



Fireware v12.5.6 Release Notes

Supported Devices	Firebox T10, T15, T30, T35, T50, T55, T70, M200, M300 WatchGuard AP
Release Date	15 December 2020
Release Notes Revision	15 December 2020
Fireware OS Build	12.5.6: 633773
WatchGuard System Manager Build	12.6.3: 632680
WatchGuard AP Firmware	AP120, AP320, AP322: 8.8.3-12 AP125, AP225W, AP325, AP327X, AP420: 8.9.0-63

Introduction

Fireware v12.5.6 is a maintenance release for Firebox T Series (except T20, T40, T80), Firebox M200, and Firebox M300 appliances. This release features important bug fixes and enhancements.

For a full list of the enhancements in this release, see [Enhancements and Resolved Issues](#) or review the [What's New in Fireware v12.5.6 PowerPoint](#).



Fireware v12.6.x is based on Linux kernel 4.14. On some Firebox models, Linux kernel 4.14 does not provide sufficient quality and performance. Because of this, Fireware v12.6.x is not currently available for Firebox T10, T15, T30, T35, T55, T70, M200, and M300. We are continuing to work to bring all models to a common kernel in a future release. For more information, see [this Knowledge Base article](#).

Before You Begin

Before you install this release, make sure that you have:

- A supported WatchGuard Firebox. This device can be a WatchGuard Firebox T Series (except T20, T40, T80), Firebox M200, or Firebox M300. *We do not support Fireware v12.2.x or higher on XTM devices.*
- The required hardware and software components as shown below. If you use WatchGuard System Manager (WSM), make sure your WSM version is equal to or higher than the version of Fireware OS installed on your Firebox and the version of WSM installed on your Management Server.
- Feature key for your Firebox — If you upgrade your device from an earlier version of Fireware OS, you can use your existing feature key. If you do not have a feature key for your device, you can log in to the WatchGuard website to download it.
- If you are upgrading to Fireware v12.x from Fireware v11.10.x or earlier, we strongly recommend you review the [Fireware v11.12.4 release notes](#) for important information about significant feature changes that occurred in Fireware v11.12.x release cycle.
- Some Known Issues are especially important to be aware of before you upgrade, either to or from specific versions of Fireware. To learn more, see [Release-specific upgrade notes](#).

Note that you can install and use WatchGuard System Manager v12.x and all WSM server components¹ with devices running earlier versions of Fireware. In this case, we recommend that you use the product documentation that matches your Fireware OS version.

If you have a new Firebox, make sure you use the instructions in the *Quick Start Guide* that shipped with your device. We also recommend that you review the [Hardware Guide](#) for your Firebox model. The *Hardware Guide* contains useful information about your device interfaces, as well as information on resetting your device to factory default settings, if necessary.

Product documentation for all WatchGuard products is available on the WatchGuard web site at <https://www.watchguard.com/wgrd-help/documentation/overview>.

¹*The WatchGuard System Manager WebBlocker server component is not supported by Fireboxes with v12.2 or higher, and it is no longer possible to download a database for the WebBlocker server bundled with WatchGuard System Manager.*

Resolved Issues in Fireware v12.5.6

General

- The TCP Dump diagnostic task now recognizes the `tcp-rst` flag in arguments. [FBX-8535]
- The Firebox now generates flood protection log messages for sites on the Blocked Sites Exceptions list. [FBX-20418]

Networking

- The OSPF `default-information originate` command now works with Multi-WAN configurations. [FBX-7623]
- Interface Down log messages no longer reference Link Monitor when Link Monitor is disabled. [FBX-20577]
- This release resolves an issue where a DHCP relay configured with more than 300 VLANs only worked for the first 249. [FBX-19174]
- SNAT actions now work as expected when the To field includes an FQDN. [FBX-20223]

Policies and Security Services

- DNS query error messages no longer appear for connections handled by an Explicit proxy policy. [FBX-19395]
- This release resolves an issue where some websites did not load completely when HTTPS content inspection was enabled. [FBX-20617]
- Memory consumption and proxy performance have been improved when the configuration includes a very large number of WebBlocker exceptions. [FBX-20620]
- Changes to WebBlocker global exceptions now take effect immediately when you save. [FBX-20771]
- This release resolves an issue where users did not have to provide the WebBlocker Override password after the bypass list expired. [FBX-20773]
- The Firebox now checks available memory instead of free memory for Access Portal RDP connections. [FBX-20836]

