



# WTF is Penetration Testing

# Who are we?

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## **Scott Sutherland**

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# Demo

## Common Escalation Paths:

- Enumerate live systems and open ports with nmap
- Brute force database account with SQLPingv3
- Get a shell on the database server with the mssql\_payload Metasploit module
- Dump domain admin passwords in clear text with mimikatz
- Log into high value database to access data
- Log into domain controller to find and access everything else

# Overview

- What is a penetration test?
- Why do companies pay for them?
- Types of penetration testing
- What are the rules of engagement?
- Who does penetration testing?
- What skills do they have?
- What tools do they use?
- Penetration testing as a Career
- Questions



What is a Penetration Test?



# What is Penetration Testing?

## Our Definition:

“The process of evaluating ***systems***, ***applications***, and ***protocols*** with the intent of identifying vulnerabilities *usually* from the perspective of an unprivileged or anonymous user to **determine potential real world impacts...**”

“...legally and under contract”



# What is Penetration Testing?

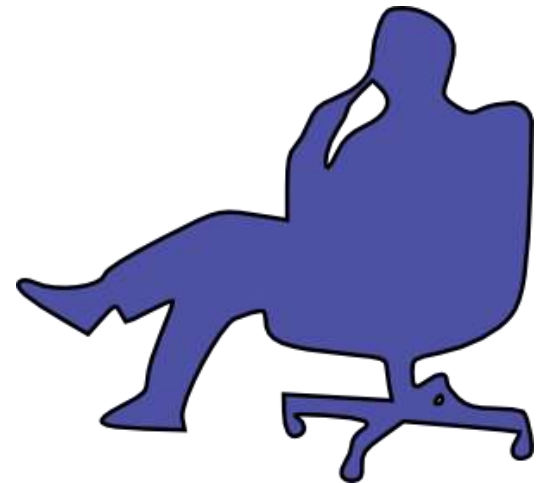
In short...

# What is Penetration Testing?

...we try to break into stuff  
before the bad guys do



Why do companies buy  
Penetration Tests?

