Security tools Vulnerability scanner – an update Luca Carbone – INFN MiB

sectools.org: top ten security tools by popularity

- Wireshark (1 up) sniffer
- Metasploit (3 up) exploit development/testing platform
- Nessus (2 down) vulnerability scanner
- Aircrack (17 up) suite of tools for 802.11a/b/g WEP and WPA cracking
- Snort (2 down) network intrusion detection and prevention system
- Cain and Abel (3 up) Windows-only password recovery tool
- Backtrack/Kali (25 up) Security/forensics tools collection on live CD
- Netcat (4 down) TCP/UDP transmitter/receiver
- tcpdump (1 down) sniffer
- John the ripper (stable) password cracker

sectools.org: vuln scanners

by popularity

- Nessus
 - Latest release: 6.3.3 3/2015
- OpenVAS
 - Latest release: 8.0 4/2015
- Core Impact (up to 30 k\$/year...)
 - Latest release: 2015 R1.1 7/2015
- Nexpose
 - Latest release: 6.0 10/2015 (weekly releases: 6.0.n)
- ...

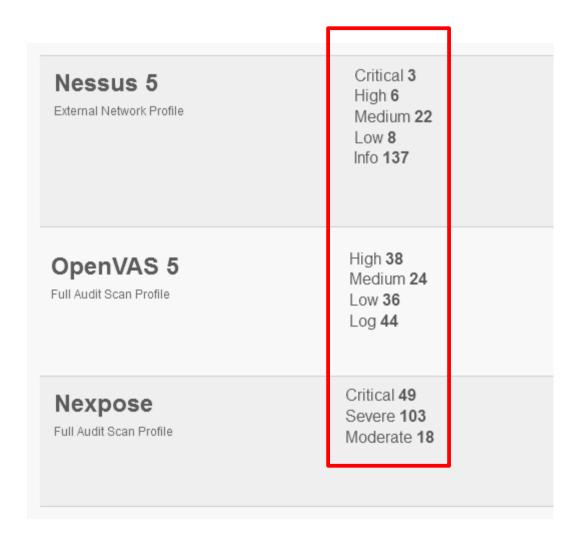
Nessus vs OpenVAS vs Nexpose

against Metasploitable

- Black-box test (2012: the one and only?) by hackertarget.com against a Metasploitable Version 2 virtual host (an intentionally vulnerable virtual machine designed for training, exploit testing, and general target practice);
- Nessus home feed V5, OpenVAS V5 (Full scan profile, no external tools), Nexpose community edition V? (full audit profile)
- Default scan profiles; no credentials external network services focused scan

Nessus vs OpenVAS vs Nexpose

great disorder under the Heavens, and the situation is excellent...



Nessus vs OpenVAS vs Nexpose (vs Nmap/NSE)

analysing a specific sample of **15** security issues

Security Issue	Nessus	OpenVAS	Nexpose	Nmap
FTP 21 Anonymous FTP Access	✓	₹.	✓.	✓
FTP 21 VsFTPd Smiley Face Backdoor	✓	₹.		
FTP 2121 ProFTPD Vulnerabilities		✓.		
SSH 22 Weak Host Keys	✓		✓.	
PHP-CGI Query String Parameter Injection	4	✓	4	4
CIFS Null Sessions	✓	4	✓	✓
INGRESLOCK 1524 known backdoor drops to root shell				
NFS 2049 /* exported and writable		✓		
MYSQL 3306 weak auth (root with no password)	4	✓.	✓.	4
RMI REGISTRY 1099 Insecure Default Config				
DISTCCd 3632 distributed compiler				
POSTGRESQL 5432 weak auth (postgresql)				
VNC 5900 weak auth (password)			4	
IRC 6867 Unreal IRCd Backdoor				4
Tomcat 8180 weak auth (tomcat/tomcat)	4		4	4

Nessus vs OpenVAS vs Nexpose

conclusions...?

- The results show significant variation in discovered security vulnerabilities by the different tools.
 - tune the vulnerability scan profiles to suit your requirements (one size DOESN'T fit all);
 - run secondary tools (nmap, a secondary vulnerability scanning solution and/or specialised tools);
 - perform detailed analysis of the results (beware of false positives).
- When running internal scans it is probably recommended to perform credential supplied scanning – uncredentialed scanning is by far less effective in discovering vulnerabilities.

A quantitative evaluation of vulnerability scanning Holm, Sommestad, Almroth & Persson - 2011

- The purpose of this paper is to evaluate if automated vulnerability scanning accurately identifies vulnerabilities in computer networks and if this accuracy is contingent on the platforms used.
- Setup: 7 scanners against 28 Windows/Linux virtual hosts running several different network services (HTTP, HTTPS, SMTP, SSH, ...)

