Migration Options for Forefront TMG and UAG

Since Microsoft® announced the end of life for Forefront Threat Management Gateway (TMG) 2010 and Forefront Unified Access Gateway (UAG) 2010, organizations have been searching for a viable alternative to deliver their forward and reverse proxy, firewall, and VPN services.

Overview

Microsoft mainstream support for both TMG and UAG ends on 14th April 2015, with extended support ending five years later on 14th April 2020. Due to the strong performance inherent in both TMG and UAG, finding a comparable replacement can be challenging.

The majority of alternatives to either TMG or UAG introduce complexity and increase costs. And while popular unified threat management (UTM) solutions may address some elements like a firewall or application publishing, they often require settling for something that is less than best of breed. Additionally, unnecessary features increase management complexity which can burden thinly stretched IT resources and introduce points of failure. Paying more for options that require more effort to deploy and maintain is hardly an advantageous alternative.
So what sensible options are there for a controlled and cost-effective migration from TMG and/or UAG?

Celestix Networks, the world's largest Microsoft security OEM appliance partner, addresses the migration challenge with a range of tailor-made solutions. The advice is straightforward enough: Don't panic.

Manage Change

To help customers make an orderly and strategic transition, Celestix offers three primary options that cover contingencies for current TMG 2010 and UAG 2010 deployments.

1. [Continued mainstream support](#)– runs until 2020 and provides operational consistency with the time to identify and implement the most appropriate migration strategy.

2. [Migration to a Celestix MSA/WSA appliance](#) – provides a supported TMG/UAG platform which can be reimaged to run Windows Server® 2012 R2; a good option for organizations that may want to leverage new investments in the future.

3. [Migration to a Celestix E Series appliance](#) – runs Server 2012 R2 for an array of Remote Access features; this option uses to the latest technology from Microsoft.

Time for continuity

There is no need to rush migration; organizations should take sufficient time to select the right solution. Too often Celestix has been called upon to assist organizations that have migrated from TMG once they find that their new solution does not deliver the required feature set.

For customers in this category, Celestix has some simple options to lower cost and maintain a consistent support experience.

Continued mainstream support for TMG and UAG until 2020

Microsoft's ISA server, TMG 2010, and UAG 2010 have been a consistent presence in organizations for over a decade now, and they provide administrators with a stable, reliable platform. There is understandably a reluctance to move away from these trusted solutions.

However, with mainstream support ending in April 2015, customers face a difficult choice; whether to enter into the unknown with Microsoft's extended support, or migrate away from a product in which they have already invested and currently provides industry-leading protection.

Migration to an alternative technology is obviously going to be necessary at some point, but may not be the best course in the short term.

Customers for whom the status quo with TMG/UAG is the best interim option, Microsoft extended support offers a chargeable service on a per-incident or per-hour basis. However, with no clear SLAs and an hourly price model, costs can escalate rapidly. It's reasonable to have concerns that over the course of the extended support period, funds that could be used for a migration might instead be usurped by maintenance.

As an alternative, *Celestix is making TMG and/or UAG support contracts open to all organizations that currently use TMG and UAG, regardless of the platform these applications are running on.* An important qualifier is that the program offers support for TMG 2010 and UAG 2010 only; it does not extend to the underlying server platform.

Support contracts provide access to our global support organization on either an 8x5 or 24x7 basis, and are defined by a clear set of SLAs. Celestix technical support is backed up by an Enterprise Support Agreement with Microsoft, so customers get the benefit of prompt and deep technical assistance from Celestix, with the additional peace of mind that a major issue can also be escalated to Microsoft without incurring additional costs. Celestix mainstream support will extend the term by which organizations can obtain meaningful technical support for their TMG and UAG deployments until April 2020.

Celestix terms and conditions for TMG and UAG support contracts are available on request. All support programs are available through the global Celestix partner channel.

Migration to a Celestix MSA (TMG)/WSA (UAG) appliance

Some circumstances may require a new instance of TMG or UAG. For example, there is a need to scale an existing environment or to move from an older server-based deployment. While TMG/UAG are no longer available for purchase from Microsoft, they are both still available from Celestix as an OEM appliance.

