Vulnerability Analysis

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Outline

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SESSION	CONTENT
1	Vulnerability Research, Vulnerability Assessment, and scoring System
2	Vulnerability Management Life Cycle (Assessment Phases)
3	Types of Vulnerabilities and Assessment Techniques
4	Different approaches of Vulnerability Assessment Solutions
5	Types of VA tools and criterias for selection
6	Generating and Analyzing VA reports.

Introduction

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- In today's world, organizations depend heavily on IT for protecting vital information.

Vulnerability Assessment

- There are 2 main causes for vulnerable systems:
  - Misconfiguration and
  - Poor programming practices.

Vulnerability Research

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- The process of analyzing protocols, services, and configurations to **discover vulnerabilities and design flaws** that will expose an operating system and its applications to exploit, attack, or misuse
- Vulnerabilities are classified based on **severity level** (low, medium, or high) and **exploit range** (local or remote)

An administrator needs vulnerability research:

1. To gather information concerning **security trends, threats, attack surfaces,** attack vectors and techniques
2. To discover **weaknesses** in the OS and applications, and alert the network administrator before a **network attack**
3. To **gather information** to aid in the prevention of security issues
4. To know **how to recover** from a network attack

Why does an ethical hacker need to keep up with most recently discovered vulnerabilities and exploits?

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- Security experts and vulnerability scanners classify vulnerabilities by:
  - Severity level (Low, Medium and High)
  - Exploit range (Local or Remote)

Resources for VR

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 **Microsoft Vulnerability Research (MSVR)** *https://www.microsoft.com*	 **Security Magazine** *https://www.securitymagazine.com*	 **SecurityFocus** *https://www.securityfocus.com*
 **Dark Reading** *https://www.darkreading.com*	 **PenTest Magazine** *https://pentestmag.com*	 **Help Net Security** *https://www.helpnetsecurity.com*
 **SecurityTracker** *https://securitytracker.com*	 **SC Magazine** *https://www.scmagazine.com*	 **HackerStorm** *http://www.hackerstorm.co.uk*
 **Trend Micro** *https://www.trendmicro.com*	 **Exploit Database** *https://www.exploit-db.com*	 **Computerworld** *https://www.computerworld.com*

Vulnerability Assessment

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- Vulnerability assessment is an in-depth **examination of the ability of a system or application**, including current security procedures and controls, to withstand the exploitation
- It recognizes, measures, and classifies security vulnerabilities in a **computer system, network,** and **communication channels**

A vulnerability assessment may be used to:

- Identify weaknesses that could be exploited
- Predict the effectiveness of additional security measures in protecting information resources from attacks

Information obtained from the vulnerability scanner includes:

- Network vulnerabilities
- Open ports and running services
- Application and services vulnerabilities
- Application and services configuration errors

Types of Network Vulnerability Scanning

- Active Scanning
- Passive Scanning

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What are some of the limitations of Vulnerability assessments?

Vulnerability Scoring Systems and DB

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Common Vulnerability Scoring System (CVSS)

- CVSS provides an open framework **for communicating the characteristics and impacts** of IT vulnerabilities
- Its quantitative model ensures repeatable accurate measurement, while enabling users to view the **underlying vulnerability characteristics** used to **generate the scores**

CVSS v3.0 Ratings

Severity	Base Score Range
None	0.0
Low	0.1-3.9
Medium	4.0-6.9
High	7.0-8.9
Critical	9.0-10.0

