CERTIFICATION GUIDE

CompTIA PenTest+

What is it?

CompTIA PenTest+ is for cybersecurity professionals tasked with penetration testing and vulnerability management.

Why is it different?

- **CompTIA PenTest+ is the most comprehensive exam covering all penetration testing stages.** Unlike other penetration testing exams that only cover a portion of stages with essay questions and hands-on, PenTest+ uses both performance-based and knowledge-based questions to ensure all stages are addressed.
- **PenTest+ is the only exam on the market to include all aspects of vulnerability management.** It not only covers hands-on vulnerability assessment, scanning, and analysis, but also includes planning, scoping, and managing weaknesses, not just exploiting them.
- **PenTest+ is the most current penetration testing exam covering the latest techniques against expanded attack surfaces**. It is a unique exam that requires a candidate to demonstrate the most relevant pen testing skills for the cloud, hybrid environments, web applications, customized systems (IoT), and traditional on-premises.

About the exam

PenTest+ assesses the most up-to-date penetration testing, and vulnerability assessment and management skills necessary to determine the resiliency of the network against attacks. The CompTIA PenTest+ certification exam will verify successful candidates have the knowledge and skills required to:

- Plan and scope a penetration testing engagement
- Understand legal and compliance requirements
- Perform vulnerability scanning and penetration testing using appropriate tools and techniques, and then analyze the results
- Produce a written report containing proposed remediation techniques, effectively communicate results to the management team, and provide practical recommendations

Exam #
PT0-002

Release Date
October 2021

Languages
English

CE Required?
Yes

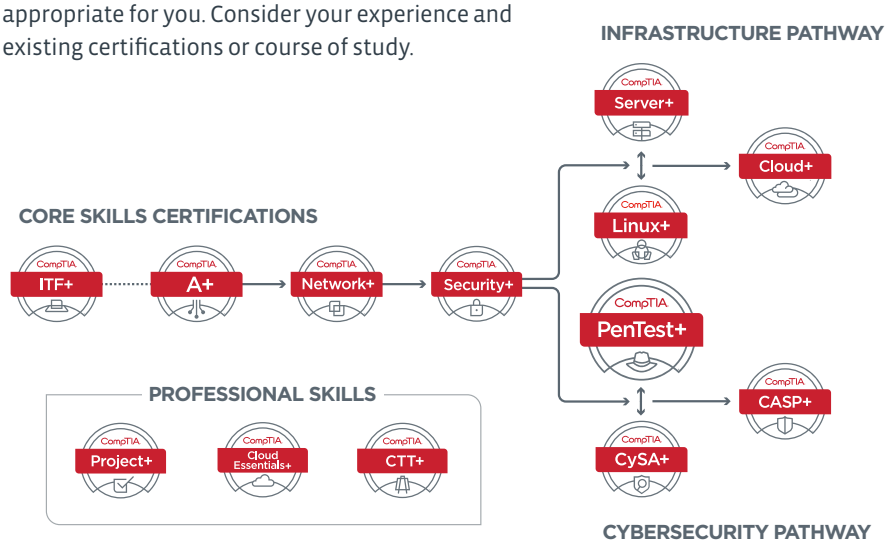
Accreditation
Accredited by ANSI to show compliance with the ISO 17024 Standard. It is also approved by the DoD for Directive 8140/8570.01-M.

How does PenTest+ Compare to Alternatives?

	PenTest+	CEH	GPEN	OSCP
Certification	**PenTest+**	**EC-Council Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH)**	**GIAC Penetration Tester (GPEN)**	**Offensive Security Certified Professional (OSCP)**
Performance-based Questions	Yes	No Second exam required, CEH Practical	No	Yes
Exam Length	1 exam, 90 questions, 165 minutes	1 exam, 4 hours	1 exam, 3 hours	1 exam, 24 hours
Experience Level	Intermediate	Beginner / Intermediate	Intermediate	Intermediate / Advanced
Exam Focus	Penetration testing and vulnerability assessment	Penetration testing	Penetration Testing from a Business-value	Real World-based with a Lab and submitted report
Prerequisites	Network+, Security+ or equivalent knowledge. Minimum of 3-4 years of hands-on experience working in a security consultant or penetration tester job role.	CEH Training, 2 years information security experience, Endorsement	None	Must first complete the Penetration Testing with Kali Linux training course (self-paced)

CompTIA Certification Pathway

CompTIA certifications align with the skillsets needed to support and manage cybersecurity. Enter where appropriate for you. Consider your experience and existing certifications or course of study.



