Click **Start**.

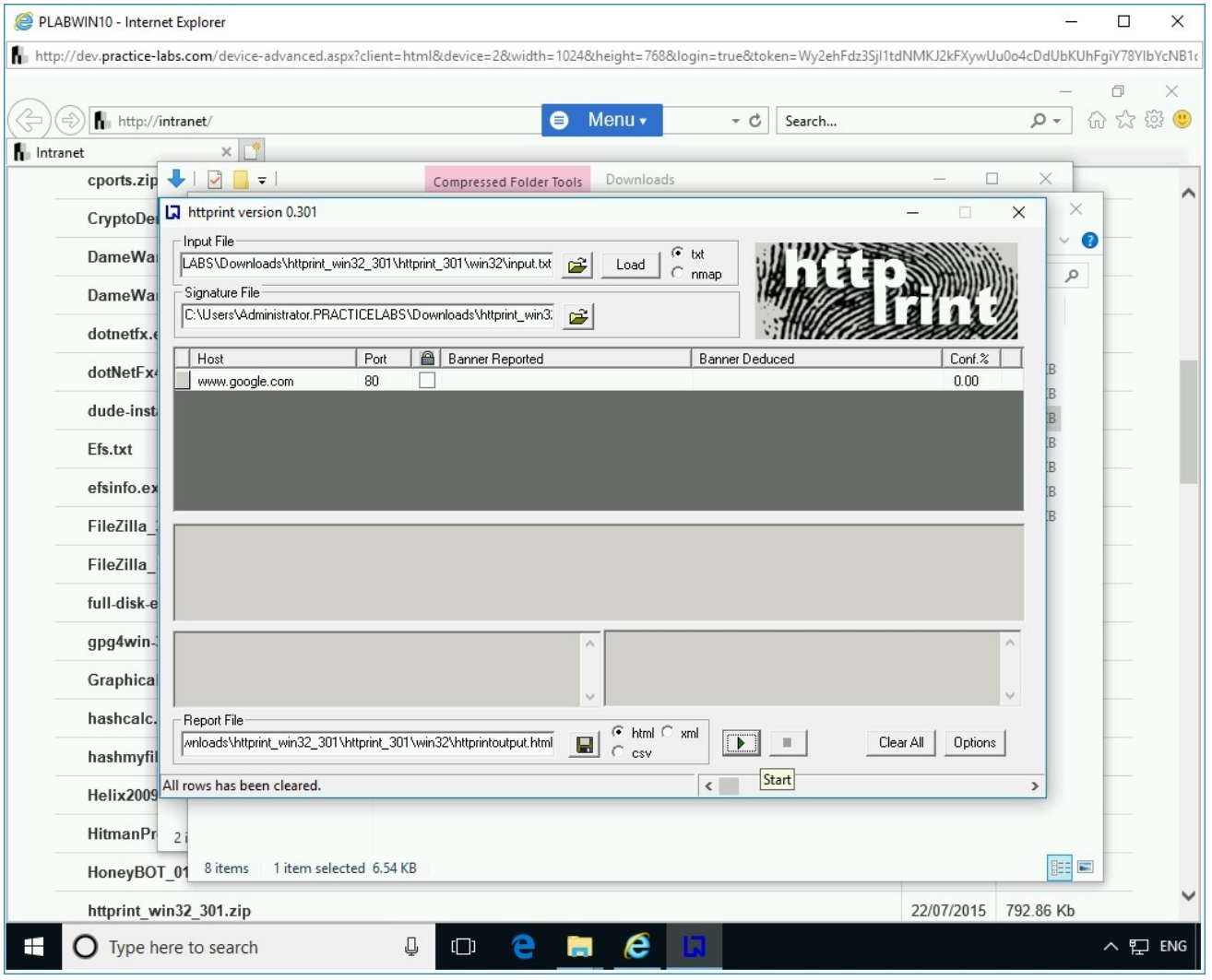


Figure 1.34 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Entering www . google . com in the Host column and clicking Start.

Step 23

The **httprint_gui** dialog box is displayed. Click **OK** to close it.

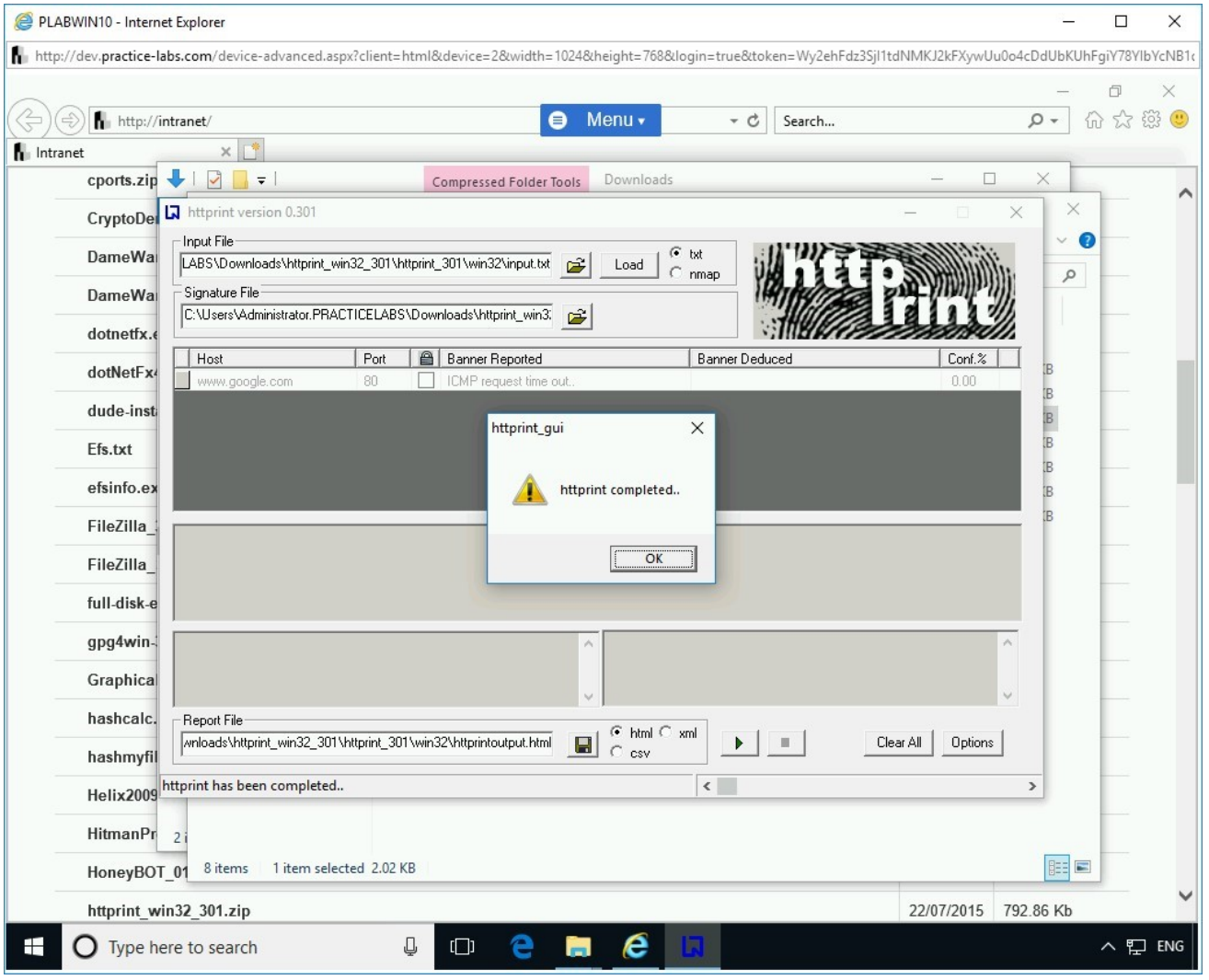


Figure 1.35 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Showing the httprint_gui dialog box and clicking OK.

Note that the **Banner Reported** column shows **ICMP request time out**. This could be because of two reasons:

- Your network firewall is preventing the ICMP packets from going out.
- The target that you are trying to fingerprint prevents ICMP packets from coming into the network.

There could be a possibility that either both of the reasons are true or one of the reasons is true; you will get this error message.

Also, when you fingerprinted your internal Webserver, **192.168.0.10**, you did not get any error. The reason is that your system and Webserver are on the same network and same subnet.

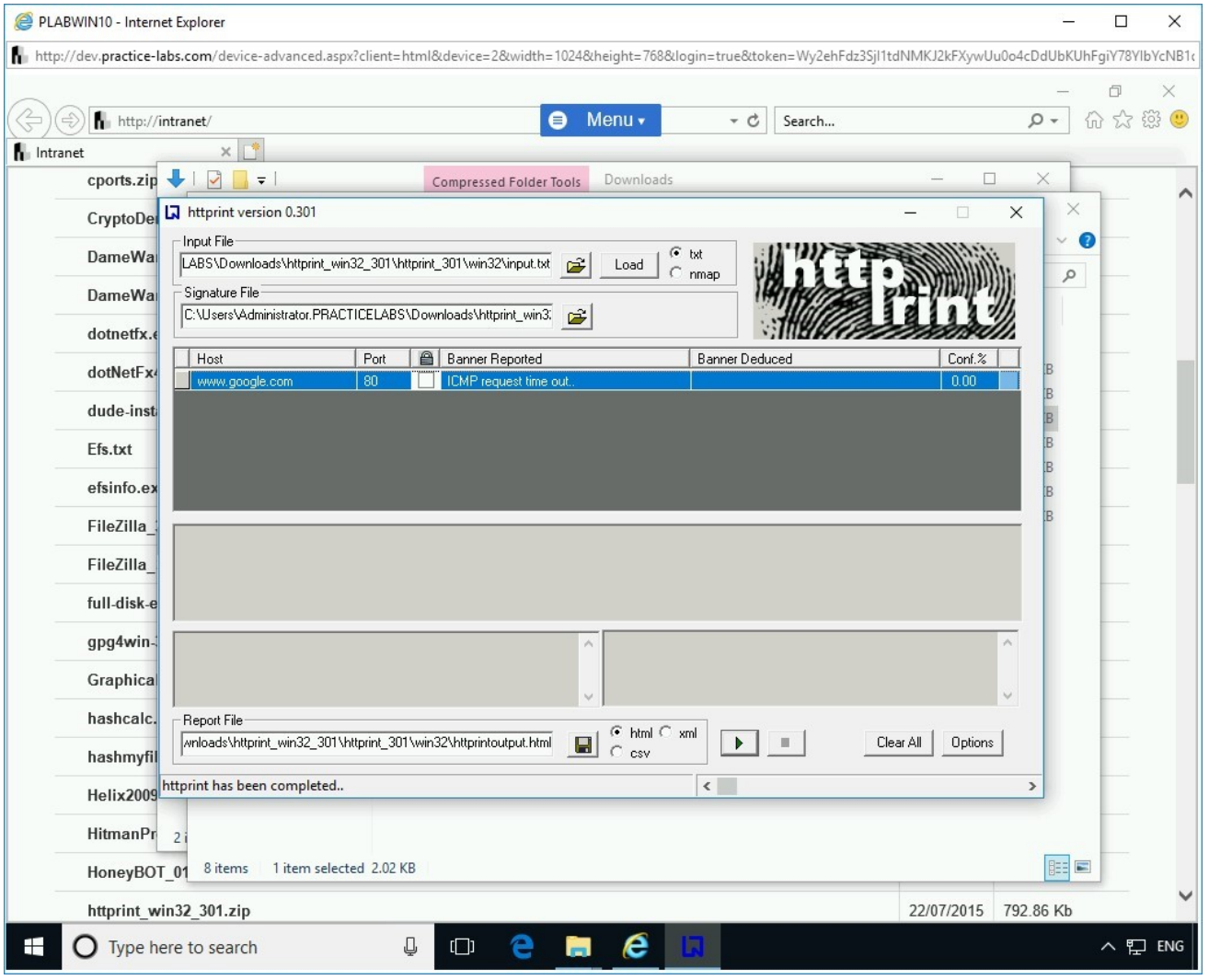


Figure 1.36 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Showing the output that has been blocked due to an ICMP error.

Close all open windows.

Task 3 - Perform Directory Traversal Attack

Directory traversal allows attackers to access restricted directories and file on a Webserver. It is most commonly known as the path traversal attack. Through the directory traversal attack, the attacker can bypass security implemented on the Webserver and access directories and files that are stored on the Webserver even though they are outside the root directory of the Webserver.

In most common scenarios, a Webserver administrator would restrict users to the Webserver's root directory, which holds the files for the Web application. The user will be restricted to navigate outside this directory. The Webserver administrator

usually applies Access Control Lists (ACLs), which define the access rights and privileges for the users to view, modify, and execute files.

To perform a directory traversal attack, perform the following steps:

Step 1

Connect to **PLABWIN10**. Open **Internet Explorer**.

Type the following string in the address bar:

```
https://pentest-tools.com/home
```

Press **Enter**.

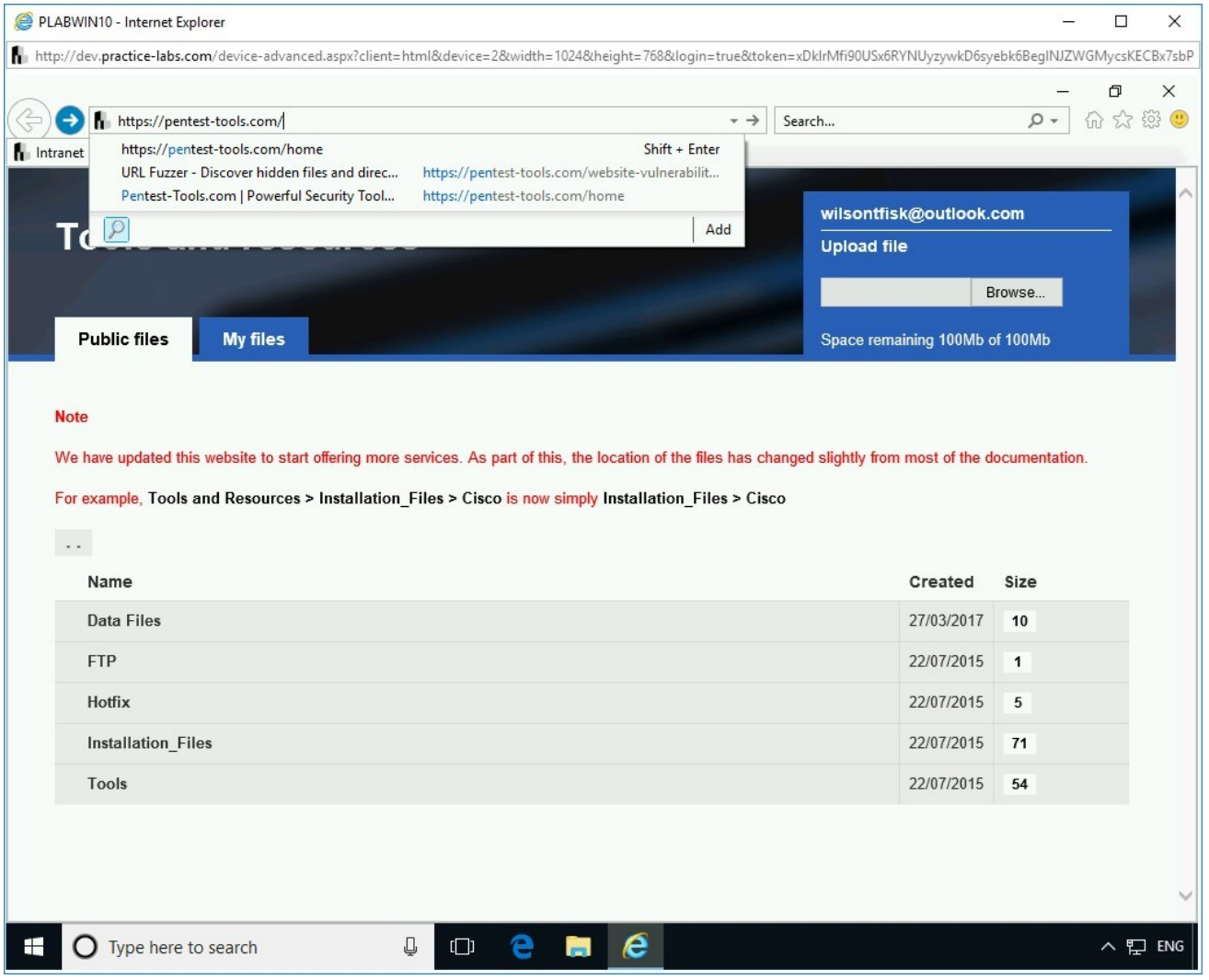


Figure 1.37 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Entering a URL in the address bar.

Step 2

On the upper right-hand corner, click **Tools** and then select **URL Fuzzer** under the **WEB APPLICATION TESTING** category.

Note: If there is 0 free scans available, please complete this Task on your own PC outside of the Practice Labs environment.

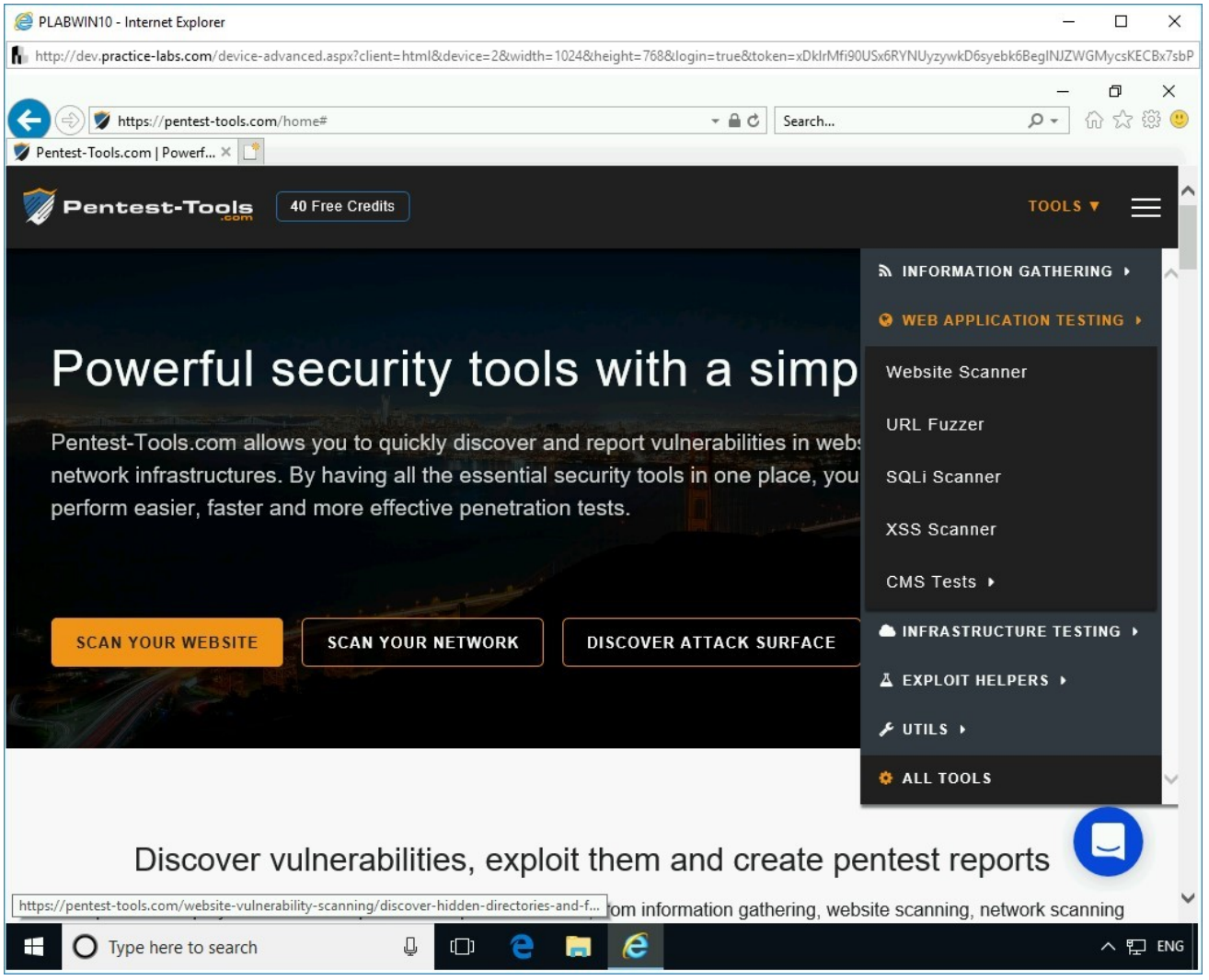


Figure 1.38 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Clicking on the URL Fuzzer link on the Webpage.

Step 3

Close the small pop-up window.

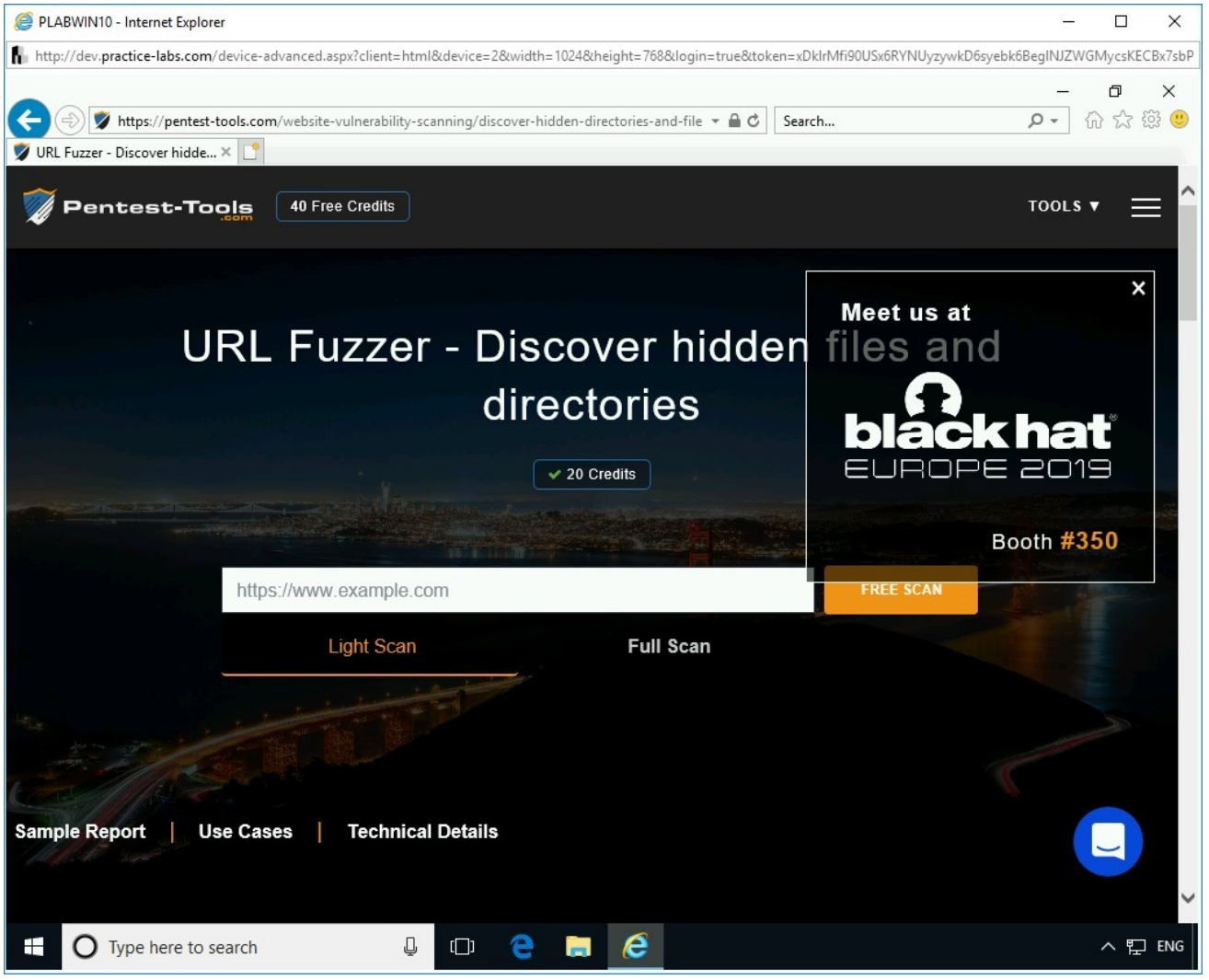


Figure 1.39 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Clicking Tools on the Intranet homepage.

Step 4

The **URL Fuzzer** Webpage is now loaded. In the search textbox, type the following URL:

```
http://testphp.vulnweb.com
```

Select **I am authorized to scan this target, and I agree with the Terms of Service** click **FREE SCAN**.

Note: *The Light Scan option is selected by default and is free. Full Scan is a paid service.*

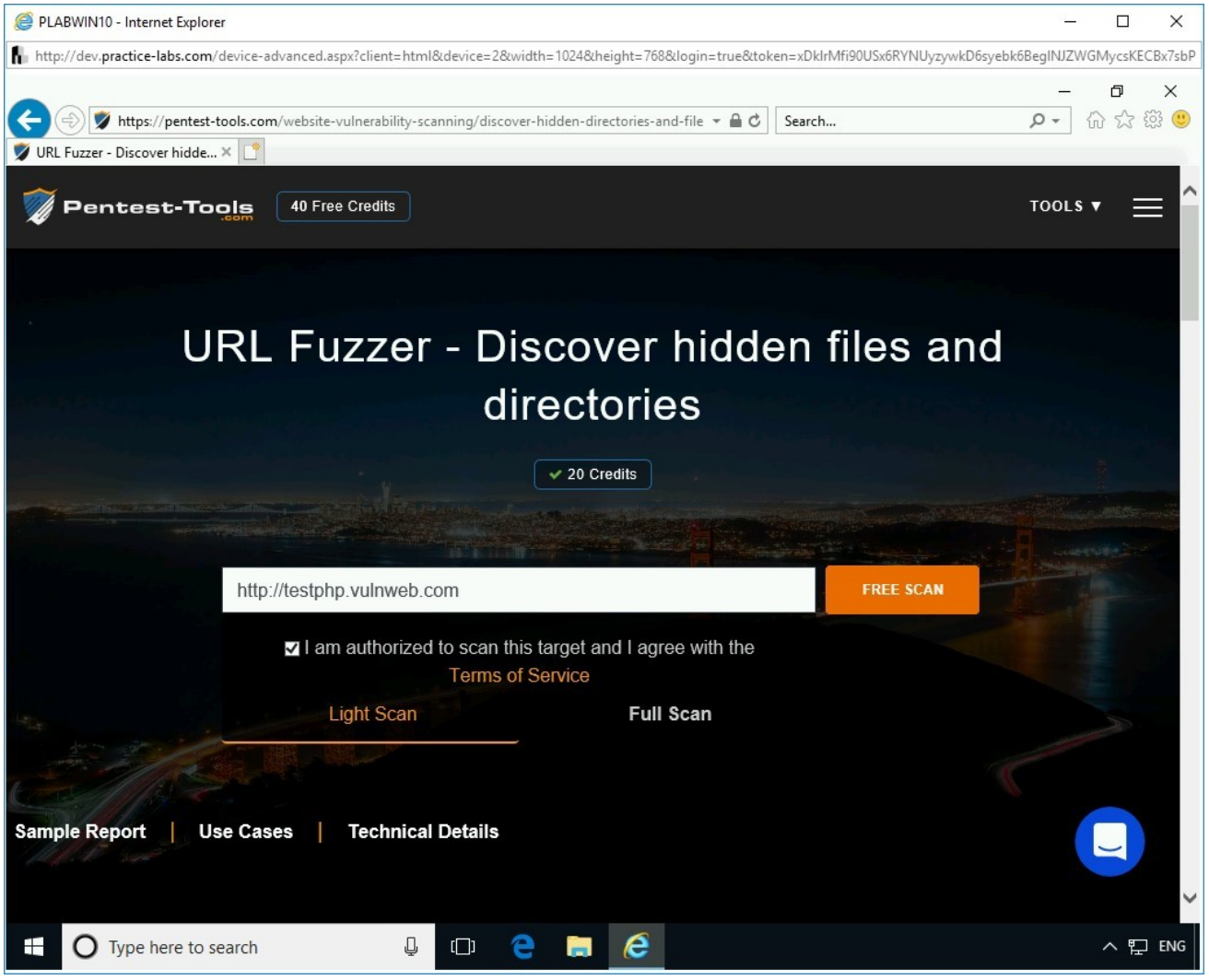


Figure 1.40 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Entering the URL in the search bar and clicking FREE SCAN.

Step 5

The scanning starts.

After scanning is complete, you need to scroll down to view the list of directories. Click **/admin**/.

A new tab is opened. It displays a file named **create.sql**.

