Project Title: Fortinet Device Management Using FortiManager

Course:
Fortinet Cyber Security

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INTRODUCTION

This project focuses on building, configuring, and managing a multi-branch Fortinet security infrastructure using **FortiManager** and **FortiGate firewalls** within a simulated GNS3 environment.
The goal of the project is to understand centralized firewall management, policy deployment, troubleshooting connectivity issues, and ensuring proper communication between FortiManager and distributed FortiGate devices.

Throughout this project, we created a complete topology consisting of:

- One FortiManager appliance
- Three FortiGate devices (HQ, Branch 1, Branch 2)
- A cloud network acting as the WAN/Internet
- LAN segments for each branch

We configured addressing, routing, policies, and management settings to enable:

- Device registration on FortiManager
- Policy installation
- Device reachability
- Centralized monitoring and administration

This documentation explains all steps taken across four weeks, problems encountered, troubleshooting methods used, and the final functional setup.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- Build a functional Fortinet environment using GNS3
- Configure FortiManager for centralized device control
- Register and manage multiple FortiGate devices
- Apply and install firewall policies
- Troubleshoot connectivity and version compatibility issues
- Understand FGFM protocol and ADOM versions
- Document all steps, findings, and results

1. OVERVIEW

During Week 1, the main objective was to set up the complete Fortinet environment inside **GNS3**, deploy all virtual devices, configure basic connectivity, and ensure communication between FortiManager and the different FortiGate firewalls.

The work consisted of importing appliance images, building the topology, assigning IP addressing, configuring policies, and preparing the infrastructure for centralized management.

NETWORK TOPOLOGY

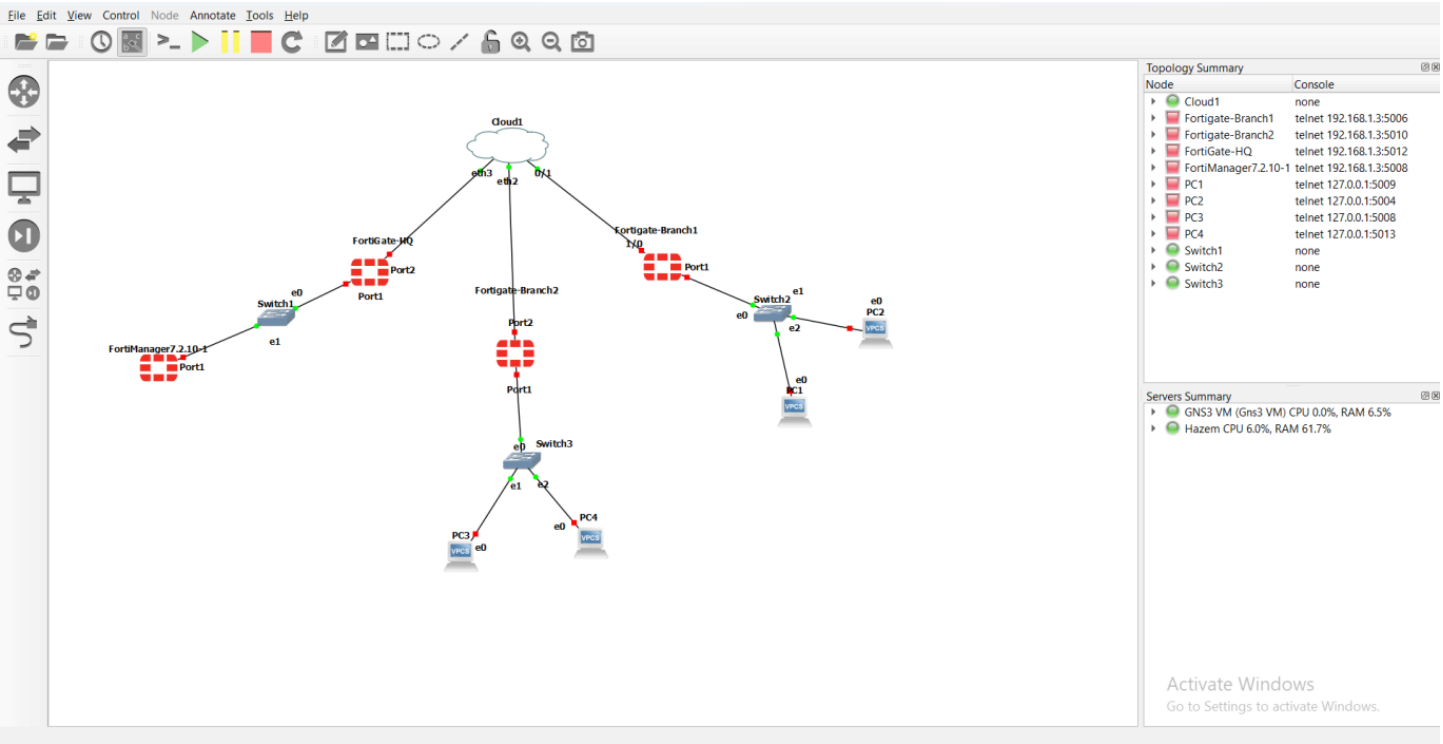


Figure 1 — Project Topology in GNS3

Lab Setup in GNS3

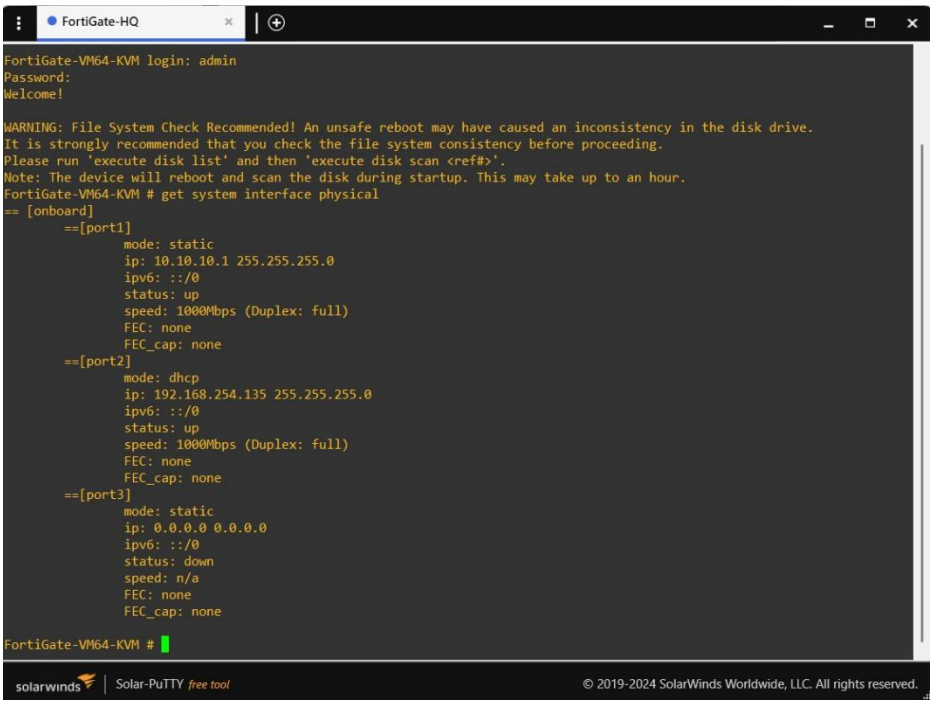
We used **GNS3** to emulate the full network.
The following virtual appliances were added:

- **FortiManager** version **7.2.10**
- **FortiGate HQ** – version **7.0.9**
- **FortiGate Branch 1** – version **7.0.9**
- **FortiGate Branch 2** – version **7.0.9**

