[Skip to main content](https://lms.alnafi.com/xblock/block-v1:alnafi+DCCS102+2025_DCCS+type@vertical+block@4f95dcad2d2f47fc9f7d7ed278199a1c?exam_access=&recheck_access=1&show_bookmark=0&show_title=0&view=student_view" \l "main)

**How To: Run Your First Vulnerability Scan with Nessus**

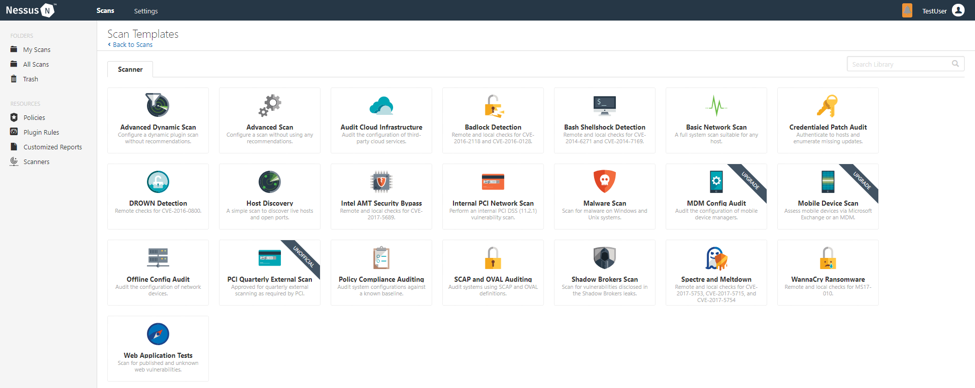
Get your Nessus vulnerability assessment tool up and running with these five easy steps.

Step 1: Creating a Scan

Once you have installed and launched Nessus, you’re ready to start scanning. First, you have to create a scan. To create your scan:

* In the top navigation bar, click Scans.
* In the upper-right corner of the My Scans page, click the New Scan button.

Step 2: Choose a Scan Template



Next, click the scan template you want to use. Scan templates simplify the process by determining which settings are configurable and how they can be set. For a detailed explanation of all the options available, refer to Scan and Policy Settings in the Nessus User Guide.

A scan policy is a set of predefined configuration options related to performing a scan. After you create a policy, you can select it as a template in the User Defined tab when you create a scan. For more information, see Create a Policy in the Nessus User Guide.

The Nessus interface provides brief explanations of each template in the product. Some templates are only available when you purchase a fully licensed copy of Nessus Professional.

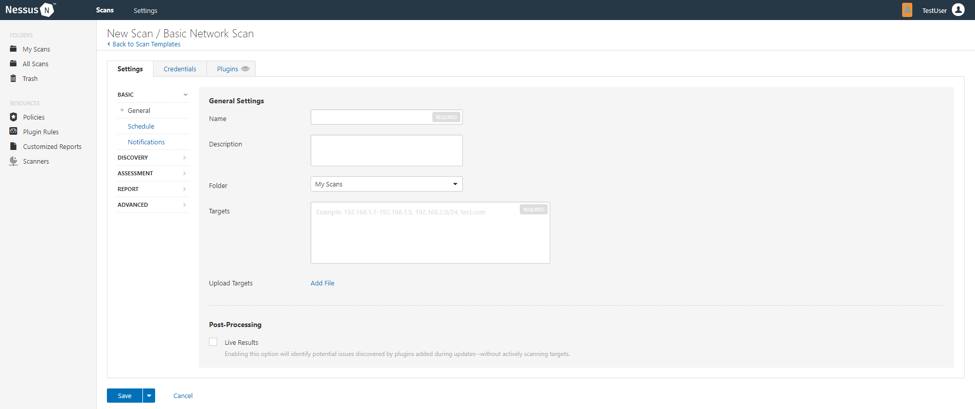
To see a full list of the types of templates available in Nessus, see Scan and Policy Templates. To quickly get started with Nessus, use the Basic Network Scan template.

Step 3: Configure Scan Settings

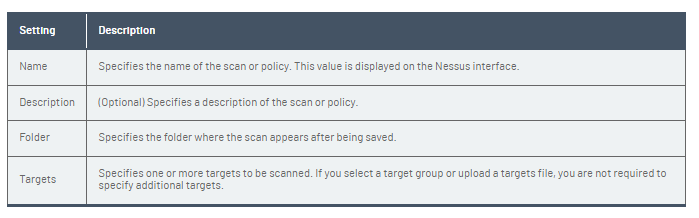
Prepare your scan by configuring the settings available for your chosen template. The Basic Network Scan template has several default settings preconfigured, which allows you to quickly perform your first scan and view results without a lot of effort.

