

CYBERSECURITY SERVICE COMPARISON: ASSESSMENT, TESTING, AND RED TEAMING

Organizations are often confused about what offensive cybersecurity services they need. Red teaming, penetration testing, and vulnerability assessments may seem similar, but they are each unique.

Aspect	Vulnerability Assessment	Penetration Testing	Red Teaming
Purpose	Identify weaknesses and vulnerabilities	Exploit vulnerabilities to assess true business impact	Emulate real-world threats to evaluate readiness
Depth of Assessment	Surface-level assessment	In-depth analysis	Comprehensive, including physical components
Methodology	Automated scanning tools, reviews, and reporting	Hands-on exploitation and validation of identified vulnerabilities	Offensive tactics mimicking real-world attacks
Focus	Identifying and prioritizing vulnerabilities	Testing the impact of vulnerabilities	Evaluating people, process, and technology
Outcome	Detailed reporting, with optional false positive validation	Identification of flaws and assessment of business impact	Actionable insights for enhancing security