SEC504: Hacker Techniques, Exploits, and Incident Handling

If your organization has an Internet connection or one or two disgruntled employees (and whose doesn’t!), your computer systems will get attacked. From the five, ten, or even one hundred daily probes against your Internet infrastructure to the malicious insider slowly creeping through your most vital information assets, attackers are targeting your systems with increasing viciousness and stealth.

By helping you understand attackers’ tactics and strategies in detail, giving you hands-on experience in finding vulnerabilities and discovering intrusions, and equipping you with a comprehensive incident handling plan, the in-depth information in this course helps you turn the tables on computer attackers. This course addresses the latest cutting-edge insidious attack vectors and the “oldie-but-goodie” attacks that are still so prevalent, and everything in between. Instead of merely teaching a few hack attack tricks, this course includes a time-tested, step-by-step process for responding to computer incidents; a detailed description of how attackers undermine systems so you can prepare, detect, and respond to them; and a hands-on workshop for discovering holes before the bad guys do. Additionally, the course explores the legal issues associated with responding to computer attacks, including employee monitoring, working with law enforcement, and handling evidence.

This challenging course is particularly well suited to individuals who lead or are a part of an incident handling team. Furthermore, general security practitioners, system administrators, and security architects will benefit by understanding how to design, build, and operate their systems to prevent, detect, and respond to attacks.

Who Should Attend
- Incident handlers
- Penetration testers
- Ethical hackers
- Leaders of incident handling teams
- System administrators who are on the front lines defending their systems and responding to attacks
- Other security personnel who are first responders when systems come under attack

You Will Be Able To
- Apply incident handling processes in-depth, including preparation, identification, containment, eradication, and recovery, to protect enterprise environments
- Analyze the structure of common attack techniques to be able to evaluate an attacker’s spread through a system and network, anticipating and thwarting further attacker activity
- Utilize tools and evidence to determine the kind of malware used in an attack, including rootkits, backdoors, and trojan horses, choosing appropriate defenses and response tactics for each
- Use built-in command-line tools such as Windows tasklist, wmic, and reg as well as Linux netstat, ps, and lsof to detect an attacker’s presence on a machine
- Analyze router and system ARP tables along with switch CAM tables to track an attacker’s activity through a network and identify a suspect
- Gain access to a target machine using Metasploit, and then detect the artifacts and impacts of exploitation through process, file, memory, and log analysis
- Analyze a system to see how attackers use the Netcat tool to move files, create backdoors, and build relays through a target environment
- Run the Nmap port scanner and Nessus vulnerability scanner to find openings on target systems, and apply tools such as tcpdump and netstat to detect and analyze the impacts of the scanning activity
- Apply the tcpdump sniffer to analyze network traffic generated by a covert backdoor to determine an attacker’s tactics
- Employ the netstat and lsof tools to diagnose specific types of traffic-flooding denial-of-service techniques and choose appropriate response actions based on each attacker’s flood technique
- Analyze shell history files to find compromised machines, attacker-controlled accounts, sniffers, and backdoors

To register, visit sans.org or call 301-654-SANS (7267)

For schedules, course updates, prerequisites, special notes, or laptop requirements, visit sans.org/courses
Course Day Descriptions

504.1 Incident Handling Step-by-Step and Computer Crime Investigation
This session describes a detailed incident handling process and applies that process to several in-the-trenches case studies. Additionally, in the evening an optional “Intro to Linux” mini-workshop will be held. This session provides introductory Linux skills you’ll need to participate in exercises throughout the rest of SEC504. If you are new to Linux, attending this evening session is crucial.
Topics: Preparation; Identification; Containment; Eradication; Recovery; Special Actions for Responding to Different Types of Incidents; Incident Record-Keeping; Incident Follow-Up

504.2 HANDS ON: Computer and Network Hacker Exploits – PART 1
It is imperative that system administrators and security professionals know how to control what outsiders can see. Students who take this class and master the material can expect to learn the skills to identify potential targets and be provided tools they need to test their systems effectively for vulnerabilities. This day covers the first two steps of many hacker attacks: reconnaissance and scanning.
Topics: Reconnaissance; Scanning; Intrusion Detection System Evasion; Hands-on Exercises for a List of Tools

504.3 HANDS ON: Computer and Network Hacker Exploits – PART 2
Computer attackers are ripping our networks and systems apart in novel ways while constantly improving their techniques. This course covers the third step of many hacker attacks – gaining access. For each attack, the course explains vulnerability categories, how various tools exploit holes, and how to harden systems or applications against each type of attack. Students who sign an ethics and release form are issued a CD-ROM containing the attack tools examined in class.
Topics: Network-Level Attacks; Gathering and Parsing Packets; Operating System and Application-Level Attacks; Netcat: The Attacker’s Best Friend; Hands-on Exercises with a List of Tools

504.4 HANDS ON: Computer and Network Hacker Exploits – PART 3
Attackers aren’t resting on their laurels, and neither can we. They are increasingly targeting our operating systems and applications with ever-more clever and vicious attacks. This session looks at increasingly popular attack avenues as well as the plague of denial of service attacks.
Topics: Password Cracking; Web Application Attacks; Denial of Service Attacks; Hands-on Exercises with a List of Tools

504.5 HANDS ON: Computer and Network Hacker Exploits – PART 4
Once intruders have gained access into a system, they want to keep that access by preventing pesky system administrators and security personnel from detecting their presence. To defend against these attacks, you need to understand how attackers manipulate systems to discover the sometimes-subtle hints associated with system compromise. This course arms you with the understanding and tools you need to defend against attackers maintaining access and covering their tracks.
Topics: Maintaining Access; Covering the Courses; Five Methods for Implementing Kernel-Mode RootKits on Windows and Linux; the Rise of Combo Malware; Detecting Backdoors; Hidden File Detection; Log Editing; Covert Channels; Sample Scenarios

504.6 HANDS ON: Hacker Tools Workshop
In this workshop you’ll apply skills gained throughout the week in penetrating various target hosts while playing Capture the Flag. Your instructor will act as your personal hacking coach, providing hints as you progress through the game and challenging you to break into the laboratory computers to help underscore the lessons learned throughout the week. For your own attacker laptop, do not have any sensitive data stored on the system. SANS is not responsible for your system if someone in the class attacks it in the workshop. Bring the right equipment and prepare it in advance to maximize what you’ll learn and the fun you’ll have doing it.
Topics: Capture the Flag Contest; Hands-on Analysis; General Exploits; Other Attack Tools and Techniques

“The course covers almost every corner of attack and defense areas. It’s a very helpful handbook for a network security analysis job. It upgrades my knowledge in IT security and keeps pace with the trend.”
- Anthony Liu, Scotia Bank

SEC504 Training Formats
(subject to change)

Live Training
sans.org/security-training/by-location/all

Summit
sans.org/summit

Community SANS
sans.org/community

Mentor Program
sans.org/mentor

OnSite
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Simulcast
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SelfStudy
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