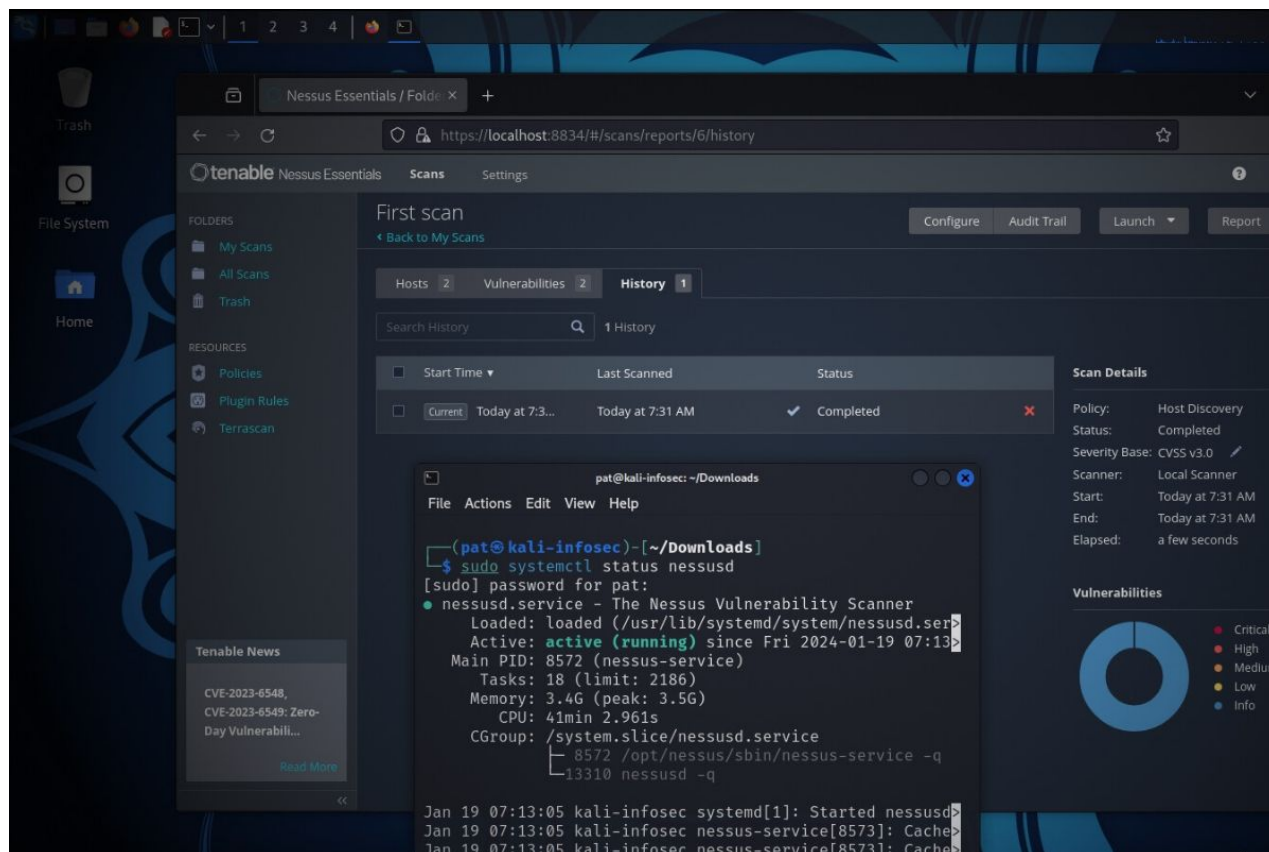


# How to Install Nessus on Kali Linux: A quick & easy guide

 infosecscout.com/install-nessus-on-kali-linux

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Nessus is a free vulnerability scanner that helps security professionals find and fix vulnerabilities on remote computers and servers. It can be installed on most systems, including Kali Linux. In this article, I'll show you step-by-step how to do it in a few minutes.

**An installer for Nessus can be freely downloaded from the Tenable website (the software editor) and installed on Kali Linux. Then everything is done through a web interface, where you can connect your account and try the various features offered by Nessus.**

I tried it for you and will share all the steps in this article. It's not complicated, but I recommend following them to make sure you don't miss anything important during setup.

