

CyberRisk Validation Report – Check Point

Product Version: Check Point CloudGuard Network Security

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### 1. Introduction

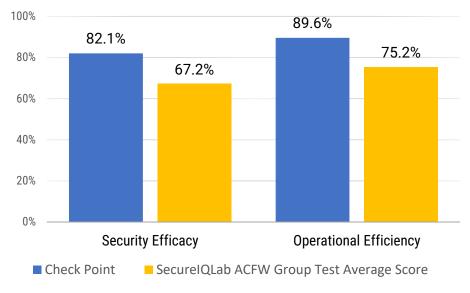


Figure 1. Summary Results for Check Point vs the ACFW Group Test Scores

Advanced Cloud Firewalls (ACFW) protect the infrastructure that organizations depend on. These firewalls serve as a virtual shield. ACFWs use a proactive approach and are designed to simplify security.

SecureIQLab conducted testing for 12<sup>1</sup> leading enterprise-class ACFW solutions. This test was conducted in accordance with the Anti-Malware Testing Standards Organization<sup>2</sup> (AMTSO) test Standard. The maps to version v1.6 of the SecureIQLab Advanced Cloud Firewall CyberRisk Validation Methodology, AMTSO Test ID: AMTSO-LS1-TP070. It is the most comprehensive evaluation of its kind ever performed.

As part of this test, SecureIQLab completed testing Check Point CloudGuard Network Security. This report discusses the test results for the Check Point CloudGuard Network Security with Threat Prevention & SandBlast, version R81.20, and includes validation of the following security modules and components: Firewall, Threat Emulation, Threat Extraction, URL Filtering, Anti-Bot & Anti-Virus, IPS, Application Control, and Zero Phishing.

This report offers empirical data points on what to expect from the Check Point CloudGuard Network Security, highlighting features and business considerations. SecureIQLab's testing showcases the overall organizational value of the Check Point CloudGuard Network Security in security effectiveness and operational efficiency. Figure 1 highlights Check Point's results in these two areas versus the group test averages.

As Figure 1 shows visually, Check Point CloudGuard Network Security was superior to the average ACFW tested.

In writing this report, SecurelQLab has made extensive efforts to guarantee the accuracy of the results while straightforwardly presenting them. However, the test results are necessarily simplified to be presented for review in a summary format.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Testing was attempted on a total of 12 Advanced Cloud Firewall solutions. Please <u>click here</u> for details.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> <u>Standards https://www.amtso.org/ conducted testing.</u>

### 2. Report Summary

This 2024 Advanced Cloud Firewall CyberRisk Validation Report provides test results for the Check Point CloudGuard Network Security. Table 1 summarizes the product's overall validation results around security effectiveness, resistance to false positives, operational efficiency, and SSL/TLS security efficacy of the Check Point CloudGuard Network Security solution validated against SecureIQLab ACFW v1.6 methodology.

ACFW Test Categories	Check Point CloudGuard Network Security	SecurelQLab ACFW Group Test Average Score
Security Efficacy	82.1%	67.2%
Resistance to False Positives	100.0%	89.8%
Operational Efficiency	89.6%	75.2%
SSL/TLS Security Efficacy	95.7%	68.4%

Table 1. Check Point CloudGuard Network Security Result Summary

Figure 2 presents the above table in visual format.

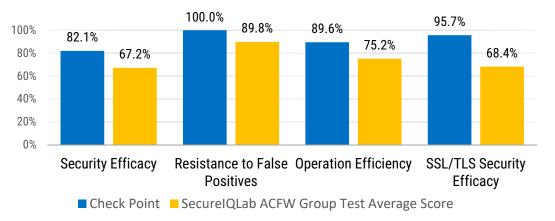


Figure 2. Overall Result Summary Check Point vs SecurelQLab ACFW Group Test Average

Overall Result Summary: Check Point CloudGuard Network Security did well compared to the overall SecureIQLab ACFW group test average in all the primary enterprise categories as represented in the SecureIQLab ACFW validation methodology selection criteria.<sup>3</sup>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> <u>SecureIQLab ACFW v1.6 methodology</u>

