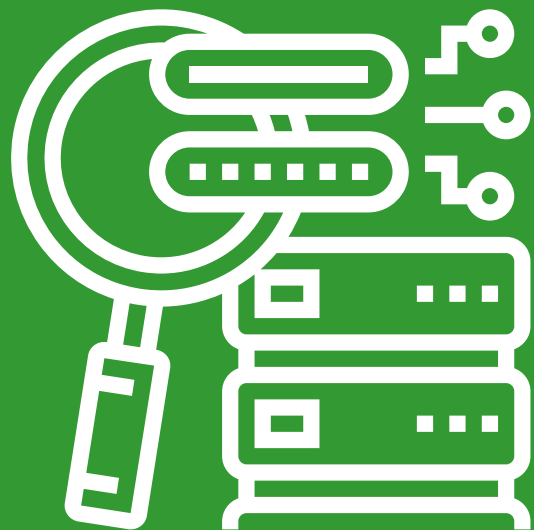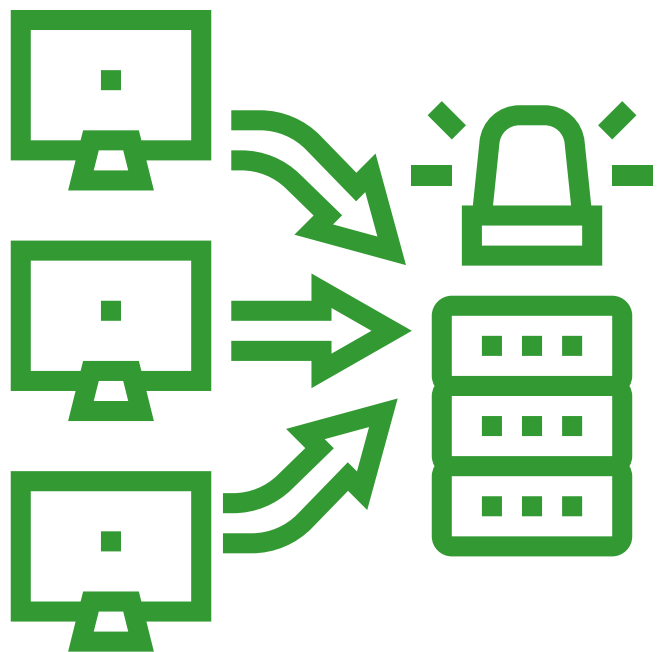# CAREER PATH: PENETRATION TESTER

WHAT A PENTESTER DOES

A penetration tester performs an authorized, simulated attack on a computer system.

Penetration testing is an offensive approach to cybersecurity that identifies weaknesses and vulnerabilities before adversaries do.

SNAPSHOT - A DAY IN A LIFE OF A PENTESTER

01.
A TYPICAL DAY

Your work flow could include planning and launching assessments, report writing, client debriefs, and providing recommendations for security improvements. You may work at a customer site or work from your own home.

02.
ASSESSMENTS

Depending on the project scope, you may perform:

- External and/or internal network assessments
- Web application assessments
- Wireless assessments
- Physical social engineering

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"...in order to effectively handle the risk, uncertainty, and vagueness associated with operating in ambiguous environments, hackers had to leverage their expert knowledge, creativity, curiosity, and interpretive schemas from across various technical and critical thinking disciplines."

Summers, Timothy. How Hackers Think: A Mixed Method Study of Mental Models and Cognitive Patterns of High-Tech Wizards. May 2015, etd.ohiolink.edu/apexprod/rws_etd/send_file/send?accession=case1427809862.

Mental Models of Hackers

Observations of the system and its components

[Ambiguity tolerance]

[Diagramming]

[Creativity]

Patterns of relationships among interrelated parts throughout the system

Recognized trends and patterns of operation

[Curiosity]

[Domain Expertise]

Assumptions, generalizations, and images influencing my understanding of the system and its functionality

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REASONS TO PURSUE A CAREER IN PENETRATION TESTING

CHALLENGING, FULFILLING WORK

We encourage Try Harder for a reason! Pentesters need to have a high tolerance for uncertainty in their environment. While challenging, you'll feel fulfilled knowing that you've helped clients implement security measures that fit within their budget.

