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Cracking Password With Only Physical Access

Disclaimer:

The author of this document is not responsible of any kind of damage that could be made with the bad use of this information. The objective of this paper is for educational and research purposes only.

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1.0 Foreword / Introduction

This manual explain how script kiddie cracking Windows and Linux password with only physical access. I won't be covering into the internal structure of LM / NTLM hashes [1] in Windows or shadow file in Linux. Try Google for them.

Notes: This is the manual (not article) because it does not need any knowledge and not a new idea. Cracking Windows & Linux password has been widely written and used in the wild. ☺

This manual is never perfect, so notify me the possible mistakes in this document for further updates. Contact me:

Email : lcleevx@yahoo.com
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2.0 Windows

This section explains how **Windows XP** administrator password / account can easily be cracked. I will introduce two methods (the best?!) to crack a SAM file with SysKey enabled. Here we go.....(Extra: please refer to Yanny's tutorial)

2.1 Cracking Windows XP Password with a Bootable Floppy Disk

Requirement: Blank Floppy 1.44M disk

Procedure :

1. First, create a bootable floppy disk. A bootable floppy disk can be created by following the procedure as below:

Windows XP platform ---→ "Start" ---→ "All Programs" ---→ "Accessories"
---→ "Windows Explorer"

From there, an **MS-DOS startup disk** can be created. After the disk is created, delete the following files to save space for later use:

- KEYB.COM
- KEYBOARD.SYS
- KEYBRD2.SYS
- KEYBRD3.SYS
- KEYBRD4.SYS
- EGA2.CPI

- EGA3.CPI
 - EGA.CPI
 - DISPLAY.SYS
 - MODE.COM
2. Copy into the floppy disk the program which can access NTFS drives from DOS. In this manual, use **NTFSDOS.exe** [6]. **NTFSDOS.exe** is a read-only network file system driver for DOS/Windows that is able to recognize and mount NTFS drives for transparent access.
 3. Copy compression program into the floppy disk. There are a few compression programs on the internet. This manual use **pkzip.exe**.
 4. Boot target machine using the bootable floppy disk (Refer **Figure 2.1.1**). Remember the target machine need to setup to boot from the floppy disk drive. If CMOS is password protected, a CMOS password cracking program might be required. But this is outside the scope of this document.
 5. Load the NTFSDOS program with type at the DOS prompt: ntfstdos (Refer **Figure 2.1.2**).
 6. Refer to the **Figure 2.1.3** and **Figure 2.1.4**, NTFS drive was mount as drive D. Now, compress and copy the SYSTEM and SAM files (lcllee.zip and lcllee1.zip) into the bootable floppy disk. Type the following commands:
 - pkzip -ex a:\lcllee.zip d:\windows\system32\config\system
 - pkzip -ex a:\lcllee1.zip d:\windows\system32\config\samLocation of the SYSTEM and SAM files are in the same path, which is:
d:\windows\system32\config\

Here, the script kiddies successful copy the SYSTEM and SAM files. What he going to do is start cracking the Windows XP password.
 7. Extract SYSTEM and SAM files from the floppy disk. From here, I am going to crack the password with the cracking tools, **SAMIinside** or **John the ripper**.
 8. Let's start cracking password with **SAMIinside** [2]. Details refer to **Figure 2.1.5**, **Figure 2.1.6**, **Figure 2.1.7**, **Figure 2.1.8**, **Figure 2.1.9**, **Figure 2.1.10**. **SAMIinside** is used to recover Windows NT/2000/XP/2003 users' password.
 9. Another option to crack the password is using **John the ripper** [5]. First, remove SYSKEY protection in the SYSTEM and SAM files using bkhive.exe and samdump2.exe. The following commands can be issued to do so.

```
bkhive /PATH/system lcleesyskey.txt  
samdump /PATH/sam lcleesyskey.txt > lcleehashes.txt
```

The output file lcleehashes.txt will contain the LM hashes

10. Crack passwords in the LM hash file (lcleehashes.txt). The command to start cracking the hash file as below. Please refer to **Figure 2.1.11** and **Figure 2.1.12**.

```
John lcleehashes.txt -w:password.lst
```