### 3. ACFW Test Overview

Advanced Cloud Firewalls (ACFWs) must effectively counter the emergence of advanced attack vectors, novel strategies, and new attack surfaces, thwarting threats that are complex and customized. Beyond merely being aware of application use of the internet, they should possess capabilities to inspect packet content and search for Indicators of Attack (IOA) within the data stream. This test was designed to confirm how well the tested ACFW was able to:

- Identify permitted applications and block prohibited applications.
- Identify and block threats attempting to use "known good" ports and protocols.
- Identify and block threats that attempt evasive tactics, such as non-standard ports or "port hopping."
- Identify and block threats encrypted with SSL/TLS.
- Identify users, groups, and locations, and apply policy regardless of I.P. address.
- Identify and block outbound data leaks.
- Identify and block outbound Botnet Command and Control communications.
- Enable secure business workflow with a high detection rate and low Signal-to-Noise ratio.
- Provide global visibility and granular policy management.
- Provide all necessary alerts and configuration recommendations based on best practices.

SecureIQLab defines prevention as a 24/7 automated response offering without human intervention. This can be achieved through various technologies and mechanisms, including signature-based models, policy-based models, behavior-based models, and machine learning (ML) or artificial intelligence (AI)-based models. This definition is technology-agnostic, focusing on outcomes of the various analyst workflows and scenarios rather than the specific prevention technology. ACFWs, when deployed in a stand-alone mode, are expected to prevent both initial and ongoing attacks while also providing robust reporting capabilities.

The SecureIQLab ACFW v1.6 validation methodology was tailored towards the prevention and reporting capabilities for security and compliance. Configurations typically included multiple security and compliance applications such as Vulnerability Protection, Anti-Spyware, Antivirus, URL Filtering, and DNS Security. By default, when configuring, "detect" settings were set to "protect" or "block". SecureIQLab then performed any required tuning according to recommended vendor best practices for operational scenarios involving cloud deployments<sup>4</sup>.

### **3.1 ACFW Deployment Overview**

Per SecurelQLab's methodology, all ACFW vendors were requested to configure their products based on best practices that enterprises should implement when deploying the firewall in their organizations. The intent of this testing methodology is to mirror a successful customer experience during the deployment and management of the product.

During the evaluation, SecureIQLab ensured product updates and configuration changes were executed through a central management console: cloud or on-prem device portal. This approach aimed to cover all test scenarios from start to finish to the greatest extent possible.

For a more comprehensive understanding of our testing methods, refer to version 1.6 of the SecureIQLab 2023 <u>ACFW CyberRisk Validation Methodology</u> (AMTSO Test ID: AMTSO-LS1-TP070).

<sup>4</sup> Check Point <u>Administration Guide</u>.

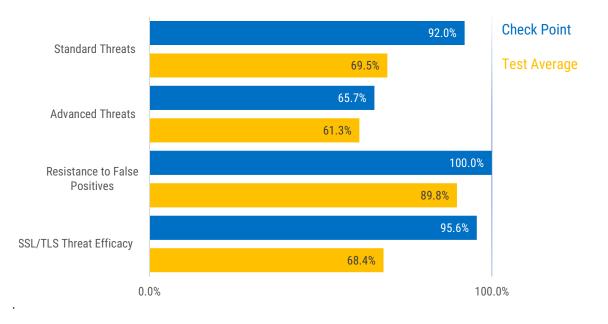


### 4. Security Efficacy Results

Advanced Cloud firewalls should be designed to protect cloud-based resources and applications, shielding them from unauthorized access and prevalent cyber threats.

Each ACFW solution evaluated in this test underwent scrutiny across multiple distinct enterprise-centric categories, involving attack vectors of more than 1000 real-world operational scenarios. These scenarios used real world attacks that have targeted small-to-medium size businesses, enterprises, and other organizations. The comprehensive testing performed by SecureIQLab reflects our commitment to innovation and continuous improvement. Moving forward, SecureIQLab plans to continue to augment attack libraries and incorporate additional relevant operational metrics as needed in future iterations of this test.

