

# In the Boxing Ring

## JAN 2022



## Network Box Technical News

from **Mark Webb-Johnson**

Chief Technology Officer, Network Box

### Welcome to the January 2022 edition of In the **Boxing Ring**

**Happy New Year!** Firstly, we recognize that the pandemic has brought with it unique challenges and seems likely to change how some businesses operate fundamentally. Some of our customers have been particularly affected by this, and I am grateful to see how our Security Operation Centres and offices around the world have adapted to these new challenges. I would also like to thank our customers for their continued trust in Network Box, our platform, and our security services.

Moving forward, this month, we will be looking at the **Network Box Services in 2022** and beyond.

On page 4, we highlight the features and fixes to be released in this quarter's Patch Tuesday for Network Box 5.

In other news, Network Box and **RSM Hong Kong** have signed a Strategic Partnership agreement. Additionally, Network Box Germany is in pre-production with new eLearning course videos, which will be out in Q1 2022. Finally, as a special end-of-year review, Network Box has complied the key *In the Boxing Ring* articles in the **2021 Network Box Technology Review**.



**Mark Webb-Johnson**  
CTO, Network Box Corporation Ltd.  
January 2022

### Stay Connected

You can contact us here at Network Box HQ by email: **nbhq@network-box.com**, or drop by our office next time you are in town. You can also keep in touch with us by several social networks:



<https://twitter.com/networkbox>



<https://www.facebook.com/networkbox>  
<https://www.facebook.com/networkboxresponse>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/network-box-corporation-limited/>



<https://www.youtube.com/user/NetworkBox>

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#### Network Box in 2022

We are seeing more and more of our customers accepting Managed Services and moving their information technology systems to that model. Whether it be Software as a Service (SaaS), virtual hosting, or managed security, the benefits of outsourcing the provisioning, maintenance, and support of IT systems are clear. Our featured article highlights how Network Box supports this in the coming year and beyond.

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#### Network Box 5 Features

The features and fixes to be released in this quarter's Patch Tuesday for Network Box 5.

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- RSM Strategic Partnership
- Network Box Germany: Digital First Aid
- Network Box Technology Review 2021

# NETWORK BOX in 2022

Here at Network Box, we are seeing more and more of our customers accepting Managed Services and moving their information technology systems to that model. Whether it be Software as a Service (SaaS), virtual hosting, or managed security, the benefits of outsourcing the provisioning, maintenance, and support of IT systems are clear.

## The 2022 Problem

The challenge for Network Box has always been to supply effective services within limited IT security budgets for all businesses, small and large. Up until recently, we have concentrated on managing our own platform because only by controlling the platform can we deliver security in a cost-effective manner. When Network Box has a software update, we can internally test it across all our supported platforms and then simply remotely globally release it without visiting each site and dealing with different hardware/software versions, driver, and network compatibility issues. Scalability is key to the problem.

Our customers are finding that as they migrate systems to the cloud, the result is a hybrid network consisting of:

- Workstations, servers, and other IT systems (like telephones, printers, etc.) in the office
- Laptops and mobile devices out of the office and working from home
- Servers in legacy data centres
- Virtual servers in cloud data centres
- SaaS applications

And this hybrid network is managed by a number of different providers, none of whom want to cooperate with each other or provide a unified management framework. Add on top the issues of regulatory frameworks, reporting requirements, incident response, and the issue becomes one of managing the managed service providers. Some 'full stack' providers offer solutions managing third-party platforms, but they are typically both horrendously expensive and limited in the choice of devices and applications offered.



## The Roadmap for 2022 and beyond

Over the past few years, Network Box has evolved our managed services to better support the hybrid networks our customers are migrating to. And we are doing this while still adhering to our core principles of delivering cost-effective network security in a scalable manner to businesses of all sizes.

Network Security is, in general, best placed closest to the assets being secured. There are exceptions to this (massive-scale DDoS protection and mobile asset protection being the two most obvious), but in general, this approach reduces latency and other delays while offering the most comprehensive protection. To achieve this, Network Box now offers our services in a variety of ways:

- On-premises physical security appliances
- On-premises virtual security appliances
- Cloud virtual security appliances
- Pure cloud services
- Multi-tenanted cloud services

In 2022 we will continue with the migration of our service support systems to the NBSIEM+ platform, with a view to obsoleting Box Office by the end of this year.

We start the year by launching our new NBSIEM+ v6 portal on Wednesday, 5th January 2022. This v6 NBSIEM+ is an entirely new 100% API-driven system supporting both web browser clients and mobile apps. The old v5 NBSIEM+ will be moved to <https://legacy.siem.network-box.com/> at that time. We expect to release the companion mobile apps on both Android and iOS platforms during the second week of January (subject to Apple and Google's approval processes), and obsolete our old Box Office mobile app at that time.

