

# Glossary terms from module 3

## Terms and definitions from Course 5, Module 3

**Advanced persistent threat (APT):** An instance when a threat actor maintains unauthorized access to a system for an extended period of time

**Attack surface:** All the potential vulnerabilities that a threat actor could exploit

**Attack tree:** A diagram that maps threats to assets

**Attack vector:** The pathways attackers use to penetrate security defenses

**Bug bounty:** Programs that encourage freelance hackers to find and report vulnerabilities

**Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE®) list:** An openly accessible dictionary of known vulnerabilities and exposures

**Common Vulnerability Scoring System (CVSS):** A measurement system that scores the severity of a vulnerability

**CVE Numbering Authority (CNA):** An organization that volunteers to analyze and distribute information on eligible CVEs

**Defense in depth:** A layered approach to vulnerability management that reduces risk

**Exploit:** A way of taking advantage of a vulnerability

**Exposure:** A mistake that can be exploited by a threat

**Hacker:** Any person who uses computers to gain access to computer systems, networks, or data

**MITRE:** A collection of non-profit research and development centers

**Security hardening:** The process of strengthening a system to reduce its vulnerability and attack surface

**Threat actor:** Any person or group who presents a security risk

**Vulnerability:** A weakness that can be exploited by a threat

**Vulnerability assessment:** The internal review process of a company's security systems

**Vulnerability management:** The process of finding and patching vulnerabilities

**Vulnerability scanner:** Software that automatically compares existing common vulnerabilities and exposures against the technologies on the network

**Zero-day:** An exploit that was previously unknown