

CHAPTER 12

Tools and Programming



Episode 12.01 - Pen Testing Toolbox

Objective 5.3 Explain use cases of the following tools during the phases of a penetration test

RECONNAISSANCE

- For reconnaissance, use:
 - Nmap
 - Whois
 - Nslookup
 - Theharvester
 - Shodan
 - Recon-NG
 - Censys
 - Aircrack-NG
 - Kismet
 - WiFite
 - SET
 - Wireshark
 - Hping
 - Metasploit framework

ENUMERATION

- To list targets, use:
 - Nmap
 - Nslookup
 - Wireshark
 - Hping



VULNERABILITY SCANNING

- To scan for vulnerabilities, use:
 - Nmap
 - Nikto
 - OpenVAS
 - SQLmap
 - Nessus
 - W3AF
 - OWASP ZAP
 - Metasploit framework



CREDENTIAL ATTACKS

- For offline password cracking, use:
 - Hashcat
 - John the Ripper
 - Cain and Abel
 - Mimikatz
 - Aircrack-NG



CREDENTIAL ATTACKS

- For brute-forcing services, use:
 - SQLmap
 - Medusa
 - Hydra
 - Cain and Abel
 - Mimikatz
 - Patator
 - W3AF
 - Aircrack-NG



PERSISTENCE

- Once you have exploited a target, use these to make sure you can get back in:
 - SET
 - Drozer
 - BeEF
 - Powersploit
 - SSH
 - Empire
 - NCAT
 - Metasploit framework
 - NETCAT

CONFIGURATION COMPLIANCE

- To evaluate a configuration to determine if it's compliant with a standard or regulation, use:
 - Nmap
 - Nikto
 - OpenVAS
 - SQLmap
 - Nessus

EVASION

- To evade detection, use:
 - SET
 - Proxychains
 - Metasploit framework



DECOMPILATION

- To decompile executables, use:
 - Immunity debugger
 - APKX
 - APK studio



PENETRATION TESTING USE CASES

- Forensics
 - To carry out digital forensics, use:
 - Immunity debugger
- Debugging
 - To debug code, use:
 - OLLYDBG
 - Immunity debugger
 - GDB
 - WinDBG
 - IDA



SOFTWARE ASSURANCE

- For general software assurance, use:
 - Findsecbugs
 - SonarQube
 - YASCA
- For fuzzing, use:
 - Peach
 - AFL



PENETRATION TESTING USE CASES

- Forensics – Immunity debugger
- Debugging – OLLYDBG, Immunity debugger, GDB, WinDBG, IDA
- Software assurance – Findsecbugs, SonarQube, YASCA
 - Fuzzing – Peach, AFL
 - SAST (Static Application Security Testing)
 - DAST (Dynamic Application Security Testing)

QUICK REVIEW

- Know what each of the tools listed in the objectives are commonly used for
- Some tools, such as nmap, can fit into multiple use cases
- It's more important to understand the purpose of a tool than to memorize categories



Episode 12.02 - Using Kali Linux

Objective 5.3 Explain use cases of the following tools during the phases of a penetration test

KALI LINUX DEMO

- Kali Linux demo



QUICK REVIEW

- Kali Linux is only one open source Linux distribution targeted at penetration testing
- Don't limit a pen testing toolbox to just Kali Linux
- Briefly launch each tool in Kali Linux listed in the exam objectives to explore their uses
- Remember that knowing Kali Linux is not a PenTest+ objective



Episode 12.03 - Scanners and Credential Tools

Objective 5.3 Explain use cases of the following tools during the phases of a penetration test

SCANNERS

| Tool | Notes | URL |
|--|--|---|
| Nikto | Web server vulnerability scanner | https://github.com/sullo/nikto |
| OpenVAS (Open Vulnerability Assessment System) | Open Source vulnerability scanner and manager | https://www.openvas.org/ |
| SQLmap (Structured Query Language) | Automatic SQL injection and database takeover tool | https://sqlmap.org/ |
| Nessus | Commercial vulnerability scanner (free for non-professional use) | https://www.tenable.com/products/nessus/nessus-professional |

CREDENTIAL TESTING TOOLS

| Tool | Category | Notes | URL |
|-----------------|----------|--|---|
| Hashcat | Offline | Advanced password recovery (world's fastest) | https://hashcat.net/hashcat/ |
| Medusa | Online | Parallel network login auditor | https://foofus.net/goons/jmk/medusa/medusa.html |
| Hydra | Online | Parallelized login cracker | https://sectools.org/tool/hydra/ |
| Cewl | | Custom wordlist generator | https://digi.ninja/projects/cewl.php |
| John the Ripper | Offline | Password cracker | https://www.openwall.com/john/ |

CREDENTIAL TESTING TOOLS

| Tool | Category | Notes | URL |
|---------------|----------------|---|---|
| Cain and Abel | Online/offline | Windows password recovery tool | https://www.oxid.it/cain.html |
| Mimikatz | Online/offline | A little tool to play with Windows security | https://github.com/gentilkiwi/mimikatz |
| Patator | Online | Multi-purpose brute-forcer | https://github.com/lanjelot/patator |
| Dirbuster | | Multi-threaded app to brute force directories and file names on web servers | https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Category:OWASP_DirBuster_Project |
| W3AF | Online | Web Application Attack and Audit framework | https://w3af.org/ |

Analyze tool output

- Password cracking – demo John the Ripper



Analyze tool output

- Pass the hash – demo Mimikatz



QUICK REVIEW

- Scanners are "meta" tools that provide several levels of output
- Scanners are powerful, but very noisy and using them risks being detected
- Credential cracking tools run either in online or offline modes
- Effective dictionary attacks depend on good user/password lists



Episode 12.04 - Code Cracking Tools

Objective 5.3 Explain use cases of the following tools during the phases of a penetration test

DEBUGGERS

| Tool | Notes | URL |
|-------------------|--|---|
| OLLYDBG | Windows 32-bit | https://www.ollydbg.de/ |
| Immunity debugger | Write exploits, analyze malware, and reverse engineer binary files | https://www.immunityinc.com/products/debugger/ |
| GDB | GNU project debugger | https://www.gnu.org/software/gdb/ |
| WinDBG | Windows debugger | https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-hardware/drivers/debugger/debugger-download-tools |
| IDA | Cross platform debugger | https://www.hex-rays.com/products/ida/debugger/index.shtml |

SOFTWARE ASSURANCE TOOLS

| Tool | Notes | URL |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Findbugs/findsecbugs | Auditor of Java web applications | https://find-sec-bugs.github.io/ |
| Peach | Fuzzer – automated testing | https://www.peach.tech/products/peach-fuzzer/ |
| AFL | American Fuzzy Lop - fuzzer | https://lcamtuf.coredump.cx/afl/ |
| SonarQube | Continuous inspection – automated testing | https://www.sonarqube.org/ |
| YASCA | Yet Another Source Code Analyzer | https://github.com/scovetta/yasca |

QUICK REVIEW

- Debuggers are advanced tools and can reveal how a program works
- Debuggers can also allow testers to modify data as the program is running
- Software assurance tools can help to identify vulnerabilities in applications



Episode 12.05 – Open-Source Research Tools

Objective 5.3 Explain use cases of the following tools during the phases of a penetration test

OPEN SOURCE INTELLIGENCE (OSINT) TOOLS

| Tool | Notes | URL |
|--------------|---|---|
| Whois | Domain details (contacts, name servers, etc.) | https://whois.icann.org/en (and many more) |
| Nslookup | DNS information | Installed or available on most OSs |
| Foca | Fingerprint Organizations with Collected Archives – finds document metadata | https://github.com/ElevenPaths/FOCA |
| Theharvester | Gathers info from many sources (email, hosts, open ports, etc.) | https://github.com/laramies/theHarvester |
| Shodan | Finds Internet connected devices | https://www.shodan.io/ |
| Maltego | Data mining for investigations | https://www.paterva.com/web7/buy/maltego-o-clients/maltego-ce.php |
| Recon-NG | Web reconnaissance | https://bitbucket.org/LaNMaSteR53/recon-ng |
| Censys | Finds Internet connected devices | https://censys.io/ |

ANALYZE TOOL OUTPUT

- Whois demo
- Nslookup demo



QUICK REVIEW

- OSINT data can help fill in information gaps
- Some information is not based on IP addresses or domain names
- Be creative when exploring attack vectors for targets
- Targets can be devices, people, user accounts, and even facilities



