Week 3

SD-WAN Implementation Documentation

Introduction & Purpose of SD-WAN

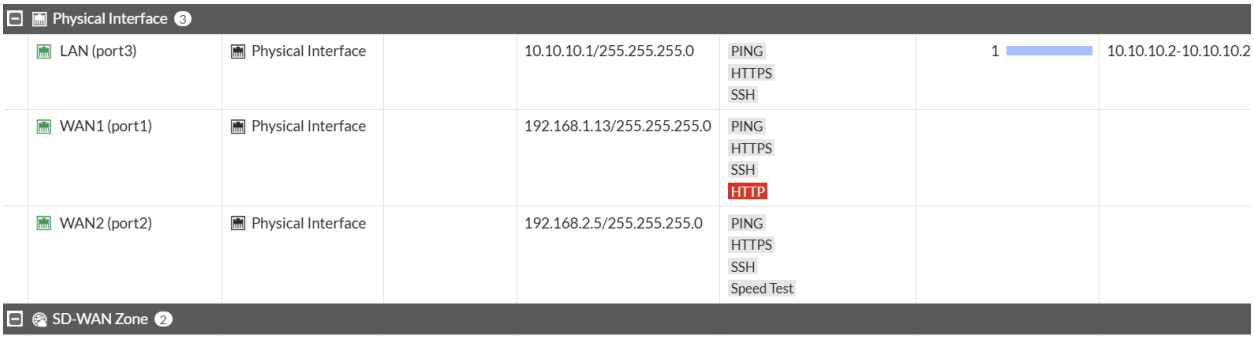
SD-WAN (Software-Defined Wide Area Network) is an advanced solution for managing WAN networks that provides:

- The ability to combine multiple internet connections (WAN links) for smart traffic distribution.
- Quality-based routing to optimize traffic depending on the service type (e.g., VoIP, Video, Web).
- **Automatic failover** if one link goes down, ensuring uninterrupted user experience.
- **Load balancing** to utilize all available links efficiently.
- Continuous performance monitoring (latency, jitter, packet loss) to improve network reliability.

In short: SD-WAN makes the network more intelligent, flexible, and reliable compared to a single fixed WAN link.

Project Environment

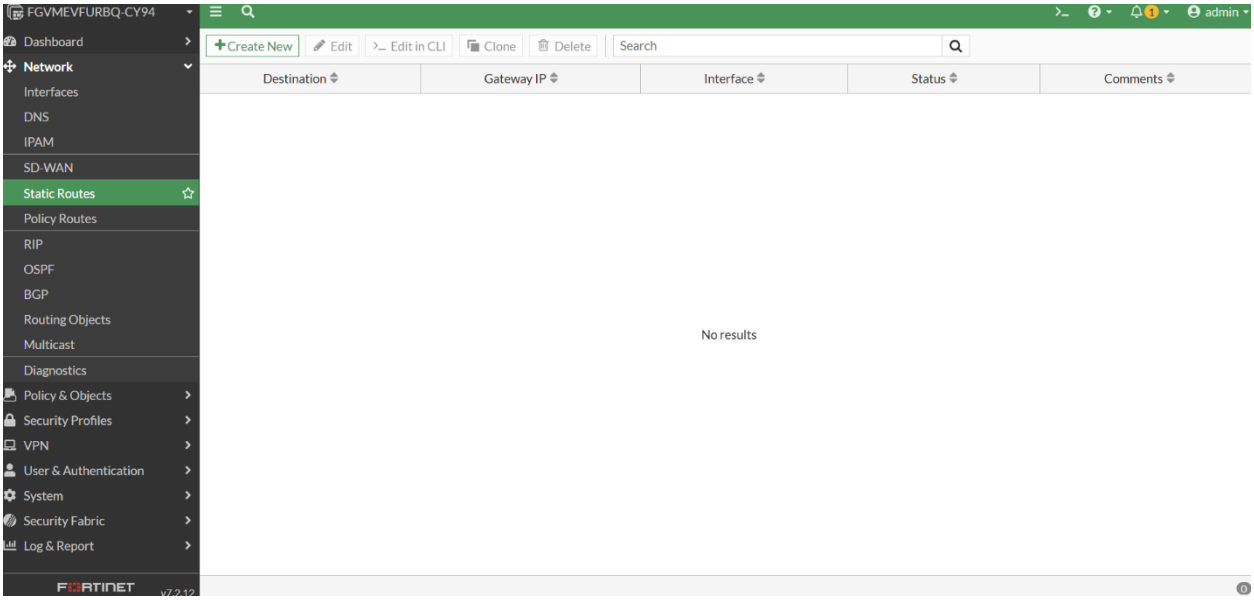
- **Number of Internet Links:** 2 WAN links
- **Local Network:** 10.10.10.0/24
- **Device:** FortiGate Firewall
- **Goal:** Route internal traffic to the internet efficiently and manage traffic based on service type (e.g., VoIP calls, YouTube streaming).

