

Lab 08

Configuring IOS Intrusion Prevention System (IPS)

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7.1 Objective

The Objectives of this lab are:

- Enable IOS IPS.
- Configure logging.
- Modify an IPS signature.
- Verify IPS.

7.2 Background

Your task is to enable IPS on R1 to scan traffic entering the 192.168.1.0 network.

The server labeled Syslog is used to log IPS messages. You must configure the router to identify the syslog server to receive logging messages. Displaying the correct time and date in syslog messages is vital when using syslog to monitor the network. Set the clock and configure the timestamp service for logging on the routers. Finally, enable IPS to produce an alert and drop ICMP echo reply packets inline.

The server and PCs have been preconfigured. The routers have also been preconfigured with the following:

- o Enable password: **ciscoenpa55**
- o Console password: **ciscoconpa55**
- o SSH username and password: SSHadmin / ciscosshpa55
- o OSPF 101

Topology

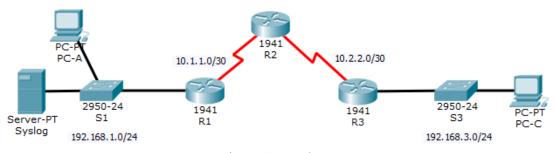


Figure 1: Topology

Addressing Table



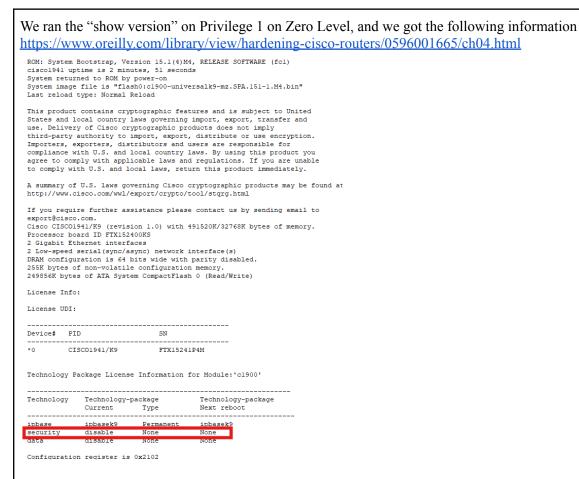
Device	Interface	IP Address	Subnet Mask	Default Gateway	Switch Port
R1	G0/1	192.168.1.1	255.255.255.0	N/A	S1 F0/1
KI	S0/0/0	10.1.1.1	255.255.255.252	N/A	N/A
DO.	S0/0/0 (DCE)	10.1.1.2	255.255.255.252	N/A	N/A
R2	S0/0/1 (DCE)	10.2.2.2	255.255.255.252	N/A	N/A
DO.	G0/1	192.168.3.1	255.255.255.0	N/A	S3 F0/1
R3	S0/0/0	10.2.2.1	255.255.255.252	N/A	N/A
Syslog	NIC	192.168.1.50	255.255.255.0	192.168.1.1	S1 F0/2
PC-A	NIC	192.168.1.2	255.255.255.0	192.168.1.1	S1 F0/3
PC-C	NIC	192.168.3.2	255.255.255.0	192.168.3.1	S3 F0/2

Table 1: Addressing Table

Task 1: Enable IOS IPS

Note: Within Packet Tracer, the routers already have the signature files imported and in place. They are the default xml files in flash. For this reason, it is not necessary to configure the public crypto key and complete a manual import of the signature files.

1. Enable the Security Technology package on **R1**.



As we can observe, it tells us that the "current **security** package" is disabled. The type is **none** indicating that no valid license for the security package is currently installed. The "Next Reboot"



field also having **None** tells us that unless the technology package is installed, security package will remain disabled.

Thus, I will now try enabling the Security Package.

