
C|EH
Certified Ethical Hacker
Module 05
Vulnerability Analysis

Module Objectives

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- Overview of Vulnerability Research and Vulnerability Classification
- Overview of Vulnerability Assessment
- Overview of Vulnerability Management Life Cycle (Vulnerability Assessment Phases)
- Understanding Different Approaches of Vulnerability Assessment Solutions
- Understanding Different Types of Vulnerability Assessment Tools
- Overview of Vulnerability Scoring Systems
- Vulnerability Assessment Tools
- Overview of Vulnerability Assessment Reports

Module Flow

1. Vulnerability Assessment Concepts
2. Vulnerability Assessment Solutions
3. Vulnerability Scoring Systems
4. Vulnerability Assessment Tools
5. Vulnerability Assessment Reports

Vulnerability Research

- The process of **discovering vulnerabilities and design flaws** that will open an operating system and its applications to attack or misuse
- Vulnerabilities are classified based on **severity level** (low, medium, or high) and **exploit range** (local or remote)

An administrator needs vulnerability research

1. To gather information about **security trends**, **threats**, and **attacks**
2. To find **weaknesses** and alert the network administrator before a **network attack**
3. To **get information** that helps to prevent security problems
4. To know **how to recover** from a network attack

Vulnerability Classification

1. Misconfigurations 
2. Default Installations 
3. Buffer Overflows 
4. Unpatched Servers 
5. Design Flaws 
6. Operating System Flaws 
7. Application Flaws 
8. Open Services 
9. Default Passwords 

What is Vulnerability Assessment?

- Vulnerability assessment is an **examination of the ability of a system or application**, including current security procedures and controls, to withstand assault
- It recognizes, measures, and classifies security vulnerabilities in a **computer system**, **network**, and **communication channels**

A vulnerability assessment may be used to:

- Identify weaknesses that could be exploited
- Predict the effectiveness of additional security measures in protecting information resources from attacks

Information obtained from the vulnerability scanner includes:

- Network vulnerabilities
- Open ports and running services
- Application and services vulnerabilities
- Application and services configuration errors

Types of Vulnerability Assessment

Active Assessment

Uses a network scanner to find hosts, services, and vulnerabilities

Passive Assessment

A technique used to sniff the network traffic to find out active systems, network services, applications, and vulnerabilities present

External Assessment

Assesses the network from a hacker's point of view to find out what exploits and vulnerabilities are accessible to the outside world

Internal Assessment

A technique to scan the internal infrastructure to find out the exploits and vulnerabilities

Host-Based Assessment

Determines the vulnerabilities in a specific workstation or server by performing configuration-level check through the command line

Network Assessments

Determines the possible network security attacks that may occur on the organization's system

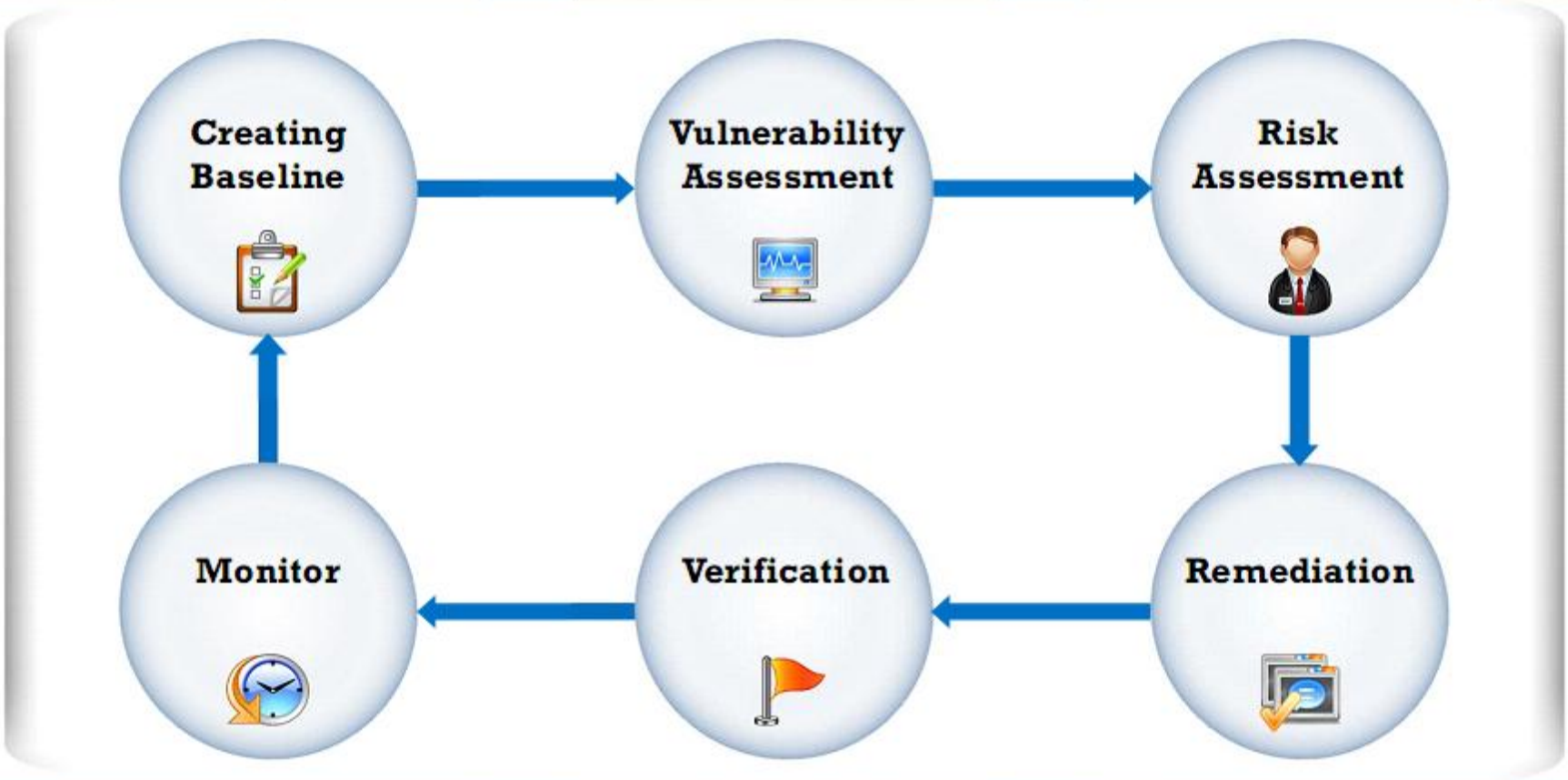
Application Assessments

Tests the web infrastructure for any misconfiguration and known vulnerabilities

Wireless Network Assessments

Determines the vulnerabilities in the organization's wireless networks

Vulnerability-Management Life Cycle



Pre-Assessment Phase: Creating a Baseline

1. Identify and **understand** business processes
2. Identify the **applications**, **data**, and **services** that support the business processes
3. Create an **inventory** of all assets, and **prioritize/rank** the critical assets
4. **Map** the network infrastructure
5. Identify the **controls** already in place
6. Understand **policy** implementation and **standards** compliance to the business processes
7. Define the **scope** of the assessment
8. Create **information protection procedures** to support effective planning, scheduling, coordination, and logistics

Vulnerability Assessment Phase

1. Examine and evaluate **physical security**
2. Check for **misconfigurations** and human errors
3. Run vulnerability **scans** using tools
4. Identify and **prioritize** vulnerabilities
5. Apply business and technology **context** to scanner results
6. Perform OSINT information gathering to **validate** the vulnerabilities
7. Create a vulnerability scan **report**

