What's New in Sophos Firewall
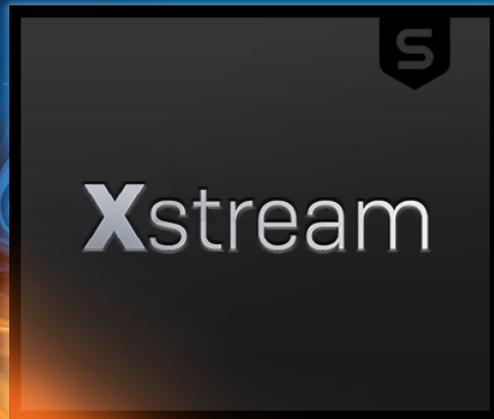
Xstream

Key New Features in
Sophos Firewall OS v19.5

Xstream SD-WAN and Routing

SD-WAN Load Balancing

SFOS v19 introduced Xstream SD-WAN with many new SD-WAN capabilities such as profiles and routing strategies based on link performance, as well as Xstream FastPath acceleration of IPsec traffic, enhanced logging, monitoring and reporting, and much more.

SFOS v19.5 adds new SD-WAN load balancing to the Xstream SD-WAN feature list. The enables simultaneous routing of application traffic across multiple SD-WAN links for optimal performance and redundancy.

IPsec VPN Concurrent Tunnel Capacity

SFOS v19.5 includes significant capacity and performance enhancements for IPsec with up to double the number of concurrent tunnels now supported. The exact IPsec tunnel capacity increases depend on model and will be published closer to launch after testing and benchmarking is complete.

Dynamic Routing with OSPFv3

SFOS v19.5 introduces a new dynamic routing engine with OSPFv3 (IPv6) support which has been one of our top requested features. OSPFv3, or Open Shortest Path First version 3, is a link-state routing protocol that enables dynamic routing, enhanced flexibility, improved security, better performance, and reduced complexity.

Xstream Protection and Performance

Xstream FastPath Acceleration for TLS Encrypted Traffic

Sophos Firewall OS v18 introduced the Xstream Architecture that enables FastPath acceleration of trusted traffic flows. The new XGS Series hardware appliances added dedicated Xstream Flow Processors for hardware acceleration of trusted traffic flows. One of the great benefits of the programmable flow processor is that additional features and capabilities can be added over time to further improve performance.
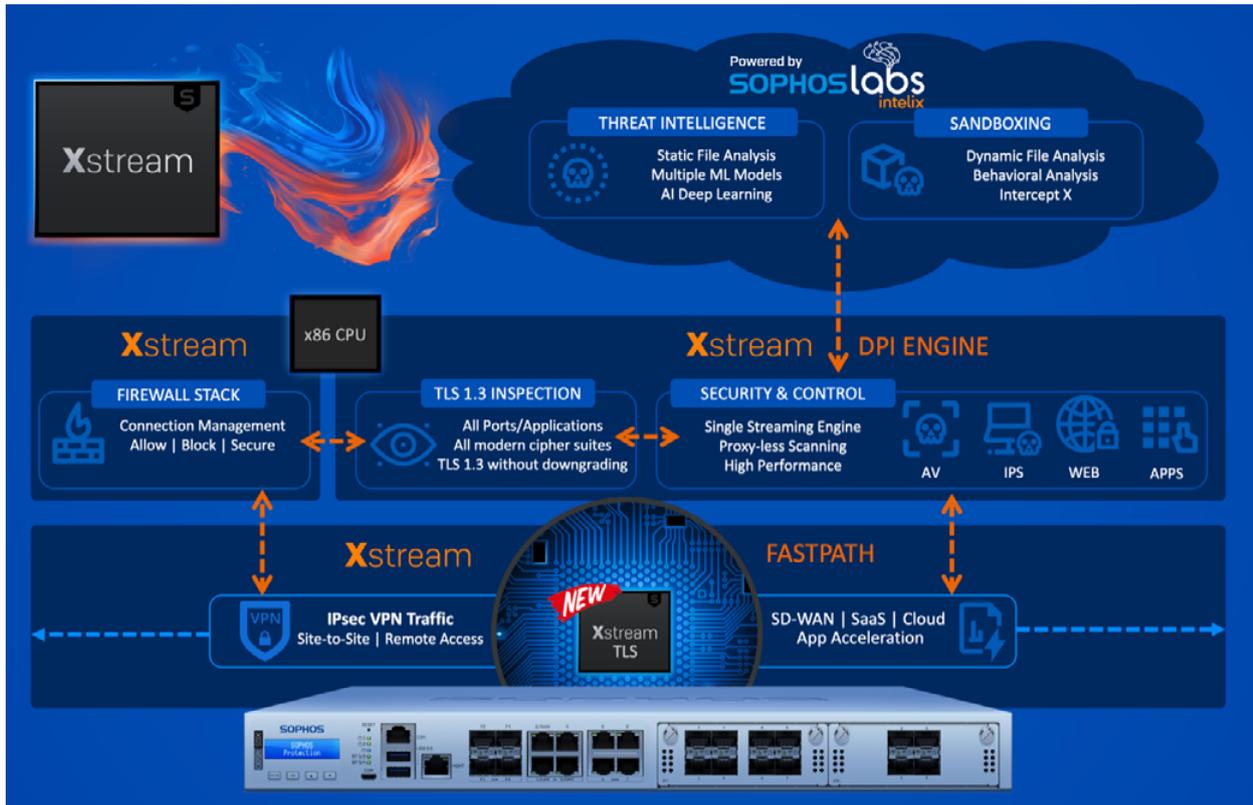

