Project Documentation

Implementing VPN Solutions with FortiGate

Prepared By

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2025 - Round 3 Graduation Project
Version 3.0

1. **Project Description**

This project focuses on designing and implementing secure Virtual Private Network (VPN) solutions using FortiGate firewalls to support both remote user connectivity and inter-site secure communication. The work includes three main components:

1. SSL VPN for Remote Access

A secure SSL VPN was configured to enable remote users to safely connect to the internal network through encrypted HTTPS tunnels.
Key configurations included:

- **User authentication and access control**
- **Custom IP pools for VPN clients**
- **Security policies to regulate and monitor traffic**
  Connectivity was verified using FortiClient in both web mode and tunnel mode, ensuring reliable and secure remote access.

1.2. IPsec Site-to-Site VPN

A Site-to-Site IPsec tunnel was established between two FortiGate devices to securely connect separate LAN networks over the internet.
The configuration involved:

- **Phase 1 and Phase 2 parameters**
- **Static routing**
- **Firewall policies**
  This setup ensures fully encrypted, seamless communication between both sites.

1.3. SD-WAN Implementation

SD-WAN was implemented to optimize network performance across multiple internet links.
The solution provides:

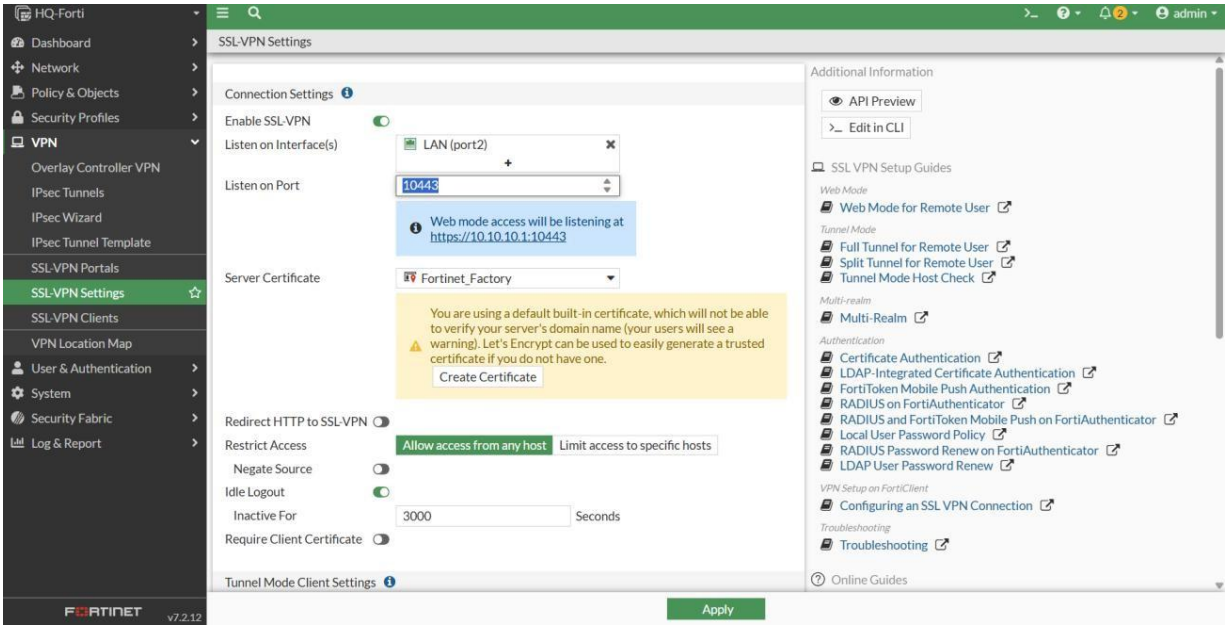
- **Intelligent traffic distribution**
- **Application-aware routing (e.g., VoIP, video, web)**
- **Automatic failover and load balancing**
- **Real-time link performance monitoring**
  This ensures high availability, improved efficiency, and enhanced reliability for critical applications.

2. SSL VPN Configuration Documentation

2.1 HQ FortiGate SSL VPN Configuration

Step 1: SSL VPN Settings
Navigate: **VPN → SSL-VPN Settings Configuration**

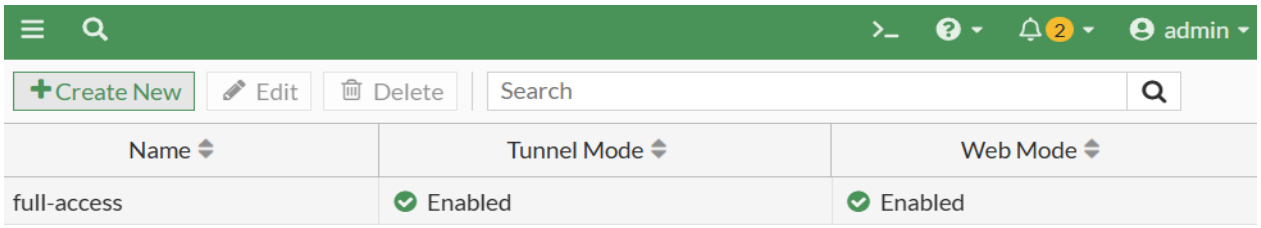
- Listen on Interface: port2 (LAN)
- Listen on Port: 10443 (HTTPS)
- Server Certificate: Fortinet_Factory
- Idle Timeout: 3000 seconds
- Tunnel Mode IP Pools: SSLVPN_TUNNEL_ADDR1 (10.212.134.200 - 10.212.134.210)
- IPv6 Pools: SSLVPN_TUNNEL_IPv6_ADDR1 (fdff:ffff::/120)
- Default Portal: full-access



Portal Settings (full-access):

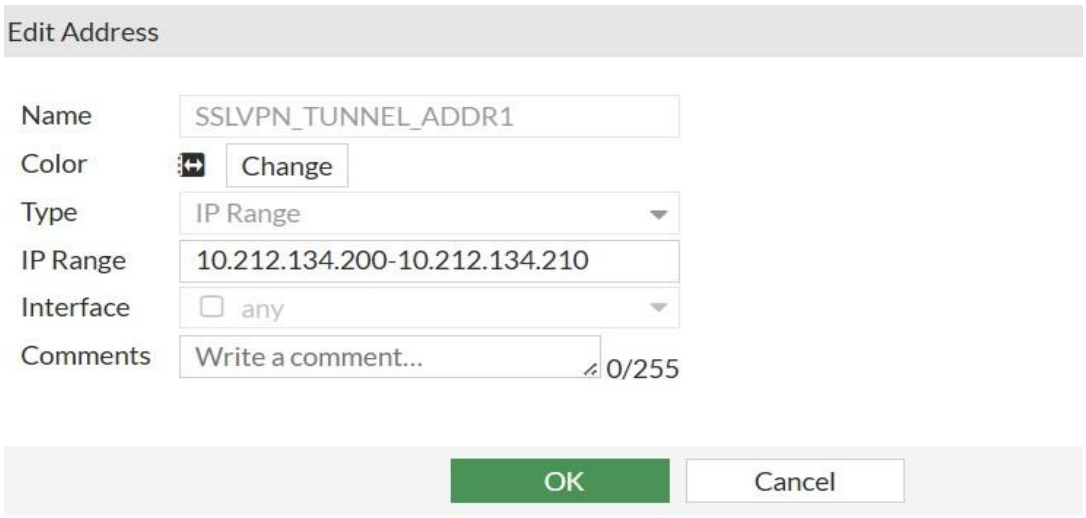
- Tunnel Mode: Enabled
- IPv6 Tunnel Mode: Enabled
- Web Mode: Enabled

- IP Pools: SSLVPN_TUNNEL_ADDR1



Step 2: Create IP Pool for SSL VPN Users

- Name: SSLVPN_TUNNEL_ADDR1
- Type: IP Range
- Start IP: 10.212.134.200
- End IP: 10.212.134.210



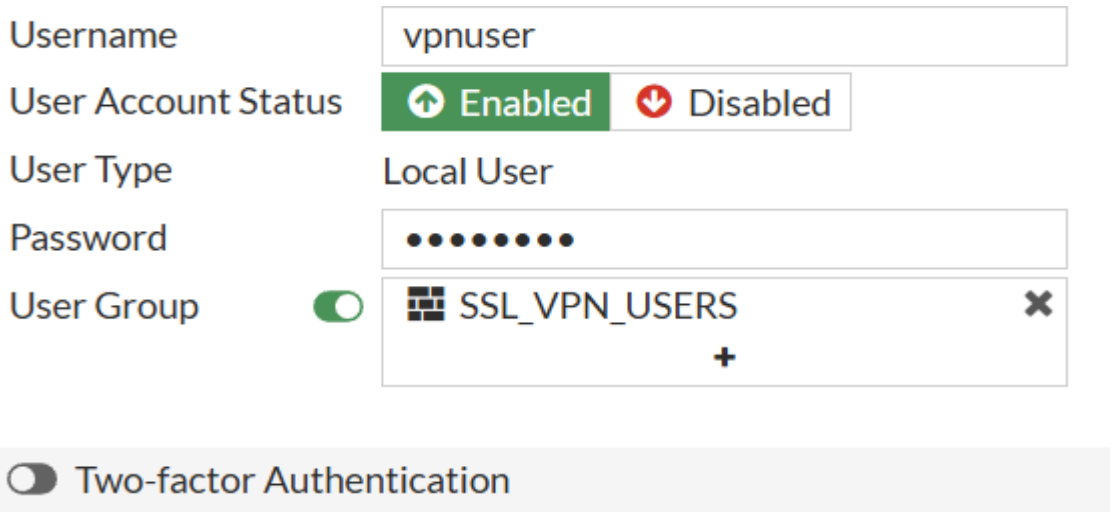
Step 3: Create User Account

- Username: vpnuser
- Type: Local User
- Password: (Set secure password)

Step 4: Create User Group

- Name: SSL_VPN_USERS
- Type: Firewall

- Status: Enabled

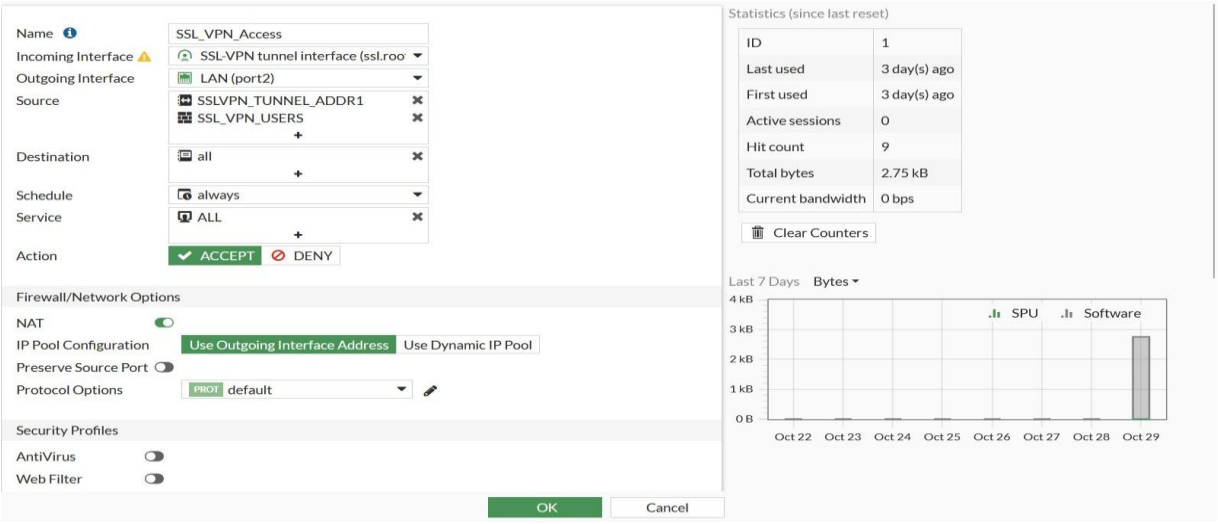


- Members: vpnuser

Step 5: Firewall Policy Configuration

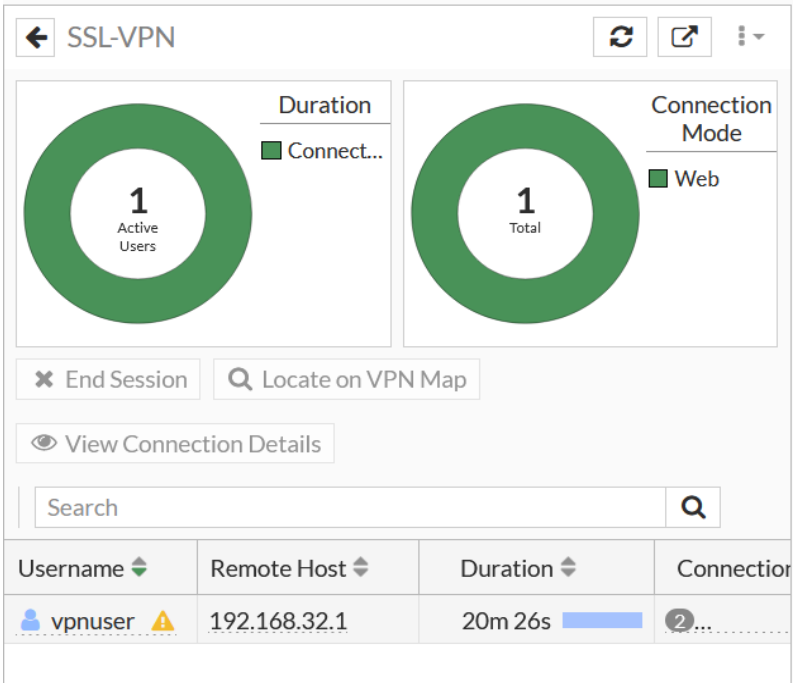
- Name: SSL_VPN_Access
- Incoming Interface: SSL VPN tunnel interface (ssl.root)
- Outgoing Interface: LAN (port2)
- Source: SSLVPN_TUNNEL_ADDR1
- Destination: All
- Schedule: Always
- Service: All
- Action: ACCEPT

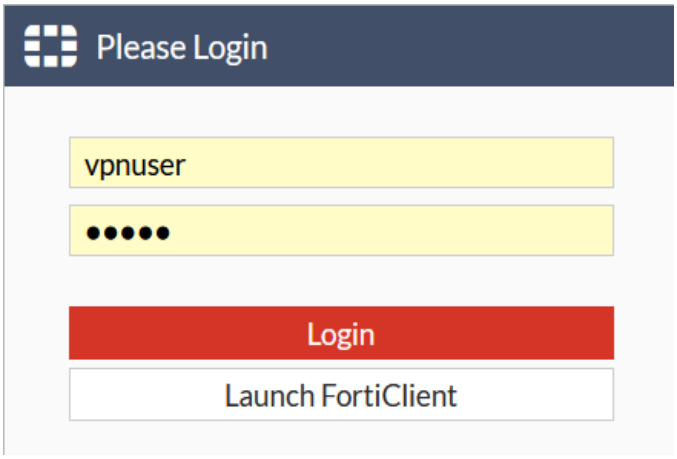
- NAT: Enabled (Use Outgoing Interface Address)

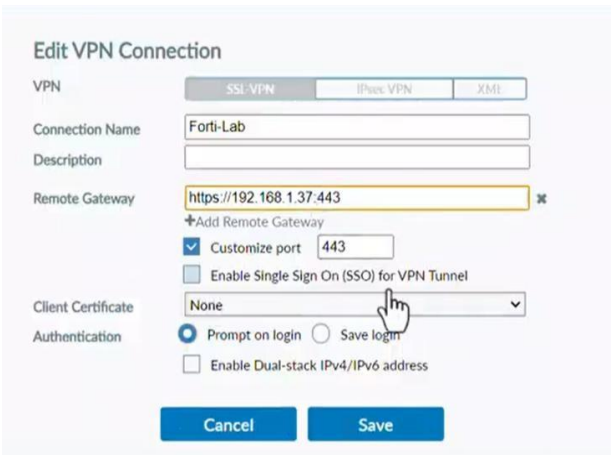


Step 6: Web-Based Mode Testing

- SSL VPN portal accessible at https://192.168.32.135:10443
- FortiClient launch and download options available
- Verify login as vpnuser and check active connections on FortiGate Dashboard → Network







Step 7: Tunnel Mode Testing

- VPN Name: <Specify>
- Connection Type: SSL-VPN
- Remote Gateway: https://<IP>:10443
- Port: 10443
- Authentication: Username/Password
- Dual-stack IPv4/IPv6: Enabled

Step 8: Connection and Monitoring

In this step, after establishing the connection using **tunnel mode**, I selected **Forti-Lab** and tested the setup using the **VPN user** I had previously created.

