Teaching Case

Utilizing a Virtual Firewall Appliance for Introducing and Reinforcing the Concepts and Implementation of Devices to Improve Security in a Computing Environment

Stanley J. Mierzwa smierzwa@kean.edu

Christopher Eng engchr@kean.edu

Center for Cybersecurity Kean University Union, NJ 07083, USA

Abstract

The educational realm of higher education cybersecurity curriculum continues to evolve to provide more opportunities for experiential hands-on and work role-related practical applications of technology solutions. Gaining more excellent competencies is quickly becoming a standard requirement for programs with the National Security Agency Center of Academic Excellence designation. The work roles of cybersecurity include a variety of knowledge, skills, and abilities, depending on the activity category or task. Firewalls have been a staple cybersecurity, network security, and information security device and strategy to protect organization networks and computing environments. This paper will provide details and a description of the effort and project to utilize a professionally available virtual firewall to give introductory students an opportunity to get an authentic and practical experience. The purpose of this paper is to demonstrate to other faculty interested in holding a firewall class a chance to share and review the process, tools, and implementation used with students that resulted in a positive outcome. This write-up will demonstrate the potential for using virtual firewalls as a learning tool in information technology security learning. In addition, content that resulted from a feedback survey administered to students who utilized the virtual firewalls as part of this activity is provided.

Keywords: Pedagogy; Firewalls; Virtual Machines; Cybersecurity; Hands On Learning

1. INTRODUCTION

This activity provided an opportunity to explore the feasibility and practical case study of using a virtual firewall configuration that was co-designed as a form of teaching pedagogy to provide a realworld connection between professional firewall devices and students. The design was created and pursued between a National Security Agency Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense designated program and an industry provider of cybersecurity tools and technologies, including firewalls, endpoint security devices, intrusion detection, and artificial intelligence capabilities integration. One critical motivation for tackling this effort was to allow students in a crossdiscipline undergraduate firewall course access to more hands-on experience in using a professional firewall. Additionally, a motivation was to include a student worker from the university information technology department in the opportunity to partner with a faculty member on this activity. Finally, the inspiration also sought to document the solution in the event that other educators wished to explore the solution utilized.

Content is provided outlining the theoretical framework and model utilized as a guide in this activity, as well as background information on the said course that introduced a virtual machine firewall. Additionally, background information is provided on the technology and foundational settings utilized to make the solution available. Finally, a discussion is provided outlining the feedback assessed from students, activities to pursue going forward, and other implications.

2. THEORETICAL MODEL AND FRAMEWORK

As a theoretical guide to this effort, the instancebased learning theory was employed as a framework. Instance-based learning theory (IBLT) has been utilized in previous cybersecurity research to explain situational awareness and provide models to gain real-world cybersecurity domain knowledge and experience (Veksler et al., 2018). Instance-based learning theory provides the theoretical background focused on the premise that every decision in a situation can be referenced back to an experience, known as the instance (Dutt et al., 2013). The theory provides a framework to follow in order to attempt to predict activities and timing based on threats through cybersecurity situational awareness (Gonzalez et al., 2003). In this activity, the ability to interface with virtual firewalls, given sequences and scenarios to follow, was approached and aligned with the IBLT by allowing the students to navigate the firewall in the same manner as professionals in the field. A train-the-trainer activity took place with a Fortinet engineer providing in-person instruction on the firewall solution utilizing the materials that could be used for laboratory experiences (Fortinet, 2024). This action was meant to frame the purpose and reasons one would configure or re-configure and program a virtual firewall, as well as create a reference point. As an example, a reference point outlined included the acquisition of a firewall, determining if any rules and configuration were to be migrated over to the new device, as well as the initial setup that was detailed for the students to pursue in a vendor-supplied laboratory exercise.

3. FIREWALLS SPECIFIC COURSE

Rapid Literature Review

In its most basic functionality, a firewall is a technological solution that is implemented to secure the perimeter of networks against unwanted breaches and cyber-attacks (Haghighi et al., 2024). In the field of information security, a firewall solution will often be implemented by an expert who has experience in implementing rules that will allow or disallow certain forms of network traffic. Network traffic can be filtered between operating zones by using a firewall. The detection and ability to block attacks via Intrusion Detection and Intrusion Prevention Systems (IDS/IPS) are often features built into a firewall device (Hassan, 2020).