CVSS v2.0 Ratings

Severity	Base Score Range
Low	0.0-3.9
Medium	4.0-6.9
High	7.0-10

https://www.first.org

cont'd CVE

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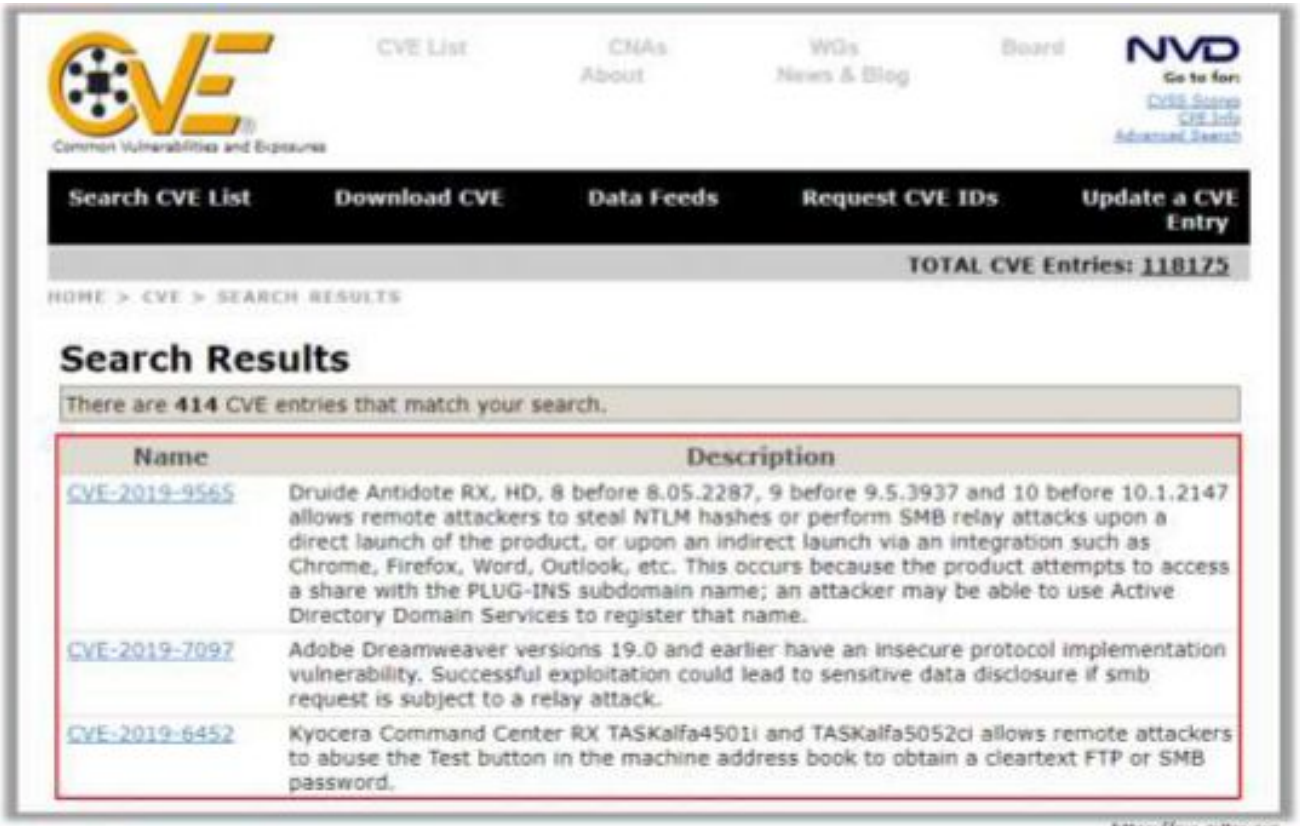
Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE)

A publicly available and free-to-use **list or dictionary of standardized identifiers** for common software vulnerabilities and exposures



Cont'd NVD

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National Vulnerability Database (NVD)

- A **U.S. government repository** of standards-based vulnerability management data represented using the **Security Content Automation Protocol** (SCAP)
- These data **enable the automation of vulnerability management**, security measurement, and compliance
- The NVD includes **databases of security checklist** references, security-related software flaws, misconfigurations, product names, and impact metrics

NVD

Cont'd CWE

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Common Weakness Enumeration (CWE)