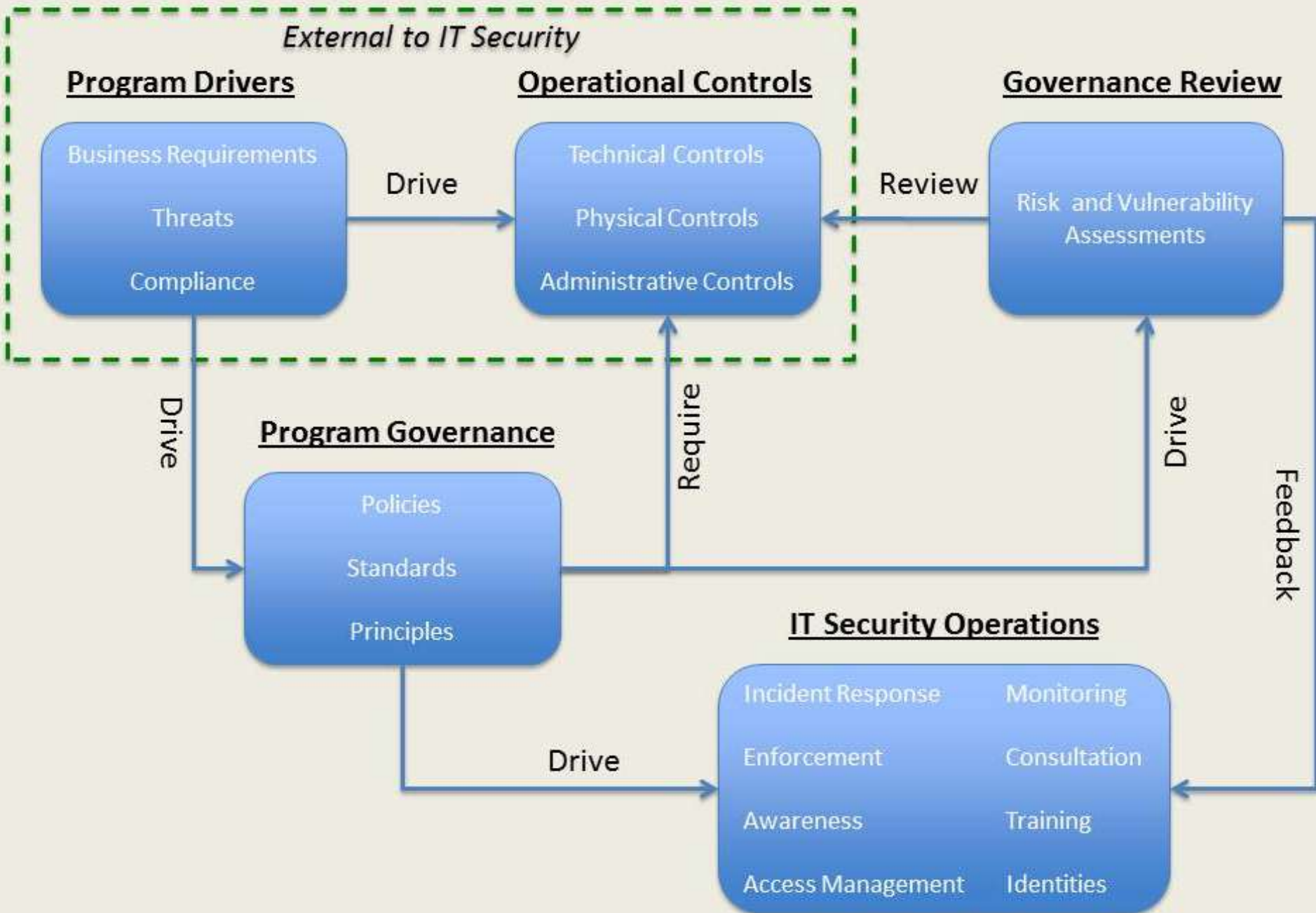


# Why do companies buy pentests?

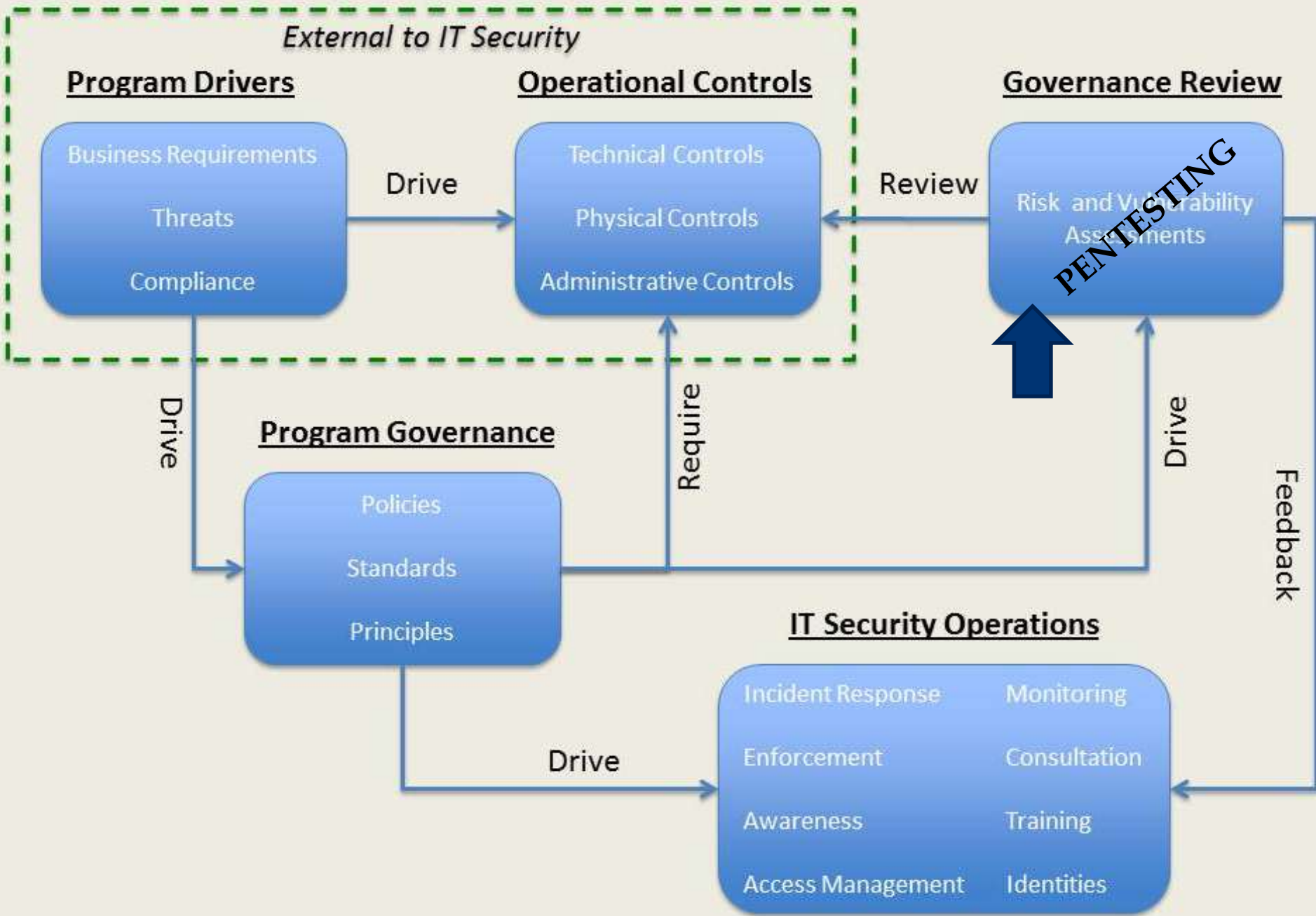
- Meet compliance requirements
- Evaluate risks associated with an acquisition or partnership
- Validate preventative controls
- Validate detective controls
- Prioritize internal security initiatives
- Proactively prevent breaches

