

Vulnerability assessment tools are getting better and better as appliances become the platform du jour, reports Peter Stephenson.

This month we looked at vulnerability assessment and penetration test tools. The leading difference between last year's tests and this year's is that this year we saw more hybrid products that offered both vulnerability scanning and penetration testing. We also reviewed a passive scanner for

the first time and saw a lot more attention to meeting regulatory requirements, especially in the payment card industry.

We had a nice bunch of products that included appliances and software-only. We had one product that is strictly a penetration testing tool and, as we had some other

products that included vulnerability assessment and penetration testing, this forced us to break the group up into three sub-groups: vulnerability assessment, penetration testing and hybrid (both).

In general, we were impressed with their utility, ease of use and comprehensive reporting.



## SAINT Scanner + Exploit



<b>Vendor</b>	SAINT Corporation
<b>Price</b>	\$15,895 unlimited Class C license (Scanner + Exploit); \$4,390 for one limited class C license (Scanner + Exploit)
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="http://www.saintcorporation.com">www.saintcorporation.com</a>

We have been watching SAINT a long time. SAINT, as many old-timers may recall, began life as an open source version of Satan, one of the first serious open source vulnerability scanners. Eventually the tool was commercialized and it has maintained many of its open source roots. It is a work horse, dependable and, until recently, a bit difficult to deploy unless you were pretty good with Linux. The display was, at best, plain vanilla. All that has changed with the current release.

Today's SAINT is a solid combination of scanner and pen testing tool. It is easy to set up from the Linux command prompt and the website provides access to the required license key. The clean, well-organized user interface makes it easy to launch scans or penetration tests and the data collection window makes viewing results easy.

We found the number of vulnerabilities that SAINT found to be typical of many vulnerability scanners. Unlike most products we tested, SAINT uses Critical, Areas of Concern, and Potential Problems, instead of the more common High, Medium and Low to describe findings. We found that SAINT Scanner identified about 89 percent of the known vulnerabilities in our test bed. However, SAINT also attempts to penetrate and just because a vulnerability appears to exist does not mean that it can be exploited.

SAINT uses SAINTexpress to perform automatic updates before each scan and we found the reporting generally well-conceived.

Support is adequate, consisting of email and phone support.

There is 24-7 phone support available as an extra cost option. We would have liked to see a more obvious support page on the website.

Pricing is based on the scope of the license. For example, the combination of Scanner and Exploit of a Class C address space is \$4,390 while an unlimited license is \$15,895. This pricing places SAINT in the middle of the cost spectrum for this kind of tool.

SC MAGAZINE RATING	
Features	★★★★☆
Ease of use	★★★★☆
Performance	★★★★☆
Documentation	★★★★☆
Support	★★★★☆
Value for money	★★★★☆
<b>OVERALL RATING</b>	<b>★★★★☆</b>
<b>Strengths</b>	Simple to set up, good user interface and well-organized reports.
<b>Weaknesses</b>	Not easy to find support page on the website, some support tools found on many vendor websites are not present on the SAINT site.
<b>Verdict</b>	Still a good workhorse, SAINT now sports penetration capabilities. While not the best performer in our tests, still, solid results were the order of the day. We rate SAINT Scanner + Exploit Recommended for its useful combination of scanner and penetration tool.

Simple to set-up, good user interface and well-organized reports. Exploit attempts penetration for found vulnerabilities.

Peter Stephenson

**SAINT Corporation**  
 Visit [www.saintcorporation.com](http://www.saintcorporation.com)  
 call 1-800-596-2006 x0119,  
 or send a message to  
[sales@saintcorporation.com](mailto:sales@saintcorporation.com)