Network Security Graphic Icons

Overview

Router  Switch  Adaptive Security Appliance  Network Access Server

PIX Security Appliance  IOS Firewall  Firewall Router  Firewall Switch Module (FWSM)

VPN 3000 Concentrator  Directory Server  CA Server  VPN Tunnel
A Router is an internetworking device which operates at OSI Layer 3. A Router interconnects network segments or entire networks and passes data packets between networks based on Layer 3 information. The router, by default, is an open device. Services must be turned off or secured.

Routing hardware provides everything from high-end routing platforms for building IP optimized backbones, to Ethernet LANs to WANs for the enterprise, medium and small businesses, and home offices.

Cisco router models include:

- 12000, 10000, and 7000 series for enterprise and service provider
- 3800, 3600, 2800, 2600XM, 1800, and 1700 series for medium business and branch offices
- 70, 90, and 800 series for small business and home office
Switches connect LAN segments, use a table of MAC addresses to determine the segment on which a datagram needs to be transmitted, and reduce traffic. Switches, which typically operate at Layer 2, can be categorized as stackable or chassis based.

The workgroup switch is typically a stackable switch and is placed in IDF's to provide LAN access to end device. In small networks, these switches can also be used for the core and distribution levels in addition to the access level.

Switches can be configured via menu, command line, or web browser interfaces. Stackable switch models include the Catalyst 1900, 2900 and 3500 series. Chassis based switches include the Catalyst 4000, 5000, 6000, 8000, and 9000 series.
Adaptive Security Appliance

Figure 1: Adaptive Security Appliance and photos

The Cisco Adaptive Security Appliance (ASA) 5500 Series is a high-performance, multifunction security appliance family delivering converged firewall, IPS, network anti-virus and VPN services. As a key component of the Cisco Self-Defending Network, it provides proactive threat mitigation that stops attacks before they spread through the network, controls network activity and application traffic, and delivers flexible VPN connectivity while remaining cost-effective and easy-to-manage.

Network Access Server

Figure 1: Network access server icon

Network Access Servers (NAS), such as a 2509 and 2511 router series, terminate remote access dial users for small and medium networks. Analog Modem Network Modules such as the NM-8AM and NM-16M can be used in 2600, 3600 and 3700 series routers to provide remote dial access as well.
The AS5300, AS5400, and AS5800 series are typically used in service provider and enterprise networks to provide the following services to users:

- Long Distance
- Prepaid Calling
- Local Access
- Hosted IP Telephony
- ASP Hosting and Termination
- Unified Communications
- Access VPN
- Dial Access

**PIX Security Appliance**

![PIX Security Appliance icon and photo](image)

Figure 1: PIX Security Appliance icon and photo

The market-leading Cisco PIX Security Appliance Series delivers robust user and application policy enforcement, multivector attack protection, and secure connectivity services in cost-effective, easy-to-deploy solutions. These purpose-built appliances provide multiple integrated security and networking services, including:

- Advanced application-aware firewall services
- Market-leading voice over IP (VoIP) and multimedia security
- Robust site-to-site and remote-access IPSec VPN connectivity
- Award-winning resiliency
- Intelligent networking services
- Flexible management solutions
Ranging from compact, plug-and-play desktop appliances for small and home offices to modular gigabit appliances with superior investment protection for enterprise and service-provider environments, Cisco PIX Security Appliances provide comprehensive security, performance, and reliability for network environments of all sizes.

**IOS Firewall**

![IOS Firewall icon and photos](image)

The Cisco IOS Firewall feature set provides robust, integrated firewall, intrusion detection, and VPN functionality for every perimeter of the network. The Firewall feature set is available for most Cisco routers including the 1700, 1800, 2600, 2800, 3600, 3800, 7100, and 7200 series routers, however some features may not be available on low end and legacy router models.

An integrated firewall provides greater interoperability within the existing network. Either IOS Firewall or Firewall Router icon can be used to represent the Cisco IOS Firewall.
Cisco Firewall Services Module (FWSM) is a high-speed, integrated firewall module for Cisco Catalyst ® 6500 switches and Cisco 7600 Series routers, and provides a 5 Gbps throughput, 100,000 connections per second, and one million concurrent connections. Up to four FWSMs can be installed in a single chassis providing scalability to 20 Gbps per chassis. Based on Cisco PIX Security Appliance technology, the FWSM provides large enterprises and service providers with unmatched security, reliability, and performance within a switch chassis.

The traditional role of firewalls has changed. Firewalls now do more than protect a corporate network from unauthorized external access. They can also prevent unauthorized users from accessing a particular subnet, workgroup or LAN within a corporate network.
VPN 300 Series Concentrator

Cisco VPN 3000 Series Concentrators is a family of purpose-built, remote access Virtual Private Network (VPN) platforms and client software that incorporates high availability, high performance and scalability with the most advanced encryption and authentication techniques available today.

Cisco VPN 3000 Series Concentrators include models to support a range of enterprise customers, from small businesses with 100 or fewer remote access users to large organizations with up to 10,000 simultaneous remote users.

The models include the 3005, 3015, 3020, 3030, 3060, and the 3080.

