

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