INTEGRATED SECURE ACCESS DEPLOYMENT GUIDE

Secure Premise-managed Wireless LAN Solution
OVERVIEW

Many large enterprises and campus deployments favor traditional controller-based WLAN solutions over emerging cloud Wi-Fi alternatives because they scale well for high-density deployments, and because there are many complex security integration requirements in large corporate LANs and branch office networks. Fortinet’s Integrated Secure Access solution addresses both the access and security requirements in a unique and elegant way, by combining WLAN control and network security in the same platform, to dramatically simplify access and security management.

CONTROLLER VS. CLOUD

In recent years, enterprise WLAN vendors have added cloud-based management, solutions to better serve distributed enterprises who generally struggle with WLAN deployment. Yet despite heavy promotion, the majority of large enterprises are reluctant to switch from controllers to the cloud.

The controller-based WLAN architecture with on-premise management remains the preference for large enterprise and campus deployments for a number of reasons: AP adds, moves, and changes are easier roaming between APs and across domains is faster and more reliable; active/active controller failover and dual homing capabilities enable better session-level reliability than cloud Wi-Fi; and finally, of the greatest importance, you can leverage enterprise security infrastructure such as firewalls, network IPS, antivirus scanning, web filtering, and application controls and apply them to WLAN traffic.

BEYOND STANDARD WLAN SECURITY

Everyone recognizes strong authentication and encryption are important, and the standards bodies have seen to it that Wi-Fi access control is secure. However, over the last 10 to 15 years, threats have transformed from connection-based to content-based. Threats enter your network through common applications like email, web browsers, apps on mobile devices, and social networking tools. With BYOD becoming the norm, and IoT emerging, the risk of corporate breaches from cyberthreats is at an all-time high.

Securing today’s WLANs involves much more than Wi-Fi access control. It involves scanning for malware, preventing access to malicious websites, endpoint integrity checking, and controlling application usage. For complete protection, enterprises historically needed to tunnel all WLAN traffic through a variety of security appliances. But managing policies across multiple security systems gets complicated. This is where Fortinet’s Integrated Secure Access solution has a distinct advantage.

FORTINET SECURE ACCESS SOLUTION

There is no one-size-fits-all WLAN solution—different use cases favor different deployment models. Fortinet’s Secure Access solution ensures enterprises of any size, in any industry can choose the topology and network management that’s best suited to their network and organizational structure, and enjoy the same world-class cybersecurity in every scenario.

The Integrated Secure Access solution is just one of three distinctly different WLAN offerings designed to give enterprises complete flexibility over their preferred deployment model, without compromising security.

INTEGRATED SECURE ACCESS SOLUTION

Fortinet’s Integrated Secure Access solution for enterprise and campus deployments is based on the award-winning FortiGate security appliance and FortiAP access points in a classic coordinated-AP architecture. But what makes it unique is the level of security and network integration that comes with FortiGate.

Unlike other vendors’ controller-based WLAN solutions, where content and application security requires a set of third-party security appliances, FortiGate brings together network security and WLAN.
control on the same platform. WLAN traffic is passed through the various security measures in a single pass, without needing to map VLANs from one appliance to the next to the next. This minimizes latency and preserves session layer detail.

FORTIGATE WLAN CONTROL

The FortiGate is both a Wi-Fi controller and a network security platform. It consolidates the functions of more than seven individual security devices including: Firewall, VPN Gateway, Network IPS, DLP Anti-malware, Web Filtering, and Application Control. Yet it outperforms many single-function appliances.

In its role as a Wi-Fi controller, it handles user authentication, radio resource management and forwards traffic. As a security platform, it provides complete protection against network, content, and application-level threats for both wired and wireless users.

FIGURE 1: FORTIGATE APPLIANCE CONSOLIDATION

FortiGate platforms use custom SPU SoC3, which can detect malicious content at multi-gigabit speeds. FortiGate is a recognized network security appliance performance leader. The flagship model clocks firewall throughput in excess of 300 Gbps, and it can handle over 100 Gbps of WLAN throughput, making it the world’s fastest Wi-Fi controller too.

FortiGate platforms incorporate sophisticated networking features, such as high availability (active/active, active/passive) for maximum network uptime, and virtual domain (VDOM) capabilities to provide multi-tenant support in subscriber-based environments or for greater internal segmentation.

