Release Notes – SafeConnect Version 6.5

This document contains the latest release notes for the SafeConnect Product. All significant changes to the product in Version 6.5 are listed here.

Contents

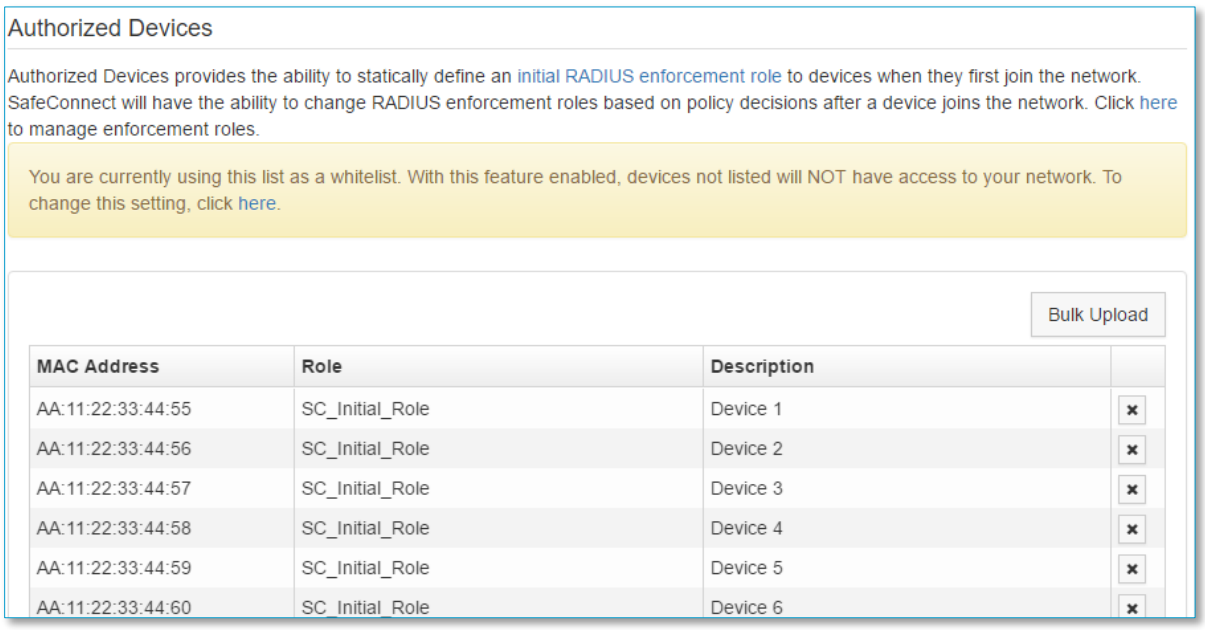
RADIUS Enhancements

Device Authorization

SafeConnect can now manage devices by MAC address. MAC addresses can be added to the system using the included bulk load template. This bulk load provides two key benefits:

- **Pre-defined Initial Role**: When configured, as a device joins the network for the first time, it will be given the configured pre-defined role. Note that if a device is also managed in a Policy Group, SafeConnect will have the ability to change the enforcement role based on policy compliance. This feature is useful for devices such as VoIP phones where specific VLANs can be assigned at the time of initial association prior to a device being checked for compliance.

- **Device Whitelist**: With this option enabled, only approved devices will be permitted to join the network. Any device not in the approved list will simply not have access. This feature can be enabled/disabled on a per-appliance basis such as in environments where certain areas, such as guest wireless, or more open and other areas, such as wired ports, are stricter.



