



Next Generation Firewall

6.10.3

Release Notes

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About this release

This document contains important information about this release of Forcepoint Next Generation Firewall (Forcepoint NGFW). We strongly recommend that you read the entire document.

Lifecycle model

This release of Forcepoint NGFW is a Long-Term Support (LTS) version.

We recommend using the most recent Long-Term Support (LTS) version if you do not need any features from a later Feature Stream version.

For more information about the Forcepoint NGFW lifecycle policy, see <https://support.forcepoint.com/ProductSupportLifeCycle>.

System requirements

To use this product, your system must meet these basic hardware and software requirements.



CAUTION

To protect the privacy of your data, we recommend using dedicated hardware for all NGFW, SMC, and SMC Appliance installations. For cloud-based virtualization platforms, use an instance type that runs on dedicated hardware. For on-premises virtualization platforms, install the NGFW Engines, SMC components, or SMC Appliance on a hypervisor that does not host any other virtual machines. For third-party hardware, do not install any other software on the computer where you install the NGFW Engines or SMC components.

Forcepoint NGFW appliances

We strongly recommend using a pre-installed Forcepoint NGFW appliance for Forcepoint NGFW installations.



Note

Some features are not available for all appliance models. See Knowledge Base article [9743](#) for appliance-specific software compatibility information.

The majority of the following supported appliances can be used in the Firewall/VPN, IPS, or Layer 2 Firewall role.

- 50 Series (51 and 51 LTE)
- N60
- 100 Series (110 and 115) (*Firewall/VPN role only*)
- 120 Series (N120, N120W, N120WL)
- 320 Series (321 and 325)
- 330 Series (330, 331, and 335)
- 1000 Series (1035 and 1065)
- 1100 Series (1101 and 1105)
- 1400 Series (1401 and 1402)
- 2100 Series (2101 and 2105)
- 2200 Series (2201, 2205, and 2210)



Note

Forcepoint NGFW 6.10.3 supports these appliances but it is not yet available for purchase.

- 3200 Series (3202, 3206, and 3207)
- 3300 Series (3301 and 3305)
- 3400 Series (3401, 3405, and 3410)
- 6205




Note

To use the Forcepoint NGFW Manager, we recommend that you use a Forcepoint NGFW appliance that has at least 4GB of memory.

Basic hardware requirements

You can install Forcepoint NGFW on standard hardware with these basic requirements.

Component	Requirement
CPU	Intel® Pentium D series 2 core or higher
Memory	4 GB RAM
Hard disk	8GB  Note RAID controllers are not supported.
Peripherals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ DVD drive ■ VGA-compatible display ■ Keyboard
Interfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ One or more network interfaces for the Firewall/VPN role ■ Two or more network interfaces for the IPS in IDS configuration ■ Three or more network interfaces for inline IPS engine or Layer 2 Firewall <p>For information about supported Ethernet interface types and adapters, see Knowledge Base article 9721.</p>

Master NGFW Engine requirements

Master NGFW Engines have specific hardware requirements.

- Each Master NGFW Engine must run on a separate physical device. For more details, see the *Forcepoint Next Generation Firewall Installation Guide*.
- All Virtual NGFW Engines hosted by a Master NGFW Engine or Master NGFW Engine cluster must have the same role and the same Failure Mode (*fail-open* or *fail-close*).
- Master NGFW Engines can allocate VLANs or interfaces to Virtual NGFW Engines. If the Failure Mode of the Virtual IPS engines or Virtual Layer 2 Firewalls is *Normal* (fail-close) and you want to allocate VLANs to several NGFW Engines, you must use the Master NGFW Engine cluster in standby mode.
- Cabling requirements for Master NGFW Engine clusters that host Virtual IPS engines or Layer 2 Firewalls:
 - Failure Mode *Bypass* (fail-open) requires IPS serial cluster cabling.
 - Failure Mode *Normal* (fail-close) requires Layer 2 Firewall cluster cabling.

For more information about cabling, see the *Forcepoint Next Generation Firewall Installation Guide*.

