

aws marketplace

**Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center**

**Reviews, tips, and  
advice from real users**



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# Product Recap



Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center

# Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center Recap

The Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center is the administrative nerve center for select Cisco security products running on multiple platforms. It provides unified management of Cisco Secure Firewalls with Firewall Threat Defense (FTD) software for port and protocol control, application control, IPS, URL filtering, and malware protection functions. Firewall Management Center is the centralized event and policy manager for:

- Cisco Secure Firewall with the Firewall Threat Defense (FTD) OS
- Cisco ASA with FirePOWER Services
- Cisco Secure IPS (Firepower Next-Gen IPS / NGIPS)
- Cisco FirePOWER Threat Defense for ISR
- Cisco Malware Defense (AMP)

# Valuable Features

Excerpts from real customer reviews on PeerSpot:

- ✔ “So far, I am very satisfied with Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center, and I have not considered additional features such as the analytics part of the product.”



**Verified user**

Sr. Solutions Architect, Consulting Engineer at a tech services company with 11-50 employees

- ✔ “I like the dashboard since it gives me a lot of information.”



**Yonas Abebe**

Senior Network and Security Engineer at Symbol Technologies PLC

- ✔ “Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center has been protecting our network; the fact that it's working as mentioned is its main value.”



**Olumuyiwa Oladimeji**

Deputy Director, Information Technology at Afe Babalola University Nigeria

✓ “The tool's deployment is not complex.”



**Net823Eng2**

Network Engineer at Comprehensive Technical Group, Inc. (CTG)

✓ “Cisco's support and services are far superior to any other security product in Pakistan.”



**Awais Ejaz**

Chief Information Security Officer at Allied Bank Limited

✓ “Malware detection, URL filtering, and antivirus are the most beneficial features for our security management. The platform has three main components: filters, hardware, and antivirus. We use the standard approach for automation and integration. The person in charge of management follows the rules and policies of the equipment and handles operations. However, we haven't set up any notifications, so it's mostly manual.”



**Julian Rodriguez**

Senior Network Engineer at Hispasat

✓ “One of the most valuable features of Cisco Secure Firewalls is their seamless integration with other Cisco products.”



**Ajay Dand**

Founder Director at Ninesec Integration Pvt. Ltd

## What users had to say about valuable features:

“The platform's most valuable feature has been its centralized management capability, which allows us to monitor and control multiple devices from one location. It is crucial for effectively managing our extensive network infrastructure..”

**Verified user**

Associate at a government with 11-50 employees

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“One of the most valuable features of Cisco Secure Firewalls is their seamless integration with other Cisco products. This integration streamlines the process of creating policies and correlation rules, making management more efficient through a centralized management and monitoring portal. This ease of integration is particularly beneficial for networking admins in mid to large enterprises, where Cisco equipment is predominantly used..”

**Ajay Dand**

Founder Director at Ninesec Integration Pvt. Ltd

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“Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center's GUI is very user-friendly, and it allows me to use Cisco Adaptive Security Device Manager (ASDM). I really like Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center, including its areas like policy-making and rules that can be defined very easily. Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center provides a very good interface..”

**Muhammad-Haris**

Student at BCU

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“I find that for the interfacing of Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center in general, there is no specific feature because I am using all the features and all the tabs available for configuring my policy. However, I consider Talos feedback that Cisco provides as free threat intelligence to be the most valuable for me and for the operation of the security policy in my organization..”

**Verified user**


Sr. Solutions Architect, Consulting Engineer at a tech services company with 11-50 employees

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“The most valuable feature of the solution is that it acts as an all-in-one firewall, including IPS, IDS, security intelligence, and IP policy protection, so it is not just a layer two and layer four firewall but a layer seven firewall. With the tool, you can see traffic beyond the IP and TCP, which gives application visibility, which is the best feature. It offers security intelligence and updates itself with policies, improving policies. It updates IP policies based on geography, so we don't want traffic worldwide..”

**Net823Eng2**

Network Engineer at Comprehensive Technical Group, Inc. (CTG)

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“I like the dashboard since it gives me a lot of information. However, Cisco should improve the local unit Secure since it is not quite smooth to see real-time graphics compared to other devices.

