Four Steps to Future-Ready Network Security

Elevate Your Competitive Edge
How a company defines, designs and secures its network today has never been more important. The rise of hybrid, distributed workforces, data complexity, and connected devices have eliminated traditional perimeters and exposed the flaws of legacy networks. Legacy networks are too brittle, fragmented, and operationally complex, which hinders modern businesses’ ability to meet current digital demand. Organizations should make simplifying network security a strategic priority to break free instead of getting bogged down and modernize their business to maintain a competitive edge.

The pandemic forced everyone to completely rethink their approach to business operations, talent, and technology. Practically overnight, organizations fast-forwarded their plans for cloud adoption, sometimes cutting corners to bring SaaS to remote employees. Security teams that were already hamstrung by a pre-existing skills shortage are seeing their numbers dwindle due to the Great Resignation, which is further exacerbating the shortfall of resources and time. Despite these headwinds, executive leaders continue to rely on IT security to enable strategic business initiatives while retaining their talent long-term.

There is no better time to re-evaluate your security stack for opportunities to streamline and simplify the infrastructure. You must modernize your network or risk falling behind your competitors; you cannot afford to stand still. By combining agile solutions, direct-to-cloud connectivity, and systems designed securely from day one, you can provide your team the ability to control and manage your network securely, efficiently and remotely—at global scale. Use this guide to help you find the most efficient path forward. Follow these four steps to increase the flexibility of your network security and prepare not just for the needs of now, but for the flexible future.
You cannot manage what you cannot see. The traditional approach to cybersecurity has been to purchase dozens of point products from dozens of vendors and pile them all onto one another to gain the granular functionality needed to build and maintain any given network. This creates a compounding effect; not only does vendor sprawl create a procurement headache, but it also increases the likelihood of attribution errors and can significantly bog down a team’s ability to respond effectively. When you are running dozens of products, and something goes wrong, how do you know exactly which product is to blame? And even if your team can pinpoint the exact product, how much time did they waste traversing through each component of each product – time that could have been better spent taking the necessary steps to detect and respond or focusing on more impactful initiatives?

Eliminate the gaps in network visibility and accelerate incident response times
The Forcepoint Difference

Forcepoint Next-Generation Firewall is designed with centralized management to streamline operations and allow your teams to learn and maintain their networks from a single console. Rather than offering dozens of products that layer on top of one another, it’s designed to encompass all the important aspects of network security, such as an Intrusion Detection System (IDS) and Intrusion Prevention System (IPS), URL filtering, Zero Trust controls, and granular policy configurations. To grow a performant network, a network security solution must be flexible. Forcepoint Next-Generation Firewall is designed as software, rather than hardware, so you are not stuck in a box like with other vendors. Instead, consider how a flexible solution that can be deployed in a variety of environments – on-prem, virtually, or in the cloud – can open the realm of possibility not just of today, but to serve your network architectures of tomorrow. Do you have old hardware boxes sitting around you’d like to repurpose? Or perhaps you’d rather buy the highest end hardware from your vendor of choice to gain ultimate speed and performance? With our Next-Gen Firewall, you can spin up, spin down, and re-deploy in the environment of your choice. Gone are the days of buying products that only do one thing well – with our Next-Generation Firewall, your team can do more, with less.

Forcepoint Network Security Solutions take security to the highest levels, without the hits in performance and reliability that you’ve been forced to accept in the past. Awarded the top ‘AAA’ rating from CyberRatings.org, it offers unparalleled performance backed by relentless reliability. Secure SD-WAN, firewall, and intrusion prevention solutions work seamlessly with our Cloud and Data Security suites to provide unrivaled protection for users and data as they interact throughout your hybrid network.

→ **Next-Generation Firewall.** Top-rated security and performance, according to [CyberRatings.org Enterprise Network Firewall Ratings](https://cyberratings.org).

→ **Intrusion Detection System (IDS) & Intrusion Prevention System (IPS).** Pioneering anti-evasion detection and prevention with deep packet inspection the entirely deconstructs each network packet to uncover hidden threats.

→ **Encryption.** Granular control of encrypted traffic protects businesses while preserving privacy. Rest assured that our transparency around management of personal data published with every release that has the potential to impact sensitive data.

→ **Endpoint Context Agent.** Immediate insight into user actions from endpoint through the cloud to protect your people, your network, and your data with automated enforcement.
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Build a more resilient, scalable architecture with Secure SD-WAN

Traditional "backhauled" networks and outdated hub-and-spoke network models can no longer meet the demands of the modern, distributed workforce. Forcing every connection through a single location guarantees bottlenecks and a poor user experience. It’s not just the network architectures that need to change, but it’s also the outdated networking connections, such as MPLS, that are no longer performant enough to provide the user experience the modern workforce has come to expect in the interconnected era. Not to mention, technologies like MPLS are cost prohibitive, especially as organizations increase in size. When added to the current landscape of patchwork point products and vendor sprawl, networking teams have found themselves paying too much for connections that do not meet their performance demands.

Furthermore, the accelerated digital transformation due to the global pandemic and increased reliance on cloud applications without proper network controls has created gaps in security—as well as visibility. Cloud computing has expanded attack surfaces and increased complexity. There simply is no easy "lift and shift" approach to the networks of tomorrow—they demand a strategic, intentional approach to build with flexibility and security from the ground up. Stopping breaches in their tracks means shifting to a secure-by-design mindset and toolkit, without placing the burden of steep learning curves onto network administrators. Secure SD-WAN allows organizations to connect their entire network seamlessly, without added complexity, at global scale. Connect, protect, and perform with a Secure SD-WAN solution.
The Forcepoint Difference

Forcepoint Next-Generation Firewall with built-in Secure SD-WAN integrates direct-to-cloud connectivity with industry-leading network security. It leverages MultiLink™ technology to create more resilient network architectures with multiple redundancies and automated failover to help ensure your business doesn’t go offline, even in the face of challenges. Easily spin up new sites or new network mesh in minutes, not days, with EasyConnect or Secure SD-WAN Broker features. Take advantage of the out-of-the-box tooling that your team needs to deploy the most performant, reliable networks not only today, but well into the future.

