

SONICWALL®

SonicOS 7.1

High Availability

Administration Guide

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About SonicOS

This guide is a part of the SonicOS collection of administrative guides that describe how to administer and monitor the SonicWall family of firewalls. SonicOS provides network administrators with the management interface, API (Application Program Interface), and Command Line Interface (CLI) for firewall configuration. You can configure and manage your firewall by setting objects to secure and protect the network services, manage traffic, and provide the desired level of network service. This guide focuses on configuring the DNS settings, the Dynamic DNS settings, and the DNS Proxy settings on your SonicWall security appliance.

Topics:

- Working with SonicOS
- SonicOS Workflow
- How to Use the SonicOS Administration Guides
- Guide Conventions

Working with SonicOS

SonicOS provides a web management interface for configuring, managing, and monitoring the features, policies, security services, connected devices, and outside threats to your network. SonicOS functions in conjunction with SonicCore, SonicWall's secure underlying operating system.

The SonicOS management interface facilitates:

- Setting up and configuring your firewall
- Configuring external devices such as access points or switches
- Configuring networks and external system options that connect to your firewall
- Defining objects and policies for protection
- Monitoring the health and status of the security appliance, network, users, and connections
- Monitoring traffic, users, and threats
- Investigating events

SonicWall offers different modes of operation in SonicOS; the modes differ mainly in the areas of policy, object configuration, and diagnostics.

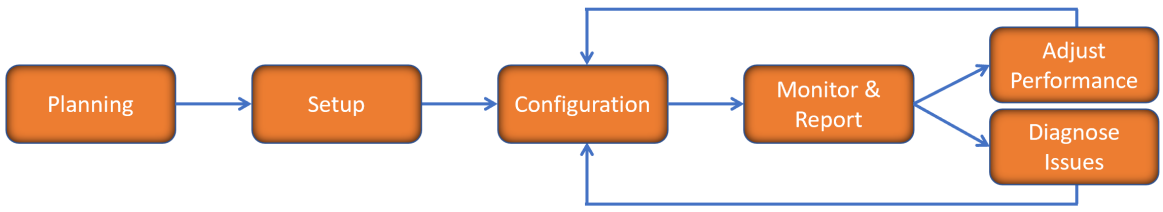
This following table identifies which of these modes can be used on various SonicWall firewalls:

Firewall Type	Comments
TZ Series	The entry level TZ Series, also known as desktop firewalls, delivers revamped features such as 5G readiness, better connectivity options, improved threat protection, SSL and decryption performance that addresses HTPPS bandwidth issues; built-in SD-WAN, and lawful TLS 1.3 decryption support. It provides advanced networking and security features, like the multi-engine Capture Advanced Threat Protection (ATP) cloud-based sandbox service with patent-pending Real-Time Deep Memory Inspection (RTDMI™).
NSa Series	NSa firewalls provide your mid-sized network with enhanced security. These firewalls are designed specifically for businesses with more than 250 workstations. The NSa provides cloud-based and on-box capabilities such as TLS/SSL decryption and inspection, application intelligence and control, SD-WAN, real-time visualization, and WLAN management.
NSsp 10700, NSsp 11700, NSsp 13700	The NSsp Series includes high-end firewalls that delivers both advanced threat protection and the fast speeds that large enterprises, data centers, and service providers require.
NSsp 15700	The NSsp 15700 is designed for large distributed enterprises, data centers, government agencies and services providers. It provides unified policy creation and modification with scalability and availability.
NSv Series	The NSv series firewalls offers all the security advantages of a physical firewall with the operational and economic benefits of virtualization. The NSv firewalls can operate in either Policy Mode or Classic Mode. You can switch between modes, but some configuration information from extra interfaces is removed.

In addition to the management interface, SonicOS also has a full-featured API and a command-line interface (CLI) to manage the firewalls.

SonicOS Workflow

When working with SonicWall products, you can use the following workflow as a guide for setting up your security solution.

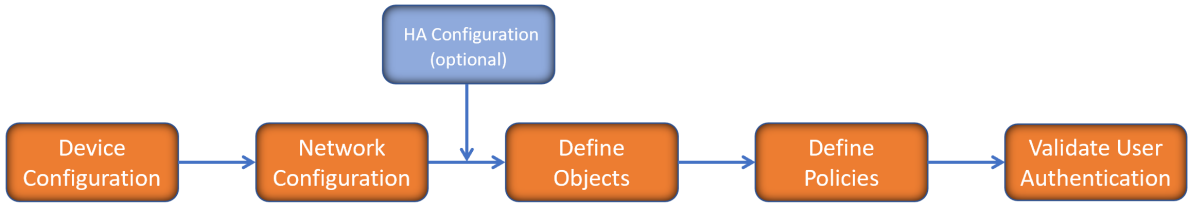


You begin your planning as you start making your purchasing decisions. Your sales partners can help you assess your network and make recommendations based on the kinds of security services you need. You can learn more about SonicWall products by reviewing product information and solutions. After selecting the solution, you can schedule your implementation.

After planning and scheduling your solution, you begin setting up the firewalls. The Getting Started Guides for your products can help you begin setting up the pieces to your solution. The getting started guides are designed to help you install the firewall to a minimal level of operation. Before performing any detailed configuration tasks described in the SonicOS Administration Guides, you should have your firewall set up and basic operation validated.

The configuration block of the workflow refers to the many tasks that combine to define how your firewall is integrated into your security solution and how it behaves when protecting your environment. Depending on the features of your security solution, this task can be quite complex. The System Administration Guides are broken into the key command sets and features. Some documents may be used for all solutions, but others may be used use only if you integrated that feature into your solution. For example, High Availability or Wireless Access Points are not necessarily used by all customers. More information about a feature's workflow is presented in the feature administration guide. Refer to the specific Administration Guide for a SonicOS feature for more information.

Configuration tends to be a one-time activity, although you might make minor adjustments after monitoring performance or after diagnosing an issue. The configuration activity can be broken down into the more detailed flow as the following figure shows. This also mirrors the key functions that are listed across the top of the management interface.

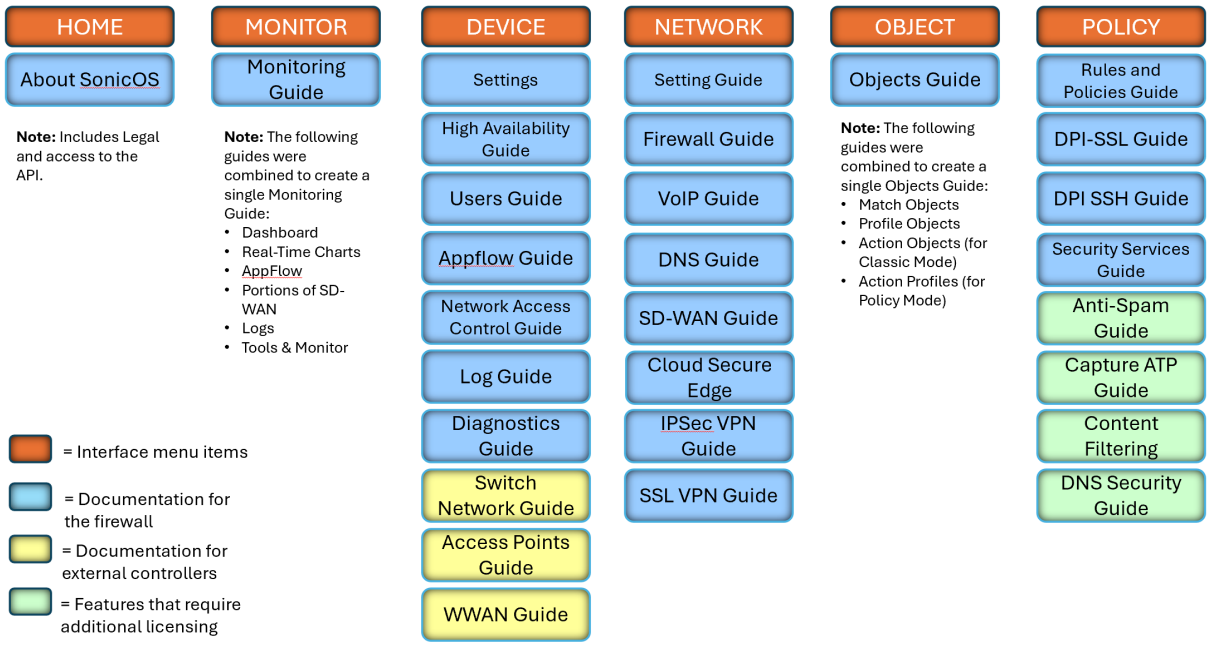


There is some flexibility in the order in which you do things, but this is the general work-flow you would follow when configuring your firewall. Start by defining the settings on the firewall. Next you set up the system and other devices that your firewall is connected to, and you can choose to implement High Availability when done. After your device, network, and system is configured, you should define the objects that you want to monitor. Then you use those objects to define the policies that protect your network. The final step to preparing your setup is to validate the user authentication.

How to Use the SonicOS Administration Guides

The *SonicOS Administration Guide* is a collection of guides that detail the features represented by each of the main menu items in the management interface. Within each guide, you can find topics covering commands in that menu group, along with procedures and in-depth information. The exceptions are the SonicOS 7.1 Monitor Guide and the SonicOS 7.1 Objects Guide which combine the topics for each of those functions into a single book.

To help you understand how the books align with the features and commands, the following figure shows the books organized like the SonicOS management interface.



The SonicOS Administration Guides, along with related documentation, such as the getting started guides, are available on the Technical Documentation portal.

Guide Conventions

These text conventions are used in this guide:

ⓘ | **NOTE:** A NOTE icon indicates supporting information.

ⓘ | **IMPORTANT:** An IMPORTANT icon indicates supporting information.

ⓘ | **TIP:** A TIP icon indicates helpful information.

△ | **CAUTION: A CAUTION icon indicates potential damage to hardware or loss of data if instructions are not followed.**

⚠ | **WARNING: A WARNING icon indicates a potential for property damage, personal injury, or death.**

Convention	Description
Bold text	Used in procedures to identify elements in the management interface like dialog boxes, windows, screen names, messages, and buttons. Also used for file names and text or values you are being instructed to select or type into the interface.
Function | Menu group > Menu item	Indicates a multiple step menu choice on the user interface. For example, **NETWORK | System > Interfaces** means to select the **NETWORK** functions at the top of the window, then click on **System** in the left navigation menu to open the menu group (if needed) and select **Interfaces** to display the page.
`Code`	Indicates sample computer programming code. If bold, it represents text to be typed in the command line interface.
<Variable>	Represents a variable name. The variable name and angle brackets need to be replaced with an actual value. For example in the segment **serialnumber=***<your serial number>*, replace the variable and brackets with the serial number from your device, such as serialnumber=2CB8ED000004.
Italics	Indicates the name of a technical manual. Also indicates emphasis on certain words in a sentence, such as the first instance of a significant term or concept.

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High Availability

This section provides conceptual information about SonicOS (HA) in SonicOS and describes how to connect the Security Appliances for HA.

Topics:

- About High Availability
- About Active/Standby HA
- About Stateful Synchronization
- Active/Standby Prerequisites
- Maintenance

About High Availability

High Availability is designed to alleviate or eliminate:

- System downtime
- Single points of failure
- Increased system load

High Availability (HA) is a redundancy design that allows two identical firewalls running SonicOS to be configured to provide a reliable, continuous connection. One firewall is configured as the Primary unit, and an identical firewall is configured as the Secondary unit. In the event of a failure on the Primary firewall, the Secondary firewall takes over to secure a reliable connection between the connected networks. Two firewalls configured in this way are known as a High Availability Pair (HA Pair).

High Availability provides a way to share **SonicWall licenses** between two firewalls when one is acting as a high-availability system for the other. To use this feature, you must register the firewalls on MySonicWall.com as Associated Products.

ⓘ | **NOTE:** Both firewalls must be the same SonicWall model and firmware.

Topics:

- High Availability Terminology
- High Availability Modes
- High Availability Encryption
- Crash Detection
- Virtual MAC Address
- Dynamic WAN Interfaces with PPPoE HA
- Stateful Synchronization with DHCP
- Stateful Synchronization with DNS Proxy
- About HA Monitoring

High Availability Terminology

HIGH AVAILABILITY TERMINOLOGY

Active	The operative condition of a hardware unit. The Active identifier is a logical role that can be assumed by either a Primary or Secondary hardware unit.
Failover	The actual process in which the Standby unit assumes the Active role following a qualified failure of the Active unit. Qualification of failure is achieved by various configurable physical and logical monitoring facilities described in Configuring High Availability.
HA	High Availability: non-stateful, hardware failover capability.
PPP	Point-to-point protocol that provides a standard method for transporting multi-protocol diagrams over point-to-point links.
PPPoE	A method for transmitting PPP over ethernet.
PPPoE HA	HA PPPoE support function without State.
Preempt	Applies to a post-failover condition in which the Primary unit has failed, and the Secondary unit has assumed the Active role. Enabling Preempt causes the Primary unit to seize the Active role from the Secondary after the Primary has been restored to a verified operational state.
Primary	The principal hardware unit itself. The Primary identifier is a manual designation and is not subject to conditional changes. Under normal operating conditions, the Primary hardware unit operates in an Active role.
Secondary (Backup)	The subordinate hardware unit itself. The Secondary identifier is a relational designation and is assumed by a unit when paired with a Primary unit. Under normal operating conditions, the Secondary unit operates in a Standby mode. Upon failure of the Primary unit, the Secondary unit assumes the Active role.
Standby (Idle)	The passive condition of a hardware unit. The Standby identifier is a logical role that can be assumed by either a Primary or Secondary hardware unit. The Standby unit assumes the Active role upon a determinable failure of the Active unit.

High Availability Modes

High Availability has several operation modes, which can be selected on **Device > High Availability > Settings.**

Choosing the right High Availability Operation mode depends on understanding the network in question, its purpose and operational needs. In planning, the administrator should understand:

- Operational requirements for up time
- Repercussions of failure
- Calculated risk to operations

Each operation mode satisfies a different scenario and without knowing the goals of High Availability, administrators risk building an unsatisfactory solution. Understanding the operational mode and how they map to requirements is fundamental. This Active/Standby mode may be further defined as to whether they are stateless or stateful to a secondary device.

Operational modes are:

- **None**—Selecting None activates a standard high availability configuration and hardware failover functionality, with the option of enabling Stateful HA.
- **Active/Standby Stateless**—Active/Standby mode provides basic high availability with the configuration of two identical firewalls as a High Availability Pair. The Active unit handles all traffic, while the Standby unit shares its configuration settings and can take over at any time to provide continuous network connectivity if the Active unit stops working. By default, Active/Standby mode is stateless, meaning that network connections and VPN tunnels must be re-established after a failover.
- **Active/Standby Stateful**—Stateful Synchronization can be licensed and enabled with Active/Standby mode. In this Stateful HA mode, the dynamic state is continuously synchronized between the Active and Standby units.

  Network connections and VPN tunnel information are continuously synchronized between the two units so that the Secondary can seamlessly assume all network responsibilities if the Primary firewall fails.

  When the Active unit encounters a fault condition, stateful failover occurs as the Standby firewall takes over the Active role with no interruptions to the existing network connections.