Prior to undertaking the effort to introduce the use of virtual firewalls as part of a pedagogy strategy for a course, several rapid literature review steps were taken. These steps included performing focused searches in several scholarly databases and repositories. The result of this rapid literature review activity yielded a lack of such documented materials. The search criteria utilized within the demonstrated databases included performing a full-text search at any time and using the focused search terms of pedagogy with the Boolean AND operator and "virtual firewall." The goal of such a search was to guickly glean if other researchers and practitioners have put forth an effort to document the use of virtual firewall solutions, regardless of make, model, vendors, and strategies within the scholarly literature. The results are outlined in Table 1.

Using other novel techniques can be helpful in bringing forward a positive pedagogical method to instill knowledge and background on firewall technologies. Rozinaj et al. (2018) utilized the self-directed learning method with the use of virtual reality and the use of games to engage firewall technology knowledge users of the solution. Gampell et al. (2024) partnered with students, academics, and emergency management professionals, to create a pedagogy that supported the use of a gaming platform that engaged students in learning about disaster critical adverse events risk reduction.

The role of firewalls enters many different computing environments, including those that can be associated with the Internet of Things (IoT), which can be included in such areas as manufacturing. Previous research into the use of Palo Alto firewalls and their integration with IoT was approached as a form of pedagogy to understand such real-world scenarios (Sanchez et al., 2020). Many different firewall vendors provided solutions exist, and in the next section, an outline of the tasks that led to the product utilized in this pedagogical activity.

Database or Source	Search Term	Number of Entries
Google Scholar	"pedagogy" and "virtual firewall"	37
ACM Digital Library	"pedagogy" and "virtual firewall"	4
IEEE/IET Electronic Library	"pedagogy" and "virtual firewall"	0
EBSCOhost	"pedagogy" and "virtual firewall"	0
ABI/INFORM Global	"pedagogy" and "virtual firewall"	2
Homeland Security Digital Library	"pedagogy" and "virtual firewall"	0

Table	1:	Academic	Literature	Rapid	Scan
-------	----	----------	------------	-------	------

Course Details and Student Population

The cross-disciplinary course is titled Firewalls and Secure CPU (CJ3760). It is available to students pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science with a Cybersecurity option, a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology with a Cybersecurity option, and a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice with a Cybersecurity concentration. Prerequisites to take CJ3760 introductory include completion of an cybersecurity course named Foundations in Cybersecurity (CJ2630). The prerequisite CJ2630 course includes theoretical content covering a broad set of topics, including an overview of cybersecurity, cybercrime, and the Internet, hacking, intellectual property, scams and fraud, online victimization of individuals, policing the Internet, cyber liberties, and the future of cybercrime and information security. The firewall course has traditionally been given from a theoretical perspective, with limited laboratory exercises, following the guidelines and curriculum outlined in a book published by Pearson. The course is given to students who have taken prerequisite information technology, computer science, or cybersecurity coursework but is considered an introduction to the concept, functionality, and implementation of firewalls to secure computing environments. The course is

basically broken up into a 16-week program, with eight weeks focused on firewalls and eight weeks dedicated to securing computing environments, such as workstations, PCs, and other endpoints, via technical group policies and procedures. It is expected to have students from a variety of disciplines of computer science, information technology, and criminal justice. An example of several of the starting point laboratory exercises are presented in Appendix A and B.

4. METHODS

Partnering with a Firewall Vendor

A variety of professional vendor options, in the form of software and hardware, exist for computer networks, servers, workstations, routers, access points, and the like for an enterprise computing operation. A good number of options exist for firewall devices. The devices can exist in hardware-based appliances with integrated hardware and software or the use of virtual software options to employ on one's hardware platform or virtual server configuration. In the case of this academic activity, to provide students with the ability to engage with a realworld vendor firewall, several vendors were contacted to inquire about the potential for an open educational resource or freely available options for students. An important aspect was to minimize the costs for students to operate firewalls in a laboratory environment. One vendor was rapid to the table with options, Fortinet, There could have been more vendor-based solutions and freely available options. However, Fortinet provided excellent input and guidance and was willing to visit the campus for a full day to both present and work on the established setup and configuration and provide example labs that could be implemented.