4. DEVICE IP CONFIGURATION

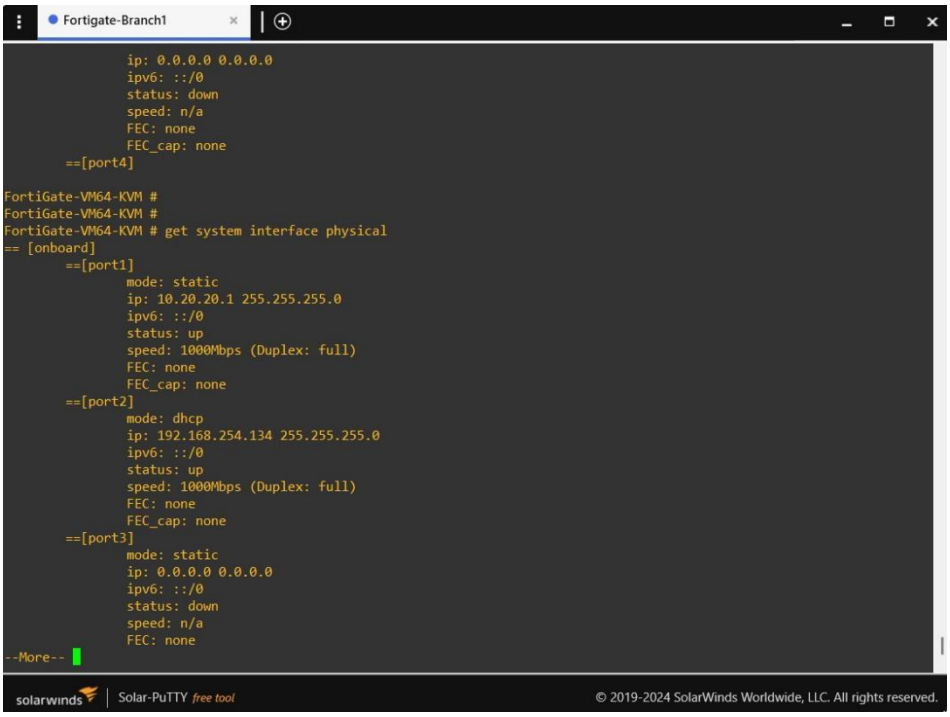
FORTIGATE HQ

- **WAN (port2):** 192.168.254.135 (DHCP)
- **LAN (port1):** 10.10.10.1



FORTIGATE BRANCH 1

- **WAN (port2):** 192.168.254.133 (DHCP)
- **LAN (port1):** 10.20.20.1



FORTIGATE BRANCH 2

- **WAN (port2):** 192.168.254.134 (DHCP)
- **LAN (port1):** 10.30.30.1

FORTIMANAGER

- **port1:** 10.10.10.10

FIREWALL POLICIES CONFIGURED

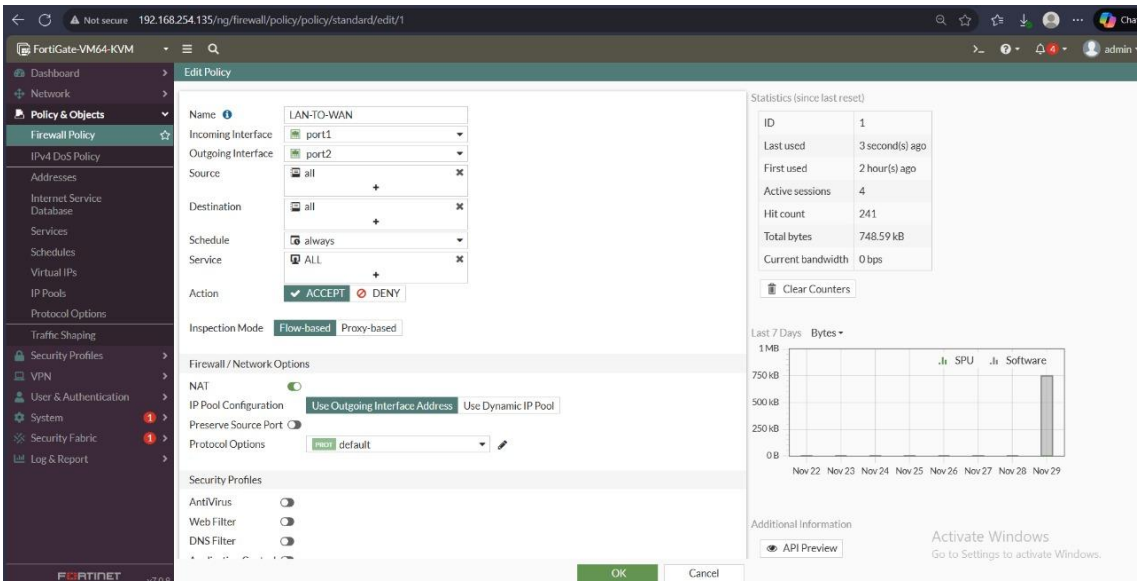
firewall policies were created on each FortiGate device to ensure basic communication between LAN networks, the cloud network, and FortiManager.

Below are the policies **for each device separately**.

5.1 FORTIGATE HQ – FIREWALL POLICIES

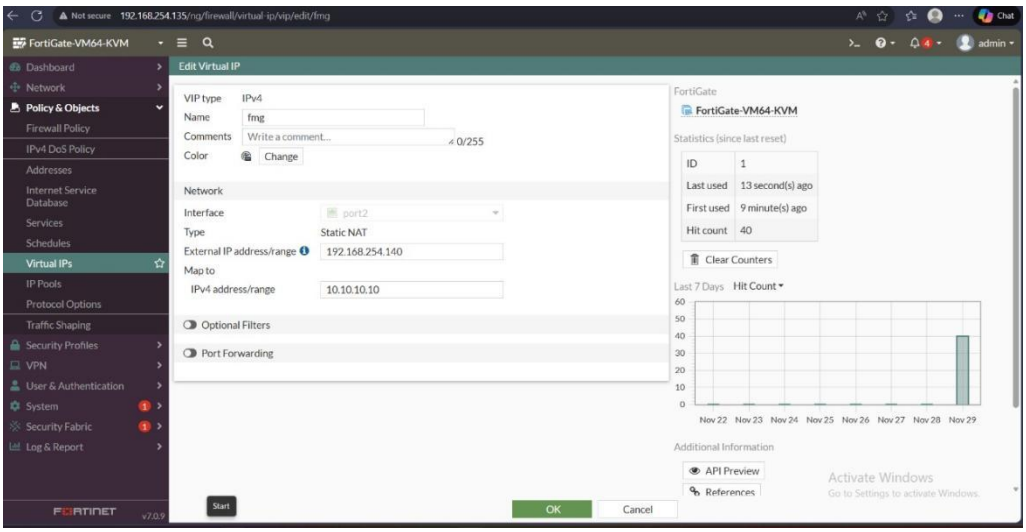
POLICY 1 – LAN → WAN

Allows internal HQ users to access the Internet.