  ⓘ | **NOTE:** Not all information is synchronized in a stateful configuration.

High Availability Encryption

High Availability encryption adds security to the communication between appliances in a HA pair. HA control messages between active and standby firewalls, such as heartbeats, configuration sync and HA state information, are encrypted to ensure security for inter-node communication.

This option is available in Active-Standby HA mode only and does not apply to messages exchanged for stateful synchronization even in Active-Standby mode. Discovery messages (find-peer and found-peer) are transmitted without encryption. After the discovery stage, however, all control messages are encrypted between the firewalls:

- Heartbeats
- Messages used for incremental config updates
- prefSync messages
- Various messages for sending HA commands between the firewall pair
- Firmware sync messages

Crash Detection

The HA feature has a thorough self-diagnostic mechanism for both the Active and Standby Security Appliances. The failover to the standby unit occurs when critical services are affected, physical or logical link failure is detected on monitored interfaces, or when the Security Appliance loses power.

The self-checking mechanism is managed by software diagnostics, which check the complete system integrity of the Security Appliance. The diagnostics check internal system statuses, system process statuses, and network connectivity. There is a weighting mechanism on both sides to decide which side has better connectivity to avoid potential failover looping.

Critical internal system processes such as NAT, VPN, and DHCP (among others) are checked in real time. The failing service is isolated as early as possible, and the failover mechanism repairs it automatically.

Virtual MAC Address

The Virtual MAC address allows the High Availability pair to share the same MAC address, which dramatically reduces convergence time following a failover. Convergence time is the amount of time it takes for the devices in a network to adapt their routing tables to the changes introduced by high availability.

Without Virtual MAC enabled, the Active and Standby Security Appliances each use their own MAC addresses. Because the Security Appliances are using the same IP address, when a failover occurs, it breaks the mapping between the IP address and MAC address in the ARP cache of all clients and network resources. The Standby Security Appliance must issue an ARP request, announcing the new MAC address/IP address pair. Until this ARP request propagates through the network, traffic intended for the Active Security Appliance's MAC address can be lost.

The Virtual MAC address greatly simplifies this process by using the same MAC address for both the Active and Standby Security Appliances. When a failover occurs, all routes to and from the Active Security Appliance are still valid for the Standby Security Appliance. All clients and remote sites continue to use the same Virtual MAC address and IP address without interruption.

By default, this Virtual MAC address is provided by the SonicWall firmware and is different from the physical MAC address of either the Primary or Secondary Security Appliances. This eliminates the possibility of configuration errors and ensures the uniqueness of the Virtual MAC address, which prevents possible conflicts. Optionally, you can manually configure the Virtual MAC address on DEVICE | High Availability > Monitoring.

The Virtual MAC setting is available even if Stateful High Availability is not licensed. When Virtual MAC is enabled, it is always used even if Stateful Synchronization is not enabled.

Dynamic WAN Interfaces with PPPoE HA

NOTE: Dynamic WAN interfaces with PPPoE HA is not supported on the NSsp 15700. Only the DHCP Server dynamic WAN mode is supported.

PPPoE can be enabled on interfaces in non-stateful mode, HA Active/Standby mode. PPPoE HA provides HA where a Standby Security Appliance assumes connection to the PPPoE server when the Active Security Appliance fails.

NOTE: One WAN interface must be configured as PPPoE; see Configuring a WAN Interface section in the *SonicOS 7.1 Firewall Network* document available at https://www.sonicwall.com/support/technical-documentation/.

After the Active unit connects to the PPPoE server, the Security Appliance synchronizes the PPPoE session ID and server name to the Standby unit.

When the Active Security Appliance fails, it terminates the PPPoE HA connection on the client side by timing out. The Secondary Security Appliance connects to the PPPoE server, terminates the original connection on the server side, and starts a new PPPoE connection. All pre-existing network connections are rebuilt, the PPPoE sessions are re-established, and the PPP process is renegotiated.

Stateful Synchronization with DHCP

DHCP can be enabled on interfaces in both Active/Standby non-stateful and Stateful Synchronization modes.

Only the Active Security Appliance can get a DHCP lease. The Active Security Appliance synchronizes the DHCP IP address along with the DNS and gateway addresses to the Standby Security Appliance. The DHCP client ID is also synchronized, allowing this feature to work even without enabling Virtual MAC.

During a failover, the Active Security Appliance releases the DHCP lease and, as it becomes the Active unit, the Standby Security Appliance renews the DHCP lease using the existing DHCP IP address and client ID. The IP address does not change, and network traffic, including VPN tunnel traffic, continues to pass.

If the Active Security Appliance does not have an IP address when failover occurs, the Standby Security Appliance starts a new DHCP discovery.

Stateful Synchronization with DNS Proxy

DNS Proxy supports stateful synchronization of the DNS cache. When the DNS cache is added, deleted, or updated dynamically, it synchronizes to the idle Security Appliance.

About HA Monitoring

On **DEVICE | High Availability > Monitoring**, you can configure both physical and logical interface monitoring:

- By enabling physical interface monitoring, you enable link detection for the designated HA interfaces. The link is sensed at the physical layer to determine link viability.
- Logical monitoring involves configuring the SonicWall to monitor a reliable device on one or more of the connected networks.

Failure to periodically communicate with the device by the Active unit in the HA Pair triggers a failover to the Standby unit. If neither unit in the HA Pair can connect to the device, no action is taken.

The Primary and Secondary IP addresses configured on **DEVICE | High Availability > Monitoring** can be configured on interfaces, and are used for multiple purposes:

- As independent management addresses for each unit (supported on all physical and virtual interfaces)
- To allow synchronization of licenses between the Standby unit and the SonicWall licensing server
- As the source IP addresses for the probe pings sent out during logical monitoring

Configuring unique management IP addresses for both units in the HA Pair allows you to log in to each unit independently for management purposes. Note that non-management traffic is ignored if it is sent to one of these IP addresses. The Primary and Secondary Security Appliances' unique IP addresses cannot act as an active gateway; all systems connected to the interface need to use IP address configured on the network interfaces as their gateway.

If WAN monitoring IP addresses are configured, then X0 monitoring IP addresses are not required. If WAN monitoring IP addresses are not configured, then X0 monitoring IP addresses are required, because in such a scenario the Standby unit uses the X0 monitoring IP address to connect to the licensing server with all traffic routed through the Active unit.

ⓘ | **NOTE:** X0 needs to have a routeable IP.

The management IP address of the Standy unit is used to allow license synchronization with the SonicWall licensing server, which handles licensing on a per-Security Appliance basis (not per-HA Pair). Even if the Secondary unit was already registered on MySonicWall before creating the HA association, you must use the link on **Device | Settings > Licenses** to connect to the SonicWall server while accessing the Secondary Security Appliance through its management IP address (for more information, see *SonicOS 7.1 Settings* document).

When using logical monitoring, the HA Pair pings the specified Logical Probe IP address target from the Primary as well as from the Secondary unit. The IP address set in the Primary IP Address or Secondary IP Address field is used as the source IP address for the ping. If both units can successfully ping the target, no failover occurs. If both cannot successfully ping the target, no failover occurs, as SonicOS assumes that the problem is with the target, and not the Security Appliances. If one Security Appliance can ping the target but the other cannot, however, the HA Pair failovers to the unit that can ping the target.

The configuration tasks on **DEVICE | High Availability > Monitoring** are performed on the Active unit and then are automatically synchronized to the Standby.

About Active/Standby HA

HA allows two identical Security Appliances running SonicOS to be configured to provide a reliable, continuous connection to their connected networks. One Security Appliance is configured as the Active unit, and an identical

Security Appliance is configured as the Standby unit. In the event of the failure of the Active Security Appliance, the Standby Security Appliance takes over to secure a reliable connection between the connected networks. Two Security Appliances configured in this way are also known as a High Availability Pair (HA Pair).

Topics:

- Benefits of Active/Standby HA
- Working of Active/Standby HA

Benefits of Active/Standby HA

- **Increased network reliability** - In a High Availability configuration, the Secondary Security Appliance assumes all network responsibilities when the Primary unit fails, ensuring a reliable connection between the connected networks.
- **Cost-effectiveness** - is a cost-effective option for deployments that provide high availability by using redundant Security Appliances. You do not need to purchase a second set of licenses for the Secondary unit in a High Availability Pair.
- **Virtual MAC for reduced convergence time after failover** - The Virtual MAC address setting allows the HA Pair to share the same MAC address, which dramatically reduces convergence time following a failover. Convergence time is the amount of time it takes for the devices in a network to adapt their routing tables to the changes introduced by high availability. By default, the Virtual MAC address is provided by the SonicWall firmware and is different from the physical MAC address of either the Primary or Secondary Security Appliances.

Working of Active/Standby HA

HA requires one SonicWall Security Appliance configured as the Primary SonicWall, and an identical Security Appliance configured as the Secondary SonicWall. During normal operation, the Primary SonicWall is in an Active state and the Secondary SonicWall in an Standby state. If the Primary device loses connectivity, the Secondary SonicWall transitions to Active mode and assumes the configuration and role of Primary, including the interface IP addresses of the configured interfaces.

Basic Active/Standby HA provides stateless high availability. After a failover to the Secondary Security Appliance, all the pre-existing network connections must be re-established, including the VPN tunnels that must be re-negotiated. Stateful Synchronization can be licensed and enabled separately. For more information, see About Stateful Synchronization.

The failover applies to loss of functionality or network-layer connectivity on the Active SonicWall. The failover to the Standby SonicWall occurs when critical services are affected, physical or logical link failure is detected on monitored interfaces, if, not when the Active SonicWall loses power.

There are two types of synchronization for all configuration settings:

- **Incremental** - If the timestamps are in sync and a change is made on the Active unit, an incremental synchronization is pushed to the Standby unit.

- **Complete** - If the timestamps are out of sync and the Standby unit is available, a complete synchronization is pushed to the Standby unit. When incremental synchronization fails, a complete synchronization is automatically attempted

  ⓘ | **NOTE:** The complete synchronization reboots the Standby unit.

About Stateful Synchronization

Stateful Synchronization provides dramatically improved failover performance. When enabled, the network connections and VPN tunnel information is continuously synchronized between the two units so that the Standby can seamlessly assume all network responsibilities if the Active Security Appliance fails, with no interruptions to existing network connections.

Topics:

- Benefits of Stateful Synchronization
- How Does Stateful Synchronization Work?
- Example of Stateful Synchronization

Benefits of Stateful Synchronization

- **Improved reliability** - By synchronizing most critical network connection information, Stateful Synchronization prevents down time and dropped connections in case of Security Appliance failure.
- **Faster failover performance** - By maintaining continuous synchronization between the Active and Standby Security Appliances, Stateful Synchronization enables the Standby Security Appliance to take over in case of a failure with virtually no down time or loss of network connections.
- **Minimal impact on CPU performance** - Typically less than 1% usage.
- **Minimal impact on bandwidth** - Transmission of synchronization data is throttled so as not interfere with other data.

How Does Stateful Synchronization Work?

Stateful Synchronization is not load-balancing. It is an active-standby configuration where the Primary Security Appliance handles all traffic. When Stateful Synchronization is enabled, the Primary Security Appliance actively communicates with the Secondary to update most network connection information. As the Primary Security Appliance creates and updates network connection information (such as VPN tunnels, active users, connection cache entries), it immediately informs the Secondary Security Appliance. This ensures that the Secondary Security Appliance is always ready to transition to the Active state without dropping any connections.

The synchronization traffic is throttled to ensure that it does not interfere with regular network traffic. All configuration changes are performed on the Active Security Appliance and automatically propagated to the Standby Security Appliance. The High Availability pair uses the same LAN and WAN IP addresses—regardless of which Security Appliance is currently Active.

When using SonicWall Network Security Manager (NSM) to manage the Security Appliances, NSM logs into the shared WAN IP address. In case of a failover, NSM administration continues seamlessly, and NSM administrators currently logged into the Security Appliance are not logged out; however, **Get** and **Post** commands may result in a time out with no reply returned.

Synchronized and non-synchronized information table lists the information that is synchronized and information that is not currently synchronized by Stateful Synchronization.

SYNCHRONIZED AND NON-SYNCHRONIZED INFORMATION

Information that is Synchronized	Information that is not Synchronized
VPN information	Dynamic WAN clients (L2TP, PPPoE, and PPTP)
Basic connection cache	Deep Packet Inspection (GAV, IPS, and Anti Spyware)
FTP	IPHelper bindings (such as NetBIOS and DHCP)
Oracle SQL*NET	SYNFlood protection information
Real Audio	Content Filtering Service information
RTSP	VoIP protocols
GVC information	Dynamic ARP entries and ARP cache time outs
Dynamic Address Objects	Active wireless client information
DHCP server information	Wireless client packet statistics
Multicast and IGMP	Rogue AP list
Active users	
ARP	
SonicPoint and SonicWave status	
Wireless guest status	
Weighted Load Balancing information	
Dynamic Routing Configuration	

⚠ **WARNING: The configuration is synchronized, but the routing table has to be rebuilt in a failover.**

Example of Stateful Synchronization

In case of a failover, the following sequence of events occurs:

1. A PC user connects to the network, and the Active Security Appliance creates a session for the user.
2. The Active Security Appliance synchronizes with the Standby Security Appliance. The Standby now has all of the user's session information.

3. The administrator restarts the Active unit.
4. The Standby unit detects the restart of the Active unit and switches from Standby to Active.
5. Now Active Security Appliance begins to send gratuitous ARP messages to the connected switches using the same Virtual MAC address and IP address as the Active Security Appliance. No routing updates are necessary for downstream or upstream network devices.
6. When the PC user attempts to access a Web page, now Active Security Appliance has all of the user's session information and is able to continue the user's session without interruption.

Active/Standby Prerequisites

This section lists the supported platforms, provides recommendations and requirements for physically connecting the units, and describes how to register, associate, and license the units.

Topics:

- Supported Platforms and Licensing for HA
- Physically Connecting Your Security Appliances

Supported Platforms and Licensing for HA

Licenses included with the purchase of a SonicWall Security Appliance are shown in **HA licenses available with SonicWall Security Appliances** table. Some platforms require additional licensing to use the HA features.

The HA licenses included with the purchase of the SonicWall Security Appliance are shown in **HA licenses available with SonicWall Security Appliances**. Some platforms require additional licensing to use the Stateful Synchronization feature. SonicOS Expanded licenses or High Availability licenses can be purchased on MySonicWall or from a SonicWall reseller.

ⓘ **NOTE:** Stateful High Availability licenses must be activated on each Security Appliance, either by registering the unit on MySonicWall from the SonicOS management interface, or by applying the license keyset to each unit if Internet access is not available.

HA Licenses Available With Sonicwall Network Security Firewalls

Platform	Active/Standby HA	Stateful HA
TZ270/TZ270 W	Included	Optional
TZ370/TZ370 W	Included	Optional
TZ470/TZ470 W	Included	Optional
TZ570/TZ570 W/TZ570 P	Included	Optional
TZ670	Included	Optional
NSa 2700	Included	Optional
NSa 3700	Included	Optional

HA Licenses Available With Sonicwall Network Security Firewalls

Platform	Active/Standby HA	Stateful HA
NSa 4700	Included	Included
NSa 6700	Included	Included
NSsp 10700	Included	Included
NSsp 11700	Included	Included
NSSP 13700	Included	Included
NSSP 15700	Included	Included
NSv 270	Included	Included
NSv 470	Included	Included
NSv 870	Included	Included

ⓘ **NOTE:** HA Stateful licensing is not standard across all models. Enterprise class models often include HA Stateful licensing.