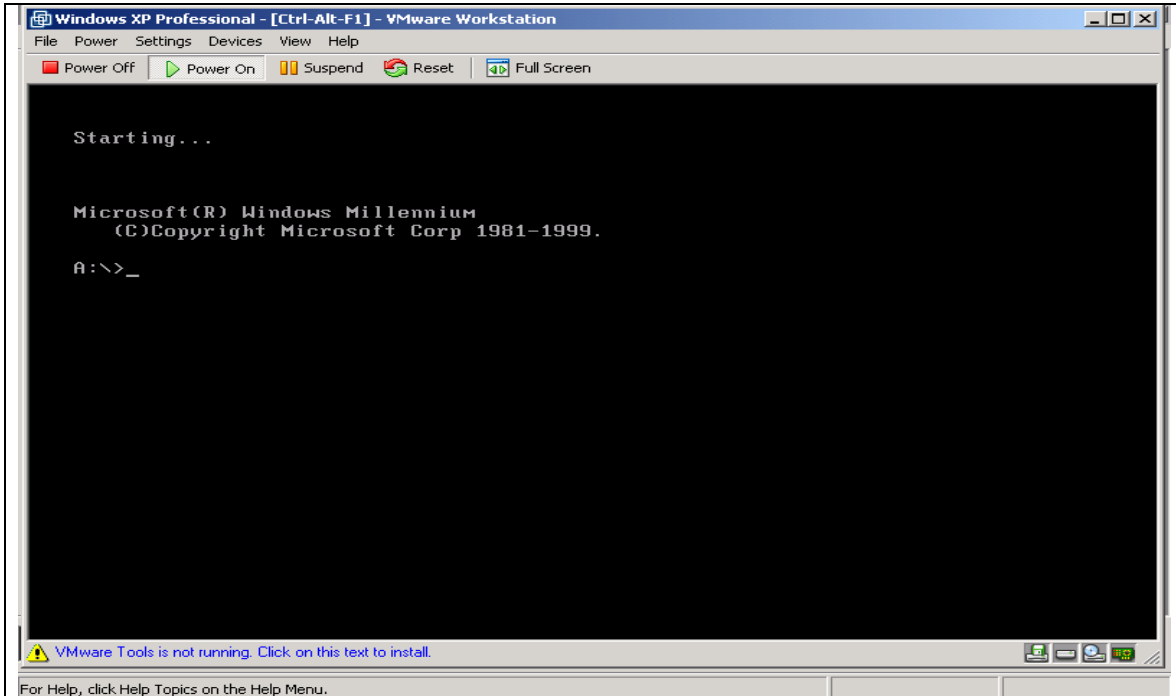


Figure 2.1.1 Boot With MS-DOS Startup Disk

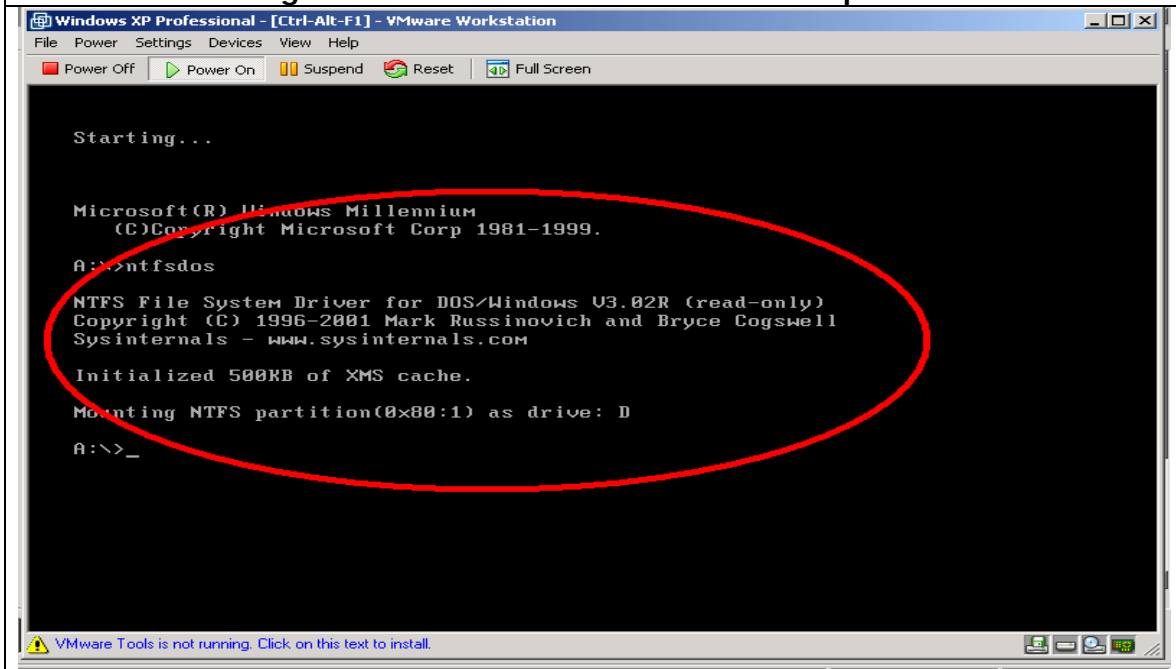


Figure 2.1.2 Run NTFSDOS.exe

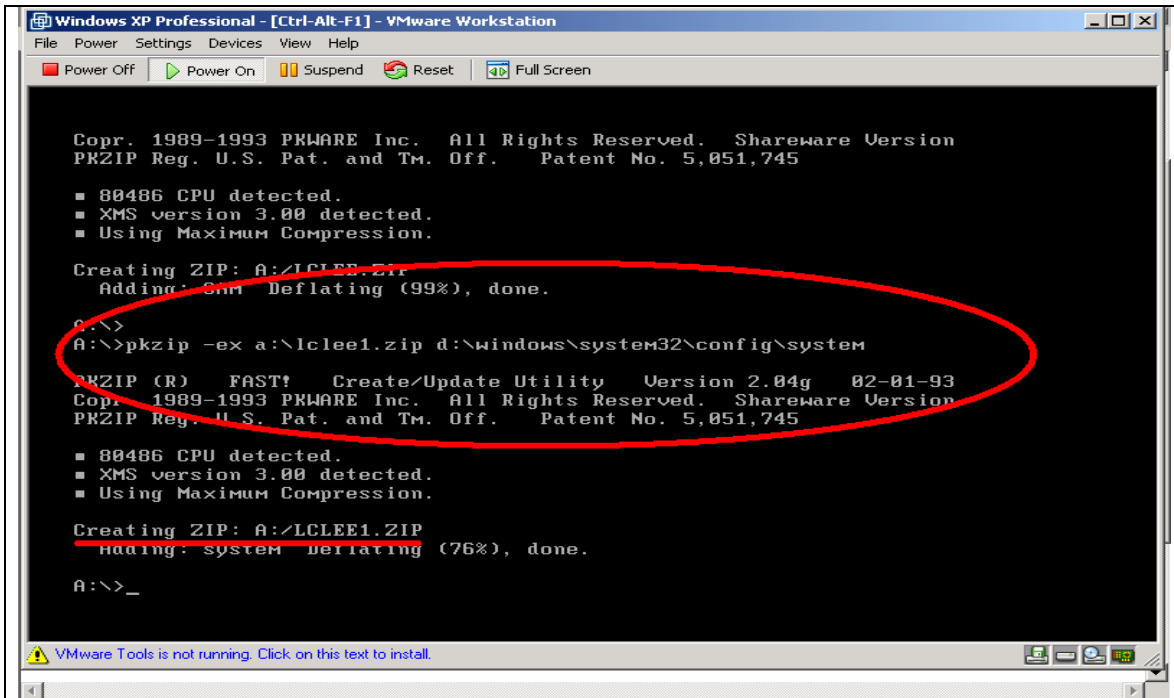


Figure 2.1.3 Compress And Copy The SYSTEM File

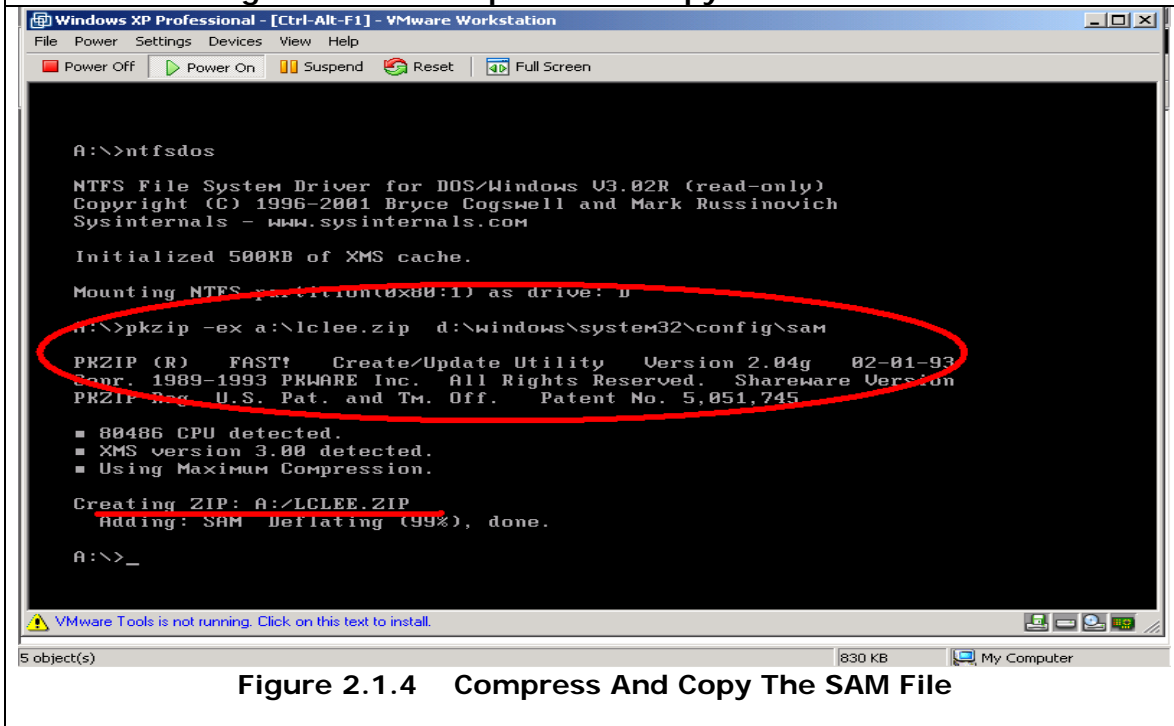


Figure 2.1.4 Compress And Copy The SAM File

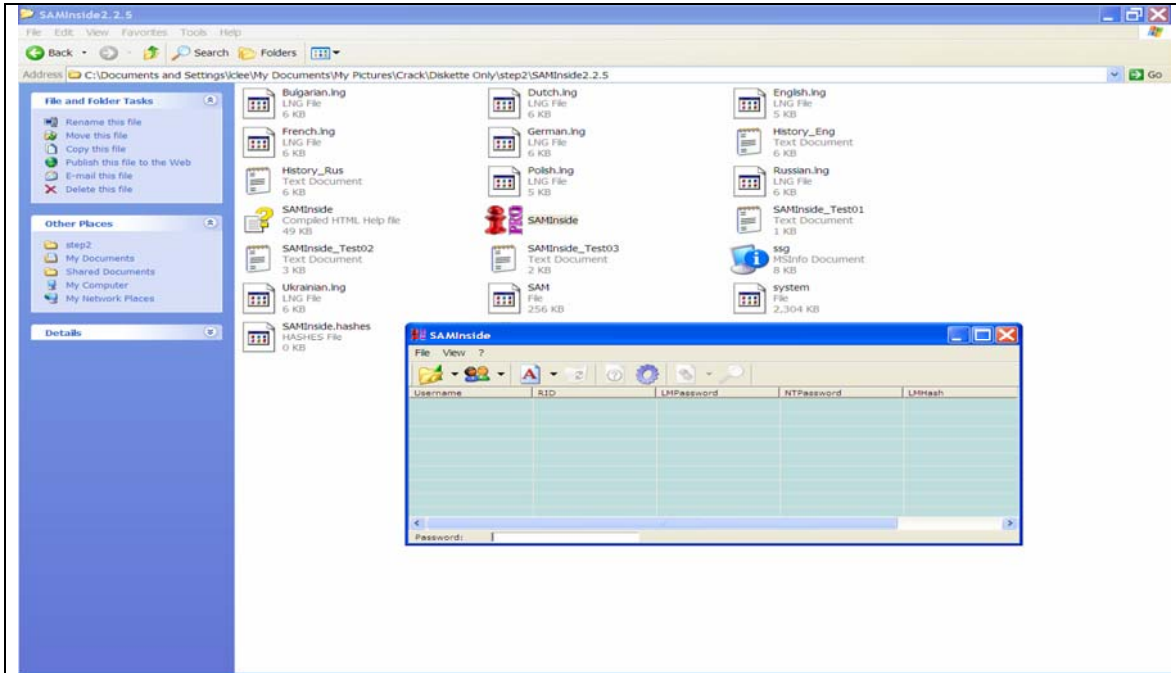


Figure 2.1.5 SAMInside

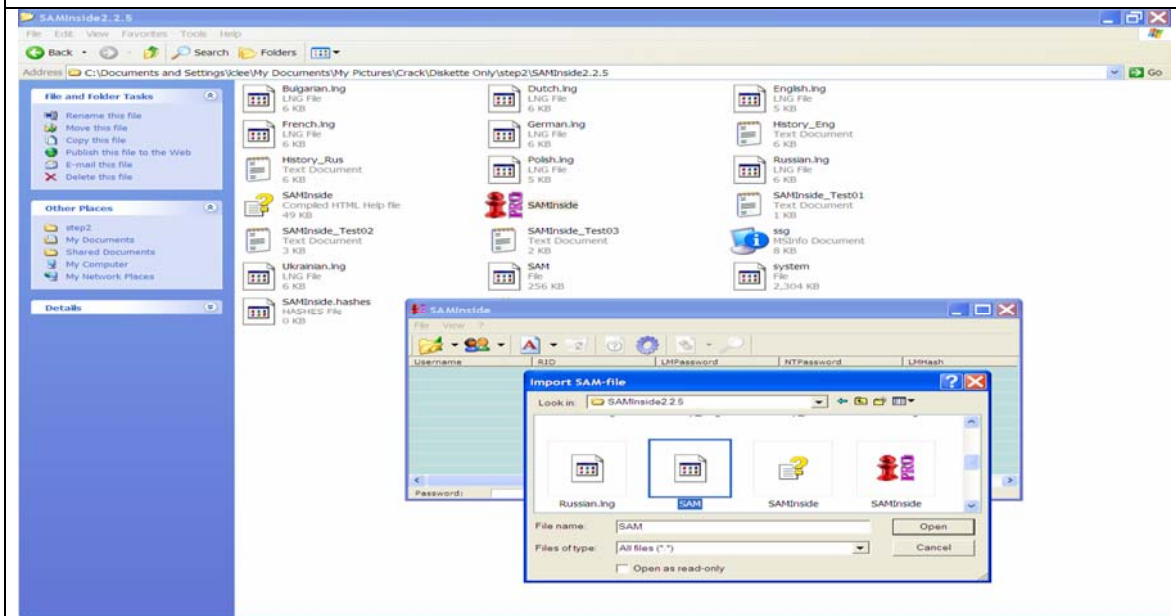


Figure 2.1.6 Import SAM file

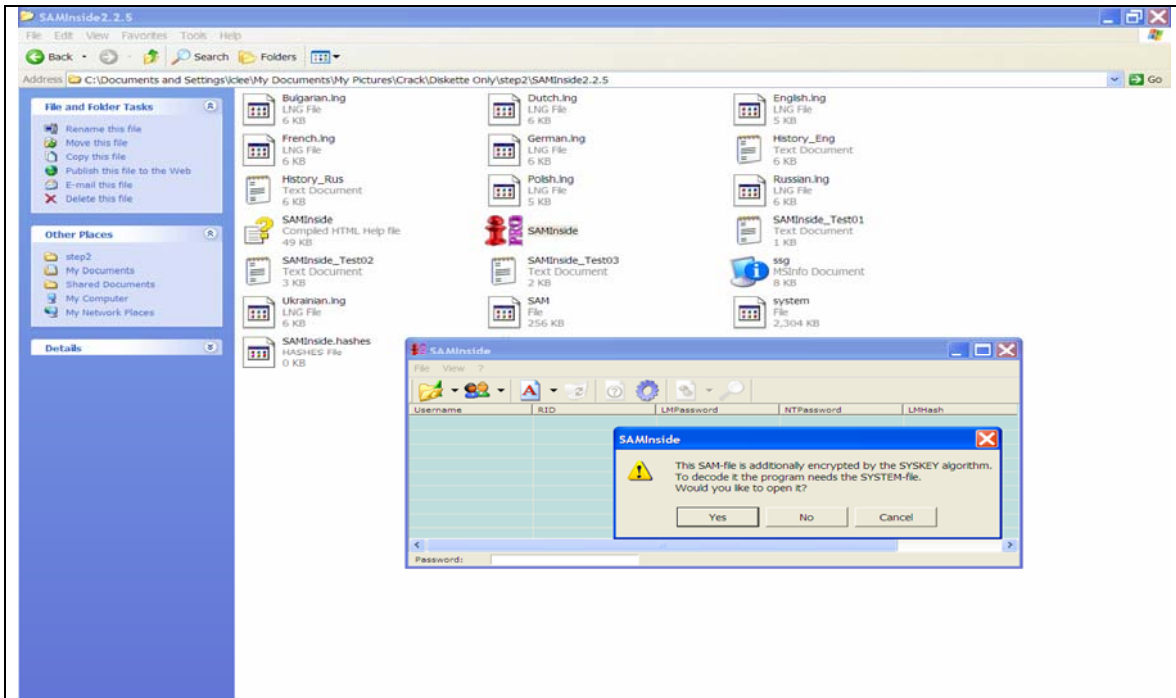


Figure 2.1.7 Ask for SYSTEM file

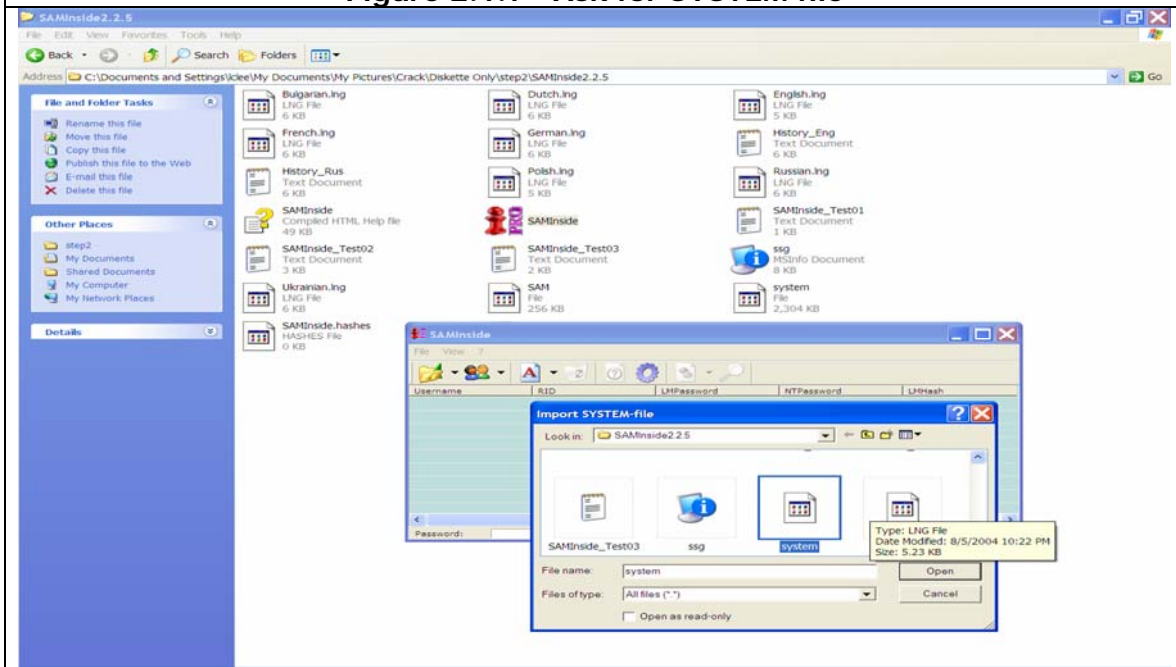


Figure 2.1.8 Import SYSTEM file

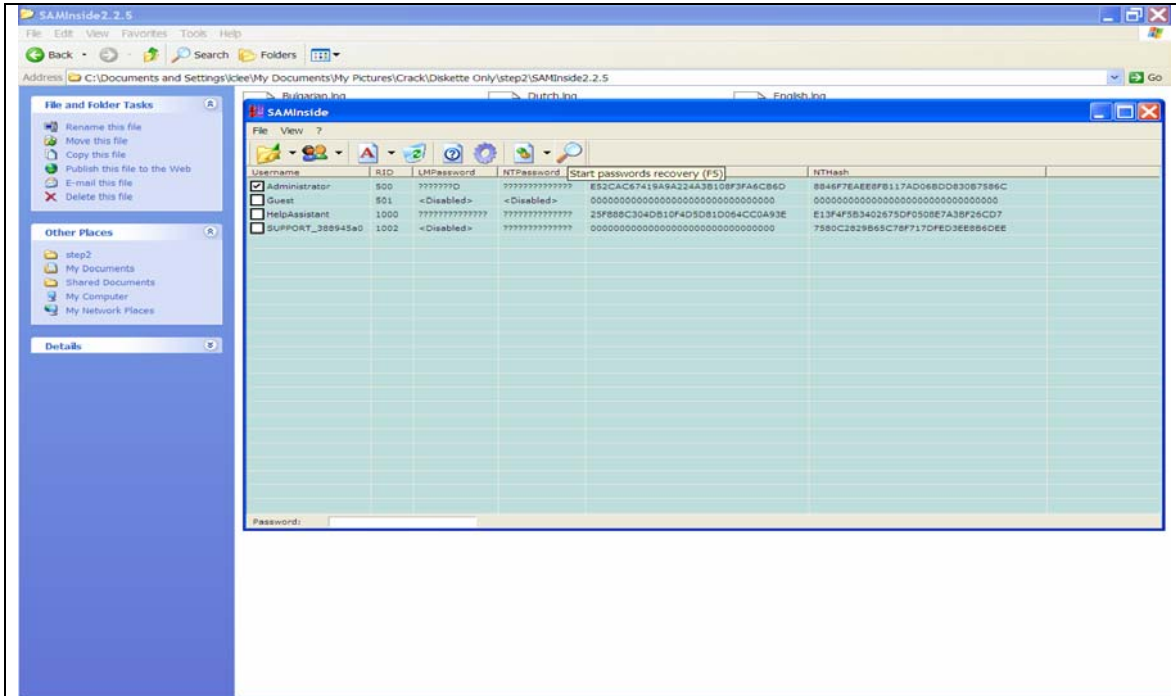


Figure 2.1.9 SAMInside Cracking The Password

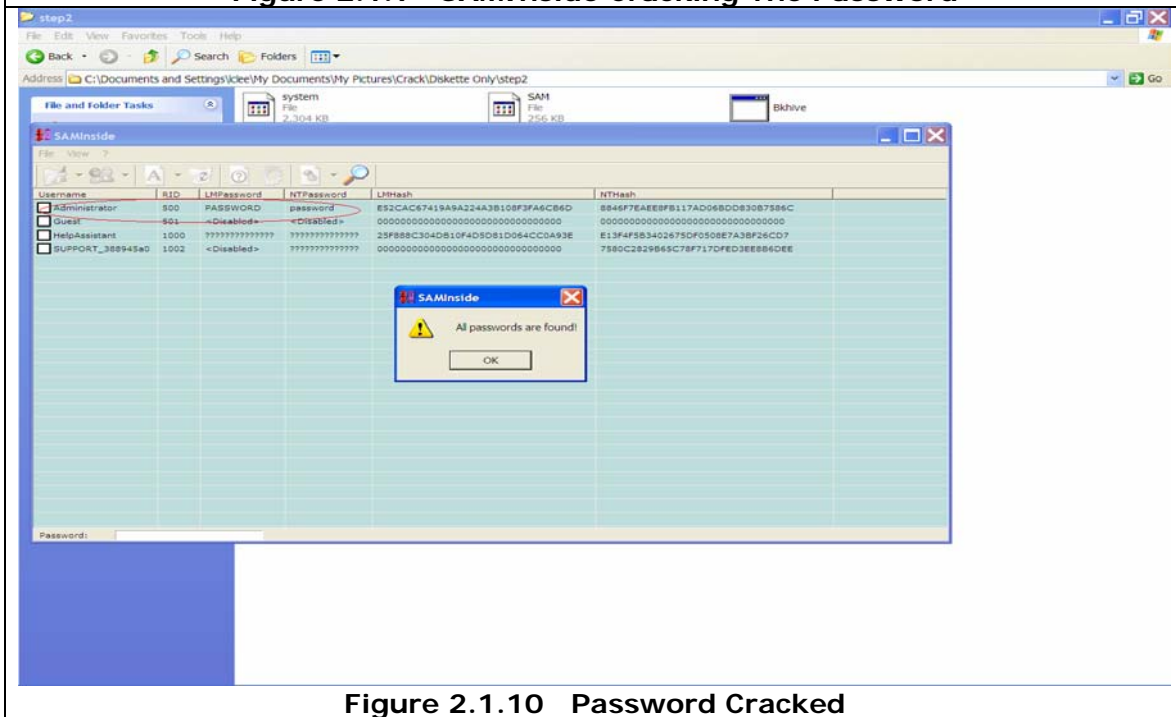


Figure 2.1.10 Password Cracked

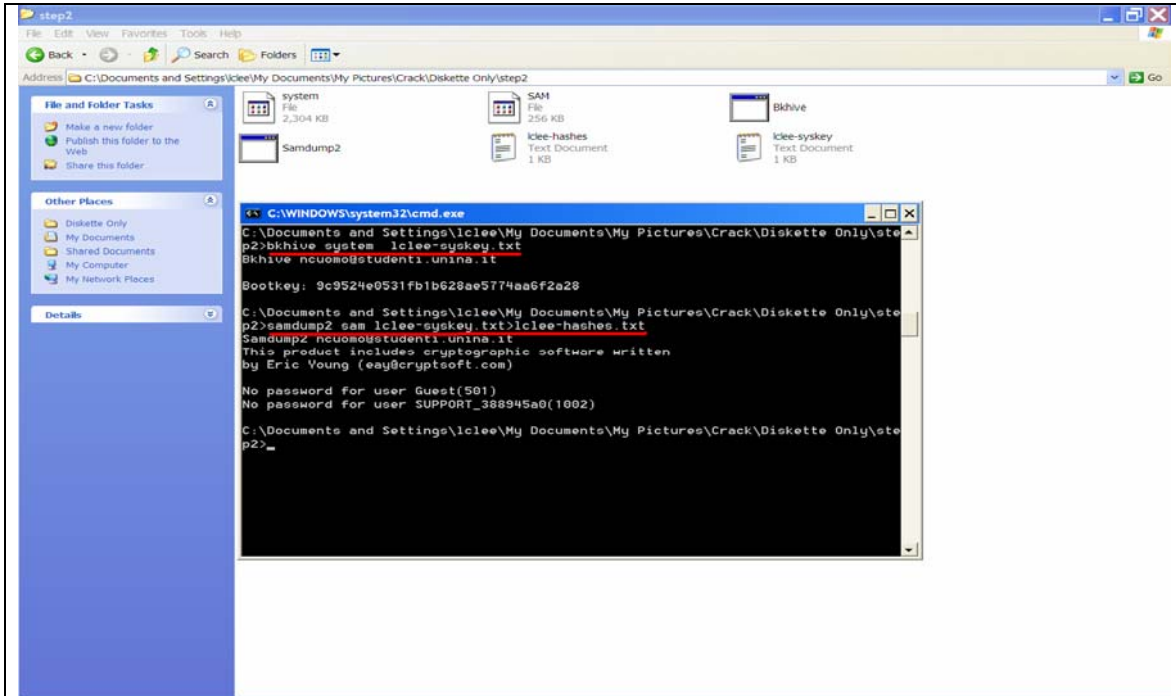


Figure 2.1.11 Remove SYSKEY Protection

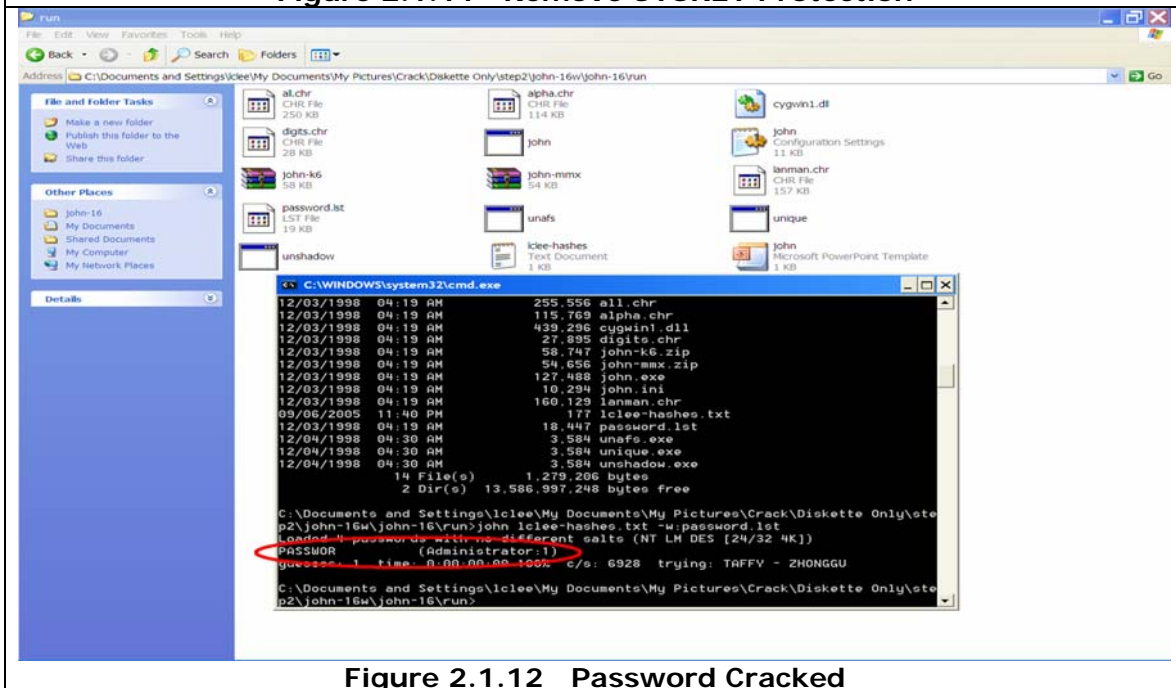


Figure 2.1.12 Password Cracked

2.2 Cracking Windows XP Password with a Auditor Boot CD

There are many Open Source tools can use to remove SysKey protection, crack hashes in the SYSTEM and SAM files. This section will show how script kiddies crack into **Windows XP** using an auditor security collection boot CD. I am using auditor-200605-02-no-ipw2100 [3]. Here are the steps need to take in order to audit/crack local passwords using Auditor CD:

Requirement: USB Pen Drive, Auditor Boot CD

Procedure :

1. Download the Auditor Boot CD ISO and burn it. The URL please refers to [3]. All of the tools in this tutorial come on the Auditor Boot CD.