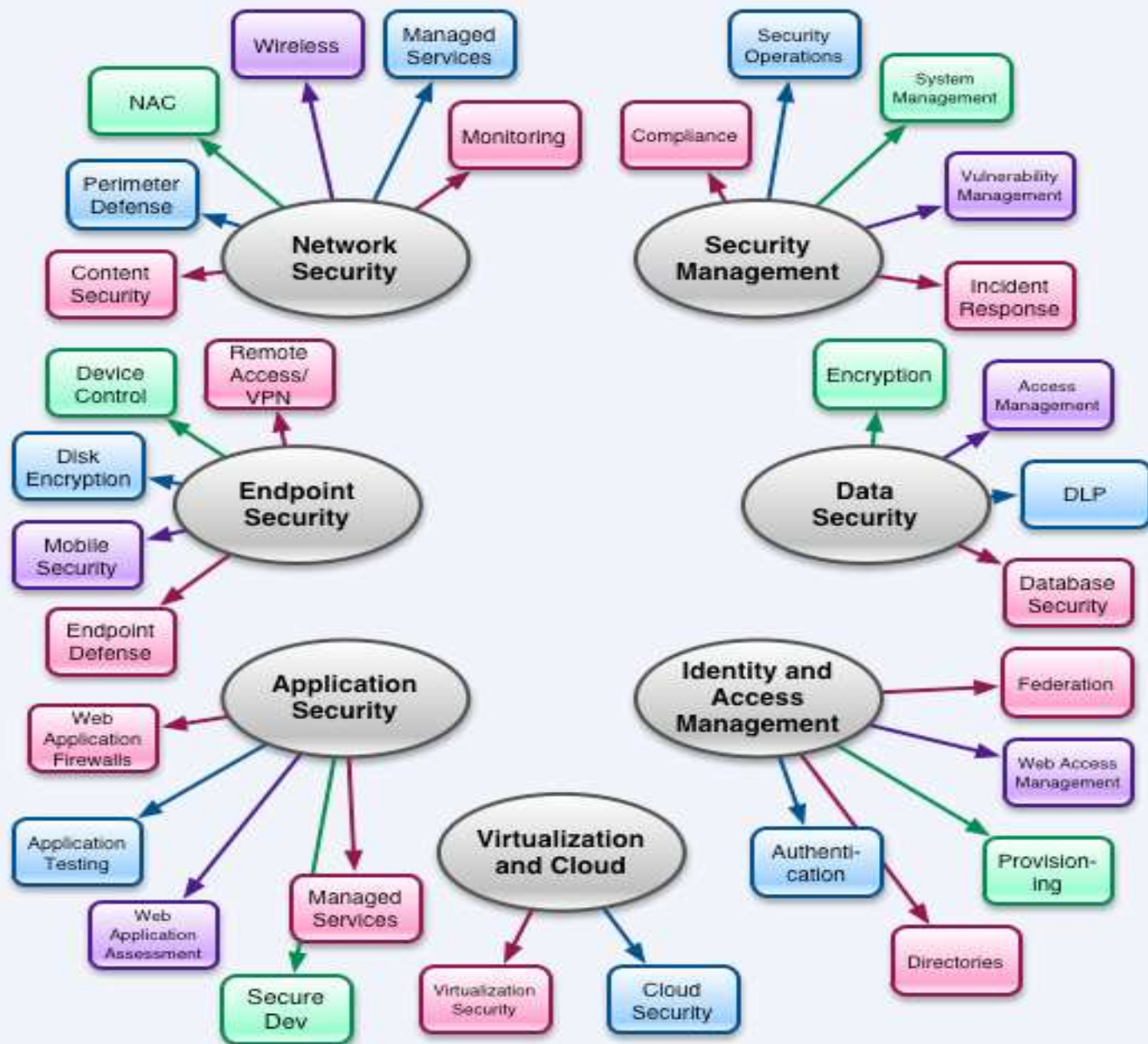


# IT Security Program Overview

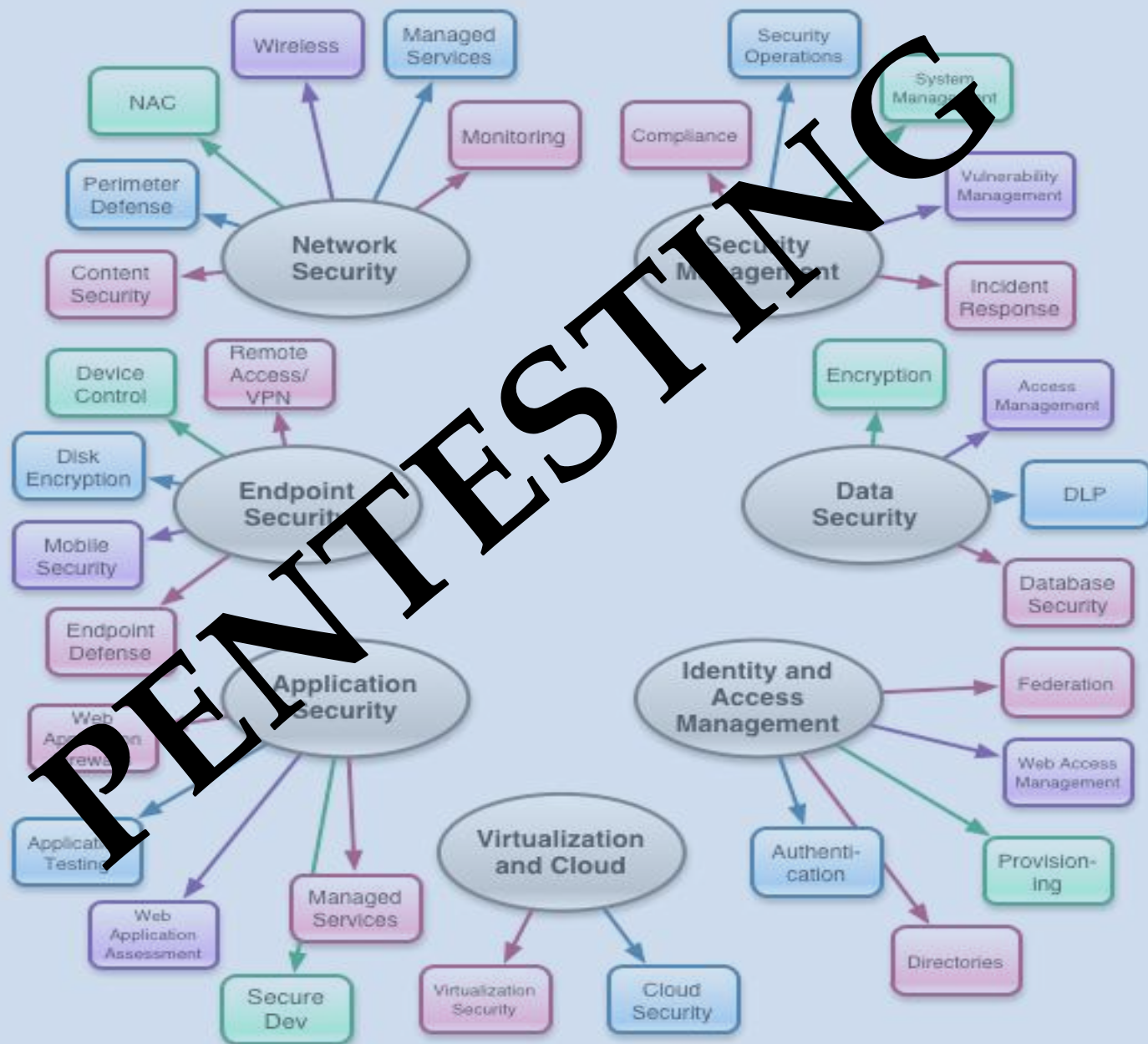


# IT Security Program Overview









What types of Penetration Tests are there?





