

SOLUTION BRIEF

Protect Your Network, Users, and Applications with Secure Office Networking for Small Businesses

Executive Summary

Digital transformation, work-from-anywhere (WFA), and bring-your-own-device (BYOD) initiatives improve employee efficiency and flexibility by enabling access to company networks, applications, and data—from anywhere. However, these trends have created complexity and security challenges for businesses of all sizes. While small businesses face many of the same cyberthreats that larger enterprises do, they are frequently underprepared to defend against them due to a lack of security resources, budget, and expertise.

Fortinet's secure office solution helps small businesses address these challenges by providing security and networking in one easy-to-manage, cost-effective solution. By integrating network security with switching and access points, IT staff or admins in small businesses are empowered to deliver enterprise-grade secure networking without enterprise-level complexity or cost.

Every Organization Is a Target

Many small-business owners assume that their company is too small to be attacked. Cybercriminals, however, are seeking vulnerabilities and gaps in any organization they can penetrate to expose data, disable a device, infiltrate a network, or breach a system, regardless of the size of a business. They often assume smaller organizations don't have the same level of protection in place as larger organizations, which makes them more enticing targets. The consequences of cyberattacks can be devastating and include loss of data and large sums of money, destroyed networks, and reputational damage.

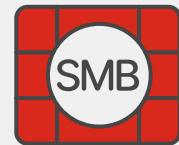
As a business's reliance on technology and connectivity grows, so does its vulnerability to cyberattacks. Like larger organizations, small businesses are also embracing digital transformation and the hybrid workforce. The number of applications and devices connected to networks is increasing, which creates complexity and security risks. Often IT teams lack visibility across all their attack surfaces and cannot respond quickly when a cyberattack happens.

Small Businesses Require Enterprise-Class Security

Small organizations often don't have adequate resources, budget, or infrastructure to easily protect their networks. That's why Fortinet offers a solution that helps small businesses efficiently build a secure office network. This comprehensive, automated solution combines FortiGate Next-Generation Firewalls (NGFWs), FortiSwitch Ethernet switches, FortiAP wireless access points, and FortiGuard AI-Powered Security Services. Our single platform approach makes it easy for businesses to simplify security policy enforcement and device management from our intuitive FortiGate Cloud management portal.

FortiGate NGFWs: the world's most deployed network firewalls

FortiGates deliver unparalleled protection and performance to safeguard mission-critical networks without increasing complexity or expense. They inspect and control all of the network's inbound and outbound traffic. Key functions include intrusion prevention system (IPS), deep-packet inspection, advanced malware protection, and application control. FortiGates also include a wireless controller, software-defined WAN (SD-WAN), and ZTNA access proxy at no extra cost.



While large enterprises continue to increase security investment against possible attacks, resource-constrained small businesses are becoming easier to breach. A recent study found that 61% of SMBs in the U.S. and the U.K. were successfully hit by a cyberattack in the past year.¹

FortiSwitch: high-performance and consistent network connectivity

FortiSwitch, featuring speeds from 1 Gbps to 10 Gbps, provides a rich portfolio to meet a wide range of networking needs. Fully integrated with FortiGate NGFW, FortiSwitch makes deployment easy with zero-touch auto-discovery, provisioning, and security policy assignment. FortiSwitch includes basic network access control (NAC) to securely onboard devices as they connect and helps optimize network performance.

FortiAP: secure wireless networking for optimal stability and efficiency

FortiAP is a Wi-Fi access point built to connect natively to the Fortinet Security Fabric. Featuring the latest Wi-Fi 7 technology, FortiAP offers all the speeds and features necessary at the wireless layer while ensuring a secure office network by leveraging FortiGate as a wireless controller.

FortiGuard AI-Powered Security Services: proven threat intelligence

FortiGuard AI-Powered Security Services integrates with FortiGate and other security solutions across Fortinet’s broad portfolio to provide market-leading security capabilities that protect applications, content, web traffic, devices, and users located anywhere. The Unified Threat Protection (UTP) Bundle offers comprehensive protection with real-time updates, protecting against even the latest threats.

FortiGate Cloud: simplified management and analytics

FortiGate Cloud is an easy-to-use, Software-as-a-Service-based management and security analytics service. It provisions, configures, and manages FortiGates and connected devices, such as FortiSwitch, FortiAP, and FortiExtender, all from a single intuitive cloud interface. With enterprise-grade visibility and analytics, FortiGate Cloud gives small businesses centralized control to improve their security posture and efficiently meet compliance reporting requirements.

FortiConverter Service: easy migration to FortiGate

The FortiConverter Service accelerates the transition from legacy firewalls to FortiGate NGFWs. The service employs best practices by using proven methodologies and validation to reduce human error, limiting the potential impact on business operations.