2. Insert the CD into the target machine, reboot and set the CD-ROM as the first boot device in the BIOS (Refer to **Figure 2.2.1**).
3. Auditor will boot and ask to set the screen resolution. Choose a resolution that monitor and video card will support (Refer to **Figure 2.2.2** and **Figure 2.2.3**).
4. Open a new terminal after auditor finishes booting. From here, script kiddies start to copy, remove SysKey protection, extract the hashes and crack the password.
5. Firstly, use the following command to mount the USB Pen Drive (Refer to **Figure 2.2.4**).

```
# mkdir /mnt/usb  
# mount /dev/sda /mnt/usb  
# cd /mnt/usb
```

6. Mount the local hardisk (**Figure 2.2.5**). Command as below.

```
# fdisk -l  
# mount /dev/hda1
```

7. Samdump2 will be using to grab the system key and put it into the file (lcee-syskey.txt). Now script kiddies have the system key and can use it to undo SysKey protection the SAM and extract the hashes by using bkhive tool (**Figure 2.2.6**). Use the following command.

```
# bkhive-linux /mnt/hda1/WINDOWS/system32/config/system lcee-syskey.txt  
# samdump2-linux /mnt/hda1/WINDOWS/system32/config/sam lcee-syskey.txt  
> lcee-hashes.txt
```

8. Extract the wordlists and use the John the Ripper to crack the hashes (lcee-hashes.txt). Refer to **Figure 2.2.7**.

```
# gunzip -c /opt/auditor/full/share/wordlists/English/English.txt.gz > /mnt/usb/eng.txt
```

```
# john lcee-hashes.txt -w:eng.txt
```

