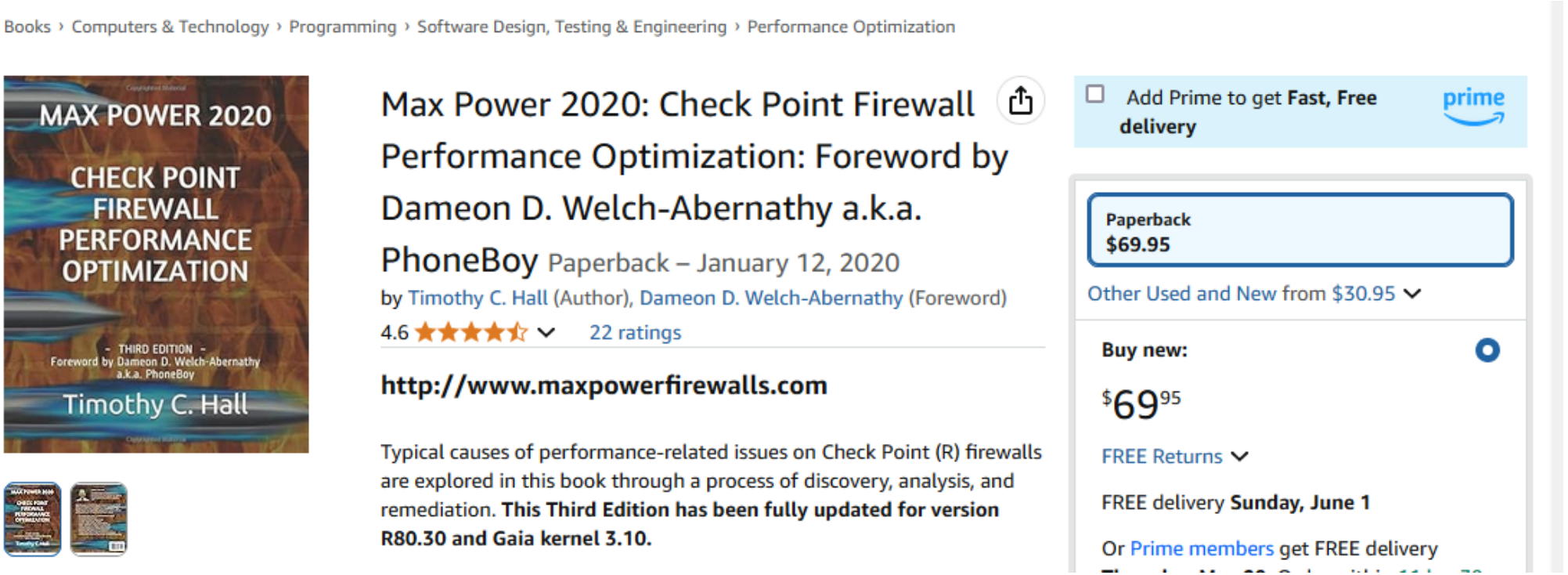
# Gaia 4.18 (R82) Immersion: Tips, Tricks, & Best Practices

Shadow Peak

SECURITY TRAINING AND SERVICES

# Welcome & Introduction

- Your Instructor: **Timothy Hall, CISSP**
  - Worked with Check Point products since 1997, Check Point certified instructor since 2004
  - Founder of Shadow Peak Inc, a Check Point Authorized Training Center (ATC) (https://www.shadowpeak.com)
  - Link to 3,800+ CheckMates Posts  Link to 2,200+ CPUG Posts  Also the author of book "Max Power 2020: Check Point Firewall Performance Optimization"



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# Gaia 4.18 Immersion: Tips, Tricks, and Best Practices Training Details

- *At the end of each module, there will be an **R82/Gaia 4.18 Updates** and a **Tips, Tricks, and Best Practices** section – these are always worth a quick look even if you are already intimately familiar with the topics covered by that module!*
- Prerequisites: Basic systems and networking knowledge. CCSA certification or equivalent experience helpful.
- This course is not intended to completely replace the extensive Check Point R82 formal documentation, which fully describes the Gaia OS and how to perform detailed, specific configurations. The intent is to provide overall guidance with some basic sample configurations, along with details of the new tools & features in Gaia 4.18, as well as providing the latest real-world tips, tricks, and best practices that are not always included in the formal documentation (or not even documented at all).
- The slides we will be working with in the recorded videos are identical to those provided in this PDF document.
- We will be working with the Gaia OS version associated with the R82 GA release (Red Hat Enterprise Linux [RHEL] 8.6 with kernel 4.18). We will also mention the older 3.10 kernel used in R81.20 and earlier code releases, dating back to version R80.40.
- It is anticipated that version R82.10, currently in private Early Availability (EA) as of this writing, will update the Linux kernel to 5.14.0-427.13.1 (the equivalent of RHEL 9.4). This update is primarily to obtain support for the ARM CPUs in use on the new 3900 series appliances: sk183199: Quantum Force 3900 Appliances. The Gaia-level changes of this update to kernel 5.14.0-427.13.1 are anticipated to be minor and are previewed in Appendix A.
- The course assumes working with a Gaia system that has already been imaged and deployed (or upgraded) with R82. The Gaia imaging process, via tools such as ISOMorphic and Blink, is well-documented by Check Point and not covered in this course. If the Gaia imaging and deployment tasks are of interest, I'd strongly recommend checking out the upcoming Check Point Deployment Administrator (CPDA) R82 course, which should be available from Check Point ATC partners worldwide soon. Blink is covered (and utilized) in the existing Check Point Automation Specialist (CCAS) R81.20 course which is already available from ATCs worldwide including Shadow Peak. The official R82 Upgrade & Installation Guide always contains the latest R82 upgrade information & procedures.

- The primary focus of this course is the Gaia 4.18 kernel running on Check Point appliances (models 3000-29XXX), including gateway appliances being utilized for Maestro Security Groups. Maestro Hyperscale Orchestrators will have limited coverage, as will the Scalable Platform chassis.
- The material presented in this course will mostly apply to CloudGuard gateways (which also utilize the same RHEL 8.6 Gaia 4.18 OS), subject to the documented R82 CloudGuard Controller Administration Guide Limitations.
- Embedded Gaia, based on the Linux BusyBox OS and used on the 600-2000 appliance models called "Quantum Spark", will have limited coverage in this course; however, the concepts and most configuration operations are similar. Differences between Embedded Gaia and "maintrain" Gaia are documented here: sk178604: Check Point R81.10.X for 1500, 1600, 1800, 1900, and 2000 appliance Known Limitations
- Hyperlinks shown in this document are “hot” and can be clicked to show the specified resource in your web browser. Hyperlinked references are provided in this course for two reasons: further reading if the subject is of particular interest to you, and also to provide the very latest information about the topic after the publication of this course.