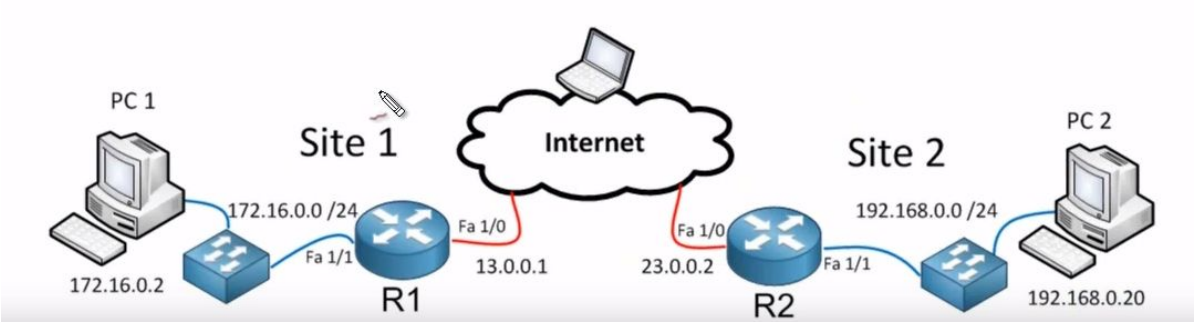
IPSEC Site to Site VPN using GNS3

Introduction to IPSEC

Before sending any packet in the Internet it is recommended to protect it. IPSEC is like a shield that protects packets travelling in the big bad Internet. Internet Protocol Security(IPSec) is a protocol implemented in the Internet layer of the TCP/IP suite. IPSec was invented to provide authentication and confidentiality over network. In the Network Security Project, where I created a OpenVpn which uses TLS (Transport layer) and SSH (Application layer) is implemented at higher layer. In contrast, IPSEC provides same functionality at lower layer(IP layer).

IPSEC can be divided in the following groups:

- **Authentication Header(AH)** : Integrity, Authentication
- **Encapsulation Security Payload (ESP)** : Authenticity, Integrity, Confidentiality
- **Security Associations** : Bunch of algorithms and parameters.