Post Assessment Phase

Risk Assessment

- Perform risk characterization
- Assess the level of impact
- Determine the threat and risk levels

Remediation

- Prioritize recommendations
- Develop an action plan to implement the recommendation
- Perform root-cause analysis
- Apply patches/fixes
- Capture lessons learned
- Conduct awareness training

Verification

- Perform dynamic analysis
- Attack surface review

Monitoring

- Intrusion detection and intrusion prevention logs
- Implementation of policies, procedures, and controls

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Comparing Approaches to Vulnerability Assessment

Product-Based versus Service-Based Assessment Solutions

Product-Based Solutions

- They are installed in the **organization's internal network**
- They are installed in **private or non-routable space**, or the Internet-addressable portion of an organization's network
- If it is installed in the private network or, in other words, behind the firewall, it cannot always **detect outside attacks**

Service-Based Solutions

- They are **offered by third parties**, such as auditing or security consulting firms
- Some solutions are hosted **inside the network**; others are hosted outside the network
- A drawback of this solution is that attackers can audit the **network from outside**

Comparing Approaches to Vulnerability Assessment (Cont'd)

Tree-Based versus Inference-Based Assessment

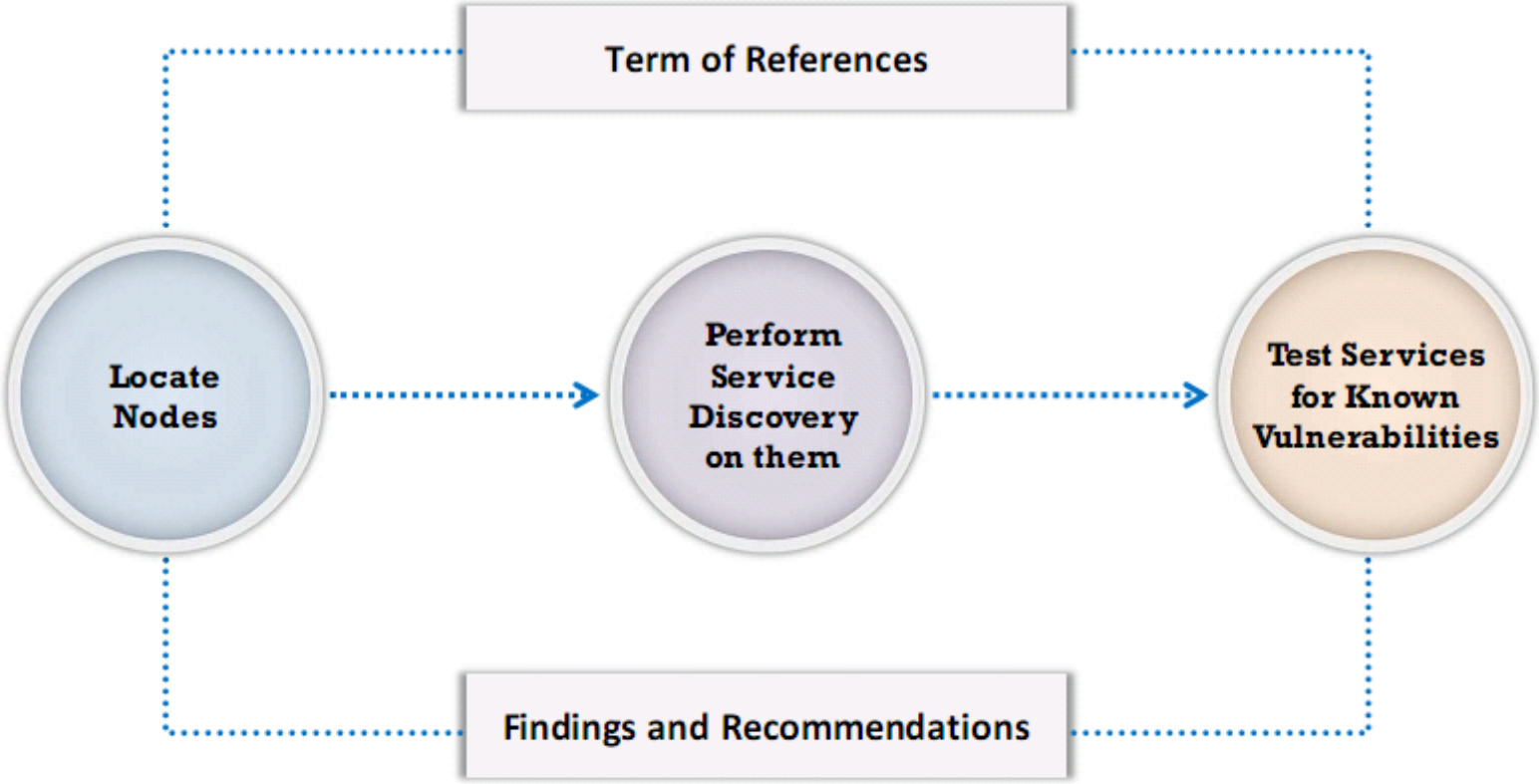
Tree-Based Assessment

- In a tree-based assessment, the auditor **selects different strategies** for each machine or component of the information system
- For example, the administrator selects a scanner for servers running Windows, databases, and web services but uses another scanner for Linux servers
- This approach relies on the **administrator to provide a starting shot of intelligence**, and then to start scanning continuously without incorporating any information found at the time of scanning

Inference-Based Assessment

- In an inference-based assessment, **scanning starts by building an inventory of protocols** found on the machine
- After finding a protocol, the scanning process starts to detect **which ports are attached to services** such as an email server, web server, or database server
- After finding services, it **selects vulnerabilities on each machine** and starts to execute only the relevant tests

Working of Vulnerability Scanning Solutions



Types of Vulnerability Assessment Tools

Host-Based Vulnerability Assessment Tools

- A host-based vulnerability assessment tool finds and identifies the OS running on a particular host computer and tests it for known deficiencies
- Searches for common applications and services

Depth Assessment Tools

- These tools find and identify previously unknown vulnerabilities in a system
- These types of tools include "fuzzers"

Application-Layer Vulnerability Assessment Tools

- Application-layer vulnerability assessment tools are directed toward web servers or databases

Scope Assessment Tools

- They provide security to the IT system by testing for vulnerabilities in the applications and OS

Active/Passive Tools

- Active scanners perform vulnerability checks on the network that consume resources on the network
- Passive scanners do not affect system resources considerably; they only observe system data and perform data processing on a separate analysis machine

Location/Data Examined Tools

- Network-based scanner
- Agent-based scanner
- Proxy scanner
- Cluster scanner

Characteristics of a Good Vulnerability Assessment Solution

1. Ensures **correct outcomes by testing the network**, network resources, ports, protocols, and operating systems
2. Uses well-organized **inference-based approach** for testing
3. Automatically scans against continuously **updated databases**
4. Creates brief, actionable, and customizable reports, including **vulnerabilities by severity level** and trend analysis
5. Supports various **networks**
6. Suggests **proper remedies** and **workarounds** to correct vulnerabilities
7. Imitates the **outside view of attackers** for an objective

Choosing a Vulnerability Assessment Tool

- Vulnerability assessment tools are used to **test a host** or **application** for vulnerabilities

- Choose the tools that best **satisfy** the following requirements:
  - Test from dozens to 30,000 different vulnerabilities, depending on the product
  - Contain several hundred different **attack signatures**
  - Match your **environment and expertise**
  - Have accurate network, application mapping, and penetration tests
  - Have a number of **regularly updated vulnerability scripts** for the platforms you are scanning
  - Generate **reports**
  - Check different **levels of penetration** to prevent lockups

