Forcepoint

NGFW Security Management Center Appliance

6.8.4

Release Notes

Revision A

Contents

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 6.8.4 is 10922. This release contains Dynamic Update package 1310.

Use checksums to make sure that files downloaded correctly.

- 6.8.4U001.sap

  ```
  SHA1SUM:
  dec10a5955e38aae73d38d6a53d2f09c27bc3760

  SHA256SUM:
  e6503d0e8674eacf1397c146e6c29b43ff2c2dcfb7cbf84402f4c7c1fba2e392

  SHA512SUM:
  08cca2f2d432f6436ae1724d5e704be1
  239d57b317cb1dc5c8c31ac2d021ed04
  2dd25be957bf169991a77cb54e0b73bb
  8af7b4e639bfae244c8214cb4b2cea04
  ```

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 6.8 can manage all compatible Forcepoint NGFW Engine versions up to and including version 6.8.

Important

Some versions of Forcepoint NGFW have reached end-of-life status and no longer receive maintenance releases that contain security updates. Even though these Forcepoint NGFW versions might be 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 6.8 is compatible with the following component versions.

- Forcepoint Next Generation Firewall (Forcepoint NGFW) 6.3 or higher
- McAfee Next Generation Firewall (McAfee NGFW) 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*.

UIID license binding for SMC licenses

When you install the SMC or upgrade the SMC to version 6.8, the SMC generates a Unique Installation Identifier (UIID). As an alternative to binding licenses for SMC components to the IP addresses of the components, you can now bind the SMC licenses to a UIID. Using UIID binding allows organizations to obtain SMC licenses without disclosing the internal IP addresses of the SMC components.

Note

The UIID is not stored in SMC backups or restored when you restore a backup. After the UIID is generated, it will not be overwritten when you restore backups or upgrade the SMC in the future.

You can continue to use your existing licenses or optionally change the license binding method. You can use IP-address-bound licenses for some SMC components and UIID-bound licenses for other SMC components.

Management Client downloads from the Management Server

Java Web Start is no longer supported in SMC 6.8. As an alternative, you can now configure the Management Server to provide the Management Client installation files on a download web page hosted by the Management Server. Administrators download and install the Management Client from the locally hosted SMC Downloads web page.

Note

Management Client downloads are not supported for macOS in SMC 6.8. For administrators who use macOS, we recommend using the SMC Web Access feature.

SMC Web Access support

The SMC Web Access feature is now supported on the SMC Appliance. As an alternative to installing the Management Client locally, you can use SMC Web Access to start and run the Management Client in a web browser.

SMC Web Access is enabled by default for new installations of the SMC Appliance. If you upgrade the SMC Appliance to version 6.8.0, you must manually enable SMC Web Access. For instructions, see the upgrade instructions in these release notes.

Note

Java Web Start is no longer supported in SMC 6.8.

Enhancements

This release of the product includes these enhancements.

Enhancements in SMC version 6.8.0

Enhancement	Description
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.

Enhancements in SMC version 6.8.1

Enhancement	Description
Tool to remove old backups	The smca-backup-remove command has been added to remove old SMC Appliance backup files.

Enhancements in SMC version 6.8.2

Enhancement	Description
Configurable timeout for session monitoring	Previously, monitoring views might have failed to open when there were several backup Log Servers and the primary Log Server was unreachable. You can now define the timeout for receiving monitoring data from NGFW Engines. To define the timeout, edit the <installation folder>/data/SGConfiguration.txt file and add the following parameter: `SESMON_LOGSERVER_SELECTION_TIMEOUT=<timeout_in_milliseconds>` The default value is 20000.