You can view system licenses on **DEVICE | Settings > Licenses**. This page also provides a way to log into MySonicWall and to apply licenses to a Security Appliance. For further information, see *SonicOS7.1 Settings* document.

There is also a way to synchronize licenses for an HA pair whose Security Appliances do not have Internet access. When live communication with SonicWall's licensing server is not permitted due to network policy, you can use license keysets to manually apply security services licenses to your Security Appliances. When you register a Security Appliance on MySonicWall, a license keyset is generated for the Security Appliance. If you add a new security service license, the keyset is updated. However, until you apply the licenses to the Security Appliance, it cannot perform the licensed services.

ⓘ **IMPORTANT:** In a High Availability deployment without Internet connectivity, you must apply the license keyset to both of the Security Appliances in the HA pair.

ⓘ **IMPORTANT:** Even if you first register your Security Appliances on MySonicWall, you must individually register both the Primary and the Secondary Security Appliances from the SonicOS management interface while logged into the individual management IP address of each Security Appliance. This allows the Secondary unit to synchronize with the SonicWall license server and share licenses with the associated Primary Security Appliance. When Internet access is restricted, you can manually apply the shared licenses to both Security Appliances.

Physically Connecting Your Security Appliances

ⓘ **NOTE:** For complete procedures for connecting your Security Appliances, see the Quick Start Guide for your Security Appliance. For procedures for connecting Active/Active Cluster Security Appliances, see Connecting the HA Ports for Active/Active Clustering and Connecting Redundant Port Interfaces.

ⓘ **NOTE:** If you are connecting the Primary and Secondary Security Appliances to an Ethernet switch that uses the spanning tree protocol, be aware that it may be necessary to adjust the link activation time on the switch port to which the SonicWall interfaces connect.

High Availability requires additional physical connections among the affected SonicWall Security Appliances.

In any High Availability deployment, you must physically connect the interfaces of all units to the appropriate switches.

It is important that the X0 interfaces from all units be connected to the same broadcast domain. Otherwise, traffic failover does not work. Also, X0 is the default redundant HA port; if the normal HA Control link fails, X0 interfaces are used to communicate heartbeats between units. Without X0 in the same broadcast domain, both units would become active if the HA Control link fails.

ⓘ | **NOTE:** If X0 interfaces are not used to communicate, the units should be connected directly to each other.

ⓘ | **TIP:** SonicOS Security Appliances now allow heartbeats to be exchanged between an HA pair across the MGMT interface in addition to the HA control interface.

A WAN connection to the Internet is useful for registering your Security Appliances on MySonicWall and for synchronizing licensing information. Unless live communication with SonicWall's licensing server is not permitted due to network policy, the WAN interface should be connected before registration and licensing are performed.

Maintenance

Topics:

- Removing an HA Association
- Replacing a SonicWall Security Appliance

Removing an HA Association

You can remove the association between two SonicWall Security Appliances on MySonicWall at any time. You might need to remove an existing HA association if you replace a Security Appliance or reconfigure your network. For example, if one of your SonicWall Security Appliances fails and you need to replace it, or you might need to switch the HA Primary Security Appliance with the Secondary, or HA Secondary, unit after a network reconfiguration. In either case, you must first remove the existing HA association, and then create a new association that uses a new Security Appliance or changes the parent-child relationship of the two units (see Replacing a SonicWall Security Appliance).

To remove the association between two registered SonicWall Security Appliances:

1. Log in to MySonicWall.
2. In the left navigation bar, navigate to **My Workspace > Tenant Products**.
3. Scroll down to find the secondary Security Appliance from which you want to remove associations. Click the **serial number**.
4. On the **Products Details** page, scroll down to the **Parent Products** section, just below the **Associated Products** section.

5. Under **Parent Products**, to remove the association for this Security Appliance:
    a. Click **Remove** under **ACTIONS**.
    b. Wait for the page to reload.
    c. Scroll down.
    d. Click **Remove** again.

Replacing a SonicWall Security Appliance

If your SonicWall Security Appliance has a hardware failure while still under warranty, SonicWall will replace it. In this case, you need to remove the HA association containing the failed Security Appliance in MySonicWall, and add a new HA association that includes the replacement. If you contact SonicWall Technical Support to arrange the replacement (known as an RMA), Support can help with this process.

After replacing the failed Security Appliance in your equipment rack with the new unit, you can update MySonicWall and your SonicOS configuration.

Replacing a failed HA Primary unit is slightly different than replacing an HA Secondary unit. Both procedures are provided in these sections:

- Replacing an HA Primary Unit
- Replacing an HA Secondary Unit

Replacing an HA Primary Unit

To replace an HA Primary unit:

1. In the SonicOS management interface of the remaining SonicWall Security Appliance (the Secondary unit), on the High Availability page, uncheck **Enable High Availability** to disable it.
2. Check **Enable High Availability**.
   The old Secondary unit now becomes the Primary unit. Its serial number is automatically displayed in the Primary SonicWall Serial Number field.
3. Type the serial number for the replacement unit into the **Secondary Device** field.
4. Click **Synchronize Settings**.
5. On MySonicWall, remove the old HA association. See Removing an HA Association.
6. On MySonicWall, register the replacement SonicWall Security Appliance and create an HA association with the new Primary (original Secondary) unit as the HA Primary, and the replacement unit as the HA Secondary.
7. Contact SonicWall Technical Support to transfer the security services licenses from the former HA Pair to the new HA Pair.
   This step is required when the HA Primary unit has failed because the licenses are linked to the Primary unit in an HA Pair.

Replacing an HA Secondary Unit

To replace an HA Secondary unit:

1. On MySonicWall, remove the old HA association as described in Removing an HA Association.
2. On MySonicWall, register the replacement SonicWall Security Appliance.
3. Create an HA association with the original HA Primary, using the replacement unit as the HA Secondary as described in Replacing an HA Primary Unit.

3

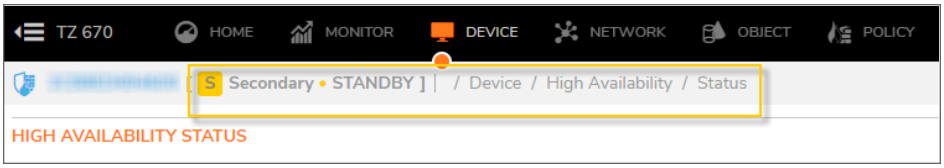
High Availability Status

Topics:

- Active/Standby High Availability Status

The **DEVICE | High Availability > Status** page displays the current status of the High Availability pair, including state of primary and secondary units, mode and link configuration, and licenses.

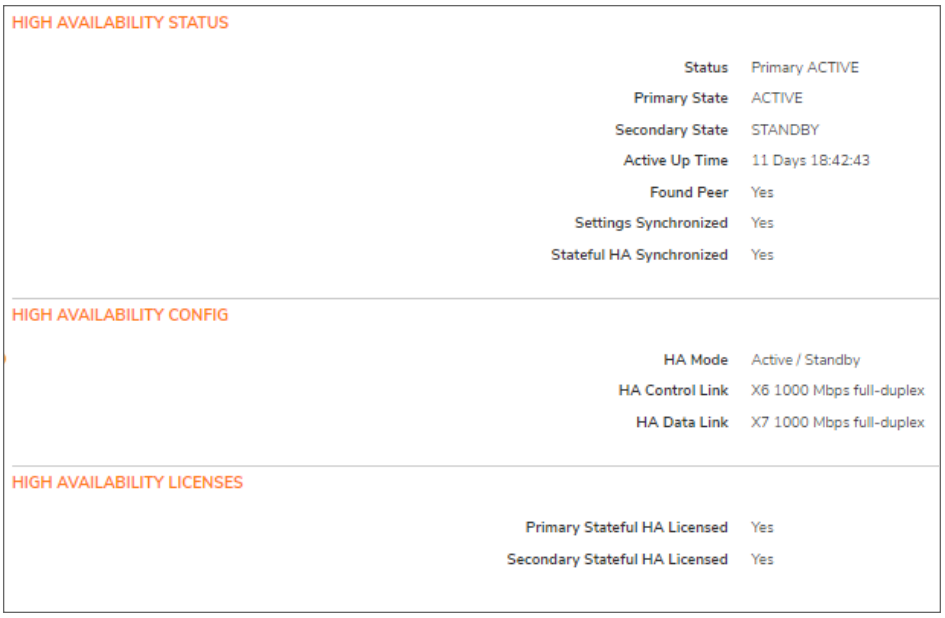
At the top of the page, you can see which unit you are logged into, **Primary** or **Secondary**, and whether the unit is in the **Active** or **Standby** state.



In the event that the Primary unit has a failure, you can view the status by accessing the management interface of the Secondary unit at the Primary unit virtual IP address or the Secondary unit unique IP address. When the Active unit restarts after a failure, it is accessible using the unique IP address created on the **DEVICE | High Availability > Monitoring** page. If preempt mode is enabled, the Primary unit immediately takes over as the Active firewall and the Secondary unit returns to Standby status.

Active/Standby High Availability Status

Active/Standby High Availability provides basic high availability with the configuration of two identical firewalls as a High Availability pair. On a firewall that belongs to an Active/Standby HA pair, the **DEVICE | High Availability > Status** page displays information about the state, configuration, and licenses on the HA pair.



Topics:

- High Availability Status
- High Availability Config
- High Availability Licenses

High Availability Status

The **High Availability Status** section on the **DEVICE | High Availability > Status** page displays the following information:

- **Status** - Indicates the High Availability status of the current firewall. The possible values are:
  - **Primary Active** - Indicates that the current appliance is the Primary unit in the ACTIVE state.
  - **Primary Standby** - Indicates that the current appliance is the Primary unit in the STANDBY state.
  - **Primary Disabled** - Indicates that the current appliance is the Primary unit, but High Availability has not been enabled.
  - **Primary not in a steady state** - Indicates that the current appliance is the Primary unit, HA is enabled, and the appliance is neither in the ACTIVE nor the STANDBY state.
- **Primary State** - Indicates the current state of the Primary appliance as a member of an HA Pair. The Primary State field is displayed on both the Primary and the Secondary appliances. The possible values are:
  - **ACTIVE** - Indicates that the Primary unit is handling all the network traffic except management/monitoring/licensing traffic destined to the standby unit.

    - **STANDBY** - Indicates that the Primary unit is passive and is ready to take over on a failover.
    - **ELECTION** - Indicates that the Primary and Secondary units are negotiating which should be the ACTIVE unit.
    - **SYNC** - Indicates that the Primary unit is synchronizing settings or firmware to the Secondary.
    - **ERROR** - Indicates that the Primary unit has reached an error condition.
    - **REBOOT** - Indicates that the Primary unit is rebooting.
    - **NONE** - When viewed on the Primary unit, **NONE** indicates that HA is not enabled on the Primary. When viewed on the Secondary unit, **NONE** indicates that the Secondary unit is not receiving heartbeats from the Primary unit.
- **Secondary State** - Indicates the current state of the Secondary appliance as a member of an HA Pair. The Secondary State field is displayed on both the Primary and the Secondary appliances. The possible values are:
    - **ACTIVE** - Indicates that the Secondary unit is handling all the network traffic except management/monitoring/licensing traffic destined to the standby unit.
    - **STANDBY** - Indicates that the Secondary unit is passive and is ready to take over on a failover.
    - **ELECTION** - Indicates that the Secondary and Primary units are negotiating which should be the ACTIVE unit.
    - **SYNC** - Indicates that the Secondary unit is synchronizing settings or firmware with the Primary.
    - **ERROR** - Indicates that the Secondary unit has reached an error condition.
    - **REBOOT** - Indicates that the Secondary unit is rebooting.
    - **NONE** - When viewed on the Secondary unit, NONE indicates that HA is not enabled on the Secondary. When viewed on the Primary unit, NONE indicates that the Primary unit is not receiving heartbeats from the Secondary unit.
- **Active Up Time** - Indicates how long the current Active firewall has been Active, since it last became Active. If the unit is not part of an HA pair, this line displays High Availability Disabled.
- **Found Peer** - Indicates if the Primary unit has discovered the Secondary unit. Possible values are **Yes** and **No**.
- **Settings Synchronized** - Indicates if HA settings are synchronized between the Primary and Secondary units. Possible values are **Yes** and **No**.
- **Stateful HA Synchronized** - Indicates if stateful synchronization settings are synchronized between the Primary and Secondary units. Possible values are **Yes** and **No**.

High Availability Config

The **High Availability Config** section on the **Device > High Availability > Settings** page provides the following information:

- **HA Mode** - Indicates one of:
  - **None** - High Availability is not enabled on the unit.
  - **Active/Standby** - Active/Standby mode provides basic high availability with the configuration of two identical firewalls as a High Availability Pair. By default, Active/Standby mode is stateless, meaning that network connections and VPN tunnels must be re-established after a failover. To avoid this, Stateful Synchronization can be licensed and enabled with Active/Standby mode.
  - **Active/Active DPI** - Active/Active Deep Packet Inspection (DPI) mode can be used along with the Active/Standby mode. When Active/Active DPI mode is enabled, the processor intensive DPI services, such as Intrusion Prevention (IPS), Gateway Anti-Virus (GAV), and Anti-Spyware are processed on the standby unit, while other services, such as firewall, NAT, and other types of traffic are concurrently processed on the Active unit.
  - **Active/Active Clustering** - In this mode, multiple firewalls are grouped together as cluster nodes, with multiple Active units processing traffic (as multiple gateways), doing DPI and sharing the network load. Each cluster node consists of two units acting as a Stateful HA pair. Active/Active Clustering provides Stateful Failover support in addition to load-sharing. Optionally, each cluster node can also consist of a single unit, in which case Stateful Failover and Active/Active DPI are not available.
  - **Active/Active DPI Clustering** - This mode allows for the configuration of up to four HA cluster nodes for failover and load sharing, where the nodes load balance the application of DPI security services to network traffic.
- **HA Control Link** - Indicates the port, speed, and duplex settings of the HA control link, such as **X6 1 Gbps Full Duplex**. When High Availability is not enabled, the field displays not configured. The HA control link is used to communicate heartbeats and other control traffic between the units. If the HA control link fails, X0 is used to communicate heartbeats between units; therefore heartbeats on both units should be in the same broadcast domain.
- **HA Data Link** - Indicates the port, speed, and duplex settings of the HA data link, such as **X7 1 Gbps Full Duplex**. When High Availability is not enabled, the field displays not configured. The HA data link is used to transfer stateful data to keep session data synchronized between the units. The HA Data Link is not required when running in non-stateful HA.

High Availability Licenses

The **High Availability Licenses** section on the **DEVICE | High Availability > Status** page provides the following information:

- **Primary Stateful HA Licensed** - Indicates if the Primary appliance is licensed for Stateful HA. Possible values are **Yes** or **No**. With Stateful HA licensed and enabled, the dynamic state is continuously synchronized between the Active and Standby units. When the Active unit encounters a fault condition, stateful failover occurs as the Standby firewall takes over the Active role with no interruptions to the existing network connections.
- **Secondary Stateful HA Licensed** - Indicates if the Secondary appliance has a Stateful HA license. Possible values are Yes or No. Note that the Stateful HA license is shared with the Primary, but you must

access MySonicWall at https://www.mysonicwall.com while logged into the unique management IP address of the Secondary unit in order to synchronize with the SonicWall licensing server.

