

fortigate vm ordering guide

fortigate vm ordering guide is an essential resource for organizations looking to implement virtualized security solutions with Fortinet's FortiGate Virtual Machine (VM). This guide covers key aspects such as understanding FortiGate VM editions, licensing options, hardware and software requirements, and the ordering process. Whether planning for deployment in private clouds, public clouds, or hybrid environments, comprehending the nuances of FortiGate VM models and configurations is critical for optimizing network security and performance. Additionally, this article highlights best practices for selecting the appropriate VM size and features based on organizational needs. By following this comprehensive fortigate vm ordering guide, IT professionals can ensure they acquire the correct FortiGate VM licenses and configurations tailored to their infrastructure and security demands. The following sections outline the main components of this guide for easy navigation.

- Understanding FortiGate VM Editions
- Licensing Options and Models
- Hardware and Software Requirements
- Ordering Process and Best Practices
- Deployment Considerations and Support

Understanding FortiGate VM Editions

FortiGate VM editions are designed to meet varied organizational requirements, offering flexibility and scalability in virtualized firewall deployments. These editions differ primarily based on performance capabilities, security features, and intended deployment environments. Selecting the right FortiGate VM edition is crucial to ensure that the virtual firewall aligns with network traffic demands and security policies.

FortiGate VM Basic Editions

The basic editions typically cater to small to medium-sized enterprises or branch office deployments. These VMs provide essential firewall capabilities, including stateful inspection, VPN, and basic intrusion prevention. They are optimized for environments with moderate throughput requirements and limited concurrent sessions.

FortiGate VM Advanced Editions

Advanced editions include enhanced security features such as advanced threat protection, SSL inspection, and integrated intrusion detection systems. These editions are suitable for larger

enterprises or data centers requiring higher throughput and complex security policies. They support a higher number of virtual interfaces and concurrent sessions, enabling more extensive network segmentation and control.

Cloud-Optimized Editions

FortiGate VM also offers editions specifically optimized for various cloud platforms like AWS, Azure, and Google Cloud. These editions are pre-configured to integrate seamlessly with cloud-native services and provide automated scaling capabilities. Cloud-optimized VMs facilitate effective security management across dynamic cloud environments.

Licensing Options and Models

Understanding the licensing models is a fundamental aspect of the FortiGate VM ordering guide. Fortinet offers several licensing options that correspond to different usage scenarios, subscription durations, and feature sets. Proper license selection ensures compliance and access to necessary FortiGate services.

Subscription-Based Licensing

Subscription licenses provide access to FortiGate VM features for a specified period, typically ranging from one to five years. These licenses include updates, threat intelligence feeds, and technical support. Subscription models are popular for organizations preferring operational expenditure (OpEx) budgeting over capital expenditure (CapEx).

Perpetual Licensing

Perpetual licenses grant indefinite use of the FortiGate VM software version purchased. While they represent a higher upfront investment, perpetual licenses can be cost-effective over time for stable network environments. However, ongoing maintenance and support usually require additional subscription fees.

License Capacity and Performance Levels

Licenses are often categorized by throughput capacity and maximum concurrent sessions supported. It is essential to match the license capacity with the expected network load to avoid performance bottlenecks. Common license tiers include:

- Small: Suitable for low to moderate throughput and session counts
- Medium: Designed for medium-sized network deployments
- Large: Targeted at enterprise-grade throughput and large session volumes

- **Extra Large:** For data center environments with high traffic demands

Hardware and Software Requirements

FortiGate VM operates on various hypervisor platforms and cloud infrastructures, each with specific hardware and software prerequisites. Ensuring compliance with these requirements is vital for optimal FortiGate VM performance and stability.

Supported Hypervisors

FortiGate VM supports multiple hypervisors, including VMware ESXi, Microsoft Hyper-V, KVM (Kernel-based Virtual Machine), and Nutanix AHV. Each hypervisor has unique configuration guidelines and resource allocation capabilities that influence the VM's performance.

Resource Allocation Guidelines

To guarantee efficient firewall operations, Fortinet recommends minimum resource allocations based on the VM edition and expected workload:

- **CPU Cores:** Varying from 2 to 16 cores depending on VM size
- **Memory (RAM):** Typically ranges from 4 GB to 64 GB
- **Storage:** Sufficient disk space for system files, logs, and updates, generally starting at 40 GB
- **Network Interfaces:** Multiple virtual NICs for segregating traffic zones

Operating System and Software Compatibility

The FortiGate VM image must be compatible with the underlying hypervisor and cloud environment. Fortinet frequently updates supported versions to align with evolving platform standards. It is recommended to verify compatibility matrices before ordering and deployment.

Ordering Process and Best Practices

The fortigate vm ordering guide emphasizes a structured approach to procurement to avoid common pitfalls and ensure alignment with organizational security objectives. Understanding the ordering steps and best practices can streamline implementation and reduce delays.

Assessing Organizational Requirements

Before ordering, organizations should perform a comprehensive needs analysis encompassing anticipated traffic volume, security features required, deployment environment, and budget constraints. This assessment informs the choice of FortiGate VM edition and license type.

Engaging with Authorized Resellers or Fortinet Sales

Purchasing through authorized channels guarantees access to genuine licenses, technical support, and updates. Resellers and Fortinet sales representatives can provide tailored advice, volume discounts, and deployment assistance.

Order Placement and License Activation

The ordering process typically involves selecting the appropriate VM image, license type, and capacity tier. Upon purchase, customers receive license keys or entitlement certificates, which must be activated via Fortinet's licensing portal. License activation is mandatory before deploying security services.

