

### Top Layer IPS 5500

**Summary:** Rate and content based protection is available with this IPS appliance that wins our Editor's Choice Award for protection and performance.

**Price:** Starts at \$15,000

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# Top Layer

*perfecting the art of network security*

The internet has given birth to a brand new band of cyber-thieves and experienced hackers who have nothing better to do than attempt access to a company's web connected network environment. Whether it's just for the fun of it or an attempt for monetary gain, network administrators should be concerned about this type of activity. Whether it's through a flooding of the network gateway or an attempt to illegally enter the site, the results can be damaging. Top Layer has produced a group of intrusion prevention system (IPS) appliance with the IPS 5500 series that receives our Editor's Choice Award for protection and performance.

Top Layer manufactures four different versions of this IPS appliance that range between the IPS 5500-50 which offers 10/100Base-T connections to the performance-ridden IPS 5500-1000 that touts a rated

## The IPS 5500-1000 has a rated throughput of 2Gbps

the appliance is rather easy to do however you may want to analyze all the different types of traffic approaching your network before performing some of the advanced configurations of the IPS 5500. It offers powerful firewall functionality and protection against denial of service (DoS) attacks. Unlike other IPS products, this Top Layer series provides rate-based and content-based security when scanning incoming packets.

All members of the IPS 5500 series include a hot-swappable power supply or an optional dual power supply, four 10/100Base-T Ethernet connections, 1 serial port for use with a console and two high speed USB 2.0 ports. Some users may wish to use a console through

mate traffic was allowed to travel into the network environment.

Provide you corporate network with an appliance that can stop both rate and content-based attacks and other types of internet-related threats with the Top Layer IPS 5500 series. The cost of the appliance ranges between \$15,000 for the IPS 5500-100 up to \$80,000 for the IPS 5500-1000 with additional costs based on the number of concurrent sessions. You can find more information and technical specifications about this series of products on the company's web site which is located at [www.toplayer.com](http://www.toplayer.com).

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the serial port for command line operations however we found it much easier to use the Java-based web browser-based application.

Testing the Top Layer IPS 5500 which is capable of handling up to one million open connections we found the unit's latency period to be generally under 100-milliseconds and that really depends on the size of the packets. The appliance was able to stop all attempts we made with intentional DoS attacks while legiti-

