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How difficult is the certified ethical hacker exam

Is the CEH certification worth it? How much does CEH exam cost? Can I take CEH without experience? Can you take CEH exam online? How much do Ethical Hackers make? What do I need to know before CEH? What are the prerequisites for CEH? How long does it take to learn how do you hack? How many hours does an ethical hacker work? How long does it take to learn cyber security? What is the hardest certification? Which is better OSCP or CEH? If you are at the point where you're asking, "is CEH hard to pass?" chances are that you are familiar with what an ethical hacker does and how important the CEH certification can be to someone looking to become one. Right now, you are looking for some reassurance that any time and money invested in training and certification is worth it. So, while we can't predict if you will pass, we can give you a sense of what you need to do to get your CEH accreditation and what to expect from the exam. What is an Ethical Hacker? If you're not clear on what a certified ethical hacker is, or does, you may want to check out our article [How to Become a Certified Ethical Hacker](#). But to summarize, an ethical hacker uses the same tools and techniques a criminal hacker does to break into computer networks. The difference is that an ethical hacker is paid by the organization they are breaking into, so the organization can fix gaps in their cybersecurity before a criminal can find them. If you're looking for a job with a future it's worth noting that with the large number of government agencies, corporations and military installations based around us in Maryland, we are seeing growing demand for ethical hackers. What are the Requirements to Become a Certified Ethical Hacker? There are two requirements to becoming an EC-Council Certified Ethical Hacker - proof of experience working in the information security field and passing the CEH exam. You do not have to have passed other certifications to become a CEH, but typically candidates have gained some foundational certifications like CompTIA A+ before they consider becoming one. Previous Experience To complete your CEH certification, EC-Council requires proof that you have some experience in the information security field. There are two ways to do this: 1. If you choose to self-study, or study with a non-accredited training school, you must submit an application to EC-Council, proving that you have at least two years' experience working in the InfoSec field. Note that there is a fee for this. 2. Alternatively, you can take your training with an accredited EC-Council partner such as TrainACE. Taking your CEH with an accredited partner assures EC-Council that you have covered all the requirements to become a Certified Ethical Hacker. The CEH Exam The CEH exam is a four-hour test comprising of 125 multiple choice questions. The questions cover the full CEH syllabus, so your preparation for the exam needs to be focused and thorough. Be aware that the exam is designed to test your in-depth knowledge, so simply memorizing lists of questions and answers you might find on the internet is unlikely to help you pass the exam. But is CEH Hard to Pass? The CEH exam is made up of 125 multiple choice questions. You have four hours to complete the test and must successfully answer 70% of the questions to pass. The exam covers a wide range of topics throughout the CEH syllabus and often in considerable depth. Ethical Hacking is a multidisciplinary occupation, to succeed in a CEH role you need to have at least a working knowledge of different areas within IT including hacking tools, programming, databases, networking, and IT security. The CEH exam will cover elements of all of these. If you are preparing for the CEH exam through self-guided materials, make sure you cover the whole curriculum for the exam version you intend to take. In the past it was possible to find lists of CEH questions with answers on the internet. This enabled students to pass the test by memorizing specific answers without a sound understanding of the underlying skills. EC-Council became aware of this and changed the question formats to ensure the integrity of their CEH certification. You should be aware that EC-Council sets questions that will test your practical knowledge of penetration testing techniques, vulnerability assignments, network security and incident response. These are the types of questions you will find difficult to answer if you are just learning from books. Ideally, you should take a training course that offers hands-on experience working with the tools and techniques you will be tested on. This will make the exam feel much easier. You should also be prepared to encounter questions that are intentionally set to trip you up. Students have reported that they have been asked several very similar looking questions in an exam, which can leave unprepared candidates second-guessing their answers. In practice, students typically find that there is plenty of time to answer all 125 questions during the four-hour exam and that with proper preparation, the test is thorough but not overly hard to pass. You will need to pay careful attention to each question, and answer what is being asked. Given the length of the exam, some students find that the hardest part of the exam is keeping focused on the questions over a long period of time. How to Get Your CEH Training and Certification