Property	AVDS	McAfee VM	Nessus	NeXpose	Patchlink scan	QualysGuard	SAINT
Software flaws	х	х	х	х	х	х	x
Configuration errors	X	Х	X	X	X	X	X
All ports		X	х	Х		X	X
Active scanning	X	X	Х	Х	X	X	X
Passive scanning							
Exploits				X			X
Authenticated scanning		X	Х	X	Х	X	X
Vulnerability signatures	6,000	22,000	41,000	53,000	500	6,000	40,000
Web application scans	X	X	X	X		x	
					l		

A quantitative evaluation of vulnerability scanning results (1)

Overview of identified vulnerabilities

		Unauthent	icated so	can		Authenti	cated sca	n
Scanner	High	Medium	Low	Potential	High	Medium	Low	Potential
AVDS	46	140	306		291	990	393	
McAfee VM	143	169	64		2,028	2,033	126	
Nessus	145	82	889		2,221	468	1,256	
NeXpose	180	391	106		1,073	969	126	
Patchlink scan	1	4	15		814	328	313	
QualysGuard	73	125	151	284	753	1,891	342	313
SAINT	81	60		223	114	65		257

A quantitative evaluation of vulnerability scanning results (2)

Tool	Detection (%)	Detection (%) (Linux)	Detection (%) (Windows)
AVDS	6	0	11
McAfee VM	8	0	15
Nessus	20	4	33
NeXpose	24	22	30
Patchlink scan	0	0	0
QualysGuard	24	17	30
SAINT	36	43	30

Detection and false alarms rate for unauthenticated scan

Tool	False alarm (%)	False alarm (%) (Linux)	False alarm (%) (Windows)
AVDS	0	0	0
McAfee VM	3	0	3
Nessus	5	18	3
NeXpose	5	11	0
Patchlink scan	6	0	8
QualysGuard	13	15	11
SAINT	15	11	18

A quantitative evaluation of vulnerability scanning results (3)

Tool	Detection (%)	Detection (%) (Linux)	Detection (%) (Windows)
AVDS	34	0	67
McAfee	36	0	70
Nessus	43	9	75
NeXpose	43	22	63
Patchlink scan	36	0	71
QualysGuard	55	17	92
SAINT	43	57	29

Detection and false alarms rate for authenticated scan

Tool	False alarm (%)	False alarm (%) (Linux)	False alarm (%) (Windows)
AVDS	0	0	0
McAfee	3	0	3
Nessus	5	18	3
NeXpose	5	11	0
Patchlink scan	6	0	8
QualysGuard	10	15	7
SAINT	13	6	18

A quantitative evaluation of vulnerability scanning

- Unauthenticated scans: (...) significant differences between how many issues the scanners managed to detect; (...) there is a statistical difference between the tools. The frequency of false alarm was fairly low, indicating that the tools often fail to assess actual vulnerabilities, but are reliable when they do. (...) Informally speaking, it seems that there is a strong connection between the detection rate and the rate of false alarms.
- Authenticated scans: (...) all confidence intervals regarding the authenticated scans and detection rate fully overlap. Thus, there is no reason to believe that the scanners perform statistically different when it comes to finding vulnerabilities using credential scans. (...); there is no statistical basis for saying that one tool performs better than the other
- Detection rate when doing both unauthenticated and authenticated scans are significantly higher on Windows hosts.

A quantitative evaluation of vulnerability scanning conclusions

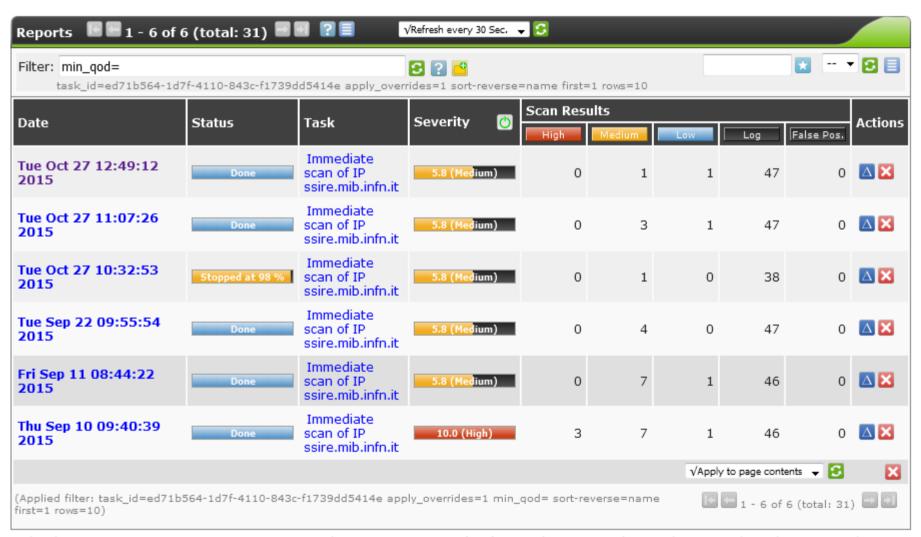
- (...) automated scanning, while useful, only find a subset (20-30%) of the vulnerabilities present in a network accuracy can be improved (up to 40-50%) by giving scanners credentials to the scanned hosts.
- A combined scan using all the included tools yelds a mean of 80% detection rate for credentialed scans – this suggests than a joint scan using several appliances and a *unified results database* (which is not that easy...) can be a potent solution when in need of highly accurate scans.

