

# General Network Security Equipment Systems



## Article Overview

Network security equipment includes devices and systems designed to protect networks from unauthorized access, cyber threats, and data breaches.

### Key Types of Network Security Equipment

**Firewalls** Firewalls act as a barrier between internal networks and external traffic, filtering connections based on IP addresses, ports, and protocols. They can be hardware or software-based and are essential for blocking unauthorized access and preventing common network attacks . **Intrusion Detection and Prevention Systems (IDS/IPS)** IDS monitors network traffic for suspicious activity and alerts administrators, while IPS actively blocks malicious traffic in real-time. **Network-based IDS (NIDS)** monitors the entire network, and **host-based IDS (HIDS)** focuses on individual devices . **Virtual Private Network (VPN) Gateways** VPN gateways provide secure remote access by encrypting data between users and the network, ensuring privacy and protection from interception . **Unified Threat Management (UTM) Appliances** UTM devices combine multiple security functions—firewall, antivirus, anti-spam, content filtering, and intrusion prevention—into a single solution, offering comprehensive protection for small to medium-sized networks . **Network Access Control (NAC)** NAC systems enforce security policies by controlling which devices and users can access the network. Non-compliant or unauthorized devices are denied access, enhancing security and regulatory compliance . **Email Security Gateways** These devices monitor email traffic to block spam, phishing, malware, and compromised accounts. They can be hardware-based or cloud-hosted, providing flexible protection for business com...

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To understand the various system aspects, Figure 1 shows a simplified reference model for network equipment interactions common

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