

CONFIGURING OWASP ZAP FOR USE ON KALI LINUX

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September 21, 2025

The following is a basic guide for configuring OWASP ZAP on Kali Linux.

OWASP ZAP (Zed Attack Proxy) is a powerful tool for finding vulnerabilities in web applications. Here's how to install and configure it on Kali Linux:

1. Installation:

Update System: Ensure your Kali Linux system is up-to-date by opening a terminal and running:

- `sudo apt update`
- `sudo apt upgrade`

This updates the package list and installs the latest updates to guarantee a seamless installation of ZAP.

Install ZAP: Open a terminal and run the following command to install ZAP:

```
sudo apt install zaproxy
```

This command will download and install OWASP ZAP on your Kali Linux system.

2. Launching OWASP ZAP:

After installation, you can launch OWASP ZAP by:

- Typing `zaproxy` in the terminal.
- Searching for "OWASP ZAP" in the application menu and clicking to open it.

3. Configuring the local proxy: (optional, but recommended for testing)

- Launch ZAP: Start OWASP ZAP as described above.
- Access Browser Settings: Go to your web browser's settings or preferences.
- Configure Proxy: Set your browser to use a proxy:
 - Address: 127.0.0.1 (localhost)
 - Port: 8080 (ZAP's default port)

4. Basic usage and initial scans:

Access your Web Application: With the proxy configured, navigate to the web application you want to test in your browser.

Explore and Spider (Optional): Interact with the application to allow ZAP to build a site map and discover endpoints. Alternatively, use the Quick Start tab in ZAP to spider the website for a basic exploration.

Active Scan: Once you have explored the application (or spidered it), in the ZAP interface, right-click on the target website in the left-hand tree view and select Attack > Active Scan. This will trigger ZAP's automated vulnerability scanner to begin.

Review Results: Monitor the scan progress and review the scan results displayed within ZAP for potential vulnerabilities.

5. Plugin management and updates:

Launch ZAP: Open OWASP ZAP.

Check for Updates: Go to Help in the menu bar and select Check for Updates, then install any available updates.

Manage Plugins: Use the Marketplace within the application to manage existing plugins or add new ones.

Online References:

OWASP ZAP Tutorial: Complete 2025 Guide: <https://www.stationx.net/owasp-zap-tutorial/>

How to Install Kali Linux's OWASP ZAP: <https://www.bodhost.com/kb/how-to-install-kali-linuxs-owasp-zap/>

A Beginner's Guide to Using OWASP ZAP with DVWA: <https://josephmdamon.com/web-security-zap-dvwa/>

Using OWASP ZAP to scan for vulnerabilities - Kali Linux Web Penetration Testing Cookbook
[Book]: <https://www.oreilly.com/library/view/kali-linux-web/9781784392918/ch05s04.html>

How to Install OWASP ZAP in Kali Linux: <https://go.lightnode.com/tech/install-owasp-zap-in-kali-linux>