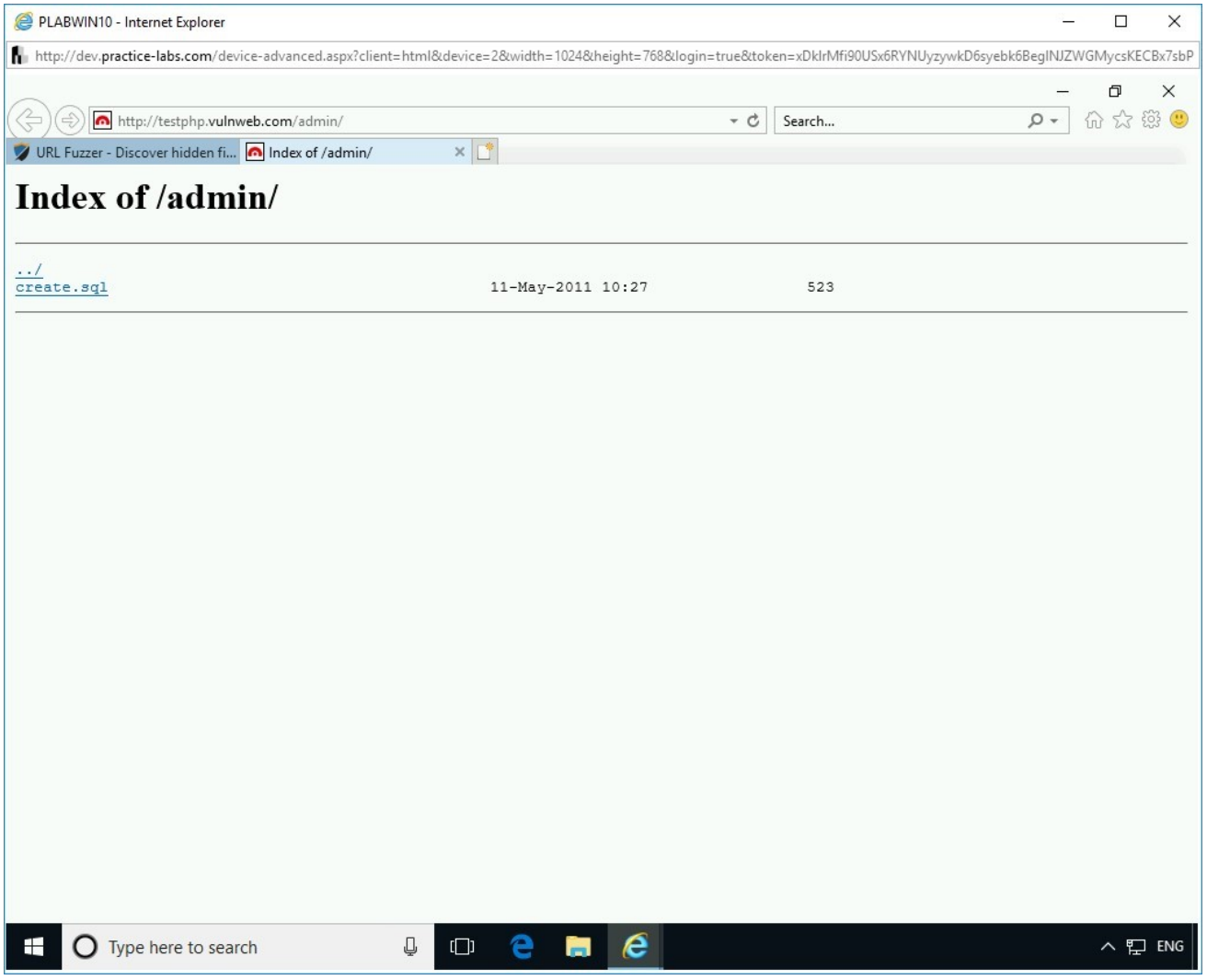


Figure 1.41 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Showing the create.sql file in the /admin/ directory.

Step 6

Click the **URL Fuzzer** tab.

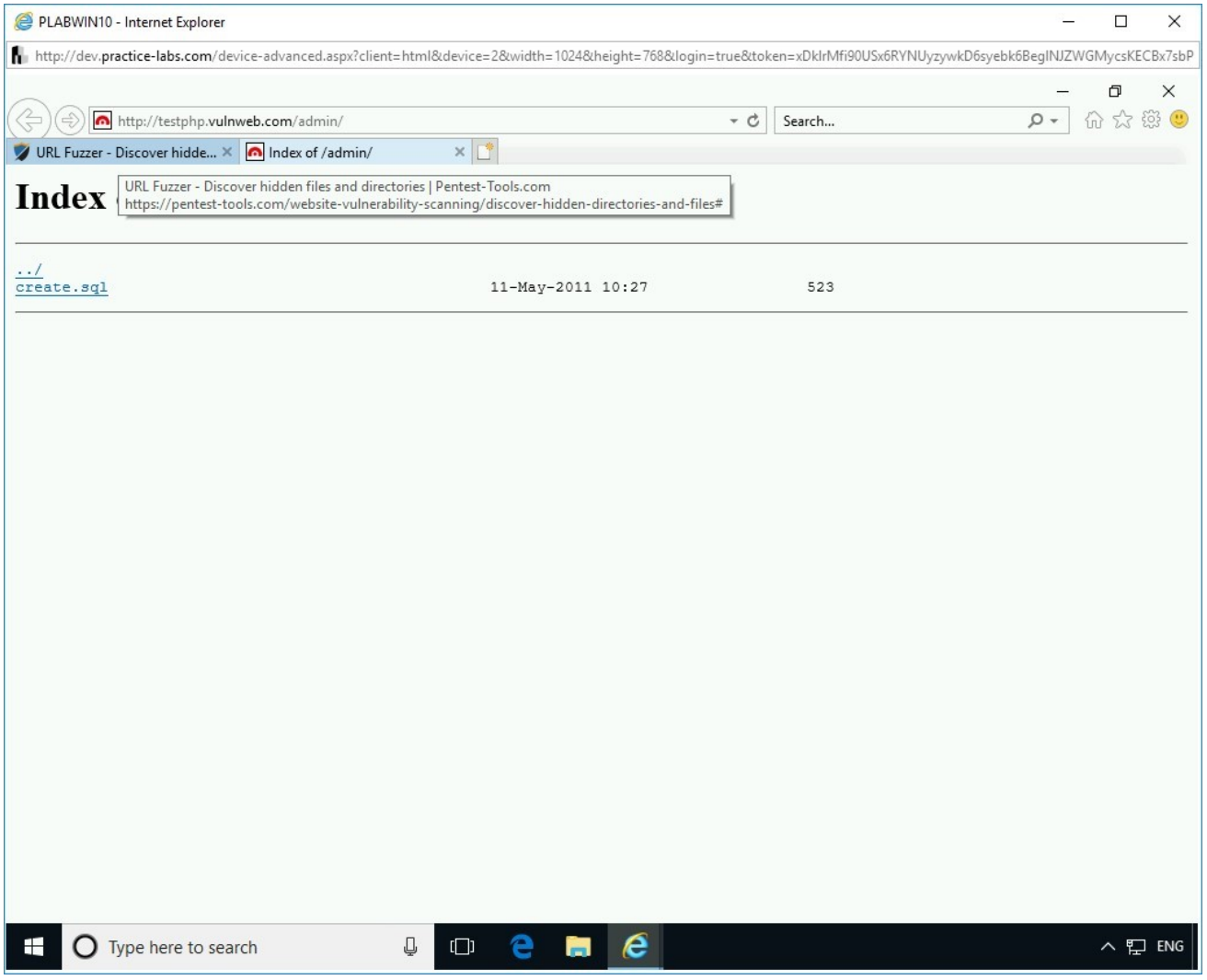


Figure 1.42 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Clicking Tools on the Intranet homepage.

Step 7

Click the **/images/** folder.

A new tab is now opened. It displays two files, **logo.gif,** and **remark.gif** in the **/images/** folder.

Close the Internet Explorer window.

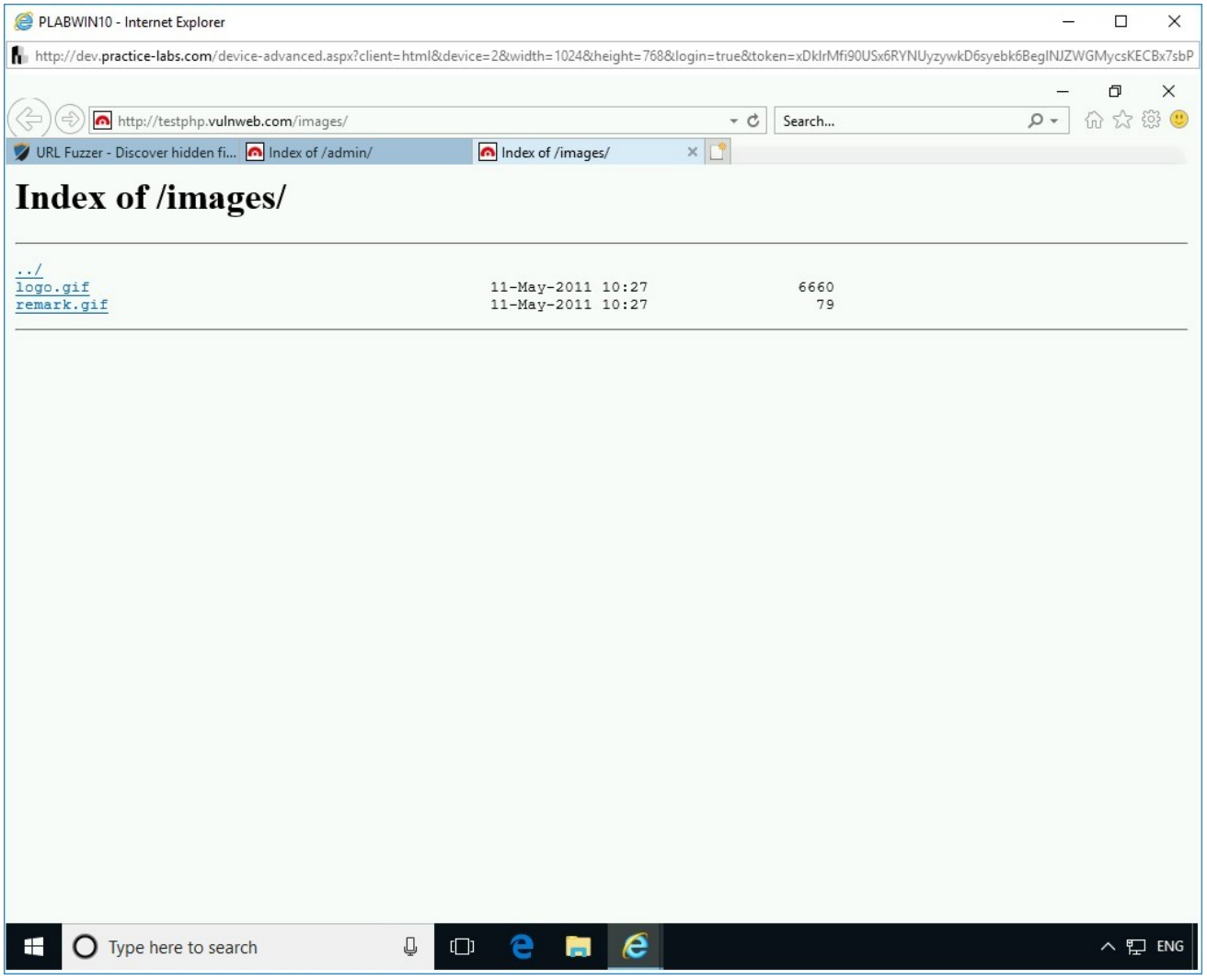


Figure 1.43 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Clicking Tools on the Intranet homepage.

Task 4 - Perform Web Application Brute Forcing Using DirBuster

There are several tools or Websites that you can use to traverse through a Website's directory structure. When you configure a Webserver with a Website, it is best to ensure that you have not enabled directory listing. If enabled, an attacker can exploit the Webserver and get the listing. In this task, you will learn to perform directory traversal using a multi-threaded tool named DirBuster, which can brute force the Web applications to find their directory structure.

To perform Web application brute force using DirBuster, perform the following steps:

Step 1

Ensure you have powered on all the devices listed in the introduction and connect to **PLABKALI01**. Click the **Leafpad** icon in the left pane.

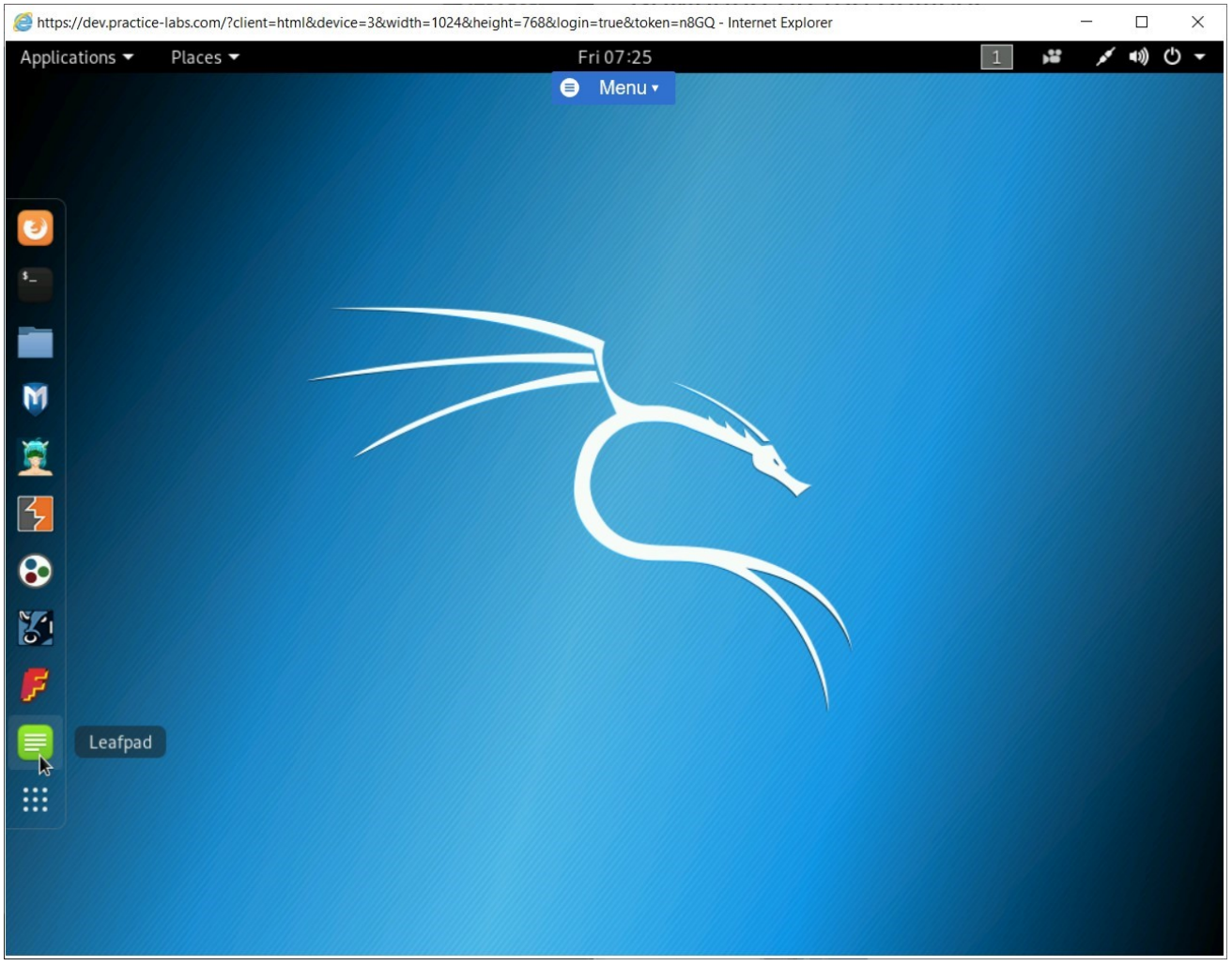


Figure 1.44 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Showing the desktop of PLABKALI01 and clicking the Leafpad icon.

Step 2

The ***Untitled Document 1** window is opened. Type the following words:

```
XSS
Cross-script
Attack
```

```
Evil
SQL
Injection
```

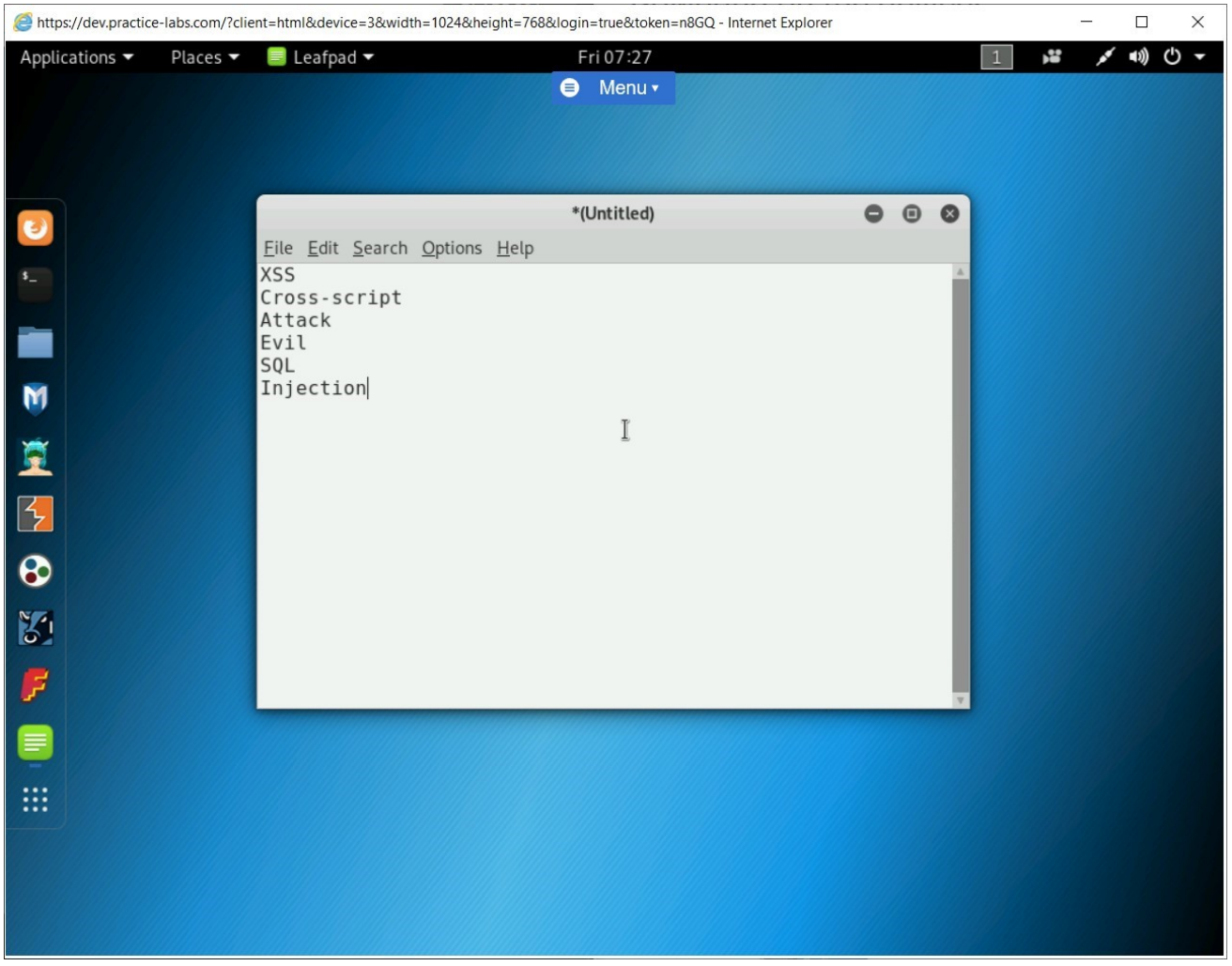


Figure 1.45 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Creating a file in Leadpad with some text.

Step 3

Click **File** and cklick **Save**.

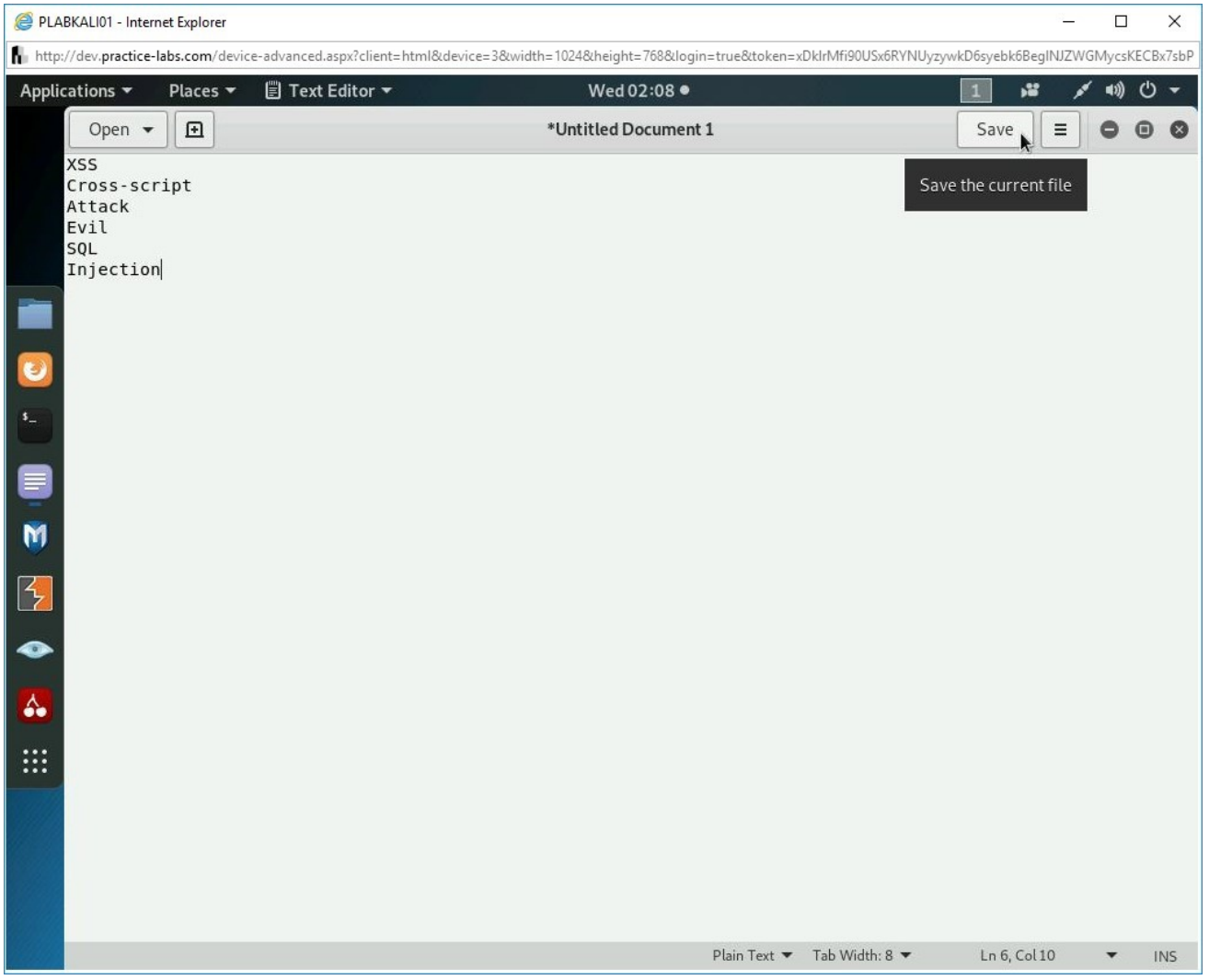


Figure 1.46 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Saving the file with the File (Save option.

Step 4

The **Save As** dialog box is displayed.

From the left pane, select **Desktop**. In the **Name** text box, type the following name:

```
test
```

Click **Save**.

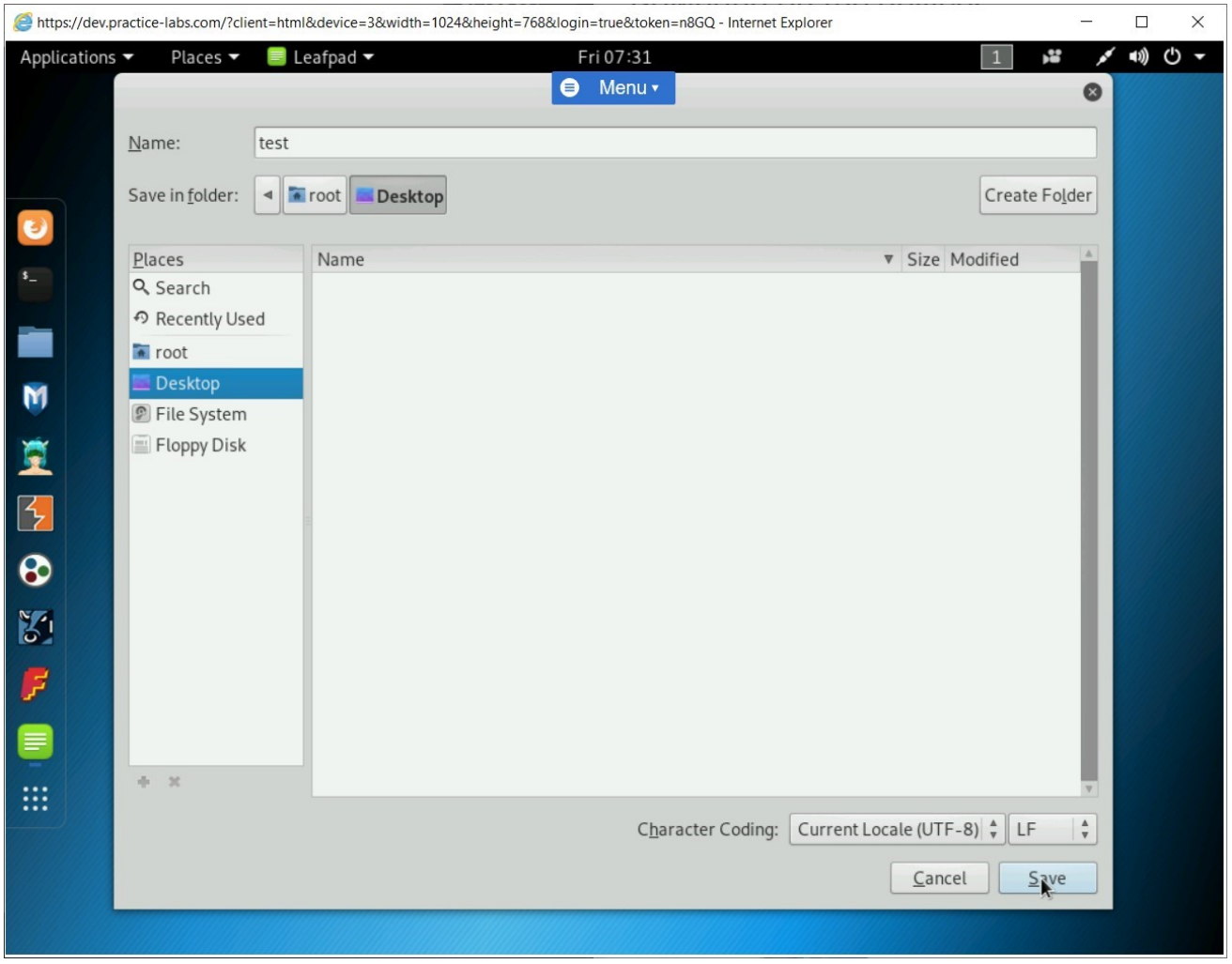


Figure 1.47 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Naming the file as a test and saving on the Desktop.

Step 5

Notice that the file name is now changed to **test**. Close the **Text Editor** window.

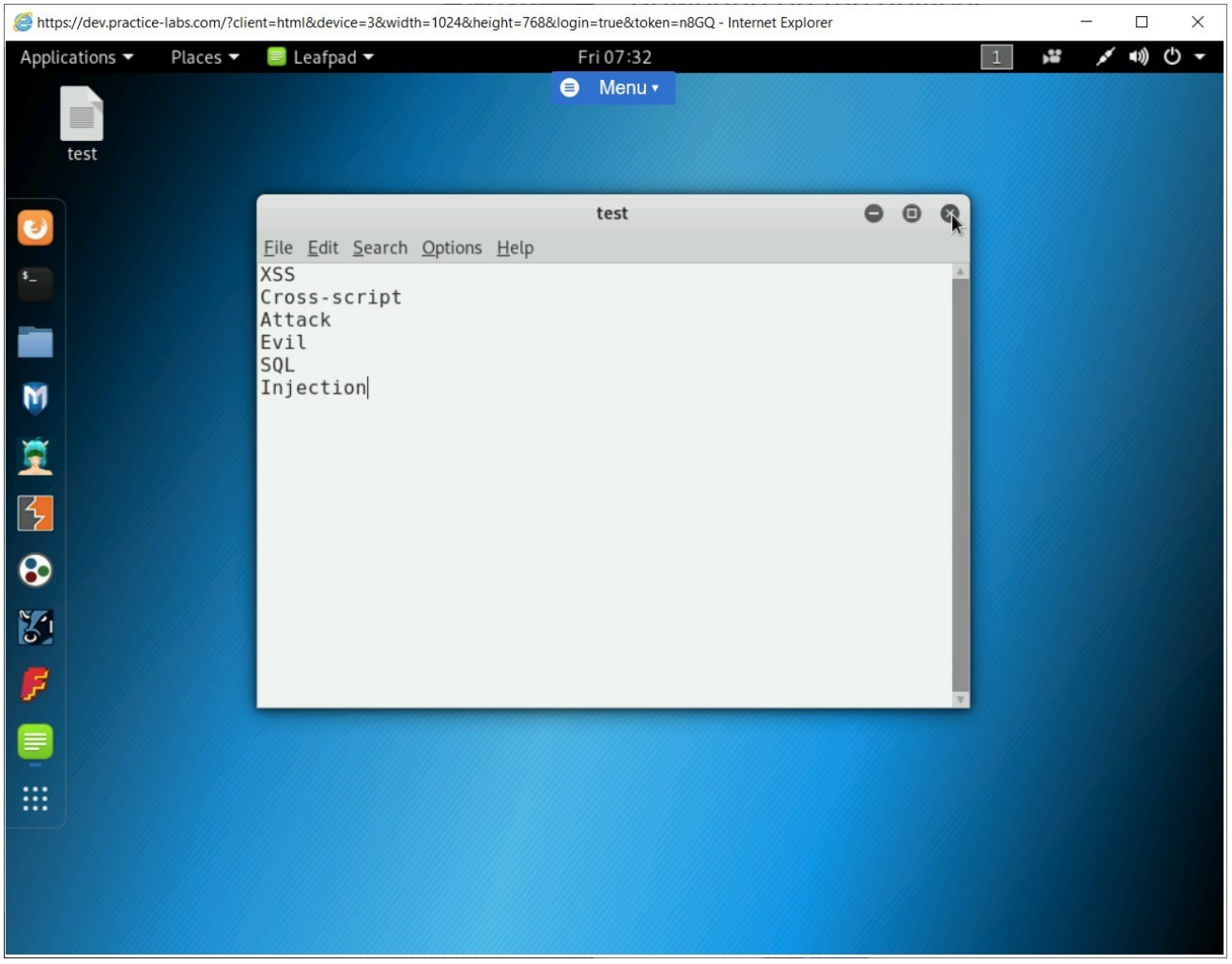


Figure 1.48 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Showing the test file and closing it.

Step 6

Notice that the test file is now created on the desktop. Click the **Terminal** icon in the left pane.

