

While anti-malware gateways just get easier to use, there are a number of factors to consider before bringing one into your environment, says **Peter Stephenson**.

There are so many issues that need to be addressed when looking for an anti-malware gateway. First, how are you going to use the gateway? You can deploy it directly in-line after your firewall (on the inside) so that the last thing packets see before hitting your intranet is the gateway. Alter-

natively, you can deploy it as a sort of reverse proxy – after the firewall, but as a front-end to an anti-malware server. This is a bit less straightforward and not all products require such a server. Most are updated directly to the appliance. That can pose a throughput problem and using an out-of-line prod-

uct is a bit controversial (as is any sort of out-of-line protection).

The bottom line, as always, is how the product you select fits your needs and fits into your architecture. This is not quite as simple as it sounds, but, as in the case of any in-line product, it is critically important.

ProSecure STM600



Vendor NETGEAR

Price \$3,780

Contact www.netgear.com

The NETGEAR ProSecure STM600 is a full function transparent inline filter deployed at the internet gateway for seamless anti-malware control across both web and email protocols. This appliance scans HTTP, HTTPS, FTP, SMTP, POP3 and IMAP traffic for viruses, spam and other malware threats while also providing URL filtering and application control.

Initial setup and configuration for this device was quite simple and straightforward. Once the appliance was connected to the network, we were able to access the web-based interface and run a setup wizard to configure the device for our environment. This setup wizard includes steps to not

only configure the network and time settings, but also to set up a baseline scanning policy. After the setup wizard is complete, all additional administration is done in the same web interface, which we found to be well-organized and easy to navigate.

This appliance includes many policy options that are easily configured with most being a simple check in a box or drop-down list. We also found that policies can be easily assigned to various groups and users, including LDAP and Active Directory. This allows for policies to be easily plugged into the existing environment.

Documentation includes a short quick-start guide and a PDF administrator guide. The quick-start guide illustrates the steps to access the device and run the setup wizard, while the administrator guide, or reference manual, provides in-depth configuration instructions.

NETGEAR includes the first year of support with the purchase of the product. This support includes 24/7 phone and email technical support, next business day product replacement, and firmware and software updates. This support can be continued at a cost of about \$360 per year. There is also free support on the website, where users can access documentation and a user forum.

At a price just under \$3,800, we find this product to be an excellent value for the money. This appliance includes a number of easy-to-manage features that provide comprehensive protection against web and email threats at a reasonable price.

SC MAGAZINE RATING

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

OVERALL RATING ★★★★★

Strengths Comprehensive web and email protection that is easy to deploy and use.

Weaknesses None that we found.

Verdict For its consistent quality, we rate this one Recommended.



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Peter Stephenson



For more information please visit www.prosecure.netgear.com

NETGEAR® Inc.
350 East Plumeria Drive, San Jose, CA 95134
www.netgear.com
U.S.: 800.561.8251 • International: 1.415.438-5120