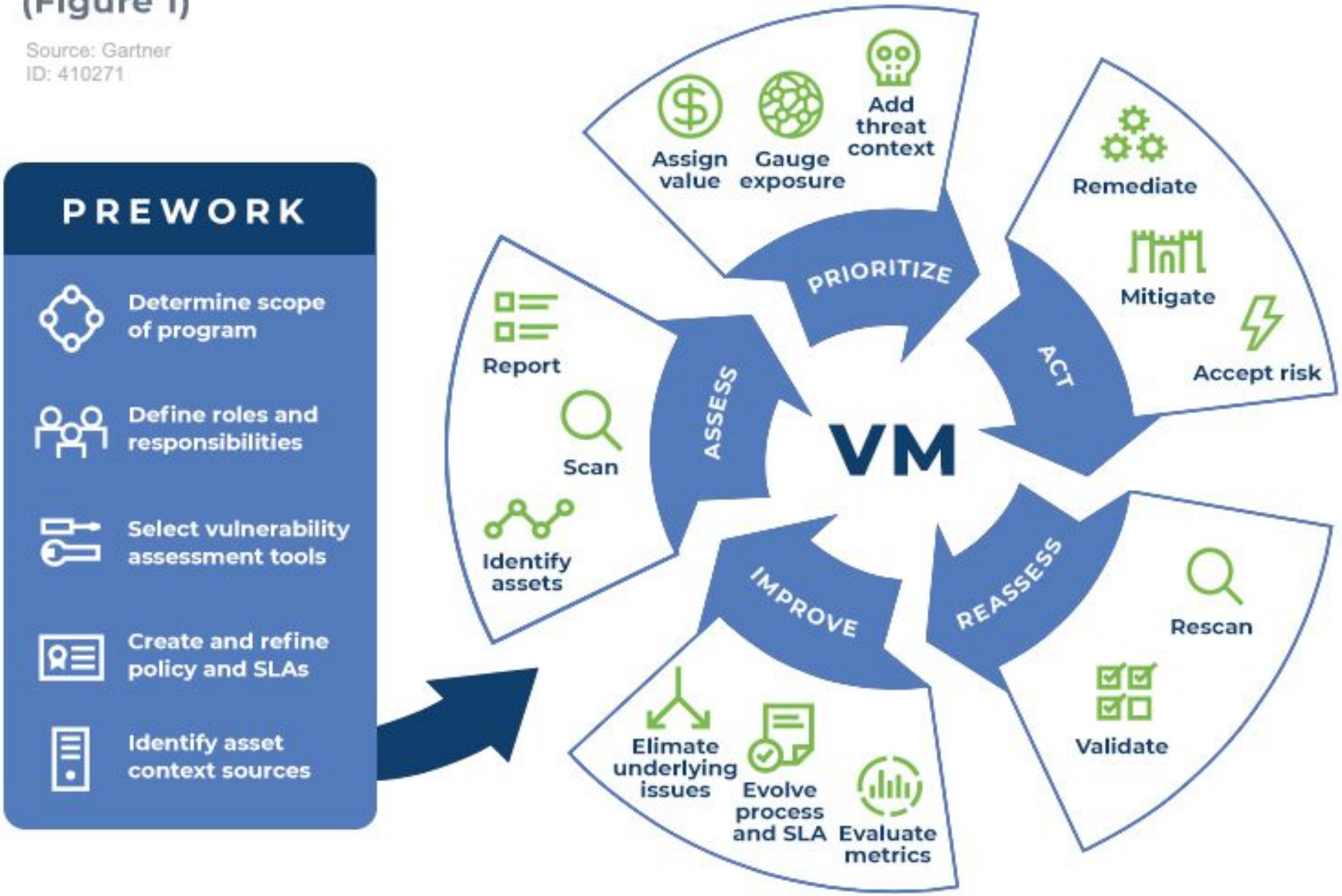
- A **category system** for **software vulnerabilities and weaknesses**
- It is sponsored by the **National Cybersecurity FFRDC**, which is owned by **The MITRE Corporation**, with support from **US-CERT** and the **National Cyber Security Division** of the **U.S. Department of Homeland Security**
- It has over **600 categories** of weaknesses, which enable CWE to be effectively employed by the community as a **baseline for weakness identification, mitigation, and prevention efforts**

