

SOLUTION BRIEF

Fortinet and Highlight Integrated Solution for SD-WAN Service Assurance

Complete integrated service visibility, reporting, and alerting for heterogeneous wide-area networks

Executive Summary

Integrating the Highlight Service Assurance Platform with Fortinet gives service providers and managers of large multisite, multivendor networks visibility of the performance of their SD-WAN environment alongside the other overlay, underlay, and LAN connections that power them. With clear visual performance indicators, comprehensive, unified reporting and alerting features, and multitenant service assurance architecture, the Highlight platform enables efficient and effective communication between network managers and their service providers while being complimented by the unparalleled security protection provided by the Fortinet Security Fabric.

Challenge

SD-WAN has provided network managers with effective technology for delivering superior network user experiences. However, managed service providers and large multisite businesses need help managing heterogeneous SD-WAN environments in a resource-efficient manner.

Effective management of large multisite, multivendor SD-WAN networks requires service providers and IT teams to see and analyze overlay, underlay, and LAN components in a unified way. In particular, reporting and alerting on those components is critical and must provide non-technical users with an easy way to decipher and report problems.

Traditional solutions tend to be technically focused monitoring tools that require extensive integration work, have long discovery and setup processes, and are only designed for highly skilled network engineers. Organizations need a user-friendly service assurance solution that enables network managers to communicate effectively with users and add new locations, SD-WAN environments, and connections with minimal delay.

Joint Solution

Highlight and Fortinet have partnered to deliver an industry-leading SD-WAN multisite, multivendor service assurance solution for managed service providers and their customers. Integrating the Highlight Service Assurance Platform and Fortinet FortiManager provides a single-pane-of-glass view of the Fortinet Secure SD-WAN solution and the underlay multivendor connectivity network. Combined with Highlight's comprehensive reporting and highly customizable alerting, service providers and enterprises have complete transparency on the stability, load, and health of their heterogeneous, multivendor wide-area network (WAN).

Solution Components

- Fortinet FortiGate NGFWs
- Fortinet FortiManager
- Highlight Service Assurance Platform

Solution Benefits

- Overlay, underlay, and LAN visibility on a single pane of glass
- Standardized multivendor reporting and alerting
- Service-focused multitenant architecture
- SaaS cloud access model
- Seamless API integration with FortiManager
- Unparalleled security protection provided by the Fortinet Security Fabric



Joint Solution Components

■ The Highlight Service Assurance Platform

Highlight Service Assurance Platform enables communication between service providers or large multisite, multivendor network managers and the people that use their connectivity services. The cloud-based platform collects and analyzes complex network data, transforming it into service-focused insights, driving clear and collaborative conversations.

■ Fortinet FortiManager

FortiManager provides automation-driven, centralized management of Fortinet devices from a single console. It enables full administration and visibility of network devices through streamlined provisioning and innovative automation tools. Integrated with the Fortinet Security Fabric, its advanced security architecture and automation-driven network operations capabilities provide a solid foundation to secure and optimize network security.

■ Fortinet FortiGate Next-Generation Firewalls (NGFWs)

FortiGate NGFWs deliver industry-leading enterprise security for any edge at any scale with full visibility and threat protection. Organizations can weave security deep into the hybrid IT architecture and build security-driven networks to deliver ultra-fast security end to end, enable consistent, real-time defense with AI/ML-powered FortiGuard Services, achieve seamless user experience with security processing units, and improve operational efficiency and automate workflows.

■ Fortinet Secure SD-WAN

Fortinet FortiGate NGFWs delivers fast, scalable, and flexible Secure SD-WAN for cloud-first, security-sensitive, and global enterprises. Fortinet's Security-Driven Networking approach consolidates SD-WAN, NGFW, and advanced routing to deliver superior quality of experience at any scale.

Solution Integration

Highlight integrates with Fortinet Secure SD-WAN by collecting data from the FortiManager API. Highlight learns the state of the network (FortiGate NGFWs, their WAN interfaces, SD-WAN tunnels, and performance tests) every 15 minutes and collects status data every three minutes. These data are then combined with data from other elements of the network to provide clear insights and analytics.

With the automatic discovery of Fortinet SD-WAN devices and uplink interfaces, the setup process is quick and painless. These connections are grouped into locations and services alongside other overlay, underlay, and LAN connections, enabling network managers to judge network performance from anywhere from a high-level or connection-specific perspective.



Figure 1: Highlight and Fortinet Integration.

Solution Use Cases

Use case 1: Businesses work with network and IT service providers, so they do not have to deal with the nuts and bolts. This collaboration only works if they can have effective conversations with them about the services being delivered. Highlight lets IT managers have business-level discussions with their service providers and offers shared views that keep everyone on the same page.

Use case 2: IT teams in large multisite, multivendor enterprises often function like service providers, delivering a service onward within their organization and being held to account based on service levels and financial budgets. Highlight enables the delivery of shared visibility “downstream” across an organization when deployed in-house, making it easy to review performance, applications, and SLAs to justify the need for additional investment.

About Highlight

Highlight is dedicated to enabling communication between service providers and enterprise customers that use their connectivity services, enhancing network service performance analysis, and enabling relationships based on trust. They are defined by their mission to find new ways to simplify network information, using it to help providers and network managers deliver a better service via the Highlight Service Assurance Platform.