Going in Configuration Mode (Level 15 Privilege)

Ri#config t
Enter configuration commands, one per line. End with CNTL/Z.
Rl(config)#license boot module c1900 technology-package securityk9
PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING TERMS CAREFULLY. INSTALLING THE LICENSE OR
LICENSE KEY PROVIDED FOR ANY CISCO PRODUCT FEATURE OR USING SUCH
PRODUCT FEATURE CONSTITUTES YOUR FULL ACCEPTANCE OF THE FOLLOWING
TERMS. YOU MUST NOT PROCEED FURTHER IF YOU ARE NOT WILLING TO BE BOUND
BY ALL THE TERMS SET FORTH HEREIN.

Use of this product feature requires an additional license from Cisco, together with an additional payment. You may use this product feature on an evaluation basis, without payment to Cisco, for 60 days. Your use of the product, including during the 60 day evaluation period, is subject to the Cisco end user license agreement http://www.cisco.com/en/US/docs/general/warranty/English/EUIKEN_.html

http://www.cisco.com/en/US/docs/general/warranty/English/EUIKEN_html
If you use the product feature beyond the 60 day evaluation period, you
must submit the appropriate payment to Cisco for the license. After the
60 day evaluation period, your use of the product feature will be
governed solely by the Cisco end user license agreement (link above),
together with any supplements relating to such product feature. The
above applies even if the evaluation license is not automatically
terminated and you do not receive any notice of the expiration of the
evaluation period. It is your responsibility to determine when the
evaluation period is complete and you are required to make payment to
Cisco for your use of the product feature beyond the evaluation period.

Your acceptance of this agreement for the software features on one product shall be deemed your acceptance with respect to all such software on all Cisco products you purchase which includes the same software. (The foregoing notwithstanding, you must purchase a license for each software feature you use past the 60 days evaluation period, so that if you enable a software feature on 1000 devices, you must purchase 1000 licenses for use past the 60 day evaluation period.)

Activation of the software command line interface will be evidence of your acceptance of this agreement.

ACCEPT? [yes/no]: yes

% use 'write' command to make license boot config take effect on next boot

Rl(config) #: %IOS_LICENSE_IMAGE_APPLICATION-6-LICENSE_LEVEL: Module name = C1900 Next reboot level = securityk9 and License = securityk9

As we can see it will get enabled in next reboot

Technology Package License Information for Module:'c1900'

Technology Technology-package Technology-package
Current Type Next reboot

ipbase ipbasek9 Permanent ipbasek9
security disable None securityk9
data disable None None

Before we reboot, we must make sure that Router actually remembers the said security packet.

Rl#write memory

After rebooting with "R1# Reload"



Technology P	ackage License	: Information f	for Module:'cl9	00'
Technology	Technology-p Current	ackage Type	Technology-po Next reboot	ackage
ipbase	ipbasek9	Permanent	ipbasek9	
security	securityk9	Evaluation	securityk9	
data	disable	None	None	

The **securityk9 license** on Cisco routers enables a range of advanced security features designed to protect network communications and infrastructure. It provides **VPN capabilities**, including IPSec and SSL VPN, allowing for secure data transmission over public networks. The license also includes **stateful firewall services**, which offer in-depth traffic inspection to guard against unauthorized access. Additionally, it supports **encryption features like AES and 3DES**, ensuring data privacy with secure communications. Other key capabilities include Intrusion Prevention System (IPS) on some models, which detects and mitigates malicious threats, as well as secure connectivity protocols such as IKEv2 and SSL/TLS encryption for enhanced security. These features are essential for building robust, secure networks in enterprise environments.

Typical Syntax:

license boot module <module-name> technology-package securityk9

license boot: This part of the command tells the router to boot with a specific license or technology package enabled.

module c1900: Specifies the hardware module (in this case, a Cisco 1900 series router) on which the license is being applied.

technology-package securityk9: Specifies the technology package you want to enable. In this case, it's the securityk9 package, which includes advanced security features like VPN, firewall, and encryption.

Thus, that's we ran:

license boot module c1900 technology-package securityk9

modulename is just given above the table for the security package information when we run "show version"

- 2. Verify network connectivity
 - a. Ping from PC-C to PC-A. The ping should be successful

PC-C: 192.168.3.2 PC-A: 192.168.1.2





b. Ping from **PC-A** to **PC-C**. The ping should be successful.



