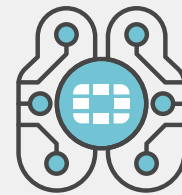


# Improve Operational Efficiency: The Transformative Power of FortiAI on FortiManager

## Executive Summary

In today's constantly evolving network operations landscape, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a cornerstone for innovation, particularly with the advent of Generative AI (GenAI). And as network complexity grows, so does the need for intelligent tools that can simplify management tasks and enhance efficiency. However, according to Gartner research,<sup>1</sup> 65% of network activities, including configuration and troubleshooting, are still performed manually—highlighting a significant opportunity for automation and efficiency improvements through Generative AI (GenAI).

Fortinet's FortiManager addresses this need with its latest enhancement, FortiAI. This Generative AI (GenAI)-based Assistant, with speech-to-text that recognizes many global languages, harnesses the power of artificial intelligence to revolutionize network management and security operations. Using FortiAI, FortiManager empowers IT teams to easily navigate complex network environments by offering advanced scripting assistance and IoT vulnerability diagnostics. These new functions elevate operational efficiency and enable even those with minimal coding experience to confidently configure and adjust their network to meet evolving needs.



According to Gartner research, by 2026, GenAI technology is expected to influence 20% of initial network configurations, a dramatic rise from virtually none in 2023.<sup>2</sup>

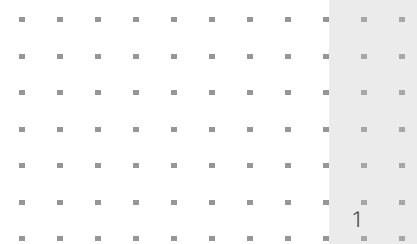
## Addressing Operational Challenges:

The addition of FortiAI to FortiManager addresses several critical problems in network management and security operations:

- **Eliminates Manual Configuration and Troubleshooting:** AI-enhanced configuration and troubleshooting accelerate network provisioning and policy changes while eliminating the risk of human errors.
- **Increases Operational Efficiency:** Reducing network complexity eliminates redundant and overlapping processes, reduces the time needed to detect, investigate, and respond to issues, and conserves valuable resources.
- **Dynamic Scalability and Adaptability:** With the growing number of devices and increasing data traffic, AI-enabled management can quickly adapt to the dynamic needs of network environments, ensuring that operations remain smooth and efficient even as the network scales.

## Day 0-1 Network Design and Configuration: Improved Quality and Reduced Errors

FortiAI within FortiManager enables a transformative approach to Day 0-1 network configuration and provisioning. GenAI-assisted scripting in CLI and Jinja helps address the industry's ongoing skill shortage by augmenting technical abilities. It can generate scripting based on conversational commands, making it accessible to those with varying levels of programming expertise. It also includes a validation capability that scrutinizes code for errors and suggests edits to streamline code development and enhance the reliability of configuration scripts. It's a powerful asset for IT teams seeking to elevate their operational efficiency and script accuracy.



## Day-2 Network Management: From Reactive to Proactive

FortiManager offers the industry's first IoT assistant with a conversational AI interface powered by FortiAI to detect and troubleshoot IoT vulnerabilities. With this function in place, network security teams can interact with the system using natural language to get a high-level view of vulnerabilities, drill down to specifics such as associated users and severity level, analyze impacts, and even take actionable recommendations from FortiAI for proactive problem identification and quicker problem resolution.

For ongoing network maintenance, FortiAI-powered FortiManager helps validate and proactively examine changes, significantly reducing human error and the likelihood of misconfigurations. The integration of GenAI within FortiManager moves network operations closer to the ideal of a self-healing network by addressing potential issues before they impact users and seamlessly shifting resources in anticipation of network load changes. This is a significant leap toward a network that not only manages itself but also adapts and learns from ongoing operations.



For daily operations (Day 2 management), Gartner estimates that 60% of network personnel are projected to employ GenAI tools.<sup>3</sup>

## Upskilling Your IT Team

FortiAI, integrated within FortiManager, is a game-changer for IT and security teams, especially those who may not possess advanced skill sets or in-depth knowledge of FortiManager's extensive capabilities. With its intuitive AI-driven interface, FortiAI simplifies the complexity of network and security operations, guiding teams through the optimization of network configurations and security policies. The AI engine analyzes network behaviors, detects anomalies, and suggests actionable insights, empowering teams with varying levels of expertise to make informed decisions. This not only enhances their ability to secure environments effectively but also ensures they harness the full potential of FortiManager's features. By providing on-the-job learning assistance and reducing the need for specialized training, FortiAI effectively upskills teams, bridges skill gaps, and improves productivity, enabling them to confidently manage and optimize security operations.

## Building Trust with Incremental Implementation

Fortinet understands that adopting such advanced technology doesn't happen overnight. The key is building trust. That's why Fortinet started rolling out these GenAI capabilities around diagnostics and scripting first, enabling network administrators to quickly take advantage of them with the high accuracy and precision they deliver. This allows your team to become familiar with AI-driven recommendations and iteratively move towards unattended automation as trust in the system grows.

## The Future is AI-Driven

This is just the beginning. By designing and embracing advanced AI capabilities, FortiManager is not just keeping up with industry trends. It is actively paving the way for a future where network management is more intuitive, efficient, and aligned with the dynamic needs of modern digital businesses.

With further integration of GenAI down the road, FortiManager is set to offer unprecedented levels of automation and intelligence in network management. The goal is to help you unleash the power of the Fortinet platform and maximize the use of each solution within it, streamlining network operations while maintaining the high levels of security and performance your evolving network demands.

<sup>1</sup> Gartner. Jonathan Forest, Andrew Lerner, "[Prepare for Generative AI in Network Operations](#)," March 19, 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.