

# Information Systems

#### **Chapter 4**

Information Security risk analysis

Term and Definitions for Risk Analysis of Information Security

-Sanket Mohan Pandhare

## **Security Assessment**

#### **Overview**



- Definition
  - Security assessment identifies existing IT vulnerabilities and recommends countermeasures for mitigating potential risks
- Goal
  - Make the infrastructure more secure
  - Identify risks and reduce them
- Consequences of Failure
  - Loss of services
  - Financial loss
  - Loss of reputation
  - Legal consequences

# Security Assessment

#### **Types**

- Non-Intrusive
  - 1. Security Audit
  - 2. Risk Assessment
  - 3. Risk Analysis
- Intrusive
  - 1. Vulnerability Scan
  - 2. Penetration Testing / Ethical Hacking
- All have the goal of identifying vulnerabilities and improving security
  - Differ in rules of engagement and limited purpose of the specific engagement (what is allowed, legal liability, purpose of analysis, etc.).



# Security Assessment: Non-Intrusive Types

#### 1. Security Audit

Security Audit- Independent review and examination of system records & activities to determine adequacy of system controls, ensure compliance of security policy & operational procedures, detect breaches in security, and recommend changes in these processes.

- Features
  - Formal Process
  - Paper Oriented
    - Review Policies for Compliance and Best Practices
  - Review System Configurations
    - Questionnaire, or console based
  - Automated Scanning
  - Checklists

## Security Assessment: Non-Intrusive Types

#### 2. Risk Assessment



- Risk Assessment (Vulnerability Assessment) is:
  - determination of state of *risk* associated with a system based upon thorough *analysis*
  - includes recommendations to support subsequent security controls/decisions.
  - takes into account business, as well as legal constraints.
- Involves more testing than traditional paper audit
- Primarily required to identify weaknesses in the information system
- Steps
  - Identify security holes in the infrastructure
  - Look but not intrude into the systems
  - Focus on best practices (company policy is secondary)

## Security Assessment: Non-Intrusive Types

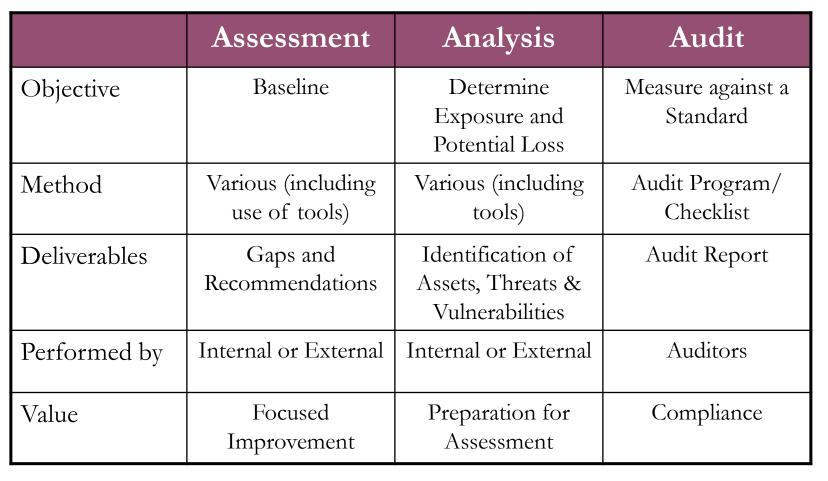
### 3. Risk Analysis

- **Risk Analysis** is the identification or study of:
  - an organization's assets
  - threats to these assets
  - system's vulnerability to the threats
- Risk Analysis is done in order to determine exposure and potential loss.
- Computationally intensive and requires data to
  - Compute probabilities of attack
  - Valuation of assets
  - Efficacy of the controls
- More cumbersome than audit or assessment and usually requires an analytically trained person



## **Security Assessment**

## Assessment vs. Analysis vs. Audit





## Security Assessment: Intrusive Types

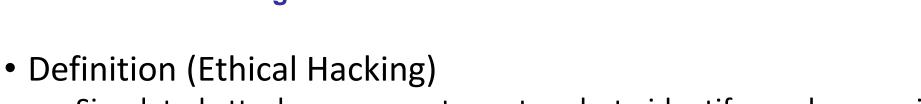
#### 1. Vulnerability Scan



- Definition
  - Scan the network using automated tools to identify security holes in the network
- Usually a highly automated process
  - Fast and cheap
- Limitations
  - False findings
  - System disruptions (due to improperly run tools)
- Differences in regular scans can often identify new vulnerabilities

## Security Assessment: Intrusive Types

### 2. Penetration Testing



 Simulated attacks on computer networks to identify weaknesses in the network.

