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Fortinet and Alkira Joint Solution

Multi-cloud Networking Solution With Unparalleled Security

Executive Summary

Fortinet and Alkira have partnered to deliver the fastest path to end-to-end cloud networking security. Fortinet FortiGate-VMs are fully integrated with the Alkira platform, enabling enterprises to connect all users, sites, and clouds in a flash.

This joint solution enables organizations to seamlessly deploy and secure multi-cloud networks with the Fortinet Security Fabric. Features include Alkira's unique auto-scaling capabilities, Fortinet's superior security, and the unmatched visibility of the Alkira Cloud Networking platform.

Challenge

Solving remote connectivity at global scale with security assured is a complex, costly, and cumbersome process, especially when using legacy networking technologies. From provisioning connectivity to managing a myriad of hardware, software, and agent-driven solutions, the status quo networking model does not keep pace with today's new workforce. Remote users are distributed around the world. Mission-critical applications reside in single or multiple clouds. And connecting it all securely requires the utmost in visibility, speed, and control.

Joint Solution

Alkira and Fortinet have partnered to deliver an industry-leading security solution to address the challenges of cloud networking connectivity. Seamlessly bringing Fortinet FortiGate NGFWs into the Alkira Cloud Networking platform enables robust, end-to-end security in just a few clicks. Powerful segmentation and microsegmentation tools ensure that access to the enterprise's infrastructure is controlled and managed end to end.

Joint Solution Components

Alkira Cloud Networking

Alkira Cloud Networking is the fastest path to cloud. It connects users, sites, and clouds at global scale with no hardware, software, or agents. It is offered as a service.

Alkira Cloud Exchange Points (CXPs)

The Exchange Points bring the cloud closer to users with Alkira's global network of virtual co-locations or points of presence. Alkira CXPs make connecting anything to the cloud simple and fast. Once connected, users can add advanced features and Fortinet security services via pre-integrated configuration.

Solution Components

- Alkira Cloud Networking
- Alkira Cloud Exchange Points (CXPs)
- Fortinet FortiGate Next-Generation Firewalls

Solution Benefits

- Fast deployment
- As-a-service delivery
- Global scale
- Bring your own license (BYOL)

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FortiGate Next-Generation Firewalls

Fortinet secures applications and workloads in public clouds to ensure privacy and confidentiality while leveraging the cloud benefits of scalability, metering, and time to market. FortiGate Cloud Connector provides container-aware security by enabling awareness of container labels when defining security policies. FortiGate-VM, in concert with other elements of the Security Fabric, enables common deployment scenarios such as cloud security services hub, cloud-native protection (CNP), secure remote access, container security, and web application security.

Joint Solution Integration

The Fortinet FortiGate NGFW integration available from Alkira's marketplace provides seamless security service insertion for on-premises and cloud networks connected to the Alkira CXPs. This enables our joint customers to gain full visibility and control of traffic from customer-premise networks to the cloud, traffic between virtual networks in the same cloud provider, and multi-cloud traffic among different cloud providers. With this integration, customers can now deploy and maintain their own Fortinet FortiGate NGFW instances in the native cloud environments with ease of use and simplicity.
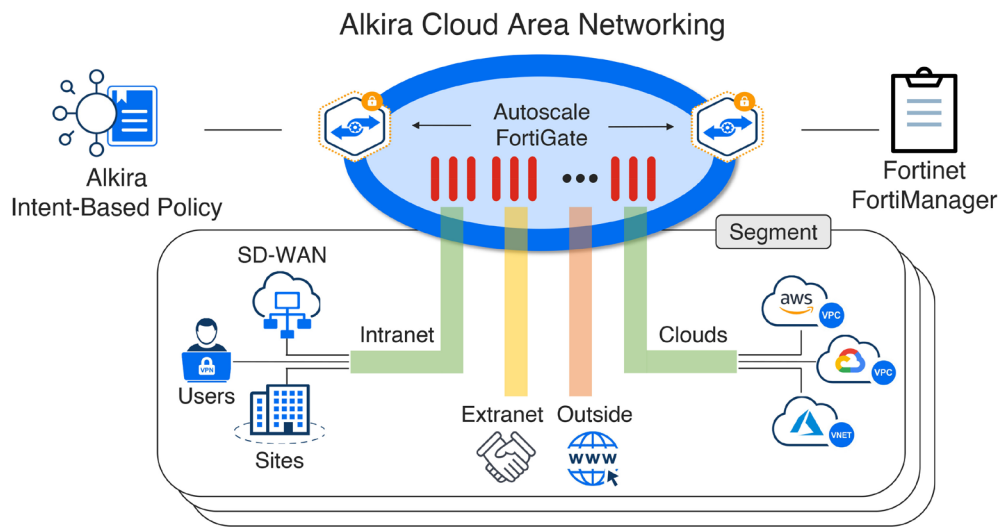

Figure 1: FortiGate service insertion with Alkira

Configuring a FortiGate NGFW inside the CXP is a simple three-step process. Users deploy the FortiGate NGFW in the CXP portal and configure the Alkira policy in CXP to redirect traffic to the FortiGate NGFW. Users can then directly configure the firewall policies on FortiGate with FortiManager.

Customers can deploy the FortiGate NGFW using pay-as-you-go (PAYG) or BYOL. For BYOL, the license needs to be purchased from Fortinet directly or from an authorized Fortinet partner. Alkira is responsible for the full lifecycle of the VM, its uptime and connectivity between the CXP and the FortiGate NGFW. Customers get full access to their firewall to configure the security policies on the FortiGate NGFW. Customers can manage the FortiGate inside the Alkira CXP through their existing FortiManager.

Joint Use Cases

Security in the public cloud: FortiGate-VM can be used for getting deep visibility into application workload traffic to ensure IT and regulatory compliance. Organizations with larger cloud deployments may want to centralize security inspection and routing across virtual private clouds (VPCs) to simplify security operations and apply compliance policies more effectively. With support for Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) routing and advanced threat protection (ATP), FortiGate-VMs can be deployed in high-availability mode in a centralized VPC called "Security Services Hub" to simplify networking and deliver enterprise-grade security in the public cloud.

Security across multiple clouds: FortiGate-VM provides SD-WAN connectivity and continuous visibility into threats across multiple clouds and virtual data centers. Secure multi-cloud SD-WAN capability supported on FortiGate-VM is tightly integrated with cloud-native managed network services like Azure Virtual WAN, AWS Cloud WAN, and Google Network Connectivity Center. This enables IT teams to simplify traffic routing to and from on-premises locations into the respective cloud VPCs and VNets.

About Alkira

Alkira Cloud Networking is the fastest way to unify clouds, sites, and users. We automate the entire creation, management, and operation of your network. Need to expand to multiple regions? Or thinking of multi-cloud? Your Cloud Area Network unifies your entire network to form a high resiliency, low-latency global Cloud Fabric. Managed using the same controls, policies, and security network admins know. One that instantly scales. And delivered as a service. Automatically deployed via UI or code. With end to end visibility. Using Alkira, your network team will move faster. Manage less. And save more. Learn more at alkira.com and follow us @alkiranet.

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