## How To Install Nessus on Kali Linux

Nessus is available as a Debian package from their website, so here are the main steps to get it running on Kali Linux:

- **Download the latest Nessus package from the official website.**
- **Install it on Kali with the package manager.**

- **Access the web interface to start the configuration.**

Let's see how to do this in details.

## Downloading Nessus

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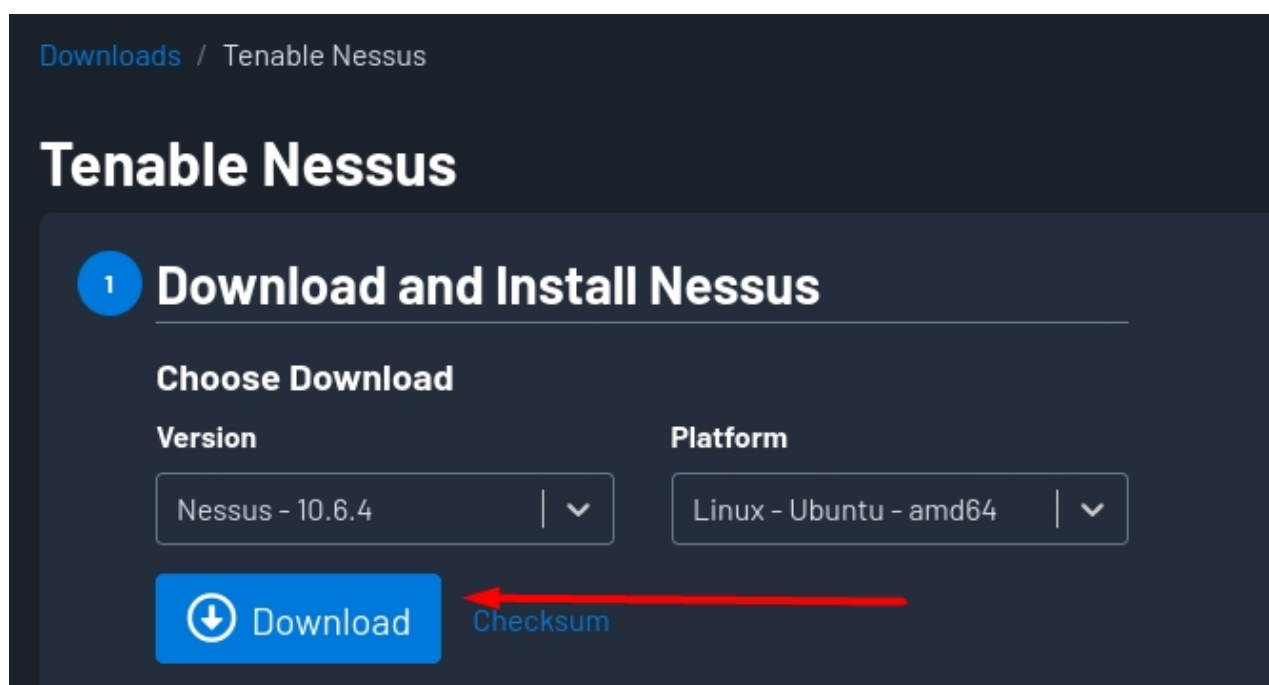
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While the official website tries to push you to buy their products right away, you can still find a way to download the package directly without having to create an account or pay anything.

Here is the [direct link to the download page](#). You should see a form like that at the top of the page:



In the “Platform” list, pick the one corresponding to your system. Kali is not listed, but I did it with the Ubuntu version, it should be fine. Also, make sure to pick the right architecture (amd64 is the most common).

Once done, click on “Download” to get the package file on your system.

## Installing Nessus on Kali Linux

---

To install the Nessus package from your Downloads folder, open a terminal and type these commands:

```
cd Downloads
```

```
sudo dpkg -i <Nessus-version.deb>
```

Replace the package name with the one you downloaded in the second command, like that:

```
pat@kali-infosec: ~/Downloads
File Actions Edit View Help
(pat@kali-infosec)-[~]
$ cd Downloads
(pat@kali-infosec)-[~/Downloads]
$ sudo dpkg -i Nessus-10.6.4-ubuntu1404_amd64.deb
```

Kali will install the package, and prompt you to install any required dependencies (if needed). I tried it on a fresh Kali Linux installation, and it worked right away, so I don't think it's necessary. But if you get any error, try to install the missing packages with APT.