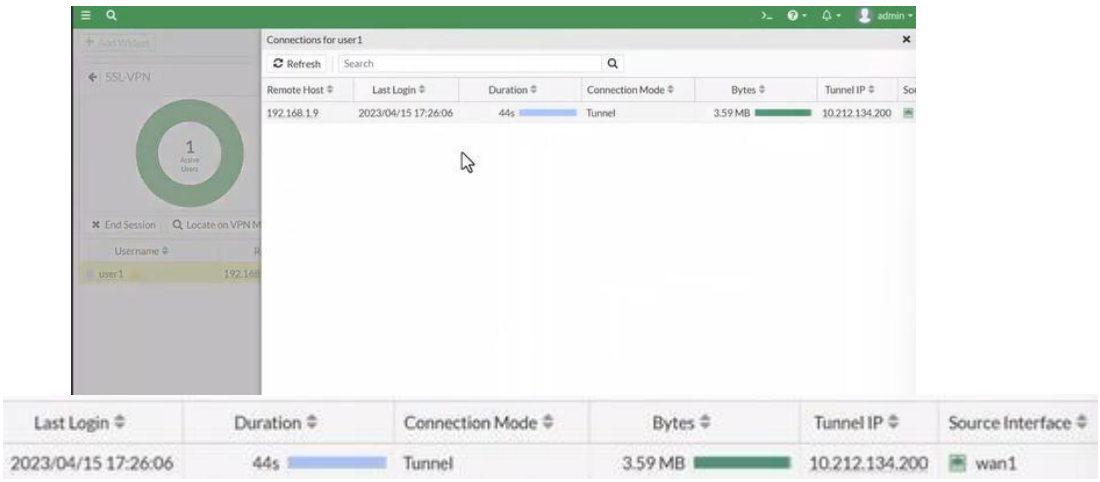
As shown in the image, the monitoring interface displays several key details for each connected user:

1. **Username** – identifies the authenticated VPN user.
2. **IP Address** – shows the assigned IP for the VPN session.
3. **Connection Duration** – indicates how long the user has been connected.
4. **Bytes Sent and Received** – displays the amount of data transmitted during

Step 9: Monitoring & Active Connections:

Dash Board Shows :

- Displays: Username, IP, Connection Duration, Bytes Sent/Received
- Active Users: 1
- Connection Mode: Web
- Username: vpnuser
- Remote Host: 192.168.1.9
- Tunnel Ip: 10.212.134.200
- Duration: 44s
- Source interface: Wan1
- Tunnel IP: Assigned from SSLVPN_TUNNEL_ADDR1 pool



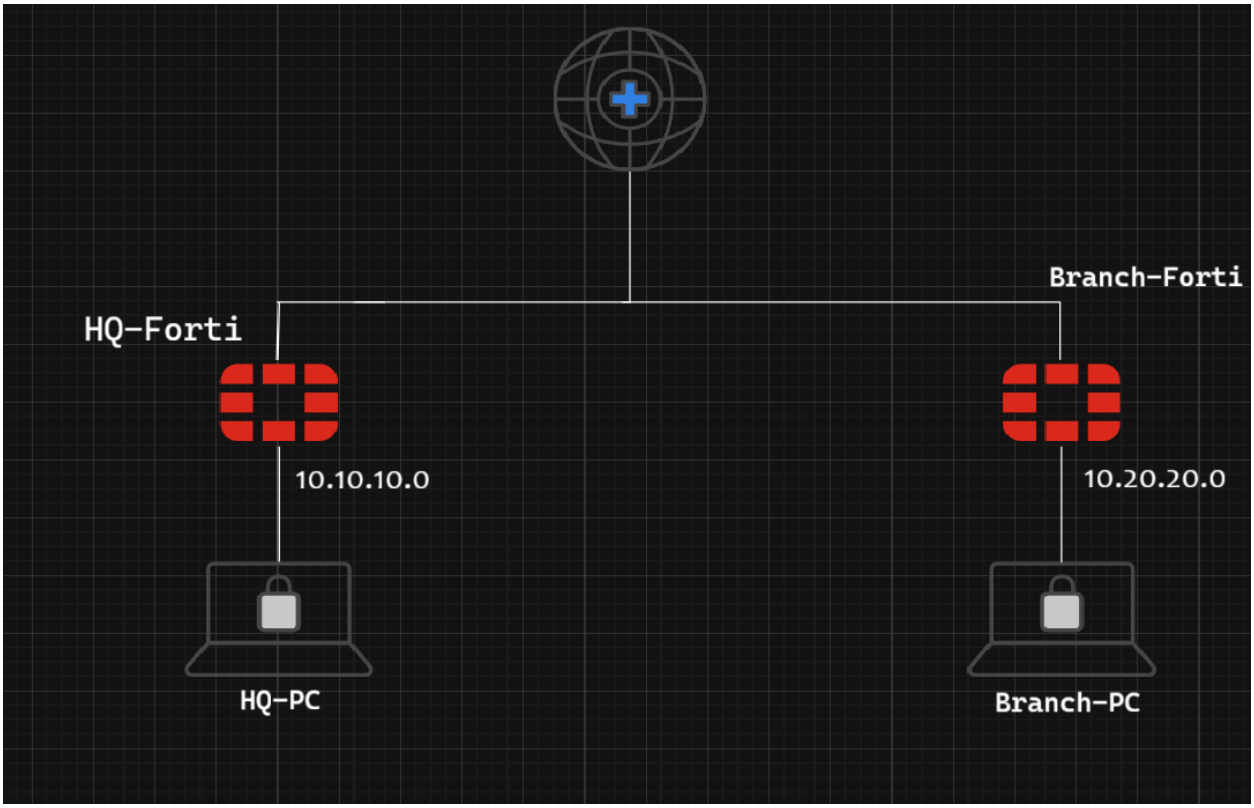
3. IPsec VPN Configuration Documentation

3.1 Objective

Establish a secure IPsec VPN tunnel between two FortiGate devices for encrypted communication between remote networks.

3.2 Network Topology

Site A LAN (10.10.10.0/24) --- FortiGate A ---- Internet ---- FortiGate B --- Site B LAN (10.20.20.0/24)

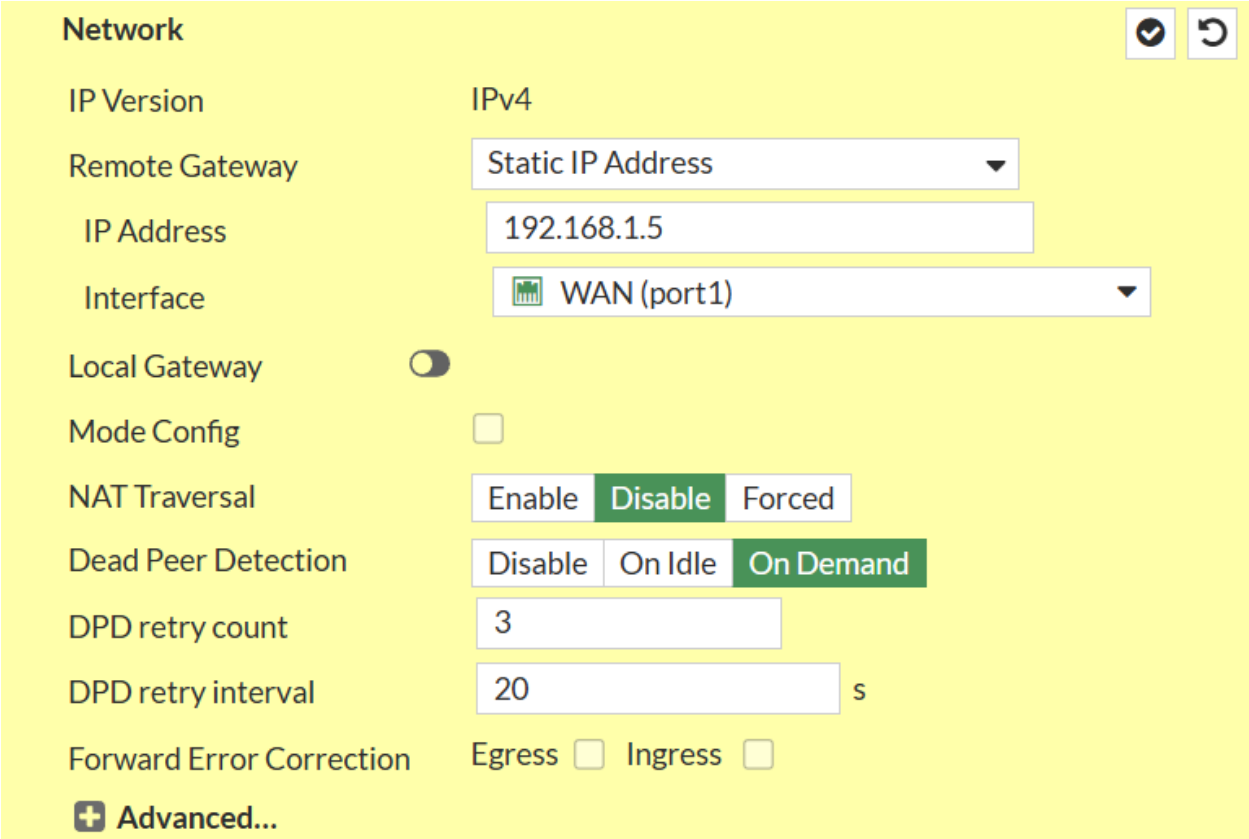


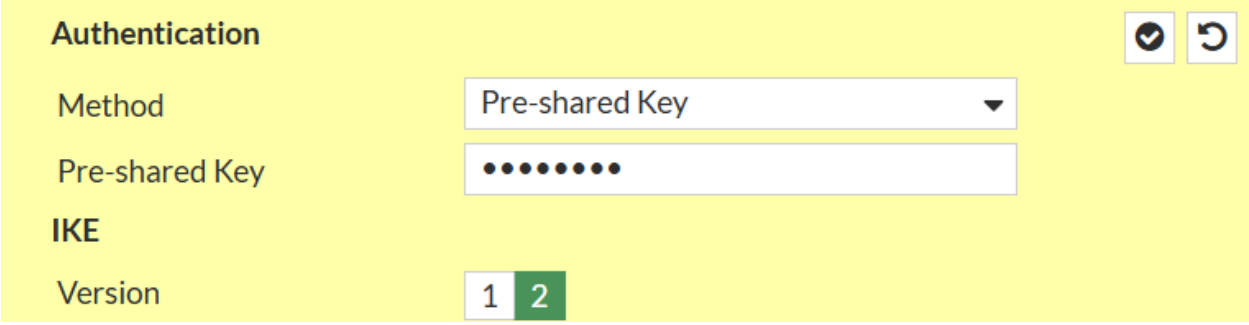
- Two FortiGate firewalls were used to connect two different LAN networks through the internet using an IPsec VPN tunnel.
- Each FortiGate represents a branch office / Headquarter office.

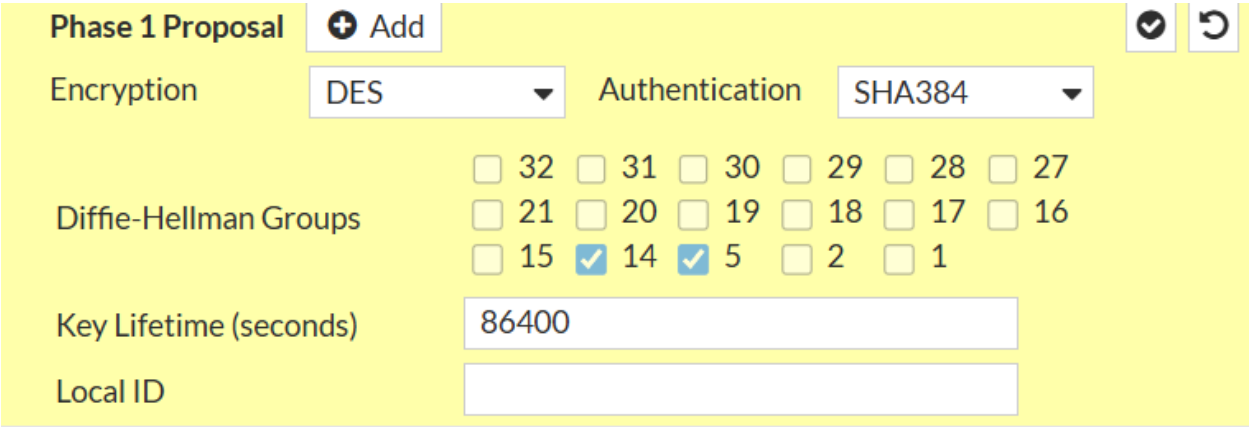
3.3 HQ FortiGate Configuration

Step 1: Phase 1 Configuration

- VPN → IPsec Tunnels → Create New → Custom
- Name: HQ-to-Branch
- Remote Gateway: 192.168.1.5
- Interface: WAN (port1)
- Authentication Method: Pre-shared Key
- IKE Version: IKEv2
- Encryption: DES
- Authentication: SHA384
- DH Group: 14,5
- Key Lifetime: 86400