The laboratory hardware components utilized for the firewalls course included the use of standard Windows 10 laptops, having the latest software and security updates, the freely available Oracle VM VirtualBox Manager (version 7.0.14 r161095), and the Fortinet FortiGate VM for VMWare. It was decided to use the available course laptops to minimize the solution requirement constraints since some students use Google Chromebooks, which would cause challenges for the installation and setup. The requirements to run VirtualBox include the use of either an Intel or AMD processor, ample RAM, depending on the operating system one wishes to run, and large enough disk space to host the virtual machine desired (Oracle VirtualBox, 2024). For the specific FortiGate VM used in the lab exercises, a base memory of 5 GB was enabled, along with 8 to 10

GB of disk space. For the virtual provisioning of the CPU, the setting of 4 Cores was configured. The exact image utilized for this case study was named FGT_VM64_HV-v7.4.2.F-build2571-FORTINET. The virtual image for the Fortinet FortiGate can be found by navigating and registering at the FortiGate Cloud web portal (<u>https://www.forticloud.com</u>). In the laboratory scenario utilized in this effort, the product image selected was the FortiGate product for Hyper-V to operate in a Windows Operating System environment.

The laptops are required to be connected to a wired or Wi-Fi network connection with Internet connectivity available in order to register the demonstration version of the virtual firewall. In order to permit the Fortinet FortiGate VM firewall to communicate with the local area network and Internet, a vital adjustment was necessary. The network setting of the Oracle VM VirtualBox image mounted required the enabling of the network-bridged adapter setting. These settings can be seen in Figure 1.

🍚 CJ-Lab - Settings	-	- 🗆 🛛
General	Network	
System	Adapter 1 Adapter 2 Adapter 3 Adapter 4	
Display	Enable Network Adapter	
Storage	Attached to: Bridged Adapter ~	
Audio	Name: Intel(R) Wi-Fi 6 AX201 160MHz Advanced	~
Network		
Serial Ports		
<i> U</i> SB		
Shared Folders		
User Interface		
	OK Cancel	Help

Figure 1: VirtualBox Bridged Adapter

Firewall Configuration and Settings

Upon starting up the Fortinet FortiGate firewall within the VirtualBox manager, the student is confronted with a pure command line interface. Using a command line interface to configure a firewall provides students a valuable and realistic knowledge and skills activity. By providing students a task to execute command line functions, they have the opportunity to recognize that firewalls can be configured by using a web interface as well as a traditional command line. A sample screen with the high-level configuration options made available by simply entering "?" is provided in Figure 2. Students were then asked to review all the high-level options available to them when using the command line interface.

FGVMEVRMOIQ} Password: Welcome !	(X9BC login: admin
FGVMEVRMOIQI	X9BC #
config	Configure object.
get	Get dynamic and system information.
show	Show configuration.
diagnose	Diagnose facility.
execute	Execute static commands.
alias	Execute alias commands.
exit	Exit the CLI.

FGVMEVRMOIOKX9BC #

Figure 2: Command Line Help Interface to Firewall Settings and Configuration

Initial Assignments and Lab Activities

In addition to providing the setup and installation instructions in order to get the virtual firewalls up and running, students were asked to follow and respond to prompts of growing complexity in navigating the firewall. Greater confidence in getting started with the configuration of a network perimeter defense device provides an anchor or initiation step that helps one get oriented. Initial steps included logging into the command prompt interface, executing a ping to ensure proper connectivity existed, and proceeding through the steps to obtain the IP address assigned to the firewall. In addition, verifying the DNS settings and ensuring there is the ability to access public websites outside the laboratory environment was possible. The screen examples students would use with these successful steps can be found in Figures 3 and 4.

