



FORCEPOINT

NGFW Security Management Center Appliance

Release Notes

6.5.15

Revision A

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About this release

This document contains important information about this software release for the Forcepoint NGFW Security Management Center Appliance (SMC Appliance). We strongly recommend that you read the entire document.

The SMC Appliance ships with pre-installed Forcepoint NGFW Security Management Center (SMC) software. The pre-installed SMC includes a Management Server and a Log Server. You can alternatively install the SMC Appliance software on a virtualization platform.



Note: The SMC Appliance does not support high-availability for the Management Server or the Log Server.

Build number and checksums

The build number for SMC 6.5.15 is 10680. This release contains Dynamic Update package 1244.

Use checksums to make sure that files downloaded correctly.

- 6.5.15U001.sap

```
SHA1SUM:
63907cd34092cccc5a45c152f2e4a089bfaeae97

SHA256SUM:
56bb70c35c589398f8adca008ffd901d2340384027e2c6587c5d7415eb6a49e1

SHA512SUM:
25039ad62615113c6914f9e8418b618c
a4e406dea70795c444cbb1c709e02047
08357cd0bc214ef94c0d3a524dc346a9
8bb684119891e0ab40612b21a2826dd5
```

System requirements on virtualization platforms

As an alternative to using the SMC Appliance software on the pre-installed Forcepoint appliance, you can install the SMC Appliance software on a virtualization platform.



CAUTION: To protect the privacy of your data, we recommend installing the NGFW Engines, SMC components, or SMC Appliance on a hypervisor that does not host any other virtual machines.

Component	Requirement
Hypervisor	VMware ESXi version 6.0 or higher
Memory	8 GB RAM
Virtual disk space	120 GB
Interfaces	At least one network interface

The .iso installation file that is used to install the SMC Appliance software on a virtualization platform is available only for major versions of the SMC Appliance. To install the maintenance version, first install the .iso for the major version, then upgrade to the maintenance version.

Compatibility

SMC 6.5 can manage all compatible Forcepoint NGFW Engine versions up to and including version 6.5.



Important: Some versions of Forcepoint NGFW have reached end-of-life status. Maintenance releases that contain security updates are no longer provided for Forcepoint NGFW versions that have reached end-of-life status. Even though these Forcepoint NGFW versions are compatible with the SMC, we recommend that you use a Long-Term Support version that is still supported. For more information about the Forcepoint NGFW lifecycle policy, see <https://support.forcepoint.com/ProductSupportLifeCycle>.

SMC 6.5 is compatible with the following component versions.

- Forcepoint™ Next Generation Firewall (Forcepoint NGFW) 6.2 or higher
- Stonesoft® Next Generation Firewall by Forcepoint (Stonesoft NGFW) 6.0 and 6.1
- McAfee® Next Generation Firewall (McAfee NGFW) 5.7, 5.8, 5.9, and 5.10
- Stonesoft Firewall/VPN Express 5.5
- McAfee® ePolicy Orchestrator® (McAfee ePO™) 5.3 or higher
- McAfee® Enterprise Security Manager (McAfee ESM) 9.2.0 or higher (9.1.0 CEF only)

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*.

SD-WAN dashboard

The SD-WAN dashboard makes the software-defined wide area network (SD-WAN) features that are already part of Forcepoint NGFW more visible. The SD-WAN dashboard allows you to monitor SD-WAN features, such as outbound Multi-Link and Multi-Link VPNs, and to view statistics and reports related to SD-WAN features.

Application routing

You can now apply different NAT rules to traffic, select which VPN traffic uses, and redirect traffic to different proxy servers depending on the network applications detected in the traffic.

Route metrics, ECMP, and route monitoring

You can now define multiple static routes to the same destination and apply metrics to the routes. The routes with a lower metric value can be used as backup routes. When you enable the equal-cost multi-path (ECMP) feature on the routes, there is a potential increase in bandwidth as traffic is balanced between the routes. In addition, you can use probes to monitor the status of a route. If a route is unavailable, the route is removed from the routing table and traffic is automatically sent over another route.

Enhancements

This release of the product includes these enhancements.

Enhancements in SMC version 6.5.0


Enhancement	Description
Viewing log data on the SMC Appliance command line	A new option “log-view” for the smca-system command line tool allows you to view the contents of log files in the SMC Appliance log data directory /var/log and in any of its subdirectories.
Audit data storage	For new installations, audit data is stored on its own partition.
Integrated User ID Service on NGFW Engines	You can now use the Integrated User ID Service on the NGFW Engines to provide transparent user identification for access control by user. The Integrated User ID Service is primarily meant for demonstration purposes and proof-of-concept testing of user identification services.
LDAP authentication for administrators	You can now authenticate administrators using simple password authentication against integrated external LDAP databases.