Enhancements in SMC version 6.8.3

Enhancement	Description
Resource monitoring for SMC servers and the Management Client	The **Info** pane for Management Servers, Log Servers, and Web Portal Servers now shows information about resource usage on the computers where the servers are installed. The bottom right corner of the Management Client window shows the memory usage of the Management Client. If the memory usage gets too high, the Management Server, Log Server, Web Portal Server, or the Management Client automatically restarts. When the server or the Management Client restarts, an alert and an audit entry are generated. You can optionally disable automatic restart.
Password policy enhancements	The settings for password complexity requirements in the password policy now also apply to SMC administrator accounts that are replicated as local administrator accounts on NGFW Engines, the root account on NGFW Engines, and the Management Server database password.
New Log Server and Management Server configuration parameters	In the LogServerConfiguration.txt file, you can now add a new configuration parameter to recover connectivity from the Log Server to TCP syslog servers. For more information, see Knowledge Base article 19219. In the SGConfiguration.txt file, you can now add a new configuration parameter to define how many tasks the Management Server can run in parallel. For more information, see Knowledge Base article 19218.
More granular identification of Microsoft Office 365 network applications	Starting from dynamic update package 1300, the Microsoft-Office-365 Network Application element includes dependencies that allow more granular identification of Microsoft Office 365 in traffic. No action is required if you use the Microsoft-Office-365 Network Application element in the following types of rules: ▪ Access rules with the Allow, Discard, Refuse, or Jump action ▪ NAT rules If you use the Microsoft-Office-365 Network Application element in an access rule with the Continue action, you must manually add the Network Application elements that are listed as dependencies. Options that are configured in a rule with the Continue action are not automatically applied to dependencies. For more information, see Knowledge Base article 19195.

Enhancements in SMC version 6.8.4

Enhancement	Description
Optimization of status monitoring in large-scale SMC environments	New parameters for the Management Server and Log Server allow you to optimize the performance of status monitoring for NGFW Engines, VPNs, and NetLinks for SD-WAN in large-scale SMC environments. For more information, see Knowledge Base article 19285.

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
If the name of an NGFW element includes only numbers, the name might not be shown correctly in all views.	SMC-28359
If the Log Server is restarted while a scheduled task is running, the task stops progressing and prevents other scheduled tasks from running. The issue does not occur if the Log Server is stopped for a while before it is started again.	SMC-28910
If the Log Server's archive directory contains a large number of files, upgrading the Log Server might be slow.	SMC-29186
The appliance diagram does not show interface status for NGFW appliances that have an integrated switch.	SMC-32495
During the renewal of the SMC's internal certificate authority, the previous CA is in the "Active" state at the same time as the new CA is in the "Ready to Use" state. If a new NGFW Engine attempts to make initial contact while the CA renewal is in progress and the Management Server has already been certified using the new CA, initial contact might fail.	SMC-32809
Validation of the authentication key for NTP Server elements enforces a maximum key length for each key type and does not allow you to enter the key in ASCII. The value of the Key field is also shown by default while the key is being entered. After the changes, the maximum lengths for the authentication key are 32 hexadecimal characters for MD5, 40 hexadecimal characters for SHA-1, and 64 hexadecimal characters for SHA-2. If ASCII characters are used, the maximum length is 20 characters for all key types.	SMC-33006
Customized heap size values for Log Server, Web Portal, and Management Clients are not preserved when you upgrade to SMC version 6.8.3. You must modify your configuration if you previously changed the Java heap size of the Management Client using the MAX_HEAP_SIZE parameter in the sgClient.sh or sgClient.bat file.	SMC-33340
If you use a scheduled task to refresh the policy on Master NGFW Engines and Virtual NGFW Engines, the policy might not be refreshed on the Virtual NGFW Engines even though the task history shows that the task is finished.	SMC-33341
When there are multiple administrative Domains, the default LDAP domain setting in the Shared Domain overrides the default LDAP domain setting in individual administrative Domains.	SMC-33381
You cannot use an Alias element as the translation value of another Alias element that is used as the source of a dynamic NAT rule.	SMC-33452

Description	Issue number
When using the SMC API, if a sequence to GET a cluster is updated to use PUT, NGFW Engine tester definitions are removed.	SMC-33661
When you select a Virtual NGFW Engine as the sender, some sections in VPN Overviews do not show any data.	SMC-33863
If the antispoofing configuration includes an element that refers to itself, the following error message is shown when you try to view the policy snapshot for the NGFW Engine: "The creation of the storable antispoofing element for the interface with a dynamic IP address failed".	SMC-33870
When you use the SMC API to replace a router that has a dynamic IP address with a Dynamic NetLink element in the routing configuration for an interface that has a dynamic IP address, routes through both the router and the NetLink appear in the Routing view.	SMC-33895
When user authentication is enabled in an Access rule, policy validation incorrectly gives a warning.	SMC-33964

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.
    As an alternative to installing the Management Client locally, you can use SMC Web Access to start and run the Management Client in a web browser. SMC Web Access is enabled by default for new installations of 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 6.8.4.