The Check Point CloudGuard Network Security was tested against 13 attack types within four primary threat categories. Table 2 below presents the results of these tests. Figure 3 below presents an overview of the SecureIQLab findings during the security effectiveness validation and reporting of the Check Point CloudGuard Network Security. This includes the standard threat category score, the advanced threat category, the operational accuracy score, and the SSL/TLS threat efficacy score from the methodology. These sections of the methodology were selected for presentation because these sections tested each ACFW against the four primary standard threat categories.





4.1 Common Cloud Firewall Threat Categories (Standard Threats)

The Common Cloud Firewall Threat (Standard Threats) average scores are calculated by averaging the scores for each threat type together within their respective attack category.

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Standard Threat Types	Check Point ACFW Inspection Score	SecurelQLab ACFW Group Test Average Score
Application-Based Threats		
Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) Attacks – HTTP	99.2%	75.5%
Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) Attacks – HTTPS	99.2%	67.1%
Malicious URL Attacks	93.5%	68.0%
Malware & Botnets		
Malware Download over HTTPS	98.6%	61.3%
Compressed Malicious Files	83.6%	60.2%
Botnets	91.5%	58.3%
Browser-Based Threats		
Browser Exploits	100.0%	74.0%
Cookie Stealing - HTTP	100.0%	85.0%
Cookie Stealing - HTTPS	100.0%	100.0%
Browser Version and Plugin-in Control	50.0%	60.0%
Obfuscated JavaScript	100.0%	90.0%
Data-loss and Leakage		
Phishing Site-Based Attacks	100.0%	56.6%
Adware Site Prevention	PASS	PASS
Standard Threats Average Score	92.0%	69.5%

### Table 2. Standard Threats Protection Testing

The Check Point CloudGuard Network Security ACFW demonstrates strong blocking capabilities, with all surpassing the average, except for one category that falls below it.



## 4.2 Advanced Cloud Firewall Threat Categories

Advanced Cloud firewalls must extend their protective capabilities to counter advanced threats, which are often sophisticated, highly evolved, and challenging to detect or neutralize. Such threats may employ various tactics and techniques to circumvent traditional security measures. As a pivotal component of any organization's cybersecurity infrastructure, a robust cloud firewall should possess threat detection capabilities, be able to identify suspicious network traffic patterns and have the capacity to block in real time.

The Check Point CloudGuard Network Security was tested against eight attack types classified as advanced threats. Table 3 below provides the results from these tests.

Advanced Threat Classification	Check Point ACFW Inspection Score	SecurelQLab ACFW Group Test Average Score
Advanced Evasive Techniques (Application-based)	92.1%	79.6%
Advanced Evasive Techniques (Network-based)	100.0%	75.0%
Known Malicious Files	100.0%	60.2%
Malicious Documents	98.0%	59.3%
Active Cloud-Based Threats (aka Active Threats)	35.3%	46.5%
Advanced Persistent Threats (APT)	50.0%	65.0%
Cloud-Centric Post Exploitation Techniques (Post-Exploitation – DNS Tunnelling)	0.0%	45.0%
Cloud-Centric Post Exploitation Techniques (Post-Exploitation – ICMP Tunnelling)	50.0%	60.0%
Advanced Threats Average Score	65.7%	61.3%

#### Table 3. Advanced (Non-Standard) Threat Protection Testing

The Advanced Cloud Firewall Threat average scores are calculated by averaging the scores for each threat type together within their respective attack category. Check Point performed adequately in these tests, with half of the categories exceeding the average and the other half falling below it.

### 4.3 Operational Accuracy Category

False positive testing was included in the scope of this test because an Advanced Cloud Firewall that prevents 100% of malicious attacks but also prevents legitimate (non-malicious) actions can be vastly disruptive. SecureIQLab used appropriate tools and techniques to ensure that the tested firewall products



do not generate significant numbers of alerts with legitimate applications and processes in an enterprise environment. This section of the methodology was performed at the same time as and as part of the validation workflow and other independent sections wherever feasible. The aim is to ensure that the firewall products did not prevent malicious traffic at the expense of operational accuracy.

