



The FortiGate is a dedicated hardware device to care of all your security needs.

Fortress like protection

Fortinet, the market leader in security products, offers a technologically unique ASIC (Application specific integrated chip) based technology, security solution.

Network security is a matter of grave concern to all enterprises. Enterprising hackers keep coming up with new forms of malicious software. While the earliest bits of malicious code were referred to as "viruses" (self-replicating programs), there are also several other types of malicious code floating around like for example "worms" and "trojans". Unlike a virus, a worm does not need to be a part of another program to be able to propagate itself. They are self contained and because they are designed to exploit a computer's file transfer capabilities, worms are good infecting a great many machines very quickly. Apart from spreading themselves around and significantly reducing network traffic speed, viruses and worms are designed to cause damage to systems they corrupt by deleting files, sending emails to other users, etc. The Mydoom virus created "backdoors" in infected systems by which normal authentication procedures were bypassed and spammers used these backdoors to send junk mail by using the infected computer's ip address. "Trojans" on the other hand are bits

of code designed to look like useful applications (files often come with a .exe extension) and originally did not replicate themselves. They often are designed to look like they are doing useful things on your computer while in fact they may be spying on you or allowing remote access to your computer without your knowledge.

Sophisticated attacks

Increasing levels of sophistication means that nowadays you don't even have to download or open an infected email attachment to have your computer infected by malicious code. Just visiting some websites are enough. While not all intrusion is designed to cause damage to your system, a lot of spying can go on — just to track and collect data on your usage so that companies can sharpen their marketing techniques. And all of them are using your computer's resources in unauthorised ways and slow down your system's performance.

Apart from these security concerns, employers are often concerned with outgoing internet traffic i.e they don't want their employees to be involved in activities like visiting pornographic websites or searching the web for jobs.

Security approaches

Different approaches are available to tackle such concerns. It is common to install

anti-virus and anti-spyware software on every pc. Also in several enterprises, security software is installed at the network gateway, filtering all incoming and outgoing URLs by checking the URLs against lists of black listed URLs databases.

Unique solution

Fortinet, the market leader in security products, offers a technologically unique solution to the problems of network intrusion and abuse. The company uses ASIC (Application specific integrated chip) based technology, to provide a solution which includes several features. The FortiGate — a dedicated hardware device to be used at the network gateway not only features firewall and antivirus protection but also allows mobile employees not on the premises of the company access to the protected virtual private network (VPN). Traffic shaping — where some internet traffic can be prioritised over the rest is also possible using FortiGate devices.

Content checking

Fortinet's products go beyond URL checking and inspect content of incoming traffic. Sometimes an entire bit of malicious code may not be packaged in a single file — but may come in as parts to evade security and then reassemble when all the files have been downloaded. FortiGate in-

spects all incoming packages and fends off attacks from such threats as well. New threats are monitored constantly and databases updated appropriately.

New Products

In January 2005 the company introduced two new products in India — the FortiMail secure messaging platform and the FortiGuard anti-spam service. The FortiMail platform can either be placed in front of existing email servers and scan incoming and outgoing email or can be used in the server mode and provide complete email server functionality in addition to antivirus and antispam functionality.

The FortiGuard anti-spam service is one that can be enabled on FortiGate or FortiMail platforms. The service works by sending the source IP address of each email sender to Fortishield Antispam servers through the internet to check if it is that of a known spammer. The result of the check is stored on the FortiGate or FortiMail device database for future use hastening the checking process next time round.

The company's products have been reviewed positively by prominent users such as Biocon, Larsen and Toubro, Jubilant Organosys, IDFC, etc.

ROSALIND EZHIL K
DHNS