



# Ethical Hacking

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# Outline

- Ethical Hacking
- Penetration Testing Phases
- First Phase – Reconnaissance
- Second Phase – Scanning
- Tools

# Ethical Hacking

- **Cracking** is the term for illegally hacking into a computer system without the permission of the system's owner.
- **Hacking** is a term that is often used interchangeably with “cracking,” but some hackers find it offensive.
- Whatever a computer cracker's motivations - a love of difficult challenges, curiosity, patriotism, a desire for recognition or financial gain or revenge - cracking a system is a **crime**.

# Hacker Communities

- A **black hat hacker** is a malicious hacker.
- A **white hat hacker** does what a black hat hacker does, breaking into companies and systems, with their permission, of course, in hopes of finding and exploiting vulnerabilities.
- A **grey hat hacker** is somewhere in the middle.
  - One type of grey hat hacker might break into a system and prove it to the administrator, then the grey hat will request payment to fix it, and if denied, will move on without any malicious actions.



**White Hat is known as Ethical Hacker**

# Purpose and Intention

The FBI defines the motivation of individuals who commit espionage against the country, with the acronym, **MICE**:

- **M**oney
- **I**deology
- **C**ompromise or **C**oercion
- **E**go or **E**xtortion.

Researcher, Max Kilger, proposed that the motivations for the hacker community can be thought of as **MEECES**:

- **M**oney
- **E**go
- **E**ntertainment
- **C**ause
- **E**ntrance
- **S**tatus.