VPN

- After FireCluster failover, the maximum Mobile VPN with SSL license count is no longer set to 0 and clients can connect as expected. [FBX-20575]
- This release resolves an issue where configured Mobile VPN with SSL connections failed after Firebox Cloud PAYG on AWS powers on. [FBX-20161]
- This release resolves an issue where connections to the Firebox from the Mobile VPN with SSL client failed with *max number of simultaneous connections reached* log messages. [FBX-14259]

Known Issues and Limitations

Known issues for Fireware v12.5.6 and its management applications, including workarounds where available, can be found on the [Technical Search > Knowledge Base](#) tab. To see known issues for a specific release, from the **Product & Version** filters you can expand the Fireware version list and select the check box for that version.

Some Known Issues are especially important to be aware of before you upgrade, either to or from specific versions of Fireware. To learn more, see [Release-specific upgrade notes](#).

Download Software

You can download software from the [WatchGuard Software Downloads Center](#).

There are several software files available for download with this release. See the descriptions below so you know what software packages you will need for your upgrade.

WatchGuard System Manager

 There is no WSM v12.5.6. Use WSM v12.6.3 to manage Fireboxes that run Fireware v12.5.6.

With this software package you can install WSM and the WatchGuard Server Center software:

WSM_12_6_3.exe — Use this file to install WSM v12.6.3 or to upgrade WatchGuard System Manager from an earlier version.

Fireware OS

You can upgrade the Fireware OS on your Firebox automatically from the Fireware Web UI **System > Upgrade OS** page or from WatchGuard Cloud.

If you prefer to upgrade from Policy Manager, or from an earlier version of Fireware, you can download the Fireware OS image for your Firebox. Use the .exe file if you want to install or upgrade the OS using WSM. Use the .zip file if you want to install or upgrade the OS manually using Fireware Web UI.

 The file name for software downloads always include the product group, such as T30_50 for the Firebox T30 or T50.

If you have...	Select from these Fireware OS packages
Firebox M200/M300	Firebox_OS_M200_M300_12_5_6.exe firebox_M200_M300_12_5_6.zip
Firebox T70	Firebox_OS_T70_12_5_6.exe firebox_T70_12_5_6.zip
Firebox T55	Firebox_OS_T55_12_5_6.exe firebox_T55_12_5_6.zip
Firebox T30/T50	Firebox_OS_T30_T50_12_5_6.exe firebox_T30_T50_12_5_6.zip
Firebox T35	Firebox_OS_T35_12_5_6.exe firebox_T35_12_5_6.zip
Firebox T15	Firebox_OS_T15_12_5_6.exe firebox_T15_12_5_6.zip
Firebox T10	Firebox_OS_T10_12_5_6.exe firebox_T10_12_5_6.zip

Additional Firebox Software

The files in the list below are not directly used by the Firebox or for Firebox management, but are necessary for key features to work. In most cases, the file name includes the Fireware version that was current at the time of release.

Filename	Description	Updated in this release
WG-Authentication-Gateway_12_5_4.exe	Single Sign-On Agent software - required for Single Sign-On and includes optional Event Log Monitor for clientless SSO ⁴	No
WG-Authentication-Client_12_5_4.msi	Single Sign-On Client software for Windows ⁴	No
WG-SSOCLIENT-MAC_12_5_4.dmg	Single Sign-On Client software for macOS ⁴	No
SSOExchangeMonitor_x86_12_0.exe	Exchange Monitor for 32-bit operating systems	No
SSOExchangeMonitor_x64_12_0.exe	Exchange Monitor for 64-bit operating systems	No
TO_AGENT_SETUP_11_12.exe	Terminal Services software for both 32-bit and 64-bit systems.	No
WG-MVPN-SSL_12_5_3.exe	Mobile VPN with SSL client for Windows ⁵	No
WG-MVPN-SSL_12_5_3.dmg	Mobile VPN with SSL client for macOS	No
WG-Mobile-VPN_Windows_x86_1411_48297.exe ¹	WatchGuard IPSec Mobile VPN Client for Windows (32-bit), powered by NCP ²	No
WG-Mobile-VPN_Windows_x86-64_1411_48297.exe ¹	WatchGuard IPSec Mobile VPN Client for Windows (64-bit), powered by NCP ²	No
WG-Mobile-VPN_macOS_x86-64_400_46079.dmg ¹	WatchGuard IPSec Mobile VPN Client for macOS, powered by NCP ²	No
Watchguard_MVLS_Win_x86-64_200_rev19725.exe ¹	WatchGuard Mobile VPN License Server (MVLS) v2.0, powered by NCP ³	No

