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Key Offensive Security Features to Evaluate in a Pentesting Partner

Effective offensive security programs adapt and grow as new techniques and technologies become available. This checklist describes key features you should look for when evaluating potential pentesting partners.

01 Scheduling and remediation speed

Pentests should move at the speed of your business. If you are testing a software release, you need a partner who can spin up a test in 24 hours and give you real-time results and collaboration. Your pentesting partner's timelines for both scheduling and for retesting should fit within your expectations.

02 Real-time collaboration

A collaborative testing partner can directly engage with your team through in-platform messaging or your company chat tool (think Slack) while transparently tracking test progress with a coverage checklist. This allows your team to resolve access issues, clarify findings, and request fast retesting, keeping your pentests on schedule.

03 Customizable reporting

Customizable reporting helps your team meet the informational needs of all stakeholders—whether they be customer attestation letters, summary reports, or detailed findings descriptions—making results easy to understand for your security team, developers, executive decision makers, and end users.

04 Breadth of expertise

Different asset types require different approaches, and working with a provider that offers a range of methodologies ensures you get the testing you need. Where a single-approach provider often has one solution to many problems, a partner with a broad and diverse bench of pentesters and rigorous attention to methodologies is more likely to identify and execute the right approach for your company.

## 05 Scoping considerations

A good pentesting partner is one that can meet the scale and scope of your project without allowing the project to creep. They can define the scope and parameters of your pentest quickly and consistently, ensuring everything is in one place, and your test can start on time (or even tomorrow).

06   Integration support

Not all platforms are built the same, and insights that are hard to access are rarely actioned. Find a pentesting partner that can support your workflow and integrate with your systems. Rather than having orphaned results languishing in PDFs and inboxes, your partner must deliver their findings to the right team (in the right format) to best resolve issues and improve your risk posture.

07   Rotating experts on demand

With the right pentesting partner, you have access to a deep bench of experts, meaning you can rotate the individual testers without losing the relationship, integration setup, and institutional knowledge that comes with a long-term partner.
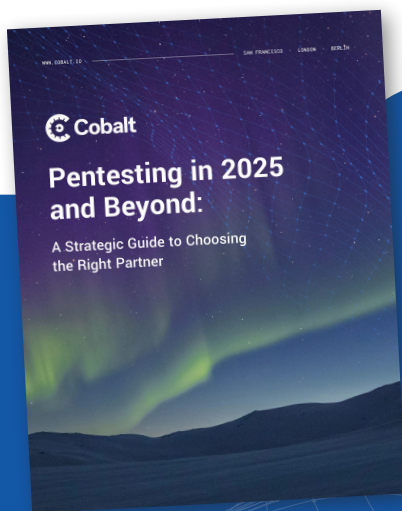
Learn about considerations for evaluating different types of pentesting vendors.

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Buyers Guide Checklist 2025 – V1

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