



Buying Criteria (What to Consider)	Alternatives	Usage Consideration by Company Size	
		Small Business	Medium & Enterprise Business
<b>Sizing the Firewall</b>			
<b># of IP Addresses to Protect</b>	<b>Licensing</b> - Unlimited License Devices - Limited License Devices (All Products have functional performance limits)	Consider Growth Needs, Some are upgradable, some are not!	
<b>Concurrent Connections Required</b> (Varies by # of Users, Internet activity, Use of Web Servers etc.)	<b># Varies by Firewall</b>		
<b>Performance</b> - Firewall Performance (Total Throughput) - VPN Performance - UTM/Application Filtering Performance	1) Review Firewall's Performance for ea. Function 2) Throughput includes ALL traffic through all ports. 3) Factor in # Users, Usage, Web Servers, Link Speed 4) <b>UTM performance can be significantly less than Stateful performance.</b>		
<b>Configuration</b> (# of Ports (LAN, DMZ, WAN))	Check to see if these ports are FIXED function or CONFIGURABLE & if there are sufficient number	ICSA	ICSA, Common Criteria EAL4+
<b>VPN Access</b> (What Type is Required: PPTP, IPSEC, SSL)	1) Most firewalls support IPSEC (Client Cost?) 2) Some firewalls support PPTP (Windows Client: Less Expensive, less secure) 3) SSL-VPNs usually a separate product, but some include SSL access for a small number of users)	PPTP or IPSEC may be Ok depending on the level of security required. Combo F/W+SSLVPN Might be ok for Small # of users	Use the more secure IPSEC Buy a separate SSL-VPN Product to get adequate performance
<b>Security Level</b>			
<b>Compliance / Certifications (Testing)</b>	1) <b>ICSA</b> is the Basic Level of Certification 2) <b>Common Criteria</b> (EAL4+ is Desirable) 3) <b>Sidewinder</b> Goes beyond EAL4	ICSA	ICSA, Common Criteria EAL4+
<b>CERT Advisories (Vulnerabilities Found)</b>	Look for Firewalls that have few vulnerabilities and patch them quickly	Lowest Possible, Resolved by Vendor with Patch Downloads	Want None, Any found are Quickly Resolved by Vendor
<b>Protection Architecture</b> <b>Good - Better - Best (You Want More Protection)</b> - Stateful Firewalls - Stateful + Proxy Firewalls - Secure OS, Robust Design, Reputation - IPS (Signature Based) - Layer-7 UTM (Signature A/V, A/S, Spam, URL) - Anomaly Based Layer-7 Application Protection	1) Stateful Firewalls are basic requirements for businesses 2) Proxy Firewalls provide additional levels of isolation for internal networks ( <b>Fortinet, Sidewinder</b> ) 3) Evaluate the Quality and Types of Content Filtering in UTM/Gateway Software Suites 4) Sidewinder also controls access at the Layer-7 Command Level preventing Zero Day attacks	Minimum: Stateful or Proxy Based Layer 7 Antivirus + IPS  Desired: Complete UTM	Minimum: Stateful + Proxy Based Complete UTM + IPS + Anomaly Protection
<b>Reliability, Redundancy, Support</b>			
<b>Redundant Architecture</b> - Dual Power Supply - RAID Disk or Solid State - WAN Failover & Balancing - High Available (Unit to Unit) Failover (2 Units)	Mission critical firewalls need some or all of these features to provide Business continuity.  High Availability can be Active-Active or Active-Passive.	Nice to Have, but Mission Critical Installations Require WAN Failover at Least	Required
<b>Support</b> - 8x5 or 24x7	Choose an appropriate support level	8x5 or 24x7 if Mission Critical	24 x 7
<b>Warranty &amp; Response Time (1 or 3 Year)</b> - Depot Service (Mail-in = Slowest) - Next Bus. Day Onsite = Next Best - 4 Hour Onsite = Best	Choose what is needed to guaranty appropriate business continuity	1 or 3 Yr Depot or Next Bus. Day Response	3-5 Year At least Next Bus. Day Response
<b>Management &amp; Reporting</b>			
- Web Management - Enterprise Management Tools - Basic Logs & Reporting - SOX/GLBA Compliance Level Reports	Reporting & Management may be critical where there are a high # of units to manage or for regulation compliance.	Web Mgt & Basic Reporting	Enterprise Tools & Compliance level Reports
<b>Price Considerations</b>			
- Initial Appliance <b>Purchase Price</b> - <b>Gateway Security &amp; other Subscriptions</b> - <b>Support, Warranty &amp; Repair Response</b> - <b>Installation</b>	Choosing an appliance that will grow with you is an important consideration. Choosing a vendor that can scale to provide you with other solutions is also important.	Find a Happy Medium Between Short Term Costs, Security Exposure, and growth support	Take Long View & Focus on Potential Risk to Loss of Assets