Scan type	Detection (%)	Detection (%) (Linux)	Detection (%) (Windows)
Authenticated	80	65	92
Unauthenticated	44	52	37

OpenVAS versus Nexpose

a quick'n'dirty comparison

- Both scanners tested as VMs.
 - OpenVAS: Open Source (the world's most advanced OS vulnerability scanner and manager) forked from the last free version of Nessus; plugins are written in NASL (nessus attack scripting language). Actively mantained (~ 1 release/year), latest version: 8 (4/2015)
 - Nexpose: aims to support the entire vulnerability management lifecycle, including discovery, detection, verification, risk classification, impact analysis, reporting and mitigation integrates with Rapid7's *Metasploit* for vulnerability exploitation/validation. Free *Community Edition* fully functional but limited to 32 IP addresses. *Resource hungry* (8GB RAM required, 16 GB recommended 4 GB RAM at least, otherwise scans abort with a *not enough memory* error), but quite fast (faster than OVAS, at least). Actively mantained (weekly updates), latest version: 6.0.0 (10/2015)



Backend operation: 0.83s

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→ Report: Results ■ ■ 1 - 57 of 57 (tot	al: 76) 🖥 🖩 🙎 🗐	PDF	.	Done	
Filter: sort-reverse=severity result_hosts_only=1	min_cvss_base= 🕃 👔	<u>-</u>			· 8 🗎
Vulnerability 📴 🔝	Severity 💍	QoD	Host	Location	Actions
Mail relaying (thorough test)	10.0 (High)	75%	193.206.156.10 (ssire.mib.infn.it)	25/tcp	*
Mail relaying (thorough test)	10.0 (High)	75%	193.206.156.10 (ssire.mib.infn.it)	465/tcp	X
Mail relaying (thorough test)	10.0 (High)	75%	193.206.156.10 (ssire.mib.infn.it)	587/tcp	*
http TRACE XSS attack	5.8 (Medium)	75%	193.206.156.10 (ssire.mib.infn.it)	80/tcp	X
http TRACE XSS attack	5.8 (Medium)	75%	193.206.156.10 (ssire.mib.infn.it)	443/tcp	X
http TRACE XSS attack	5.8 (Medium)	75%	193.206.156.10 (ssire.mib.infn.it)	5000/tcp	X
Apache /server-status accessible	5.0 (Medium)	75%	193.206.156.10 (ssire.mib.infn.it)	80/tcp	*
Apache /server-info accessible	5.0 (Medium)	98%	193.206.156.10 (ssire.mib.infn.it)	80/tcp	X
Apache /server-status accessible	5.0 (Medium)	75%	193.206.156.10 (ssire.mib.infn.it)	443/tcp	*
Apache /server-info accessible	5.0 (Medium)	98%	193.206.156.10 (ssire.mib.infn.it)	443/tcp	
TCP timestamps	2.6 (Low)	75%	193.206.156.10 (ssire.mib.infn.it)	general/tcp	*
OS fingerprinting	0.0 (Log)	75%	193.206.156.10 (ssire.mib.infn.it)	general/tcp	X
DIRB (NASL wrapper)	0.0 (Log)	75%	193.206.156.10 (ssire.mib.infn.it)	general/tcp	*
ICMP Timestamp Detection	0.0 (Log)	75%	193.206.156.10 (ssire.mib.infn.it)	general/icmp	*
arachni (NASL wrapper)	0.0 (Log)	75%	193.206.156.10 (ssire.mib.infn.it)	general/tcp	*
Nikto (NASL wrapper)	0.0 (Log)	75%	193.206.156.10 (ssire.mib.infn.it)	general/tcp	*