Virtual appliance node requirements

You can install Forcepoint NGFW on virtual appliances with these hardware requirements. Also be aware of some limitations.

Component	Requirement
CPU	Intel® Pentium D series 2 core or higher
Memory	4 GB RAM
Virtual disk space	8 GB
Hypervisor	One of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VMware ESXi 6.5 or 7.0 KVM with Red Hat Enterprise Linux 7.9 or 8.3 (Firewall/VPN role only) Microsoft Hyper-V on Windows Server 2012 R2 or Windows Server 2016 with an Intel 64-bit processor
Interfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one virtual network interface for the Firewall/VPN role Three virtual network interfaces for IPS or Layer 2 Firewall roles <p>The following network interface card drivers are recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VMware ESXi platform — <code>vmxnet3</code>. KVM platform — <code>virtio_net</code>.

When Forcepoint NGFW is run as a virtual appliance node in the Firewall/VPN role, these limitations apply:

- Only Packet Dispatching CVI mode is supported.
- Only standby clustering mode is supported.
- Heartbeat requires a dedicated non-VLAN-tagged interface.

When Forcepoint NGFW is run as a virtual appliance node in the IPS or Layer 2 Firewall role, clustering is not supported.

Supported cloud environments

You can deploy Forcepoint NGFW in the Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Microsoft Azure cloud environments.

Amazon Web Services

Forcepoint NGFW instances can be launched from AWS using 1-Click Launch, and existing instances can be remotely upgraded to the latest Forcepoint NGFW version.

To see the currently available instance types, search for *Forcepoint NGFW* in the AWS Marketplace.

For more information about deploying in AWS, see the document *How to deploy Next Generation Firewall in the Amazon Web Services cloud* and Knowledge Base article [10156](#).

Microsoft Azure

Forcepoint NGFW instances can be launched from Azure using custom solution templates, and existing instances can be remotely upgraded to the latest Forcepoint NGFW version.

To see the currently available custom solution templates, search for *Forcepoint NGFW* in the Azure Marketplace.

For more information about deploying in Azure, see the document *How to deploy Next Generation Firewall in the Azure cloud* and Knowledge Base article [14485](#).

Build number and checksums

The build number for Forcepoint NGFW 6.10.3 is 26158.

Use the checksums to make sure that the installation files downloaded correctly.

- `sg_engine_6.10.3.26158_x86-64-small.iso`

```
SHA1SUM:  
0343ca2406698daea4bf58ae61f6bbda0f719087  
  
SHA256SUM:  
36fb60e31a7e6e7fc9a9041ced3e8b7b0877df96282a4c8d2fb399d926923596  
  
SHA512SUM:  
ba14a5edb3c3f52a172cf13d9285f279  
491655934fe0a15946f5c00064657b96  
1e0480255eb8fe8e50509a1e4b5dacbf  
c1afd2aae5ea34c1b9ae453cb4777a37
```

- `sg_engine_6.10.3.26158_x86-64-small.zip`

```
SHA1SUM:  
e03fc01d0edc5bbd2d5bded03cb27ccff92a658b  
  
SHA256SUM:  
bfc090b3d24eba69aa426e90407e4ad152da0a3b380df061da260249a726c2e1  
  
SHA512SUM:  
2e257c24fcb690cbcc436294925bb075  
c5cfc86f5b905baeb111d066745099b6  
41e154a12d9bfe315e7d189ea4ecc66  
76c08361e24d67cb82f4aecf6a94a1ea
```

Compatibility

Forcepoint NGFW 6.10 is compatible with the following component versions.

- Forcepoint NGFW Security Management Center (SMC) 6.10 or higher
- Dynamic Update 1337 or higher
- Forcepoint VPN Client 6.6.0 or higher for Windows
- Forcepoint VPN Client 2.0.0 or higher for Mac OS X
- Forcepoint VPN Client 2.0.0 or higher for Android
- Forcepoint VPN Client 2.5.0 or higher for Linux
- Server Pool Monitoring Agent 4.0.0 or higher

- Forcepoint Endpoint Context Agent (ECA) included in Forcepoint One Endpoint 19.05 or higher
- Forcepoint User ID Service 2.0.0 or higher

New features

This release of the product includes these new features. For more information and configuration instructions, see the *Forcepoint Next Generation Firewall Product Guide*, the *Forcepoint Next Generation Firewall Installation Guide*, and the *Forcepoint NGFW Manager and VPN Broker Product Guide*.