CWE

The Vulnerability Management Cycle

(Figure 1)

Source: Gartner
ID: 410271



Vulnerability Classification

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1. Misconfiguration

2. Default Installations

3. Buffer Overflows

4. Unpatched Servers

5. Design Flaws

6. Operating System Flaws

7. Application Flaws

8. Open Services

9. Default Passwords

Types of Vulnerability Assessment

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Active Assessment

Uses a network scanner to find hosts, services, and vulnerabilities

Passive Assessment

Used to sniff the network traffic to discover present active systems, network services, applications, and vulnerabilities present

External Assessment

Assesses the network from a hacker's perspective to discover exploits and vulnerabilities that are accessible to the outside world

Internal Assessment

Scans the internal infrastructure to discover exploits and vulnerabilities

Host-based Assessment

Conducts a configuration-level check to identify system configurations, user directories, file systems, registry settings, etc., to evaluate the possibility of compromise

Network-based Assessment

Determines possible network security attacks that may occur on the organization's system

Application Assessment

Tests and analyzes all elements of the web infrastructure for any misconfiguration, outdated content, or known vulnerabilities

Database Assessment

Focuses on testing databases, such as MYSQL, MSSQL, ORACLE, POSTGRESQL, etc., for the presence of data exposure or injection type vulnerabilities

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Wireless Network Assessment

Determines the vulnerabilities in the organization's **wireless networks**

Distributed Assessment

Assesses the **distributed organization assets**, such as client and server applications, simultaneously through appropriate synchronization techniques

Credentialed Assessment

Assesses the network by **obtaining the credentials** of all machines present in the network

Non-Credentialed Assessment

Assesses the network without acquiring **any credentials** of the assets present in the enterprise network

Manual Assessment

In this type of assessment, the ethical hacker **manually** assesses the **vulnerabilities, vulnerability ranking, vulnerability score**, etc.

Automated Assessment

In this type of assessment, the ethical hacker employs various **vulnerability assessment tools**, such as **Nessus, Qualys, GFI LanGuard**, etc.

Vulnerability Assessment Solutions

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Product-Based versus Service-Based Assessment Solutions

Product-Based Solutions

- Installed in the **organization's internal network**
- Installed in **private or non-routable space** or the Internet-addressable portion of an organization's network
- If installed in the private network or, in other words, behind the firewall, it cannot always **detect outside attacks**

Service-Based Solutions

- **Offered by third parties**, such as auditing or security consulting firms
- Some solutions are hosted **inside the network**, while others are hosted outside the network
- A drawback of this solution is that attackers can audit the **network from outside**

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Tree-Based versus Inference-Based Assessment

Tree-Based Assessment

- The auditor **selects different strategies** for each machine or component of the information system
- For example, the administrator selects a scanner for servers running Windows, databases, and web services, and uses another scanner for Linux servers
- This approach relies on the **administrator providing a starting shot of intelligence**, and then scanning continuously without incorporating any information found at the time of scanning

Inference-Based Assessment

- **Scanning starts by building an inventory of protocols** found on the machine
- After finding a protocol, the scanning process detects **which ports are attached to services**, such as an email server, web server, or database server
- After finding services, the process **selects vulnerabilities on each machine** and starts to execute only the relevant tests

Characteristics of a good VA Solution

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1. Ensures **correct outcomes by testing the network**, network resources, ports, protocols, and operating systems
2. Uses a well-organized **inference-based approach** for testing
3. Automatically scans against continuously **updated databases**
4. Creates brief, actionable, and customizable reports, including **vulnerabilities**, **by severity level**, and trend analysis
5. Supports multiple **networks**
6. Suggests **appropriate remedies** and **workarounds** to correct vulnerabilities
7. Imitates the **outside view of attackers**

Types of VA tools

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Host-Based Vulnerability Assessment Tools