## Steps

- Find a vulnerability
- Exploit the vulnerability to get deeper access
- Explore the potential damage that the hacker can cause

## Example

- Scan web server: Exploit buffer overflow to get an account
- Scan database (from web server)
- Find weakness in database: Retrieve password
- Use password to compromise firewall



## Security Assessment

#### **Risk Reduction**



## There are three strategies for risk reduction:

- Avoiding the risk
  - by changing requirements for security or other system characteristics
- Transferring the risk
  - by allocating the risk to other systems, people, organizations assets or by buying insurance
- Assuming the risk
  - by accepting it, controlling it with available resources

## **Security Assessment**

### **Effective Security**

- Effective security relies on several factors
  - Security Assessments
  - Policies & Procedures
  - Education (of IT staff, users, & managers)
  - Configuration Standards/Guidelines
    - OS Hardening
    - Network Design
    - Firewall Configuration
    - Router Configuration
    - Web Server Configuration
  - Security Coding Practices



# Security Assessment Limitations



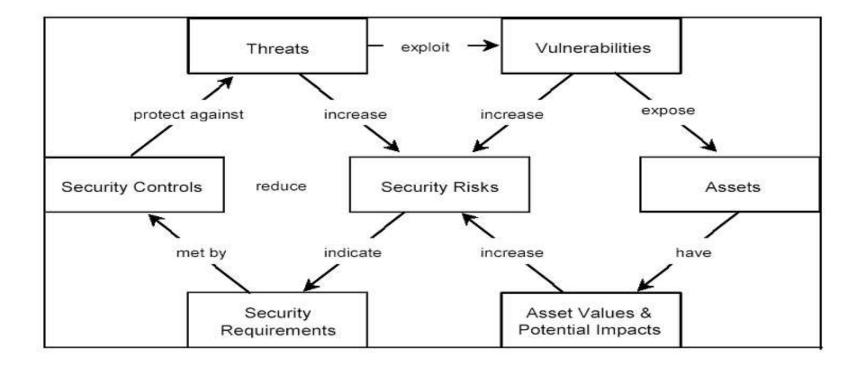
- Often locates previously known issues
  - Provides false sense of security
- Just the first step
  - Needs due diligence in applying the recommendation of the assessment
- Becomes obsolete rapidly
  - Needs to be repeated periodically

#### **Outline**

- What is risk analysis?
- What terms are needed in risk analysis?
- What are assets?
- What are vulnerabilities?
- What are threats?
- What types of risk exist?
  - Security Risk
  - Physical Asset Risks
  - Mission Risks



### **Concept Map**





- Threats exploit system vulnerabilities which expose system assets.
- Security controls protect against threats by meeting security requirements established on the basis of asset values.

#### **Basic Definitions**



- Assets- Something that the agency values and has to protect. Assets include all information and supporting items that an agency requires to conduct business.
- **Vulnerability** A weak characteristic of an information *asset* or group of assets which can be exploited by a *threat*. Consequence of weaknesses in *controls*.
- **Threat** Potential cause of an unwanted event that may result in harm to the agency and its assets. A threat is a manifestation of vulnerability.
- **Security Risk** is the probability that a specific *threat* will successfully exploit a *vulnerability* causing a *loss*.
- Security Controls- Implementations to reduce overall risk and vulnerability.

#### **Assets**



 Assets: Something that the agency values and has to protect. Assets include all information and supporting items that an agency requires to conduct business.

- Data
  - Breach of confidentiality
  - Loss of data integrity
  - Denial of service
  - Corruption of Applications
  - Disclosure of Data

- Organization
  - Loss of trust
  - Embarrassment
  - Management failure
- Personnel
  - Injury and death
  - Sickness
  - Loss of morale

# Risk Analysis Assets Cont'd



- Infrastructure
  - Electrical grid failure
  - Loss of power
  - Chemical leaks
  - Facilities & equipment
  - Communications

## Legal

- Use or acceptance of unlicensed software
- Disclosure of Client Secrets
- Operational Secrets
- Interruption of services
- Loss/Delay in Orders
- Delay in Shipments

