aws marketplace

Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center

Reviews, tips, and advice from real users

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Product Recap

Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center

Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center Recap

Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center is a robust platform with features like intrusion prevention and centralized management, enhancing security with compatibility across Cisco's ecosystem.

Designed for enterprises, Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center provides advanced features like application visibility and seamless policy deployment. Its user-friendly design and extensive monitoring capabilities enable effective network management. While it excels in threat intelligence and automation, challenges remain in interface complexity, pricing, and performance. Improved API integration and enhanced user support would bolster its functionality, especially in policy management and monitoring.

What are the key features?

- Intrusion Prevention: Provides strong protection against threats.
- Centralized Management: Simplifies policy management across networks.
- Application Visibility: Offers detailed insights into network applications.
- Advanced Threat Detection: Uses Talos intelligence to detect threats.
- Seamless Policy Deployment: Facilitates efficient policy application.

What benefits should users expect?

- Integration Ease: Compatible with Cisco tools for effective data center protection.
- Comprehensive Monitoring: Supports extensive network oversight for better management.
- Efficient Threat Response: Leverages threat intelligence for proactive defense.
- Effective Network Segmentation: Ensures secure traffic management between zones.

In financial and healthcare industries, Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center optimizes security operations by managing firewalls and ensuring network protection. Its deployment aids in advanced malware detection, supporting compliance with industry regulations and securing sensitive data efficiently.

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Valuable Features

Excerpts from real customer reviews on PeerSpot:

- "With Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center, we can manage policies from a single console, which has improved efficiency, reduced configuration errors, and enhanced our security posture with better visibility into traffic and IPS events so we are able to detect and respond to threats more quickly, reducing risk and improving overall incident response time."

SurajYadav

Network Security Consultant at NTT DATA

- "So far, I am very satisfied with Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center, and I have not considered additional features such as the analytics part of the product."

Validated user

Sr. Solutions Architect, Consulting Engineer at a tech services company with 11-50 employees

- "I like the dashboard since it gives me a lot of information."

Yonas Abebe

Senior Network and Security Engineer at Symbol Technologies PLC

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"Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center has been protecting our network; the fact that it's working as mentioned is its main value."

Olumuyiwa Oladimeji

Deputy Director, Information Technology at Afe Babalola University Nigeria

"The tool's deployment is not complex."

Net823Eng2

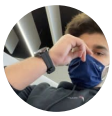
Network Engineer at Comprehensive Technical Group, Inc. (CTG)

"One of the most valuable features of Cisco Secure Firewalls is their seamless integration with other Cisco products."

Ajay Dand

Founder Director at Ninesec Integration Pvt. Ltd

"It is a stable solution. Stability-wise, I rate the solution a ten out of ten."



Muhammad-Haris

Student at BCU

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What users had to say about valuable features:

"The platform's most valuable feature has been its centralized management capability, which allows us to monitor and control multiple devices from one location. It is crucial for effectively managing our extensive network infrastructure.."

Validated user
Associate at a government with 11-50 employees

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"Malware detection, URL filtering, and antivirus are the most beneficial features for our security management. The platform has three main components: filters, hardware, and antivirus. We use the standard approach for automation and integration. The person in charge of management follows the rules and policies of the equipment and handles operations. However, we haven't set up any notifications, so it's mostly manual.."

Julian Rodriguez
Senior Network Engineer at Hispasat

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"I find that for the interfacing of Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center in general, there is no specific feature because I am using all the features and all the tabs available for configuring my policy. However, I consider Talos feedback that Cisco provides as free threat intelligence to be the most valuable for me and for the operation of the security policy in my organization.."

Validated user

Sr. Solutions Architect, Consulting Engineer at a tech services company with 11-50 employees

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"The most valuable feature of the solution is that it acts as an all-in-one firewall, including IPS, IDS, security intelligence, and IP policy protection, so it is not just a layer two and layer four firewall but a layer seven firewall. With the tool, you can see traffic beyond the IP and TCP, which gives application visibility, which is the best feature. It offers security intelligence and updates itself with policies, improving policies. It updates IP policies based on geography, so we don't want traffic worldwide.."