Hats and Boxes?





# Types of Penetration Testers

## Black Hat

Independent research and exploitation with *no collaboration* with vendor.

## Gray Hat

Independent research and exploitation with *some collaboration* with vendor.

## White Hat

Collaborative research, assessment, and exploitation *with vendor*.



# Types of Penetration Tests

## **Black Box**

Zero knowledge of target.



## **Gray Box**

User knowledge of target. Sometimes as an anonymous user.

## **White Box**

Administrative or development knowledge of target.

# Types of Penetration Tests

Information	Black Box	Gray Box	White Box
Network Ranges		x	x
IP Addresses		x	x
Domains		x	x
Network Documentation		x	x
Application Documentation		x	x
API Documentation		x	x
Application Credentials			x
Database Credentials			x
Server Credentials			x

# Types of Penetration Tests

- **Technical Control Layer**
  - Network
  - Application (mobile, web, desktop etc)
  - Server
  - Wireless
  - Embedded Device
- **Physical Control Layer**
  - Client specific site
  - Data centers
- **Administrative Control Layer**
  - Email phishing
  - Phone and onsite social engineering

# What are the Rules of Engagement?



# Rules of Engagement

- **Hack Responsibly!**
- Written permission
- Clear communication
- Stay in scope
- No Denial-of-Service
- Don't change major state
- Restore state
- Use native technologies
- Stay off disk

Are there any Penetration Testing  
methodologies?



# Common Approach

- Kickoff: Scope, test windows, risks, contacts
- Information Gathering
- Vulnerability Enumeration
- Penetration
- Escalation
- Evidence Gathering
- Clean up
- Report Creation
- Report Delivery and Review



# Common Approach: Standards

## Methodologies

- Ptes
- OSSTM
- ISSAF
- NIST
- OWASP

## Certifications

- SANS
- OSCP
- CREST

# Penetration Test vs. Vulnerability Assessment



# Assessment VS. Penetration

## What can both an assessment or pentest answer?

- What are my system layer vulnerabilities?
- Where are my system layer vulnerabilities?
- Will we know if we are being scanned?
- How do I fix my vulnerabilities?
- Are we fixing things over time?



# Assessment VS. Penetration

## What else can a pentest answer?

- What vulnerabilities represent the most risk?
- What are my high impact system, network, and application layer issues?
- Can an attacker gain unauthorized access to *critical infrastructure, application functionality, and sensitive data*
- Can attackers bypass multiple layers of detective and preventative controls?
- Can attackers pivot between environments?
- Are procedures being enforced

Who conducts Penetration Testing?



# Who Conducts Penetration Testing?

People that can pass a background check

# Who Conducts Penetration Testing?

- Internal Employees
  - Security analysts
  - Security consultants
- Third Parties
  - Audit Firms
  - Value-Added Reseller (VAR)
  - Managed Services
  - Software as a Service (SaaS)
  - Software Vendors
  - Security Consultants



What skills are required?





# What Skills are Needed?

- Non Technical
- Basic Technical
- Offensive
- Defensive

# Non Technical Skillsets

- **Written and Verbal Communications**
  - Emails/phone calls
  - Report development
  - Small and large group presentations
- **Professionalism**
  - Respecting others, setting, and meeting expectations

# Non Technical Skillsets

- Troubleshooting Mindset
  - **Never give up, never surrender!**
  - Where there is a will, there is a way
- Ethics
  - Don't do bad things
  - Pros (career) vs. Cons (jail)
  - Hack responsibly



# Basic Technical Skillsets

- Windows Desktop Administration
- Windows Domain Administration
- Linux and Unix Administration
- Network Infrastructure Administration
- Application Development
  - Scripting (Ruby, Python, PHP, Bash, PS, Batch)
  - Managed languages (.Net, Java, Davlik)
  - Unmanaged languages (C, C++)

# Offensive and Defensive Knowledge

- System enumeration and service fingerprinting
- Linux system exploitation and escalation
- Windows system exploitation and escalation
- Network system exploitation and escalation
- Protocol exploitation
- Web application exploitation
- Reverse engineering
- Anti-virus Evasion
- Social engineering techniques

What are some of the  
common tools?



