ENABLING SECURE ACCESS TO SENSITIVE DATA, APPLICATIONS, AND NETWORKS

Government agencies know better than most how pervasive and costly (in lives, trust and money) cyberattacks and breaches can be. One basic method of defense is to ensure complete compartmentalization and data separation through physically separate network architectures. This security best practice is commonly referred to as “network segmentation.” According to a recent Liberty Group Ventures white paper, network segmentation, while “it does not ensure that hackers stay out” it keeps them in one place should they breach the perimeter. Damage is therefore contained [and] only one domino can possibly “fall,” not five, ten or 20,000. This is the essence of successful cyber risk management and resiliency.”

As agencies have discovered working in this secure-by-design environment has also led to high costs (hardware, power, and administration) and usability and endpoint security burdens by requiring one computer per network for each user.

This is no longer the case. Due to the increased adoption of virtualization to move desktop, application and data resources back into the datacenter and increased operating system security, the physical separation can be maintained while permitting secure simultaneous access to allowed networks from a secure endpoint device. Forcepoint Trusted Thin Client, delivers the most robust combination of security, flexibility, usability and reduced total cost of ownership available to enable secure access to multiple sensitive networks.

FEATURES AND BENEFITS

- Assessed and Authorized by authorities according to NIST guidelines in the US and Five-Eyes nations
- Supports DoD and IC VDI initiatives such as DoD Joint Information Environment (JIE)
- Commercial-Off-The-Shelf (COTS) solution
- Simultaneous access to multiple networks/clouds from a single endpoint
- Significant ROI through lower ownership costs (infrastructure, office space, power consumption and administration)
- Streamlined administration through robust enterprise management capabilities
- Supports a wide array of hardware; agnostic for both servers and endpoint devices
- Redisplay technology agnostic (Citrix, Microsoft, VMware)
- Supports the use of Common Access Card (CAC), SAC and SIPRtoken smartcards for identity management and access authorization to back end Microsoft Windows servers
- Supports Suite B cryptographic algorithms for all encrypted communications on the client network

SECURE ENTERPRISE ACCESS TO MULTIPLE DOMAINS FROM A SINGLE DEVICE

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FORCEPOINT TRUSTED THIN CLIENT

Forcepoint Trusted Thin Client is comprised of two components, a Distribution Console and client software. The Distribution Console is the solution’s server component and provides the physical connection to one or more single-level virtualized networks, maintaining separation between each.

The Distribution Console leverages the Common Criteria evaluated (EAL4+) Red Hat Enterprise Linux operating system with Security-Enhanced Linux (SELinux) to provide stringent security controls and maintain the necessary network/data separation. The client software communicates directly with the Distribution Console and provides secure, simultaneous access to permitted networks, applications and data.

While providing connectivity to multiple security domains through common virtualization and desktop and application redisplay technologies (e.g., Citrix, Microsoft, VMware), each network has a separate physical network interface connection on the Distribution Console that is assigned the classification level of the domain. Security protections prevent data from being transferred between classification levels. The Distribution Console silently rejects all communications from unauthorized systems, reducing risk exposure to the enterprise.

BUILT FOR THE ENTERPRISE

Designed and built to meet the needs of any enterprise deployment, Forcepoint Trusted Thin Client is the most secure yet flexible access solution available today, providing robust centralized management for multiple form factors, globally dispersed sites and thousands of users. Administrators are equipped with centralized administration and monitoring, scalability to easily add networks and clients, and the flexibility to enable access to users in offices, in-theater, and in the field from virtually any device.

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION, MONITORING AND AUDITING

The Distribution Console is the solution’s administration and monitoring hub from which all Distribution Consoles, endpoints and users are administered through the Management Console application.

It is recommended that all deployments utilize multiple Distribution Consoles to address server outages, scheduled maintenance and unexpected hardware failures. Through the Management Console, administrators can administer any Distribution Console from any other Distribution Console in the enterprise – greatly reducing the need for on-site resources and the cost to transport administrators from site to site. Administrators configure clients to failover to redundant Distribution Consoles (on- or...
off-site) when necessary, allowing work to continue unabated.

The Distribution Console serves as a centralized audit repository for the client software to track use and activity. This audit data can be pushed to a centralized enterprise audit storage location.