¹ The version number in this file name does not match any Fireware version number.

² There is a license required for this premium client, with a 30-day free trial available with download.

³ Click [here](#) for more information about MVLS. If you have a VPN bundle ID for macOS, it must be updated on the license server to support the macOS 3.00 or later client. To update your bundle ID, contact WatchGuard Customer Support. Make sure to have your existing bundle ID available to expedite the update.

⁴ SSO Agent v12.5.4 supports Fireware v12.5.4 or higher only. Before you install SSO Agent v12.5.4, you must upgrade the Firebox to Fireware v12.5.4 or higher. If you install SSO Agent v12.5.4, we recommend that you upgrade all SSO Clients to v12.5.4. You cannot use SSO Client v12.5.4 with versions of the SSO Agent lower than v12.5.4. Fireware v12.5.6 supports previous versions of the SSO Agent.

⁵ Not supported on ARM processor architecture.

Upgrade to Fireware v12.5.6

Important information about the upgrade process:

- We recommend you use Fireware Web UI to upgrade to Fireware v12.x.
- We strongly recommend that you save a local copy of your Firebox configuration and create a Firebox backup image before you upgrade.
- If you use WatchGuard System Manager (WSM), make sure your WSM version is equal to or higher than the version of Fireware OS installed on your Firebox and the version of WSM installed on your Management Server. Also, make sure to upgrade WSM *before* you upgrade the version of Fireware OS on your Firebox.
- In Fireware v12.5.5 or higher, Fireware Web UI prevents the addition of users with reserved user names to the Firebox-DB authentication server. We recommend that you delete or replace any user with a reserved name before you upgrade to Fireware v12.5.5 or higher. For more information, see [Reserved Firebox-DB authentication server user names](#).
- If your Firebox has Fireware v12.1.1 or later, the Firebox might temporarily disable some security services to free up enough memory to successfully perform a backup. To learn more, see [Backup and Restore for XTM 25, XTM 26, and Firebox T10](#).



If you want to upgrade a Firebox T10 device, we recommend that you reboot your Firebox before you upgrade. This clears your device memory and can prevent many problems commonly associated with upgrades in those devices. If your Firebox T10 has Fireware v12.1 or older, you might not be able to perform a backup before you upgrade the Firebox. This occurs because the memory use by Fireware v12.1 or older does not leave enough memory free to successfully complete the upgrade process on these devices. For these devices, we recommend you save a copy of the .xml configuration file with a distinctive name, as described here: [Save the Configuration File](#).

Back Up Your WatchGuard Servers

It is not usually necessary to uninstall your previous v11.x or v12.x server or client software when you upgrade to WSM v12.x. You can install the v12.x server and client software on top of your existing installation to upgrade your WatchGuard software components. We do, however, strongly recommend that you back up your WatchGuard Servers (for example, your WatchGuard Management Server) to a safe location before you upgrade. You will need these backup files if you ever want to downgrade.



You cannot restore a WatchGuard Server backup file created with WatchGuard System Manager v12.x to a v11.x installation. Make sure to retain your older server backup files when you upgrade to v12.0 or later in case you want to downgrade in the future.

For instructions on how to back up your Management Server configuration, see [Fireware Help](#).

Upgrade to Fireware v12.5.6 from WatchGuard Cloud

From WatchGuard Cloud, you can upgrade the firmware for a Firebox that runs Fireware v12.5.2 or higher. To upgrade from WatchGuard Cloud, see [Upgrade Firmware from WatchGuard Cloud](#) in *WatchGuard Cloud Help*.