9. Password cracked (Refer to **Figure 2.2.8**)

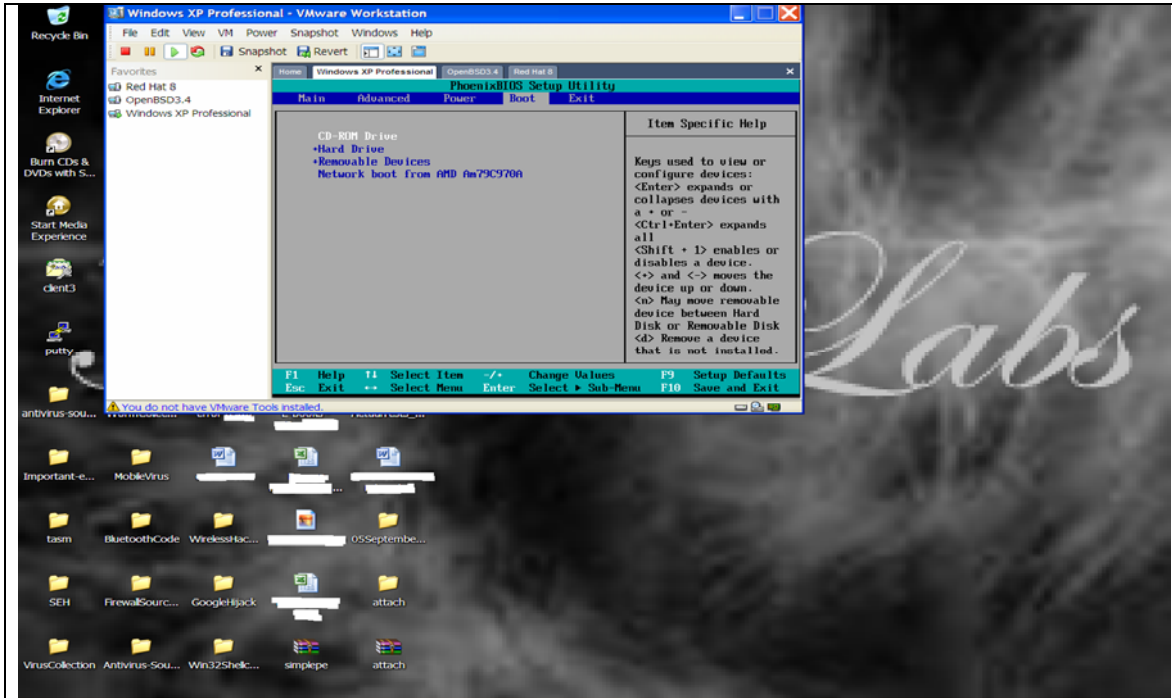


Figure 2.2.1 Reset the Bios Setting

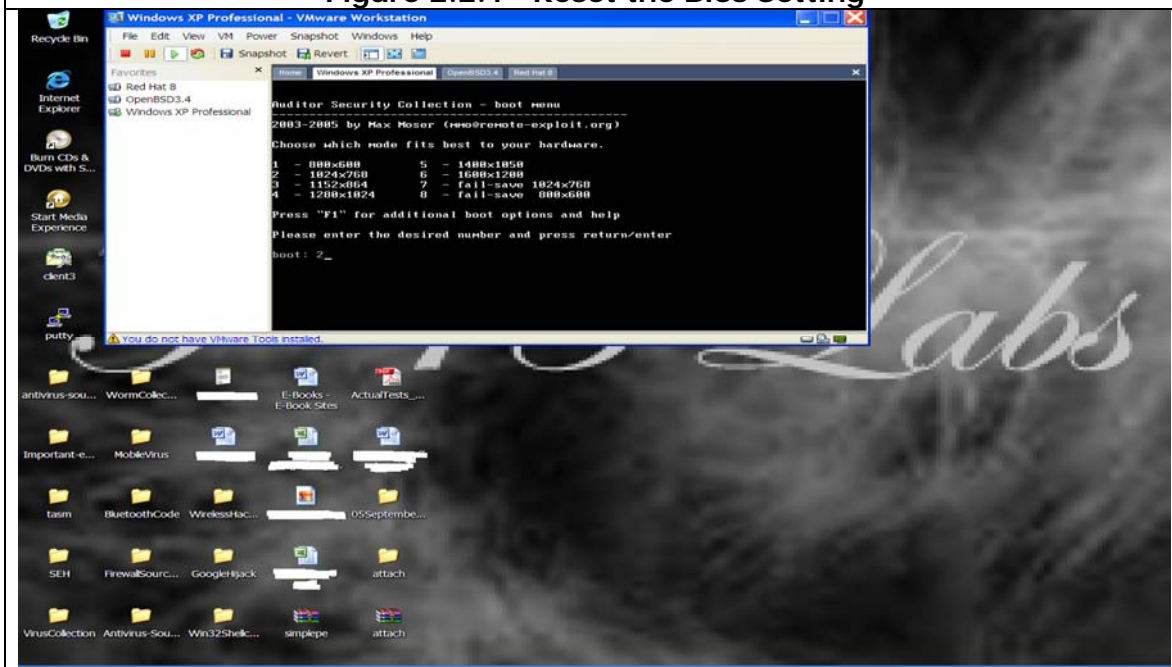


Figure 2.2.2 Set Screen Resolution

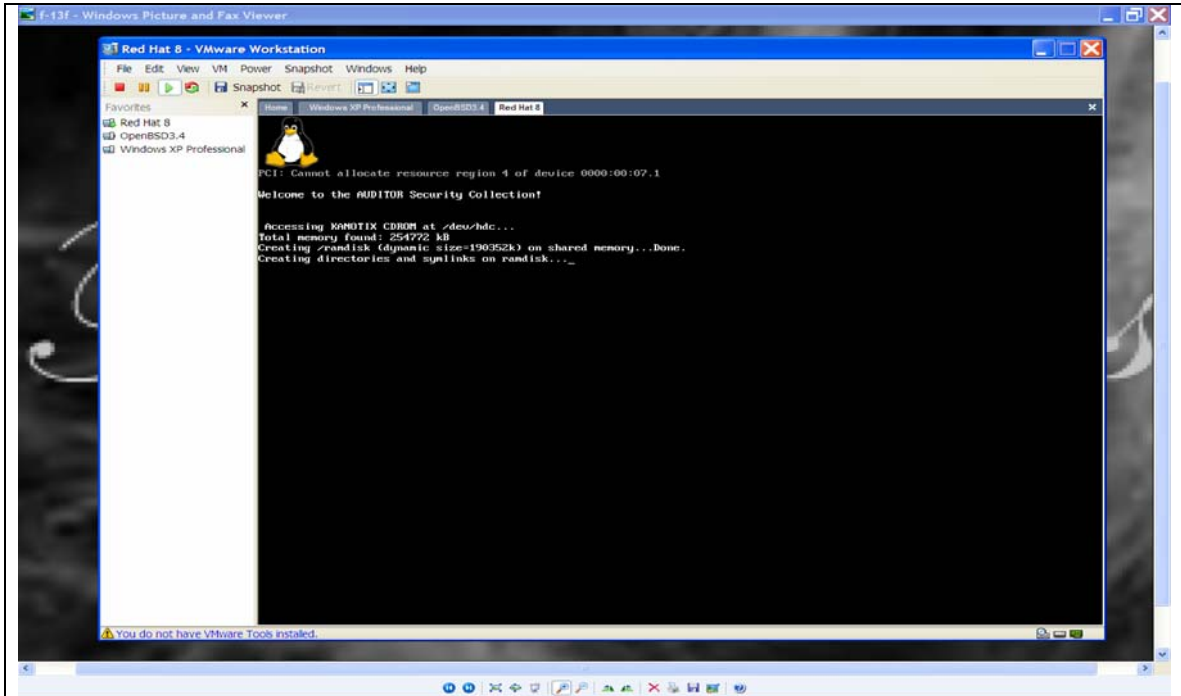


Figure 2.2.3 Boot Auditor CD

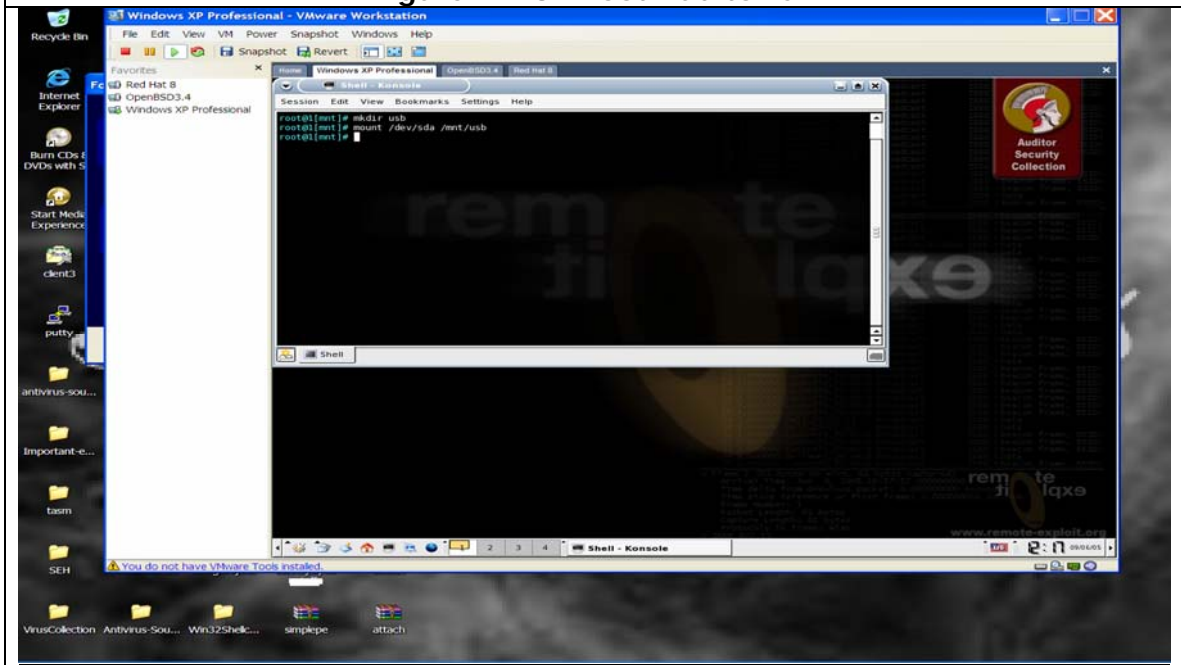


Figure 2.2.4 Mount USB Pen Drive

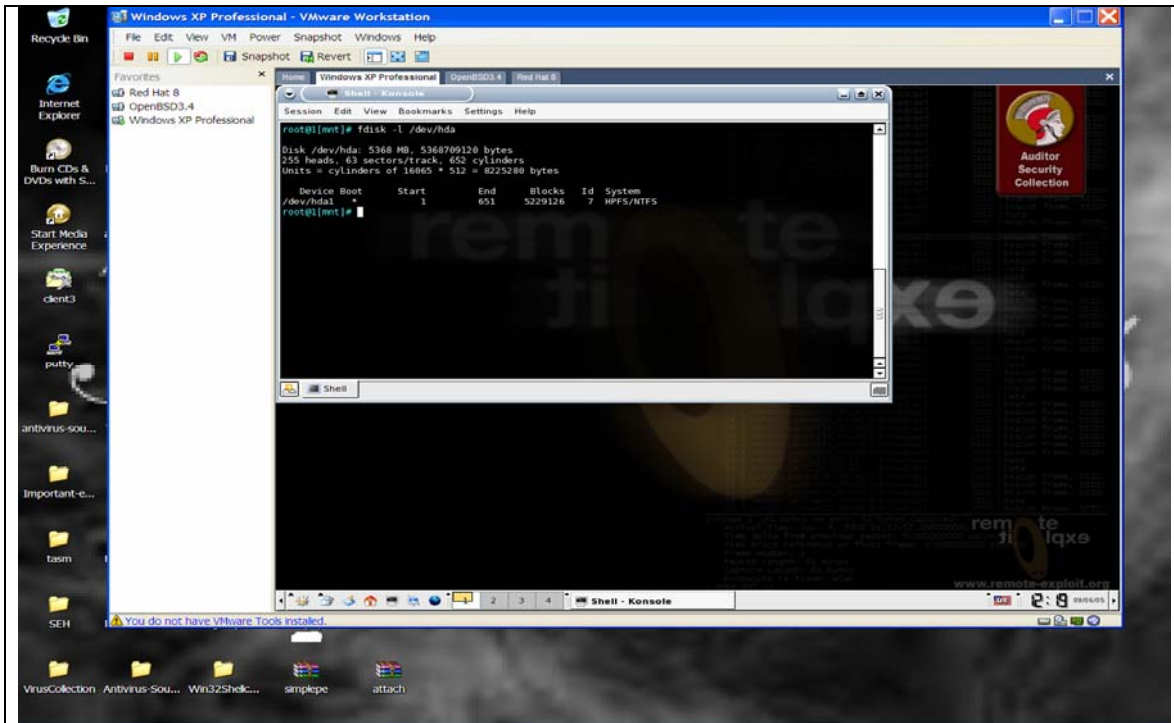


Figure 2.2.5 Check The Partition / Mount The Local Hardisk

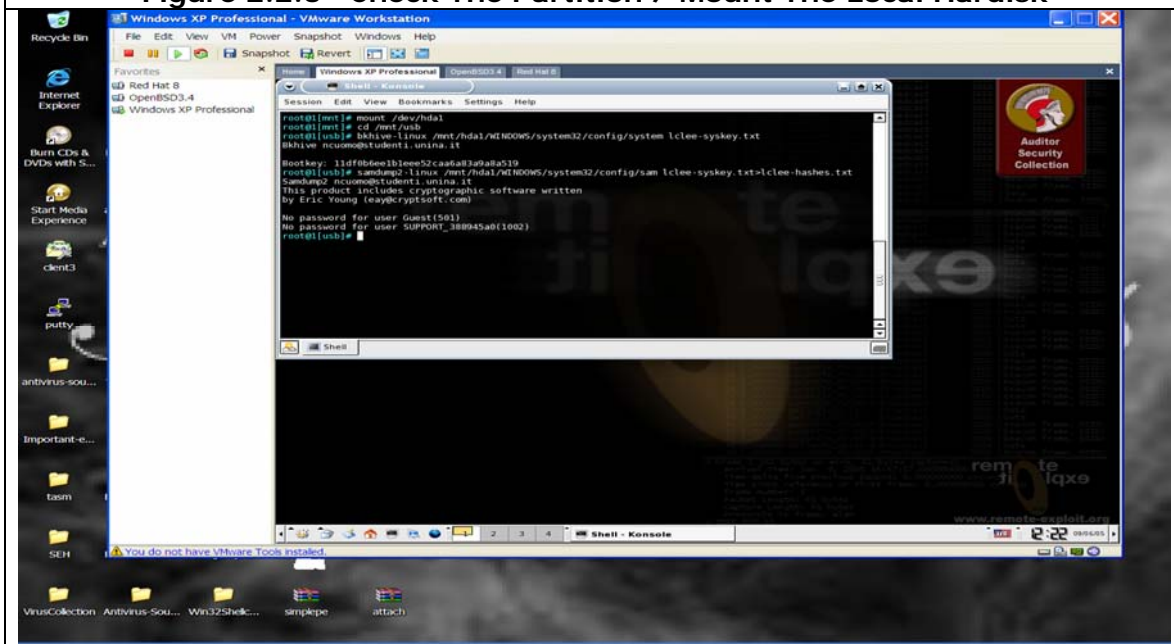


Figure 2.2.6 Remove SysKey Protection And Get Hashes From SAM and SYSTEM files

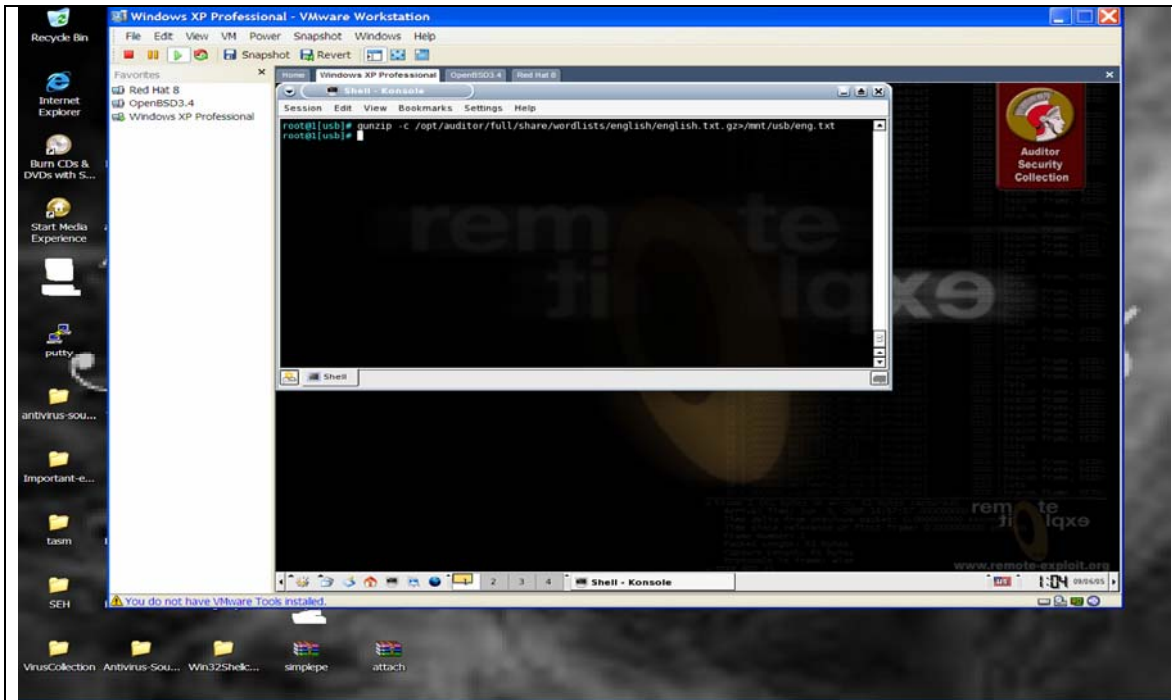


Figure 2.2.7 Unzipped the Wordlist

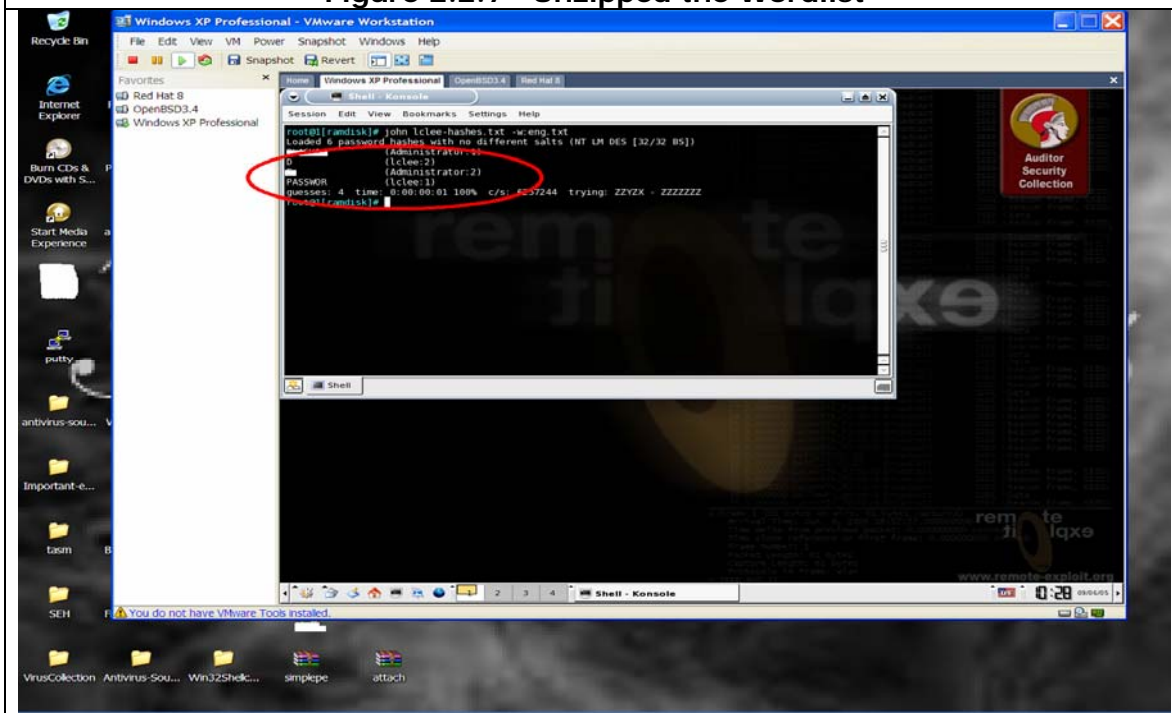


Figure 2.2.8 Password Cracked

3.0 Linux

This section will look into password cracking on a Linux machine. The main goal is to see how the weak passwords of root / users are easy to crack by script kiddie.