**ADMINISTRATOR ROLE AND ACCOUNT SEPARATION**

Additional security controls are provided through granular administrator role and account separation. Each account is permitted only one role on the system, thus enforcing the requirement that multiple personnel provide checks and balances for privileged actions, system changes and system data access.

**CLIENT USER MANAGEMENT**

The Distribution Console provides all necessary configuration information for client initialization and communication services. This information contains relevant security data and allows the user to access the virtual environments. When a network at another security level or a new server is added to the Distribution Console, the information is automatically sent to each client, removing the need to locally manage or update individual clients.

User access controls (username, password, and clearance level) are validated by the Distribution Console through either hosted Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP), external high-side LDAP, or external high-side Microsoft Active Directory. Utilizing a pre-existing LDAP or Active Directory server eliminates the need to manage user accounts on the Distribution Console, further reducing administrative overhead.

**SUPPORT FOR MULTIPLE ENDPOINT DEVICES**

In support of the variety of missions and users that make up an enterprise, the same client software can be implemented on different form factors: thin client hardware, PCs, laptop and hybrid devices, or a virtual machine resident on a host operating system. All recommended hardware is certified in-house by Forcepoint engineers. All endpoint devices run a read-only, stateless, SELinux multi-level secure (MLS) operating system that meets the most stringent security requirements. Users interact with the security-enabled and labeled (visual and code-based) graphical windowing system, which provides immediate access to simultaneous presentation-layer clients (Citrix, Microsoft, VMware) at one or more sensitivity levels on one or more monitors (up to 8, portrait and landscape orientation).

Risk exposure is greatly reduced due to the read-only device, strict network and virtual desktop session separation, and the fact that Forcepoint Trusted Thin Client only provides a redisplay of data from the data center. Should malicious code make its way to a virtual desktop, these factors prevent it from moving from one network to another greatly reducing the risk to the overall infrastructure.

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Figure 2: Forcepoint Trusted Thin Client Distribution Console Spanning
Additionally, if a foreign or unapproved device is introduced to the client network, that device is prevented from communicating with the Distribution Console. The system is completely controlled and protected through the enforcement provided by the trusted operating systems on which the client and Distribution Console run and through the use of digital certificates.

**ASSESSMENT AND AUTHORIZATION (A&A)**

Forcepoint Trusted Thin Client is recognized by the US Unified Cross Domain Services Management Office (UCDSMO) and is included on the UCDSMO Baseline List. Forcepoint Trusted Thin Client is designed and developed to meet or exceed National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST) 800-53 and 800-37 (SP), the Committee for National Security Systems (CNSS) Instruction 1253 requirements, and the Risk Management Framework (RMF) as required by Intelligence Community Directive (ICD) 503 and Department of Defense (DoD) IT for securing the most sensitive information. Forcepoint Trusted Thin Client has been assessed and authorized by authorities in the US – Top Secret/SCI and Below Interoperability (TSABII) and Secret and Below Interoperability (SABI) – and Five-Eyes nations.

**CONCLUSION**

Forcepoint’s cross domain multi-level solutions have a proven track record of proactively preventing enterprises from compromise, while enabling collaboration through secure information access and transfer. This allows Forcepoint’s secure access and transfer solutions to strike the right balance between information protection and information sharing — a vital component to global and national security. Forcepoint Trusted Thin Client solves the difficult problem of satisfying security needs while enhancing user productivity. It provides users with secure simultaneous access to any number of sensitive networks through a single device, in support of an enterprise-ready trusted collaboration experience that brings people, data, security, policy, and governance into alignment.

**FEATURE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>SABI Availability</th>
<th>TSABI Availability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USB Peripheral Redirection (thumb drive, optical reader/writer, printer, scanner)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video Playback through Multimedia Redirection (optimized) and Media Player application</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDX RealTime Optimization Pack for Lync - Skype for Business</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote Distribution Console Administration via Private, Administration Network</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Features removed from SABI environments

For additional information, please contact Forcepoint. Forcepoint Trusted Thin Client is designed to satisfy information assurance requirements, eliminate potential leaks and risks, and provide users with a familiar desktop environment. Forcepoint’s cross domain multi-level solutions are designed to meet or exceed extensive and rigorous security A&A testing for simultaneous connections to various networks at different security levels. Forcepoint offers an experienced professional services team to guide customers through the technical implementation and A&A processes.

**CONTACT**

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