

# Tenable Nessus Guide & Documentation

## -----Work In Progress-----

### How to Get Tenable Nessus

- All of the Tenable Nessus 10.4.2 Files can be found in the **Shared Drive:** [REDACTED For Security Purposes]
- - The Installation File is called: **Nessus-10.4.2-x64**
    - This can be found in [REDACTED For Security Purposes]
- If you have access to the [REDACTED For Security Purposes] Network, you could also get the Files from the [REDACTED For Security Purposes]

### Installing Tenable Nessus (Standalone Windows Workstation)

1. Copy the "Nessus 10.4.2" Folder onto your Target Device, in the Directory of your choice.
2. Run the **Nessus-10.4.2-x64** Installation File
  - a. This can be found in **~\Nessus 10.4.2\10.4.2**
3. Install Shield Wizard
  - a. This will ask you to accept the Terms and Conditions, and to choose an Installation Path for Tenable Nessus
  - b. For the Installation Path **"C:\Program Files\Tenable"** works perfectly fine here.
4. After the Installation has completed, Nessus should be launched on it's own (most likely in the Microsoft Edge Web Browser), and you should see a screen with **"nessus"** in the middle, and a button that says **"Connect via SSL"**. If this is the case, you can Skip to Step 6.
  - a. Nessus Webpage URL: **"http://localhost:8834/WelcomeToNessus-Install/welcome"** or **"https://localhost:8834"**
5. If Nessus did not load automatically, you should have gotten a Web Browser Message that says, **"Your connection isn't private"**. To bypass this, you would Click the **"Advanced"** Button, and then Click **"Continue to localhost (unsafe)"**.
  - a. If the **"Proceed to Webpage"** Option is missing, Click on the Windows Search Bar, and Type in **"Edit group policy"**, and then press **"Enter"**.
  - b. Once you are in the **"Local Group Policy Editor"** on the Left-Hand Side, Under **"Computer Configuration"**, Double Click on **"Administrative Templates"**, then Double Click on **"Microsoft Edge"**. On the Right-Hand Side, Find the Setting called **"Allow users to proceed from the HTTPS warning page"** and Double Click on it.
    - i. Group Policy: **"Computer Configuration"->"Administrative Templates"->"Microsoft Edge"->"Allow users to proceed from the HTTPS warning page"->"Enabled"**
  - c. At the Top Left of the **"Allow users to proceed from the HTTPS warning page"** Window, Select **"Enabled"**, and then Click **"Apply"**, and then Click **"OK"**.
  - d. To Actually Apply this, you can Open PowerShell as Administrator, Enter the Command **"gpupdate"** and press **"Enter"**.
    - i. If it worked correctly, you should see an output that says **"Computer Policy update has completed successfully"**. As long as that part is correct, you don't have to worry about it saying "User Policy Update Failed".
    - ii. This should force your Group Policy Changes to Update, and allow you to Proceed to the Webpage.
  - e. Now, close out of all instances of Microsoft Edge, and in the Windows Search Box Type in **"Nessus Web Client"**, and hit the Down Arrow Key to Select the Option under **"Websites"**, and then press **"Enter"**.
  - f. This should bring you back to the **"https://localhost:8834"** Webpage, it should say **"Your connection isn't private"** again. Click the **"Advanced"** Button, and then Click **"Continue to localhost (unsafe)"**.
    - i. If this didn't work, you can also Restart your Machine, to force the Group Policy Changes to Update as well, and then Repeat **Step 5e** and **Step 5f** again.
  - g. After you get to the page that says **"Welcome to Nessus"**, Open the Group Policy Editor and go to: **"Computer Configuration"->"Administrative Templates"->"Microsoft Edge"->"Allow users to proceed from the HTTPS warning page"->"Disabled"**. Make sure that this Group Policy Value is switched back to **"Disabled"**, Click **"Apply"**, and Click **"OK"**.
    - i. You can run **"gpupdate"** in PowerShell as Administrator once more, but as long as the Computer gets Shutdown, it should be all good.
6. You've Successfully Installed Tenable Nessus 10.4.2! The Next Section will go over Licensing Tenable Nessus.