INTEGRATED SECURE ACCESS HIGHLIGHTS

BYOD Onboarding: FortiGate has all the components to enable seamless self-service onboarding of users’ mobile devices. It offers branded captive portals, executes device integrity checks, virus scan, and authentication setup, with a variety of user authentication options to choose from, including Two-Factor Authentication.

Until a user is properly authenticated and their device is checked, they are kept in a walled garden. You can even specify how many devices an individual can onboard, rather than simply allowing them to onboard whatever they like.

Guest Access: You can create separate SSIDs to grant access to groups of users who need temporary access to the network, such as long-term contractors. This separation provides access to the necessary systems while keeping the back-office network and other critical systems completely segmented. Additionally, the fully customizable HTML Captive Portal login page allows visitors and contractors to gain access to the Internet without any risk to the LAN infrastructure. The Captive Portal is compatible with third-party RADIUS guest access provisioning platforms, such as those found in hotel registration systems, should you wish to create a paid hotspot and automatically debit guest accounts.

When guest access is provisioned on the same WLAN and LAN infrastructure used for internal traffic, guest access must not impact performance for corporate users. Regardless of which back-end authentication is used, the FortiGate policy engine maps users to a group associated with a guest policy, which rate-limits guest traffic to ensure that it does not affect business-critical corporate traffic.

You also have the ability to control guest usage based on time of day, bandwidth consumption, and other criteria.

Role and Identity-based Access: Role-based access control lets IT staff configure separate access profiles for different groups within an organization (e.g., faculty, students, and guests in a school or clinicians, nurses, admin, and facilities in a hospital) using separate SSIDs with specific authentication options. Fortinet’s identity-aware policy engine maps the user to an internal group based on its authentication information. Different policies can be assigned to different groups, allowing you to segment users or client devices based on unique business and compliance needs.

With identity-based security it is possible to place multiple groups of users on a single SSID/VLAN while still having separate access privileges for each functional group or user. This policy-driven security also simplifies enabling access to less-secure legacy devices and headless devices such as VoWLAN handsets, barcode scanners, medical devices, and a wide array of IoT devices, without compromising regulatory compliance requirements such as PCI DSS and HIPAA.

WIDS and Rogue AP Detection: Industry policies such as PCI DSS mandate regular reporting on suspicious or unknown APs. The FortiGate Rogue AP detection engine automates the scanning process to provide continuous monitoring for rogue APs, and provides a means to determine if unknown APs are on the network.

While dedicated or background air monitors scan for unknown APs and wireless client traffic, FortiGate uses various on-wire correlation techniques to determine how and where the unknown AP is physically connected to the network. It can even detect Layer 3 APs regardless of security settings and NAT configuration.

The rogue AP list shows MAC address, manufacturer, security profile, speed, last seen, and “on-wire” status, enabling administrators to rapidly classify trusted or untrusted devices, and take corrective action to locate and remove rogues.

Strong Authentication and Encryption: All Fortinet wireless products support the full range of enterprise authentication types including WPA2-802.1X and standards-based encryption types including AES.
The FortiOS license for any size FortiGate provides all of the following security capabilities, and much more, as standard. All you need to do is enable the security services you need, when you need them. There are no extra hoops to jump through, no tricks, and no hidden license fees for Firewall, IPS, Application Control, or any other security measures.

**Firewall:** Recognized in Gartner Group’s Magic Quadrants for Enterprise Firewalls, Unified Threat Management, and Wired and Wireless LAN Infrastructure FortiGate is repeatedly proven one of the fastest firewall platforms in the industry, with flagship models outperforming all competitors up to three times the throughput of actual application traffic.

**VPN Gateway:** No need for a separate VPN device or WAN accelerator to manage at head office or branch offices. FortiGate has high-performance SSL and IPsec VPN services built in. Fortinet also provides a free remote access VPN client for PCs, tablets, and smartphones on all major operating systems.

**IPS:** Fortinet Intrusion Prevention System (IPS) technology protects networks from both known and unknown threats, blocking attacks that might otherwise take advantage of network vulnerabilities and unpatched systems. You can enable IPS on any FortiGate at the edge of your network or within the network core to protect critical business applications from both external and internal attacks.

**DLP:** FortiGate can also be used to protect information privacy and prevent unauthorized leaks. Sophisticated pattern matching is used to prevent unauthorized communication of sensitive or regulated data through the corporate perimeter.