Enhancement	Description
VPN tunnels can remain established	You can now set specific VPN tunnels to always remain established even when no traffic is sent through the VPN tunnel.
Improved sorting options in the Home view	You can now organize Active Alerts by Severity and Type, and organize User Behavior Events by Activity, User, User Alert Check Type, User Alert, and Severity.
IPv6 support for DHCP relay	You can now use DHCP relay on interfaces that have IPv6 addresses.
Node-initiated contact to Management Server for clustered NGFW Engines	Firewall Clusters and Master NGFW Engines in the Firewall/VPN role now support node-initiated contact to the Management Server. The clustered NGFW Engine opens a connection to the Management Server and maintains connectivity.
More precise controls for endpoint use	You can now define which VPN endpoints can communicate with each other, and how the endpoints are used in a Multi-Link configuration.
Dynamic routing with active-active clustering	You can now use dynamic routing in Firewall Clusters that use load-balancing mode. In load-balancing mode, all nodes in the cluster are online at the same time and traffic is balanced between the nodes, increasing performance for inspection and VPN traffic.
Support for ECA Evaluation deployment	It is now easier to deploy the Endpoint Context Agent to a limited set of users for evaluation. The ECA client and all necessary certificates can be downloaded from the ECA Evaluation web application and installed on endpoints. For details, see Knowledge Base article 16193 .
Dynamic elements specific to cloud platforms	You can use a specific naming scheme with Domain Name elements in Access rules to run a script on the NGFW Engine that resolves dynamic element names specific to a cloud platform to IP addresses. The IP addresses are resolved through API calls rather than regular network DNS queries. For more information, see Knowledge Base article 16290 .

Enhancements in SMC version 6.5.1

Enhancement	Description
TLS Profile for connecting to Forcepoint servers	The Management Server now uses a custom TLS Profile element for automatically downloading license updates, dynamic updates, and NGFW Engine upgrades from Forcepoint servers. The TLS Profile element defines the settings for cryptography, trusted certificate authorities, and the TLS version used in TLS-protected traffic.

Enhancements in SMC version 6.5.2

Enhancement	Description
New URLs for dynamic updates and engine upgrades	<p>To improve the performance of automatic dynamic updates and engine upgrades, the following new URLs are available in SMC 6.5.2 and higher:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://autoupdate.ngfw.forcepoint.com/dynup.rss https://autoupdate.ngfw.forcepoint.com/ngfw.rss <p> Note: The SMC automatically starts using the new URLs when you upgrade to SMC 6.5.2 or higher and activate the dynamic update package that includes the new URLs.</p> <p>The new URLs use a content distribution network (CDN) to allow the SMC to download dynamic update packages and engine upgrade files from the geographically closest server. The legacy https://update-pool.stonesoft.com/index.rss URL remains available for backward compatibility and as a backup for the new URLs.</p>
Configurable update services for dynamic updates and engine upgrades	<p>New Update Service elements define sets of URLs for automatic dynamic updates and engine upgrades. In SMC 6.5.2 and higher, the SMC automatically uses Update Service elements that include both the new URLs and the legacy URL. No action is needed to start using the Update Service elements that include the new URLs.</p> <p>You can optionally change which Update Service element is used for automatic dynamic updates and engine upgrades. For more information, see Knowledge Base article 16589.</p>
Enhancements in the User Dashboard	<p>The following enhancements have been made in the User Dashboard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The user domain is now always shown for users in the User Dashboard. To prevent information about them from cluttering the User Dashboard statistics, the System and Root users are no longer shown in the User Dashboard statistics. The endpoint IP address is now always shown for users in the User Dashboard.
Alert Policy management in the SMC API	You can now manage Alert Policies using the SMC API.
Support for custom fields in CEF log format	You can now configure custom fields when you export or forward logs to an external service in CEF or LEEF formats.

Enhancements in SMC version 6.5.3

Enhancement	Description
Configurable wait time between inspected packets	To optimize latency and CPU utilization, you can now customize how long the inspection process waits for additional packets.

Enhancements in SMC version 6.5.6

Enhancement	Description
Export all elements except those in the Trash	When using the SMC API or the sgExport command on the command line, there is now the option to exclude elements that are in the Trash when exporting all elements.

Enhancements in SMC version 6.5.11

Enhancement	Description
New default settings for VPN profiles	The default values that are selected when you create a new VPN Profile element have been changed to better meet the needs of typical users.

Enhancements in SMC version 6.5.14

Enhancement	Description
Route monitoring in the SMC API	The SMC API now responds with an error code if a monitoring session cannot be opened when the client makes an HTTP request to retrieve routing monitoring information. For more information, see Knowledge Base article 18186 .

Resolved issues

These issues are resolved in this release of the product. For a list of issues fixed in a previous release, see the Release Notes for the specific release.