### Licensing Tenable Nessus (Standalone Windows Workstation - Offline Activation)

This guide assumes that you have already completed the **"Installing Tenable Nessus"** portion of the guide.

1. If you have just completed the previous section of the guide, you should see a window that says **"Welcome to Nessus"** and **"Choose how you want to deploy Nessus. Select a product to get started"**.
  - a. If not, open Microsoft Edge, and put this in the URL box for Nessus: **"https://localhost:8834"**.
2. Select **"Nessus Professional"**, or which ever version of Nessus you are using, and then Click **"Continue"**.
3. You should now see a page that asks you to enter an **"Activation Code"**, and under that, an input field with a Check-Box for **"Register Offline"**, Click this Check-Box. A prompt should now appear for a **"Nessus License Key"**.
4. **On a Separate Device with Internet Access:** Go to this Website - <https://plugins.nessus.org/v2/offline.php>
  - a. It should pop-up a Webpage that says "Generate a license for Nessus 6.3 and Later".
5. **On the Standalone Workstation:** Open **"Command Prompt"** as Administrator.
  - a. Use the **"cd"** Command to parse to where you have installed Nessus on the device.
    - i. Ex: **"cd C:\Program Files\Tenable\Nessus"**
  - b. Type in the Command: **"nessuscli fetch --challenge"** and press **"Enter"**.
    - i. This should Output a Challenge Code for Tenable Nessus.
      1. Ex: **Challenge Code: 1a2b3c4d5e6f7g8h9i**
6. **On a Separate Device with Internet Access:** Type in the Challenge Code, from the Command Prompt Output, Underneath where it says **"Run nessuscli fetch --challenge on your nessusd server and copy the result below"**
  - a. **Tip:** Double Check the Challenge Code you Enter to Make Sure it's Correct!

- b. **Optional:** You can also copy the Challenge Code from the Command Prompt, and Paste it into a Text File.
- c. For the Section **"Enter your activation code below"**, Enter the **"2022 Nessus Activation Code"** that was given to you with your Nessus License(s), which associates with the Standalone Machine that is being Configured.
- d. When Both Fields are Entered accordingly, Click the Blue **"Submit"** Button.
  - i. If everything has gone correctly, you should see a Page that says **"Thank you"**, with a Link for the latest Nessus Plugins, and the Text associated with the Tenable License.
- 7. **On a Separate Device with Internet Access:** Click the Link on the Top of the Page, this will Download the latest Plugins for Nessus. - <https://plugins.nessus.org/v2/nessus.php?f=all-2.0.tar.gz&u=a408352aaa7d0f2e459547a89e63e5de&p=ac2664bcd6c2112380d692ace82e7da3>
  - a. Additionally, Click the Blue **"Download nessus.license"** Button at the Bottom of the Page. This will Download your Nessus License File.
  - b. Once the Plugins and the Nessus License File have downloaded, Copy the **"all-2.0.tar"** and **"nessus.license"** Files to an External Hard Drive, or USB.
- 8. **On the Standalone Workstation:** Connect your External Hard Drive, or USB to the Standalone Workstation, and Copy the **"all-2.0.tar"** and **"nessus.license"** Files to a Directory of your Choice on the Standalone Workstation.
  - a. After you have Copied these Files to the Standalone Machine, Right-Click the **"nessus.license"** File, and Click **"Open with"**, Click **"More apps"**, and Click **"Notepad"**.
  - b. Once the **"nessus.license"** File opens in Notepad, Press **"CTRL+A"** to Select Everything, and then Copy the Contents, **"CTRL+C"**.
  - c. Go back to the Edge Web Browser, and Paste the Contents of the **"nessus.license"** File into the Section **"Nessus License Key \*"**, and then Click **"Continue"**.
- 9. You have now Successfully Licensed Tenable Nessus! The Next Section will go over Configuring Tenable Nessus.

## Configuring Tenable Nessus (Standalone Windows Workstation)

This guide assumes that you have already completed the **"Licensing Tenable Nessus"** portion of the guide, and that you are still on the Standalone Workstation.