Episode 12.06 – Wireless and Web Pen Testing Tools

Objective 5.3 Explain use cases of the following tools during the phases of a penetration test

WIRELESS TOOLS

| Tool | Notes | URL |
|-------------|---|---|
| Aircrack-NG | Monitoring, attacking, testing, cracking | https://www.aircrack-ng.org/ |
| Kismet | Wireless detector, sniffer and intrusion detection system | https://www.kismetwireless.net/ |
| WiFite | Wrapper for other wireless tools (current version is WiFite2) | https://github.com/derv82/wifite2 |

WEB PROXIES AND SOCIAL ENGINEERING TOOLS

Web proxies

| Tool | Notes | URL |
|------------|---|---|
| OWASP ZAP | Zed Attack Proxy – Web application security scanner | https://www.owasp.org/index.php/OWASP_Zed_Attack_Proxy_Project |
| Burp Suite | Graphical tool for testing web application security | https://portswigger.net/burp |

Social engineering tools

| Tool | Notes | URL |
|------|---|---|
| SET | Social Engineering Toolkit – penetration testing using social engineering | https://www.trustedsec.com/social-engineer-toolkit-set/ |
| BeEF | Browser Exploitation Framework – focus is on web browser | http://beefproject.com/ |

ANALYZE TOOL OUTPUT

- Proxying a connection - demo



QUICK REVIEW

- Wireless attackers can intercept traffic easier than wired network traffic
- The rapid IoT (Internet of Things) growth has resulted in lots of unsecure wireless devices
- Web applications are often fertile grounds for finding vulnerabilities



Episode 12.07 – Remote Access Tools

Objective 5.3 Explain use cases of the following tools during the phases of a penetration test

REMOTE ACCESS TOOLS

| Tool | Notes | URL |
|-------------|---|---|
| SSH | Secure shell | Included or available in most OSs |
| NCAT | Similar to nc, but from Nmap developers | https://nmap.org/ncat/ |
| NETCAT | Same as nc | Included or available in most OSs |
| Proxychains | Forces TCP connections through a proxy | https://github.com/haad/proxychains |

ANALYZE TOOL OUTPUT

- Setting up a bind shell - demo



ANALYZE TOOL OUTPUT

- Getting a reverse shell - demo



QUICK REVIEW

- There are multiple ways to leverage remote connections
- The PenTest+ exam focuses on command-line tools for remote access
- Remote access is often followed by privilege escalation attacks and/or preceded by credential attacks



Episode 12.08 – Analyzers and Mobile Pen Testing Tools

Objective 5.3 Explain use cases of the following tools during the phases of a penetration test

NETWORKING AND MOBILE TOOLS

Networking Tools

| Tool | Notes | URL |
|-----------|----------------------------------|---|
| Wireshark | Packet sniffer/protocol analyzer | https://www.wireshark.org/ |
| Hping | Packet assembler/analyzer | https://www.hping.org/ |

Mobile Tools

| Tool | Notes | URL |
|------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Drozer | Android security and attack framework | https://labs.mwrinfosecurity.com/tools/drozer/ |
| APKX | Android APK decompiler | https://github.com/b-mueller/apkx |
| APK Studio | Android app decompiler | https://vaibhavpandey.com/apkstudio/ |

QUICK REVIEW

- Sniffers show the contents of network packets (may be encrypted)
- Some tools allow packets to be changed before sending them to the recipient
- A proxy allows testers to launch man-in-the-middle exploits



Episode 12.09 – Other Pen Testing Tools

Objective 5.3 Explain use cases of the following tools during the phases of a penetration test

MISCELLANEOUS TOOLS

| Tool | Notes | URL |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Searchsploit | Search tool for exploit database | https://www.exploit-db.com/searchsploit/ |
| Powersploit | Post-exploitation framework (MS PowerShell) | https://github.com/PowerShellMafia/PowerSploit |
| Responder | Microsoft network poisoner | https://github.com/SpiderLabs/Responder |
| Impacket | Python classes for working with network protocols | https://github.com/CoreSecurity/impacket |
| Empire | PowerShell/Python post-exploitation agent | https://github.com/EmpireProject/Empire |
| Metasploit framework | Comprehensive penetration testing framework | https://www.metasploit.com/ |

