



## Tenable Products Plugin Families

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# Introduction

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This document describes Tenable™, Inc. product plugin families for Nessus, Log Correlation Engine (LCE), and the Nessus Network Manager (NNM). Please email any comments and questions to [support@tenable.com](mailto:support@tenable.com).

A basic understanding of the product in use is assumed.

Vulnerabilities in hosts on your network provide the possibility of data compromise. Nessus, NNM, and LCE gather complementary security data that can be correlated with Tenable SecurityCenter Continuous View for a comprehensive view of all types of vulnerability data. Tenable provides plugins for these products, which are scripts that complete a series of individual tests on target systems.

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# Nessus

Nessus is the market leading vulnerability management solution. Nessus is available via multiple packaging options (Professional, Manager, and Cloud). Capabilities in all versions of Nessus include:

- Vulnerability assessment and basic reporting
- Broad coverage of networks, devices, systems, virtual, and cloud services
- The most comprehensive vulnerability library on the market
- Malware detection

With Nessus Cloud and Manager, you also get:

- The ability to share scan resources
- Mobile, patch and credential management system integration
- An agent-based scanning option to increase scan flexibility

## Nessus Plugin Families

Nessus plugin families are designed to allow an efficient and accurate grouping of similar security checks. This allows a user to quickly enable or disable a large group of plugins that are relevant to the target being scanned or unnecessary for a given host.

The following table summarizes the Nessus plugin families:

Plugin Family	Description
AIX Local Security Checks	Security checks that test IBM AIX systems locally if authentication credentials are provided to Nessus.
Amazon Linux Local Security Checks	Security checks that test Amazon Linux systems locally if authentication credentials are provided to Nessus.
Backdoors	Plugins that detect high-profile backdoors, Trojan Horse programs, Worm infections, and systems with signs they have been compromised.
CentOS Local Security Checks	Security checks that test CentOS Linux systems locally if authentication credentials are provided to Nessus.

CGI abuses	Checks for web-based CGI programs with publicly documented vulnerabilities. These checks include SQL injection, Local File Inclusion (LFI), Remote File Inclusion (RFI), Directory Traversal, and more. This family does <b>not</b> include checks for cross-site scripting (XSS).
CGI abuses : XSS	Checks for web-based CGI programs with publicly documented cross-site scripting (XSS) vulnerabilities.
CISCO	Plugins that detect vulnerabilities in Cisco routers. This family consists of both local and remote checks. Local checks will only be executed if credentials are provided to Nessus.
Databases	Checks that look for the presence of vulnerabilities in database software such as IBM DB2, Microsoft SQL Server, MySQL, Oracle Database, PostgreSQL, and more.
Debian Local Security Checks	Security checks that test Debian Linux systems locally if authentication credentials are provided to Nessus.
Default Unix Accounts	Plugins that look for the presence of default accounts found on a wide variety of Unix and Linux systems.
Denial of Service	Checks that determine the presence of Denial of Service issues by using safe methods to identify the software, not exploit the vulnerability.  <div style="border: 1px solid #00a0c0; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>Note:</b> Please refer to the <a href="#">Nessus User Guide</a> for additional information about specifics when using this plugin family.</p> </div>
DNS	Plugins that test DNS servers such as ISC BIND and PowerDNS for known vulnerabilities. This family includes several tests that look for common issues in all DNS servers, regardless of vendor.

F5 Networks Local Security Checks	Security checks that test F5 Networks devices locally if authentication credentials are provided to Nessus.
Fedora Local Security Checks	Security checks that test Fedora Linux systems locally if authentication credentials are provided to Nessus.
Firewalls	Plugins that detect the presence of firewall devices and vulnerabilities in various commercial firewall devices, free firewall software, and proxy software.
FreeBSD Local Security Checks	Security checks that test FreeBSD systems locally if authentication credentials are provided to Nessus.
FTP	Checks that look for vulnerabilities in FTP servers. These include common issues and misconfigurations regardless of vendor, as well as vendor specific issues that have been publicly disclosed.
Gain a shell remotely	Plugins that test for a wide variety of software for vulnerabilities that allow for remote code or command execution.
General	A set of checks that gather information about the remote system such as operating system and service identification, network connectivity, and more.
Gentoo Local Security Checks	Security checks that test Gentoo Linux systems locally if authentication credentials are provided to Nessus.
HP-UX Local Security Checks	Security checks that test HP-UX systems locally if authentication credentials are provided to Nessus.
Huawei Local Security Checks	Security checks that test Huawei devices locally if authentication credentials are provided to Nessus.
Incident Response	A set of plugins to detect traffic anomalies used by network security professionals to hunt threats and respond to incidents.