Net823Eng2

Network Engineer at Comprehensive Technical Group, Inc. (CTG)

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"I like the dashboard since it gives me a lot of information. However, Cisco should improve the local unit Secure since it is not quite smooth to see real-time graphics compared to other devices.

It provides full visibility of my devices, whether I have six or ten devices. When I want to check the stats of my devices and of the Internet connectivity, I love the dashboard of Cisco Pencil.."

Yonas Abebe
Senior Network and Security Engineer at Symbol Technologies PLC

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"The best features of Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center are the centralized management and strong security visibility. The most useful feature for me is centralized policy management, where I can create and enforce access control policies across multiple firewalls from a single console. It saves a lot of time and ensures consistency. Another key feature is IPS visibility. Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center provides detailed intrusion events and signatures, which help in quickly identifying and responding to threats.

"Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center has had a positive impact mainly by improving centralized control and visibility across our firewall environment. Earlier, managing multiple firewalls individually was time-consuming and inconsistent. With Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center, we can manage policies from a single console, which has improved efficiency and reduced configuration errors. It has also enhanced our security posture with better visibility into traffic and IPS events. We are able to detect and respond to threats more quickly, which helps in reducing risk and improving overall incident response time.."

SurajYadav
Network Security Consultant at NTT DATA

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Other Solutions Considered

"I currently use firewall products from Palo Alto and FortGate, along with Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center, to make a comparison report between all three products.."

Muhammad-Haris
Student at BCU

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"We looked at Panorama Firewall Management by Palo Alto and FortiManager by Fortinet. All of the secure firewall products seem to be the same, but Panorama and FortiManager are more reliable and have a few more features.."

Validated user
Head of the IT Security Division at a tech services company with 11-50 employees

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"They opted for the Cisco Firepower Management Center due to new, more complex threats that the basic ASA couldn't effectively handle. They did evaluate other options like Fortinet, Palo Alto, and Juniper, but their management recommended Cisco, leading them to choose it.."

Ramish Ali
Assistant Director IT at Punjab Education Foundation

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"I can compare Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center to Palo Alto for the data center firewall and Fortinet for the perimeter firewall or the edge firewall.

"The comparison among these three vendors depends on the price, the performance, and every feature versus its price. I cannot provide a general comparison.."

Validated user
Sr. Solutions Architect, Consulting Engineer at a tech services company with 11-50 employees

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"As I work in the cybersecurity department of my company, I had to compare Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center with the firewall products offered by other vendors in the market, like the ones from Fortinet and Palo Alto.

I prefer Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center since many of the organizations in the market prefer to use it because it is a great tool.."

Muhammad-Haris
Student at BCU

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"Before Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center, we were mainly managing firewalls individually using device-level management tools like Cisco Adaptive Security Device Manager. The challenge was that managing policies on each firewall separately was time-consuming and increased the chances of configuration inconsistencies. We moved to Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center to have a centralized management approach where we can control policies, monitor events, and manage multiple devices from a single console. This significantly improved efficiency and consistency in our firewall operations.."

SurajYadav
Network Security Consultant at NTT DATA

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ROI

Real user quotes about their ROI:

"I do not see a significant return on investment for that. There are a lot of solutions which can provide the same features. Cisco is more of a brand, yet it is more expensive.."

Yonas Abebe
Senior Network and Security Engineer at Symbol Technologies PLC

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"Despite potentially higher upfront expenses, the overall operational costs are significantly reduced due to its efficiency. Consequently, the return on investment is notably faster or greater compared to competing products from other brands.."

Ajay Dand
Founder Director at Ninesec Integration Pvt. Ltd

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"If there wasn't going to be any benefit from using Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center, we wouldn't have deployed it in the first place. That should be the number one requirement to deploy any solution in your organization. It has to be beneficial, or you shouldn't try it.."