It provides full visibility of my devices, whether I have six or ten devices. When I want to check the stats of my devices and of the Internet connectivity, I love the dashboard of Cisco Pencil..”

**Yonas Abebe**

Senior Network and Security Engineer at Symbol Technologies PLC

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# Other Solutions Considered

“I currently use firewall products from Palo Alto and FortGate, along with Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center, to make a comparison report between all three products..”

**Muhammad-Haris**

Student at BCU

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“We looked at Panorama Firewall Management by Palo Alto and FortiManager by Fortinet. All of the secure firewall products seem to be the same, but Panorama and FortiManager are more reliable and have a few more features..”

**Verified user**

Head of the IT Security Division at a tech services company with 11-50 employees

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“They opted for the Cisco Firepower Management Center due to new, more complex threats that the basic ASA couldn't effectively handle. They did evaluate other options like Fortinet, Palo Alto, and Juniper, but their management recommended Cisco, leading them to choose it..”

**Ramish Ali**

Assistant Director IT at Punjab Education Foundation

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“I can compare Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center to Palo Alto for the data center firewall and Fortinet for the perimeter firewall or the edge firewall.

“The comparison among these three vendors depends on the price, the performance, and every feature versus its price. I cannot provide a general comparison..”

**Verified user**

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Sr. Solutions Architect, Consulting Engineer at a tech services company with 11-50 employees

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“As I work in the cybersecurity department of my company, I had to compare Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center with the firewall products offered by other vendors in the market, like the ones from Fortinet and Palo Alto.

I prefer Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center since many of the organizations in the market prefer to use it because it is a great tool..”

**Muhammad-Haris**

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Student at BCU

# ROI

Real user quotes about their ROI:

“I do not see a significant return on investment for that. There are a lot of solutions which can provide the same features. Cisco is more of a brand, yet it is more expensive..”

**Yonas Abebe**

Senior Network and Security Engineer at Symbol Technologies PLC

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“Despite potentially higher upfront expenses, the overall operational costs are significantly reduced due to its efficiency. Consequently, the return on investment is notably faster or greater compared to competing products from other brands..”

**Ajay Dand**

Founder Director at Ninesec Integration Pvt. Ltd

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“If there wasn't going to be any benefit from using Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center, we wouldn't have deployed it in the first place. That should be the number one requirement to deploy any solution in your organization. It has to be beneficial, or you shouldn't try it..”

**Olumuyiwa Oladimeji**

Deputy Director, Information Technology at Afe Babalola University Nigeria

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“The tool is worth the money. First of all, the tool offers protection from ransomware. The management center made it easy for me to push policy, which is the default policy that comes with it. The product is easy to learn, so I don't have to learn any technology again. It is just the hardware, and the initial purchase is more expensive than I thought, but it's really worth the money after that..”

**Net823Eng2**

Network Engineer at Comprehensive Technical Group, Inc. (CTG)

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# Use Case

“Our primary use case for the solution is to manage and secure our network infrastructure. In our environment, we use it to handle multiple devices from a central control point..”

**Verified user**

Associate at a government with 11-50 employees

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“We installed Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center in a hospital environment to protect our network. We have it for our wireless access points, LAN, web, and the applications we are currently using..”

**Olumuyiwa Oladimeji**

Deputy Director, Information Technology at Afe Babalola University Nigeria

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“I use Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center in my company to compare it with other firewall products. In our company, my supervisor wants me to check and compare three firewall products and figure out which product works the best, making it one of the projects in my organization for which I need to make a report..”

**Muhammad-Haris**

Student at BCU

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“I use FMC for managing my device and utilizing Cisco features effectively, especially when I define a quality switch and have a license to protect my network from my device by using my regular model or tricks. It is easier if I use FMC.

Frankly speaking, when I want to see logs, attacks, and incoming tricks to my network, FMC helps me to have the visibility. It is easy to use basics, and that is why I use FMC..”

**Yonas Abebe**

Senior Network and Security Engineer at Symbol Technologies PLC

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“We have utilized Cisco Secure Firewalls for both perimeter defense and internal segmentation purposes. Our use cases include implementing secure gateways between IT and OT networks within manufacturing environments, where divisions require separation for operational purposes. This ensures that internal OT networks, crucial for manufacturing pumps, remain distinct and secure from IT networks. It plays a pivotal role in maintaining the integrity and security of these segregated networks..”