## Starting Nessus

---

Nessus works as a service, and is not necessarily starting automatically after the installation.

You can check the current service status with:

```
sudo systemctl status nessusd
```

And start it with this command if needed:

```
sudo systemctl start nessusd
```

```
(pat@kali-infosec)-[~/Downloads]
$ sudo systemctl start nessusd
(pat@kali-infosec)-[~/Downloads]
$ sudo systemctl status nessusd
● nessusd.service - The Nessus Vulnerability Scanner
   Loaded: loaded (/usr/lib/systemd/system/nessusd.service; disabled; pr>
   Active: active (running) since Fri 2024-01-19 07:13:05 CET; 4s ago
   Main PID: 8572 (nessus-service)
     Tasks: 13 (limit: 2186)
```

You shouldn't need to run it automatically on boot. It's quite heavy on your computer's resources, so I'd recommend starting it only when you need it.

## First access to Nessus interface

---

Once the Nessus service started, open a web browser and go to this url:

```
https://localhost:8834
```

You should get a security risk warning, as HTTPS doesn't have a valid certificate yet.



## Warning: Potential Security Risk Ahead

Firefox detected a potential security threat and did not continue to **localhost**. If you visit this site, attackers could try to steal information like your passwords, emails, or credit card details.

### What can you do about it?

The issue is most likely with the website, and there is nothing you can do to resolve it.

If you are on a corporate network or using antivirus software, you can reach out to the support teams for assistance. You can also notify the website's administrator about the problem.

[Learn more...](#)

Go Back (Recommended)

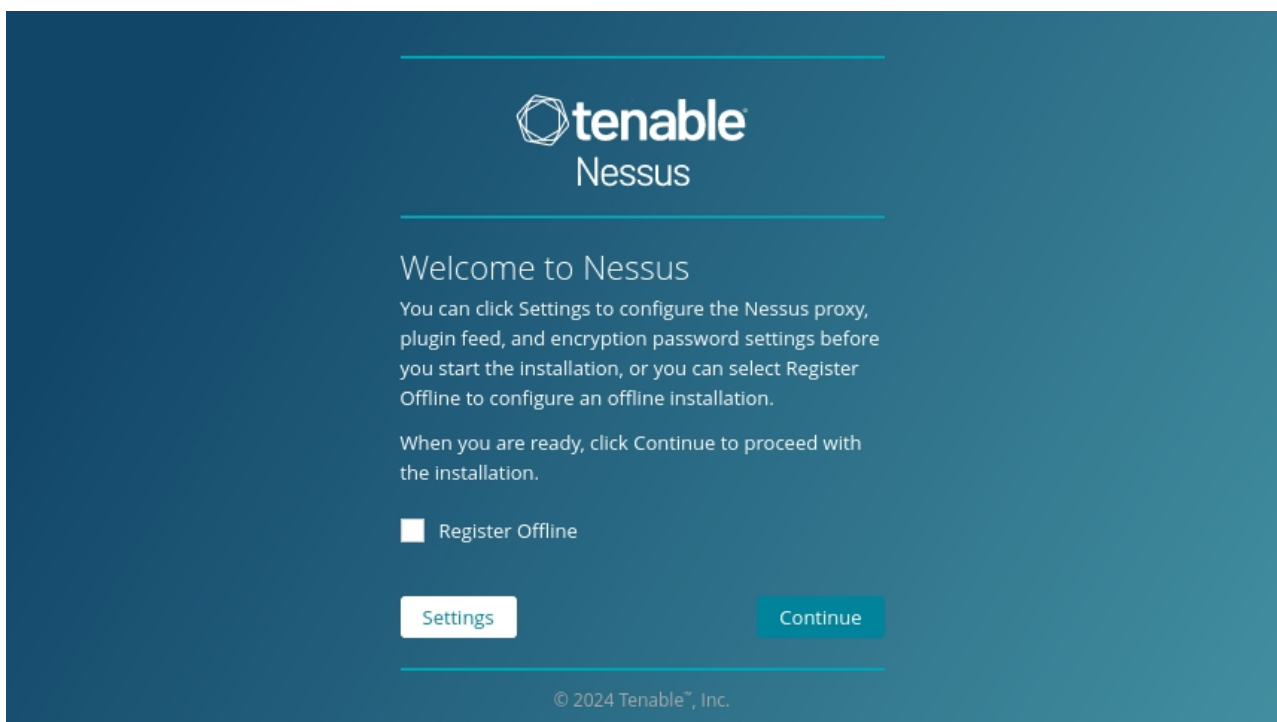
Advanced...

