

Best Practices for Firmware and Configuration Updates



BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- ☐ Confirm latest stable or long-term support (LTS) firmware is available for the device
- ☐ Download firmware only from the official vendor site
- ☐ Check compatibility with existing configuration files
- ☐ Label and safely store the current configuration backup (with date/version/device name)
- ☐ Review changelog or release notes for known issues or major changes
- ☐ If this is a remote site: confirm stable electricity and data connection

LAB/TEST PREP

- ☐ Test firmware upgrade in a lab or demo unit before field install
- ☐ Load the planned configuration and confirm no errors or warnings
- ☐ Validate that services (e.g., routing, VLANs, VPN) start up correctly
- ☐ Test failover, reboot, and recovery scenarios if relevant
- ☐ Document working settings for future rollout/reference

DURING DEPLOYMENT

- ☐ Upgrade firmware only when site conditions are stable (no load shedding or line cuts expected)
- ☐ Apply configuration from verified template or tested backup
- ☐ Check system logs for warnings, errors, or rejected settings
- ☐ Disable unused services and interfaces
- ☐ Change all default passwords and disable remote admin access unless secured
- ☐ Set up NTP (time sync) for accurate log and certificate management

POST-INSTALL AND SUPPORT

- ☐ Reboot device and confirm persistent config and full service availability
- ☐ Export current config and firmware version to support folder
- ☐ Label file: SITE_DEVICE_DATE.cfg and store with version number
- ☐ Record all changes in customer or internal handover documentation
- ☐ If using multiple devices, update asset register with new firmware and config status

OPTIONAL (BUT RECOMMENDED)

- ☐ Create a rollback plan: store previous firmware and config locally or in cloud
- ☐ Snapshot key screenshots (interfaces, firewall, VLANs) for quick support reference
- ☐ Submit config template to team repo if custom-built or site-specific