Mobile app penetration test scoping questions

These are the questions a SilentGrid consultant asks when scoping a mobile application penetration test. Answering them first makes the call shorter and the quote more accurate.

"Not sure" is a fine answer. The scoping call helps resolve unknowns.

Questions marked **Sizing** help us prepare an accurate quote.

01 Before any test

What prompted the test, and what date does the result need to meet?

Why we ask: the reason sets the depth and report format, and the date fixes the testing window and any retest.

Will testing run against production, staging or a dedicated test copy?

Why we ask: production needs tighter limits on load, data and timing. A test copy allows more thorough techniques.

When can testing run, and are there change freezes or peak periods to avoid?

Why we ask: the schedule is built around them.

Will you want fixes retested?

Why we ask: retesting is agreed at scoping, so it is scheduled and priced from the start.

02 Mobile applications

iOS, Android or both? Native, React Native, Flutter or a web wrapper? SIZING

Why we ask: each platform is tested separately, and each framework needs different instrumentation.

How will builds be shared, and can you provide one without obfuscation? TestFlight, APK, AAB or device management.

Why we ask: an unobfuscated build lets testers spend more time examining flaws and less time bypassing obfuscation.

Does the app use certificate pinning, jailbreak or root detection, or anti-tampering?

Why we ask: testers need a build without them, or agreed time to bypass them, which also tests how well they hold.

What does the app keep on the device: tokens, cached records, offline data?

Why we ask: local storage review targets exactly that data.

Does it use biometrics, deep links, WebViews or push notifications?

Why we ask: each platform feature has known abuse patterns to test.

Is the backend API shared with a web application already in scope? SIZING

Why we ask: a shared API is tested once, which reduces effort.

Discuss your testing priorities

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