If you're ready to get started with CEH, a quick search on the internet will give you a wide range of options when it comes to preparing for the exam. Your choices will range from free YouTube videos, through to more costly, in-person, instructor-led classes. The quality and support that comes with each training course varies a lot, but for the most part you will get what you pay for. If cost is a big issue and you have time, then look at free, or low-cost, self-guided options. You will have to assess the quality of the materials provided to make sure they are up to date and cover the entire CEH curriculum. Generally, these options come with little to no customer service, so it's down to you to break through road-blocks in your training. You will also find that this approach will take you longer than using a well-structured, in-person program. If time is of the essence and you have the budget for it, in-person boot camps tend to have the best outcomes. With these instructor-led classes, you are much more likely to get up-to-date tuition and immediate feedback on your progress. The boot camp format will also encourage you to stay focused and on-track, ultimately getting your CEH certification much faster. It's worth noting that if you choose an EC-Council accredited training school, you do not have to go through the additional cost and effort of proving you have two years information security work experience. Is CEH Worth It? CEH is one of the more expensive certifications to get, so before you spend a lot of time and money on it, it is reasonable to ask yourself how hard it is to pass, and is it worth it? In our experience, students tell us that, having studied with an experienced instructor, the CEH test is relatively painless. It's a long test and requires candidates to focus carefully on what is being asked, but most of our students pass first time. Our students tell us that they found the CEH certification beneficial to their careers both financially and from the perspective of their skills development. To become a successful ethical hacker, you must prove that you have a wide range of technical and social skills. Taking CEH training pushes you to explore topics and skills you might not have explored otherwise but are often incredibly useful throughout your career. TrainACE offers CEH boot camps at its offices in Greenbelt, MD and live-online. In addition to providing high-quality instruction, we offer a free class re-take and exam voucher for CEH, should you fail the first time. I recently took the CEH v10 exam and passed. In this post, I summarize my experience in pursuing the path to becoming a Certified Ethical Hacker. Hopefully, you'll find this post useful in studying, preparing and passing the CEH exam. Background I've been working in IT for almost 20 years. I started as a Java Developer in early 2000 and the last 15 years have been heavily involved in functional testing, test automation, and quality assurance. I embarked on the CEH journey with almost no networking knowledge and almost no security knowledge. If you asked me anything about any of the following, I wouldn't have a clue! CIA triad and foundations of security OSI Model TCP/IP Model How computers in a network communicate ARP Network and Port scanning / Enumeration What are the different networking protocols Important port numbers Network attacks, MAC Flooding, DHCP Starvation, ARP attacks IPsec, DNSSEC Spoofing, Sniffing, MITM attacks Various types of cryptography algorithms and associated attacks Wireless attacks And the 100's various tools that can be used in hacking Nmap, Wireshark, Metasploit And these are just the tip of the iceberg. There are many more concepts and methodologies not listed above. You can see that to a new beginner in the security field, it looks quite overwhelming and daunting. CEH Course The Certified Ethical Hacker course is expensive. I took my CEH course in London and it cost a whopping £2000.00. It runs for 5 days, from 9 am to 5 pm. You get to create your own lab to carry out the exercises. The course is a mixture of both theory and hands-on practice, illustrating the different types of hacking techniques. Important to note that the CEH course is geared towards the offensive side rather than defensive. Yes, it does talk about controls and countermeasures, but it will also teach you how to bypass those controls. A note of advice: make yourself familiar with the basics of networking and security before taking the CEH course. I took the course without knowing the basics and for the most part, I was completely clueless. Had I known the basics, it would have helped me a lot more to understand the concepts of what was being demonstrated in the course. Why CEH? For me, it was more about learning new concepts and gaining a deeper understanding of technology in general. As I progressed through my career in software testing, I felt it was a natural progression to move into security and penetration testing. After all, if you want to look at quality holistically, you should look at it from all angles and not just focus on functional testing. Study Plan and Sources As previously mentioned, for me the CEH course was just an eye-opener in regards to how much I didn't know. In order to pass the exam, I knew I had to invest a lot of time and effort on self-study. I had to learn a lot of new concepts. As I already work fulltime, any self-study had to be done after work hours, typically in the evenings and