

Career Path Syllabus: Become a Penetration Tester

Last Updated: November 2021

Career Path Description

Last year, penetration testers ranked as one of the three most in-demand jobs in the growing cybersecurity job market. To become a penetration tester, a college degree is not necessary since it's a skills-based profession. Employers want professionals who can demonstrate the required skills, regardless of education. Cybrary offers realistic, virtual lab environments where you will gain real-world, hands-on skills you will use as a penetration tester.

Career Path Expectations and Goals

We have found the learners who are most successful in the program spend at least 30 minutes on learning a day. Your time is extremely valuable, so if there is a concept you already know, do not hesitate to skip that portion of the curriculum. The purpose of the career path is to ensure you have the knowledge/skills/abilities needed for the role. If you already have them, there is no need to duplicate efforts.

Career Paths can contain courses, labs, and assessments. Using these materials concurrently provides you with both instructional and hands-on experience that will enhance your chances of passing potential certification exams and give you the experience you need for the actual job role.

We also encourage you to engage with the mentors and other learners in the Cybrary Insider Pro (CIP) Slack Community. The CIP community members will share the insights they have acquired as they have gone through their journey. In addition, communicating difficult concepts is a learned skill and our community provides a risk-free environment for you to test that skill.

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Career Path Outline

Important note: This syllabus presents Cybrary's suggested way to progress through the career path, but syllabus items do not need to be completed in the order they are listed. You have the freedom to complete items in any order.

Become a Penetration Tester	Content Type	Difficulty	Duration (Hours)
Welcome to the Penetration Tester Career Path	Course	Beginner	0.03
Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) Fundamentals	Course	Beginner	2.5
NMAP	Course	Beginner	6.5
Vulnerability Scanner Set-up and Configuration	Lab	Intermediate	1
Vulnerability Scanner Set-up and Configuration, Pt. 2	Lab	Intermediate	1
Identifying System Vulnerabilities with OpenVAS	Lab	Intermediate	1
Automated Vulnerability Assessments	Lab	Intermediate	1
Core Impact Vulnerability Scan	Lab	Intermediate	2
Vulnerability Scan Analysis	Lab	Intermediate	2
Vulnerability Analysis/Protection	Lab	Intermediate	1.5
Creating Recommendations Based on Vulnerability Assessments	Lab	Intermediate	1
Social Engineering	Course	Beginner	2.25
Kali Linux Fundamentals	Course	Beginner	2.15
Phishing	Course	Beginner	2
Phishing	Lab	Intermediate	0.75
USB Drop Attack	Course	Beginner	2.5
Penetration Testing and Ethical Hacking	Course	Intermediate	7
Network Discovery	Lab	Intermediate	1.5
Preliminary Scanning	Lab	Intermediate	1
Additional Scanning Options	Lab	Intermediate	0.75
Scanning and Mapping Networks	Lab	Intermediate	0.75
Scanning the Network on the LAN	Lab	Advanced	1.5
Password Cracking Tool Fundamentals	Course	Intermediate	0.75

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Password Cracking 101	Course	Beginner	1.5
Use a Password Cracking Utility in Linux	Lab	Beginner	0.75
Sniffing	Course	Beginner	14.25
Capturing and Analyzing Network Traffic Using a Sniffer	Lab	Advanced	1.5
Wireshark	Lab	Intermediate	1
Enumerating Hosts using Wireshark, Windows, and Linux Commands	Lab	Intermediate	1.5
Web Application Penetration Testing	Course	Intermediate	4.5
Exploiting a Vulnerable Web Application	Lab	Advanced	1.5
Intro to Burp Suite Pro	Course	Beginner	1
Advanced Penetration Testing	Course	Advanced	14.5
Attacking the Firewall and Stealing Data over an Encrypted Channel	Lab	Advanced	1.5
How to Use hping3 (BSWJ)	Course	Intermediate	0.1
How to Use Unicornscan (BSWR)	Course	Intermediate	0.08
How to Use THC-Hydra (BSWR)	Course	Intermediate	0.15
How to Use ExploitDB (BSWJ)	Course	Intermediate	0.12
Post Exploitation Hacking	Course	Advanced	7.75
Offensive Penetration Testing	Course	Intermediate	21.75
Penetration Testing Execution Standard (PTES)	Course	Intermediate	13.15
Red Team and Blue Team Fundamentals	Lab	Beginner	21

Total titles: 42

Total learning hours: 150

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