3. Create an IOS IPS configuration directory in flash.

On R1, create a directory in flash using **mkdir** command. Name the directory **ipsdir**.

```
Creating a directory in flash TO store IPS signatures.
Rl#mkdir ipsdir
Create directory filename [ipsdir]?
Created dir flash:ipsdir
Confirming whether it actually exists or not:
R1#
%SYS-5-CONFIG_I: Configured from console by console
dir flash:
Directory of flash0:/
               33591768 <no date> c1900-universalk9-mz.SPA.151-4.M4.bin
192 <no date> ipsdir
28282 <no date> sigdef-category.xml
        -rw-
     4 drw-
     2 -rw-
                                   <no date> sigdef-default.xml
                  227537
255744000 bytes total (221441339 bytes free)
```



4. Configure the IPS signature storage location.

On R1, configure the IPS signature storage location to the directory you just created.

R1(config) #ip ips config location flash:ipsdir

```
Configuring to store IPS Signatures in "ipsdir"
Rl(config) #ip ips config location flash:ipsdir
Verifying whether the command worked or not:
Rl#show ip ips configuration
 IPS Signature File Configuration Status
     Configured Config Locations: flash:ipsdir
     Last signature delta load time:
     Last event action (SEAP) load time: -none-
     General SEAP Config:
     Global Deny Timeout: 3600 seconds
     Global Overrides Status: Enabled
     Global Filters Status: Enabled
 IPS Auto Update is not currently configured
 IPS Syslog and SDEE Notification Status
     Event notification through syslog is enabled
     Event notification through SDEE is enabled
 IPS Signature Status
     Total Active Signatures: 0
     Total Inactive Signatures: 0
 IPS Packet Scanning and Interface Status
     IPS Rule Configuration
     IPS fail closed is disabled
     IPS deny-action ips-interface is false
     Fastpath ips is enabled
     Quick run mode is enabled
     IPS is not currently enabled on any interface
 TPS Category CLT is not configured
```

5. Create an IPS rule.

On **R1**, create an IPS rule name using **ip ips name** name command in global configuration mode. Name the IPS rule **iosips**.

Running:

R1(config) #ip ips name iosips

Command Breakdown

- ip ips: This is the base command that indicates you are configuring the IPS feature.
- name: This keyword specifies that you are assigning a name to the IPS policy.
- iosips: This is the name you are assigning to the IPS policy. It can be any valid identifier as per Cisco's naming conventions.

Verifying:



```
Rl#show running-config | include ip ips
ip ips config location flash:ipsdir retries l
ip ips name iosips
```

- 6. Enable logging. IOS IPS supports the use of syslog to send event notification. Syslog notification is enabled by default. If logging console is enabled, IPS syslog messages display.
 - a. Enable syslog if it is not enabled.

```
R1(config) # ip ips notify log
```

```
R1(config) #ip ips notify log
```

Command Explanation:

This command configures the Intrusion Prevention System (IPS) to log notifications whenever an event occurs that matches the IPS rules. This helps in monitoring and auditing security events.

Verification Methods:

- show ip ips configuration show ip ips name iosips
- show log (after purposely having the traffic that can trigger go through)
- show ip ips events (to see ips related events)

It was apparently configured and enabled from before but we still ran the command.

