2014 BUYING GUIDE: DELL SONICWALL FIREWALLS

A first-time buyer's guide to understanding which firewall to choose, aa well as which subscriptions and professional services are available to assist in successfully deploying a Dell SonicWALL firewall.

Compliments of Firewalls.com. Your Source for Dell SonicWALL firewalls and professional services.

Brief Overview

This guide provides a clear overview of the many Dell SonicWALL firewall options available and how each feature can be best utilized in your own organization.

When considering a Dell SonicWALL appliance, contemplate the type and size of network to be secured and the most efficient way to combat all potential security threats. This document contains a general outline of three broad categories of hardware firewalls, followed by a comparison chart that identifies some key differences in each class of appliance.

SOHO

A small office or home office with fewer than 75 users should consider a **SOHO** class firewall, which includes the Dell SonicWALL **TZ 105, TZ 205 and TZ 215**. SOHO firewalls are most desirable for this group because they are reasonably priced and designed for a small network that needs general protection from the risks encountered with around-the-clock email and common Internet activity. SOHO firewalls from Dell SonicWALL even offer post-purchase phone support in order to help the user get started. In some cases, a network security professional will need to help this process along.

SMB

Small to medium enterprises with fewer than 500 users have different security needs than that of their smaller SOHO counterparts, such as the need to protect sales transactions or support VOIP and VPN users. The **SMB** firewall series is the most desirable for this group and includes the **NSA 220, 250, 2600 and NSA 3600**. These firewalls offer a wider variety of network protection and are, in turn, a bit more complicated to configure and deploy. Although basic phone support is offered with the purchase of Dell SonicWALL NSA series appliances, it is recommended that an experienced network security professional configure, test and deploy this series of firewall to ensure maximum protection.

Enterprise

Organizations with 1,000+ users require much more robust network security. The Dell SonicWALL **Enterprise** firewall series, or **NSA E-Class**, is designed for large networks requiring massive throughput speed and high-end security. Enterprise level networks are highly evolved and generally are supported by a team of network security professionals and engineers. These vast networks are expected to flawlessly address spam, viruses, spyware, malware and all intrusion attempts, while providing uninterrupted secure Web access for network users worldwide 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Conclusion

Each category of firewalls features the capacity for multiple ISP connections, VPN for remote network access, virus & malware protection, powerful content filtering, fast wireless access, better VoIP quality (than without a firewall), user activity reporting and bandwidth management. Basic setup of a SOHO class firewall could be accomplished by the average interested user, but in general it is always recommended that an experienced network security professional review the configuration of any new firewall, especially in an enterprise level environment.

Read further to discover more about the selection of features available for Dell SonicWALL firewalls in order to make an informed decision on the most appropriate choice(s) to achieve the highest level of network security in your organization.

Features

This comparison chart identifies key differences in the **SOHO**, **SMB** and **Enterprise** classes of Dell SonicWALL firewalls. While not all-inclusive with regard to features, it provides accurate expectations of each class of Dell SonicWALL firewall.

Feature	Small Home/Small Office (Dell SonicWALL TZ Series)	Small to Medium Business (Dell SonicWALL NSA Series)	Enterprise (Dell SonicWALL E-Class)
Comprehensive Anti-Spam Service	Supported	Supported	Supported
Enforced Client Anti-Virus, Anti-Spyware	Supported	Supported	Supported
Application Intelligence	Supported on TZ 215	Supported	Supported on NSA E5500 and NSA E8510
Tech Support	Purchased Separately or Bundled	Purchased Separately or Bundled	Purchased Separately or Bundled
Interfaces	From 5FE, 1USB up to 7GbE, 2 USB	7GbE / 2 10GbE SFP+ 4 1GbE SFP 12 1GbE copper 1 Mgmnt	8 GbE, 1HA up to 2 SFP+ 10 GbE, 4 GbE, 1HA
RAM	256 up to 512MB	512MB up to 4GB	1 up to 4GB
Site-to-Site VPN Tunnels	5 up to 20	25 up to 6,000	6,000 up to 10,000
Bundled SSL VPN Licenses	1 up to 10	2 up to 50	2 up to 50
Stateful Throughput	200 up to 500Mbps	195Mbps up to 4.5Gbps	5 up to 8Gbps
Intrusion Prevention Throughput	60 up to 110 Mbps	196 Mbps up to 4.5Gbps	2.3 up to 3.7Gbps
Gateway Anti-Virus Throughput	40 up to 70 Mbps	115 Mbps to 3Gbps	1.69 up to 2.25Gbps
3DES/AES VPN Throughput	75 up to 130Mbps	150Mbps up to 5Gbps	2.7 up to 4Gbps
Connections (per second)	8,000 up to 48,000	2,200 up to 90,000	20,000 up to 1.5 Million
# of SonicPoints Supported	1	16 up to 96	Up to 128
Dynamic Routing	-	OSPF, RIP	OSPF, RIP
Integrated 802.11b/g/n	Integrated on the TZ 105 Wireless-N model	Not Integrated (add on wireless with a SonicPoint)	Not Integrated (add on wireless with a SonicPoint)

A Note on Throughput and Connection Ratings

Firewall throughput is a rating on the maximum speed the firewall can transfer data. If the internet connection speed is 15Mbps for example, then the firewall should support nothing less than that speed. It is worth noting that maximum throughput speed for firewalls is calculated in a very strict testing environment that is not indicative of a real world connection. Therefore, choose a firewall that has *twice* the throughput speed of your ISP connection for best results.

