

# CORE IMPACT

## CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

### SOLUTION SUMMARY

**CUSTOMER TYPE** | Military Academy.

**CHALLENGE** | Continually provide innovative course work and state-of-the-art professional tools to help cadets solve current and future information security challenges.

**SOLUTION** | CORE IMPACT, the first comprehensive penetration testing solution for assessing specific information security threats to an organization.

### THE INSTITUTION

#### U.S. Military Academy at West Point Duty. Honor. Country.

Since its founding two centuries ago, the United States Military Academy at West Point has accomplished its mission by developing cadets in four critical areas: intellectual, physical, military, and moral-ethical - a four-year process called the "West Point Experience." Specific developmental goals are addressed through several fully coordinated and integrated programs. A challenging academic program that consists of a core of 31 courses provides a balanced education in the arts and sciences. This core curriculum establishes the foundation for elective courses that permit cadets to explore in greater depth a field of study or an optional major. All cadets receive a Bachelor of Science degree, which is designed specifically to meet the intellectual requirements of a commissioned officer in today's U.S. Army.

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Major Ronald C. Dodge Jr.,  
Assistant Professor and Senior Research Scientist, ITOC,  
*United States Military Academy at West Point*

### THE CHALLENGE

The goal of West Point, the U.S. Army's premier resource for developing officers, is to educate and train cadets to be leaders in today's military. In this military, personnel serve in a digitized army where its leaders must have the right set of technological skills. The future of this digital military will be in its ability to use electronic systems in order to acquire, manage, disseminate, and defend its information. To achieve this state of electronic readiness, instructors in the Information Technology and Operations Center (ITOC), one of three devoted research centers at West Point, strive to educate cadets in the latest information assurance capabilities.

Educators in the ITOC continually look for new technologies to help them and their students solve new information security challenges. To that end, instructors recently determined they needed a more efficient way of showing students how computer networks are attacked, penetrated and have their resources compromised. Historically, educators had been relegated to using manual, time-consuming, homegrown tools to demonstrate how network information is vulnerable to an attack. "We would download 5 or 6 exploits from the Web, compile the scripts and eventually get them running ourselves," stated Major Ronald C. Dodge Jr., Assistant Professor and Senior Research Scientist, ITOC. "This is very a laborious process and getting an exploit to run is challenging. The challenge would be to find a cost-effective product that would allow them to more easily and efficiently use, manage, update and demonstrate the impact of a successful attack against network information assets."

## THE SOLUTION

Educators at West Point selected Core Security Technologies product CORE IMPACT, a penetration testing solution for assessing specific information security threats to an organization. The product enabled instructors to replace their manually developed testing tools with a professional, state-of-the-art, penetration testing product. CORE IMPACT is making it possible for them to enhance the quality of their information assurance courses by allowing them to easily and efficiently demonstrate real world attacks and their network implications.

With CORE IMPACT, instructors at West Point realized the following benefits:

- *Replace labor-intensive exploit creation with professional, commercial-grade exploits in an automated penetration testing tool*
- *Demonstrate a broad-range of attack techniques methodically in one visually integrated software package*
- *Quickly and easily prove actual paths and methodologies of exploits*
- *Provide detailed audit of all events and results*

CORE IMPACT is designed to replace expensive, inconsistent manual penetration testing with an automated penetration testing product. CORE IMPACT enables real-world attacks on IT assets and presents analysis of information security risks in one comprehensive application. "CORE IMPACT provides us the parameters that best meet the standards we require. Being able to efficiently, easily and professionally demonstrate a penetration test is a significant tool for our instructors," said Major Dodge.

IMPACT now makes it possible for instructors to demonstrate a broad range of exploits to their students. Furthermore, IMPACT's ease of use enabled educators to quickly train others on the product. "By using IMPACT, we are now in a position to more readily assist our cadets reach the exceptional learning objectives established here at West Point," explained Major Dodge.

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Penetration testing with CORE IMPACT relates an accurate and comprehensive view of an information security stance, as it evaluates a network, exploiting vulnerabilities to determine precisely what information is at risk. CORE IMPACT makes it easy, efficient and cost-effective for security professionals and network engineers to perform penetration tests. With just a point and click, CORE IMPACT enables a user to actively exploit vulnerabilities within a network, replicating the kinds of access an intruder could achieve. CORE IMPACT helps you to safely understand your network's vulnerabilities before an attacker does.