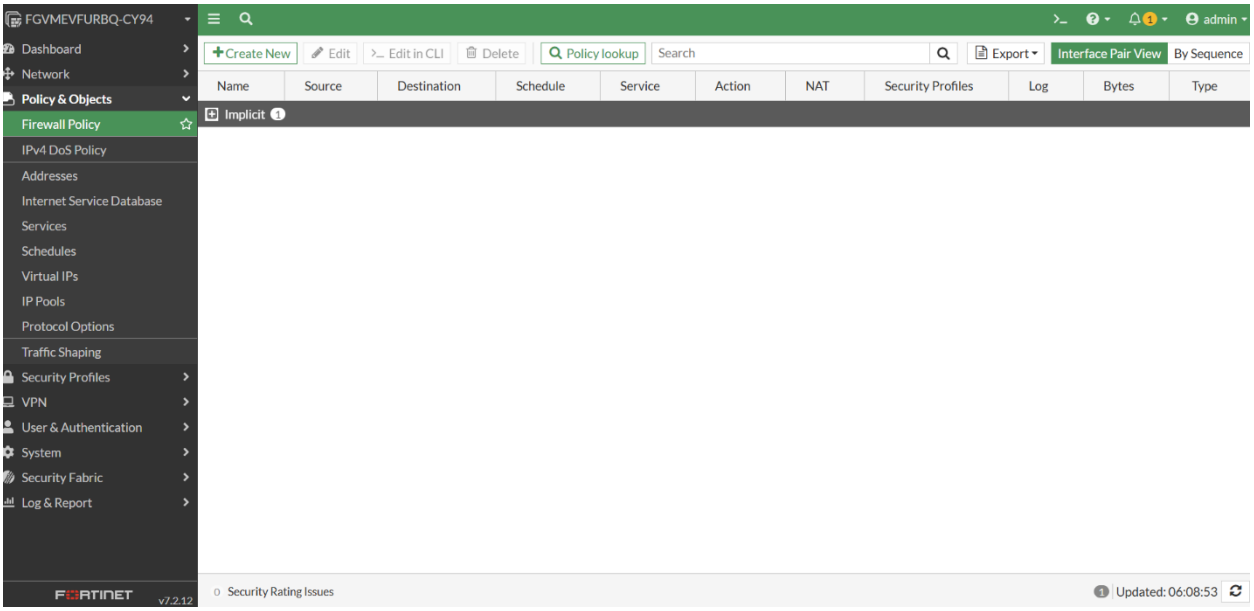


Implementation Steps

Step 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.