Upgrade to Fireware v12.5.6 from Web UI

You can upgrade the Fireware OS on your Firebox automatically from the **System > Upgrade OS** page. To upgrade manually, see [Upgrade Fireware OS or WatchGuard System Manager](#) in *Fireware Help*.

If your Firebox runs Fireware v11.9.x or lower, follow the steps in [this knowledge base article](#).

If you have installed another release of this OS version on your computer, you must run the installer twice (once to remove the previous release and again to install this release).

Upgrade to Fireware v12.5.6 from WSM/Policy Manager

To upgrade from WSM/Policy Manager, see [Upgrade Fireware OS or WatchGuard System Manager](#) in *Fireware Help*.

If you have installed another release of this OS version on your computer, you must run the installer twice (once to remove the previous release and again to install this release).



If you like to make updates to your Firebox configuration from a saved configuration file, make sure you open the configuration from the Firebox and save it to a new file after you upgrade. This is to make sure that you do not overwrite any configuration changes that were made as part of the upgrade.

Update Access Points

All AP firmware is managed by the Gateway Wireless Controller on your Firebox. The Gateway Wireless Controller automatically checks for new AP firmware updates and enables you to download the firmware directly from WatchGuard servers.

AP Firmware Upgrade

To manage AP firmware and download the latest AP firmware to your Firebox:

- From Fireware Web UI, select **Dashboard > Gateway Wireless Controller**. From the **Summary** tab, click **Manage Firmware**.
- From Firebox System Manager, select the **Gateway Wireless Controller** tab, then click **Manage Firmware**.

If you have enabled automatic AP firmware updates in Gateway Wireless Controller, your APs are automatically updated between midnight and 4:00am local time.

To manually update firmware on your APs:

1. On the **Access Points** tab, select one or more APs.
2. From the **Actions** drop-down list, click **Upgrade**.
3. Click **Yes** to confirm that you want to upgrade the AP.

About AP Firmware and Fireware Versions

You must upgrade your APs to firmware version 8.6.0 or higher before you upgrade to Fireware v12.5.4 or higher to remain compatible with the latest versions of Fireware.

Important Steps for Upgrades from Fireware 12.0 or Lower

If you have not previously upgraded to Fireware 12.0.1 or higher and the latest AP firmware, you must perform these steps:

1. Make sure all your APs are online. You can check AP status from Fireware Web UI in **Dashboard > Gateway Wireless Controller** on the **Access Points** tab, or from Firebox System Manager, select the **Gateway Wireless Controller** tab.
2. Make sure you are not using insecure default AP passphrases such as **wgwap** or **watchguard**. Your current AP passphrase must be secure and at least 8 characters in length. You can change your AP passphrase in **Network > Gateway Wireless Controller > Settings**.



If you do not have a secure passphrase correctly configured before the upgrade, you will lose the management connection with your deployed APs. If this occurs, you must physically reset the APs to factory default settings before you can manage the APs from Gateway Wireless Controller.

Depending on the version of Fireware you upgrade from, you may need to mark APs as trusted after the upgrade to Fireware v12.0.1 or higher. You can mark APs as trusted from Fireware Web UI in **Dashboard > Gateway Wireless Controller** on the **Access Points** tab, or from Firebox System Manager, select the **Gateway Wireless Controller** tab.

Upgrade your FireCluster to Fireware v12.5.6

You can upgrade Fireware OS for a FireCluster from Policy Manager or Fireware Web UI. To upgrade a FireCluster from Fireware v11.10.x or lower, we recommend you use Policy Manager.

As part of the upgrade process, each cluster member reboots and rejoins the cluster. Because the cluster cannot do load balancing while a cluster member reboot is in progress, we recommend you upgrade an active/active cluster at a time when the network traffic is lightest.

For information on how to upgrade your FireCluster, see [this Help topic](#).

Before you upgrade to Fireware v11.11 or higher, your Firebox must be running:

- Fireware XTM v11.7.5
- Fireware XTM v11.8.4
- Fireware XTM v11.9 or higher



If you try to upgrade from Policy Manager and your Firebox is running an unsupported version, the upgrade is prevented.