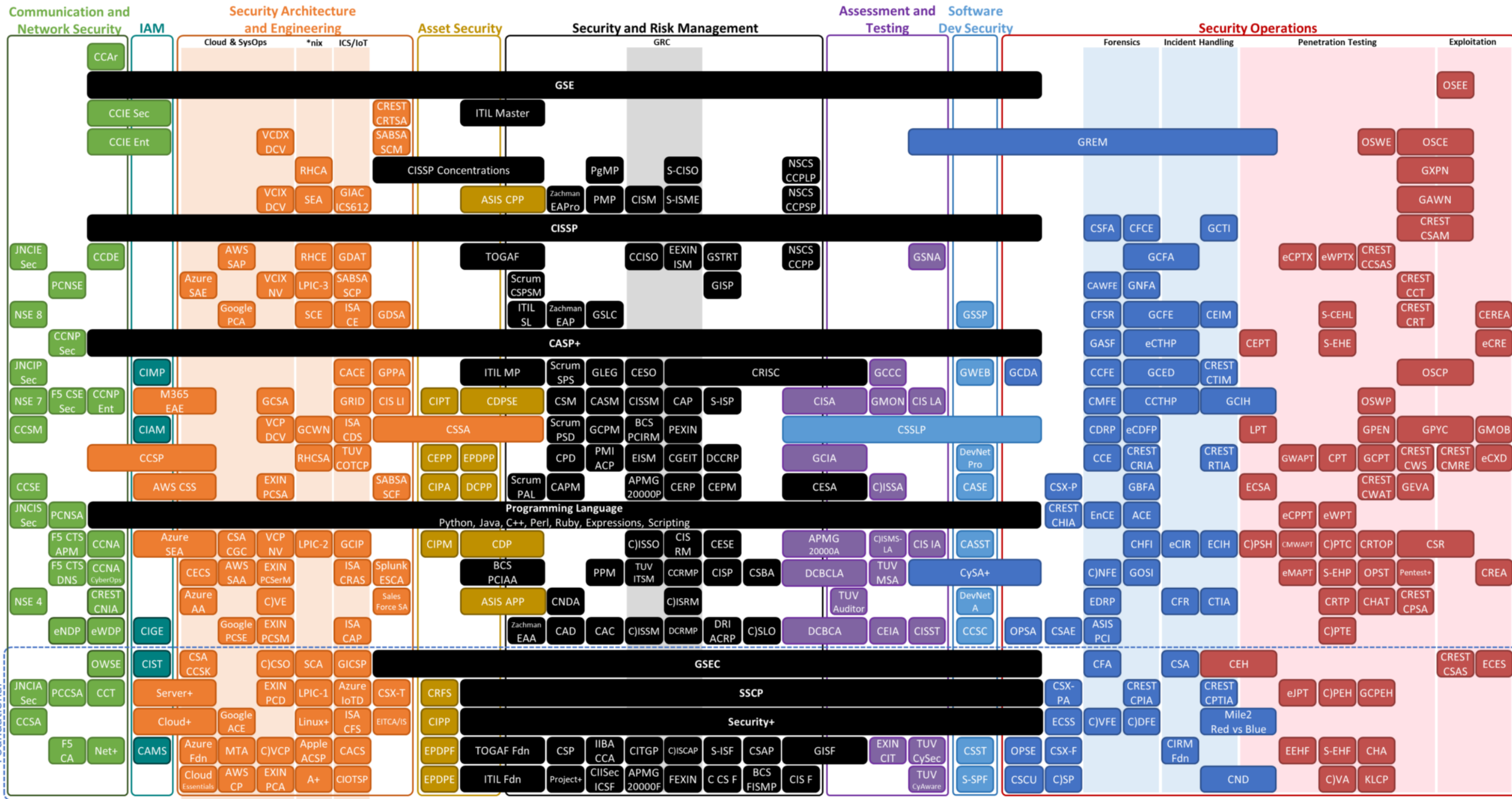
# Ethical Hacking

- Ethical hackers and unethical hackers use the same reading materials and techniques
- What distinguishes between the two groups is
  - The **permission** of the network owner
  - The choice of whether to defend or attack



(ISC)<sup>2</sup> CBK Security Domain Alignment

More info @ [www.pauljerimy.com/security-certification-roadmap](http://www.pauljerimy.com/security-certification-roadmap) | 356 certs listed | October 2020



# Certificates Information

- Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA):  
[www.isaca.org](http://www.isaca.org)
- EC-Council: [www.eccouncil.org/certification.aspx](http://www.eccouncil.org/certification.aspx)
- ISC2: [www.isc2.org/cgi-bin/index.cgi](http://www.isc2.org/cgi-bin/index.cgi)
- CompTIA:  
<http://certification.comptia.org/getCertified/certifications/security.aspx>
- Global Information Assurance Certification (GIAC):  
[www.giac.org/certifications/security](http://www.giac.org/certifications/security)