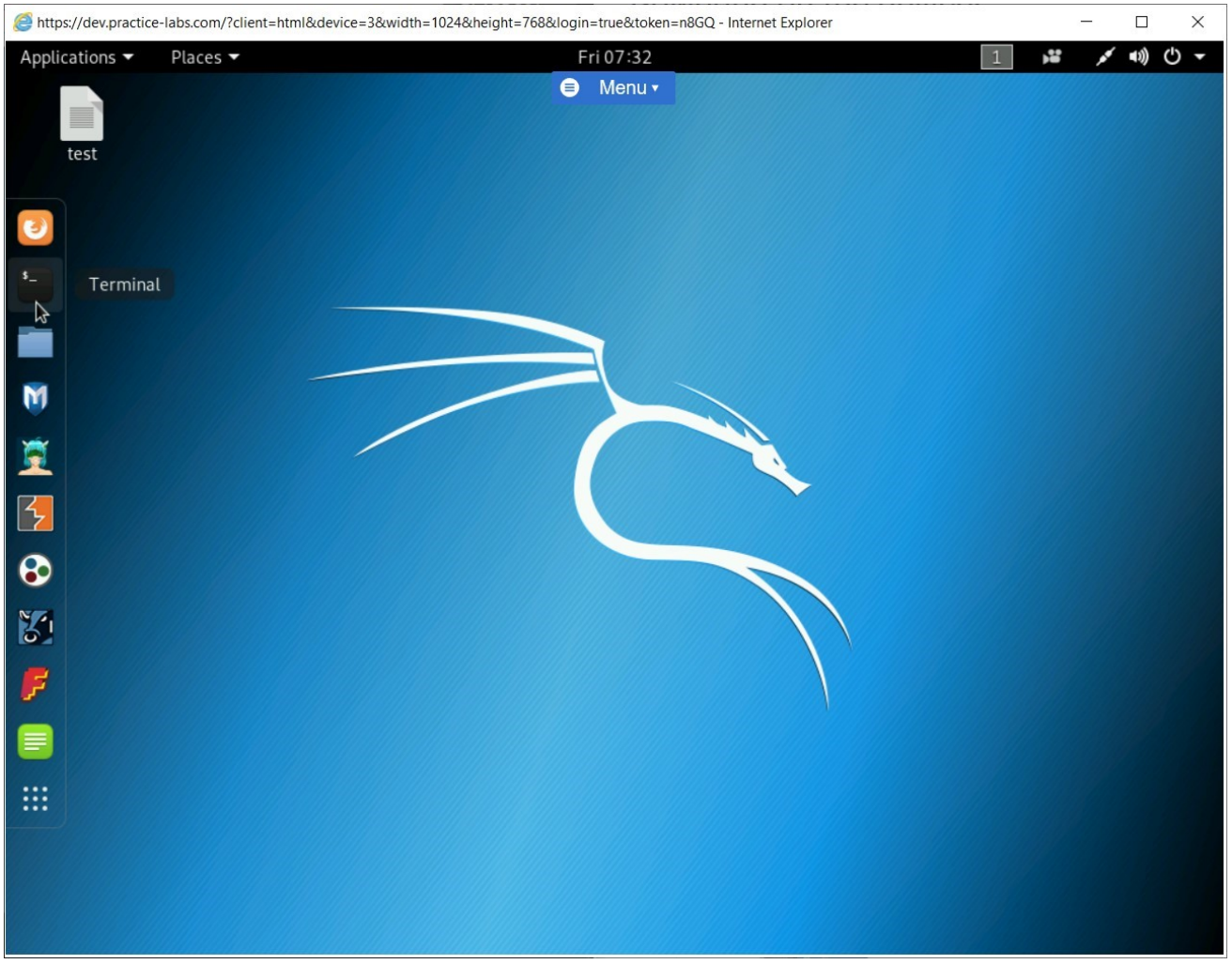


Figure 1.49 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Clicking the Terminal icon from the left pane on the desktop.

Step 7

The terminal window is displayed. Type the following command:

```
dirbuster
```

Press **Enter**. The **OWASP DirBuster** window is displayed.

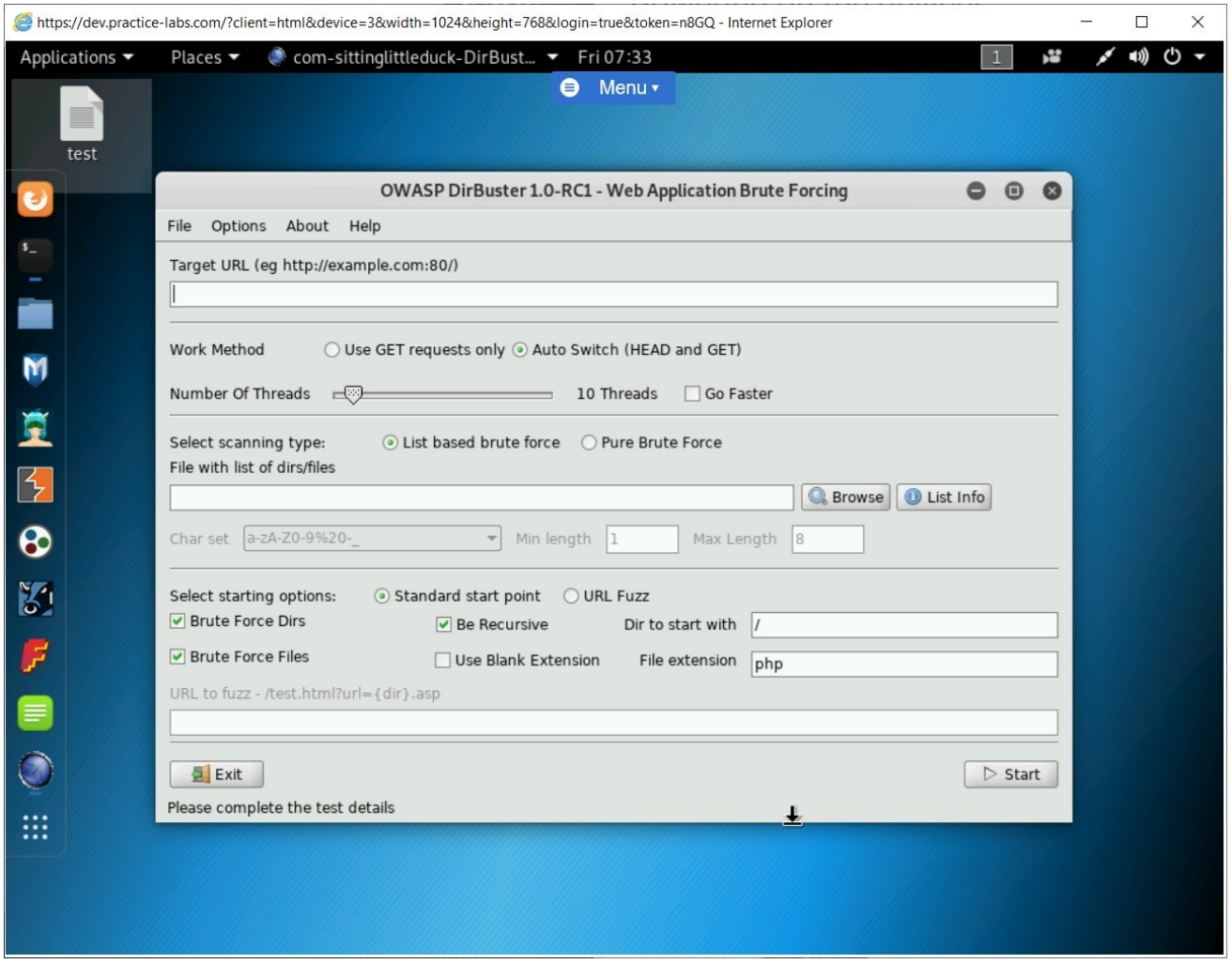


Figure 1.50 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Showing the OWASP DisBuster window.

Step 8

In the **Target URL** text box, type the following URL:

```
http://intranet
```

In the **File with the list of dirs/files** text box, type the following path:

```
/root/Desktop/test
```

Click **Start**.

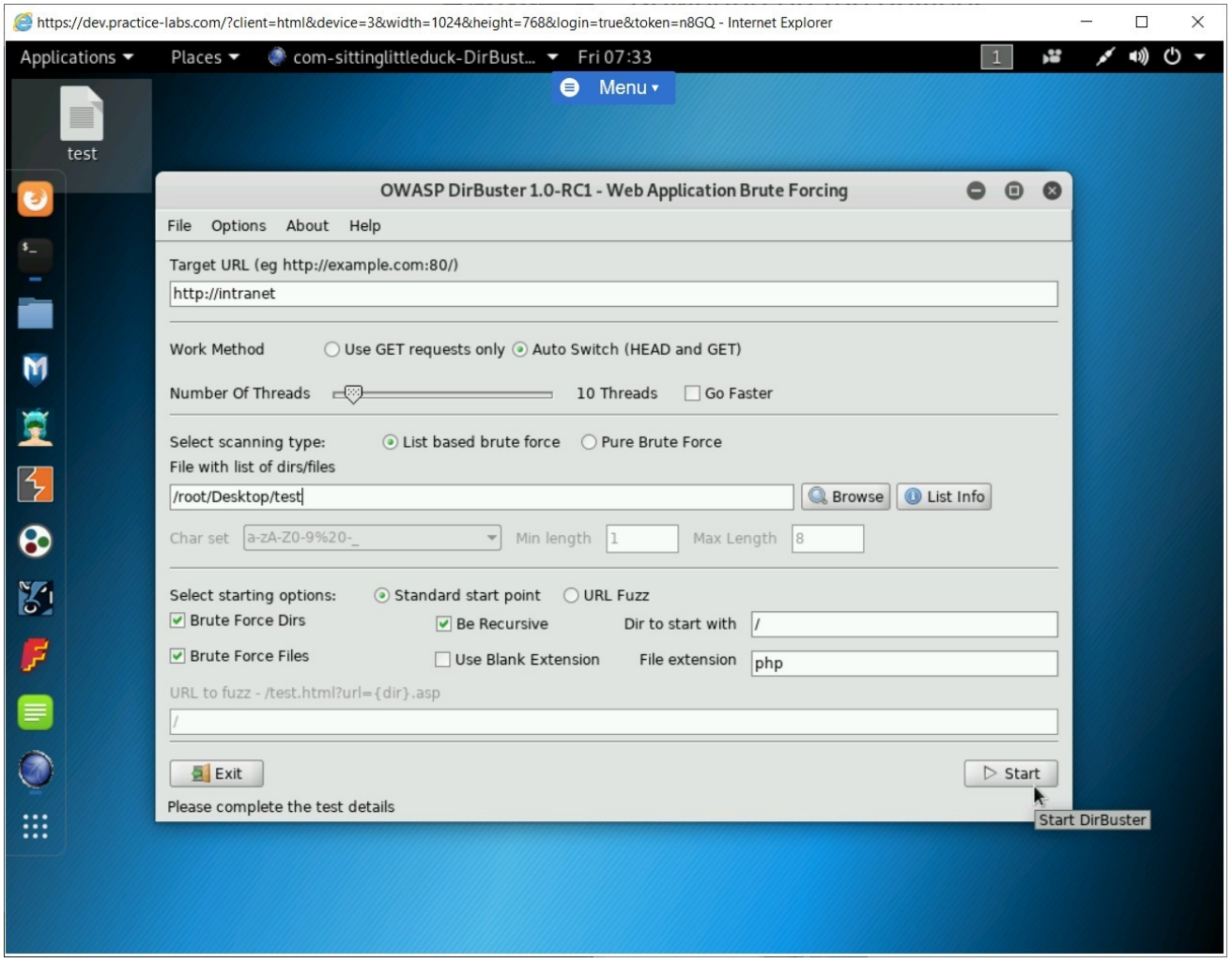


Figure 1.51 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Entering the URL and the path for the test file and clicking Start.

Step 9

The scanning process starts.

After the scanning process is completed, click **Report**.

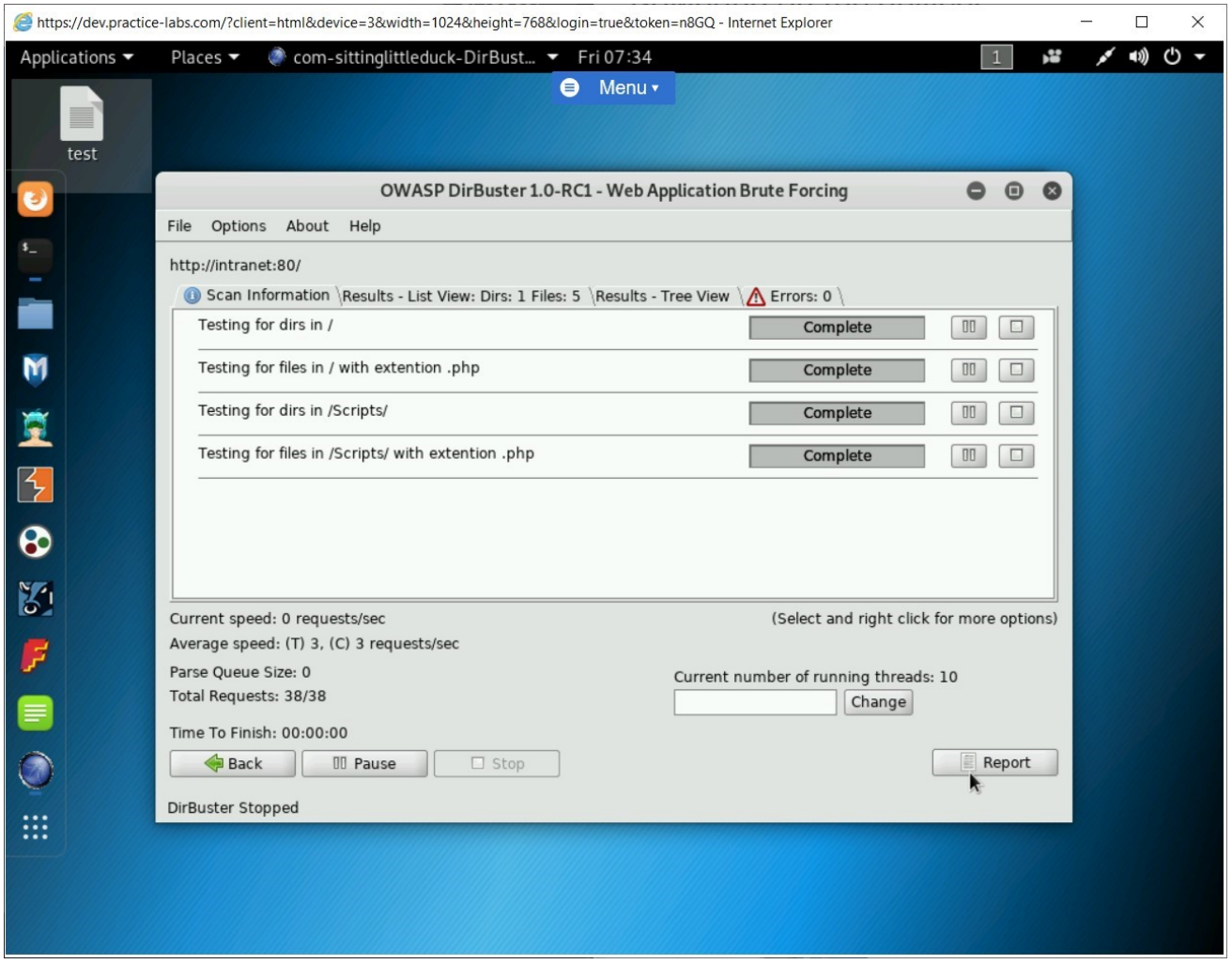


Figure 1.52 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Clicking the Report button.

Step 10

Click **Browse**.

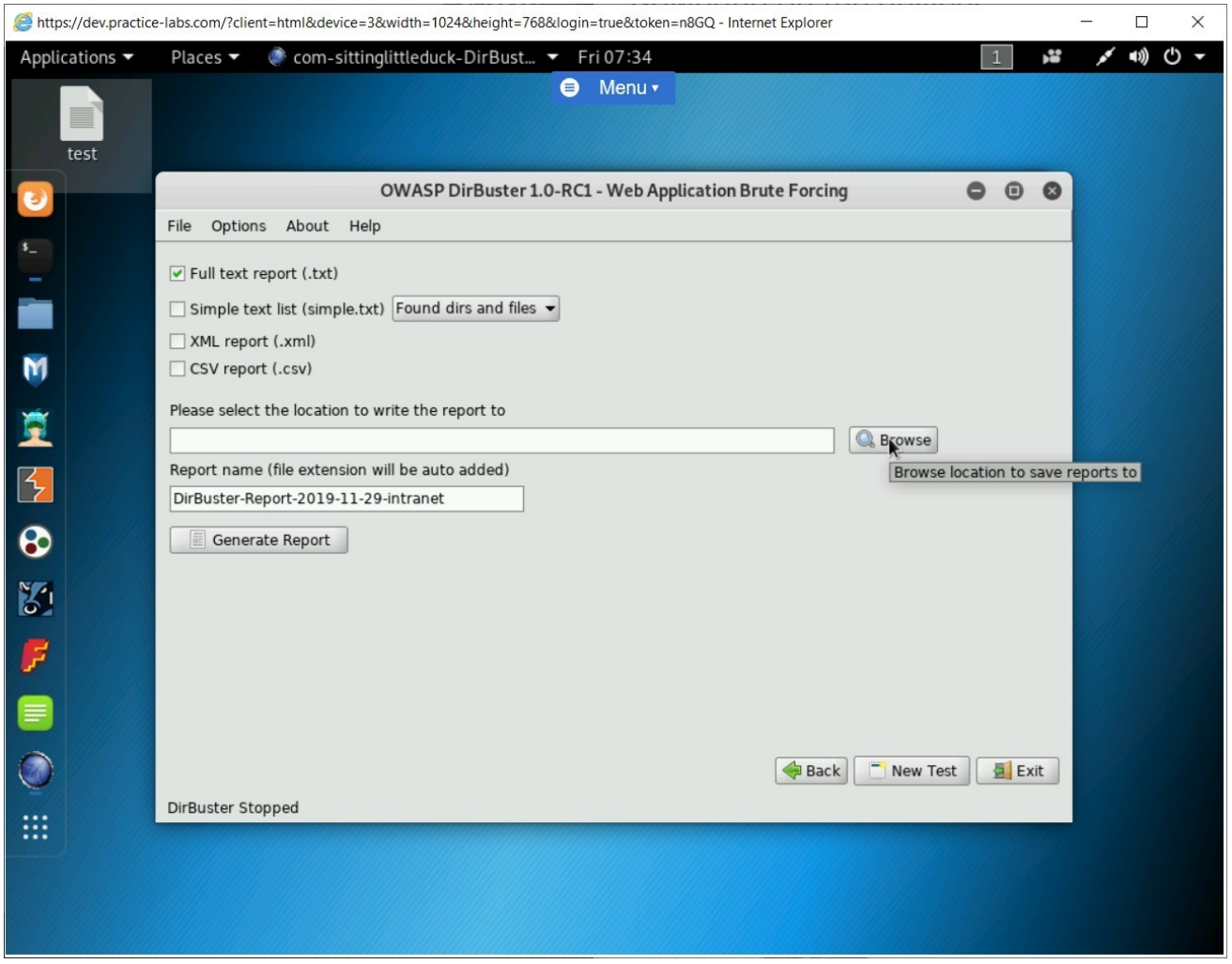


Figure 1.53 PLABKALI01: Clicking the Browse button.

Step 11

In the **Please Select The Location To Save The Report To** dialog box, select **Desktop** and click **Select Directory**.

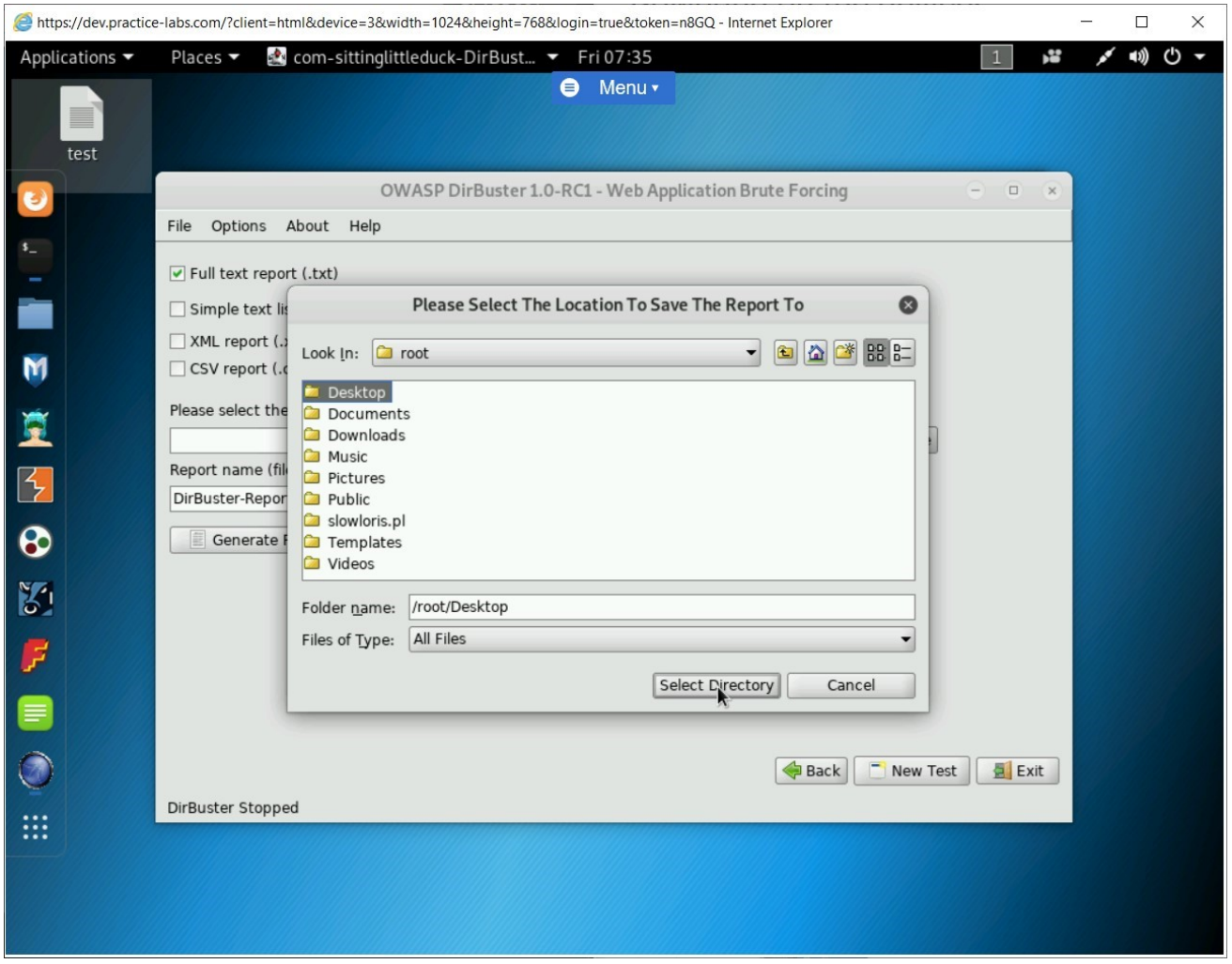


Figure 1.54 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Setting the path to save the report.

Step 12

Click **Generate Report**.

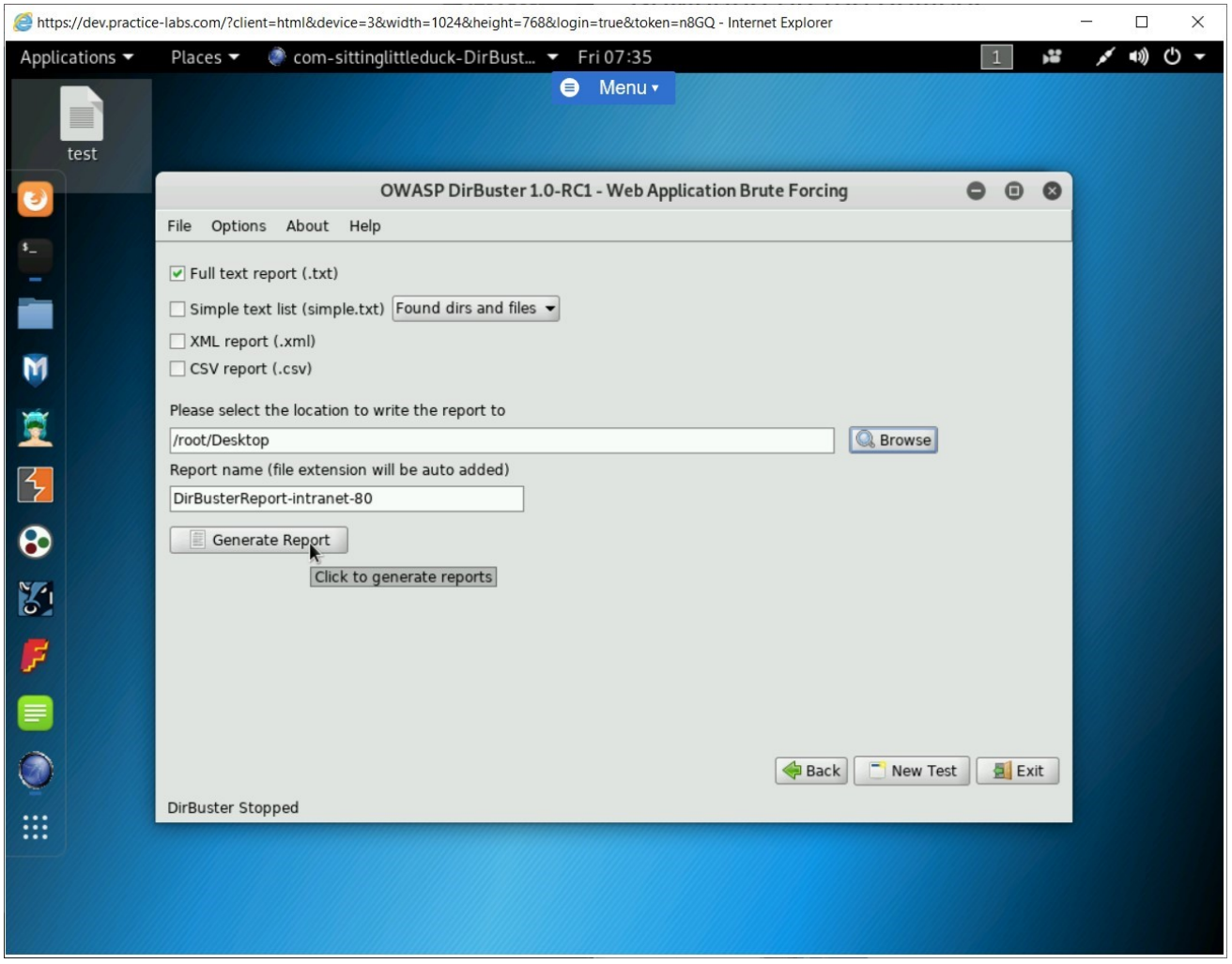


Figure 1.55 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Clicking the Generate Report button.

Step 13

The **DirBuster 1.0-RC1 Report Viewer** dialog box is displayed. Notice the list of all files and directories that have been discovered.

Click **Close**.

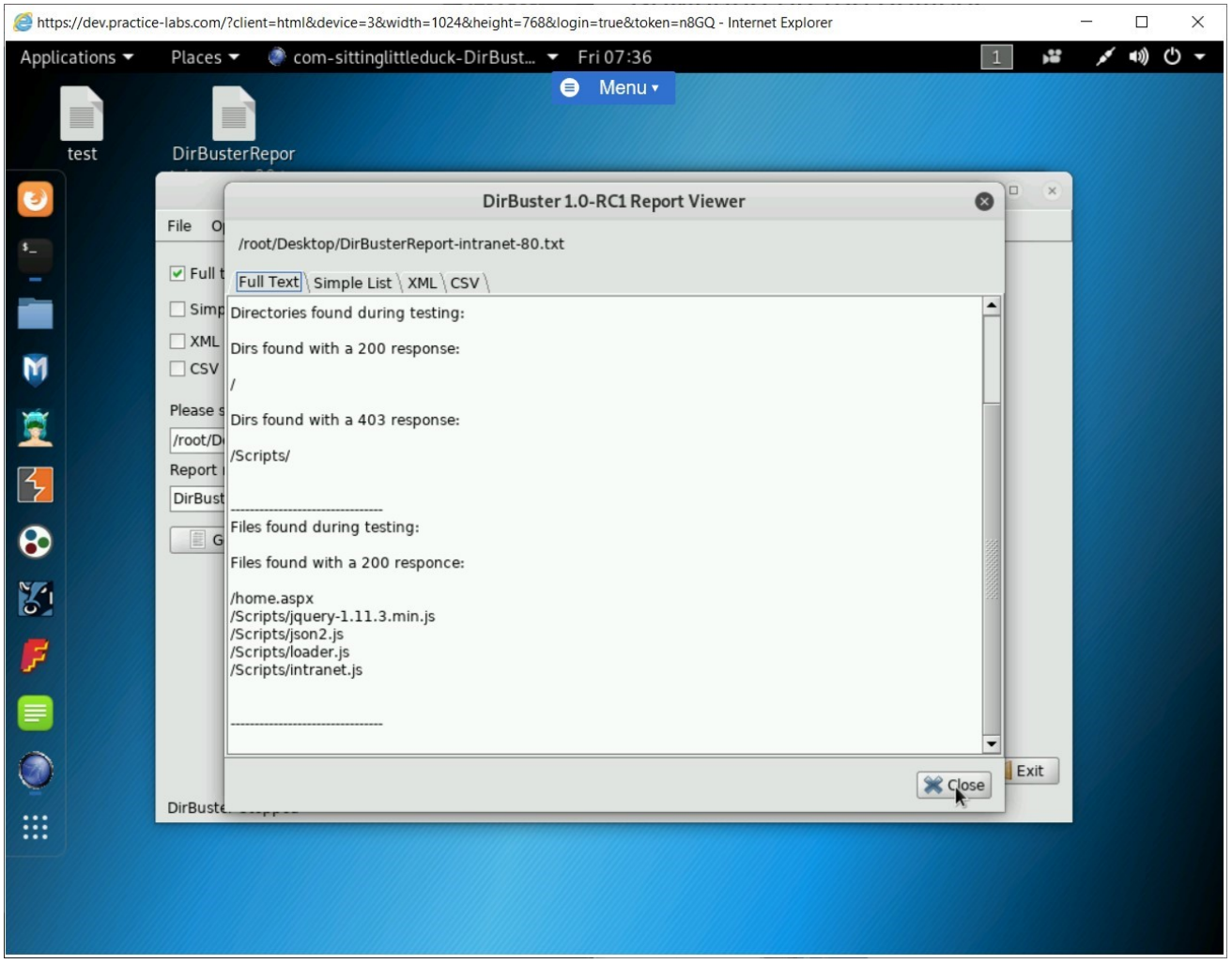


Figure 1.56 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Showing the discovered files and directories.