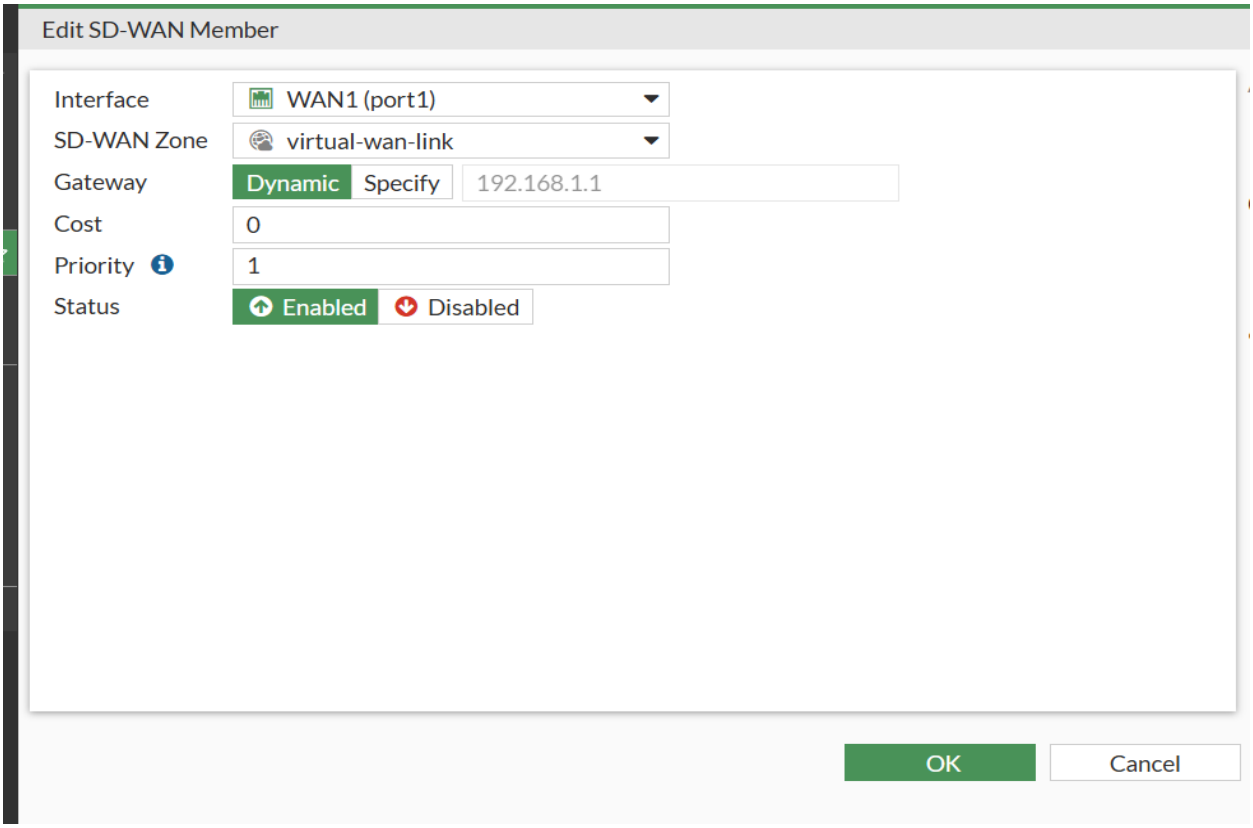


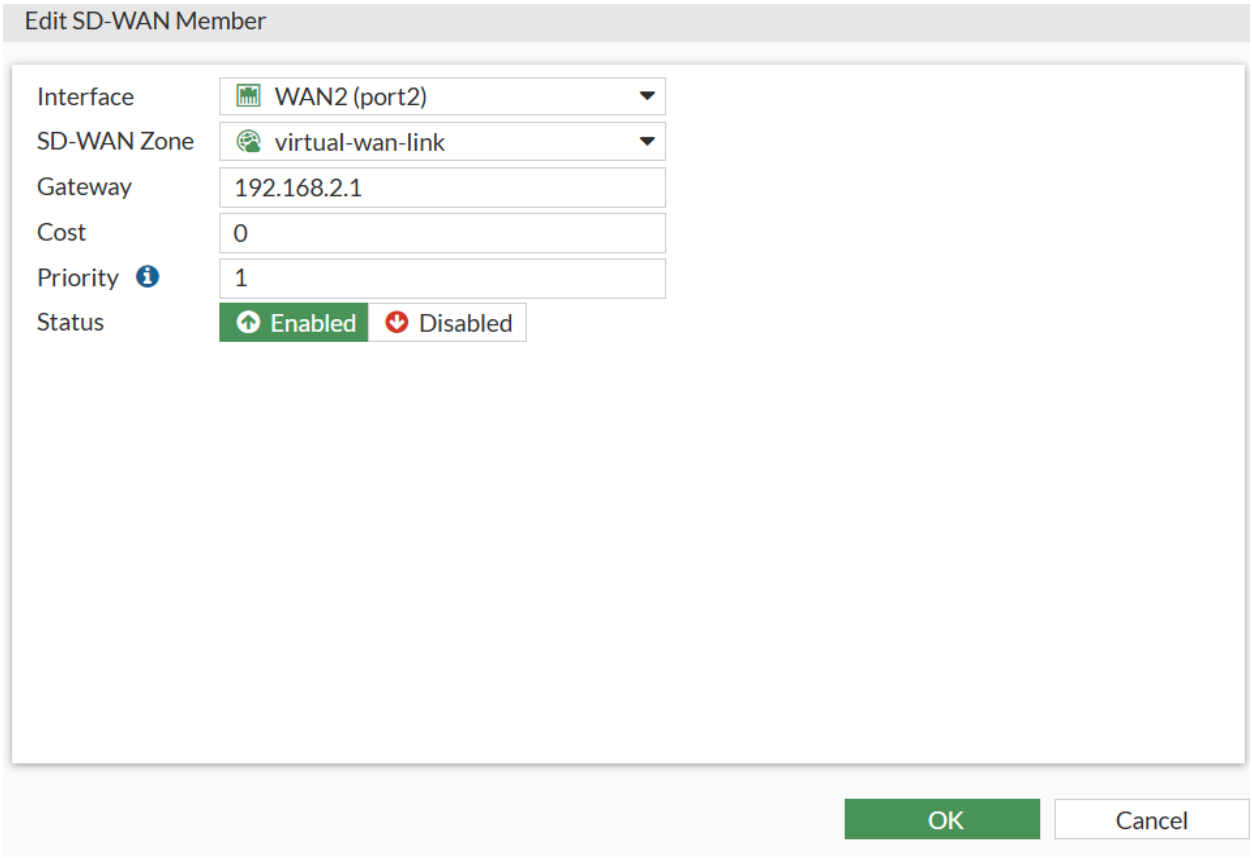
Step 2: Add Internet Links as SD-WAN Members

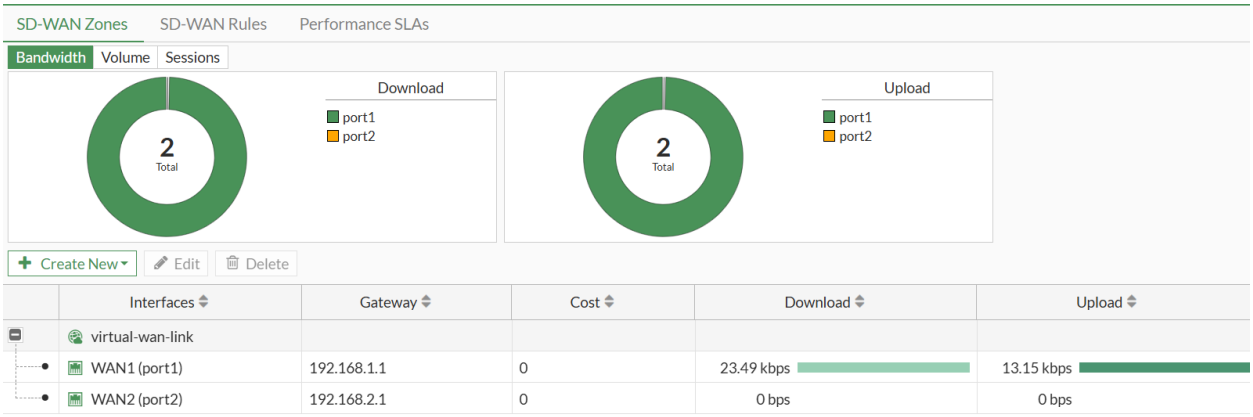
- Each WAN link is added as a **Member** inside SD-WAN:
    - WAN1 → Member 1

- WAN2 → Member 2

- **Purpose:** Integrate all WAN links under a single SD-WAN zone for centralized management.