3.1 Cracking Linux Password with a Auditor Boot CD

I am going to use the Auditor Boot CD again. To get a password file from a system can be very easy. Just put an Auditor Boot CD [3] in the system and boot up. Detail as below.

Requirement: USB Pen Drive, Auditor Boot CD

Procedure :

1. Download the Auditor Boot CD ISO and burn it. The URL please refers to [3]. All of the tools in this tutorial come on the Auditor Boot CD.
2. Insert the CD into the target machine, reboot and set the CD-ROM as the first boot device in the BIOS (Refer to **Figure 3.1.1**).
3. Auditor will boot and ask to set the screen resolution. Choose a resolution that monitor and video card will support (Refer to **Figure 3.1.2** and **Figure 3.1.3**).
4. Open a new terminal after auditor finishes booting. From here, script kiddies start to copy and crack the password.
5. Firstly, use the following command to mount the USB Pen Drive (Refer to **Figure 3.1.4**).

```
# mkdir /mnt/usb  
# mount /dev/sda /mnt/usb  
# cd /mnt/usb
```

6. Mount the local hardisk (**Figure 3.1.5**). Command as below.

```
# fdisk -l  
# mount /dev/hda1
```

7. Copy the Linux password and shadow file into USB Pen Drive. Run the command as below. Refer to **Figure 3.1.6**.
cp /~PATH~/etc/passwd /mnt/usb/password

```
# cp /~PATH~/etc/shadow /mnt/usb/shadow
```

10. Extract the wordlists and use the John the Ripper to crack the hashes (lcleehashes.txt). Refer to **Figure 3.1.7**.

```
# gunzip -c /opt/auditor/full/share/wordlists/English/English.txt.gz > /mnt/usb/eng.txt
```

```
# john shadow -w:eng.txt
```