Criteria for Choosing a Vulnerability Assessment Tool

1. Types of vulnerabilities being assessed 
2. Testing capability of scanning 
3. Ability to provide accurate reports 
4. Efficient and accurate scanning 
5. Capability to perform a smart search 
6. Functionality for writing own tests 
7. Test run scheduling 

Best Practices for Selecting Vulnerability Assessment Tools

- Ensure that it **does not damage your network or system** while running tools
- **Understand the functionality** and decide what information you want to collect before starting
- Decide the **source location** of the scan, taking into consideration the information you want to collect
- **Enable logging** every time you scan any computer
- Users should **scan their systems frequently** for vulnerabilities

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Common Vulnerability Scoring System (CVSS)

- CVSS provides an open framework **for communicating the characteristics and impacts** of IT vulnerabilities
- Its quantitative model ensures repeatable accurate measurement while enabling users to see the **underlying vulnerability characteristics** that were used to **generate the scores**

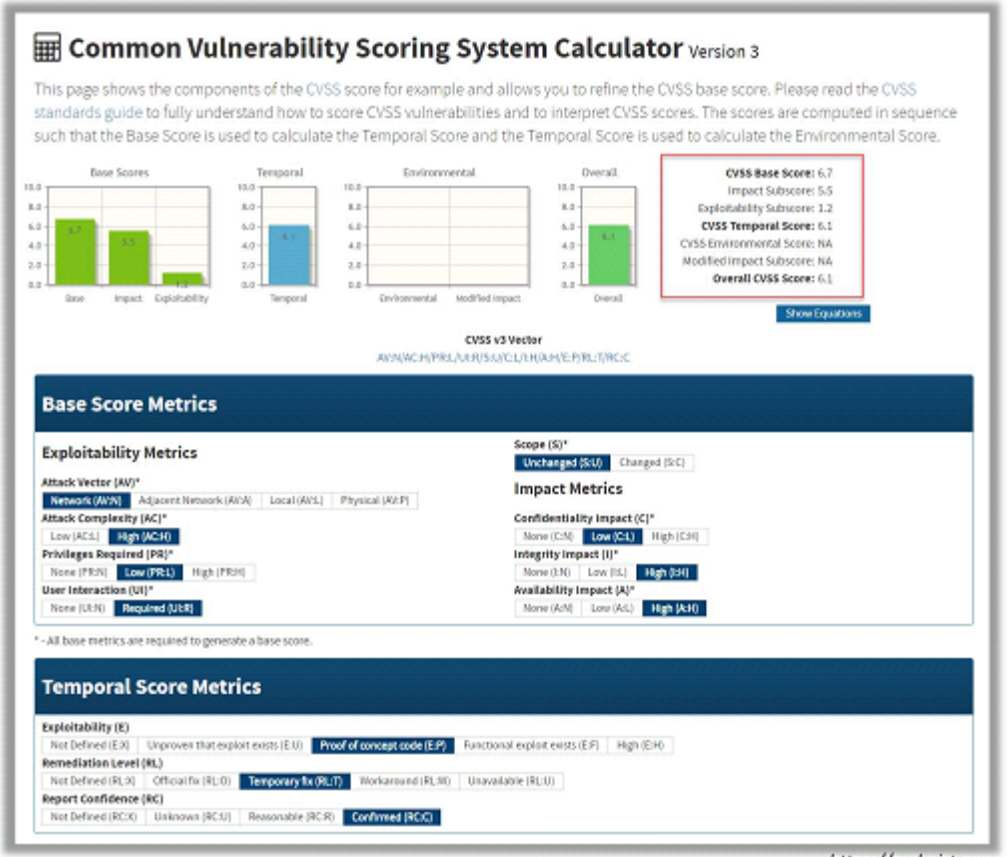
CVSS v3.0 Ratings

Severity	Base Score Range
None	0.0
Low	0.1-3.9
Medium	4.0-6.9
High	7.0-8.9
Critical	9.0-10.0

CVSS v2.0 Ratings

Severity	Base Score Range
Low	0.0-3.9
Medium	4.0-6.9
High	7.0-10

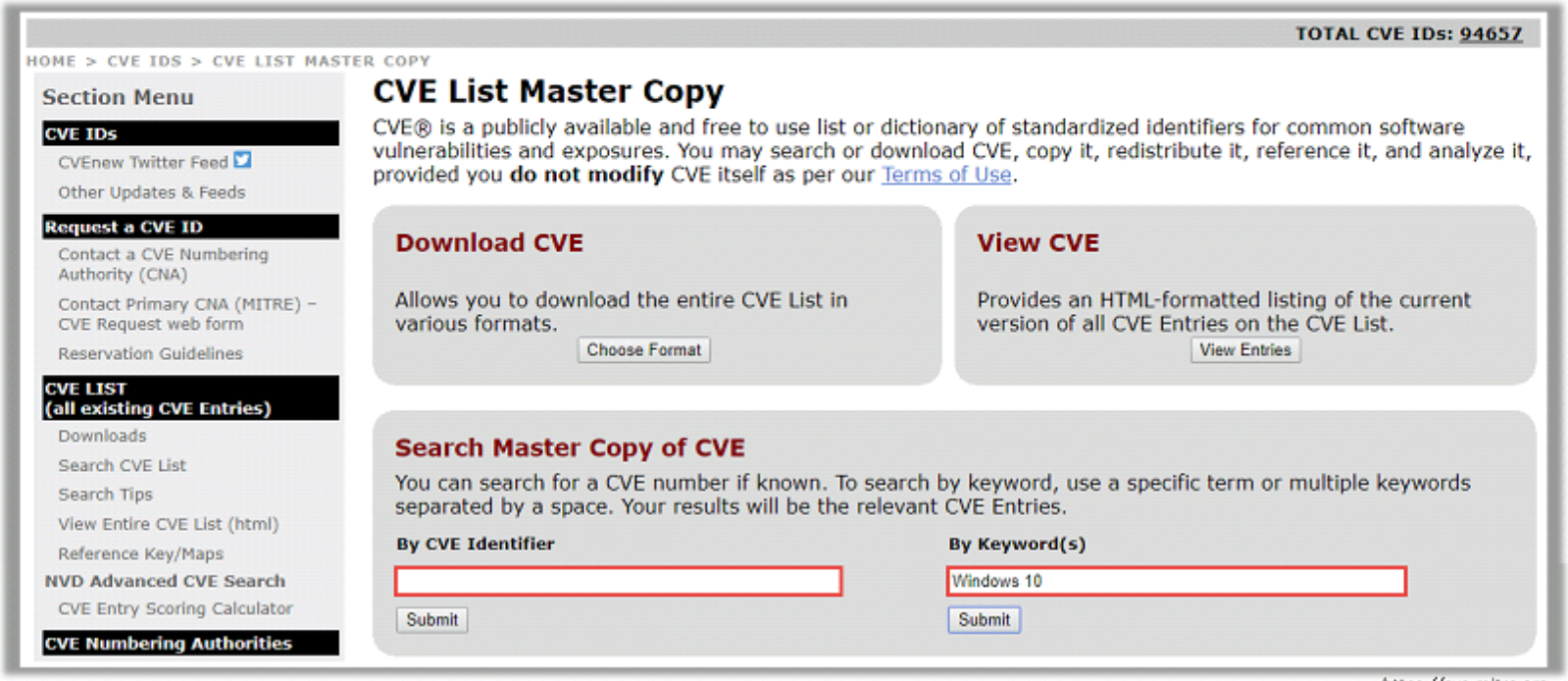
https://www.first.org



https://nvd.nist.gov

Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE)