Follow these steps to run a basic scan:

1. Configure the settings in the Basic Settings section.



The following are Basic settings:



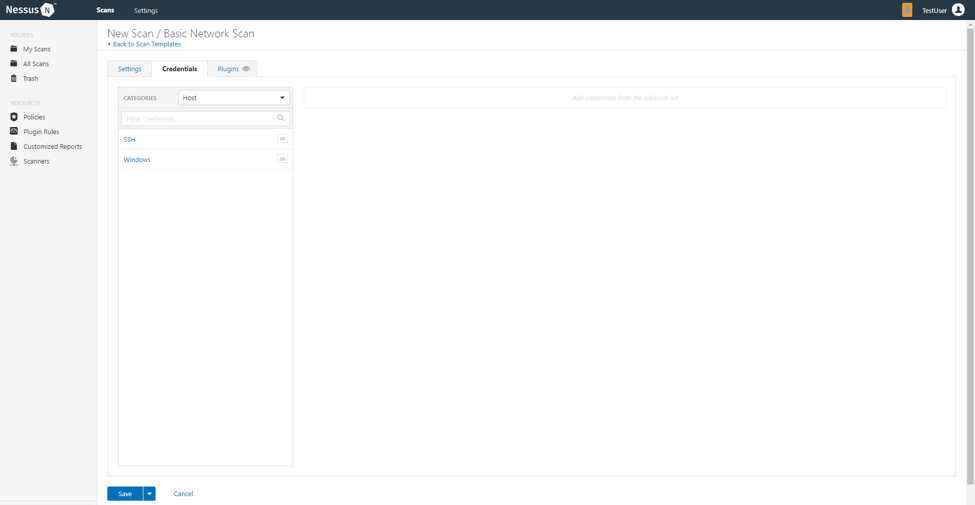
2. Configure the remaining settings

Although you can leave the remaining settings at their pre-configured default, Tenable recommends reviewing the Discovery, Assessment, Report, and Advanced settings to ensure they are appropriate for your environment.

For more information, see the Scan Settings documentation in the Nessus User Guide

3. Configure Credentials

Optionally, you can configure Credentials for a scan. This allows credentialed scans to run, which can provide much more complete results and a more thorough evaluation of the vulnerabilities in your environment.



4. Launch Scan

After you have configured all your settings, you can either click the Save button to launch the scan later or launch the scan immediately.

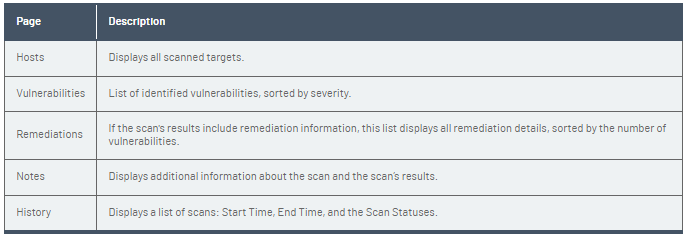
If you want to launch the scan immediately, click the down button, and then click Launch. Launching the scan will also save it.

The time it takes to complete a scan involves many factors, such as network speed and congestion, so the scan may take some time to run.