Management Interface Enhancements

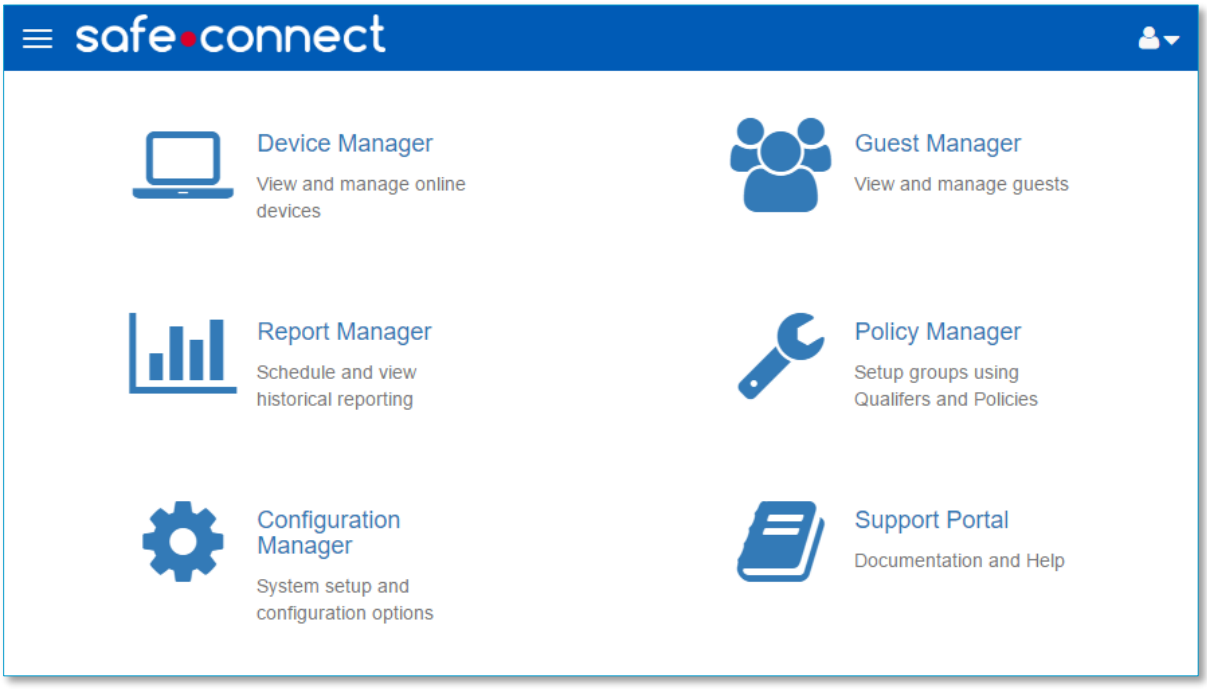
Integrated Management Interface

The SafeConnect Integrated Management Interface is now officially available and *fully replaces the legacy UI*. This is a significant redesign of the management interfaces using the latest user interface (UI) technology and techniques.

In addition to integrating the separate portions of the interface under one UI framework, portions of the UI were significantly improved, not just stylistically, but also in terms of the user experience and the functionality provided. Prime examples of going beyond the prior UI are the new Configuration Manager, Device Manager, and Report Manager.

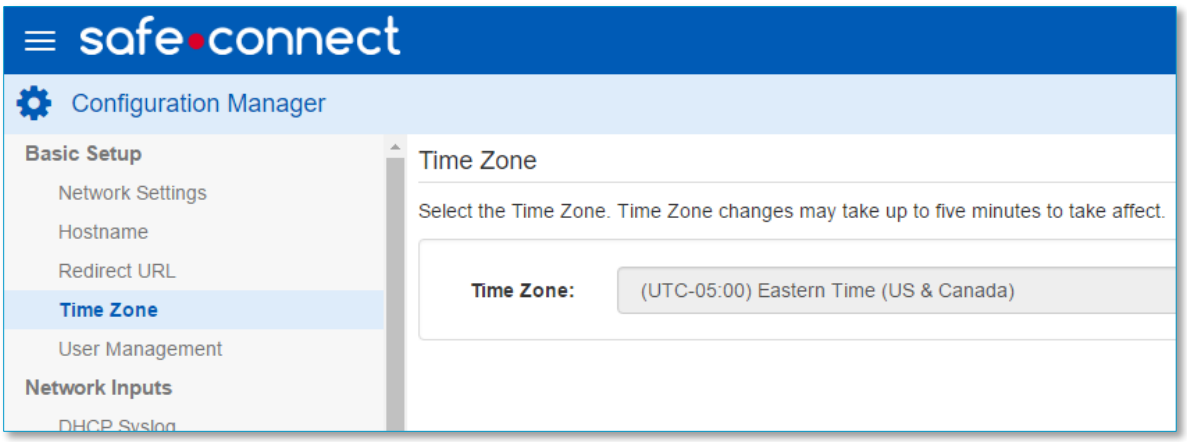
SafeConnect Integrated Start Page

The newly designed unified start page, shown immediately below, highlights the integration of the new UI. All aspects of the SafeConnect UI are available under a single login, from a central menu. Note that the menu in the upper-left of each manager also permits easy navigation between the different managers.