- Finds and identifies the OS running on a particular host computer and tests it for known deficiencies
- Searches for common applications and services

Depth Assessment Tools

- Finds and identifies previously unknown vulnerabilities in a system
- These types of tools include "fuzzers"

Application-Layer Vulnerability Assessment Tools

- Directed toward web servers or databases

Scope Assessment Tools

- Provides security to the IT system by testing for vulnerabilities in the applications and OS

Active and Passive Tools

- Active scanners perform vulnerability checks on the network that consume resources on the network
- Passive scanners do not affect system resources considerably; they only observe system data and perform data processing on a separate analysis machine

Location and Data Examination Tools

- Network-based scanner
- Agent-based scanner
- Proxy scanner
- Cluster scanner

What determines a good Vulnerability Assessment tool?

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1. Types of vulnerabilities being assessed
2. Testing capability of scanning
3. Ability to provide accurate reports
4. Efficient and accurate scanning
5. Capability to perform a smart search
6. Functionality for writing its own tests
7. Test run scheduling

Best Practices for selecting a good VA tool

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- Ensure that it **does not damage your network or system** while running tools
- **Understand the functionality**, and decide on the information that needs to be collected before beginning
- Decide the **source location** of the scan, taking into consideration the information that needs to be collected
- **Enable logging** every time a computer is scanned
- Users should **scan their systems frequently** for vulnerabilities

VA Tools

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- OpenVAS by greenbone security
- Nikto
- GFI Languard
- Qualys
- Acunetix
- Nexpose
- Nessus

VA tools for Mobile

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Vulners Scanner — An android app that **performs passive vulnerability detection** based on the fingerprint of the software version

Security Metrics Mobile — An android app that **complies with PCI SSC** guidelines to **generate a scan report**

Vulnerability Assessments Reports

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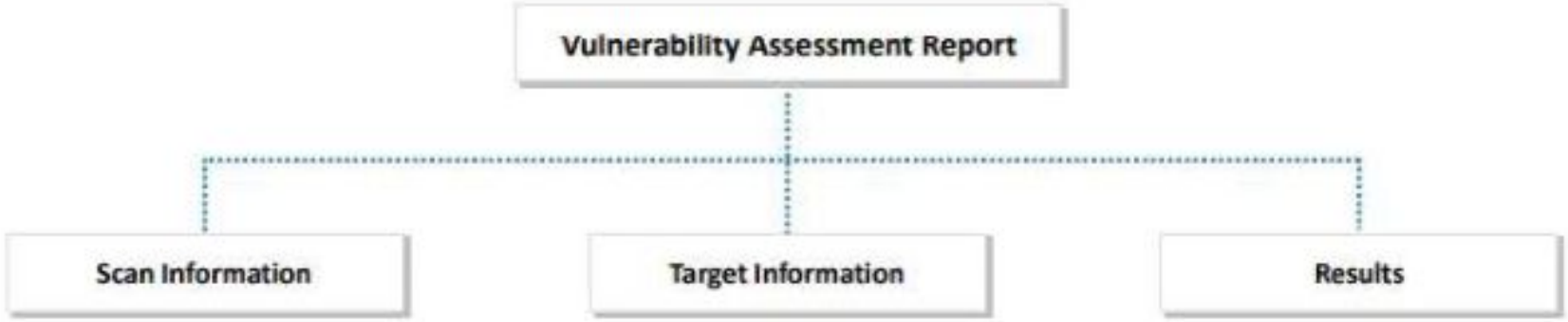
1. The vulnerability assessment report **discloses the risks detected after scanning** a network
2. The report **alerts the organization** of possible attacks and suggests **countermeasures**
3. Information available in the reports is used to fix **security flaws**



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The Vulnerability report must include but not limited to the following:

- Vulnerability's name and its mapped CVE ID.
- Date of discovery.
- CVE score.
- Description.
- Impact.
- Details of the affected system.
- PoC if possible.

Sample vulnerability report

TAISOC SECURITY ADVISORY REPORT

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Thank you!

Any
Questions?