

Computer Network Project

Enterprise Network Design with Subnet Segmentation and Multi-Routing Protocols in Cisco Packet Tracer

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Course: Computer Networks

Objective:

The objective of this project is to design and implement an **enterprise network** using **Cisco Packet Tracer**, with a focus on the following:

- Subnet Segmentation: Dividing the 192.168.1.0/24
 network into multiple subnets to efficiently allocate IP
 addresses for various departments such as HR, Sales, IT,
 Marketing, Finance, and R&D.
- Routing Protocols: Configuring a combination of RIP,
 OSPF, and EIGRP routing protocols to enable interdepartment communication.
- NAT Configuration: Setting up Network Address
 Translation (NAT) to provide internet access to devices in the network.
- DHCP: Implementing Dynamic Host Configuration
 Protocol (DHCP) to assign IP addresses dynamically to devices within each subnet.
- Wireless Connectivity: Integrating Access Points (APs) to provide wireless access to devices.
- All server services implemented.

Technologies Used:

Tools

- Cisco Packet Tracer: A network simulation tool used to design and configure network devices, including routers, switches, and end devices.
- Routing Protocols:
 - RIP (Routing Information Protocol)
 - OSPF (Open Shortest Path First)
 - EIGRP (Enhanced Interior Gateway Routing Protocol)
- DHCP: Used to automatically assign IP addresses to devices in the network.
- **NAT**: Configured to allow devices within the network to access the internet using a single public IP.
- Wireless Connectivity: Integrating Access Points (APs) to provide wireless access to devices.

Implementation Details:

Design and Approach

The project was divided into several key components:

Subnetting: The given 192.168.1.0/24 network was divided into /27 subnets for departmental segmentation. A /30 subnet was used for the router-to-router point-to-point connections.

2. Routing Protocols:

- RIP was applied on Router 1 (HR) to advertise routes within the HR, Sales, and IT subnets.
- OSPF was configured on Routers 2 and 4 (Sales and Marketing) to allow routing between their respective subnets and the central network.
- EIGRP was used on Router 3 (IT) to handle routing between the IT, Finance, and R&D subnets.
- 3. **Network Configuration**: Each router interface was assigned a static IP from the subnet range. **DHCP** was configured on each router to assign IPs dynamically to devices in the subnets. **NAT** was configured on Router 3 (IT) to provide internet access to the entire network.
- 4. **Wireless Access Points**: A wireless AP was set up in each department, connected to the respective subnet's switch to provide wireless access.

Results and Testing:

Functionality

The network was successfully configured with the following results:

- Subnet Segmentation: Each department was assigned a unique subnet, ensuring efficient IP management.
- Routing Protocols: The routers were able to communicate and route traffic between departments using RIP, OSPF, and EIGRP.
- DHCP: IP addresses were automatically assigned to devices in each department.
- **NAT**: Devices were able to access the internet via NAT configuration on Router 3.
- Wireless Connectivity: End devices connected to the wireless APs were able to access the network.

Testing and Results

- Ping Test: Successful pings between PCs in different subnets.
- Internet Access: Devices were able to access the internet via NAT.
- DHCP: Devices received IP addresses dynamically from the DHCP server on the routers.

Challenges and Learnings:

Challenges

- Subnetting: Initially, the calculation and assignment of IP addresses for subnetting caused confusion, especially when handling multiple departments and router-to-router links.
- 2. **Routing Protocol Configuration**: Ensuring that the different routing protocols (RIP, OSPF, EIGRP) worked in harmony was tricky. There were issues with routing advertisements that needed troubleshooting.
- 3. **NAT Configuration**: Setting up NAT properly was a challenge, especially in ensuring that the internal network could access the internet without issues.

Learnings

- Subnetting: Gaining a deeper understanding of subnet masks, CIDR notation, and how subnetting is essential for network efficiency.
- Routing Protocols: Learning how to configure and troubleshoot different routing protocols (RIP, OSPF, EIGRP) and their role in interconnecting departments.
- **NAT and DHCP**: Understanding the role of NAT in managing internet access and how DHCP automates IP assignment.

Conclusion

This project successfully demonstrated how to design and implement a network for an enterprise with subnet segmentation, multi-routing protocols, and NAT configuration. The key outcomes are:

- Efficient IP Management: Through subnetting and DHCP.
- Robust Routing: With RIP, OSPF, and EIGRP ensuring connectivity between departments.
- Internet Access: Through NAT on Router 3.

Future Recommendations

- **Network Security**: Implement security measures such as firewalls and ACLs to protect internal networks.
- Scalability: Consider using VLSM (Variable Length Subnet Masking) for more efficient IP address usage in larger networks.
- Network Monitoring: Integrate monitoring tools to observe network performance and troubleshoot potential issues.

Screenshots and evidence:











