Severity Levels Explained

What Severity Means

Severity indicates how important a finding is based on its potential impact and likelihood of exploitation.

It helps you prioritize which issues to address first.

Severity Levels

Steel Security assigns each finding a severity level:

High

High severity findings represent significant security risks.

These issues:

- may expose sensitive data
- may allow unauthorized access or execution
- are more likely to be targeted or exploited

Recommended Action:
Address these findings as soon as possible.

Medium

Medium severity findings represent moderate risks.

These issues:

- may increase your site's attack surface
- may contribute to larger vulnerabilities
- are important but not immediately critical

Recommended Action:
Review and resolve these findings in a timely manner.

Low

Low severity findings represent lower-risk issues.

These issues:

- may involve minor exposure or best-practice gaps
- are less likely to be exploited directly
- still contribute to overall security posture

Recommended Action:
Address these as part of routine maintenance.

How Severity Is Determined

Severity is based on a combination of factors, including:

- potential impact if exploited
- likelihood of exploitation
- level of exposure
- common attack patterns

Severity provides guidance, but does not replace judgment.

Severity Is Not Everything

While severity is important, it should not be the only factor in decision-making.

Consider:

- your specific environment
- whether the behavior is intentional
- how the finding relates to other risks

Some lower severity findings may still be important in your context.

How to Prioritize Findings

A practical approach:

1. address high severity findings first
2. review medium severity findings next
3. resolve low severity findings over time

Also consider grouping related findings for more efficient fixes.

Avoid Overreaction

Not every finding requires immediate action.

Steel Security is designed to surface risks, not create urgency where it is not needed.

Take a measured and informed approach.

Key Principle

Severity helps guide your decisions, but effective security comes from applying multiple protections over time.

Related

- Understanding Scan Findings
- How Findings Are Categorized
- Reviewing Findings

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