→ **Lower costs.** Uses commodity broadband connections or other connections of your choice in place of expensive MPLS lines.
→ **Faster speeds.** Takes advantage of the latest technologies, boosting user productivity.
→ **Greater agility.** Changes connection configurations, policies, and even software in minutes. Bring new sites online without waiting for carrier provisioning delays.

Forcepoint EasyConnect offers Easy Configuration to connect Next-Generation Firewall to the Forcepoint Cloud.
Forcepoint MultiLink™ is a superior solution for resilient network architectures.
Four Steps to Future-Ready Network Security

Simplify your management experience to accelerate your business

The world has never seen a labor market like the one we are living through today. They are calling it “The Great Resignation.”

The pandemic has created disruptions in supply chains and a strain on the workforce that has led to burnout. Employees have more choice than they have had before, and top-tier network security talent is both hard to find and expensive to lose. The last thing network managers and administrators want is to take on a role that will require them to cobble together dozens of products that will rob them of the visibility, clarity, and efficiency they need to do their jobs well.

We hear from network administrators and managers time and time again that centralized management significantly simplifies their day-to-day operations by giving them one place to focus. One User Interface (UI) means that they can learn faster, spend less time swimming through multiple platforms and products, and accelerate the time it takes them to notice and respond to areas of concern. If you’re looking for a network solution that will help you put time back in your day, seeking one that provides a centralized management offering is key—for both your administrator’s ease of use and for your organization’s overall ability to defend its networks.
The Forcepoint Difference

Forcepoint Security Management Center (SMC) provides a sophisticated set of tools with a simplified experience—from our drag-and-drop functionality to our fast global search—all in one place. Designed to accelerate the time it takes to accomplish routine tasks, as well as the ability to automate redundant or routine tasks, it is designed to free up you and your team to focus on more strategic activities. Not only does our SMC help to simplify your day-to-day operations, but it also helps you become more effective in your role. Automate your orchestration or even custom build to suit your goals with our robust APIs. Though your toolkit is only one piece of the security puzzle, it is arguably one of the most important ones. In today’s world of increasing cyberattacks with no end in sight, an all-in-one network security solution allows you to easily build, deploy, monitor and maintain your infrastructure. We believe in developing tools that work hard so you and your teams can be free to work smart.

Forcepoint Next-Generation Firewall puts administrators in the driver’s seat.

→ **Zero trust granular controls.** Leverage granular user permissions, policy controls and regulatory enforcements to create checks and balances across the infrastructure and automatic prevention of unwanted user actions.

→ **Single-click policy updates & deployments.** Push policies or spin up new sites remotely from a centralized management console and save your teams the headache of dealing with data centers.

→ **Increase agility.** Easily build and maintain automated policies, procedures, and controls to free up your administrators so they can focus on more strategic initiatives.
Making the decision to rip and replace your current network security infrastructure is no small feat, especially when there are so many options in the marketplace today.

Striking the balance between a level of sophistication required to run a modern, performant network with a simplified management experience is the key to unlocking a solution that your administrators won’t dread working with day in and day out.

Look for features that help create a better work/life balance for your team, such as the ability for your administrators to automate routine security hygiene tasks and remotely deploy entire sites. Consider features that are built-in versus bolted on. Secure SD-WAN capabilities integrated with network security solutions give your administrators valuable visibility over connection quality and the benefits of automated failover processes that build a resilient network architecture foundation. Deep customizations like Quality of Service (QoS) controls and granular visibility down to the endpoint, application, and user level allow your team to quickly detect and respond to not only threats, but poor user experience indicators and network interruptions so they can move from a state of reactive to proactive. Your toolkit should strike a delicate balance between being highly secure and prioritizing the end user experience.
The Forcepoint Difference

More than just a connectivity and security solution, Forcepoint Next-Generation Firewall provides the comprehensive toolkit that is enabling teams of today to build the network architectures of tomorrow. Our unique approach to this industry-leading security technology is designed to build the foundation you need to enable the protection of users, devices, identities, assets, and data. We build our products with security in mind from day one, with critical functionality like Zero Trust access controls, simple processes for spinning up new sites – or entire architecture – in minutes instead of days, and industry-leading defensive technologies. Combining all of these capabilities into one solution allows your teams to level-up their network defense while accelerating network performance at scale. Give your teams the ability not just to survive but thrive—only with Forcepoint Next-Generation Firewall.

→ **One platform, many solutions.** Secure SD-WAN connectivity, intrusion detection and prevention, VPN, anti-evasion, decryption, segmentation, endpoint awareness, and more.

→ **Unparalleled hybrid visibility.** Extend your visibility and protect your connections to public clouds such as AWS, Azure, Oracle, Google Cloud, IBM, and more.

→ **Future-ready flexibility.** Build the foundation you need to create your network architecture of tomorrow, today.

*Learn more about Forcepoint Next-Gen Firewall →*
Forcepoint is the leading user and data protection cybersecurity company, entrusted to safeguard organizations while driving digital transformation and growth. Forcepoint’s humanly-attuned solutions adapt in real-time to how people interact with data, providing secure access while enabling employees to create value. Based in Austin, Texas, Forcepoint creates safe, trusted environments for thousands of customers worldwide.

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