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Thread: [Kali NetHunter](#)

Omniscient - *October 7, 2026, 10:22 am*

?? Kali NetHunter — Turn Your Android Into a Mobile Pentesting Platform

Kali Linux in your pocket.

Ever wanted to carry a serious penetration-testing environment around on your phone?

That's basically what Kali NetHunter gives you.

Developed by Offensive Security, NetHunter is a mobile penetration-testing platform built around Kali Linux and designed primarily for Android devices.

It can turn a compatible phone into a surprisingly capable security toolkit. ?

? What Exactly Is Kali NetHunter?

Kali NetHunter combines:

- ? Android
- ? Kali Linux
- ? A Linux terminal environment
- ? Security and penetration-testing tools
- ? Wireless testing capabilities on supported hardware
- ? Network reconnaissance tools
- ? Password auditing utilities
- ? Exploitation and security testing frameworks

Depending on the device and installation method, you can essentially have a portable Kali Linux workstation in your pocket.

? What Can You Do With It?

NetHunter can be useful for a huge number of security-related tasks.

Some examples:

- ? Network reconnaissance
 - ? Port scanning
 - ? Wi-Fi analysis
 - ? Nmap scanning
 - ? SSH administration
 - ? Password auditing
 - ? OSINT work
 - ? Web application testing
 - ? Remote server administration

- ? Wireless security research
- ? USB-based testing on supported devices

You can also run many of the same Linux utilities you would normally use on a desktop Kali installation.

? NetHunter Editions

One of the interesting things about NetHunter is that there are multiple ways to run it.

NetHunter Rootless

- ? Easiest way to get started.
- Does not require rooting your Android phone
- Works on many standard Android devices
- Provides a Kali userspace and terminal
- Great for Linux tools, SSH, scanning, scripting, OSINT, etc.

NetHunter Lite

- ? Requires a rooted Android device.

This provides additional integration with Android while still being relatively lightweight.

Full NetHunter

- ? This is where things get really interesting.

A supported device with the proper NetHunter kernel can potentially access advanced hardware capabilities such as:

- ? Wi-Fi monitor mode
- ? Packet injection
- ? USB HID attacks
- ? USB networking
- ? External wireless adapters

Hardware support varies heavily depending on the phone and kernel.

? Full Kali Desktop From Your Phone

One of the coolest features is KeX.

Kali NetHunter KeX allows you to launch a graphical Kali desktop environment from the phone.

You can essentially have:

Android Phone -> Kali Linux Desktop -> Portable Security Workstation

Connect a Bluetooth keyboard/mouse or output the phone to a monitor and you've got something surprisingly close to a miniature Linux computer. ?

? Tools You Can Run

Since NetHunter uses Kali Linux, many familiar tools are available.

Examples include:

Code nmap
sqlmap
nikto
hydra
john
hashcat
metasploit
aircrack-ng
wireshark
tcpdump
netcat
python
ssh
git

Obviously, some tools require hardware features that aren't available on every phone.

? External Hardware Makes It Even Better

This is where NetHunter starts becoming extremely interesting.

With USB OTG and compatible hardware you can potentially connect:

? USB Wi-Fi adapters
? Bluetooth hardware
? SDR devices
? USB drives
? Keyboards
? Mice
? Ethernet adapters

A phone plus a small USB Wi-Fi adapter can make a very compact network security toolkit.

? Why NetHunter Is So Cool

The biggest advantage is simply portability.

You don't necessarily need to carry around a laptop just to perform basic security testing or network troubleshooting.

Imagine being able to:
SSH into your servers from anywhere

- Scan a network with Nmap
- Run Python scripts
- Inspect network traffic
- Perform OSINT research
- Test your own wireless network
- Launch a Kali desktop

...all from the same device sitting in your pocket.

That is pretty awesome.

? A Quick Legal Reminder

NetHunter is a legitimate security research platform.

The tools themselves aren't illegal.

What matters is how you use them.

Only test:

- ? Systems you own
- ? Networks you own
- ? Systems where you have explicit authorization

Using penetration-testing tools against systems without permission can obviously get you into serious trouble.

? Who Should Try It?

If you're interested in:

- Cybersecurity
- Linux
- Networking
- Ethical hacking
- Server administration
- Wireless security
- Python scripting
- OSINT

...NetHunter is absolutely worth experimenting with.

Even the Rootless version can be useful without modifying your phone.

? Kali Linux. On Android. In Your Pocket.

That alone makes NetHunter one of the coolest mobile security projects available.

Have any of you used NetHunter?

What phone did you run it on, and what tools did you find most useful? ?

Scrub - October 7, 2026, 10:23 am

This is pretty cool for android users.

7 - October 7, 2026, 10:54 am

Yes very useful. Unfortunately most modern phones wifi chips do not support packet injection meaning you need a OTG cable and suitable adapter unless you try and find a model that supports wifi packet injection (which is quite difficult) but the most modern devices I personally know are OnePlus 7 Pro or OnePlus 7T. TBH, even in full kali on desktop its a similar issue atheros based are must more plugin and play but options with realtek chips is they require setup.. I recommend Alfa Network AWUS036ACH

I used to use nethunter mostly in the early days of full flashing a nexus 5

Oh and before that the OnePlus One

Omniscient - October 7, 2026, 11:34 am

(Oct 7, 2026 10:54 AM)7 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Yes very useful. Unfortunately most modern phones wifi chips do not support packet injection meaning you need a OTG cable and suitable adapter unless you try and find a model that supports wifi packet injection (which is quite difficult) but the most modern devices I personally know are OnePlus 7 Pro or OnePlus 7T. TBH, even in full kali on desktop its a similar issue atheros based are must more plugin and play but options with realtek chips is they require setup.. I recommend Alfa Network AWUS036ACH

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Support for Galaxy S10 is there and those devices aren't too expensive to get, under \$200.

Raijin - October 7, 2026, 7:55 pm

I had never heard of this. Makes me interested in getting an android device.

7 - October 7, 2026, 10:16 pm

(Oct 7, 2026 11:34 AM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Support for Galaxy S10 is there and those devices aren't too expensive to get, under \$200.

Yeah s10 too. Yeah not so expensive .. just carrying it around and through customs with 5 phones :D