

FIREWALL

Why a next-generation firewall does what a standard router can't

Capability	Standard router	Next-generation firewall	Why this matters to your business
Control internet access (content filtering)	 No	 Yes We normally block malware and virus sites, pornography, child abuse and hacking sites, but this can be customised.	Without content control, anyone can download illegal content and put the company at risk. This may sound far-fetched, but we had a client (without a firewall at the time) have all their computers seized by police for a number of months, because a member of staff had been doing illegal activity at work.
Log internet access and hacking attempts	 No	 Yes	If a computer picks up a malware infection, or you have a data breach, the firewall logs play a crucial role in working out what has happened and which machines are affected.
Block viruses	 No	 Yes	The firewall has a built-in virus scanner that blocks viruses detected in internet traffic, plus controls to block access to known virus control services and sites.
Easy troubleshooting of network devices	 No	 Yes	The firewall lets us pinpoint any internet connectivity issues, because we can see what each device is doing and how it is (or isn't) connecting to the internet.
Management of bandwidth	 No (or limited)	 Yes	Bandwidth control rules stop one user consuming all of the available data. That matters for VoIP and cloud services, as it keeps enough capacity free for calls and protects call quality.
Remote updates and management	 Limited	 Yes	We can access a router remotely to make changes, but we can't track firmware releases (the code that runs on the router) or update it remotely. A firewall pulls firmware and security updates automatically, so the device stays current and is far less likely to be compromised.
VPN access	 Limited	 Yes	A firewall easily manages VPN connections, which are secure remote connections into the office. These let us connect laptops and remote devices to the office network, so your team can print at the office from home, view CCTV or reach other network resources.

THE KEY TAKE-AWAY

A firewall lets us take control of your network and connectivity. That means we can make sure staff are complying with your security and best practice policies, and that your business network and data are properly secured.