

## Internet Scanner 7.0

**DEVELOPER'S STATEMENT:** An Enterprise Class vulnerability management system managed by the SiteProtector Enterprise Security Platform, combining scanning with Pre-emptive Protection Technologies to provide a VirtualPatch™ safeguard for over 1,500 vulnerabilities.



**Product:** Internet Scanner 7.0  
**Manufacturer:** Internet Security Systems  
**Contact details:** <http://www.iss.net>  
**Full white paper:** [www.westcoastlabs.org](http://www.westcoastlabs.org)

Internet Security Systems provides a number of alternatives in the area of vulnerability assessment, including a managed service. In the current round of testing we looked at Internet Scanner, installed as a scanner agent only. The actual scan was managed and reports generated remotely. Such would be the configuration used by an administrator reviewing security at a remote office, for example.

Hardware requirements were not exceptional and installation of the scanner software on a Windows 2003 system was straightforward. Specific ports must be opened on the firewall for communication between the scanner host and the management station.

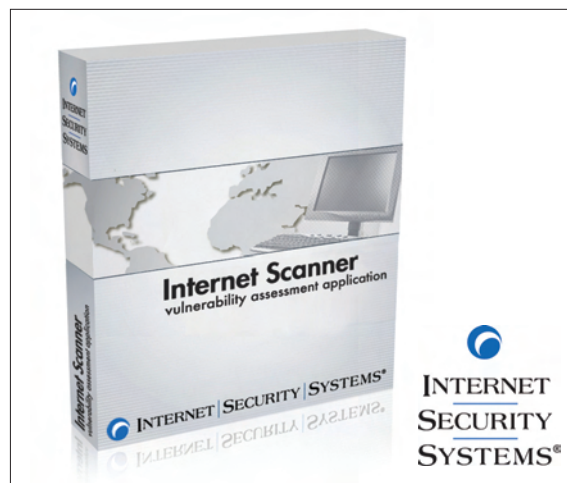
The discovery scan performed by ISS was one of the faster scans among those we reviewed: it included a full port scan of all the IP addresses in our Class C network.

Central administration of the scanning and reporting functions is performed from the main SiteProtector application. Assets can be added manually, imported via Active Directory integration, or discovered as a result of a scan, as in our case. Once identified, assets can then be grouped at the discretion of the administrator, in whatever way best suits the business structure, and scans performed against distinct groups.

The application comes with a range of predefined policies for scanning. It is a simple matter to customise these policies and home grown scan policies can be stored for later use. Users can be defined in the application with differing levels of rights and access to policies. As a result Internet Scanner lends itself to large scale deployment at the enterprise level.

Results were presented in PDF format in a series of reports, ranging from the overview one page "Top Vulnerabilities" report to the detailed "Vulnerable Detail by Host" report: this provided a report, organised by host IP address, identifying each vulnerability found and providing a full explanation of the vulnerability and advice on resolution or mitigation.

The detail on the vulnerabilities was impressive, and the advice on fixing the faults clear. For quick reference, reports can include only names of vulnerabilities – useful for engineers tasked with problem resolution. All reports categorise vulnerabilities according to their



severity level, consistent with the ISS analysis.

Reports can be generated in the administration program in a variety of ways. The filtering and analysis tools are extremely useful, and allow for precise queries against stored scan results. There are a range of predefined reports, but custom queries can be run and then saved for future use. Scheduling has been built in to the application at all levels: as well as scheduling scans it is possible to schedule report generation, so that results in the most useful format are ready at the Administrator's discretion.

Administrators also have the ability to set benchmarks, so that changes in security profile can be readily viewed. They also have the ability to except vulnerabilities on specific machines for designated periods, so that they will be excluded from standard reports, useful if the main webserver cannot be patched for the next 3 months.

One final feature that should be mentioned is the ability to incorporate Vulnerability Assessment results with other components of the SiteProtector infrastructure. This enables real time correlations between perceived network activity and previously identified vulnerabilities, allowing the administrator to focus precisely on threats that relate to the actual risk profile of the network.

### THE VERDICT

Internet Scanner from Internet Security Systems is a highly scalable solution, with a fast scanning engine and a wealth of scan options. There are advanced filtering and reporting functions, and scan results are well presented with detailed remediation advice.



*The Internet Security Systems Internet Scanner 7.0 is Checkmark certified to the Premium level for Vulnerability Assessment.*  
[www.check-mark.com](http://www.check-mark.com)