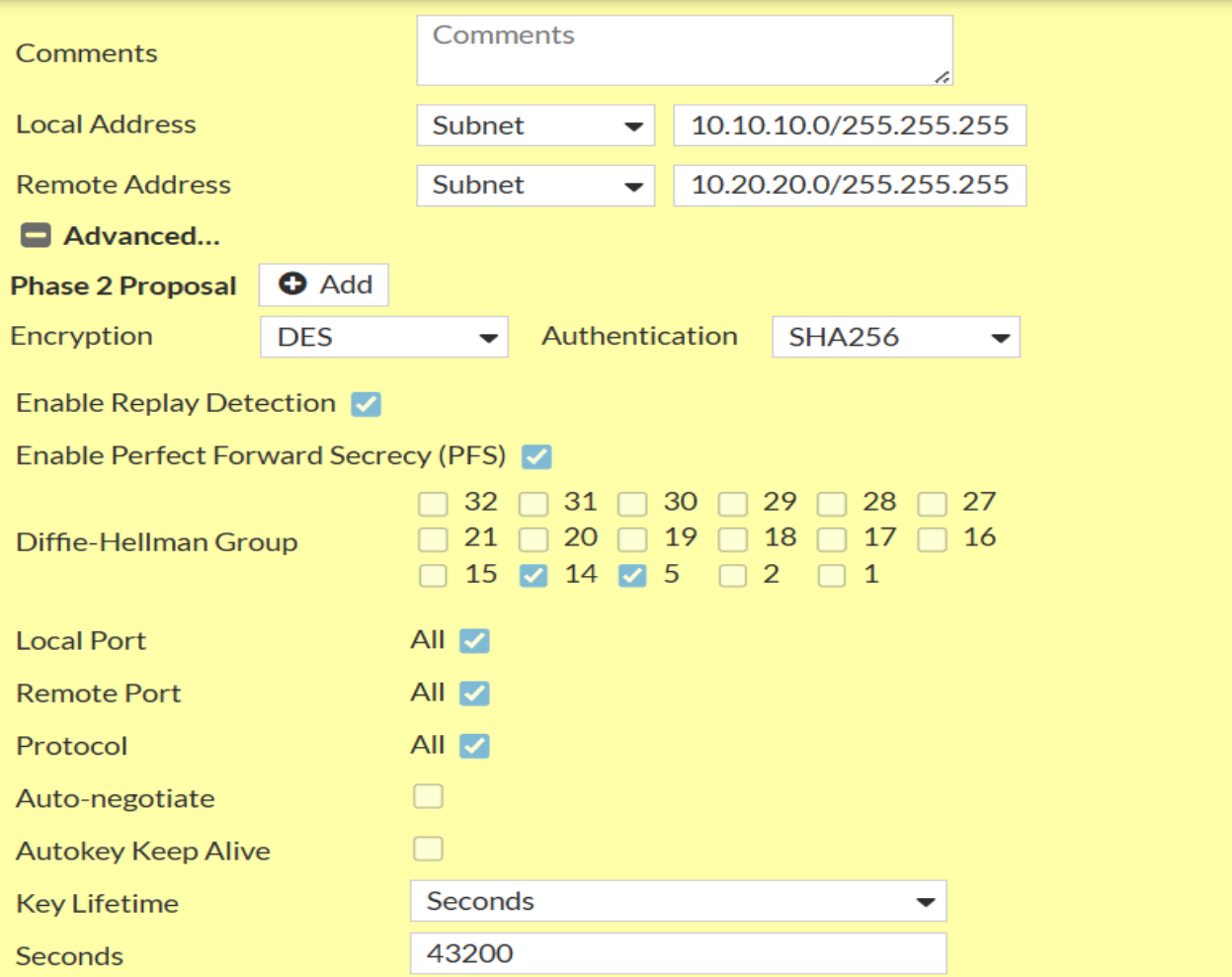






Step 2: Phase 2 Configuration

- **Local Subnet:** 10.10.10.0/255.255.255.0
- **Remote Subnet:** 10.20.20.0/255.255.255.0
- **Encryption:** DES
- **Authentication:** SHA256
- **Enable Replay Detection**

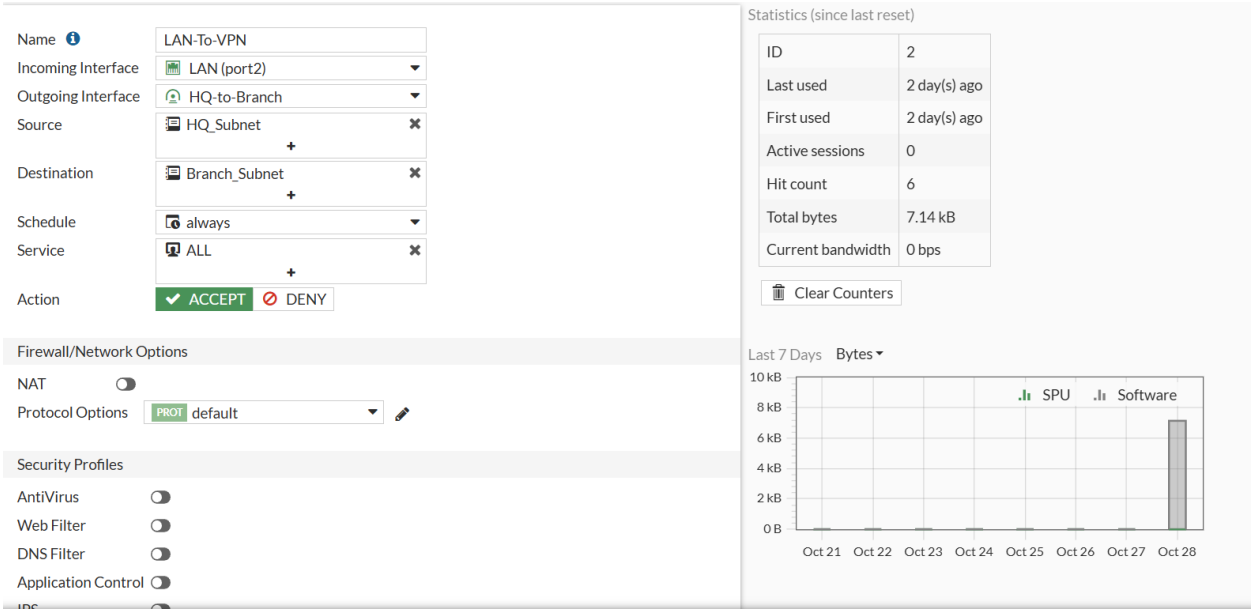


Step 3: Firewall Policies

- Create policies to allow traffic from LAN → VPN and VPN → LAN on both FortiGates.

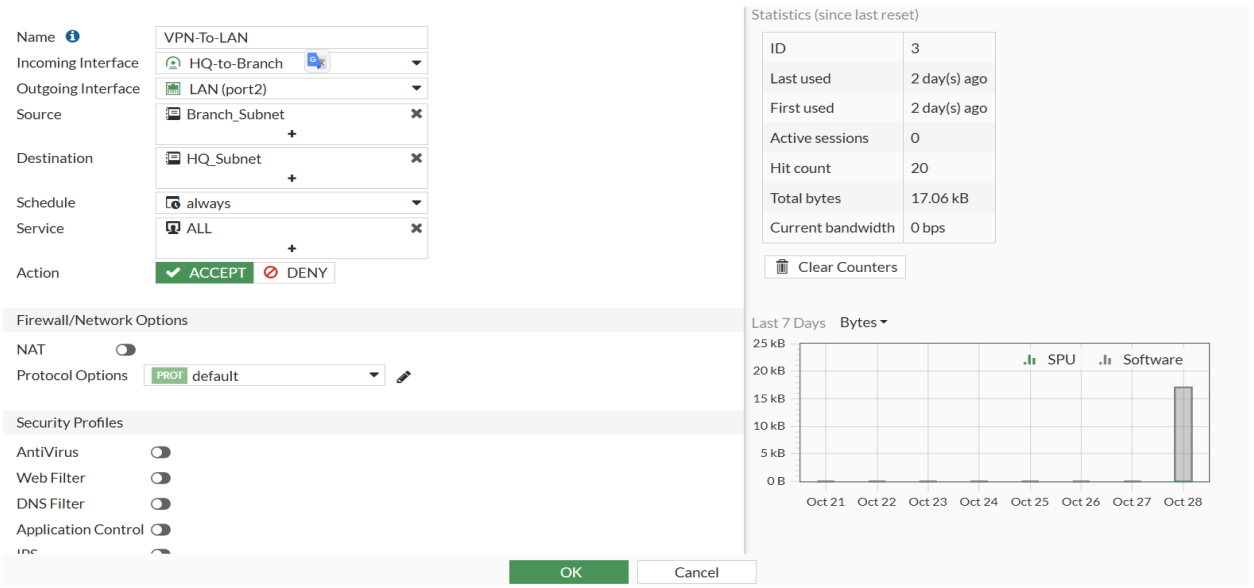
1- LAN-To-VPN

- **Incoming Interface:** LAN (port2)
- **Outgoing Interface:** HQ-to-Branch
- **Action:** Accept
- **NAT:** Disabled
- **Source :** HQ Subnet (10.10.10.0/24)
- **Destination :** HQ Subnet (10.20.20.0/24)



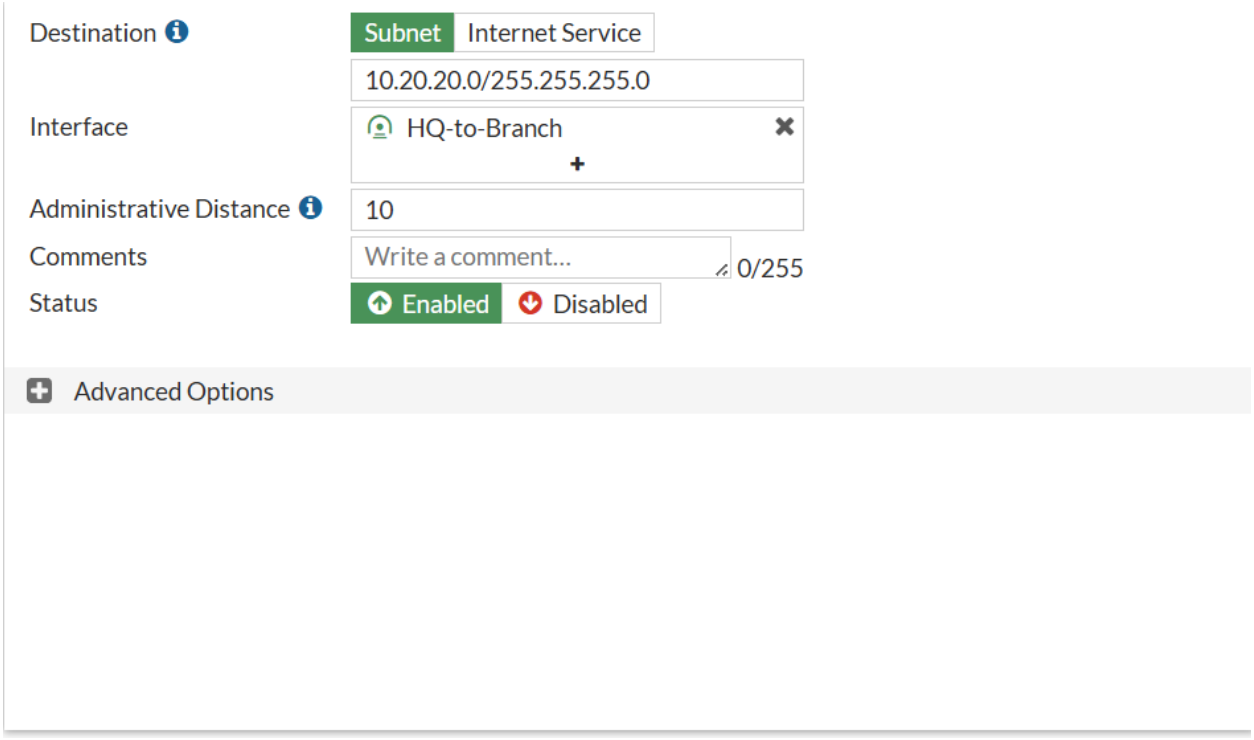
VPN-to-LAN

- **Incoming Interface:** HQ-to-Branch
- **Outgoing Interface:** LAN (port2)
- **Action:** Accept
- **NAT:** Disabled
- **Source :** Branch Subnet (10.20.20.0/24)
- **Destination :** HQ Subnet (10.10.10.0/24)



Step 4: Static Routes

- Add static routes to reach the remote subnet through the VPN tunnel.\
- Destination : Subnet (10.20.20.0 / 255.255.255.0)
- Interface : HQ-to-Branch