# Common Tools

There are **hundreds** of “hacker” tools.

Generally, you need to have enough knowledge to know **what tool** or tool(s) is right **for the task** at hand....

...and if one doesn't exist, then **create it**.

# Common Tools

That being said...



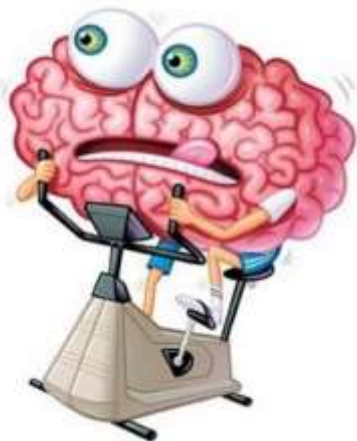
# Common Tools

**Knowledge > Tools = Train your brain!**

Understand the core technologies

Understand basic offensive techniques

Understand basic defensive techniques



# Common Tools: Info Gathering

Find online resources owned by target including:

- Subsidiaries (companies)
- Systems (live IP addresses)
- Services
- Domains
- Web applications
- Email addresses



Tool Examples:

- Public registries: IP, DNS, SEC Filings, etc.
- Nmap
- Recon-ng
- Google
- BackTrack / Kali tool sets (many discovery tools)

# Common Tools: Identify Vulnerabilities

## Find vulnerabilities:

- Missing patches
- Weak configurations
  - system, application, network
- Application issues



## Tool Examples:

- Patches/Configurations: OpenVAS, Nessus, NeXpose, Qualys, IP360 etc
- Applications: Burp, Zap, w3af, Nikto, DirBuster, SQLMap, Web Inspect, Appscan etc

# Common Tools: Penetration

## Common penetration methods:

- Buffer overflows
- Default and weak passwords
- SQL Injection
- Insecure Protocols



## Tool Examples:

- Patches: Metasploit, Canvas, Core Impact
- Configurations: Native tools, Responder, Metasploit, Yersinia, Cain, Loki, Medusa
- Applications: SQLMap, Metasploit, Burp, Zap etc

# Common Tools: Privilege Escalation

Exploit trust relationships to access to everything!

## Tool Examples:

- Local Exploits & Weak Configurations
  - Metasploit, Core Impact, Canvas,
  - exploit-db.com
- Password Hash Cracking
  - John the ripper, Hashcat, Rainbow Tables
- Pass-the-Hash
  - Metasploit, PTH toolkits, WCE
- Token stealing
  - Metasploit and Incognito
- Credential dumping
  - Mimikatz, LSA Secrets, Credential Manager, groups.xml, unattend.xml etc



# Common Tools

Tools output a TON of data!



How do people manage all that data?



# Common Pentest CMS Options

## Managing penetration test data:

- Storing files in organized folders
- Writing reports from word/excel templates
- Storing information in databases and XML
- Open source CMS projects
- Commercial CMS products
- Examples:
  - Dradis
  - Threadfix
  - CorrelatedVM
  - Risk IO





# Penetration Testing as a Career?



# Pen Testing as a Career: How to Start

- Read and learn! – There is no “end”
- Tap into the community!
- Research and development
  - Contribute to/start open source projects
  - Present research at conferences
- Training and Certifications
  - Community: DC612, OWASP, Conferences, etc
  - Professional (\$): SANS, OffSec, CISSP, CREST, etc
- Volunteer
- Internships

# Pen Testing as a Career: Common Paths

- **Internal Paths**

- Help Desk
- IT Support
- IT Admin
- Security Analyst
- IRP Team
- Senior Security Analyst
- Internal Consultant
- CISO

Corporate  
employees tend to  
stay corporate.

- **Security Consulting Paths**

- Internship
- Consultant
- Senior Consultant
- Principal Consultant
- Team Lead
- Director

Security  
consultants often  
end up in malware  
research and  
exploit  
development.

# What we covered...

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Questions,  
comments, curses?

BE SAFE and  
**HACK RESPONSIBLY**