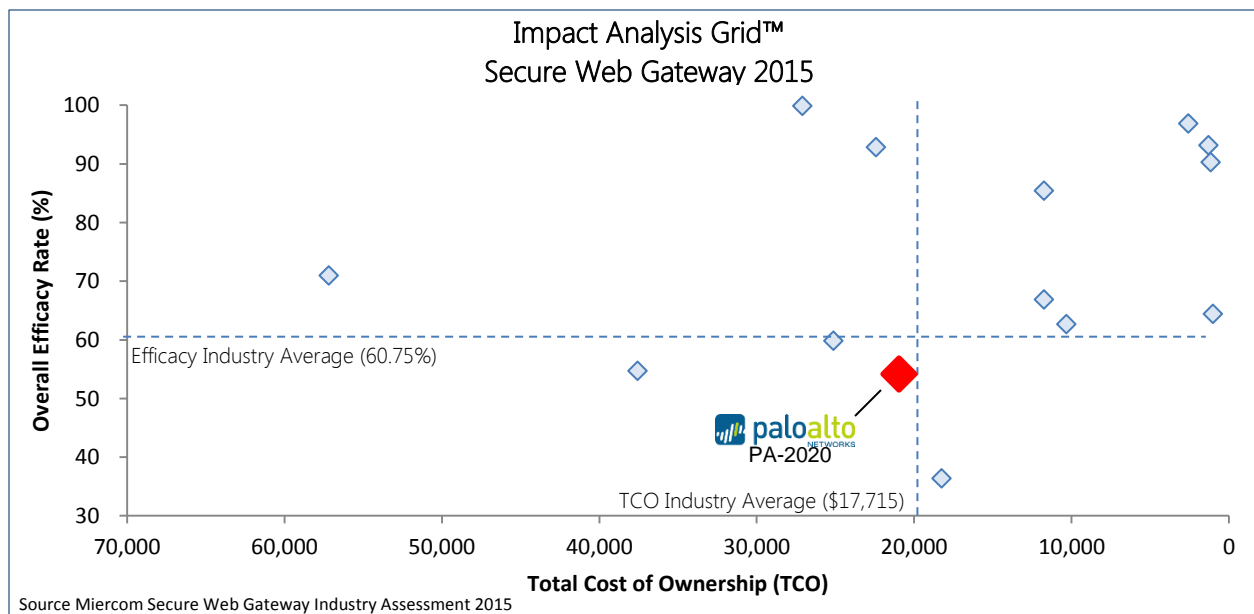




The Next Generation Firewall PA-2020 from Palo Alto Networks is designed for use as a high-speed Internet gateway, providing network security and threat prevention in large branch offices and medium-sized enterprises.

URL filtering functionality for the PA-2020 is available via subscription. The functionality is based on an on-box customizable database that can include up to 76 categories and 20 million URLs. The user can customize categories, allowable content, block lists and block pages. The maximum number of policies that can be created is 2,500.



Buyer Considerations

The Palo Alto PA-2020 sits in a position of interest for enterprises. With its outstanding malware detection rate of 99.7% this product would be a great investment for any company. Although the product falls below average on efficacy and above average on cost, it will prove to be a product that will increase security and malware detection.

Miercom Industry Assessment Impact Analysis Grid™ SWG 2015

Data collected from both individual product reports and comparative reports are used to create the Impact Analysis Grid™ for Miercom’s 2015 Secure Web Gateway Industry Assessment.

The Impact Analysis Grid™ presents a visual evaluation of the relationship between effectiveness and value of security products over the course of one year. Each quadrant illustrates a characteristic based on the amount of effectiveness relative to cost projected of tested products, enabling enterprises to assess their purchase options based on their needs and budget.

Performance/Efficacy Score

The performance and efficacy score are averages formed by taking the total number of blocked malware sample sets and the total number of malware sets. This average shows the overall performance in SWG testing.

Total Cost of Ownership Evaluation

Using the Total Cost of Ownership (TCO), instead of the product purchase price, allows us to factor in the costs of managing and maintaining the product. Factors that were considered in the TCO were installation, maintenance, upkeep and tuning of the device. This information was used to calculate the cost of security over a one year licensed with 100 users. The benefits of this analysis are that within a given range of performance, additional insight is provided as to where the product falls within the average of its competitors.

What We Tested

Malicious software, or “malware”, is any software used to disrupt computer or network operations, gather sensitive information, or gain access to computer systems. Legacy malware can be in circulation anywhere from a month to several years, while other malware utilizes techniques that adapt to networks or computers vulnerabilities.

Malicious URLs are advanced security threats that require the most updated software to be detected, blocked and mitigated.

Miercom used sample sets, developed in cooperation with numerous security professionals and experts, to create a realistic environment to test the security appliance.

The Palo Alto PA-2020 performed well above the industry average of products in its class in malware detection.

About the Sample Set

The threat samples were independently collected from various research sources, including threats validated and collected by and saved in a network of honeypots and malware analysis servers. Both automated and manual analysis of the samples was performed and only samples that achieved a consistent composite score of malicious rating across all the analysis methods were included in the test.

A significant amount of effort manually and automated processes went into the validation of the samples used. The manual verification was done using bare-metal server analysis. The samples were also tested utilizing several hundred combinations of user agent (UA) strings in an effort to verify consistent delivery of malware code and/or payloads.

Results v Industry Average