Verification:

```
Rl#show ip ips configuration
IPS Signature File Configuration Status
    Configured Config Locations: flash:ipsdir
    Last signature default load time:
    Last signature delta load time:
    Last event action (SEAP) load time: -none-
    General SEAP Config:
    Global Deny Timeout: 3600 seconds
    Global Overrides Status: Enabled
    Global Filters Status: Enabled
IPS Auto Update is not currently configured
IPS Syslog and SDEE Notification Status
    Event notification through syslog is enabled
    Event notification through SDEE is enabled
IPS Signature Status
    Total Active Signatures: 0
    Total Inactive Signatures: 0
IPS Packet Scanning and Interface Status
    IPS Rule Configuration
     IPS name iosips
    IPS fail closed is disabled
    IPS deny-action ips-interface is false
    Fastpath ips is enabled
    Quick run mode is enabled
    IPS is not currently enabled on any interface
IPS Category CLI is not configured
```

b. If necessary, use the **clock set** command from privileged EXEC mode to reset the clock.



```
Checking the Clock:
Rl#show clock
*0:32:34.796 UTC Mon Mar 1 1993

Resetting the Clock:
Rl#clock set 10:30:00 Oct 10 2024

Checking the new Clock:
Rl#show clock
10:30:2.406 UTC Thu Oct 10 2024
```

c. Verify that the timestamp service for logging is enabled on the router using the **show run** command.

```
Verifying that the timestamp service for logging is enabled on the router using the show run
command.
 Rl#show run
 Building configuration...
 Current configuration: 1221 bytes
 version 15.1
 no service timestamps log datetime msec
 no service timestamps debug datetime msec
 service password-encryption
 hostname Rl
As we can observe, it is disabled.
Enabling:
R1(config) #service timestamps log datetime msec
Verification:
Rl#show run
 Building configuration...
 Current configuration: 1218 bytes
service timestamps log datetime msec
no service timestamps debug datetime msec
 service password-encryption
 hostname R1
 ı
```



Before we were getting "no service timestamps log datetime msec" and now we are getting "service timestamps log datetime msec". This tells us that timestamp service for logging has now successfully been enabled.

d. Send log messages to the syslog server at IP address 192.168.1.50

```
Rl (config) #logging host 192.168.1.50

when doing "running-config" you should see an output which says this

logging 192.168.1.50

line con 0

password 7 0822455D0A1606181C1B0D517F

login
!
line aux 0

This verifies that it did that successfully.
```

7. Configure IOS IPS to use signature categories.

Retire the **all** signature category with the **retired true** command (all signatures within the signature release). Unretire the **IOS_IPS Basic** category with the **retired false** command.

```
Enter configuration commands, one per line. End with CNTL/Z.

Rl(config) #ip ips signature-category
Rl(config-ips-category) #category all
Rl(config-ips-category-action) #retired true
Rl(config-ips-category-action) #exit
Rl(config-ips-category) #category ios_ips basic
Rl(config-ips-category-action) #retired false
Rl(config-ips-category-action) #retired false
Rl(config-ips-category-action) #exit
Rl(config-ips-category) #exit
Do you want to accept these changes? [confirm]
Applying Category configuration to signatures ...
%IPS-6-ENGINE_BUILDING: atomic-ip - 288 signatures - 6 of 13 engines
%IPS-6-ENGINE_READY: atomic-ip - build time 30 ms - packets for this engine will be scanned
```

Explaining Commands:

ip ips signature-catogory

This command enters the IPS signature category configuration mode, where you can specify actions related to specific signature categories.

category all

This command selects all signature categories for configuration. By targeting all categories, you can apply a uniform action (retirement) to every signature.



retired true

This command marks all signatures in the selected category (all signatures) as retired. Retiring signatures means they will no longer be used to analyze traffic, which reduces the load on the IPS and minimizes false positives.

We then exit the current configuration

category ios ips basic

This command selects the "ios_ips basic" category for configuration. This category typically contains fundamental signatures that protect against common threats.

retired false

This command unretired the basic category, enabling the signatures within it to be active again. This ensures that the IPS continues to provide protection against essential threats.

We then exit the current configuration and save it

So basically, we optimized our IOS IPS for current threats, focusing on only relevant essential signatures **while reducing unnecessary overhead**.

This configuration process is vital for maintaining an effective and efficient intrusion prevention system that can adapt to the evolving security landscape.

