

product review

ACUNETIX ONLINE VULNERABILITY SCANNER

In today's competitive global markets, SMBs need to protect their web sites from hackers just as much as enterprises do, but few have the financial resources to ensure they are totally secure. Acunetix comes to their rescue, as it now makes its well-respected vulnerability scanner available as an affordable cloud service.

The Acunetix OVS portal is very well designed and provides an informative dashboard. This shows a graphical overview of detected vulnerabilities, the top ten with the reason, the latest scan results and the most vulnerable web sites.

We used the quick start wizard to configure our scan targets where we entered details of the web sites we wanted to check. Scans can be run on-demand, scheduled for a specific date and time, and set to run at regular intervals.

Hackers that think they can use Acunetix OVS to scan a web site for weaknesses to exploit can forget it. Even running a basic scan required us to generate a unique verification file from the OVS portal and upload it to the root of our company web site.

Even after ownership had been validated, we were still only permitted to run web scans on our targets. Acunetix would only allow us to run full invasive network scans on our web sites after they phoned us back on the number we supplied when signing up and we had answered a few questions correctly.

For web scans, Acunetix OVS provides six options ranging from full or high risk scans to checks for cross-site scripting, SQL injection, weak password and cross-site request forgery (CSRF) vulnerabilities. A network scan can be run as well as, or instead of, and you can opt for a safe check or go for the full invasive scan.

Acunetix OVS uses a simple colour-coded grading system, so we could see at a glance which of our sites were safe, or had low, medium or high risks associated with them. We liked the fact that Acunetix OVS didn't just tell us what problems we may have, but offered an impact assessment and pinpointed exactly where it found them.

Selecting a vulnerability provides a complete description of it, details of the attack performed, the request used and the web site response. Scroll down the page and you'll find an in-depth tutorial on what you'll need to do to close the security hole.

Once your web sites get the all-clear and Acunetix OVS considers them safe, they will be awarded the Acunetix Site Seal. This is a great way of reassuring your customers that they're safe in your hands, as the Site Seal logo can be downloaded and placed on any web page. The HTML code is provided for insertion in your web site, so the logo gets updated with the date each time Acunetix OVS gives you the thumbs-up.

By its nature, Acunetix OVS reporting



needs to be very good and Acunetix definitely doesn't disappoint. We selected from a choice of reports, ranging from network scan overviews to executive summaries, while for web scans we were offered reports for HIPAA, SoX, PCI 3.0, ISO 27001 and much more.

SMBs can't afford to have leaky web sites - the bad publicity alone could easily spell their doom as customers desert them. Acunetix Online Vulnerability Scanner is the ideal solution, as it'll make sure their websites are watertight. Moreover, the Acunetix Online Vulnerability Scanner (OVS) service is based on a yearly subscription model where you simply choose the number of targets you want to scan. Prices start at only £214 for one target, making OVS eminently well suited to SMBs with limited IT support. **CS**

Product: Online Vulnerability Scanner
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