

Nessus Vulnerability Scanner

Contents

Nessus Vulnerability Scanner	1
Downloading and Installing Nessus Essentials	1
Using Nessus to Scan the Local Computer	2
Assignment Submission.....	3

Time required: 60 minutes

Downloading and Installing Nessus Essentials

Objective: Download and install Nessus Essentials.

Description: In this activity, you download and install Nessus Essentials, a popular vulnerability scanning tool for discovering vulnerabilities in Windows and Linux systems. Nessus Essentials is the free version of Nessus. It has the same functionality as the commercial product Nessus Professional. It restricts the number of IP addresses you can work with.

OS: Windows

1. In Windows, start your web browser and go to <https://www.tenable.com/tenable-for-education>
2. Click **Get Started**.
3. You will need to register for an Activation Code.
4. At the downloads page → Scroll down until you find something like:
Nessus-10.8.3-x64.msi
The number may change, make sure it says x64.msi
5. After the download is finished, browse to the location of the saved file, and double-click the setup executable file. If you see a warning message, click Run or OK to continue. The InstallShield Wizard window opens.
6. Close all running Windows applications, and then click Next.
7. Follow the prompts and accept license agreements and default settings.

8. When the installation is finished, your default web browser will open to the Welcome to Nessus Install page.
9. Click the **Connect via SSL** button. You may get a warning, go ahead anyway.
10. On the Welcome to Nessus page, click **Nessus Essentials**, and then click the Continue button.
11. When you are asked for your account information, Click **Skip**.
12. Enter your activation code, then click the **Continue** button.
13. Nessus Essentials finishes the installation and begins to download plugins it needs to perform vulnerability scans.
14. To start Nessus Essentials in the future, open a web browser tab and enter <https://localhost:8834>

Using Nessus to Scan the Local Computer

Objective: Use Nessus to scan the local computer for vulnerabilities. Description: In this activity, you scan your computer with Nessus to discover vulnerabilities, including weak or missing passwords.

1. After Nessus is done updating → close the Nessus web browser window.
2. Log on to Nessus Essentials. <https://localhost:8834>
3. You will be asked to do a Host Discovery Scan. Type in the network address of your local network. For example: 192.168.1.0/24
4. Do a Host discovery scan.
5. You should see all the devices on your network. Click the checkmark in front of your computer.
6. Nessus will do a Basic Network Scan.
7. You don't have to provide credentials on the Credentials tab, but if you do, the scan can collect more information. Click Save.
8. When the scan is complete, click its name in the My Scans list to view the results.
9. Click the Vulnerabilities tab.
10. Take a screenshot of the results:

Click or tap here to enter text.

11. What problems did Nessus Essentials find? Did it find any password vulnerabilities or other vulnerabilities? Are any results unexpected?

Click or tap here to enter text.

12. Write a summary of vulnerability problems that Nessus Essentials found.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Assignment Submission

Attach this completed document to the assignment in Blackboard.