



# Unmasking **LDAP** & **KERBEROS** Vulnerabilities

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## SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER

- Experienced on working in LDAP and Kerberos Integration for 3+ Years.
- WordPress Plugin Developer in Cyber Security Domain
- Works on providing solutions for API Security use cases.

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# WHO AM I?

# WHAT IS A DIRECTORY ?



- A directory is a hierarchical database which can easily mimic an organisation's structure with information like user objects, computers etc.
- It can be accessed via LDAP that could be used for Authentication & perform CRUD operations.
- Ex: Microsoft Active Directory, FreeIPA, OpenLDAP, ApacheDS, OpenDJ.



# WHAT IS LDAP PROTOCOL ?



L

LIGHTWEIGHT



D

DIRECTORY



A

ACCESS



P

PROTOCOL



# WHAT IS LDAP PROTOCOL ?



- LDAP is used to query into a Directory to Bind, Authenticate users & perform CRUD operations on the objects.
- It can be used to connect to the Directory from outside the network as well.
- Required/Used by 3rd Party Apps to connect their services to their company's Directory.





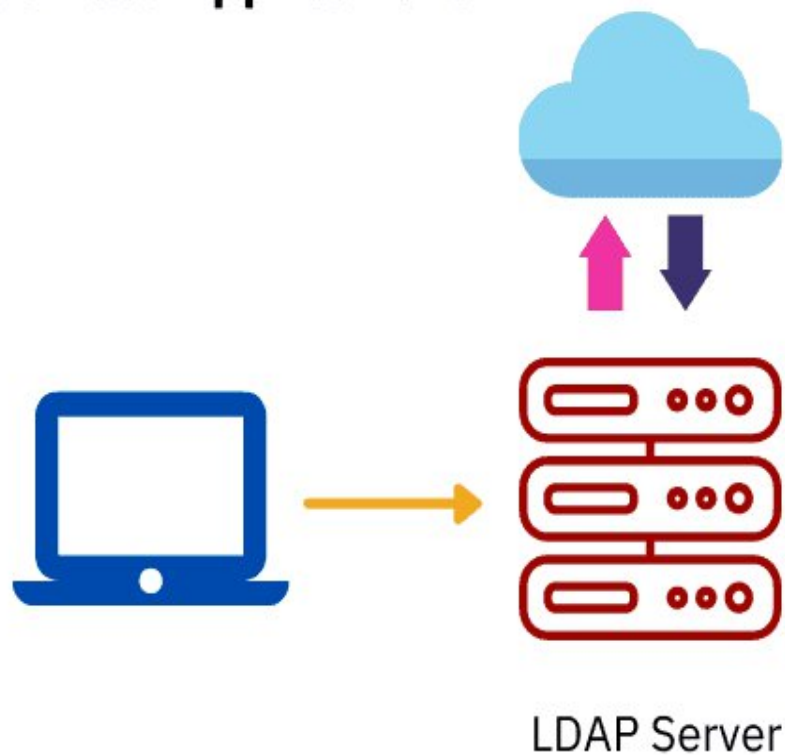
Let's Discuss



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**WHERE IS A DIRECTORY  
USED ?**

## Business Applications



## IT Infrastructure

Email Servers



Authorisation



User Accounts



Meet

Fluffy

KERBEROS

Unlike Fluffy

MUSIC DOESN'T  
TAKE KERBEROS  
DOWN ;)





