### Introduction to Ethical Hacking

- Ethical hackers
  - Employed by companies to perform penetration tests
- Penetration test
  - Legal attempt to break into a company's network to find its weakest link
  - Tester only reports findings, does not solve problems
- Security test
  - More than an attempt to break in; also includes analyzing company's security policy and procedures
  - Tester offers solutions to secure or protect the network

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# The Role of Security and Penetration Testers

- Hackers
- Access computer system or network without authorization
- Breaks the law; can go to prison
- Crackers
- Break into systems to steal or destroy data
- U.S. Department of Justice calls both hackers
- Ethical hacker
- Performs most of the same activities but with owner's permission

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# The Role of Security and Penetration Testers

- Script kiddies or packet monkeys
- Young inexperienced hackers
- Copy codes and techniques from knowledgeable hackers
- Experienced penetration testers write programs or scripts using these languages
  - Practical Extraction and Report Language (Perl), C, C++, Python, JavaScript, Visual Basic, SQL, and many others
- Script
- Set of instructions that runs in sequence

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#### It Takes Time to Become a Hacker

- This class alone won't make you a hacker, or an expert
- It might make you a script kiddie
- It usually takes years of study and experience to earn respect in the hacker community
- It's a hobby, a lifestyle, and an attitude
  - A drive to figure out how things work

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# The Role of Security and Penetration Testers

- Tiger box
- Collection of OSs and hacking tools
- Usually on a laptop
- Helps penetration testers and security testers conduct vulnerabilities assessments and attacks

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### **Penetration-Testing Methodologies**

- White box model
- Tester is told everything about the network topology and technology
- Network diagram
- Tester is authorized to interview IT personnel and company employees
- Makes tester's job a little easier

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