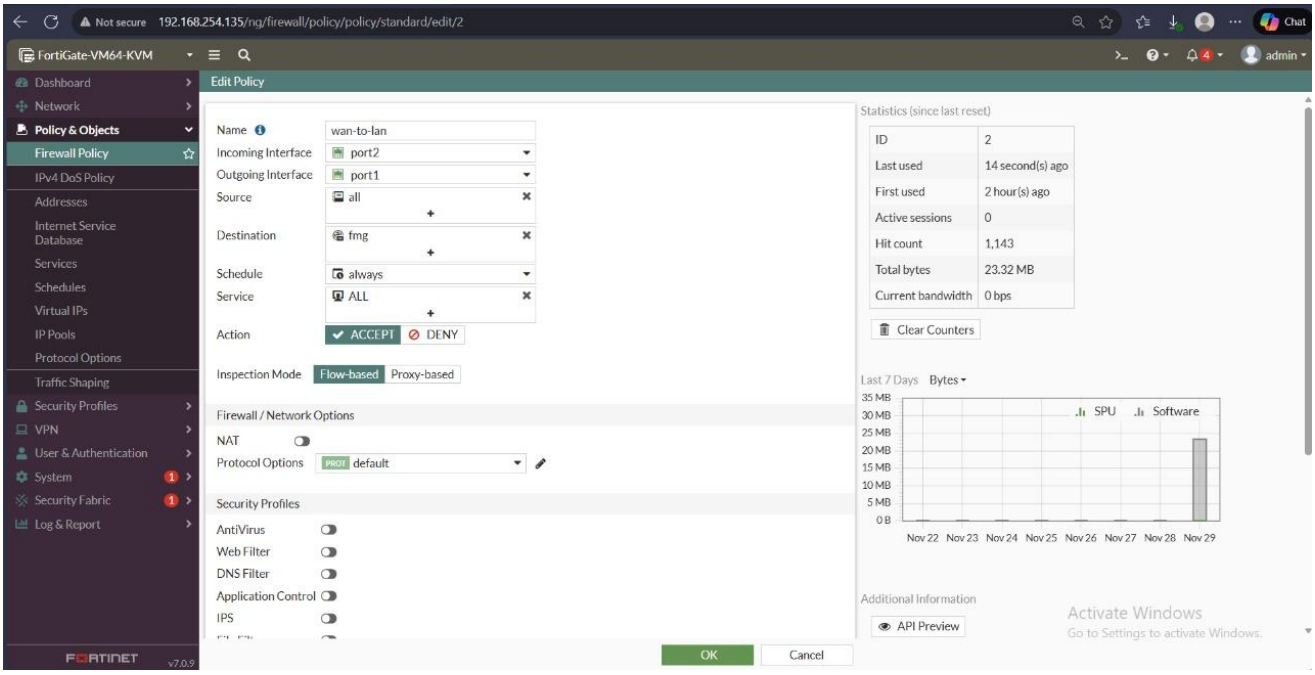
VIP FOR FORTIMANAGER ACCESS

To allow access to the FortiManager GUI from the WAN/Cloud network, we created a VIP:



POLICY 2 — WAN → LAN (FOR VIP ACCESS)

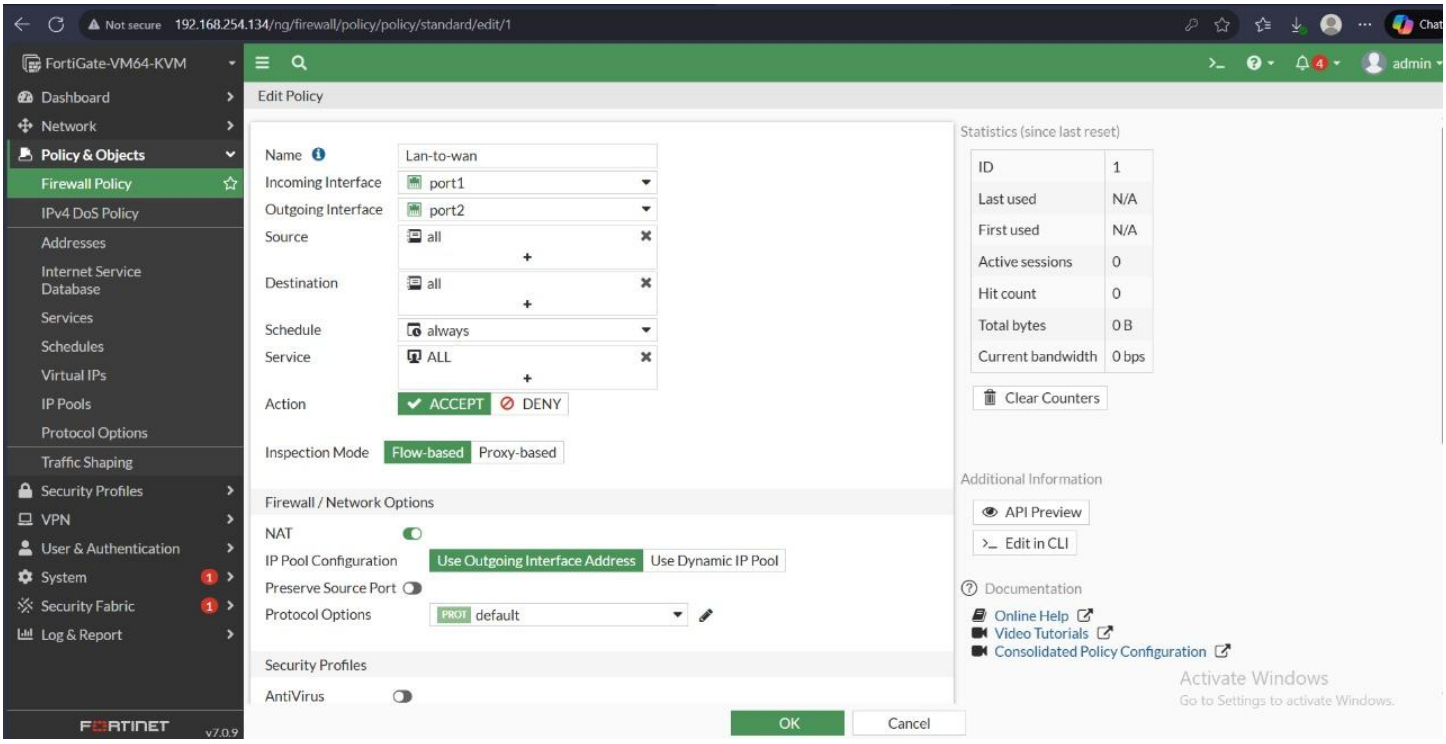
PURPOSE: ALLOW FORTIMANAGER MANAGEMENT GUI ACCESS THROUGH VIP.



5.2 FORTIGATE BRANCH 1 – FIREWALL POLICIES

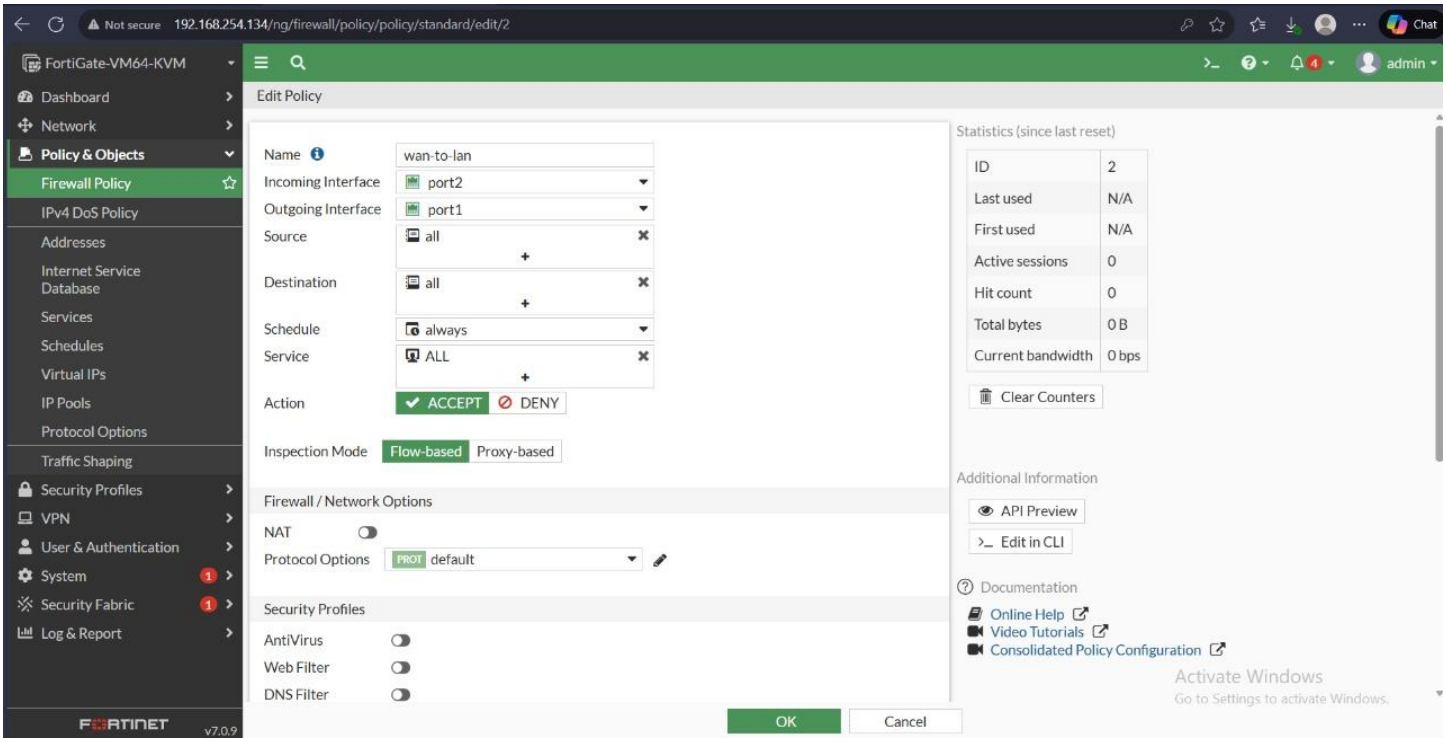
POLICY 1 — LAN → WAN

PURPOSE: ALLOWS BRANCH1 LAN TO ACCESS THE INTERNET.