If you try to schedule an OS update of managed devices through a Management Server, the upgrade is also prevented.

If you use the Fireware Web UI to upgrade your device, you see a warning, but it is possible to continue so you must make sure your Firebox is running v11.7.5, v11.8.4, or v11.9.x before you upgrade to Fireware v11.11.x or higher or your Firebox will be reset to a default state.

Fireware 12.5.6 Operating System Compatibility Matrix

Last reviewed 15 December 2020

WSM/ Fireware Component	Microsoft Windows, 8.1, 10	Microsoft Windows 2012, & 2012 R2	Microsoft Windows Server 2016 & 2019	macOS v10.13, v10.14, v10.15, & v11.0.1	Android 7.x, 8.x, 9.x, 10.x, & 11.x	iOS v9, v10, v11, v12, v13, & 14.x
WatchGuard System Manager	✓	✓	✓			
WatchGuard Servers <i>For information on WatchGuard Dimension, see the Dimension Release Notes.</i>	✓	✓	✓			
Single Sign-On Agent (Includes Event Log Monitor)¹		✓	✓			
Single Sign-On Client	✓	✓	✓	✓ ⁴		
Single Sign-On Exchange Monitor²		✓	✓			
Terminal Services Agent³		✓	✓			
Mobile VPN with IPSec	✓			✓ ^{4,5}	✓ ⁵	✓ ⁵
Mobile VPN with SSL	✓			✓ ^{4,8}	✓ ⁶	✓ ⁶
Mobile VPN with IKEv2	✓			✓ ⁴	✓ ⁷	✓
Mobile VPN with L2TP	✓			✓ ⁵	✓	✓

Notes about Microsoft Windows support:

- Windows 8.x support does not include Windows RT.
- Documentation might include references and examples for Windows OS versions that are no longer supported. This is provided to assist users with those OS versions, but we cannot guarantee compatibility.

The following browsers are supported for both Fireware Web UI and WebCenter (Javascript required):

- IE 11
- Microsoft Edge⁴²
- Firefox v66
- Safari 12
- Safari iOS 13

- Safari (macOS Catalina)
- Chrome v74

¹The Server Core installation option is supported for Windows Server 2016.

²Microsoft Exchange Server 2010 SP3 and Microsoft Exchange Server 2013 is supported if you install Windows Server 2012 or 2012 R2 and .NET Framework 3.5.

³Terminal Services support with manual or Single Sign-On authentication operates in a Microsoft Terminal Services or Citrix XenApp 6.0, 6.5, 7.6, or 7.12 environment.

⁴On 11 November 2019, WatchGuard released multiple new client applications for macOS. These releases add support for macOS Catalina 10.15, and require macOS High Sierra 10.13 or later. To learn more about client support for macOS Catalina, see [macOS Catalina 10.15 software compatibility](#). To learn more about client support for macOS Big Sur 11.0.1, see [macOS Big Sur 11.0.1 software compatibility](#). The WatchGuard Mobile VPN with SSL client does not currently support macOS Big Sur 11.0.1.

⁵Native (Cisco) IPsec client is supported for all recent versions of macOS and iOS.

⁶OpenVPN is supported for all recent versions of Android and iOS.

⁷StrongSwan is supported for all recent versions of Android.

⁸In macOS 10.15 (Catalina) or higher, you must install v12.5.2 or higher of the WatchGuard Mobile VPN with SSL client.

Authentication Support

This table gives you a quick view of the types of authentication servers supported by key features of Fireware. Using an authentication server gives you the ability to configure user and group-based firewall and VPN policies in your Firebox or XTM device configuration. With each type of third-party authentication server supported, you can specify a backup server IP address for failover.



Fully supported by WatchGuard - Not supported by WatchGuard

	AuthPoint	Active Directory	LDAP	RADIUS	SecurID	Firebox (Firebox-DB) Local Authentication	SAML
Mobile VPN with IPsec for iOS, Windows, and macOS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–
Mobile VPN with IPsec for Android	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	–
Mobile VPN with SSL	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–
Mobile VPN with IKEv2 for Windows	✓	✓ ¹	–	✓	–	✓	–
Mobile VPN with L2TP	✓	✓ ¹	–	✓	–	✓	–
Built-in Web Page on Port 4100 and 8080	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–
Access Portal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
AD Single Sign-On Support (<i>with or without client software</i>)	–	✓	✓	–	–	–	–
Terminal Services Manual Authentication	–	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–
Terminal Services Authentication with Single Sign-On	–	✓	–	–	–	–	–

¹ Active Directory authentication methods are supported only through a RADIUS server.