4

Configuring High Availability

Topics:

- Configuring Active/Standby High Availability Settings
- Configuring HA with Dynamic WAN Interfaces

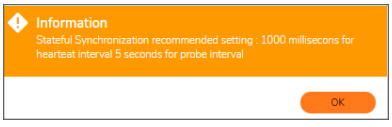
IMPORTANT: High Availability cannot be used along with PortShield except with the SonicWall Switches. Before configuring HA, remove any existing PortShield configuration from **NETWORK | System > PortShield Groups**. For more information, go to https://www.sonicwall.com/support/technical-documentation/ and search for the SonicWall TZ Series in the Select A Product field.

Configuring Active/Standby High Availability Settings

The configuration tasks on **DEVICE | High Availability > Settings** are performed on the Primary firewall and then are automatically synchronized to the Secondary firewall.

To configure Active/Standby:

1. Navigate to **DEVICE | High Availability > Settings**.
2. In **GENERAL SETTINGS** section, do the following:
    a. Select **Active / Standby** from the **Mode** drop-down field.
    b. (Optional) If Licensed, select **Enable Stateful Synchronization**. This option is not selected by default.
    When Stateful High Availability is not enabled, session state is not synchronized between the Primary and Secondary firewalls. If a failover occurs, any session that had been active at the time of failover needs to be renegotiated.
    c. (Optional) Click **OK** in the information dialog displayed.



d. (Optional) To configure the High Availability Pair so that the Primary firewall takes back the Primary role when it restarts after a failure, select **Enable Preempt Mode**. This option is not selected by default.

   ⓘ | **TIP:** It is recommended that preempt mode be disabled when enabling Stateful High Availability because preempt mode can be over-aggressive about failing over to the Standby firewall.

e. (Optional) Click **OK**.

f. (Optional) Select **Enable Virtual MAC** to allow the Primary and Secondary firewalls to share a single MAC address. This greatly simplifies the process of updating network ARP tables and caches when a failover occurs. This option is not selected by default.

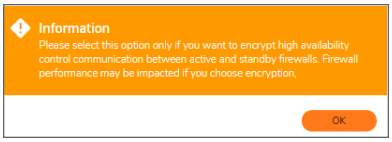
   ⓘ | **IMPORTANT:** If PPPoE Unnumbered is configured, you must select Enable Virtual MAC.

   Only the switch to which the two firewalls are connected needs to be notified. All outside devices continue to route to the single shared MAC address.

g. (Optional) To encrypt HA control communication between the active and standby firewalls, select Enable Encryption for Control Communication. This option is not selected by default.

   ⓘ | **IMPORTANT:** Firewall performance may be affected if you choose encryption.

   A confirmation message displays:



h. (Optional) Click **OK**.

3. In the **HA DEVICES** section, enter the Serial Number of the **SECONDARY DEVICE**.

   The serial number for the Primary Device is displayed, but the field is dimmed and cannot be edited.



4. In the **HA INTERFACES** section:

   a. Select the interface for the **HA Control Interface**.

      This option is dimmed and the interface displayed if the firewall detects that the interface is already configured.

   b. (Optional) Select the interface for the **HA Data Interface**.

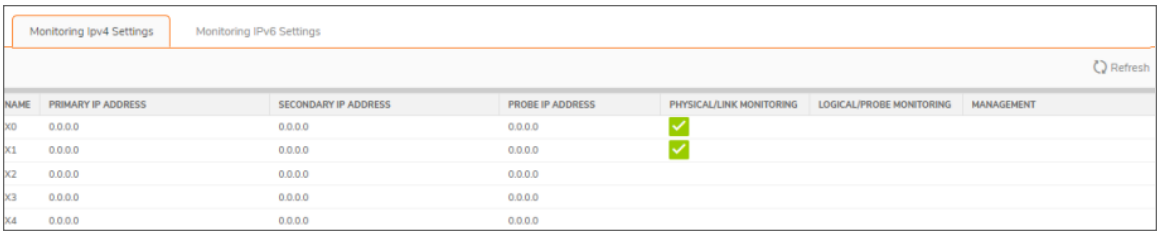
   c. When finished with all High Availability configuration, click **Accept**. All settings are synchronized to the Secondary firewall, and the Secondary firewall reboots.

Configuring HA with Dynamic WAN Interfaces

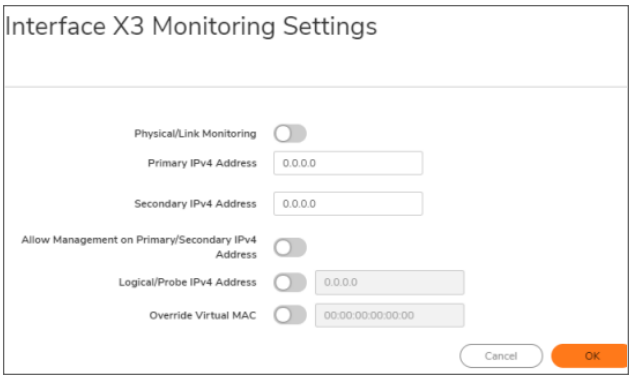
The configuration tasks on **DEVICE | High Availability > Settings** are performed on the Active firewall and then are automatically synchronized to the Standby firewall.

To configure HA with a dynamic WAN interface:

1. Navigate to **NETWORK | System > Interfaces**.
2. Configure a WAN interface as PPPoE, as described in *Configuring a WAN Interface* in the *SonicOS 7.0 Firewall Network* document available at https://www.sonicwall.com/support/technical-documentation/.
3. Navigate to **DEVICE | High Availability > Settings**.
4. In **GENERAL SETTINGS** section, do the following:
    a. Select **Active/Passive** from the **Mode** drop-down field.
    b. Click **OK**.
    c. Ensure **Enable Stateful Synchronization** is not selected. This option is not selected by default and may require additional licensing.
    d. Ensure **Enable Preempt Mode** is not selected. This option is not selected by default.
    e. Select **Enable Virtual MAC** to allow the Primary and Secondary firewalls to share a single MAC address. This greatly simplifies the process of updating network ARP tables and caches when a failover occurs. This option is not selected by default.
    f. If PPPoE Unnumbered is configured, you must select Enable Virtual MAC.
    g. Only the switch to which the two firewalls are connected needs to be notified. All outside devices continue to route to the single shared MAC address.
5. Configure HA Devices and HA Interfaces options as described in Configuring Active/Standby High Availability Settings.
6. Click **Accept**.
7. Navigate to **DEVICE | High Availability > Monitoring**.



8. Hover over the PPPoE interface and click **Edit** icon.
   Interface Monitoring Settings dialog is displayed.



9. Enable **Physical/Link Monitoring**. This option is not selected by default.
10. Ensure the **Primary IPv4 Address** and **Secondary IPv4 Address** fields are set to 0.0.0.0.
11. Ensure none of the other options are selected.
12. Click **OK**.

5

Configuring High Availability in the Cloud Platform

Topics:

- Set up an Active/Standby High Availability Configuration Using Azure

Set up an Active/Standby High Availability Configuration Using Azure

SonicWall NSv series brings industry-leading NGFW capabilities, such as application intelligence and control, real-time monitoring, IPS, TLS/SSL decryption and inspection, advanced threat protection, VPN, and Network segmentation capabilities, to protect your Azure environment. The following scenario will show how to deploy a high-availability environment using two Sonicwall NSv in Microsoft Azure's cloud platform.

Azure lets you add cloud capabilities to your existing network through its platform as a service (PaaS) model or entrust Microsoft with all your computing and network needs with Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS).

Product Matrix Table:

Product Models	NSv 270	NSv 470	NSv 870
Maximum Cores	2	4	8
Minimum Total Cores	2	2	2
Management Cores	1	1	1
Maximum Data Plane Cores	1	3	7
Minimum Data Plane Cores	1	1	1

NOTE: HA requires a minimum of three interfaces for High-Availability Exchange Messages. Hence, the VM size should be selected as Standard D3_V2 for GEN 7 template deployment. By default, the SonicWall custom template already sets the value Standard_D3_v2.

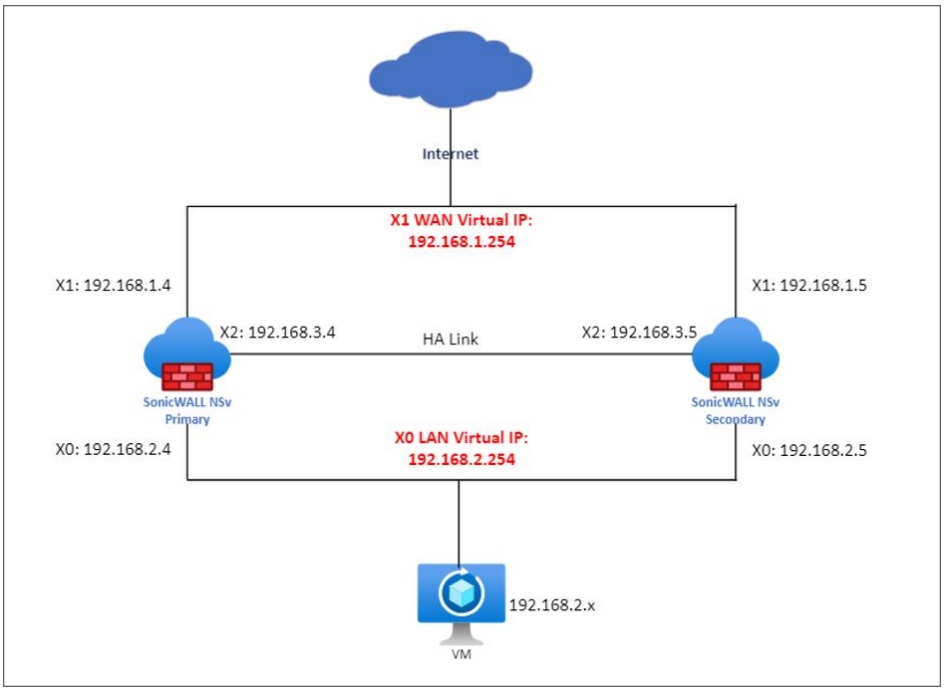
For example, the following IP addresses are used in this guide.

GEN7NSvHA-01	
Vnet	192.168.0.0/16
Resource Group	High Availability Standby
WAN IP X1	192.168.1.4/24
LAN IP X0	192.168.2.4/24
HA IP X2	192.168.3.4/24

GEN7NSvHA-02	
Vnet	192.168.0.0/16
Resource Group	High Availability Standby
WAN IP X1	192.168.1.5/24
LAN IP X0	192.168.2.5/24
HA IP X2	192.168.3.5/24

NOTE: For the HA interface, use only /24 subnet. There is no such limitation for other interfaces like X0 or X1.

Topology:



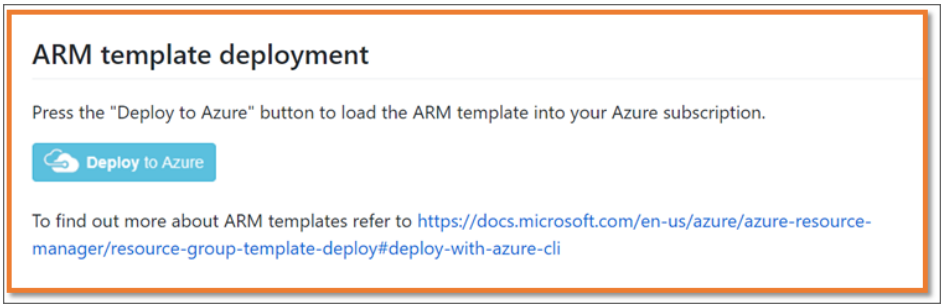
Topics:

- Install the Custom Template
- Enable Identity of Both Virtual Machines (HA1 and HA2)
- Role Assignment
- Check the Networking Tab
- Configuring Active NSv Firewall Using the Associated Public IP
- Configuring Standby NSv Firewall Using the Associated Public IP
- Enable the L3 Mode
- Configuring Active NSv Firewall Using the Floating Public IP
- Configuring HA to Active/Standby with L3 HA link
- Adding Additional Floating Public IP

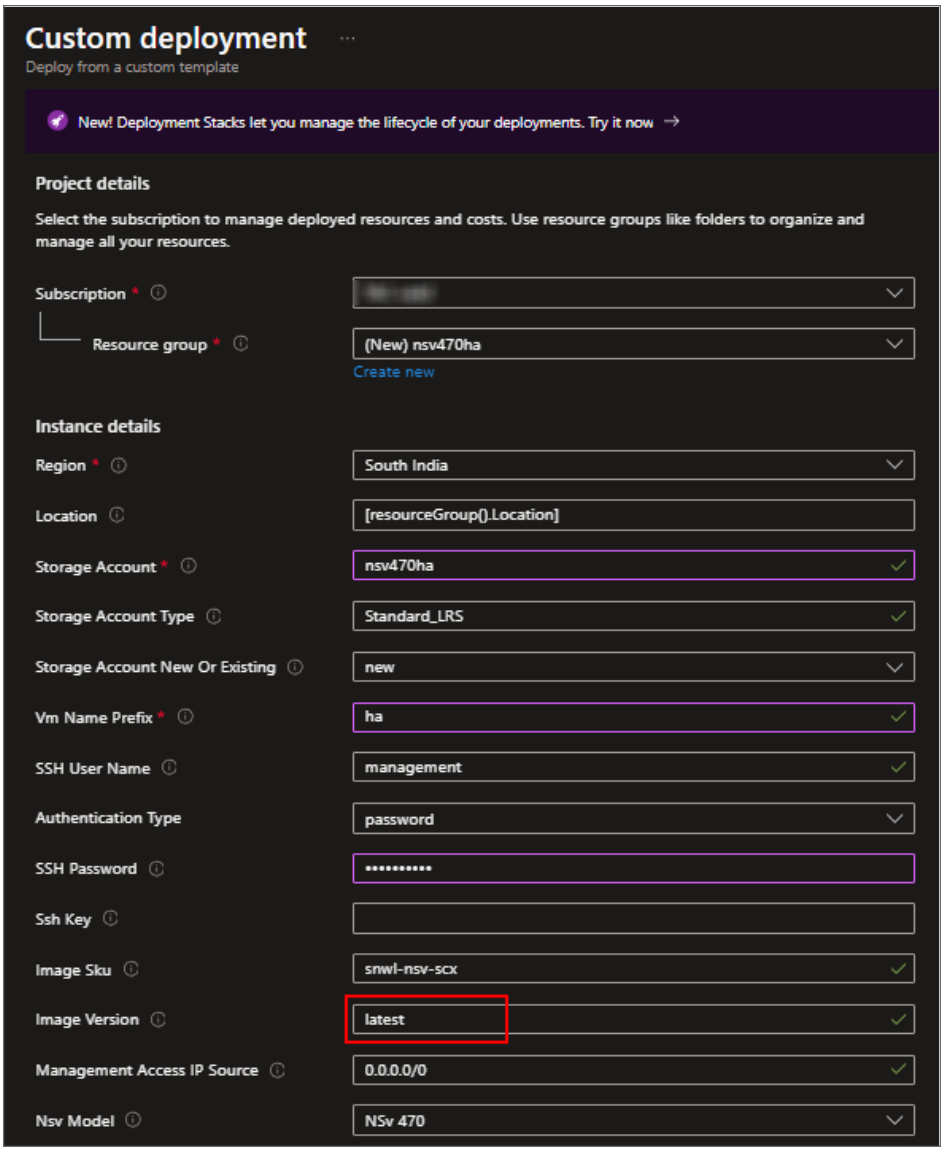
Install the Custom Template

SonicWall provides a custom template with default values that have already set up according to best practices. To install the custom Template, please access the SonicWall GitHub Repository through the link below, following the steps:

1. In your browser, navigate to **https://github.com/sonicwall-NSv/azure-template/tree/feature/HA**, scroll down, and click **Deploy to Azure**.

