Security Configuration Assessment

Automate configuration assessment of global IT assets.

Comprehensive vulnerability management requires continuous configuration assessment, because hackers constantly try to exploit weak configuration settings. To help ensure your systems are properly hardened, Qualys developed Security Configuration Assessment (SCA).

A Qualys Vulnerability Management (VM) add-on, Qualys SCA lets you expand your VM program with automatic assessment of IT assets’ configurations. Using the latest Center for Internet Security (CIS) Benchmarks, Qualys SCA provides intuitive and easy workflows for assessing, monitoring, reporting and remediating security-related configuration issues. Built on the world’s leading cloud-based security and compliance platform, Qualys SCA lets you ensure the consistency, integrity and strength of your IT assets’ configurations without the deployment cost and complexity of legacy configuration management products.

Key Features

Broad coverage

Qualys SCA is an add-on for Qualys Vulnerability Management that lets you assess, report, monitor and remediate security-related configuration issues based on the Center for Internet Security (CIS) Benchmarks. It supports the latest out-of-the-box CIS benchmark releases of operating systems, databases, applications and network devices.

Ease of use

SCA’s CIS assessments are provided via a web-based user interface and delivered from the Qualys Cloud Platform, enabling centralized management with minimal deployment overhead. CIS controls can be selected and customized according to an organization’s security policies. This eliminates the cost, resource and deployment issues associated with traditional software point products for configuration management.

Accountability for controls

Qualys SCA controls are developed and validated in-house by Qualys security experts and certified by CIS. The controls are optimized for performance, scalability, and accuracy. Qualys SCA can be used in IT environments of any size, from small ones to the largest.

Reports and dashboards

SCA users can schedule assessments, automatically create downloadable reports of configuration issues, and view dashboards for improving their security posture. This brings full circle Qualys SCA’s automation of security best practices behind leading benchmarks, and lets InfoSec teams take a proactive approach towards digital business security.
Qualys SCA is a cloud solution for expanding VM programs with configuration scanning and simplified workflows to address configuration issues. Its capabilities are powered by the Qualys Cloud Platform.

Benefits

- **Broad Coverage**
  Leading CIS Benchmark coverage for operating systems, databases, applications and network devices

- **Ease of Use**
  Centrally managed assessment with minimal deployment overhead and the scalability of the Qualys Cloud Platform

- **Flexible Deployment**
  Agent-based or remote scanning

- **Extensive Cloud Support**
  Built for the cloud and integrated with leading cloud service providers

- **Powerful Reports and Dashboards**
  Automatic assessment scheduling and report generation

- **Native Integration with other Qualys Apps**
  Integration with Qualys Asset Inventory and Qualys VM lets you quickly identify targets, manage authentication, and find results

Detailed Features

Augment your Qualys VM cloud service

Configuration assessment is an essential part of a comprehensive vulnerability management program. However, our competitors either combine lightweight vulnerability and configuration assessment, or offer the functionalities in separate products that aren’t integrated. Qualys gives you the best of both worlds. Qualys Vulnerability Management (VM) continuously scans and identifies vulnerabilities with Six Sigma (99.99966%) accuracy, protecting IT assets on premises, in the cloud and mobile endpoints. Qualys SCA, designed to work natively with Qualys VM, can be added seamlessly to your account with one click. Qualys SCA complements Qualys VM’s capabilities for detecting IT asset flaws with capabilities for assessment and reporting of configuration settings in 4 easy steps:

- **DEFINE**: First import assets found using VM scans and use the authentication configuration from VM when scanning for configuration issues with SCA. Then import the applicable CIS policies into your subscription and customize the controls per your security standards, all using Qualys SCA’s simple, web-based UI.

- **ASSESS**: Scan your IT assets and map the asset to the right CIS policy.

- **REPORT**: Generate the report showing your control posture against the CIS Benchmarks, Qualys-provided control criticality and remediation information, and the evidence for failure or passing, as well as the references to compliance standards. You can activate and deactivate controls as necessary for reporting purposes.

- **REMEDiate**: Remediate the failed controls, using Qualys-provided control criticality and the control remediation information.

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Gartner

“Both vulnerability assessment and security control assessment capabilities are critical because many regulations prescribe technical control assessments (which drives SCA) and also explicitly prescribe vulnerability assessments.”