Celestix manufactures the market-leading appliance platform for TMG and UAG. MSA and WSA appliances offer secure, high performance, and scalable deployment along with reliable ongoing management.

Celestix understands the need for an innovative, adaptable migration strategy. Our newest appliance range has been designed with Windows Server 2012 R2 in mind. ***Organizations that purchase an MSA or WSA now as part of a planned migration strategy will be able to reimage their appliance to run the Celestix E Series image when ready to do so.***

The E Series is the latest appliance solution and provides a secure instance of Server 2012 R2 that has been optimized to run DirectAccess and client-based VPN, as well as site-to-site VPN for cloud connectivity features. The new functionality advances strategic connectivity goals, while maintaining the ease of use organizations have come to expect.

This offer requires that organizations maintain an active support contract for the purchased appliance. The support contract offer for this option includes both application and server platform components – again with defined SLAs for global coverage on either an 8x5 or 24x7 basis, again with the peace of mind that a major issue can also be escalated to Microsoft for assistance if needed.

With the Celestix purpose-built appliance and migration offer, organizations can migrate to a stable TMG or UAG deployment now that is supported until April 2020, safe in the knowledge that their deployment is future ready.

Ready for change

For organizations that have identified Windows Server 2012 R2 as a migration path from their current TMG or UAG remote access implementations, the E Series appliance provides a reference architecture for deployment. In common with the high performance stable of Celestix security products, it delivers a reliable and secure platform for running Server 2012 R2, with optimizations at the hardware and software levels. It includes an administrative web user interface that simplifies the deployment and streamlines management to provide a strong return on investment.

Migration to a Celestix E Series appliance

Growing demands for network infrastructure require capacity for remote access, cloud integration, and bring your own device (BOYD) strategies.
The latest version of Windows Server offers options to replace functionality previously provided by Forefront solutions.

- DirectAccess can not only replace UAG when deployed for external access to the network, it can also simplify the login process and management for remote devices.
- Client-based VPN offers access for non-managed clients.
- Web Application Proxy may be an appropriate option to replace TMG to provision access to web-specific applications.

The E Series solution also includes features not available with TMG or UAG.

- Includes the Remote Access role which provides native IKEv2 VPN feature for non-Windows endpoints.
- Provides access to mission-critical resources through features like Workplace Join and Work Folders for non-managed devices.
- Includes the ability to deploy ADFS proxy and site-to-site VPN to extend access to applications and resources in the cloud as part of a hybrid environment.

With the ability to publish web-based applications and handle pre-authentication, it may be possible to migrate from TMG to Windows Server 2012 R2 without paying a premium, nor having to learn how to administer an alternative, ad hoc solution that lacks the tight, seamless integration that encumbers many non-Microsoft options. With the ability to roll out DirectAccess and client-based VPN, while also providing conditional access for unmanaged devices, Server 2012 R2 may provide a suitable migration path for many UAG deployments.

Organizations that are already aware of Server 2012 R2 capabilities for provisioning secure remote access, and looking to migrate efficiently from legacy Windows operating systems will find the use of Windows® 7 and 8, both of which leverage DirectAccess for excellent connectivity and management capability, a compelling option.

The solution can also facilitate cross-premises network connectivity to hosted public cloud providers, enabling organizations to realize the full benefit of hybrid cloud deployments. ADFS proxy functionality is provided, allowing for the seamless authentication of users across multiple platforms, both on-premises and off.
In addition, the E Series includes Remote Desktop Gateway and Remote Web Access for organizations interested in desktop virtualization, and Network Policy Server for RADIUS authentication scenarios.

Contact Celestix

For information relating to support and migration options, please contact Celestix in the first instance. Celestix Networks, Inc. is headquartered in Fremont, California with offices in Singapore; Reading, UK and Tokyo, Japan. For more information call us at +1 (510) 668 0700 or visit our web page www.celestix.com.