Implement Effective Penetration Testing

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What’s Changed in 2015?

The PCI SSC Issued Pentest Guidance

Q: How has the PCI guidance improved assessments?

A: Alternate guidance is exhaustive (read: expensive), the previous PCI requirement set a low bar
What’s Changed in the Past Five Years?

Penetration testing has emerged as a mature market niche in the U.S, Western Europe, and parts of Asia

Q: How do you find a top tier pentester?

A: Good pentesters remain hard to identify. Examine the company’s hiring process. It must include testing, and the company must be able to describe their approach to testing tools.
Q: How do I prepare for a pentest?

A: People don’t do this everyday, so:

• Start with an overview of the company,
• Ensure your QSA helps prepare your pentester,
• Set high-level goals, and
• Collaborate, Collaborate, Collaborate
Have a Threat Model Ready

It needn’t be detailed nor technical, cybercrime and POS malware may be sufficient

Q: How do I prioritize my first technical pentest or first investment in a more expensive pentesting firm?

A: Merchant breaches tend to exploit the POS and remote access, Fortune 500 breaches tend to exploit website vulnerabilities, and most breaches involve compromised privileged accounts. Start with these areas, share diagrams and access information, and suggest systems to use and examine.

Single linux AIX Console

RDP

Single Active Directory Domain

B E W A R E
Large Companies Are Strict and Complex

Q: How do I scope a test that provides system access to the tester without creating undue risk?

A: REPEAT POINT: Use your QSA to help negotiate and provide appropriate detail to your pentester.
Q: This sounds basic, do companies really struggle with performing detailed PCI penetration tests?

A: Yes.
Although Fortune 500 companies tend to have more experience, many firms set low standards for pentests
Q: Our company is deploying encryption, tokenization, and upgrading hardware between 2015 and 2017. How can a pentester help?

A: A good pentester can help identify implementation errors. Implementation errors can render most technologies ineffective.
Q & A
Thank you