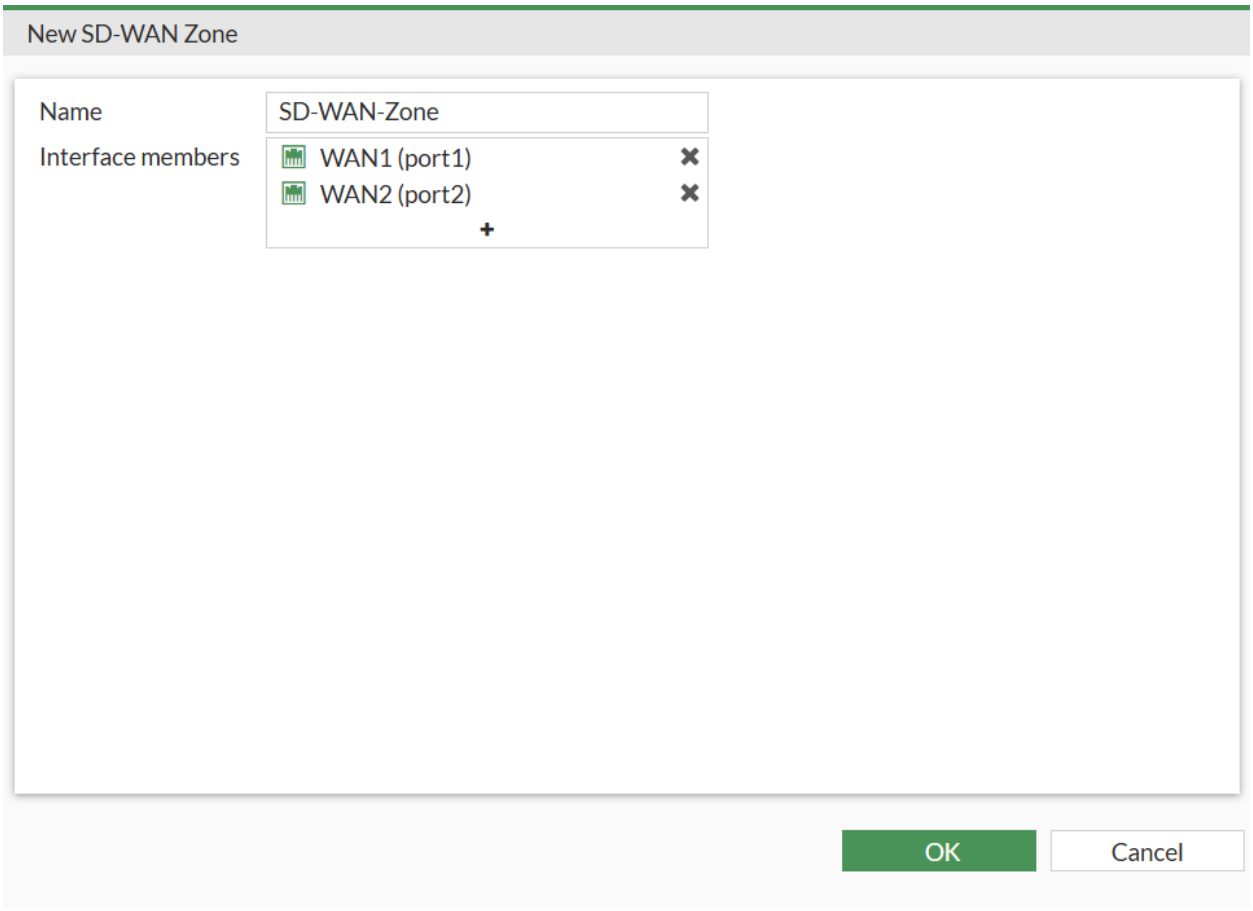


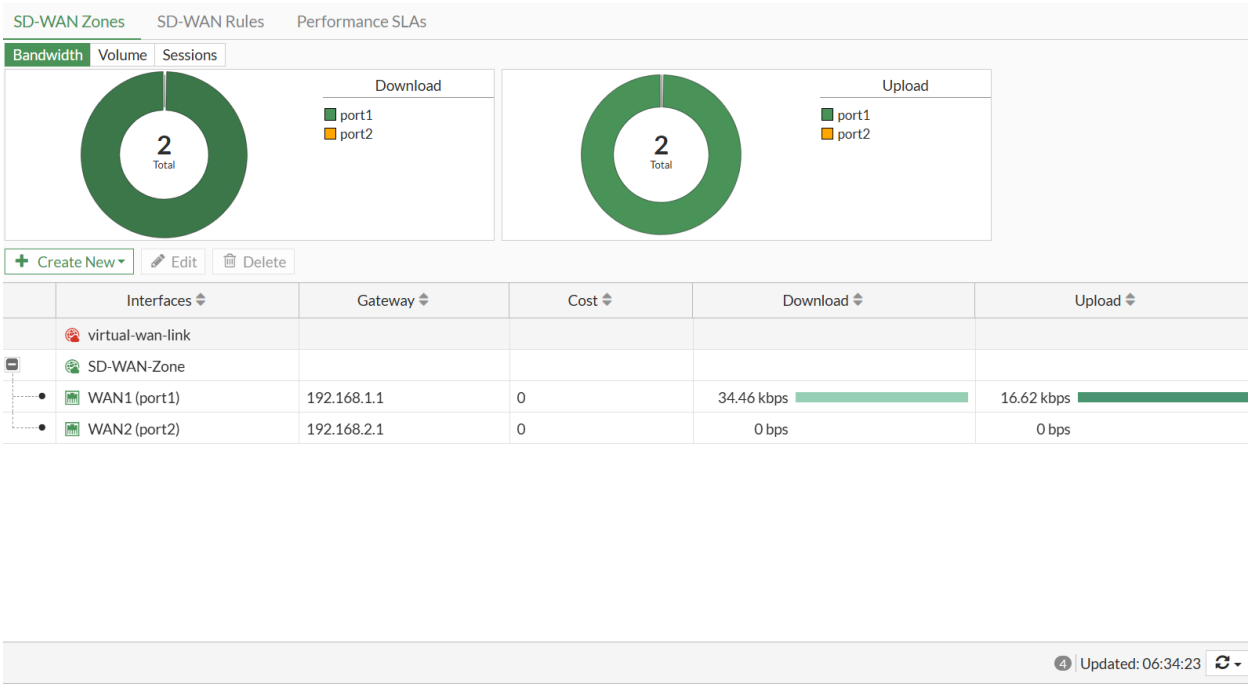




Step 3: Create SD-WAN Zone

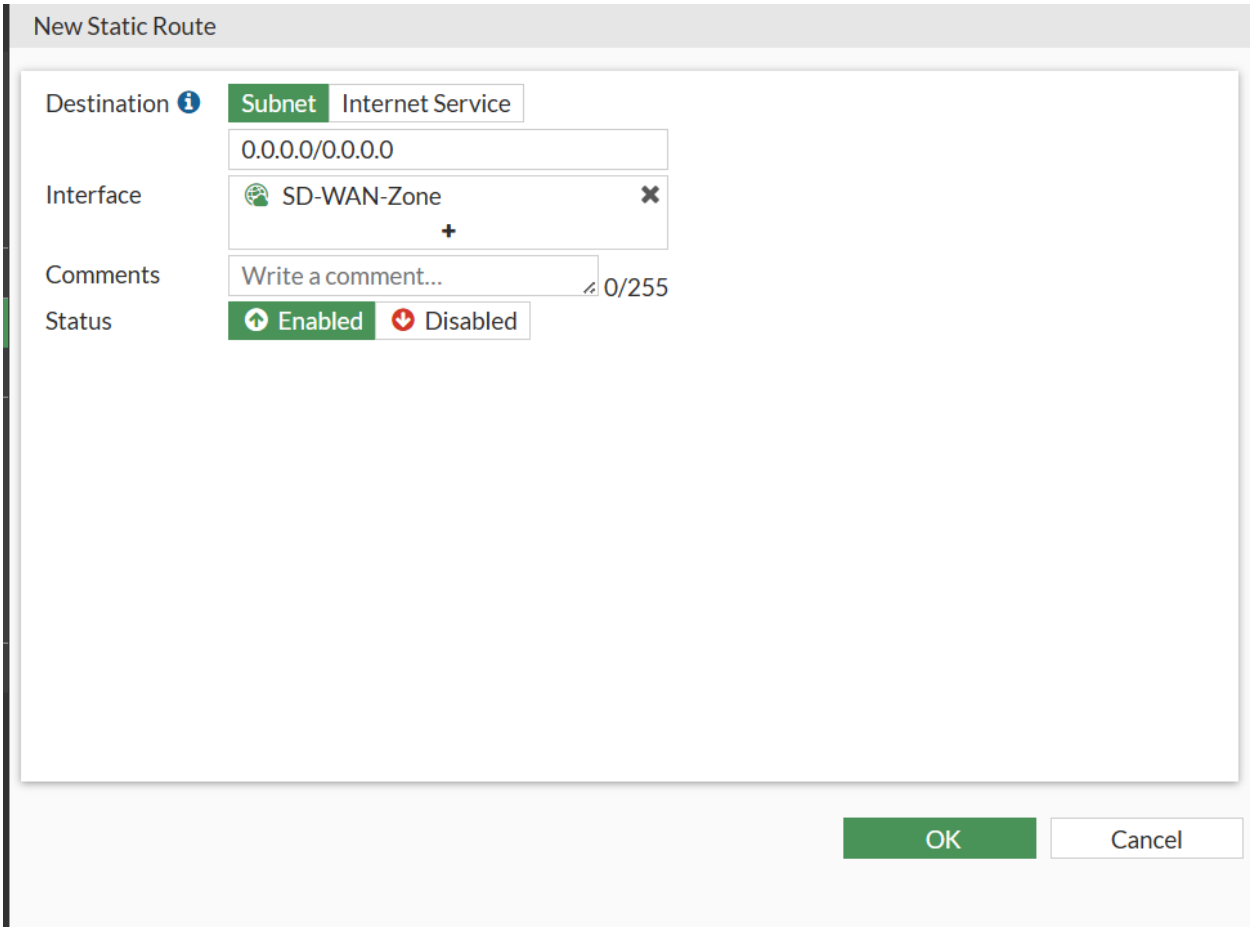
- Created a **SD-WAN Zone** named SD-WAN-Zone.
- Added all WAN members (WAN1, WAN2) into this zone.


New SD-WAN Zone
Name
SD-WAN-Zone
Interface members
WAN1 (port1)
WAN2 (port2)
OK
Cancel


SD-WAN Zones
SD-WAN Rules
Performance SLAs
Bandwidth
Volume
Sessions
Download
port1
port2
2
Total
Upload
port1
port2
2
Total
Create New
Edit
Delete
Interfaces
Gateway
Cost
Download
Upload
virtual-wan-link
SD-WAN-Zone
WAN1 (port1)
192.168.1.1
0
34.46 kbps
16.62 kbps
WAN2 (port2)
192.168.2.1
0
0 bps
0 bps
Updated: 06:34:23

Step 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.