Connectivity Test	_
Figure 3: Executing a Command L	ine
5 packets transmitted, 5 packets received, 0% packet loss round-trip min/avg/max = 10.0/14.0/26.4 ms	
me-ycpi-cf-www.g06.yahoodns.net ping statistics	
64 bytes from 69.147.92.11: icmp_seq=4 ttl=51 time=10.4 ms	
64 butes from $69.147.92.11$; icmp seq=3 ttl=51 time=11.9 ms	
64 butes from 69 147 92 11: icmp_seq=1 ttl=51 time=26 4 ms	
b4 bytes from b9.147.92.11; icmp_seq=0 ttl=51 time=11.7 ms	
PING me-ycpi-cf-www.g06.yahoodns.net (69.147.92.11): 56 data b	ytes
FGUMEURMOIQKX9BC # execute ping www.yahoo.com	

FGUMEURMD10KX980C # diag ip addr list IP=10.140.35.85->10.140.35.85/255.255.240.0 index=3 devname=port1 IP=127.0.0.1->127.0.0.1/255.0.0.0 index=5 devname=root IP=10.255.1.1->10.255.1.1/255.255.255.0.0 index=9 devname=sys_ha IP=127.0.0.1->127.0.0.1/255.0.0.0 index=12 devname=sys_ha IP=127.0.0.1->127.0.0.1/255.0.0.0 index=12 devname=sys_fgfm

Figure 4: Obtaining IP Address from Command Line

After struggling a lot with a command line interface, it was then time to provide students with the steps and procedures to access the graphical user interface, which is made available via an HTTPS page. The challenges with the command line interface included ensuring that commands were executed with proper syntax and with passing parameters. This was a new concept for some of the students who did not have a deep technical academic background, for example, those pursuing criminal justice degrees. Understanding the concept of getting started with a firewall configuration with a command line is a critical competency to develop since the practice can translate to other appliance devices, such as network switches. Students were instructed to utilize the private IP address obtained in an earlier lab to bring up the HTTPS interface in a browser. The login prompt provided in the browser, if successfully rendered, and the initial Fortinet FortiGate dashboard pages can be seen in Figures 5 and 6. The dashboard provided the students the opportunity to witness the web interface utilized to configure a firewall and monitor its activity.

← → C ▲ Not secure 10.140.35.85/login?redir=%2F

Username		
Password		
1 doshord	Login	

Figure 5: Firewall HTTPS Interface Login

← → Ø ▲ Not secure 10.5	40.85.85/system/dashboard/1	cu 🖈 🖪 🔮
FGVMEVRMOIQKX98C -	≡ Q.	>_ ⊕•
🚯 Dashboard 🗸 🕯	+ Add widget	
Status I		
+	System Information • Licenses (1208.184.237.66) • E •	Virtual Machine = •
Fort/View Sources	Hostname FGVMEVRMOIQKX9BC	FGVMEV Likense
FortiView Destinations	Serial number FGVMEVRMOIQKXSBC	
FortiView Applications	Firmware v7.4.2 build2571 (Feature) Support Updates IPS	Allocated vCPUs 1/1
FortiView Web Sites	Mode NAT	100%
FortiView Threats	System time 2024/03/21.09:06:09	Allocated RAM 2 GiB/2 GiB
FortiView Compromised	Uptime 36m 57s AntiVirus Web Filter Rating	97%
Hosts	WAN IP 131.125.11.1 FortiToken	
FortiView Policies	Anew firmware version is available X	
FortiView Sessions	 VX-4D (PERUPE) 	
Device Inventory Monitor	FortiGate Cloud 🛛 🖛 Security Fabric 🖸 🗮 🕶	Administrators Ø ≡ •
Routing Monitor	Status 🛕 Not Supported LAN Edge	Console O Forti Explorer O HTTP
DHCP Monitor		admin super_admin
SD-WAN Monitor	To Portsate	
FortiGuard Quota	P ^a O FortiAP ≧ O FortiExtender	

Figure 6: Virtual Firewall HTTPS Dashboard

5. RESULTS

The field of cybersecurity, including the technology and solutions that can be implemented, as well as the practices and procedures to consider, is vast. Providing students with more interactive and hands-on activities is beneficial in understanding the many building blocks required to secure an organization and computing environment. The pedagogy involved in instructing students on content related to firewalls will be beneficial in building competencies more excellent with the introduction of a "real world" firewall device with which to engage. In addition to a critical theory, firewalls are a specific product set solution. They are still considered standard devices for implementation in any company, business, agency, or organization that connects to the public Internet. In fact, many organizations employ and have implemented many firewalls within their infrastructure in order to create separate networks with greater granular control. The use of a set of laboratory exercises to complement seeing a firewall first-hand can be beneficial to a recent cybersecurity graduate entering the field.