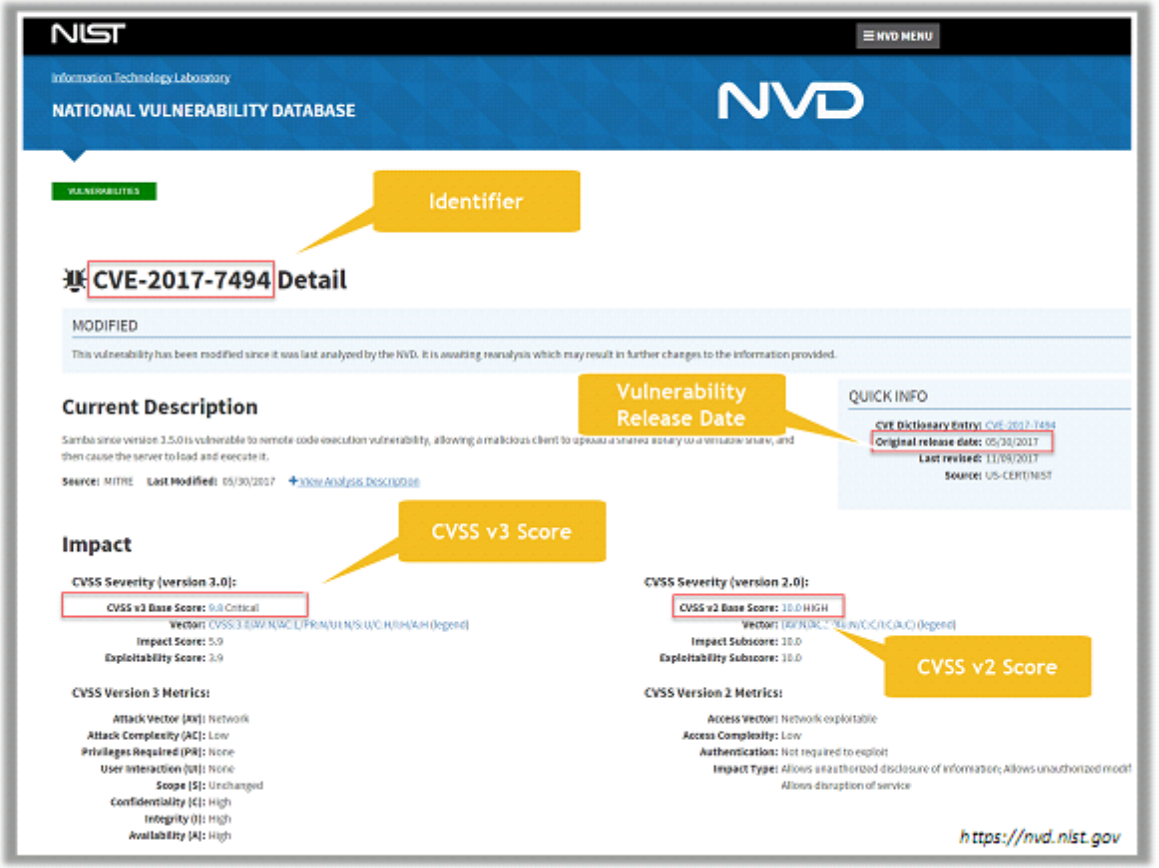
- CVE® is a publicly available and free to use **list or dictionary of standardized identifiers** for common software vulnerabilities and exposures



https://cve.mitre.org

National Vulnerability Database (NVD)

- The NVD is the **U.S. government repository** of standards based vulnerability management data represented using the **Security Content Automation Protocol** (SCAP)
- This data **enables automation of vulnerability management**, security measurement, and compliance
- The NVD includes **databases of security checklist** references, security related software flaws, misconfigurations, product names, and impact metrics



Resources for Vulnerability Research

- **Microsoft Vulnerability Research (MSVR)** — https://technet.microsoft.com
- **SC Magazine** — https://www.scmagazine.com
- **Security Tracker** — https://securitytracker.com
- **Security Magazine** — https://www.securitymagazine.com
- **Computerworld** — https://www.computerworld.com
- **Vulnerability Lab** — https://www.vulnerability-lab.com
- **SecurityFocus** — https://www.securityfocus.com
- **WindowsSecurity** — http://www.windowsecurity.com
- **D'Crypt** — https://www.d-crypt.com
- **Help Net Security** — https://www.net-security.org
- **Exploit Database** — https://www.exploit-db.com
- **Trend Micro** — https://www.trendmicro.com
- **HackerStorm** — http://www.hackerstorm.co.uk
- **CVE Details** — https://www.cvedetails.com
- **Rapid7** — https://www.rapid7.com

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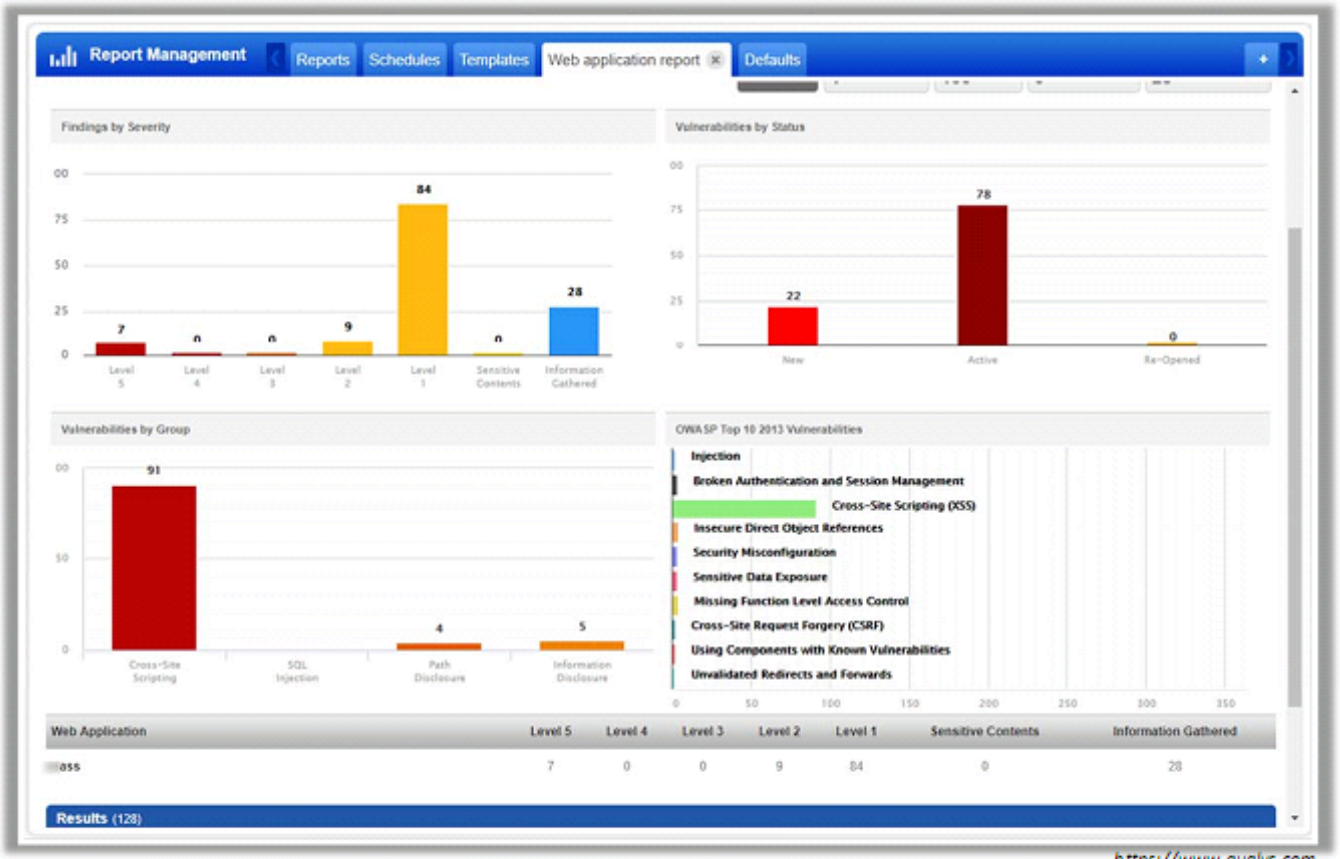
Qualys Vulnerability Management

