

# Nessus Activation Code Installation

Thank you for registering your Nessus subscription!

You must retrieve your Activation Code for the Nessus Subscription from either your [Tenable Support Portal](#) account for the ProfessionalFeed or your HomeFeed registration email. You must subscribe to the ProfessionalFeed to use Nessus in a professional environment even if it is not directly for commercial purposes. This includes scanning your desktop at work or a home computer that is used for business purposes. Please review the [Subscription Agreement](#) for more details on the type of subscription for which you are qualified.

Note that you can only use your Activation Code for one scanner, unless the scanners are managed by the Security Center.

<Activation Code> is the actual code without brackets.

Platform	Command to Run
<b>Linux</b>	# /opt/nessus/bin/nessus-fetch --register <Activation Code>
<b>FreeBSD</b>	# /usr/local/nessus/bin/nessus-fetch --register <Activation Code>
<b>Mac OS X</b>	To activate your Subscription, open the program "Nessus Server Manager" located under /Applications/Nessus/ and enter your Activation Code in the appropriate box and click on the "Register" button.
<b>Windows</b>	To activate your Subscription, open the "Nessus Server Manager" and enter your Activation Code in the appropriate box and click on the "Register" button.

Note that, by default, Nessus will attempt to update its plugins every 24 hours after you have registered it. If you do not want such an update attempted, edit `nessusd.conf` and set "auto\_update" to "no".

## Nessus without Internet Access

If your Nessus installation cannot reach the Internet directly, use the following procedure to register and update plugins:

On the system running Nessus, type the following command:

Platform	Command to Run
<b>Linux</b>	# /opt/nessus/bin/nessus-fetch --challenge
<b>FreeBSD</b>	# /usr/local/nessus/bin/nessus-fetch --challenge
<b>Mac OS X</b>	# /Library/Nessus/run/bin/nessus-fetch --challenge
<b>Windows</b>	C:\Program Files\Tenable\Nessus>nessus-fetch --challenge

This will produce a string called "challenge" that looks like the following:

```
569ccd9ac72ab3a62a3115a945ef8e710c0d73b8
```

Next, go to <https://plugins.nessus.org/offline.php> and paste the "challenge" string as well as the Activation Code that you received previously into the appropriate text boxes. This will produce a URL that will give you direct access to the Nessus plugin feed. **Save this URL because you will use it**

**every time you update your plugins.** In addition, it will produce a file called `nessus-fetch.rc`. Copy this file to the host running Nessus in the appropriate directory:

Platform	Directory
<b>Linux</b>	# /opt/nessus/etc/nessus/
<b>FreeBSD</b>	# /usr/local/nessus/etc/nessus
<b>Mac OS X</b>	# /Library/Nessus/run/etc/nessus
<b>Windows</b>	C:\Program Files\Tenable\Nessus\conf

You can obtain the newest plugins by going to the URL that was provided in the previous step. Here, you will receive a TAR file (e.g., `all-2.0.tar.gz`). Copy the file to the Nessus scanner system and then type the appropriate command for your platform:

Platform	Command
<b>Linux</b>	# /opt/nessus/sbin/nessus-update-plugins all-2.0.tar.gz
<b>FreeBSD</b>	# /usr/local/nessus/sbin/nessus-update-plugins all-2.0.tar.gz
<b>Mac OS X</b>	# /Library/Nessus/run/sbin/nessus-update-plugins all-2.0.tar.gz
<b>Windows</b>	C:\Program Files\Tenable\Nessus>nessus-update-plugins all-2.0.tar.gz

### Resetting Activation Code

If for some reason you uninstall your Nessus software entirely and decide to re-install it later on, you can reset your ProfessionalFeed Activation Code from an authorized Tenable Support Portal account or you will have to register for a new HomeFeed.

### Using Nessus with the Security Center

If you are using the Tenable Security Center, the Activation Code and plugin updates are managed from the Security Center. In order to communicate with the Security Center, Nessus needs to be started, which it will normally not do without a valid Activation Code and plugins. To have Nessus ignore this requirement and start (so that it can get the information from the Security Center), run the appropriate command for your platform:

Platform	Command to Run
<b>Linux</b>	# /opt/nessus/bin/nessus-fetch --security-center
<b>FreeBSD</b>	# /usr/local/nessus/bin/nessus-fetch --security-center
<b>Mac OS X</b>	# /Library/Nessus/run/bin/nessus-fetch --security-center
<b>Windows</b>	C:\Program Files\Tenable\Nessus>nessus-fetch --security-center

Please refer to the Security Center Documentation for the configuration of a centralized plugin feed for multiple Nessus scanners.

If you have any questions, feel free to request help using email support from the [Tenable Support Portal](#), post a question to the [Nessus Discussion Forums](#) or review the [Nessus documentation](#).

Best Regards,  
The Tenable Network Security Team