



Network security **REPORT** by Dave Bailey

UTM gears up for datacentre role

Unified threat management specialists are jumping to the defence of high-speed networks

As consolidation of branch office network infrastructure into datacentres continues and companies try to cut desktop procurement and management costs by moving to centralised PC blade architectures, so the bandwidth that serves those vital core systems is having to be upgraded to higher speeds.

This trend has seen significant growth in the number of datacentres equipped with 10 Gigabit Ethernet connections, which in turn has fuelled demand from datacentre managers for higher performance network security products.

When it comes to securing the LAN, firms are increasingly turning to unified threat management (UTM) appliances, which can perform a range of security functions, from combating viruses and spyware, to web content filtering and intrusion detection and prevention (IDP). There are a wide range of UTM systems on the market aimed

at small to medium-sized businesses, but very little that is up to the job of securing larger enterprise datacentres or large internal LANs with connectivity running at 10Gbit/s or higher.

This situation is beginning to change, however. In a recent report on the Western European UTM market, IDC security research analyst Romain Fouchereau said that new high-end UTM systems are emerging that should appeal to the enterprise sector.

Fortinet, for instance, recently released new appliances, the FortiGate-3810A and 3016B, to address the more demanding security and performance requirements of large networks.

The appliances can deal with gigabit networks and, through the addition of the optional advanced mezzanine card (AMC) expansion module, 10Gbit/s traffic. With these new devices, and its 5000 series appliances that can deal with

10Gbit/s traffic out of the box, Fortinet has used an application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC) to achieve the desired performance.

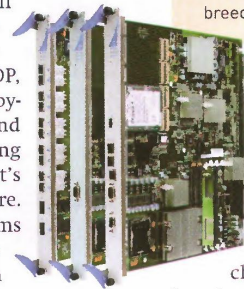
This means all the different security functions – firewall, VPN, IDP, antivirus, anti-spyware, anti-spam and web content filtering – require Fortinet's proprietary software.

But what if firms have a preference for working with best-of-breed applications instead? Well, one of Fortinet's competitors, Crossbeam Systems, recently upgraded its X-Series platform to handle 10Gbit/s traffic. It did this by upgrading the Intel-based blade-line cards that fit into the chassis-based systems.

Crossbeam's chief security strategist, Christofer Hoff, said, "The new processing modules yield

Summary

- Firms needing to secure high-bandwidth network traffic in large networks and datacentres are looking to unified threat management systems.
- Firms can choose between ASIC-accelerated appliances with security apps maintained by a single vendor, or pick best-of-breed third party apps.



Crossbeam's UTM's can support a range of "best-of-breed" security apps

a five-times performance improvement at 60 percent less dollars per Gbit/s of UTM throughput up to 40Gbit/s, in a chassis running best-of-breed security applications."

Dave Ellis, director of Crossbeam's UK channel partner Computerlinks, said, "We work with a number of best-of-breed third-party vendors, like Check Point, Internet Security Systems, Sourcefire, Websense and Trend Micro, so users have a choice of whose applications they can use."

→ www.fortinet.com → <http://crossbeam.f7i.com>