6. DISCUSSION AND IMPLICATIONS

The feedback survey results from students who utilized the firewall virtual machine configuration outlined in this document found it to be meaningful. Every student in the course reported that this was their first time engaging, navigating, and configuring a firewall security appliance and device. All students (N=14) reported that the complement of using a virtual firewall device improved their understanding of how such devices can be used in businesses and organizations to protect the environment. Improving and enabling greater competency was reported as achieved. An open question was administered to obtain further suggestions for improvements in future classes. A common theme suggested was to engage even further with more laboratory time to allow for greater selflearning and optional laboratory assignments. The self-report web-based Google Forms surveys were administered to all the students in this introductory firewall course at the end of the course, as well as laboratory exercises.

7. CONCLUSION

Undergraduate and graduate courses can employ a variety of teaching pedagogy. This paper outlined the opportunity to utilize virtual machine firewalls in order to reinforce practical knowledge and experience working with such security devices. By using such a teaching design, students have the opportunity to move beyond merely analyzing network security devices from a theoretical design perspective. They are permitted to employ a real-world, hands-on, integrated solution. For students who are unfamiliar with firewall technology or still considered introductory-level in their knowledge, such an approach adds value to their better understanding of these technology solutions utilized in almost any organization and business with connectivity. Going forward, adjustments may be made to the pre-requisite Foundations in Cybersecurity course by including more content and practical laboratory examples related to technology solutions that utilize command-line

interfaces.

8. LIMITATIONS

Many firewall vendors exist, and even opensource firewalls could have been used in this pedagogy exercise and approach. Without the existence of a classroom full of physical firewalls, future exercises can be undertaken to evaluate other vendors or open-source firewalls that could be used to introduce students to these perimeter security devices and solutions. In addition, there is a limitation related to evaluating whether any cloud-based solutions exist that would eliminate the need to mount a virtual machine image on individual laptops. A limitation related to the theoretical framework or theory to follow as part of this activity is presented. Alternative theories that can be considered relevant to this pedagogy activity are available and could have been approached as part of this study paper. Finally, all students were polled at the end of the course to determine their feedback on using the virtual firewall solution, a limitation presented itself by not having a pre-course set of questions asking students if they needed a more significant background in using a command line interface prior to engaging with the virtual firewalls.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Technical projects with different many components and participants certainly need to have individuals who see the purpose and want to contribute. A hearty thank you to Richard (Rik) Maerz, Cass Hill, and Troy Gallo from Fortinet for collaborating successfully to make open educational resources available for students. Additionally, a genuine thank you to Christopher Eng, a Kean student and part-time employee of the Office of Computer and Information Services, who diligently tested the virtual machine and firewall image to ensure it worked on laboratory laptops.

10. REFERENCES

- Dutt, V., Ahn, Y.-S., & Gonzalez, C. (2013). Cyber situation awareness: Modeling detection of cyber-attacks with instance-based learning theory. *Human Factors*, 55(3), 605-618. https://doi.org/10.1177/0018720812464045
- Fortinet. (2024). Fast Track Workshops Experience the Fortinet Security Fabric in Action. Retrieved August 14, 2024 from https://www.fortinet.com/content/dam/main dam/PUBLIC/02_MARKETING/02_Collateral/ Brochures/brochure-ftnt-fast-track.pdf