# WHAT IS KERBEROS ?

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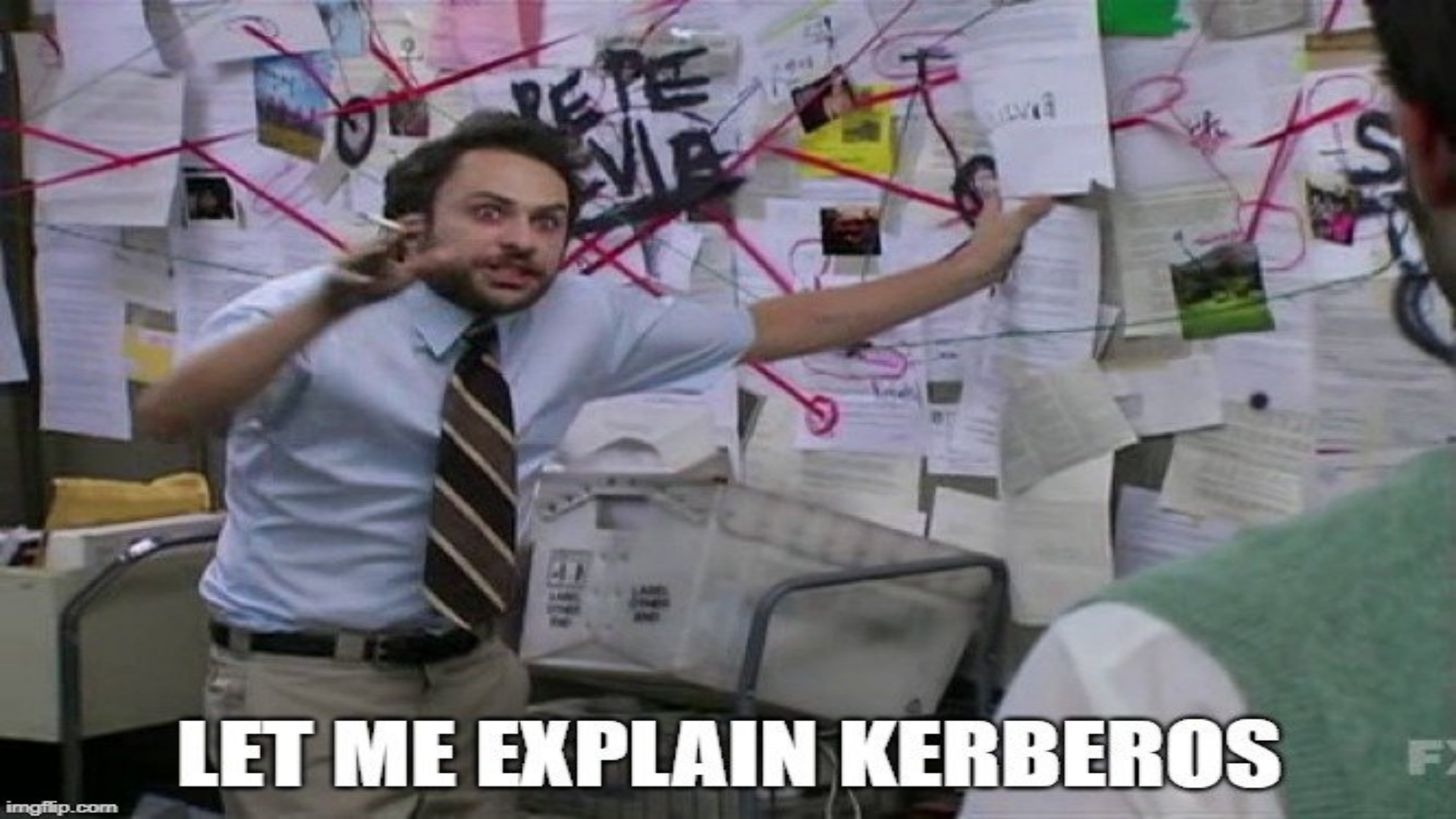
- Kerberos is an authentication protocol typically used by clients in a domain joined network.
- Each domain user have complete access of a workstation, but a workstation cannot be completely trusted to identify its user for accessing any service.
- Kerberos act as a 3rd party authenticator to help users prove their identity for accessing services



# WHY TO USE KERBEROS ?



- Authentication is required at multiple steps for multi-user environments, Auto-login plays a crucial role.
- Sending username & password over the network is not always secure, and can lead to the probability of interception.