OpenVAS QoD (new to 8.0)

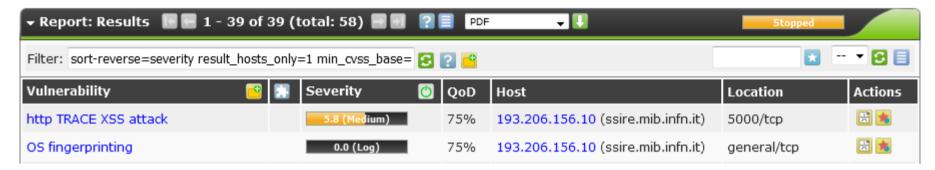
describes the reliability of vulnerability detection

Overview on QoD values and types

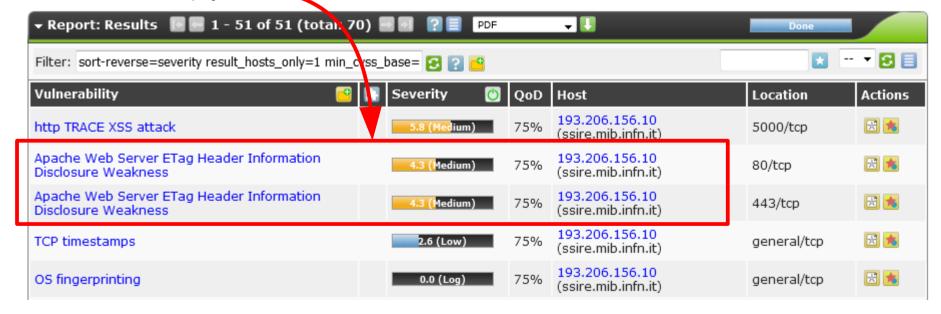
QoD QoD Type(s)	Description
100% exploit	The detection happened via an exploit and therefore is fully verified.
99% remote_vul	Remote active checks (code execution, traversal attack, sql injection etc.) where the response clearly shows the presence of the vulnerability.
98% remote_app	Remote active checks (code execution, traversal attack, sql injection etc.) where the response clearly shows the presence of the vulnerable application.
97% package	Authenticated package-based checks for Linux(oid) systems.
97% registry	Authenticated registry-based checks for Windows systems.
95% remote_active	Remote active checks (code execution, traversal attack, sql injection etc.) where the response shows the likely presence of the vulnerable application or of the vulnerability. "Likely" means that only rare circumstances are possible where the detection would be wrong.
80% remote_banner	Remote banner check of applications that offer patch level in version. Many proprietary products do so.
80% executable_version	Authenticated executable version checks for Linux(oid) or Windows systems where applications offer patch level in version.
75%	This value was assigned to any pre-qod results during migration to OpenVAS-8 and is also assigned for results from NVTs that do not own a qod. However, some NVTs eventually might own this value for some reason.
70% remote_analysis	Remote checks that do some analysis but which are not always fully reliable.
50% remote_probe	Remote checks where intermediate systems such as firewalls might pretend correct detection so that it is actually not clear whether the application itself answered. This can happen for example for non-TLS connections.
30% remote_banner_unreliable	Remote Banner checks of applications that don't offer patch level in version identification. For example, this is the case for many Open Source products due to backport patches.
30% executable_version_unreliable	Authenticated executable version checks for Linux(oid) systems where applications don't offer patch level in version identification.
1% general_note	General note on potential vulnerability without finding any present application.

▼ Report: Results 🔃 🚾 1 - 39 of 39 (total: 58) 🗃 🖬 💡 📋 PDF		. U	/////98/%////	71
Filter: sort-reverse=severity result_hosts_only	=1 min_cvss_base= 😝 🛜 🤷			*	🕶 🔁 🗐
Vulnerability <u></u>	Severity 💍	QoD	Host	Location	Actions
http TRACE XSS attack	5.8 (Medium)	75%	193.206.156.10	5000/tcp	*
TCP timestamps	2.6 (Low)	75%	193.206.156.10	general/tcp	🔀 🚖
OS fingerprinting	0.0 (Log)	75%	193.206.156.10	general/tcp	*
DIRB (NASL wrapper)	0.0 (Log)	75%	193.206.156.10	general/tcp	🔀 🚖
ICMP Timestamp Detection	0.0 (Log)	75%	193.206.156.10	general/icmp	🔀 🚖
arachni (NASL wrapper)	0.0 (Log)	75%	193.206.156.10	general/tcp	🔀 🚖
Nikto (NASL wrapper)	0.0 (Log)	75%	193.206.156.10	general/tcp	🔀 🚖
Traceroute	0.0 (Log)	75%	193.206.156.10	general/tcp	🔀 🚖
SSH Protocol Versions Supported	0.0 (Log)	75%	193.206.156.10	22/tcp	🔀 擒
SSH Server type and version	0.0 (Log)	75%	193.206.156.10	22/tcp	🗷 🚖
Services	0.0 (Log)	75%	193.206.156.10	22/tcp	*
SMTP Server type and version	0.0 (Log)	75%	193.206.156.10	25/tcp	🔀 🚖
SMTP STARTTLS Detection	0.0 (Log)	75%	193.206.156.10	25/tcp	X
Services	0.0 (Log)	75%	193.206.156.10	25/tcp	🔀 擒
HTTP Server type and version	0.0 (Log)	75%	193.206.156.10	80/tcp	🔀 🚖
Services	0.0 (Log)	75%	193.206.156.10	80/tcp	X