- Gampell, A. V., Gaillard, J. C., Parsons, M., Le De, L., & Hinchliffe, G. (2024). Participatory Minecraft mapping: Fostering student's participation in disaster awareness, 48. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.entcom.2023.1006 05
- Gonzalez, C., Lerch, J. F., & Lebiere, C. (2003). Instance-based learning in dynamic decision making. *Cognitive Science*, *27*(4), 591-635. https://doi.org/10.1207/s15516709cog2704 _2
- Haghighi, M. S., Farivar, F., & Jolfaei, A. (2024).
 A machine-learning-based approach to build zero-false-positive IPSs for industrial IoT and CPS with a case study on power grid security, *IEEE Transactions on Industry Applications*, 60(1), 920-928. https://doi.org/10.1109/TIA.2020.3011397
- Hassan, I. (2020). Teaching cybersecurity to computer science students utilizing terminal sessions recording software as a pedagogical tool. IEEE Frontiers in Education Conference (FIE), Uppsala, Sweden, 2020, pp. 1-8. https://doi.org/10.1109/FIE44824.2020.927 4268
- Oracle VirtualBox. (2024). VirtualBox End-user documentation. Retrieved August 22, 2024, from https://www.virtualbox.org/wiki/Enduser_documentation
- Rozinaj, G., Vančo, M., Vargic, R., Minárik, I., & Polakovič, A. (2018). Augmented/virtual reality as a tool of self-directed learning. 25th International Conference on Systems, Signals and Image Processing (IWSSIP), Maribor, Slovenia, 2018, 1-5. https://doi.org/10.1109/IWSSIP.2018.84393 09
- Sanchez, J., Mallorqui, S., Briones, A., Zaballos, A., & Corral, G. (2020). An integral pedagogical strategy for teaching and learning IoT cybersecurity. *Sensors*, 20(14), 1-35. https://doi.org/10.3390/s20143970
- Veksler, V. D., Buchler, N., Hoffman, B. E., Cassenti, D. N., Sample, C., & Sugrim, S. (2018). Simulations in cyber-security: A review of cognitive modeling of network attackers, defenders, and users. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 9(691). https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2018.00691

APPENDIX A

Fortinet Virtual Firewall Setup and Installation Steps

The steps below include the tasks that prepared the laboratory laptops to run the Oracle VirtualBox and virtual Fortinet firewall solution.

Download the Virtual Firewall Image

- 1. Navigate to the https://www.forticloud.com website.
- 2. From the FortiCloud website, click on the link to register and create a free account.

Security-as-a- service, securing	EMAIL LOGIN	广 IAM LOGIN
people, devices, and data everywhere	Email Login	
	EMAIL	
onnging Security to Every Corner of the Cyberverse.	PASSWORD	ß
15 M -	Forgot Email?	Forgot password?
	LOGIN	REGISTER

a.3. After successfully logging into the FortiCloud website, select the appropriate region for your location. In our case, select FortiGateCloud US.



5. From the dropdown menu provided, select the product FortiGate and the Hyper-V platform.

а.

Select Product	
FortiGate	~
Select Platform	
Hyper-V	~
AliCloud AWS Azure	
Hyper-V	
IBM KVM OCI Oracle Rackspace VMWare ESXi	im
VMWare NSX Xen	

a. 6. Select the FortiGate for Microsoft deployment.

New deployment of	c878786742fd82772e78653e0c22bcdd (Regular)
FortiGate for Microsoft	6a1d001c7fabf56135070982523423edd3d73b6885a75930c340a98feb58614bf942f2e21f979169348ef36k
Hyper-V	(SHA-512)
FGT_VM64_HV-v7.4.3.F-	
build2573-	
FORTINET.out.hyperv.zip	
(92.17 MB)	
Download	

a. 7. Click Download, and make note of the location where the FortiGate virtual firewall image was saved on the laptop hard drive.

Installation and Configuration of VirtualBox

1. Navigate to the website <u>https://virtualbox.org</u>.



Settinas

Start

6. Name the virtual machine Fortinet Virtual Firewall

New

а.

Add

💱 Create Virtual Ma	chine				?	\times
	✓ Name	and <u>O</u> perating System	Þ			
	<u>N</u> ame:					•
	<u>F</u> older:					
	<u>I</u> SO Image:	<not selected=""></not>				
F	<u>T</u> ype:	Microsoft Windows			_	
	Version:	Windows 10 (64-bit)				
	Linatt	Skip Unattended Ins				
		Dick				
		<u>א</u> פול				
Help			<u>G</u> uided Mode		Ca	ncel

a.
7. Proceed and step through the configuration steps, selecting the Base Memory of 5GB and 4 CPUs.