- Qualys VM is a cloud-based service that gives you immediate global visibility into where your IT systems might be **vulnerable to the latest Internet threats** and how to protect them
- It helps you to continuously **identify threats and monitor unexpected changes** in your network before they turn into breaches

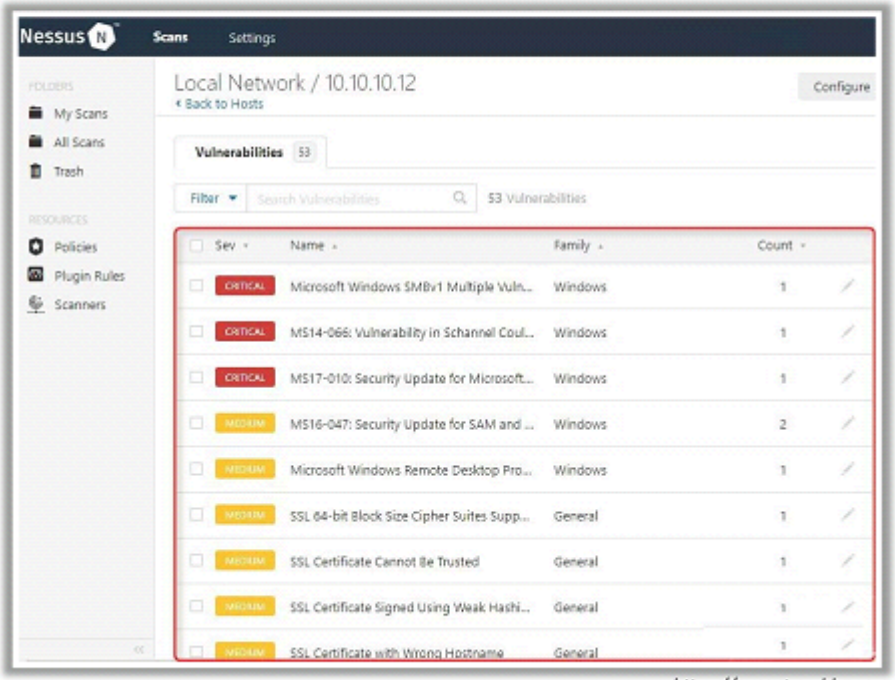


https://www.qualys.com

Vulnerability Assessment Tools: Nessus Professional and GFI LanGuard

Nessus Professional

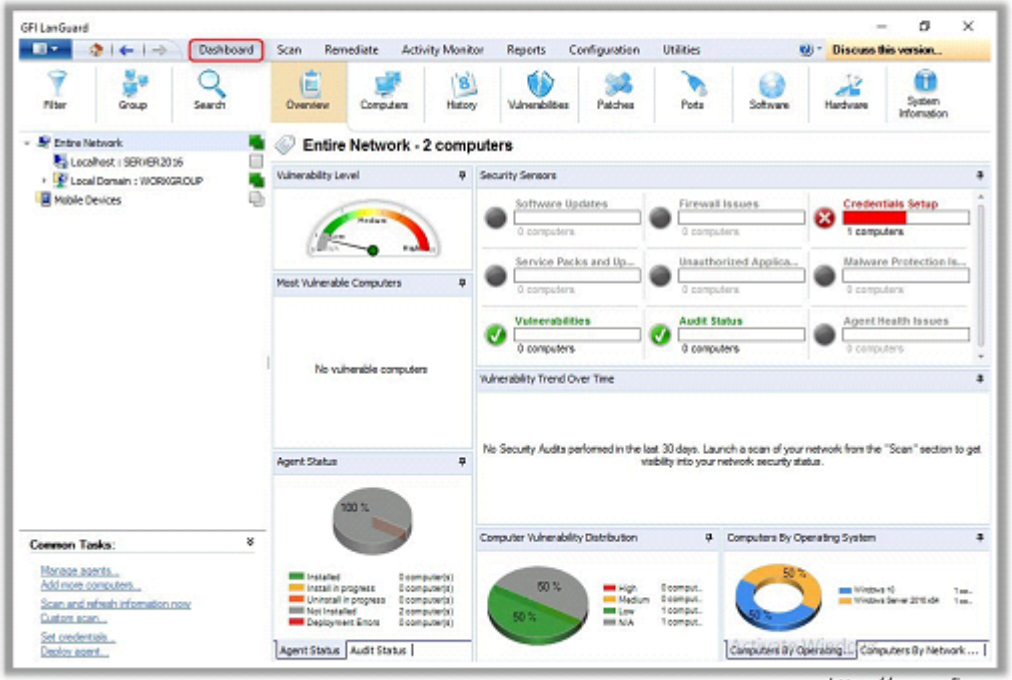
- Nessus Professional is an assessment solution for identifying the vulnerabilities, configuration issues, and malware



https://www.tenable.com

GFI LanGuard

- GFI LanGuard scans, detects, assesses and rectifies security vulnerabilities in your network and connected devices