Olumuyiwa Oladimeji
Deputy Director, Information Technology at Afe Babalola University Nigeria

Read full review

"The tool is worth the money. First of all, the tool offers protection from ransomware. The management center made it easy for me to push policy, which is the default policy that comes with it. The product is easy to learn, so I don't have to learn any technology again. It is just the hardware, and the initial purchase is more expensive than I thought, but it's really worth the money after that.."

Net823Eng2
Network Engineer at Comprehensive Technical Group, Inc. (CTG)

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"We have seen a return on investment with Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center, mainly in terms of time saving and operational efficiency. For example, earlier making policy changes across multiple firewalls was a manual and time-consuming task, taking around twenty to thirty minutes per device. With Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center, we can push policies centrally to multiple devices in just a few minutes, which has significantly reduced the effort and time. We have also seen fewer configuration errors because everything is managed from a single console instead of handling each firewall separately. While it has not reduced the number of employees, it has definitely improved team productivity and helped us handle security operations much more efficiently.."

SurajYadav
Network Security Consultant at NTT DATA

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Use Case

"Our primary use case for the solution is to manage and secure our network infrastructure. In our environment, we use it to handle multiple devices from a central control point.."

Validated user
Associate at a government with 11-50 employees

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"We installed Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center in a hospital environment to protect our network. We have it for our wireless access points, LAN, web, and the applications we are currently using.."

Olumuyiwa Oladimeji
Deputy Director, Information Technology at Afe Babalola University Nigeria

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"I use FMC for managing my device and utilizing Cisco features effectively, especially when I define a quality switch and have a license to protect my network from my device by using my regular model or tricks. It is easier if I use FMC.

Frankly speaking, when I want to see logs, attacks, and incoming tricks to my network, FMC helps me to have the visibility. It is easy to use basics, and that is why I use FMC.."

Yonas Abebe
Senior Network and Security Engineer at Symbol Technologies PLC

Read full review

"We have utilized Cisco Secure Firewalls for both perimeter defense and internal segmentation purposes. Our use cases include implementing secure gateways between IT and OT networks within manufacturing environments, where divisions require separation for operational purposes. This ensures that internal OT networks, crucial for manufacturing pumps, remain distinct and secure from IT networks. It plays a pivotal role in maintaining the integrity and security of these segregated networks.."

Ajay Dand
Founder Director at Ninesec Integration Pvt. Ltd

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"I use Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center for configuring all the routing policies that I need to do on the firewall, and it acts as a control plane for all the policies that I want to implement through the firewall.

"I find it easy to integrate Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center with the company's security posture, as I have integrated it with Splunk as a SIEM solution to have all the correlation rules on the firewall redirected to Splunk, and it integrates easily without any problem.

"I cannot answer how useful it is to have the ability to work with the cloud and on-premises version of Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center because all my deployments are on-premises solutions.."

Validated user

Sr. Solutions Architect, Consulting Engineer at a tech services company with 11-50 employees

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"Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center serves as my primary tool for centralized firewall policy management and monitoring security events across multiple devices. On a daily basis, I use it to manage access control policies, review traffic logs, and monitor intrusion events generated by Intrusion Prevention Systems. It helps me ensure that only required traffic is allowed and any suspicious activity is quickly identified. For example, recently I noticed a spike in an intrusion event on one of the segments through Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center. I analyzed the IPS alert and identified the connection matching a new signature. Based on that, I updated the policy to block the traffic and monitored the log to confirm the activity was mitigated.

"Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center is also focused on policies optimization and regular reviews. Over time, firewall rules can become complex, so I use Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center to clean up unused and redundant rules and ensure policies are properly structured. I also use it for reporting and visibility, which helps during audits and troubleshooting. Beyond daily monitoring, it plays an important role in maintaining overall security posture and keeping the firewall configuration efficient.."