	🜍 Create Virtual Ma	chine			?	\times
		Name and Operating System Unattended Install	•			
	S	Hardware Base Memory: 4 MB Processors: 1 CPU		16384 MB 12	5000 MB 4 CPUs	•
		Enable EFI (special OSes only) Hard Disk				
а	Help		<u>G</u> uided Mode		<u>C</u> anc	el

8. Select the location to store the Virtual Hard Disk and allocate it with 50GB.

S Create Virtual Machine		×
	 Name and Operating System Unattended Install 	
	> Hardware	
	✓ Hard Disk	
	<u>Create a Virtual Hard Disk Now</u>	
r	Hard Disk File Location and Size	
	C:\Users\lemon\VirtualBox VMs\NewVirtualDisk1.vdi	
	50.00) GB
	4.00 MB 2.00 TB	
	Hard Disk File <u>Type</u> and Variant	
	VDI (VirtualBox Disk Image) Pre-allocate <u>F</u> ull Size	
	Uge an Existing Virtual Hard Disk File	
	Do Not Add a Virtual Hard Disk	
<u>H</u> elp	Guided Mode Back Einish	<u>C</u> ancel

a.
9. When presented with the File Explorer, clock on the Virtual Hard Disks and select the downloaded FortiGate VHD image in Step 7 above.

APPENDIX A

Starting Virtual Machine – Fortinet Virtual Firewall – FortiOS

The steps and procedures below are utilized to configure the virtual Fortinet firewall on the Cyber Crime Lab laptops. The procedures are essential to ensure future lab experiments and demonstrations can be activated and work properly.

Command Line Interface

- 1. Boot laptop.
- 2. Connect to the college Wi-Fi network in the cybercrime lab.
- 3. Ensure VirtualBox is configured with the Bridged Adapter setting enabled.
- 4. Login Using Command Line Interface (will be asked to change password).
 - a. U: Admin
 - b. P: password
- 5. Ping a site (to ensure connectivity routing outside the lab).
 - a. Exec ping <u>www.yahoo.com</u>
 - b. Verify connectivity
- 6. Obtain the IP address of the virtual firewall (use command line).
 - a. Diag IP Addr List
 - b. Note Port1
 - c. Obtain the IP Address for Port1

Web Interface

- 1. Open a web browser from the said laptop outside of the VirtualBox application.
- 2. Navigate to the IP address from Step 6 above.
- 3. Login same credentials as Command Line Interface.
- 4. License
 - a. Login to <u>https://support.fortinet.com</u>
 - b. Setup account
 - c. You must check your email use @kean.edu email.
- 5. From the web interface log in to apply the demo license.

APPENDIX B

Connecting to and Navigating the Virtual FortiGate GUI

In this exercise, you will have the opportunity to connect to the FortiGate GUI and explore the preconfigured Management interface.

Port1 on FGT-EDGE has been pre-configured to include the following settings, which are not part of the default FortiGate configuration:

• IP/Netmask: 192.168.0.101/255.255.255.0

• Administrative Access: HTTPS, HTTP, PING, FMG-Access, SSH, and Security Fabric Connection A password was also set for the default **admin** account.

Tasks

1. Return to the **Lab Activity Tab**. Click **FGT-EDGE** in the sidebar menu under **Core**, and then click **HTTPS** to access the **FGT-EDGE** device.

2. Login using the default admin account by entering the following credentials:

Username: admin

Password: Fortinet1!

3. You have access to the FortiGate GUI.

4. Click **Network** > **Interfaces** and select **Management Network (port1)**. Click **Edit**. You can also double-click the interface. **Note:** Do not change any of the settings currently configured for port 1.

5. The pre-configured settings appear under Address and Administrative Access.

6. Click **Cancel** to exit without changing any settings.

Stop and Think

Security best practices recommend configuring management interfaces with the minimal level of administrative access required. The level of access is usually based on the role of the interface, accessibility to the interface, and the level of authority for users with access to that interface. Consider an organization that has the following infrastructure deployed:

- FortiGate management using FortiManager Cloud services
- FortiGate two-factor authentication via FortiToken Mobile
- Remote APs participating in the organization's Security Fabric

Set the System Time Background

In this exercise, you configure the system time on FGT-EDGE to AcmeCorp's local time zone, Eastern Standard Time.

Note: For the purpose of this lab, you must select Eastern Standard Time. Making changes to the time zone could disrupt the lab functionality.

Tasks

- 1. Click **System** > **Settings**.
- 2. Under System Time, select (GMT-5:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
- 3. Set Set Time to NTP.
- 4. Set the **Select server** to **FortiGuard**.
- 5. Select **Apply**.

Create Firewall Addresses and an Address Group

Firewall addresses define sources and destinations of network traffic and are used when creating firewall policies. Address groups are used to group firewall addresses that require the same firewall policy.

