Attack Path Analysis Comparison Guide

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Welcome

This document provides a high-level overview of the main differences between the Attack Path modules in Attack Path Analysis and the following Tenable products:

- Tenable Identity Exposure

- Tenable OT Security

For more information, see:

- *Attack Path Analysis User Guide*

- *Tenable Identity Exposure User Guide*

- *Tenable OT Security User Guide*

Overview

Tenable One includes multiple products that have a product page called **Attack Path**. Each product has similar search functionalities, where you can visualize an attack path by providing a start point and an end point (asset).

This document describes some of the main use cases and differences between the **Attack Path** modules of each product so that you can maximize your experience within the platform.

To get started, see the following topics:

- [Differences Between Attack Path Analysis and Tenable Identity Exposure](#)

- [Differences Between Attack Path Analysis and Tenable OT Security](#)

Differences Between Attack Path Analysis and Tenable Identity Exposure

Attack Path Analysis and Tenable Identity Exposure overlap mainly on the Active Directory attack techniques. The **Attack Path** modules for Attack Path Analysis and Tenable Identity Exposure were designed to achieve different objectives.

Attack Path Analysis highlights exploitable and realistic attack paths, which an attacker would likely choose, whereas Tenable Identity Exposure enables thorough exploration and visualization of the underlying security relationships of Active Directory. Therefore, Attack Path Analysis is based on the MITRE ATT&CK™ framework and supports attack techniques across the endpoint, network, and cloud, whereas Tenable Identity Exposure focuses on Active Directory security.

When to Use Attack Path Analysis and Tenable Identity Exposure

Attack Path Analysis was developed from the attacker point of view and it best suits cybersecurity practitioners such as blue and red teams. For Tenable One users, you can use Attack Path Analysis when you want to search for all probable attack paths within the entire security stack across the Cyber Kill Chain.

Although most Tenable Identity Exposure Indicators of Exposure (IoEs) are included in the MITRE ATT&CK™ Framework and also supported in Attack Path Analysis, IT administrators and Active Directory Security Engineers should use Tenable Identity Exposure for full context and visibility to the bits and bytes of Active Directory.

Differences Between Attack Path Analysis and Tenable OT Security

Attack Path Analysis and Tenable OT Security overlap mainly with OT/ICS assets. The Attack Path modules for Attack Path Analysis and Tenable OT Security were designed to achieve different objectives.

Attack Path Analysis highlights exploitable and realistic attack paths with converged IT and OT assets, to show security relationships, which an attacker would likely choose. Tenable OT Security, on the other hand, enables thorough exploration and visualization of the underlying connections between Operational Technology attack vectors. Therefore, Attack Path Analysis is based on the MITRE ATT&CK™ framework and supports attack techniques for IT, ICS, network, and cloud, whereas Tenable OT Security focuses strictly on OT/ICS environments.

Inconsistencies in Attack Path Results

There may be inconsistencies when comparing the **Attack Path** results in Attack Path Analysis, Tenable Identity Exposure, and Tenable OT Security with the same source and target inputs. The following are some of the probable causes for such behavior:

- **Lack of MITRE ATT&CK™ coverage** — Tenable Identity Exposure and Tenable OT Security might support attack primitives, security relationships, or configurations that are not covered in MITRE ATT&CK™ Framework and as a result their results do not match with the attack path results in Attack Path Analysis.

- **Lack of Attack Path Analysis coverage** — Attack Path Analysis parsing capabilities may not be on par with Tenable Identity Exposure and Tenable OT Security in some cases. Tenable is aware of the lack of support in several scenarios of special Access Control Entry (ACE) or Access Control List (ACLs) and group policy object (GPO) settings where there may be false positive or false negative.

- **Attack Path is not exploitable** — Attack Path Analysis only shows attack paths that are "believed" to be feasible to exploit. Some security relationships that create a vulnerability in Tenable Identity Exposure and Tenable OT Security may not be considered exploitable in Attack Path Analysis. Such scenarios include vulnerabilities that can be mitigated by other controls such as network segmentation or endpoint hardening. It is important to note that such behavior is intended and therefore it is a feature and not a bug.

- **Unsynced data** — Unsynced data can cause inconsistencies between the products. Tenable Identity Exposure and Tenable OT Security have their own data collection service and are considered to be real-time. However, Attack Path Analysis relies on a data lake and receives data from various Tenable products. A delay to sync the data between Tenable Identity Exposure, Tenable OT Security, and Attack Path Analysis is expected.