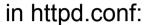
net.ipv4.tcp_timestamps = 0



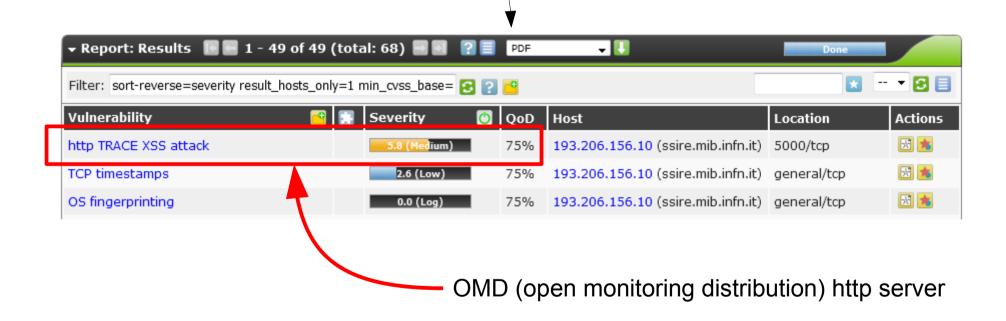
index.html empty



index.html empty



- Header unset Etag
- FileETag none



6 – auth scan (!!!)

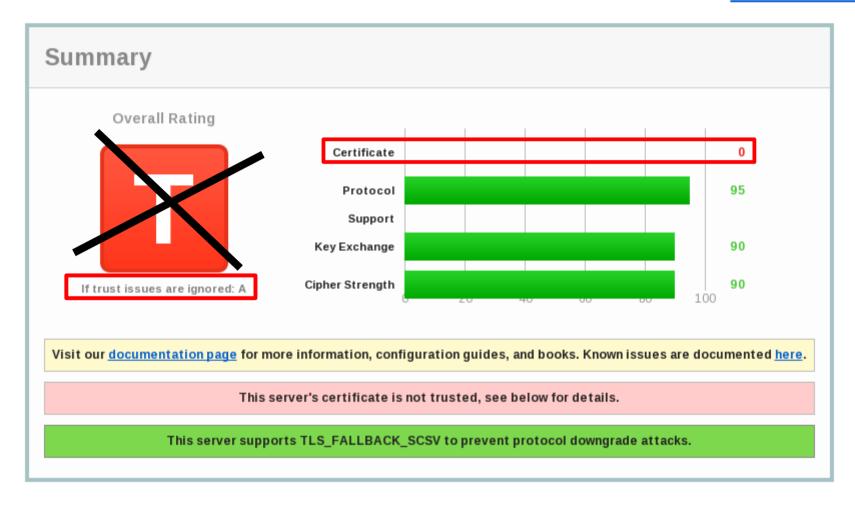
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Filter: sort-reverse=severity result_hosts_only=1 min_cvss_base= 🕃	? 📴			*	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Vulnerability 📴 🛚	Severity 💍	QoD	Host	Location	Actions
Mozilla Thunderbird Multiple Vulnerability July-08 (Linux)	10.0 (High)	75%	193.206.156.10	general/tcp	R
Mozilla Thunderbird Multiple Vulnerabilities November-08 (Linux)	10.0 (High)	75%	193.206.156.10	general/tcp	🔣 🚖
Mozilla Thunderbird Multiple Vulnerabilities December-08 (Linux)	10.0 (High)	75%	193.206.156.10	general/tcp	R
Mozilla Thunderbird Multiple Vulnerabilities Mar-09 (Linux)	10.0 (High)	75%	193.206.156.10	general/tcp	🔀 🚖
Sun Java JRE Multiple Vulnerabilities (Linux)	10.0 (High)	75%	193.206.156.10	general/tcp	X
Adobe Flash Player Multiple Vulnerabilities (Linux) - Feb12	10.0 (High)	75%	193.206.156.10	general/tcp	X
Adobe Flash Player Multiple Vulnerabilities (Linux) - Mar12	10.0 (High)	75%	193.206.156.10	general/tcp	X
Adobe Flash Player Multiple Vulnerabilities June-2012 (Linux)	10.0 (High)	75%	193.206.156.10	general/tcp	X
Adobe Flash Player Multiple Vulnerabilities June-2012 (Linux)	10.0 (High)	75%	193.206.156.10	general/tcp	X
Adobe Flash Player Multiple Vulnerabilities - Oct12 (Linux)	10.0 (High)	75%	193.206.156.10	general/tcp	X
Adobe Flash Player Multiple Vulnerabilities - Oct12 (Linux)	10.0 (High)	75%	193.206.156.10	general/tcp	R
Adobe Flash Player Multiple Vulnerabilities - Sep12 (Linux)	10.0 (High)	75%	193.206.156.10	general/tcp	🔀 擒
Adobe Flash Player Multiple Vulnerabilities - Sep12 (Linux)	10.0 (High)	75%	193.206.156.10	general/tcp	R
Adobe Flash Player Multiple Vulnerabilities - November12 (Linux)	10.0 (High)	75%	193.206.156.10	general/tcp	*
Adobe Flash Player Multiple Vulnerabilities - November12 (Linux)	10.0 (High)	75%	193.206.156.10	general/tcp	K
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Qualys SSL server test against ssire

