Executive Summary

Business leaders embrace SAP HANA functionality to stay on top of emerging trends and evolving business requirements. As SAP transforms business processes with intelligent automation, it also increases security risk. New implementations of SAP systems, SAP upgrades, and conversions to S/4HANA are now in the cloud rather than on-premises, and the threat landscape is shifting. Fortinet takes a holistic approach to secure SAP systems by protecting all SAP data generated by edge devices, endpoint systems, users, applications, databases, and third-party systems in on-premises, hybrid, and multi-cloud environments.

The SAP Threat Landscape Is Shifting

SAP systems contain data from finance, human resources, and proprietary information. Their security is paramount, especially as cloud, mobile, and hyperscale technologies come into play, exposing more services to the internet. The key factors listed below are responsible for the shifting SAP threat matrix.

Fiori, the new user web interface, opens the door for web-based threats. Fiori will access SAP applications, which are HTML5-based and are replacing the traditional SAP fat client.

SAP is connecting to smart devices. Smart devices connecting to SAP are prone to security vulnerabilities.

Managing hybrid and multi-cloud environments increases complexity. Customers are deploying more and more SAP systems in hybrid or multi-cloud solutions, and most S/4HANA systems are expected to move to the cloud. Adding point products to extend to the perimeter of the attack surface creates silos and added complexity.

Protecting Critical Business Applications Is a Top Priority

Sensitive data lives in SAP systems, and as organizations embark on their SAP projects, their threat landscape quickly shifts as applications and data are exposed to cybersecurity threats. One security breach can cost an organization millions of dollars and destroy their reputation.

Secure Your SAP System with Holistic Coverage

A focused SAP security practice is necessary to protect all the data generated by SAP. Using a holistic approach, Fortinet secures the entire enterprise SAP landscape to protect against security threats. By leveraging its extensive threat intelligence, a strong portfolio, and state-of-the-art artificial intelligence (AI)/machine learning (ML) security, Fortinet provides comprehensive security across the entire SAP ecosystem.

The single-pane-of-glass management enabled by the Fortinet portfolio provides a complete and consolidated view of security events across on-premises, hybrid, and multi-cloud environments. A consistent security framework protects SAP workloads and all SAP-generated data. Fortinet applies AI for faster threat prevention, detection, and response. The Fortinet security solution for SAP centralizes and automates security controls and analytics—making it easier to manage, respond, and automate the SecOps capabilities.
How Fortinet Secures the Intelligent Enterprise

The different solutions that comprise the Fortinet Security Fabric protect data generated in SAP against common and emerging threats. Fortinet ensures all critical assets stay protected as IT teams embark on their SAP projects. SAP data generated at the edge, endpoint, users, apps, data, and third-party systems across multiple locations and regions are protected with the Fortinet Security Fabric.

The Fortinet Security Fabric, a broad, integrated, and automated cybersecurity framework, weaves together all operational and technical security facets, creating a consistent structure for the needs of the SAP security landscape.

Securing the Intelligent Enterprise

The modern SAP system and its migration to the cloud are shifting the threat landscape and creating a more complex environment to defending mission-critical applications. An SAP deployment may involve multiple landscapes spread across hybrid premises and a cloud footprint running on various software-defined networks (SDNs). Security visibility is a challenge across such a broad and diverse infrastructure as SAP. Front ends, application servers, and databases must be segmented against lateral infection and unauthorized access. With user connections and data encrypted mainly by secure sockets layer (SSL), high-performing, in-line deep packet inspection is necessary. At the same time, security must have no perceptible impact on the user experience and system performance.

SAP deployments demand high performance while all SAP data is secured and protected. The Fortinet Security Fabric platform specifically addresses SAP’s most common and emerging threats by providing a comprehensive and unified security solution. With over 20 years of history, Fortinet is the #1 cybersecurity leader protecting assets, optimizing content delivery, detecting malicious actors, and mitigating threats to secure the entire SAP landscape.

Figure 1: Fortinet Security Fabric diagram.
Fortinet Provides Comprehensive Security for SAP

Segment SAP workloads with low latency

Segmenting SAP from other workloads ensures a minimum boundary of trust and inspection. The internal segmentation of application servers, front ends, and databases prevents lateral attacks through impersonation or privilege escalation.

FortiGate delivers high-performance, low-latency SAP security through the deep packet and content inspection specific to SAP services.

Protect threats targeting SAP with intrusion prevention system (IPS) and content inspection

Addressing targeted SAP threats requires the security apparatus to be application-aware of the SAP systems running within the security boundary.

The FortiGate, combined with FortiGuard Threat Intelligence, delivers validated industry-leading IPS technology. FortiGuard Labs provides SAP threat intelligence to the FortiGate’s IPS engine to protect from well-known and emerging threats.

Provide high-performance SSL inspection

Most HTTP traffic is SSL encrypted, and SAP has embraced HTTP as a modern protocol for users to access S/4 applications. Today more than 60% of malware is encrypted. FortiGate next-generation firewalls (NGFWs) protect against encrypted malware without user or database performance degradation.

Physical FortiGate NGFWs use proprietary hardware acceleration that offloads encryption functions to a security processing unit. This Fortinet-only capability boasts performance advantages of up to 20x that of competitors in the latest-generation devices.

Protect SAP Web Dispatchers

Web Dispatchers are used by SAP to load balance SAP’s Fiori systems. The Web Dispatchers create a larger attack surface and vulnerabilities for common Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP) attacks. The FortiWeb web application firewall (WAF) delivers end-to-end encryption. It is a dedicated HTTP(s) protection platform to protect against OWASP threats and provide virtual patching and auto tuning, and uses AI and ML to detect threats faster.

Evaluate SAP compliance

A holistic understanding of SAP resources’ risk posture and compliance levels is critical as SAP is deployed across multiple cloud providers. To reduce security risk, Fortinet brings tools such as FortiCWP to assess cloud configuration security posture. It detects potential threats originating from misconfiguration of cloud resources, monitors user behaviors and cloud network traffic, and provides comprehensive compliance reports and alerts.

Provide deployment flexibility

All major cloud providers are natively integrated with Fortinet to provide seamless, automated, and centralized management to support SAP deployments spread across environments. Organizations can plan their SAP S/4HANA conversions and projects and accommodate major cloud provider environments.

Secure Your SAP System with Fortinet

Organizations run their mission-critical applications on SAP. These SAP deployments span across clouds and generate data in many locations that create the opportunity for blind spots in the security posture. Holistic security coverage with Fortinet ensures SAP systems are protected and that security policy and visibility remain unified across the hybrid and multi-cloud footprints. Protecting the entire SAP ecosystem frees IT to focus on other high-value projects.