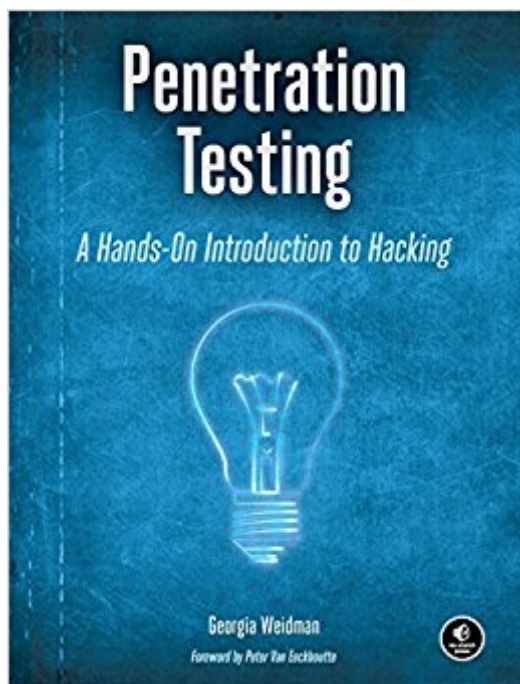


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# Penetration Testing: A Hands-On Introduction To Hacking



## Synopsis

Penetration testers simulate cyber attacks to find security weaknesses in networks, operating systems, and applications. Information security experts worldwide use penetration techniques to evaluate enterprise defenses. In *Penetration Testing*, security expert, researcher, and trainer Georgia Weidman introduces you to the core skills and techniques that every pentester needs. Using a virtual machine-based lab that includes Kali Linux and vulnerable operating systems, you'll run through a series of practical lessons with tools like Wireshark, Nmap, and Burp Suite. As you follow along with the labs and launch attacks, you'll experience the key stages of an actual assessment - including information gathering, finding exploitable vulnerabilities, gaining access to systems, post exploitation, and more. Learn how to:

- Crack passwords and wireless network keys with brute-forcing and wordlists
- Test web applications for vulnerabilities
- Use the Metasploit Framework to launch exploits and write your own Metasploit modules
- Automate social-engineering attacks
- Bypass antivirus software
- Turn access to one machine into total control of the enterprise in the post exploitation phase

You'll even explore writing your own exploits. Then it's on to mobile hacking - Weidman's particular area of research - with her tool, the Smartphone Pentest Framework. With its collection of hands-on lessons that cover key tools and strategies, *Penetration Testing* is the introduction that every aspiring hacker needs.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Georgia Weidman is a penetration tester, researcher, and the founder of Bulb Security, a security

consulting firm. She has presented at conferences around the world, including BlackHat, Shmoocon, and Derbycon, and teaches classes on topics like penetration testing, mobile hacking, and exploit development. In 2012, she was awarded a DARPA Cyber Fast Track grant to continue her work in mobile device security.

purchased for a class

LOVE IT! Best book for beginning hacking!

I met Georgia at GRRcon, went out and bought the book the next day. Some of the links are outdated now, but the concepts and methodology are still relevant and usefull, you can learn quite a bit from this book. Hopefully she will publish another soon.

I purchased this book as a supplement for a class I'm taking in the fall. I've never really done any exploitation in the past, and wanted to get a handle on the basics before tackling some course material. The book is nicely laid out and is easy to understand. I like the screenshots included, as it gave me a visual representation of what the author is talking about. The screenshots of console commands and printouts especially are nice, as they are labeled and referenced in the text by label, which I find helpful. This book works best when following along with the provided resources. I enjoyed working my way through this book, and have suggested it to the course instructor for my course in the fall.

Teaches you some basic linux skills which is nice. Never the less, this book isn't much for explaining the why, its more the how. Learned of some good tools though, which you can then learn outside the book, so it lays a framework. I've never read any other books on pentesting though so I cannot compare.

I wanted to wait until I was actually through some of the hands on examples on this book before I reviewed. I'm approximately halfway through at this point. Cons: Setting up the lab is time consuming, difficult and not exactly free. In my case I had a legitimate copy of Windows XP to use, but it wasn't pro; and I purchased Windows 7 Pro. Unless you're not working and have the time to run through the book quickly do yourself a favor and get a copy of Windows to do this. Unfortunately... it's getting harder to find copies of Windows XP. The issue of using a "free" version

of Windows is after X days you won't be able to use it anymore. I paid for the convenience of having all the time I wanted to run through the book. Pros: This is a great way to get yourself familiar with Kali Linux and penetration testing principals. I'm attempting to switch careers into security and I picked up this book as a starting point. It has helped me learn more about Kali and the tools included in the distro. Its exactly what the book markets itself as, a hands on introduction; and it does this well. Summary: You need to do a lot of leg work yourself; so don't expect to just open the book and go. I took about 2 or 3 weeks just to get my lab setup as closely as possible to the book; I've decided I'm comfortable missing some aspects (the mobile applications will probably be a miss here). Overall this should be expected; if you're a programmer like me you should be familiar with trouble shooting, also if you're opening the Linux door you should be comfortable doing some extra work. Once you have the lab setup the pace picks up. While it took me 2-3 weeks to get through setting up my lab I was almost half way through the book in less than 4 days. I would have liked if the Kali VM came completely configured; it's missing the mobile tools I believe, but again it's enough. The only recommendation I can make is to publish an updated version. I'm using this book as a launching platform for the Penetration Testing With Kali Linux course and eventually the OSCP exam.

One of the best books on Penetration Testing I've read. Georgia knows her stuff and was able to present it in an easy to understand manner.

It is laid out very well. I am yet to complete it but have a good feeling about how it progreses - good for beginners as it guides you from the absolute basics.

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