Step 14

Click **Exit** to close the **DirBuster** window.

You are back on the terminal window. Notice that a brief about the files and directories are also displayed.

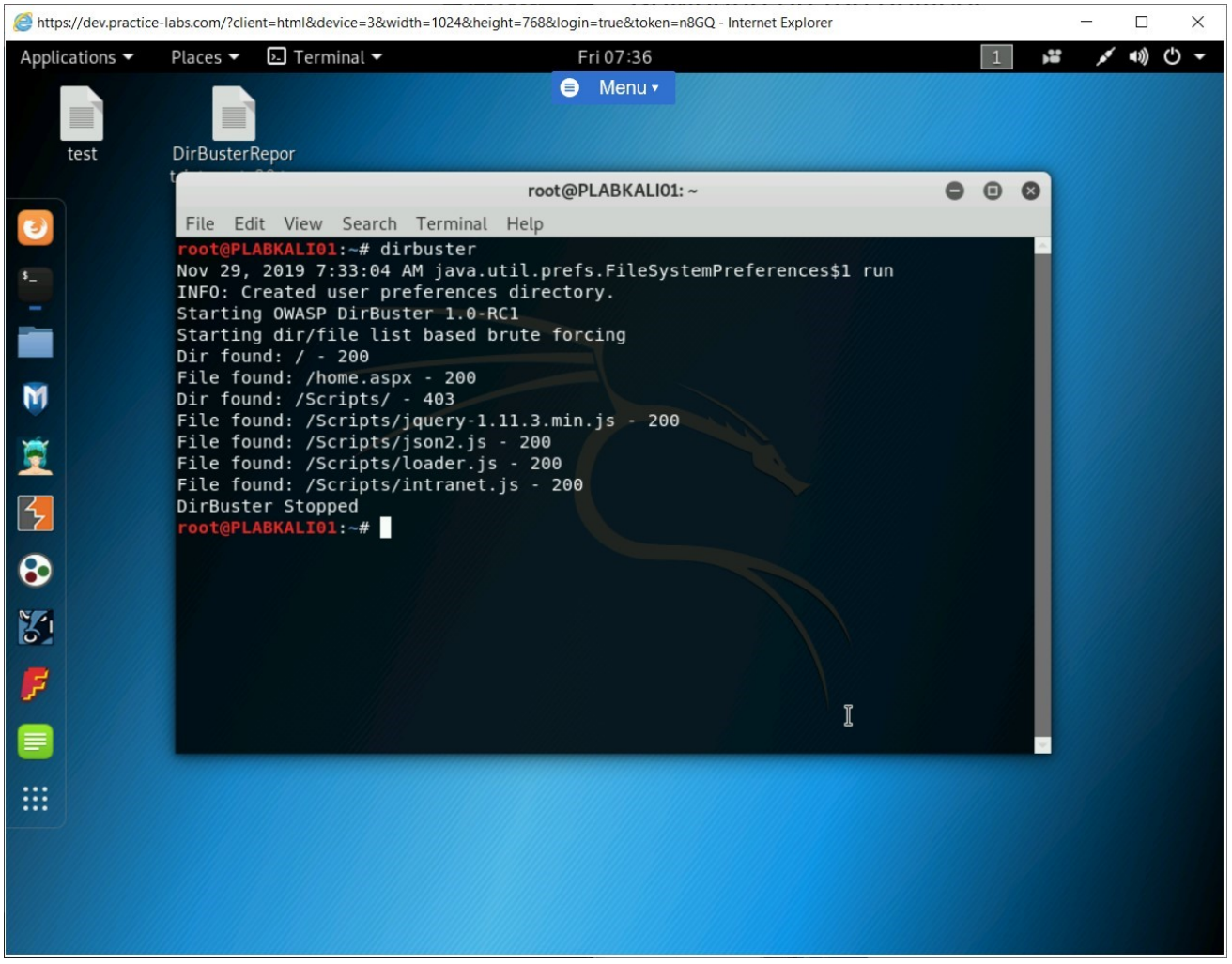


Figure 1.57 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Showing the brief about files and directories.

Task 5 - Use Skipfish to Perform Webserver Reconnaissance

Skipfish is a tool that is available in Kali Linux. The sole purpose of Skipfish is to perform a deep reconnaissance of the Webserver and the deployed Web applications. Using Skipfish, you can collect a great deal of information, which will help you detect the vulnerabilities in the Webserver. You can then close the vulnerabilities to ensure optimal protection for the Webserver. You will be able to locate Webserver and Web application vulnerabilities when you use a vulnerability scan. This is the first task that you should perform after deploying a Webserver.

In this task, you will learn to use Skipfish. To use Skipfish, perform the following steps:

Step 1

Ensure you have powered on all the devices listed in the introduction and connect to **PLABKALI01**. The terminal window should be open.

Clear the screen by entering the following command:

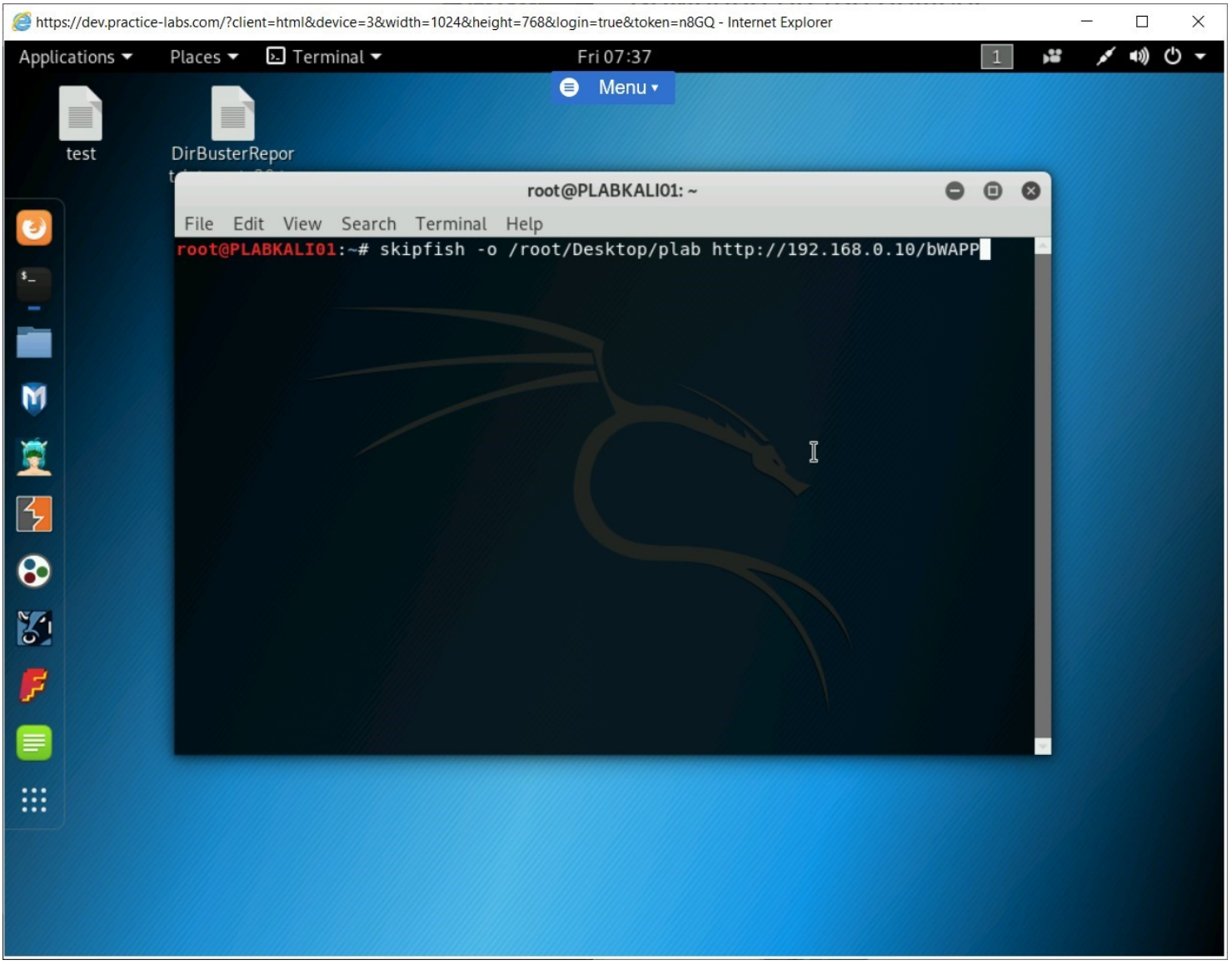
```
clear
```

To use Skipfish, type the following command:

> ***Note:*** *The -o parameter defines the directory in which a scan report will be saved.*

```
skipfish -o /root/Desktop/plab http://192.168.0.10/bWAPP
```

Press **Enter**.



Step 2

You need to press **Enter** to start the scanning process.

Notice that the **plab** directory is now created on the desktop.

The scanning process is initiated. The scanning process duration depends on the size of the Web application. In the lab environment, it may take up to **30 minutes**.

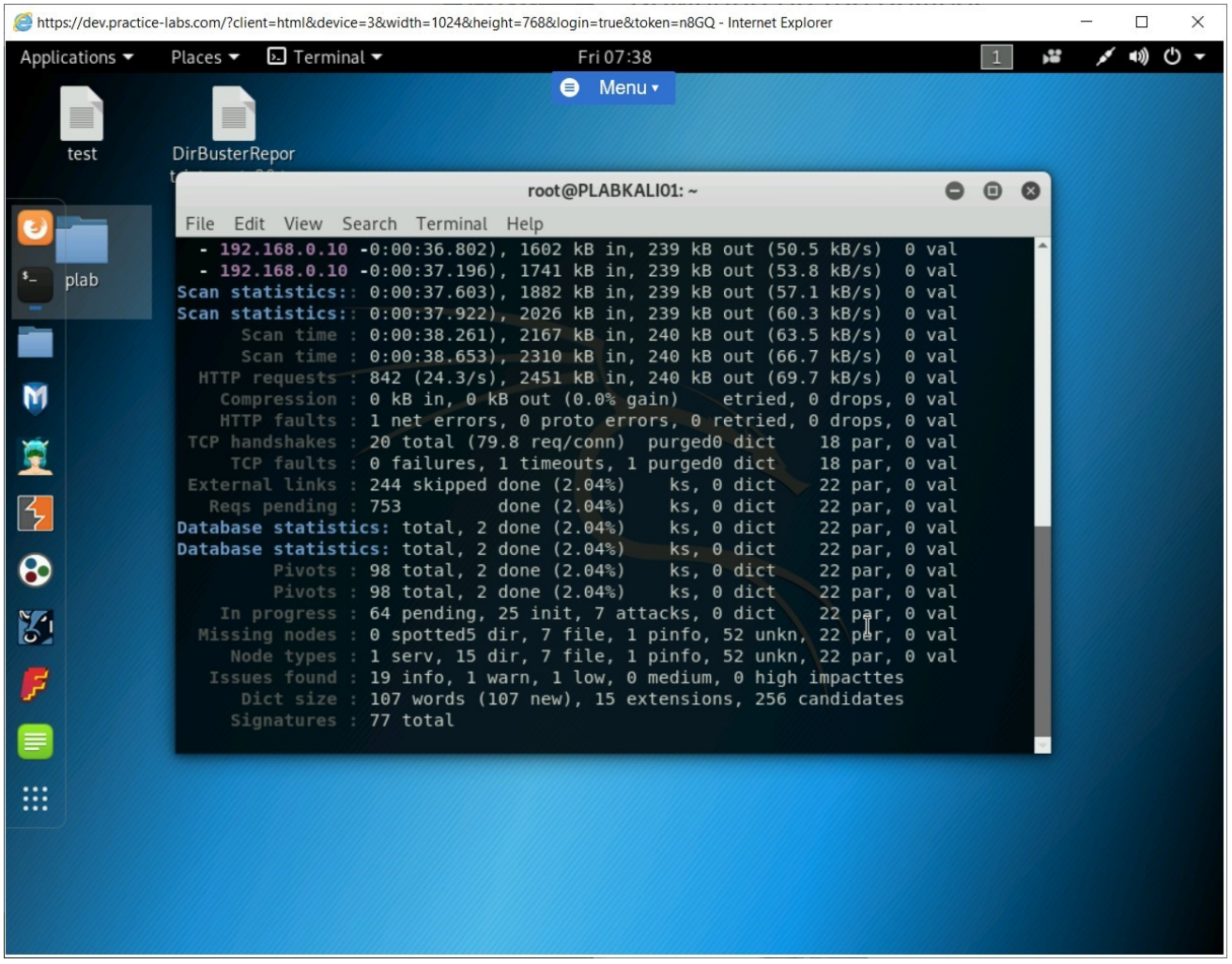


Figure 1.59 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Showing process of discovering information from the Webserver.

Step 3

Since in the lab environment, you have limited time, you can stop the scanning process by pressing the **Ctrl + c** keys. However, in the real environment, you must let the process complete to get an overall security posture of the Webserver.

A brief summary of the scanning results is displayed. A detailed report is saved with the name **index.html** in the **/root/Desktop/plab** directory.

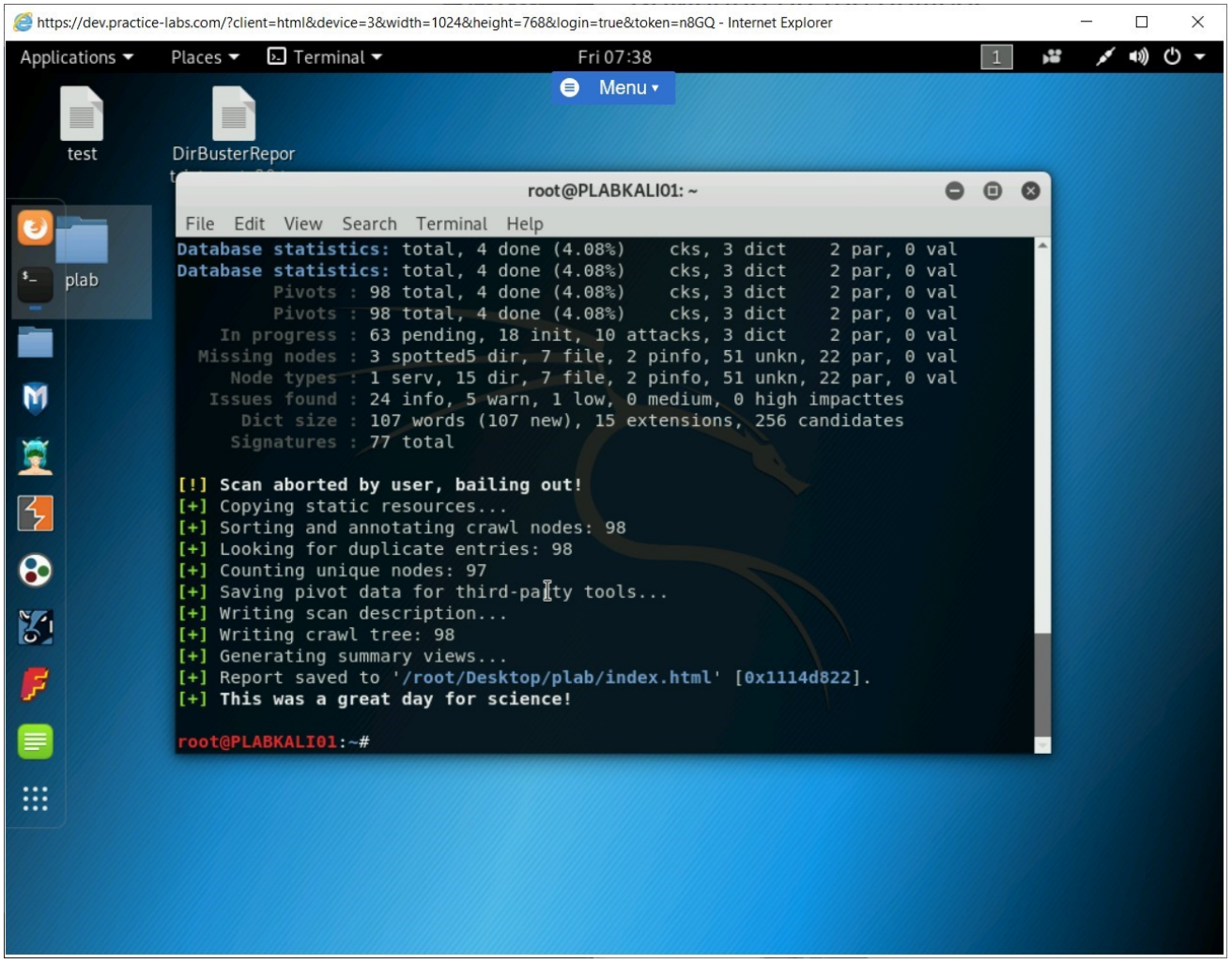


Figure 1.60 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Showing the output of the skipfish command.

Step 4

To view the scan report, type the following command:

```
firefox /root/Desktop/plab/index.html
```

Press **Enter**.

The **Firefox** window opens and displays the **index.html** file.

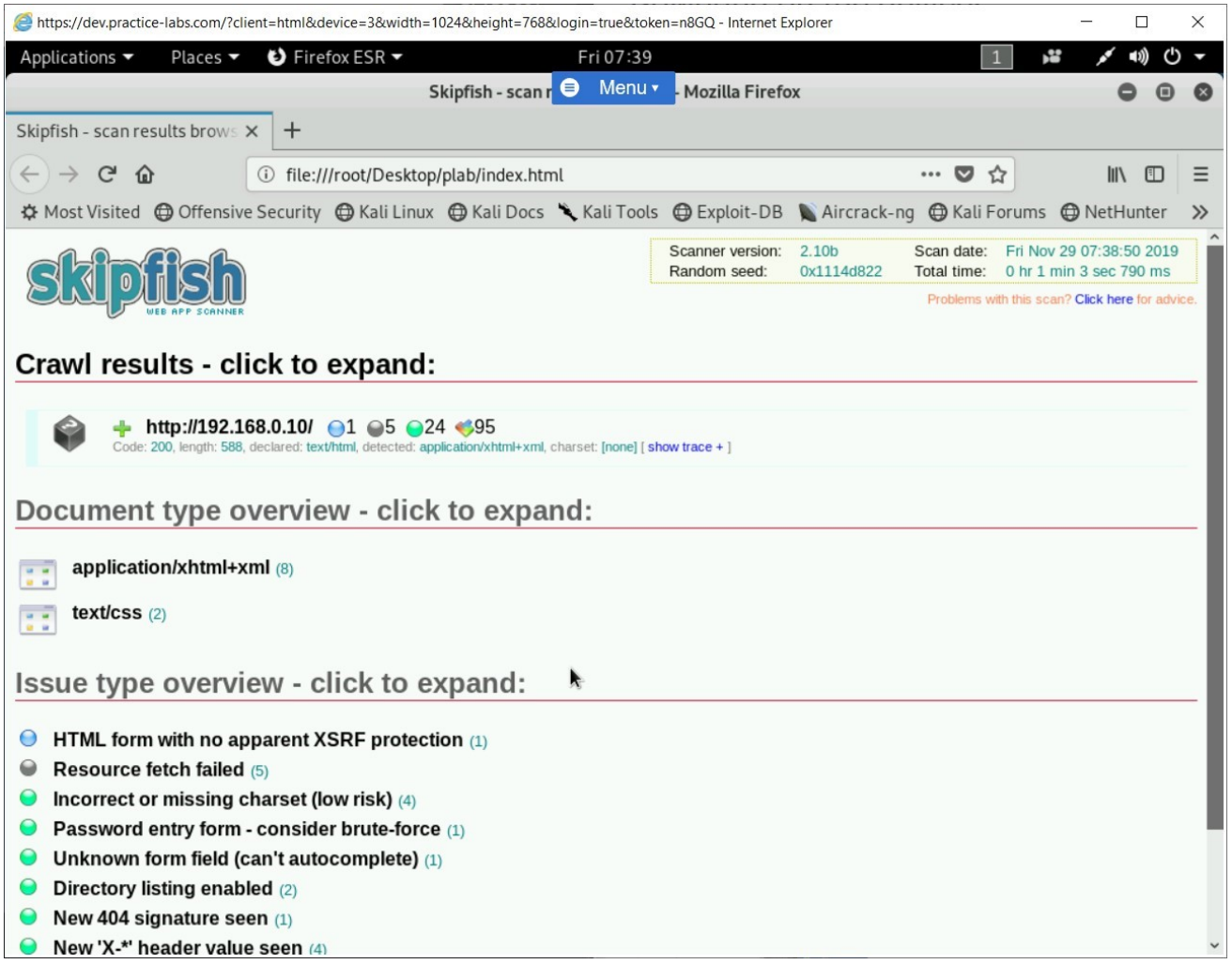


Figure 1.61 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Showing the discovered issues on the Webserver.

Step 5

Click on **Directory listing enabled** in the **Issue type overview** section.Two different paths are shown that have directory listing enabled.

If time permits, you can go through the other issues that have been located on the Webserver.

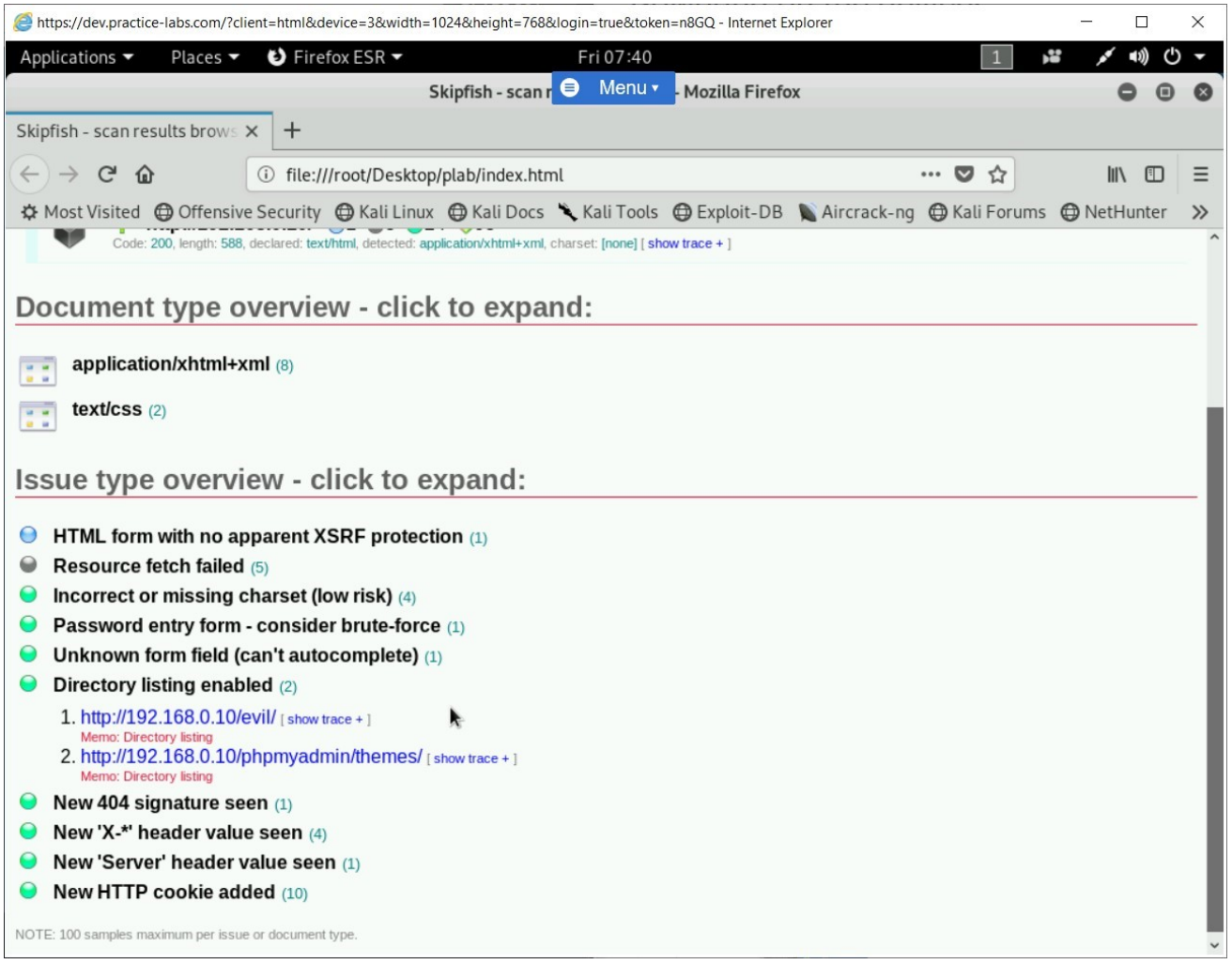


Figure 1.62 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Showing the URLs with the directory listing enabled.

Task 6 - Find Files on a Webserver using Metasploit Framework

Metasploit framework is the most widely used tool in exploiting vulnerabilities. A free edition is available in Kali Linux. Metasploit has a modular and flexible architecture that helps you develop new exploits as more and more vulnerabilities are discovered. On the other hand, it is also used in penetration testing.

You can use the Metasploit framework with or without a database. If you configure it with the database, then Metasploit will be able to track what you do within the framework.

You can use the Metasploit Framework for various reasons - starting with finding files to penetrating a system or a network. In this task, you will learn to find files on a

Webserver using the Metasploit Framework.

Step 1

Ensure that you have logged into the Kali Linux system.

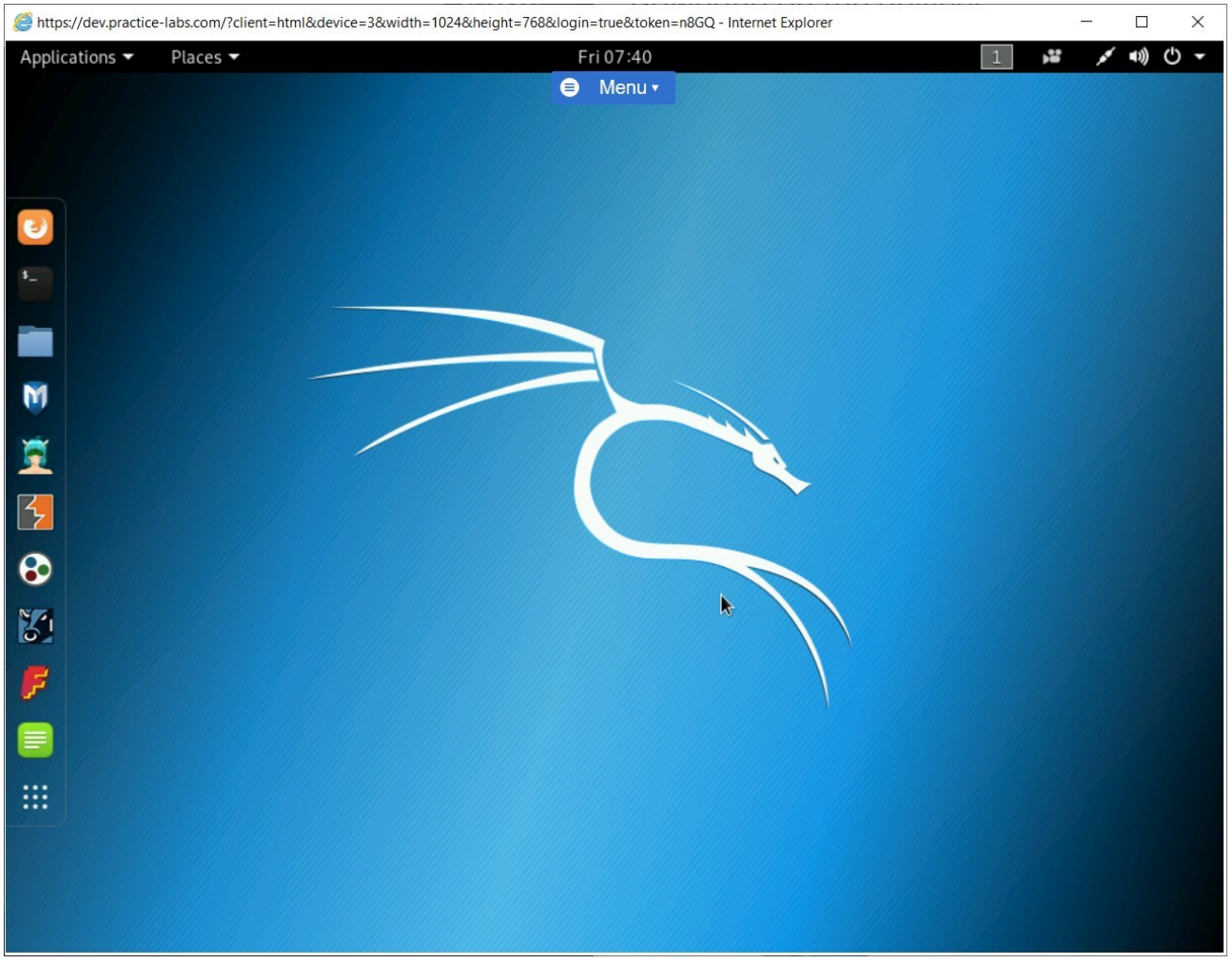


Figure 1.63 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Showing the desktop of PLABKALI01.