# Vendor-specific Certificate

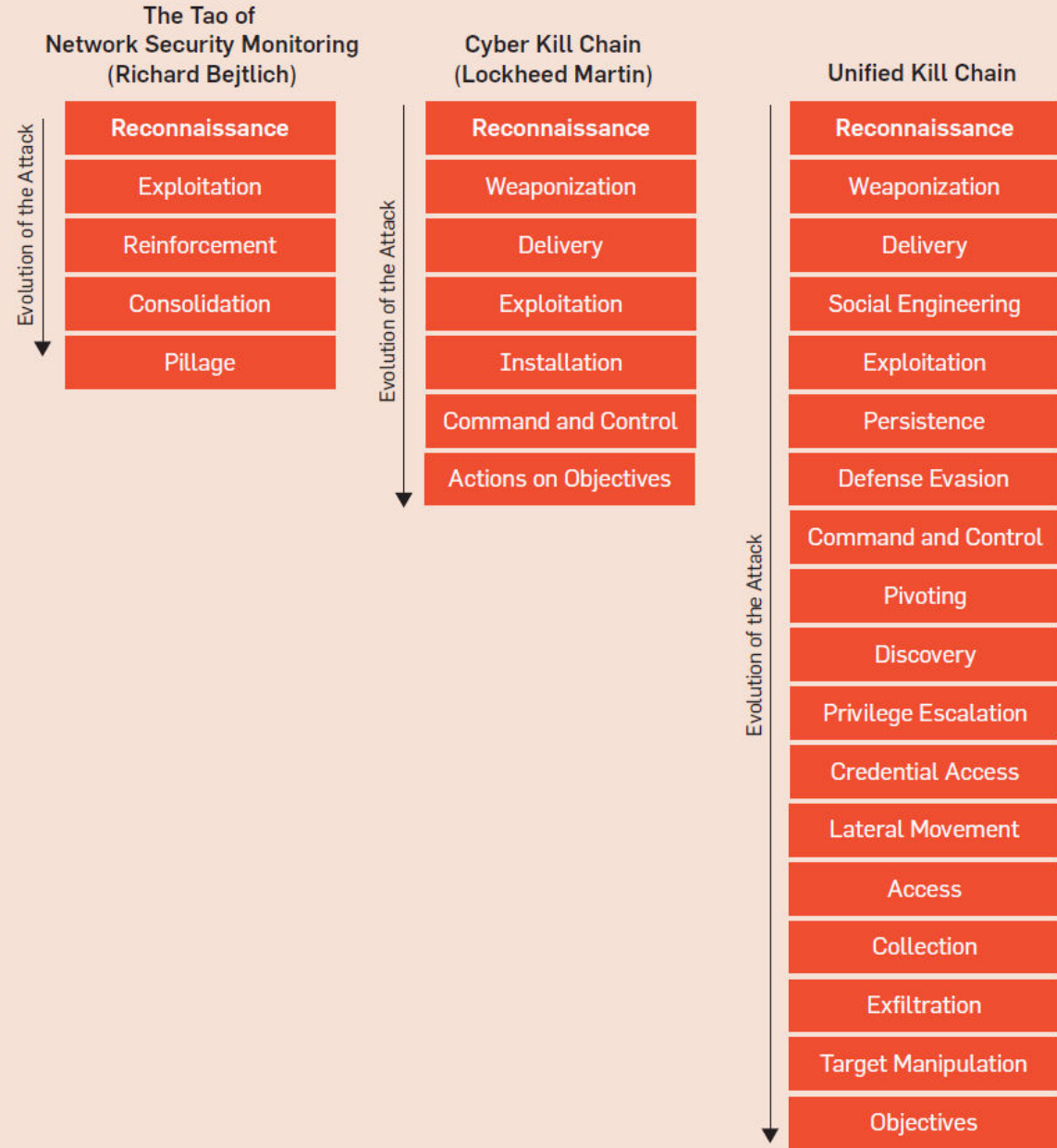
- Cisco's CCNA
- Microsoft's MCITP

# Why Hire an Ethical Hacker?

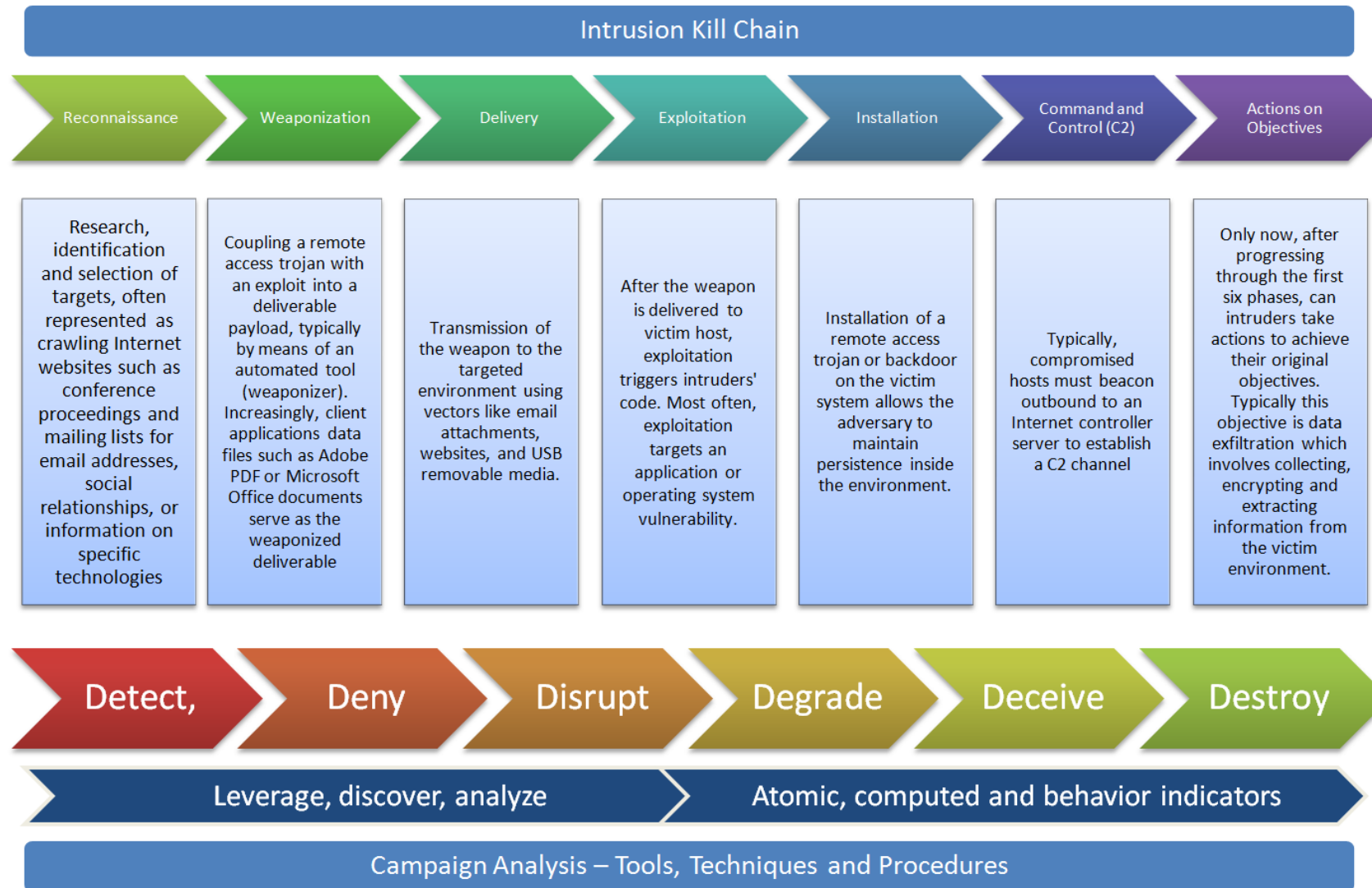
- Companies would rather pay an ethical hacker to discover their systems' vulnerabilities than wait for an unethical hacker to do it for them.

