

Firewalls can function as core switches



Overview

Firewalls should primarily function as security enforcement boundaries rather than high-volume routing cores. Modern enterprise security designs divide networks into zones such as: Virtual Routing and Forwarding (VRF) can provide logical isolation without physical hardware. For enterprise network architects and senior infrastructure engineers, determining where Layer 3 routing logic should reside—on the core switch or the Next-Generation Firewall (NGFW)—is a foundational design decision. A misstep here can either cripple network performance with unnecessary. This article provides a comprehensive overview of three core network components—firewalls, routers, and switches—delving into their functions, working principles, and application scenarios. By exploring these devices, readers will gain insight into how they collaborate to build secure, reliable. In my research I'm getting mixed suggestions - Some say that core switches are for routing, when others say that core switches have to be as fast as possible and have minimal tasks dedicated to them. I would appreciate any kind of help, and sorry for stupid questions. Depends Firewalls typically. With the Fortinet solution for integrated networking using FortiLink, the core layer always comprises a set of two to four FortiGate devices and two very high-speed FortiSwitch units, which support a large number of 100-GbE and/or 40-GbE ports with enough capacity to grow the links between them and. Firewalls enforce security rules, using stateful inspection to allow legitimate sessions and block threats. In a home, the modem feeds the router/firewall, then switches and access points.

Article Content

Jun 20, 2026

Firewall at Edge vs Core : r/networking

Obviously I would think having a firewall at the Core switch is ideal, however sometimes this may not be possible, (depending where the ISP connection is).

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Gateways on Core Switch vs Firewall : r/networking

Switches for speed, firewall for security. If you start out with all terminating to the switches you can have a /29 between the switches and firewalls (assuming HA). You can always change this later, throw

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FS Community

Hier sollte eine Beschreibung angezeigt werden, diese Seite lässt dies jedoch nicht zu.

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What is a Firewall?

Read what a firewall is and explore its different types. Learn how firewall protection saves your network from threats and enhances security

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Internal Firewall vs. ACLs on Core Switches : r/networking

Our smart firewalls enable you to shield your business, manage kids' and employees' online activity, safely access the Internet while traveling, securely work from home, and more.

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Network Switch vs Network Router vs Network Firewall

Network firewall, network switch & network router are three basic devices used in almost every network. Learn how Network firewall, network

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Types of Firewalls Defined and Explained

Discover the different types of firewalls and their functions. Learn which firewall solution best fits your organization's cybersecurity needs.

Jan 09, 2026

What is the best practices for Users Getaway! Core Switch or Firewall ...

Dear Experts, I am wondering what is the best practices for the user getaway. is Core Switch preferred to be the getaway for all user after this the traffic go to the firewall Or the Firewall

Jan 05, 2026

Router vs Switch vs Firewall - Networking Guide

Learn the difference between routers, switches, and firewalls in networking. This beginner-friendly guide explains how each device works using

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The 5 Different Types of Firewalls Explained

The firewall remains a core fixture in network security. But, with five types of firewalls, three firewall deployment models and multiple placement

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Internet Connection Termination: Core Switch vs Firewall

I recently had a spirited discussion with a colleague about the best practice for terminating internet connections in a corporate network setup. My colleague argued that internet connections should not

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Introduction of Firewall in Computer Network

Your All-in-One Learning Portal: GeeksforGeeks is a comprehensive educational platform that empowers learners across domains-spanning computer

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Core layer | FortiSwitch 7.6.0 | Fortinet Document Library

The FortiGate devices in the core layer can use FGCP in active-passive mode with two to four firewalls or in active-active mode for increased performance through HA load-balancing.

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Firewall Deployment: Edge vs. Core

Deciding between edge and core firewall placement depends heavily on specific network characteristics and security requirements. To aid in this decision, here is a detailed comparison table highlighting

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How does a firewall work?

Let's quickly run through the core types of firewalls and explain how they divide legitimate and malicious traffic. Packet filtering Packet filtering firewalls are the

Jul 13, 2025

The role of switches, routers and firewalls in a network

In this post, we will discuss the role played by network devices such as switches, routers and firewalls in transferring data from its source to its intended destination

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L3 Core to Firewall question

Internet <--> Fortigate <--4x1G--> Core <--2x10G--> Access Switches The current network design consists of a firewall (Fortigate 100D), a pair of stacked "network core" L3 switches (Netgear M4300)

Nov 08, 2025

When to Route on Core Switches vs Next-Gen Firewalls in Enterprise

Learn when to use core switch routing vs next-generation firewall routing in enterprise networks. Explore performance, security zones, VRF design, and hardware platform selection.

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Firewalls 101: Understanding Types, Functions, and

One of the fundamental tools in the cybersecurity arsenal is the firewall. This blog post will delve into the intricacies of firewalls, exploring their

Mar 21, 2026

Differences among Firewalls, Routers, and Switches

This article provides a comprehensive overview of three core network components—firewalls, routers, and switches—detrving into their functions,

May 06, 2026

Understanding the Main Types of Firewalls

Understanding the different types of firewalls Firewalls come in many types, each designed to protect networks against unauthorized access and malicious traffic.

Sep 17, 2025

What Does a Firewall Do? | How Firewalls Work

Firewalls act as a gatekeeper for network communications examining and filtering network traffic to ensure only authorized and safe traffic passes through. This

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Core Switch vs. Distribution Switch vs. Access Switch

These data switches are responsible for routing and data switching at the core layer of the network. The data routed and switched by the core switch is carried

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Core purpose

Core switches are designed or chosen with high-speed packet switching in mind, and are usually stripped of traffic processing features such as security/firewall. The aggregation layer, on the other

Mar 02, 2026

Routing on firewall or core switches? : r/networking

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