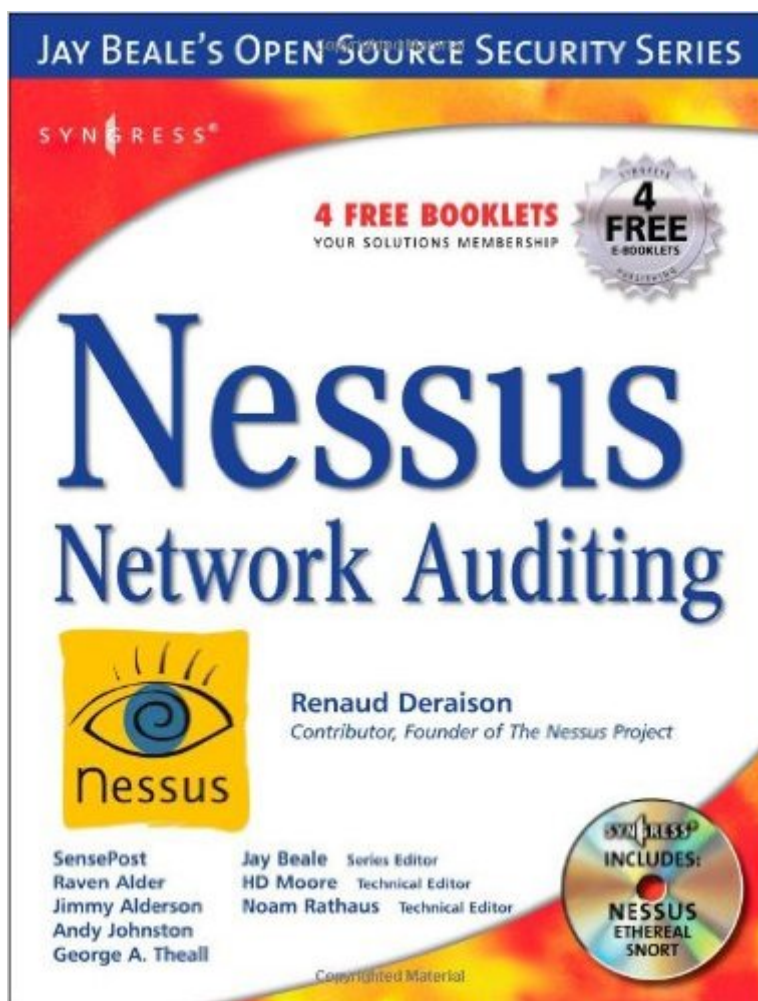# Nessus Network Auditing: Jay Beale Open Source Security Series (Jay Beale's Open Source Security)

Synopsis

This book focuses on installing, configuring and optimizing Nessus, which is a remote security scanner for Linux, BSD, Solaris, and other Unices. It is plug-in-based, has a GTK interface, and performs over 1200 remote security checks. It allows for reports to be generated in HTML, XML, LaTeX, and ASCII text, and suggests solutions for security problems. As with many open source programs, Nessus is incredibly popular, incredibly powerful, and incredibly under-documented. There are many Web sites (including nessus.org) where thousands of users congregate to share tips, tricks, and hints, yet no single, comprehensive resource exists. This book, written by Nessus lead developers, will document all facets of deploying Nessus on a production network. * Nessus is the premier Open Source vulnerability assessment tool, and was recently voted the "most popular" open source security tool of any kind.* This is the first book available on Nessus and it is written by the world's premier Nessus developers led by the creator of Nessus, Renaud Deraison.* The dramatic success of Syngress' SNORT 2.0 INTRUSION DETECTION clearly illustrates the strong demand for books that offer comprehensive documentation of Open Source security tools that are otherwise Undocumented.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'Nessus Network Auditing' (NNA) is the definitive (and only) guide to the Nessus open source vulnerability assessment tool. I recommend all security professionals read this book. You may start

as a Nessus user, but the book will help you become part of the Nessus community.NNA features twelve contributors, but it doesn't suffer the fate of other books with similar high author counts. NNA manages to present fairly original material in each chapter, without a lot of overlap. I credit the lead authors and editors for keeping the contributors on track. They could have reduced the number of crashing printer stories, however.Several chapters stood out from the others. Ch 1 explains the need for conducting vulnerability assessment. Ch 3 makes a good case for always installing from source code and not trusting precompiled binaries. Chs 8 and 9 deliver real value with insights into Nessus internals, such as scanning architecture and the Nessus Knowledge Base. Ch 10 presents crude albeit workable ways to measure bandwidth to alleviate loads caused by scans. Ch 11 is an excellent rationale for the Nessus Attack Scripting Language (NASL) written by Nessus' creator. I would have liked to have seen an appendix based on an actual (perhaps sanitized) scan, showing how a security admin selected tests, ran the scan, and validated results.NNA suffers a few problems. A few typos are present, but nothing that distracts from the book's content. I did find the ch 4 author's mention of the TCP "triple handshake" to be odd. While not wrong, this process is usually called the "three-way handshake." The screenshots in appendix B are of poor quality and should be replaced in future editions.Note that the Nessus version used in NNA varies from 2.0.9 to 2.0.

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