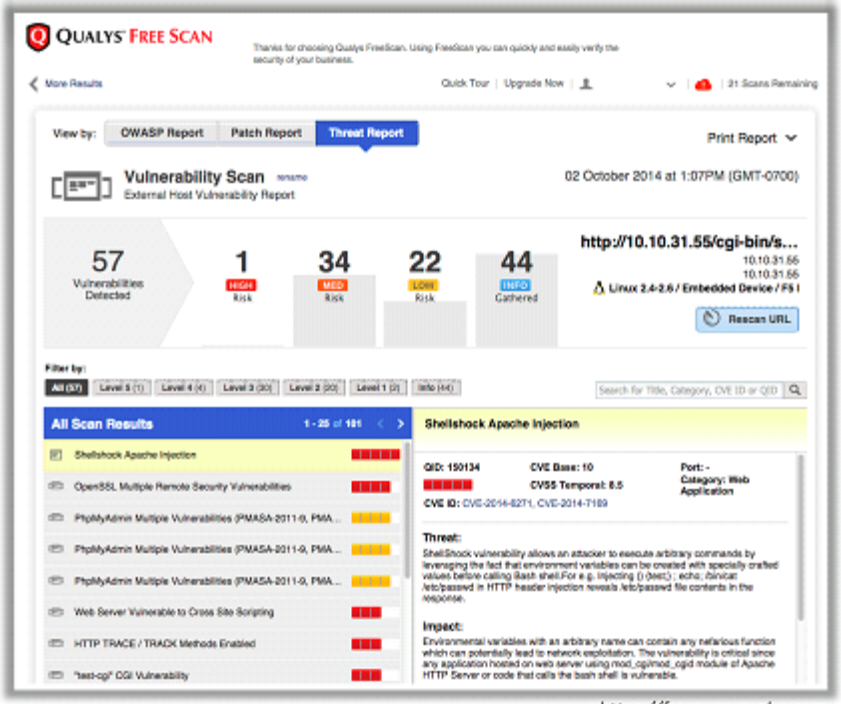


https://www.gfi.com

Vulnerability Assessment Tools: Qualys FreeScan and Nikto

Qualys FreeScan

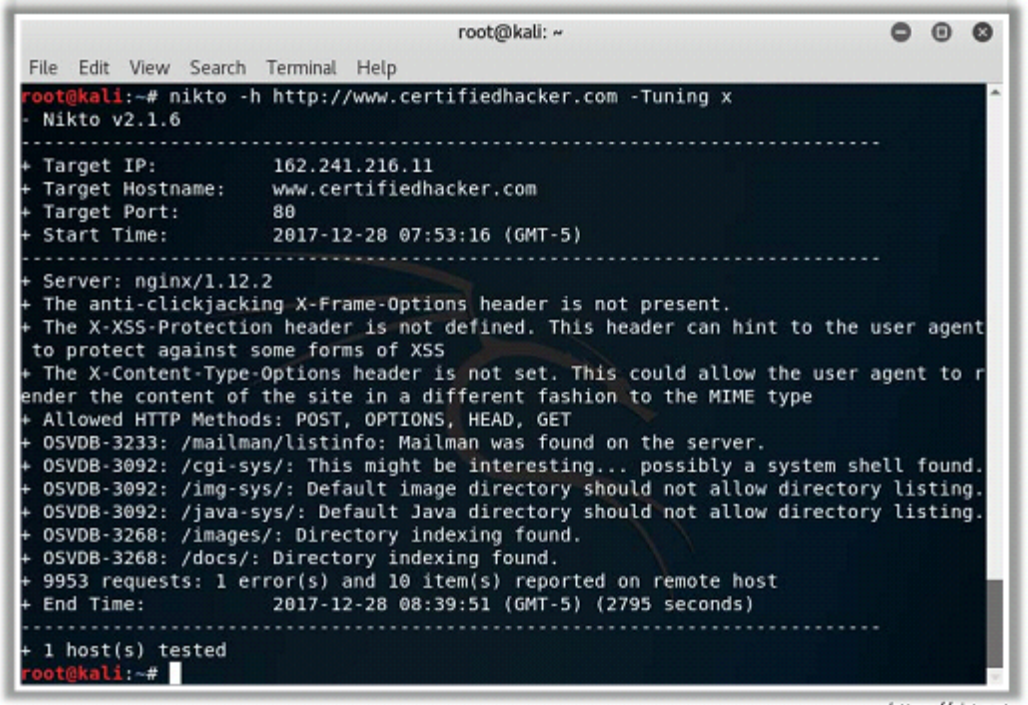
- Qualys FreeScan service scans your network, servers, desktops and web apps for security threats and vulnerabilities



https://freescan.qualys.com

Nikto

- Nikto is a web server assessment tool which examines a web server to find potential problems and security vulnerabilities

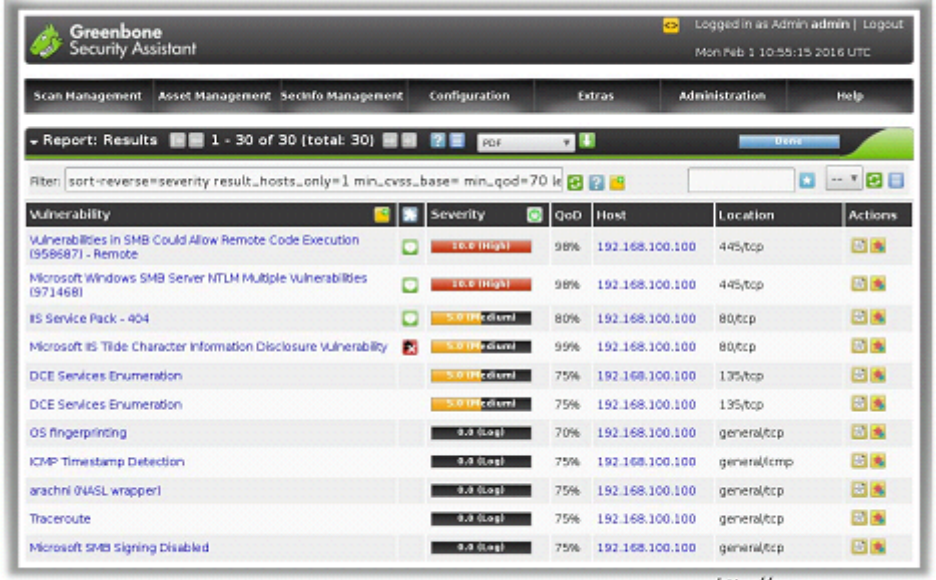


https://cirt.net

Vulnerability Assessment Tools: OpenVAS and Retina CS

OpenVAS

- OpenVAS is a framework of several services and tools offering a comprehensive and powerful **vulnerability scanning** and **vulnerability management solution**



http://www.openvas.org

Retina CS

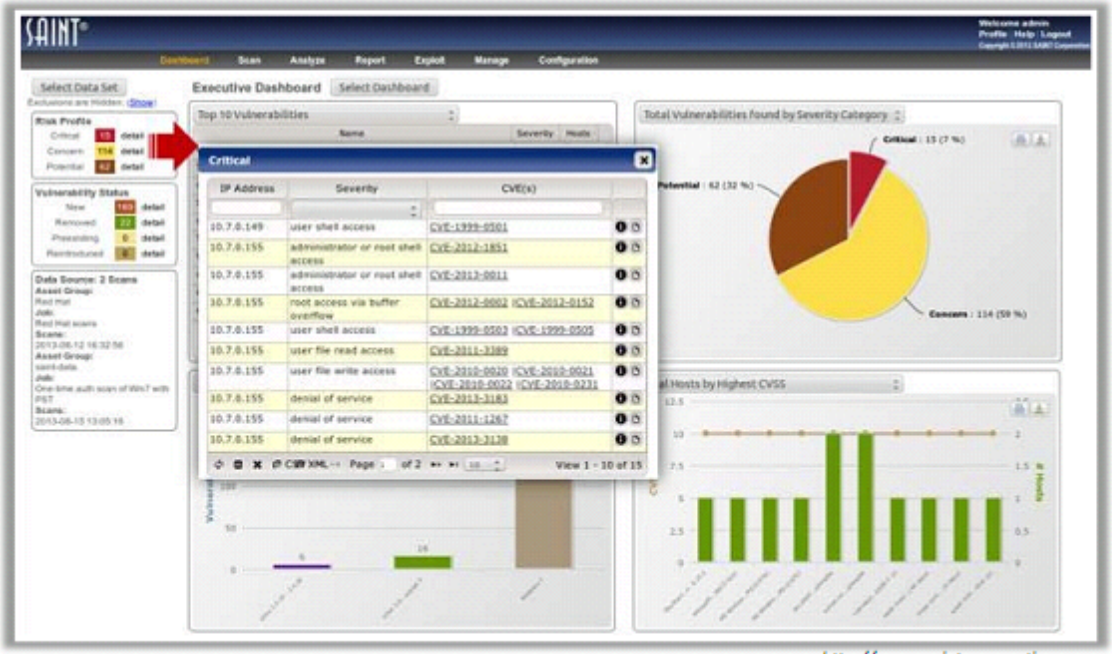
- Retina CS is a vulnerability management software solution designed to provide organizations with **context-aware vulnerability assessment** and **risk analysis**

https://www.beyondtrust.com

Vulnerability Assessment Tools: SAINT and Microsoft Baseline Security Analyzer (MBSA)