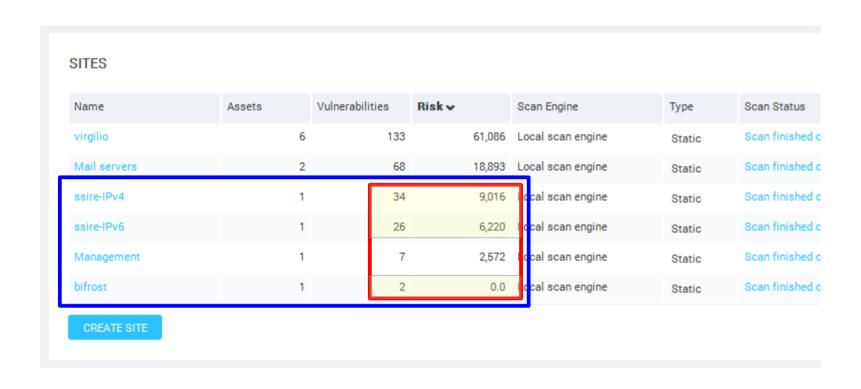
SSL Report: <u>ssire.mib.infn.it</u> (2001:760:4211:0:0:0:0:100)

Assessed on: Wed, 28 Oct 2015 11:23:38 UTC | HIDDEN | Clear cache

Scan Another »