Summary:

The purpose of configuring IOS IPS to use signature categories includes improving the security posture by focusing on relevant threats and reducing noise from less critical alerts. This helps enhance network security without overwhelming monitoring systems. Additionally, managing signature updates is important, as retiring outdated or irrelevant signatures keeps the IPS efficient by processing only active and necessary ones. Unretiring the "ios_ips basic" category ensures that essential signatures remain active, providing protection against common vulnerabilities and exploits.

8. Apply the IPS rule to an interface.

Apply the IPS rule to an interface with the **ip ips name** direction command in interface configuration mode. Apply the rule outbound on the G0/1 interface of **R1**. After you enable IPS, some log messages will be sent to the console line indicating that the IPS engines are being initialized.

Note: The direction **in** means that IPS inspects only traffic going into the interface. Similarly, **out** means that IPS inspects only traffic going out of the interface.



```
Rl#config t|
Enter configuration commands, one per line. End with CNTL/Z.
Rl(config)#interface g0/l
Rl(config-if)#interface g0/l
Rl(config-if)#ip ips iosips out
Rl(config-if)#
*Oct 10, 10:51:21.5151: %IPS-6-ENGINE_BUILDS_STARTED: 10:51:21 UTC Oct 10 2024
*Oct 10, 10:51:21.5151: %IPS-6-ENGINE_BUILDING: atomic-ip - 3 signatures - 1 of 13 engines
*Oct 10, 10:51:21.5151: %IPS-6-ENGINE_READY: atomic-ip - build time 8 ms - packets for this engine
will be scanned
*Oct 10, 10:51:21.5151: %IPS-6-ALL_ENGINE_BUILDS_COMPLETE: elapsed time 8 ms
```

Explaining:

ip ips iosips out

This command enables the IOS IPS (Intrusion Prevention System) feature on the interface we selected beforehand. It specifies that the IPS should inspect traffic going *out* of the GigabitEthernet 0/1 interface using the iosips signature set.

Summary of Log Output Explanation

The log messages indicate the activity of the IPS engine following the command to enable it on the interface.

The process starts with the message %IPS-6-ENGINE_BUILDS_STARTED, signaling that the IPS engine is building signatures for inspection.

The message **%IPS-6-ENGINE_BUILDING** reveals that the atomic-ip engine is constructing three signatures as part of the total thirteen engines available.

Once the build is complete, the **%IPS-6-ENGINE_READY** message confirms that the engine is prepared to scan packets, taking just 8 milliseconds for the process.

Finally, **%IPS-6-ALL_ENGINE_BUILDS_COMPLETE** indicates that all engines are ready, confirming that the IPS is fully operational.

What it achieves successfully:

- 1. **Traffic Inspection:** By enabling the IPS on the specified interface, all outbound traffic from that interface will be analyzed for potential security threats based on the defined signature set.
- 2. Real-Time Protection: The IPS can actively block or alert on detected threats, providing real-time protection against attacks such as network intrusions, denial-of-service attacks, and exploitation of vulnerabilities.
- **3. Efficient Signature Management:** The log confirms that the IPS is using its signature engines effectively, optimizing the scanning process to protect the network without significant delays.

Task 2: Modify the Signature

Note: For all configuration tasks, be sure to use the exact names as specified.

1. Change the event-action of a signature.

Un-retire the echo request signature (signature 2004, subsig ID 0), enable it, and change the signature action to alert and drop.



```
Rl(config) #ip ips signature-definition
R1(config-sigdef)#signature 2004 0
Rl(config-sigdef-sig) #status
Rl(config-sigdef-sig-status) #retired false
Rl(config-sigdef-sig-status) #enabled true
R1(config-sigdef-sig-status) #exit
R1(config-sigdef-sig) #engine
R1(config-sigdef-sig-engine) #event-action produce-alert
R1(config-sigdef-sig-engine) #event-action deny-packet-inline
Rl(config-sigdef-sig-engine) #exit
Rl(config-sigdef-sig) #exit
Rl(config-sigdef) #exit
Do you want to accept these changes? [confirm]
%IPS-6-ENGINE BUILDS STARTED:
%IPS-6-ENGINE BUILDING: atomic-ip - 303 signatures - 3 of 13 engines
%IPS-6-ENGINE READY: atomic-ip - build time 480 ms - packets for this engine will be scanned
%IPS-6-ALL ENGINE BUILDS COMPLETE: elapsed time 648 ms
```

Explanation:

ip ips signature-defination

we are defining a new signature here, "ip" tells us we are working with ip-related configurations.

signature 2004 0

This command specifies the signature you want to configure.