Click on “Advanced...” and “Accept the risk and continue”.

You can fix that later if you want, but for local use, it should be fine.

You'll finally get the welcome wizard from Nessus in your web browser. Good job, Nessus is almost ready to use!

I'll explain what to do with this in the next section.



## First steps with Nessus on Kali Linux

This article is not meant to be a full tutorial on how to use Nessus, so I won't take up too much of your time. But I will at least show you how to complete the setup wizard and run your first vulnerability scan.

## Completing the setup wizard


The goal of the setup wizard is mostly to link your installation with your account and license. Here are the main steps:

- **You first need to decide which version of Nessus you want to use.**

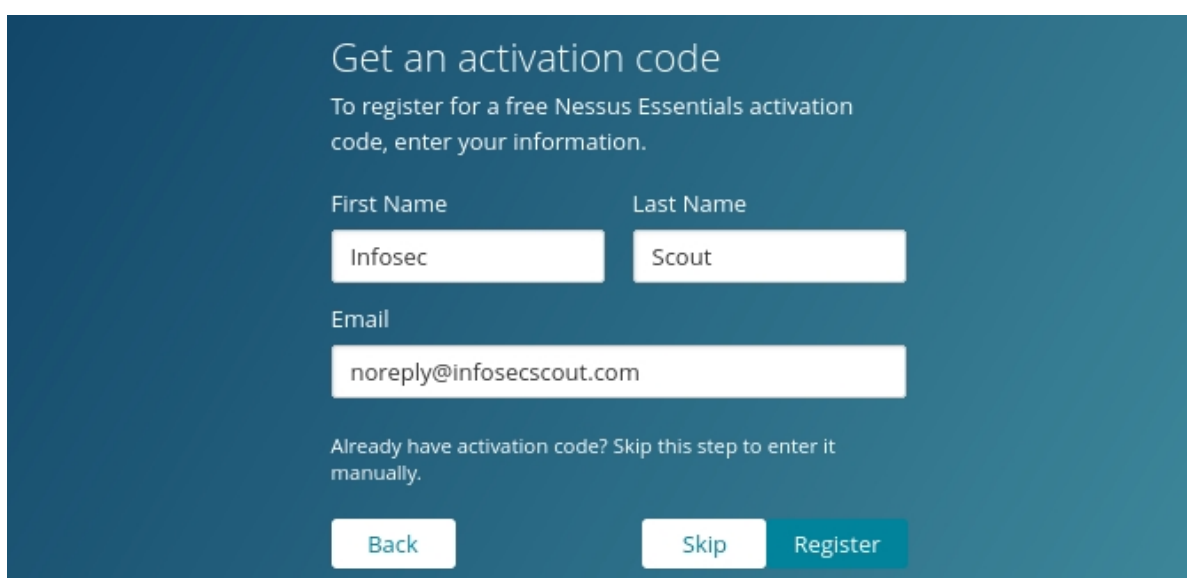
Nessus Essentials is free for personal use, but comes with many limitations (16 IPs for example).

Nessus Expert and Professional are the paid versions of the product, that you'll likely get if you are doing this for a company.