January will also see the release of several new multi-tenanted cloud services, including:

- **Cloud SSL Service Reputation.** Similar to cloud IP and DOMAIN reputation, this service monitors publicly available SSL services (such as websites, mail servers, etc.) and validates SSL certificates. It will warn (via GMS incidents) of connection issues, certificate issues, impending expiry, and/or expired certificates.
- **Cloud SSL Certificate Reputation.** A companion to the Cloud SSL Service Reputation services, to monitor SSL certificates directly (without requiring public access to the service), and monitor + alert for the same certificate issues.
- **Cloud Entities.** As a fundamental support layer for our other cloud services, this allows entities to be administratively maintained in the cloud or automatically synced with LDAP, Active Directory, or 365/Azure directories.
- **Cloud SDWAN.** Providing VPN client access to cloud services in a similar support capacity for our other cloud services.
- **Cloud Web Client.** This service provides the Network Box Web Client proxy (including content filtering, categorization, anti-malware, and policy control) in the cloud without requiring on-premises or virtual appliances. Client connection is either via Cloud SDWAN VPN or directed proxy. Reporting and policy control is via the NBSIEM+ administrative interface. With the same policy control as our Network Box 5 appliances, this provides simple and effective security for laptops and mobile devices outside the office or working from home.
- **Cloud SMTP Server.** This service provides the Network Box SMTP Server proxy (including anti-spam, anti-malware, and policy control) in the cloud, without requiring on-premises or virtual appliances. Reporting

and policy control is via the NBSIEM+ administrative interface. With the same policy control as our Network Box 5 appliances, deployment simply requires pointing the domain MX record to our cloud service.

- **Cloud SMTP Client.** Providing similar functionality to Cloud SMTP Server, but for clients sending email. Connection is via authorized IP range, Cloud SDWAN VPN, or authenticated SMTP sessions.

Before the end of Q1 2022, we intend to complete the migration of our existing Box Office cloud services (dark web reputation, dynamic DNS, IP reputation, and DOMAIN reputation) to the NBSIEM+ platform. At that time, NBSIEM+ will have become the single unified framework for access to all Network Box services.

Q1 will also see the release of a cloud Mail Portal, via the NBSIEM+ platform. This will provide an option for users to be able to release mail even when not in the office, with full support for small screen mobile devices.

In Q2 2022, we will release Admin Portal within NBSIEM+. This will provide administrative access to all Admin Portal functionality from the NBSIEM+ platform without requiring direct access to the end-user device, and include mobile app support. Combined with Cloud Mail Portal, this allows us to offer a unified framework for users (subject to access control) and administrators to monitor, configure, and control policies, regardless of the mechanism that controls its implementation (physical device, virtual device, or multi-tenanted cloud service).

The remainder of 2022 will see us continue in our goal of expanding the managed services that we can provide from our single unified NBSIEM+ platform. Particularly noteworthy is:

- We will continue to provide fully managed services for Network Box 5 appliances and services (physical, virtual, and in-the-cloud).
- NBSIEM+ provides event log collection, archiving, monitoring, and incident response, including full support for not just Network Box 5 devices, but dozens of types of network and security equipment. Supported 24/7 by SOC's around the globe.
- We will also provide support for end-point agents; for event log collection, archiving, monitoring, and incident response via the NBSIEM+ platform.
- We are working with scanning partners to provide both internal and external scans at three levels (reconnaissance, vulnerability, and PCI), with a single unified reporting interface via NBSIEM+. Full workflow control is provided here to simplify vulnerability management.

Fundamentally, Network Box provides a Managed Detection and Response service. Leveraging our Network Box 5 appliances, third party customer devices (network switches, routers, or other security devices), end-point protection systems; and using our NBSIEM+ platform to collect event logs, monitor, raise incidents, report, and manage the security of our customers from our highly trained security engineers in Security Operation Centres around the world.

**We recognize that the pandemic has brought with it unique challenges and seems likely to change how some businesses operate fundamentally. In particular, some of our customers in the travel, hospitality, and tourism business have been particularly severely affected. We are grateful to see how our Security Operation Centres and offices worldwide have adapted to these new challenges. We would also like to thank our customers for their continued trust in Network Box, our platform, and our security services.**

# Network Box

## NEXT GENERATION MANAGED SECURITY



On Tuesday, 4th January 2022, Network Box will release our patch Tuesday set of enhancements and fixes. The regional SOC's will be conducting the rollouts of the new functionality in a phased manner over the next 14 days.

## Network Box 5 Features January 2022

This quarter, for Network Box 5, these include:

- Enhancements and improvements to SOC systems for device maintenance
- Improvements to SOC configuration systems
- Periodic renewal of SSL certificate trust arrangements for device provisioning
- Improvements to customised configuration hook facility



In most cases, the above changes should not impact running services or require a device restart. However, in some cases (depending on configuration), a device restart may be required. Your local SOC will contact you to arrange this if necessary.

**Should you need any further information on any of the above, please contact your local SOC. They will be arranging deployment and liaison.**



# Network Box HIGHLIGHTS



## RSM Strategic Partnership



Network Box and RSM Hong Kong have signed a Strategic Partnership agreement. Established in 1975, RSM is one of the leading accounting and consulting firms in Hong Kong, offering a wide range of services to local, mainland China and international clients. RSM can now add Cybersecurity to their list of service offerings which includes Audit and Assurance, Taxation, Risk Advisory, Technology and Management Consulting, Transaction Advisory, Corporate Advisory, and Financial Reporting Advisory.



## Network Box Germany Digital First Aid

Network Box Germany is in pre-production with a new eLearning course series titled, 'Digital First Aid,' with Martin Wundram, IT-Forensic Scientist and CEO of DigiTrace GmbH. The videos will be out in the first quarter of 2022.



## Network Box Technology Review 2021

As a special end-of-year review, Network Box has compiled the key In the Boxing Ring technology news, features, and articles from 2021.

### LINK:

[https://network-box.com/sites/default/files/files/Technology\\_Review\\_2021.pdf](https://network-box.com/sites/default/files/files/Technology_Review_2021.pdf)



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