Step 2

On the desktop, in the left pane, click the **Metasploit framework** icon

Note: Please be aware that a shell may appear but may default to a terminal layout. In order to acess Metasploit framework, use the following command: **Root@PLABKALI01:~# msfconsole -q**

If this command is successful you should see the terimal default to:
Msf5>
You may proceed to step 3

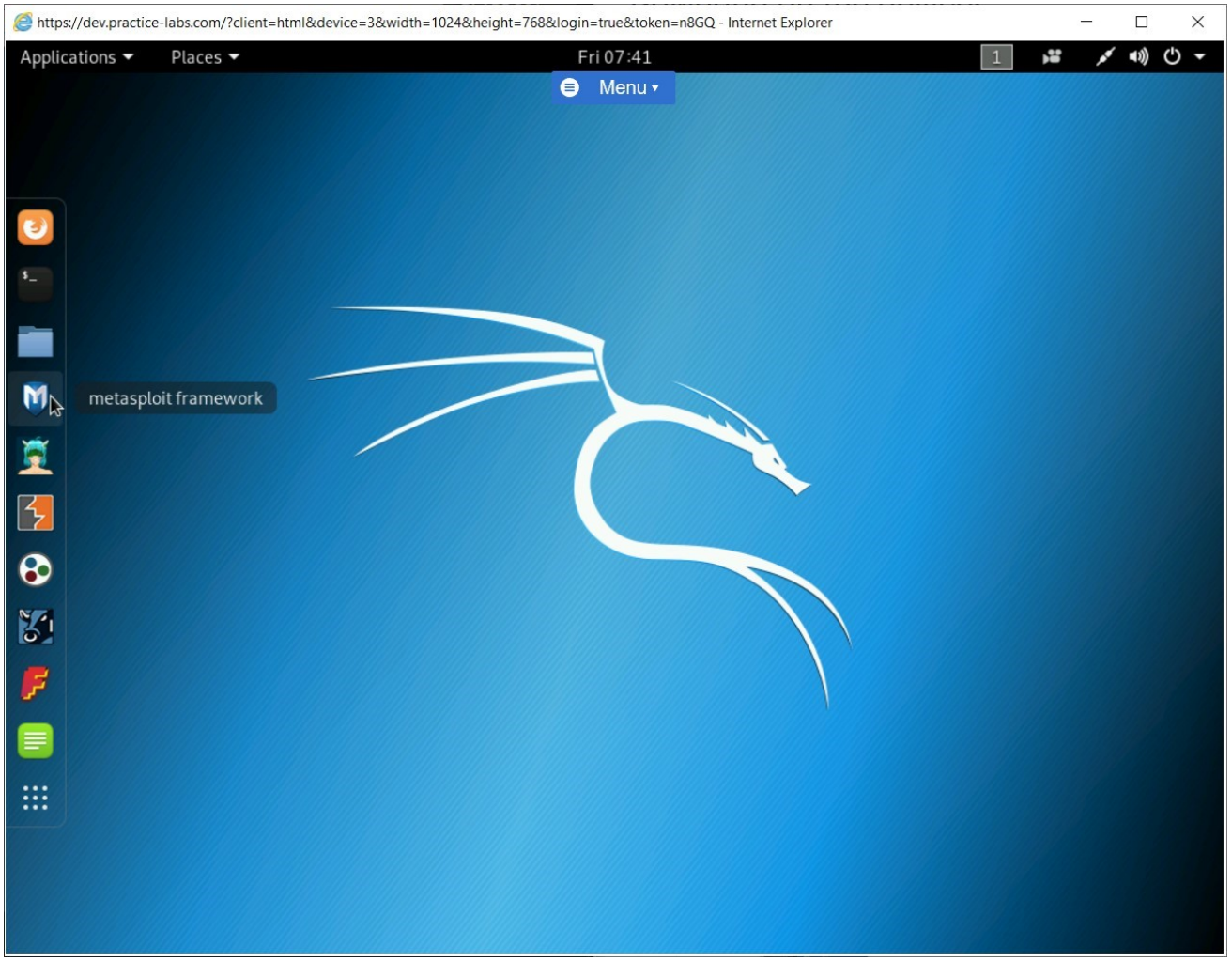


Figure 1.64 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Clicking the Metasploit framework icon in the left pane.

Step 3

The terminal window is displayed. It displays a database and its user creation. Then, it proceeds to create the database schema.

The **metasploit framework** has started now.

Note: The number of exploits and payloads will change from time to time.

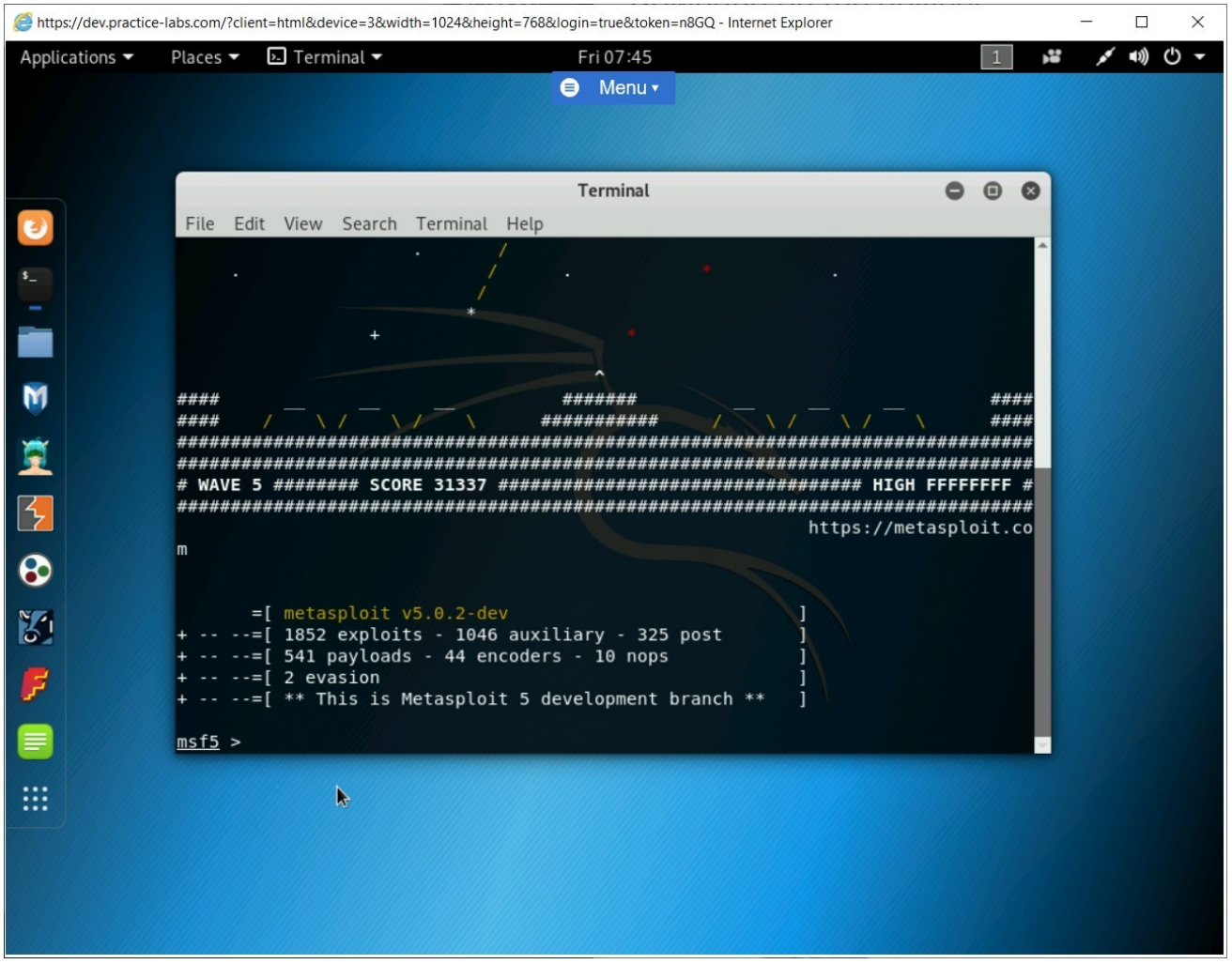


Figure 1.65 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Showing the msf5 prompt after the Metasploit framework starts.

Step 4

You will now use the **files_dir** module to find files on the target system. The **files_dir** module uses a wordlist to find these files. To do this, type the following command:

```
use auxiliary/scanner/http/files_dir
```

Press **Enter**.

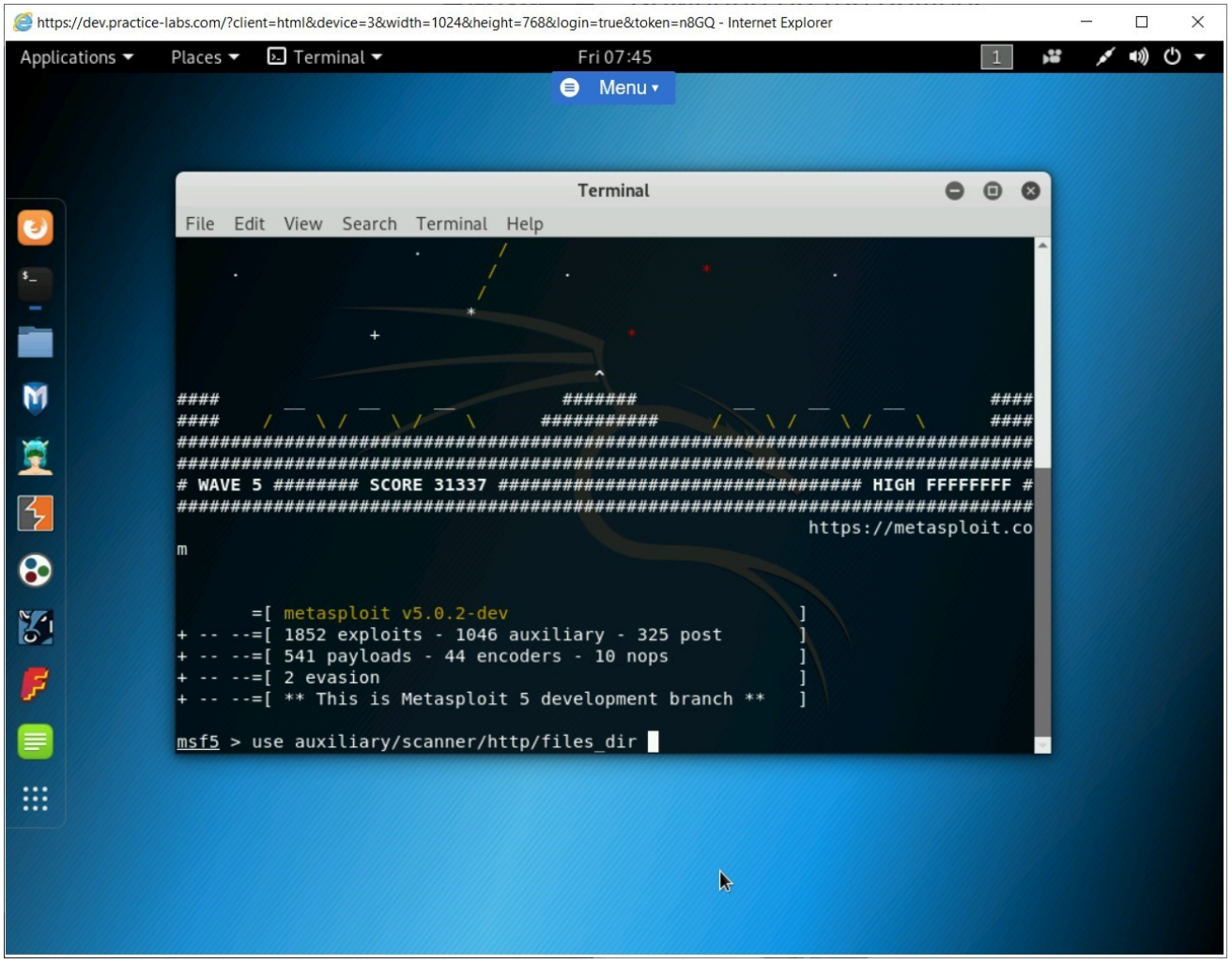


Figure 1.66 Screenshot of PLABKALI01 Entering the command to use the files_dir module.

Step 5

The **files_dir** module is now loaded. Let's check the configuration options for the **files_dir** module. Type the following command:

```
show options
```

Press **Enter**.

Various options are displayed. Some of these are configured by default, and some you need to configure. Notice that the **DICTIONARY** option is already configured

with a built-in dictionary that contains the keywords for searching on the target system.

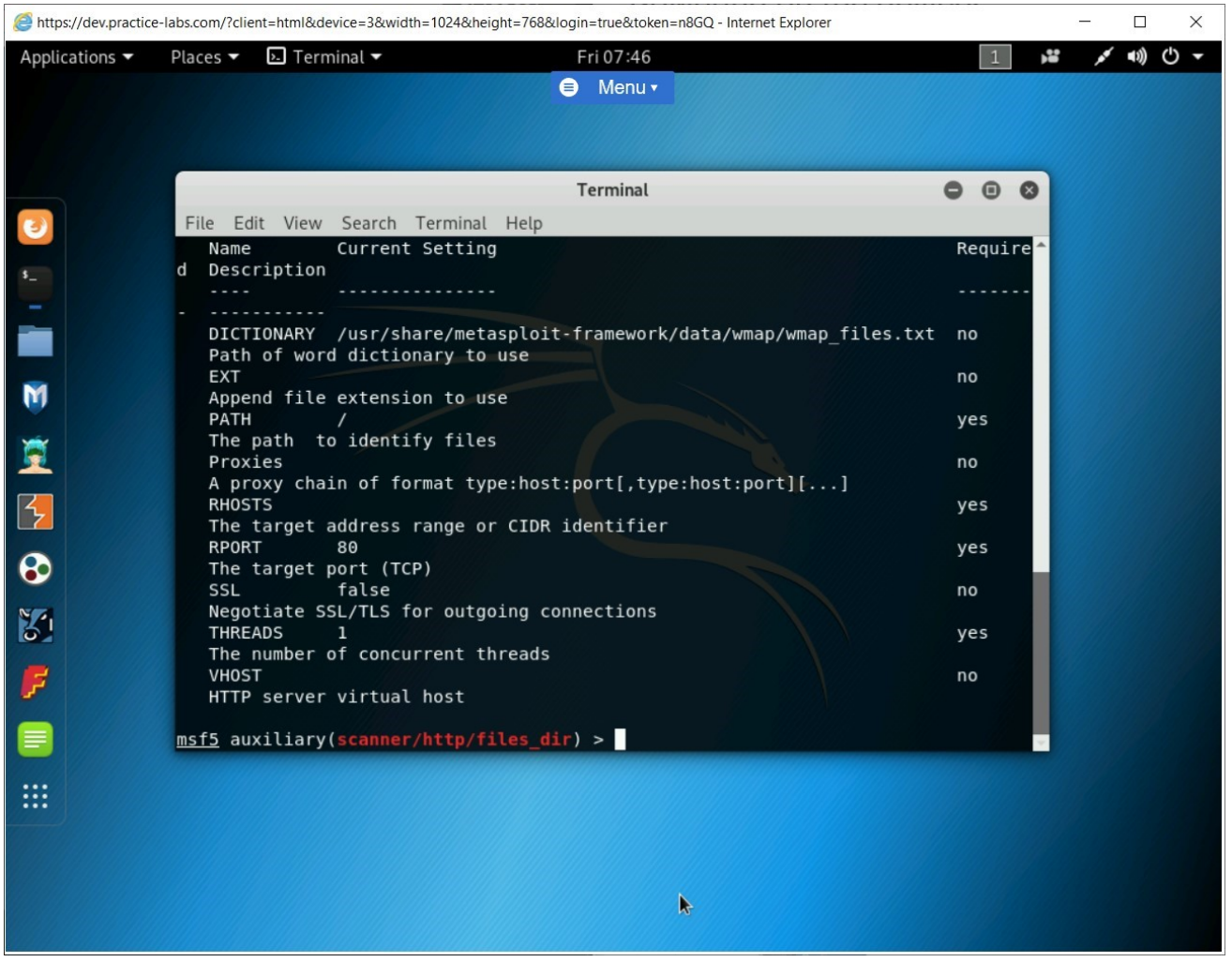


Figure 1.67 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Showing the discovered files and directories.

Step 6

Clear the screen by entering the following command:

```
clear
```

You need to set now the target system that you want to exploit. To do this, type the following command:

```
set RHOSTS 192.168.0.10
```

Press **Enter**.

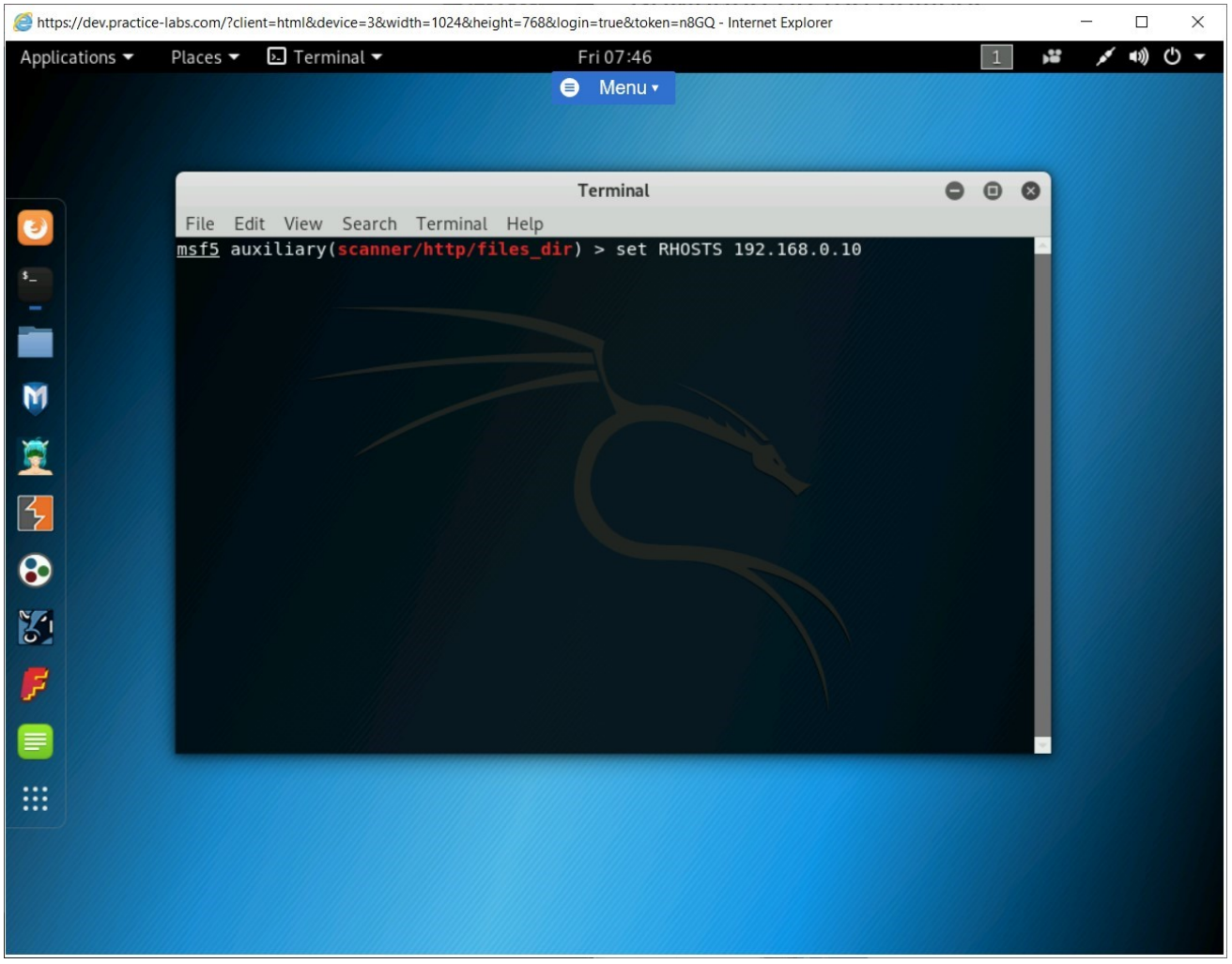


Figure 1.68 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Showing the discovered files and directories.

Step 7

After you set the IP address of the target host, type the following command:

```
run
```

Press **Enter**.

The payload is now executed on the target host. It is now attempting to find files of specific types.

> ***Note:*** *The process of finding files of a specific type will run for a few minutes.*

After the process has completed, several files that can be useful to an attacker are found. Keep the terminal window open.

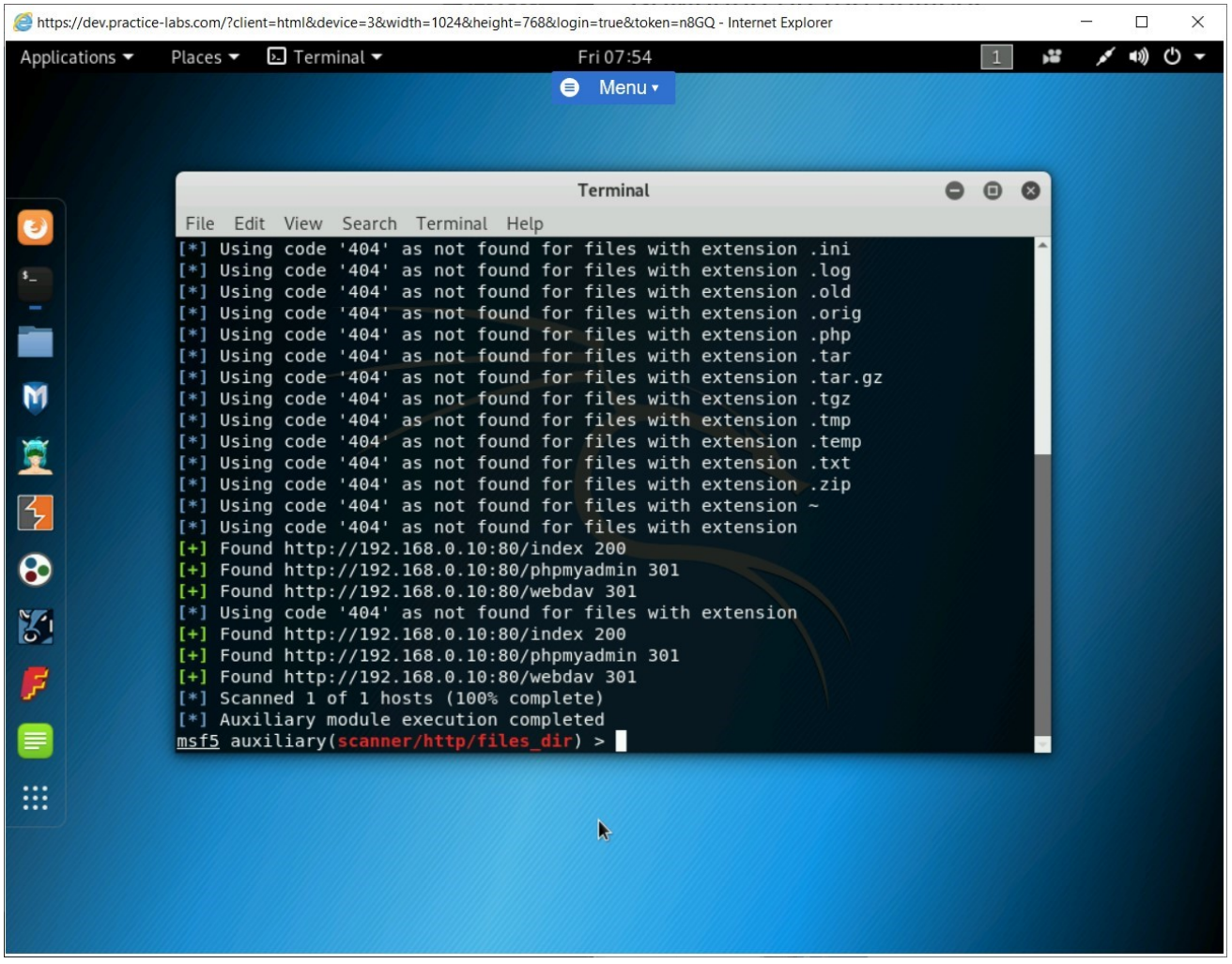


Figure 1.69 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Showing the discovered files and directories.

Task 7 - Scan for Options on a Webserver using Metasploit Framework

A Webserver can be configured with various options, such as TRACE, GET, HEAD, DELETE, COPY, MOVE, PROPFIND, PROPPATCH, and so on. Using the Options module, you can search for these options.

In this task, you will search for various options available on a Webserver. To do this, perform the following steps:

Step 1

Ensure that you have logged into the Kali Linux system. Ensure that you are on the metasploit framework terminal.

Clear the screen by entering the following command:

```
clear
```

You need to move out of the **files_dir** module. To do this, type the following command:

```
back
```

Press **Enter**.

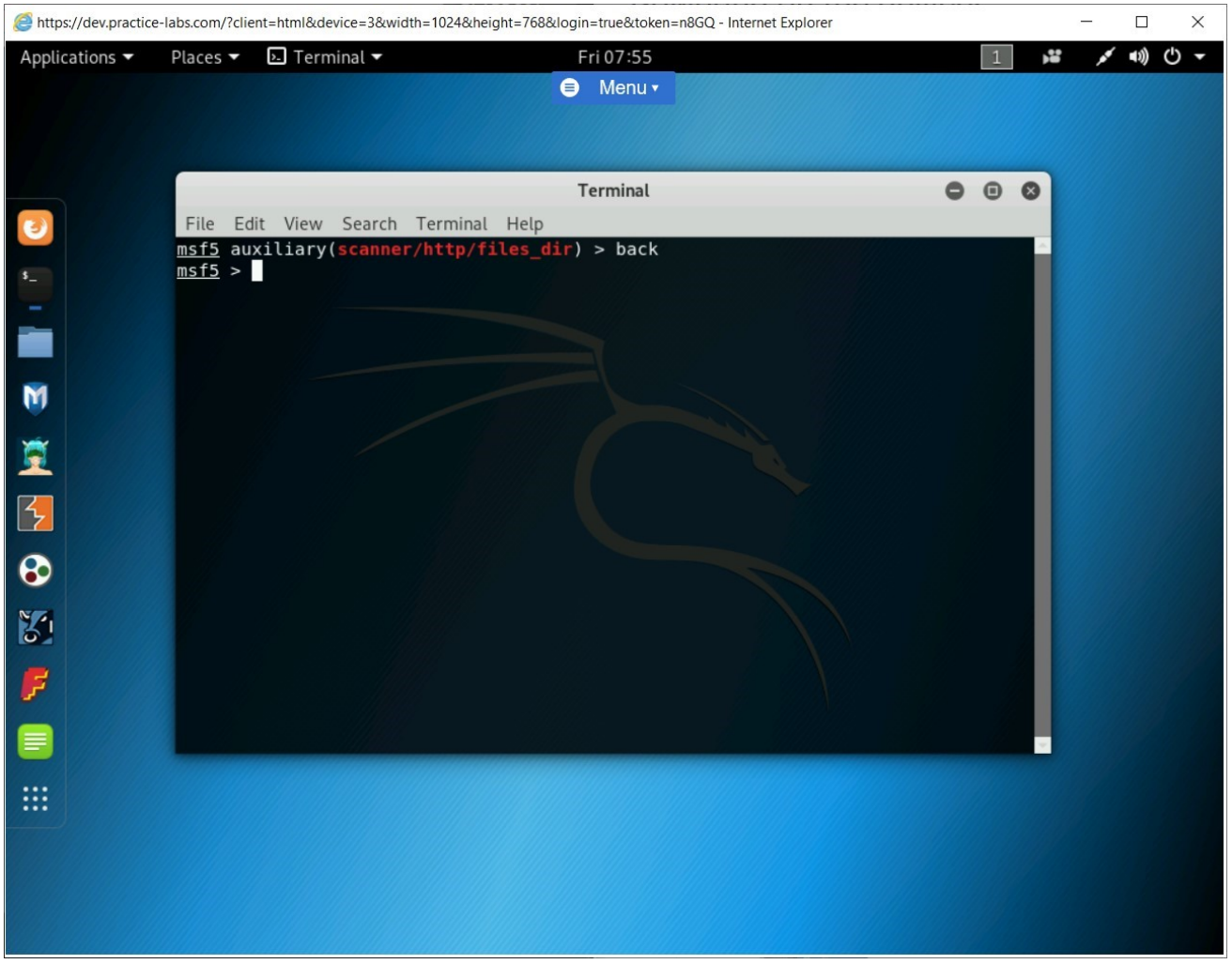


Figure 1.70 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Entering the back command to go back to the Metasploit Framework prompt.

Step 2

You are back on the Metasploit Framework prompt. Now, you need to load the Options module. To do this, type the following command:

```
use auxiliary/scanner/http/options
```

Press **Enter**.

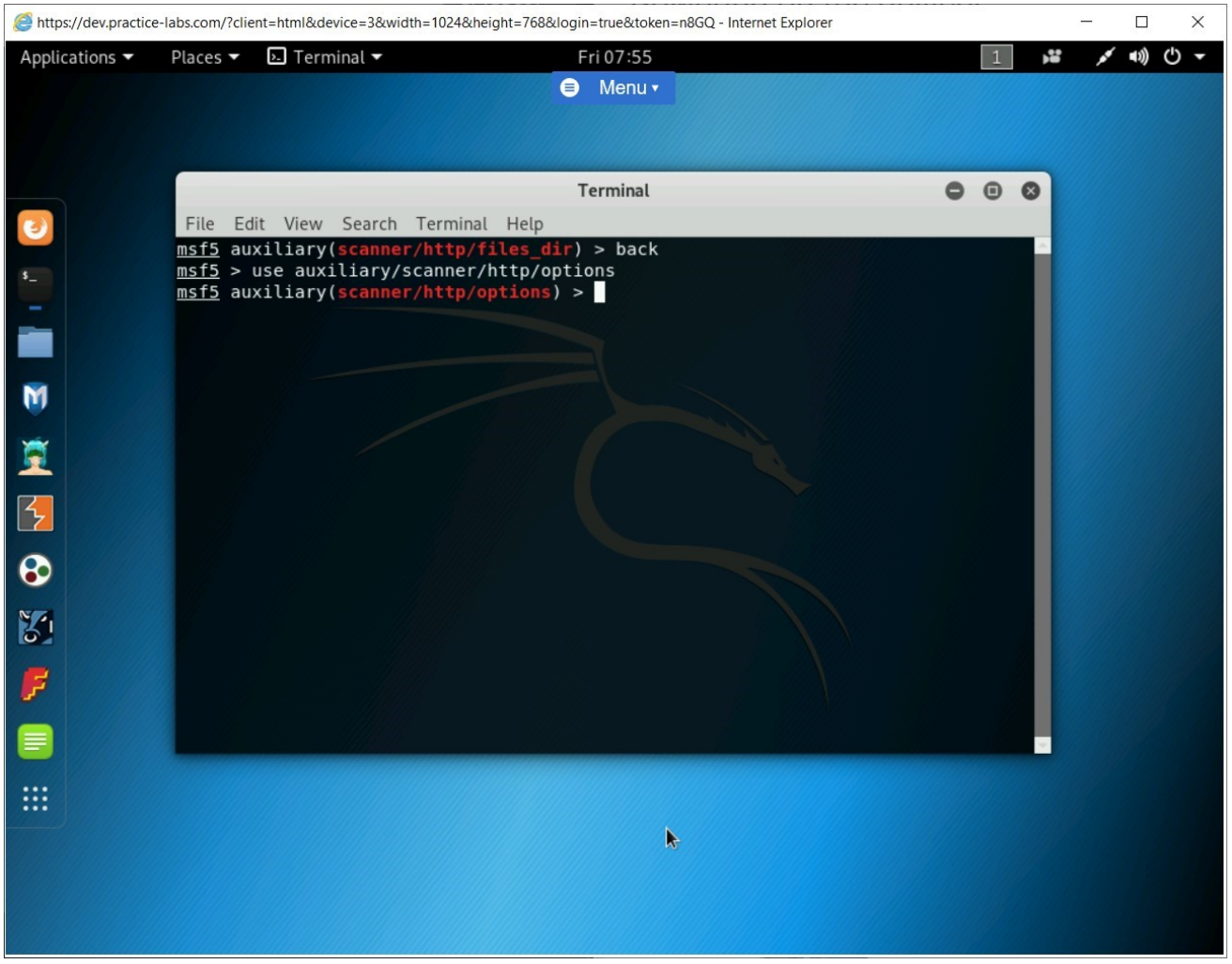


Figure 1.71 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Entering the command to use the options module.