**Ajay Dand**

Founder Director at Ninesec Integration Pvt. Ltd

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“I use Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center for configuring all the routing policies that I need to do on the firewall, and it acts as a control plane for all the policies that I want to implement through the firewall.

“I find it easy to integrate Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center with the company's security posture, as I have integrated it with Splunk as a SIEM solution to have all the correlation rules on the firewall redirected to Splunk, and it integrates easily without any problem.

“I cannot answer how useful it is to have the ability to work with the cloud and on-premises version of Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center because all my deployments are on-premises solutions..”

**Verified user**

Sr. Solutions Architect, Consulting Engineer at a tech services company with 11-50 employees

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# Setup

The setup process involves configuring and preparing the product or service for use, which may include tasks such as installation, account creation, initial configuration, and troubleshooting any issues that may arise. Below you can find real user quotes about the setup process.

“I just set up the device. It takes control files, frankly speaking. However, when I try to integrate with the existing company's network infrastructure with a running and good migration plan, it took about three hours..”

**Yonas Abebe**

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Senior Network and Security Engineer at Symbol Technologies PLC

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“The tool's deployment is not complex. It can be challenging for a new user. As I am familiar with the setup phase, the process is good, especially since I have experience with Cisco products..”

**Net823Eng2**

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Network Engineer at Comprehensive Technical Group, Inc. (CTG)

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“The initial setup is typically straightforward, especially for those familiar with Cisco's command lines, menus, and layouts, which are widely recognized in the industry. Given our extensive experience with Cisco over the years, there's minimal learning curve for us. However, newcomers may find it slightly challenging initially..”

**Ajay Dand**

Founder Director at Ninesec Integration Pvt. Ltd

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“The setup was straightforward. We used the option to learn network traffic and improve policies based on Cisco's recommendations. Deployment took about a month—two weeks in lab mode, followed by planning integration with active traffic and implementation. For maintenance, we had about ten people involved during the project, but they were only part of the initial setup. We don't require ongoing maintenance for this solution..”

**Julian Rodriguez**

Senior Network Engineer at Hispasat

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“We encountered some difficulties during the setup process, particularly with Wi-Fi configuration. While it wasn't overly challenging, it needed to be more straightforward. Assistance from Cisco support was available, but it required some effort, including using command-line scripts in addition to the graphical interface. The deployment timeline varied depending on the specific setup and office locations, but typically, it could take a couple of days if managed in-house.

I rate the process a five out of ten. .”

**Verified user**

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Systems Hardware Operation Executive at a tech services company with 201-500 employees

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“The setup of Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center that I tried was on-premises, and everything was in a moderate way. It is not very difficult and not very easy. I simply followed the steps in the installation and configuration guide to understand what to do.

“In my opinion, the dashboard in Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center is easy to operate and easy to use. However, the implementation of Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center itself on any VMware machine may require some steps and some workarounds. The operation of Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center after the initial install is an easy interface with a friendly user interface..”

**Verified user**

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Sr. Solutions Architect, Consulting Engineer at a tech services company with 11-50 employees

# Customer Service and Support

“Cisco used to be really good with the solution's technical support but nowadays they are late to respond. I rate the technical support a seven out of ten..”

**Net823Eng2**

Network Engineer at Comprehensive Technical Group, Inc. (CTG)

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“Customer service and support have been adequate but could have been more exceptional. Response times can be slow, and resolutions are sometimes less effective than required..”

**Verified user**

Associate at a government with 11-50 employees

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“The core customer support is good, but they don't help us immediately. For example, if it is a P1 issue, they do not contact me immediately because it takes time to contact us. It will take time to resolve the issue if it's an emergency..”

**MADAPALA JSHIKA**

Network Engineer at Peristent Systems

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“Cisco's support and services are far superior to any other security product in Pakistan. We have a Cisco-based team stationed in Pakistan. That's one of the reasons why we opted for the product. Cisco has a huge knowledge base. The technical support is excellent..”