# Reference mode

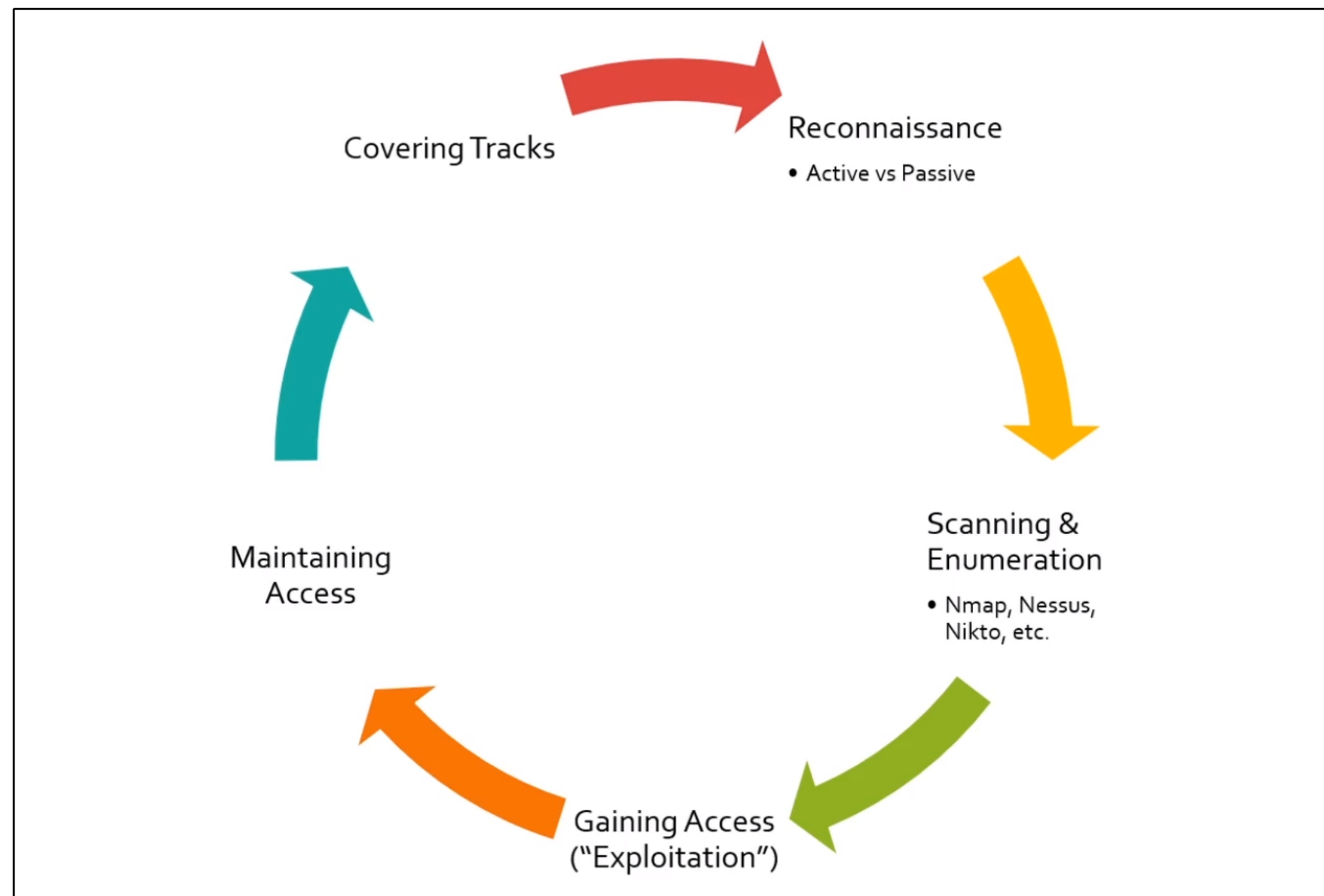
Source: <https://cacm.acm.org/research/cyber-reconnaissance-techniques/>