POLICY 2 — WAN → LAN

PURPOSE: ALLOWS FORTIMANAGER TO REACH BRANCH1/2.



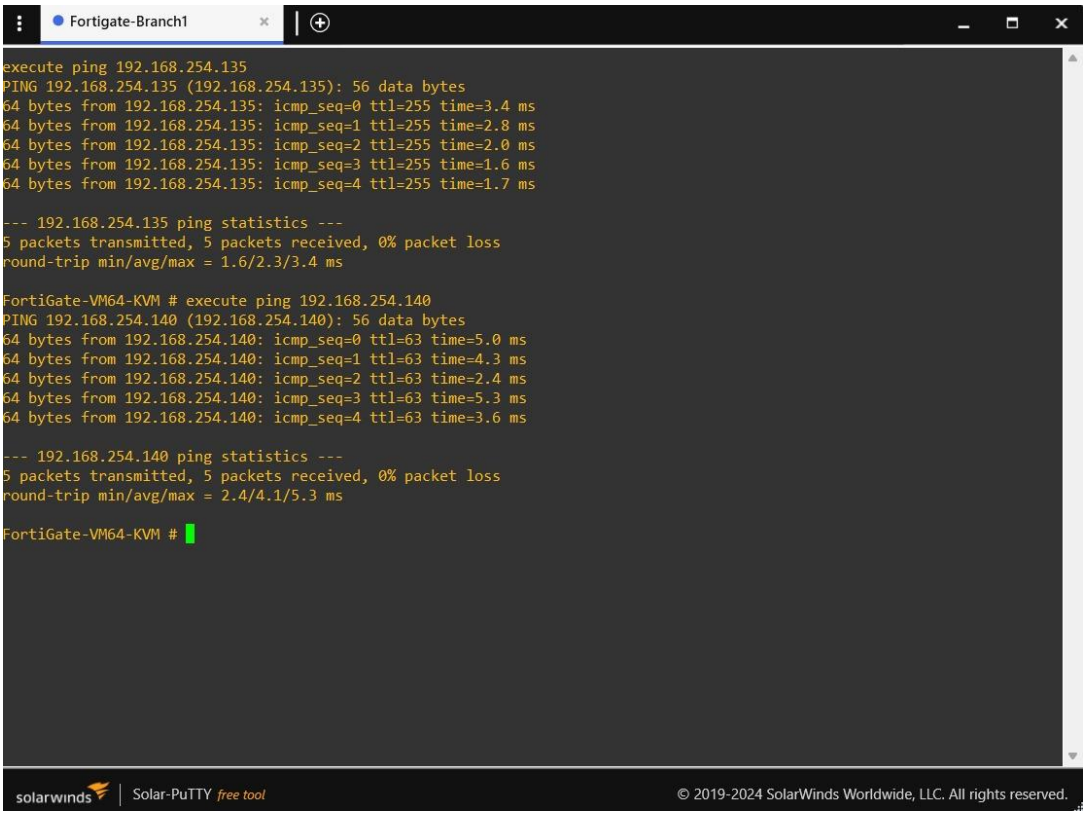
5.3 FORTIGATE BRANCH 2 – FIREWALL POLICIES THE SAME AS BRANCH 1

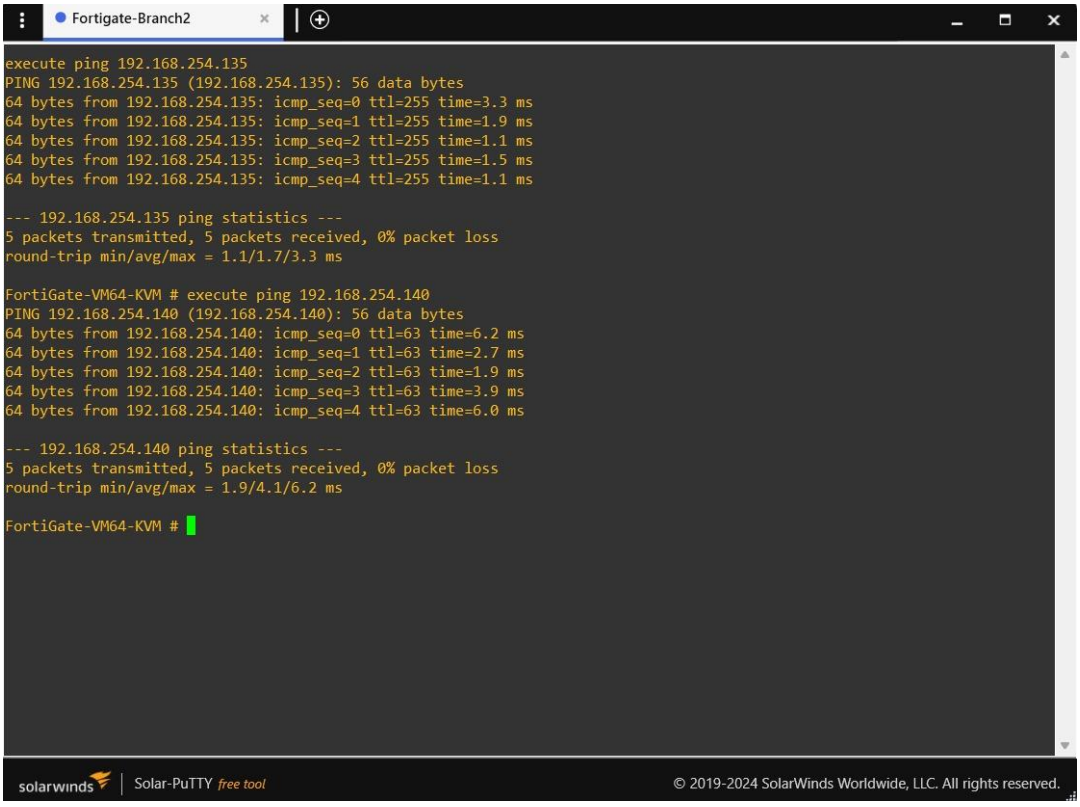
6 CONNECTIVITY & REACHABILITY VERIFICATION

Before connecting the FortiGate devices to FortiManager, we verified the reachability between all sites to ensure that communication works properly.