Directory Server

A directory server allows organizations to centrally manage and share information on network resources and users while acting as the central authentication point for the network. It is a central storage location for information assets such as users, applications, servers, computers, files, and printers. In large corporations, a directory server must maintain information on thousands of users, computers, servers, and files.

Some examples include Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) servers, Microsoft Active Directory (AD) servers, and Novell Directory Services (NDS) servers.
Certificate Authority Server

A Certificate Authority (CA) Server issues digital certificates to network devices. Digital certificates are used to authenticate devices and users when creating a VPN connection or tunnel.

There are several CA vendors that interoperate with Cisco IOS software on Cisco routers. They include Entrust, VeriSign, Baltimore, and Microsoft. Several CA vendors support the simple certificate enrollment protocol (SCEP) for enrolling Cisco routers and PIX Security Appliances.

Virtual Private Network Tunnel

A Virtual Private Network (VPN) tunnel is created between two network devices. The devices can include servers, software clients, VPN routers, concentrators, and PIX Security Appliances. The tunnel can be created using various technologies including:

- Generic Router Encapsulation (GRE)
- IP Security (IPSec)
- Layer 2 Tunneling Protocol (L2TP)
- Secure Sockets Layer (SSL)
- Point-to-Point Tunneling Protocol (PPTP)
- Multi-Protocol Label Switching (MPLS)

VPN tunnels can provide confidentiality, integrity, and authenticity between two devices depending on the technology utilized to create the tunnel.
One of the greatest challenges of network security is management and monitoring of hundreds or thousands of VPNs, routers, firewalls, and intrusion detection sensors. A policy manager or director server is used to manage enterprise level security for medium to large networks. CiscoWorks VPN/Security Management Solution (VMS) is the flagship integrated security management solution from Cisco Systems.

The Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series Intrusion Detection System (IDSM) Services Module is a key network based intrusion protection solution for safeguarding organizations from costly and debilitating network breaches such as malicious Internet worms, Denial of Service attacks, and application attacks.
The second generation Cisco IDSM-2 is designed to protect switched environments by integrating full-featured IDS functionality directly into the network infrastructure through the widely deployed Cisco Catalyst® 6500 Series chassis. This integration allows the user to monitor traffic directly off the switch back-plane - a logical platform for additional services such as firewall, virtual private network (VPN) and IDS services.

The Cisco IDSM-2 is works in concert with other components to increase the operating efficiency of intrusion protection to secure data infrastructure.

**IPS Sensor**

A IPS Sensor is a network appliance which monitors traffic flowing across a network segment. IPS Sensors detect, classify, and stop threats including worms, spyware/adware, network viruses, and application abuse which match an attack signature.

IPS Sensors are purpose-built, high-performance network security “appliances” that protect against unauthorized, malicious activity traversing the network, such as attacks by hackers.

The Cisco IPS 4200 Series of appliance sensors includes four products:

- Cisco IPS 4255 Sensor
- Cisco IDS 4250 XL Sensor
- Cisco IPS 4240 Sensor
- Cisco IDS 4215 Sensor

Each appliance sensor addresses the bandwidth requirements at one of a variety of performance marks, from 80 Mbps to 8 Gbps.
Host Intrusion Prevention Agent

Host based intrusion prevention software should be installed on mission critical desktops and servers. Most of the attacks today are targeted towards public servers.

Cisco provides host based intrusion prevention using the Cisco Security Agent, which resides between the applications and the kernel. The agent intercepts all system calls to file, network, and registry sources, as well as to dynamic, run-time resources such as memory pages, shared library modules, and Component Object Model (COM) objects. The agent correlates behaviors of these system calls, based on rules that define appropriate or acceptable behavior for a specific application. Then the software permits or denies the action and sends an alarm to a central monitoring server or agent manager when an attack is detected.
Laptops

Figure 1: Laptop icon and photo

Laptops are present on almost every network today. They are becoming standard desktop replacements in many corporations. Users can work at the office, from home, or any other location with Internet access.

Two trends which greatly increased the use of laptops include wireless LANs and VPNs. Both are critical productivity factors, however these must be securely implemented to avoid network breaches. Laptop theft is also a big problem which must be considered as well. Many anti-theft hardware and software solutions are available.

Viruses, Trojan horses, hostile applets, and worms pose a great problem to laptop computers and network systems. Anti-virus software should be installed on laptops. Furthermore, operating systems must be continually updated with security patches and fixes to remain as secure as possible.
In most networks, servers are the brains of the operation while networking devices provides the nervous system of the business. It is very important that these resources are protected against attacks. Some of the common server platforms include:

- Microsoft Windows NT and 2000 Server
- Sun Solaris
- Linux

Servers provide critical functions including:

- File, Email and Web Services
- Print Services
- Storage
- Voice Call Management
- Database Services
- Directory Services
The Personal Computer (PC) has only been around for 25 years and has greatly changed the world. Functionality, performance, and storage have greatly increased. With the advent of the Internet, PCs have become commonplace in governments, businesses, schools, and homes. Unfortunately, with increased capabilities and connectivity, security vulnerabilities in applications and operating systems are a big problem. It is these vulnerabilities, which are exploited by hackers today. With broadband services such as DSL and Cable, the attacks have increased dramatically.