# Cyber Kill Chain



# Penetration Testing Steps



# First Phase - Reconnaissance

- **Reconnaissance** is the act of locating targets and developing the methods necessary to attack those targets successfully
- Important sources of information include:
  - Physical location of the target
  - Data about the users at the facility
  - Administrative shortcuts (such as assigning the same password to all new accounts and expecting the user to change the password later)
  - Operating systems
  - Network structure
  - Hardware configuration
  - Available services
  - Business strategies
  - Employee phone lists
  - Staffing structure of the organization
  - Internal newsletters
  - All available published , information about the company, either on its Web site or by other writers



# Reconnaissance Types

- Legal Reconnaissance
  - It is completely legal to look up all the information that's available about a company on the Internet
- Questionable Reconnaissance
  - Local laws vary, but in much of the world, performing a passive port scan is legal
  - Example: War driving - checking for unsecured wireless networks - is legal in some places and not in others
- Illegal Reconnaissance
  - Surreptitiously installing a keylogger - a tool that records users' keystrokes - on a vulnerable machine is illegal

# Reconnaissance Methods

Reconnaissance methods fall into three categories



Social engineering



Dumpster diving



Internet footprinting

# Social Engineering

- Social engineering involves an act of **deception** on the part of an attacker, which is meant to trick well-meaning individuals into providing access to unauthorized information or systems
- Social engineering is typically considered **unethical** behavior but is sometimes used by ethical hackers as part of a penetration test
- People are trusting and want to be helpful

# Social Engineering Techniques

- **Impersonation**
  - The hacker poses as a legitimate user or an employee who has the authority to collect information, i.e. IT support executive
- **Bribery**
  - The hacker pits an employee's greed against his or her loyalty to the organization.
  - Blackmail
- **Deception**
  - Actually joining the organization as an employee or consultant
- **Conformity**
  - People's tendency to believe that they are "typical" and that an apparent similarity between themselves and other (unknown) persons is an actual similarity.
  - Who are the target of attention are likely to feel victimized regardless of the fact that the ethical hacker had no malicious intent
- **Reverse social engineering**
  - A sting operation in which the hacker pretends he's an authority figure invested with the power to solve peoples' problems
  - They create the problem themselves

# Physical Intrusion

- Physical intrusion refers to **social engineers** actually entering an organization's premises with the sole purpose of collecting information
  - Learning the organization's schedules
  - Knowing the floor plan of the building or buildings
  - Engaging in surveillance or research to understand the existing security procedures

# Communication Media

- Social engineers use postal mail, e-mail, instant messaging, social networking, and telephone communication to get useful information from target individuals within an organization
  - Postal Mail
    - The victim receives a letter announcing that he or she has won a prize
  - E-Mail
    - A social engineer can send an e-mail purported to be from a legitimate IT e-mail account
    - Phishing
  - Instant Messaging
    - Befriending the victim
    - Ask to click on a link
  - Telephone Communication
    - They may manipulate background sounds and their own voices to produce the required effect
    - Also have tools to generate false entries in caller-ID technology, making it appear that a call is coming from a legitimate source



