User Reviews of

Cisco ASA and Fortinet FortiGate

A Peek Into What Real Users Think

February 2017

IT Central Station
Unbiased reviews from the tech community

Contents

Overview

SOLUTION	Cisco ASA	Fortinet FortiGate
OVERVIEW	Adaptive Security Appliance (ASA) is Cisco's end-to-end software solution and core operating system that powers the Cisco ASA product series. This software solution provides enterprise-level firewall capabilities for all types of ASA products, including blades, standalone appliances and virtual devices. Adaptive Security Appliance provides protection to organizations of all sizes, and allows end-users to access information securely anywhere, at any time, and through any device.Adaptive...	The FortiGate family of NG firewalls provides proven protection with unmatched performance across the network, from internal segments, to data centers, to cloud environments. FortiGates are available in a large range of sizes and form factors and are key components of the Fortinet Security Fabric, which enables immediate, intelligent defense against known and new threats throughout the entire network.
SAMPLE CUSTOMERS	There are more than one million Adaptive Security Appliances deployed globally. Top customers include First American Financial Corp., Genzyme, Frankfurt Airport, Hansgrohe SE, and City of Tomorrow.	Pittsburgh Steelers, LUSH Cosmetics, NASDAQ, Verizon, Arizona State University, Levi Strauss & Co. Whitepaper and case studies here
TOP COMPARISONS	Fortinet FortiGate vs. Cisco ASA Compared 30% of the time Palo Alto Networks WildFire vs. Cisco ASA Compared 12% of the time pfSense vs. Cisco ASA Compared 9% of the time	Cisco ASA vs. Fortinet FortiGate Compared 20% of the time Palo Alto Networks WildFire vs. Fortinet FortiGate Compared 13% of the time Sophos UTM vs. Fortinet FortiGate Compared 12% of the time
TOP INDUSTRIES, BASED ON REVIEWERS*	Manufacturing Company ... 7% Government ... 8% Comms Service Provider ... 9% Financial Services Firm ... 17%	Manufacturing Company ... 6% Government ... 9% Comms Service Provider ... 10% Financial Services Firm ... 18%
TOP INDUSTRIES, BASED ON COMPANIES READING REVIEWS*	Government ... 6% Retailer ... 11% Financial Services Firm ... 11% Aerospace/Defense Firm ... 11%	Financial Services Firm ... 8% Health, Wellness And Fitness Company ... 8% Healthcare Company ... 15% Comms Service Provider ... 15%
COMPANY SIZE, BASED ON REVIEWERS*	1-100 Employees ... 28% 100-1000 Employees ... 30% 1000+ Employees ... 42%	1-100 Employees ... 27% 1000+ Employees ... 34% 100-1000 Employees ... 39%
COMPANY SIZE, BASED ON COMPANIES READING REVIEWS*	1-100 Employees ... 40% 100-1000 Employees ... 31% 1000+ Employees ... 29%	1-100 Employees ... 31% 100-1000 Employees ... 46% 1000+ Employees ... 23%

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users researching this solution.

Top Reviews by Topic

SOLUTION   Cisco ASA   Fortinet FortiGate

VALUABLE
FEATURES

Alberto E. Luna Rodriguez

Outstanding NGFW capabilities, Site to site VPNs and High Availability. Also the integration of FirePOWER services (Web Filtering/IPS/Malware Protection) are a huge step forwards for an already great platform. [Full Review]

David Varnum

Cisco ASA has a well-written command-line interface. Cisco's AnyConnect SSL VPN is by far the best client VPN technology I've ever had to deploy and manage. Upgrades are a breeze. Failovers between units are flawless. FirePower add-ons deepen security with intrusion prevention (IPS), anti-malware protection (AMP), and URL filtering. These particular services can run as a hardware or software module within the ASA. Unlike ASA with CSM, these modules are managed by FireSight, a single pane for all... [Full Review]