1. BRANCHES → HQ AND FORTI MANAGER CONNECTIVITY

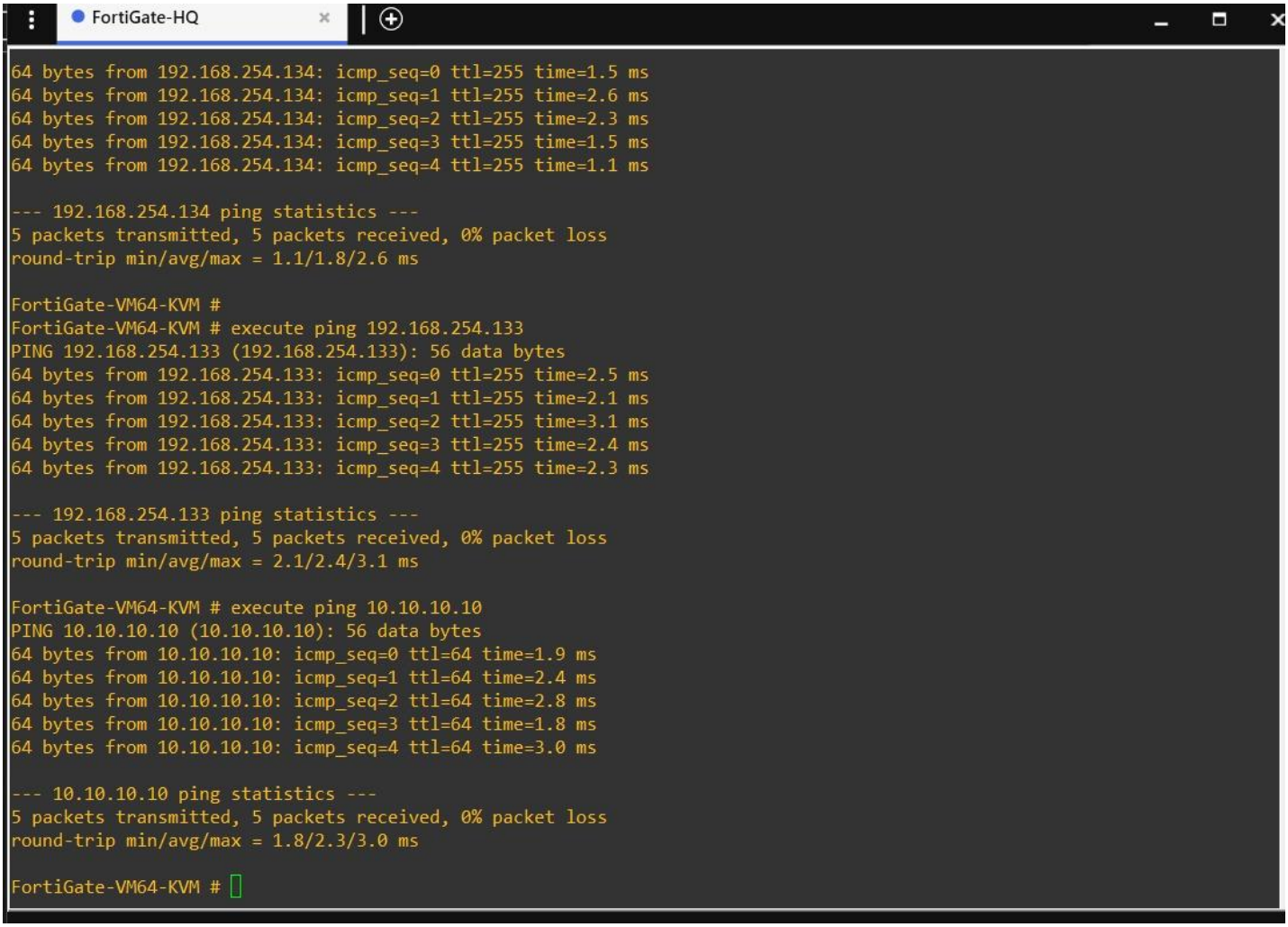
WE TESTED THAT BRANCH1 AND BRANCH2 CAN REACH THE HQ FIREWALL AND FORTI MANAGER :





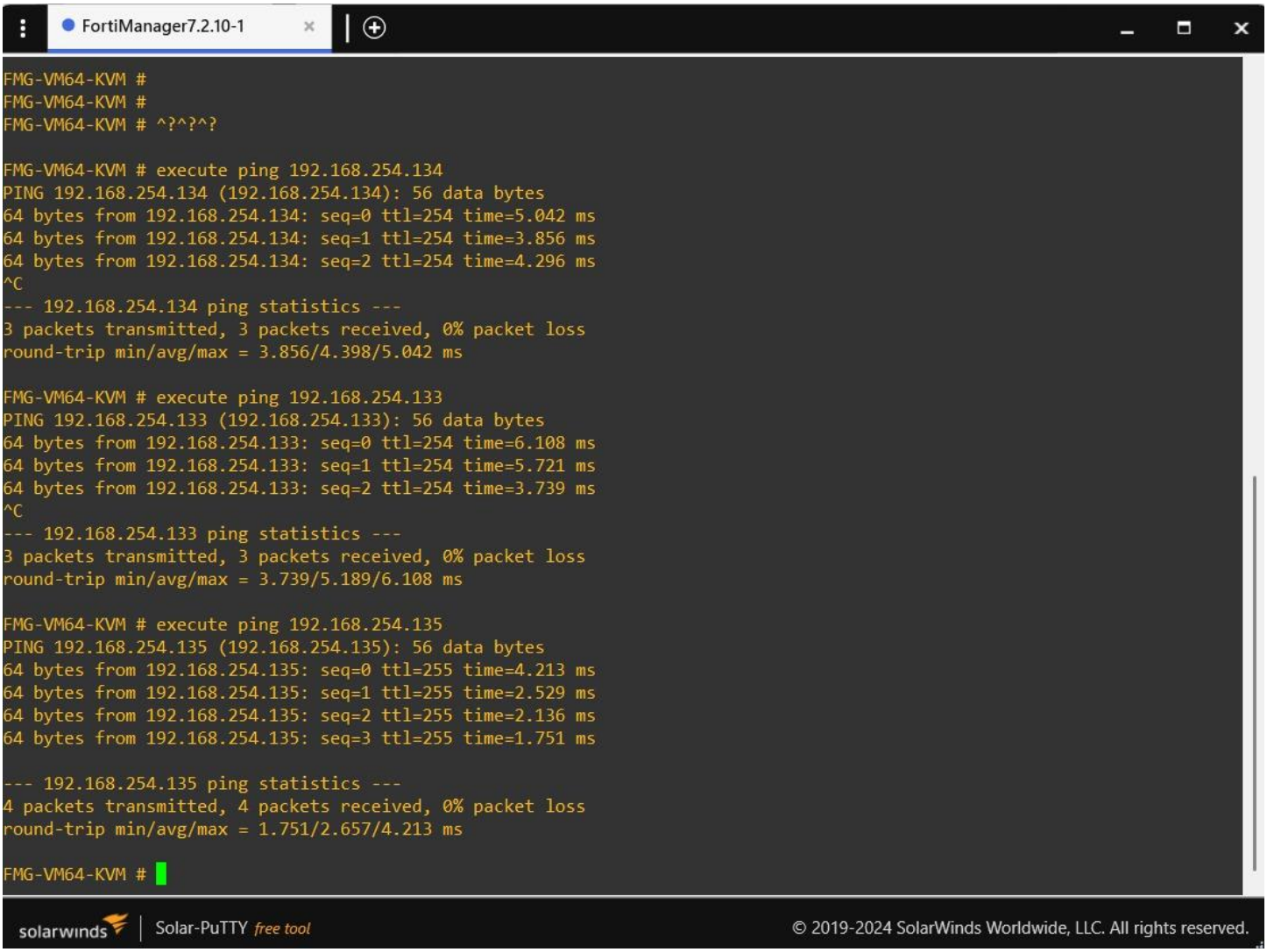
2. HQ → BRANCHES CONNECTIVITY AND FORTIMANAGER REACHABILITY

WE ALSO ENSURED THAT HQ CAN REACH THE PUBLIC IPS OF BRANCH1 , BRANCH2 AND FORTI MANAGER :



3. FORTIMANAGER → FORTIGATE DEVICES REACHABILITY

After confirming that all FortiGate devices can reach each other, we verified that **FortiManager can also reach the HQ and Branch firewalls** .