Junos Local Security Checks	Security checks that test Juniper Junos systems locally if authentication credentials are provided to Nessus.
MacOS X Local Security Checks	Security checks that test Apple Mac OS X systems locally if authentication credentials are provided to Nessus.
Mandriva Local Security Checks	Security checks that test Mandriva Linux systems locally if authentication credentials are provided to Nessus.
Misc.	Plugins that test for a wide variety of software including client-side and server issues.
Mobile Devices	Plugins related to mobile devices such as Android-based phones and Apple portable devices such as the iPhone or iPad.
Netware	Security checks that test Novell Netware systems for vulnerabilities.
Oracle Linux Local Security Checks	Security checks that test Oracle Linux systems locally if authentication credentials are provided to Nessus.
OracleVM Local Security Checks	Security checks that test Oracle VM systems locally if authentication credentials are provided to Nessus.
Palo Alto Local Security Checks	Security checks that test Palo Alto systems and devices locally if authentication credentials are provided to Nessus.
Peer-To-Peer File Sharing	Checks that look for the presence of peer-to-peer file sharing software and associated vulnerabilities.
Policy Compliance	Plugins that are designed to verify a system meets criteria as set forth by a compliance initiative such as PCI DSS, SCAP, CIS benchmarks, and more.

	<p><b>Note:</b> These plugins are only available to Nessus Professional, Nessus Manager, and Tenable.io™ customers and can be obtained from the Tenable Support Portal.</p>
Port Scanners	This family contains the port scanning functionality of Nessus.
Red Hat Local Security Checks	Security checks that test Red Hat Linux systems locally if authentication credentials are provided to Nessus.
RPC	Plugins that look for the presence of vulnerabilities in Remote Procedure Call (RPC) services, NIS, NFS, and more.
SCADA	Checks that test for vulnerabilities in SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) software.
	<p><b>Note:</b> These plugins are only available to Nessus Professional, Nessus Manager, and Tenable.io™ customers and can be obtained from the Tenable Support Portal.</p>
Scientific Linux Local Security Checks	Security checks that test Scientific Linux systems locally if authentication credentials are provided to Nessus.
Service detection	Security checks that allow Nessus to detect a wide variety of services on a remote host.
Settings	Plugins that control the behavior of Nessus during a scan.
Slackware Local Security Checks	Security checks that test Slackware Linux systems locally if authentication credentials are provided to Nessus.
SMTP problems	Checks related to the Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) and mail servers.
SNMP	Checks related to the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) for a wide variety of



	vendors and common configuration errors.
Solaris Local Security Checks	Security checks that test Oracle Solaris systems locally if authentication credentials are provided to Nessus.
SuSE Local Security Checks	Security checks that test SUSE Linux systems locally if authentication credentials are provided to Nessus.
Ubuntu Local Security Checks	Security checks that test Ubuntu Linux systems locally if authentication credentials are provided to Nessus.
Virtuozzo Local Security Checks	Security checks that test Virtuozzo systems locally if authentication credentials are provided to Nessus.
VMware ESX Local Security Checks	Security checks that test VMware ESX systems locally if authentication credentials are provided to Nessus.
Web Servers	Plugins that check for vulnerabilities in web servers such as Apache HTTP Server, IBM Lotus Domino, Microsoft IIS, and many more. Note: These checks only test the web server software, not the web applications hosted on the server.
Windows	Checks for software installed on Microsoft Windows systems including Adobe Reader, Adobe Flash, Antivirus software, web browsers, iTunes, and much more.
Windows : Microsoft Bulletins	Security checks that test Microsoft Windows systems locally if authentication credentials are provided to Nessus.
Windows : User management	Plugins that check for issues in Microsoft Windows user management. These include user information disclosure, group enumeration, and more.

**Note:** Historically, Nessus has used additional families for plugin organization that were deprecated at some point. Their plugins have been integrated into current families.



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# Nessus Network Monitor

Tenable Nessus Network Monitor (NNM) is a network discovery and vulnerability analysis software solution that delivers continuous network listening, profiling, and monitoring in a non-intrusive manner.