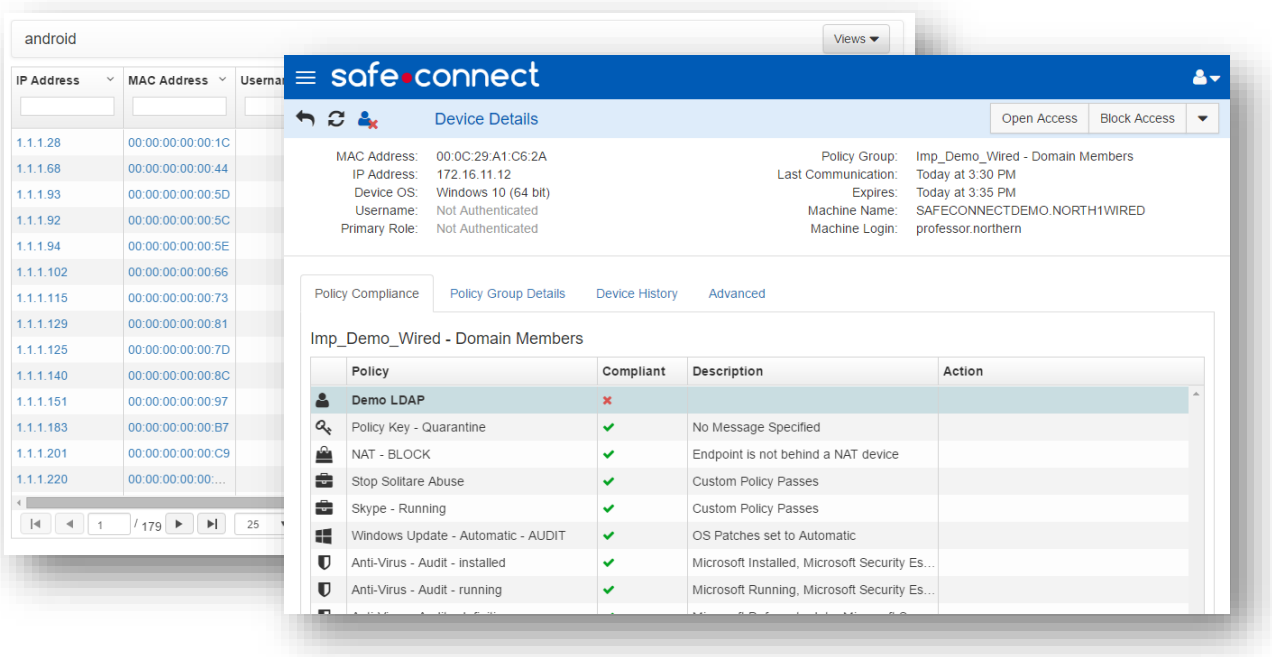
Configuration Manager

SafeConnect's new Configuration Module provides a centralized location for all configuration. Not only is the style updated, but new functionality has been added to enable customers to view and control more of the configuration, and perhaps most significantly, this new UI permits validation for all data input streams such as DHCP, NetFlow, etc. This validation provides needed visibility to customers to the various flows of information into SafeConnect from their network.