Rizwan Siddiqi

It blocks all outside to inside traffic and only permits the specific internet traffic from the outside. VPN functionality is very useful, we can create remote access and tunnel VPN in the simplest way. [Full Review]

Renato Pereira

* Active Directory integration * QOS * Balance/Fail-over * Web filtering and protection with AV engine * WiFi network for visitors isolated from our corporate WiFi network using only one unit [Full Review]

Simon Chaba

You can create multiple virtual domains (VDOMs) which are treated as separate firewall instances. The reporting you get out of this appliance is excellent and you don't need an external management system. [Full Review]

Manan Patel

* Policy control * Web filtering * Application filter works smoothly. * Controlling and tracing with web console works nicely for windows systems. * Better QoS than Checkpoint, I believe. [Full Review]

Top Reviews by Topic

SOLUTION	Cisco ASA	Fortinet FortiGate

IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION

Alberto E. Luna Rodriguez

We purchased a pair of ASAs to handle all perimeter traffic in and out of our network. This devices enabled us to secure all our perimeter traffic, WAN connections, Internet connectivity and Internet facing services. FirePOWER services enabled better control and visibility over the traffic traversing our perimeter. High Avalability helped us greatly improve the availability of the services by reducing downtime caused by both Incidents and planned maintenance operations. [Full Review]

ProjMan8210

* Endpoint control of mobile devices with Security Profiles compliancy checking, captive portal redirection, Antivirus, IPS and Web Filtering enabled on outgoing traffic (coupled to FortiClient solution) * Identity-based policies used to authenticated and profile users and guests whatever the media used to access the network (ie. Wired and WiFi) * Dynamic BGP routes injections to divert traffic requiring UTM inspection or DDOS mitigation * Two-Factor Authentication VPN SSL for itinerant users (c... [Full Review]

David Varnum

Cisco is a huge name in the networking world. Having a solution that includes their firewall technology adds value from an operability and support perspective. Cisco, although sometimes considered to be "behind the times" with firewall technology, continues to prove it has momentum in the industry through acquisitions such as Sourcefire (https://www.itcentralstation.com/products/cisco-sourcefire-firewalls) and OpenDNS (https://www.itcentralstation.com/products/opendns), with rapid integratio... [Full Review]

Simon Chaba

There is no need to buy physical firewall hardware when you are hosting multiple customers requiring individual secure access to their FW. You just create virtual domains (VDOMs). [Full Review]

NetworkEng896

It's good for what it is. I could achieve the same results with a pfSense (https://www.itcentralstation.com/products/comparisons/fortinet-fortigate_vs_pfsense) firewall. This one just comes in a nice hardware package. [Full Review]

SecuirtyArch819

The versatility of the product has allowed us to solve a number of perimeter requirements without having to seek out different products or companies for solutions. It has allowed for a single management mechanism, and by having a single platform solution, it has allowed for simpler training. [Full Review]

Top Reviews by Top

SOLUTION	Cisco ASA	Fortinet FortiGate

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Alberto E. Luna Rodriguez

Only problem in my opinion is ease of use. You really need to know your way around the CLI and complex feature set to get things working. The ASDM GUI is good for some things but for the most part you'll need to stick to the CLI which is a bit difficult specially if you don't have a lot of experience around Cisco equipment. [Full Review]

David Varnum

When running multiple firewalls in your network, you need someone to manage them from a central point. Cisco's answer is Cisco Security Manager (CSM). Unfortunately, this is a suite of applications that is in much need of an overhaul. It is riddled with bugs and lacks the intuitive experience found in competing vendor offerings. The counter-intuitive interface makes configuration management cumbersome and prone to mistakes. There are software defects within certain modules of the application, re... [Full Review]

SecuirtyArch819

The configuration/management interface is complex and can be confusing. Technical documentation is often sparse and can be incomplete when covering specific implementations. [Full Review]