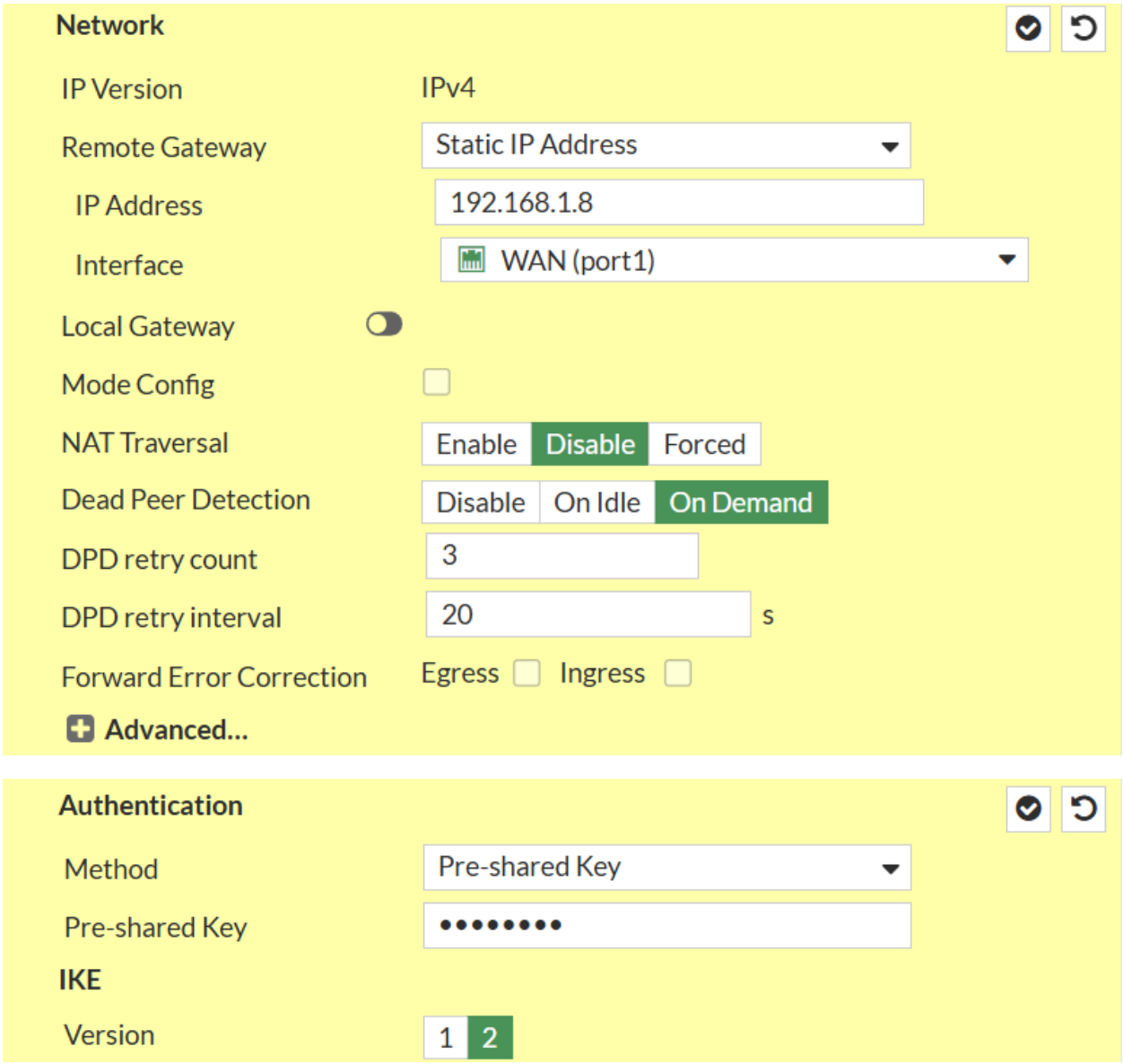


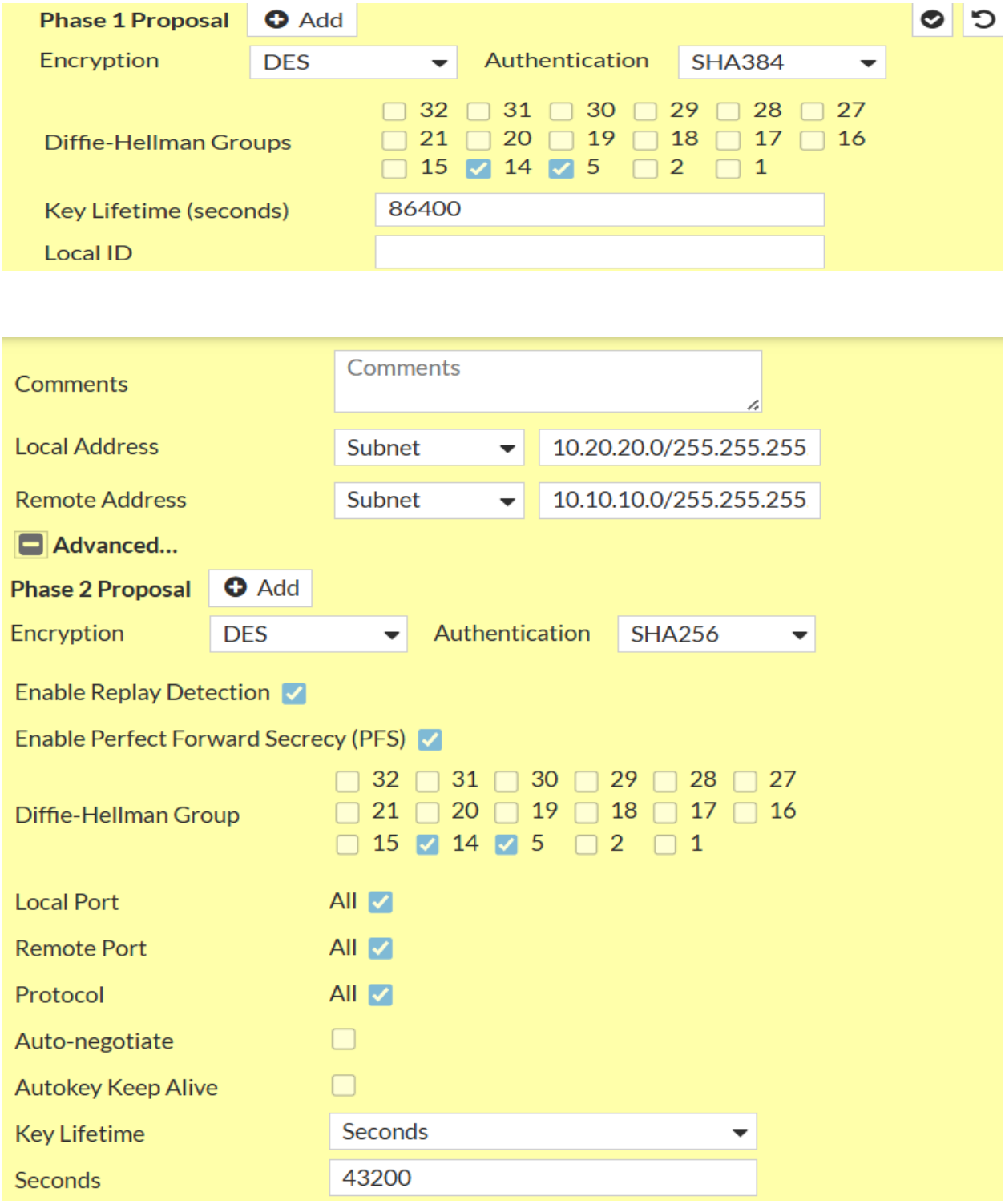
3.4 Branch FortiGate Configuration

Step 1: Phase 1 Configuration

- **Go to VPN → IPsec Tunnels → Create New → Custom.**
- **Name: Branch-to-HQ**
- **Remote Gateway: Static IP Address (192.168.1.8) *(HQ WAN IP)***
- **Interface: WAN (port1)**
- **Authentication Method: Pre-shared Key**
- **IKE Version: IKEv2**

- **Encryption: DES**
- **Authentication: SHA384**
- **DH Group: 14,5**
- **Key Lifetime: 86400**



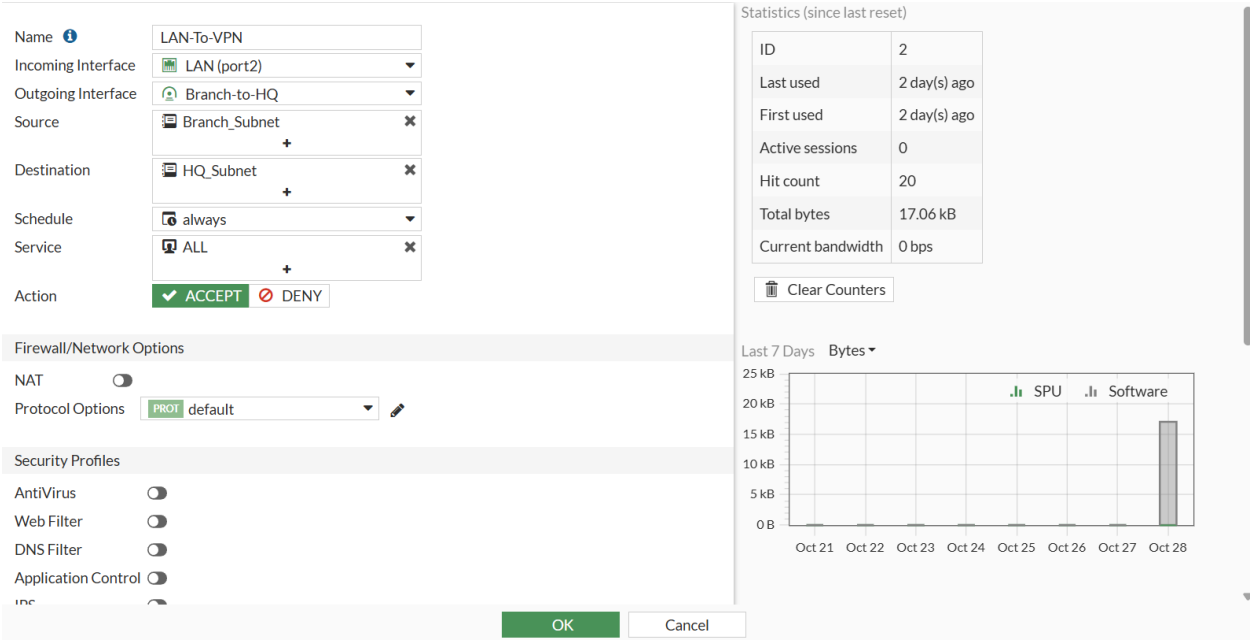


Note :
Make sure the Pre-shared Key matches exactly with the one configured on HQ.

3.5 : Firewall Policies

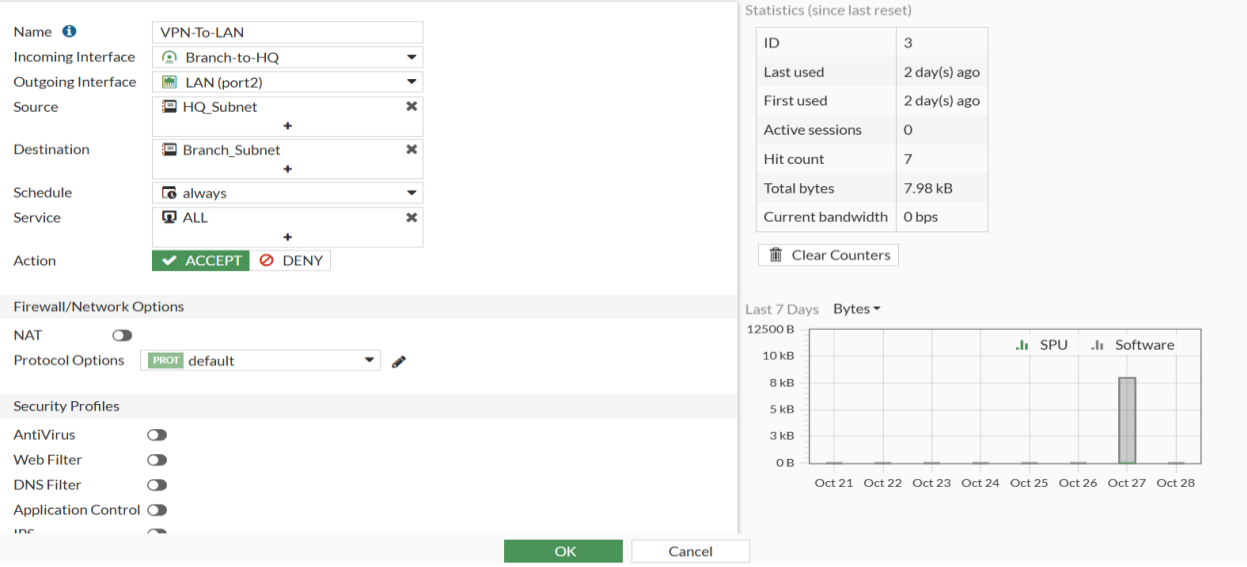
1- LAN-To-VPN

- **Incoming Interface: LAN (port2)**
- **Outgoing Interface: Branch-to-HQ**
- **Action: Accept**
- **NAT: Disabled**
- **Source: Branch Subnet (10.20.20.0/24)**
- **Destination: HQ Subnet (10.10.10.0/24)**



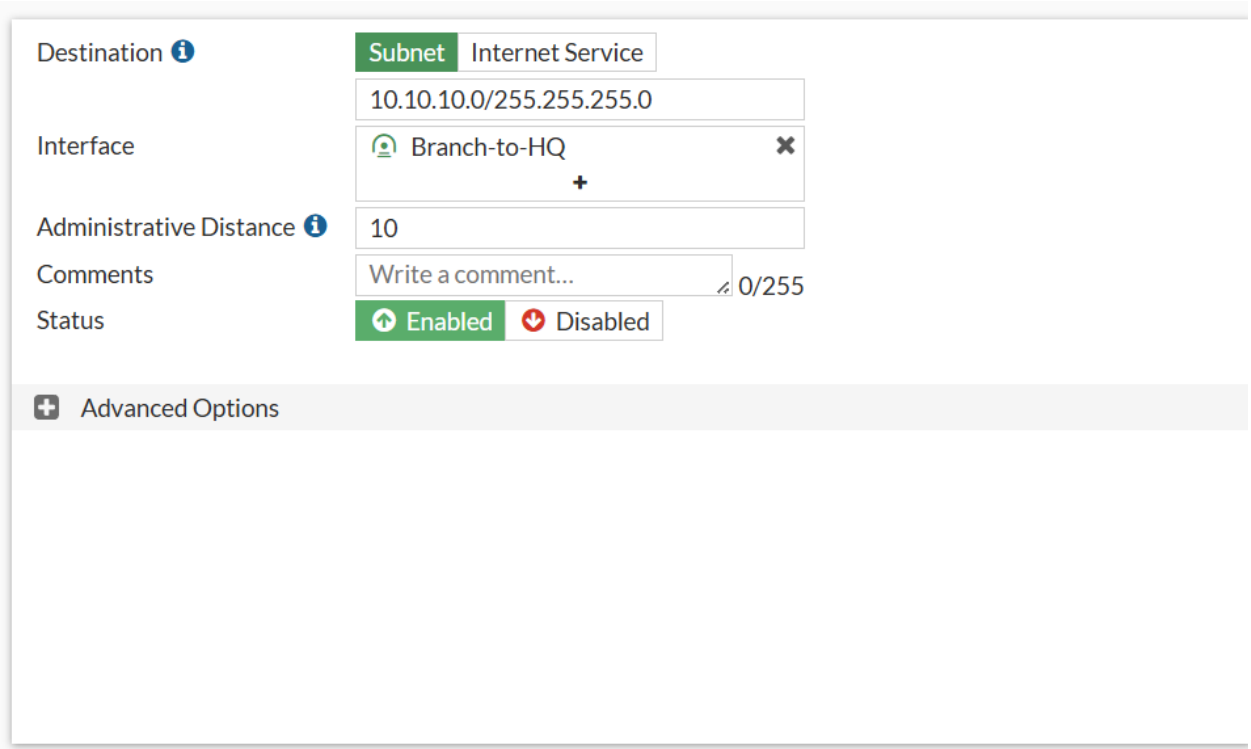
2- VPN-To-LAN

- **Incoming Interface: Branch-to-HQ**
- **Outgoing Interface: LAN (port2)**
- **Action: Accept**
- **NAT: Disabled**
- **Source: HQ Subnet (10.10.10.0/24)**
- **Destination: Branch Subnet (10.20.20.0/24)**