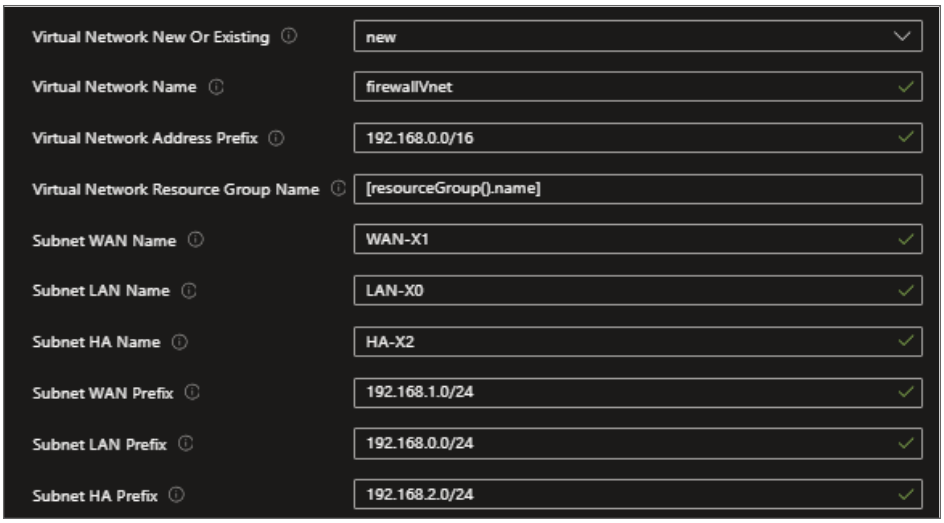


2. Log in to the **Azure Portal** using valid credentials.
3. The following custom **Template** will appear. Proceed through the tabs and fill in the blank spaces, such as Resource Group (SonicWall recommends creating a NEW one), Storage Account, etc.



NOTE: Please store the "SSH Password" and "Key pair" safely. They will be required when Console or SSH access to the firewall is needed.

NOTE: Please leave the Image Version tab as the default value “latest” to install the Gen 7 NSv Firewall.

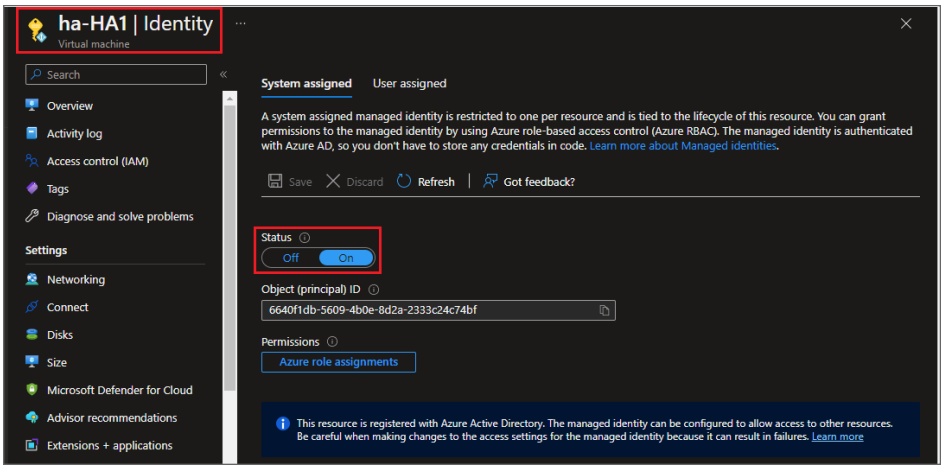


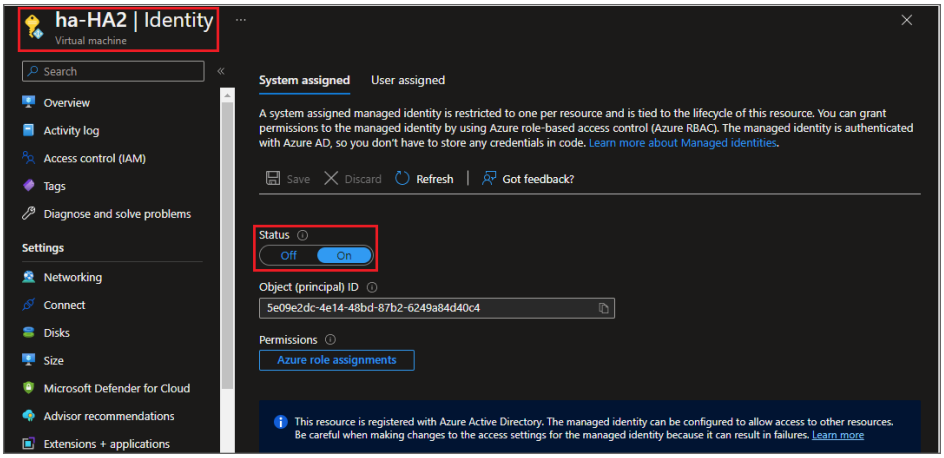
The custom template brings up two Virtual Machines (HA1 and HA2) with LAN, WAN, and HA Interfaces, which are all necessary to complete the deployment successfully.

Enable Identity of Both Virtual Machines (HA1 and HA2)

To enable Identity:

1. Access the **All Services** > **Virtual machine** page on the left panel.
2. Search for the Primary VM you created during deployment. On the left panel, select **Identity** and change the status to **ON** (if it is already configured through the template, please leave it as the default).
3. Repeat the steps 1 and 2 to the **Secondary VM**.



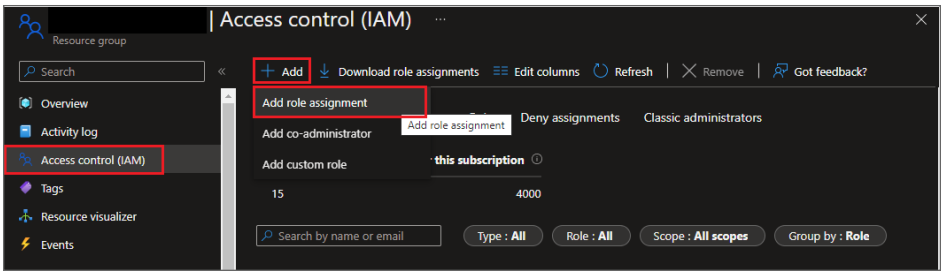


Role Assignment

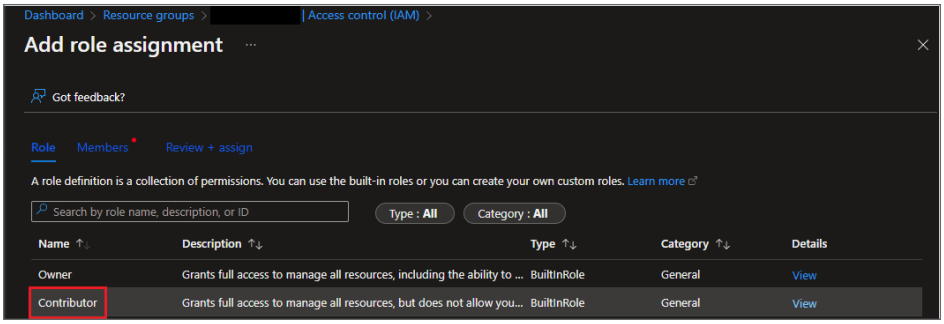
As the next step, you will add Role Assignment to the Resource Group.

The role assignment “Contributor” should be set to the Resource Group since it will allow the firewalls to exchange High Availability information. To do that, follow the steps below:

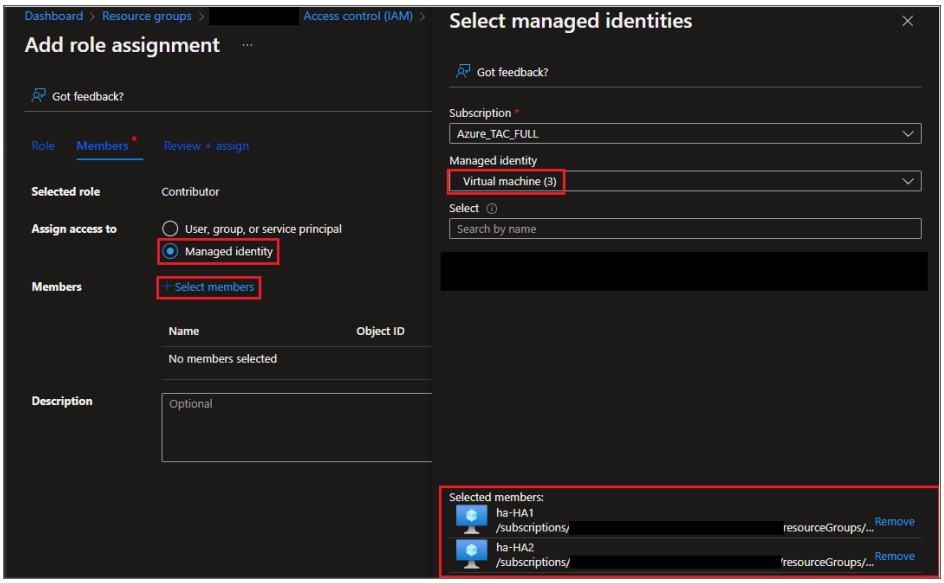
1. Navigate to the **Dashboard**. On the search bar, search for the Resource Group you created during deployment. On the left panel, select **Access Control (IAM)**.
2. Click **Add** > **Add role assignment**.



3. Click **Contributor**.



4. In Contributor, select **Managed Identity**, check if you are in the right subscription, and drop Managed Identity. Select Virtual Machine and select **HA1 and H2 VMs to provide permissions** (if it is already configured through the template, please leave it as the default).

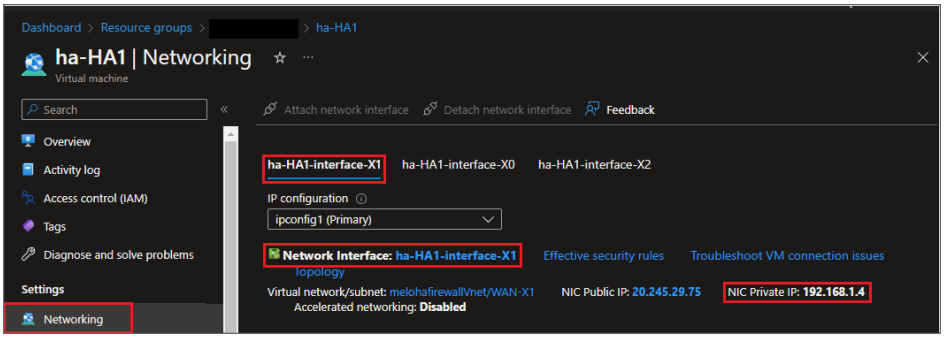


NOTE: It is recommended that VNet and NSv Virtual Machines be in the same Resource Group. If they are in separate Resource Groups, NSv Virtual Machines must also be added as Contributors to the VNet Resource Group.

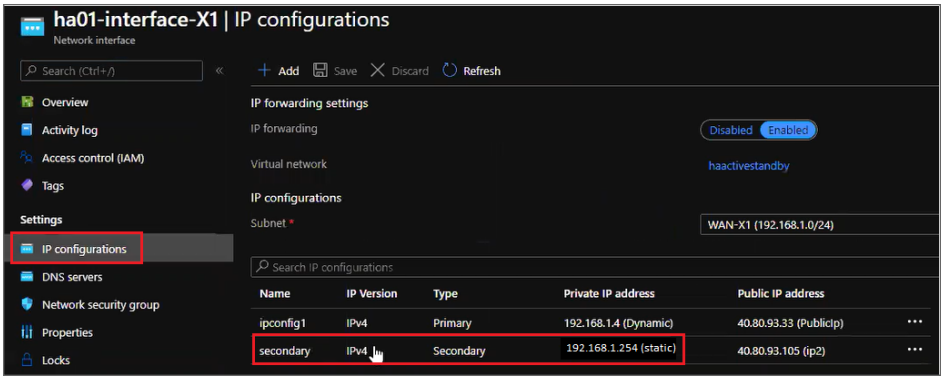
Check the Networking Tab

For the next step, we are going to check the **Networking** tab.

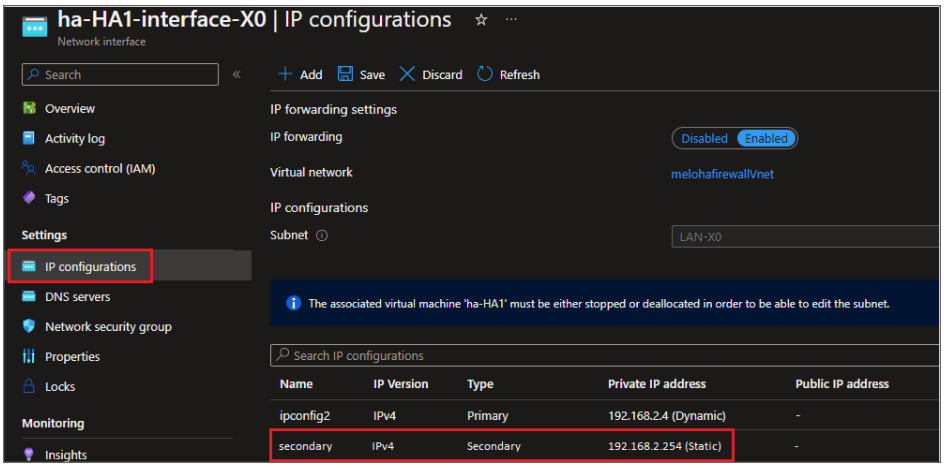
1. Access **All Services** > **Virtual machine** page is on the left panel.
2. Search for the **Primary VM (HA1)** you created during deployment.
3. On the left menu, access the **Networking** tab.
4. Select **ha-HA1-Interface-X1** > **Network Interface ha-HA1-Interface-X1** > **IP Configurations**.



You will note that the template automatically configures an additional Secondary Interface, which acts as a virtual IP address. Virtual IP address should be for both the WAN and LAN Interfaces. Therefore, these IPs will be necessary for the next part of the configuration.



Repeat the previous steps to access **HA1-interface-X0** and check the **Secondary Interface**.