The first number (2004) refers to the specific signature ID you are working with, and the second number (0) is typically used to indicate the signature revision or sub-type.

status

This command allows you to enter the status configuration mode for the specified signature, where you can view and set its operational status.

retired false

We are telling the signature should become part of the configuration, but sadly it's still not being actively used in monitoring traffic, thus we do this

enabled true

The signature becomes fully operational. The IPS can now actively analyze incoming traffic for matches against the signature, and it can respond to any detected threats.

We then exit out of the current configuration engine

This command enters the engine configuration mode for the specified signature, <u>allowing you to</u> <u>define how the IPS should respond to detected threats.</u>

event-action produce-alert

This command configures the signature to generate an alert when the signature is matched, allowing network administrators to be notified of potential threats.

event-action deny-packet-inline

This command configures the IPS to block packets that match the signature in real-time, providing immediate protection against threats.

Exiting Engine Configuration:

This command exits the engine configuration mode.



we then exit and confirm to save the configuration.

2. Use show commands to verify IPS.

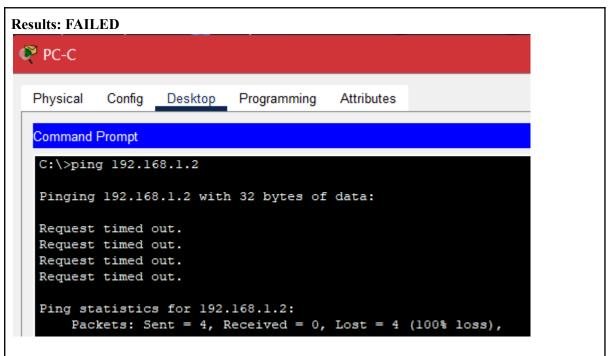
Use the **show ip ips all** command to view the IPS configuration status summary. To which interfaces and in which direction is the **iosips** rule applied?

```
All the configuration thus far!
Rl#show ip ips all
IPS Signature File Configuration Status
    Configured Config Locations: flash:ipsdir
    Last signature default load time:
    Last signature delta load time:
    Last event action (SEAP) load time: -none-
    General SEAP Config:
    Global Deny Timeout: 3600 seconds
    Global Overrides Status: Enabled
    Global Filters Status: Enabled
IPS Auto Update is not currently configured
IPS Syslog and SDEE Notification Status
    Event notification through syslog is enabled
    Event notification through SDEE is enabled
IPS Signature Status
    Total Active Signatures: 1
    Total Inactive Signatures: 0
IPS Packet Scanning and Interface Status
    IPS Rule Configuration
      IPS name iosips
    IPS fail closed is disabled
    IPS deny-action ips-interface is false
    Fastpath ips is enabled
    Quick run mode is enabled
    Interface Configuration
      Interface GigabitEthernet0/1
        Inbound IPS rule is not set
        Outgoing IPS rule is iosips
IPS Category CLI Configuration:
    Category all
          Retire: True
    Category ios_ips basic
          Retire: False
```



G0/1 outbound.

- 3. Verify that IPS is working properly.
 - a. From PC-C, attempt to ping PC-A. Were the pings successful? Explain.