QUICK REVIEW

- Searchsploit easily searches out exploits using keywords
- Powersploit and Empire are tools that can be used for post-exploitation activities
- Responder is a network poisoner that can compromise Microsoft networks
- Metasploit is comprehensive pen testing framework with a number of useful tools within it

12.10 – Labtainers Lab (Metasploit Framework)

- 5.3 Explain use cases of the following tools during the phases of a penetration test



LAB SOFTWARE VULNERABILITIES: METASPLOIT

- Intro lab (Metasploit framework)
- Lab requires download and setup time
 - All automatic



Episode 12.11 – Labtainers Lab (Wireshark Packet Inspection)

Objective 5.3 Explain use cases of the following tools during the phases of a penetration test

LAB NETWORK TRAFFIC ANALYSIS: PACKET-INTROSPECTION

- Intro lab (Using Wireshark for more advanced packet analysis)





Episode 12.12 - Labtainers Lab (SSH)

Objective 5.3 Explain use cases of the following tools during the phases of a penetration test

LAB CRYPTO LABS: SSHLAB

- Intro lab (Secure remote access with SSH)





Episode 12.13 – Scanners, Debuggers, and Wireless Tools

Objective 5.3 Explain use cases of the following tools during the phases of a penetration test

SCANNERS

- Tools that carry out active reconnaissance
- Wapiti
 - <https://wapiti-scanner.github.io/>
- WPScan
 - <https://github.com/wpscanteam/wpscan>
- Brakeman
 - <https://brakemanscanner.org/>
- Scout Suite
 - <https://github.com/nccgroup/ScoutSuite>

DEBUGGERS

- Covenant

- <https://github.com/cobbr/Covenant>

WIRELESS

- EAPHammer
 - <https://github.com/solst1c3/eaphammer>
- mdk4
 - <https://github.com/aircrack-ng/mdk4>
- Spooftooph
 - <https://www.kali.org/tools/spooftooph/>

WIRELESS

- Reaver
 - <https://www.kali.org/tools/reaver/>
- Wireless Geographic Logging Engine (WiGLE)
 - <https://www.wigle.net/>
- Fern
 - <https://www.kali.org/tools/fern-wifi-cracker/>

QUICK REVIEW

- Many tools are available for pen testers
- A good toolbox should include a variety of tools
- Don't reinvent the wheel
 - Be familiar with what is already out there



Episode 12.14 – Web, Steganography, and Cloud Tools

Objective 5.3 Explain use cases of the following tools during the phases of a penetration test

WEB APPLICATION TOOLS

- No pen testing toolbox would be complete without web application and other miscellaneous tools 
- Gobuster
 - <https://www.kali.org/tools/gobuster/>

MISC. TOOLS

- mitm6
 - <https://github.com/dirkjanm/mitm6>
- CrackMapExec
 - <https://github.com/byt3bl33d3r/CrackMapExec>
- TruffleHog
 - <https://github.com/trufflesecurity/trufflehog>

STEGANOGRAPHY TOOLS

- Open stego
 - <https://www.openstego.com/>
- Steghide
 - <https://www.kali.org/tools/steghide/>
- Snow
 - <https://github.com/mattkwan-zz/snow>
- Coagula
 - <https://www.abc.se/~re/Coagula/Coagula.html>

STEGANOGRAPHY TOOLS

- Sonic Visualizer
 - <https://www.sonicvisualiser.org/>
- TinEye
 - <https://tineye.com/>
- Metagoofil
 - <https://www.kali.org/tools/metagoofil/>
- Online SSL checkers
 - <https://www.sslshopper.com/ssl-checker.html>
 - <https://www.sslchecker.com/sslchecker>

CLOUD TOOLS

- CloudBrute

- <https://www.kali.org/tools/cloudbrute/>


- Pacu

- <https://github.com/RhinoSecurityLabs/pacu>

- Cloud Custodian

- <https://github.com/cloud-custodian/cloud-custodian>

DEPRECATED TOOLS

- Tools come and go as technology changes
- There are currently at least 3 deprecated tools on the exam
 - Cain (Cain and Abel) 
 - DirBuster
 - OllyDbg
- Why are they still on the exam?
 - Part of the historical landscape
 - Lots of tutorials, books, and articles include them