

Corsa Security and Palo Alto Networks

Scaling Threat Prevention and Automating Firewall Virtualization

NEED

- Complete traffic inspection and increased threat prevention
- Easily convert your physical firewalls to virtual ones for more flexibility

SOLUTION

- Corsa Security Platform with Palo Alto Networks® VM-Series or Software Next-Generation Firewall

BENEFITS

- Streamline deployment, management and migration of software NGFWs for zero-touch network security operations
- Increased flexibility by supporting multiple tenants in the same platform simultaneously
- Pay-as-you-grow monthly subscription model that supports Palo Alto Networks' new credit-based licensing

About Corsa Security

Corsa Security is the leader in scaling network security with the first turnkey network security virtualization platform that simplifies how large enterprises and service providers expand traffic inspection, increase threat protection and automate firewall virtualization, at much lower total cost of ownership (TCO).

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The Challenge

Scaling network security has always been challenging in any network. Typically, a bigger device is bought every few years to keep up with the increase in traffic volume. But this traditional approach is not viable anymore as 75%+ of all traffic in the network is now being encrypted and specialized single function hardware cannot inspect all this traffic while still maintaining network performance. Enterprises are also looking for more flexible and cloud-like approaches to their private network security that offer lower TCO as budgets continue to be stretched.

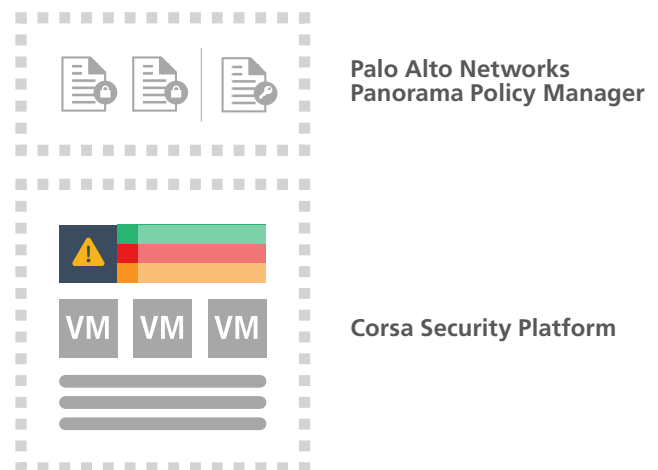
The Solution

As we have learned from building webscale applications, virtualization is the only way of meeting the enterprise demands for performance and flexibility. Instead of being dependent on buying a bigger single appliance, with virtualization the focus shifts to efficiently distributing the load between multiple systems. No one system can ever be a bottleneck. In addition, webscale apps have also taught us that virtualization, is always more economical than any single purpose-built hardware. But to easily convert physical firewalls to virtual ones, you need to automate firewall virtualization for increased speed, simplicity and agility.

Corsa Security offers the first turnkey network security virtualization platform that simplifies how large enterprises and service providers scale threat protection and automate firewall virtualization, at much lower total cost of ownership (TCO). By tightly integrating virtualization with intelligent orchestration, Corsa Security streamlines deployment, management and migration of virtualized next generation firewalls (NGFW) for zero-touch network security operations through the Corsa Security Orchestrator.

TURNKEY PLATFORM

automates firewall virtualization and increases threat prevention.



How it Works

The Corsa Security platform automatically converts physical firewalls to virtual ones and lets users spin up and down virtualized inspection capacity with as many Palo Alto Networks VM-Series instances as needed. VM creation and performance is managed seamlessly from the Corsa Security Orchestrator, a virtualized infrastructure manager. In addition, the Orchestrator is also tightly integrated with Palo Alto Networks Panorama where security policy is managed. This enables at-scale threat prevention to be performed using a cluster of Palo Alto Networks VM-Series instances.