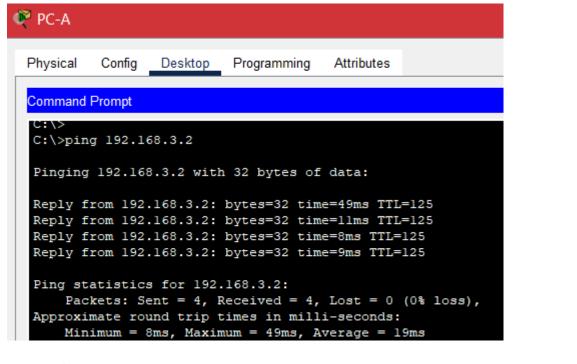
Explanation:

This result makes sense cause we specifically set the IPS (Intrusion Prevention System) rule for the event-action of an echo request to specifically set to **fail** by doing the command "denypacket-inline"

b. From **PC-A**, attempt to ping **PC-C**. Were the pings successful? Explain.

Results: SUCCESS



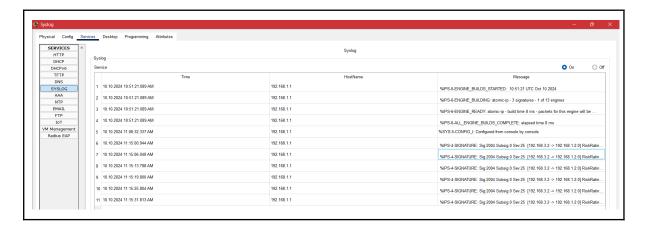


Explanation:

The result makes sense cause our IPS-rule doesn't cover "echo-reply" (different from echo-request!).

When PC-A pings PC-C, PC-C should and does respond with an echo reply.

- 4. View the syslog messages.
 - a. Click the **Syslog** server.
 - b. Select the **Services** tab.
 - c. In the navigation menu, select **SYSLOG** to view the log file.

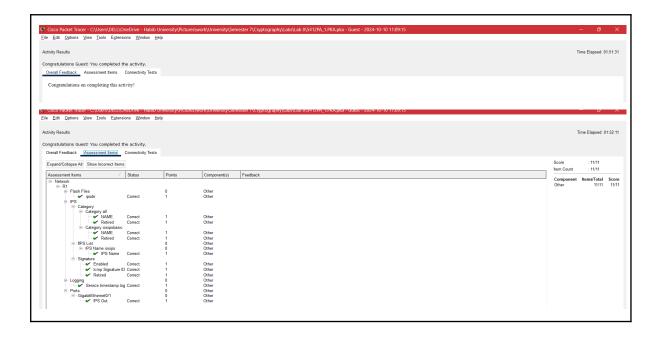


5. Check results.



Your completion percentage should be 100%. Click **Check Results** to see feedback and verification of which required components have been completed.

PROOF OF COMPLETION





Assessment Rubric Lab 08 Configuring IOS Intrusion Prevention System (IPS)

Name: Syed Asghar Abbas Zaidi	Student ID: 07201

Points Distribution

Task No.	LR 2 Simulation	LR5 Results/Plots	LR9 Report
Task 1	30	15	
Task 2	30	15	
Total	/60	/30	/10
CLO Mapped	CLO 3	CLO 3	CLO3

Affective Domain Rubric		Points	CLO Mapped
AR 7 Report Submission		/10	CLO 3

CLO	Total Points	Points Obtained
3	100	
Total	100	

For description of different levels of the mapped rubrics, please refer the provided Lab Evaluation Assessment Rubrics and Affective Domain Assessment Rubrics.



Lab Evaluation Assessment Rubric

#	Assessment Elements	Level 1: Unsatisfactory Points 0-1	Level 2: Developing Points 2	Level 3:Good Points 3	Level 4:Exemplary Points 4
LR2	Program/Code / Simulation Model/ Network Model	n model/network model does not implement the required functionality and has several errors. The student is not able	has some errors and does not produce	model/network model gives correct output but not efficiently implemented or implemented by	implemented and gives correct output. Student has full
LR5	Results & Plots	tables are not developed or are poorly constructed with erroneous	tables are drawn but contain errors. Titles,	are correctly drawn but	appropriate titles/captions
LR9	Report		included in report but are not well explained. All the necessary figures	in-lab tasks is included in report. The work is supported by figures and	