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Get Secure Connectivity for Fleet Vehicles with FortiExtender Vehicle

Executive Summary

Whether public safety, transportation, logistics, or travel-industry vehicles, your fleet requires consistent, secure connectivity to digital services. But adding point connectivity solutions that are not integrated with the rest of the network or security forces fleets into an operational silo, which creates complexity and risk. This makes it tough for IT teams to manage and ensure secure connectivity in company vehicles. To be secure and efficient, connectivity for fleets must be part of a unified platform that integrates with other network components, such as back-office systems, security, OT and IoT, and wireless access.

FortiExtender Vehicle provides unified wireless WAN and access in a single, ruggedized device to securely connect fleets. Rich routing, cellular management, and cybersecurity are visible in a single pane of glass, letting you easily manage thousands of connected vehicles in one place. With FortiExtender Vehicle, your fleet becomes a seamless extension of your organization.

Over 900 million connected cars will be on the road at the start of the next decade.[1]

Integration Is Key

Legacy connectivity solutions for fleets often come from niche vendors that lack the industry expertise to provide a true enterprise-class networking and cybersecurity solution. These point products offer only basic capabilities for fleets and fail to integrate with the wider IT portfolio.

As a result, operational complexity is increased, and security gaps are introduced, adding burden to already overwhelmed IT teams at a time when IT talent is difficult to find and retain.

The Solution: FortiExtender Vehicle

FortiExtender Vehicle is a ruggedized wireless WAN extender designed specifically for use in vehicles. It provides secure and reliable cellular and Wi-Fi connectivity for various mobile applications in a single vehicle-mounted form factor.

With FortiExtender Vehicle, IT teams can connect and manage thousands of mobile deployments easily and securely with a simple cloud-managed console. The solution comes equipped with a variety of features that make it ideal for use in mobile environments, including:

- Dual CAT-12 LTE SIM slots for improved reliability with carrier failover policies that can be set based on data consumption, internet disconnects, and signal weakness

- Integrated 2×2 2.4/5 GHz 802.11 a/b/g/n/ac Wave2 Wi-Fi for fast wireless LAN access

- Powerful security capabilities, including firewall, Source Net Address Translation, and IPsec VPN

- Virtual Extensible LAN (VXLAN) support for network segmentation and isolation

- FirstNet Capable and railway certification for a variety of mobile deployments

- Ruggedized IP64 rating for dust and splash protection, as well as shock, vibration, and humidity protection, and operating temperatures of -40 to -158F
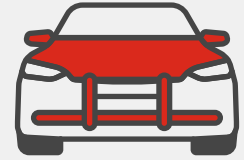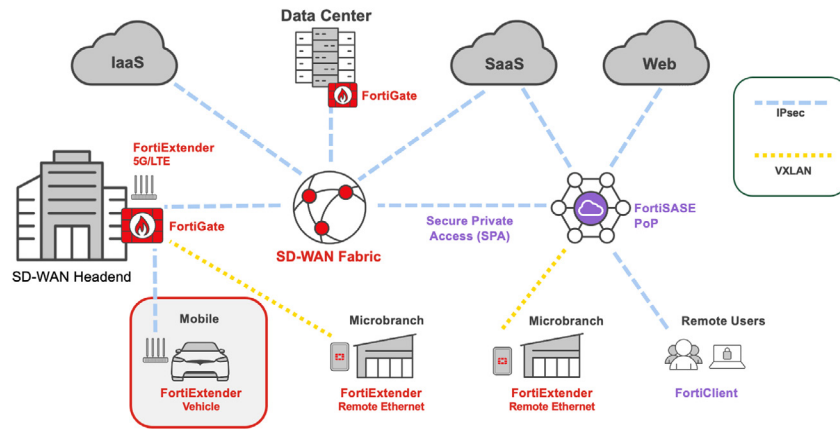
Figure 1: FortiExtender Vehicle in an example Fortinet topology

Top Use Cases

FortiExtender Vehicle delivers specific benefits for a multitude of industries.

First responders

FortiExtender Vehicle can deliver secure and reliable communication between first responders in the field and command-center personnel. As an AT&T FirstNet Capable device with support for LTE Band 14, FortiExtender Vehicle is essential for coordinating emergency response efforts and helping ensure the safety of first responders.

Delivery and logistics vehicles

FortiExtender can be deployed on delivery and logistics vehicles to help enterprise IT manage connected fleets more easily while integrating the fleets with the rest of the IT stack.

Utilities

FortiExtender Vehicle can provide secure and reliable connectivity for critical utility infrastructure such as power grids, water treatment plants, and oil and gas pipelines. This helps to ensure the continuity of essential services.

Transportation and travel

FortiExtender Vehicle can provide secure and reliable connectivity for public transportation systems such as buses and trains. This helps to improve the efficiency and safety of public transportation.

Summary

With FortiExtender Vehicle, you can easily deploy enterprise-class wireless WAN and access for your fleet. Fortinet's proven, integrated security ensures protection against the latest and most sophisticated cyberthreats. At the same time, powerful cloud management allows you to simply manage and secure thousands of connected vehicles via a single pane of glass.

86% of fleets achieve return on investment in connected vehicle technology within a year.[2]

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[1] "Connected cars on the road to grow 18% in 2023 opening potential lucrative new revenue streams," Omdia, July 25, 2023.

[2] "PYMNTS Intelligence: Connected Fleets are Becoming the New Normal," PYMNTS, October 19, 2022.

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