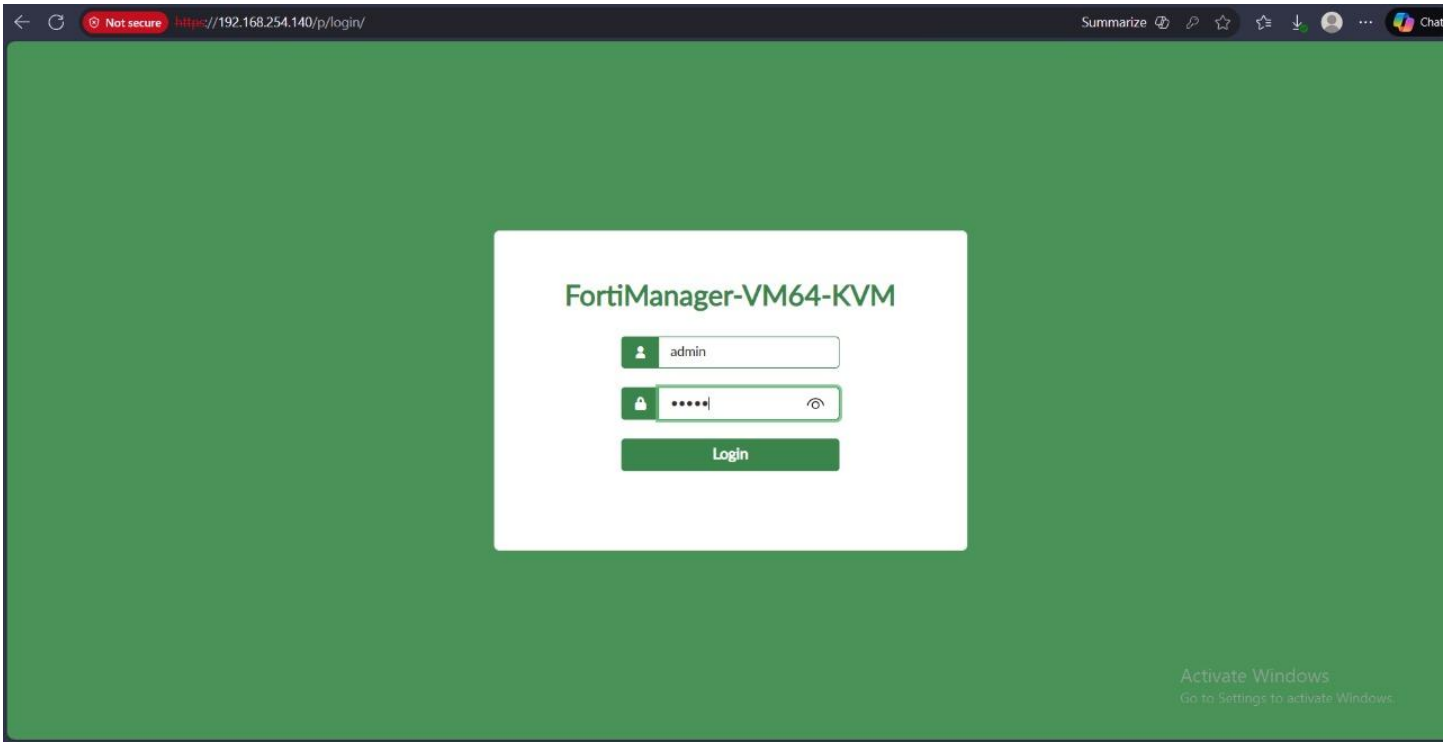


5. OPENING FORTIMANAGER & CREATING ADOM

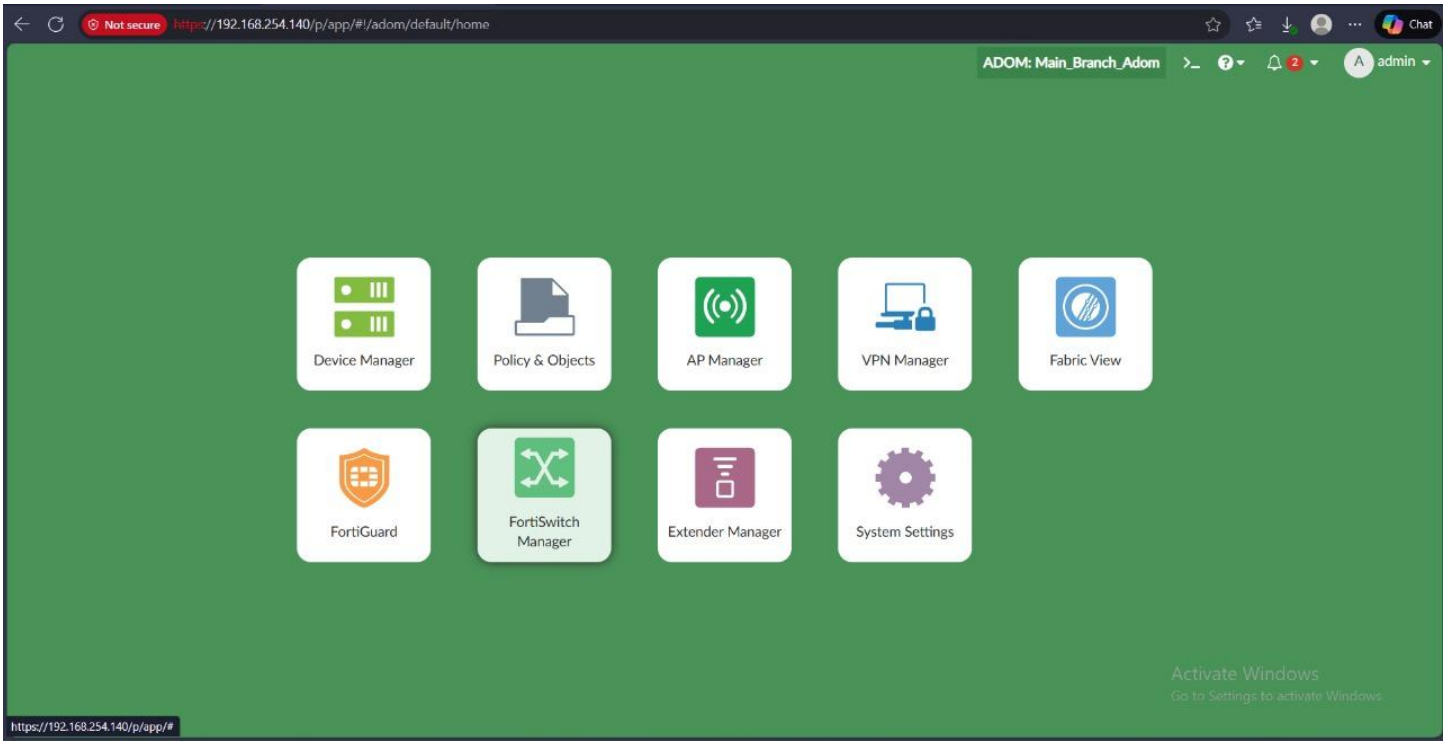
After ensuring full connectivity between FortiGate devices and the FortiManager server, we proceeded to access the FortiManager Web GUI and prepare the management environment.

5.1 ACCESSING FORTIMANAGER GUI

We connected to FortiManager using the assigned VIP:

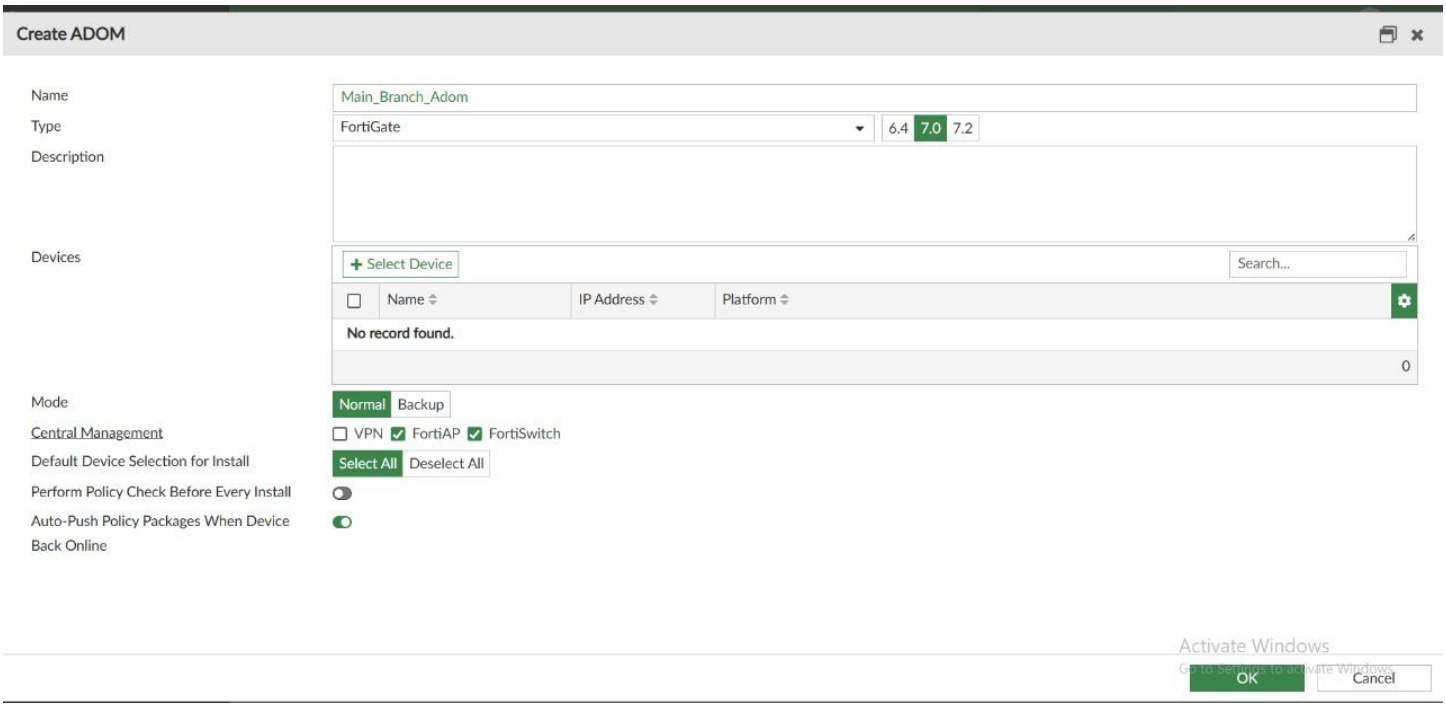


A successful login indicated that the VIP, policies, and routing were all correctly configured.



5.2 CREATING A NEW ADOM

Inside the FortiManager dashboard, we created a new ADOM to logically separate and manage our FortiGate devices.



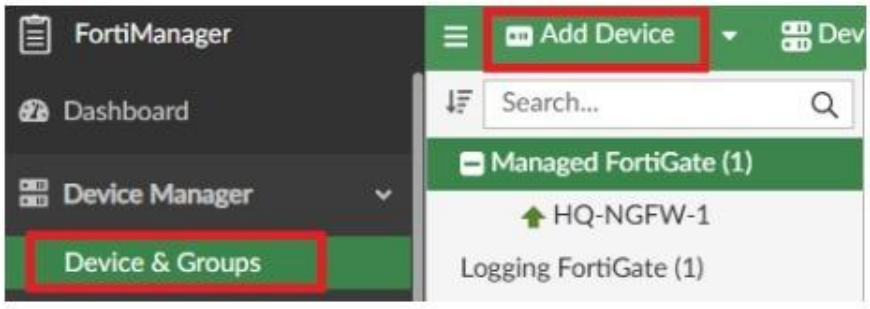
6. ADDING DEVICES INTO FORTIMANAGER

After creating the ADOM, we added the FortiGate devices (HQ, Branch1, Branch2) into FortiManager to begin centralized management.

6.1 ADDING A FORTIGATE DEVICE

Inside the newly created ADOM:

- Navigate to **Device Manager**
- Select **Add Device**



- Enter the device information:
  - **Device IP:** (e.g., HQ → 192.168.254.135)
  - **Login Credentials:** admin account

Add Device - Discover Device (2/3)

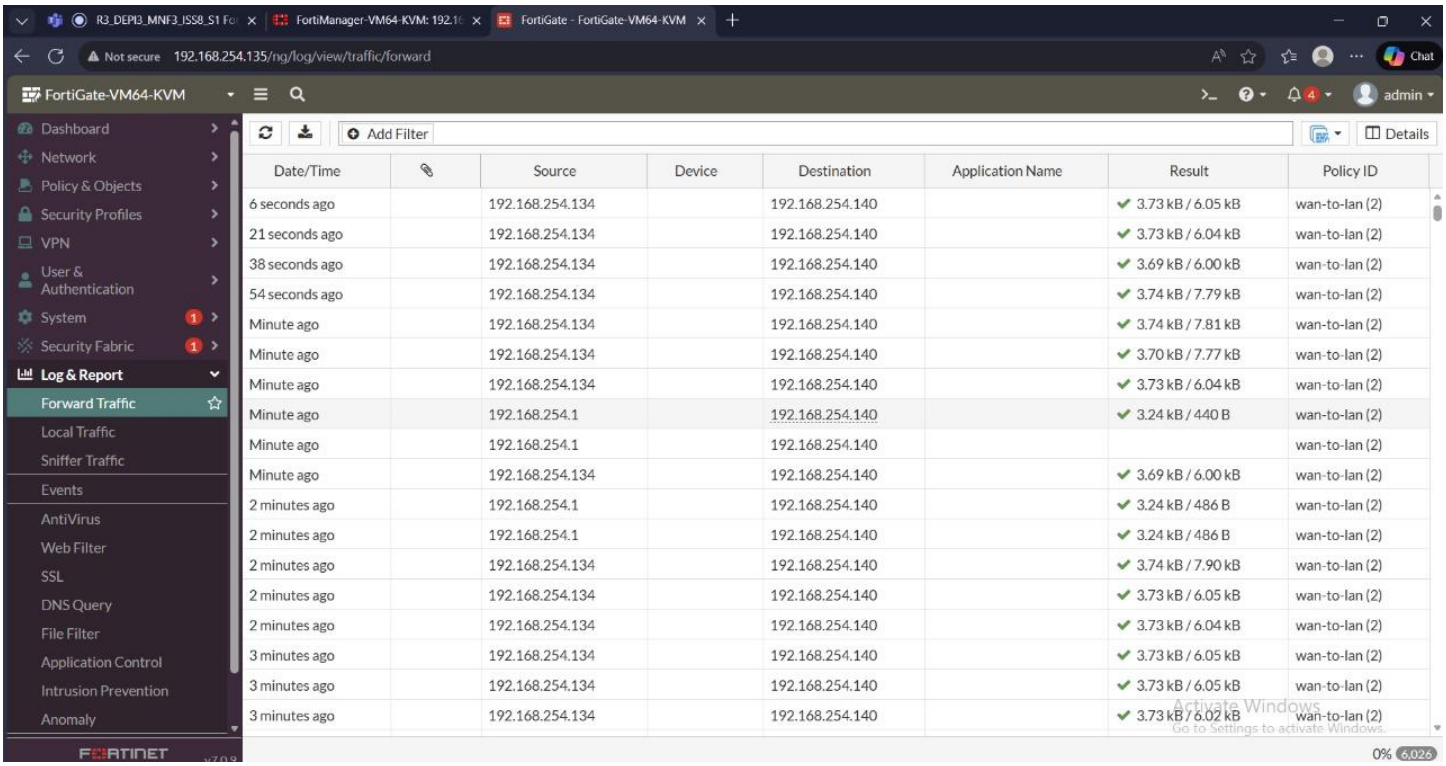
The following information bas been discovered from the device:

IP Address	192.168.254.135
Host Name	HQ-NGFW-1
SN	FGVM027M24013423
Model	FortiGate-VM64-KVM
Firmware Version	7.6.0, build 2401 (GA)
HA Status	Standalone
Administrator	admin

Please input the following information to complete addition of the device:

Name	HQ-NGFW-1
Description	Description
Provisioning Templates	+
Add To Folder	
Add To Device Group	
Copy Device Dashboard	Click to select

< Back | Next > | Cancel



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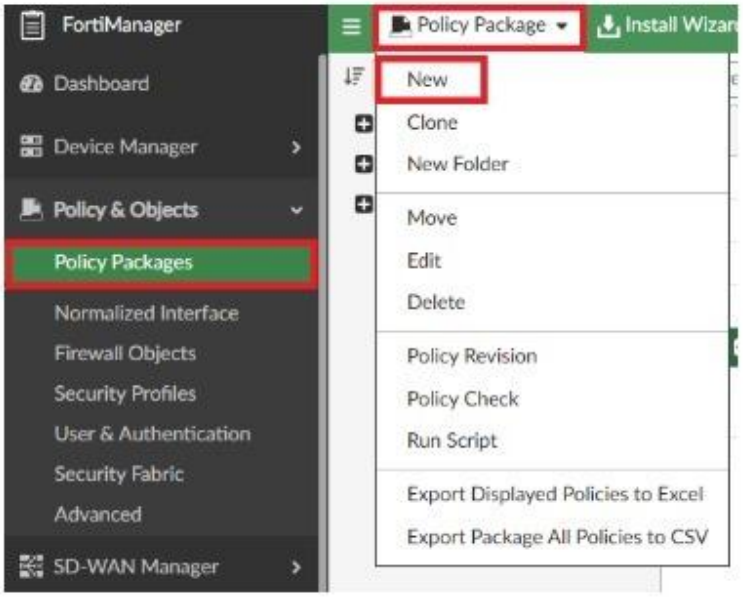
8. CREATING CENTRALIZED POLICIES ON FORTIMANAGER & INSTALLING THEM ON FORTIGATES

