Forcepoint

Next Generation Firewall

6.8.8

Release Notes

Contents

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)
- 100 Series (110 and 115) (*Firewall/VPN role only*)
- 120W
- 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)
- 3207
- 3300 Series (3301 and 3305)
- 3400 Series (3401, 3405, and 3410)
- 5206
- 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	■ DVD drive ■ VGA-compatible display ■ Keyboard
Interfaces	■ 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 For information about supported Ethernet interface types and adapters, see Knowledge Base article 9721.

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: ■ VMware ESXi 6.5 or 6.7 ■ KVM with Red Hat Enterprise Linux 7.8 or 8.1 ■ (Firewall/VPN role only) Microsoft Hyper-V on Windows Server 2012 R2 or Windows Server 2016 with an Intel 64-bit processor
Interfaces	■ At least one virtual network interface for the Firewall/VPN role ■ Three virtual network interfaces for IPS or Layer 2 Firewall roles The following network interface card drivers are recommended: ■ VMware ESXi platform — `vmxnet3`. ■ KVM platform — `virtio_net`.

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 6.8.8 is 24455.

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

- sg_engine_6.8.8.24455_x86-64-small.iso

```
SHA1SUM:
99f50b11ed945638b60efd1202deffdc3fab3042

SHA256SUM:
c85d35820a6f840a943c1d8cd9686b231106cad08c3d01510253d79fc1e079d5

SHA512SUM:
8177f951050279db6f1e0b4ebccbf2fd
c71db5d7f90081f101d258f43e4673ed
deeb7264569e1317e24eb826336154a8
e3d8e1804278d79839b5e3e0bcf48717
```

- sg_engine_6.8.8.24455_x86-64-small.zip

```
SHA1SUM:
63a288d62184790b1502d6dd263ec10b012d4e44

SHA256SUM:
373b1399889c4acb28bf8f55e89e4d95db17fab91d6003563dda87f437ae46c2

SHA512SUM:
c86f08690d294fbc476d9879006191bf
5b85500f25a92f678a5cf5d39c9f545f
4b7582938cfc8649d2bb2575523ee0bd
d9763e5e4d1b0870252774b3de9935c6
```

Compatibility

Forcepoint NGFW 6.8 is compatible with the following component versions.

- Forcepoint NGFW Security Management Center (SMC) 6.8 or higher
- Dynamic Update 1247 or higher
- Forcepoint VPN Client for Windows 6.6.0 or higher
- Stonesoft VPN Client for Windows 6.1.0 or higher
- Forcepoint VPN Client for Mac OS X 2.0.0 or higher
- Forcepoint VPN Client for Android 2.0.0 or higher
- Server Pool Monitoring Agent 4.0.0 or higher

- Forcepoint Endpoint Context Agent (ECA) 1.4.0 or higher
- Forcepoint Endpoint Context Agent (ECA) included in Forcepoint One Endpoint 19.05 or higher
- Forcepoint User ID Service 1.1.0 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* and the *Forcepoint Next Generation Firewall Installation Guide*.

Easier configuration of dynamic link selection for NGFW Engines

It is now possible to select Link Usage Profile elements for NGFW Engines in the Firewall/VPN role to define which link types are preferred, avoided, or not used for specific types of outbound Multi-Link traffic. NGFW Engine-specific exceptions to the Link Usage Profile also allow you to specify which traffic uses specific NetLinks.

PPPoE support on VLAN interfaces

You can now configure point-to-point protocol over Ethernet (PPPoE) for dynamic IP addresses that are assigned to VLAN interfaces. Using PPPoE for dynamic IP addresses that are assigned to VLAN interfaces allows you to connect to an ISP line that uses 802.1q VLAN tagging without using a separate switch.

Re-authentication when using browser-based user authentication

If an end user has authenticated using browser-based user authentication and the session will soon expire, the user can re-authenticate to extend the authentication time-out and avoid connections closing before the user has finished their tasks.

Dynamic update packages in the NGFW Manager

You can now upload and activate dynamic update packages in the NGFW Manager. Dynamic update packages provide updates for NGFW Engines, especially for deep inspection features.

For example, new threat patterns and changes in the system Templates and Policies are introduced in dynamic updates for up-to-date detection. They can also revise the default elements you use to configure the system.

For more information, see the *Forcepoint NGFW Manager and VPN Broker Product Guide*.

Support for the NGFW Engine tester in the NGFW Manager

You can now use the NGFW Engine tester in the NGFW Manager. The NGFW Engine tester runs various checks on the NGFW Engine and initiates responses based on the success or failure of these tests.

For more information, see the *Forcepoint NGFW Manager and VPN Broker Product Guide*.

Enhancements

This release of the product includes these enhancements.

Enhancements in Forcepoint NGFW version 6.8.0

Enhancement	Description
Custom script upload for NGFW Engines when using Custom Properties Profile elements	To upload custom scripts to the NGFW Engine, you can add the scripts to the properties of the NGFW Engine using a Custom Properties Profile element. The scripts are uploaded when the policy is installed or refreshed.
Expiration time for one-time passwords	You can now set the expiration time for one-time passwords that are generated when you save the initial configuration for an NGFW Engine. If the one-time password is not used, it automatically expires after the expiration time has elapsed. By default, one-time passwords expire after 30 days.
User domain support for integrated ICAP servers for DLP	NGFW integration with external ICAP servers for DLP now uses the WinNT schema in the X-Authenticated-Users header instead of the Local schema that was used previously. Using the WinNT schema allows matching users against a user domain in the user directory on the ICAP server.
Significant improvements in inspection performance	There are general improvements in how the NGFW Engines inspect traffic. Inspection performance has improved significantly, especially when application detection is enabled.
VPN broker member synchronization in VPN Broker high availability environment	When you use the VPN Broker in a high availability (HA) environment, the changes you make to the list of VPN Broker members are automatically synchronized with all the other VPN Broker gateways in the NGFW Manager.
ACPI shutdown support	Support for advanced configuration and power interface (ACPI) shutdown has been implemented. This feature allows graceful shutdown when terminating virtual instances in the Microsoft Azure and Amazon Web Services platforms.

Enhancements in Forcepoint NGFW version 6.8.1

Enhancement	Description
Improved VPN performance	VPN performance has been improved in environments where there is a high rate of new VPN connections.

Enhancements in Forcepoint NGFW version 6.8.4

Enhancement	Description
More memory usage details available using SNMP Agents for NGFW Engines	Two new counters for available memory are now reported in Forcepoint NGFW-specific SNMP MIBs. The new OIDs are fwMemBytesAvailable and fwMemBytesSReclaimable. To use the new counters, update the NGFW-specific SNMP MIB for your SNMP tools to the NGFW MIB 6.9 level. For more information, see Knowledge Base article 19210.

Enhancements in Forcepoint NGFW version 6.8.5

Enhancement	Description
Detections of brute force attacks against NGFW user authentication	After you install dynamic update package 1303 or higher, you can use new Correlation Situation elements to detect and prevent brute force attacks against NGFW user authentication. For more information, see Knowledge Base article 19259.

Enhancements in Forcepoint NGFW version 6.8.6

Enhancement	Description
Configuration of bidirectional forwarding detection using the Management Client	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. 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.
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.
Improved performance of interface driver for virtualization platforms	The performance of the vmxnet3 interface driver for virtualization platforms has been improved.

Resolved and known issues

For a list of resolved and known issues in this product release, see Knowledge Base article 18382.

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 6.8 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 6.8 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*.

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 Reference Guide*
- *Forcepoint VPN Client User Guide* for Windows or Mac
- *Forcepoint VPN Client Product Guide*