# 8 Reasons to use a Programmatic Approach to Penetration Testing

And learn how Trustwave delivers



## **Testing is Not Just a Point in Time Activity**

Penetration testing your environment is like housekeeping – keeping things in order is an ongoing task. You're going to need to test, and then test again because your IT environment is nearly always changing. New versions of applications, websites, business systems and network updates are a constant for the IT department. Vulnerabilities are constantly being discovered and new attack methods are developed and deployed. The need to stay ahead of threats is a constant. A vendor that helps you simplify the task of periodic and ongoing testing will be to your advantage.

**Trustwave Managed Security Testing** provides our clients with a programmatic tool for penetration tests and vulnerability scans. A dedicated Trustwave testing expert assists you with navigating the Trustwave Fusion portal, discussing your scheduling requirements, and providing oversight for your testing program. Then, using a pool of testing 'credits', you can easily manage your schedule of tests, as well as review and analyse test results in a centralised reporting dashboard.

## **Your Time is Finite**

Approved suppliers, contracts, purchase orders, legal sign-offs – these all take so much time! If the thought of repeating this for every test gives you nightmares (and perhaps scares you off doing any testing at all), we don't blame you. Wouldn't you like to have a bank of testing 'credits' ready and waiting for your immediate and future testing needs. Being able to book a test, whether it be a vulnerability scan, internal or external penetration test, or application pentest, without the hassle of the procurement process slowing things down will definitely make life easier.

**Trustwave Managed Security Testing** allows you to purchase a bulk lot of testing, allowing you to allocate a fixed pool of funds for all your penetration tests and vulnerability scans up front. Draw down on that pool of funds over time without the need to sign a contract for every test.

#### **Plan Your Testing Spend**

No budget is infinite. Keeping tabs on what you have spent this year (month or quarter) and what remains within your testing budget allocation doesn't always need to be a spreadsheet exercise. Engaging a vendor to help you manage that spend efficiently and keep track of what's been done will free you up to respond to those test results and implement the remediation that's required.

**Trustwave** uses a tiered testing methodology that delivers a basic test, opportunistic test, targeted attack simulation or advanced attack to meet client's range of comprehensive testing needs. Our best practice testing ensures the right elements are analysed consistently, every time. We also provide price predictability – know your testing prices upfront.

# You're in Control

Being able to drive the testing schedule directly is a security advantage. A programmatic approach to penetration testing will enable you to act with confidence and manage your scheduled tests, with a defined scope for the test type of your choice. Categorisation of test levels creates a consistent, repeatable benchmark for your ongoing testing program, enabling you to consistently compare test results for repeated tests.

Importantly, you may have new website functionality, application releases or transformational IT work that requires a schedule of tests to meet release dates. The ability to track the status of your current and upcoming tests on-demand will give you piece of mind that your company's needs are being met.

Access your testing results on the run through our **Trustwave Fusion** mobile app. Don't be in the dark about your testing schedule and results. Have peace of mind that your tests have been scheduled and completed!

#### **Get Better Results from Your Investment**

Working with a pentesting provider that has a programmatic approach to testing will probably mean they have the back-office manpower to meet your round the clock testing needs. Not all testing can be conducted in business hours and a global firm will have remote pentesters ready to act on your scheduled tests while you're sleeping.

Be wary of an automated-only approach to penetration testing. It takes human insight to ensure that your testing results don't include false positives, and that they capture more nuanced findings that vulnerability scanners are simply not able to detect. A high-quality, programmatic managed security framework will provide a structured testing validation process – with human review by a subject matter expert – someone to check the pentesters!

**Trustwave** operates pentesting services around the clock with a global team of elite pentesters. You will experience a personalised engagement with your named local expert reviewing each test and its results. Think of them as your guide to maximising your overall pentesting budget and helping you choose the elements of your IT systems to focus your testing efforts for maximum risk reduction.

#### **Ensure Accurate Records Retention and Reporting**

What test was conducted when? How many findings were documented? And what are the trends over time? When was the last time you tested that asset? How many hours does your team spend copying and pasting reported findings into your risk management and issue tracking solutions? In these days of the great talent migration, staff turnover may mean that you lose track of results.

Being asked by management to report on your overall testing program and its results can be challenging. A central repository of all your test results allows for quick analysis of exported tabular data, ready for your fancy charting work. And for those Monday morning management updates, you should be able to quickly show which tests are scheduled and what has been completed.

**The Trustwave Fusion** portal gives you view of all tests - scheduled, in progress, and complete - and their results for a centralised, managed approach to your testing program. Data analytics can help you demonstrate the success of your testing programme with your executives or board members, with key metrics and trends. Track vulnerabilities found in repeated tests across the same assets, and measure time to remediation of those identified vulnerabilities. The Fusion portal is also API integration ready, allowing you to automate the propagation of penetration testing findings into your internal issue tracking solutions. It can also automatically close those tickets for you once a finding has been re-tested and confirmed to be remediated.

#### **Simplified Access Control for Penetration Testing**

Does your organisation require centralised storage and management of penetration testing results, yet also ensure that business units can only access the reports that are relevant to them? Many organisations have multiple programs of work and multiple owners – ensuring owners have easy access to only their testing results will ensure sensitive results are accessible by a limited group of people. It's important that some exposure results are not shared across departments or projects. Be able to limit the reporting to a needs-to-know only basis.

**The Trustwave Fusion** platform optionally supports a hierarchical model for access control. You can have an infinite number of tiered access groups to support complex organisation structures. Allow a group of users with access to all penetration tests (e.g. your Security Team), and have other groups only access penetration test reports concerning their own projects or business units. You can also decide whether to allocate a portion of your security testing budget to each of these groups, allowing access to a finite pool of "credits".

#### **Custom Reporting for Specific Audiences**

Requesting modified versions of reports from vendors can be challenging and time consuming. If your executives or board members need to see a high-level overview of penetration testing outcomes, or if you have a third party requesting evidence of a penetration test, you may require reports with specific sections included or omitted. The flexible reporting capability of your testing program should enable you to deliver simplified reports, with or without technical details, making them suitable for executive level distribution.

**Trustwave's Fusion Portal** gives you direct control over penetration test reports. An on-demand, instantaneous custom reporting feature allows you to specify which sections of a report should be included in your document, and you can also decide whether to redact information such as the specific asset locations. This is made possible on-demand via our report customisation tool without waiting on a vendor to provide an alternate version, and without needing to modify a PDF document manually. You have the freedom to generate as many versions of the report as you need, with just the sections you require.



Trustwave Managed Security Testing (MST) puts a Trustwave expert on your team. You administer penetration testing projects through Trustwave's analyst-recognised Fusion portal putting you in control to make sure testing occurs on your schedule, within your budget and on an on-going basis. Enlist Trustwave SpiderLabs unparalleled application and network penetration testing services and you will be supported by some of the top information security professionals in the world, enabling you to meet security testing needs with a flex-spend model that lets you allocate budget and then scope your programme for where and when you need it most.

- **On Time.** You enroll your target networks or applications for testing on demand.
- **On Budget.** You define your annual (or multi-year) testing budget and utilise your account balance as you see fit.
- **On Going.** You select the testing frequency and the depth of testing (type of attacker).

Ready to get started? Request pricing for Managed Security Testing Services from Trustwave here: https://www.trustwave.com/services/penetration-testing/

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