As Gartner states, "By 2026, organizations with an exposure management approach will be

3X

less likely to experience a security breach."

As a CISO, a primary goal is maturing your organization from vulnerability management to exposure management via Gartner's continuous threat exposure management process (CTEM).

Before CTEM can be successfully rolled out, the initial foundation for this framework must be laid via NopSec's Operationalizing for CTEM process. This three-phrase journey sets up your organization to maximize CTEM effectiveness long term and realize quick positive impacts on your risk exposure. If you've already achieved proactive vulnerability management instead of reactive (phase 1), you're ready for phase two – **Optimize for CTEM.**



Shift from reactive to proactive vulnerability & threat management operations.



Optimize your (CTEM) program with unified visibility, validation-driven prioritization, and insight-driven response.



Align Dev, Sec, and Ops for more effective CTEM program operations.

Figure 1 – Operationalizing for CTEM

The Five Stages of Gartner's CTEM

Continuous threat exposure management (CTEM) is a comprehensive 5 stage process (see Figure 2), not a platform. And it is a multi-year journey that engages teams across your security organization. However, there is an inextricable link between the process and the platform that will bring CTEM to life. How do you choose a platform to best support your CTEM journey? The right platform does more than mechanize CTEM; it has to remove critical security team hurdles to CTEM

CTEM Hurdles

As with all complex security programs, some hurdles impede forward motion. Ideally, your platform must help you remove them. Based on working with 100's of organizations, NopSec sees three primary issues with implementing a CTEM program:

- Visibility gaps Data overload, workflow breakdowns, gaps in coverage, and disagreement over asset classifications impede proper scoping and discovery.
- **Prioritization overwhelm** Limited prioritization that misses factors including likelihood, impact, control effectiveness, and exception management puts your team into a constant state of prioritization overwhelm.
- Inability to act Lack of context and proper insights hinders engaging executives and non-security teams, resulting in a failure to prioritize and mobilize by scope.

In other words, the platform must not just mechanize the five CTEM stages. It must optimize them to overcome these challenges.



- Prioritize risk exposure mobilization with response teams
- Assess likely attack success and the potential impact for further risk exposure prioritization
- Understand your asset risks based on business impact priorities
- Prioritize threats with the highest exploit impact and likelihood

Figure 2 – Gartner CTEM Program Stages

Optimizing for a CTEM program

As the originator of the cyber threat exposure management (CTEM) platform, NopSec is uniquely positioned to help you optimize your CTEM program. In fact, much of the CTEM program architecture reflects the five core capabilities of the NopSec platform (See Figure 3).

AGGREGATE

Align assets, vulnerabilities, exposures, threats, and context into one view

INSIGHT

Reports and dashboards for organization-wide exposure management

VALIDATE

Leverage attack path mapping and red team input for response prioritization



Figure 3 - NopSec CTEM Platform Capabiliites

PRIORITIZE

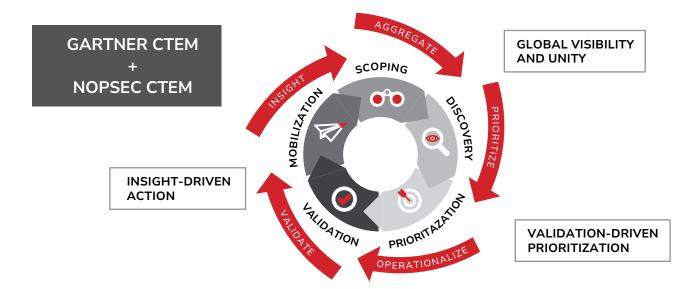
Use ML-driven prioritization with transparent risk scoring to prioritize risk

OPERATIONALIZE

Bridge team workflows to improve remediation velocity

NopSec's capabilities align perfectly with the 5-stage CTEM program. This alignment provides three core capabilities that optimize your CTEM program by removing your hurdles:

- Achieve more accurate scoping and discovery via a single source of truth with ML-driven asset classification. Integrated workflows unify this visibility, providing higher cross-team efficiency and exception management.
- Overcome prioritization overwhelm with validation-driven proactive prioritization that includes likelihood, impact, and control effectiveness for more accurate in-scope analysis.
- Leverage contextual insights to continually create cross-team remediation plans. Respond faster based on the shortest attack path prioritization. Engage all organizational units with fully customizable dashboards to prioritize (by scope) KPIs and trends.





Start Overcoming Your Hurdles to CTEM Today

By tightly aligning NopSec with your CTEM program, you optimize your exposure management program to provide value to all stakeholders: CISO (risk and controls), SOC (attack path mapping, prioritization, and validation), and business leaders (business impact). NopSec helps you overcome significant hurdles to CTEM success by providing your teams with global visibility and unity, validation-driven prioritization, and insight-driven action. Schedule a demo with our exposure management experts today to see this in action.



Ready for Phase 3 of Operationalizing for CTEM?

If you've successfully removed the hurdles to CTEM, you're ready for the next phase of the Operationalizing for CTEM process—Align for CTEM. This next phase focuses on aligning your security teams to maximize the impact and effectives Gartner's continuous threat exposure management framework. Read the Align for CTEM brief here.