

# UTM devices simplify security

DAVE BAILEY

**N**etwork security vendors Fortinet and Astaro both launched systems last week designed to combat multiple threats while being easy to set up and manage.

Fortinet released a branch office unified threat management (UTM) appliance called the FG-244B that has 24 10/100Mbit/s LAN ports, two gigabit LAN uplink ports and two 10/100Mbit/s WAN ports.

Astaro's Security Gateway UTM has been upgraded to version 7 and can be used at branch and head



**Keeling:** "We're adding switching to our security appliance, not the other way round"

offices. It enables users to encrypt and decrypt email as well as to deploy digital signatures based on the S/Mime and OpenPGP security standards. Astaro has also added SSL VPN functions and the ability to cluster up to 10 of its systems using the active-active model, which improves performance and availability.

Astaro said its centralised email encryption strategy offers transparency and uses no additional client-side encryption software. Unlike Fortinet's FG-244B, the product is also available as a software package that can be deployed on commodity hardware.

Fortinet uses a dedicated application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC) based approach. It relies on its own proprietary tools to combat viruses, spyware and spam, and to provide intrusion prevention and web content filtering. Many other vendors prefer to license best-of-breed technologies to run on their hardware systems.

Fortinet used the launch of its UTM appliance to take a swipe at firms jumping on the network access control (NAC) bandwagon. The company's UK director, Phil Keeling, said, "There is a lot of hype around NAC, but it cannot adequately protect against insider threats. NAC is a feature, not a market."

Keeling also argued that his firm's approach of adding switching and routing capabilities to a security appliance is preferable to the opposite method: grafting security features onto an existing switch.

→ [www.astaro.com](http://www.astaro.com)

→ [www.fortinet.com/products](http://www.fortinet.com/products)

## UTM options increase

- Fortinet and Astaro have both launched network security kit.
- Fortinet's is a branch office UTM system while Astaro has upgraded its Security Gateway system to version 7.