VPN throughput is a rating on the maximum speed the firewall can transfer data across a VPN tunnel. For multiple VPN tunnels from one location to many, the best results are achieved by placing a firewall at the main location with the fastest VPN throughput.

The connection-per-second rating refers to the total number of user-to-Internet resource connections the firewall can process. When one user opens one Web page, 1-10 connections are completed. Greater numbers of users viewing greater quantities of Web pages will require a greater connections-per-second rating from the firewall to ensure best Internet performance for all users on the network. Firewall RAM and processing speed can also affect performance.

Firewall Bundled Options

Dell SonicWALL firewalls are specialized appliances which generally require professional attention to deploy and maintain in order to achieve the highest level of network security. These firewalls perform at their best when paired with the appropriate subscriptions according to the network security needs and ongoing technical support to assist in adjusting firewall parameters as the organization grows and changes, and as the network evolves. In order to simplify the procurement process, Dell SonicWALL has developed "bundles" of hardware and software to best address the various network security needs of many different organizations.

Hardware Only – Includes only the firewall appliance with no special security services, no technical support or recurring subscriptions. Typically this type of firewall is deployed in a very unique setting within an organization's network. ***The hardware only option should NEVER be used as an organization's PRIMARY firewall for network security.***

TotalSecure Hardware & Services Bundle – Easily installed and managed, this is the most common bundle purchased for protecting an organization's network and provides complete network security against threats. The TotalSecure bundle includes an extended hardware warranty, gateway anti-virus, anti-spyware, anti-malware, botnet protection, intrusion prevention, application intelligence, control and visualization subscription, content filtering service subscription and 24x7 technical support.

Available Upgrades and Subscriptions

Dell SonicWALL firewalls offer additional security and feature upgrades which are helpful in solving the Internet security needs of any size of network. These upgrades are either a one-time purchase or a recurring subscription.

- **Global VPN Client** – One time license to allow additional users to connect to the network using the IPSec VPN client.
- **SSL VPN Client** – One time license allowing additional users to connect to the network using the SSL VPN client. (*Most common VPN client used)
- **Content Filtering** – Subscription to provide content filtering of users' browsing activities.
- **Support** – Subscription extending the technical support, firmware updates and hardware warranty of the firewall.
- **Anti-Spam Desktop** – Subscription to block spam emails directly on each network users' desktop.
- **Gateway Antivirus** – Subscription to block viruses and malware at the firewall.
- **Client Ant-Virus** – Subscription to block viruses and malware directly on each users' desktop.
- **Virtual Assist** – One time license to provide remote desktop support through the firewall's SSL VPN portal.
- **Firmware** – Subscription that allows access to ONLY firewall updates for the firewall.
- **Analyzer Software** – One time license for the SonicWALL Analyzer reporting application.
- **Anti-Spam Service** – Subscription for spam and email security services on the firewall.
- **Hardware Warranty** – Subscription to extend the warranty on the hardware only.
- **DPI SSL** – One time license to enable the DPI SSL security feature on the firewall.

Training Options

For network administrators and other enterprising individuals who wish to learn as much as possible about securing their own organization's network, Dell SonicWALL provides technical training sessions delivered through an instructor-led classroom setting in many locations around the world. Alternatively, one may choose online learning through a third-party authorized training partner. There are many certification options available, all of which require a high level of mastery in technical competency and a passing score on a certification exam which must be periodically renewed.

Configuration & Professional Services

For additional support in configuring and maintaining a network firewall, several options are available as an alternative to completing lengthy certification training classes and passing the requires exam(s).

Training Videos – A vast library of clear step-by-step how-to videos on configuring firewall features for best results.

Configuration Service – Dell SonicWALL certified professionals with many years of experience will configure the firewall to meet the specific network security goals of any sized organization. In addition, the firewall will be "locked down" in order to provide the best possible level of network security.

Managed Services – A veteran team of certified Dell SonicWALL professionals will monitor the network, as well as report on and mitigate network attacks. This provides peace of mind that everything is being done around the clock to secure the network and prevent downtime due to security breaches.

Talk with an Expert

There are many options when purchasing a new firewall, from choosing the right appliance to deciding on subscriptions and whether or not configuration and deployment by an outside service provider is most appropriate. For questions about which firewall, add-on or deployment and maintenance service is best suited to your organization's needs, we encourage you to contact our friendly team of firewall professionals at **866.403.5305** or email us sales@firewalls.com.

About Firewalls.com

Founded in 1999 by entrepreneur Brian A. Reed, Firewalls.com pioneered the business model of the eVAR (E-commerce Value Added Reseller) to provide business-to-business IT solutions along with exceptional support. This enables the customer to benefit from procuring IT solutions on the Internet and the value of having a team of experts available to ensure the solution is deployed and maintained –successfully.

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