

Create a comparative analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of both credential and non-credential network scans. Consider factors such as accuracy, speed, security, ease of implementation, and potential impact on network/system performance.

Answer: A non-credentialed scan is one that proceeds by directing test packets at a host without being able to log on to the OS or application. A credentialed scan is given to a user account with logon rights to various hosts, plus whatever other permissions are appropriate for the testing routines. Credentialed scans are more precise and accurate scans. It takes a deep dive into your applications and reveals weak configurations. Non credentialed scans are ideal for large scale assessments in traditional environments. It also runs network-based plugins that an agent is restricted from performing inside of a credentialed scan. So essentially you would use credentialed scans for daily operations within a business or enterprise, and you would use non credentialed for a mass scan that does need such a deep dive into the security.