Distributing protection across the enterprise is important in today's threat environment, and UTMs may be mature enough to help, says Peter Stephenson.

Today's UTM does not much resemble those of the past. While the genre has reached maturity, there has been significant growth since the product type originated, both in the number of products and in their functionality.

Typically, today's UTM can be expected to contain a firewall, anti-malware and IDS/IPS. There is a lot of functionality beyond those main pieces, of course. Many, if not all, UTMs now include application protocol blocking. This functionality started to become important with the advent of such internet application protocols as peer-to-peer in its various forms and instant messaging.

Blocking application protocols at the gateway goes a long way toward reducing risks

Web content filtering is another capability finding its way into UTMs. This, along with anti-malware, probably covers the majority of threats against the enterprise entering through the perimeter.

WatchGuard Technologies XTM 505

Vendor	WatchGuard
Price	$1,590
Contact	www.watchguard.com

The WatchGuard XTM offers full UTM capabilities in a solid, easy-to-use appliance. This tool features a firewall, application control, anti-virus, intrusion prevention system, web filtering, anti-spam and a reputation-enabled defense system for comprehensive protection against network- and internet-based threats.

Installation and deployment of the XTM is quite straightforward, and we were up and running in just a few minutes with a solid configuration. The initial install is guided by a setup wizard, which can be run from either the web-based interface or the WatchGuard management application. After the wizard is complete, further management can be done from either the web GUI or the application.

We found the web GUI to be easy to use and intuitive to navigate, and managing the appliance was quite simple. The Watch-Guard Policy Manager also made configuring and managing policies easy and straightforward. We also found that this appliance comes preloaded with a solid policy right out of the box, so after just a few minor changes, we had excellent protection in place.

Documentation included a quick-start guide, as well as a full help file as the user guide. The quick-start guide provided a few simple steps to get the appliance connected to the network and to access the setup wizard. The WatchGuard help system takes over from there and provides an excellent amount of detailed, step-by-step configuration instructions with many screen shots and examples.

WatchGuard offers its Live Security Plus program with the purchase of the XTM for five incidents annually, as well as 24/7 phone and email technical support. Customers also can access an online support area with a knowledge base and other resources. For customers who require further assistance, Watch-Guard also offers other levels of support at an extra cost.

At a price just shy of $1,600 fully loaded, this product is an excellent value for the money. The XTM offers a very comprehensive feature set at a reasonable price.

We loved this one. This month it gets our Best Buy.

Peter Stephenson

SC MAGAZINE RATING

Features	★★★★★
Ease of use	★★★★★
Performance	★★★★★
Documentation	★★★★★
Support	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★
OVERALL RATING	★★★★★

Strengths Full feature set with a solid, out-of-the-box configuration.
Weaknesses None that we found.
Verdict We loved this one. This month it gets our Best Buy.

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