#### **Vulnerabilities**

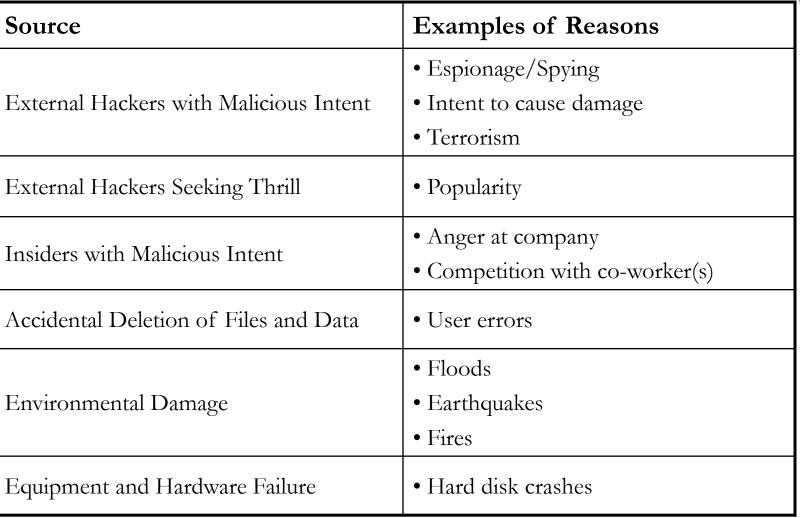
- Vulnerabilities are flaws within an asset, such as an operating system, router, network, or application, which allows the asset to be exploited by a threat.
- Examples
  - Software design flaws
  - Software implementation errors
  - System misconfiguration (e.g. misconfigured firewalls)
  - Inadequate security policies
  - Poor system management
  - Lack of physical protections
  - Lack of employee training (e.g. passwords on post-it notes in drawers or under keyboards)

#### **Threats**



- Threats are potential causes of events which have a negative impact.
  - Threats exploit vulnerabilities causing impact to assets
- Examples
  - Denial of Service (DOS) Attacks
  - Malicious Code
  - Human Error
  - Insider Attacks
  - Intrusion

#### **Sources of Threats**





## Risk Analysis Security Risk



- Risk is the probability that a specific threat will successfully exploit a vulnerability causing a loss.
- Risks of an organization are evaluated by three distinguishing characteristics:
  - loss associated with an event, e.g., disclosure of confidential data, lost time, and lost revenues.
  - likelihood that event will occur, i.e. probability of event occurrence
  - Degree that risk outcome can be influenced, i.e. controls that will influence the event
- Various forms of threats exist
- Different stakeholders have various perception of risk
- Several sources of threats exist simultaneously

## **Physical Asset Risks**



- Physical Asset Risks
  - Relating to items with physical and tangible items that have an associated financial value.
  - This kind of risk can be easily controlled by implementing various security controls.
  - Multiple authentication technique.
  - Transfer the risk.

#### **Mission Risks**



#### Mission Risks

- Relating to functions, jobs or tasks that need to be performed.
- Enforcement of security policies.
- Mission critical applications and assets need to be monitored especially.
- Special security team.
- Non-intrusive and intrusive assessment periodically.

# Risk Analysis: Methodology and Objectives Outline

- What are the key steps in risk analysis?
- When should risk analysis be performed?
- How to determine a baseline?
- How to determine the scope?
  - Strategic Context
  - Organizational Context
  - Risk Management Context
- What criteria should be used for risk evaluation?
- What standards should be considered?



# Risk Analysis: Methodology

## **Key Steps**



- 1. Define objectives
- 2. Define deliverables
- 3. Establish a work plan
- 4. Determine tools to assist with process

## Risk Assessment: Methodology

#### When to perform?



### Periodically

- Often event-driven
- Typically year-over-year comparison
- Generally labor-intensive
- Most organizations start with periodic assessments

## Continuously

- Part of the normal workflow
- Provides "real-time" risk view
- Often supported by technology and analysis tools
- Integrated with other IT/business processes

#### **Baseline**



- Baseline
  - Where is the organization today?
  - What controls are in place?
  - a collection of policies, standards, processes and technologies that establish a defined security level.
- Evaluation of security control effectiveness
  - Where should the security of the organization be?
  - Where are the gaps?
  - What are opportunities for improvement?
- Establish awareness of threats & vulnerabilities
- Lay foundation for development of security improvement plan