Step 4: Static Routes

- **Destination: 10.10.10.0 / 255.255.255.0**
- **Interface: Branch-to-HQ**

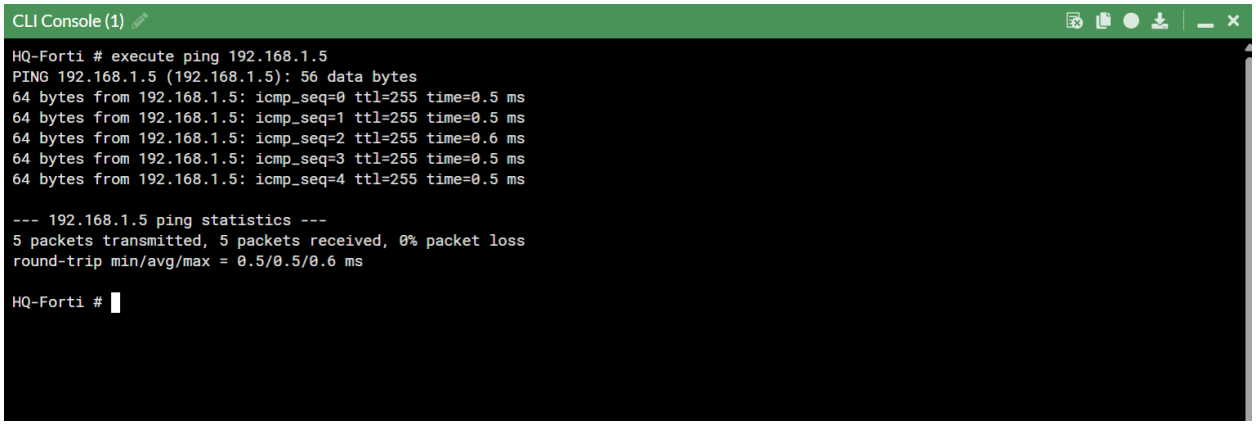


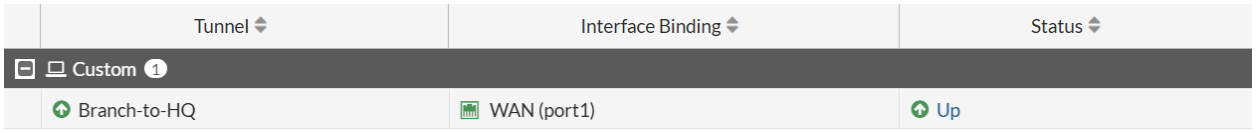
3.6. Connectivity Test Results

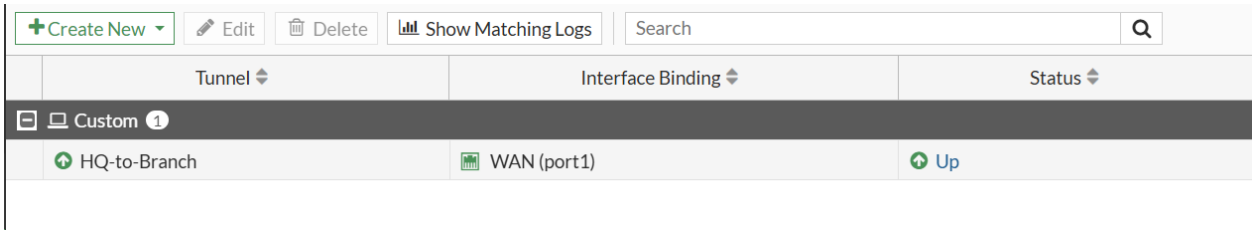
Test 1: Ping Test Between Branches

- **From: HQ Forti 192.168.1.8**
- **To: Branch Forti 192.168.1.5**

Result: Successful ping replies received, indicating that both LAN networks are reachable through the IPsec VPN tunnel.



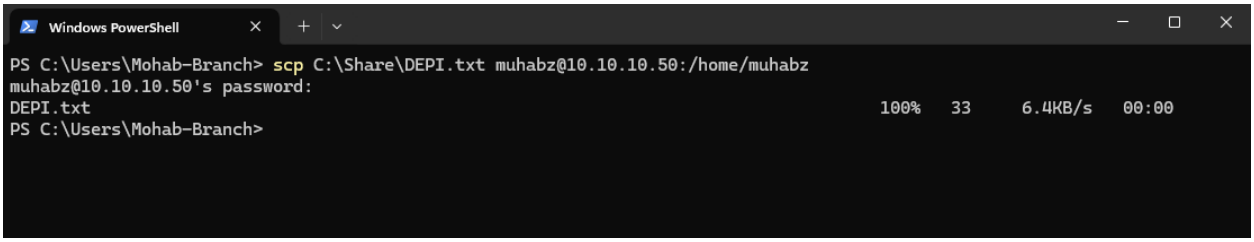


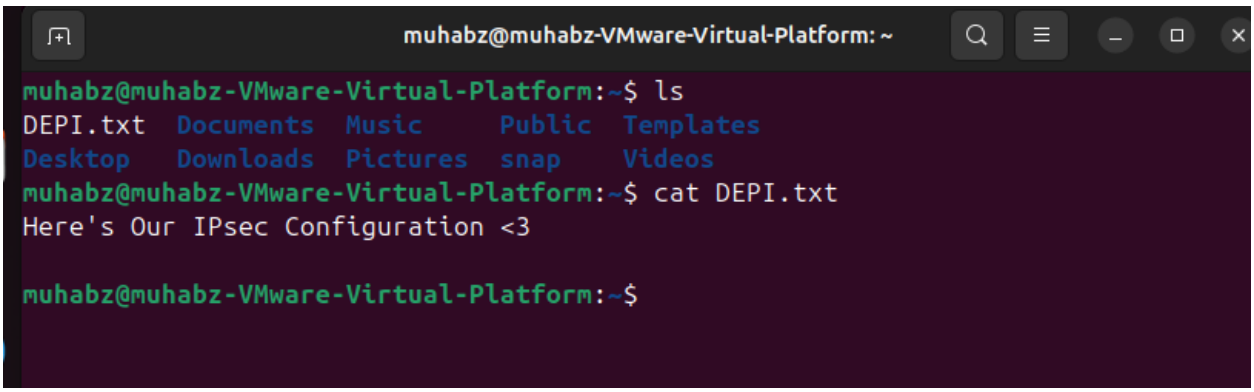


Test 2: File Transfer Test (SCP Protocol)

- **Objective: Verify real data transfer through the IPsec tunnel.**
- **Setup:**
    - **A Windows machine connected to HQ LAN (10.10.10.50).**
      (From DHCP Of LAN)
    - **A Kali Linux machine connected to Branch LAN (10.20.20.50).**
      (From DHCP Of LAN)

- **Method:**
    - **From the Windows PC, access the Kali shared folder using SSH protocol (\\10.20.20.50\share).**
    - **Attempt to copy a test file (e.g., test.txt) between both devices.**
- **Command:**
    - **From Windows PC Open The PowerShell and Type :**
    - **scp C:\Share\DEPI.txt muhabz@10.10.10.50:/home/muhabz**
- **Result:**
  File transfer completed successfully with stable throughput and no packet loss.
  This confirms that the IPsec tunnel securely transmits not only ICMP packets but also application-layer data traffic.





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6. Conclusion

The IPsec VPN tunnel between the HQ FortiGate and the Branch FortiGate was successfully established and tested.
Connectivity between the two LANs was confirmed through ICMP ping tests and SSH file transfer verification.
This demonstrates that encrypted communication and secure data exchange between both networks are fully operational.
The configuration followed standard security best practices, ensuring data integrity and confidentiality across the VPN connection.

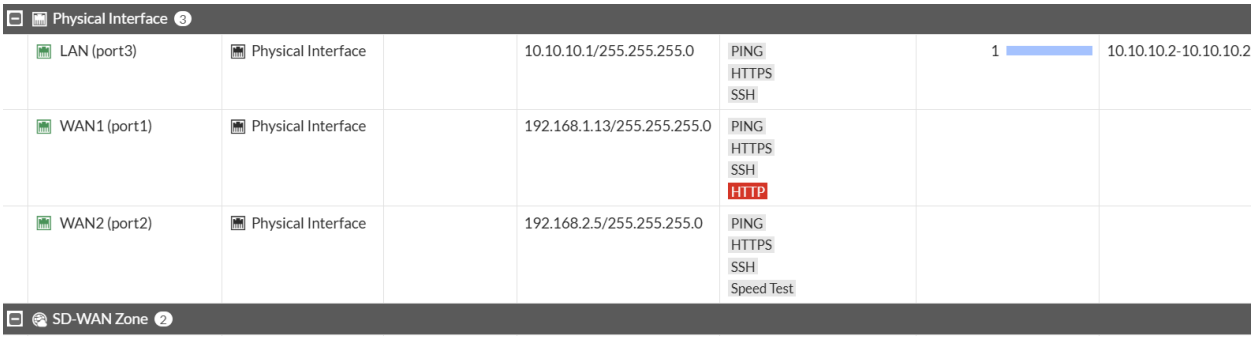
4. SD-WAN Implementation Documentation

Purpose:

- Combine multiple internet links for smart traffic distribution
- Application-aware routing (VoIP, Video, Web)
- Automatic failover and load balancing
- Real-time performance monitoring

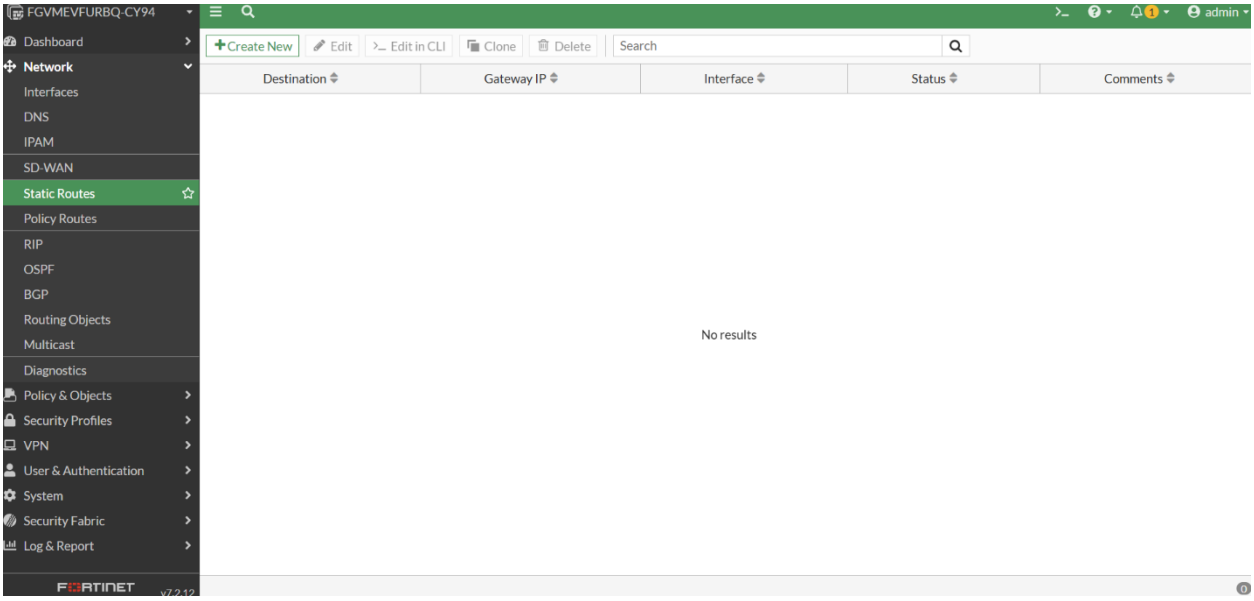
Environment:

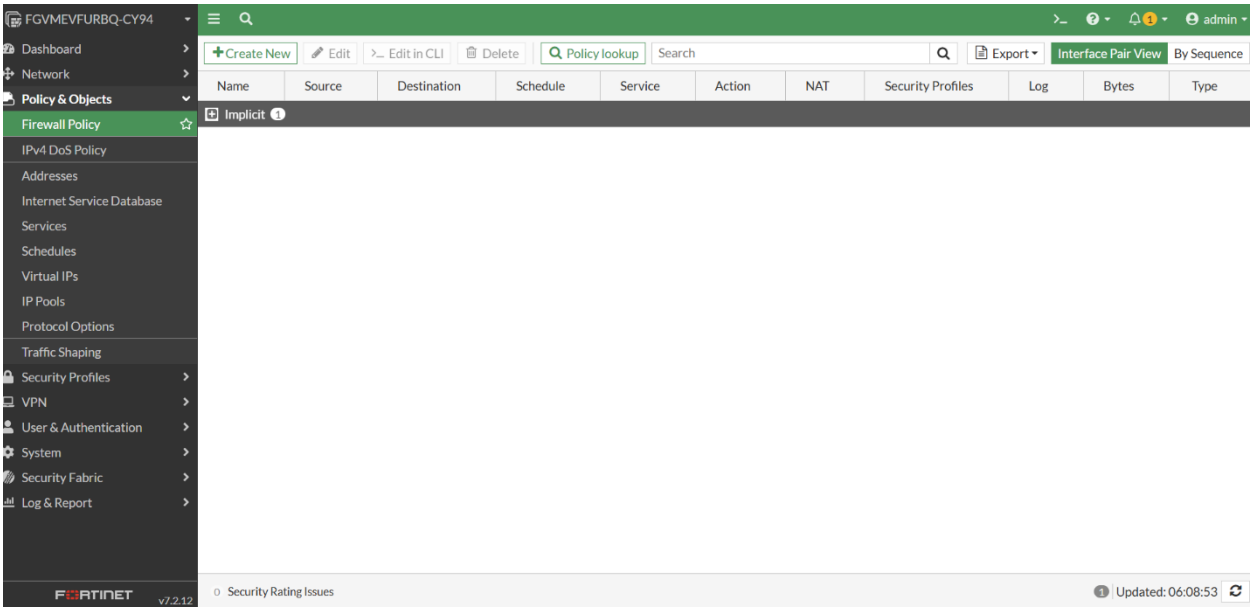
- 2 WAN links
- LAN: 10.10.10.0/24
- Device: FortiGate Firewall



Implementation Steps:

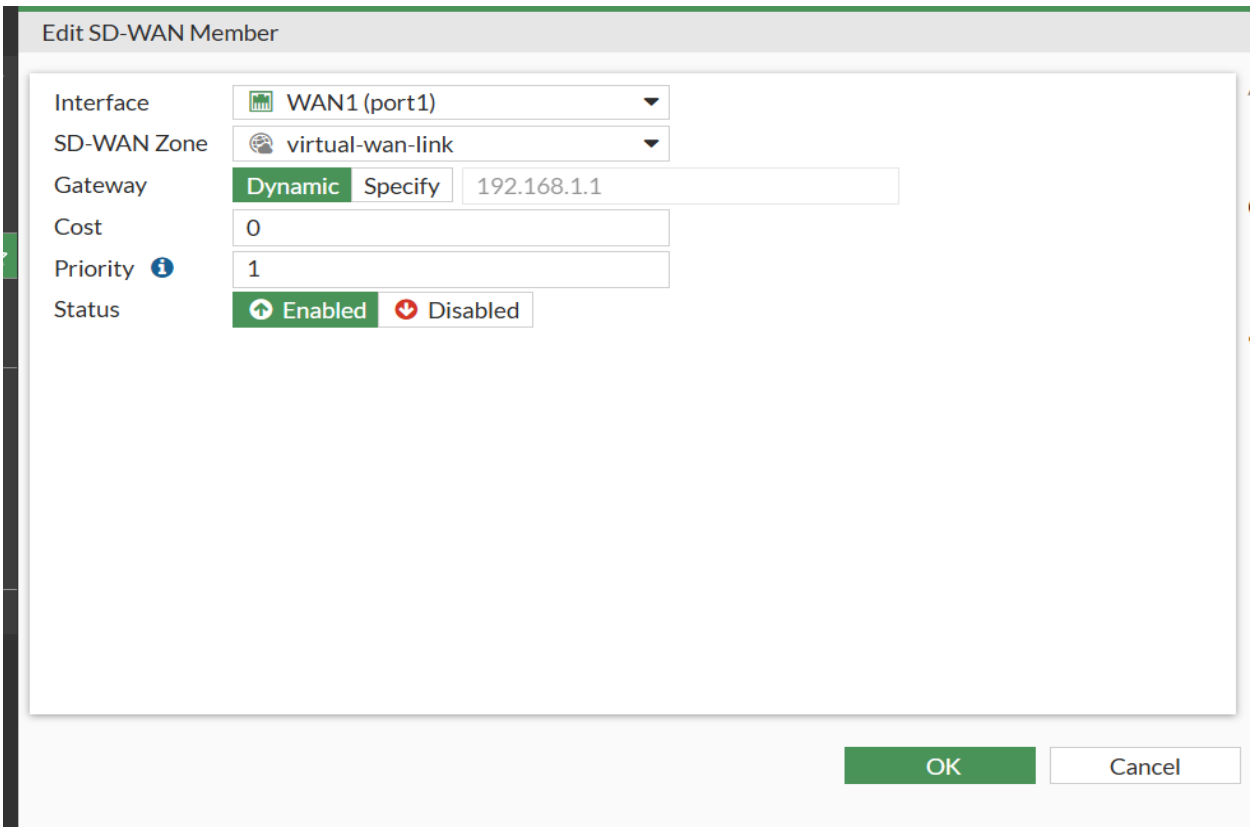
- **4.1 : Verify Initial Configuration**
- Checked Firewall Policies: No policies are active.
- Checked Routing: No static routes or default routes exist.
- **Purpose:** Ensure a clean environment before enabling SD-WAN.