The Check Point CloudGuard Network Security was tested for operational accuracy under real-world scenarios during the entire test cycle, and Table 4 below provides the results from these tests.

Operational Accuracy test	Check Point ACFW Score	SecurelQLab ACFW Group Test Average Score
Resistance to False Positive Test	100.0%	89.8%

Table 4. Operational Accuracy

The Check Point CloudGuard Network Security performed above average in this test and achieved a perfect score.

## 4.4 ACFW SSL/TLS Support

Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) and its secure analogue HTTPS have long been crucial internet protocols. HTTPS uses encryption to enhance browsing safety by establishing secure connections between browsers, applications, and websites. To identify the attacks or threats in encrypted connections, the firewall must inspect the encrypted traffic using SSL/TLS ciphers and the associated techniques for managing encrypted connections. To detect a threat concealed within encrypted data, the firewall must decrypt packets, inspect the content, and take necessary action.

For each ACFW tested, SecurelQLab tested 22 of the TLS v1.2 ciphers and 3 TLS v1.3 ciphers. The testing included combinations of ciphers between clients and servers to analyze firewall behavior with weak ciphers, to assess how the firewall behaved to communication using different ciphers, and to evaluate the ACFW's ability to fall back or enforce secure ciphers during communication.

The Check Point CloudGuard Network Security was tested for overall SSL/TLS threat efficacy and its ability to protect against attacks delivered through the supported ciphers in real-world scenarios. The Check Point ACFW successfully identified, detected, and prevented nearly all the attacks throughout the entire SSL/TLS test cycle on tested ciphers. Table 5 below presents the results of these tests.

SSL/TLS Threat Efficacy Test	Check Point ACFW Overall Metric	SecurelQLab ACFW Group Test Average Score
Overall SSL/TLS Security Efficacy	95.6%	68.4%

### Table 5. SSL/TLS Threat Efficacy

The Check Point CloudGuard Network Security ACFW performed better than average and obtained a high score. This is notable given that the average was so low.

The cipher suites for TLS v1.2, as highlighted in Table 6 below, were tested for the Check Point CloudGuard Network Security.



TLSv1.2 Ciphers	TLS Support	TLS Handshake Result	Attack Traffic Prevention within TLS Session	Operational Validation with Operational TLS Traffic
AES128-GCM-SHA256	Yes	Successful	Pass	Pass
AES128-SHA	Yes	Successful	Pass	Pass
AES256-GCM-SHA384	Yes	Successful	Pass	Pass
AES256-SHA	Yes	Successful	Pass	Pass
AES256-SHA256	Yes	Successful	Pass	Pass
DHE-RSA-AES128-SHA	(	Cipher Not Suppo	rted by ACFW Vendor	Solution <sup>‡</sup>
DHE-RSA-AES256-SHA	(	Cipher Not Suppo	rted by ACFW Vendor	Solution <sup>‡</sup>
DHE-RSA-AES256-SHA256	(	Cipher Not Suppo	rted by ACFW Vendor	Solution <sup>‡</sup>
DHE-RSA-CHACHA20-POLY1305	(	Cipher Not Suppo	rted by ACFW Vendor	Solution <sup>‡</sup>
ECDHE-ECDSA-AES128-GCM-SHA256	Yes	Successful	Pass	Pass
ECDHE-ECDSA-AES128-SHA	Yes	Successful	Pass	Pass
ECDHE-ECDSA-AES128-SHA256	Yes	Successful	Pass	Pass
ECDHE-ECDSA-AES256-GCM-SHA384	Yes	Successful	Pass	Pass
ECDHE-ECDSA-AES256-SHA384	Yes	Successful	Pass	Pass
ECDHE-ECDSA-CHACHA20-POLY1305	Yes	Successful	Pass	Pass
ECDHE-RSA-AES128-GCM-SHA256	Yes	Successful	Pass	Pass
ECDHE-RSA-AES128-SHA	Yes	Successful	Pass	Pass
ECDHE-RSA-AES128-SHA256	Yes	Successful	Pass	Pass
ECDHE-RSA-AES256-GCM-SHA384	Yes	Successful	Pass	Pass
ECDHE-RSA-AES256-SHA	Yes	Successful	Pass	Pass
ECDHE-RSA-AES256-SHA384	Yes	Successful	Pass	Pass
ECDHE-RSA-CHACHA20-POLY1305	Yes	Successful	Pass	Pass

Table 6. TLS v1.2 cipher Support<sup>5</sup>

<sup>‡</sup>Vendor stated that the cypher is not supported because it is not secure enough.

