ENCRIPTO®

Guide

Network Security Testing

What is security testing?

Cyber attacks are a risk for all businesses, regardless of size. Security testing will reveal if your security measures can withstand external threats, and whether they are adequate and functioning correctly.

Effective testing simulates an attack from a malicious source, mapping the possibility of an attack and what consequences this may have on the organization. The findings may be used as a basis to improve the IT security.

How often?

It is recommended to test the network security on a regular basis, since threats are constantly evolving, along with changes made to the environment.

On a general basis, Encripto recommends conducting **a full network security test once a year.**

What the ideal frequency is for your organization, depends on how frequently your environment changes and other unique factors affecting the organization.

In addition to annual security testing, one can conduct automated vulnerability assessments quarterly to maintain the security.

When determining how often to conduct security testing, consider the following:

- ✓ **Does the environment change frequently?**
  If so, you should consider timing your tests so that they correspond with those changes as they are getting near to production. This minimizes exposure to a narrower timeframe.

- ✓ **Do you have a large environment?**
  If the environment is considerably large, you might consider testing it in phases. By testing in phases, you will be better able to level the testing effort, remediation activities and the load that you are placing on the environment, making it more manageable.

- ✓ **Is budget a major factor?**
  If budget constraints limit testing, the most critical assets should be tested more frequently with less sensitive areas reviewed less frequently. It is always a good idea to agree upon a timeline, within your organization, when testing will occur.

Passion

We are passionate about information security, and believe in a more secure IT world.

Our security expert, Juan J. Güelfo, has repeatedly been featured in Norwegian press, where he has shared his knowledge and perspective on topics related to information security.

Customer Satisfaction

It is better to be a large customer in a small company, than a small customer in a large company.

This is what our customer surveys show, where our customers rank us high on quality and value.

We believe that satisfied customers are the way to success. Ask us about references.

Independent and Objective

We are not tied to external third parties. This means that we can recommend solutions based on what is best for you and your needs.

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Understandable and Balanced

In our communication, we emphasize that both management and technical staff shall understand the message.

We always balance our recommendations between the customer's need for security and the need for functionality.

Quality and Results

If you want the job done properly, you have come to the right place.

We use the most complete methodologies and the latest techniques to protect you against today's threats.

We believe in using knowledge and creativity, rather than relying on automated tools.

Flexible, Focused and Efficient

As a small niche company, we focus all our attention on providing excellent services in information security.

A flat organizational structure allows us to be flexible and accessible for our customers.

- ✓ **What are your compliance obligations?**
  Security testing is an essential component in any ISO 27001 ISMS – from implementation to ongoing maintenance and continuous improvement. PCI DDS requires that you test your environment annually and/or after any major change to your cardholder data environment.

One of the keys in planning the frequency for security testing is not to confuse security testing with a vulnerability assessment.

A vulnerability assessment is only one aspect of a security test, and consists mainly of automated scanning to cover open ports and known vulnerabilities. It is however perfect for regular security maintenance.

Industry standards recommend at least quarterly vulnerability scans, along with scans after:

- ✓ Substantial changes in firewall configuration
- ✓ Discovery of significant new vulnerabilities
- ✓ Adding a new externally exposed system

Method?

In a vulnerability assessment mainly automated tools will be used and no vulnerabilities will be exploited. The objective is to efficiently locate known vulnerabilities. The assessment is only one of the phases in a complete security test.

If you want to simulate a cyber attack and understand the consequences of vulnerabilities being exploited, you should perform a security test. Such a test will tell you whether it is possible to break into the company's network and achieve specific goals.

Encripto make extensive use of creativity and manual techniques to simulate relevant attack scenarios. The purpose is to simulate a professional and motivated attacker with high knowledge.

About Encripto

Encripto is a niche company that provides specialized services within IT security. Our core expertise is security testing and training within IT security.

You can read more about us at www.encripto.no.

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