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: 6.8.1P001
- 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: 6.8.1U001

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*.

- SMC 6.8 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 – 6.5.18
  - 6.6.0 – 6.6.5
  - 6.7.0 – 6.7.5
  - 6.8.0 – 6.8.3
-
- If you configured SNMP for the SMC Appliance before upgrading to version 6.4.0 or higher, you must configure SNMP again.

You can upgrade the SMC Appliance using the Management Client or using the appliance maintenance and bug remediation (AMBR) patching utility on the command line of the SMC Appliance.

> **Note**
>
> In SMC version 6.8.3 and higher, the default path to the installation of xvfb-run for SMC Web Access is set to /usr/bin, and you cannot change the path using the Management Client.

If you use SMC Web Access on a Management Server or Web Portal Server installed on a Linux platform and need to change the path to the installation of xvfb-run, follow these steps:

1) On the Management Server or the Web Portal Server, edit the `SGConfiguration.txt` or `WebPortalConfiguration.txt` file.

2) Add the following parameter:

```
XVFB_RUN_DEFAULT_PATH=<path>
```

Replace `<path>` with the path to the installation of xvfb-run.

Note

If you use the SMC-Python library for interacting with the SMC API, you must upgrade the SMC-Python library to version 0.7.0b27 when you upgrade to SMC 6.8.4. To upgrade the SMC-Python library, see https://github.com/Forcepoint/fp-NGFW-SMC-python.

Upgrade the SMC Appliance in the Management Client

You can use the Management Client to upgrade the SMC Appliance. In some certified environments, you must use the Management Client to install SMC Appliance patches.

Steps For more details about the product and how to configure features, click **Help** or press **F1**.

1) Start the Management Client.

2) Select **Configuration**, then browse to **Administration**.

3) Browse to **SMC Appliance Patches**.

4) Download or import the 6.8.4U001 patch file.
   - To download the 6.8.4U001 patch using the Management Client, right-click the 6.8.4U001 patch, then select **Download SMC Appliance Patch**.
   - If you manually downloaded the 6.8.4U001 patch, right-click **SMC Appliance Patches**, select **Import SMC Appliance Patches**, browse to the 6.8.4U001 patch file, then click **Import**.

5) Right-click the 6.8.4U001 patch file, then select **Activate**.

6) (Optional) To allow administrators to start and run the Management Client in a web browser, enable the SMC Web Access feature after the upgrade is complete.

   a) Log on to the SMC Appliance.

   b) To enable the SMC Web Access feature, enter the following command:

```
sudo /usr/local/forcepoint/smc/bin/sgActivateWebswing.sh
```

c) When prompted, enter your SMC user credentials.

When the configuration is complete, administrators can start and run the Management Client in a web browser.

Upgrade the SMC Appliance on the command line

You can use the AMBR patching utility to patch or upgrade the SMC Appliance on the command line.

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 6.8.4U001
```

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/6.8.4U001.sap
```

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

```
sudo ambr-install 6.8.4U001
```

The installation process prompts you to continue.

5) Enter `Y`.

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 6.8.4.

6) (Optional) To allow administrators to start and run the Management Client in a web browser, enable the SMC Web Access feature after the upgrade is complete.

a) Log on to the SMC Appliance.

b) To enable the SMC Web Access feature, enter the following command:

```
sudo /usr/local/forcepoint/smc/bin/sgActivateWebswing.sh
```

c) When prompted, enter your SMC user credentials.

When the configuration is complete, administrators can start and run the Management Client in a web browser.

Known issues

For a list of known issues in this product release, see Knowledge Base article 18381.

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, release notes, 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 User Guide* (Formerly *Forcepoint NGFW SMC API Reference Guide*)
- *Forcepoint VPN Client User Guide* for Windows or Mac
- *Forcepoint VPN Client Product Guide*

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