Top PenTest+ job roles

- Penetration Tester
- Security Consultant
- Cloud Penetration Tester
- Web App Penetration Tester
- Cloud Security Specialist
- Network & Security Specialist
- Information Security Engineer
- Security Analyst

Technical Areas Covered in the Certification

Planning and Scoping
14%

- Compare and contrast governance, risk, and compliance concepts
- Explain the importance of scoping and organizational/customer requirements
- Given a scenario, demonstrate an ethical hacking mindset by maintaining professionalism and integrity

Information Gathering and Vulnerability Scanning
22%

- Given a scenario, be able to perform passive and active reconnaissance nd analyze the results of the reconnaissance exercise
- Ability to perform vulnerability scanning

Attacks and Exploits
30%

- Given a scenario, research attack vectors and have the ability to perform network attacks, wireless attacks, application-based attacks, and attacks on cloud technologies
- Explain common attacks and vulnerabilities against specialized systems
- Given a scenario, perform a social engineering or physical attack
- Ability to perform post-exploitation technique

Reporting and Communication
18%

- Compare and contrast important components of written reports
- Given a scenario, analyze the findings and recommend the appropriate remediation within a report
- Explain the importance of communication during the penetration testing process and potential post-report delivery activities

Tools and Code Analysis
16%

- Explain the basic concepts of scripting and software development
- Given a scenario, analyze a script or code sample for use in a penetration test
- Explain use cases of various tools used during the phases of a penetration test

"CompTIA PenTest+ exam is different because it is not only technical, but also demonstrates that a candidate has the ability to understand and deliver results. A manager could hire a PenTest+ certified individual and fully trust that he or she would alleviate day to day operations."

Josh Skorich
Managing Principal

Organizations that contributed to the development of PenTest+

- Paylocity
- SecureWorks
- Micro Focus
- Tata Consultancy Services
- All in One – Benin
- The Mako Group
- Archdiocese of Philadelphia
- RxSense
- Cricket Health
- Washington Patrol Service
- John Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory
- U.S. Navy Center for Information Dominance
- U.S. Army
- Target Corp.
- General Dynamics IT (GDIT)
- Tanium
- Ricoh
- aeSolutions Industrial Cybersecurity

Research and Statistics

Fastest-Growing Job Category

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that information security analysts will be the fastest-growing job category, with **31 percent overall growth between 2019 and 2029**.[1]

Growing Priority

The penetration testing market is expected to grow **22 percent from 2020 to 2025**. Factors driving the market include enterprises implementing security measures to respond to an increase of sophisticated cyberattacks and rise in mobile-based critical business apps that require more secure endpoint protection.[2]

Learn with CompTIA

Official CompTIA Content is the only study material exclusively developed by CompTIA for the CompTIA certification candidate; no other content library covers all exam objectives for all certifications. CompTIA learning products have been developed with our Official CompTIA Content to help you prepare for your CompTIA certification exams with confidence. Learners now have everything they need to learn the material and ensure they are prepared for the exam and their career.

Whether you are just starting to prepare and need comprehensive training with CertMaster Learn, want to apply your knowledge hands-on with CompTIA Labs, need a final review with CertMaster Practice, or need to renew your certification upon expiration with CertMaster CE, CompTIA's online training tools have you covered.

What does it mean to be a "high stakes" exam?

An extraordinarily high level of rigor is employed in developing CompTIA certifications. Each question created for a CompTIA exam undergoes multiple layers of quality assurance and thorough psychometric statistical validation, ensuring CompTIA exams are highly representative of knowledge, skills and abilities required of real job roles. This is why CompTIA certifications are a requirement for many professionals working in technology. Hiring managers and candidates alike can be confident that passing a CompTIA certification exam means competence on the job. This is also how CompTIA certifications earn the ANSI/ISO 17024 accreditation, the standard for personnel certification programs. Over 2.3 million CompTIA ISO/ANSI-accredited exams have been delivered since January 1, 2011

What does it mean to be a "vendor-neutral" exam?

All CompTIA certification exams are vendor-neutral. This means each exam covers multiple technologies, without confining the candidate to any one platform. Vendor-neutrality is important because it ensures IT professionals can perform important job tasks in any technology environment. IT professionals with vendor-neutral certifications can consider multiple solutions in their approach to problem-solving, making them more flexible and adaptable than those with training in just one technology.

What is a Performance Certification?

CompTIA performance certifications validate the skills associated with a particular job or responsibility. They include simulations that require the test taker to demonstrate multi-step knowledge to complete a task. CompTIA has a higher ratio of these types of questions than any other IT certifying body

1. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook 2019
2. Market Research Report, Penetration Testing Market, 2020

CompTIA