

# Welcome to Smoothwall Express

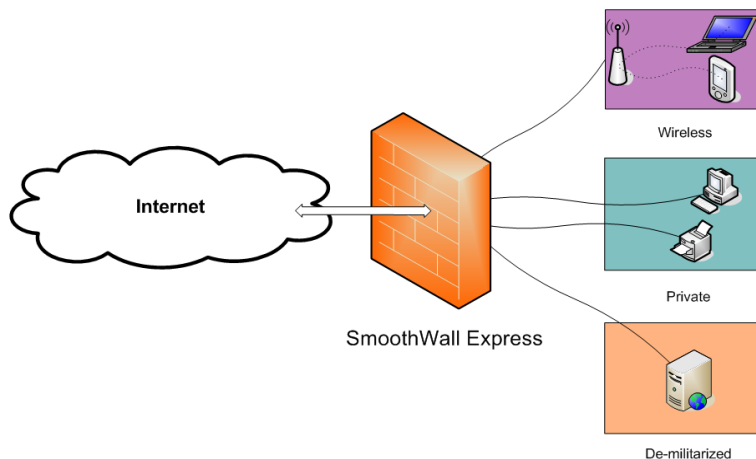
In this chapter:

- An overview of Smoothwall Express
- About this documentation and who should read it
- System and hardware information
- GPL, registration and support information.

## Welcome

Welcome to Smoothwall Express and secure Internet connectivity.

Smoothwall Express is an open source firewall distribution based on the GNU/Linux operating system. Designed for ease of use, Smoothwall Express is configured via a web-based GUI and requires absolutely no knowledge of Linux to install or use.



Smoothwall Express enables you to easily build a firewall to securely connect a network of computers to the Internet.

Almost any Pentium-class PC can be used, for example, an old low specification PC long obsolete as a

user workstation or server. Smoothwall Express creates a dedicated hardware firewall, offering the facilities and real security associated with hardware devices.

Smoothwall Express comes pre-configured to stop all incoming traffic that is not the result of an outgoing request. The rules that implement this policy are part of the system configuration and should not normally be edited by other than the configuration procedure.

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**Note** If any of the Linux system or configuration files are changed by other than the Smoothwall Express configuration and installation procedures, there is a risk of compromising security, for which the Smoothwall Express Project Team cannot be held responsible. However, we encourage people to experiment with and further develop their Smoothwall Express; but we must point out that ill-conceived or badly executed changes might compromise the security of the Smoothwall Express system.

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## Who should read this guide?

Anyone installing and maintaining Smoothwall Express should read this guide.

## Other documentation and user information

<https://my.smoothwall.org/> – here you can create a my.Smoothwall profile, access more documentation and sign up for newsletters and more information.

<http://www.smoothwall.org/> – this is the home of the Smoothwall Express community, containing the collective wisdom of hundreds of Smoothwall Express experts in forums, FAQs and IRC channels.

## System and hardware specifications

**Note:** Requirements may vary depending on traffic throughput and processing requirements, which themselves vary according to the number and size of protected networks.

System/hardware	Requirement/recommendations	
<b>Processor</b>	Intel Pentium 200 Or Compatible Processors. SMP systems are supported. <i>A more modern multi-core CPU is recommend for systems that will support high levels of traffic,I run ClamAV antivirus, Snort intrusion detection and/or Squid web proxy.</i>	
<b>Memory</b>	128 Megabytes Of Ram. More RAM is required for memory-intensive services like ClamAV and Snort.	
<b>Storage</b>	2 gigabytes hard disk – IDE, SATA and SCSI devices are supported. <i>The most common hardware RAID systems should be supported, but are untested.</i>	
<b>Network interface cards</b>	A minimum of one supported network interface card (NIC). If the connection to the Internet is via a broadband device such as a cable modem, ethernet-presented ADSL, or another ethernet-presented connection, you will need a second NIC. You can use up to four NICs (one for each firewall zone). <i>USB network access devices (NAD) are supported, but are not recommended for high traffic systems.</i>	
<b>Keyboard</b>	If the system BIOS supports boot without keyboard, this is only required for the initial installation.	
<b>Video card</b>	Only required when installing Smoothwall Express.	
<b>Monitor</b>	Only required when installing Smoothwall Express. <i>The Advanced Installer enables the use of a serial port as the system console.</i>	
<b>CD-ROM/DVD</b>	Only required when installing Smoothwall Express. <i>The Advanced Installer enables booting and installing from hot-pluggable drives.</i>	
<b>Floppy drive</b>	Recommended for upgrading from previous versions.	
<b>Internet connection type</b>	Cable/DSL/ Direct Connection	a suitable NIC is required.
	ADSL	a supported PCI or USB modem is required. <i>This excludes modems that present a NIC to the host.</i>
	ISDN	a supported ISDN card or external EIA-232 or USB connected adapter is required.
	Modem	a modem, a supported EIA-232, ISA or PCI modem is required.

**Table 1: Minimum and recommended hardware requirements**

## About registration

The first time you connect to the Internet from your newly installed Smoothwall Express, a registration script runs once only.

In a manner similar to the way in which a web site cookie records a small amount of information for future viewing of that particular site, the registration script sends a few key pieces of information about your installation back to Smoothwall Limited. This data enables the development team to gauge the type of platforms on which Smoothwall Express is being deployed and to better judge what features it would be helpful to add to future releases.

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**Note** Please note that none of this information is sensitive and that all the information is stored securely in our database according to BS5750 and the Data Protection Act requirements.

Smoothwall Limited does not capture any other user information or any other data secretly or covertly; all information recorded is impersonal. We appreciate your concerns about security and data integrity.

If you would like to voluntarily provide any further information to assist the future development of products there is a registration form on the web site that can be used for this purpose.

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The following system information is recorded:

- The date of installation
- The processor type and speed
- Interface configuration
- Smoothwall Express Version
- The size of hard drive present
- The amount of memory (RAM) present
- A list of PCI and USB devices installed.

## GPL and open source software

Smoothwall Express is licensed under the General Public Licence (GPL); see <http://www.gnu.org/> and <http://www.copyleft.org/> for the full terms and conditions of the licence.

All program code written specifically for Smoothwall Express is licensed under the GPL, the copyright to which remains with the original author.

All code contributed to Smoothwall Express by Smoothwall Limited, even if previously released as part of their commercial products, is licensed under the GPL, the copyright of the code remaining with Smoothwall Limited.

The CD image file (.iso) by which Smoothwall Express is distributed also contains a large amount of Linux operating system and general purpose code, libraries etc. that was not written specifically for Smoothwall Express. Indeed, it is the use of this pre-existing code base that makes the open source concept so powerful and enabled the rapid development of the initial Smoothwall Express firewall.

The licensing and copyright of all this non Smoothwall Express specific code is the responsibility of the original author, i.e. the person who wrote the code. In general this code is licensed under the GPL or the Lesser GPL (LGPL).

In adherence with the terms of the GPL, any changes that have been made to other people's GPL or LGPL licensed code in the creation of Smoothwall Express are published by the Smoothwall Express open source project team via the <http://www.Smoothwall.org/> web site. All program code specifically written for Smoothwall Express is also available from the web site.