

Vulnerability assessment and penetration testing should be critical parts of all organizations' security operations. Peter Stephenson puts some top products through their paces

Just as the general methodologies for vulnerability assessment have evolved, so have the tools. The vulnerability assessment tools in this review are as diverse as the landscapes in which they are used.

Generally, the current crop of vulnerability assessment products

offers a good range of capabilities for just about any organization, regardless of size.

We ran the products against our test bed and, where the product was designed to discover the network, we allowed it to try. In a couple of cases, the device was unable to detect the presence

of the honeynet without being set up manually.

Virtually all scanners, with one exception, detected between 100 and 120 vulnerabilities, and we concluded that this was not the primary measure of a good product. In all, we graded the products in over 50 categories.

Auditor Enterprise



Version	4.1
Supplier	NetClarity
Price	\$19,995 for 256 addresses
Contact	www.netclarity.net

NetClarity's Auditor is a fine example of a fully featured appliance that offers not just vulnerability assessment, but also ties results to

compliance and ongoing information systems audit programs. Beginning from the superb documentation and ending with the high value for the money, this product shines.

The documentation is complete, well-illustrated and straightforward. We ran into no installation or use problems that we could not solve from the included manuals. The appliance is very quick and easy to set up and use. Just plug it in, follow the installation guide and go. The setup guide was clear and the appliance was up and ready

for testing in well under an hour.

Support is available by phone or email. The company pledges to respond to calls and email within 24 hours and a premium support service is available for a fee.

Auditor is rich in features. For example, it can create and save several different types of reports, including full report, executive report (a simple, clear summary), and a management report. The appliance scans for around 9,000 different vulnerabilities and it is very fast and efficient. It includes a Vulnerability Quarantine System that reconfigures firewalls and smart switches based on vulnerabilities it discovers. It incorporates an encrypted (local) backup and restore feature. The product can be set to notify the system administrator via email or cell phone when an audit is completed.

This product performed very efficiently on our test network. One interesting capability is its ability to audit against credit card security programs and regulatory requirements. Scans/audits can be set up with specific compliance requirements and the final report will rate the target system relative

to those requirements. Several regulatory reporting schemes are included with the appliance.

Auditor Enterprise is an excellent value starting at \$19,995 for 256 addresses. There is a subscription service, updates, maintenance and support all rolled up into a single pre-paid annual maintenance fee of 20 percent.

We rate NetClarity Auditor Enterprise as our Best Buy in the fully featured appliance category. The product does everything one would expect it to do and does it all extremely well.

SC MAGAZINE RATING	
Features	★★★★★
Ease of use	★★★★★
Performance	★★★★★
Documentation	★★★★★
Support	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★
OVERALL RATING	★★★★★
For Very easy to set up, configure, and use. Clear and concise customizable reports. Intuitive, easy to navigate interface and menus.	
Against A minor glitch in the discovery process – we had trouble discovering all the virtual machines in our honeynet and had to put them in manually.	
Verdict Fully featured appliance tying assessment to auditing and compliance.	



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NetClarity - Preemptive, Proactive Protection.™
 54 Middlesex Turnpike, Bld. C
 Bedford, Massachusetts, USA 01730
 Web: www.netclarity.net · E-mail: sales@netclarity.net
 SKYPE: netclarity · International Line: 781-276-4555
 USA Toll Free: 877-677-3328