

# Palo Alto Networks and ZPE Systems

## Flexible edge security with a virtualized, all-in-one solution

### The Challenge

For branch networking, traditional wide area network (WAN) architectures leave you using rigid practices to stay connected and secure. You're forced to backhaul traffic through your main firewall despite your investment in networking and security hardware at each location. Your business bears the costs of bottlenecks, degraded performance, and stringent network management.

In addition to the need to address these issues, your distributed enterprise requires more flexible infrastructure that can help you protect various networks, scale quickly, and manage locations from anywhere. A virtualized solution can meet these requirements.

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### Benefits of the Integration

Using Palo Alto Networks VM-Series Virtual NGFWs hosted directly on ZPE Systems' Nodegrid devices, you can:

- Consolidate and virtualize your stack
- Deliver powerful edge networking to even the most remote branches
- Eliminate the drawbacks of traditional solutions that slow you down
- Get a more nimble edge that's simple and secure
- Reduce stacks and secure many networks with a virtualized environment
- Scale quickly using all-in-one devices and hosted security
- Cut support costs and MTTR with one interface to control your assets

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### ZPE Systems

ZPE Systems' Nodegrid family of hardware and software lets you deploy fully customized environments from the data center to the branch and everywhere in between. Featuring powerful internals, Nodegrid devices provide a robust open platform to run virtualized network functions (VNFs) and directly host third-party applications of your choice.

Branch networking no longer consists of cumbersome hardware stacks and expensive on-site support. Nodegrid all-in-one appliances eliminate the need for repeat hardware purchases—even for high availability environments—and allow you to customize further with add-on modules for

compute, serial, ethernet, and other capabilities. Coupled with built-in management software, you can see and control all of your branch networks by gaining secure access via your web browser. Deploy, scale, and manage on your terms using ZPE Systems' Nodegrid.

### Palo Alto Networks

Palo Alto Networks Next-Generation Firewalls (NGFWs) offer a prevention-focused architecture that is easy to deploy and operate. Automation reduces manual effort so your security teams can replace disconnected tools with tightly integrated innovations, focus on what matters, and enforce consistent protection everywhere.

NGFWs inspect all traffic, including all applications, threats, and content, and tie that traffic to the user, regardless of location or device type. The user, application, and content—the elements that run your business—become integral components of your enterprise's security policy. As a result, you can align security with your business policies as well as write rules that are easy to understand and maintain.

### Palo Alto Networks and ZPE Systems

Together, Palo Alto Networks and ZPE Systems form a tight integration of security and networking. For branch locations, including very remote sites, this integration eliminates many of the drawbacks of traditional edge networking.

By combining Palo Alto Networks VM-Series Virtual NGFW with ZPE Systems' Nodegrid hardware and software, you can consolidate your organization's infrastructure and get a highly customizable platform for routing, security, and more. Nodegrid allows you to run several simultaneous guest operating systems and deploy third-party applications while providing remote out-of-band management capabilities that are easily accessible via web browser. With the proven protection of the VM-Series NGFW, this integration delivers a simple, secure solution that eliminates bottlenecks, growing hardware stacks, and rigid management protocols.

You can deploy a single Nodegrid device and benefit from the hardened security of the VM-Series NGFW, whether for in-band, out-of-band, production, or other networks. Furthermore, you can manage security and other network functions from a single intuitive interface for business-friendly branch networking. This virtualized solution means you can extend security across all your networks, deploy and scale with growing demands, and gain convenient access to keep your enterprise running.

## Use Case No. 1: Space-Constrained Remote Branch Security

### Challenge

For one major oil and gas provider, achieving a highly available and highly secure environment proved difficult at their far-away drilling platforms. Physical space limitations meant there was no room for large hardware stacks. Additionally, a lack of on-site networking staff meant the potential for devastating losses if security breaches or other issues occurred.