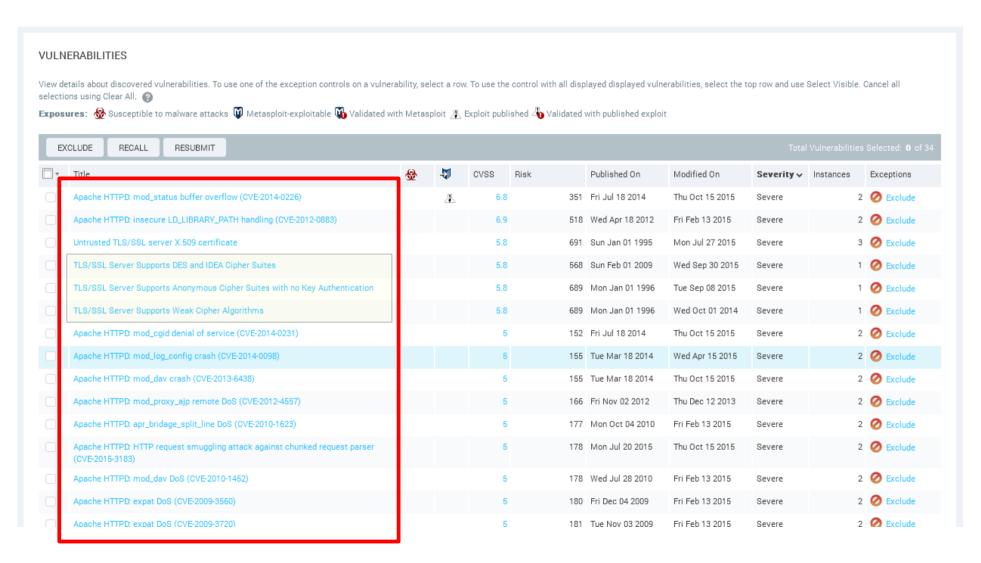
Nexpose against ssire 1 – unauth scan



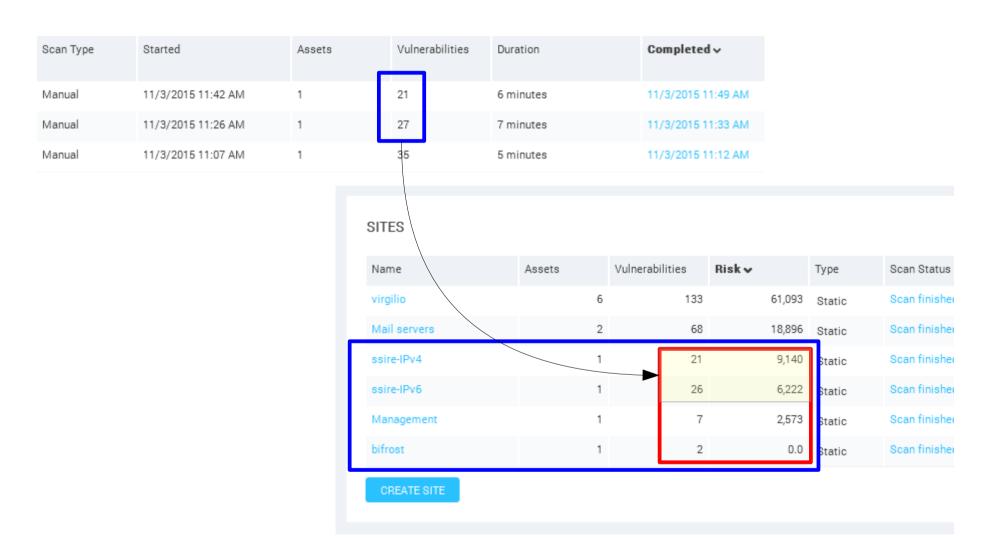
Nexpose against ssire 2 – unauth scan

SERVICES						
Service Name	Product	Port ^	Protocol	Vulnerabilities	Jsers	Groups
SMTP	Sendmail	25	TCP	1	0	0
НТТР	HTTPD 2.2.15	80	TCP	25	0	0
portmapper		111	UDP	0	0	0
portmapper		111	TCP	0	0	0
HTTPS	HTTPD 2.2.15	443	TCP	27	0	0
SMTPS		465	TCP	5	0	0
SMTP	Sendmail	587	TCP	1	0	0
UPnP-HTTPU		5000	TCP	1	0	0
status		40402	TCP	0	0	0
status		40586	UDP	0	0	0

