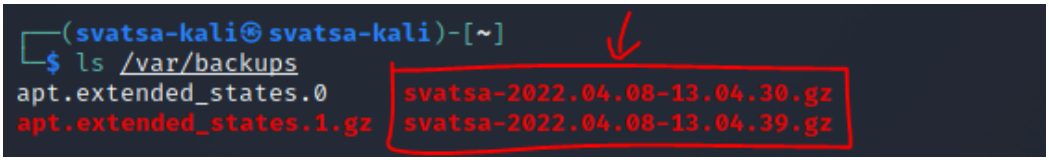
CYSE 270: Linux System for Cybersecurity

Assignment-9

Task A - Backup your system (Using crontab) [100 points]

Scenario: Performing system backup can be time-consuming, and the process is often overlooked. For this scenario,

1. (10 Points) Create a new user **Alice (with home directory**) and
2. (50 Points) Write a shell script that backups Alice's home directory by creating a tar file (tape archive), using the following steps:
    i. Take 2 inputs with their values- your **MIDAS** name and **current date (for example, midas=svatsa)**.
    ii. Create a variable named as **filename** that should be assigned the value as **MIDAS-date** (example output after executing the script would be like, svatsa-2021.3.17-01.16.430).
    iii. Using **tar** command, create a tape archive for Alice's home directory (/home/Alice) and the **filename** created above (in step-2-ii). (Please learn about tar command in Linux for its usage)
    b. Move the tape archive file/tar file (created in step 2-iii) to /var/backups/ directory using correct command in linux.
    c. To optimize the disk usage, pick a compression algorithm (bz2, gzip, or xv) to compress the tar file you created in /var/backups/ in the previous step-2b.
3. (30 Points) **Create a crontab file to keep the scheduled task running for 3 minutes**, then **check the contents in the /var/backups** directory. Your output should be look similar to the following:



4. (10 Points) **Cancel** the crontab jobs.

TASK B: SYSTEM CLEANUP (EXTRA CREDIT) [20 Points]

Scenario: In the above scenario, your system disk will be filled up eventually without cleaning up the old backups. Therefore, in this optional task, create a script that checks the number of backups you created in Task A. If the number of the backup file is more than a pre-defined threshold, the script will delete the old archives to maintain the backups under a reasonable size.

This script should do the following:

1. Count the number of backups created in Task A and determine if this number is larger than 3.
2. Nothing should happen if the number of backups is less than the threshold, 3.
3. If more backup archives are detected, calculate the number of backups to delete. Then delete the old archives.

Note: As the script needs to write contents in the "/var/backups" folder, which is owned by root, you should consider the permission issue properly. (Using **sudo** to create crontab file)

Reference: How to Format Date for Display or Use In a Shell Script- https://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/linux-unix-formatting-dates-for-display/

Reference: How to append date timestamp to filename- https://crunchify.com/shell-script-append-timestamp-to-file-name/