**LET ME EXPLAIN KERBEROS**

# FEW TERMINOLOGIES TO KNOW

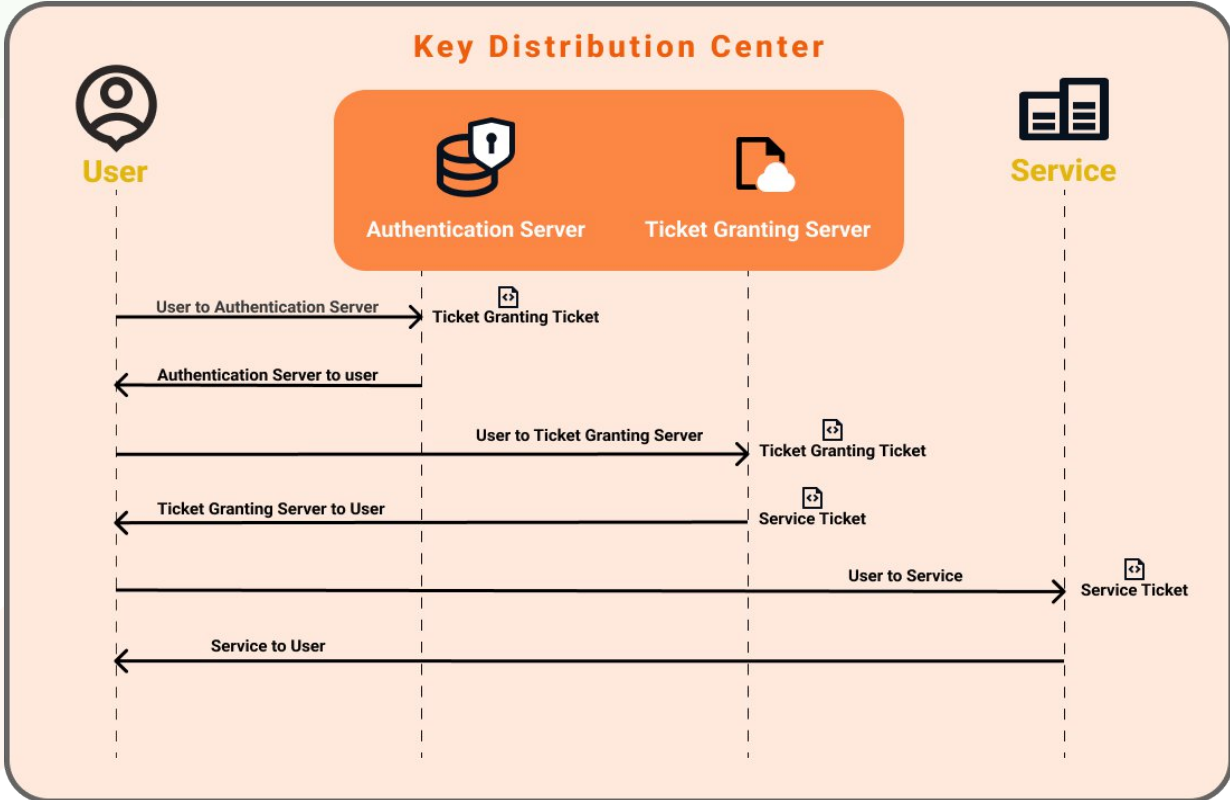
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- **CLIENT:** A normal user who wants to access the service.
- **Key Distribution Center (KDC):** The most important component which plays the main role in Authentication Process.
- **Application Server:** Any Application Service such as SQL.
- **TGT - Ticket Granting Ticket:** Ticket needed for requesting TGS from KDC, It is obtained from the KDC only.
- **TGS - Ticket Granting Service:** Ticket needed for Authenticating against a particular service.
- **SPN - Service Principal Name:** SPN is an identifier for each service instance, it is one of the key Components in the process of authentication.





# WORKING OF KERBEROS PROTOCOL





# LDAP & KERBEROS VULNERABILITIES



# 1: LDAP INJECTION



- Attackers exploit vulnerabilities in web applications integrated with Active Directory / LDAP Directories to manipulate LDAP queries
- This can lead to unauthorized access to or manipulation of directory services data
- These attacks can compromise the security of an entire network by allowing attackers to bypass authentication, access sensitive information, and even modify directory data



# LDAP INJECTION



- **LDAP Search Filter Example:**
  - **Search Filter:** (&(objectclass=user)(samaccountname=<username>))
  - **Correct search filter:**
    - **username= "vikas"**
    - (&(objectclass=user)(samaccountname=**vikas**))
  - **LDAP Injection Search Filter**
    - **Injected username:** "vikas)(telephonenumber=\*"
    - (&(objectclass=user)(samaccountname=vikas)(telephonenumber=\*))





**DEMO**



# 2: PASSWORD SPRAYING



- Password spraying is a type of brute force attack
- It attempts to access multiple user accounts using a few commonly used passwords unlike traditional brute force attacks that focus on one account at a time
- This makes sure the least likelihood of triggering security measures like account lockouts



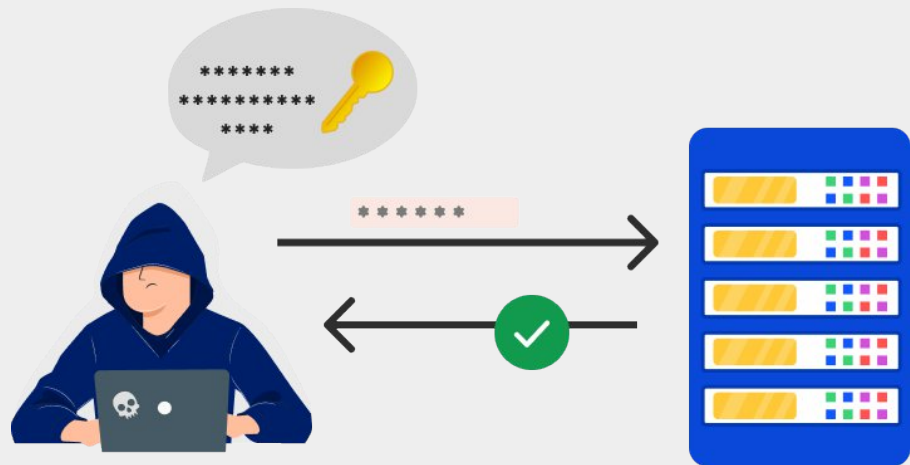


**DEMO**



# 3: PASS-THE-HASH with Mimikatz

- Pass-the-hash is a technique used to steal credentials from Active Directory and also facilitates lateral movement throughout the environment.
- Attackers exploit the NTLM authentication protocol to impersonate a user and dump credential hashes from memory.
- Mimikatz has become the standard tool for exploiting the NTLM authentication protocol.
- Mimikatz extracts the NTLM hashes stored in the local system memory or the Ntds.dit file.