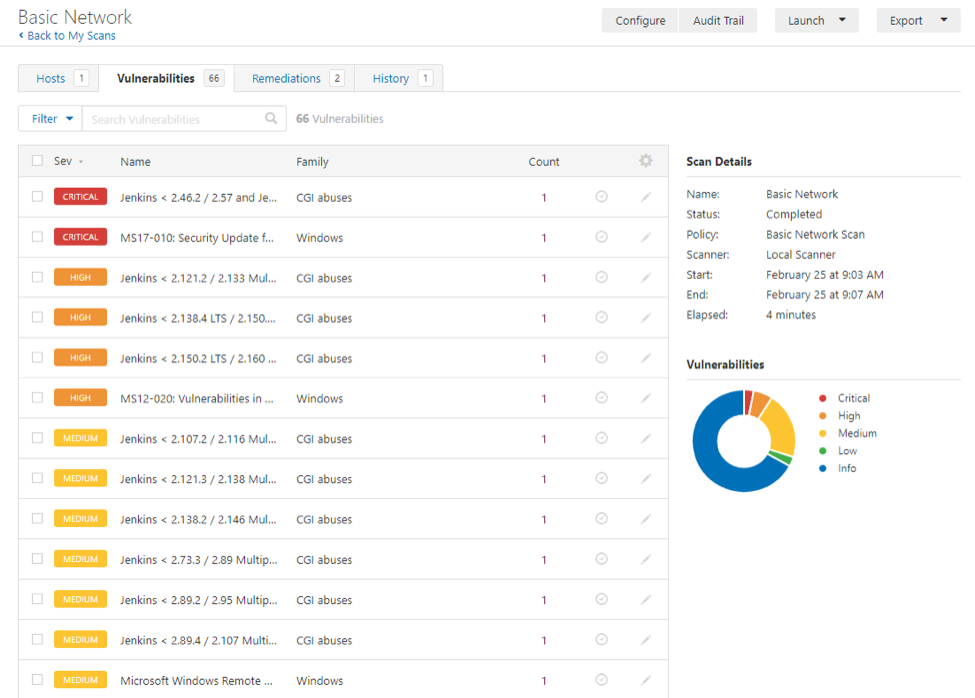
Step 4: Viewing Your Results

Viewing scan results can help you understand your organization’s security posture and vulnerabilities. Color-coded indicators and customizable viewing options allow you to tailor how you view your scan’s data.

You can view scan results in one of several views:



Viewing scan results by vulnerabilities gives you a view of potential risks on your assets.



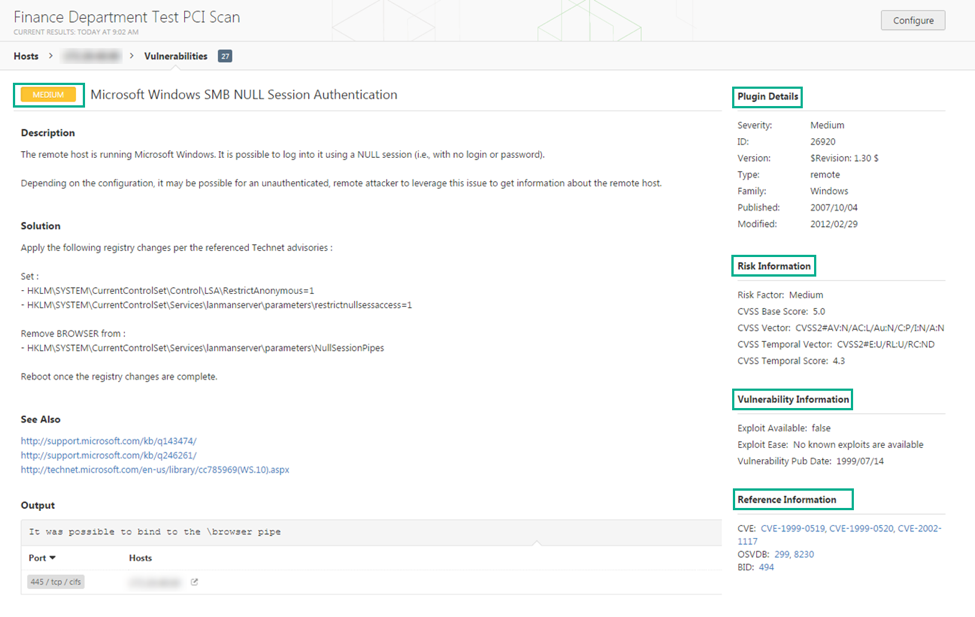
To view vulnerabilities:

1. In the top navigation bar, click Scans.
2. Click the scan for which you want to view the results.
3. Do one of the following:

Click a specific host to view vulnerabilities found on that host.

Click the Vulnerabilities tab to view all vulnerabilities.

1. (Optional) To sort the vulnerabilities, click an attribute in the table header row to sort by that attribute.
2. Clicking on the vulnerability row will open the vulnerability details page, displaying plugin information and output for each instance on a host.



Step 5: Reporting Your Results

Chances are your job isn’t done yet. You need to report your findings to your team.

Scan results can be exported in several file formats. Some of these report formats are customizable, while others are designed to be imported into another application or product, such as Microsoft Excel or Tenable.sc. For an explanation of the various report formats and the purpose of each, see the Nessus User Guide.

To Export a Scan Report:

1. Start from a scan's results page
2. In the upper-right corner, click Export.
3. From the drop-down box, select the format in which you want to export the scan results.
4. Click Export to download the report.

Thanks for using Nessus! Once your first scan is complete, you can begin to discover more of what Nessus has to offer. If you have additional questions,