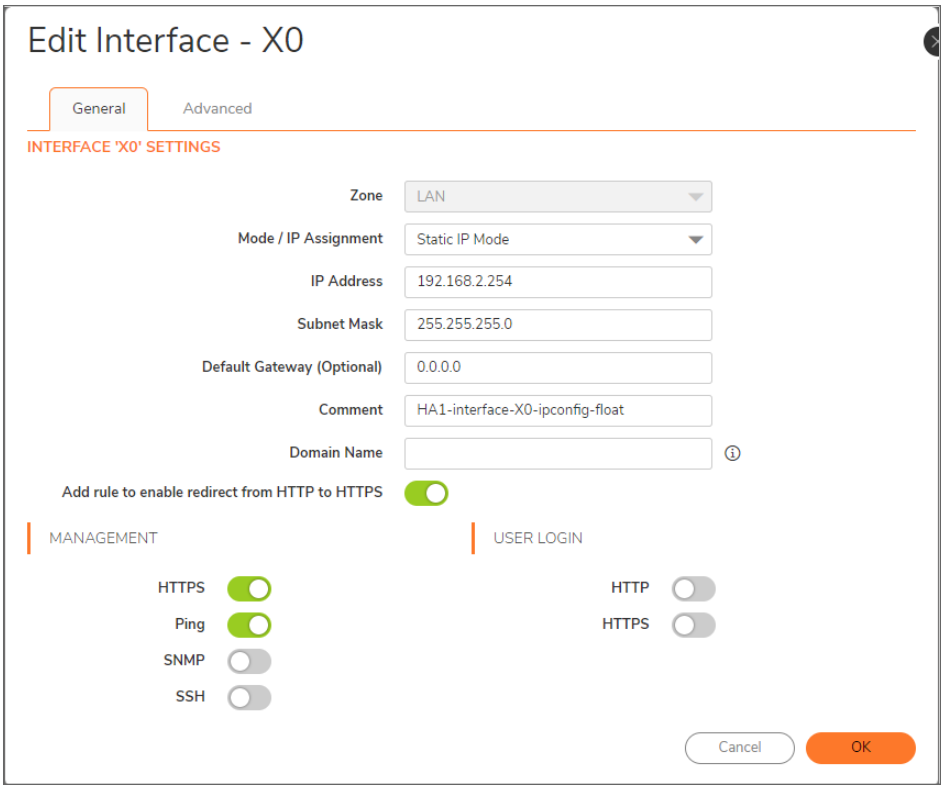
Now you've check that the **Secondary Interface** IP address is provided on both X1 and X0 interfaces, you will set those IPs on the Active NSv Firewall as shown in the next steps.

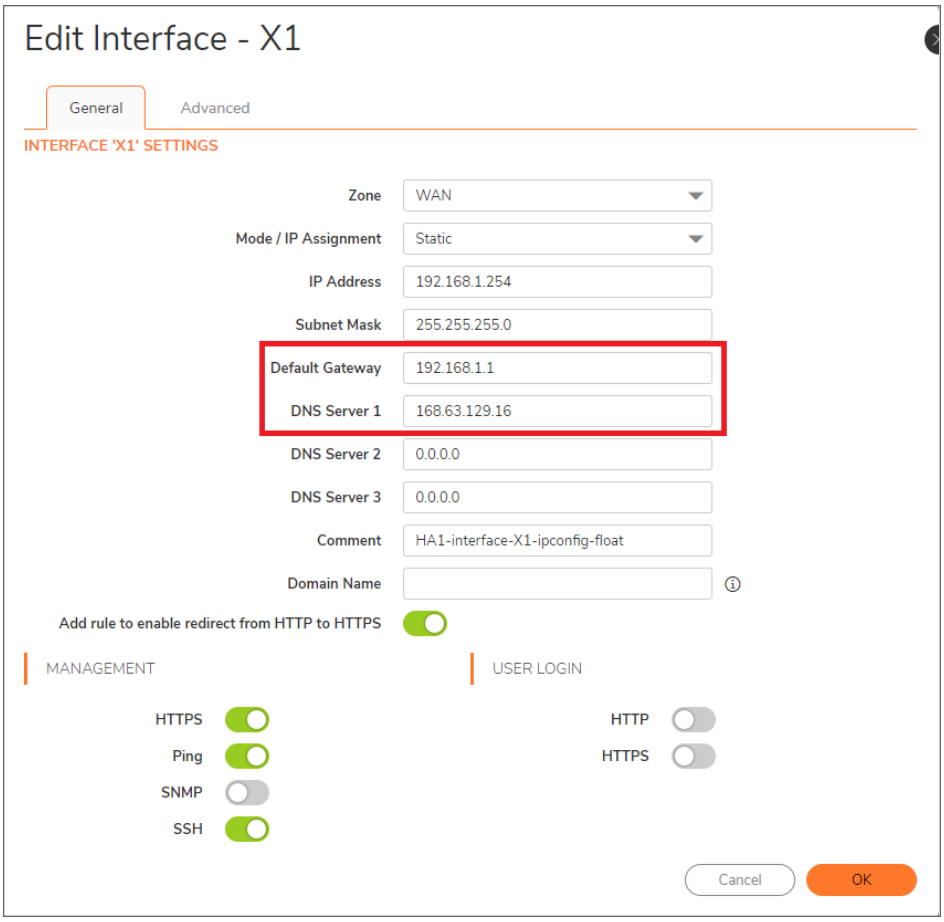
ⓘ | **NOTE:** For the first login, it's going to be necessary to Register the appliance.

Configuring Active NSv Firewall Using the Associated Public IP

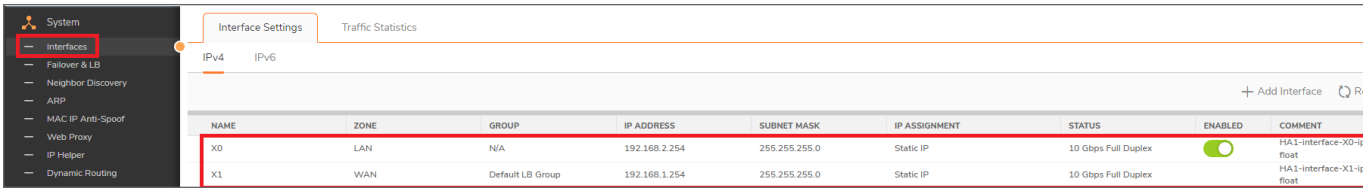
Once you are logged in, **register the appliance first**. After the registration, follow the steps below.

1. Navigate to **Network** > **System** > **Interfaces**. Change the X0 configuration first, and then X1, as shown below. You will lose access after you change X1.


Edit Interface - X0
General
Advanced
INTERFACE 'X0' SETTINGS
Zone
LAN
Mode / IP Assignment
Static IP Mode
IP Address
192.168.2.254
Subnet Mask
255.255.255.0
Default Gateway (Optional)
0.0.0.0
Comment
HA1-interface-X0-ipconfig-float
Domain Name
Add rule to enable redirect from HTTP to HTTPS
MANAGEMENT
HTTPS
Ping
SNMP
SSH
USER LOGIN
HTTP
HTTPS
Cancel
OK



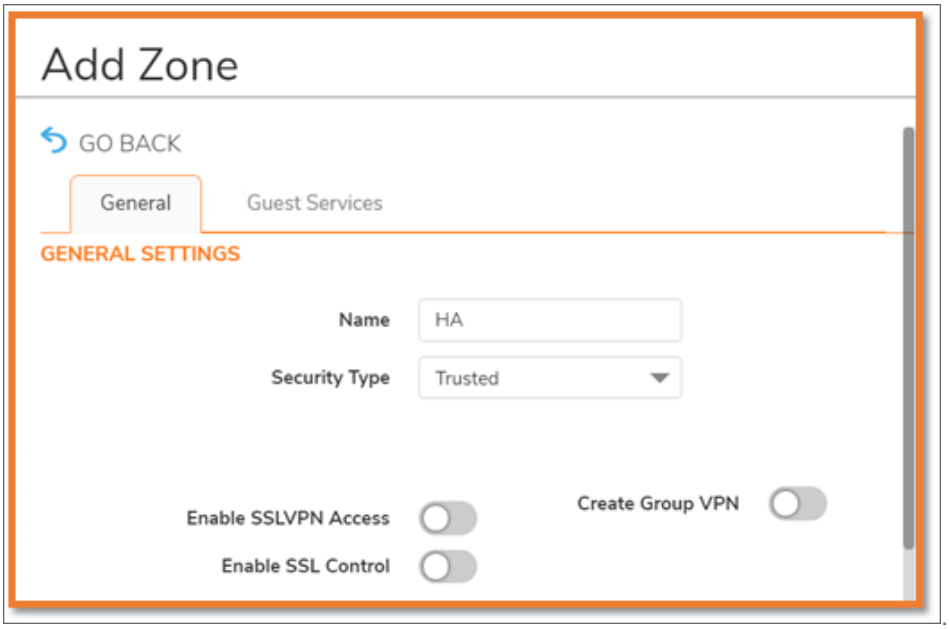
2. Before changing the X1 Interface IP, take a **screenshot** of the current configuration. The Default Gateway and DNS Server 1 should remain the same and ensure you won't lose access to the active firewall during the following steps.
3. After the changes, the Interfaces should look similar to the screenshot below:



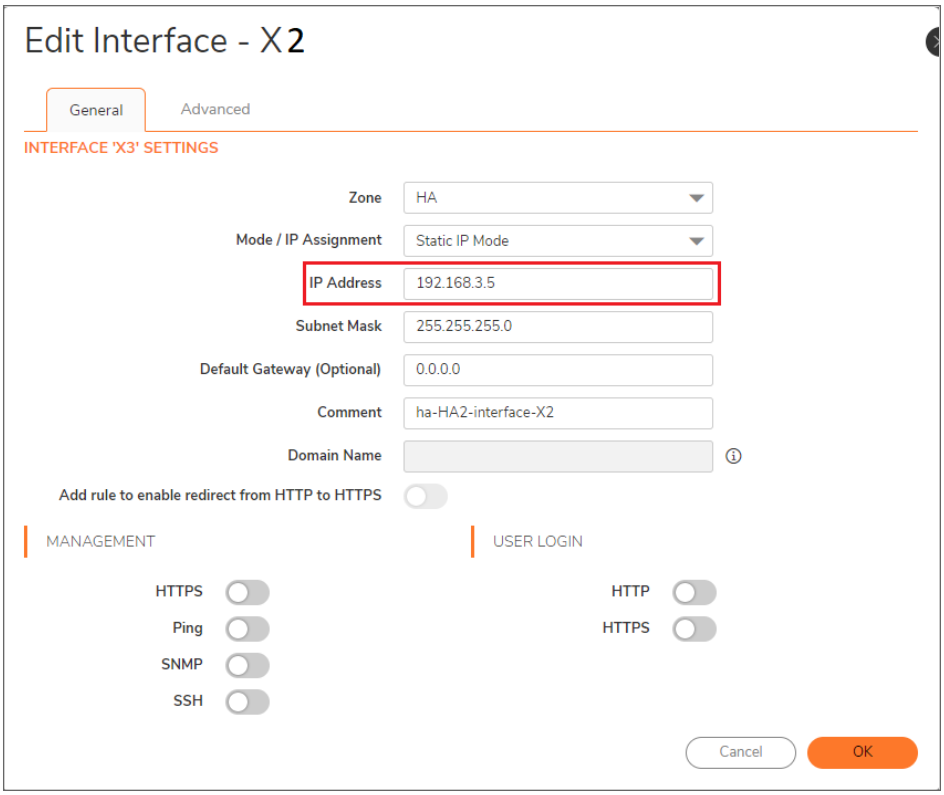
Configuring Standby NSv Firewall Using the Associated Public IP

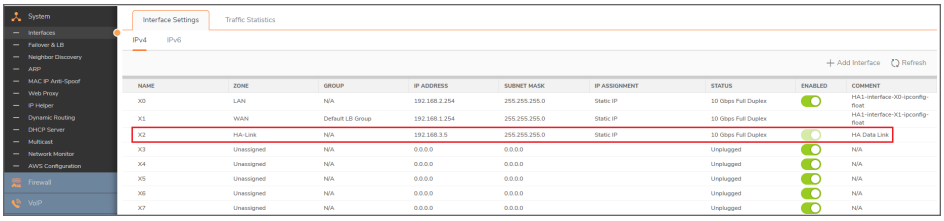
You will access the standby firewall for the first time, so you should also register the appliance before proceeding with the rest of the configuration.

1. Navigate to **Network** > **System** > **Interfaces**, and create the HA interface with the custom zone "HA" using the below IP address schema details (SonicWall uses X2 Interface in the customer template).
    a. Security Type: **Trusted**



2. The IP Address is the **ha-HA2-Interface-X2** found on the **Networking** tab.



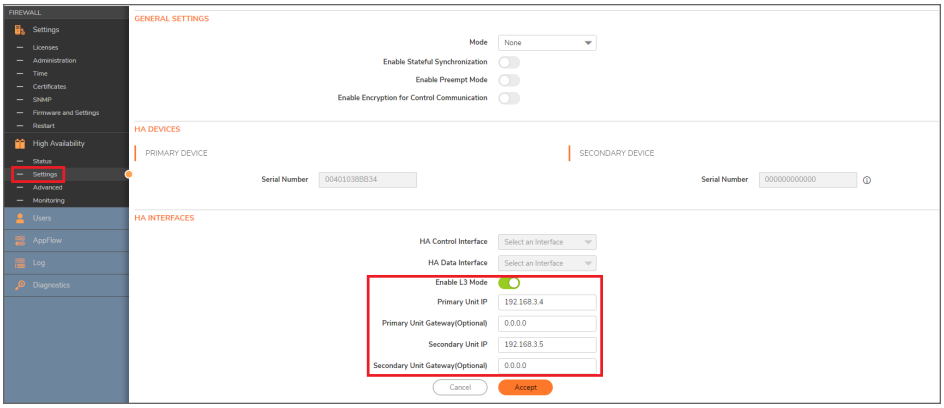


Enable the L3 Mode

Enable L3 mode option on the Standby appliance.

1. Navigate to **Device** > **High Availability** > **Settings** > **HA Interfaces**, and select the **Enable L3 Mode** option on the standby firewall.
2. Under HA Interfaces, fill out the primary Unit IP and Secondary Unit IP, providing the **HA IP X2**

addresses of both firewalls HA1 and HA2.



Configuring Active NSv Firewall Using the Floating Public IP

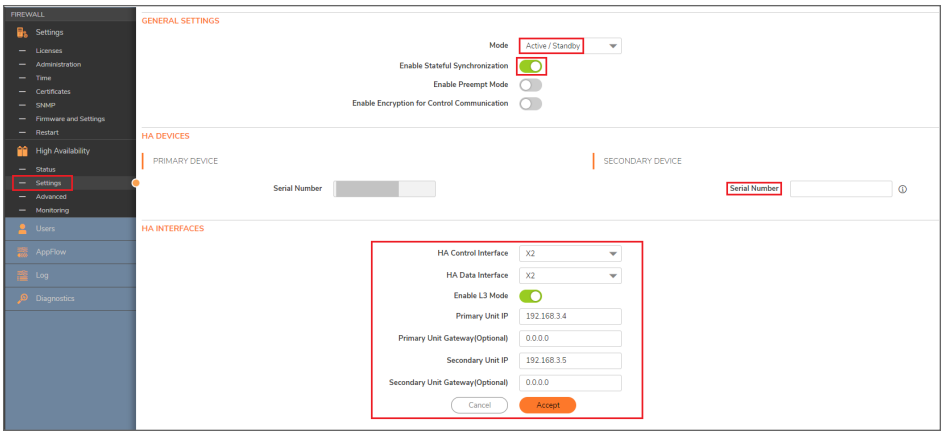
On the Active firewall, Log in using the Floating Public IP address. To get the IP:

1. Navigate to **Resource Groups**.
2. Select the **VM ha-HA1**.
3. On the left panel, press **Networking**.
4. Network Interface: ha-HA1-Interface-X1.
5. On the left panel, press **IP configurations**.
6. Copy and paste the **Floating Public IP** address into the browser.