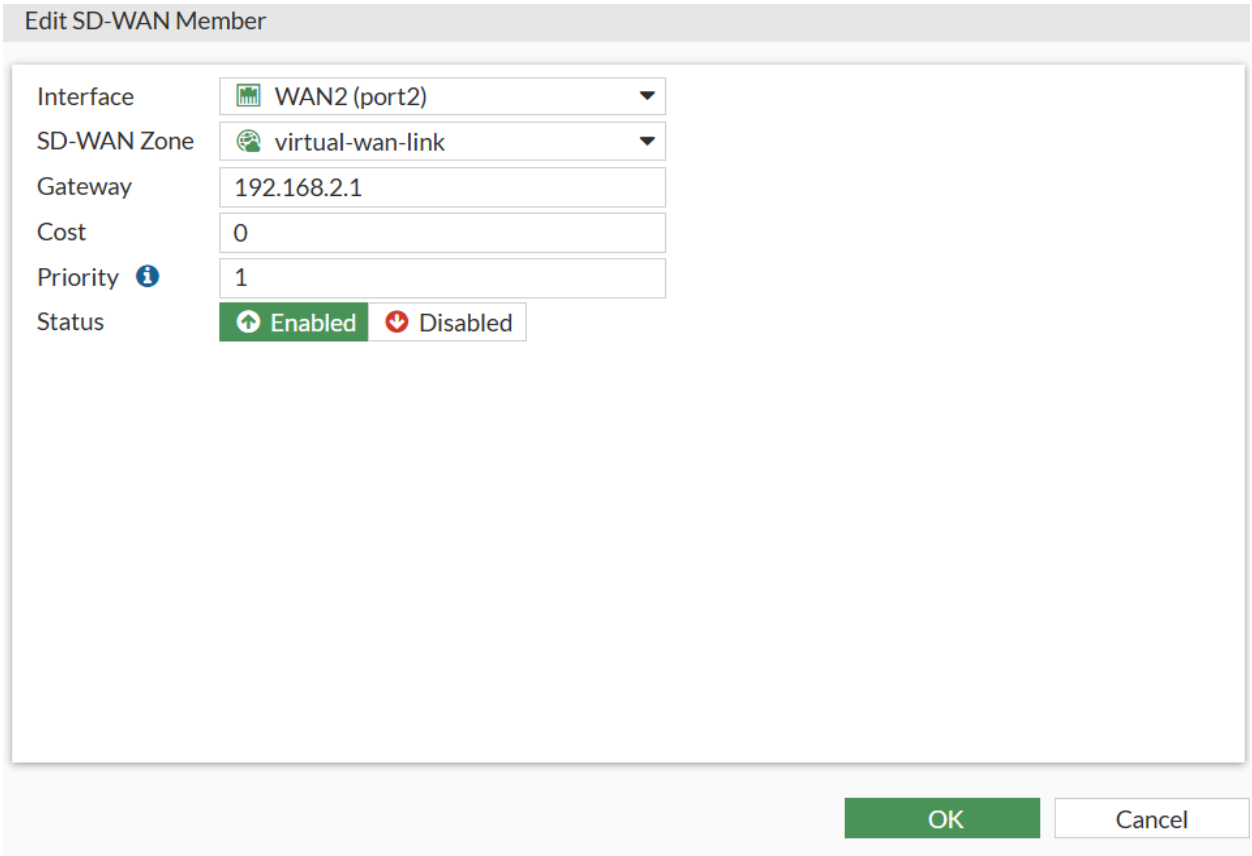


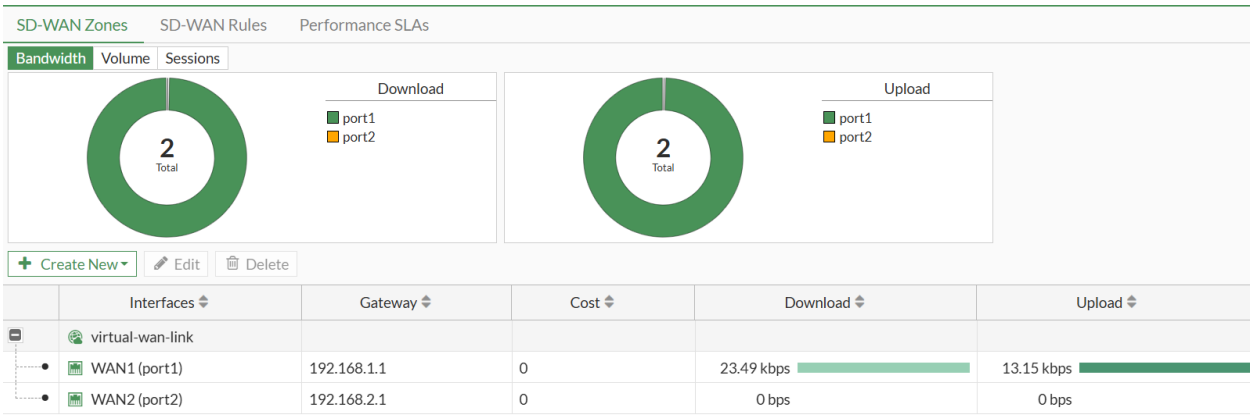


4.2 : Add Internet Links as SD-WAN Members

- Each WAN link is added as a **Member** inside SD-WAN:
    - WAN1 → Member 1
    - WAN2 → Member 2
- **Purpose:** Integrate all WAN links under a single SD-WAN zone for centralized management.

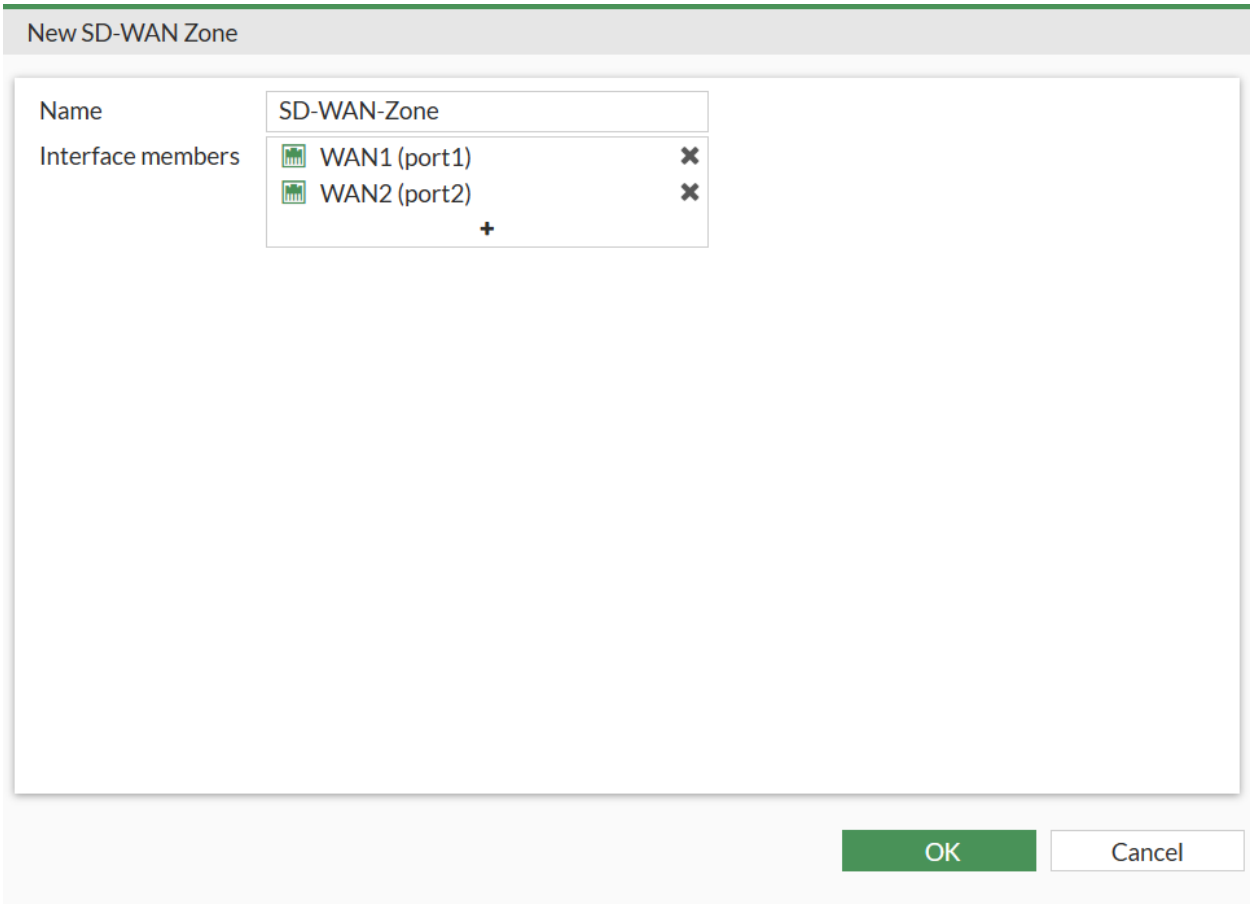

Edit SD-WAN Member
Interface
WAN1 (port1)
SD-WAN Zone
virtual-wan-link
Gateway
Dynamic
Specify
192.168.1.1
Cost
0
Priority
1
Status
Enabled
Disabled
OK
Cancel

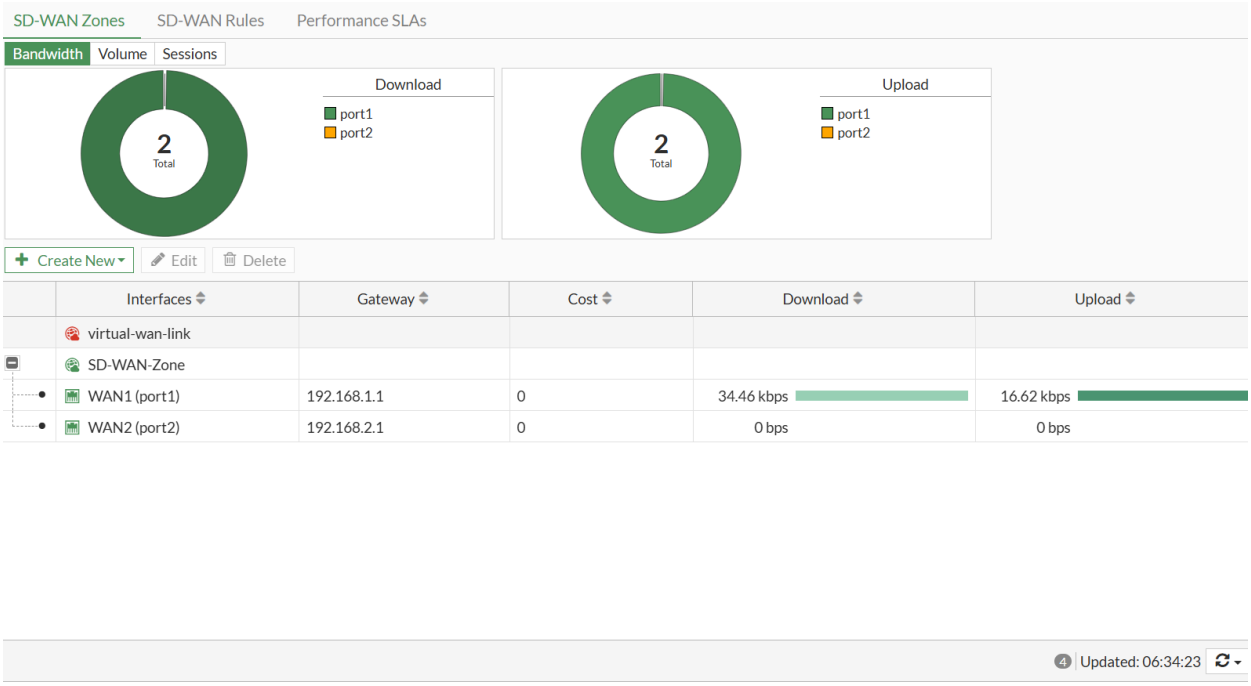

Edit SD-WAN Member
Interface
WAN2 (port2)
SD-WAN Zone
virtual-wan-link
Gateway
192.168.2.1
Cost
0
Priority
1
Status
Enabled
Disabled
OK
Cancel