**Awais Ejaz**

Chief Information Security Officer at Allied Bank Limited

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“They don't offer sufficient materials on their website, unlike Cisco. Moreover, the FMC (Firepower Management Center) is expensive, and there is a lack of helpful materials available online. The existing documentation can be quite extensive and challenging to comprehend..”

**Ramish Ali**

Assistant Director IT at Punjab Education Foundation

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“Cisco's technical support stands out as the key differentiator among other product brands in the market. Cisco consistently ranks as the top choice for technical support, thanks to the expertise of its engineers and the promptness with which defective materials are replaced, provided that all warranties and contracts are in place. It continues to be top-notch and arguably the best in the industry, providing valuable assistance whenever needed..”

**Ajay Dand**

Founder Director at Ninesec Integration Pvt. Ltd

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# Other Advice

“My colleague in charge of the network would be in a better position to provide additional details about the solution. The overall rating for Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center is 6 out of 10..”

**Olumuyiwa Oladimeji**

Deputy Director, Information Technology at Afe Babalola University Nigeria

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“Be prepared for a steep learning curve and consider the potential need for additional training or support to fully utilize the solution's capabilities.

Overall, I rate it a six out of ten. .”

**Verified user**

Associate at a government with 11-50 employees

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“I would recommend the Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center to others. Deploying and managing policies and actions to cover network issues is easy. The policies are straightforward to configure, and you can easily manage the network with some support.

Overall, I'd rate the Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center as eight out of ten..”

**Julian Rodriguez**

Senior Network Engineer at Hispasat

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“Setting up the solution's management center is relatively easy, but we occasionally face bugs that require additional troubleshooting.

I recommend taking comprehensive backups and preparing thoroughly for implementation, especially when managing multiple nodes.

Overall, I rate it as a seven out of ten..”

**Mostafa-Mourad**

Cyber Security Head at Turnkey Integrated Technologies TK-IT

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“I have not used any automation features in Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center till now.

“So far, I am very satisfied with Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center, and I have not considered additional features such as the analytics part of the product.

“I work directly with Cisco for the purchase. We purchase our equipment directly from Cisco.

“I am very satisfied with the functionality part of Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center and would not like to add anything, including AI functionalities.

“I would rate this product a nine out of ten overall..”

**Verified user**

Sr. Solutions Architect, Consulting Engineer at a tech services company with 11-50 employees

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“The management center is just the management, so it is nothing. The tool is a dummy box that allows you to push the policy to the firewall. The firewall is separate from the management center. The management center does nothing except create and push a policy, and after that, you can leave it alone. The management center is not a protection but a box to manage the real firewall.

In my company, we only manage a pair of servers, so we don't have many as we are a very small organization. We only have a couple of firewalls with one management center.

Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center is different from Cisco Firewall. If you don't have a Cisco Firewall, you don't need a Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center.

I recommend the tool to others.

I am not happy with the tool's support.

I rate the tool an eight out of ten..”

**Net823Eng2**

Network Engineer at Comprehensive Technical Group, Inc. (CTG)

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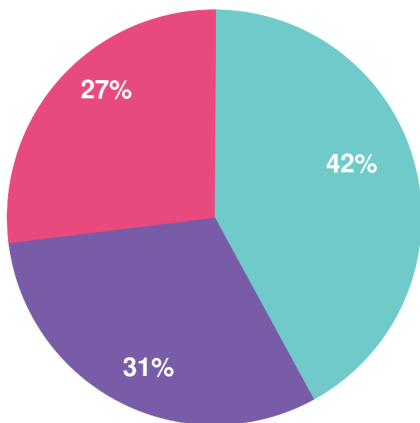
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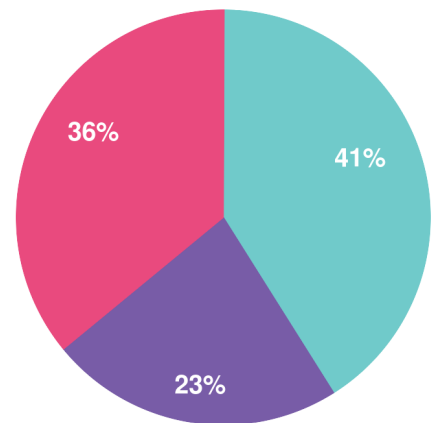
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