

Network Security Devices and Applications



Article Overview

Network security devices and applications are specialized tools and software designed to protect networks from unauthorized access, cyber threats, and data breaches.

Overview of Network Security

Network security involves safeguarding an organization's IT infrastructure using a combination of hardware, software, and cloud-based solutions. Its primary goals are to ensure confidentiality, integrity, and availability of data, prevent cyberattacks, and maintain compliance with standards like PCI DSS, HIPAA, and ISO 27001 . A defense-in-depth strategy is often employed, layering multiple security measures to protect against evolving threats .

Key Types of Network Security Devices

- **Firewalls** Firewalls act as a barrier between internal networks and external traffic, filtering connections based on IP addresses, ports, protocols, or applications. They can be hardware-based, software-based, or next-generation firewalls (NGFWs), which include features like deep packet inspection, intrusion prevention, and application awareness . Firewalls prevent unauthorized access and block malicious traffic before it reaches internal systems.
- **Intrusion Detection and Prevention Systems (IDPS/IPS)** These systems monitor network traffic for suspicious activity. IDS alerts administrators to potential threats, while IPS actively blocks malicious traffic in real-time. They use signature-based, be...

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