

NETWORK-ATTACHED HARDWARE SECURITY MODULES

The Thales nShield Connect series are network attached hardware security modules (HSMs) that increase the digital security of an organization's critical business applications by isolating sensitive tasks, securely executing cryptographic operations, and protecting and managing the associated keys. These hardened, tamper-resistant platforms perform encryption, digital signing and key management on behalf of an extensive range of commercial and custom-built applications including public key infrastructures (PKIs), identity management systems, application-level encryption and tokenization, SSL/TLS, and code signing. High assurance alternatives to the software-based cryptography libraries, nShield Connect modules feature certified implementations of all leading algorithms including Suite B, as well as best in class elliptic curve cryptography (ECC) performance.

► Key Benefits

- Automate risk-prone administrative tasks, guarantee key recovery, and eliminate costly manually-intensive backup processes
- Remote Administration feature reduces the cost of traveling to data centers
- Establish strong separation of duties through robust administration policies including roles-based multi-factor authentication and quorum-based authorization
- Enable secure execution of custom security-critical application code within the tamper-resistant hardware boundary



Thales e-Security

nShield Connect Series

Connect+ and Connect XC





Thales nShield Connect Series

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS¹

Functional capabilities

- Secure key and application storage and processing
- Cryptographic offloading and acceleration
- Authenticated multi level access control
- Strong separation of administration and operator roles
- Hardened client authentication using nToken hardware
- Secure key wrapping, backup, replication and recovery
- Unlimited protected key storage
- Supports clustering and load-balancing
- Logical cryptographic separation of application keys
- “k of n” multi-factor authentication

Supported operating systems

- Windows, Linux, Solaris⁴, IBM AIX⁴, HP – UX⁴
- Server side: Windows, Linux, Solaris, IBM AIX, HP-UX
- Supports numerous VM software vendors including VMware, Hyper-V and AIX LPARs
- Remote Administration client side: Windows, Linux

Application Program Interfaces (APIs)

- PKCS#11, OpenSSL, Java (JCE), Microsoft CAPI and CNG
- nCore (low-level Thales interface for developers)

Compatibility and upgradeability

- Compatible with Thales nShield Connect, nShield Solo PCI/PCIe/PCIe+ and nShield Edge
- Security World key management architecture enables load balancing across mixed estates of nShield models
- Software upgradeable

Host connectivity

- Dual Gigabit Ethernet ports (services two network segments)

Cryptography

- Asymmetric public key algorithms: RSA, Diffie-Hellman, DSA, KCDSA, ECDSA³, ECDH³
- Symmetric algorithms: AES, ARIA, Camellia, CAST, RIPEMD160, HMAC, SEED, Triple DES
- Hash/message digest: SHA-1, SHA-2 (224, 256, 384, 512 bit)
- Full Suite B implementation with fully licensed ECC including Brainpool and custom curves

Security² compliance

- FIPS 140-2 Level 2 and Level 3 (XC models FIPS-pending)

Safety and environmental compliance

- UL, CE, FCC, C-TICK, and Canada ICES
- RoHS2, WEEE

High availability

- All solid-state storage
- Dual hot-swap power supplies
- Field serviceable components (power supplies and fans)

Management and monitoring

- Remote Administration enables management—including adding applications, updating firmware, and checking nShield status—from your office location
- Syslog diagnostics support
- Windows performance monitoring
- Command line interface (CLI)/graphical user interface (GUI)
- SNMP monitoring agent

Physical characteristics

- Standard 1U 19in. rack mount with integrated Smart Card Reader
- Dimensions: 43.4 x 430 x 705mm (1.7 x 16.9 x 27.8in)
- Weight: 11.5kg (25.4lb)
- Input voltage: 100-240v AC auto switching 50-60Hz (nominal)/ IEC 320 mains socket and rocker switch
- Power consumption: up to 1.2A at 110v AC 60Hz or 0.6A at 220v AC 50Hz
- Heat dissipation: 327.6 to 362.0 BTU/hr (full load)

Available models and performance

| nShield Connect Models | 500+ | XC Base | 1500+ | 6000+ | XC Mid | XC High |
|---|------|---------|-------|-------|--------|---------|
| RSA Signing Performance (tps) for NIST Recommended Key Lengths | | | | | | |
| 2048 bit | 150 | 340 | 450 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 8,400 |
| 4096 bit | 80 | 80 | 190 | 500 | 700 | 2,000 |
| ECC Prime Curve Signing Performance (tps) for NIST Recommended Key Lengths ³ | | | | | | |
| 256 bit | 540 | 570 | 1,260 | 2,400 | 5,000 | 14,000 |

Microsoft Partner

Gold Application Development

- 1 Performance may vary depending on operating system, application, network topology and other factors.
- 2 Security certifications are performed only against select firmware versions. Consult the certifications section of our website for links to official certificates.
- 3 With ECC Activation
- 4 Connect+ models only

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