Step 3

You need to configure the target system now. To do this, type the following command:

```
set RHOSTS 192.168.0.10
```

Press **Enter**.

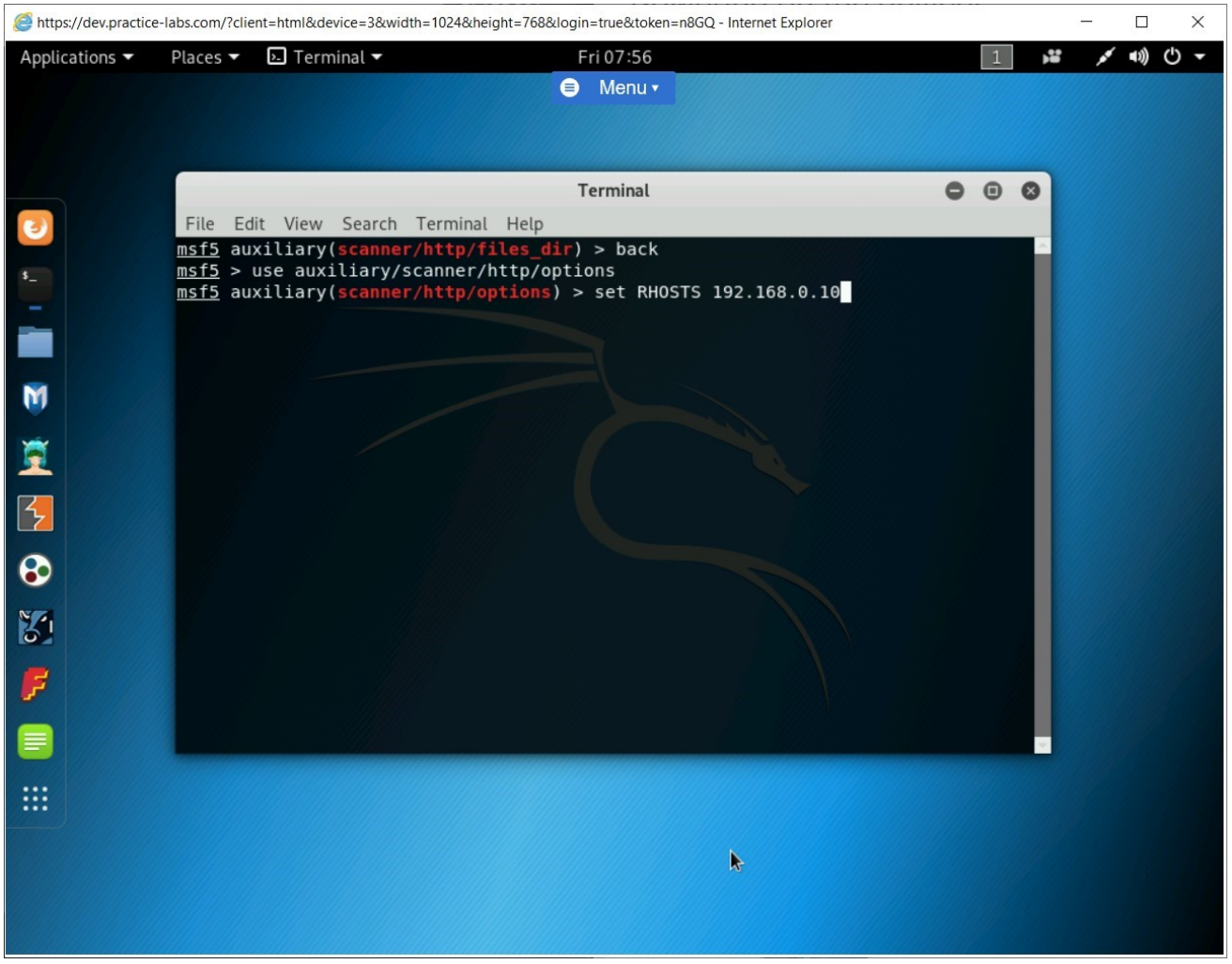


Figure 1.72 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Entering the command to set the target system.

Step 4

Next, set the number of threads. To do this, type the following command:

```
set THREADS 10
```

Press **Enter**.

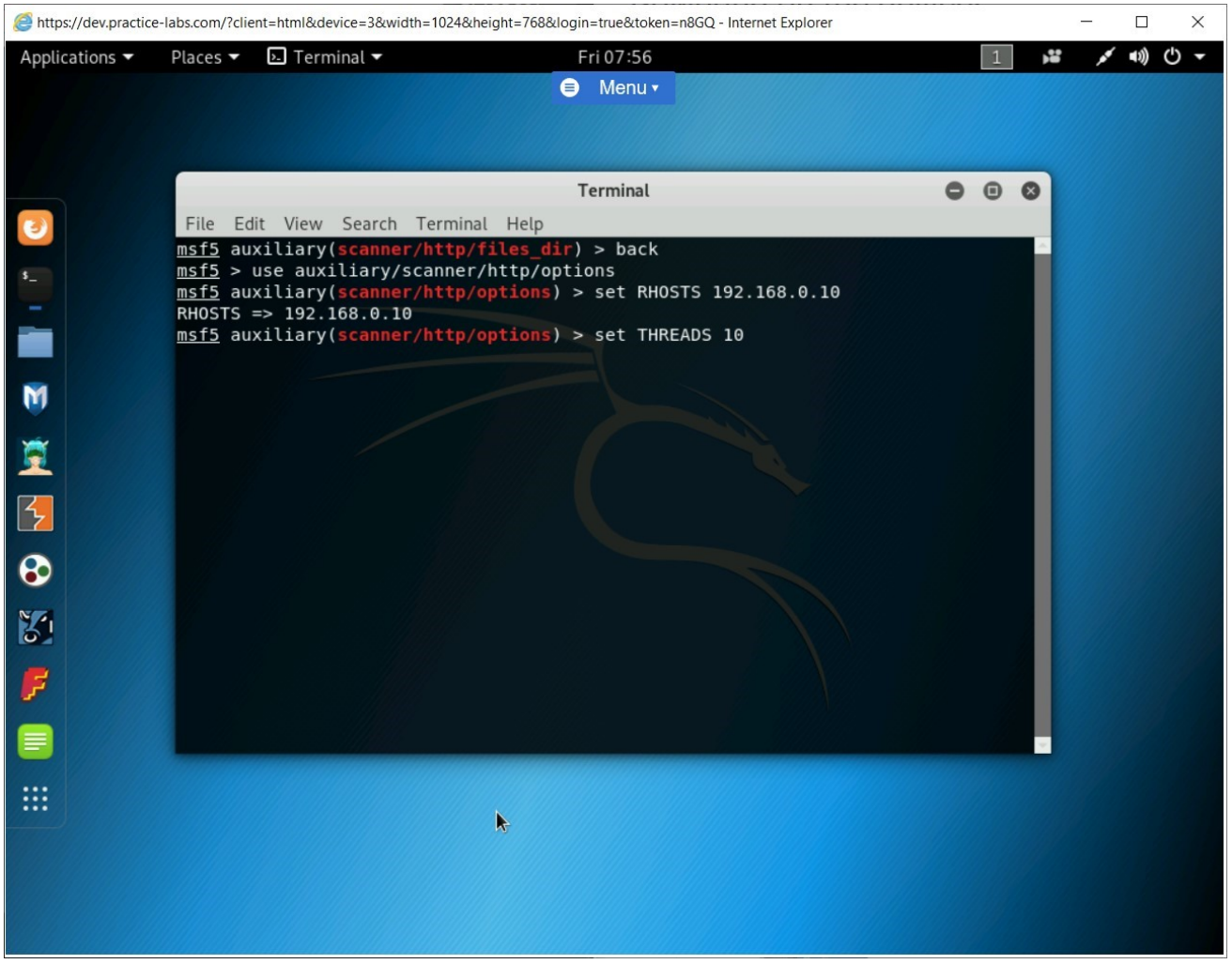


Figure 1.73 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Entering the command to set the number of threads.

Step 5

Now, type the following command to execute the payload:

```
run
```

Press **Enter**.

Notice that the output lists the options configured on the Webserver.

Keep the terminal window open.

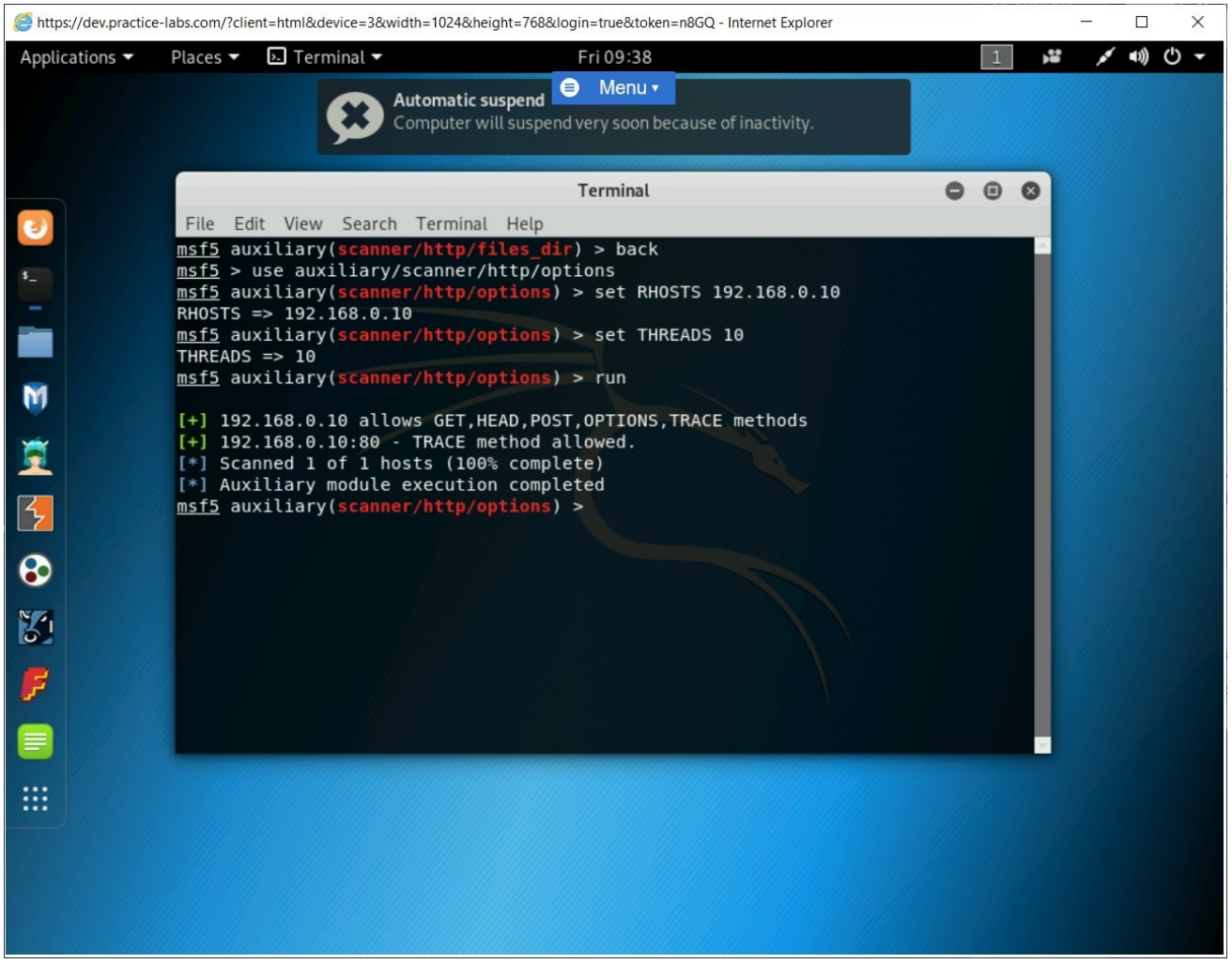


Figure 1.74 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Listing the output with the number of options configured on the Webserver.

Task 8 - Find the Webserver Version using the Metasploit Framework

Using Metasploit Framework, you can find the Webserver version that is running on a system. Metasploit Framework provides a module named http_version that is used for this purpose.

In this task, you will find the Webserver version using the Metasploit Framework. To do this, perform the following steps:

Step 1

Ensure that you have logged into the Kali Linux system. Ensure that you are on the metasploit framework terminal.

Clear the screen by entering the following command:

```
clear
```

You need to move out of the **Options** module. To do this, type the following command:

```
back
```

Press **Enter**.

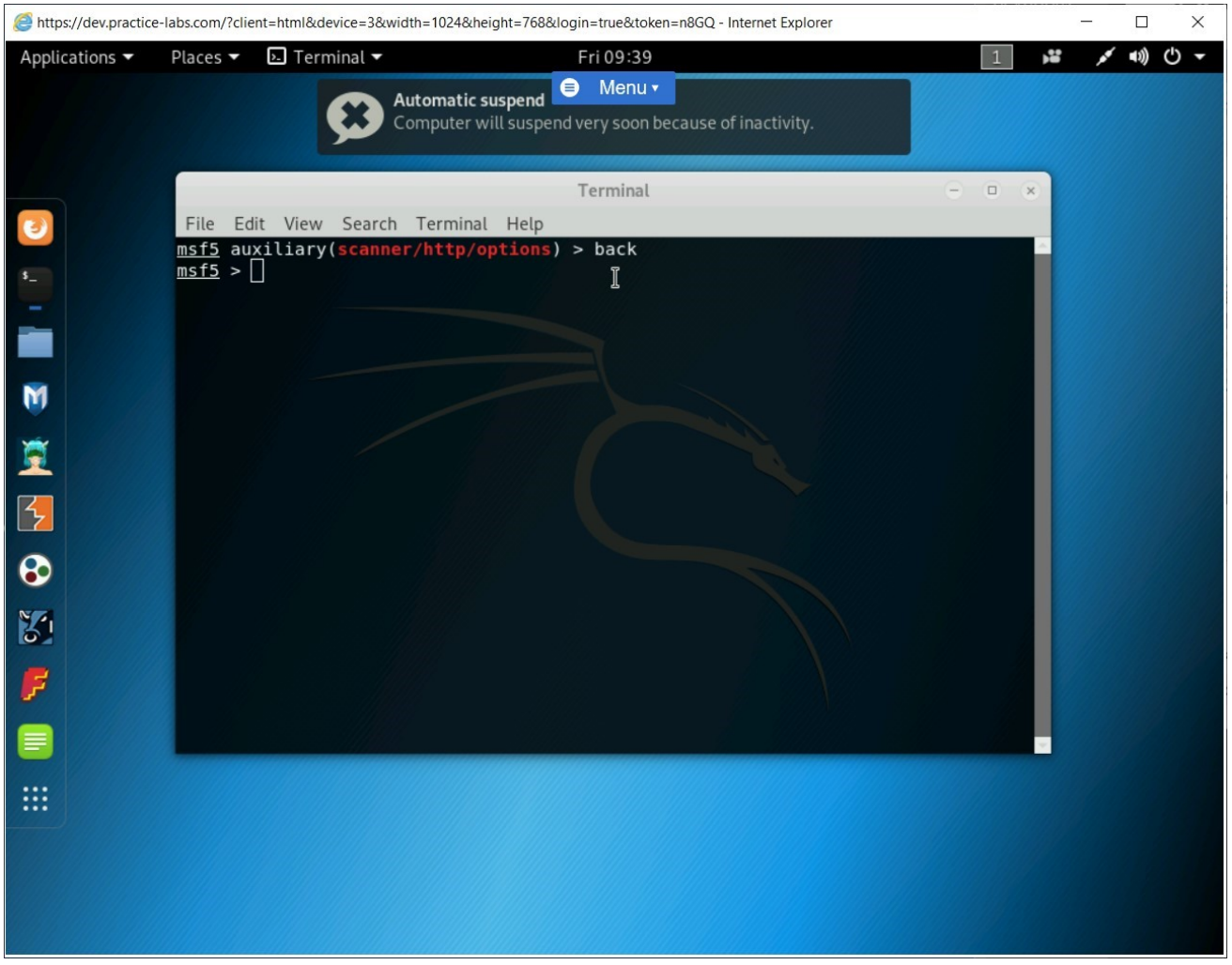


Figure 1.75 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Entering the back command to go back to the Metasploit Framework prompt.

Step 2

You are back on the Metasploit Framework prompt. To find the Webserver version, you need to load the **http_version** module. To do this, type the following command:

```
use auxiliary/scanner/http/http_version
```

Press **Enter**.

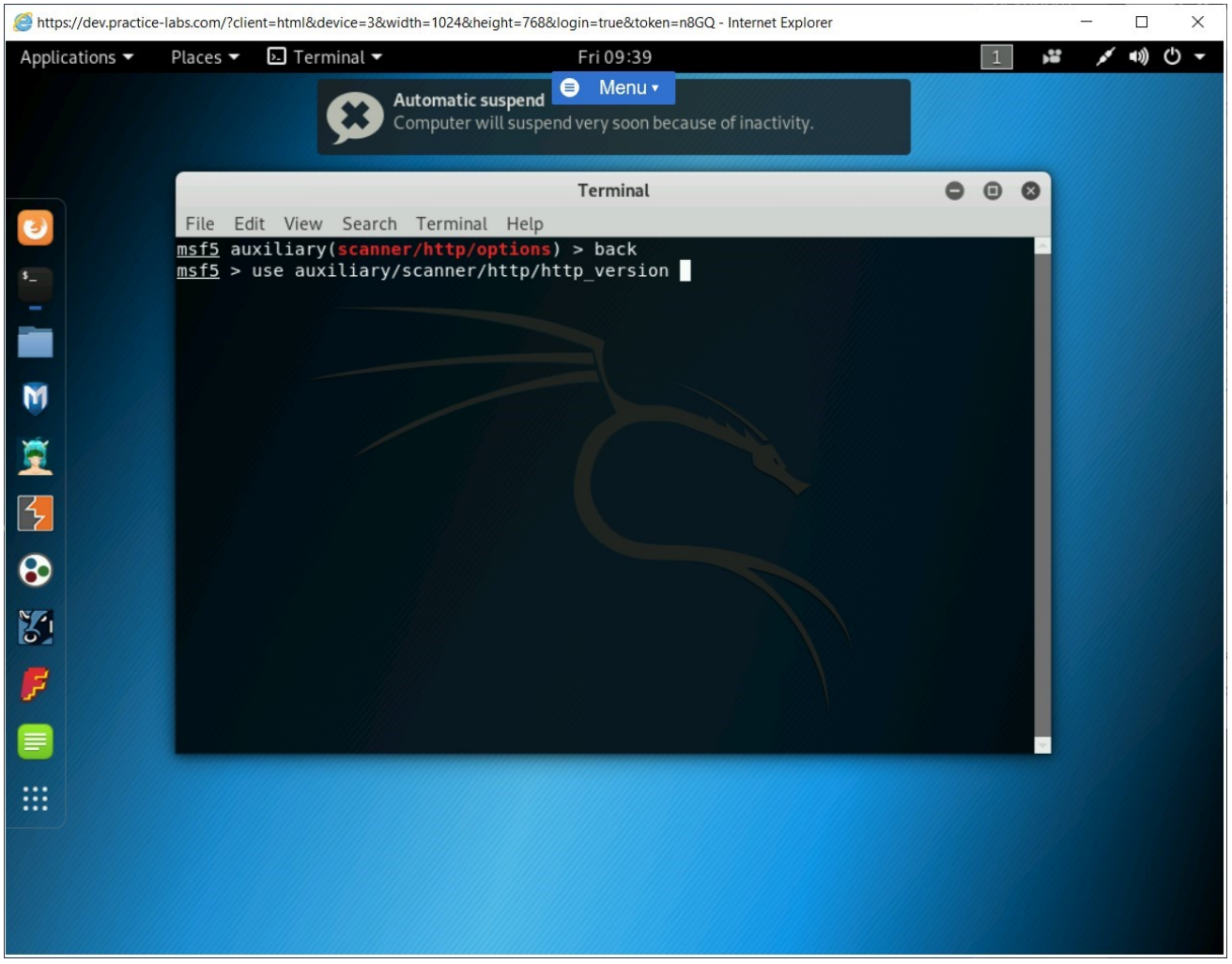


Figure 1.76 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Entering the command to use the http_version module.

Step 3

Next, you need to set the target system. To do this, type the following command:

```
set RHOSTS 192.168.0.10
```

Press **Enter**.

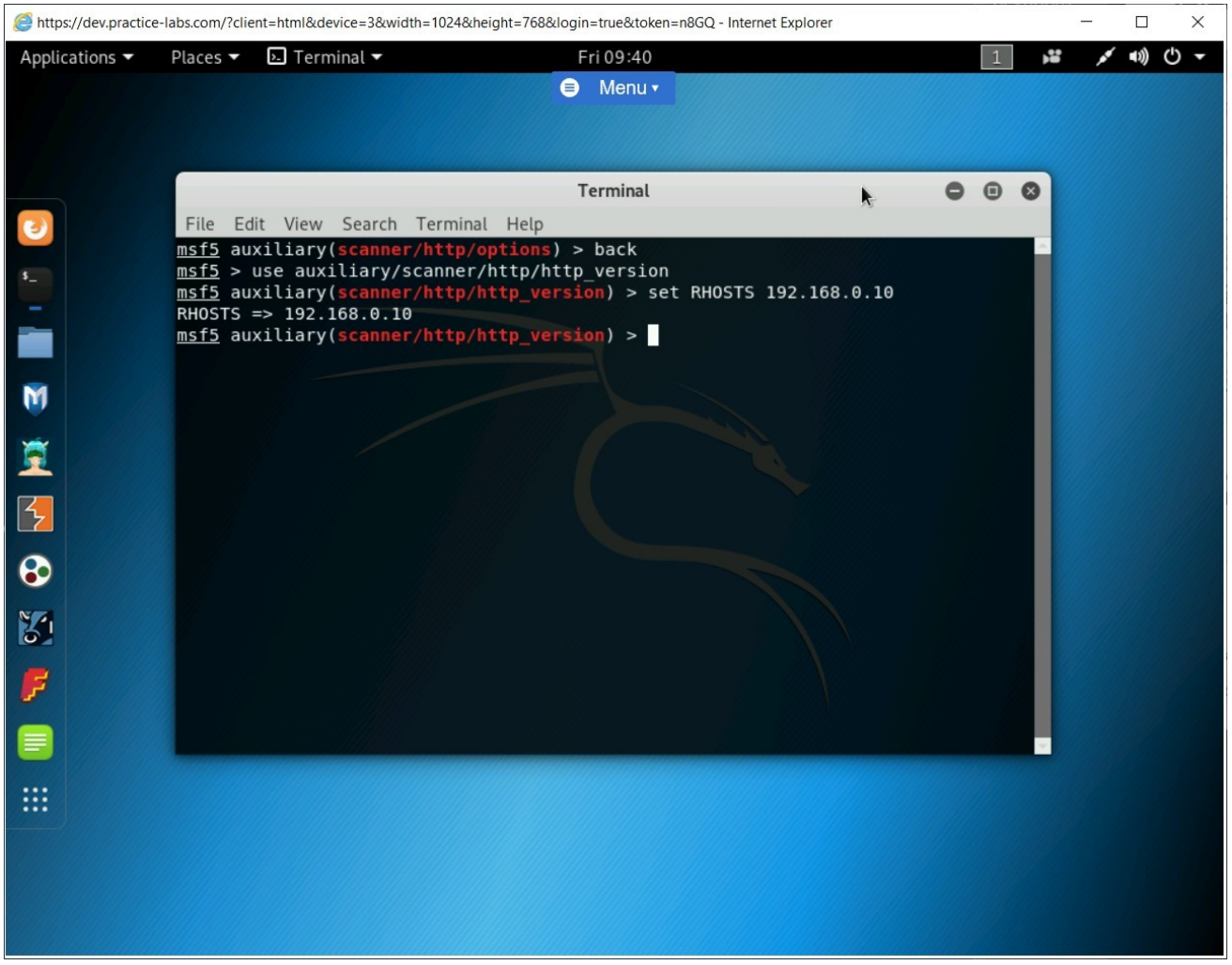


Figure 1.77 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Entering the command to set the target system.

Step 4

Next, set the number of threads. To do this, type the following command:

```
set THREADS 10
```

Press **Enter**.

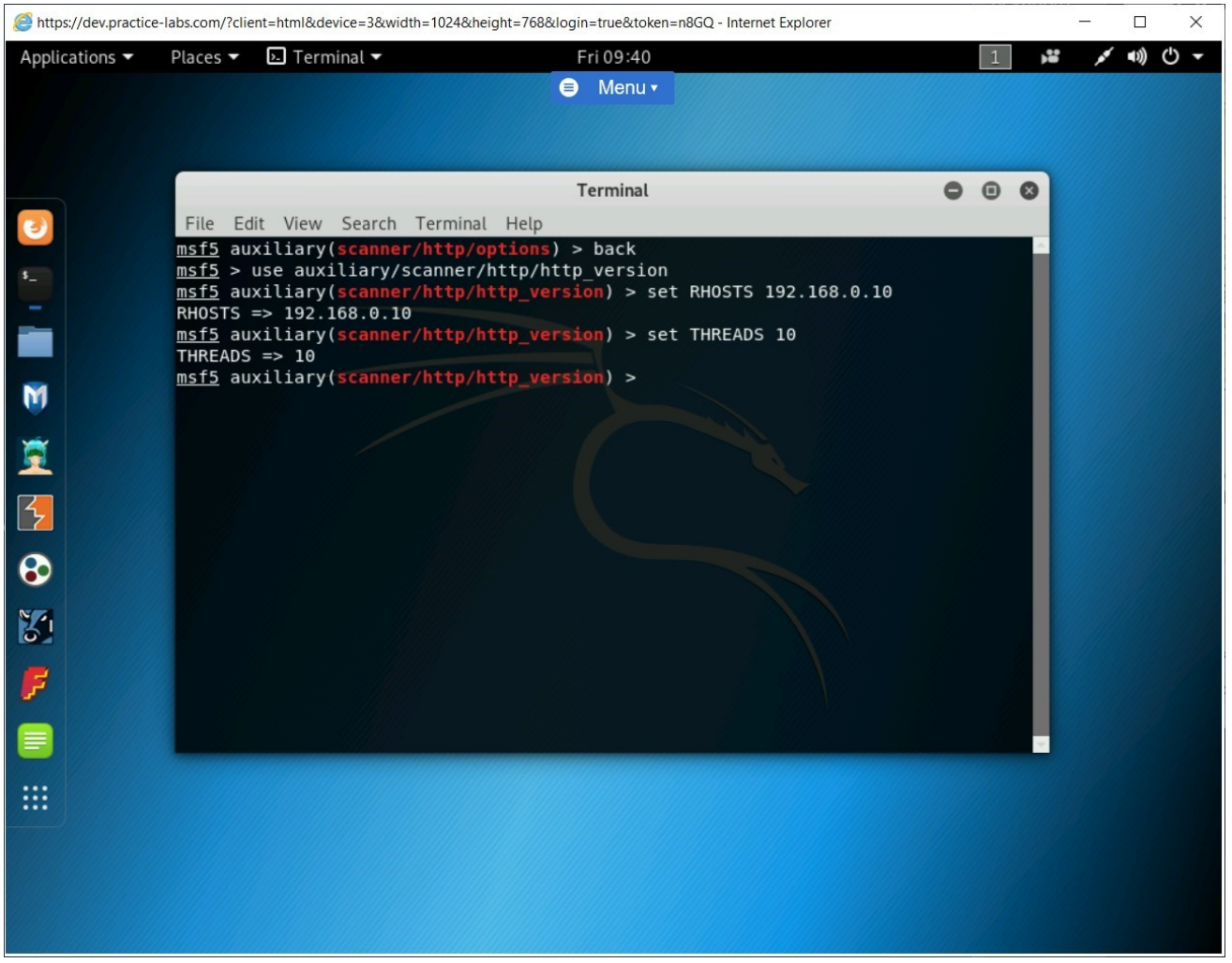


Figure 1.78 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Entering the command to set the number of threads.

Step 5

Now, type the following command to execute the payload:

```
run
```

Press **Enter**.

The details of the Webserver are now displayed. Keep the terminal window open.