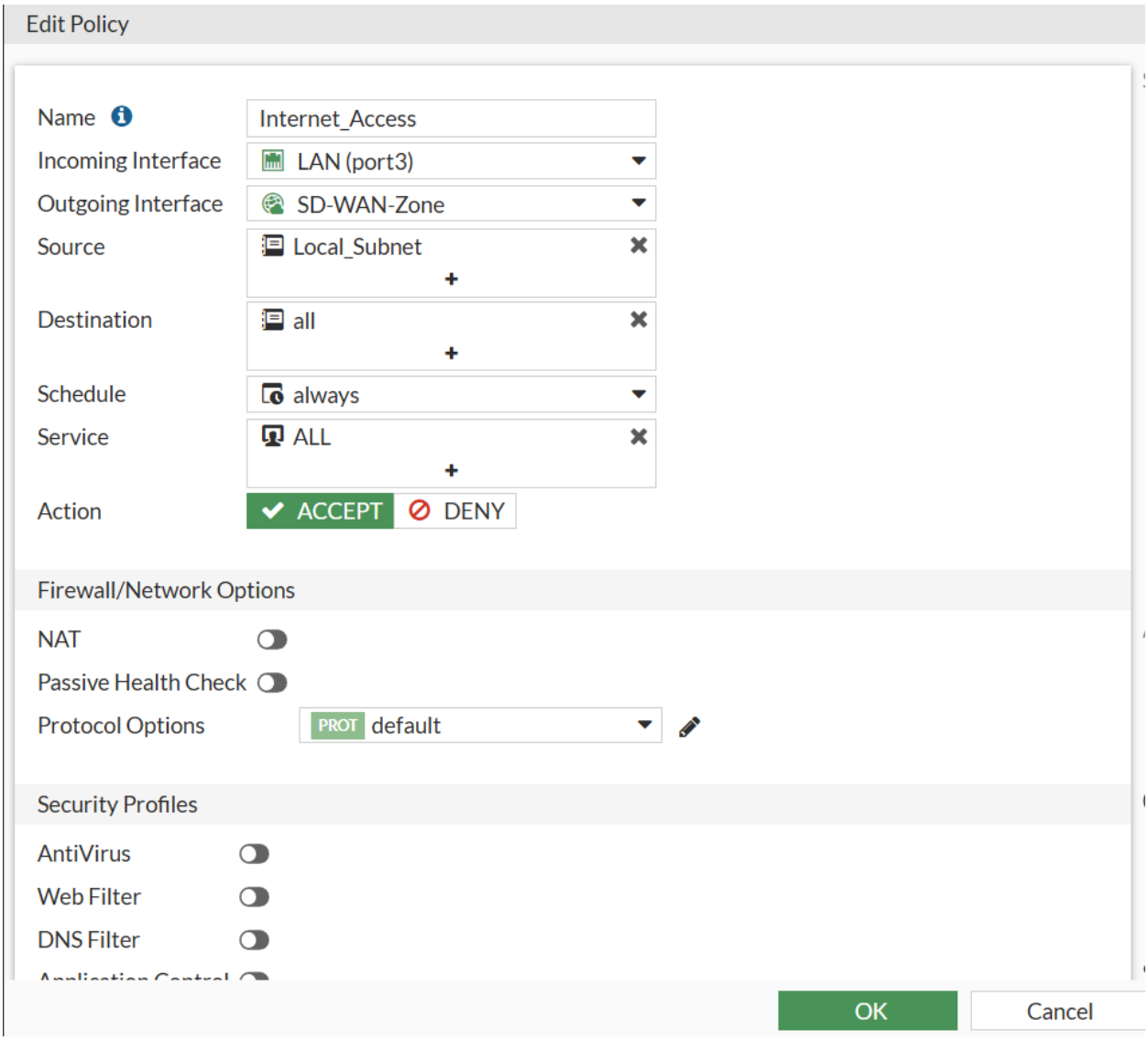


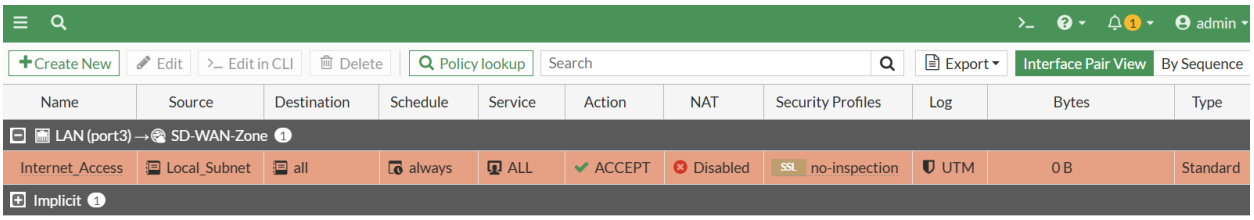
Step 5: Configure Firewall Policy

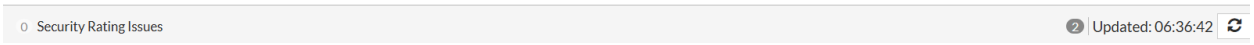
- Created a firewall policy named Internet Access:
    - **Incoming Interface:** LAN
    - **Outgoing Interface:** SD-WAN-Zone

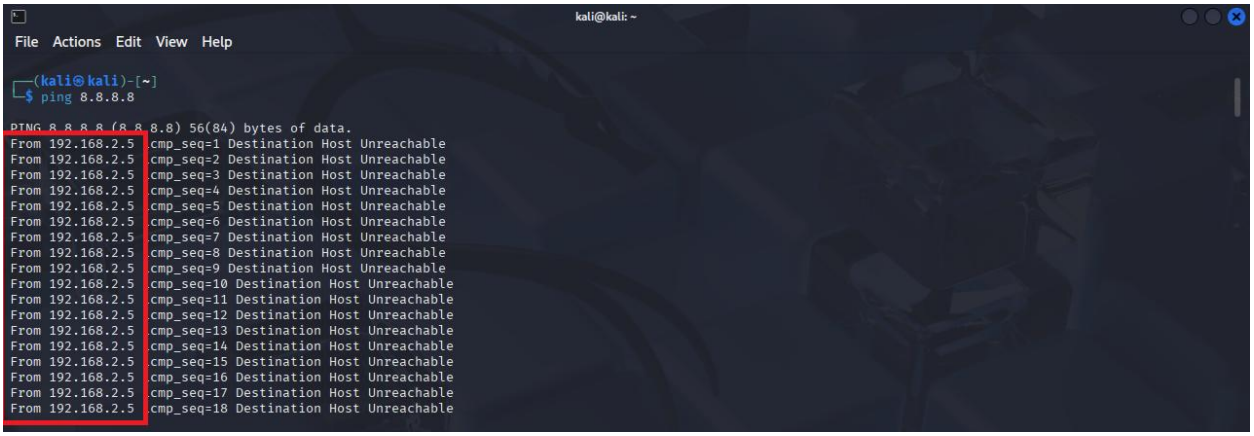
- **Source:** Local Subnet 10.10.10.0/24
- **Destination:** All
- **Schedule:** All
- **Service:** All

- **Purpose:** Ensure internal traffic exits to the internet via the SD-WAN zone.