ProjMan8210

* Fix all pending bugs present in 5.0.x branch * Improve the testing process of newly published firmware like using real and representative configurations submitted to consequent traffic load during a while * Support SNMPv3 INFORM requests * Uniform the scheduled backup between FortiGate, FortiManager and FortiAnalyzer * Integrate graphical troubleshoot tools for policies based on devices or user identities [Full Review]

Simon Chaba

Fortinet policies are built between zones or interface to interface. This can result duplicates being installed without warnings, resulting in policy auditing issues. Another issue is that Fortigate does not support Netflow, only sFlow is supported. [Full Review]

NetworkEng896

Better documentation about usage of the CLI. I learned most of what I know in diagnostic functionality through saving SSH sessions with the customer support staff while in WebEx sessions. I have tried looking up the manuals. They are OK in some respects, but I feel exhaustive documentation about the CLI "with examples" should be there, and I feel it's not. I'm saying, hey lets consolidate some of the primary real world scenarios like: Section A: - Troubeshooting B2B VPN peering with a business p... [Full Review]

Vendor Directory

Hewlett Packard Enterprise	3Com H3C Firewall
Barracuda Networks	Barracuda Networks NG Firewall
Check Point	Check Point Power-1
Check Point	Check Point UTM-1
Check Point	Check Point VPN-1
Check Point	Check Point VSX
Cisco	Cisco ASA
Cisco	Cisco Sourcefire Firewalls
Dell EMC	Dell SonicWALL NSA
Dell EMC	Dell SonicWALL TZ
Fortinet	Fortinet FortiGate
Intel Security	Intel Security Firewall Enterprise MFE
Intel Security	Intel Security StoneGate

Juniper	Juniper NetScreen [EOL]
Juniper	Juniper SRX
GFI	Kerio Control
Cisco	Meraki MX Firewalls
NETASQ	NETASQ Firewalls
Palo Alto Networks	Palo Alto Networks WildFire
pfSense	pfSense
Sophos	Sophos Cyberoam UTM
Sophos	Sophos UTM
Sophos	Sophos XG
Trustwave	Trustwave Firewalls
WatchGuard	WatchGuard XTM
Zscaler	Zscaler Web Security

Top Firewalls Vendors, Weighted

Over professionals have used IT Central Station research on enterprise tech. Here are the top vendors based on product reviews, ratings, and comparisons. All reviews and ratings are from real users, validated by our triple authentication process.
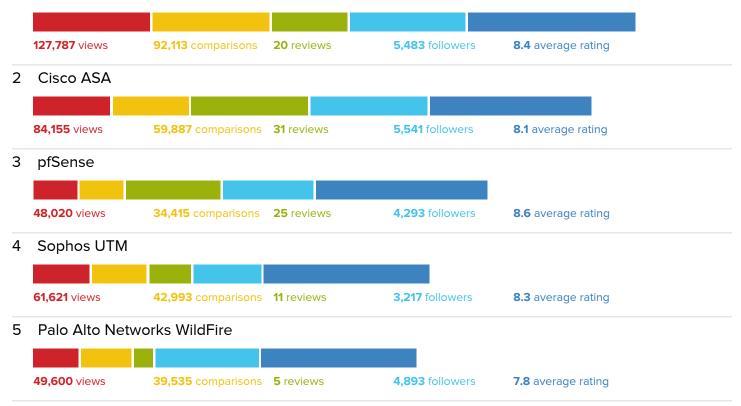
Chart Key

● **Views**	● **Comparisons**	● **Reviews**	● **Followers**	● **Average Rating**
Number of views	Number of times compared to another product	Total number of reviews on IT Central Station	Number of followers on IT Central Station	Average rating based on reviews

Bar length

The total ranking of a product (i.e. bar length) is based on a weighted aggregate ranking of that product's Views (weighting factor = 17.5%), Comparisons (17.5%), Reviews (17.5%), Followers (17.5%), and Average Rating (30%). Reviews and ratings by resellers are excluded from the rankings. For each ranking factor, the score (i.e. bar segment length) is calculated as a product of the weighting factor and its position for that ranking factor. For example, if a product has 80% of the number of reviews compared to the product with the most reviews in its category, then the product's bar length for reviews would be 17.5% (weighting factor) * 80%.