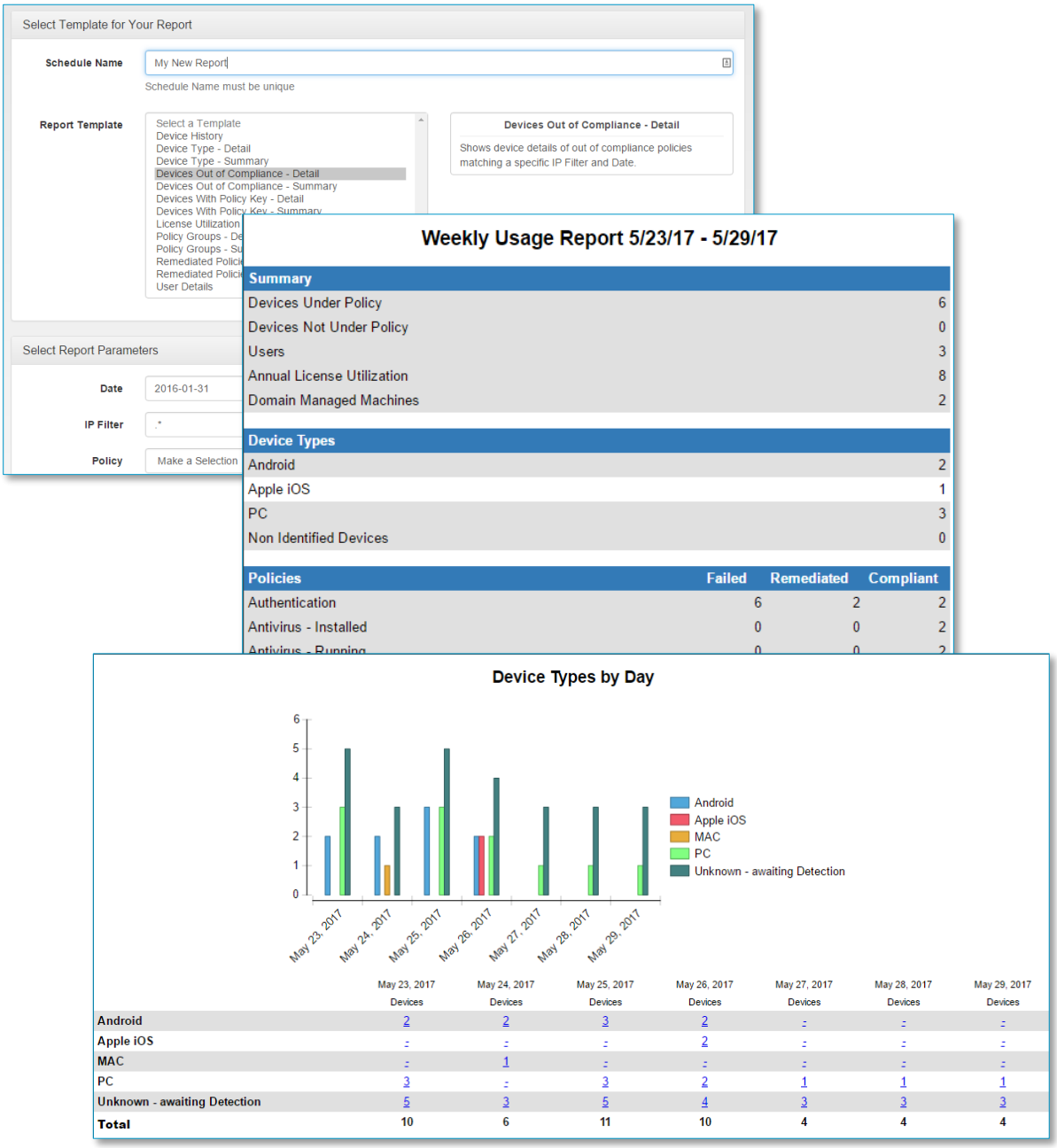
Device Manager

SafeConnect's new Device Manager interface offers a more intuitive and flexible user experience than the existing SafeConnect Dashboard, and provides enhanced functionality, such as the ability to create customs views. The Device Manager will ultimately include all the existing functionality of the existing SafeConnect Dashboard, but as of this release, aspects such as the charts are not yet included.



