The analysis and testing products are the toys in our lab. These products tend to be single use rather than suites of products. We look at test tools in the context of the types of testing that we do. Some of our testing is product testing and some involves protecting the enterprise.

The vulnerability test tools include specialized vulnerability analysis and high-powered penetration test products. The analyzers include an innovative threat analysis tool and a security information management and security event management analysis product. Finally, we have forensic tools.

Over the network, we are concerned about attack vectors, inter-domain communications and what is going on in the enterprise. We’d like to access all of the available logs as part of our analysis.

Finally, when things fail we need some good forensic tools to figure out what happened.

Core Impact

Impact is structure, rigor and repeatability in a box. The friendly interface speeds the test process, the reports are comprehensive, scripting allows repeatable test suites, and the exploits are being updated constantly. We have used Impact in SC Labs for two years and have found nothing else that even comes close, open source or commercial, for application as a production quality penetration tool.

What makes a single point product innovative? In the case of Impact, it’s the vision of the people behind it. Core Security has a dedicated team of threat and vulnerability engineers who look to the present and the future to ensure that the product not only addresses today’s vulnerabilities, but also looks ahead to the evolving threat environment.

Core visionaries think in terms of bringing process improvement to pen testing and to the underlying security processes. Core has evolved a consistent framework that is extensible and scalable.

Penetration testing is more efficient if the tester first runs a scanner and then attempts to exploit the results of the scan. To facilitate that, Impact accepts results from many major scanning vendors as input data. Impact also allows users to develop their own intellectual property in the form of exploit scripts that Impact executes as it would its own.

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AT A GLANCE

What it is Commercial grade penetration testing tool
Vendor Core Security Technologies
www.coresecurity.com
Cost $30,000
Innovation An evolving platform for rigorous penetration testing
What we liked Slick, consistent user interface that speeds the testing process; ability to modify and add exploits; ability to affect underlying security processes

Peter Stephenson