SurajYadav
Network Security Consultant at NTT DATA

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Setup

The setup process involves configuring and preparing the product or service for use, which may include tasks such as installation, account creation, initial configuration, and troubleshooting any issues that may arise. Below you can find real user quotes about the setup process.

"I just set up the device. It takes control files, frankly speaking. However, when I try to integrate with the existing company's network infrastructure with a running and good migration plan, it took about three hours.."

Yonas Abebe

Read full review

Senior Network and Security Engineer at Symbol Technologies PLC

"The tool's deployment is not complex. It can be challenging for a new user. As I am familiar with the setup phase, the process is good, especially since I have experience with Cisco products.."

Net823Eng2

Read full review

Network Engineer at Comprehensive Technical Group, Inc. (CTG)

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"The setup was straightforward. We used the option to learn network traffic and improve policies based on Cisco's recommendations. Deployment took about a month—two weeks in lab mode, followed by planning integration with active traffic and implementation. For maintenance, we had about ten people involved during the project, but they were only part of the initial setup. We don't require ongoing maintenance for this solution.."

Julian Rodriguez

Senior Network Engineer at Hispasat

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"My experience with pricing and licensing for Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center is that it is generally on the higher side compared to some alternatives. The initial setup cost can be significant because it involves licensing along with compatible hardware or virtual deployment. Licensing is usually feature-based and dependent on factors such as threat protection and the number of devices being managed. However, from an enterprise perspective, the cost is justified by the centralized security features and overall visibility it provides. It reduces manual effort and improves security management.."

SurajYadav

Network Security Consultant at NTT DATA

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"We encountered some difficulties during the setup process, particularly with Wi-Fi configuration. While it wasn't overly challenging, it needed to be more straightforward. Assistance from Cisco support was available, but it required some effort, including using command-line scripts in addition to the graphical interface. The deployment timeline varied depending on the specific setup and office locations, but typically, it could take a couple of days if managed in-house.

I rate the process a five out of ten. ."

Validated user

Read full review

Systems Hardware Operation Executive at a tech services company with 201-500 employees

"The setup of Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center that I tried was on-premises, and everything was in a moderate way. It is not very difficult and not very easy. I simply followed the steps in the installation and configuration guide to understand what to do.

"In my opinion, the dashboard in Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center is easy to operate and easy to use. However, the implementation of Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center itself on any VMware machine may require some steps and some workarounds. The operation of Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center after the initial install is an easy interface with a friendly user interface.."

Validated user

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Sr. Solutions Architect, Consulting Engineer at a tech services company with 11-50 employees

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Customer Service and Support

"Cisco used to be really good with the solution's technical support but nowadays they are late to respond. I rate the technical support a seven out of ten.."

Net823Eng2
Network Engineer at Comprehensive Technical Group, Inc. (CTG)

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"Customer service and support have been adequate but could have been more exceptional. Response times can be slow, and resolutions are sometimes less effective than required.."

Validated user
Associate at a government with 11-50 employees

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"The core customer support is good, but they don't help us immediately. For example, if it is a P1 issue, they do not contact me immediately because it takes time to contact us. It will take time to resolve the issue if it's an emergency.."

MADAPALA JOSHIKA
Network Engineer at Peristent Systems

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"They don't offer sufficient materials on their website, unlike Cisco. Moreover, the FMC (Firepower Management Center) is expensive, and there is a lack of helpful materials available online. The existing documentation can be quite extensive and challenging to comprehend.."

Ramish Ali
Assistant Director IT at Punjab Education Foundation

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"Cisco's technical support stands out as the key differentiator among other product brands in the market. Cisco consistently ranks as the top choice for technical support, thanks to the expertise of its engineers and the promptness with which defective materials are replaced, provided that all warranties and contracts are in place. It continues to be top-notch and arguably the best in the industry, providing valuable assistance whenever needed.."

