

GUIDE

Penetration Test Preparation Guide

Planning your first penetration test? A practical guide to setting the scope, preparing, and evaluating the report.



GUIDE

ABOUT 7 MIN READ

PENETRATION TESTING

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01 What question does a penetration test answer?

A vulnerability scan lists known weaknesses. A penetration test is an authorised expert thinking like an attacker, chaining weaknesses and proving what can really be reached. The question is not “which flaws do I have?” but “what could an attacker reach?”

02 Types of test

Black box

The tester starts from the outside with no prior knowledge, like a real attacker.

Grey box

Limited knowledge and a user account are provided; authorisation flaws are found more efficiently.

White box

With architecture and source code access, the deepest review is possible.

By target

External network, internal network, web application, API, mobile and wireless tests are separate scopes.

03 Defining scope and rules

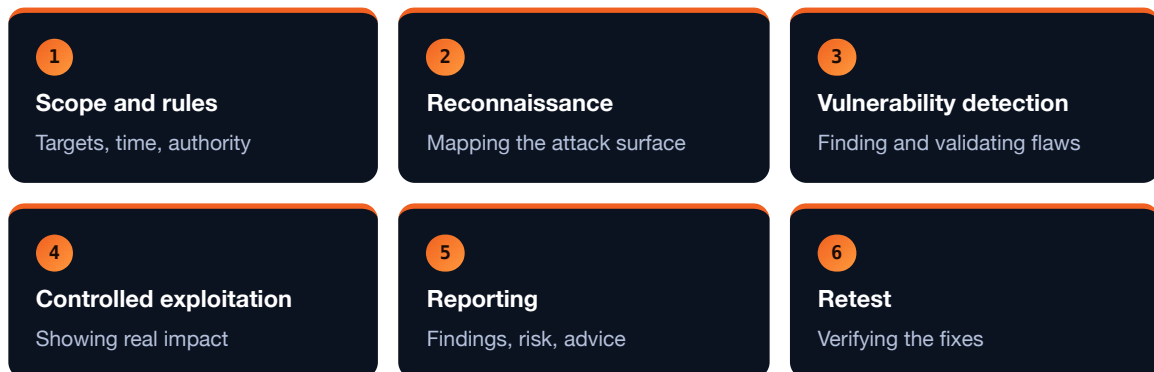
The following should be agreed in writing before the test:

- Target list: IP ranges, domains, applications
- Test window and tolerance for disruption
- Written authorisation and contact persons
- Limits on prohibited actions (e.g. denial of service, social engineering), if any
- Procedure if sensitive data is accessed

04 Pre-test preparation checklist

☐ Scope and rules approved in writing	☐ Decision made on production vs. test environment
☐ Backups of critical systems taken	☐ Monitoring/SOC team informed (or a blind test agreed)
☐ Test accounts and roles prepared for grey box	☐ Tester source IPs allow-listed
☐ Emergency stop contact channel defined	

05 How does the test run?



06 How to read the report

- Executive summary: overall risk position and the few most important findings
- For each finding: title, risk rating, impact, evidence and fix recommendation
- Critical and high findings first; lower ones go to a planned fix list
- Root-cause recommendations so the same flaw does not recur

Remember: The report is the start, not the end: assign an owner and target date to each finding, then have it retested.

Let's define your penetration test scope together We will listen to your goals and recommend the right test type and scope.

// CONTACT

Get in touch

Share your needs and current situation and we will define the right scope and roadmap together. Fill in our information form or contact us directly.

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