**Anti-malware:** Thanks to a combination of hardware-assisted layer 7 deep packet inspection and a massive library of malware and exploit signatures, FortiGate provides real-time protection against viruses, botnets, web exploits, Trojans, and other malicious software variants. Regular FortiGuard Labs updates ensure immediate protection against newly discovered zero-day vulnerabilities.

**Web URL Filtering:** FortiGate can block access to any known harmful websites that may contain phishing/pharming attacks or malware, or any other site you specify. Beyond reducing exposure to malware, this can also be used to control access to age-appropriate content in schools, or to disallow people from viewing potentially objectionable content in public areas in hospitality and retail settings, for example.

**Application Control:** With signatures for over 4,000 applications, FortiGate offers unrivalled control over application priority and bandwidth management. FortiGate distinguishes unique applications, not just broad Wi-Fi priority classes. You can treat YouTube, HD YouTube, Netflix, Facebook, LinkedIn, SIP, and Skype all differently. When bandwidth is scarce, you can ensure mission-critical traffic prevails as low-priority applications are throttled back.

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**Here is a more complete list of what is in FortiOS:**

- Advanced Threat Protection
- Client Reputation Analysis
- Contextual Visibility
- Extended Single Sign-on
- Sandbox Integration
- Per-device Security Policies
- Secure Guest Access
- Enterprise-class Firewall
- IPsec and SSL VPN
- SSL-encrypted Traffic Inspection
- Antivirus/Anti-spyware
- Anti-spam Filtering
- Intrusion Prevention System (IPS)
- Data Loss Prevention (DLP)
- Flow-based Inspection Options
- Web Filtering
- Application Control
- Network Access Control (NAC)
- Vulnerability Management
- Monitoring, Logging, and Reporting
- WAN Optimization
- WLAN Controller
- VoIP Security
- Central Management
- Virtual Domains
- High Availability
- Layer 2/3 Routing Services
- FortiSwitch Management
UNIFIED MANAGEMENT

Because Fortinet's wireless control is tightly integrated into FortiOS, each SSID appears just like any other interface on the FortiGate and provides IT staff a “single-pane-of-glass” management for wired and wireless traffic and security. The same deep packet inspection engine that filters malicious content on the wired network also filters traffic on the wireless network. WLAN and security are truly unified.

FORTIAP ACCESS POINTS

The FortiAP family of controller-managed access points provides secure, high-performance indoor and outdoor wireless access with a full range of APs from single-radio 802.11n through to dual-radio 4x4 MU-MIMO 802.11ac W2, including plenum-rated models. Smoke detector styling on indoor models allows for discreet placement in aesthetically sensitive areas, while ruggedized outdoor models are suitable for the most extreme conditions.

Automatic radio resource provisioning and zero-touch deployment features let you roll out FortiAPs quickly, even in remote offices with no FortiGate at the premises. All enterprise features such as fast roaming, mesh and bridging support, air monitor, guest access, rogue AP detection, WMM, and QoS are supported as standard, without needing to purchase expensive feature licenses.

Standard PoE Support: Carefully designed for thermal efficiency to reduce power consumption during full operation of both radios and 3x3 MIMO, all indoor FortiAPs run on the earlier PoE standard 802.3af, which is rated at 12.9 W. So there is no need to upgrade your LAN switches to support 802.3at.

Zero-touch Deployment: FortiAPs use a robust discovery mechanism to locate nearby FortiGate controllers over Layer 2 or Layer 3 connected networks. Simply select the discovered APs in the FortiOS GUI and assign them to a wireless profile, and that is it. The FortiAP will automatically download the configuration and start to act as an air monitor, or broadcast SSIDs as an AP, or both.

Auto Radio Optimization: Featuring automatic radio resource provisioning and spectrum sampling, FortiAPs automatically optimize channel and power settings for best performance when first installed. If interference occurs in the future, the APs readjust their radio settings automatically. This feature can be disabled if you prefer to control the channel plan manually.

Air Monitor: Individual radios can be assigned to perform channel scanning as a background air monitor or as a dedicated air monitor. In PCI compliance applications, dual-radio APs can be used to provide both client access and dedicated monitoring simultaneously.