System Requirements

	If you have WatchGuard System Manager client software only installed	If you install WatchGuard System Manager and WatchGuard Server software
Minimum CPU	Intel Core or Xeon 2GHz	Intel Core or Xeon 2GHz
Minimum Memory	1 GB	2 GB
Minimum Available Disk Space	250 MB	1 GB
Minimum Recommended Screen Resolution	1024x768	1024x768

Downgrade Instructions

Downgrade from WSM v12.6.3

You must use WSM v12.6.x to manage devices that run Fireware v12.5.6.

If you want to revert from WSM v12.6.3 to an earlier version, you must uninstall WSM v12.6.3. When you uninstall, choose **Yes** when the uninstaller asks if you want to delete server configuration and data files. After the server configuration and data files are deleted, you must restore the data and server configuration files you backed up before you upgraded to WSM v12.6.3.

Downgrade from Fireware v12.5.6

If you want to downgrade from Fireware v12.5.6 to an earlier version of Fireware, we recommend you use a backup image that you created before the upgrade to Fireware v12.5.6. With a backup image, you can either:

- Restore the full backup image you created when you upgraded to Fireware v12.5.6 to complete the downgrade; or
- Use the USB backup file you created before the upgrade as your auto-restore image, and then boot into recovery mode with the USB drive plugged in to your device.

If you need to downgrade a Firebox without a backup file after you complete the upgrade to Fireware v12.x, we recommend you [Downgrade with Web UI](#). This process deletes the configuration file, but does not remove the device feature keys and certificates. After you downgrade the Firebox, you can use Policy Manager to [Save the Configuration File](#) to the Firebox.



If you use the Fireware Web UI or CLI to downgrade to an earlier version, the downgrade process resets the network and security settings on your device to their factory-default settings. The downgrade process does not change the device passphrases and does not remove the feature keys and certificates.

See [Fireware Help](#) for more information about these downgrade procedures, and information about how to downgrade if you do not have a backup image.

Downgrade Restrictions

See this [Knowledge Base article](#) for a list of downgrade restrictions.

Technical Assistance

For technical assistance, contact WatchGuard Technical Support by telephone or log in to the WatchGuard Portal on the Web at <https://www.watchguard.com/wgrd-support/overview>. When you contact Technical Support, you must supply your registered Product Serial Number or Partner ID.

	Phone Number
U.S. End Users	877.232.3531
International End Users	+1 206.613.0456
Authorized WatchGuard Resellers	206.521.8375

Localization

This release includes updates to the localization for the management user interfaces (WSM application suite and Web UI) through Fireware v12.5.2. UI changes introduced since v12.5.2 may remain in English. Supported languages are:

- French (France)
- Japanese
- Spanish (Latin American)

Note that most data input must still be made using standard ASCII characters. You can use non-ASCII characters in some areas of the UI, including:

- Proxy deny message
- Wireless hotspot title, terms and conditions, and message
- WatchGuard Server Center users, groups, and role names

Any data returned from the device operating system (e.g. log data) is displayed in English only. Additionally, all items in the Web UI System Status menu and any software components provided by third-party companies remain in English.

Fireware Web UI

The Web UI will launch in the language you have set in your web browser by default.

WatchGuard System Manager

When you install WSM, you can choose what language packs you want to install. The language displayed in WSM will match the language you select in your Microsoft Windows environment. For example, if you use Windows 10 and want to use WSM in Japanese, go to Control Panel > Language and select Japanese as your Display Language.

Dimension, WebCenter, Quarantine Web UI, and Wireless Hotspot

These web pages automatically display in whatever language preference you have set in your web browser.

Documentation

The latest version of localized Fireware Help is available from [WatchGuard Help Center](#). In the top-right of a Fireware Help page, click the Globe icon and select your language from the drop-down list.