

**Discussion: Linux Tools**

**Learning Objectives and Outcomes**

* Evaluate Linux tools for penetration testing and troubleshooting.

**Assignment Requirements**

You are a security analyst at a university. The university uses Linux-based tools when systems are discovered to be or suspected to be compromised.

Answer the following question(s):

1. **Would you use Kali Linux for penetration testing? Why or why not?**

Using Backtrack Linux was actually my introduction to both Linux and pentesting (in a homemade lab environment). Since using Backtrack(now Kali Linux) for the first time around 2010, I have cycled through various Linux distributions, and every once in a while I come back to Kali.

While Backtrack was more than a little daunting to approach as a Linux newbie back then, it was still probably the best pentesting option at the time. Kali Linux has improved on this immensely. Not only is Kali now easy to use as an operating system, it is also chock full of the most cutting edge pentesting tools and secure to boot (on boot). Considering these things, I would definitely use Kali Linux for penetration testing.

1. **Given a choice, would you prefer to use a Live CD/DVD or a virtual machine to troubleshoot Linux issues? Why?**

I would prefer to use a virtual machine. Not only do you have the benefit of being able to access your host OS while troubleshooting issues in the VM, but you also don’t have to worry about any additional medium to boot the system and will generally have greater access to system resources with a virtual machine.

Fully address the question(s) in this discussion; provide valid rationale for your choices, where applicable; and respond to at least two other students’ views.

**Required Resources**

* Course textbook
* Internet access

**Self-Assessment Checklist**

* I fully addressed the question(s) in the discussion instructions.
* I included justification or rationale for my choices, where applicable.
* I responded to at least two other students’ views.
* I followed the submission guidelines.

Please follow the outlined guidelines of this discussion:

* *Be respectful and open to opinions and ideas that differ from yours. The exchange of diverse thoughts, ideas, and opinions are an essential part of the scholarly environment. Keep in mind that the people in your classes may come from backgrounds and have views that may vary significantly from your own.*
* *Flaming is not appropriate under any circumstances. While everyone (learners and instructors alike) is encouraged to share ideas and opinions openly, you should never use insults or resort to name-calling even if you disagree strongly with what someone else has written. Insulting remarks and name-calling are never appropriate in an academic setting. Flaming is the posting of messages that are deliberately hostile and insulting in an online social context.*
* *When responding to messages or posts made by others, address the ideas, not the person.*
* *Be careful when using sarcasm and humor. Without social cues, such as facial expressions and body language, a remark meant as humorous could come across hurtful or offensive. Don't assume that the use of emoticons, such as :-) are enough to convey your tone or intent.*
* *Capitalizing whole words is generally seen as SHOUTING and is often offensive to the reader. Use all capital letters sparingly, such as to highlight a meaningful word or poin*