Ajay Dand
Founder Director at Ninesec Integration Pvt. Ltd

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“We have worked with Cisco support for Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center in a few cases. Overall, the support has been reliable. For critical issues, the response is usually quick and they follow a structured troubleshooting approach. For more complex problems, it can take some time, but they provide detailed guidance and follow up until resolution. Cisco's documentation and knowledge base are quite strong, which helps with resolving issues without always raising a ticket..”

SurajYadav
Network Security Consultant at NTT DATA

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Other Advice

"My colleague in charge of the network would be in a better position to provide additional details about the solution. The overall rating for Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center is 6 out of 10.."

Olumuyiwa Oladimeji
Deputy Director, Information Technology at Afe Babalola University Nigeria

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"Be prepared for a steep learning curve and consider the potential need for additional training or support to fully utilize the solution's capabilities.

Overall, I rate it a six out of ten. ."

Validated user
Associate at a government with 11-50 employees

Read full review

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"I would recommend the Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center to others. Deploying and managing policies and actions to cover network issues is easy. The policies are straightforward to configure, and you can easily manage the network with some support.

Overall, I'd rate the Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center as eight out of ten.."

Julian Rodriguez
Senior Network Engineer at Hispasat

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"Setting up the solution's management center is relatively easy, but we occasionally face bugs that require additional troubleshooting.

I recommend taking comprehensive backups and preparing thoroughly for implementation, especially when managing multiple nodes.

Overall, I rate it as a seven out of ten.."

Mostafa-Mourad
Cyber Security Head at Turnkey Integrated Technologies TK-IT

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"I have not used any automation features in Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center till now.

"So far, I am very satisfied with Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center, and I have not considered additional features such as the analytics part of the product.

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"I work directly with Cisco for the purchase. We purchase our equipment directly from Cisco.

"I am very satisfied with the functionality part of Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center and would not like to add anything, including AI functionalities.

"I would rate this product a nine out of ten overall.."

Validated user
Sr. Solutions Architect, Consulting Engineer at a tech services company with 11-50 employees

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"The management center is just the management, so it is nothing. The tool is a dummy box that allows you to push the policy to the firewall. The firewall is separate from the management center. The management center does nothing except create and push a policy, and after that, you can leave it alone. The management center is not a protection but a box to manage the real firewall.

In my company, we only manage a pair of servers, so we don't have many as we are a very small organization. We only have a couple of firewalls with one management center.

Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center is different from Cisco Firewall. If you don't have a Cisco Firewall, you don't need a Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center.

I recommend the tool to others.

I am not happy with the tool's support.

I rate the tool an eight out of ten.."

Net823Eng2
Network Engineer at Comprehensive Technical Group, Inc. (CTG)

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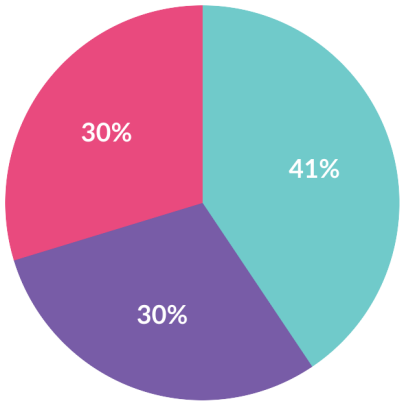
Company Size

by reviewers



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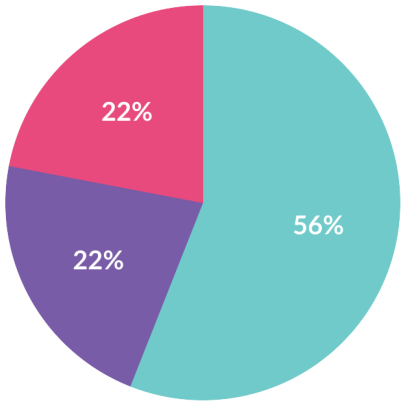

Large Enterprise Midsize Enterprise Small Business

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