1. If you are Continuing from right where the Previous Section Left Off, you are in the Right Place. Now that the Standalone Workstation is Licensed, we can Configure it. You should see a Screen that says **"Create a user account"**, for the **"Username"** Type in **"SVC-Nessus"**, and Configure the Password as you see fit.
  - a. Once you enter in your Username and Password Click the **"Submit"** Button.
    - i. **Tip:** If you Click on the Eyeball Icon for the Password Field, it will show you your Password. This will allow you to Double-Check the Password that you have Inputted.
  - b. After you hit the **"Submit"** button, it will Initialize Nessus.
2. -----**NEED TO VERIFY NEXT PARTS ON LAPTOPS**-----
3. We can Finally see the Homescreen for Nessus! For our next step, in the **"About"** Section, we need to Click the **"Software Update"** Tab, **Close out Pop-Up at Top-Right?**
4. Next, Click **"Manual Software Update"** at the Top-Right of the Page, Select **"Upload your own Plug-in Archive"**, and Click **"Continue"**.
  - a. Find **"add-on file"** on the Bottom Left of the Page?, and Click it. Navigate to where you Copied your **"all-2.0.tar"** File, Select it, and Click **"Open"**.
5. When the Add-On Update has Completed, Open **"Command Prompt"** as **Administrator**
  - a. Type in the Command: **"net stop "Tenable Nessus""**, and Press **"Enter"**.
    - i. This will End the Tenable Nessus Process.
  - b. Type in the Command: **"net start "Tenable Nessus""**, and Press **"Enter"**.
    - i. This will Start the Tenable Nessus Process.
  - c. We have effectively Reset the Tenable Nessus Service, so that the appropriate Add-Ons can be Applied.
  - d. You can also Verify that the Update has gone through, by Left-Clicking the **"Overview"** Tab.
6. **Important:** Make Sure you Have the **"Auditors"** Security Group
  - a. **Verify:** Open Computer Management, Double Click on **"Local Users and Groups"**, and Double Click the **"Groups"** Folder.
  - b. If you Do Not Have the **"Auditors"** Security Group
    - i. Right-Click the Space Below the Names of the Various Groups, and then Click on **"New Group..."**.
    - ii. For **"Group name:"** Type in **"Auditors"** (you could also add a description if you would like), Click **"Create"**, and then Click **"Close"**.
  - iii. If Done Correctly, the Auditors Group Should Appear in the List (usually at the bottom of the list).
7. **Important:** Create a New User Called **"SVC-Nessus"**
  - a. -----**BELOW IS POST-ACCOUNT CREATION | NEED TO ADD ACCOUNT CREATION STEPS**-----
  - b. Open **"Computer Management"**, Click on **"Local Users & Groups"**, Click on **"users"**, and Click on **"SVC-Nessus"**.
  - c. **Verify:** Open Computer Management, Double Click on **"Local Users and Groups"**, and Double Click the **"Groups"** Folder.
  - d. If you Do Not Have the **"Auditors"** Security Group
    - i. Right-Click the Space Below the Names of the Various Groups, and then Click on **"New Group..."**.
    - ii. For **"Group name:"** Type in **"Auditors"** (you could also add a description if you would like), Click **"Create"**, and then Click **"Close"**.
  - iii. If Done Correctly, the Auditors Group Should Appear in the List (usually at the bottom of the list).
8. -----**[THE BELOW SECTION NEEDS A LOT OF WORK]**-----
9. Next, we Need to Change the File Permissions **For Each** of the Following Directories. If you have a 64-Bit Computer, Change the Permissions for the Folders Under **"64-Bit"**. If you have a 32-Bit Computer, Change the Permissions for the Folders Under **"32-Bit"**
  - a. **64-Bit**
    - i. **"C:\Program Files\Tenable\Nessus"**
    - ii. **"C:\Program Files\WinPcap"**
  - b. **32-Bit**
    - i. **"C:\Program Files(x86)\Tenable\Nessus"**
    - ii. **"C:\Program Files\WinPcap"**
  - c. -----**Maybe Get Screenshots for this Section?**-----

## Permissions

All permissions are "This folder, subfolders and files" unless specified

Administrators: Full Control

[REDACTED]: Full Control

[REDACTED]: Full Control

SYSTEM: Full Control

Users: Read and Execute (This folder only)

Note: Other/Various OS specific added

Permissions are acceptable

d.