The Nessus Network Monitor monitors network traffic at the packet layer to determine topology, services, and vulnerabilities and is tightly integrated with Tenable's SecurityCenter and Log Correlation Engine (LCE) to centralize both event analysis and vulnerability management for a complete view of your security and compliance posture.

## NNM Plugin Families

The NNM has two sources of "plugin" information: the **.prmx** and **.prm** plugin libraries in the plugins directory and the operating system fingerprints in the **osfingerprints.txt** file.

Tenable distributes its passive vulnerability plugin database in an encrypted format. This file is known as **tenable\_plugins.prmx** and can be updated on a daily basis, if necessary. NNM plugins that are written by the customer or third parties have the extension of **.prm**.

The following table summarizes the Tenable NNM plugin families:

Plugin Family	Description
Backdoors	Plugins that detect a variety of indications that a system or application has been compromised, and potentially backdoored for persistent access.
CGI	A variety of plugins that check for the presence of CGI programs, web applications, and vulnerabilities associated with them.
Cloud Services	Plugins that detect the use of cloud services such as Salesforce, Dropbox, and Amazon Cloud.
Database	Passive detection of database software and associated vulnerabilities.
Data Leakage	Plugins that look for signs of confidential information traversing the network (e.g., Social Security numbers).
DNS Servers	Checks related to DNS servers and suspicious DNS

	traffic.
Finger	Detection and vulnerabilities related to the Finger protocol.
FTP Clients	Plugins that detect FTP client software and vulnerabilities associated with it.
FTP Servers	Plugins that detect FTP servers and vulnerabilities associated with it.
Generic	This family contains plugins that do not fit in the other families.
IMAP Servers	Detection of Internet Message Access Protocol (IMAP) servers and associated vulnerabilities.
Internet Messengers	Plugins that monitor for Instant Messenger software such as AIM, Yahoo Messenger, and ICQ.
Internet Services	Checks that detect traffic to Internet services such as Facebook, Twitter, Netflix, XM radio, or offsite file storage.
IoT	A set of plugins to detect traffic and vulnerabilities in Internet of Things (IoT) devices. IoT devices include thermostats, cameras, and other devices connected to a network for data collection and management.
IRC Clients	A set of plugins to detect traffic and vulnerabilities in IRC client software.
IRC Servers	A set of plugins to detect traffic and vulnerabilities in IRC servers.
Malware	Plugins that detect the presence of malware as it traverses a network.
Mobile Devices	Checks that look for any traffic or vulnerabilities related to mobile devices such as smart phones and tablets.
Operating System Detection	Plugins that monitor traffic to detect the operating

	system of hosts on the network.
Peer-To-Peer File Sharing	Checks that look for Peer-to-Peer traffic indicating file sharing activity.
Policy	Detects traffic that may violate corporate policy such as pornography, questionable software, or the user of third-party services that may be of concern.
POP Server	Detection of Post Office Protocol (POP) servers and associated vulnerabilities.
RPC	Plugins that detect Remote Procedure Call traffic and associated vulnerabilities.
Samba	Checks that look for Samba traffic, for file and print sharing.
SCADA	Plugins that monitor for Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) devices, protocols, and vulnerabilities.
SMTP Clients	A set of plugins to detect traffic and vulnerabilities in Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) client software.
SMTP Servers	A set of plugins to detect traffic and vulnerabilities in Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) servers.
SNMP	Checks related to the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) for a wide variety of vendors and common configuration errors.
SSH	Plugins that detect Secure Shell (SSH) traffic.
Web Clients	A set of plugins to detect traffic and vulnerabilities in HTTP and HTTPS clients such as web browsers.
Web Servers	A set of plugins to detect traffic and vulnerabilities in web servers.

**Note:** Historically, NNM has used additional families for plugin organization that were deprecated at some point. Their plugins have been integrated into current families.



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# Log Correlation Engine

Tenable's Log Correlation Engine (LCE) product offers many types of event correlation to detect abuse, anomalies compromise, and compliance violations. The LCE normalizes events into a variety of types. For reference, each type and a description for it are listed here.

## LCE Event Types and Plugin Families

The LCE plugins are located in the `/opt/lce/daemons/plugins` directory. To optimize plugin performance, it is suggested that the `plugin_manager.sh` script be used. The `plugin_manager.sh` script is located in the `/opt/lce/tools` directory. When run, it will report on the number of installed plugin libraries that have never been used, and prompt you to disable the associated files. You may choose not to do so if you wish to review a full report prior to making any changes. In this case, the script will list the unused files.