### Scope



- Defining the scope will set the framework for the risks to be managed and will provide guidance for future decisions. This avoids unnecessary work and improves the quality of risk analysis.
- Components
  - Establish strategic context
  - Establish organizational context
  - Establish risk management context
  - Develop risk evaluation criteria

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### **Strategic Context**



- This is based on the environment in which the agency operates.
- The agency should understand:
  - Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, & threats
  - Internal and external stakeholders (objectives and perceptions)
  - Financial, operational, competitive, political, social, client, cultural and legal aspects of agency's functions.
- Risk analysis should be related to agency's mission or strategic objectives
- Cross-organizational issues should be taken into consideration when applicable

## **Organizational Context**



- Organizational Context requires
  - Understanding of agency
  - How it is organized
  - Capabilities, goals, objectives, and strategies
  - Knowledge of assets and values
- This assists in:
  - Defining criteria to determine risk acceptability
  - Forms the basis of controls and risk treatment options

### **Risk Management Context**



- Define review project and establish goals and objectives
  - Will review cover whole organization or just a single project, individual assets or groups of assets?
- Define timeframe and location of review
  - What is budgeted time for review?
  - Where will the review take place? (one site or group of sites)

Risk Management Context, cont'd.



- Identify resources required to conduct review
  - Use to identify sources of risk, common vulnerabilities, threat types and areas of impact
  - Is assessment done internally or through an outside consultant?
  - How many people will be involved?
  - Who are the best people to involve?
  - What tools are going to be used?

#### **Risk Evaluation Criteria**



- Level of acceptable risk should be considered
- Risk evaluation criteria is influenced by:
  - Agency's internal policy, goals and objectives
  - Expectations of stakeholders and customers
  - Legal requirements

#### **Standards**



- ISO 17799
  - Title: Information technology -- Code of practice for information security management
  - Starting point for developing policies
  - http://www.iso.ch/iso/en/prods-services/popstds/.../en/CatalogueDetailPage.CatalogueDetail?CSNUMBER=33441&ICS1=35
- ISO 13335
  - Title: Information technology -- Guidelines for the management of IT Security -- Part 1: Concepts and models for IT Security
  - Assists with developing baseline security.
  - http://www.iso.ch/iso/en/CatalogueDetailPage.CatalogueDetail?CSNUMBER=21733&ICS1=35
- NIST SP 800-xx
  - Different standards for various applications
  - http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/nistpubs/
- Center for Internet Security
  - Configuration Standards
  - http://www.cisecurity.org/

# Risk Analysis: Deliverables and Work Plan Outline



- Who is the intended audience for risk analysis?
- Who should take part in risk analysis?
- How is a work plan created?
  - Planning
  - Preparation
  - Threat Assessment
  - Risk Assessment
  - Recommendations

## Risk Analysis: Deliverables

#### **Intended Audience**



- Executives
  - Upward communication
  - Brief and concise
- Operational Staff
  - What needs to be done for implementation of controls
- Internal Employees
  - Awareness
  - Training
- External Parties

### Risk Analysis: Work Plan

#### **Putting the Team Together**



#### Business

- <u>Security Officer</u> (planning, budgeting and management of security staff)
- <u>Security Manager</u> (policy negotiation, data classification, risk assessment, role analysis)

#### Technical

- <u>Security Operations</u> (vulnerability assessment, patch management, intrusion detection, scanning, forensics, response management, security technology research)
- <u>Security Architect</u> (technology implementation, implementation options)
- <u>Security Administrator</u> (user administration, server security configuration, desktop security)
- <u>Resource Owner</u> (own any residual risk after controls are implemented)
- <u>Resource Custodian</u> (implements/monitors controls)

#### Communications

<u>Security Communications</u> (marketing, awareness)

### Risk Analysis: Work Plan

#### **Creation**



### 1. Planning Stage

- Aim and scope
- Identification of security baselines
- Schedule and methodology
- Acknowledgement of responsibility

### 2. Preparation

- Asset and value listings
- 3. Threat Assessment
  - Threats, sources, and impact

### Risk Analysis: Work Plan

#### **Creation cont'd**



#### 4. Risk Assessment

- Evaluation of existing controls
- Vulnerabilities and exploit probability
- Analysis of risk

#### Recommendations

- Addition of new controls
- Modification of existing controls
- Removal of obsolete/inadequate controls

