

TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CYBERSECURITY EXPERTS WITH NESSUS

When military veteran Jason Denno teaches students the fundamentals of vulnerability assessment, he turns to one tool: Nessus.

As director of the Cyber, Intelligence and Information Operations program at the University of Arizona, he has many resources at his disposal. These include an entirely virtualized learning environment for coursework and the simulated city of CyberApolis for testing security protocols in complex settings.



Nessus' in-depth assessments, up-to-date threat library and support from the Tenable Community make it invaluable for a cybersecurity educator.

TEACHING STUDENTS TO EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

Students who enter the cyber operations segment of Denno's program typically choose one of three tracks: cyber engineering, defense and forensics and cyber law and policy.

University of Arizona students in Denno's program don't simply train for the situations they may encounter as elite infosec specialists, they also engage in real-world learning. For example, when handling mock vulnerabilities and cyberthreats, they may have use cases "broken" on them – unexpectedly changed so they can only succeed with on-the-fly adjustments. They also learn to discover vulnerabilities manually before they're allowed to use tools like Nessus.

The results speak for themselves: an extremely high selection rate of students are hired by the Department of Defense.



"All of our tracks are extraordinarily technical, so that even our least technical track, law and policy, usually has more hands-on labs than most other [comparable programs] across the nation."

- Jason Denno

Director of the Cyber, Intelligence and Information Operations Program at the University of Arizona

NESSUS DELIVERS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Denno wanted his students to utilize a comprehensive vulnerability scanning solution as a key tool in their arsenal. Ideally, such a resource would be intuitive and fairly easy to use. But it would also be built to tackle the highly complex vulnerability assessment scenarios that Denno and his fellow instructors would throw in students' paths.

Once Denno discovered Nessus, he found it provided the right depth, comprehensiveness and desired ease-of-use he needed.

"Nessus is robust, consistent and relevant," Denno said.



"It's the 100 percent solution, rather than the 90 percent solution."

A FRUITFUL PARTNERSHIP

Since choosing Nessus as the primary vulnerability scanner for his program, Denno has kept it in constant use. Not only is it well-suited for cyberintelligence instruction because of its intuitiveness, but Nessus is what most program graduates will be using in the real-world when they take jobs in infosec or national security. Nessus is constantly updated with information on the latest vulnerabilities, so users are always on the cutting edge and instructors know they're teaching them the most current vulnerability assessment techniques.

Describing his relationship with Tenable, Denno said, "We're on the same sheet of music. I'm trying to grow a group of several generations of cyber professionals, and working with Nessus and Tenable gives me the right tool to help them best forge their skills."

To learn more about how to use Nessus for education, please visit: tenable.com/tenable-for-education.



The Tenable for Education Program is designed to help support instructors and students during the educational process for vulnerability assessment.

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