

PRODUCT REVIEW

The CR35iNG security appliance from Cyberoam



PRODUCT REVIEW PRODUCT REVIEW PRODUCT REVIEW

For too long SMBs have had to put up with expensive and underperforming gateway security appliances; Cyberoam's latest NG series of platforms is about to change this perception. The new appliance family benefits from a major hardware upgrade which delivers a performance that far outstrips the competition.

The CR35iNG that we are reviewing here claims a raw firewall throughput of 2,300Mbps/sec, nearly three times faster than the Dell SonicWALL NSA 2400 which can only muster a lowly 775Mbps/sec. Additionally the CR35iNG is far more affordable with the cost of the appliance and Cyberoam's three-year Total Value Subscription to all security services at £1,415 excluding VAT. An NSA 2400 appliance with a similar subscription costs around twice as much.

The CR35iNG stands out for many other reasons. Along with an embedded 1.4GHz AMD G-Series T48L CPU, it has 1GB of fast DDR3 memory, a 2GB CompactFlash card for the CyberoamOS and an internal 250GB SATA hard disk. The latter is an unusual feature for a desktop appliance and allows the CR35iNG to provide local quarantining.

Reporting also gets a big boost as Cyberoam has moved its iView Syslog server onboard the appliance where it uses the disk to store its reports. Security features are extensive and include an SPI firewall, anti-virus, anti-spam, anti-spyware, IPS, IM and web content filtering, application controls,

IPsec/SSL VPNs and traffic management. The identity based security is also unique as it allows administrators to link policies to users and groups rather than just to systems. Three user types are supported and include those authenticated by an external directory server, or those running Cyberoam's Corporate Client utility.

Firewall rules use port zones to define sources and destinations and can specify networks and hosts if required and apply service filters, blocking actions and time schedules. Advanced rules allow you to apply anti-virus and anti-spam policies, add rules for IPS, limit Internet access and apply bandwidth restrictions.

User and group controls are extensive as you can apply web filtering, application controls, Internet access and bandwidth usage policies to each one. Data transfer limitations on uploads and downloads can be applied and each can have different values for daily, weekly, monthly and yearly limits. For anti-spam you can create global rule sets for all users and custom policies for specific users and groups. Plenty of actions for suspect messages are provided and for SMTP you can now quarantine them. A new spam digest service is also provided so that users with quarantined messages can have reports emailed to them regularly.

For performance testing we used the lab's Ixia XM2 chassis and Xcellon-Ultra NP load modules. For 1518-byte UDP packets we

confirmed Cyberoam's claims with the IxLoad tool reporting a raw firewall throughput of between 2,200Mbps/sec and 2,400Mbps/sec.

For real world testing we reconfigured the test streams to simulate web clients requesting 1024KB pages from web servers over HTTP port 80. IxLoad reported a high top throughput of 800Mbps/sec and with AV scanning for HTTP enabled in the firewall rule, we saw around 520Mbps/sec - very close to Cyberoam's own published figures.

Along with top performance, Cyberoam provides one of the most comprehensive ranges of security measures at this price point, making the CR35iNG ideally suited to budget conscious SMBs. Value is improved even further by the inclusion of the internal hard disk and the extensive onboard reporting provided by the iView Syslog module.

Cyberoam's latest NG Series of security appliances set themselves apart from the competition as they deliver the best price/performance ratio. Our lab tests confirm the quoted throughput speeds for the CR35iNG, making it one of the fastest security appliances in its class. **NC**

Product: Cyberoam CR35iNG

Supplier: VCW Security Ltd

Tel: 01691 663000

Web site: www.vcwsecurity.com

Price: Appliance with 3yr TVS subscription - £1,415 excluding VAT