

What does the article teach you about carrying out vulnerability scans using Kali?

Kali comes with a number of pre-packaged tools that can be used with ease for information gathering, vulnerable analysis, web application analysis, database assessment, password attack, wireless attack, and reverse engineering. (Bhatt, 2018)

What issues might you encounter?

- It runs with root privileges, which may result in accidental installation damage, rendering the system unbootable. If you're using Kali as your host machine, this can be a serious problem. (Leroux, 2020).
- Installing services that you don't require can leave a backdoor open. (Leroux, 2020).

How would you overcome them?

- Virtualization can be used to replicate and conserve a known good condition as a snapshot. This allows a quick recovery to the known good state if there are any issues (Bhatt, 2018).
- Keep Kali as silent as possible by avoiding the installation of unnecessary network services that could expose you. (Leroux, 2020).

How do their results compare with your initial evaluation?

What do you think of their criteria?

I think the criteria would make more sense if tools with similar features are measured. It doesn't make much sense measuring a tool like Metasploit against sqlmap.

What are the pros and cons of using Kali Linux vs. Nessus?

Kali Linux:

Pros:

- Free and open source
- Flexible and Easy to use
Using system as a proxy server
- Full distribution suite

Cons:

- No Windows support
- Best done with virtualization which require higher system requirements

Nessus:

Pros:

- Nessus is best at performing vulnerability scans
- Can be installed on Kali Linux

Cons:

- While it is easy to use, it assumes a certain level of knowledge from the user
- setting up for scanning not easy
- Buggy on larger applications

Has this changed your original evaluation score?

No. Kali Linux is free, very flexible and can even be extended by installing Nessus.

References:

Leroux, S. (2020) The Kali Linux Review You Must Read Before You Start Using It. It's FOSS. Available from: <https://itsfoss.com/kali-linux-review/> [Accessed 6 February 2022].

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