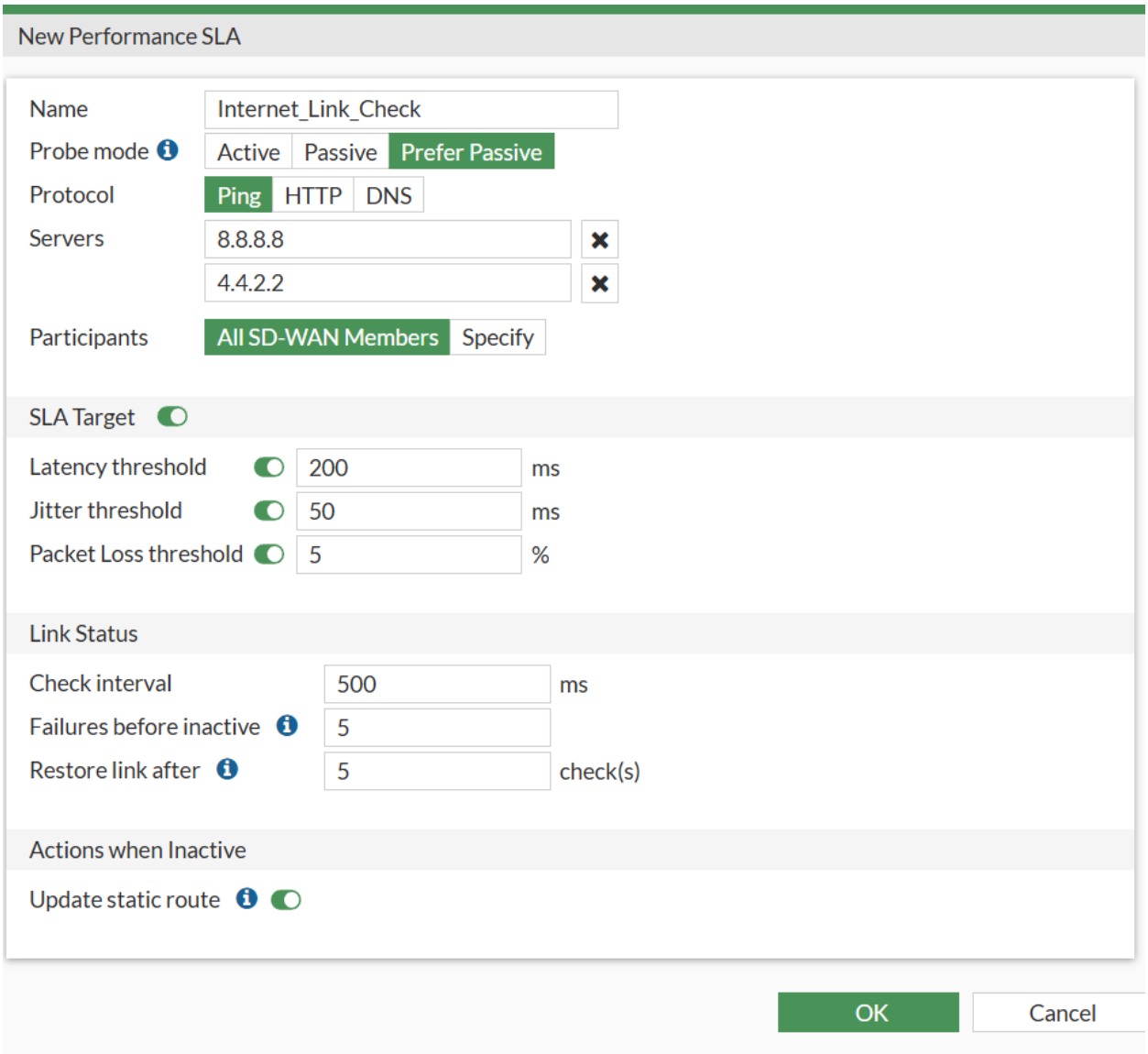


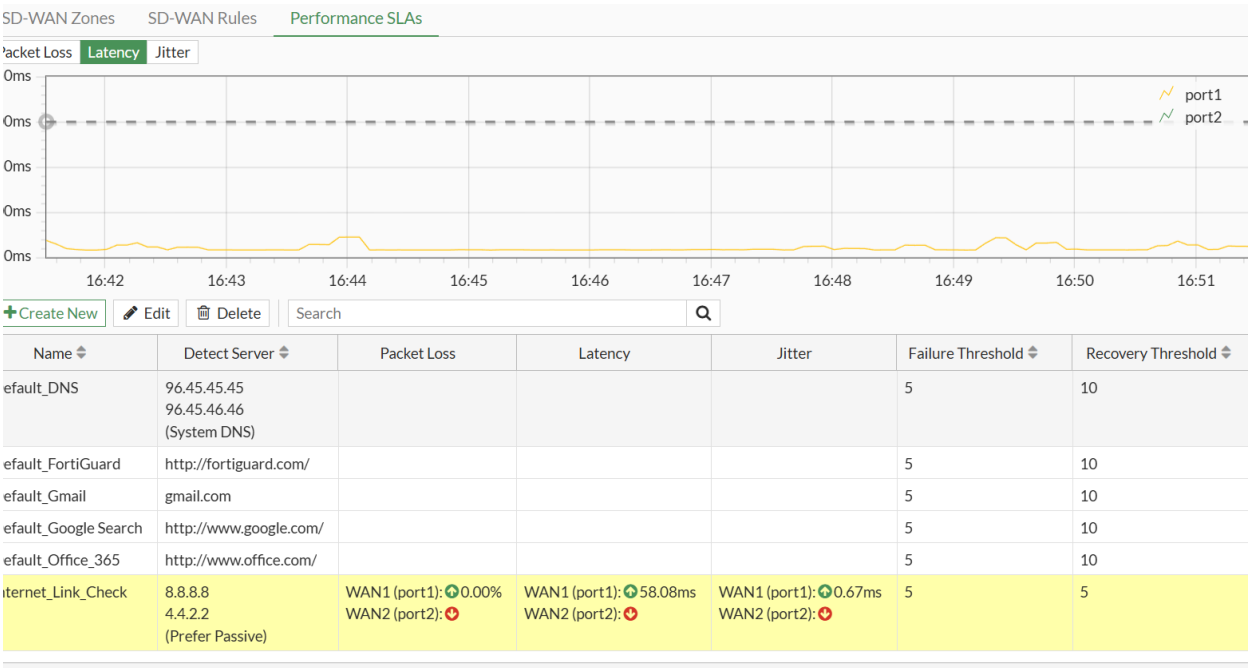


Step 6: Configure Performance SLA

- **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

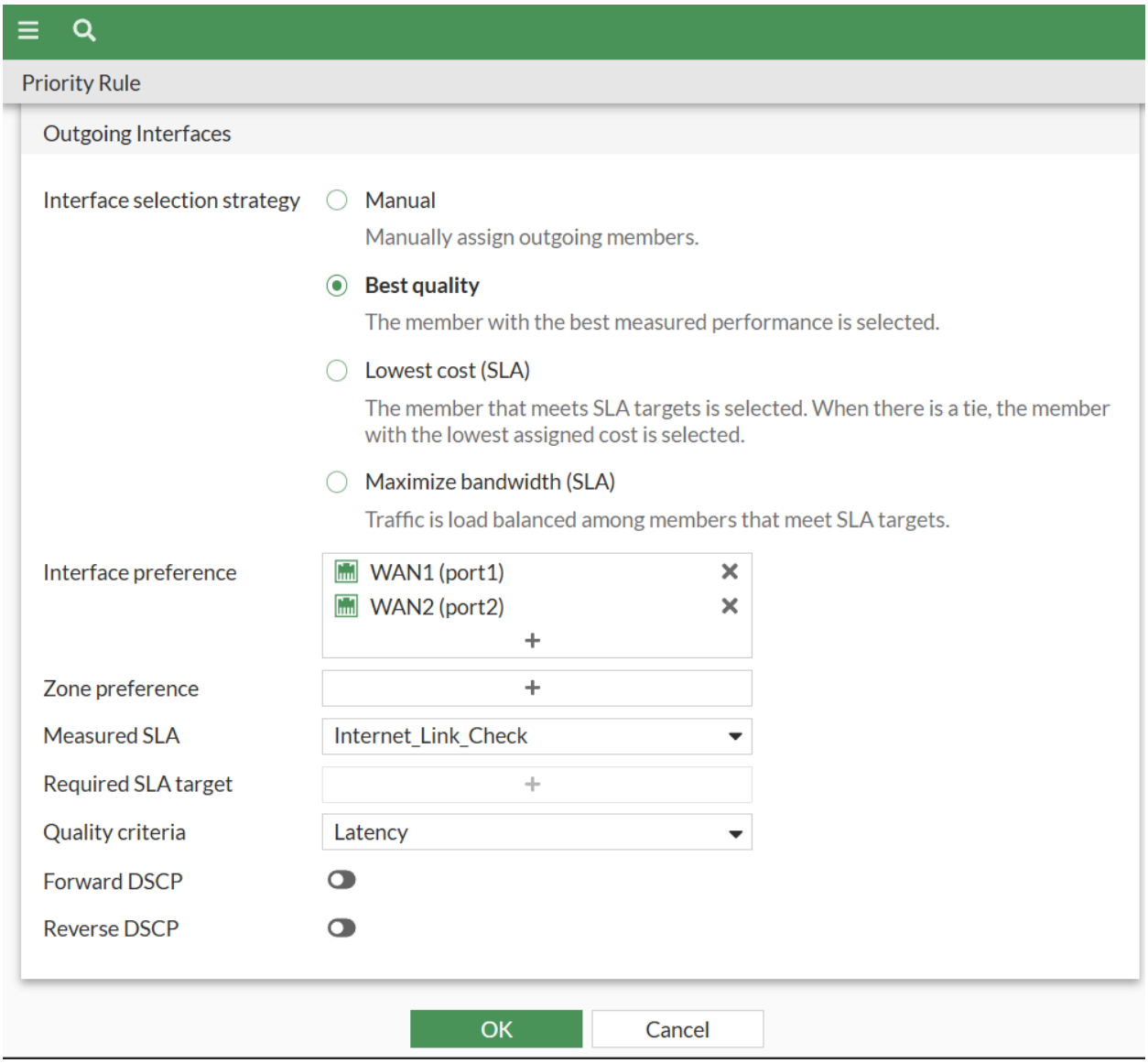
- **SLA Targets:**
    - Latency: 200ms
