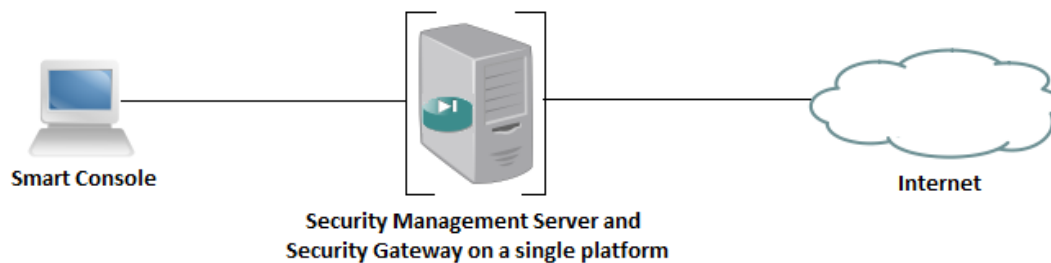


Checkpoint

The Architecture

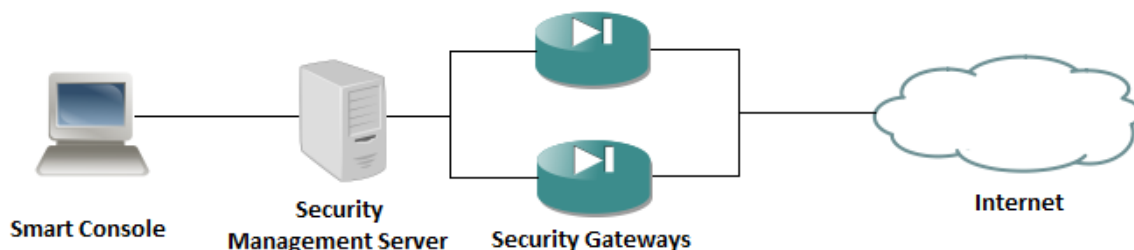
Now that you know what is what, the architecture of Check Point firewalls should be a little easier to understand. Check Point firewalls can be deployed in a standalone fashion or a distributed one. Lets look at the difference between the two:-

Stand-alone deployment:



In a stand-alone deployment, your Security Management Server and Security Gateway is installed on the same platform and your smart console will most probably be installed on a separate platform with which you will access the Security Management server to create policies and push it to the Security Gateway (which is the same device in this case). However, this deployment defeats the whole purpose of Check Point's three-tiered architecture and is not recommended by Check Point, except for small businesses.

Distributed deployment:



A distributed deployment is more commonly known as a Three-Tiered architecture, wherein each component is installed on a separate platform and this type of

deployment is highly recommended by Check Point. Smart Console is usually installed on Windows for its ease of use. Security Management Server can be installed on Windows/Linux/FreeBSD platform depending on the requirement. And the Security Gateway too can be installed on a Windows/Linux/FreeBSD platform as per the requirements (but seriously, 'Windows' for a 'security' gateway?!)