FORTINET

SOLUTION BRIEF

Enhancing Collaboration, App Performance, and Security with Fortinet Secure SD-WAN and Overlay-as-a-Service

Executive Summary

Managing WAN infrastructure can be difficult for smaller organizations with limited resources, constrained IT budgets, and evolving technology landscapes. Even more challenging for these smaller organizations is meeting the demand for cost-effective solutions that deliver simplicity, robust performance, and security.

Fortinet offers a tailored solution combining Secure SD-WAN and Overlay-as-a-Service (OaaS) for small and midsized businesses (SMBs) to empower WAN infrastructure transformation while ensuring comprehensive secure internet connectivity, optimizing collaboration across sites, and enhancing application performance.

Legacy Solution Challenges

A typical SMB has multiple sites seeking to connect securely to the internet, access applications in a fast secure fashion, and interconnect sites to allow for efficient and seamless data sharing and collaboration. Trying to accomplish these tasks with a legacy router solution can be cumbersome and expensive to support. Here are some other key issues with a legacy solution:

- Complex to manage and difficult to use
- Requires expertise in VPN configuration and routing protocols
- Lacks application layer visibility across the WAN making it difficult to troubleshoot
- Unable to deliver superior user experience as it cannot steer traffic intelligently
- Lacks advanced security to protect users and devices

The Big Shift

Gartner estimates that organizations average more than 125 Software-as-a-Service applications.[1] This is a big shift from having all applications on-premises to now having distributed applications, which are vital for employee productivity. Therefore, IT and security teams must ensure users can access these applications quickly and securely.

For SMBs with Limited Budgets

Smaller organizations with limited IT budgets and resources need similar capabilities as large organizations. This includes securely accessing the internet, improving application performance, and enhancing collaboration between locations.

Fortinet Secure SD-WAN along with the SaaS turnkey service of OaaS delivers on these promises:

- To simplify and secure communications between locations and applications and enhance collaboration and performance
- To empower IT organizations with limited resources and budget and quickly deliver services

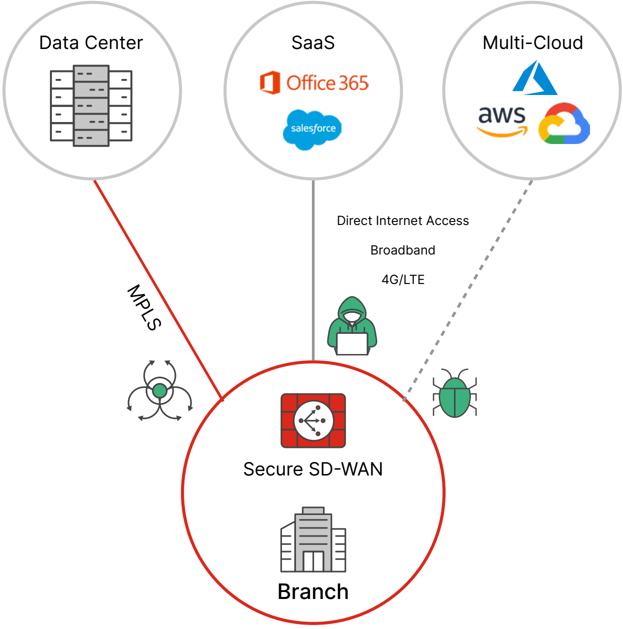


Figure 1: Fortinet Secure SD-WAN protects and optimizes user experience and enhances operational efficiency.

Fortinet Secure SD-WAN

Fortinet Secure SD-WAN replaces legacy branch routers and optimizes user experience, mitigates risks, and enhances operational efficiency. Key features and benefits include:

Centralized management

Our solution offers centralized management with FortiGate Cloud management. This simplifies deployment and configuration, enforcing per-application SLAs, and monitoring the SD-WAN infrastructure.

Cost-efficient connectivity

Fortinet Secure SD-WAN enables cost-efficient connectivity options, such as broadband internet, to establish secure and reliable connections between branch offices, the cloud, and the internet. This helps reduce operational costs while ensuring high availability and performance.

Integrated security

Fortinet Secure SD-WAN embeds advanced security functionalities directly into SD-WAN, ensuring comprehensive protection against cyberthreats without the need for additional security appliances.

Fortinet Overlay-as-a-Service

OaaS is a Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) turnkey service for overlay connectivity offered and managed by Fortinet via our easy-to-use FortiCloud portal. The service is purpose-built for lean organizations that may have limited technical expertise or constrained budgets. You can facilitate the rapid deployment and seamless interconnection of locations within minutes, eliminating the need for self-hosting or a dedicated hub. In addition, it helps reduce configuration errors.