WEAR DIFFERENT HATS

Infosec is constantly evolving. You'll use your expertise and curiosity across various domains to solve complex problems.

SALARY & GROWTH

$88,038
Avg. annual salary (USD)

33%
Projected job growth 2020 to 2030

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Prep for entry-level roles and learn the fundamentals in PEN-100. You'll also gain the prereqs for PEN-200.

BUILD YOUR SKILLS

In PEN-200, learn how to become a penetration tester by using information gathering techniques to identify and enumerate targets.
Students who complete the course and pass the exam earn the coveted Offensive Security Certified Professional (OSCP) certification.

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Go beyond the OSCP with PEN-300 (Evasion Techniques and Breaching Defenses), an advanced penetration testing course.

ADVANCE YOUR SKILLS

This course builds on the knowledge and techniques taught in PEN-200, teaching students to perform advanced penetration tests against mature organizations with an established security function.
Students who complete the course and pass the exam earn the Offensive Security Experienced Professional (OSEP) certification.

WHY OFFSEC

Developing a security mindset involves a cycle of trial, failure, adaptation, growth, and triumph.

Encouraging the development of the Try Harder mentality in our students distinguishes our approach from the rest.

Triumph

Growth

Trail

Adaptation

Failure
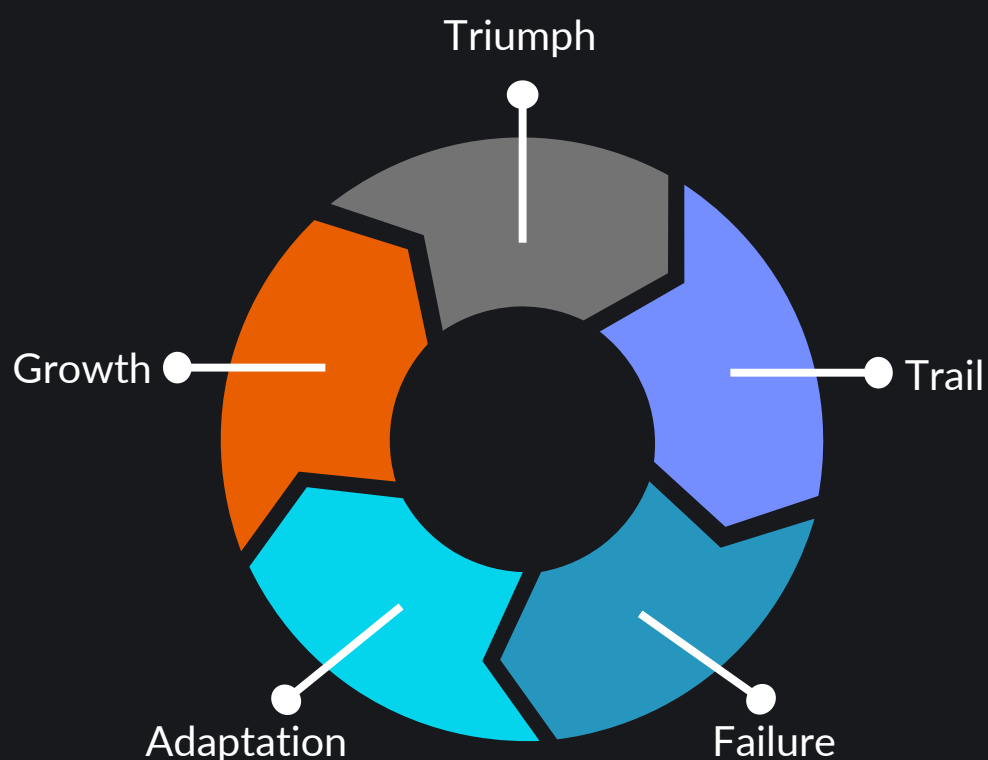
Our courses offer the most rigorous penetration testing training in the industry. An OffSec certification is a clear sign of a skilled and experienced penetration tester.

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