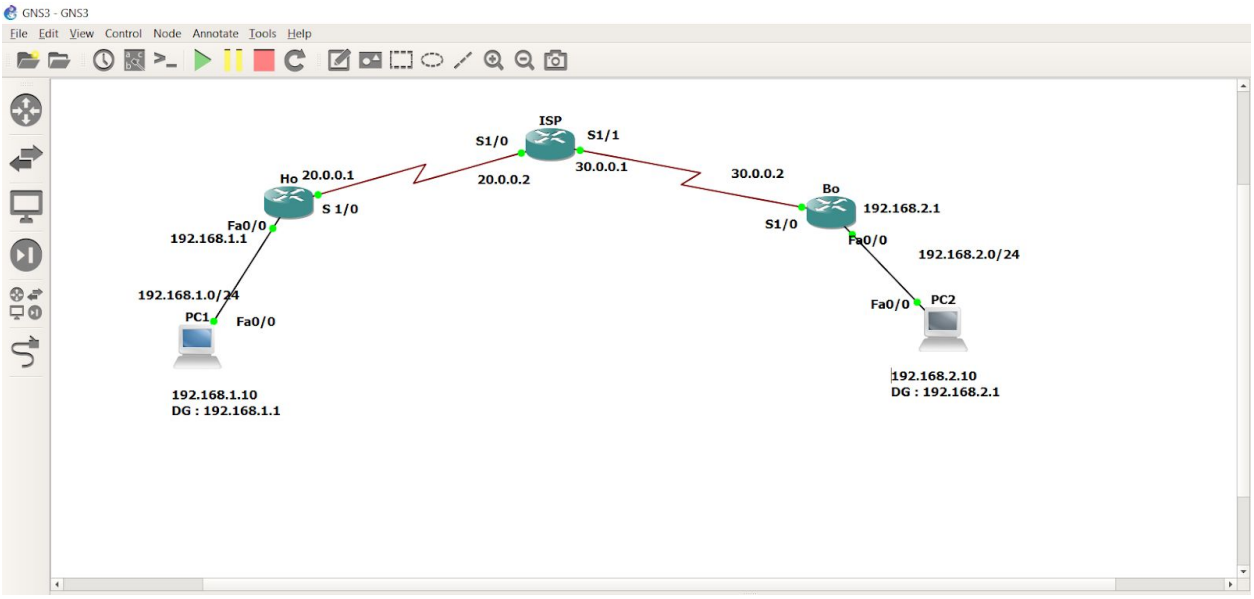


The above diagram shows a company located at two different sites (Site1 and Site2). As we can see that both the sites can rightnow connect with each other via Internet. What if this two sites want to share some classified information that can ruin their business if it is lost somewhere in the Internet. Or an eavesdropper is tracking all the data in between. For this reasons IPSEC is implemented in similar situation. Where packets are

encrypted and send over a secure tunnel. Imagine creating a bridge connecting two nodes directly. In simple terms, let's suppose that PC1 Wants to send data to PC2. R1 sees that the packet is destined to Site 2 so, it encrypts the packet, encapsulates it and sends it to R2. We can only see that the 13.0.0.1 is sending some gibberish data to 23.0.0.2. Finally, Router 2 decrypts the packets ,encapsulates it and sends it to PC2.

Introduction to GNS3

Graphical Network Simulator - 3 (GNS3) is a network software emulator. It displays a fine GUI to plan, test and troubleshoot network environments across different vendor platform. It does not require direct interaction with the network hardware. After following some online instructions to download and install GNS3 I created a topology as shown below.



In order to create a site to site VPN I followed this manual. Main configuration included enabling isakmp on Ho and Bo routers, part of IKE which specifies the mechanism of key exchange.

Ho(config-crypto-map)#set peer 30.0.0.2

This command makes 30.0.0.2 that is B0 peer of 20.0.0.1 that is H0. So, any traffic flowing from 20.0.0.1 will be directly forwarded to 30.0.0.2. Similarly at the other side **Bo(config-crypto-map)#set peer 20.0.0.1.**

HO(config)#access-list 101 permit ip 192.168.1.0 0.0.0.255 192.168.2.0 0.0.0.255 Permits to tunnel all traffic coming from 192.168.1.0/24 network to 192.168.2.0/24. Any other address not in this range will not be permitted.

HO(config)#ip route 0.0.0.0 0.0.0.0 20.0.0.2
BO(config)#ip route 0.0.0.0 0.0.0.0 30.0.0.1
This two commands are set to specify a gateway address. It simply tells the router to forward all packets that do not have specific routes to the destination network pass through these default gateway.

These commands enables debug for IPSEC and isakmp on both routers and shows VPN process in the routers.

HO#debug crypto ipsec

Crypto IPSEC debugging is on

HO#debug crypto isakmp

Crypto ISAKMP debugging is on

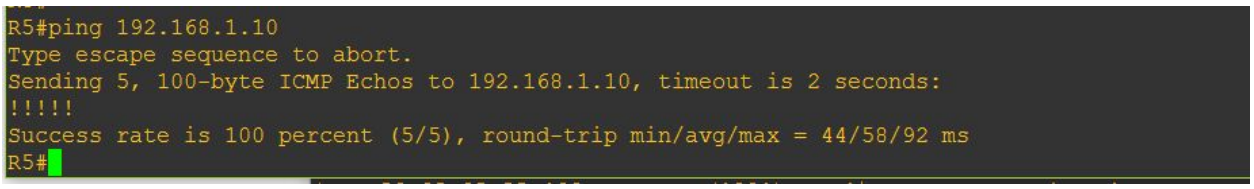
BO#debug crypto ipsec

Crypto IPSEC debugging is on

BO#debug crypto isakmp

Crypto ISAKMP debugging is on

Once all the configuration were done correctly, when I try to ping 192.168.2.10 from 192.168.1.10 I got 100% success rate.



Packet capture in Wireshark