

# TECH BRIEF: SONICWALL SMA ADDS MISSING FUNCTIONALITIES TO YOUR MICROSOFT TMG REPLACEMENT SOLUTION

## Abstract

The Microsoft Forefront Threat Management Gateway (TMG) has been a key component of various Microsoft application deployments, including Lync, SharePoint and Exchange. However, Microsoft announced the [end of life](#) for the TMG product.

As a result, you might be evaluating various replacement solutions. Most Microsoft TMG replacement solutions offer a firewall with comprehensive threat protection features. However, some critical features for securely publishing applications and corporate resources for remote users are missing or inadequate. When deployed together with SonicWall Next-Generation Firewall (NGFW), SonicWall Secure Mobile Access (SMA) offers a complete and robust solution to replace your Microsoft TMG.

### **SonicWall SMA completes your TMG replacement solution**

SonicWall SMA not only completes the functionality offered by Microsoft Threat Management Gateway, but also adds many additional features. These include browser-agnostic remote access, GeoIP and botnet detection and an optional web application firewall. SonicWall SMA thus protects your corporate resources while delivering seamless remote access.

#### **1. Remote Desktop (RD) gateway**

RD gateway, previously known as Terminal Services gateway, allows remote desktop clients to communicate with a terminal server using HTTPS instead of RDP. More precisely, it wraps the

RDP communication inside HTTPS, so it is still RDP on the inside but looks like HTTPS on the outside. This enables authorized remote users to connect to internal resources by using an encrypted connection, but without needing to configure virtual private network (VPN) connections. The SMA solution functions as an RD gateway to provide seamless secure remote access.

In addition, the Microsoft solution requires the remote desktop client to run Internet Explorer (IE) and uses Active X. SonicWall SMA uses a proprietary "SMA Connect Agent," which is more secure, as there is no dependency on Java runtime or ActiveX. The SMA Connect Agent is not restricted to IE and can run on any browser on Windows OS.

#### **2. Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) Proxy**

The SonicWall SMA solution includes RDP Proxy functionality. In a typical deployment, the native RDP client runs on a remote user's machine. The remote user connects to SonicWall SMA without requiring a VPN connection. Instead, the remote user connects via a RDP proxy connection. Once authenticated, a user can access the Remote desktops with all the native functionality of the client, including file sharing and remote printing. This feature allows you to establish remote desktop sessions to machines within your corporate domain securely, without requiring a full tunnel. RDP Proxy is a user-friendly alternative to publishing RDP as a HTML5 resource or requiring a full VPN connection.

### 3. Secure application publishing

Publishing rules are one of TMG's strongest features, and a major reason for the product's popularity. Publishing rules allow organizations to expose internal resources to the public internet securely. The biggest benefit of the publishing feature is the solution's ability to function as a reverse proxy for the internal resources.

SonicWall SMA now provides enhanced reverse proxy service, which allows for detailed scrutiny of any command sent to the backend server and negates any attacks that might target the vulnerabilities in the protected resources. SonicWall SMA also includes Layer 7 offloading for application acceleration and performance optimization, and delegation of authentication for Single Sign On to any published resource. With SonicWall SMA, secure application publishing is a quick and easy process.

#### The missing pieces

Key remote access functionalities of TMG included Remote Desktop (RD) gateway service, and secure application publishing with reverse proxy, authentication and SSL offloading. These functionalities protected your servers and resources from external attacks while providing secure access to remote users. Replacement solutions must allow remote users to access corporate resources in a seamless manner.

### Enhanced security

Our proprietary SMA Connect Agent does not use Java runtime or ActiveX, which have inherent security vulnerabilities. In addition, the agent is not restricted to IE, and can run on any browser providing a more secure remote access.

### Deploy with SonicWall NGFW for comprehensive TMG replacement

When deployed with a SonicWall NGFW, the SonicWall SMA solution offers a robust and complete replacement to your existing Microsoft TMG. The SonicWall TMG replacement solution offers additional threat protection capabilities such as DPI-SSL, Capture ATP sandbox, Endpoint Control, industry standard encryptions and more.

### Conclusion

Microsoft's Forefront TMG has been a useful security solution with a wide array of functionality. It served as a web proxy, firewall, secure gateway, VPN, app publisher and more. While many solutions claim to replace TMG deployments in specific usage scenarios, SonicWall SMA adds the missing functionalities to complete your TMG replacement solution.

#### Learn more:

Check out the [free trial of SMA online](#).

Contact your [SonicWall representative](#) today.

Capability	TMG	SonicWall TMG replacement
Stateful Firewall	Y	Y
Forward Proxy	Y	Y
DPI SSL	X	Y
Network Sandbox	X	Y
Content filtering	Y	Y
Anti-Malware	Y	Y
IPS	Y	Y
Geo IP and Botnet detection	X	Y
IP reputation	X	Y
HTTPS Scanning	Y	Y
IPSEC & SSL VPN	Y	Y
Endpoint Control	X	Y
User Authentication	Y	Y
Reverse Proxy SSL Offloading	Y	Y
Reverse Proxy Authentication	Y	Y
Secure Application Publishing	Y	Y
RD Gateway functionality	Y	Y
RD client supported browsers	IE only	Any browser on Windows OS
Active X or JAVA runtime dependency	Active X	No dependency

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SonicWall has been fighting the cyber-criminal industry for over 25 years, defending small, medium size businesses and enterprises worldwide. Our combination of products and partners has enabled a real-time cyber defense solution tuned to the specific needs of the more than 500,000 global businesses in over 150 countries, so you can do more business with less fear.

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