So, if you have a license pick the corresponding one, if you just want a quick try, select Nessus Essentials:

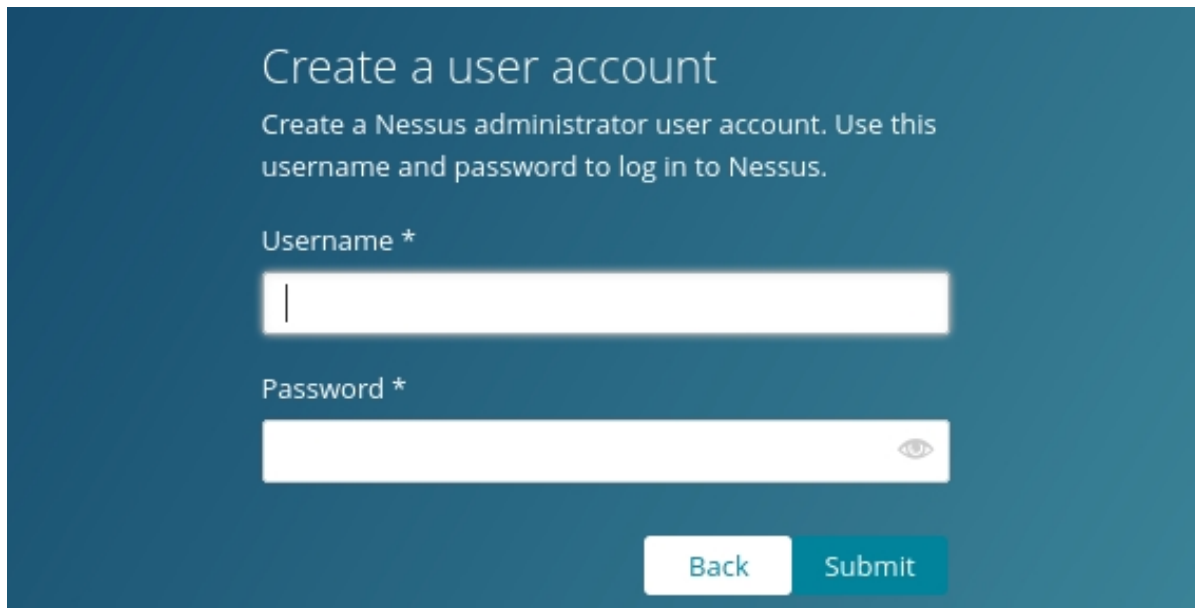
The image shows the 'Welcome to Nessus' screen. It has a dark blue background with white text. The title 'Welcome to Nessus' is at the top. Below it, a subtitle says 'Choose how you want to deploy Nessus. Select an option to get started.' There are five radio button options: 'Set up a purchased instance of Nessus', 'Start a trial of Nessus Expert', 'Start a trial of Nessus Professional', 'Register for Nessus Essentials' (which is selected), and 'Link Nessus to another Tenable product'. At the bottom, there are two buttons: 'Back' and 'Continue'.

- Depending on your choice, you'll then have to enter information to get an activation code or activate your license.

The image shows the 'Get an activation code' screen. It has a dark blue background with white text. The title 'Get an activation code' is at the top. Below it, a subtitle says 'To register for a free Nessus Essentials activation code, enter your information.' There are three input fields: 'First Name' with the value 'Infosec', 'Last Name' with the value 'Scout', and 'Email' with the value 'noreply@infosecscout.com'. Below these fields, there is a link that says 'Already have activation code? Skip this step to enter it manually.' At the bottom, there are three buttons: 'Back', 'Skip', and 'Register'.

- If you are testing Nessus Essentials, you'll then get your activation code.

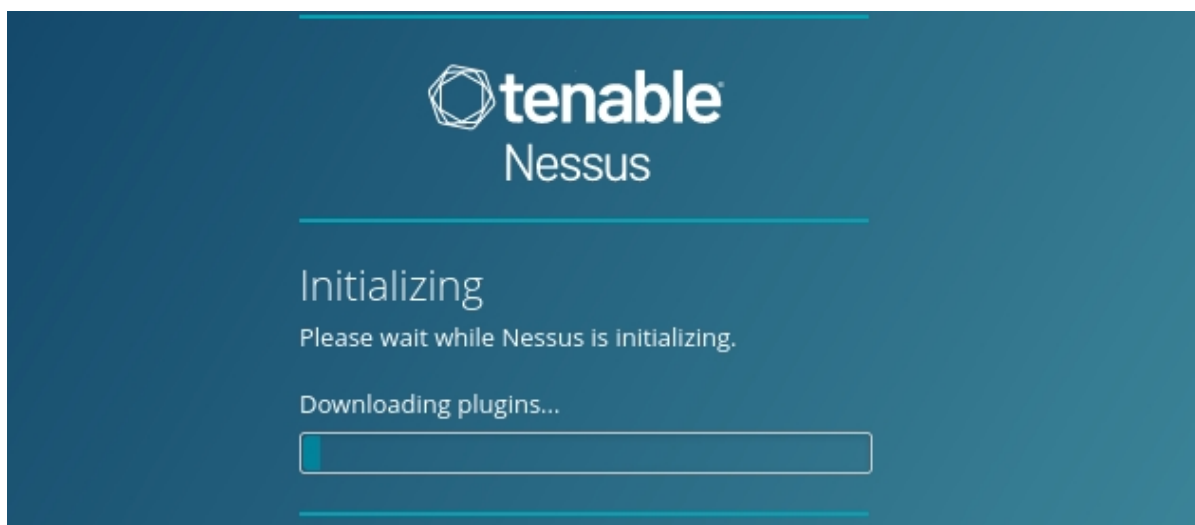
- Finally, create a user account for the local instance:



The screenshot shows a web form titled "Create a user account" on a dark teal background. Below the title, it says "Create a Nessus administrator user account. Use this username and password to log in to Nessus." There are two input fields: "Username \*" and "Password \*". The "Password \*" field has a small eye icon to its right. At the bottom right, there are two buttons: "Back" and "Submit".

It's the administrator account to access the web interface later on.

- Once everything is done, Nessus will start the initialization process and download the required plugins:

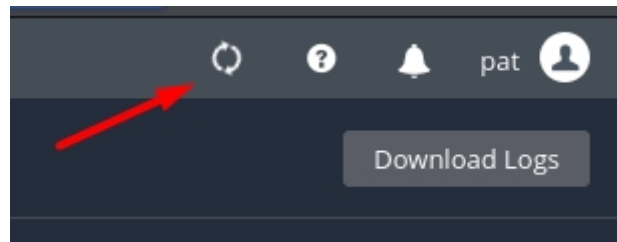


Even if you get access quickly to the full interface, it's recommended to wait a bit before starting your first scan, while Nessus completes the installation in the background. Time to grab a coffee, you deserve it :-).

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Wait for this icon to disappear before going further.

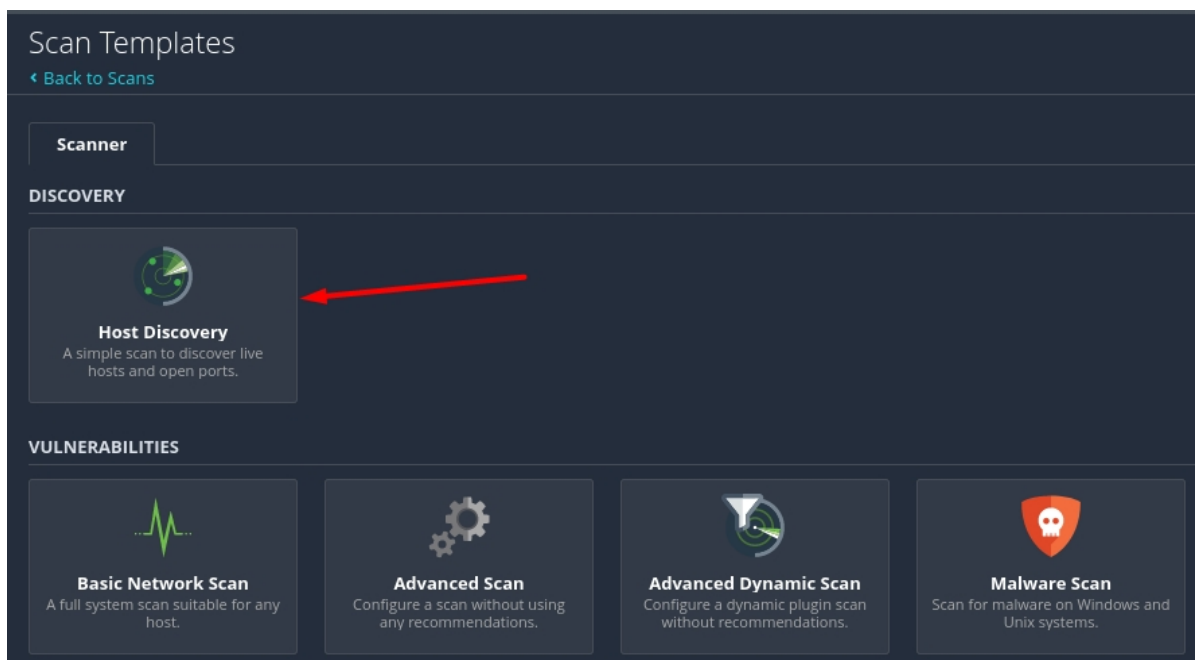
## First scan

Once the initial setup completed, Nessus is ready to use.