**DEMO**

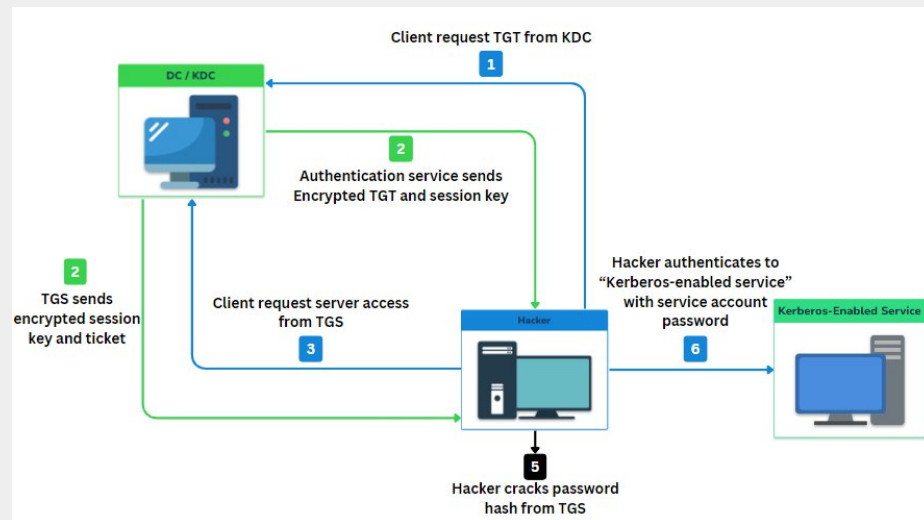


# 4: KERBEROASTING

## WHAT IS KERBEROASTING?

- Kerberoasting is a type of cyber attack targeting Windows Active Directory environments.
- It exploits the Kerberos protocol Ticket Granting Service (TGS) to crack the passwords of service accounts.
- Service accounts are special user accounts that are created for running applications or services on a network, and they often have elevated privileges.

## HOW KERBEROASTING WORKS?



# CONSEQUENCES OF ATTACKS

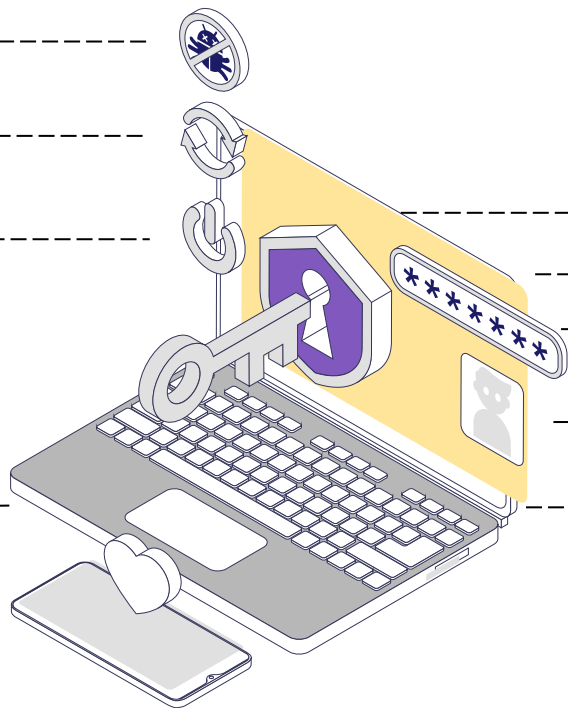


Data Breaches:

Network  
Compromise

Directory  
Enumeration &  
Data Modification

Bypassing  
Authentication  
Mechanisms



Unauthorized Access to  
Sensitive Information

Operational  
Disruption

Compliance  
Violations

Financial  
Impact

Elevated Access  
and Privilege  
Escalation

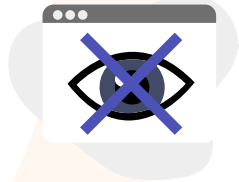
# BEST PRACTICES for Organizations



Strong Password Policies



Monitor and Analyze Login Attempts



Account Lockout Policies



Implement Logon restrictions



Educate and Train Users



Multi-factor Authentication (MFA)







**ANY QUESTIONS ?**

Please Submit Your **VALUABLE**  
**FEEDBACK**



**THANK**  
**YOU**