Facilitating secure VPN tunnels to interconnect sites requires hosting, configuring, and managing FortiGate Secure SD-WAN hubs. Adding hubs requires IT expertise to create IPsec VPN tunnels between sites, configure routers, and set up firewall policies to securely allow traffic between sites and the internet. This requires more IT time and resources as well as additional hardware and management costs.

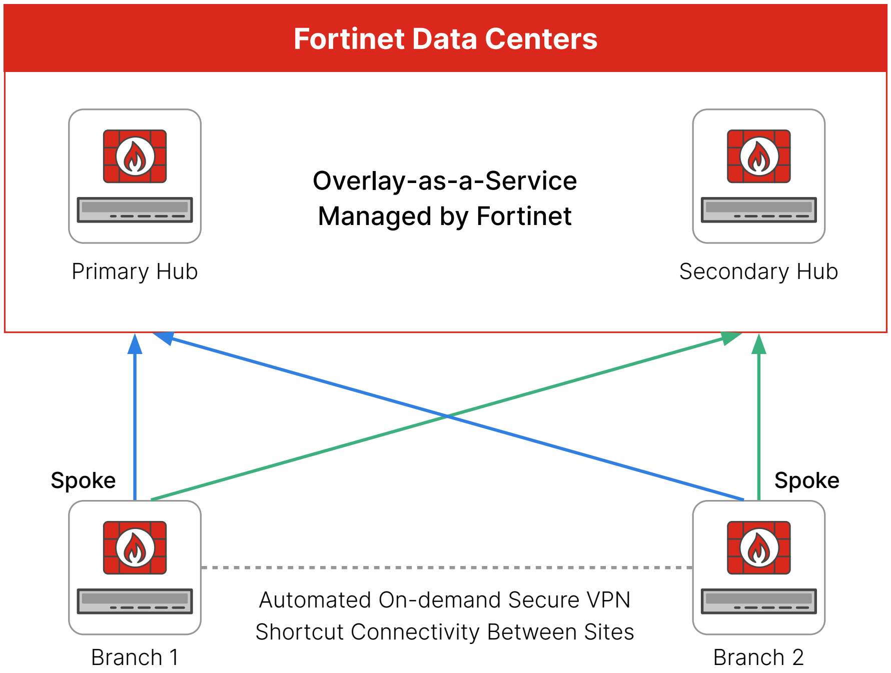
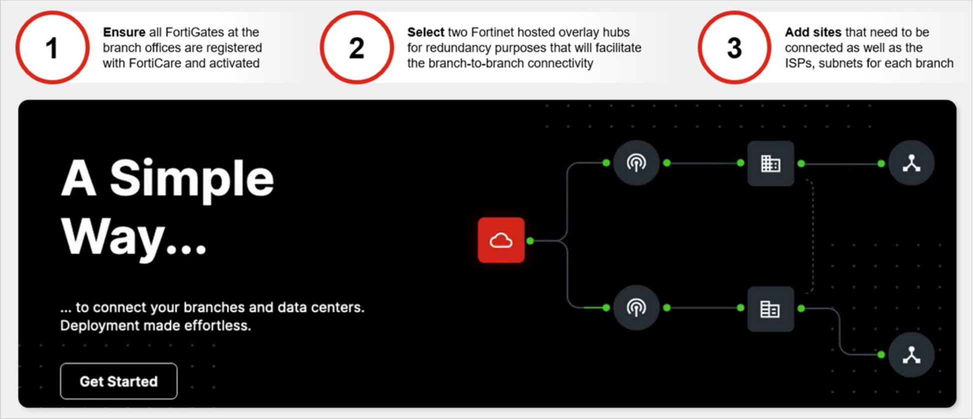


Figure 2: OaaS is a SaaS turnkey service managed by Fortinet that easily enables secure IPsec tunnels across sites.

To facilitate communications between branches, OaaS complements Secure SD-WAN deployments by enabling a rapid deployment and seamless interconnection of locations within minutes. This eliminates the need for a self-hosting hub that increases capital expenses and operational expenses. In addition, it helps reduce configuration errors as OaaS performs the work normally required for manual VPN configurations with a simple cloud-based process. By interconnecting branches, it enables seamless data, file, and resource sharing across locations, allowing employees to collaborate effectively.



1 **Ensure** all FortiGates at the branch offices are registered with FortiCare and activated