SAINT

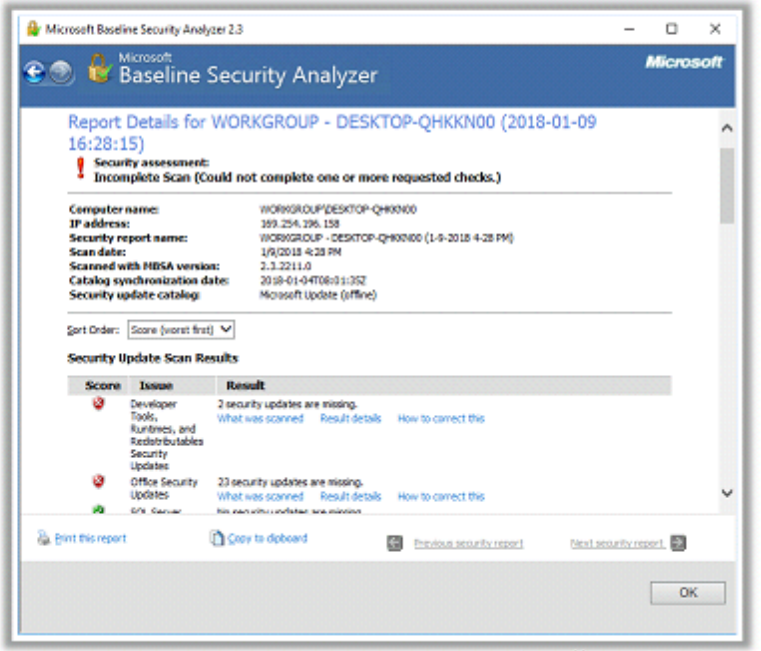
SAINT's vulnerability management capabilities identify operating system and software vulnerabilities and patch deficiencies, web applications vulnerabilities and risk exposures, state of anti-virus installations, configuration assessments, etc.



http://www.saintcorporation.com

Microsoft Baseline Security Analyzer (MBSA)

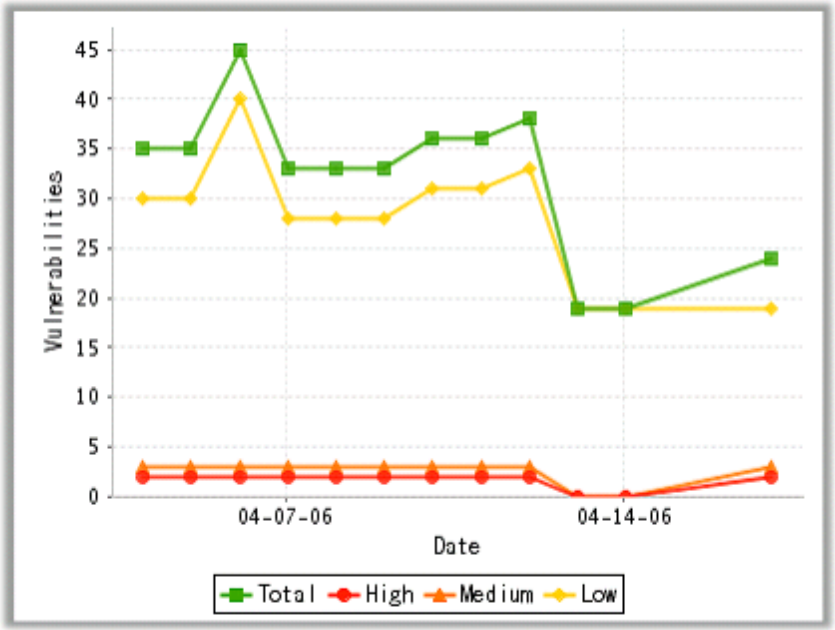
MBSA lets administrators scan local and remote systems for missing security updates as well as common security misconfigurations

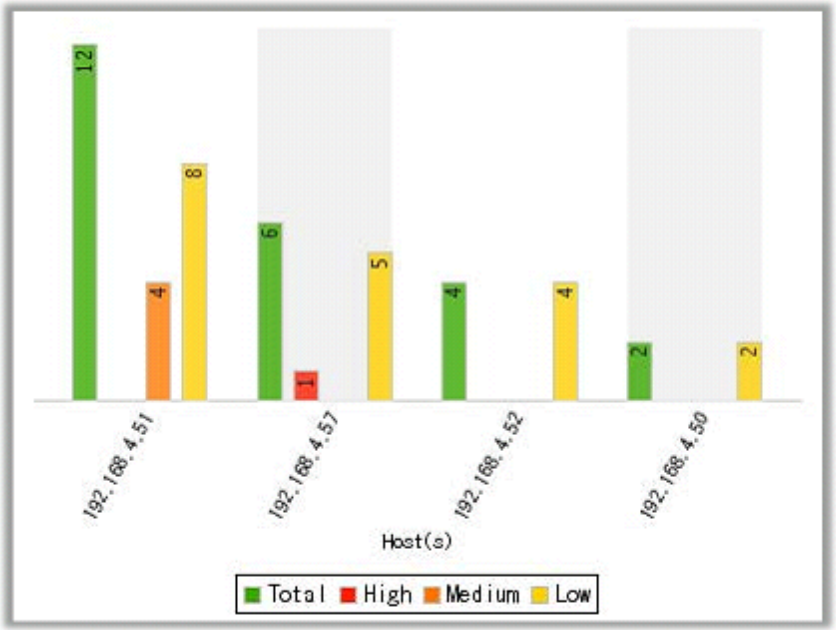


https://www.microsoft.com

AVDS - Automated Vulnerability Detection System

- AVDS tests every node according to its characteristics and records system responses to reveal **security issues** in equipment, operating systems, and applications





https://www.beyondsecurity.com

Vulnerability Assessment Tools

Core Impact Pro
https://www.coresecurity.com

N-Stalker Web Application Security Scanner X Enterprise Edition
https://www.nstalker.com

Acunetix Web Vulnerability Scanner
https://www.acunetix.com

Nipper Studio
https://www.titania.com

Nexpose
https://www.rapid7.com

Secunia Personal Software Inspector (PSI)
https://secuniaresearch.flexerasoftware.com

Burp Suite
https://www.portswigger.net

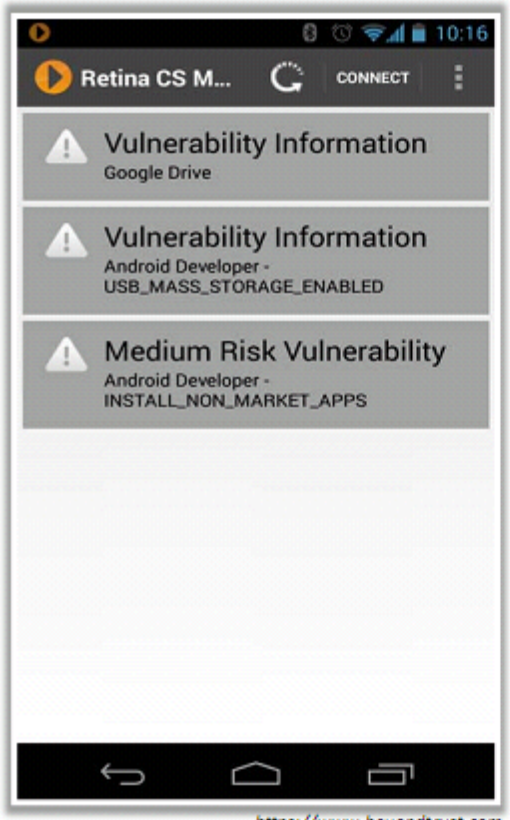
Nsauditor Network Security Auditor
http://www.nsauditor.com