# Countering Social Engineering

- Educate users
  - Included in your security policy
- Some precautions:
  - Do not provide any information to unknown people
  - Do not **disclose** any confidential information to anyone over the telephone without confirming the legitimacy of the person on the other end of the line
  - Do not type **passwords** or other confidential information in front of unknown people.
  - Do not submit information to any **insecure Web site**
  - Do not use the **same** username and password for all accounts
  - Verify the credentials of persons asking for passwords, and recognize that **authentic administrators** often do not need your password to access your files
  - Keep confidential documents locked
  - **Lock** or shut down computers when away from the workstation
  - Establish protocols that require help desk employees to provide information only after they have gained **proper authentication**

# Internet Footprinting

- Internet foot-printing is a **technical reconnaissance method** that interests budding hackers and network security specialists alike
- Five Internet foot-printing methods:
  - Social networking
  - Web searching
  - Network enumeration
  - Domain Name System-based reconnaissance
  - Network-based reconnaissance

# Social Networking

- Social networking services such as Facebook and Twitter
  - An example would be a network administrator who posts on his Facebook page that he is about to embark on a vacation
  - HR employee posts for specific job position, which reveals the technical specifics of the organization's infrastructure

# Web Searching

- The majority of organizations have Web sites that contain crucial information
- Hackers use a variety of Web-based resources to find information about potential targets:
  - E-mail
  - Search engines
  - Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) source code
  - Newsgroups
  - Security-related Web sites
  - Newsletters

# Network Enumeration

- Network enumeration is the process of identifying domain names as well as other resources on the target network
  - IP addresses of the computers
  - The contact persons of the target network
- WHOIS
  - An Internet tool that aids in retrieving domain name-specific information from the Network Solutions (NSI) Registrar database
  - CLI command: `whois options target`

# Network Enumeration

- DNS Lookup
  - Help Internet users discover the DNS names of target computers
  - Websites:
    - [www.dnsstuff.com](http://www.dnsstuff.com)
    - [www.network-tools.com](http://www.network-tools.com)
    - [www.networksolutions.com](http://www.networksolutions.com)
- DNS Zone Transfer
  - Hackers use the following commands to perform DNS zone transfers:
    - nslookup
    - host
    - dig



# Network-Based Reconnaissance

- Network-based reconnaissance is the process of identifying **active computers and services** on a target network
- Ping utility
  - Helps to verify whether a host is active
  - `ping target_host`
- Traceroute utility
  - Track all the intermediate servers
  - Unix: `traceroute target_host`
  - Win: `tracert domain_name`

# Network-Based Reconnaissance

- Netstat utility
  - View all on a computer
    - Transmission Control Protocol (TCP)
    - User Datagram Protocol (UDP)
    - IP connections

# Second Phase - Scanning

- Scanners
  - A scanner is a software tool that examines and reports about vulnerabilities on local and remote hosts
    - Legitimate use
    - Illegitimate use
- Network administrators
  - To find and fix vulnerabilities in remote machines on their networks
- Crackers
  - To find and exploit vulnerabilities that are discovered, not fix them

# Port Scanner

- Examines and reports on the **condition** (open or closed) of a **port** as well as the application that is listening on that port, if possible
  - dig, ping, and trace are limited-use port scanners

# How Scanners Work

- Scanners automate the process of examining network weaknesses
- Check for **known vulnerabilities** and **open ports**
- Scanner functions:
  - Connects to target host(s)
  - Examines the target host for the services running on it
  - Examines each service for any known vulnerability
- Can be set to target a single IP address or a range of IP addresses

# Types of Scanning

- Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) connect scanning
- Half-open scanning
- User Datagram Protocol (UDP) scanning
- IP protocol scanning
- Ping scanning
- Stealth scanning



# TCP Connect Scanning

- A TCP connect scan attempts to make TCP connections with all the ports on a remote system
  - Connection-succeeded message for active ports
  - Host-unreachable message for inactive ports
- IDS can easily detect the attempts

# Half-Open Scanning

- Half-open scanning is TCP connection scanning, but it does not complete the connections
  - Only the SYN is sent from the scanner
- IDS cannot detect it
- Needs **root** or system **administrator privileges**

# UDP Scanning

- Examines the status of UDP ports on a target system
- 0-byte UDP packet is sent to all the ports on a target host
- If port is closed
  - ICMP unreachable message