The following table summarizes the LCE event types:

Event Types	Description
access-denied	Flags attempts to retrieve objects, files, network shares, and other resources that are denied. These events are distinct from authentication failures, blocked firewall connections, and attempts to access web pages that do not exist that are respectively normalized to the login-failure, firewall, and web-error event types.
application	Denotes logs from any application such as Nessus, Symantec Anti-Virus, SecurityCenter, the WU-FTP server, Sendmail, etc. that is noteworthy but not indicative of an error, a login failure, a connection, a restart of the application, an operating system event, or a major function of the device.
compliance	Denotes logs that indicate a compliance violation event has occurred.
connection	Notes any type of audited network connection that is not directly logged via the Tenable NetFlow Monitor (TFM) or the Tenable Network Monitor (TNM). Event sources include allowed connections

	through firewalls, established VPN sessions, and connections by some types of applications.
continuous	The LCE can identify hosts that are generating specific event types for periods of 20 minutes or longer.
data-leak	Flags logs from the NNM or other Data Leak Prevention products that indicate the presence of sensitive data such as a credit card or Social Security number.
database	Denotes logs generated by the NNM from observed SQL queries.
detected-change	The LCE automatically recognizes many types of system events that indicate change and creates secondary higher level events.
dhcp	Logs from DHCP servers that indicate new leases are given the DHCP event type.
dns	Denotes any type of log from a DNS server or from real-time network monitoring by the NNM that indicates a DNS query or a DNS query lookup failure. LCE summary information as well as Fast Flux detection is also logged here.
dos	Denotes logs that indicate a denial of service event has occurred. These typically occur from network IDS detection engines such as Snort.
error	Denotes any type of system, application, router, or switch log that indicates some sort of error. Logs that indicate crashes and hung process are sent to the process event type.
file-access	Denotes any type of sniffed NNM network session or log that indicates that a file was accessed, modified, or likely retrieved.
firewall	Denotes any type of log from a firewall, an intrusion prevention device, a router, or a firewall or



	application configured at the local host to specifically deny connections.
honeypot	Indicates logs that are normalized from applications designed to simulate networks, hosts, and applications for the purpose of detecting intruders.
Indicator	The "indicator" event type is used by LCE to track correlations associated with scanning, compromises, anomalies, and other behaviors that indicate the presence of determined attackers, advanced malware, and other forms of potentially malicious activities.
intrusion	Denotes logs from network IDS, firewall, application, and operating systems that indicate some sort of network attack. Post scans, denial of service, and logs that indicate virus probes are normalized to their own LCE event types.
lce	The LCE includes this distinct event type to assist in tracking information about LCE clients such as the LCE Windows client, LCE Linux client, LCE NetFlow Monitor (TFM), and the LCE Network Monitor (TNM).
login	Indicates any type of login event to an application, operating system, VPN, firewall, or other type of device.
login-failure	Denotes any type of authentication log that indicates credentials were presented and were incorrect.
logout	The LCE normalizes events for applications, operating systems, and devices that detect when a user's session is finished to the logout event type.
nbs	The LCE tracks all normalized events that have occurred for each host. As new normalized events are logged for the host, the LCE will generate sec-

	ondary events based on the event type.
network	Logs from the Tenable NetFlow Monitor (TFM) and the Tenable Network Monitor (TNM) are logged to this LCE event type.
process	Logs from Unix process accounting and Windows event logs that indicate process starts and stops, as well as executable crashes, restarts, hung states, and segmentation faults are logged to this LCE event type.
restart	The LCE will normalize logs from when applications, services, router, switches, devices, and operating systems reboot, restart, and are shut-down to the restart event type.
scanning	Network IDS, firewall, antivirus, and other log sources that detect port scans, port sweeps, and probes are logged to the LCE scanning event type.
social networks	Denotes any type of social network log such as Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, LinkedIn, was observed.
spam	Logs from email servers, antivirus email tools, SPAM appliances, firewalls, and other sources that indicate spam activity are normalized to the LCE spam event type.
stats	For every unique type of event, the LCE will profile the frequency of events and alert when there is a statistical deviation for any event.
system	The LCE will normalize operating system, router, switch, or device logs of significance to the event type of system. Login failures, errors, and application events are logged to other event types.
threatlist	The LCE maintains a list of hostile IPv4 addresses and domains that are known to be participating in botnets.
usb	The LCE windows client can detect USB and CD-