11. Password cracked (Refer to **Figure 3.1.8**)

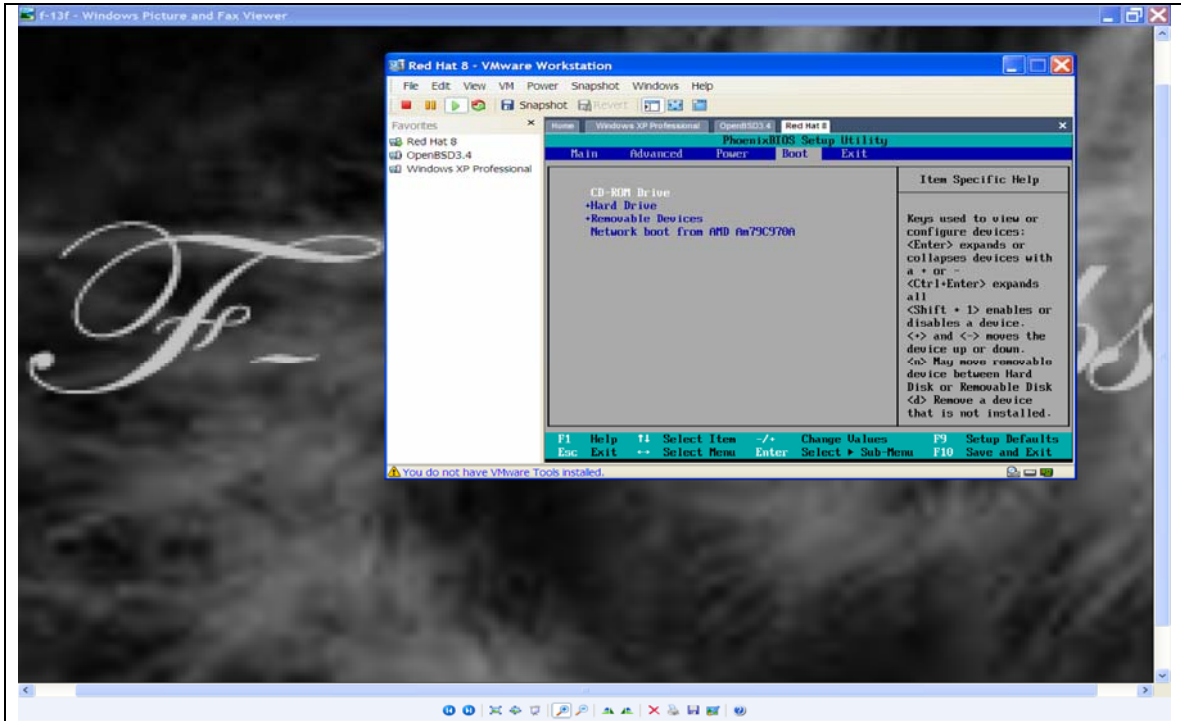


Figure 3.1.1 Reset the Bios Setting

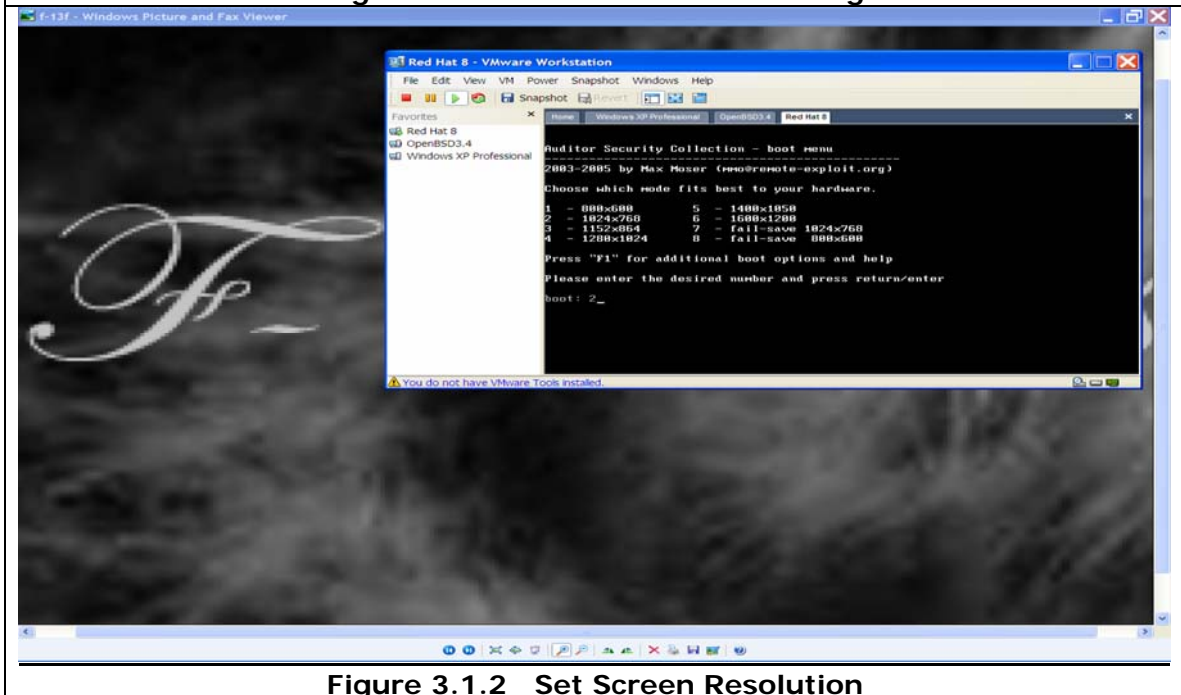


Figure 3.1.2 Set Screen Resolution

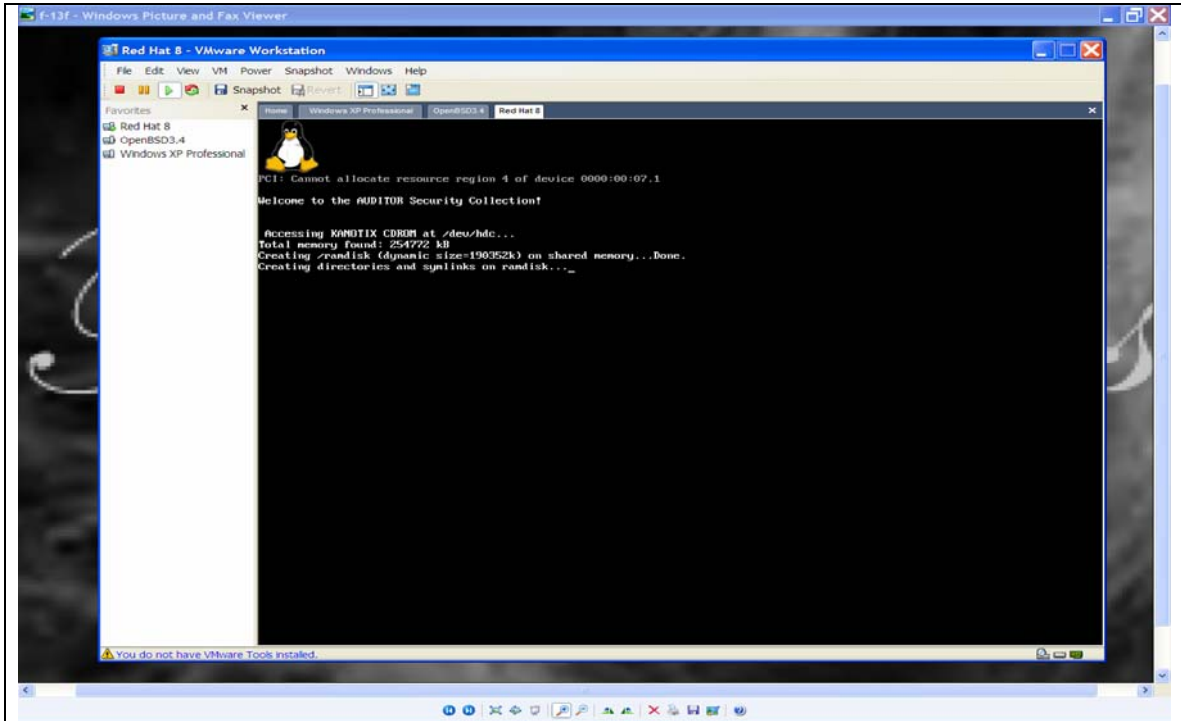


Figure 3.1.3 Boot Auditor CD

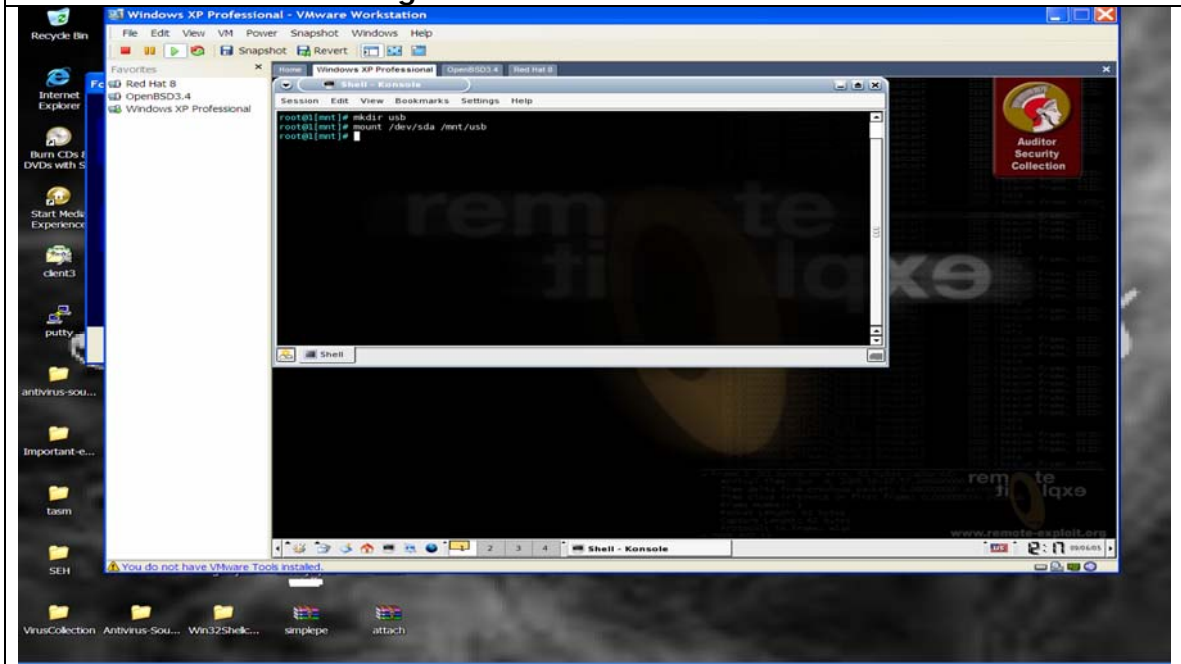


Figure 3.1.4 Mount USB Pen Drive

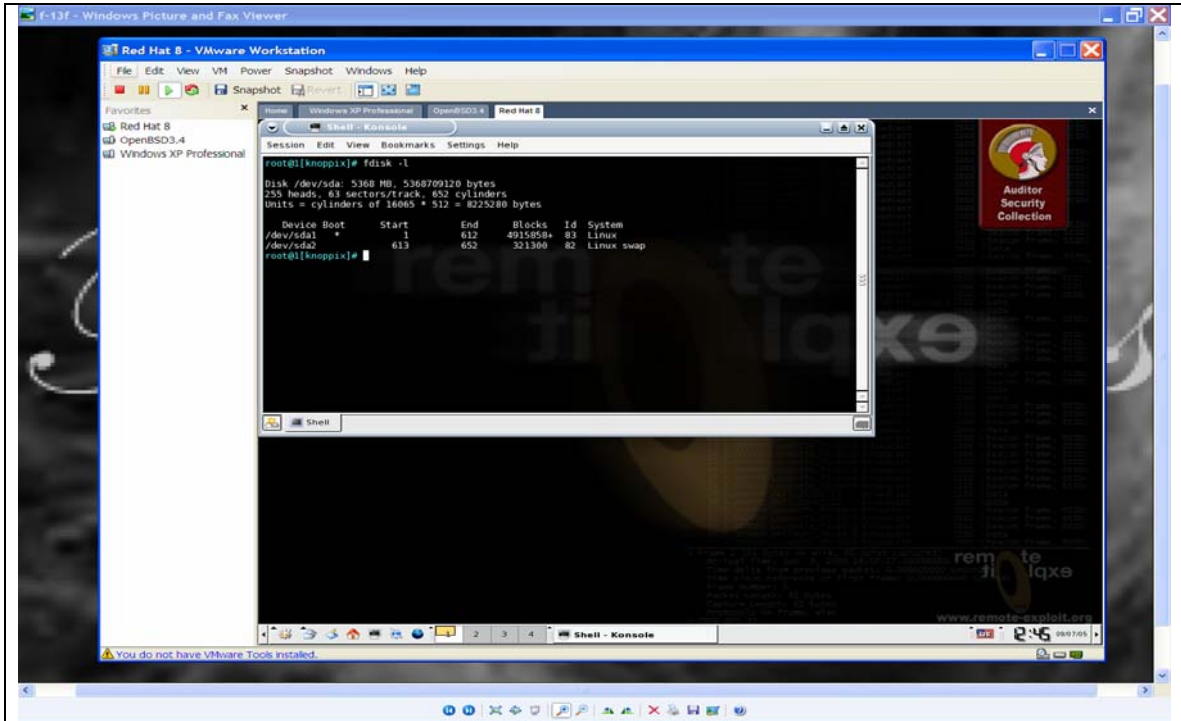


Figure 3.1.5 Check The Partition / Mount Local Hardisk

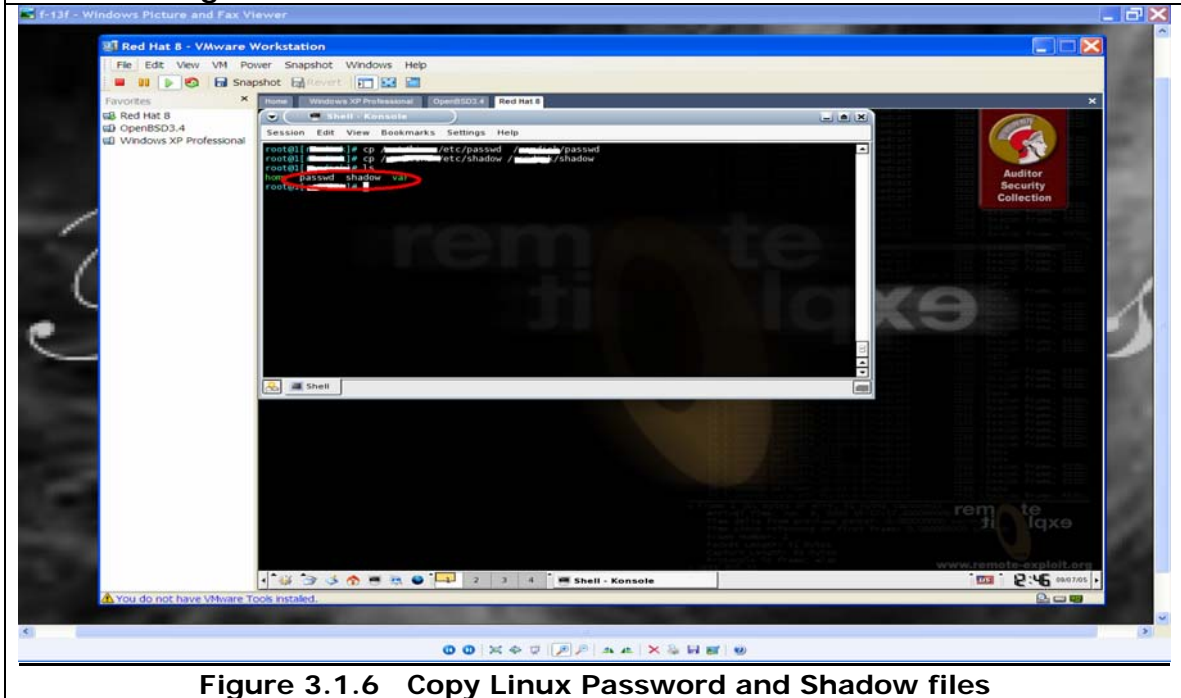


Figure 3.1.6 Copy Linux Password and Shadow files

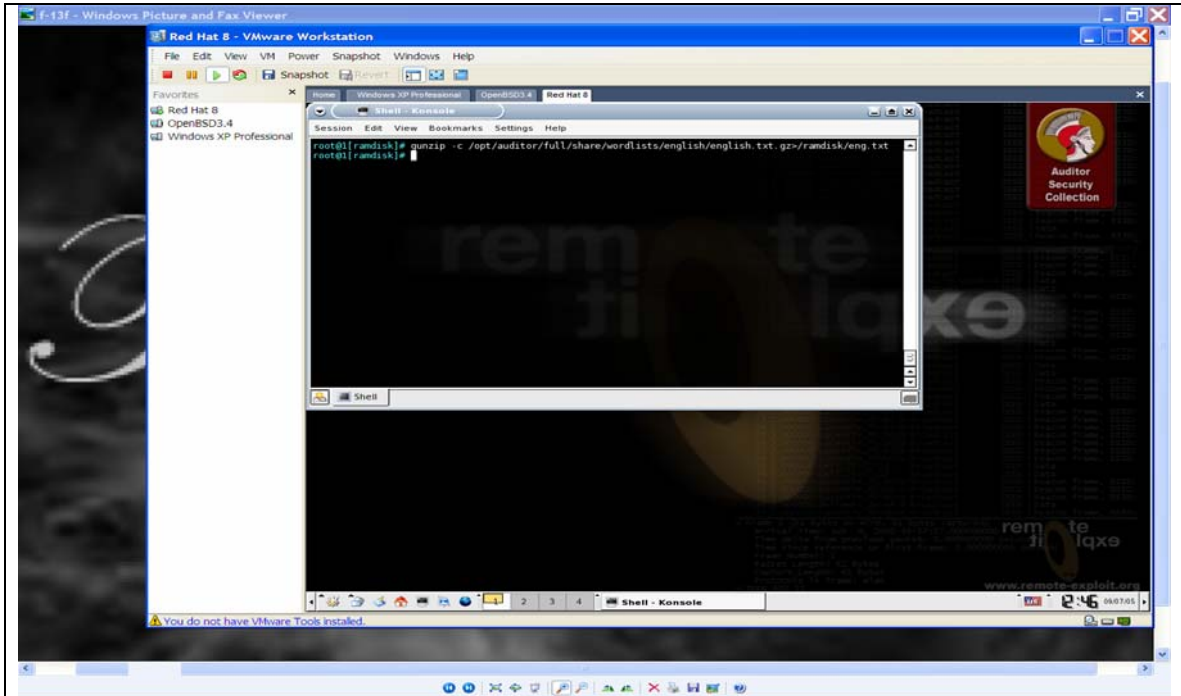


Figure 3.1.7 Unzipped the Wordlist

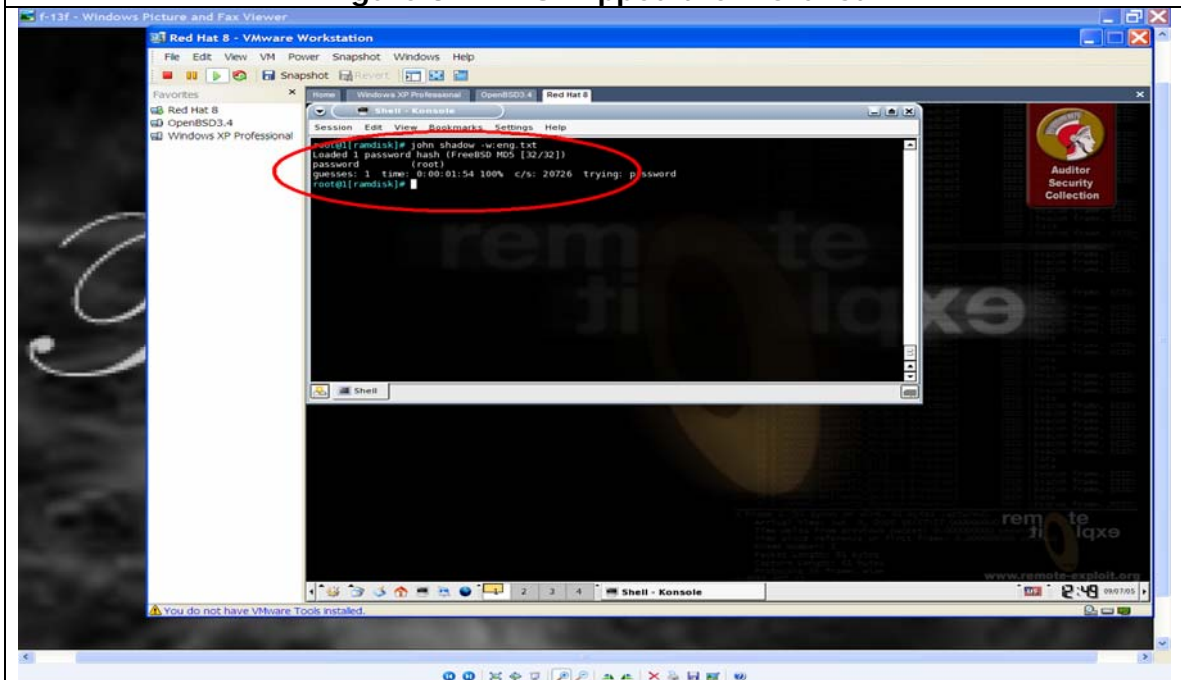


Figure 3.1.8 Password Cracked

3.2 Cracking Linux Password With Linux Rescue CD

The Linux rescue CD allows user to boot into rescue mode where have a mini Linux can be use to fix problems in installed Linux. But, the script kiddie take advantage of this utilities....In this section, I will use Fedora Rescue CD. Please note that this method will change the root user password.

Requirement: FC4 Rescue CD

Procedure :

1. Download the FC4Rescue CD ISO and burn it. The URL please refers to [4].
2. Insert the CD into the target machine, reboot and set the CD-ROM as the first boot device in the BIOS (Refer to **Figure 3.2.1**).
3. Enter into Linux Rescue Mode by entering the following command in boot screen (**Figure 3.2.2**).

```
# linux rescue
```

4. Boot and wait until sh prompt is reached (Refer to **Figure 3.2.3**, **Figure 3.2.4**). Enter the following commands to change root password.

```
# chroot /mnt/sysimage  
# passwd
```