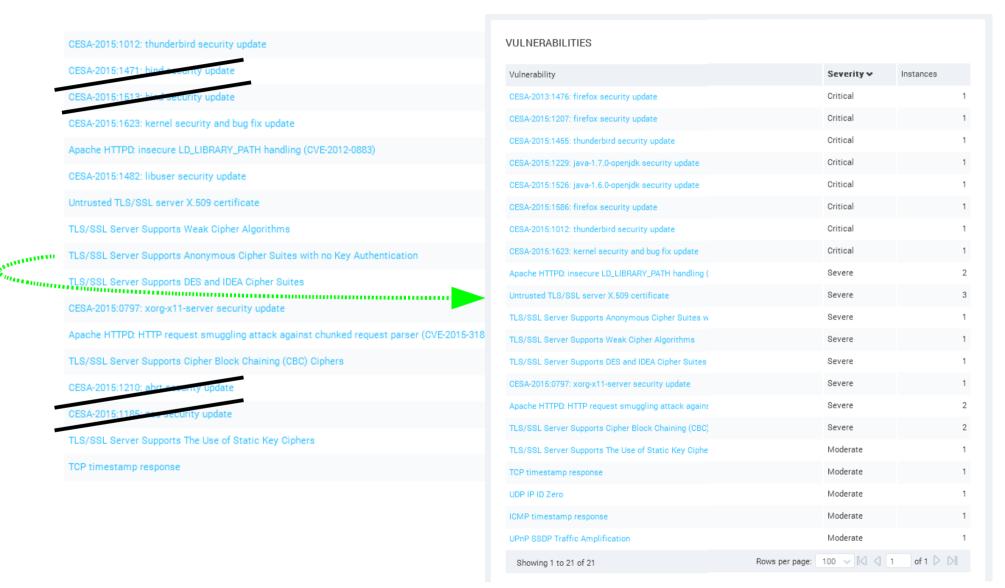
Nexpose against ssire 3 – unauth scan



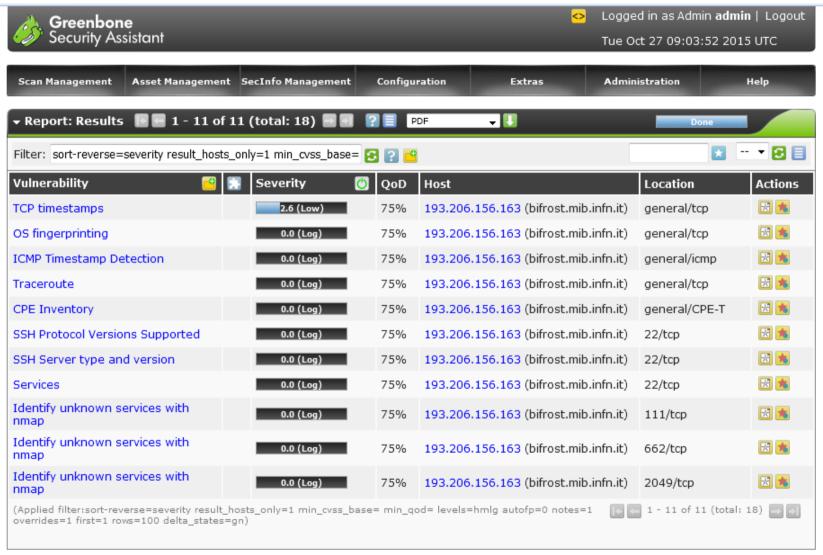
Nexpose against ssire 4 – auth scan



Nexpose against ssire 5 – auth scan



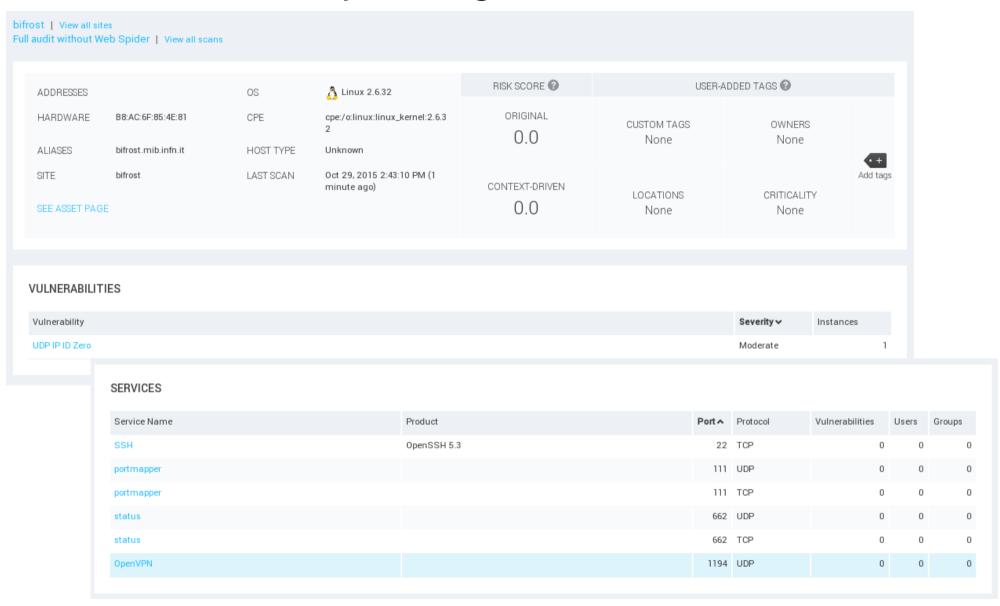
OpenVAS against bifrost



Backend operation: 0.33s

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Nexpose against bifrost



Conclusions

There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, Than are dreamt of in your philosophy.

- Vulnerability detection & assessment IS NOT an exact science...;
- 100% trust in the response of a single tool *IS* a bad idea;
- It seems that running at least two tools is not only recommended, but mandatory; running one credentialed scan is recommended:
 - say: unauth OpenVAS & nmap w/NSE from outside your network; auth Nexpose from inside your network (against critical or exposed nodes, at least)

References

- sectools.org
- nmap.org
- hackertarget.com
- A quantitative evaluation of vulnerability scanning Holm, Sommestad, Almroth, Persson

Information Management & Computer Security, Vol.19 No.4, 2011

 Performance of automated network vulnerability scanning at remediating security issues

Holm

Computers & Security 31 (2012)

NSE - Nmap Scripting Engine