# Risk Analysis: Tools and Usage Outline



- What are asset inventory tools?
- What are software usage tools?
- What are vulnerability assessment tools?
- What are configuration validation tools?
- What are penetration testing tools?
- What are password auditing tools?
- documentation

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- Tools can speed up the security assessment and help in automation of the risk analysis process.
- Several categories of tools exist:
  - Asset Inventory
  - Software Usage
  - Vulnerability Assessment
  - Configuration Validation
  - Penetration Testing
  - Password Auditing
  - Documentation

#### **Asset inventory**



- Inventory process includes physical inventory and automated tools
- Physical inventory of IT assets that are not attached to the network
  - e.g. in storage closets or locally attached and that are thus not discoverable.
- Autodiscovery tools collect physical data on an enterprise's IT assets and record history of changes made to the asset from the last scan
  - e.g. memory, processor, and software version
- Inventory tools can either:
  - install an agent on the hardware device, which lets the inventory run even if the device is not attached to the network, or be agentless, which can send information only when it is attached to the network.
- In environments with mobile set of assets that are sporadically connected (e.g. once a month), agentless technology requires alternatives way to capture the inventory
  - e.g. such as an e-mail that kicks off the scan.
- The assets that need to be discovered include PDAs, PCs, networking equipment, and servers.
- SNMP

### **Asset Inventory Tools**

Name	Description
Asset Tracker for Networks	Inventory software tool intended to audit software and hardware components installed on computers over a network. It collects network inventory information, provides detailed comprehensive reports and allows export of assets details to external storages, such as SQL database or web site. <a href="http://www.alchemy-lab.com/products/atn/">http://www.alchemy-lab.com/products/atn/</a>
Asset Center	Peregrine Autodiscovery/inventory tool which maintains "an evolving snapshot of IT infrastructure" and provides: what hardware and software is available, asset connection to other assets, location of assets, access to assets, as well as financial and contractual information on assets. <a href="http://www.peregrine.com/products/assetcenter.asp">http://www.peregrine.com/products/assetcenter.asp</a>
Unicenter Access Manageme nt	Computer Associates International asset management tool. It features: "automated discovery, hardware inventory, network inventory, software inventory, configuration management, software usage monitoring, license management and extensive cross-platform reporting." <a href="http://www3.ca.com/Solutions/Product.asp?ID=194">http://www3.ca.com/Solutions/Product.asp?ID=194</a>



### **Tools**

#### **Asset Inventory Tools, cont'd.**



Name	Description
Tally Systems	Tally Systems offers three tools which can be used for IT asset inventory. These are: TS Census Asset Inventory, WebCensus and PowerCensus. These products provide unparalleled IT asset inventory and tracking, hosted PC inventory and reporting, and enhanced inventory for Microsoft SMS respectively. <a href="http://www.tallysystems.com/products/itassettracking.html">http://www.tallysystems.com/products/itassettracking.html</a>
Isogon	Isogon offers multiple tools. SoftAudit gathers software inventory and usage data from your z/OS, OS/390, or UNIX server. Asset insight offers PC, PDA, & network device auto-discovery software & captures data. Vista manages and organizes details from contracts, contract addenda/attachments, and maintenance agreements. <a href="http://www.isogon.com/SAM%20Solutions.htm">http://www.isogon.com/SAM%20Solutions.htm</a>

#### **Software Usage**



- Software usage tools monitor the use of software applications in an organization
- Several uses of such tools
  - Track usage patterns and report on trends to assist with server load balancing and license negotiation.
  - Used to monitor and control the use of unauthorized applications (for example, video games and screen savers).
  - Important for vendor auditing the customers especially for monitoring clients for subscriptionbased pricing

### **Software Usage Tools**



Name	Description
Software Audit Tool (GASP)	Designed to help detect and identify pirated software through tracking licenses. It is a suite of tools used by the Business Software Alliance and is freely available at: <a href="http://global.bsa.org/uk/antipiracy/tools/gasp.phtml">http://global.bsa.org/uk/antipiracy/tools/gasp.phtml</a>
	Find out more

#### **Vulnerability Assessment**



- Vulnerability Assessment helps determine vulnerabilities in computer networks at any specific moment in time.
- Deliverables:
  - List of exploits and threats to which systems and networks are vulnerable. (Ranked according to risk levels)
  - Specific information about exploits and threats listed. (name of exploit or threat, how the threat/exploit works)
  - Recommendations for mitigating risk from these threats and exploits.
- Tools used can be:
  - Commercial or open source (decide based on staff skills)
  - Perform analysis such as:
    - Host-based or network-based

