Challenges

The digital economy is impacting how companies do business and how employees and consumers interact within organizations. The growing digital business value accompanies security risk from the many technologies in use, including BYOD, applications, IoT, SDN, Public/Private/Hybrid Cloud, Big Data, interconnected network ecosystems (network of networks), and employees blending work and personal data on multiple devices to connect users, devices, data, goods, and services.

From a security perspective, the primary challenge becomes ensuring that endpoints, IoT, and other edge devices don’t become a conduit for malware injection into the network, and establishing and maintaining consistent security policy and enforcement as data is exchanged between local networks and third-party environments.

Network devices generate unprecedented amounts of traffic and data, taxing already saturated access points, networks, and data centers, not to mention overburdened IT staff. As a result, security for today’s borderless networks demands a comprehensive solution that can provide the combined benefits of access control, secure access points, network device visibility, dynamic network segmentation, constant monitoring, unified management, and automated response to threats.

Solution Description

The Fortinet Security Fabric is designed around a series of open Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), Open Authentication Technology, and standardized telemetry data to address these challenges. It enables organizations to integrate existing security technologies via open interfaces to provide end-to-end security without compromise.

Pulse Secure Policy Secure, deployed with Fortinet FortiAuthenticator and Fortinet FortiGate, provides an identity-based integration at the intelligent Layer 3 network access control environment. This integration of Pulse Policy Secure and Fortinet firewalls through the Fabric-Ready Program delivers a seamless and single solution that provides powerful pre- and post-admission access control management, along with Host Checker compliance for verification and enforcement, to protect sensitive corporate data from unauthenticated access, attacks, and breaches. The alert-based admission control integration enables enterprises to reduce their threat response time from days to seconds with automated enforcement actions based on threat severity.

Benefits

- Rich host-checking information
- Comprehensive authentication services
- Role-base, application-level enforcement
- Dynamic endpoint assessment and enforcement
- Seamless end-user experience
- Reduced threat response time
- Increased visibility into end-users, device health, and resource access
**Identity-Based Integration**

Pulse Policy Secure leverages its syslog functionality by reporting the end-user access events to FortiAuthenticator. Once users are authenticated on Pulse Policy Secure, it then validates Host Checker policy and syslog sessions exported to FortiAuthenticator. FortiAuthenticator further utilizes syslog messages by parsing the identity information from the syslog message.

This information can be used to create an IP to username mapping within FortiAuthenticator and creates (FSSOFortinet Single Sign-On) sessions. These generated sessions are shared with FortiGate firewalls to either allow or block traffic based on the configured policy on the FortiGate firewalls.

**Alert-Based Admission Control Integration**

Pulse Policy Secure admission control framework allows network security devices such as Fortinet to send threat alerts, via syslog, and provide user access control to reduce threat response time.

FortiGate firewall and FortiAnalyzer continuously monitor user traffic at the perimeter level. When Fortinet detects compromised devices, it sends alert messages to Pulse Policy Secure to take enforcement action by applying granular policies based on threat severity.
Use Cases

- Extend BYOD-NAC to perimeter defense.
  - A stronger security posture with unified access policies that extend from BYOD-NAC systems to firewall perimeter defenses offers end-to-end enforcement across the network.

- Optimize secure access from remote connections to local protected resources.
  - The end-user seamlessly connects through remote connection (VPN) and accesses protected resources behind the firewall.

- Reduce threat response time by performing user and device access control based on threats identified by Fortinet nextgeneration firewall and analyzer.
  - Fortinet products continuously monitor traffic and send alerts on compromised device with severity level, then Pulse Policy Secure takes enforcement action at the endpoint level.

More importantly, granular enforcement and role-based access control is available from the branch to the corporate data center to address today’s network access control challenges, including insider threats, guest access control, and regulatory compliance.

Pulse Policy Secure

Pulse Policy Secure is a standards-based, scalable network access control (NAC) solution that reduces network threat exposure and mitigates risks. It protects your network by guarding mission-critical applications and sensitive data with a comprehensive NAC management that offers context-aware network security with visibility and monitoring.

Fortinet FortiAuthenticator

FortiAuthenticator user identity management appliances strengthen enterprise security by simplifying and centralizing the management and storage of user identity information. FortiAuthenticator builds on the foundations of Fortinet Single Sign-on, adding a greater range of user identification methods and greater scalability. FortiAuthenticator is the gatekeeper of authorization into the Fortinet secured enterprise network, identifying users, querying access permissions from third-party systems, and communicating this information to FortiGate devices for use in Identity-Based Policies.
Fortinet FortiGate Enterprise Firewall

The Fortinet FortiGate network security platform provides high performance, layered security services, and granular visibility for end-to-end protection across the entire enterprise network. Innovative security processor (SPU) technology delivers high-performance application layer security services (NGFW, SSL inspection, and threat protection), coupled with the industry’s fastest SSL inspection engine to help protect against malware hiding in SSL/TLS encrypted traffic. The platform also leverages global threat intelligence to protect individual customers by using Fortinet’s FortiGuard Security Subscription Services to enable visibility and control for next-generation protection against advanced threats, including zero-day attacks.

Summary

To remain competitive, networks need to balance the twin challenges of exponentially increasing data volumes and the speed at which decisions need to be made. Security cannot afford to get in the way of business demands.

By combining best-of-breed security solutions and extending the Fortinet Security Fabric, Fortinet and Pulse Secure provide an integrated security framework of collaborative devices that are bound together through a single, unified management and analysis solution to simplify policy creation, distribution, and enforcement, identify complex threats, and synchronize automated responses to those threats.

About Pulse Secure

Pulse Secure, LLC is a leading provider of secure access solutions to both enterprises and service providers. Enterprises from every vertical and of all sizes utilize the company’s Pulse virtual private network (VPN), network access control (NAC), virtual application delivery controller (vADC) and mobile security products to enable end-user mobility securely and seamlessly in their organizations.

Pulse Secure’s mission is to deliver secure access solutions for people, devices, things, and services.

For more information on Pulse Policy Secure, please go to http://www.pulsesecure.net/products/policy-secure/.