



The Most Efficient Path to Firepower Feature Realization : A Healthcare Organization's Migration from Cisco ASA to Firepower

Case Study

About the Client

The New York City-based healthcare organization is one of the largest providers in the city and is regularly recognized as a leader in their industry. With the mission to deliver healthcare services to people regardless of their background or financial circumstances, the organization is dedicated to the protection of their patients' sensitive information. Given the increasing prevalence of costly cyberattacks, the organization sought to increase their security posture by upgrading their existing firewalls to next-generation firewalls.

About the Services Delivery Partner

The US-based global management consulting firm offers a diverse array of services to enable government, non-government, and non-profit organizations to improve their performance. Recognized as a leader within IT and cybersecurity consulting services, their technology solutions enable organizations to scale efficiently and respond to security concerns effectively.

The Story

Given that healthcare has the highest cost per record breach across all industries, healthcare providers are often motivated by cost avoidance to improve their security posture and upgrade their network security devices. A long-time self-described Cisco shop, the New York City-based healthcare organization elected to upgrade their Cisco ASA firewalls to Cisco Firepower next-generation firewalls to gain enhanced threat intelligence and increased visibility over their network. The organization's IT network security staff had minimal prior experience migrating firewalls and elected to use their trusted consulting partner to ensure that the migration resulted in the full realization of their investment.

The consulting partner had undertaken migrations in the past but more recently have purposefully avoided them. "We often found that even simple migrations required very specific knowledge across multiple products, their different APIs, and still required a lot of custom scripting," mentioned Richard, Director of Network Security Services. "Even with vendor-supplied migration tools we found that migrations simply took too much time due to a reliance on manual processes which left us with an unprofitable service, so we would avoid engagements that were heavily or entirely migrations." When asked by their close healthcare client to migrate their policy from Cisco ASA to Firepower, Richard's team recognized that they would need to identify efficient processes to avoid the prior problems common with migrations.

Richard's team has developed a successful reputation through the mantra "if you need to do it more than once, automate it" and consequently sought solutions to expedite the migration process. "We looked at the Cisco migration tool but ultimately decided to use Tufin's SecureMigrate: ASA to Firepower because we saw how simple the process could be through their automation," reflected Richard. "We were well acquainted with Tufin's automation capabilities for network security policy and Cisco devices, so we trusted that they would be able to automate most of the manual migration processes."

Highlights & Benefits

- Delivered the most efficient migration from Cisco ASA to Firepower
- Ensured policy optimization prior to migration
- Aligned network object groups to IPS profiles
- Generated full reporting for compliance post-migration



The client had asked for a 1:1 mapping of their existing policy to Firepower, but Richard's team quickly found a way to enhance the policy migration service with little difficulty after an onsite preparation meeting. "We reviewed their existing policy in Tufin's policy browser which then prompted questions on whether we could exclude unused rules or object groups," noted Richard. "The ability to use searches from SecureTrack in the migration made it very simple to remove dozens of unused network object groups and unused rules – our client interpreted this as an opportunity to also optimize the health of their policies."

The migration of seven firewalls started and concluded within two weeks despite the notable volume of migrated rule sets. "One firewall with over 1,200 rules was migrated in under ten hours, and one firewall with 130,000 rules took 25 hours to migrate over," recalled Richard. "We were able to undertake the project from start to completion in under two weeks, and I'd estimate without SecureMigrate we'd be talking at least three times longer."

Richard's team also commented on the usability of the tool being a significant enabler. "That's the least I've used CLI for a migration," commented John, a Network Security Specialist on Richard's team. "Everything we included to be migrated over was done and validated in reporting, even aligning network object groups to IPS profiles. It was the easiest migration I've ever conducted."

Richard and his team are now pursuing new migration consulting opportunities specifically for Cisco ASA to Cisco Firepower. "The prior challenges in migrating firewalls were largely addressed through SecureMigrate, so much so that we're looking to undertake new engagements when we can use the tool," stated Richard. "We have a stronger and more trusted relationship with our client than before, and we're assessing ways to help them further benefit from automation including other Tufin solutions."

About Tufin

Tufin® is the leader in Network Security Policy Orchestration, serving more than half of the top 50 companies in the Forbes Global 2000. Tufin simplifies management of some of the largest, most complex networks in the world, consisting of thousands of firewall and network devices and emerging hybrid cloud infrastructures. Enterprises select the award-winning Tufin Orchestration Suite™ to increase agility in the face of ever-changing business demands while maintaining a robust security posture. Tufin reduces the attack surface and meets the need for greater visibility into secure and reliable application connectivity. Its network security automation enables enterprises to implement changes in minutes with proactive risk analysis and continuous policy compliance. Tufin serves over 2,000 customers spanning all industries and geographies; its products and technologies are patent-protected in the U.S. and other countries.