5. Root user password changed (**Figure 3.2.5**).

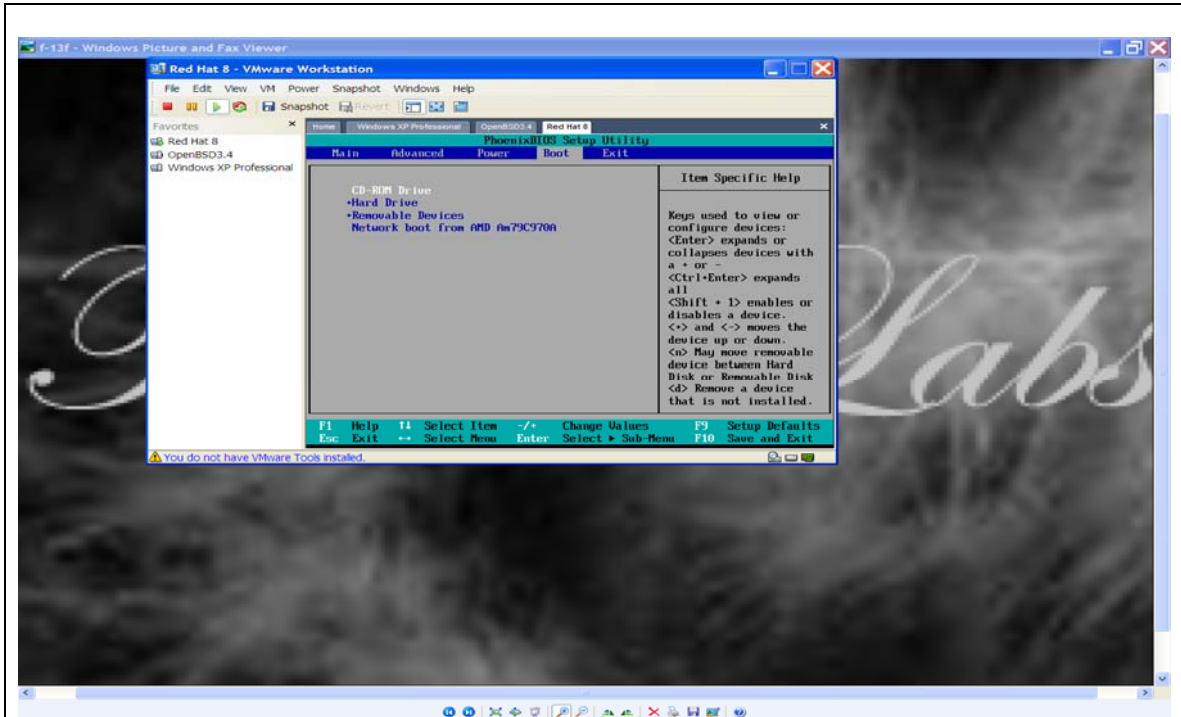


Figure 3.2.1 Reset The BIOS Setting

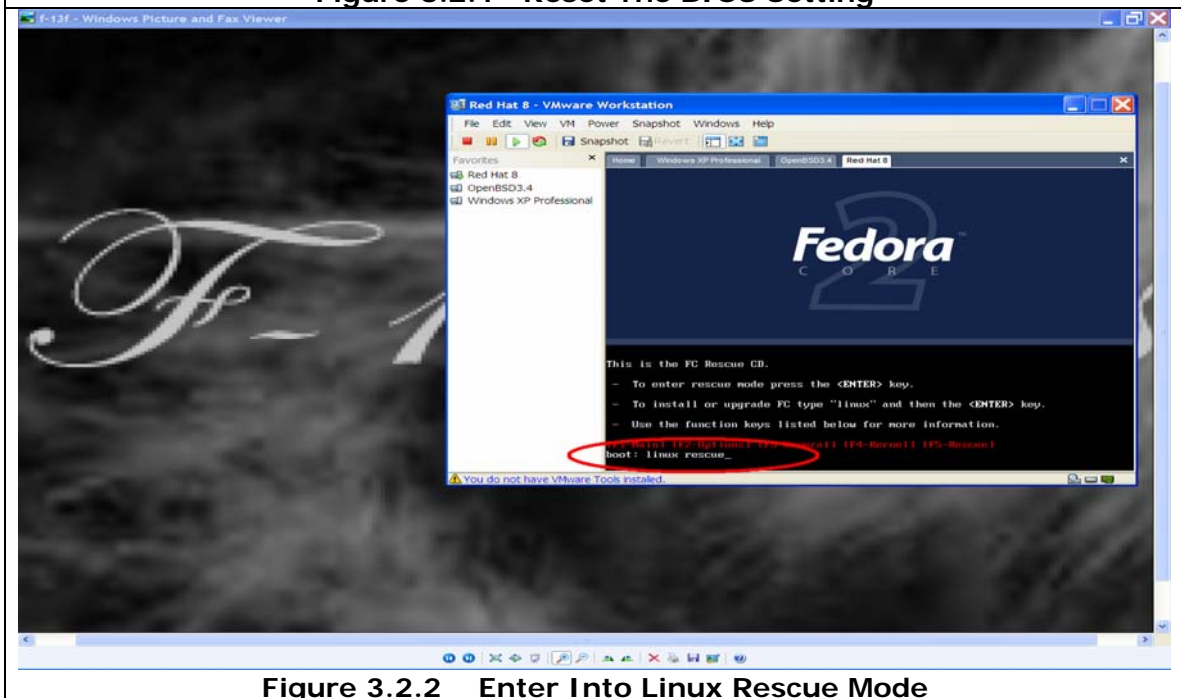


Figure 3.2.2 Enter Into Linux Rescue Mode

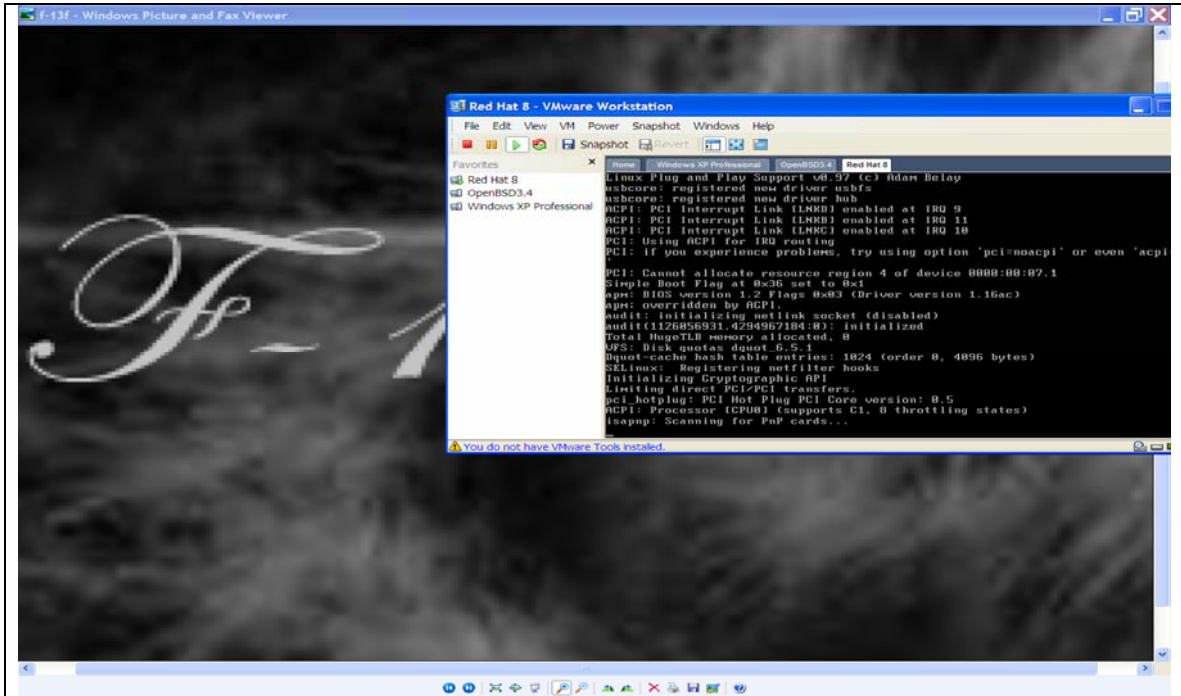


Figure 3.2.3 Boot The Fedora Rescue CD

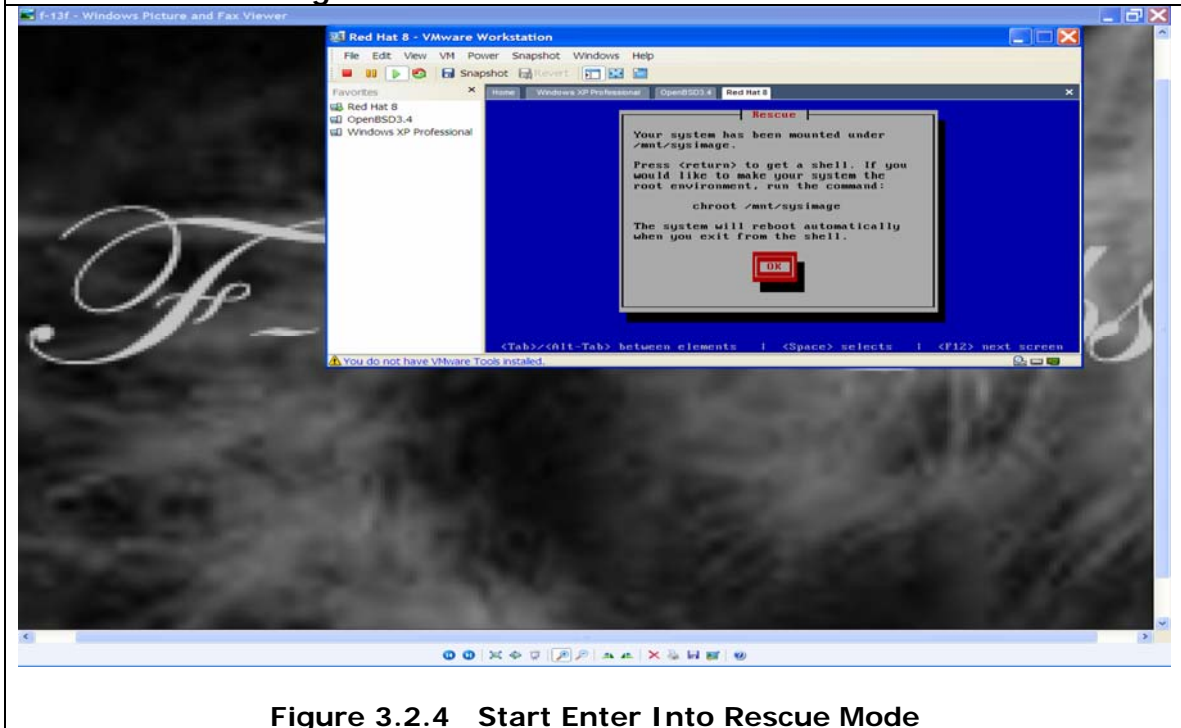


Figure 3.2.4 Start Enter Into Rescue Mode

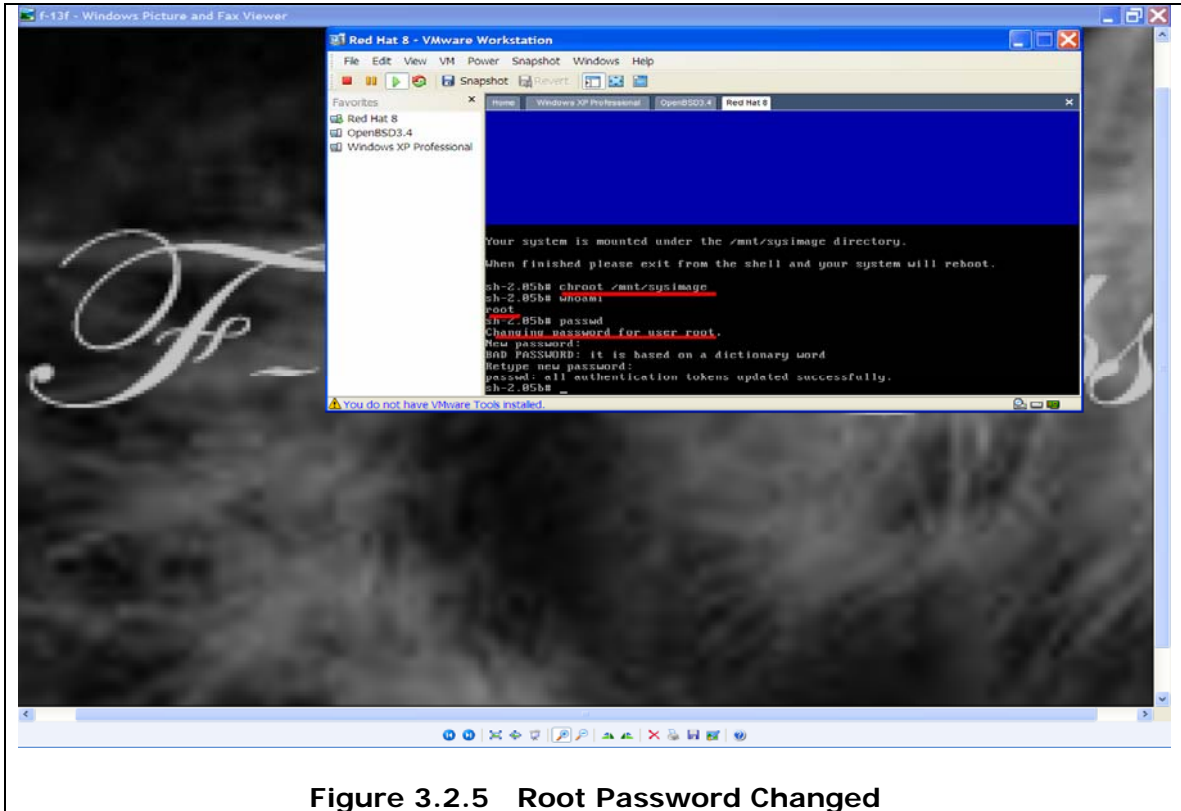


Figure 3.2.5 Root Password Changed

4.0 Cracking Bios Password

There are a few things you can do to make it harder for script kiddie to crack local Administrator/root password. From the Cracking Windows and Linux sections, script kiddie will most likely have to get into the BIOS to set it to boot from the CD-ROM or Diskette. So, setting up a BIOS password will help keep script kiddie from using Auditor CD or Diskette (Refer to **Figure 4.0.1**). This section will show you how script kiddie bypass the BIOS authentication and reset the BIOS setting. Actually, there were a lot of tutorial can get from internet. Try google them.....

Note: Two type of BIOS security setting, (1) BIOS Setup Password Lock (2) System Password Lock

4.1 Cracking BIOS I

Please note that this method will only work if the target machine has **default setting boot from Floppy drive**.

Requirement: Blank Floppy 1.44M Disk

Procedure :

1. Create the MS-DOS Startup Disk. Please refer to procedure (1) in Cracking Windows XP Password with a Bootable Floppy Disk section.
2. Copy the BIOS password recovery tool into startup disk. In this section, I will use **CmosPwd.exe** to flash a password protected BIOS.
 - Cmospwd.exe
 - Cwsdstub.exe
 - Cwsdpmi.exe
 - Cwsparam.exe
 - Cwsdpr0.exe
3. Insert the floppy in the target machine and start boot the system (**Figure 4.1.1**).
4. Remember to disable the swap of swapfile (cwsdpmi.swp) with the following command (**Figure 4.1.2**).

```
A:\>cwsdpmi -s
```
5. Run the BIOS password recovery tool, **cmospwd.exe**. Kill the BIOS password with the following command (**Figure 4.1.3**).

```
A:\>cmospwd.exe /k
```

6. Reboot the target machine. Now, the script kiddie successful enter in BIOS setup screen (**Figure 4.1.4** and **Figure 4.1.5**).

