Tenable Nessus

The industry-standard vulnerability assessment solution for security professionals, consultants, and small to large enterprises.

https://www.tenable.com/products/nessus

Overview

Tenable Nessus is widely regarded as the 'gold standard' in vulnerability assessment, providing comprehensive and highly accurate scanning capabilities for a wide range of IT assets. It is designed for security practitioners, consultants, and small to mid-sized businesses (SMBs) who need a powerful, standalone scanner.

Key Features and Capabilities

Nessus is available in three main tiers: **Essentials (Free)**, **Professional**, and **Expert**. Key features include:

Comprehensive Vulnerability Coverage: Utilizes a massive plugin library (over 80,000 checks) maintained by Tenable's Zero Day Research team, ensuring detection of the latest vulnerabilities, misconfigurations, and compliance issues.
High-Speed, Accurate Scanning: Supports both credentialed (authenticated) and non-credentialed scanning to provide deep visibility with a low false-positive rate.
Compliance Auditing: Includes pre-built and customizable audit files to measure configuration against standards like CIS, HIPAA, PCI DSS, and DISA STIG.
Modern Attack Surface Scanning (Expert): The Expert version adds capabilities for scanning Infrastructure as Code (IaC) in the design/build phase (Shift Left) and external attack surface discovery, including web application scanning.
Cross-Platform Deployment: Can be deployed on Windows, macOS, and Linux, and managed via a web-based interface.
Offline Scanning: Supports air-gapped environments with Nessus Offline Mode for critical services.

Target Users and Use Cases

Nessus is primarily used by security analysts, penetration testers, security engineers, and DevSecOps teams. Its main use cases include:

Vulnerability Management: Identifying, prioritizing (using Tenable's VPR score), and reporting on system weaknesses.
Security Audits and Compliance: Ensuring adherence to regulatory and internal security policies.
Penetration Testing: Providing a foundational scan to scope and inform manual penetration testing efforts.
Patch Management: Identifying missing patches and outdated software to streamline remediation efforts.

Key Features

- Comprehensive Vulnerability Scanning (80K+ plugins)
- Credentialed and Non-Credentialed Scanning
- Compliance Auditing (HIPAA, PCI DSS, CIS)
- Vulnerability Priority Rating (VPR)
- Web Application Scanning (Expert)
- Infrastructure as Code (IaC) Scanning (Expert)
- Automated Scanning and Reporting
- Offline Scanning Mode

Pricing

Model: freemium

Nessus Essentials is a free tier for personal use, limited to 16 IP addresses. Nessus Professional is a paid annual subscription for unlimited scans, starting at approximately $3,290/year. Nessus Expert is a higher-tier subscription for advanced features like IaC and external attack surface scanning.

Starting at: USD $3290

Target Company Size: small, medium, enterprise

Integrations

Jira, Splunk, ServiceNow, Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform, HCL BigFix, Privileged Access Management (PAM), Mobile Device Management (MDM)

Compliance & Certifications

HIPAA, PCI DSS, CIS, DISA STIG, NIST 800-53/FISMA

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