# Other Types of Scanners

- IP Protocol Scanning
  - Examines a target host for supported IP protocols
- Ping Scanning
  - Demonstrates whether a remote host is active by sending ICMP echo request packets to that host
- Stealth Scanning
  - Examine **hosts behind firewalls** and packet filters
  - Similar to half-open scanning

# Tools

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Phase	Scanner Name	Link
Discovery	Nmap	<a href="http://nmap.org">http://nmap.org</a>
	UnicornScan	<a href="http://www.unicornscan.org">www.unicornscan.org</a>
Reconnaissance	Fierce	<a href="http://ha.ckers.org/fierce">http://ha.ckers.org/fierce</a>
	Maltego	<a href="http://www.paterva.com/web4/index.php/maltego">www.paterva.com/web4/index.php/maltego</a>
	PassiveRecon	<a href="https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/6196">https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/6196</a>
	tcpdump	<a href="http://www.tcpdump.org">www.tcpdump.org</a>
	Wireshark	<a href="http://www.wireshark.org">www.wireshark.org</a>
Vulnerability identification	Nessus	<a href="http://www.tenablesecurity.com/nessus">www.tenablesecurity.com/nessus</a>
	NeXpose	<a href="http://www.rapid7.com">www.rapid7.com</a>
	Nipper	<a href="http://www.titania.co.uk">www.titania.co.uk</a>
	OpenVAS	<a href="http://www.openvas.org">www.openvas.org</a>
	Qualys	<a href="http://www.qualys.com">www.qualys.com</a>
	SAINT	<a href="http://www.saintcorporation.com">www.saintcorporation.com</a>
Exploitation	Core Impact	<a href="http://www.coresecurity.com">www.coresecurity.com</a>
	MetaSploit	<a href="http://www.metasploit.com">www.metasploit.com</a>
	BackTrack	<a href="http://www.backtrack-linux.org">www.backtrack-linux.org</a>

# Discovery

- Nmap
- Zenmap: Nmap with GUI

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Option	Description
-sT	Performs TCP connect scanning
-sS	Performs half-open scanning
-sP	Performs ping scanning
-sU	Performs UDP scanning
-sO	Performs IP protocol scanning

# Discovery

- Unicornscan
  - Open-source tool designed to identify information related to TCP flags and banners

Basic TCP SYN scan using Unicorn		# unicornscan server
TCP open domain [ 53] from 192.168.0.2 ttl 64	TCP open http[ 80] from 192.168.0.2 ttl 64	TCP open mysql[ 3306] from 192.168.0.2 ttl 64
TCP open xmpp-server[ 5269] from 192.168.0.2 ttl 64		In this example, all that was specified is the name of a server we wanted to scan. The hostname server was resolved to the address of 192.168.0.2. A TCP SYN (-mTS, which is the default scan mode) scan was sent to that IP on the Unicornscan Quick Ports (default port list—same as server:q), as defined in the etc/unicornscan/unicorn.conf file. IP Addresses that respond with a SYN/ACK return as open.

**Figure 3-2** Unicorn TCP scan example

# Reconnaissance Tools

- Fierce
  - Open-source, Perl-based tool that focuses on particular targets using pattern matching

```
Trying zone transfer first... Fail: Response code from server: NOTAUTH
Okay, trying the good old fashioned way... brute force:
```

```
DNS Servers for mail.ru:
```

```
ns5.mail.ru
ns.mail.ru
ns1.mail.ru
ns2.mail.ru
ns3.mail.ru
ns4.mail.ru
```

```
Checking for wildcard DNS... Nope. Good.
```

```
Now performing 351 tests...
```

```
194.67.23.206    avt.photo.mail.ru
194.67.23.207    hearst.mail.ru
194.67.23.213    mx14.mail.ru
194.67.23.220    imap.mail.ru
194.67.23.221    photo8.mail.ru
194.67.23.222    photo8-2.mail.ru
194.67.23.224    mx14.mail.ru
194.67.23.225    batch.mail.ru
194.67.23.226    batch2.mail.ru
194.67.23.229    f28.mail.ru
194.67.23.230    f28.mail.ru
194.67.57.200    win.mail.ru
194.67.57.50     win.mail.ru
```

```
Subnets found (may want to probe here using nmap or unicornscan) :
```

```
194.67.23.0-255 : 11 hostnames found.
194.67.57.0-255 : 2 hostnames found.
```

```
Done. Found 13 entries and 13 hostnames. Have a nice day.
```