Anton Chuvakin
Research Vice President & Distinguished Analyst, Gartner
Qualys SCA operationalizes the non-profit Center for Internet Security’s (CIS) Benchmarks by supporting them out of the box and automating the assessment of critical configuration settings on your IT assets against today’s evolving cyber threats. Qualys data collection tools and processes cover all your bases and include:

- Physical and virtual appliances that scan IT assets located on-premises, in private clouds, or in virtualized environments
- Cloud appliances that remotely scan your infrastructure-as-a-service (IaaS) and platform-as-a-service (PaaS) instances in commercial cloud computing platforms
- Lightweight, all-purpose, self-updating cloud agents that reside on the IT assets they continuously monitor, with minimal network impact and no need for scan windows, credentials, nor firewall changes, with no need for the device to be on-line during your scheduled scanning windows.

Leverage the knowledge of industry experts

With Qualys SCA, you’ll be able to automatically and continuously check that your IT assets -- on premises, in clouds and on mobile endpoints -- are configured securely according to CIS guidelines. This will give your organization a solid foundation not only for security but also for compliance with most regulations like HIPAA and with industry mandates like PCI-DSS. Providing the industry’s widest coverage for CIS Benchmark technologies, Qualys SCA assesses the configuration of elements such as:

- Operating systems
- Server software
- Cloud providers
- Network devices
- Desktop software

Perform configuration assessments quickly and comprehensively

Improperly configured IT assets put your organization at an increased risk for breaches. However, it’s common for organizations to rush systems into production with default settings and without basic hardening. Addressing these issues is key for data protection, regulatory compliance, and secure digital transformation initiatives.

With Qualys SCA, you can automate the assessment of critical configuration settings on your IT assets against today’s evolving cyber threats. Qualys SCA provides a variety of advantages over competing products, especially legacy point solutions installed on premises:

- Lower cost of ownership because there’s no software to install or maintain.
- Improved protection of hybrid IT environments through the highly-scalable, extensible and centrally-managed Qualys Cloud Platform.
- Consistent maintenance of a standard configuration throughout the enterprise via baseline configuration standards that can be applied prior to asset deployment.
- Increased compliance and business effectiveness and efficiency, as well as stronger security posture.
- Protection of the infrastructure and operations underpinning your organization’s key digital transformation efforts.

Conduct remote scanning and auto-discovery of assets

SCA uses the same data collection technologies as Qualys VM, allowing for agent or agentless data collection, so that customers can comprehensively detect and better safeguard global endpoints, on-premises systems and cloud assets against today’s evolving cyber threats. Qualys data collection tools and processes cover all your bases and include:

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Sharpen and simplify configuration assessments

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Qualys is easy to implement, easy to use, fully scalable – and require NO infrastructure or software to maintain.

Request a full trial (unlimited-scope) at qualys.com/trial

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Powered by the Qualys Cloud Platform – the revolutionary architecture that powers Qualys’ IT security and compliance cloud apps

Sensors that provide continuous visibility
On-premises, at endpoints or in the cloud, the Qualys Cloud Platform sensors are always on, giving you continuous 2-second visibility of all your IT assets. Remotely deployable, centrally managed and self-updating, the sensors come as physical or virtual appliances, or lightweight agents.

All data analyzed in real time
Qualys Cloud Platform provides an end-to-end solution, allowing you to avoid the cost and complexities that come with managing multiple security vendors. The Qualys Cloud Platform automatically gathers and analyzes security and compliance data in a scalable, state-of-the-art backend, and provisioning additional cloud apps is as easy as checking a box.

Respond to threats immediately
With Qualys’ Cloud Agent technology, there’s no need to schedule scan windows or manage credentials for scanning. And Qualys Continuous Monitoring service lets you proactively address potential threats whenever new vulnerabilities appear, with real-time alerts to notify you immediately.

See the results in one place, anytime, anywhere
Qualys Cloud Platform is accessible directly in the browser, no plugins necessary. With an intuitive, single-pane-of-glass user interface for all its apps, it lets you customize dashboards, drill down into details, and generate reports for teammates and auditors.

Cloud Platform Apps
Qualys apps are fully integrated and natively share the data they collect for real-time analysis and correlation. Provisioning another app is as easy as checking a box.

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