Viruses, Trojan horses, hostile applets, and worms pose a great problem to computers and network systems. Anti-virus software is very important in a networked world. Furthermore, operating systems must be continually updated with security patches and fixes to remain as secure as possible.
Modem

A modem is a device which provides connectivity to the ISPs network access server. A modem can terminate dial-up connections, xDSL, or Cable connections.

A device, which terminates a permanent circuit such as a T1 or T3, is usually called a CSU/DSU.

Mobile Worker

Mobile workers can include staff within a company. Virtually every occupation and business has workers who are mobile.

For many years, the challenge was connectivity to the corporate network, especially when dial-up access was the only way to connect. Today, users can connect by way of 56K dial-up, ISDN, DSL, Cable, and any LAN connected to the Internet. Connectivity is no longer a big concern. Security is.

Wireless LANs have also created a new workplace where workers can move around the office as needed and maintain connectivity. With wireless LANs, people can easily access the Internet while at home, in a hotel, at the airport, at the coffee shop, and in many public areas. Unfortunately, without security measures in place, hackers have access as well.
End User

End users are workers who are connected to the network through a PC, laptop, or other mobile devices. Users are what drive the business. Without people, a business cannot survive. Unfortunately, they also can be responsible for security breaches. Some users carelessly use easy to guess passwords, write them on a note near the computer, or simple give their passwords when asked.

Users also inadvertently download viruses, Trojans horses, and hostile java and active-x code from various web sites. Many users delete files accidentally or may email confidential information without thinking twice. And on occasion, some users connect a wireless access point on the corporate network without and security mechanism in place.

End User or Attacker

At one point, some end users can become the attacker. Many times, there is a fine line between network use and hacking, for example, a user in the marketing department accessing confidential data in the human resources department.

Almost 75 percent of the network attacks come from inside the network.
Attacker

An attacker, also know as a hacker, is an end user who is attempting to:

- Discover the network
- Access the network
- Damage the network

Attackers access the network either internally or externally. Remember that 75 percent of the attacks come from within the network. Attackers can be curious users, corporate spies, government operatives, careless users, disgruntled employees, or elite hackers.

Corporate Headquarters

The Corporate Headquarters (HQ) is where the primary network resides. The HQ is a central point of connection between branch offices, business partners, remote users, and the Internet. Devices located at the HQ are most critical to protect.
Home Office

The Home Office has become an extension to the corporate network. More and more users are working remotely from home. This has greatly increased worker productivity and reduced corporate overhead.

Home offices can be connected through various WAN technologies such as dial-up, ISDN, DSL, Cellular, Satellite, and Cable. In many instances, the Internet connection is “always on”. This increases the chances that the devices connected within the home office become targets of attack. In some cases, these devices become launch points of attacks without the end users knowledge.

Many homes now have small networks including multiple PCs, a router, and a switch. Wireless LAN devices are becoming very popular connection methods for home offices. Without proper security attackers easily breach home networks.

CallManager

Cisco CallManager is the software-based call-processing component of the Cisco IP telephony solution, part of Cisco AVVID (Architecture for Voice, Video and Integrated Data). The software extends enterprise telephony features and functions to packet telephony network devices such as IP phones, media processing devices, voice-over-IP (VoIP) gateways, and multimedia applications. Additional data, voice, and video services such as unified messaging, multimedia conferencing, collaborative contact centers, and interactive multimedia response systems interact with the IP telephony solution through Cisco CallManager’s open telephony application programming interface (API). Cisco CallManager is installed on the Cisco Media Convergence Server (MCS).
IP Phone

IP Phones provide voice communication systems over the data network. IP Phones are designed to enhance productivity and leverage the existing data network. The Cisco IP Phones 7960G and 7940G feature a large, pixel-based LCD display and can support additional information services including Extensible Markup Language (XML) capabilities. XML-based services can be customized to provide users with access to a array of information such as stock quotes, employee extension numbers, or any Web-based content. Models including the 7960G, 7940G, 7910G and 7910G + SW, can accept in-line power from a card integrated with a Catalyst switch or a Catalyst in-line power patch panel.

IP Phones must have a central control server called a Call Manager Server to operate on a data network.

Ethernet Link

Ethernet Links provide connectivity for the entire network. These links interconnect routers, switches, printers, PCs, laptops, servers, and other end devices. Current Ethernet links operate at from 10Mbps to 10Gbps. Ethernet can run over fiber and copper.

Other common LAN link options include access via 802.11a, 802.11b, and 802.11g wireless technologies.
WAN Link

WAN Links provide connectivity to the Internet. WAN technologies can be classified as packet switched, circuit switched or cell switched. Technologies include dial-up, ISDN, X.25, xDSL, Satellite, Cellular, Cable, Frame Relay, SMDS, ATM, SONET. Speeds range from 28Kbps to 10Gbps.

Network Cloud

The Network Cloud represents a wide area network (WAN) or the Internet. Network traffic can traverse private and public links depending on the established service and connections. Also, data can traverse a single Internet service provider (ISP) or multiple ISPs.