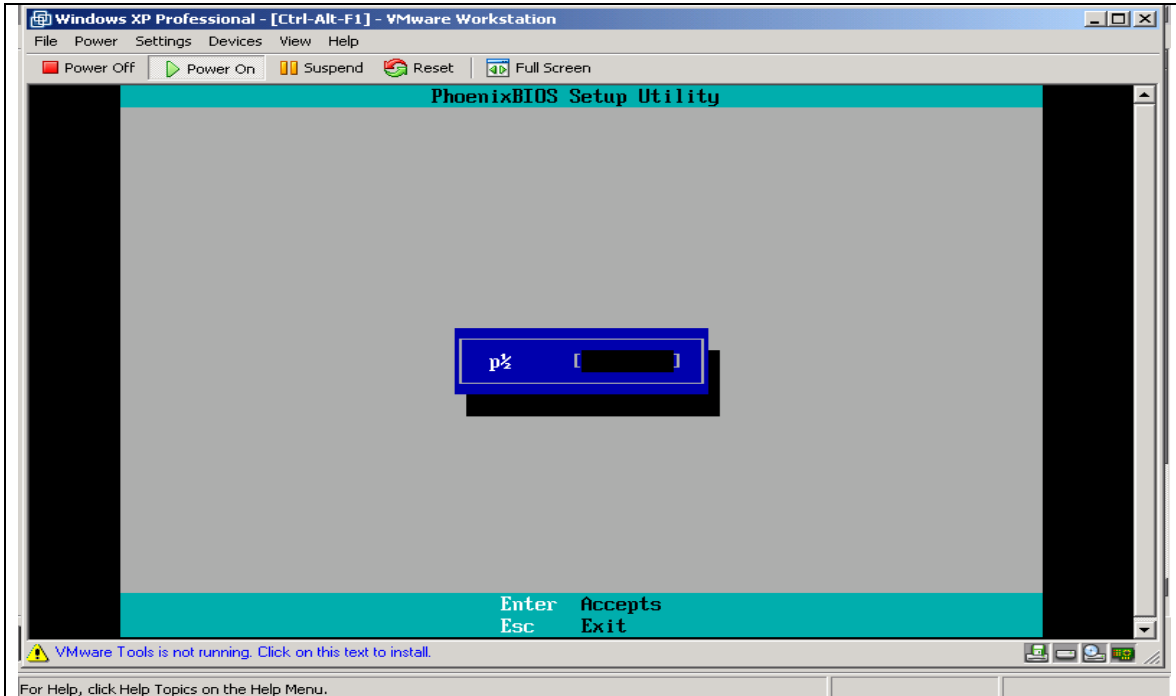


Figure 4.0.1 BIOS Password Protection

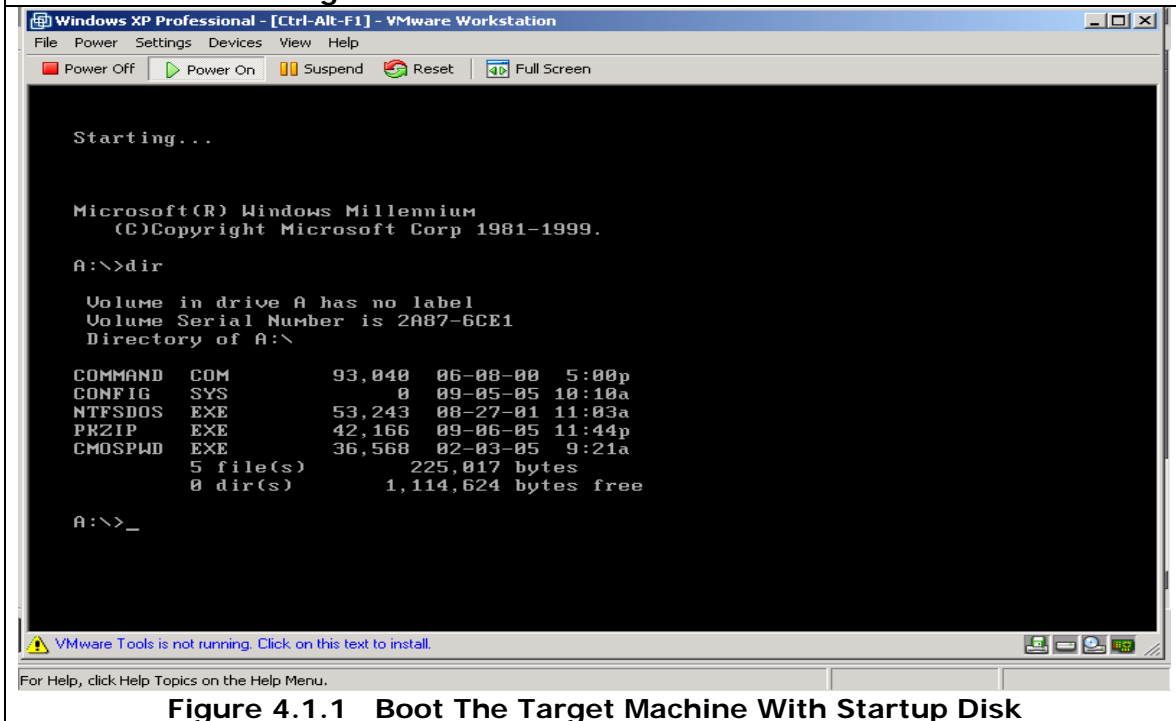


Figure 4.1.1 Boot The Target Machine With Startup Disk

```

Toshiba                [0MQWRTW][EEDD]
Zenith AMI Supervisor/User  [?] []
A:\>
A:\>
A:\>dir

Volume in drive A has no label
Volume Serial Number is 2A87-6CE1
Directory of A:\

COMMAND  COM           93,040  06-08-00  5:00p
CONFIG   SYS              0  09-05-05  10:10a
NTFSDOS  EXE          53,243  08-27-01  11:03a
PKZIP    EXE          42,166  09-06-05  11:44p
CMOSPWD  EXE          36,568  02-03-05  9:21a
CWSPARAM EXE          13,124  09-09-05  12:57a
CWSDPR0  EXE          19,335  09-09-05  12:57a
CWSDPMI  EXE          20,125  09-09-05  12:57a
      8 file(s)          277,601 bytes
      0 dir(s)          1,061,376 bytes free

A:\>cwsdpmi -s
CWSDPMI U0.90+ (r5) Copyright (C) 2000 CW Sandmann  ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY

A:\>_

```

Figure 4.1.2 Disable The Swap Of cwsdpmi.swp

```

CONFIG   SYS              0  09-05-05  10:10a
NTFSDOS  EXE          53,243  08-27-01  11:03a
PKZIP    EXE          42,166  09-06-05  11:44p
CMOSPWD  EXE          36,568  02-03-05  9:21a
CWSPARAM EXE          13,124  09-09-05  12:57a
CWSDPR0  EXE          19,335  09-09-05  12:57a
CWSDPMI  EXE          20,125  09-09-05  12:57a
      8 file(s)          277,601 bytes
      0 dir(s)          1,061,376 bytes free

A:\>cwsdpmi -s
CWSDPMI U0.90+ (r5) Copyright (C) 2000 CW Sandmann  ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY

A:\>cmospwd /k

CmosPwd - BIOS Cracker 4.5, February 2005, Copyright 1996-2005
GRENIER Christophe, grenier@cgsecurity.org
http://www.cgsecurity.org/
Warning: if the password is stored in an eeprom (laptop/notebook), the password
won't be erased

1 - Kill CMOS
2 - Kill CMOS (try to keep date and time)
0 - Abort
Choice : 1_

```

Figure 4.1.3 Kill The BIOS Password

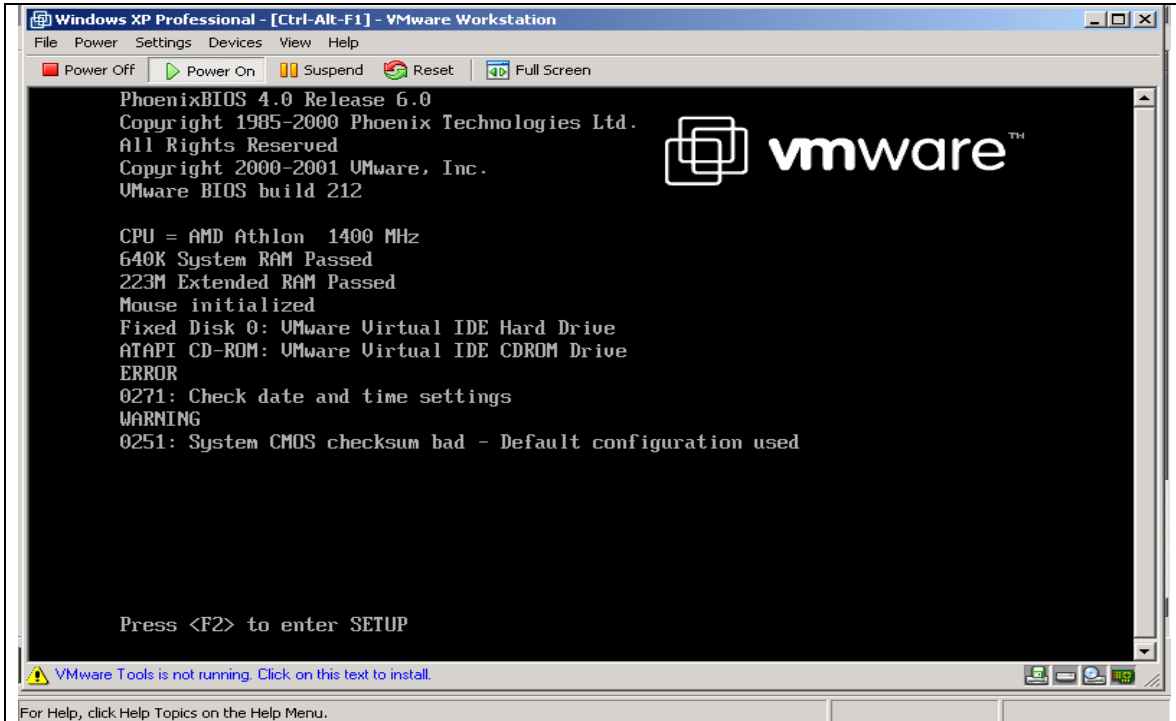


Figure 4.1.4 Reboot The Target Machine

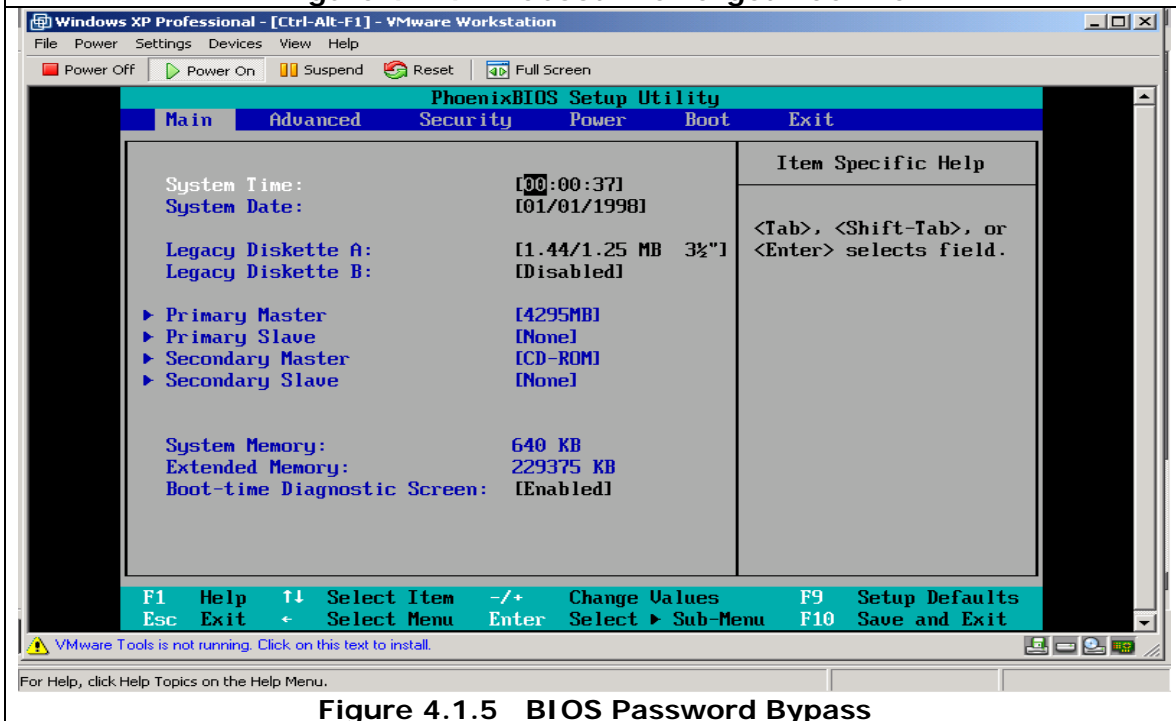


Figure 4.1.5 BIOS Password Bypass

4.2 Cracking BIOS II

This section is explain that how script kiddie to bypass the target machine if target machine has BIOS password protection and default disable booting from any other devices (CD-ROM and Floppy).

Requirement: Null

Procedure :

1. The script kiddie can flash a password protected BIOS with pull out the CMOS battery.
2. The CMOS settings on most systems are buffered by a small battery that is attached to the motherboard. If the script kiddie unplug the PC and remove the battery for 10-15 minutes, the CMOS may reset itself and the password should be blank.

Notes:

- Please be sure familiar with manually reconfiguring the BIOS setting
- Removing the battery to reset the BIOS blank password will not work for all PC. IBM Thinkpad laptops lock the hard drive as well as the BIOS when the password is set. So, if the users forget the BIOS password and try to flash the BIOS setting may not be able to access the drive and it will remain locked.

5.0 Suggestion

Making more secure password is the great way to get rid of these cracking methods. Using capital letters combined with non-capital letters is a big improvement. Also using #\$\$% in a password help. Besides that, rotating a password every month or so is also good for security.

6.0 Credit

- Many thanks go to F-13 Labs members, Ok, ok, haldis, please don't laugh on me because of my "manual". I knew its old cracking method.
- Jimmy_low, any comments just send to my mailbox. You are the man in cracking password..... ☺. How is core impact exploit machine...?
- Credit to Yanny, your tutorial is the best. I use pkzip.exe, this software can save more space in the diskette.

Note: If want to get the tools and try by your own, please contact me. Thanks....

7.0 References and Further Research:

1. <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/310105>
2. <http://www.insidepro.com/eng/saminside.shtml>
3. http://new.remote-exploit.org/index.php/Auditor_mirrors
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