ScanLine
https://www.mcafee.com

Nmap
https://nmap.org

Vulnerability Assessment Tools for Mobile

Retina CS for Mobile



https://www.beyondtrust.com

SecurityMetrics Mobile

https://www.securitymetrics.com

Vulnerability Scanning Tools for Mobile

- Nessus (*https://www.tenable.com*)
- Net Scan (*https://www.play.google.com*)
- IP Tools: Network utilities (*http://www.apkmonk.com*)
- Network Scanner (*https://www.play.google.com*)

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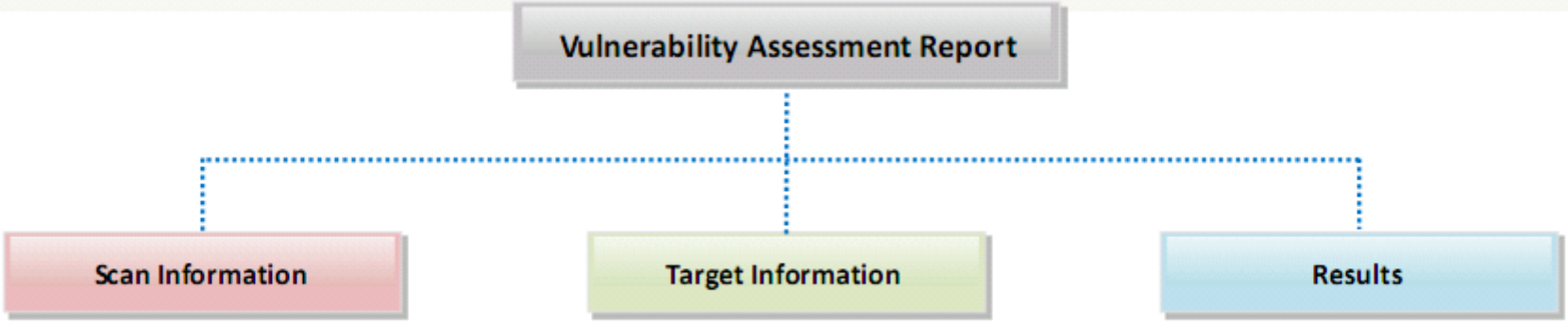
Vulnerability Assessment Reports

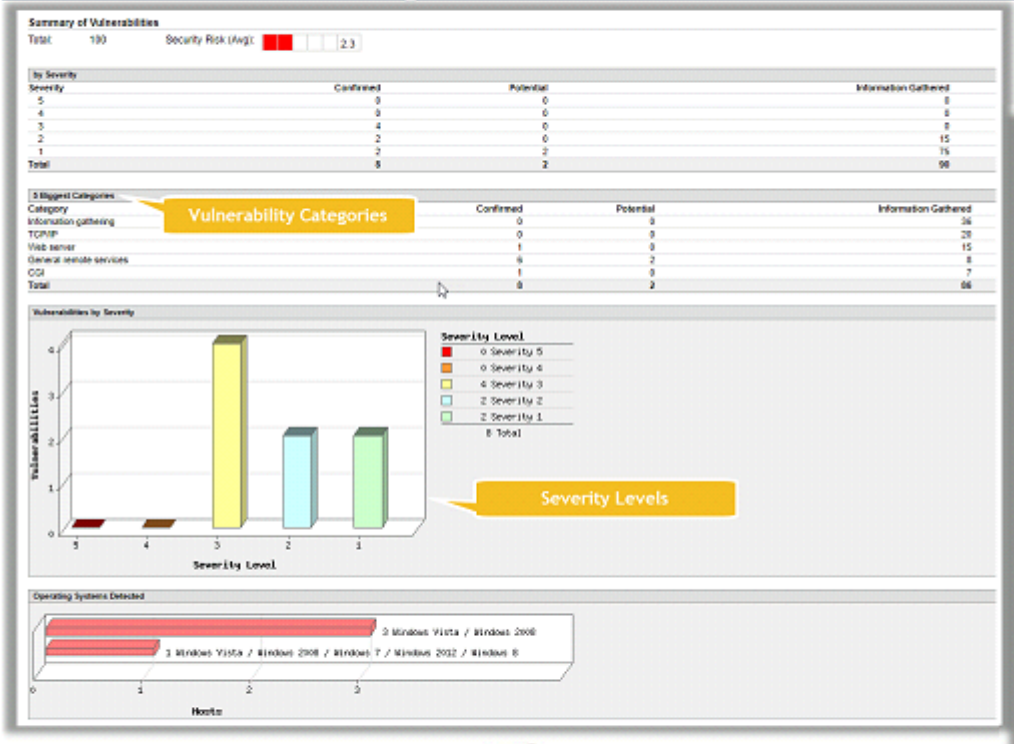
The vulnerability assessment **report** discloses the risks detected after **scanning** the **network**

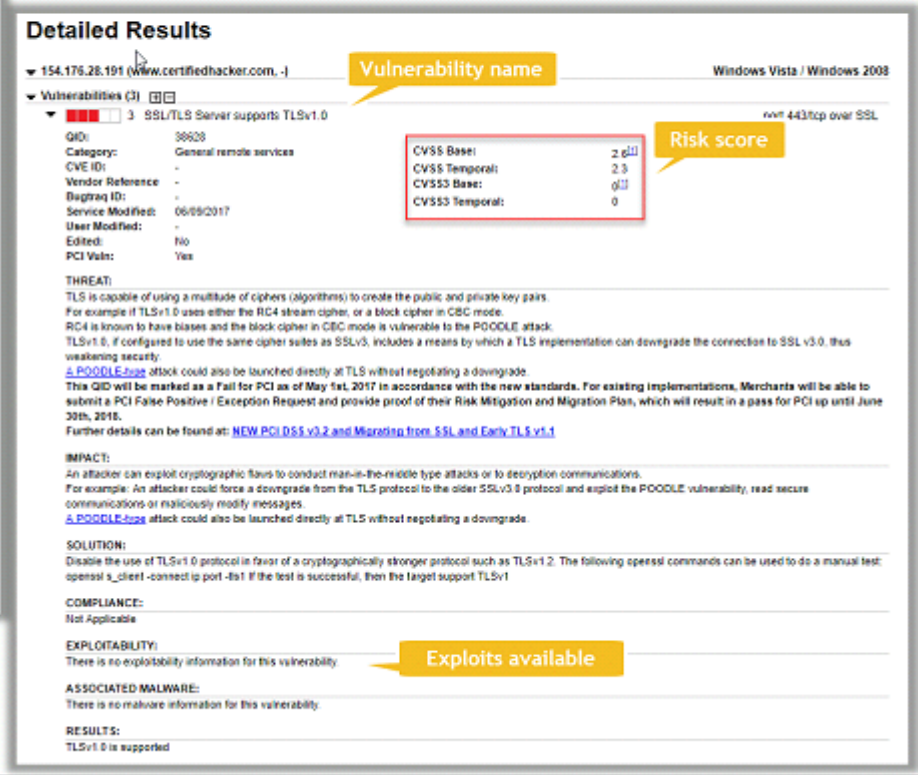
The report alerts the **organization** of possible attacks and suggests **countermeasures**

Information available in the **reports** is used to fix **security** flaws



Analyzing Vulnerability Scanning Report





Module Summary

- Vulnerability research is a process of discovering vulnerabilities and design flaws that will open an operating system and its applications to attack or misuse
- Vulnerabilities are classified based on severity level (low, medium, or high) and exploit range (local or remote)
- Vulnerability assessment is an examination of the ability of a system or application, including current security procedures and controls, to withstand assault
- Vulnerability assessment tools are used to test a host or application for vulnerabilities
- CVE® is a publicly available and free to use list or dictionary of standardized identifiers for common software vulnerabilities and exposures
- The vulnerability assessment report discloses the risks detected after scanning the network