SFOS v19.5 adds TLS encrypted traffic FastPath acceleration for select XGS Series appliances which automatically puts CPU-intensive asymmetric encryption operations for inspected TLS traffic flows on the FastPath through the Xstream Flow Processor. This takes full advantage of the hardware's asymmetric crypto capabilities within the Xstream Flow Processor and has the benefit of improving overall throughput and freeing up CPU resources for other tasks like deep-packet inspection. This new capability will initially be supported on the high-end XGS 4xxx and above only, which covers the vast majority of partners and customers utilizing TLS inspection today. Eventually, support will also be extended to other models in the series.

High Availability (HA)

Status, Visibility and Ease-of-Use

Several user interface enhancements improve the status and visibility of your high-availability cluster with a new control center widget, enhanced status panel, and new node names for easy device identification.
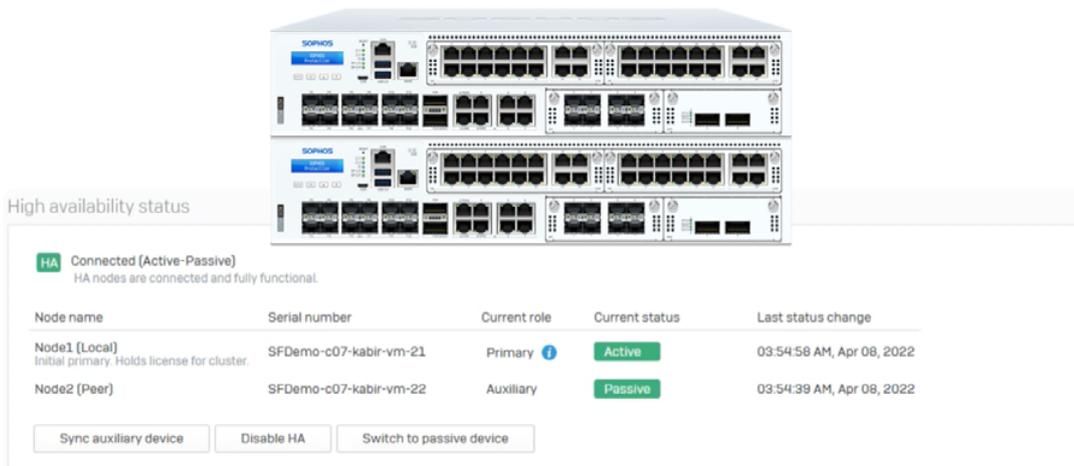
In addition to the features mentioned above, new command line interface options and improved status within Sophos Central round out this set of enhancements.

The end result is a much improved management experience, with less errors in identifying the correct device for licensing administration or initial configuration.

Redundant Link Support

High Availability pairs can now be connected with redundant HA links to add resiliency and prevent split-brain conditioning. Up to 4 links can be provisioned for HA pairs. In addition, VLAN interfaces are now supported for HA links, and VLAN interface monitoring is now available. SG UTM customers will be familiar with these capabilities.

Other Quality of Life Enhancements

Host and Service Object Search – A popular feature carried over from our SG UTM product line, you can now perform free text searches for host and service objects by name (or any text within the name) or by value to simplify rule setup. This enables you to quickly search the object store to determine if an object of interest already exists to ensure redundant objects aren't being created unnecessarily.

Enhanced .log file storage – Avoids logs getting overwritten while performing advanced troubleshooting. Each log file is now zipped and has a timestamp added to store additional log data while being conscious of storage space. In addition, the log rotation count can be changed by Sophos Support in real-time without a service re-start in rare and complex cases requiring advanced troubleshooting. This will help Support in collecting useful logs without waiting for a re-occurrence of the issue.

Azure AD SSO for web console UI login – offers and alternate easy and secure way to authenticate administrators on your firewall.

Enhanced 40G Interface Support – including auto-detection of advanced port configurations including link mode and auto-negotiation. Also supports breakout of 40G interfaces on XGS 5500/ 6500 appliances into 4 x 10G interfaces using DAC or Fibre breakout cables.

United Kingdom and Worldwide Sales
Tel: +44 (0)8447 671131
Email: sales@sophos.com

North American Sales
Toll Free: 1-866-866-2802
Email: nasales@sophos.com

Australia and New Zealand Sales
Tel: +61 2 9409 9100
Email: sales@sophos.com.au

Asia Sales
Tel: +65 62244168
Email: salesasia@sophos.com

SOPHOS