



StoneGate Multi-Layer Inspection Extended

by Mark Boltz

Create a world of
confidence.



With the advent of StoneGate 2.6, Stonesoft's multi-layer inspection extends the firewall's capabilities to operate as a packet filter, stateful inspection or application level security device further than ever before. This new version includes a new TCP proxy protocol agent, allowing agencies or companies with legacy requirements for "application proxy" firewalls to meet their organizational guidelines while still providing the advanced features and enhanced performance of an enterprise class, scalable and manageable security solution.

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For some organizations, old written policies stipulate the use of application proxy firewalls – secure, but slow, not very scalable, and tough to address continuity. These organizations could not benefit from modern technologies like stateful inspection, clustering and load balancing, and handling new protocols, such as SOAP or XML and others critical to cutting-edge service oriented architectures (SOA), or new standards like SIP for modern VoIP). Often administrators were faced with the choice to either break the rules or constrain the business processes to older technologies, as both were far easier than to get the policy changed.

With the StoneGate high availability firewall and VPN from Stonesoft, administrators can relax. StoneGate can secure networks with confidence, providing the peace of mind of an application proxy firewall where required through a new TCP proxy protocol agent, which, unlike the other protocol agents in StoneGate, performs as a true proxy, creating two separate connections. But because it can be applied on a rule-

by-rule basis like other protocol agents, administrators can still use StoneGate's other multi-layer inspection capabilities where needed to benefit the organization, improve regulatory compliance through advanced auditing and reporting, and rest easy knowing that their investment scales better than any other solution in the market, both through clustering and load balancing technology and virtualization across the IBM eServer platform, from Intel-based servers to mid-range and mainframe systems. Performance is also not sacrificed, since only specific rules need apply the proxy capabilities.

The TCP protocol agent can be defined for any TCP-based protocol, such as HTTP or SMTP. Connections arriving at the firewall matching the rule with this protocol agent defined will trigger the firewall to create a second connection to the destination if allowed, and copying the data from one to the other. With StoneGate's technologies defending their networks, organizations can have greater ease of mind while meeting regulatory requirements.

*Conduct business in
confidence.*



The best features of Stonesoft's patented multi-layer inspection still apply:

- Packet filter on a rule-by-rule basis as defined by administrators, enabling short lived connections (e.g., ping, traceroute) to be handled on a packet by packet basis, avoiding the added complexity of state table management, if desired.
- Performance and security of a stateful inspection firewall by default, creating a scalable system as security policy complexity increases or the business processes of the organization demand.
- Application level security through protocol agents, which provide for data layer manipulation to securely allow complex protocols (e.g., FTP), handling of address translation (e.g., H.323 for traditional Voice over IP (VoIP) support), and secure handling of dynamic ports (e.g., TFTP). All without the performance penalties of a traditional proxy firewall. With higher risk protocols, additional protocol validation can be performed, or connections can even be redirected to dedicated, industry standard content filtering systems, including anti-virus scanners and URL filters.
- Extreme granularity and adaptability. Each option is set on a rule-by-rule basis, not as a global checkbox, giving the administrator greater control over data integrity. Additionally, protocol agents can be further customized to allow for options in one rule, while denying the same options in another (active vs. passive FTP, for example).

STONESOFT EXPERIENCE

Stonesoft Corporation (HEX: SFT1V) is an innovative provider of integrated network security and business continuity. Stonesoft is a global company focused on enterprise level customers requiring advanced network security and always-on business connectivity with low TCO, best price-to-performance ratio, and highest ROI. StoneGate™ Security Platform unifies firewall, VPN and IPS, blending network security, end-to-end availability and award-winning load balancing into a unified and centrally managed system for distributed enterprises.

Founded in 1990, Stonesoft Corporation has corporate headquarters in Helsinki, Finland; Americas headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia; and Asia Pacific headquarters in Singapore. For more information, go to www.stonesoft.com.



THE STONEGATE PLATFORM

As the first highly available, load balancing network security solution of its kind, StoneGate sets a new standard for FW, VPN and IPS solutions. StoneGate provides a unified security platform with active-active clustering, load balancing and bandwidth aggregation for multiple Internet links and ability to transparently fail-over VPNs, all with the security and connectivity of an integrated FW/VPN.

- **Multi-Link Technology™** – Seamless fail-over between multiple ISPs and FW clusters for always-on connections
- **Increased Performance** – Analyzes and utilizes fastest possible connection through integrated intelligent load balancing between ISPs and FWs.
- **Multi-Layer Inspection™** – Combines the best aspects of application proxy firewalls with traditional packet filtering and stateful inspection technologies
- **Reduce Costs** – Eliminate network complexities and costs associated with multiple vendor solutions and travel time
- **Unified, Central Management** – Robust remote management, along with simple remote update, alert center management, reporting, diagram editor and hierarchy policy updates. Also integrates FW and VPN with StoneGate's IDS Plus solution into a unified platform.

StoneGate is available either as a software-based solution that capitalizes on existing hardware investments, or as Stonesoft's own integrated appliance eliminating complexity and costs associated with multiple-vendor solutions. All of Stonesoft's appliances include the standard enterprise level features with the only difference being the number of physical interfaces and performance level.

STONESOFT
www.stonesoft.com

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