Penetration testing is widely used for the security and protection of networks, users, and computing systems. It is also known as pentest, in which legal, ethical hackers try to simulate an attack on your system and asses its security level.

## Five best practices

If it is your first time hiring a penetration testing company for your system check, then here are some practices you can adapt for better test results:

### Determine the type of testing required

Although the penetration testing company you hire will assess your needs and use the required penetration test, it is still best to determine your testing beforehand. Thus, you will be able to hire a company which can best cater to your requirement. There are mainly five types of testing:

* Black box testing
* White-box testing
* Double-blind testing
* Grey box testing
* Timebox testing

### Ensure your data security

You must choose someone reliable and trustworthy. The tester will access your sensitive and vital information just like an intruder might do, so you need to ensure your data security. An ethical and noteworthy company that has specific protocols to hire testers should be preferred.

### Consider security goals

It would be best to examine your security goals, which you plan to achieve through penetration testing. Some organizations require penetration testing once for compliance need only, whereas other work on long term security strategy. In both cases, you will have to choose your penetration testing company accordingly.

### Check the expertise level of the company

It is better to run in-depth research on the expertise level and credibility of the penetration testing company you plan to work with. By doing so, you will maximize the output of identifying weaknesses in your system. You can check the following accreditations for selecting a penetration tester:

* CREST
* ISO 27001
* CHECK
* IASME Gold

### Speed of Delivery

Most organizations are time-bound because of which they want the penetration testing process to be swift and quick. Thus, you should choose a company based on the speed of their delivery. Some vendors might take 2-6 weeks on your system, while others can wrap up the process within 24 hours. Time is a valuable asset. Hence, you need to choose a company that matches your time resource.

## Conclusion

Penetration testing has become a need for every organization these days but don’t choose the wrong penetration testing company in a hassle. Make your choice wisely!