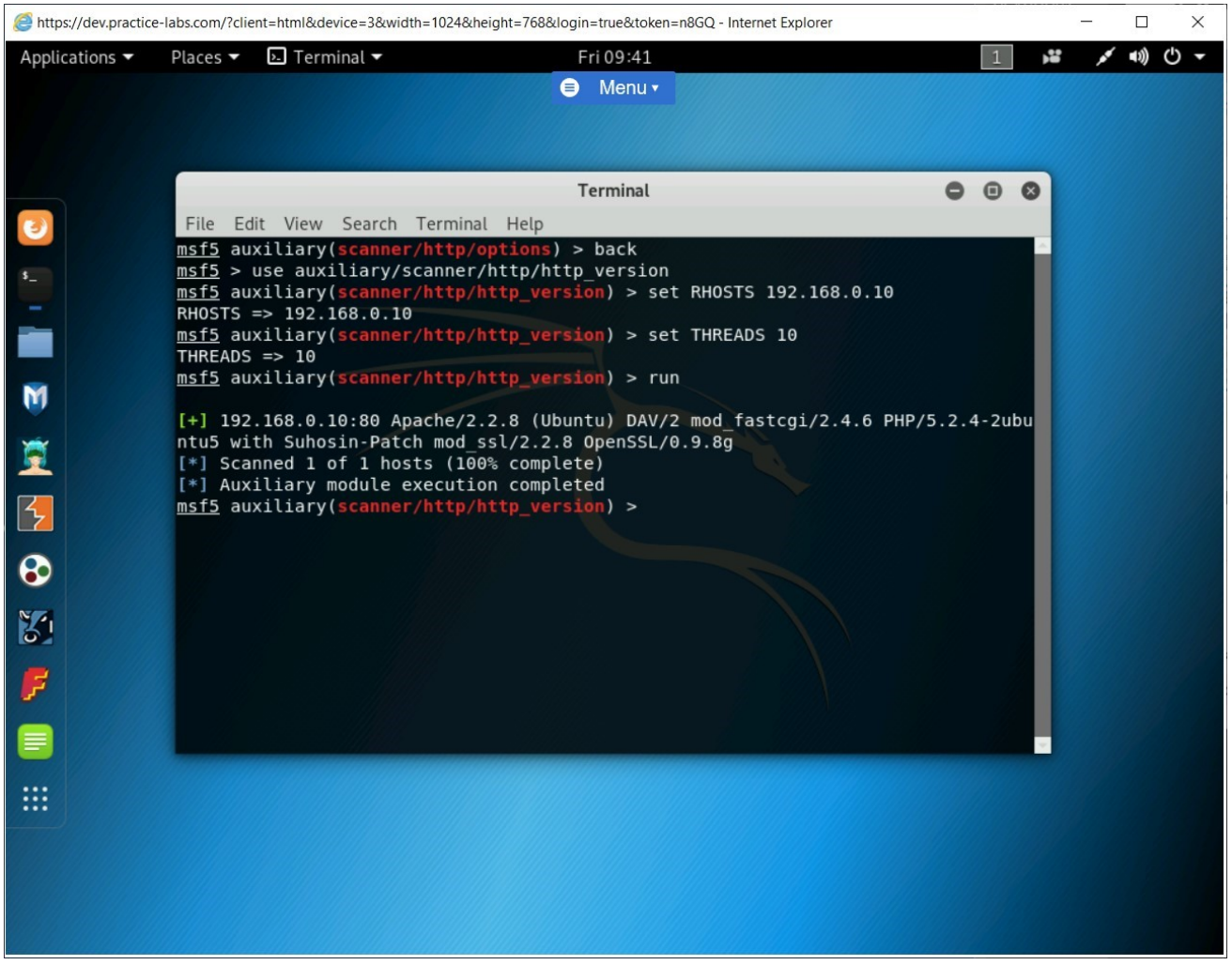


Figure 1.79 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Showing the Webserver version.

Task 9 - Check for WebDAV on a Webserver using Metasploit Framework

Metasploit Framework provides a module named webdav_scanner that you can use to verify if WebDAV is enabled. If it is enabled, the attacker can plan for the attack accordingly.

In this task, you will check for WebDAV on a Webserver using Metasploit Framework. To do this, perform the following steps:

Step 1

Ensure that you have logged into the Kali Linux system. Ensure that you are on the metasploit framework terminal.

Clear the screen by entering the following command:

```
clear
```

You need to move out of the **Options** module. To do this, type the following command:

```
back
```

Press **Enter**.

You are back on the Metasploit Framework prompt. You need to enable the **webdav_scanner** module first. To do this, type the following command:

```
use auxiliary/scanner/http/webdav_scanner
```

Press **Enter**.

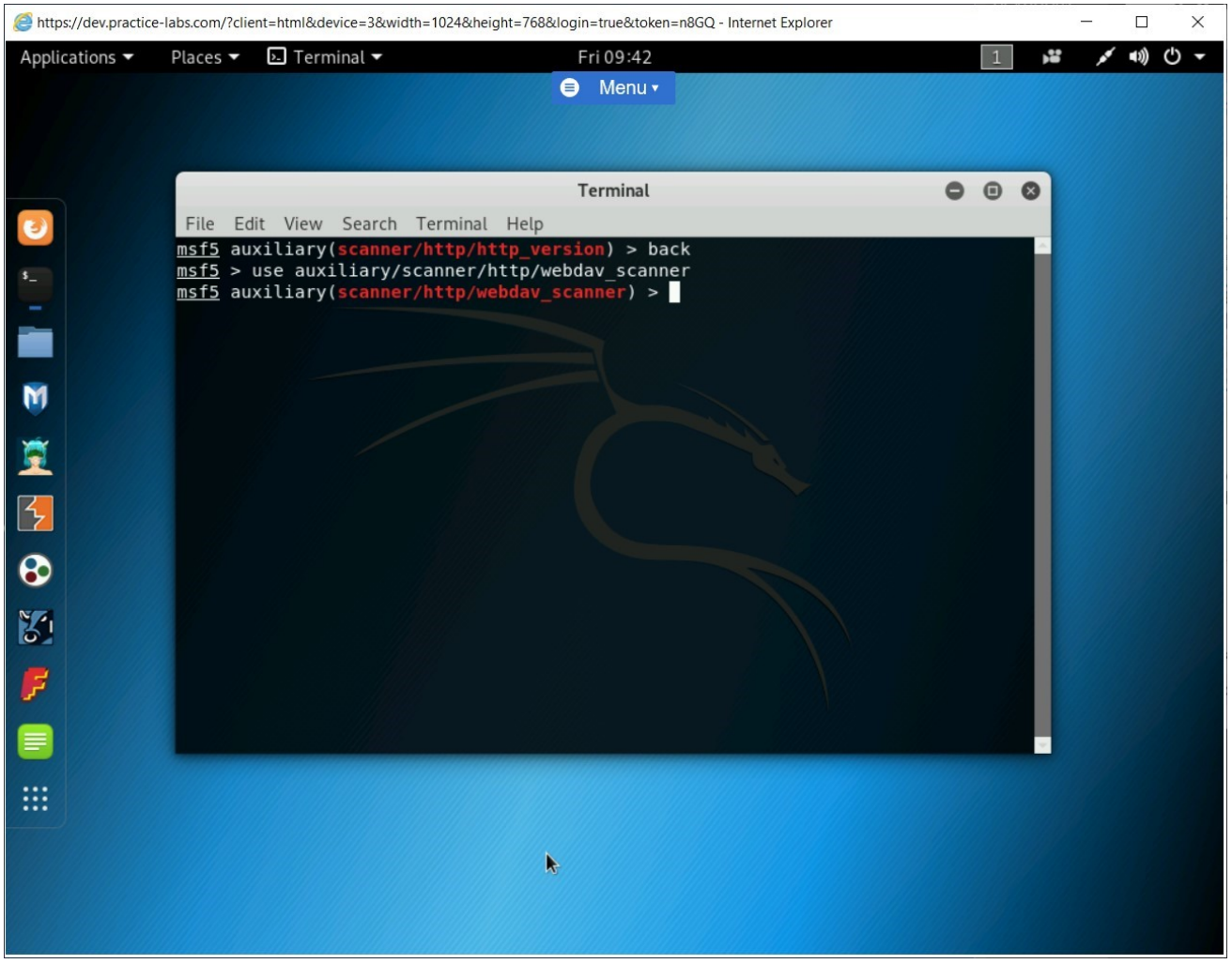


Figure 1.80 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Entering the command to use the webdav_scanner module.

Step 2

Next, you need to set the target system. To do this, type the following command:

```
set RHOSTS 192.168.0.10
```

Press **Enter**.

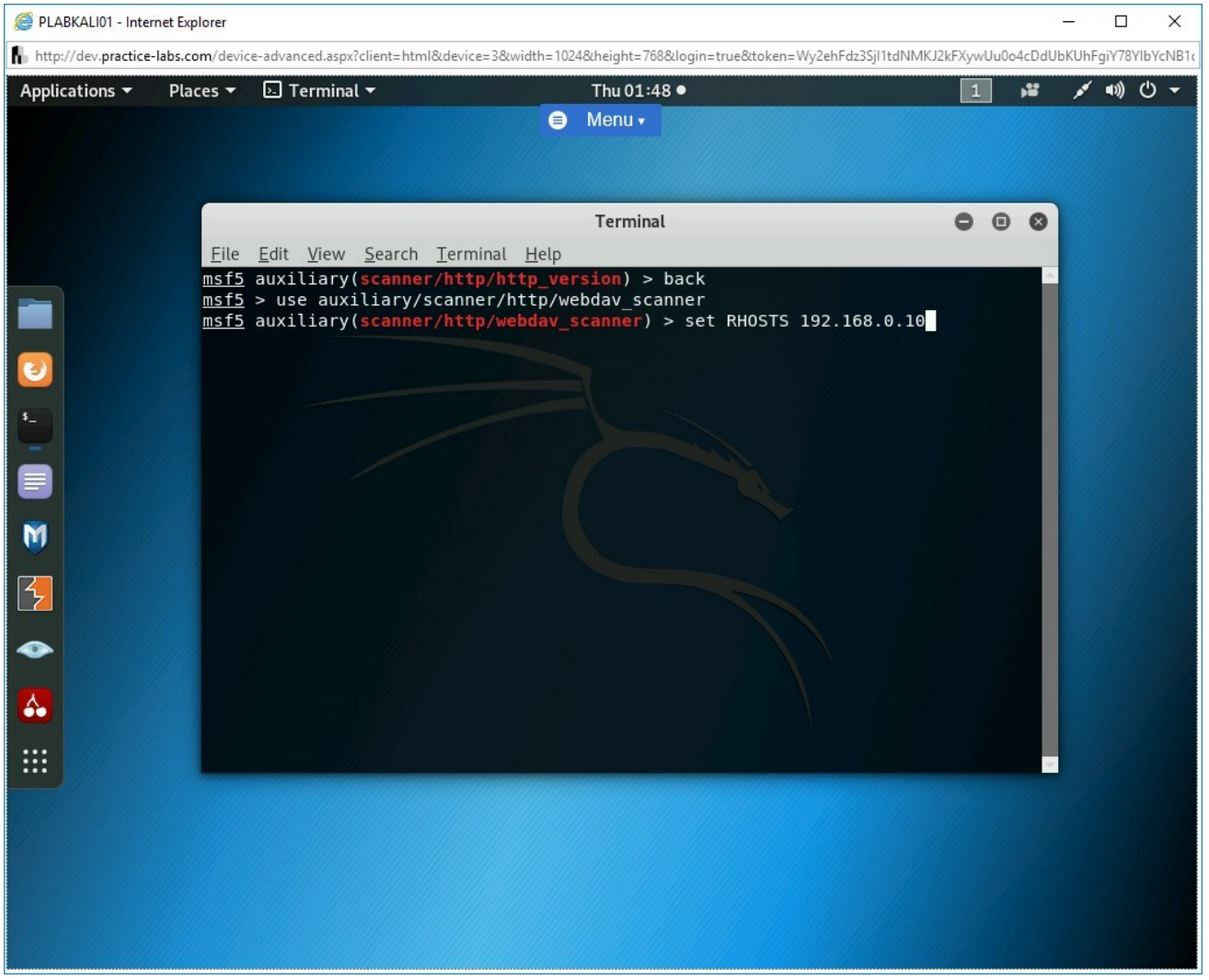


Figure 1.81 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Entering the command to set the target host.

Step 3

Next, set the number of threads. To do this, type the following command:

```
set THREADS 10
```

Press **Enter**.

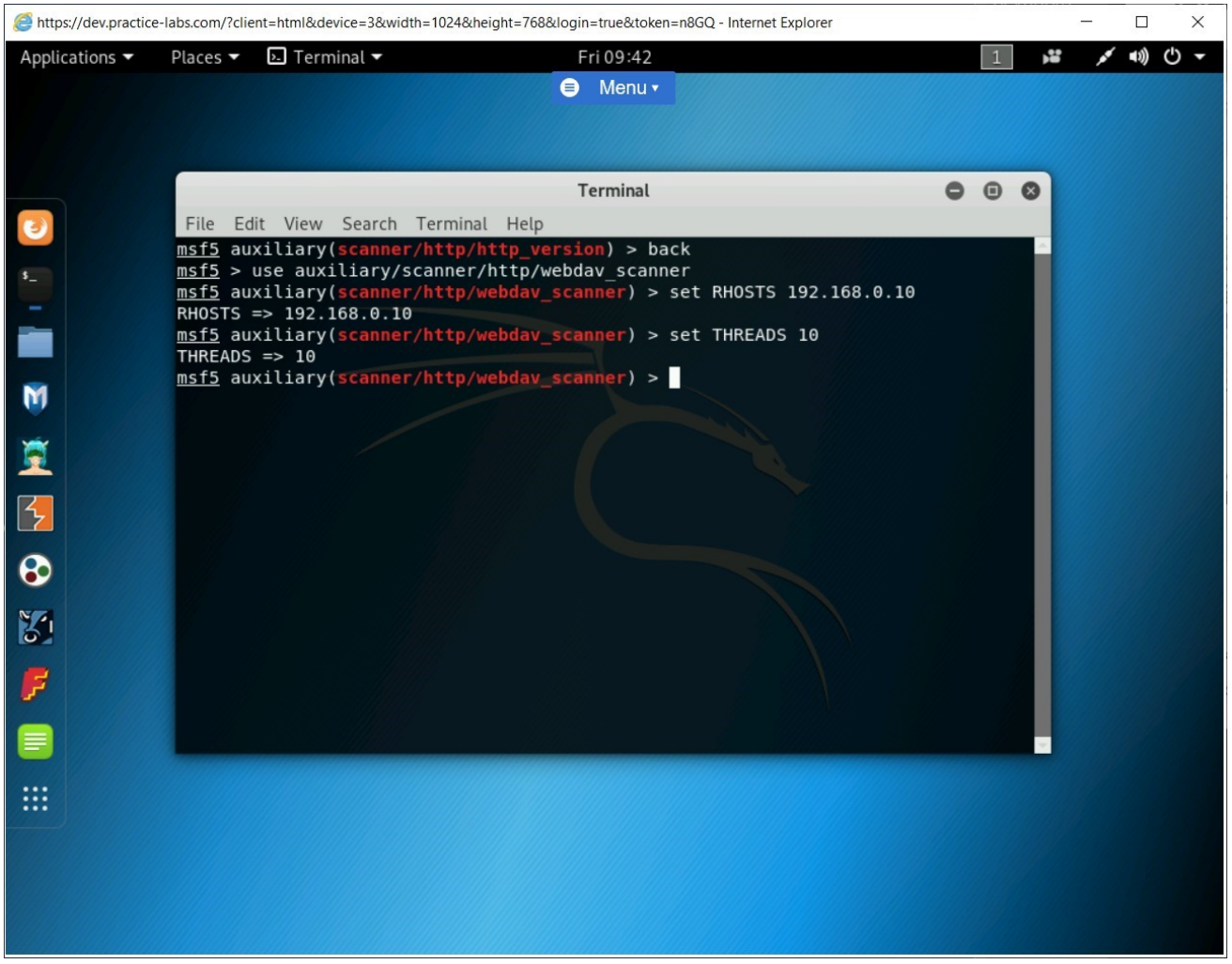


Figure 1.82 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Entering the command to set a number of threads.

Step 4

Now, type the following command to execute the payload:

```
run
```

Press **Enter**.

Notice the output states that **WebDAV** is disabled.

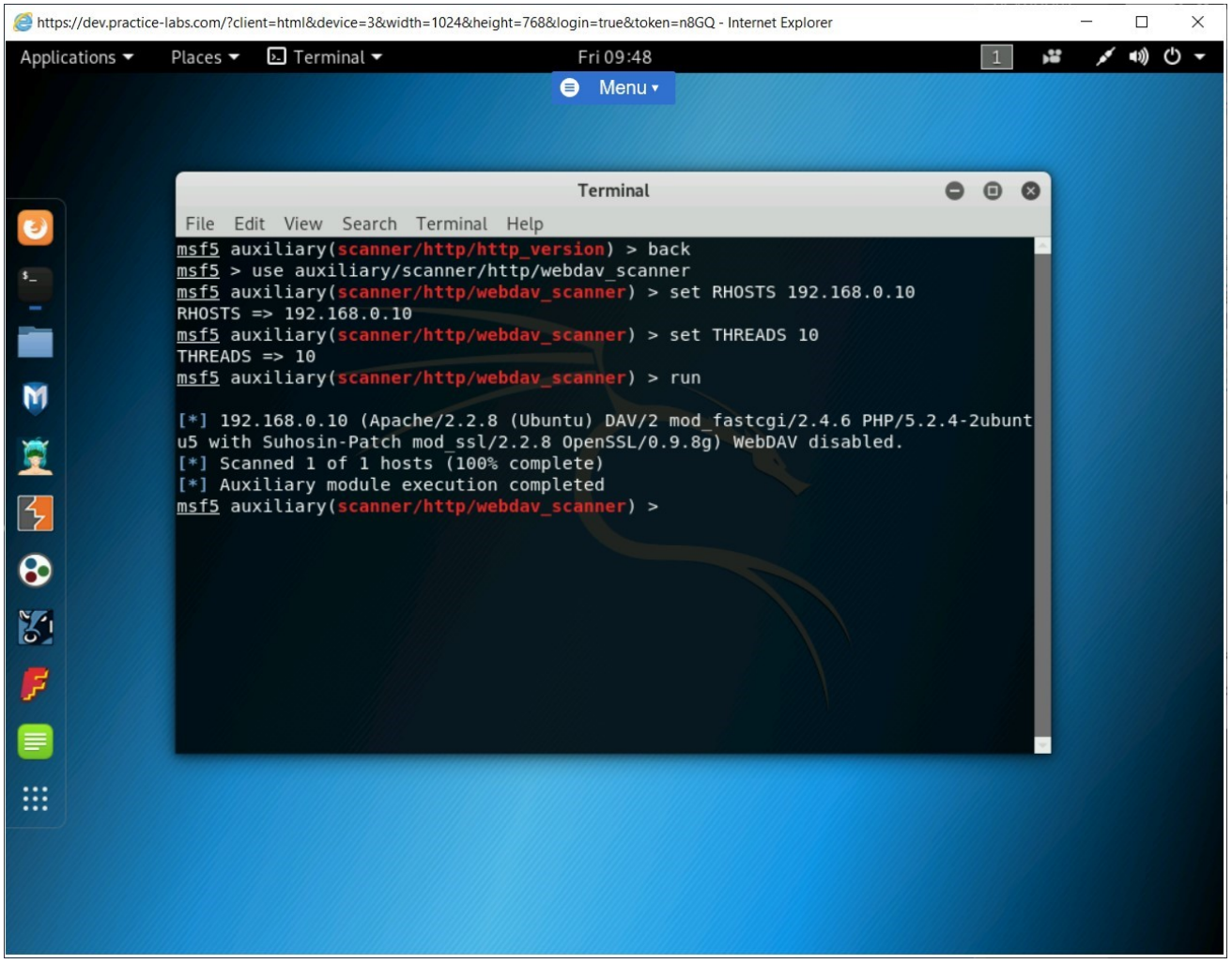


Figure 1.83 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Showing the Webserver version along with WebDAV status.

Exercise 2 - Preventing Webserver Exploitations

A Webserver hosting one or more web applications must be prevented from being exploited. In the previous exercise, you learned about different types of exploitations that can take place against a Webserver. Therefore, there are several countermeasures that you can take to prevent webserver exploitation.

In this exercise, you will learn about several methods to prevent webserver exploitation.

Learning Outcomes

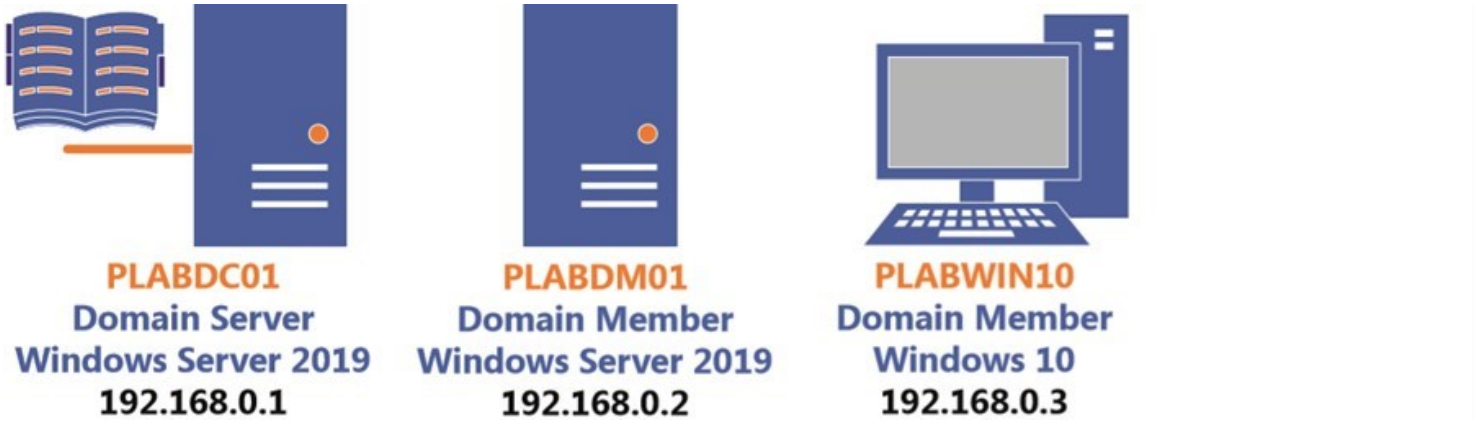
After completing this exercise, you will be able to:

- Use common methods to prevent Webserver Exploitation
- Disable HTTP TRACK and TRACE Verbs in Internet Information Services (IIS)

Your Devices

You will be using the following devices in this lab. Please power these on now.

- **PLABDC01 -** (Windows Server 2019 - Domain Server)
- **PLABDM01 -** (Windows Server 2019 - Domain Controller)
- **PLABKALI01 -** (Kali 2019.2 - Linux Kali Workstation)



Task 1 - Use Common Methods to Prevent Webserver Exploitation

A Webserver can be prone to different types of vulnerabilities. You need to be aware of some of the prevention methods that you can apply on the Webserver to protect its data. Some of the most common methods to prevent Webserver exploitation are:

- Placing the Webserver in a secure zone, preferably where the firewall and other security appliances or applications, such as Intrusion Prevention System (IPS) or Intrusion Detection System (IDS) are placed
- Placing the Webserver in a DMZ, which is protected with a firewall. Such placement will protect the Webserver from external attacks
- Filtering the incoming traffic to the Webserver
- Deploying a Web application change detection method, which can detect any malicious executable attempting to change the Web application functionality

- Implementing hashing to track the changes made to the Webserver and the Web application files
- Disabling unnecessary open ports and running services
- Using a server certificate on the Webserver
- Encrypting the outgoing traffic to prevent Man-In-the-Middle (MITM) attacks
- Disabling the debug compilers on the Webserver
- Disabling tracking on the Webserver
- Using HTTPS instead of HTTP
- Enabling auditing to track failed logins
- Disabling the default accounts on the Webserver
- Performing regular patch updates on the Webserver and the Web application
- Using complex password policy
- Removing unused modules and extensions from the Webserver
- Using the least privilege principle for the database accounts

Task 2 - Disable HTTP TRACK and TRACE verbs in Internet Information Services (IIS)

Webservers usually return the full request in their responses to the client, which originally made the request. TRACK is a verb, which is used in IIS, and returns the full request in the response to the client. TRACK is similar to TRACE, but it is Microsoft's implementation. When a security scanning tool scans the Webserver, it might find the HTTP TRACK to be enabled. Same is the case if TRACE is also enabled. If either one or both are enabled, they are considered to be vulnerabilities. When these are enabled, they can lead to a cross-site scripting attack. A hacker may use a Webpage with XMLHTTP and force the client to issue a TRACK request from the Webserver. When the response is returned, the hacker can then capture the client cookies.

To disable HTTP TRACK and TRACE verbs in IIS, perform the following steps:

Step 1

Ensure you have powered on all the devices listed in the introduction and connect to **PLABDM01**. The **Server Manager** window is displayed by default. Click **Close**.

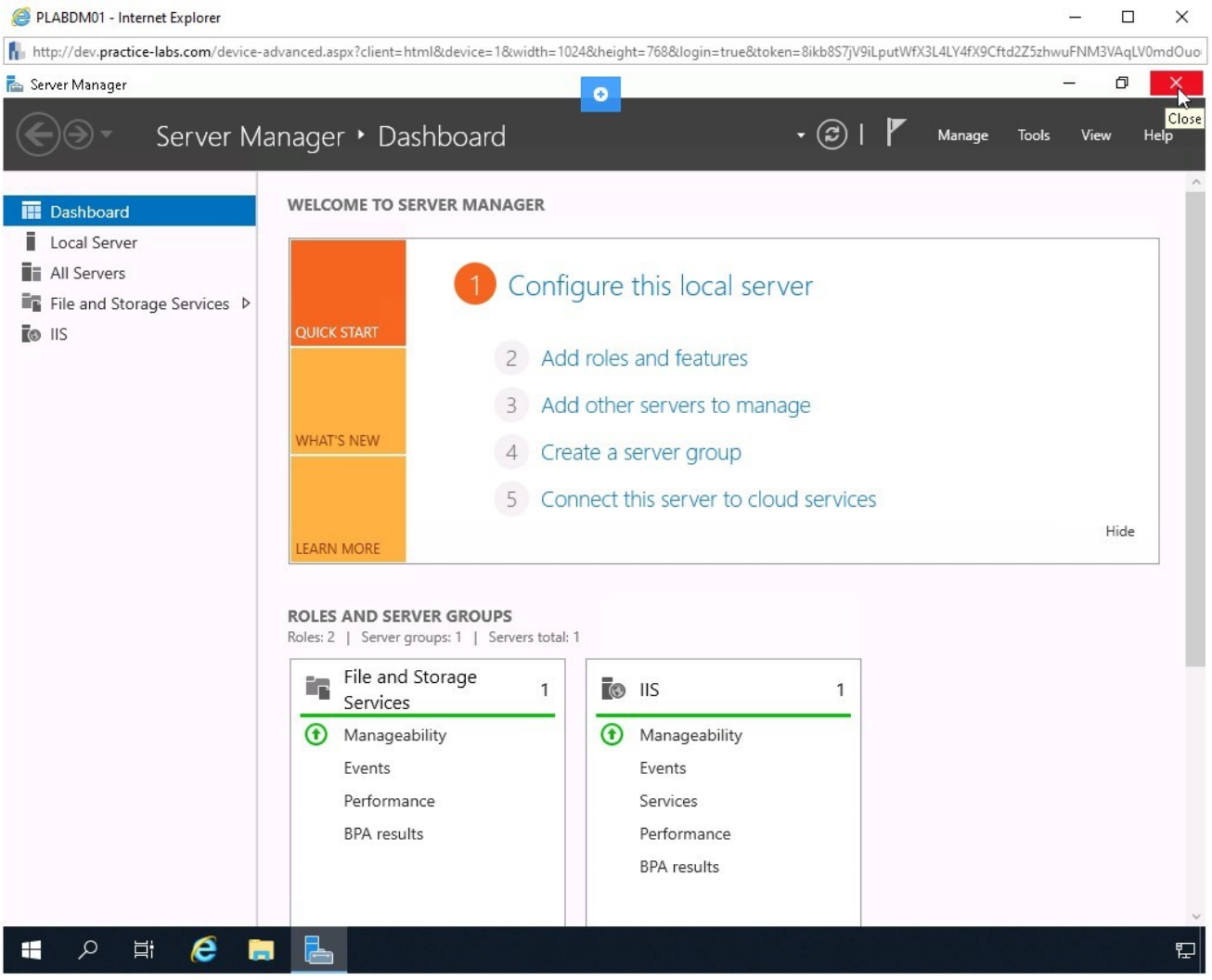


Figure 2.1 Screenshot of PLABDM01: Showing the Server Manager window.

Step 2

Click the Windows charm, select **Windows Administrative Tools**, and then select **Internet Information Services (IIS) Manager**.

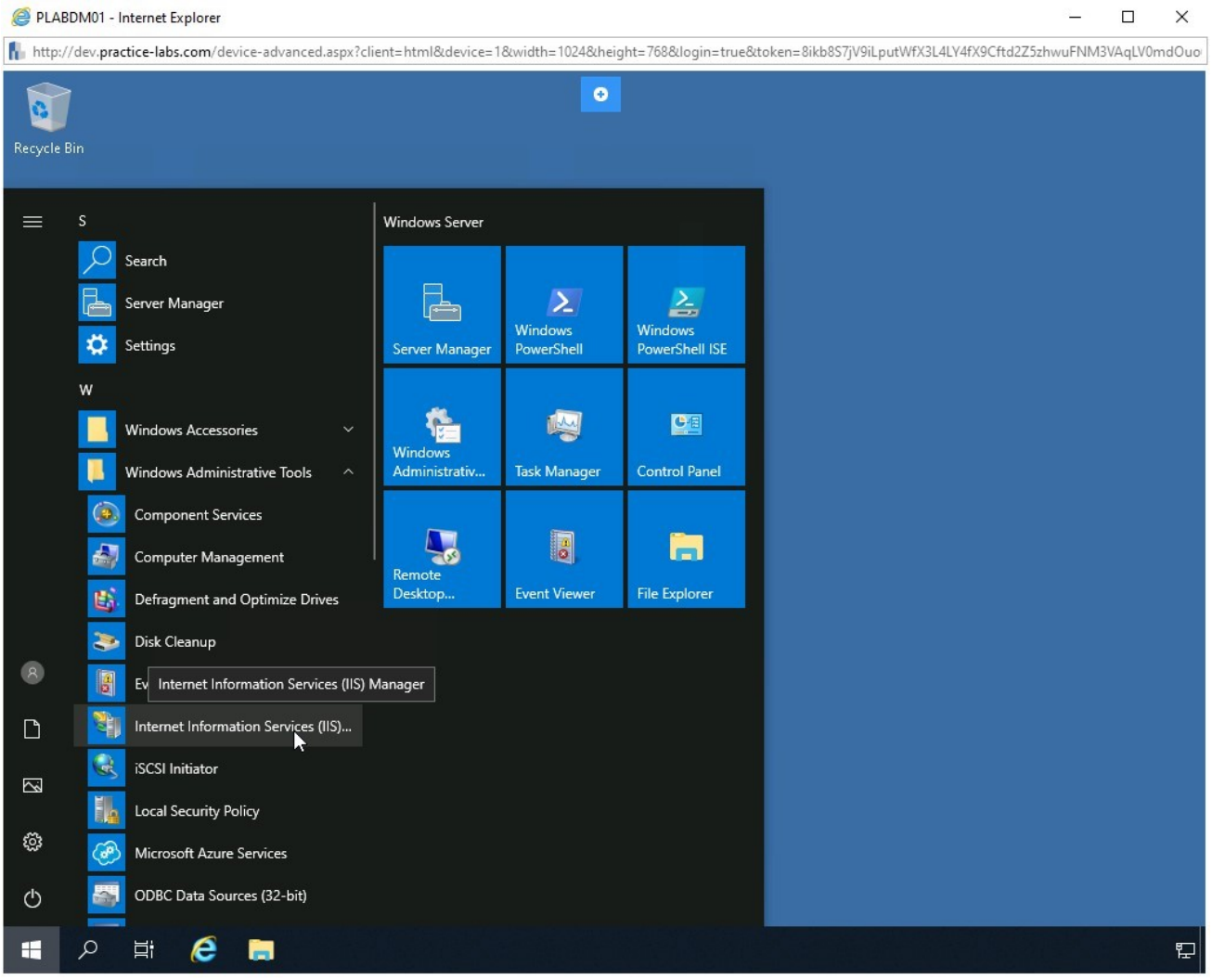


Figure 2.2 Screenshot of PLABDM01: Selecting Windows Administrative Tools, and then selecting Internet Information Services (IIS) Manager.