### **Vulnerability Assessment**

Name	Description
Cerberus Internet Scanner	Windows web server vulnerability tester designed to help administrators locate and fix security holes in their computer systems <a href="http://www.cerberus-infosec.co.uk/cis.shtml">http://www.cerberus-infosec.co.uk/cis.shtml</a>
Cgichk	This is a web vulnerability scanner which searches interesting directories and files on a site.  Looks for interesting and hidden directories such as logs, scripts, restricted code, etc. <a href="http://sourceforge.net/projects/cgichk/">http://sourceforge.net/projects/cgichk/</a>
Nessus	Server and client software vulnerability assessment tool which provides remote and local security checking. <a href="http://www.nessus.org/download.html">http://www.nessus.org/download.html</a>
SAINT	SAINT (Security Administrator's Integrated Network Tool) is a security assessment tool. It scans through a firewall updated security checks from CERT & CIAC bulletins. Also, it features 4 levels of severity (red, yellow, brown, & green) through an HTML interface. Based on SATAN model. <a href="http://www.saintcorporation.com/products/saint_engine.html">http://www.saintcorporation.com/products/saint_engine.html</a>
SARA	SARA (Security Auditor's Research Assistant) Third generation UNIX-based security analysis tool. It contains: SANS/ISTS Certified, CVE standards support, an enterprise search module, standalone or daemon mode, user extension support and is based on the SATAN model <a href="http://www.www-arc.com/sara/">http://www.www-arc.com/sara/</a>
Nikto	A web server scanner which performs comprehensive tests against web servers for multiple items, including over 2200 potentially dangerous files/CGIs, versions on over 140 servers, and problems on over 210 servers <a href="http://www.cirt.net/code/nikto.shtml">http://www.cirt.net/code/nikto.shtml</a>



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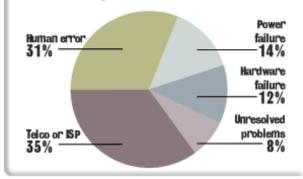
#### **Configuration Validation**

- Configuration Validation
  - is the process in which the current configuration of a specific system, software, or hardware tool is tested against configuration guidelines.



#### To err is human

Network configuration management vendors promise to reduce or eliminate the amount of errors that cause network downtime. The Yankee Group survey of 229 network operators found human error to be the second-largest cause of outages.



- •Human error is shown to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest reason for network downtime.
- Using configuration validation tools will help correct for human error

Source: http://nww1.com/news/2004/0216specialfocus.html

#### **Configuration Validation**



- Depending on focus, especially with network and OS configurations, configuration validation can utilize the same tools as vulnerability assessment & penetration testing
- However, there are more specialized tools for validating specific software applications and hardware.

### **Configuration Validation**

Name	Description
Microsoft Baseline Security Analyzer	Method of identifying common security misconfigurations among Microsoft Windows NT 4.0, 2000, XP, 2003, IIS, SQL Server, Exchange Server, Media Player, Data Access Components (MDAC), Virtual Machine, Commerce Server, Content Management Server, BizTalk Server, Host Integration Server & Office. <a href="http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/tools/mbsahome.mspx">http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/tools/mbsahome.mspx</a>
CISCO Router and Security Device Manager	This offers advanced configuration support for LAN and WAN interfaces, NAT, Stateful Firewall Policy, Inline Intrusion Prevention and IPSec virtual private network (VPN) features. It also provides a 1-click router lockdown and ability to check and recommend changes to router configuration based on ICSA Labs, and Cisco TAC recommendations." <a href="http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/sw/secursw/ps5318/">http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/sw/secursw/ps5318/</a>
Linux Configuration and Diagnostic Tools	This site provides a listing of various Linux configuration tools for system and network configuration, X configuration, library and kernel dependency management, and general diagnostics. <a href="http://www.comptechdoc.org/os/linux/usersguide/linux_ugdiag.html">http://www.comptechdoc.org/os/linux/usersguide/linux_ugdiag.html</a>