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The Check Point ACFW passed all TLS v1.2 cyphers tested that it supported.

The cipher suites for TLS v1.3, as highlighted in Table 7 below, were tested for the Check Point CloudGuard Network Security.

TLSv1.3 Ciphers	TLS Support	TLS Handshake Result	Attack Traffic Prevention within TLS Session	Operational Validation with Operational TLS Traffic
AES256-GCM-SHA384	Yes	Successful	Pass	Pass
CHACHA20-POLY1305-SHA256	Yes	Successful	Pass	Pass
AES128-GCM-SHA256	Yes	Successful	Pass	Pass

Table 7. TLS v1.3 cipher Support

As can be seen from the above, the Check Point ACFW was able to successfully handle packet decryption and inspection.

### 5. Security Resiliency Results

Security products must demonstrate overall resiliency, as failure to do so can have significant consequences. The Department of Defense (DoD) defines security resilience as "The ability of systems to resist, absorb, and recover from or adapt to an adverse occurrence during operation that may cause harm, destruction, or loss of ability to perform mission-related functions."

SecureIQLab has adopted a novel approach to define the firewall resiliency metrics. Our security resiliency rating combines security efficacy with key operational and cloud-based performance metrics based on a real-world scenario. This holistic approach considers the firewall's security efficacy (threat protection) and operational efficiency metrics mapped to crucial capabilities and ACFW workflows relevant to enterprise use cases subjected to real-world traffic.

The security resiliency test used a simulated real-world cloud-based traffic mix. The traffic mix was based on internet use by eight specific industry verticals: Enterprise, Small-to-Medium Businesses (SMB), Remote Office Branch Office (ROBO), Healthcare and Educational organizations, Media and Entertainment, and Financial and Retail organizations. As outlined in v1.6 of the SecurelQLab Advanced Cloud Firewall CyberRisk Validation Methodology, the primary objective of the security resiliency-based test is NOT to push the cloud security solution under test to its maximum limits but to ensure it remains operationally and functionally viable up to at least at 50% of its throughput.

The ability of the Check Point CloudGuard Network Security solution to pass each stage of the security resiliency test was based on the following criteria:



- **PASS** = Security resiliency protection rate (%) must be ≥ 95% against all attacks under load.
- **PASS** = Overall solution throughput (%) must be ≥ 95% (at steady state) of the maximum tested ACFW cloud throughput numbers.
- **PASS** = Overall application traffic success rate (%) must be ≥ 95% of all real-world application traffic validated against a specific cloud-based scenario.

The Check Point CloudGuard Network Security was tested for security resiliency under real-world scenarios during the entire test cycle, and Table 8 below provides the results from these tests.

Real World Cloud-based Traffic Scenario Mix	Security Resiliency Protection Rating	Overall Solution Throughput	Overall Application Traffic Success Rate
Media and Entertainment Companies	Pass	Pass	Pass
Healthcare Organization	Pass	Pass	Pass
Financial Institution	Pass	Pass	Pass
Enterprise	Pass	Pass	Pass
Small-to-Medium Business (SMB)	Pass	Pass	Pass
Educational Institution	Pass	Pass	Pass
Retail Companies	Pass	Pass	Pass
Remote office Branch Office (ROBO)	Pass	Pass	Pass

Table 8. Security Resiliency

The Check Point ACFW passed all Security Resiliency tests.