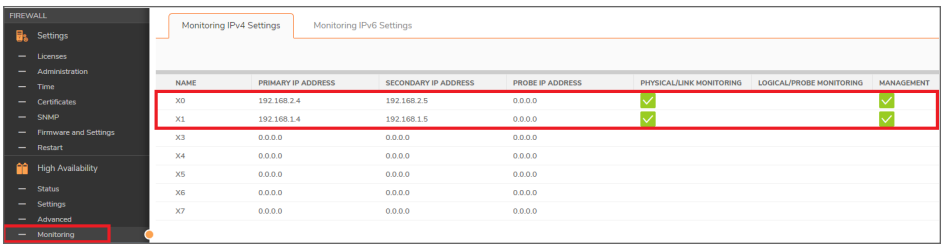
Configuring HA to Active/Standby with L3 HA link

The following steps configure HA to Active/Standby with the L3 HA link.

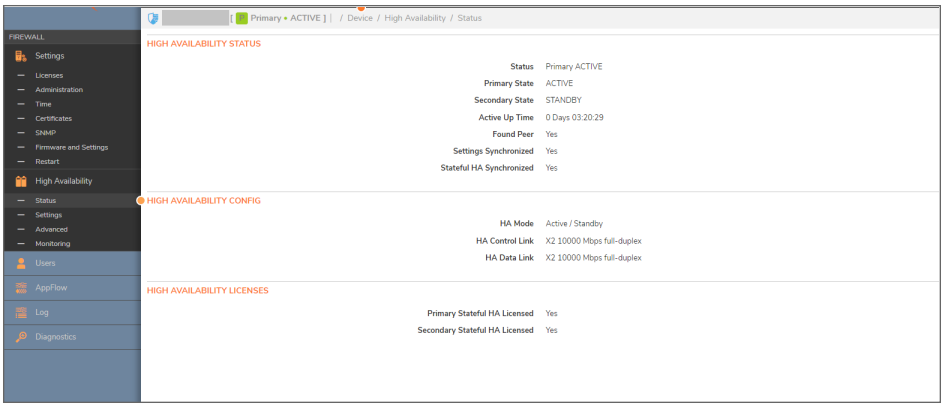
1. Configure HA to Active/Standby with the L3 HA link. To do so, browse **Manage** > **High Availability** and select **Enable Stateful Synchronization**.
2. Navigate to the HA interfaces section and switch the HA Control link to L3 mode. A gateway address is unnecessary if two HA Interfaces are in the same subnet. However, if two HA interfaces are in different subnets, a proper gateway address is needed, and the default is X.X.X.1 on Azure.



3. Add monitoring IPs for **X0** and **X1** is mandatory.



4. Navigate to **Device** > **High Availability** > **Status** page to check whether the pair is coming together. The secondary will reboot, and seeing the device pair up may take a while.

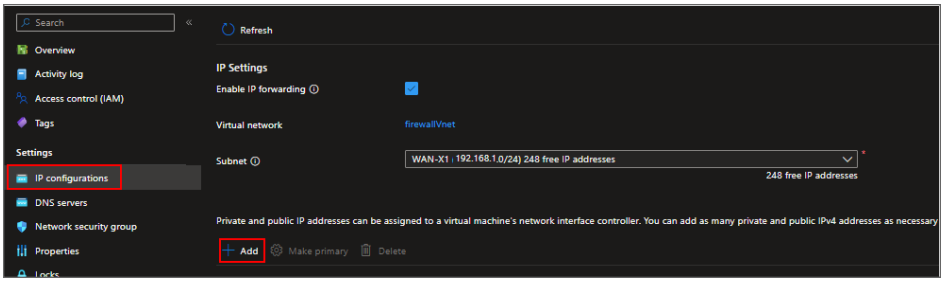


NOTE: It is recommended that you use the latest 7.1.1-7051 or a newer firmware version to use multiple floating IP addresses in Azure.

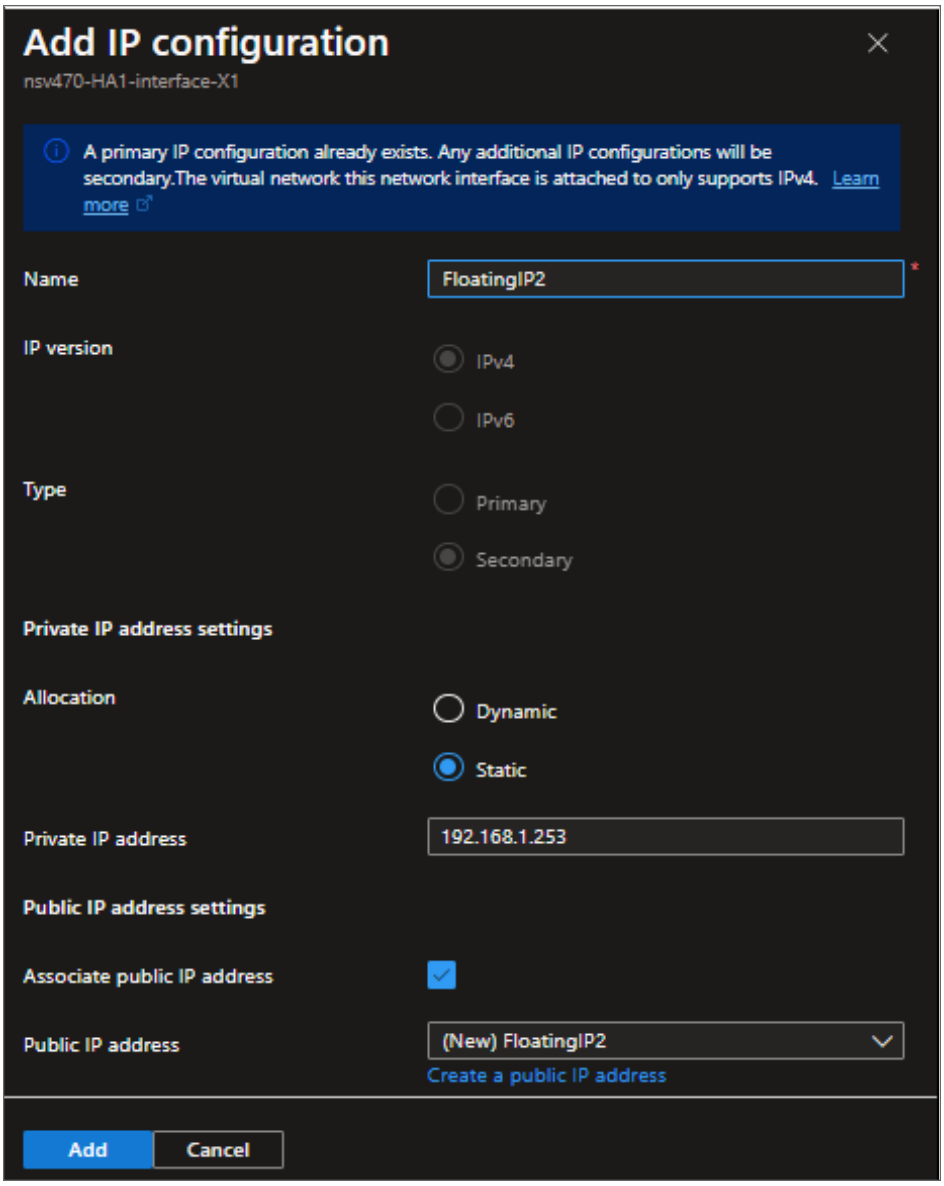
Adding Additional Floating Public IP

Steps to add Additional Floating public IP:

1. Navigate to **Resource Groups**.
2. Select the **VM ha-HA1**.
3. On the left panel, press **Networking**.
4. Network Interface: ha-HA1-Interface-X1.
5. On the left panel, press **IP configurations**.
6. Click **Add** to Add IP configuration and specify the name and IP allocation method.



7. **Associate the public IP** by using an existing public IP or create a new public IP address.


Add IP configuration
nsv470-HA1-interface-X1
A primary IP configuration already exists. Any additional IP configurations will be secondary.The virtual network this network interface is attached to only supports IPv4. Learn more
Name
FloatingIP2
IP version
IPv4
IPv6
Type
Primary
Secondary
Private IP address settings
Allocation
Dynamic
Static
Private IP address
192.168.1.253
Public IP address settings
Associate public IP address
Public IP address
(New) FloatingIP2
Create a public IP address
Add
Cancel

6

Fine Tuning High Availability

Topics:

- Advanced Settings
- Configuring Advanced High Availability Settings

Advanced Settings

DEVICE | High Availability > Advanced provides the ability to fine-tune the High Availability configuration as well as synchronize settings and firmware between the High Availability Security Appliances

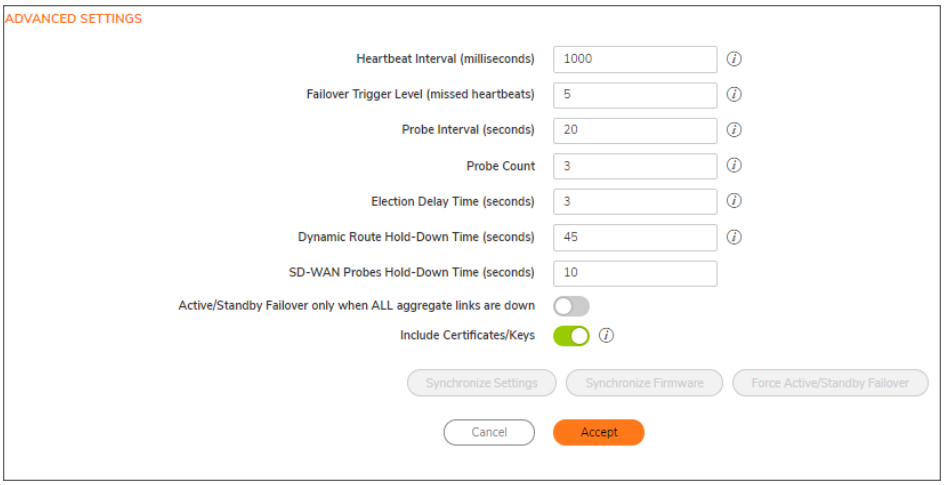
The **Heartbeat Interval** and **Failover Trigger Level (missed heartbeats)** settings apply to the HA heartbeats.

For more information on High Availability, see About High Availability and Active/Standby Prerequisites.

Configuring Advanced High Availability Settings

To configure advanced settings:

1. Log in as an administrator to the SonicOS Management Interface on the Active Node.
2. Navigate to **DEVICE | High Availability > Settings**.



3. Set the **Probe Interval** to the interval, in seconds, between probes sent to specified IP addresses to monitor that the network critical path is still reachable. This interval is used in logical monitoring for the local HA pair. The default is **20** seconds, and the allowed range is 5 to 255 seconds.

   You can set the Probe IP Address(es) on **DEVICE | High Availability > Advanced**. See Monitoring High Availability.

4. Set the **Probe Count** to the number of consecutive probes before SonicOS concludes that the network critical path is unavailable or the probe target is unreachable. This count is used in logical monitoring for the HA pair. The default is **3**, and the allowed range is 3 to 10.

5. Set the **Election Delay Time** to the number of seconds the Active Security Appliance waits to consider an interface up and stable. The default is 3 seconds, the minimum is **3** seconds, and the maximum is 255 seconds.

   This timer is useful with switch ports that have a spanning-tree delay set.

6. Set the **Dynamic Route Hold-Down Time** to the number of seconds the newly-active Security Appliance keeps the dynamic routes it had previously learned in its route table. The default value is **45** seconds, the minimum is 0 seconds, and the maximum is 1200 seconds (20 minutes).

   ⓘ | **NOTE:** The **Dynamic Route Hold-Down Time** setting is displayed only when the **Advanced Routing Mode** option is selected on **NETWORK | System > Dynamic Routing > Settings**.

   ⓘ | **TIP:** In large or complex networks, a larger value may improve network stability during a failover.

   This setting is used when a failover occurs on a High Availability pair that is using either a dynamic routing protocol. During this time, the newly-active appliance relearns the dynamic routes in the network. When the **Dynamic Route Hold-Down Time** duration expires, SonicOS deletes the old routes and implements the new routes it has learned from routing protocols.

7. If you want Failover to occur only when ALL aggregate links are down, select **Active/Standby Failover only when ALL aggregate links are down**. This option is not selected by default.

8. To have the appliances synchronize all certificates and keys within the HA pair. select **Include Certificates/Keys**. This option is selected by default.

9. (Optional) To force synchronize the SonicOS preference settings between your primary and secondary HA firewalls, click **Synchronize Settings**.

ⓘ | **NOTE:** This will cause a restart of the standby device.

10. (Optional) To synchronize the firmware version between your primary and secondary HA firewalls, click **Synchronize Firmware**.
11. (Optional) To test the HA failover functionality is working properly by attempting an Active/Standby HA failover to the secondary Security Appliance, click **Force Active/Standby Failover**.
12. When finished with all High Availability configuration, click **Accept**. All settings are synchronized to the Secondary Security Appliance.

7

Monitoring High Availability

On **DEVICE | High Availability > Monitoring**, you can configure independent management IP addresses for each unit in the HA Pair. You can also configure physical/link monitoring and logical/probe monitoring.

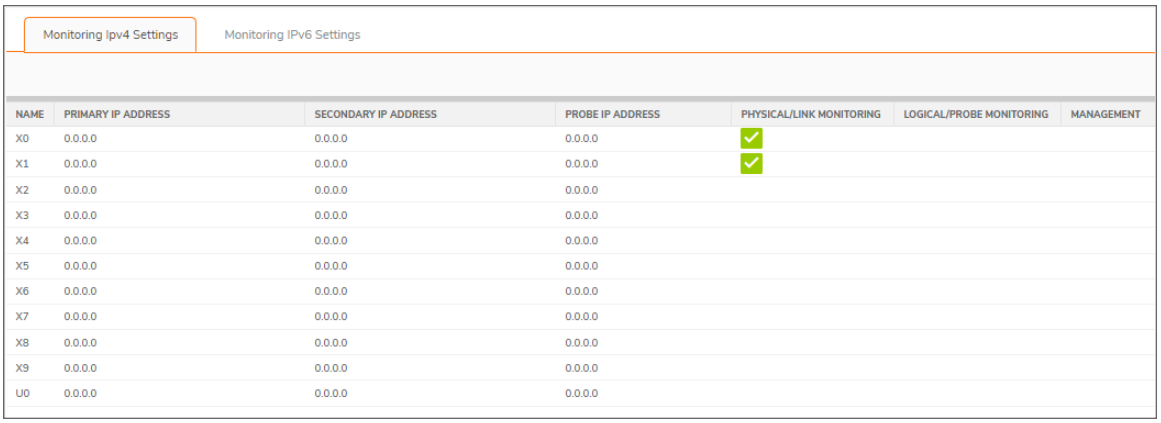
Topics:

- Configuring Active/Standby High Availability Monitoring
- IPv6 High Availability Monitoring
- IPv6 HA Monitoring Considerations

Configuring Active/Standby High Availability Monitoring

To set the independent LAN management IP addresses and configure physical and/or logical interface monitoring:

1. Log in as an administrator to the SonicOS Management Interface on the Active SonicWall Security Appliance.
2. Navigate to **DEVICE | High Availability > Monitoring**.