Easy Policy Assignment: Each configured SSID appears to the FortiGate as a virtual network interface, which can undergo firewall policy, IPS checks, A/V scanning, identity-based segmentation, application rate-limiting, or data leakage prevention, connect to other sites via VPN, or undergo network access control functions. This allows security policies to be applied easily, whether a single set of policies applies to all SSIDs or unique policies apply separately to each SSID.

No VLAN Mapping: Because traffic is normally tunneled to the FortiGate controller for forwarding, it is not necessary to map SSIDs to VLANs on switches. This allows for rapid adds, moves, and changes of physical APs and permits SSIDs to be enabled wherever you like without altering the wired network configuration in any way.

FORTIAP TUNNEL MODE SSIDS

FortiAPs are controller-managed. In their default configuration, SSIDs tunnel all traffic to the FortiGate wireless controller within CAPWAP DTLS or non-DTLS tunnels, where it undergoes security threat removal and policy examination before it is allowed on the Internet or corporate LAN. This is where the power of consolidated security on the FortiGate really offers a distinct performance advantage, as well as maximizing policy granularity and visibility of user and device behavior.

The first advantage is that traffic is subjected to all enabled security measures in one pass. It doesn’t need to get on and off the wire or be copied in and out of each system’s memory, as it does when security is implemented in multiple separate appliances. This significantly impacts latency and throughput. Latency through a FortiGate with IPS, Firewall, Antivirus, and Application Control all enabled is significantly lower than for traffic passing sequentially through four separate appliances.
The second big difference is that traffic is processed at the session level, so you preserve total visibility of which user, on what device, is doing what. This is absolutely crucial when it comes to applying per-user or per-device policies for any one of these security functions. Compare this to multiple security appliances. To pass flows from one to another you need to map the appliances to VLANs, not sessions. Per-user policy granularity is lost; you can only apply security policies at the VLAN level, not at the user or device level.

**FORTIAP LOCAL BRIDGE MODE SSIDs**

It is also possible to configure FortiAP SSIDs to bridge traffic directly to the local LAN, bypassing the secure tunnel altogether. Many competitive WLAN vendors advocate this approach, especially when APs are deployed in remote branch offices and connect to the wireless controller over a WAN link. Fortinet considers this a high-risk strategy, however, as it leaves the network exposed to security threats.

Unlike other vendors, Fortinet’s extensive Secure Access solution portfolio provides two alternative ways to deliver the same security at the branch as in corporate, without overloading the WAN, by using either FortiWiFi appliances or FortiAP-S series APs. These are described in more detail in the Small Branch Office Deployment section below.
DEPLOYMENT GUIDE: SECURE PREMISE-MANAGED WIRELESS LAN SOLUTION

FORTIAP/FORTIGATE DEPLOYMENT ARCHITECTURES

From small offices and remote branch offices to headquarters for very large enterprises and campus deployments, there is a FortiGate with the capacity to match. Flexibility and rightsizing are important; you may prefer a distributed security model over centralized, or you may have a data center. FortiGate supports multiple deployment options to meet your needs and preferences. Here are some common deployment scenarios:

ENTERPRISE EDGE GATEWAY DEPLOYMENT

Use FortiGate to secure your network edge and act as the wireless controller as well. In this deployment model, each FortiAP uses CAPWAP tunnels to connect to a (typically mid-range) FortiGate for policy processing and forwarding. FortiGate Firewall provides protection from network threats, whether they originate from the Internet or from wireless devices.

ENTERPRISE CAMPUS/HQ DEPLOYMENT

Distribute the security and controller capacity throughout your campus for very high-density deployments by putting FortiGate controllers at the access switching layer. This improves capacity scaling for high density, especially as you migrate to 802.11ac, and spreads the WLAN and security processing load.

AP traffic is tunneled to the nearest controller and optionally may be dual homed to allow failover to a second controller for resiliency. Entry-level FortiGate appliances with integrated PoE ports are particularly suitable for this deployment model, since they can also power the APs using PoE.
CENTRALIZED CONTROLLER DEPLOYMENT

Centralize a cluster of mid-range or high-end FortiGates in your data center or private cloud. High availability with active/active failover ensures continuous session-level availability.

This deployment model enables the aggregation of many APs deployed in remote locations that do not have a local FortiGate. Remote FortiAPs connect back to the FortiGate cluster via a CAPWAP tunnel over the Internet and appear to the controller like any other connected AP. Each FortiGate maintains a secure CAPWAP control plane and data plane to the APs it controls. Remote rogue AP detection functions enterprise-wide without needing controllers at each location.