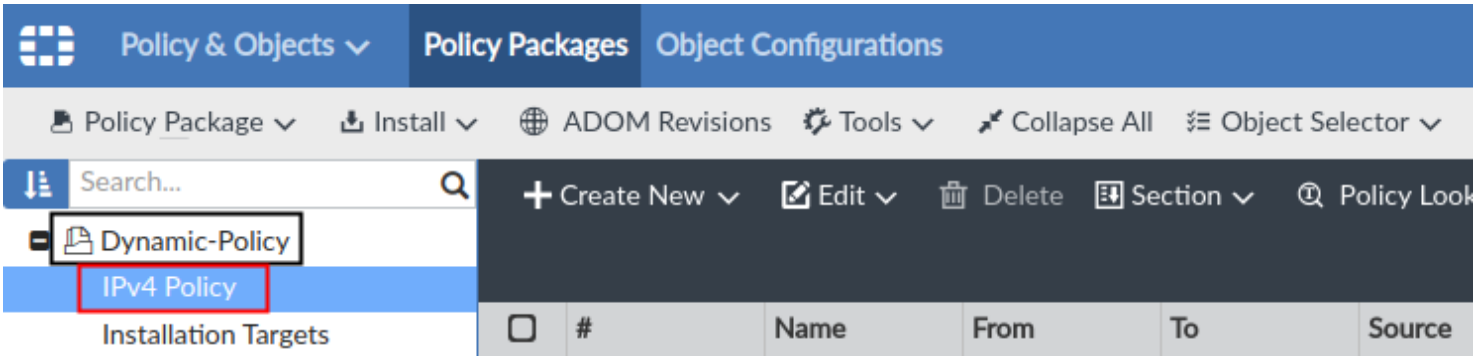
After all FortiGate devices were successfully added and authorized in FortiManager, we proceeded to create centralized policies to manage security rules from a single point. These policies were then installed directly on HQ, Branch1, and Branch2.

8.1 CREATING A NEW POLICY PACKAGE

Inside the ADOM:

1. Navigate to **Policy & Objects**
2. Select **Policy Packages**
3. Click **Create New**
4. Name:
    - **HQ-Package** for HQ
    - **Branch1-Package** for Branch 1
    - **Branch2-Package** for Branch 2
5. Assign each package to its corresponding FortiGate device.


FortiManager
Dashboard
Device Manager
Policy & Objects
Policy Packages
Normalized Interface
Firewall Objects
Security Profiles
User & Authentication
Security Fabric
Advanced
SD-WAN Manager
Policy Package
Install Wizar
New
Clone
New Folder
Move
Edit
Delete
Policy Revision
Policy Check
Run Script
Export Displayed Policies to Excel
Export Package All Policies to CSV


Policy & Objects
Policy Packages
Object Configurations
Policy Package
Install
ADOM Revisions
Tools
Collapse All
Object Selector
Search...
Create New
Edit
Delete
Section
Policy Look
Dynamic-Policy
IPv4 Policy
Installation Targets
#
Name
From
To
Source

Policy & Objects | Policy Package | Install | ADOM Revisions | Tools | cam

Policy Packages

Search...

- Branches
  - Firewall Policy
  - Installation Targets
- default

Object Configurations

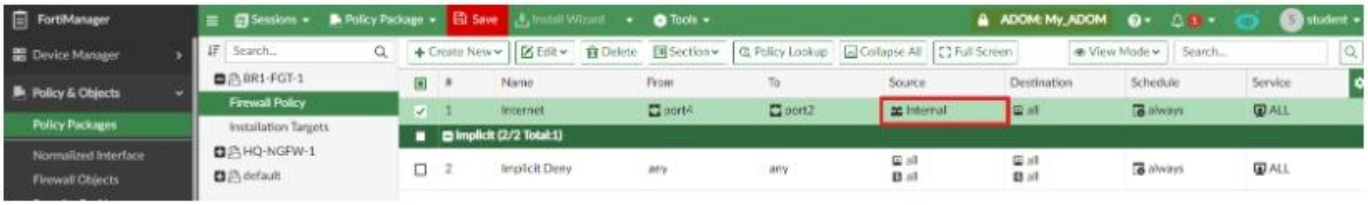
Create New Firewall Policy

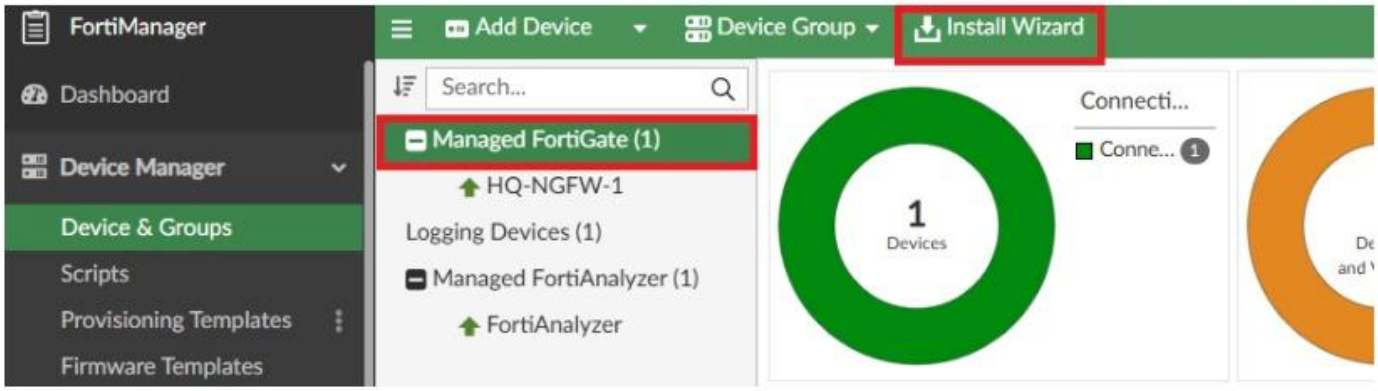
ID	0
Name	Direct Internet Access
ZTNA	Disable / Full ZTNA / IP/MAC filtering
Incoming Interface	LAN
Outgoing Interface	WAN1, WAN2
Source Internet Service	
IPv4 Source Address	Branch Network
IPv6 Source Address	+
Source User	+
Source User Group	+
FSSO Groups	+
Destination Internet Service	
IPv4 Destination Address	all
IPv6 Destination Address	+
Service	ALL
Schedule	always
Action	Deny / Accept / IPSEC
Inspection Mode	Flow-based / Proxy-based

Firewall/Network Options

NAT	☑
	NAT / NAT46 / NAT64
IP Pool Configuration	Use Outgoing Interface Address / Use Dynamic IP Pool
Preserve Source Port	☐
Protocol Options	default

OK Cancel





8. CONCLUSION

This project demonstrated the complete process of deploying and managing multiple FortiGate firewalls using FortiManager within a virtual GNS3 environment. Throughout the implementation, we successfully built a full topology consisting of FortiManager, FortiGate HQ, FortiGate Branch 1, and FortiGate Branch 2, all connected through a cloud network using DHCP addressing.

We configured core network components, including interface settings, static policies (LAN → WAN and WAN → LAN), and VIPs to ensure proper reachability between FortiManager and all FortiGate devices. After resolving version compatibility issues and initial connectivity problems, we were able to access the FortiManager GUI, create an ADOM, import device configurations, and centralize firewall management.

By the end of the project, FortiManager was fully integrated with all FortiGate units, allowing centralized monitoring, policy installation, and configuration control across the entire network.

Overall, this project enhanced our understanding of Fortinet technologies, centralized management concepts, troubleshooting techniques, and the importance of version alignment and network reachability in real-world deployments.