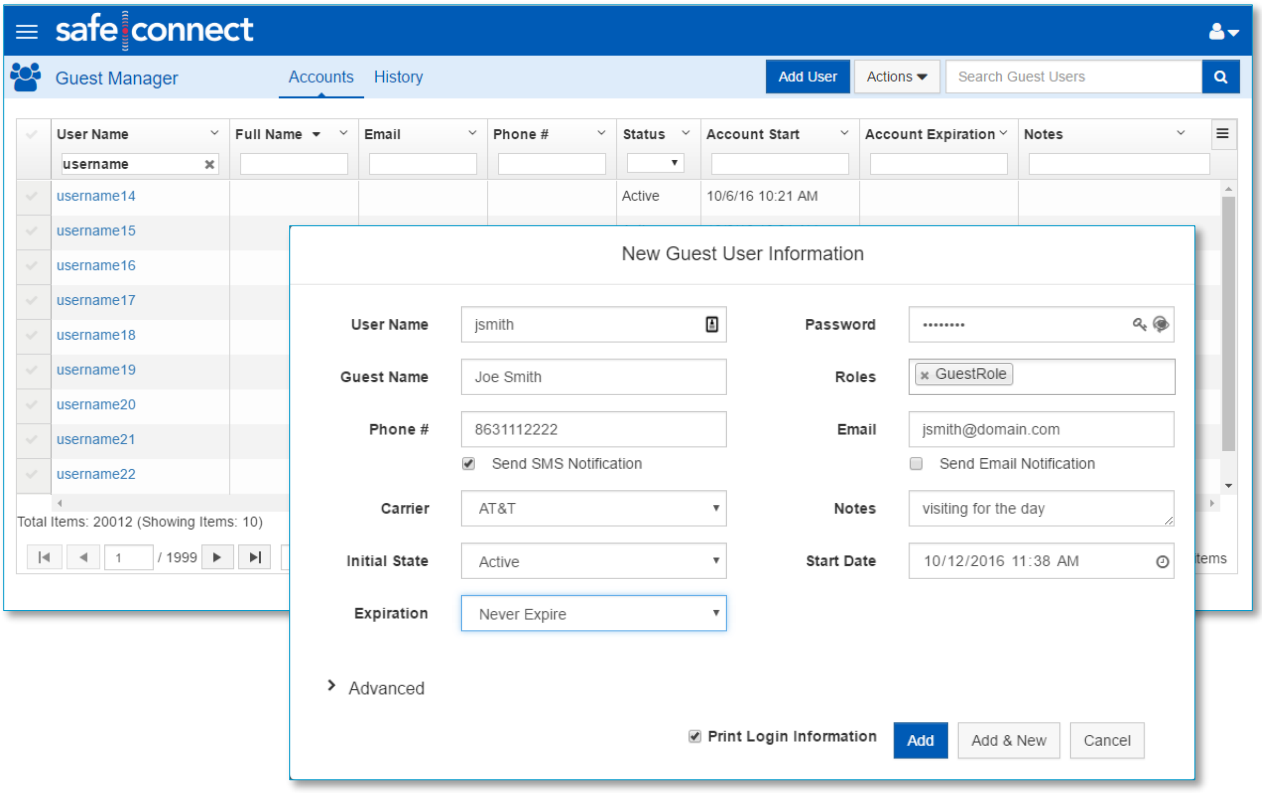
Report Manager

SafeConnect's new Report management module allows for enhanced reporting capabilities and the ability for customers to tailor and schedule pre-defined historical reports that can be emailed to the desired individuals on a periodic basis. Additionally, this module includes the ability to schedule the weekly usage report.