Step 3

In the left pane, select PLABDM01 and then double-click **Request Filtering** in the right pane.

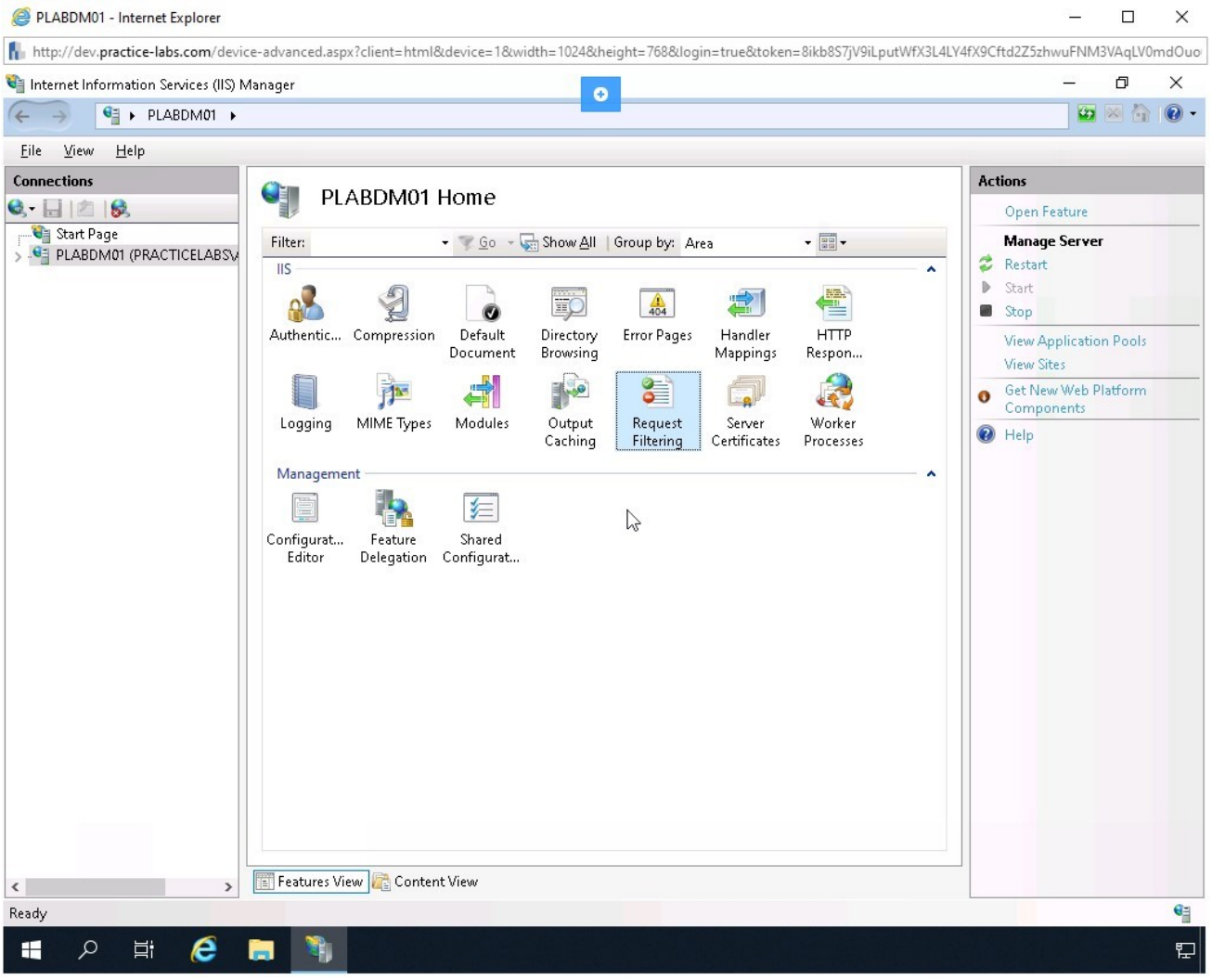


Figure 2.3 Screenshot of PLABDM01: Selecting PLABDM01 in the left pane and then double-clicking Request Filtering in the middle pane.

Step 4

The middle pane displays the **Request Filtering** page. Click the **HTTP Verbs** tab.

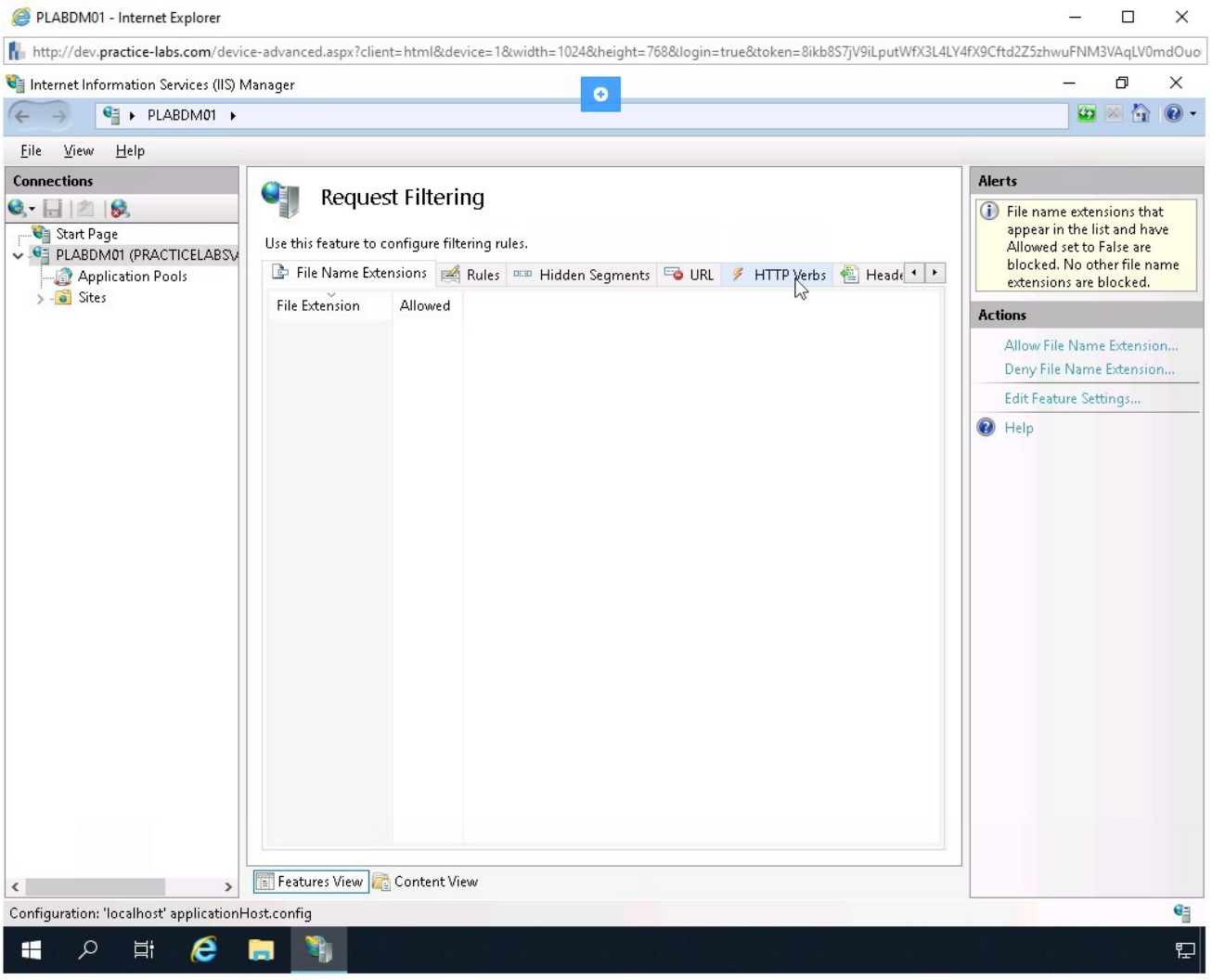


Figure 2.4 Screenshot of PLABDM01: Clicking the HTTP Verbs tab in the middle pane, which is named Request Filtering.

Step 5

The **HTTP Verbs** tab is displayed. In the right pane, click **Deny Verb**.

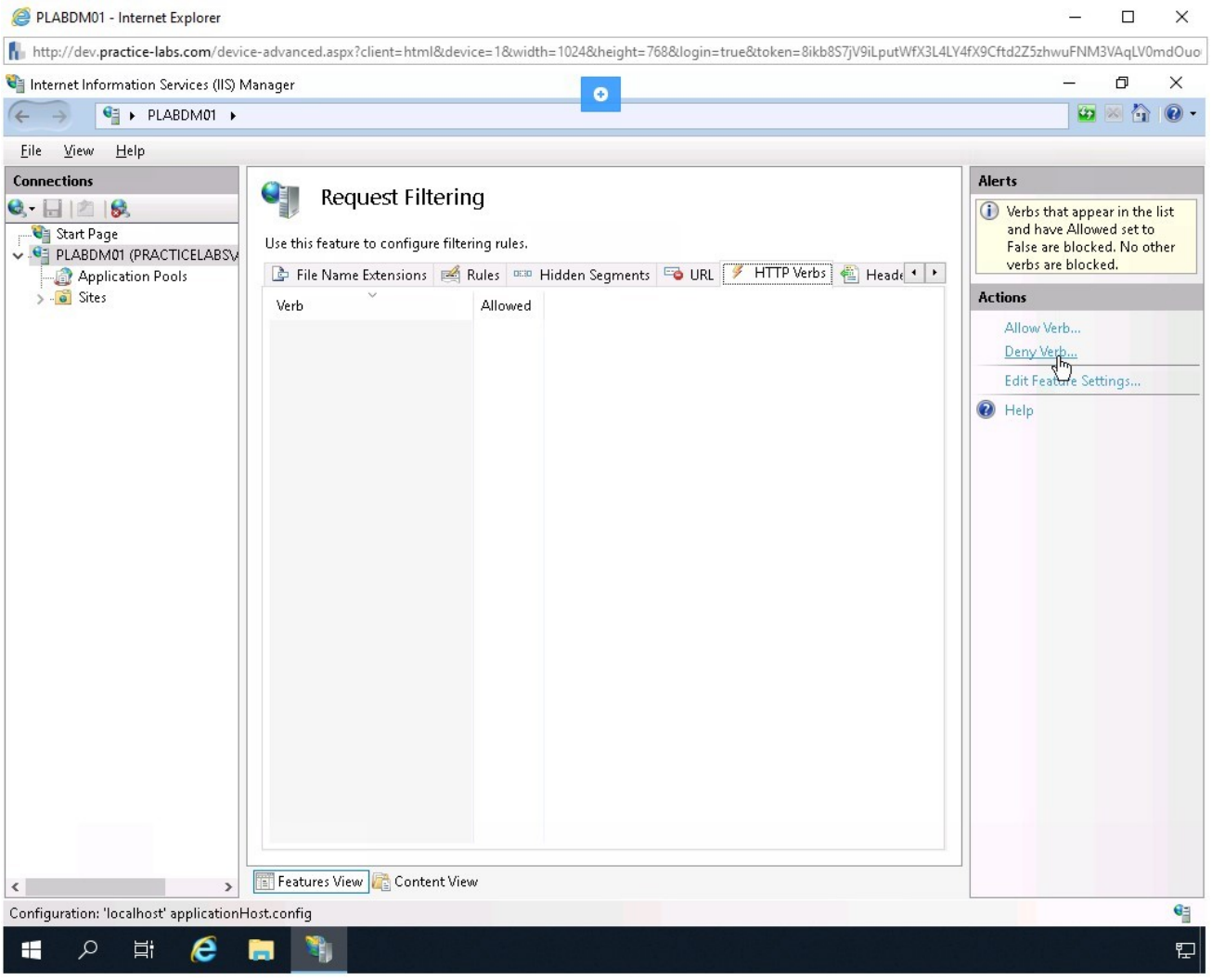


Figure 2.5 Screenshot of PLABDM01: Clicking Deny Verb in the right pane.

Step 6

The **Deny Verb** dialog box is displayed. In the **Verb** textbox, type **TRACK** and click **OK**.

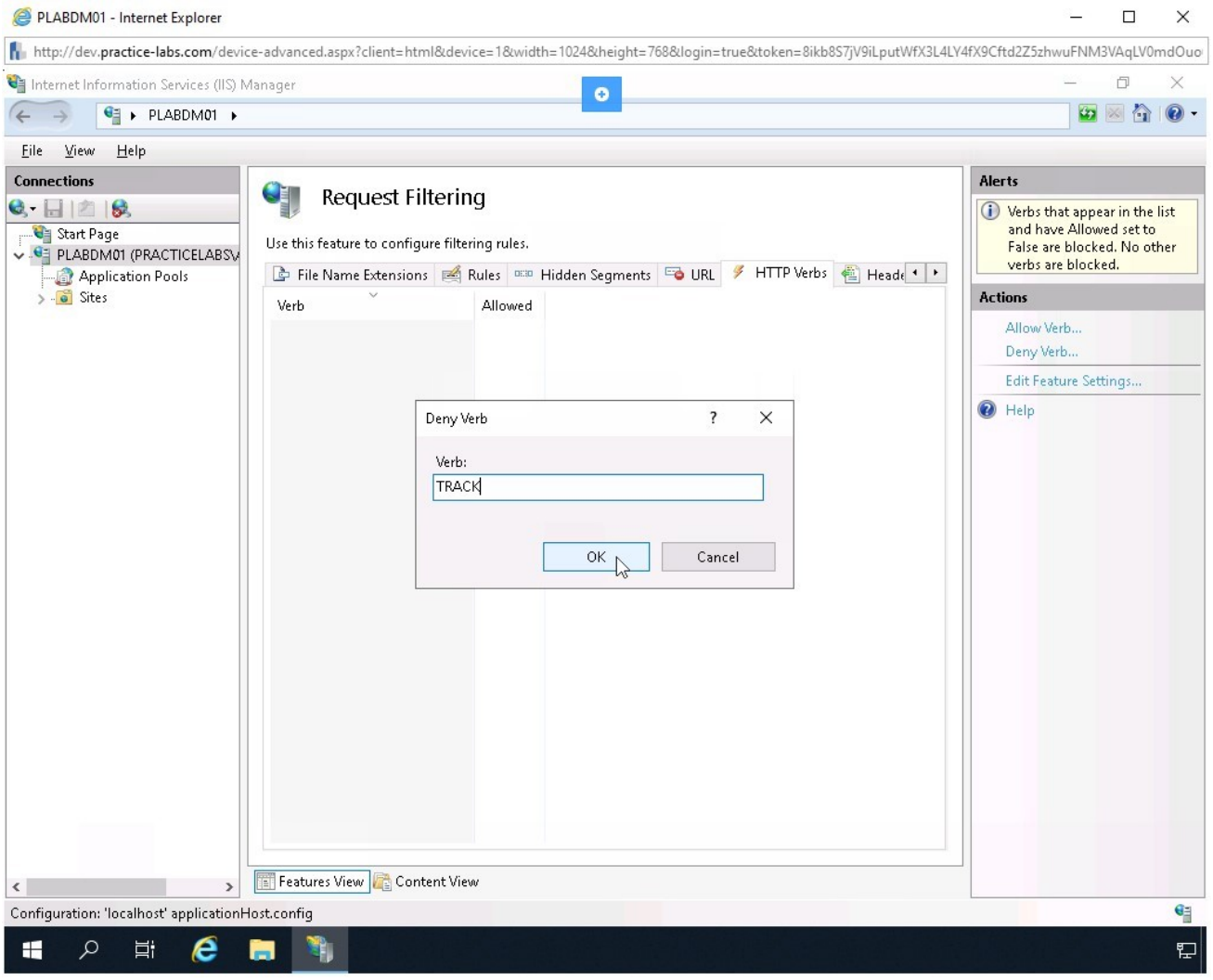


Figure 2.6 Screenshot of PLABDM01: Adding the TRACK verb in the Deny Verb dialog box and clicking OK.

Step 7

Notice that the **TRACK** verb appears in the middle pane. You will now need to add **TRACE** verb to be denied.

Click **Deny Verb** in the right pane.

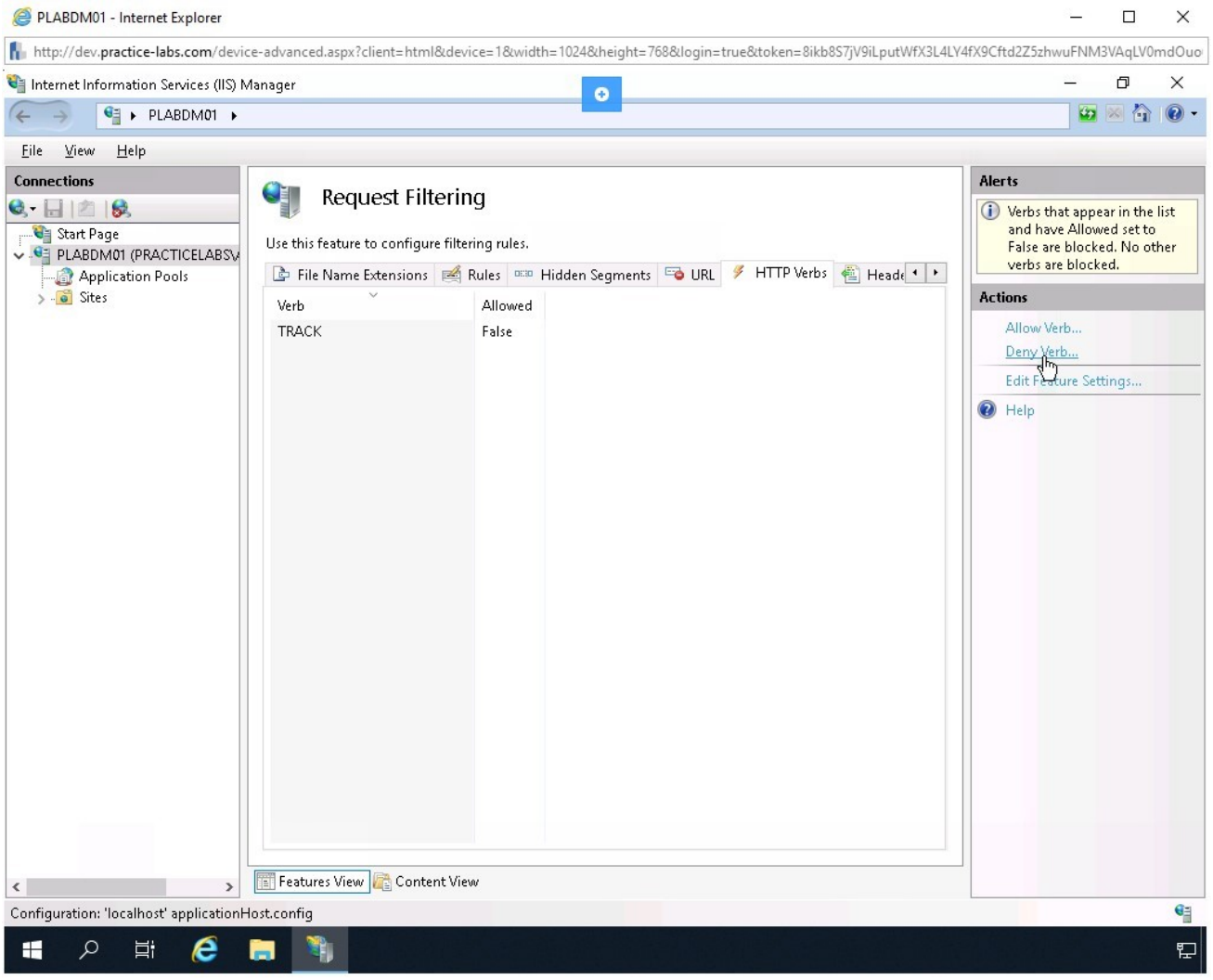


Figure 2.7 Screenshot of PLABDM01: Showing the TRACK verb in the middle pane and then clicking Deny Verb in the right pane.

Step 8

The **Deny Verb** dialog box is displayed. In the **Verb** textbox, type **TRACE** and click **OK**.

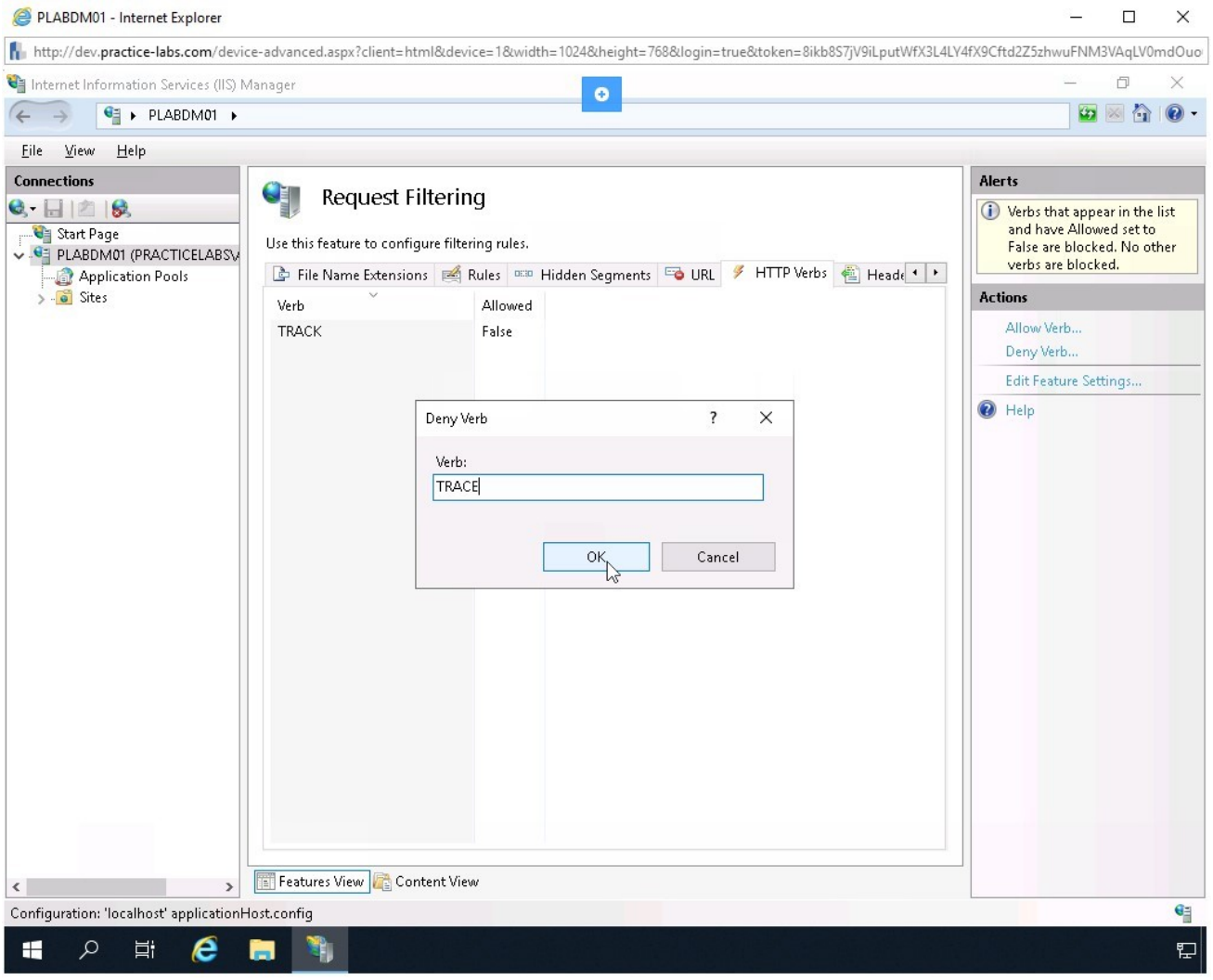


Figure 2.8 Screenshot of PLABDM01: Adding the TRACE verb in the Deny Verb dialog box and clicking OK.

Step 9

Notice that **TRACK** and **TRACE** verbs are now added in the middle pane.

Click Close to close the **Internet Information Services (IIS) Manager**.

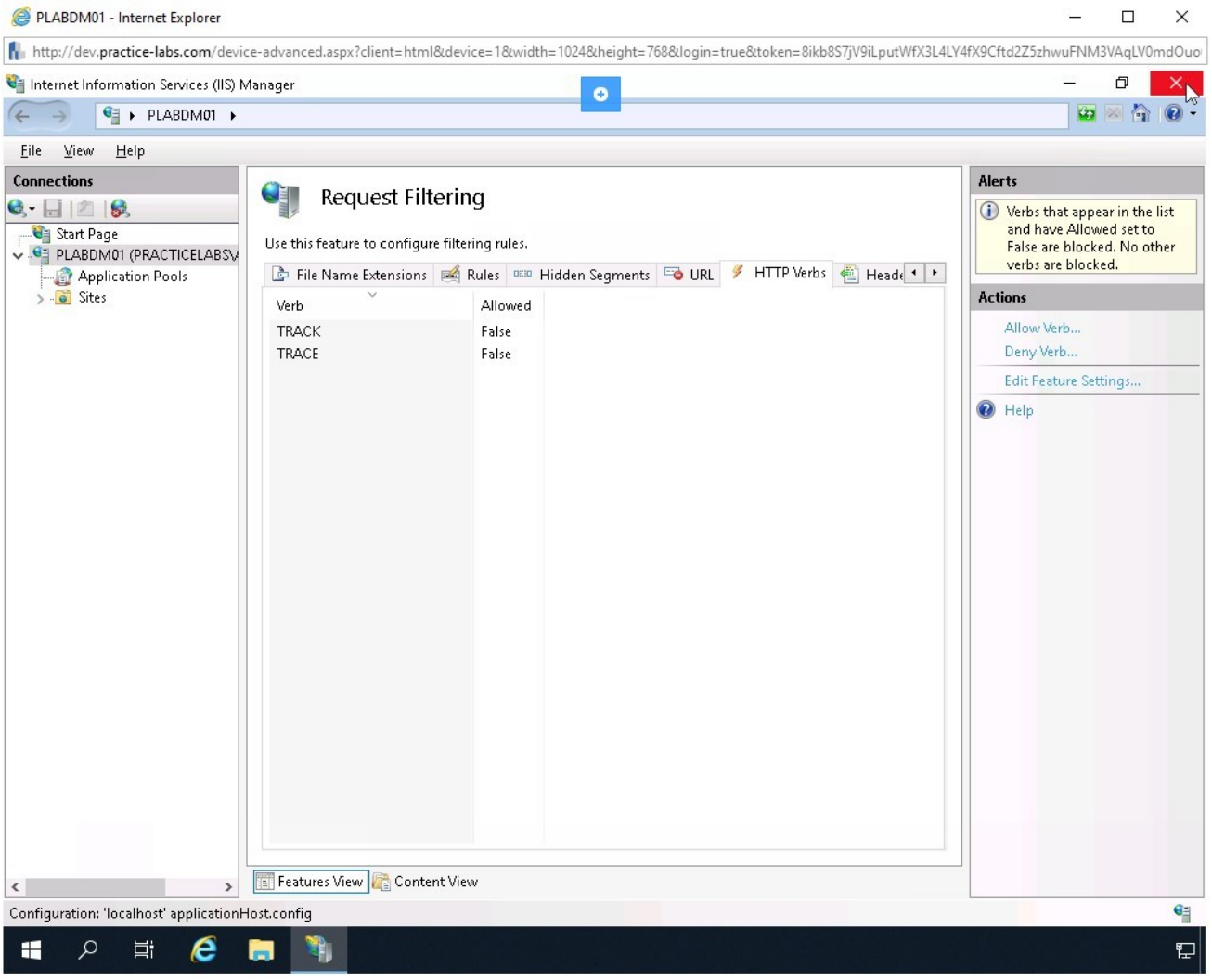


Figure 2.9 Screenshot of PLABDM01: Showing the TRACK and TRACE verbs added in the middle pane.

Review

Well done, you have completed the **Hacking Webservers** Practice Lab.

Summary

You completed the following exercises:

- Exercise 1 - Exploiting the Webserver Vulnerabilities
- Exercise 2 - Preventing Webserver Exploitations

You should now be able to:

- Perform a Slowloris Attack on a Webserver
- Enumerate a Webserver using HTTPrint
- Perform Directory Traversal Attack
- Perform Web Application Brute Forcing Using DirBuster
- Use Skipfish to Perform Webserver Reconnaissance
- Find Files on a Webserver using Metasploit Framework
- Scan for Options on a Webserver using Metasploit Framework
- Find the Webserver Version using Metasploit Framework
- Check for WebDAV on a Webserver using Metasploit Framework
- Use Common Methods to Prevent Webserver Exploitation
- Disable HTTP TRACK and TRACE Verbs in Internet Information Services (IIS)

Feedback

Shutdown all virtual machines used in this lab. Alternatively, you can log out of the lab platform.