In this exercise, you create three firewall addresses, one for each network. You also create a firewall group that contains the addresses for the Sales and Finance networks. By creating an address group that contains the addresses for both Sales and Finance, you can now configure FGT-EDGE to treat traffic from both of these networks in the same way.

Tasks

1. Click **Policy & Objects** > **Addresses** and then use the **Create New** drop-down menu to select **Address** and create an address for the Sales network.

2. Configure the following settings:

- Name: Sales
- Type: Subnet
- IP/Netmask: 172.16.10.0/24
- Interface: any
- 3. Click **OK**.
- 4. Click **Create New > Address** to create an address for the Finance network.
- 5. Configure the following settings:
- Name: Finance
- Type: Subnet
- **IP/Netmask**: 172.16.20.0/24
- Interface: any
- 6. Click **OK**.
- 7. Click **Create New > Address** to create an address for the DC network.
- 8. Configure the following settings:
- Name: DC
- Type: Subnet
- IP/Netmask: 172.16.100.0/24
- Interface: any
- 9. Click **OK**.
- 10. Use the **Create New** drop-down menu to click **Address Group**.
- 11. Configure the following settings:
- Group name: Sales and Finance
- Type: Group
- Members: Finance and Sales
- 12. Click **OK**.

Apply Antivirus Scanning and SSL Inspection Background

In this exercise, you create an antivirus profile for Sales and Finance to protect network traffic from virus outbreaks. You also apply full SSL inspection to allow FGT-EDGE to inspect encrypted traffic. When you apply full SSL inspection to traffic, network users may receive a security certificate warning in their internet browser. In this exercise, Bob's computer has been pre-configured to prevent any warnings from appearing.

Tasks

1. Return to the **FGT-EDGE** tab.

- 2. Click Security Profiles > AntiVirus and click Create New.
- 3. Set the Name to Sales and Finance.
- 4. Under Inspected Protocols, turn on all protocol options.
- 5. Turn on the AntiVirus scan and set it to Block.

6. Leave the **Feature set** as **Flow-based**. Flow-based inspection takes a snapshot of content packets and uses pattern matching to identify security threats in the content. Proxy-based inspection

reconstructs content that passes through the FortiGate and inspects the content for security threats.

7. Under APT Protection Options, turn on Treat Windows Executables in Email Attachments as Viruses and leave Include Mobile Malware Protection turned on.

8. Under **Virus Outbreak Prevention**, turn on **Use FortiGate Outbreak Prevention Database** and set it to **Block**. This allows the FortiGate antivirus database to use third-party malware hash signatures curated by the FortiGuard to block detected viruses before a FortiGuard signature is available.

9. Click **OK**.

10. Click Policy & Object > Firewall Policy, click Sales and Finance, and click Edit.

11. Under **Security Profiles**, turn on **AntiVirus**. Use the drop-down menu to select the **Sales and Finance** profile.

12. Use the **SSL Inspection** drop-down menu to select **deep-inspection**. This turns on full SSL inspection so FGT-EDGE can inspect encrypted traffic. 13. Click **OK**.

14. Connect to the **Bob** device.

15. Run Chrome and click the browser bookmark **EICAR**. This website contains a file that you can use to test your antivirus scanning.

16. Under the **Download area, use the secure SSL-enabled protocol https, and** click **eicar.com**. 17. FGT-EDGE blocks the file from downloading.

Add a Default Route Background

In this exercise, you add a default route to the FortiGate that the FortiGate uses to send traffic outside of the internal network.

Tasks

- 1. Click **Network > Static Routes** and click **Create New**.
- 2. Set **Destination** to **Subnet** and leave the destination IP address set to 0.0.0/0.0.0.0.
- 3. Set Gateway Address to 100.65.0.254.
- 4. Set **Interface** to **ISP1 (port6)**, the internet-facing interface.

5. Click **OK**.

- 6. To test internet connectivity, click >_ in the top right-hand corner to connect to the CLI console.
- 7. Type the command execute ping 8.8.8.8 and press Enter.
- 8. The FortiGate connects to the internet, producing an output similar to the screenshot below:
- 9. Close the CLI console by clicking on the **X** in the upper right corner.

Note: Fortinet provided the subset of laboratory examples provided in Appendix B for use by the faculty and students (Fortinet, 2024, August 14).