

# Sophos release notes

Product type:  Product:  Version:

These release notes are for Sophos Firewall (formerly known as Sophos XG Firewall).

[Latest version](#)[Previous versions](#)[Resolved issues](#)[Known issues](#)[Upgrade information](#)[Supported platforms](#)[Support](#)

## Version 19.5 MR1 Build 278

Released on February 15, 2023

### New features

This page describes the new features introduced. For details, see the [Sophos Firewall help](#).

#### New XGS 7500 and XGS 8500 Hardware appliances

The new XGS 7500 and XGS 8500 2U models are engineered from the core to provide the performance needed to target larger enterprise and campus edge deployments.

- Up to 47% higher throughput for all key protection versus the next highest model.
- Industry-leading ROI per Protected Mbps versus comparable competitive models.
- Enterprise-Grade Acceleration with high-performance Xstream Flow Processors and CPUs to meet the needs of the most demanding networks.
- High performance, high capacity with dual redundant Non-Volatile Memory express (NVMe) SSDs, and a significant RAM increase over our other 2U models.
- High speed built-in connectivity with two QSFP28 ports on each model supporting port speeds of up to 40 Gbps on XGS 7500 and 100 Gbps on XGS 8500.
- Up to 2x better power efficiency in combination with IPsec VPN than the industry average for comparable models.

### More enhancements

The version offers the following enhancements:

- **5G support:** Supports Sierra EM9191 5G module for XGS 116(w), 126(w), and 136(w). Enables 5G cellular connectivity using the 5G sub-6 GHz bands supporting peak download rate up to 4.5 Gbps.
- **Xstream SD-WAN:** Enhancements to SD-WAN route management. You can clone SD-WAN routes above or below the existing route, move a route to any position on the list, and create a route at the top or bottom of the list.
- **Firmware upgrade:** A warning message will appear, alerting you to the risk of a factory reset if you try to upgrade to a firmware version that isn't supported for migration.
- **Backup management:** The firmware version is included in the backup file's name to help you identify the version.

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## Version 19.5 GA Build 197

Released on November 17, 2022

### New features

This page describes the new features introduced. For details, see the [Sophos Firewall help](#).

#### Xstream architecture

- **SD-WAN:**
  - SD-WAN load-balancing to maximize bandwidth use across multiple links. You can select load balancing as the routing strategy in SD-WAN profiles. You can use round-robin and session persistence based on source and destination IP addresses and connection criteria with gateway weights and SLAs. Ensures routing of application traffic across multiple links, including MPLS, WAN, VPN, and RED. See the help for [Load balancing using SD-WAN profiles](#).
  - Real-time monitoring and logging with enhanced gateway performance diagnostics for SD-WAN profiles. Shows link performance with total connections and data transfer count. You can also reset the counts for troubleshooting. See the help for [SD-WAN performance diagnostics](#).
- **IPsec VPN:** Increased the maximum supported concurrent tunnels from 4,650 to 10,000. See the knowledge base article [Supported VPN tunnels on SFOS 18.5, 19, and 19.5](#).

#### High availability

- **Cluster and device identification:**
  - Added customizable node names to easily identify HA devices. The name is shown in the browser tab, drop-down widget, CLI, and notifications, allowing you to always identify the device.
  - Enhanced HA status panel with information about node names, licensing source, initial primary, current role and status, and status change time for

# Sophos release notes

Product type: **Network Security** ▾Product: **Sophos Firewall** ▾

Version:

**19.5** ▾

ce role, and enhanced HA information on the CLI. Shows the device role in the hash prompt for easy troubleshooting.

- **Redundant HA links:**
  - Support for up to four interfaces for the dedicated HA link. You can configure the redundant links in QuickHA and interactive modes.
  - Automatically creates a LAG interface for multiple dedicated HA links selected in QuickHA mode.
  - Supports LAG and VLAN interfaces for the dedicated HA link.
- Supports unbound interfaces as monitored ports if you've configured VLAN on them.
- Clearer selection for the preferred primary device.

See the video for [Sophos Firewall 19.5: High availability enhancements](#).

## Dynamic routing

- **OSPFv3:** Supports OSPFv3 protocol, enabling dynamic routing for IPv6 traffic.
- **Better routing decisions:** OSPF and OSPFv3 use the configured interface speed, selecting higher-speed interfaces for routing.
- **BGP:** Automatic router ID selection for BGP allows dynamic updates to the router ID.
- **Logs:** Provides logs related to adjacency information for BGP, OSPF, and OSPFv3. See the help for [BGP](#) and [OSPF commands](#).
- Other enhancements are as follows:
  - Integrated a new dynamic routing engine for stable and future-ready capability.
  - Fully interoperable with other vendors.

## Static routes

Allows you to configure administrative distance and metric for IPv4 static routes. See the help for [Static route enhancements](#).

## Important changes in routing behavior

We introduced a new routing engine, which enables the firewall to monitor the interface link status and network configuration. Changes from the earlier behavior are as follows:

- BGP, OSPF, RIP configurations, by default, prevent network and route distribution to the peer if the interface link status is down. To change this default for only BGP, run the following command on the BGP CLI console: `no bgp network import-check`
- BGP configurations, by default, prevent network and route distribution to the peer if SFOS and BGP network have a non-matching subnet. To change the default, run the following command on the BGP CLI console: `no bgp network import-check`
- Zebra advanced shell CLI is NOT available due to the new dynamic routing engine. Static route configuration through the Zebra advanced shell CLI is NOT possible in v19.5 GA. You can add the same configuration on the SFOS web admin console on Routing > Static routes.

If you're upgrading or restoring the backup from an earlier version, the changes in behavior may bring network disruption. So, in some cases, the firewall won't allow you to upgrade to SFOS 19.5 GA. See the knowledge base article [Upgrade to 19.5 GA blocked for specific routing configurations](#).

## PKI acceleration for inspected TLS flows

The DPI engine offloads PKI processing for X.509 certificate re-signing for inspected TLS flows to the crypto hardware on the Xstream Flow Processor. PKI offloading delivers higher overall performance with SSL/TLS decryption in the following XGS Series appliances:

- 1UL (4300, 4500)
- 2U (5500, 6500)

See the help for information on [Architecture for offloading](#).

## Quality of life enhancements



The version offers the following enhancements:

- **Azure AD SSO:** Supports Azure AD SSO configuration for signing in to the web admin console. See the video for [Sophos Firewall 19.5: Azure AD SSO](#).
- **Interfaces:**
  - **Interface speed:** Detects the recommended link settings automatically. Supports advanced port configurations for high-speed interfaces, including FEC (Forward Error Correction) for high-speed 40G interface on XGS 5500 and 6500 appliances.
  - **Interface breakout:** Supports the breakout of 40G interfaces into 2 or 4 x 10G interfaces through DAC or fiber breakout cables.
- **RED unlock code:** The RED provisioning server sends the unlock code to the email address specified on **System services > RED** when you add a RED device or delete it from the firewall. See the knowledgebase article [Pop-up message and email for the RED unlock code](#).
- **Search:** Search capability by name, type, and value for the default and custom objects for **Hosts and services**. See the video for [Sophos Firewall 19.5: Search enhancements](#).
- **Log storage:** Enhanced .log file storage for better troubleshooting with configurable rotation count and archiving, along with timestamp and size changes, for single or multiple log files.

## Other changes

The "Always cache Sophos endpoint updates" setting on Web > General settings > Web content caching has been removed from the SFOS 19.5 GA release. Enhancements to the security and integrity of Endpoint update delivery have made this feature ineffective.

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