3. Click the **Edit** icon for an interface on the LAN, such as X0. The **Interface Monitoring Settings** dialog is displayed.
4. To enable link detection between the designated HA interfaces on the Primary and Secondary units, leave **Physical/Link Monitoring** selected. This option is selected by default.
5. In the Primary IPv4/v6 Address field, enter the unique LAN management IP address of the Primary unit and it should be same subnet as interface IP address. The default is **0.0.0.0**.
6. In the Secondary IPv4/v6 Address field, enter the unique LAN management IP address of the Secondary unit it should be same subnet as interface IP address. The default is **0.0.0.0**.
7. Select **Allow Management on Primary/Secondary IP Address**. When this option is enabled for an interface, a green icon appears in the interface's **Management** column in the **Monitoring Settings** table. Management is only allowed on an interface when this option is enabled. This option is not selected by default.
8. In the **Logical/ Probe IPv4/v6 Address** field, enter the IP address of a downstream device on the network that should be monitored for connectivity. Typically, this should be a downstream router or server. (If probing is desired on the WAN side, an upstream device should be used.) This option is not selected by default.

   The Primary and Secondary Security Appliances regularly ping this probe IP address. If both successfully ping the target, no failover occurs. If neither successfully ping the target, no failover occurs, because it is assumed that the problem is with the target, and not the Security Appliances. But, if one Security Appliance can ping the target but the other cannot, failover occurs to the Security Appliance that can ping the target.

   The Primary IPv4/v6 Address and Secondary IPv4/v6 Address fields must be configured with independent IP addresses on a the interface, such as X0, (or a WAN interface, such as X1, for probing on the WAN) to allow logical probing to function correctly.
9. (Optional) To manually specify the virtual MAC address for the interface, select Override Virtual MAC and enter the MAC address in the field. The format for the MAC address is six pairs of hexadecimal numbers separated by colons, such as A1:B2:C3:d4:e5:f6. This option is not selected by default.

   ⓘ **IMPORTANT:** Care must be taken when choosing the Virtual MAC address to prevent configuration errors.

   When **Enable Virtual MAC** is selected on **DEVICE | High Availability > Settings**, the SonicOS firmware automatically generates a Virtual MAC address for all interfaces. Allowing the SonicOS firmware to generate the Virtual MAC address eliminates the possibility of configuration errors and ensures the uniqueness of the Virtual MAC address, which prevents possible conflicts.
10. Click **OK**.
11. Click **Close**.

IPv6 High Availability Monitoring

For complete information on the SonicOS implementation of IPv6, see IPv6.

IPv6 High Availability (HA) Monitoring is implemented as an extension of HA Monitoring in IPv4. After configuring HA Monitoring for IPv6, both the primary and backup Security Appliances can be managed from the IPv6 monitoring address, and IPv6 Probing is capable of detecting the network status of HA pairs.

For easy configuration of both IP versions, toggle between IPv6 and IPv4 displays in DEVICE | High Availability > Monitoring.

The IPv6 HA Monitoring configuration page is inherited from IPv4, so the configuration procedures are almost identical. Just select IPv6 and refer to About High Availability and IPv6 HA Monitoring Considerations for configuration details.

IPv6 HA Monitoring Considerations

Consider the following when configuring IPv6 HA Monitoring:

- In the **Interface Settings** dialog, enable **Physical/Link Monitoring** and **Override Virtual MAC** are dimmed because they are layer 2 properties. That is, the properties are used by both IPv4 and IPv6, so you configure them in the IPv4 monitoring page.
- The Primary/Secondary IPv6 address must be in the same subnet of the interface, and it can not be same as the global IP and Link-Local-IP of the Primary/Secondary Security Appliance.
- If the Primary/Secondary monitoring IP is set to (not ::), then they cannot be the same.
- If **Allow Management on Primary/Secondary IPv6 Address** is enabled, then Primary/Secondary monitoring IPv6 addresses cannot be unspecified (that is, ::).
- If **Logical/Probe IPv6 Address** is enabled, then the probe IP cannot be unspecified.

8

Azure Use Cases

Topics:

- Use Case 1: Manage Azure HA Firewall
- Use Case 2: Forward LAN traffic to the External Network through the Gateway after HA Failover
- Use Case 3: Configure DNAT on Azure HA Firewall
- Use Case 4: Configure DNAT on Azure HA Firewall (Need to move multiple floating IPs support)

Use Case 1: Manage Azure HA Firewall

Use floating IP (aka interface IP on SonicOS) to manage Azure firewall, which state is active.

Use two HA monitor IPs (aka Primary IP on Azure, aka monitor IP on SonicOS) to manage the Azure firewall. The primary/secondary IP manages firewalls in active and standby states.

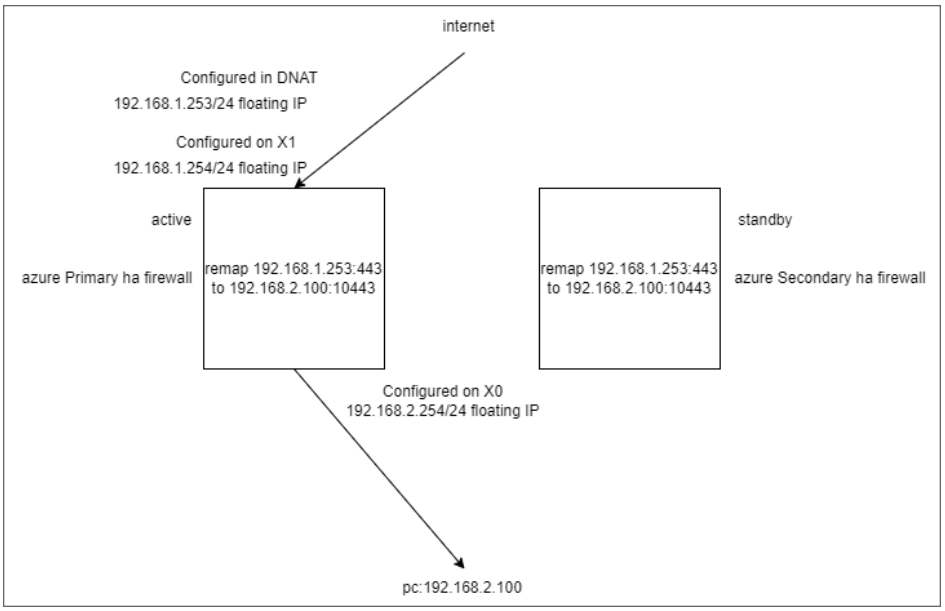
Use Case 2: Forward LAN traffic to the External Network through the Gateway after HA Failover

The interface IP (aka floating IP) in the Azure HA environment is set as the default gateway of the LAN subnet. When LAN traffic forwards to the external network through the gateway, traffic will automatically flow into the active HA Azure firewall without flowing into the standby HA Azure firewall. This is because the interface IP always floats to the active HA Azure firewall. After HA failover, the active HA Azure firewall will change to the standby firewall, so traffic will be forwarded to the newly active firewall.

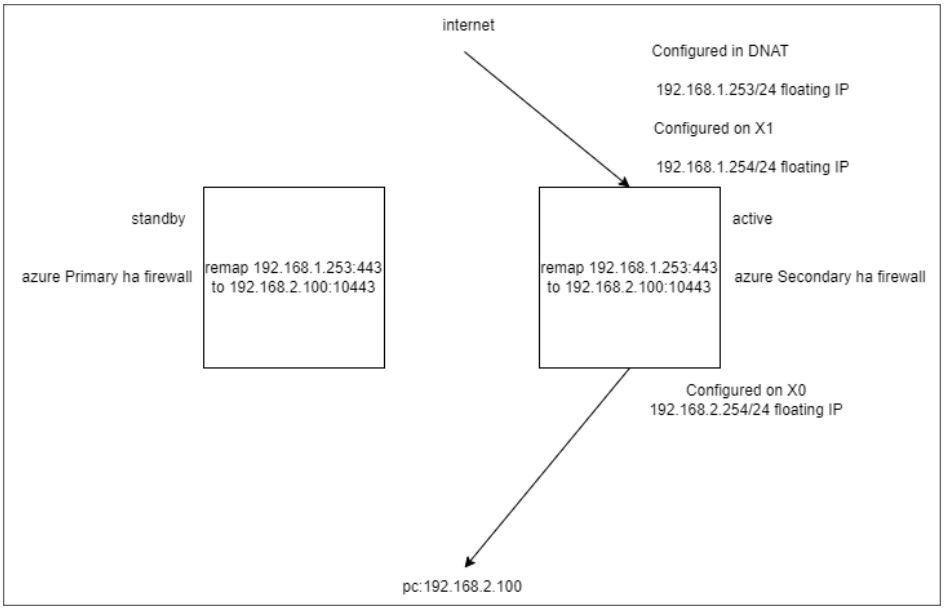
Use Case 3: Configure DNAT on Azure HA Firewall

Configure a DNAT to remap the traffic of an interface IP (192.168.1.254, aka floating IP) accessing the firewall from the Internet to the traffic of a particular machine (192.168.2.200) in the LAN.

FLOATING IP ALWAYS ON ACTIVE FIREWALL



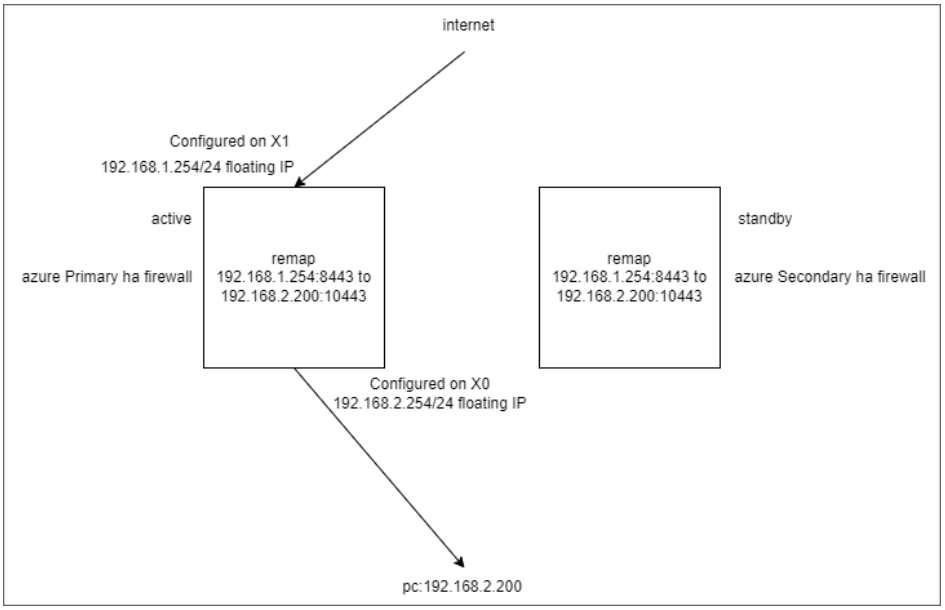
AFTER HA FAILOVER



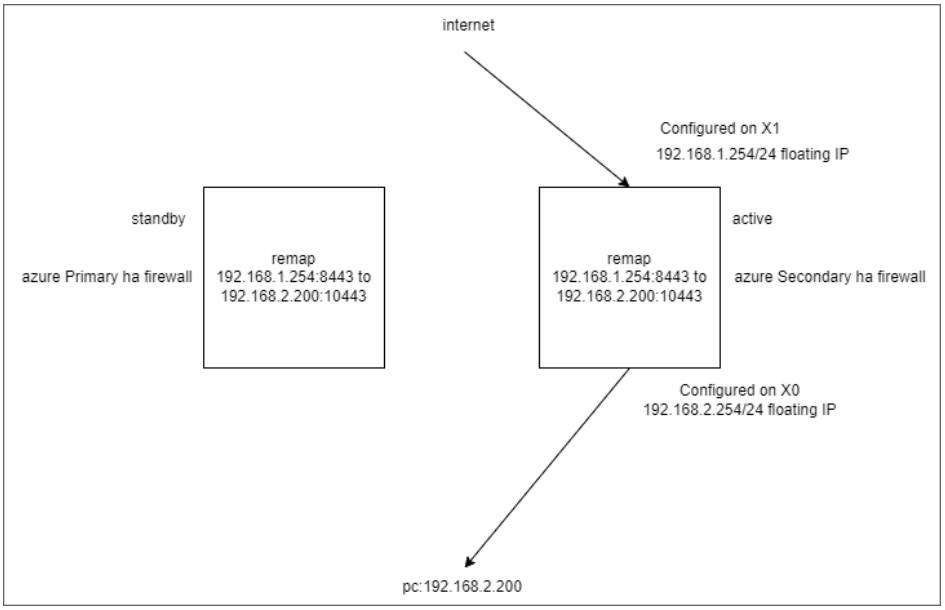
Use Case 4: Configure DNAT on Azure HA Firewall (Need to move multiple floating IPs support)

Configure a DNAT to remap the traffic of floating IP (192.168.1.253, not interface IP) accessing the firewall from the Internet to the traffic of a particular machine (192.168.2.100) in the LAN.

FLOATING IP ALWAYS ON ACTIVE FIREWALL



AFTER HA FAILOVER



9

SonicWall Support

Technical support is available to customers who have purchased SonicWall products with a valid maintenance contract.

The Support Portal provides self-help tools you can use to solve problems quickly and independently, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The Support Portal enables you to:

- View Knowledge Base articles and Technical Documentation
- View and participate in the Community Forum discussions
- View Video Tutorials
- Access
- Learn about SonicWall Professional Services
- Review SonicWall Support services and warranty information
- Register at SonicWall University for training and certification

About This Document

SonicOS High Availability Administration Guide
Updated - June 2025
Software Version - 7.1
232-005861-00 Rev B

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For more information, visit https://www.sonicwall.com/legal.

End User Product Agreement

To view the SonicWall End User Product Agreement, go to: https://www.sonicwall.com/legal/end-user-product-agreements/.

Open Source Code

SonicWall Inc. is able to provide a machine-readable copy of open source code with restrictive licenses such as GPL, LGPL, AGPL when applicable per license requirements. To obtain a complete machine-readable copy, send your written requests, along with certified check or money order in the amount of USD 25.00 payable to "SonicWall Inc.", to:

General Public License Source Code Request
Attn: Jennifer Anderson
1033 McCarthy Blvd
Milpitas, CA 95035