Network Box Technical News
from Mark Webb-Johnson, CTO Network Box

Welcome to the
May 2014 edition of
In the Boxing Ring

Following on from last month’s launch of the Network Box 5 Web Administrative Portal, on pages 2-3 we highlight three enhancements which illustrate very well, where we are going with our flagship product. In the coming months, we will continue to refine and improve Network Box 5, and automatically deliver the updates to you every patch Tuesday.

On pages 4-5, we highlight the features and fixes to be released in this month’s patch Tuesday for Network Box 5 and Network Box 3. We continue to develop, and will continue to support, Network Box 3 for the foreseeable future (several years).

Finally, it has been a very busy month for the marketing team at Network Box. Not only did we win two PC3 Platinum Brand Awards in the categories of Unified Threat Management and Managed Security Services, we also participated in and attended two cyber security conferences: Advisen Cyber Risks Insights Conference and Information Security Standards International Conference.

Mark Webb-Johnson
CTO, Network Box Corporation Ltd.
May 2014

You can contact us here at HQ by eMail (nbhq@network-box.com), or drop by our office next time you are in town. You can also keep in touch with us by several social networks:

Twitter: http://twitter.com/networkbox
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/networkbox
LinkedIn: http://www.linkedin.com/company/network-box-corporation-limited
Google+: https://plus.google.com/u/0/107446804085109324633/posts

In this month’s issue:

2-3
Network Box 5
Three User Interface Enhancements

On pages 2-3, we highlight three enhancements to the Network Box 5 Administrative Web Administrative Portal: Bandwidth Display, VPN Status Display and Holistic Search.

4-5
Network Box 5 and Network Box 3 Features

The features and fixes to be released in this month’s patch Tuesday for Network Box 5 and Network Box 3. We continue to develop, and will continue to support, Network Box 3 for the foreseeable future (several years).

5
Network Box Highlights:

• Network Box wins two awards at the PC3 Platinum Brand Award 2014.
• Network Box attends the Advisen Cyber Risks Insights Conference.
• Network Box Managing Director, Michael Gazeley, was a guest panelist at the Information Security Standards International Conference.
For the past six months, we have been releasing an average of 100 fixes and improvements to our Network Box 5 product each patch tuesday. These have included new security modules, new information screens, as well as performance and other enhancements. With the May 2014 patch tuesday, this trend continues. This month, however, I'd like to concentrate on just three of those improvements to the Network Box 5 Administrative Web Portal - as they illustrate very well where we are going with our flagship product.

**Bandwidth Display**

Both Network Box 3 and 5 have for some time now been able to show you how much bandwidth you are using - both on a per-interface as well as per-user basis. However, Network Box 5 takes this a step further by requiring the specification of how much bandwidth you have available, as well as classes of interface (such as Internet, DMZ, VPN, etc). This allows us to show bandwidth usage as a percentage, as well as use it as a centralized control for such things as Quality of Service, traffic re-queing and packet prioritization.

This month, to further improve the visualization of this, we have introduced a dedicated screen to the Administrative Web Portal (Analysis / Network / Bandwidth). This new screen shows the average and peak bandwidth usage of each of your Internet links. It charts both receive and transmit bandwidth, as well as shows you the top applications on your network.
VPN
Status Display

While Network Box 3 could display some VPN status information, it was not unified in any way. With Network Box 5, we have unified all VPN types (IPSEC, SSL, PPTP, etc) into a single unified framework, and centralised status, reporting and control. We've also taken the opportunity to include geographic attributes to the VPN end-points, to allow us to know (and display) the geographic path of each VPN link.

This month, we introduce a new screen to the Administrative Web Portal (Analysis / Module / VPN). This new screen shows the status of each of your VPN links, both as a table as well as a real-time map.

Holistic Search

I've spoken about the holistic entity system at the core of Network Box 5, and how it allows you to group all a particular user's devices and activity under one single holistic entity (for control, display and reporting purposes). I've also spoken about how this system can be used to ease the administrative burden by allowing you to display the activity for a particular user, centrally, irrespective of which device or application the user is using.