Snort inspection on NGFW Engines


The Snort network intrusion detection system and intrusion prevention system has been integrated into Forcepoint NGFW. You can import externally created Snort configurations into Forcepoint NGFW to use Snort rules for inspection.

You can configure Snort inspection globally for all NGFW Engines, or for individual NGFW Engines. You can use both NGFW deep inspection and Snort inspection for the same traffic, or you can use only NGFW deep inspection or only Snort inspection.

Enhancements

This release of the product includes these enhancements.

Enhancements in Forcepoint NGFW version 6.10.0

Enhancement	Description
Improved certificate validation	<p>Certificate validation for TLS inspection and connections from NGFW Engines to external services, such as authentication servers, has been improved.</p> <div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid #ccc;"> <p> Note</p> <p>If you have integrated Forcepoint User ID Service with Forcepoint NGFW, the NGFW Engine can no longer connect to Forcepoint User ID Service servers that use self-signed certificates unless the certificate is explicitly identified with the SHA-1, SHA-256, SHA-512, or MD5 hash of the certificate. To use a self-signed certificate, you must use SHA-1, SHA-256, SHA-512, or MD5 as the TLS Server Identity for the Forcepoint User ID Service element. DNS Name, IP Address, Common Name, and Distinguished Name can no longer be used as the TLS Server Identity for the Forcepoint User ID Service element if you use a self-signed certificate.</p> </div>
SHA-256 support for NTP servers	You can now configure NTP Server elements to use SHA-256 authentication keys.

Enhancements in Forcepoint NGFW version 6.10.1

Enhancement	Description
TLS inspection for server protection allows TLS handshake downgrade	When you use TLS inspection for server protection without configuring client protection, the certificate authority (CA) can now downgrade unsupported cipher suites, extensions, or ALPN protocols for TLS.
The NGFW Engine skips situation-based matching for encrypted traffic when deep inspection is disabled	When deep inspection and decryption are disabled but the NGFW Engine needs to inspect the beginning of an encrypted connection to identify traffic, such as for URL categorization, application identification, or application routing, the NGFW Engine skips situation-based matching later in the connection. Previously, the NGFW Engine applied situation-based matching and filtered the results.

Enhancements in Forcepoint NGFW version 6.10.2

Enhancement	Description
Configuration of bidirectional forwarding detection using the Management Client	<p>Forcepoint NGFW Engine previously supported the configuration of bidirectional forwarding detection (BFD) using command line tools on the NGFW Engine. You can now configure BFD using the Management Client.</p> <p>When you use the BGP protocol for dynamic routing, you can optionally use BFD to detect neighbor failures. The NGFW Engine sends packets at the specified interval and waits for a reply. If the NGFW Engine does not receive a reply within the specified length of time, the neighbor is considered to have failed.</p>

Enhancements in Forcepoint NGFW version 6.10.3

Enhancement	Description
VPN Broker Gateway can help to establish VPN tunnel between two dynamic VPN gateways and VPN Broker Members.	VPN Broker Gateway can notify members behind the NAT about other members trying to contact it. The Broker member behind the NAT initiates connection to members that are trying to contact it.
Detect domain fronting attacks	If HTTP client sent an HTTPS request with mismatching hostname in the TLS SNI extension, then HTTP Host header situation HTTP_Host-SNI-Mismatch is triggered. TLS decryption is required to be able to compare SNI and Host header.
FIPS 140-3 mode can be selected for NGFW Engine.	FIPS 140-3 compatible mode can be enabled in the initial configuration wizard.

Security enhancements

For a list of security enhancements in this product release, see Knowledge Base article [38434](#)

Resolved and known issues

For a list of resolved and known issues in this product release, see Knowledge Base article [38462](#) .