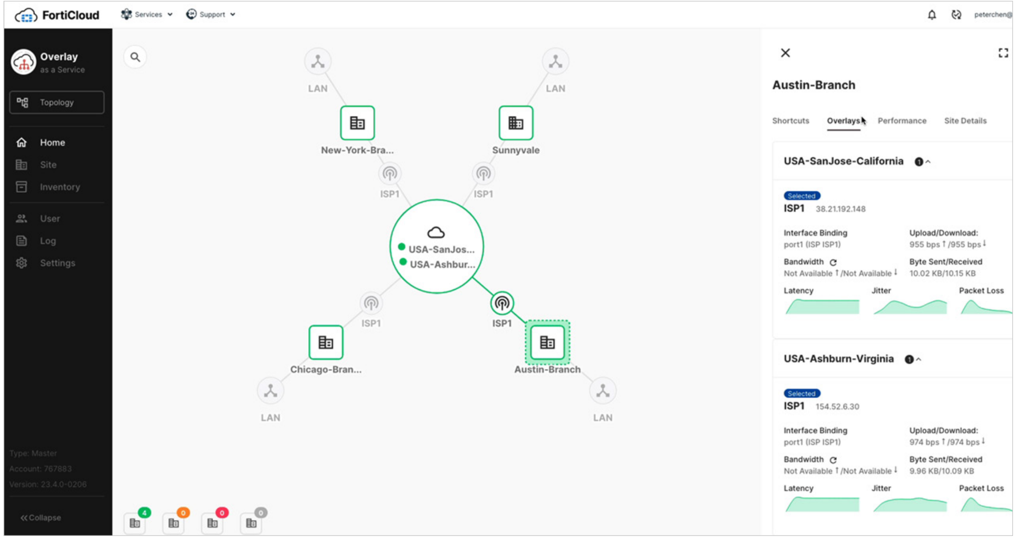
2 **Select** two Fortinet hosted overlay hubs for redundancy purposes that will facilitate the branch-to-branch connectivity

3 **Add sites** that need to be connected as well as the ISPs, subnets for each branch

A Simple Way...

... to connect your branches and data centers.
Deployment made effortless.

Figure 3: The easy-to-use GUI with simple steps enables full mesh on-demand connectivity across sites.



Type: Master
Account: 767883
Version: 23.4.0-0206

Austin-Branch

USA-SanJose-California

ISP1 38.21.192.148

Interface Binding
port1 (ISP ISP1)

Upload/Download:
955 bps ↑ /955 bps ↓

Bandwidth
Not Available ↑ /Not Available ↓

Byte Sent/Received
10.02 KB/10.15 KB

USA-Ashburn-Virginia

ISP1 154.52.6.30

Interface Binding
port1 (ISP ISP1)

Upload/Download:
974 bps ↑ /974 bps ↓

Bandwidth
Not Available ↑ /Not Available ↓

Byte Sent/Received
9.96 KB/10.09 KB

Figure 4: This branch topology overview shows site details, performance, overlays, and shortcuts.

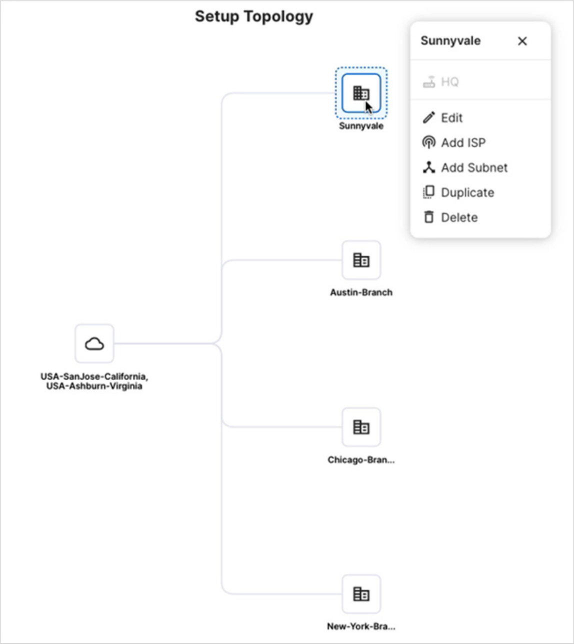


Figure 5: This is a branch setup topology overview.

Use Cases

Branch office connectivity

Businesses can use Fortinet Secure SD-WAN and OaaS to establish secure and reliable connections between their branch offices, enabling seamless access to centralized applications and resources while ensuring consistent security enforcement.

Cloud connectivity

With Fortinet Secure SD-WAN, businesses can securely connect to cloud environments, facilitating the adoption of cloud-based applications and services while maintaining an optimal performance and security posture.

Hybrid workforce support

Fortinet Secure SD-WAN extends secure connectivity to work-from-anywhere employees, enabling businesses to support hybrid workforce initiatives without compromising security or performance.

Conclusion

Discover how easily and flexibly these services can be offered by Fortinet Secure SD-WAN and OaaS. Together they offer SMBs a cost-effective, simple, and effective solution for optimizing their WAN infrastructure while ensuring comprehensive security protection.

By simplifying management, reducing operational costs, and integrating advanced security functionalities, Fortinet empowers businesses to focus on their core objectives without compromising on service-level agreements, performance, or security.

[1] Dan Wilson, Jaswant Kalay, Tom Cipolla, Joe Mariano, 2022 Gartner Market Guide for SaaS Management Platforms, December 13, 2022.

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