The goal of this tutorial is not to give you an extensive guide on how to use Nessus, I'm just focusing on the installation. But I do recommend that you do a quick scan at this point to check that everything is working as expected.

Here is how to start your first scan:

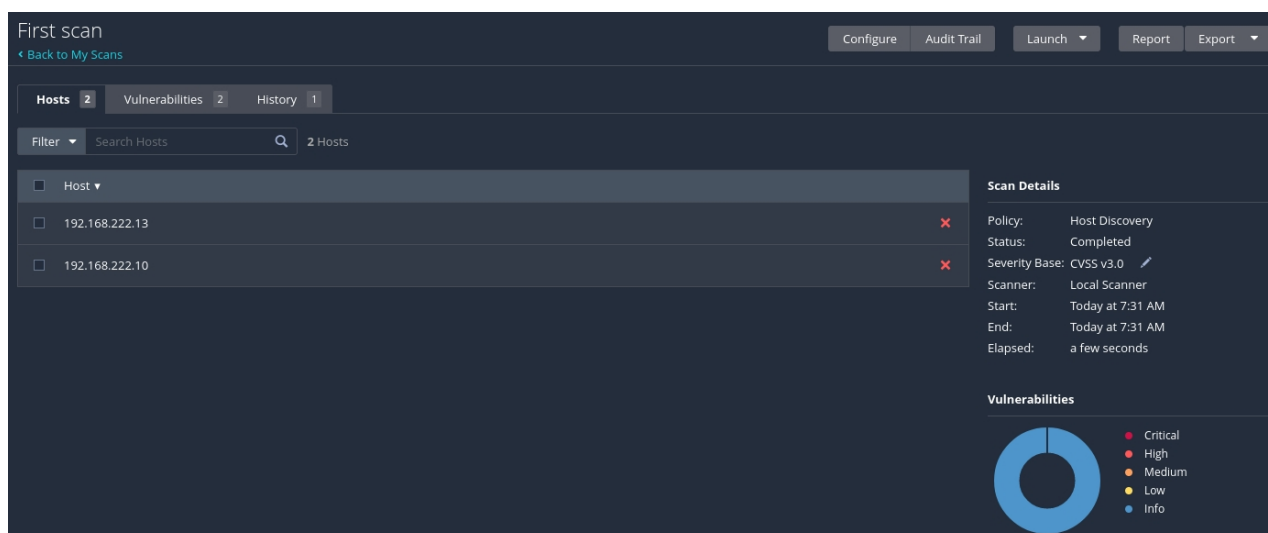
- Click on **“Scans”** in the top bar of Nessus.
- Click on **“New scan”**.
- Pick one scanner from the list of templates, like the **“Host Discovery”** for example.



- Fill the forms according to your template.  
If you picked the host discovery, simply fill the targets with your network or subnetwork you want to use.
- Click **“Save”** to create the scan, and click on the play button to launch it.

Once the scan completed, you can click on the line to see the results.





Obviously, this is just the beginning, but we have successfully installed Nessus on Kali Linux, and it's working as expected. From there, I recommend you to [check the official documentation](#) and other tutorials on the topic to use Nessus the way you want.

And if you want to do more with Kali Linux in terms of vulnerability scanning and exploitation, here are a few other tutorials you might be interested in:

- [Getting Started with BeEF on Kali Linux: A Complete Guide](#)
- [Mastering Netcat on Kali Linux: A beginner's guide](#)
- [Wifite: A step-by-step guide for Kali Linux users](#)

**Whenever you're ready for more security, here are things you should think about:**

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- **[Protect yourself online](#)**: Use a high-speed Swiss VPN that safeguards your privacy. Open-source, no activity logs. [Get Proton VPN risk-free](#).
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