Description	Issue number
Policy installation fails if more than three NetLink-specific DNS IP addresses are defined.	SMC-26218
SMC versions 6.5.14 and 6.7.3 do not include QoS exceptions for VPN tunnels in the generated firewall configuration. When you edit the VPN mode, QoS exceptions are not saved.	SMC-27705
If log files are stored on several Log Servers, a log export might not export all filtered log entries.	SMC-27829
When you run a policy refresh task for Master NGFW Engines and Virtual NGFW Engines that have different policies, the progress tab might show that the task has stopped working even though the task finished successfully.	SMC-27944
The Home view might show that there are pending changes for a Virtual NGFW Engine after you refresh the policy on Master NGFW Engines and Virtual NGFW Engines.	SMC-28099
After a few policy installations on a Master NGFW Engine, sending commands to the NGFW Engine or opening monitoring views might fail. The following message is shown: "Element is locked (Policy refresh)".	SMC-28122
When a Log Server has been unavailable, the Management Server might not send correlation policies to the Log Server after it becomes available again.	SMC-28223

Install the SMC Appliance

Use these high-level steps to install the SMC Appliance.

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

Steps

- 1) Turn on the SMC Appliance.
- 2) Select the keyboard layout for accessing the SMC Appliance on the command line.
- 3) Accept the EULA.
- 4) Enter the account name and password.
For credential requirements, see the *Forcepoint Next Generation Firewall Installation Guide*.
- 5) Make your security selections.
- 6) Complete the network interface and network setup fields.
- 7) Enter a host name for the Management Server.
- 8) Select the time zone.
- 9) (Optional) Configure NTP settings.
- 10) After the SMC Appliance has restarted, install the Management Client.
You can use Java Web Start or install the Management Client from a file to allow remote access to the SMC. Java Web Start is enabled by default on the Management Server that is pre-installed on the SMC Appliance.
- 11) Import the licenses for all components.
You can generate licenses at <https://stonesoftlicenses.forcepoint.com>.
- 12) Create the NGFW Engine elements, then install and configure the NGFW Engines.

Upgrade the SMC Appliance

Use an upgrade patch to upgrade the SMC Appliance from a previous version to version 6.5.15.

There are two kinds of SMC Appliance patches:

- Hotfix patches include improvements and enhancements for the current SMC Appliance version.
Hotfix patch files use the letter P as a separator between the version number and the patch number. Example: 6.5.1P001

- Upgrade patches upgrade the SMC Appliance to a new version.
Upgrade patch files use the letter U as a separator between the version number and the patch number.
Example: 6.5.1U001

We recommend checking the availability of SMC Appliance patches regularly, and installing the patches when they become available. For detailed information about installing SMC Appliance patches, see the *Forcepoint Next Generation Firewall Installation Guide*.



CAUTION: Before upgrading the SMC Appliance from version 6.2.0, install the 6.2.0P001 patch. For more information, see Knowledge Base article [14168](#).

- SMC 6.5 requires an updated license.
 - If the automatic license update function is in use, the license is updated automatically.
 - If the automatic license update function is not in use, request a license upgrade on our website at <https://stonesoftlicenses.forcepoint.com>. Activate the new license using the Management Client before upgrading the software.
- The SMC Appliance must be upgraded before the NGFW Engines are upgraded to the same major version.
- You can upgrade from the following SMC versions:
 - 6.4.7 – 6.4.10
 - 6.5.1 – 6.5.14

Versions lower than 6.2.0 require an upgrade to one of these versions before upgrading to 6.5.15.

- If you configured SNMP for the SMC Appliance before upgrading to version 6.4.0 or higher, you must configure SNMP again.

Steps

- 1) Log on to the SMC Appliance.
- 2) To check for available upgrade patches, enter the following command:

```
sudo ambr-query -u
```

- 3) To load the patch on the SMC Appliance, enter the following command:

```
sudo ambr-load 6.5.15U001
```

If you downloaded the patch and transferred it to the SMC Appliance, append the load command with the `-f` option and specify the full path to the patch file. Example:

```
sudo ambr-load -f /var/tmp/6.5.15U001.sap
```

- 4) To install the patch on the SMC Appliance, enter the following command:

```
sudo ambr-install 6.5.15U001
```

The installation process prompts you to continue.

- 5) Enter `Y`.

Result

The installation process restarts the appliance and installs the patch. When the upgrade is finished, the appliance restarts. The appliance is now running SMC Appliance 6.5.15.

Known issues

For a list of known issues in this product release, see Knowledge Base article [16274](#).

Find product documentation

On the Forcepoint support website, 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 on the Forcepoint support website at <https://support.forcepoint.com>. There, you can access product documentation, Knowledge Base articles, downloads, cases, and contact information.

You might need to log on to access the Forcepoint support website. 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*