1 Fortinet FortiGate

127,787 views   **92,113** comparisons   **20** reviews   **5,483** followers   **8.4** average rating

2 Cisco ASA

84,155 views   **59,887** comparisons   **31** reviews   **5,541** followers   **8.1** average rating

3 pfSense

48,020 views   **34,415** comparisons   **25** reviews   **4,293** followers   **8.6** average rating

4 Sophos UTM

61,621 views   **42,993** comparisons   **11** reviews   **3,217** followers   **8.3** average rating

5 Palo Alto Networks WildFire

49,600 views   **39,535** comparisons   **5** reviews   **4,893** followers   **7.8** average rating

6   Sophos Cyberoam UTM

36,611 views   **28,826** comparisons   **10** reviews   **4,350** followers   **7.7** average rating

7   WatchGuard XTM

26,578 views   **18,960** comparisons   **19** reviews   **2,493** followers   **7.9** average rating

8   Dell SonicWALL TZ

22,099 views   **18,014** comparisons   **6** reviews   **2,970** followers   **8.0** average rating

9   Meraki MX Firewalls

14,660 views   **11,373** comparisons   **4** reviews   **1,623** followers   **9.7** average rating

10   Check Point UTM-1

8,596 views   **6,378** comparisons   **8** reviews   **2,441** followers   **8.5** average rating

To read more reviews please visit https://www.itcentralstation.com/products/comparisons/cisco-asa_vs_fortinet-fortigate

Top 5 Solutions by Ranking Factor

● Views

SOLUTION		VIEWS
1	Fortinet FortiGate	127,787
2	Cisco ASA	84,155
3	Sophos UTM	61,621
4	Palo Alto Networks WildFire	49,600
5	pfSense	48,020

● Reviews

SOLUTION		REVIEWS
1	Cisco ASA	31
2	pfSense	25
3	Fortinet FortiGate	20
4	WatchGuard XTM	19
5	Sophos UTM	11

● Followers

SOLUTION		FOLLOWERS
1	Cisco ASA	5,541
2	Fortinet FortiGate	5,483
3	Palo Alto Networks WildFire	4,893
4	Sophos Cyberoam UTM	4,350
5	pfSense	4,293

About this report

This report is comprised of a list of enterprise level vendors. We have also included several real user reviews posted on ITCentralStation.com. The reviewers of these products have been validated as real users based on their LinkedIn profiles to ensure that they provide reliable opinions and not those of product vendors.

About IT Central Station

The Internet has completely changed the way we make buying decisions. We now use ratings and review sites to see what other real users think before we buy electronics, book a hotel, visit a doctor or choose a restaurant. But in the world of enterprise technology, most of the information online and in your inbox comes from vendors but what you really want is objective information from other users.

We created IT Central Station to provide technology professionals like you with a community platform to share information about enterprise software, applications, hardware and services.

We commit to offering user-contributed information that is valuable, objective and relevant. We protect your privacy by providing an environment where you can post anonymously and freely express your views. As a result, the community becomes a valuable resource, ensuring you get access to the right information and connect to the right people, whenever you need it.

IT Central Station helps tech professionals by providing:

- A list of enterprise level vendors
- A sample of real user reviews from tech professionals
- Specific information to help you choose the best vendor for your needs

Use IT Central Station to:

- Read and post reviews of vendors and products
- Request or share information about functionality, quality, and pricing
- Contact real users with relevant product experience
- Get immediate answers to questions
- Validate vendor claims
- Exchange tips for getting the best deals with vendors

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