### Solution

The enterprise successfully deployed the VM-Series NGFW hosted directly on Nodegrid devices. This allowed for networking and security via a single compact solution, with the VM-Series NGFW protecting both in-band and out-of-band networks. On top of this, Nodegrid's built-in management software allowed support staff to manage each remote network from the safety of the network operations center (NOC).

## Use Case No. 2: Simplified Edge Security at Global Scale

### Challenge

A leading digital security provider needed to streamline its branch networks. The company required a simple solution that could provide remote out-of-band management, cellular failover, and robust security, all while being easily scalable across the company's global presence.

### Solution

The company deployed the VM-Series NGFW on modular Nodegrid devices. This joint solution eliminated the need for multiple appliances and provided safe routing to every termination point, fitting seamlessly into the enterprise's overall security plan. The Palo Alto Networks and Nodegrid pairing was easy to deploy at every location.

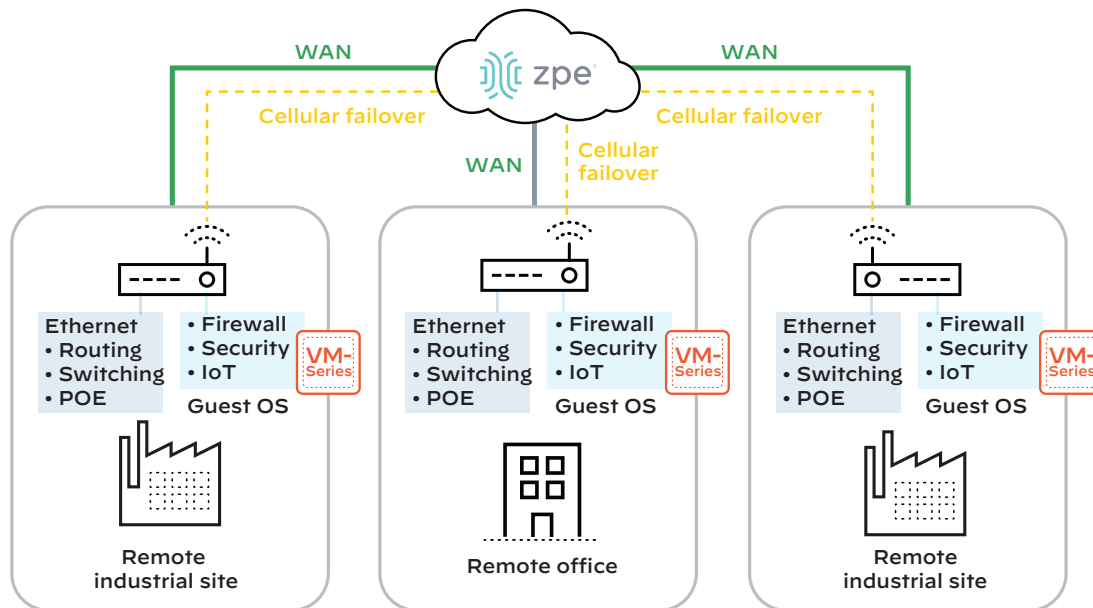
### About ZPE Systems

ZPE Systems brings more than 100 years of combined experience in data center and branch networking. Using their innovative Nodegrid platform—the industry's first open infrastructure management solution—ZPE transforms the enterprise network into a business value creator. The world's top companies trust Nodegrid for in-depth out-of-band capabilities, Secure Access Service Edge (SASE), and SD-Branch networking.

It's our mission to take the work out of networking. For more information, please visit [www.zpesystems.com](http://www.zpesystems.com).

### About Palo Alto Networks

Palo Alto Networks, the global cybersecurity leader, is shaping the cloud-centric future with technology that is transforming the way people and organizations operate. Our mission is to be the cybersecurity partner of choice, protecting our digital way of life. For more information, visit [www.paloaltonetworks.com](http://www.paloaltonetworks.com).



**Figure 1: Palo Alto Networks VM-Series and ZPE Systems Nodegrid integration**



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