

Healthcare NGFW Migration

Secure and Compliant Palo Alto NGFW Migration for a Large Healthcare

CLIENT: Healthcare Entity
(fictional name)

INDUSTRY: Healthcare

CHALLENGE: The Healthcare entity is a large healthcare system comprising multiple hospitals, medical centers, and clinics in the Southern US. The organization handles sensitive patient information, medical records, and critical healthcare services. Their existing firewall infrastructure had reached its end-of-life, posing significant security risks and hindering compliance efforts. In searching for a solution provider that would be able to help them bolster their network security, they found Enterprise IT Security (EITS).

The key challenges faced were:

Security Vulnerabilities: The outdated firewall lacked advanced threat prevention capabilities, leaving the healthcare system vulnerable to potential cyberattacks and data breaches.

Regulatory Compliance Requirements: The Healthcare entity must comply with stringent healthcare regulations such as HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) and HITECH (Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act). The existing firewall lacked some of the essential features necessary to meet these compliance requirements.

Scalability and Performance: With the continuous expansion of healthcare services and patient data, the legacy firewall struggled to handle the increasing network traffic, leading to performance bottlenecks.

Complex Network Infrastructure: The healthcare system's network infrastructure was complex, comprising multiple sites and diverse services. Migrating to a new firewall solution required meticulous planning and execution to avoid service disruptions.

Solution:

The customer decided that EITS with their NGFW Migration solution is what they needed to overcome their security challenges and ensure compliance. The EITS Firewall Migration Service was designed with a focus on security, compliance, and minimal disruption.

The migration service comprised the following steps:

- **Detailed Assessment and Planning:** EITS conducted a comprehensive assessment of the Healthcare entity's network infrastructure, understanding their security, compliance, and performance requirements. Based on the assessment, they formulated a detailed migration plan.
- **Compliance Analysis:** EITS reviewed the healthcare system's compliance efforts and identified gaps in the existing firewall infrastructure concerning HIPAA and HITECH regulations. The migration plan incorporated the necessary features to meet these compliance requirements.

- **Palo Alto NGFW Design and Configuration:** We designed a customized Palo Alto NGFW architecture, considering the healthcare system's diverse network services and traffic patterns. The new NGFW configuration included robust security policies, application-level control, and advanced threat prevention features.
- **Parallel Deployment and Testing:** The new Palo Alto NGFWs were deployed alongside the existing firewall infrastructure using a parallel deployment approach. EITS conducted rigorous testing to ensure the NGFWs could handle the healthcare system's specific use cases and traffic profiles.
- **Rule Mapping and Optimization:** Working closely with the Healthcare entity's IT and security teams, EITS mapped the existing firewall rules to the new Palo Alto NGFW policies. They optimized and fine-tuned the rules to ensure a streamlined and secure configuration.
- **User Training and Knowledge Transfer:** EITS provided in-depth training sessions to the healthcare system's IT team, enabling them to manage and maintain the new NGFW environment effectively.

Results:

The EITS Firewall Migration Service delivered substantial benefits for the Healthcare client:

- **Heightened Security and Threat Prevention:** The advanced security features of Palo Alto NGFWs significantly improved the healthcare system's ability to detect and prevent cyber threats, safeguarding sensitive patient data and healthcare services.
- **Regulatory Compliance Adherence:** The new NGFWs provided the necessary features and reporting capabilities required to comply with HIPAA, HITECH, and other healthcare industry regulations, ensuring the healthcare system's continued compliance.
- **Improved Performance and Scalability:** The Palo Alto NGFWs' superior performance and scalability resolved performance bottlenecks, accommodating the healthcare system's growing network traffic and expanding services.
- **Minimal Disruption and Downtime:** The parallel deployment approach ensured a seamless migration with minimal disruptions to healthcare services, allowing for continuous patient care and operations.
- **Ongoing Support and Managed Services:** EITS continued to provide post-migration support, including 24/7 monitoring, incident response, and regular updates, ensuring the NGFW environment remained secure and compliant over time.

By engaging with EITS to manage the migration to Palo Alto Networks NGFWs, the Healthcare entity fortified its network security, ensured compliance with healthcare regulations, and improved overall network performance, contributing to the organization's mission of providing secure and high-quality healthcare services to patients.



EITS helps businesses, education and government agencies build and manage secure IT environments for a changing world. We secure what matters most: their business, their IT environment, their intellectual property and their reputation. Our holistic approach addresses the Architectural, Operational and Organizational facets of Information Security applying a proven architecture blueprint for scalable, agile, manageable IT environments, hardened to DOD-level security standards. Agencies and businesses who have suffered severe data breaches have tapped EITS to remediate their issues, and to dramatically lower the risk of future events. We are driven by our culture of Excellence and Substance: We Always Make Mission.