---

# Penetration Testing Execution Standard (PTES)

The **Penetration Testing Execution Standard** (**PTES**) was created by some of the brightest minds and definitive experts in the penetration testing industry. It consists of seven phases of penetration testing and can be used to perform an effective penetration test on any environment. The details of the methodology can be found at http://www.pentest-standard.org/index.php/Main_Page.

The seven stages of penetration testing that are detailed by this standard are as follows (source: www.pentest-standard.org):

- Pre-engagement interactions
- Intelligence gathering
- Threat modeling
- Vulnerability analysis
- Exploitation
- Post-exploitation
- Reporting

Each of these stages is provided in detail on the PTES site along with specific mind maps that detail the steps required for each phase. This allows for the customization of the PTES standard to match the testing requirements of the environments that are being tested. More details about each step can be accessed by simply clicking on the item in the mind map.

## Key features and benefits

The following are the key features and benefits of the PTES:

- It is a very thorough penetration testing framework that covers the technical as well as other important aspects of a penetration test, such as scope creep, reporting, and protecting you as a penetration tester
- It has detailed instructions on how to perform many of the tasks that are required to accurately test the security posture of an environment
- It is put together for penetration testers by experienced penetration testing experts who perform these tasks on a daily basis
- It is inclusive of the most commonly found technologies as well as ones that are not so common
- It is easy to understand and you can adapt it to your own testing needs