

# Intel Security Upgrades Its Network Security with McAfee Next Generation Firewall



## Intel Security

### Customer Profile

World's leading dedicated security vendor.

### Industry

Security technology.

### IT environment

175 firewall clusters for global corporate network.

### Challenges

Install latest next-generation firewalls to block advanced threats.

### McAfee Solutions

- McAfee Next Generation Firewall
- McAfee Enterprise Security Manager

### Results

- Fast, easy deployment.
- OPEX reduced through simplified management.
- CAPEX reduced through use of existing firewall chassis.
- Security posture strengthened and event response times reduced through SIEM integration.

In the world of computer, network, and Internet security, McAfee® products need no introduction. McAfee, a part of Intel Security, is devoted to empowering businesses, service providers, the public sector, and home users to safely experience the benefits of the Internet. The company delivers proactive and proven security solutions and services for systems, networks, and mobile devices around the world. With its Security Connected strategy, innovative approach to hardware-enhanced security, and unique McAfee Global Threat Intelligence network, Intel Security is relentlessly focused on keeping its customers safe.

### First to Upgrade in Place

At Intel Security, we are our first and most demanding customer. Intel Security First refers to the program whereby Intel Security IT tests products and deploys them into our own corporate production infrastructure. This enables us to validate performance, compatibility, interoperability, and integration with other products. Benefits include improved product quality and user experience, development of best practices, configuration optimization, and suggestions for additional features and functionality.

“Intel Security First sets our security operations apart because we deploy our products in our global enterprise infrastructure,” says Vice President and Chief Security Officer Brent Conran. “Often we use products differently than developers expect. Through Intel Security First, we are able to demonstrate integrated technologies and determine if they perform as intended.”

Our firewall security is no exception, and, for several years, the Intel Security corporate IT organization has relied on McAfee Firewall Enterprise, a high-security proxy firewall solution, to block malware attempting to

enter the network from external sources. When Intel Security decided to replace McAfee Firewall Enterprise installations with McAfee Next Generation Firewall, the Intel Security First team set out to do it with as little disruption as possible.

“Traditional firewall replacements require you to build duplicate architecture on the side before cutting over to new infrastructure. This process is expensive, requiring installation of ancillary switching, routing, and security technology. Upgrading in place is far more desirable since it protects existing infrastructure investments and requires minimal or no network downtime. A customer's costs would include software and possibly some professional support,” says Conran.

### Blocking Advanced Threats

McAfee Next Generation Firewall protects enterprise networks with high-performance, intelligence-aware security controls supported by real-time updates from the Security Connected ecosystem. This enables Intel Security to deliver the industry's best evasion prevention along with complete next-generation firewall protections.

McAfee Next Generation Firewall starts with granular application control, intrusion prevention system (IPS), built-in virtual private network (VPN), and deep packet inspection—all in an efficient, extensible, and highly scalable unified design. Then Intel Security adds powerful anti-evasion technologies that decode and normalize network traffic—before inspection and across all protocol layers—to expose and block the most advanced attack methods.

McAfee Security Management Center (McAfee SMC) delivers a “big picture” view of Intel Security’s entire distributed network, along with situational awareness of critical network security events. McAfee Next Generation Firewall is also integrated with McAfee Enterprise Security Manager, a security information and event management (SIEM) solution that provides access to real-time, risk-relevant information. This enables the Intel Security team to present a stronger security posture while shortening threat response times.

“Most of us on the security team have extensive experience working with competing products in previous roles. We can honestly say that our McAfee Next Generation Firewall has many capabilities that other solutions can’t deliver,” said Intel Security Senior Network Engineer Javier Mendoza. “One big advantage is the ability to manage every point of configuration from McAfee SMC. Another key differentiator is the embedded IPS, which allows us to do basic port inspection, protocol inspection, deep packet inspection, or all three in series.”

### Smooth Deployment

Focused on a seamless one-for-one migration, the Intel Security First team initially reached out to sales engineering and McAfee Professional Services for training and hands-on knowledge transfer. To date, they have migrated more than 53 firewalls with little downtime and no rollbacks. The worldwide network will ultimately include more than 175 firewalls across offices and data centers. McAfee Next Generation

Firewall has been deployed in Intel Security’s rigorous, real-world environment to provide strong proof to prospective customers of the value of McAfee security solutions. Innovation and feedback from the Intel Security IT department has real benefit for customers with similar needs.

“Being first sometimes has its challenges, and finding an exact match for our hardware requirements challenged us to improvise and test the McAfee Next Generation Firewall software on our existing hardware,” explained Senior Manager Josh Archambault. “Our solution was to deploy the software on our McAfee Enterprise Firewall S4016 chassis. After several successful deployments our solution is now an officially supported configuration.” Today, McAfee IT standardizes on two hardware platforms the McAfee Enterprise Firewall S4016 and the newer McAfee Next Generation Firewall 1402 chassis.

### Centralized Management

“McAfee SMC provides very powerful centralized management,” notes McAfee Professional Services Engineer Robert Cudinski. “The ‘single-pane-of-glass’ dashboard allows us to group policies according to configuration domains, the search feature is fast and precise, and backups are very easy. Additionally, there is far more interactivity with underlying databases and the XML format simplifies modification”.

Conran adds, “One of the biggest benefits is improved manageability. McAfee SMC has an outstanding interface that is easy to manage and control. Additionally, a feature called ‘location’ creates a public address that streamlines the process of connecting a remote site with McAfee SMC”.

To further mitigate risk, the Intel Security team installed the new firewalls as failover pairs. This minimizes the possibility of service interruption while enabling rollback to previous firewalls if necessary.

---

*“Traditional firewall replacements require you to build duplicate architecture on the side before cutting over to new infrastructure. This process is expensive, requiring installation of ancillary switching, routing, and security technology. Upgrading in place is far more desirable since it protects existing infrastructure investments and requires minimal or no network downtime”.*

—Brent Conran, Vice President and CSO, Intel Security

---

### **Fully Integrated SIEM**

Through seamless integration, McAfee Next Generation Firewall forwards its own log threads that receive event information from various devices, such as Cisco routers and other hardware to the McAfee Enterprise Security Manager. McAfee Enterprise Security Manager is able to correlate security events, ensuring continuous monitoring and alerting of compliance status, and providing real-time situational awareness. Conversely, McAfee Enterprise Security Manager can generate reports based on data from McAfee Next Generation Firewall.

“McAfee Enterprise Security Manager is an astounding product. Users can dig deep and make very specific requests for data and then receive the data in the exact format required. It's really a one-stop shop for compliance reporting and output, especially since it meets PCI-DSS compliance for audits,” Cudinski remarks. “It's a huge advantage for the staff in the security operations center. Rather than having to swivel between several different monitors, administrators can view all events collected from every device in the organization through a single interface.”