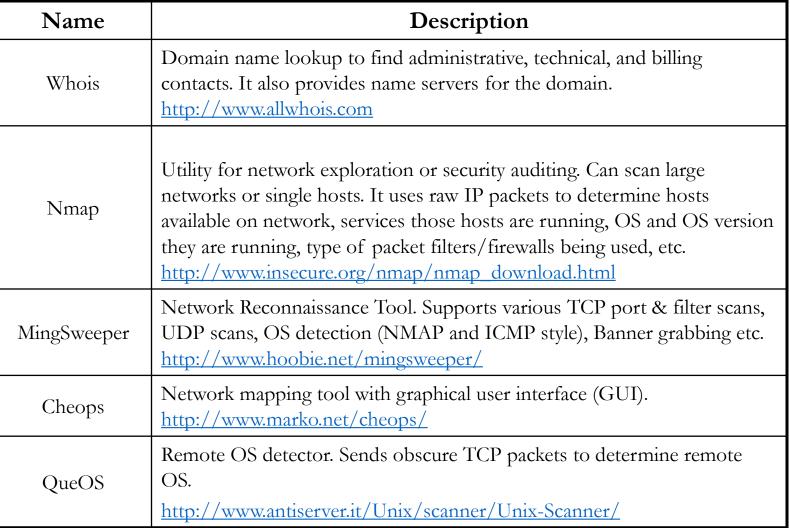


#### **Penetration Testing**

- Penetration Testing is the evaluation of a system for weaknesses through attempting to exploit vulnerabilities.
- Can be done in-house or by a neutral 3<sup>rd</sup> party
- Penetration Testing tools can include:
  - Network exploration (ping, port scanning, OS fingerprinting)
  - Password cracking
  - IDS, Firewall, Router, Trusted System, DOS, Containment Measures Testing
  - Application Testing and Code Review



#### **Penetration Testing**



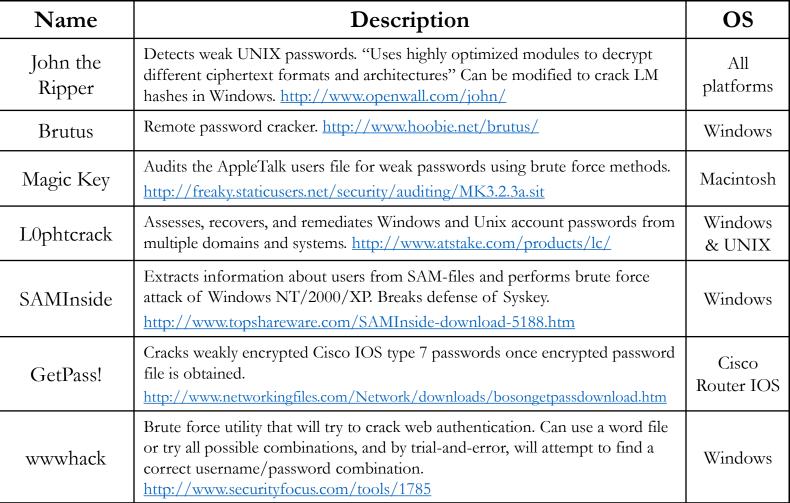


#### **Password Auditing**

- Used for testing passwords for weaknesses which lead to vulnerable systems
- Reasons for password weakness
  - Poor encryption
  - Social engineering (e.g. password is spouse's, pet's or child's name)
  - Passwords less than 6 characters
  - Passwords do not contain special characters and numbers in addition to lower and uppercase letters.
  - Passwords from any dictionary
- Software tools might perform these tasks:
  - Extracting hashed passwords / encrypted passwords
  - Dictionary attack (cracks passwords by trying entries in a pre-installed dictionary)
  - Brute force attack (cracks passwords by trying all possible combinations of characters)
- Deliverables
  - Recommendations for future password policies



#### **Password Auditing**





#### **Documentation**



- Documentation contains data from the risk analysis
- These documents should contain deliverables from other parts of the process (asset inventory, vulnerability assessment, etc.).
  - These can be provided automatically from specialized software or through compiled reports.
- Documentation critical for legal cases where it can be used as evidence to justify expense on controls.
- Documentation might include:
  - Focus of analysis
  - Current system vulnerabilities
  - Cost benefit analysis
  - Recommended controls

# Security Assessment Summary



- Security Assessment is critical to build a measured defense against intrusions
- Risk Analysis involves:
- Asset Valuation
- Vulnerability Analysis
- Threat Identification
- Evaluation and Recommendation of Controls
- Several levels of risk analysis can be performed:
- Non-Intrusive Vulnerability Assessment
- Intrusive Vulnerability Assessment
- Several tools, standards, rules we can use for security assessment.