Under the Hood

The solution is a simple and elegant integration of 4 main elements. Customers can start to apply policy and inspect traffic within hours of delivery as the platform can be deployed into any network without requiring any changes in the network design. The main elements are:

1) CORSA SECURITY ORCHESTRATOR

Provides a cloud-like user experience for managing your virtualized network security infrastructure. Powered by OpenStack, it gives you a simple way to provision and manage virtual firewall capabilities. It pushes the necessary initial configuration to the virtual instances that allows them to be seamlessly integrated into the firewall policy manager from Palo Alto Networks.

2) PALO ALTO NETWORKS® VM-SERIES OR SOFTWARE NEXT-GENERATION FIREWALL

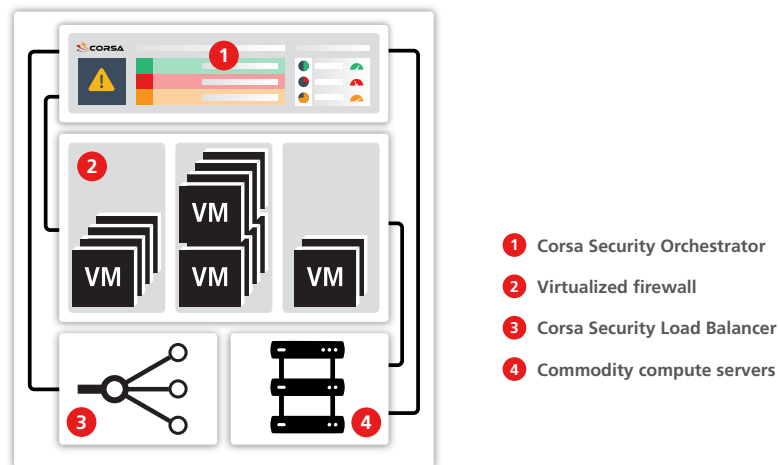
The VM-Series software NGFWs combines network and endpoint security with threat intelligence and accurate analytics to help streamline routine tasks, automate protection and prevent cyber breaches. Tight integrations with the platform deliver consistent security by providing the right capabilities at the right place across all stages of an attack lifecycle.

3) CORSA SECURITY LOAD BALANCER

When increased threat protection is needed, horizontal scaling by way of the Corsa Security Load Balancer is included in the platform. It distributes the traffic to all the virtual appliances. It guarantees that both sides of any encrypted network connection are always sent to the same virtual appliance. This enables any stateful inspection to be performed on that connection, including SSL/TLS decryption. The load balancer also has built in path check mechanisms that provides additional resiliance and high availability.

4) COMMODITY COMPUTE SERVERS

The hyperconverged infrastructure technology (HCI) that is specifically optimized by Corsa Security for network security applications. These are based on Linux OS with KVM hypervisor and SR-IOV technology for networking to ensure the best possible performance for network applications.



Deployment

The whole system is extremely simple to consume. From the network perspective it is deployed as a virtual firewall on any high capacity link. Corsa Security provides all the necessary network, server, load balancing and management components in a turnkey HCI package. The customer just needs to provide the appropriate licenses to the virtual firewall instances, and configure the firewall policy from their existing policy manager.

This solution allows you to very easily migrate from single purpose dedicated hardware appliances, to flexible cloud-like infrastructure that can scale from 1G to 100G of network traffic inspection. Turning on CPU intensive inspection features are no longer a problem because the solution scales out horizontally, delivering predictable performance for all your network security needs.

The platform provides unparalleled levels of flexibility. Because network security functions are virtualized, switching network security services can be as easy as shutting down old virtual appliances, and starting new ones. The same goes for firewall software upgrades.

Last, but not least, this allows you to convert to a pay-as-you-grow OPEX based consumption model with monthly subscription pricing based on the firewall VMs you require. The Corsa Security Platform fully supports Palo Alto Network's new credit-based licensing for even more flexibility.

You can save over 30% if you automate firewall virtualization compared to deploying hardware firewalls plus you eliminate up-front CAPEX and you can save almost 300% by deploying a turnkey platform, like Corsa Security instead of trying DIY virtualization.