What is the Palo Alto Next Generation HealthCheck?

You have a significant investment in your Palo Alto Next Generation Firewalls (NGFW), and they are critical components of your organization’s security infrastructure. EITS’ NGFW HealthCheck service ensures you are maximizing your return on this investment.

1. **Identify**
   - Identify key areas for improvement within your Palo Alto Next Generation Firewall infrastructure.
   - Puzzles can be a lot easier when you build the same type of puzzles over and over. Palo Alto NGFW are one of MANY technologies the people on your team manage. Let our trained Palo experts, who solve this puzzle every day, take the lead and mentor your team for success.

2. **Prioritize**
   - Prioritize based on potential risk, level of effort to remediate, and overall value to your organization.
   - Prioritizing is tailored to each customer, not a generic checklist.

3. **Plan**
   - Understand how remediation will impact other areas of infrastructure, security, and business. We help your team plan remediation, create task lists, define testing plans, submit change controls, and facilitate communication.
   - Improvements on your NGFW may not matter if we do not understand and plan around potential impacts. Planning requires an understanding of how changes will impact other areas of the business.

4. **Remediate**
   - It’s not enough to just identify opportunities for improvement; you must close the gaps. Penetration test results can be overwhelming; the EITS NGFW HealthCheck focuses on prioritized, actionable improvements. These improvements may be implemented by your team or with EITS’ assistance, as needed.
   - The goal of the HealthCheck is not to point out problems, but rather to enable the right answers and make remediation decisions easy for customers.

5. **Report**
   - Verifying outcomes is just as important as identifying and solving problems. We enable you with tangible metrics to quantify success, following HealthCheck remediation actions.
   - If we want leadership to continue enabling us to solve problems, we must show them quantifiable improvements in language they can understand.
The Value of a HealthCheck

The EITS NGFW HealthCheck prioritizes improvement opportunities and enables success with the Palo Alto Next Generation Firewall through a proven, structured process. Findings are given a “Value” rating based on risk to the organization, level of effort to remediate, and complexity of the change. We work with your team to plan and execute changes, and report quantifiable improvements following each HealthCheck. By repeating the HealthCheck process on a regular schedule, we can show tangible improvements in your security environment over time.

Operational personnel are driven by tactical priorities, and this usually doesn’t allow time to assess current deployments against best practices. Often, multiple people are maintaining the environment applying different processes and standards. Lack of standardization is a huge challenge during times of change. Additionally, many organizations are now required to perform third party firewall audits, and the HealthCheck can help meet these requirements.

**Focus** - Enable your team to focus on their day-to-day priorities

**Standardization** - Ensure people are applying the same standards based on best practices

**Ease Audit** - Auditors will love the results of this HealthCheck. This structured process includes a third-party assessment of your current deployment, support with remediation, and reports of ongoing success

**Enablement** - Our best customers really want to understand and maximize the solutions they have invested in. The Palo Alto Next Generation Firewall HealthCheck is an effective way to enable your team and fast-track their learning process

**Maximize Investments** - All too often we are engaged in incident response scenarios where customers had the right technologies in place to stop the problem... but that wasn’t enough. The tools were not fully deployed, or a simple configuration option that could have stopped the attack was overlooked.

One of the most valuable benefits of the HealthCheck is it enables your NGFW administrators to catch hidden-configuration gaps. Palo Alto Next Generation Firewalls are incredibly powerful, but it can be easy to miss some things through the standard GUI. Through the HealthCheck, we pinpoint areas of focus that really matter. We “read the entire book” for you and highlight the key areas you need to review.

### Results Matter

1. **One customer recently spent nearly half a million dollars to protect their perimeter with Palo Alto Firewalls. The EITS HealthCheck uncovered that High Availability was configured, but missed a setting to track the status of interfaces between firewalls. This misconfiguration would have prevented automated failover of the firewalls... which the customer thought was in place. This is one example of how the HealthCheck uncovered a critical deviation from the customer’s intended design.**

2. **Another customer utilizes Palo Alto firewalls to protect their perimeter. The firewalls have been in production for several years, with several different administrators over time. The EITS HealthCheck uncovered that SSL decryption had been configured, but decryption profiles were not enabled. The customers’ IT leadership team incorrectly believed SSL decryption was being performed everywhere. Some thought a short-term resource who didn’t last too long may have turned these settings off during a troubleshooting activity. The EITS Health Check helped this customer prioritize the traffic to decrypt, and EITS enabled these rules using the previously configured decryption profiles.**

3. **A third customer migrated from a legacy Cisco ASA firewall to the Palo Alto NGFW. During the migration, a standard Layer 3-4 transfer of rules was performed. A few years had passed, and the customer had enabled Layer 7 application-aware rules in many cases. The HealthCheck uncovered that in most cases the Anti-virus and Anti-spyware settings were not turned on for rules. This resulted from having multiple people making changes, and highlighted an opportunity for improvement around firewall change procedures. This customer enabled Anti-virus and Anti-spyware rules across the board, and documented change procedures on how to configure rules going forward.**