Now, this month, we've brought this powerful facility front-and-centre by including a holistic search box right on the front page of the Administrative Web Portal. Enter an IP address, eMail address, or any such attribute, and the system will immediately display a summary of the recent network activity. Searches can be further refined by selection from 19 available attributes (including such things as country, city, threat, application, etc).

Conclusion

In the coming months, we will continue to refine and improve our Network Box 5 product and deliver those updates to you automatically every patch tuesday - all as part of our service to you.
Network Box 5 Features
May 2014

This month, for Network Box 5, these include:

- VPN status information added to administrative command line and web portals
- Bandwidth utilization information added to administrative command line and web portals
- Improvements to performance in charts and reports showing many days / months data
- Introduction of a holistic search function to administrative command line and web portals
- Improvements to map displays in the user and administrative web portals
- Introduction of move and copy commands to the STORE PKI system (for maintenance of certificates and private keys)
- Add system uptime to Analysis / Box / Overview
- GMS "Health" information added to administrative command line and web portals
- SMTP mail policy blocks now show 'deny' rule synopsis in holistic overview
- SMTP mail pre-envelope scanning policy timing changes (to allow for more informative logging and control)
- Improvements to sender anti-spam blacklist and whitelist for SMTP proxied scans
- Support for SMTP AUTH and transitioning server -> client (trusted) in SMTP proxy
- Relax validation for some SMTP server response codes
- Introduction of a facility to provide for automatic synchronization of entities from LDAP servers
- Improvements to reliability and performance of configuration synchronization
- Added support for STP (Spanning Tree Protocol) on bridged interfaces
- Improvements in display of network level packet information for non-ethernet interfaces
- Improvements to PUSHCODE and PACKAGE digital signatures
- Revise priority of network-level protections to be (1) front-line IPS, (2) connection tracking, (3) inline IPS
- Support for DHCP subnets with pure statically (no dynamic) assigned addresses
- Add support for 'domain' and 'wins' attributes in DHCP server
- CVE-2014-0160: Openssl heartbleed (support released out-of-cycle 2014-04-09)

In most cases, the above changes should not impact running services or require a device restart. However, in some cases (depending on configuration), a device restart may be required. Your local SOC will contact you to arrange this if necessary.

Should you need any further information on any of the above, please contact your local SOC. They will be arranging deployment and liaison.
Network Box 3 Features
May 2014

On Tuesday, 6th May 2014, Network Box will release our patch Tuesday set of enhancements and fixes. The regional SOCs will be conducting the rollouts of the new functionality in a phased manner over the next 7 days. This month, for Network Box 3, these include:

- Renewal of my.network-box.com SSL certificate
- Various (mostly internal) enhancements to several internal support systems

In most cases, the above changes should not impact running services or require a device restart. However, in some cases (depending on configuration), a device restart may be required. Your local SOC will contact you to arrange this if necessary.

In the Boxing Ring

Cyber Risks Insights
Conference 2014

Network Box attended the at the Advisen Cyber Risks Insight conference, which was held in Singapore at the Marina Bay Sands Expo & Conference Centre on 8th April 2014. During the conference, Network Box Managing Director, Michael Gazeley, gave the Keynote Speech, ‘The Vulnerability of Everything,’ which highlighted the security vulnerabilities of internet-facing devices.

LINK: https://www.advisen.com/advisen_conference_archive.html

PC3 Platinum Brand Award 2014

Network Box won two PC3 Platinum Brand Awards in the ‘Unified Threat Management,’ and ‘Managed Security Services,’ categories. The awards ceremony took place on the 29th of April 2014, at the Mira Hong Kong.

Information Security Standards International Conference

Network Box Managing Director, Michael Gazeley, was a guest panelist at the Information Security Standards International Conference held at Cyberport Hong Kong on 11th April 2014. The topics discussed included, how can cyber security standards help organizations fight cyber threats, and what can be done more to increase cyber security.