4.3: Create SD-WAN Zone

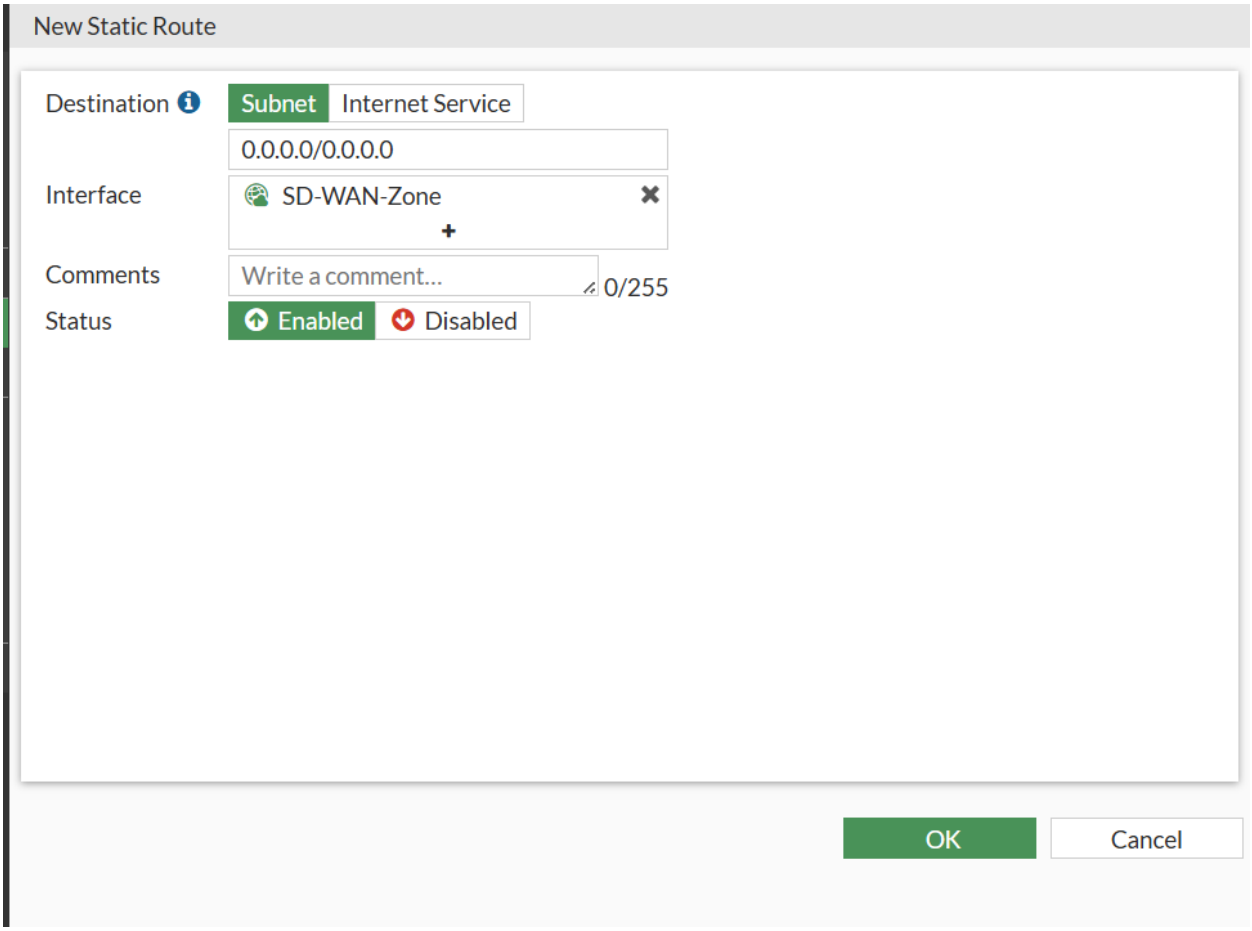
- Created a **SD-WAN Zone** named SD-WAN-Zone.
- Added all WAN members (WAN1, WAN2) into this zone.





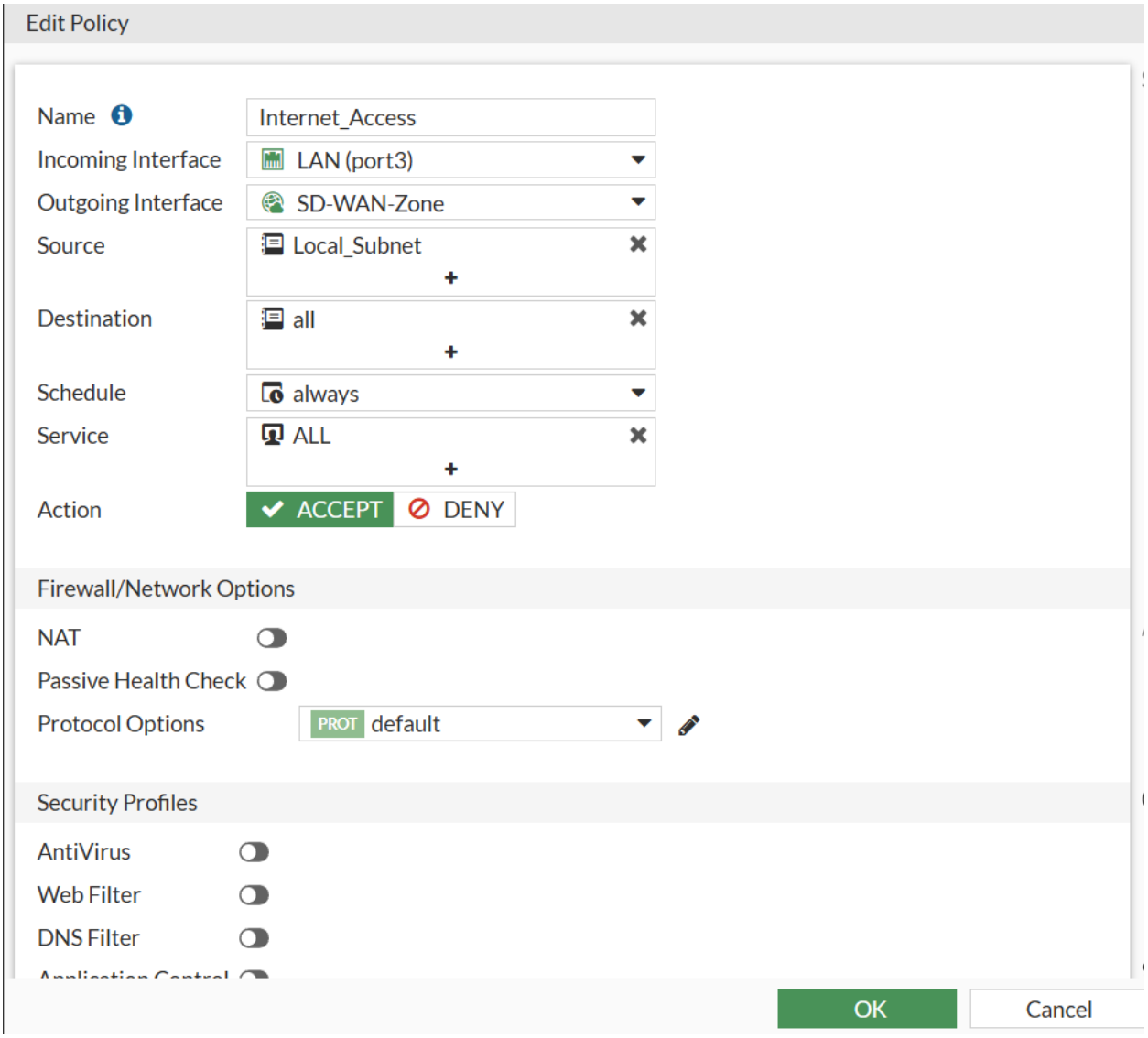
4.4 : Configure Default Static Route

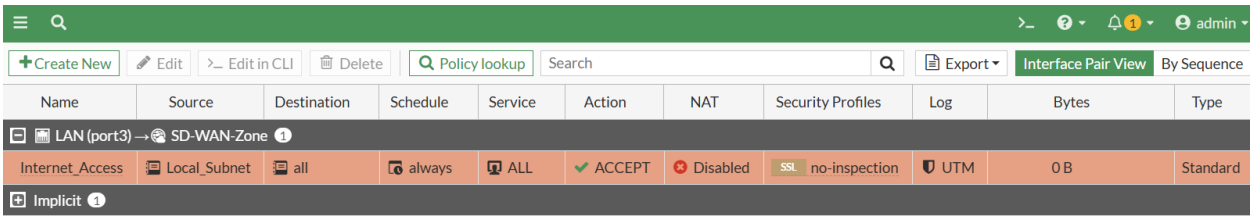
- **Static Route Configuration:**
  - **Destination:** 0.0.0.0/0
  - **Interface:** SD-WAN-Zone
- **Purpose:** Direct all outbound traffic through the SD-WAN zone instead of individual WAN interfaces.

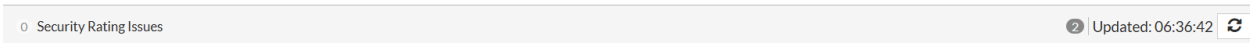


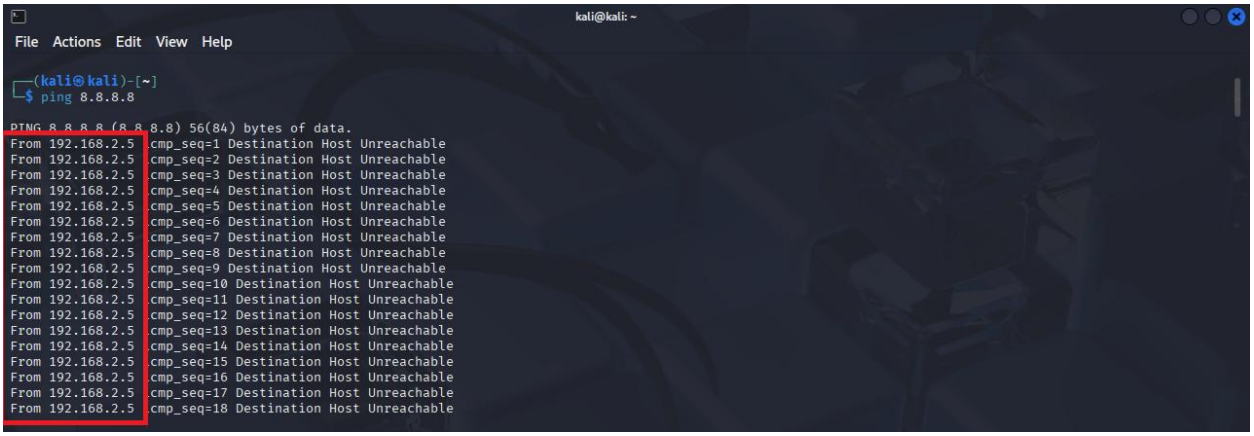
4.5 : Configure Firewall Policy

- Created a firewall policy named Internet Access:
    - **Incoming Interface:** LAN
    - **Outgoing Interface:** SD-WAN-Zone
    - **Source:** Local Subnet 10.10.10.0/24
    - **Destination:** All
    - **Schedule:** All
    - **Service:** All
- **Purpose:** Ensure internal traffic exits to the internet via the SD-WAN zone.


Edit Policy
Name
Internet_Access
Incoming Interface
LAN (port3)
Outgoing Interface
SD-WAN-Zone
Source
Local_Subnet
Destination
all
Schedule
always
Service
ALL
Action
ACCEPT
DENY
Firewall/Network Options
NAT
Passive Health Check
Protocol Options
PROT
default
Security Profiles
AntiVirus
Web Filter
DNS Filter
OK
Cancel



