SECURITY VALUE MAP

NSS Labs
Independent Security Research and Testing

The NSS Labs Security Value Map (SVM) shows security effectiveness and value (cost per protected Mbps) of tested product configurations.

This unique graphical representation of test data enables quick comparisons between products and specific configurations. Default and Tuned configurations are shown connected by a line representing the range of security and value that was measured in our testing.

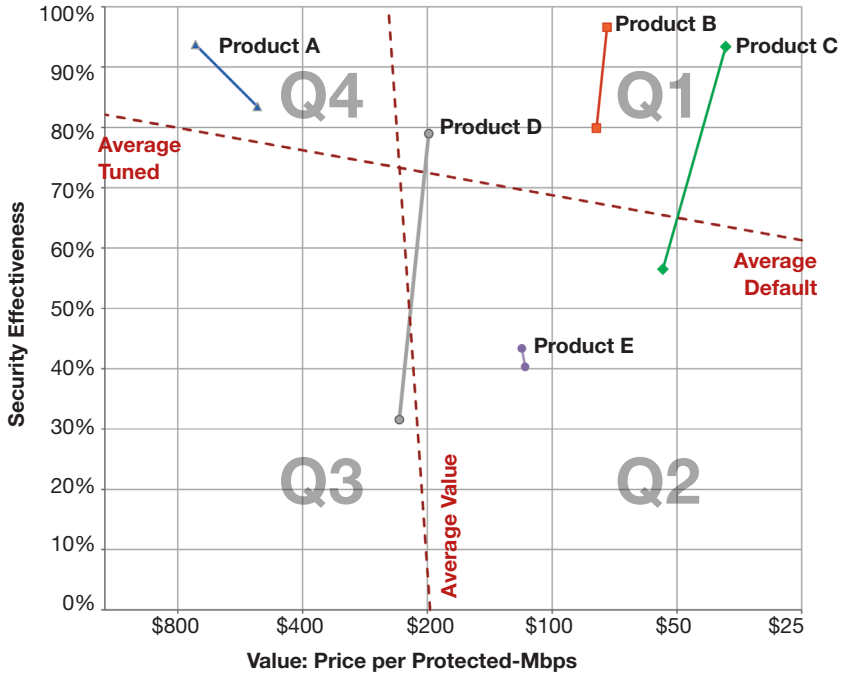
The axes represent the average scores in both security and value for both default and tuned policies. Axes are drawn so as to accurately reflect the averages of both default and tuned configuration sets, and are therefore sloped.

Ratings guidance

The quadrant positioning provides a strong indicator of how a product should be rated for customer networks based on security and value scores: above average (+) and below average (-). Some product configurations will cross boundaries or lie on the edge, requiring a judgment call.

Quadrant	Security	Value	Rating
Q1	+	+	Recommend
Q2	-	+	Neutral
Q3	-	-	Caution
Q4	+	-	Neutral

Easily compare the costs and effectiveness levels of different security products.



SAMPLE SECURITY VALUE MAP

Calculating Total Cost of Ownership & Value

NSS Labs estimates the annual labor required to maintain each device. There are three main components to be considered:

1. Installation – time required to take the device out of the box, configure it, put it into the network, apply updates and patches, initial tuning, and set up desired logging and reporting.
2. Upkeep – time required to apply periodic updates and patches from vendors, including hardware, software, and protection (signature/filter/rules) updates.
3. Tuning – time required to configure the policy such that the best possible protection is applied while reducing or eliminating false alarms and false positives.

NSS Labs subscribers can gain access to this helpful tool in order to customize their comparisons, for example, using actual price quotes from vendors.