## Auditing

Everyone – Failure only (Subfolders and files only)

Traverse folder / execute file

List folder / read data

Create files / write data

Create folders / append data

Delete subfolders and files

Delete

Change permissions

Take ownership

e.

10. -----[THE ABOVE SECTION NEEDS A LOT OF WORK]-----
11. LEFT OFF AT STEP 33 ON NOTES
12. -----NEED TO TEST AND VERIFY PARTS OF THIS-----
13. For the "Nessus" -----AND "INPcap" AND "WinPcap"----- Folder, Right Click the Folder, Click on **Properties -> Security -> Advanced -> Click "Add" -> Click "Select a principle" -> In the "Enter the object name to select (examples):** Field, Input the Name of your "Auditors" Group -> Press the "Enter" Key
- Make Sure "Type:" is Set to "Allow", "Applies to:" is Set to "This folder, subfolders and files", and Under "Basic permissions:" Check the Box that Says "Full control", and Click "OK".
  - Check the Box that Says, "Replace all child object permission entries with inheritable permission entries from this object" -> Click "Apply" -> for the "Windows Security" Prompt, Click "Yes" -> Click "OK".
  - Under the "Permission entries:" Section Double Click "Administrators", Make Sure "Type:" is Set to "Allow", "Applies to:" is Set to "Subfolders and files only", and Under "Basic permissions:" Un-Check all the Boxes, then Check the Box that Says "Read & execute", and Click "OK". -----SET THIS TO MATCH PREVIOUS ADMIN PERMISSIONS-----NEED TO TEST-----
  - Check the Box that Says, "Replace all child object permission entries with inheritable permission entries from this object", Click "Apply", for the Two "Windows Security" Prompts Click "Yes", and then Click "OK".
  - We have Successfully Configured all of the Appropriate File Permissions surrounding Tenable Nessus!
14. Now, **Open Nessus:** Do a Windows Search for "Nessus WebClient".
- Tip: You could also open you Web Browser, and Type in "localhost:8834" in the URL Box.
  - Log in to your Account: "username: SVC-Nessus", "pass: [Previously Configured Password]"
    - IMPORTANT: Make sure you **DO NOT** Check "Remember Me", for Security Purposes.
15. Once Logged-In, Click the "Scans" Tab at the Top, and then Click on "My Scans" on the Left Side-Bar (Under the "Folders" Category).
- Now Click "Basic Network Scan" (Located Under the "Vulnerabilities" Tab).
  - In the "Name" Text Box Type "Network Scan", and in the "Description" Text Box Type "Test Network Scan".
  - In the Drop-Down Menu for "Folder", Select "My Scans", and in the "Targets" Section, Type the Target IP Address Range for your LAN.
    - Ex: "192.168.1.1-192.168.1.254"
  - Now Click the Blue, "Save" Button.
16. -----NEED TO ADD GETTING RID OF SSH AND VERIFY PARTS OF THIS-----
17. Now Click on the "Credentials" Tab, Under "Categories" Click on "Windows" (With the Drop-Down Menu "Host"), and Enter in your associated Credentials.
- Ex: "Authentication method" - "Password"
  - Ex: "Username" - "SVC-Nessus"
  - Ex: "Password" - "[Previously Configured Password]"
  - Ex: "Domain" - "LAN\_Domain"
18. -----NEED TO ADD GETTING RID OF SSH AND VERIFY PARTS OF THIS-----

19. You should be on the "**My Scans**" Page now (**Folders -> My Scans**). For the scan you just made, Click on the **Play** Button on the Far Right of the Scan Name "Launch".
- The Scan will now Begin.
  - You will know when the Scan was completed, when it says " **Today at [the time you scanned it at]**" for your Configured Scan.
20. Congratulations! You have Successfully Installed, Licensed, and Configured Tenable Nessus! Now you're good to go! 😊

-----Delete-----

- Still need to add Getting Rid of SSH Part in Scan Configuration
- Still need to add creating SVC-Nessus Account in Local Users and Groups
- Still need to fix Configuring Local File Permissions

-----Delete-----

-----**Work In Progress**-----