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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	<i>Introduction</i>	1
2	<i>Security Effectiveness</i>	2
2.1	Coverage by Attack Vector	2
2.2	Coverage by Impact Type	3
2.3	Attack Leakage	3
2.4	Resistance to Evasion	4
3	<i>Performance</i>	5
3.1	Real-World Traffic Mixes	5
3.2	Connection Dynamics – Concurrency and Connection Rates	6
3.3	HTTP Connections per Second and Capacity	7
3.4	HTTP Connections per Second and Capacity with Delays	8
3.5	UDP Throughput	9
4	<i>Total Cost of Ownership</i>	10
4.1	Labor per Product (in Hours)	10
4.2	Purchase Price and Total Cost of Ownership	11
4.3	Value: Cost per Mbps and Exploit Blocked – Tuned Policy	11
5	<i>Detailed Product Scorecard</i>	12
6	<i>Appendix B: Special Thanks</i>	18

TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Coverage by Attack Vector – Default vs. Tuned Configurations	2
Figure 2: Product Coverage by Impact – Default vs. Tuned Configurations	3
Figure 3: Real-World Traffic Mixes – Default vs. Tuned Configurations	5
Figure 4: Concurrency and Connection Rates – Default vs. Tuned Configurations	6
Figure 5: HTTP Connections per Second and Capacity – Default vs. Tuned Configurations	7
Figure 6: HTTP Connections per Second and Capacity (with/without Delays)	8
Figure 7: UDP Throughput – Default vs. Tuned Configurations	9

1 INTRODUCTION

During Q4 2010, NSS Labs performed an independent group test of network intrusion prevention systems (IPS) currently on the market. Each product was subjected to thorough testing at the NSS Labs facility in Austin, Texas, based on methodology v6.1 available on www.nsslabs.com. IPS vendors were invited to submit their products to NSS Labs free of charge and we did not receive any compensation in return for their participation.

While the Network IPS Group Test Report provides comparative information about those products, this Individual Test Report provides further detailed information not available elsewhere.

NSS Labs evaluated the products configured with the default, “out-of-the-box” settings, then again as optimally tuned by the vendor prior to testing to provide readers with a range of information on key IPS security effectiveness and performance dimensions.

As part of this test, Check Point submitted the **Power-1 11065**

NSS Labs’ Rating: **Recommend**

Product	Effectiveness	Throughput
Check Point Power-1 11065	97.3%	2,433 Mbps

Security effectiveness was excellent. Using the default policy, the Power-1 11065 blocked 86.6% of attacks. After tuning by a Check Point engineer, the effectiveness improved by 10.7% to 97.3%. In addition, the Check Point Power-1 11065 correctly identified 100% of our evasion attempts without error.

The product successfully passed 2.4 Gbps of inspected traffic. NSS Labs rates throughput based upon tuned settings—averaging out the results from tests 6.6.1, 6.6.2, and 6.4.2: “Real World” Protocol Mix (Perimeter), “Real World” Protocol Mix (Core), and 21 KB HTTP Response respectively.

Check Point’s management interface was well designed and intuitive. For users of Check Point firewalls, there will not be much of a learning curve. Tuning and maintenance is simple and well-thought out.

For existing Check Point customers, upgrading the license of Power-1 to include the IPS Blade costs an additional \$3,000 per year (\$12,000 per year subscription for Power-1 w/Firewall vs. \$15,000 per year w/Firewall + IPS Blade) – an industry leading bargain at \$13 per Mbps-protected. However, given that most enterprises will need to purchase the full solution and not just the IPS Software Blade, our TCO calculations were based upon purchasing a new Power-1 appliance. Even so, the price per Mbps-protected remains competitive at \$74. For medium throughput environments, the Check Point Software Technologies Power-1 11065 provides an outstanding 3-year TCO (including labor).

Note: Check Point Power-1 (IPS Software Blade) is not the same product as IPS-1 which is the former NFR IPS product that was rebranded post acquisition.

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