### 6. Operational Efficiency Results

ACFW operational efficiency measures the tested ACFW's operating burden and complexity of setup and use. As such, the Operational Efficiency Score measures both the ability of the ACFW to detect and respond to cyber-attacks appropriately and ease of use. The operational efficiency was evaluated by considering factors such as:

- The ease of tuning the ACFW security policy and configuration (pre-and-post deployment)
- The solution's incident response and management intuitiveness from a policy and security configuration perspective
- Compliance check
- Risk assessment and mitigation capabilities
- Enhanced security metrics reporting capabilities
- The ease of managing and controlling assets and business continuity with appropriate configuration and policy backup (with restoration)



In the analysis, the Check Point CloudGuard Network Security was rated high, medium, or low across 12 operational efficiency categories, as identified in Table 8 below. For more details on each of the categories, please <u>contact SecureIQLab</u>.

The Check Point CloudGuard Network Security was tested for operational efficiency, considering realworld enterprise procurement, deployment, and active scenarios throughout the test life cycle. Table 9 below presents an impressive overall operational efficiency score of 89.6%.

Operational Efficiency	Check Point ACFW Score	SecurelQLab ACFW Group Test Average Score
<b>Overall Operational Efficiency Score</b>	89.6%	75.2%

#### Table 9. Overall Operational Efficiency Score

Check Point CloudGuard Network Security solution had high operational efficiency capabilities in 11 of the 12 validated categories of operational efficiency, as highlighted in Table 10 below.

ACFW Operational Efficiency Metrics	Check Point CloudGuard Network Security	SecurelQLab ACFW Group Test Average Score
Security Policy Configuration	High	Med
Security Policy Management	High	High
Asset Management	Med	High
Access Control	High	High
Compliance Management	High	High
Business Continuity Management	High	Med
<b>Risk Assessment &amp; Mitigation</b>	High	Med
Security Metrics Reporting	High	High
Backup & Restore	High	Med
Analytics	High	Med
Customer Support	High	Med
License Management	High	High

Table 10: Operational Efficiency Results.

Table 10 shows that the Check Point ACFW performed stronger than average and consistently achieved "High" ratings across various operational efficiency categories tested, except for one where it achieved a "Medium" rating.



### 7. Key ACFW Solution Differentiators – Vendor Perspective

Check Point provided the following information for their CloudGuard Network Security solution. The information in this section is sourced from Check Point's hands-on experience, customer feedback, and from their subject matter experts.

- Most comprehensive threat prevention security: Check Point is recognized as a long-term leader by third-party analysts:
  - 23 consecutive years as a Leader on the Gartner Magic Quadrant for Network Firewall.
  - o A Leader in The Forrester Wave<sup>™</sup>: Enterprise Firewalls, 2022.
  - A Leader in the GigaOm Radar for Cloud Network Security 2023.
  - o #1 in Miercom NGFW Security Benchmark 2024.
  - A Recommended rating by CyberRatings, with over 30 years of security gateway intellectual property and cybersecurity technology innovation.
- Powered by Check Point ThreatCloud for unknown attacks: the world's most powerful threat intelligence inspects 4M files and receives updates from 100s of millions of global Check Point enforcement points per day.
- Most flexible pricing and licensing model: Check Point's licensing model is flexible and follows cloud business logic. Licenses are automatically allocated, centrally managed, and can be shared between multiple cloud vendors.
- Optimized for real user workflows, solving problems easily and efficiently: Testing shows that CloudGuard Network Security is easiest to use for standard cloud network security use cases, in terms of time taken, number of mouse clicks, and number of menus navigated.
- Unified Security Management console: provides consistent visibility, policy management, logging, reporting, and control across all public and private cloud environments, infrastructures, networks, as well as for on-premises deployments, all from a single-pane-of-glass.

### 8. Conclusion

The Check Point CloudGuard Network Security ACFW with Threat Prevention and SandBlast BYOL modules emerged as a top performer in this test. Check Point consistently outperformed the average in all tested categories. Notably, Check Point delivered an impressive result in false positives resistance, with 0.0% false positives throughout testing. Check Point also achieved above-average operational efficiency with "High" scores in 11 of the 12 validated operation efficiency categories.

Check Point demonstrated a balance between security efficacy and operational efficiency.



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For more information about SecureIQLab and the testing methodologies, please visit our website.

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