Best Practices for Ordering

1. Document detailed network and security requirements
2. Choose the VM edition that aligns with performance and feature needs
3. Select licensing options that align with budget and operational models
4. Verify hardware and software prerequisites prior to ordering
5. Engage with Fortinet or certified partners for expert guidance

Deployment Considerations and Support

Successful deployment of FortiGate VM requires attention to integration, configuration, and ongoing support mechanisms. This section of the fortigate vm ordering guide outlines critical considerations to maximize the effectiveness of the virtual firewall solution.

Integration with Existing Infrastructure

FortiGate VM must seamlessly integrate with existing network topologies, security policies, and management tools. Compatibility with orchestration platforms and cloud management consoles enhances operational efficiency.

Configuration and Tuning

Post-deployment, fine-tuning firewall policies, VPN settings, and security profiles is essential. Regular updates to threat signatures and firmware ensure continued protection against emerging cyber threats.

Technical Support and Maintenance

Fortinet offers comprehensive support options including technical assistance, firmware updates, and security intelligence subscriptions. Maintaining an active support contract is critical for receiving timely updates and expert guidance.

Scaling and Future-Proofing

Organizations should plan for future growth by selecting VM editions and licenses that accommodate scalability. Cloud deployments benefit from elastic resource allocation, while on-premises virtual environments require capacity planning aligned with projected network expansion.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the FortiGate VM ordering guide?

The FortiGate VM ordering guide is a document or resource provided by Fortinet that helps customers select the appropriate FortiGate Virtual Machine (VM) model based on their network security requirements, deployment size, and performance needs.

How do I choose the right FortiGate VM model using the ordering guide?

To choose the right FortiGate VM model, you should evaluate your expected network throughput, number of users, required security features, and deployment environment. The ordering guide provides specifications and comparisons to help match these criteria with the appropriate VM model.

Are there different FortiGate VM editions listed in the ordering guide?

Yes, the ordering guide typically lists multiple FortiGate VM editions, such as VM64, VM64-HV, and cloud-specific versions, each optimized for different hypervisors or cloud platforms, with varying performance and licensing options.

Does the FortiGate VM ordering guide include licensing

information?

Yes, the ordering guide usually includes details about licensing options, such as subscription-based licenses, perpetual licenses, and feature bundles, helping customers understand pricing and feature availability.

Can the FortiGate VM ordering guide help with cloud deployments?

Absolutely. The ordering guide often includes information on FortiGate VM models optimized for major cloud providers like AWS, Azure, and Google Cloud, including specific ordering codes and deployment recommendations.

Where can I find the latest FortiGate VM ordering guide?

The latest FortiGate VM ordering guide is available on the official Fortinet website under the resources or documentation section, or it can be obtained through Fortinet sales representatives or partners.

Is the FortiGate VM ordering guide updated frequently?

Yes, Fortinet regularly updates the ordering guide to reflect new product releases, updated specifications, pricing changes, and new licensing models to ensure customers have the most current information when making purchasing decisions.

Additional Resources

1. *FortiGate VM Deployment and Ordering Guide*

This comprehensive guide offers detailed instructions on selecting and ordering FortiGate Virtual Machines (VMs) tailored to various network security needs. It covers licensing options, performance specifications, and deployment scenarios to help IT professionals make informed decisions. Readers will also find best practices for integrating FortiGate VMs into existing virtual environments.

2. *Mastering FortiGate Virtual Appliances*

Designed for network administrators and security engineers, this book delves into the technical aspects of FortiGate virtual appliances, including configuration, management, and optimization. It includes chapters on ordering processes, subscription models, and scaling strategies to maximize the value of FortiGate VM deployments.

3. *FortiGate VM Essentials: Ordering and Configuration*

This book provides a step-by-step approach to ordering FortiGate VMs and configuring them for various use cases such as data center security and cloud protection. It explains licensing tiers, subscription plans, and hardware requirements, making it an essential resource for procurement and IT teams.

4. *Optimizing Network Security with FortiGate VM*

Focusing on the operational benefits of FortiGate VMs, this title illustrates how to effectively order and deploy these virtual firewalls to enhance network security. The author explores cost

considerations, deployment architectures, and integration with cloud platforms, ensuring readers can tailor orders to their unique environments.

5. The FortiGate Virtual Firewall Buying Guide

This practical guide assists buyers in understanding the various FortiGate VM models, performance capabilities, and licensing options available in the market. It provides comparative analyses, ordering tips, and vendor insights to streamline the procurement process.

6. Cloud Security with FortiGate Virtual Machines

Highlighting FortiGate VMs' role in cloud security, this book covers ordering strategies specific to cloud service providers and enterprises migrating workloads to the cloud. It discusses subscription management, scalability, and compliance considerations to help readers optimize their cloud security posture.

7. FortiGate VM Licensing and Subscription Handbook

This handbook offers an in-depth look at the licensing models and subscription plans associated with FortiGate Virtual Machines. It guides readers through order placement, renewal processes, and cost management, empowering organizations to maintain continuous and cost-effective security coverage.

8. Deploying FortiGate VMs in Virtualized Environments

A technical manual focused on the deployment of FortiGate VMs within VMware, Hyper-V, and other virtualized infrastructures. It includes detailed sections on ordering the right VM sizes and licenses based on virtual environment demands, ensuring optimal performance and security.

9. FortiGate VM Ordering and Integration Strategies

This book combines ordering guidance with practical integration techniques for FortiGate VMs across heterogeneous network environments. Readers will learn how to select appropriate VM models and licenses while effectively integrating FortiGate into multi-cloud and hybrid infrastructures.

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