Known limitations

This release of the product includes these known limitations.

Limitation	Description
Inspection in asymmetrically routed networks	In asymmetrically routed networks, using stream-modifying features such as TLS Inspection, URL filtering, and file filtering can make connections stall.
Inline Interface disconnect mode	The disconnect mode for Inline Interfaces is supported only on modular appliance models that have full-sized bypass interface modules (not mini modules).

For information about feature-specific limitations, see the *Forcepoint Next Generation Firewall Product Guide*.

Installation instructions

Use these high-level steps to install the SMC and the Forcepoint NGFW Engines.

For detailed information, see the *Forcepoint Next Generation Firewall Installation Guide*. All guides are available for download at <https://support.forcepoint.com/Documentation>.

Steps

- 1) Install the Management Server, the Log Servers, and optionally the Web Portal Servers.
- 2) Import the licenses for all components.
You can generate licenses at <https://stonesoftlicenses.forcepoint.com>.
- 3) Configure the Firewall, IPS, or Layer 2 Firewall elements in the Management Client from the **Configuration** view.
- 4) To generate initial configurations, right-click each NGFW Engine, then select **Configuration > Save Initial Configuration**.
Make a note of the one-time password.
- 5) Make the initial connection from the NGFW Engines to the Management Server, then enter the one-time password.

- 6) Create and upload a policy on the NGFW Engines in the Management Client.

Upgrade instructions

Take the following into consideration before upgrading licenses, NGFW Engines, and clusters.



Note

Upgrading to version 6.10 is only supported from version 6.5 or higher. If you have a lower version, first upgrade to version 6.5.



Note

If you use safe search features in NGFW 6.6 or lower, you must refresh the policy on the NGFW Engine cluster after all the members of the cluster have been upgraded to NGFW 6.7 or higher. Otherwise, safe search might not work correctly after the upgrade.

- Forcepoint NGFW version 6.10 requires an updated license. The license upgrade can be requested at <https://stonesoftlicenses.forcepoint.com>. Install the new license using the Management Client before upgrading the software. If communication between the SMC and the license server is enabled and the maintenance contract is valid, the license is updated automatically.
- To upgrade the NGFW Engine, use the remote upgrade feature or reboot from the installation DVD and follow the instructions. For detailed instructions, see the *Forcepoint Next Generation Firewall Installation Guide*.

Upgrade notes

- SMC version 6.9 was the last version of the SMC that was compatible with McAfee ePO. Features that depend on McAfee ePO, such as McAfee Threat Intelligence Exchange (TIE) local file reputation sandbox and McAfee® Data Exchange Layer (DXL) local file reputation, are no longer available in SMC 6.10 and higher.

Find product documentation

In the Forcepoint Customer Hub, you can find information about a released product, including product documentation, technical articles, and more.

You can get additional information and support for your product in the Forcepoint Customer Hub at <https://support.forcepoint.com>. There, you can access product documentation, release notes, Knowledge Base articles, downloads, cases, and contact information.

You might need to log on to access the Forcepoint Customer Hub. If you do not yet have credentials, create a customer account. See <https://support.forcepoint.com/CreateAccount>.

Product documentation

Every Forcepoint product has a comprehensive set of documentation.

- *Forcepoint Next Generation Firewall Product Guide*
- Forcepoint Next Generation Firewall online Help



Note

By default, the online Help is used from the Forcepoint help server. If you want to use the online Help from a local machine (for example, an intranet server or your own computer), see Knowledge Base article [10097](#).

- *Forcepoint Next Generation Firewall Installation Guide*

Other available documents include:

- *Forcepoint Next Generation Firewall Hardware Guide* for your model
- *Forcepoint NGFW Security Management Center Appliance Hardware Guide*
- *Forcepoint Next Generation Firewall Quick Start Guide*
- *Forcepoint NGFW Security Management Center Appliance Quick Start Guide*
- *Forcepoint NGFW SMC API User Guide*
- *Forcepoint VPN Client User Guide* for Windows or Mac
- *Forcepoint VPN Client Product Guide*

