



## **FORUM SENTRY AMI REQUIREMENTS**

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# I. Introduction

## 1. Overview

This information in this document pertains to the Forum Sentry AMI for Amazon Web Services (AWS) Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2).

The guide will cover the following topics:

1. Minimum and recommended EC2 Instance Types (i.e. memory, CPU, etc.)
2. Recommended deployment architecture for High Availability in AWS

## 2. Glossary

The following are definitions and other terms that may be used interchangeably throughout this guide:

**Forum Sentry AMI:** “Sentry”, “Forum Sentry”

**ForumOS:** The ForumOS is a proprietary hardened Linux OS provided by Forum Systems. The product, Forum Sentry, runs on the ForumOS. The ForumOS runs on the Forum Sentry hardware appliances. A fully encapsulated virtualized rendition of the hardware appliance is deployable as either an AWS EC2 AMI or an OVA VMware image.

**AMI:** “Amazon machine image”

**Amazon Web Services:** “AWS”

**Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud:** “EC2”

**BYOL:** “Bring Your Own License”

## 3. About the Forum Sentry AMI Licensing

Forum Sentry API Security Gateway is available in the AWS Marketplace as a Bring Your Own License (BYOL) product listing. BYOL licensing means that you pay the base Amazon usage rates for allocation of an AMI instance, but the Forum Sentry licensing is based on a license you receive directly from Forum System and is independent of the Amazon usage charges.

## 4. Installation Instructions

For full installation procedures please reference:

[Forum Sentry Amazon AMI Installation Guide](#)

The Forum Sentry AMI is available in several AWS regions around the world. If the AMI is not found in the region you want to run it in, it may possible to launch the Sentry AMI in other regions. For details see:

[Launching the Forum Sentry AMI in Different AWS Regions](#)

The Forum Sentry Quick Start Guide includes installation steps for the Sentry AMI as well as sample use case tutorials.

[Forum Sentry Quick Start Guide](#)

## II. Minimum & Recommended EC2 Instance Requirements

This chapter lists both the minimum and recommended specifications for the Forum Sentry AMI EC2 Instances.

Amazon EC2 provides a wide selection of instance types optimized to fit different use cases. Instances are virtual servers that can run applications. They have varying combinations of CPU, memory, storage, and networking capacity, and give you the flexibility to choose the appropriate mix of resources for your applications.

Please note that Forum Systems does not control the AWS EC2 instance types and they are subject to change at any time.

### 1. Forum Sentry Production Instances

Minimum Specifications:

- 200GB Hard Drive
- 2 CPUs
- 4GB memory

The minimum EC2 instance type supported is:

**t2.medium** : 2 CPUS, 4GB RAM

Recommended Specifications:

- 200GB Hard Drive
- 4 CPUs
- 16GB memory

The recommended EC2 instance type is:

**m4.xlarge** : 4 CPUS, 16GB RAM

### 2. Forum Sentry Test/Dev Instances

Recommended Specifications:

- 200GB Hard Drive
- 2 CPUs
- 4GB memory

The minimum EC2 instance type supported is:

**t2.medium** : 2 CPUS, 4GB RAM

### III. Recommended Deployment Architecture for High Availability in AWS

Regardless of the form factor (hardware, virtual appliance, AMI, software) the Forum Sentry API Security Gateway is an in-line Layer 4-7 protocol break content intermediary. All transactions are terminated and re-initiated, similar to a reverse proxy deployment.

#### 1. High Availability

For all production environments, Forum Systems recommends multiple ACTIVE Sentry instances be deployed behind the network load balancer.

The load balancer is responsible for the high availability and failover for the APIs and services deployed through Sentry. The load balancer should be configured with a content layer health check that monitors the Sentry instances and policies.

Forum Sentry production instances deployed in AWS should take advantage of AWS Elastic Load Balancing.

Elastic Load Balancing offers three types of load balancers that all feature the high availability and automatic scaling. They are detailed here:

##### [Elastic Load Balancing](#)

The type to use with Forum Sentry can vary depending on use case and traffic volume. However, a Network Load Balancer or Classic Load Balancer is typically sufficient.

Forum Sentry is often used for TLS / SSL Termination of the API traffic flows; therefore, the load balancer won't have access to the payloads – making many of the features specific to the Application Load Balancer unnecessary.

#### 2. Global Device Management

With multiple active Sentry instances in production, the Sentry configurations need to be identical (except for the listening IPs). To keep the Sentry policies in sync, use the Global Device Management features which allow centralized policy management.

##### [Forum Sentry Global Device Management](#)

#### 3. Load Balancing in Sentry

Note that Sentry has load balancing capabilities built in for high availability / failover for the remote servers it is forwarding traffic to. For more information see:

##### [Understanding Group Remote Policies in Forum Sentry](#)

## VII. Support & Documentation

### 1. Contacting Forum Systems Support

[Online Helpdesk](#) - create support tickets, access forums, docs, FAQs

Email Support: [support@forumsys.com](mailto:support@forumsys.com)

Phone Support: + 1.781.791.7510 option 2

### 2. Forum Sentry Documentation

[Full Sentry Documentation](#) (also available through the WebAdmin interface)

[Forum Sentry WebAdmin Overview Video](#)