

# **Palo Alto Networks Next-Generation Firewall Engineer**

## **Datasheet**

NOVEMBER 2025

The Palo Alto Networks Certified Next-Generation Firewall (NGFW) Engineer certification validates the knowledge and skill of experienced NGFW engineers and administrators in the areas of configuration of PAN-OS networking and device settings, integration and automation, creation of object configurations, creation of policies, and management and operation of next-generation firewalls in network security environments.

The purpose of this document is to help you prepare for the exam and attain the certification. Please note that this document is intended to help identify the topics covered and to provide resources and references for understanding those topics. It is not intended to be used as the sole document to prepare for the Next-Generation Firewall Engineer exam.

#### Exam Details:

- Duration: 90 minutes
- Format: Multiple-choice questions
- Language: English
- Cost: \$250 USD\*
- Delivered by Pearson VUE

\* Price may vary by country

## Audience and Qualifications

### Target Audience

This exam is designed for security professionals responsible for configuration of PAN-OS networking and device settings, integration and automation, object configurations and policies, and management and operation in network security environments.

### Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities Required

- Working knowledge of network security
- Working knowledge of TCP/IP and how traffic is directed within a network
- Working knowledge of networking infrastructure, protocols, and topology
- Basic understanding of endpoint OS fundamentals and security hardening methods
- Working knowledge of next generation firewalls and security automation technology
- Basic knowledge of current and emergent trends in information security
- Ability to use security models / architectures (e.g., defense-in-depth, Zero Trust)
- Engineering-level competency of all NGFW offerings
- Basic knowledge of programming and scripting languages (e.g., Python, Powershell, and SQL)

### Recommended Work Experience

2 to 3 years in an IT security-related field; 2 years with Palo Alto Networks NGFW solutions

### Recommended Certifications

- Palo Alto Networks Network Security Professional
- Palo Alto Networks Certified Network Security Analyst

## Blueprint

The blueprint table lists the domains covered and includes domain weighting. The percentage weights represent the portion of the exam score that is attributed to each domain. Many candidates find the table provides focus for studies during exam preparation. Also included in the blueprint table are the more specific tasks associated with each domain. Pay particular attention to these tasks, as they provide more targeted areas of study within the domains.

## **1. PAN-OS Networking Configuration 40%**

### **1.1 Configure interface**

- 1.1.1 Layer 2
- 1.1.2 Layer 3
- 1.1.3 Virtual wire
- 1.1.4 Tunnel interfaces
- 1.1.5 Aggregate Ethernet (AE)
- 1.1.6 Management

### **1.2 Configure zones**

### **1.3 Configure high availability (HA)**

- 1.3.1 Active/active
- 1.3.2 Active/passive
- 1.3.3 Link and path monitoring

### **1.4 Configure routing**

- 1.4.1 Dynamic routing protocols
- 1.4.2 Redistribution and policies
- 1.4.3 Route monitoring
- 1.4.4 Advanced Routing Engine

### **1.5 Configure GlobalProtect**

- 1.5.1 Portals
- 1.5.2 Gateways
- 1.5.3 Authentication
- 1.5.4 Split tunneling

### **1.6 Configure tunnels**

- 1.6.1 IPSec
- 1.6.2 Quantum-resistant cryptography
- 1.6.3 Generic Routing Encapsulation (GRE)

## **2. PAN-OS Device Setting Configuration 40%**

### **2.1 Implement authentication roles, profiles, and sequences**

### **2.2 Configure virtual systems (VSYS)**

- 2.2.1 Interfaces and zones
- 2.2.2 Virtual routers
- 2.2.3 Logical routers
- 2.2.4 Inter-VSYS routing and security

### **2.3 Configure logging**

- 2.3.1 Strata Logging Service
- 2.3.2 Log forwarding
- 2.3.3 Log collectors and log collector groups

### **2.4 Implement PAN-OS software updates**

### **2.5 Configure certificates**

- 2.5.1 PKI integration
- 2.5.2 Authentication
- 2.5.3 SLS/TLS profiles
- 2.5.4 Decryption (e.g., subordinate CA, forward trust/untrust)
- 2.5.5 Certificate profiles

## 2.6 Configure on-premises and Cloud Identity Engine User-ID

- 2.6.1 Group mapping and directory sync
- 2.6.2 User-to-IP mapping and user context
- 2.6.3 Redistribution and segments

## 2.7 Configure web proxy on PAN-OS

### 3. Integration and Automation 20%

#### 3.1 Install the selected deployment option

- 3.1.1 PA-Series
- 3.1.2 VM-Series
- 3.1.3 CN-Series
- 3.1.4 Cloud NGFW
- 3.1.5 AI Runtime Security

#### 3.2 Use APIs to automate deployment

#### 3.3 Manage third-party services to deploy NGFWs (e.g., Kubernetes, hypervisors, CSPs, Terraform, Ansible)

#### 3.4 Use on-premises centralized management

- 3.4.1 Panorama
- 3.4.2 Templates and device groups
- 3.4.3 Pre- and post-ruleset

#### 3.5 Build Application Command Center (ACC) dashboards and custom reports

## English as a Second Language (ESL) Accommodation

All exams are delivered worldwide in English. A 30-minute time extension is provided by default to candidates testing in non-English speaking countries.

## Learning Resources

### Learning Path

The complete Palo Alto Networks recommended learning path can be found [here](#).

### Recommended Preparation

Palo Alto Networks certification exam items are developed and approved by exam development experts in conjunction with subject matter experts (SMEs) who represent a broad spectrum of roles relevant to each certification. Each item is referenced to a publicly available technical or scholarly source.

This datasheet provides the full blueprint to which the exam items are written. A solid foundation of the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to pass this certification exam can be achieved by researching keywords from each topic area included in the blueprint—either through the use of an AI-powered browser or directly within Palo Alto Networks documentation—and completing relevant coursework found in the learning path.



3000 Tannery Way  
Santa Clara, CA 95054  
Main: +1.408.753.4000  
Sales: +1.866.320.4788  
Support: +1.866.898.9087  
[www.paloaltonetworks.com](http://www.paloaltonetworks.com)

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