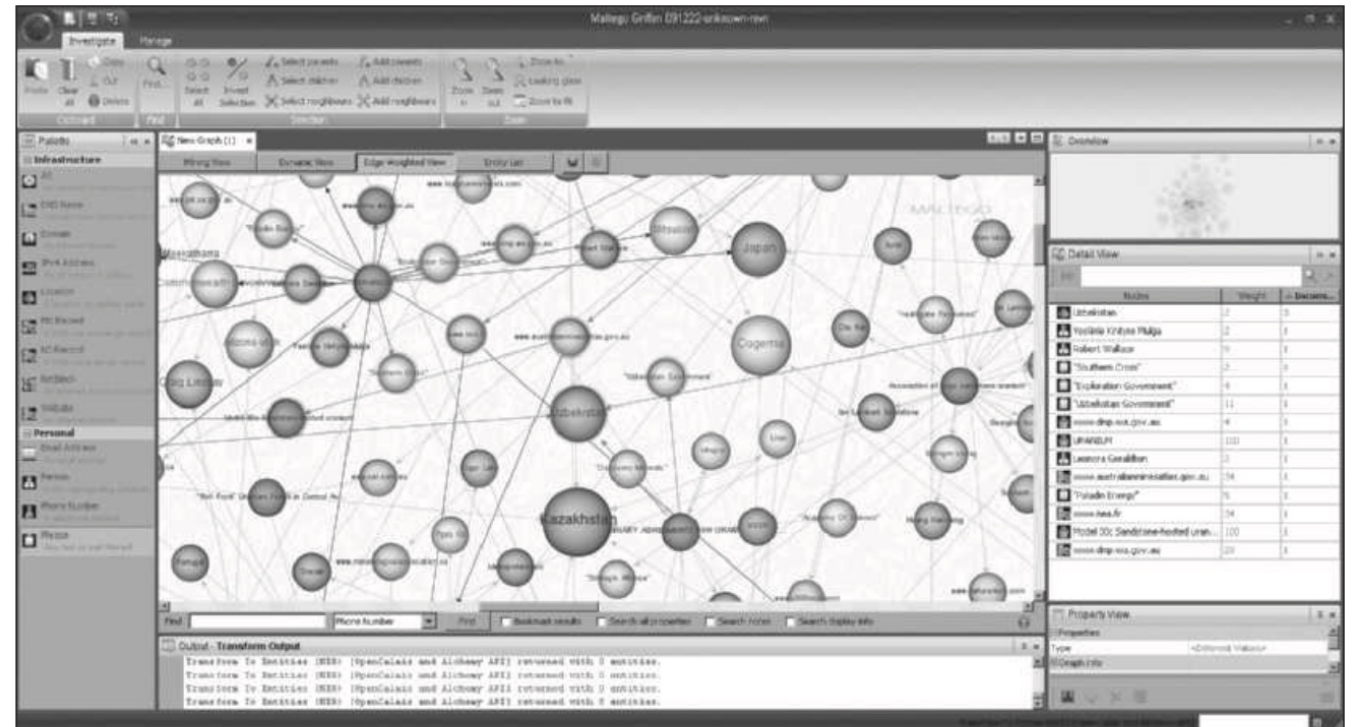
**Figure 3-3** Fierce scan example

Source: Fierce



# Reconnaissance Tools

- Maltego
  - A Java-based tool that is offered in both community and commercial versions and is marketed as a forensic tool



**Figure 3-4** Maltego interface example

Source: Maltego

# Reconnaissance Tools

- PassiveRecon
  - a Firefox add-on that allows users to visit a target Web site and gather a variety of publicly available information useful in the enumeration or reconnaissance phase of a penetration test
- Tcpdump
  - An open-source command-line packet analyzer
- Wireshark
  - Similar to tcpdump but with GUI

# Summary

- Ethical Hacking
  - Hacker Communities
  - Certificates
- Penetration Testing Phases
- First Phase – Reconnaissance
  - Types
  - Social Engineering
  - Physical Intrusion
  - Communication Media
  - Internet Footprinting
- Second Phase – Scanning
  - Port Scanner
  - Types of Scanning
- Tools
  - Reconnaissance
  - Scanning