Guest Manager

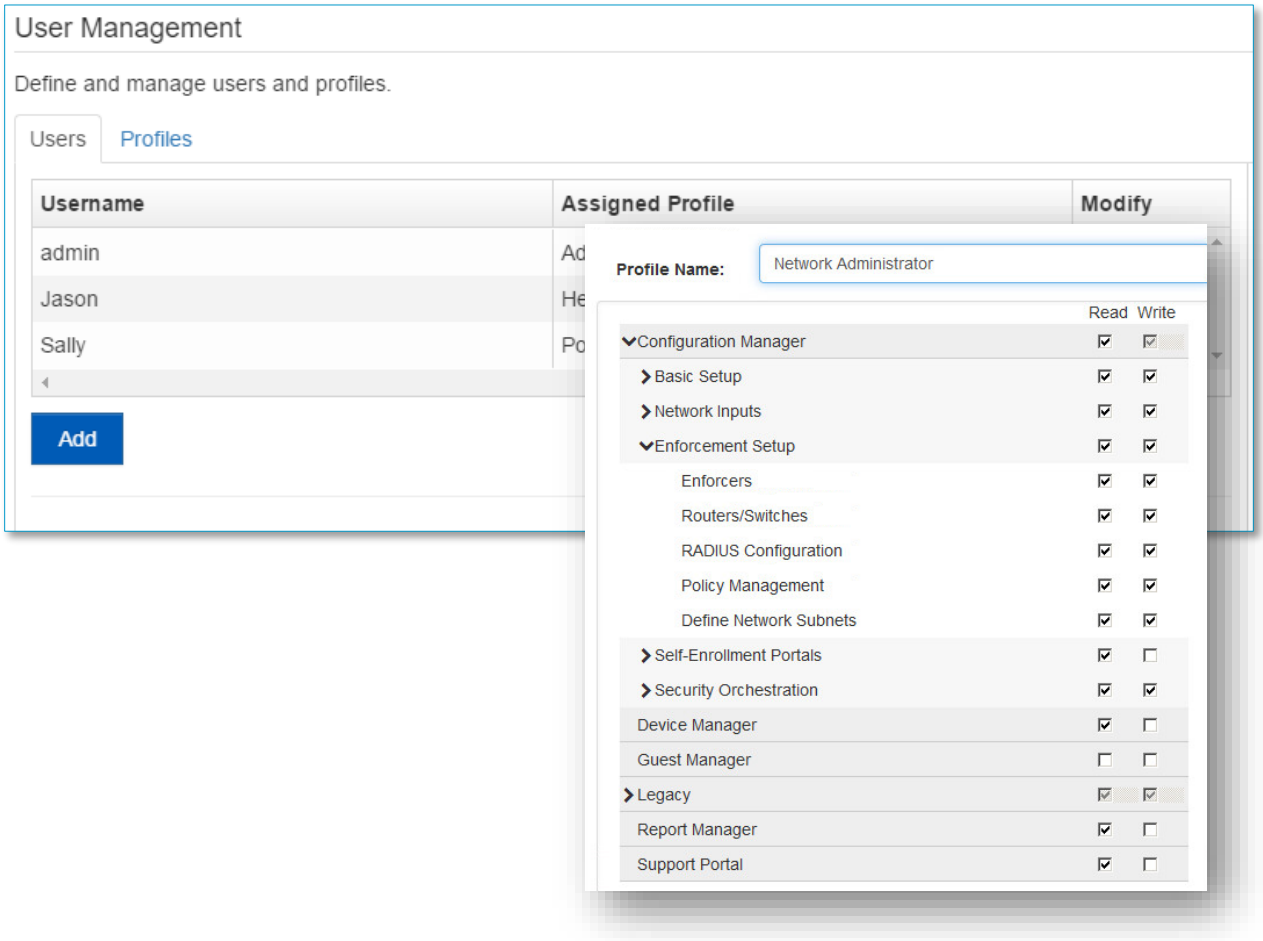
The SafeConnect Guest Manager has been updated for the new Management User Interface. All features from the legacy Guest Management Interface have been moved over and streamlined to better match the updated look and feel.



User Manager

The enhanced User Manager interface provides more fine-grained control over what aspects of the user interface help desk and administrative users can interact with. With the new enhancements, profiles are created with different permissions and then assigned to users. This gives the flexibility of creating profiles ahead of time and then granting access to the system by associating a user with a profile, which negates the need to add specific permissions for each user that is created.

A default set of profiles is included with the update as well as the ability to create customized profiles.



Support for Amazon AWS and Microsoft Azure

SafeConnect Version 6.5 includes support for deploying in Amazon AWS and Microsoft Azure environments. Both platforms require site-to-site VPN connectivity between the on-site network and the cloud platform.

TACACS availability

In conjunction with the SafeConnect 6.5 update, a standalone TACACS VM and documentation is available for download. This VM is provided as a pre-packaged, no-cost option for those that wish to have a TACACS solution. Note that the TACACS VM is provided as-is with no support option available.

Transitioning to a Virtual Appliance

Due to the advantages of server virtualization (e.g., energy savings, improved availability, reduced rack space, and scalability at a lower cost), a growing number of SafeConnect customers are deploying SafeConnect as a virtual appliance. Given this rapidly increasing trend, over the next 18 months it is Impulse's intention to transition to a distribution model standardized around a virtualized deployment. If you are currently running on a hardware platform today, and are ready to make the transition, our Support Team will work with you to schedule this migration.

Note that SafeConnect's preferred virtualization platform is VMWare. SafeConnect does support the free version of VMWare ESXi, and this is how many of our customers have SafeConnect deployed today.