LARGE BRANCH OFFICE DEPLOYMENT

Use an entry-level FortiGate acting as a wireless controller and security gateway, with FortiAPs deployed throughout the premises. Entry-level FortiGates support anywhere from 2 to 32 FortiAPs, providing ample indoor coverage for any size branch office.

The on-site FortiGate provides policy enforcement and security threat inspection for all traffic, regardless of the destination. To reduce the traffic load heading to your HQ or data center, the on-site FortiGate can be configured using a hybrid-WAN approach with split routing. This enables corporate traffic only to be routed to the HQ or data center, with the rest of the traffic routing directly to the Internet.
SMALL BRANCH OFFICE DEPLOYMENT

In small branch offices or retail locations, it is not necessary to deploy a FortiGate on-site. One or more FortiAPs can be installed independently. Each AP discovers its remote controller and sets up a CAPWAP tunnel to it. Most of the traffic passes over the tunnel and terminates on the FortiGate for security processing and forwarding; however, split tunneling allows traffic destined for the local LAN to still be bridged locally. This provides access to resources such as printers, without having to hairpin the traffic through the remote FortiGate.

When you have many remote locations, it is often preferable to avoid backhauling traffic through your HQ or data center at all. However, this normally requires separate security appliances at the remote site, which can dramatically increase capital and operational costs. To meet this requirement, Fortinet has two deployment alternatives: Using FortiWiFi, enterprises can provide Wi-Fi access and implement the same centralized security policies, firewall, and WAN access with a single appliance.

Or if the remote site already has a WAN router or appliance, the FortiAP-S series offers a new way to secure all wireless data at the edge, without needing additional security appliances on-premise or at the data center. Using specialized security processing on the AP hardware itself, the FortiAP-S series can apply your security policies for local Internet traffic, at the network edge, while using local bridging to forward only corporate traffic over the WAN to HQ or the data center.
RELATED PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

FortiGuard

FortiGate is Secured by FortiGuard, meaning that it receives continual exploit, virus, and application signature updates, ensuring immediate protection from zero-day cyberthreats. FortiGuard Labs is a global team of over 200 threat researchers who continually research the latest attacks and figure out how to neutralize them. Their work results in regular security updates, which are downloaded to Fortinet products as a FortiGuard subscription service, to provide your network with the latest protection against new and emerging threats.

FortiManager

In large networks, management can be aggregated via the FortiManager appliance. This provides centralized management of multiple FortiGates spread across locations, and facilitates creating enterprise-wide SSIDs and scheduling firmware updates for FortiAP access points and FortiWiFi appliances. WLAN administrators can activate global changes to FortiAP configurations, such as changing authentication settings, SSIDs, or radio profiles, quickly and seamlessly across the organization without causing disruption.

FortiSwitch

FortiSwitch Secure Access Switches integrate directly into FortiGate, allowing switch administration and access port security management from the same “single pane of glass.” With feature-rich, high-density 24- and 48-port models supporting 802.11at PoE, you can power anything from APs to VoIP handsets and surveillance cameras.

FortiAnalyzer

Another component of Fortinet’s central management is FortiAnalyzer, a network security logging, analysis, and reporting appliance that aggregates log data from all Fortinet security appliances. A comprehensive suite of easily customizable reports allows you to quickly analyze and visualize network threats, inefficiencies, and usage. Among the standard reports are comprehensive auditor-friendly PCI compliance reports which ease the pain of PCI DSS compliance reporting. FortiAnalyzer provides IT with enterprises-wide dashboard-level statistics about the overall health of the wireless network, and the ability to drill down to determine the root cause of any problems.

INTEGRATED SECURE ACCESS SOLUTION SUMMARY

As Wi-Fi technology has evolved and standards have matured, tangible differences between different vendors’ solutions have mostly vanished, except in the areas of management and security. Here there remain vast differences between vendors. Fortinet’s Integrated Secure Access solution is truly unique. Consolidating WLAN management and world-class network security on the same platform delivers a quantum leap in management simplicity and reduces TCO. The combination of FortiGate, FortiSwitch, and FortiAP access points gives enterprises a more secure, easier to manage WLAN than any other alternative.