	ROM insertions and removals. The logs generated by these events are normalized to the USB event type.
virus	Logs that indicate the presence of a virus in email, a virus found on a system by an anti-virus agent, virus logs found by network IDS events and firewalls are normalized to the LCE event type of virus.
vulnerability	As security issues and new information about systems and networks are reported as part of the vulnerability monitoring process, the LCE normalizes these event types to the vulnerability category.
web-access	Any type of log that indicates a successful connection to a web resource is normalized as a web-access LCE event type.
web-error	Denotes any type of web access event that is denied because the file does not exist, the server responded with an error or a firewall or web application firewall blocked the access.

The Event Vulnerability plugin families below work along with the other Tenable plugin families. These plugin families use Nessus scan results, NNM results, and LCE host analysis to correlate data together that can then be viewed in SecurityCenter CV.

Plugin Family	Description
Cloud Services	Plugins that detect the use of cloud services such as Salesforce, Dropbox, and Amazon Cloud.
Database	Passive detection of database software and associated vulnerabilities.
DNS Servers	Denotes any type of log from a DNS server or from real-time network monitoring by NNM that indicates a DNS query or a DNS query lookup failure. LCE summary information as well as Fast Flux detection is also logged here.
FTP Servers	Plugins that detect FTP servers and vulnerabilities

	associated with it.
Generic	This family contains plugins that do not fit in the other families.
IMAP Servers	Detection of Internet Message Access Protocol (IMAP) servers and associated vulnerabilities.
IRC Clients	A set of plugins to detect traffic and vulnerabilities in IRC client software.
Mobile Devices	Checks that look for any traffic or vulnerabilities related to mobile devices such as smart phones and tablets.
Operating System Detection	Plugins that monitor traffic to detect the operating system of hosts on the network.
Policy	Detects traffic that may violate corporate policy such as pornography, questionable software, or the use of third-party services that may be of concern.
RPC	Plugins that detect Remote Procedure Call traffic and associated vulnerabilities.
Samba	Checks that look for Samba traffic, for file and print sharing.
SMTP Clients	A set of plugins to detect traffic and vulnerabilities in Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) client software.
SMTP Servers	A set of plugins to detect traffic and vulnerabilities in Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) servers.
SNMP	Checks related to the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) for a wide variety of vendors and common configuration errors.
SSH	Plugins that detect Secure Shell (SSH) traffic.
Web Clients	A set of plugins to detect traffic and vulnerabilities in HTTP and HTTPS clients such as web browsers.

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Web Servers	A set of plugins to detect traffic and vulnerabilities in web servers.
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**Note:** Historically, LCE has used additional families for plugin organization that were deprecated at some point. Their plugins have been integrated into current families.

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## Additional Information

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For more information on Tenable plugins and documentation, please refer to the following:

Product User Guides: <https://docs.tenable.com/>

Full list of Nessus plugins: <http://www.tenable.com/plugins/index.php?view=all>

Nessus Discussions Forum: <https://discussions.tenable.com/>

NNM RSS Feed: <http://www.tenable.com/pvs.xml>

NNM Plugins: [http://static.tenable.com/dev/tenable\\_plugins.pdf](http://static.tenable.com/dev/tenable_plugins.pdf)

LCE Best Practices: <http://www.tenable.com/whitepapers/log-correlation-engine-best-practices>

Tenable Event Correlation: <https://www.tenable.com/whitepapers/tenable-event-correlation>

## About Tenable

Tenable transforms security technology for the business needs of tomorrow through comprehensive solutions that provide continuous visibility and critical context, enabling decisive actions to protect your organization. Tenable eliminates blind spots, prioritizes threats, and reduces exposure and loss. With more than one million users and more than 20,000 enterprise customers worldwide, organizations trust Tenable for proven security innovation. Tenable's customers range from Fortune Global 500 companies, to the U.S. Department of Defense, to mid-sized and small businesses in all sectors, including finance, government, healthcare, higher education, retail, and energy. Transform security with Tenable, the creators of Nessus and leaders in continuous monitoring, by visiting [tenable.com](https://tenable.com).