92%

of data breaches for businesses with less than 1,000 employees were related to system intrusion social engineering and basic web application attacks.²

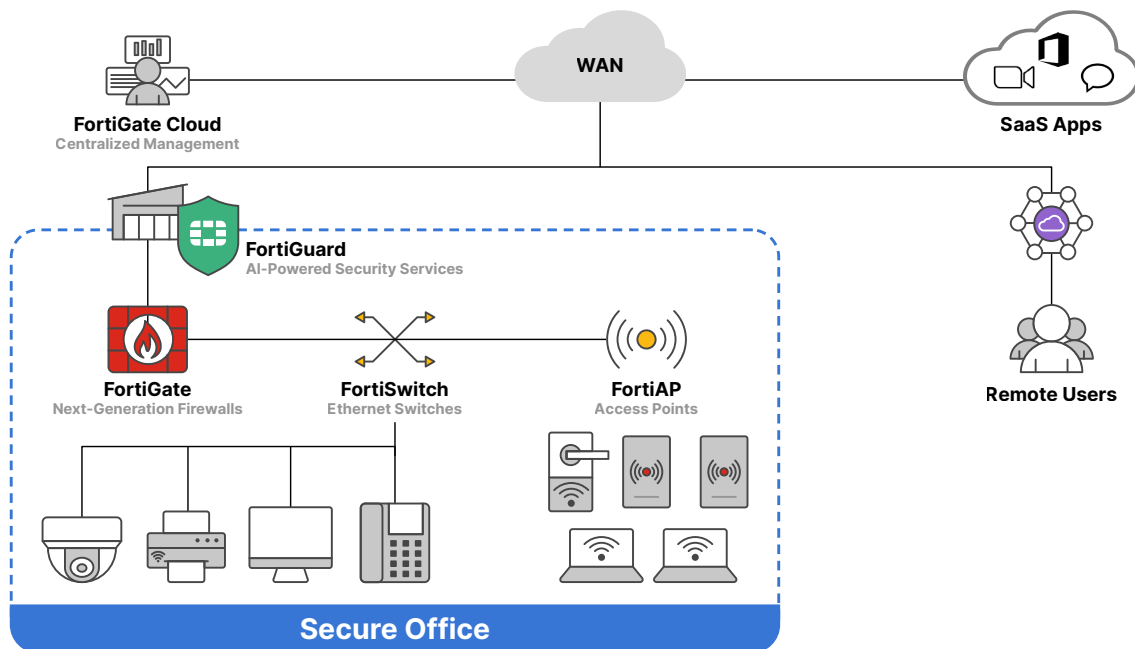


Figure 1: The Fortinet secure office solution



Fortinet Delivers the Ideal Defense for Small Businesses

Small businesses are frequently targeted by savvy cybercriminals, but with the right security, can stop them. The Fortinet secure office solution delivers key benefits to small businesses, including:

Simplified management and full visibility

Converging security and networking enables small businesses to build secure and reliable networks that can be easily managed with one console. Centralized management gives full visibility and insight into the health and performance of applications and devices connected to the network. Smart dashboards and analytics give a real-time view of network traffic and bandwidth usage and show suspicious activities and unusual network performance.

Fast deployment

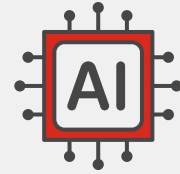
FortiGate NGFWs will automatically discover Fortinet devices on the network, such as switches and access points. Fortinet products connect to FortiGates quickly and seamlessly without complicated or time-consuming configurations. With zero-touch deployment, new locations can be secured quickly and remotely.

Reduced total cost of ownership

FortiGate NGFWs are powered by proprietary security processors that deliver an unparalleled level of power-efficient performance. Built-in SD-WAN features support business growth and onboard new locations quickly without on-site expertise. With zero-touch deployment and centralized management, our comprehensive solution helps small businesses automate deployment and reduce complexity, resulting in more savings from the investment.

Conclusion

The Fortinet secure office solution mitigates the cyber risks that result from the rapid adoption of cloud resources and hybrid work, giving small businesses a complete, yet simple solution to protect networks, devices, and people. Our unique offering delivers comprehensive and easy-to-manage secure networking to ensure effective, high-performance security without the complexity. This enables small businesses without the resources of enterprises to provide the same protection and user experience as larger organizations.



Organizations with fully deployed security AI and automation reported \$1.76 million lower data breach costs compared to those without security AI and automation.³

¹ Catherine Reed, "[32 Small Business Cybersecurity Statistics – 2023](#)," Firewall Times, October 9, 2023.

² [2023 Data Breach Investigation Report](#)," Verizon, 2023.

³ [Cost of a Data Breach Report 2023](#), IBM Security, July 27, 2023.