weekends. I started my self-study program beginning of June 2019 and I started with the Linux Academy's Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH) Prep Course. It's about 37 hours of videos and covers all the topics of CEH v10 Syllabus. It took me roughly 2 months to get through all the videos and the labs. In August 2019, I bought Matt Walker's All in One (AIO) CEH book and it was the best investment. At about the same time, I also booked my exam, to be taken on 31st October 2019. I read Matt Walker's book cover to cover twice in a span of 2 months. I also did the exercises at the end of each chapter and experimented with some of the tools. Practice Exams I refrained from doing any practice exams until I was 2 weeks away from the real exam date. The reason being, I didn't want to only focus on exam questions. I wanted to understand the concepts first and then attempt the practice exams. By mid-October, I had read all the materials from Matt Walker's book, had seen a number of videos and absorbed information from various sources - See Reference section at the end of this post. Basically, the last two weeks prior to the real exam, I did many practice tests and reread the areas which I struggled with. The first practice exam I attempted was the one from Linux Academy. In terms of the difficulty, I would say it was on par with the real exam. Next, I attempted the 300 questions, practice tests, which came as part of Matt Walker's AIO book. I found the questions to be slightly easier than the real exam. Alongside taking the exams, I also bought Matt Walker's AIO companion book which is filled with questions for each chapter of the book. I found those questions to be slightly more difficult than the real exam. And I kept the best for last, the Boson Exam Simulator for CEH v10, which has a total of 600 practice questions. I attempted all four practice exams, each one is 125 questions. I found the exam questions to be almost the same level of difficulty as the real exam, although some argue that they are slightly more difficult. The great thing about the Boson Exams is the comprehensive explanations provided for each question. Regardless of whether you get the question right or wrong, read those explanations. They are very informative and come in very handy during the real exam. My average score from the Boson Exams was around 80% mark. The day before the exam, I only concentrated on areas in which I didn't score well on the practice exams. The evening before the exam I put everything away and just relaxed for the big day. The CEH v10 Exam The exam is 125 multiple choice questions and you are given 4 hours to complete the test. The first thing to note is that 4 hours is way more than enough time to complete 125 questions. You should not panic or worry about running out of time. About 50% of the exam questions, you should be able to answer in less than 30 seconds. When I did the practice exams, I could complete all 125 questions in less than 2 hours. In the real exam, I also finished in 2 hours, but I spent about 20 more minutes reviewing the questions and answers. The passing score for CEH v10 is anything from 60% to 85% depending on the level of difficulty of the questions. I passed the exam with a score of 87.2%. I would say the exam was quite difficult in the sense that there were questions that had very similar answers. For these types of questions, you need to know security holistically. Also in these questions, common sense prevails. There were also a bunch of questions that were designed to trip you, so be very careful about what appears to be the correct answer. When you read the question carefully and read the answers carefully, you can usually spot the trick! I found the overall exam to be focused more on overall security knowledge. As for tools, there were questions on Nmap syntax, Wireshark, Snort, OpenSSL, Netstat, Hping. Also a handful of questions on hacking methodologies. Also on scanning methodologies, types of port scan types, port numbers and return responses from open and closed ports. I cannot say which area or what tool was the most prominent in the exam. The questions seemed to be from the full spectrum of the CEH v10 syllabus. The exam questions tested on every topic and in most cases to a great depth. I was quite relieved when the exam finished as it was a mind-numbing exercise. You really have to concentrate very hard reading each question its answers in detail. As mentioned earlier, I did find some questions purposely designed to be tricky, to get you to select an obvious answer. The tip is to read each question in detail, and you can usually spot the trick. Final Thoughts Having gone through the experience of studying and taking the CEH exam, I would say it was well worth the effort. It taught me a lot of foundations about security and networking. One thing about taking an exam is that it forces you to study and learn the material well. It required a lot of dedication and many late evenings of self-study but I am happy with the results. If you are studying for the exam, make sure to go through all the contents of the CEH v10 syllabus before attempting the practice exams. Make sure you really understand the concepts. And finally do as many practice exams as you can before the real test. References how hard is the certified ethical hacker exam, is certified ethical hacker hard, how to pass certified ethical hacker exam

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