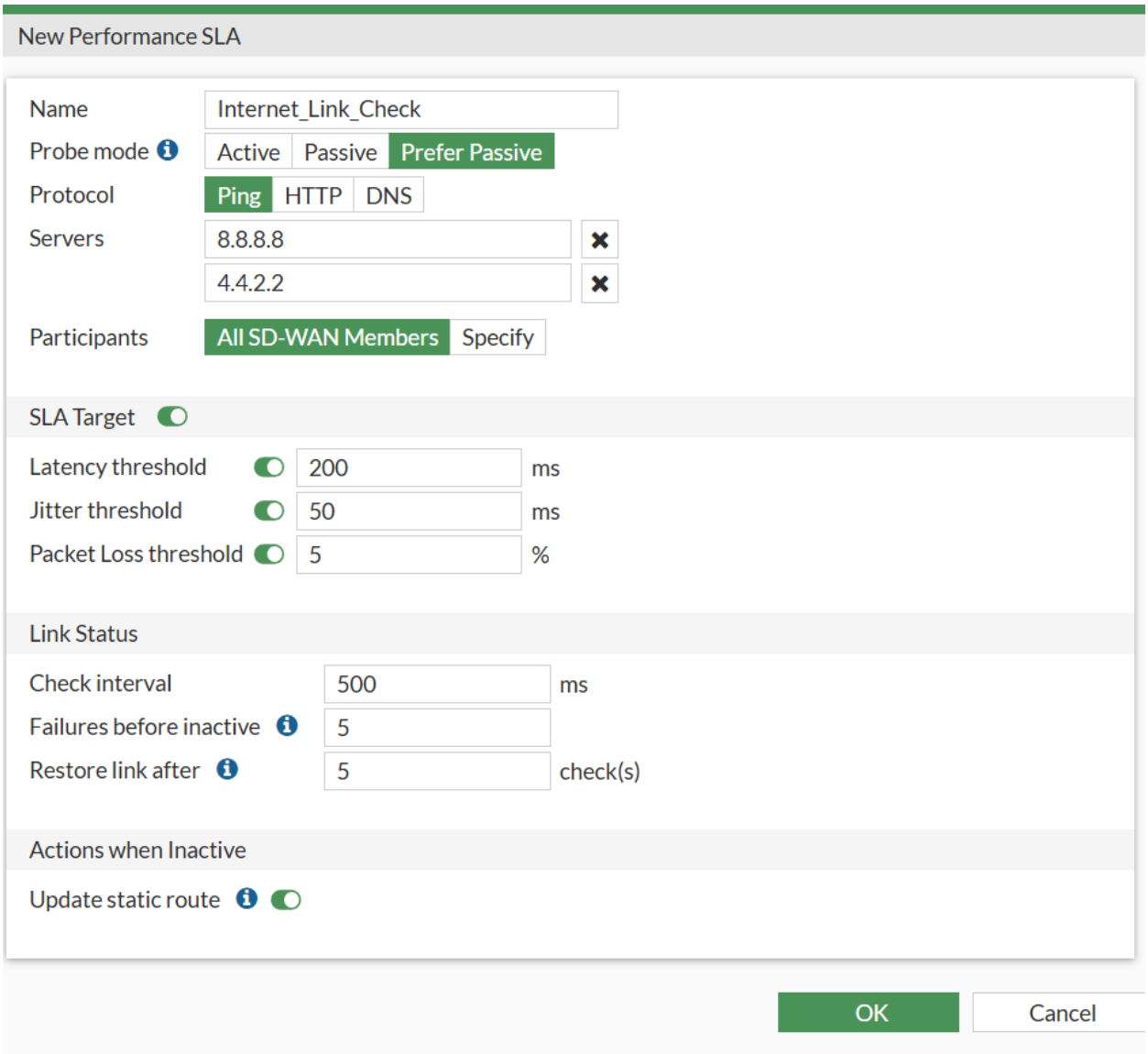


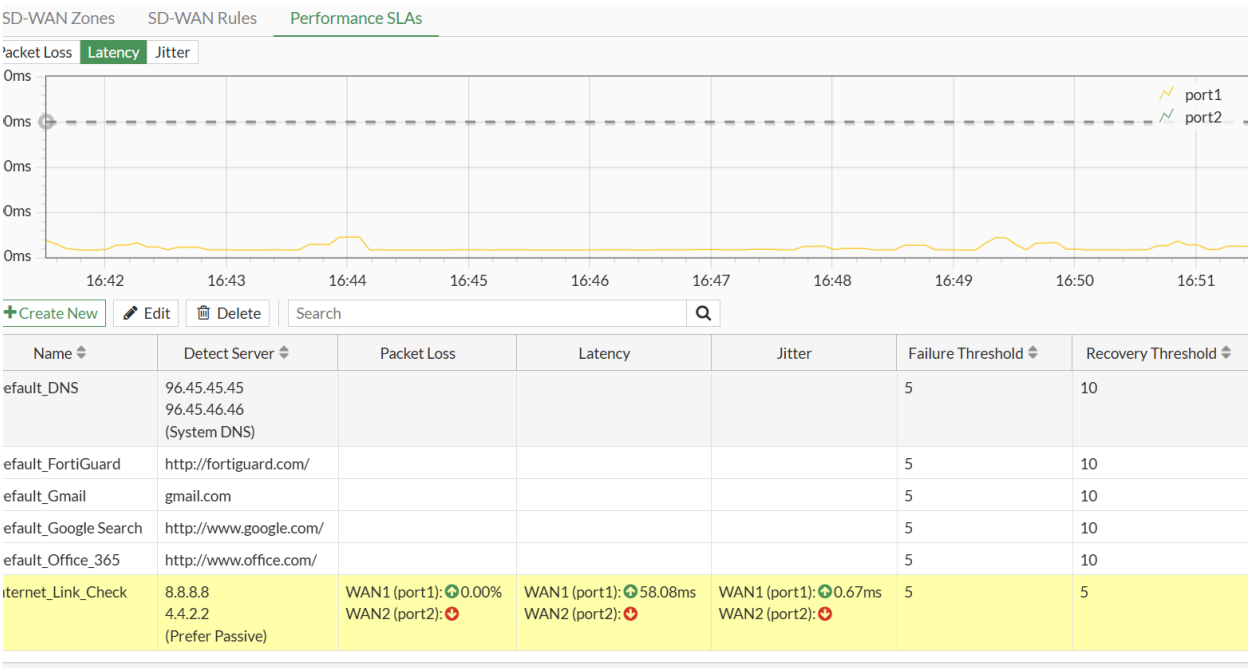


4.6 : Configure Performance SLA

- **Name:** Internet_Link_Check
- **Probe Mode:** Prefer Passive
- **Protocol:** Ping
- **Servers:** 8.8.8.8, 4.4.2.2
- **Participated Members:** All SD-WAN Members

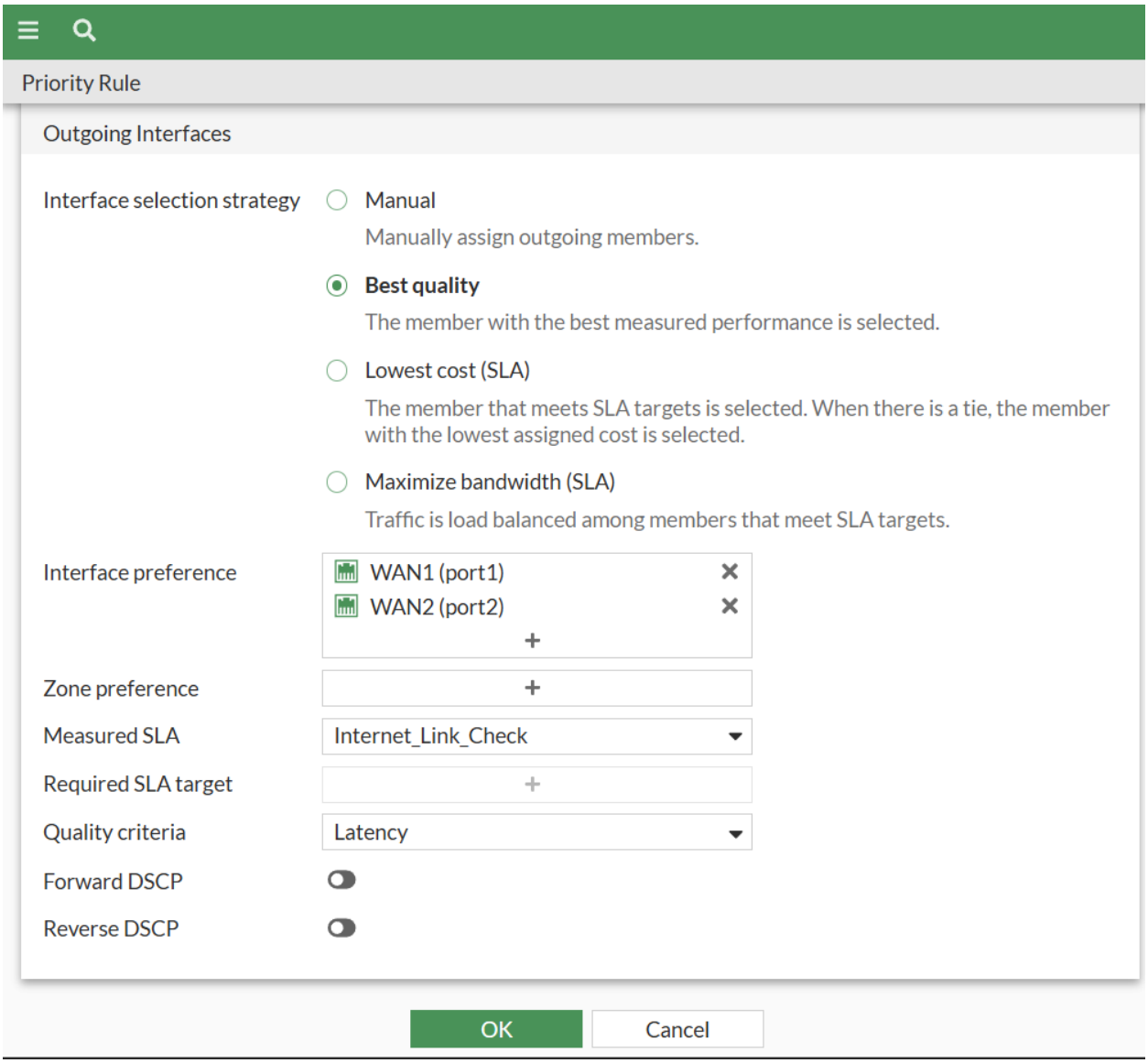
- **SLA Targets:**
    - Latency: 200ms
    - Jitter: 50ms
    - Packet Loss: 5%
- **Purpose:** Monitor link quality and enable intelligent routing decisions based on performance.





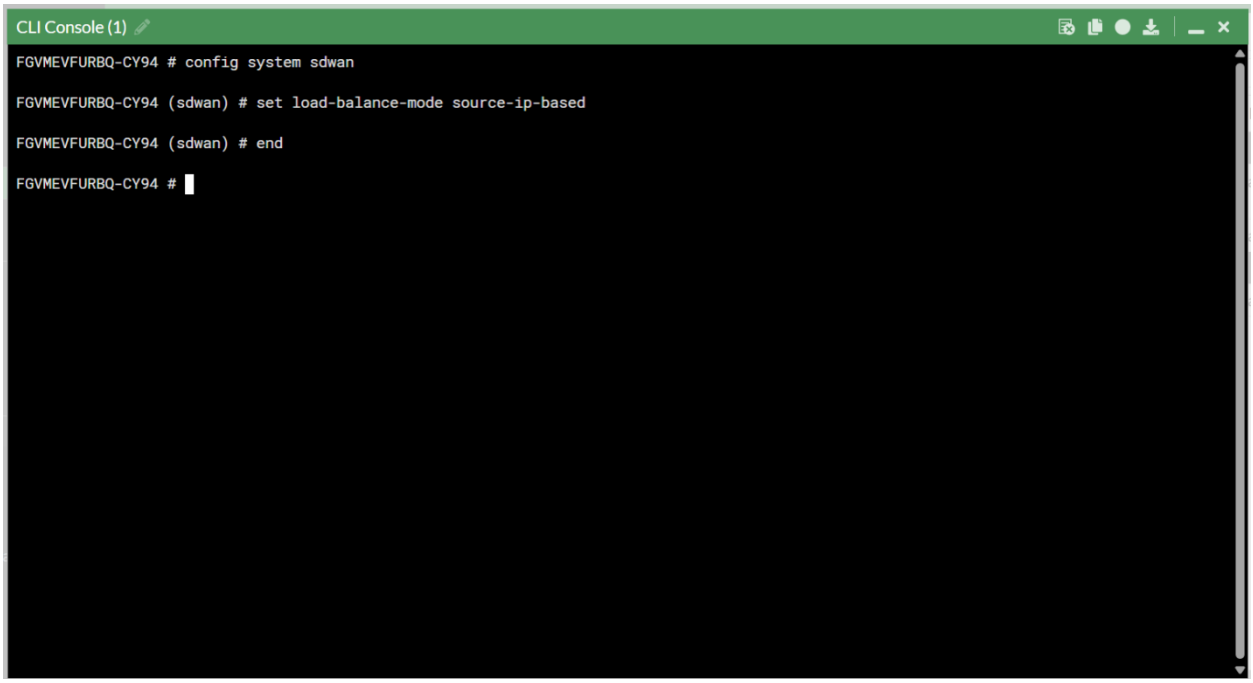
4.7 : Create SD-WAN Rules

- Example rules implemented:
    - Traffic from subnet 10.10.10.0/24 to **YouTube** → routed via **WAN1**
    - Traffic from subnet 10.10.10.0/24 for **VoIP calls** → routed via the **best performing link** automatically
- **Purpose:** Direct traffic efficiently based on application type and link quality.



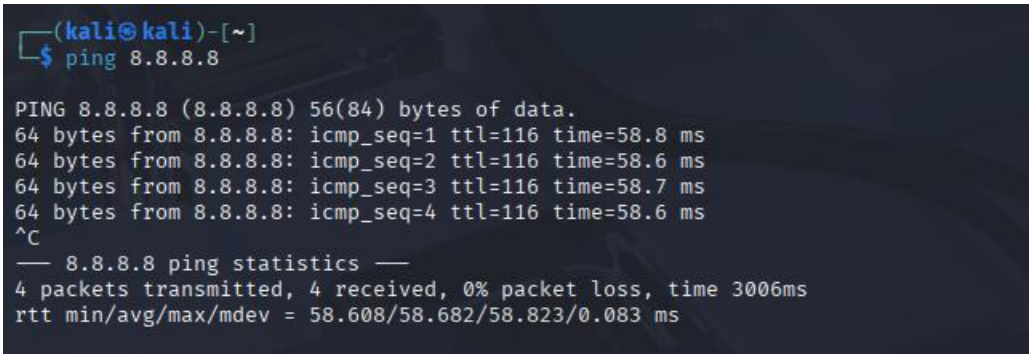
4.8 : Load Balancing Configuration

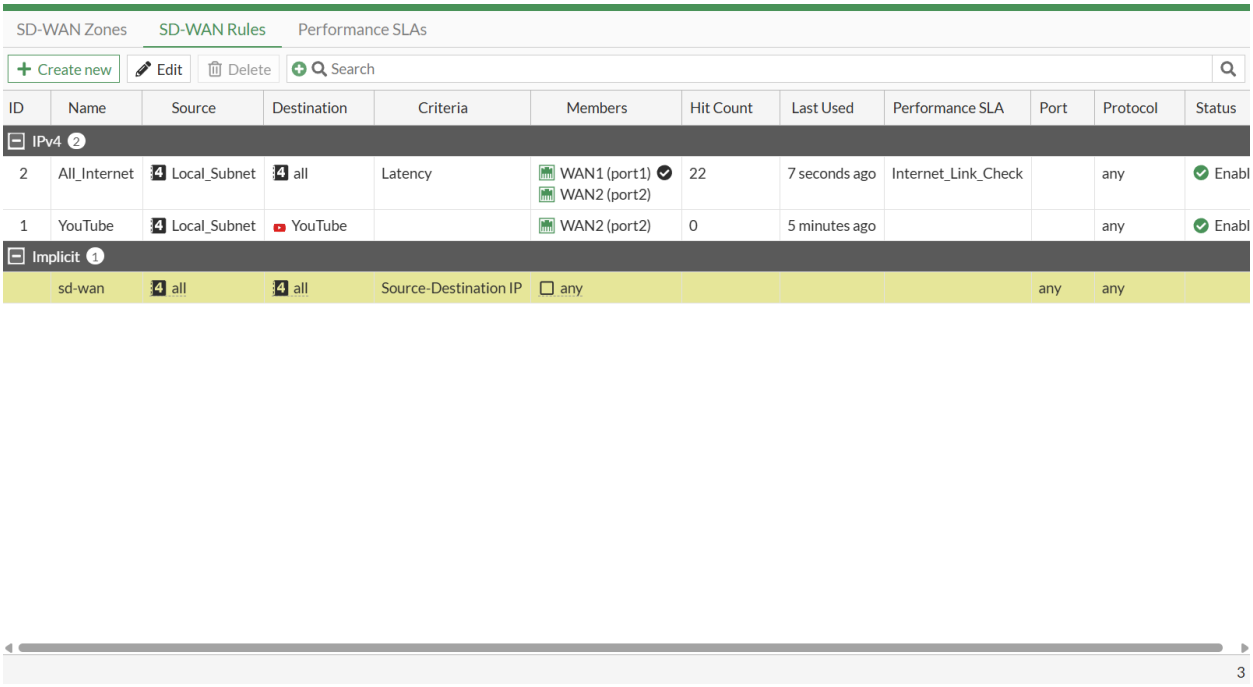
- **Mode:** Source-IP based
- **Purpose:** Distribute traffic across WAN links evenly while keeping sessions consistent per source IP.
- Configured in GUI (or optionally CLI for mode selection).



4.9 Testing & Monitoring

- Observed SD-WAN member status:
    - WAN1: Up
    - WAN2: Down
- Tested traffic routing for YouTube and VoIP services to verify SLA rules and best-quality routing.
- Verified failover functionality by simulating WAN link failure.
- Monitored latency, jitter, and packet loss via SD-WAN Monitor dashboard.





Conclusion

The SD-WAN implementation provides:

- Intelligent routing and application-aware traffic steering.
- Automatic failover for uninterrupted connectivity.
- Efficient utilization of all WAN links with load balancing.
- Real-time performance monitoring for proactive network management.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this project successfully demonstrated the design and implementation of secure and efficient VPN solutions using FortiGate technologies. By combining **SSL VPN**, **IPsec Site-to-Site VPN**, and **SD-WAN**, the network achieved enhanced security, optimized performance, and reliable connectivity for both remote users and interconnected sites.

These configurations ensure encrypted communication, seamless user access, and intelligent traffic management, making the network more resilient and ready for real-world operational needs. The project highlights the importance of modern security practices and provides a solid foundation for future scalability and advanced network enhancements.