    - Jitter: 50ms
    - Packet Loss: 5%
- **Purpose:** Monitor link quality and enable intelligent routing decisions based on performance.





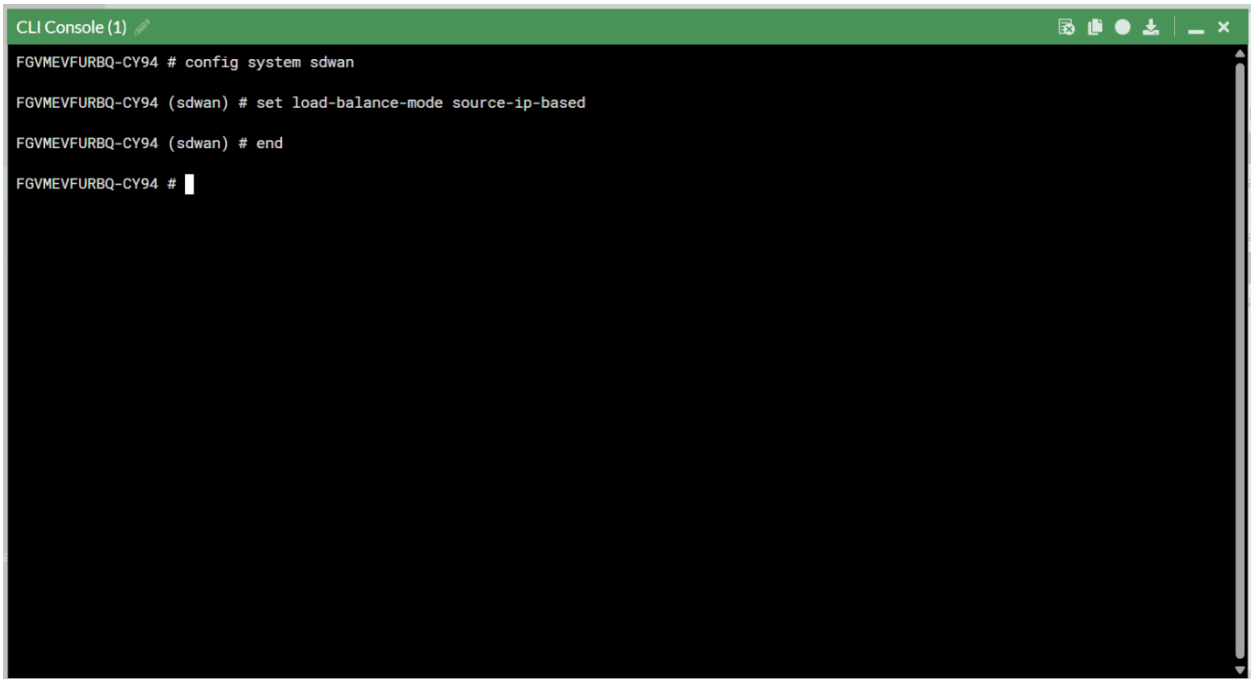
Step 7: Create SD-WAN Rules

- 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.



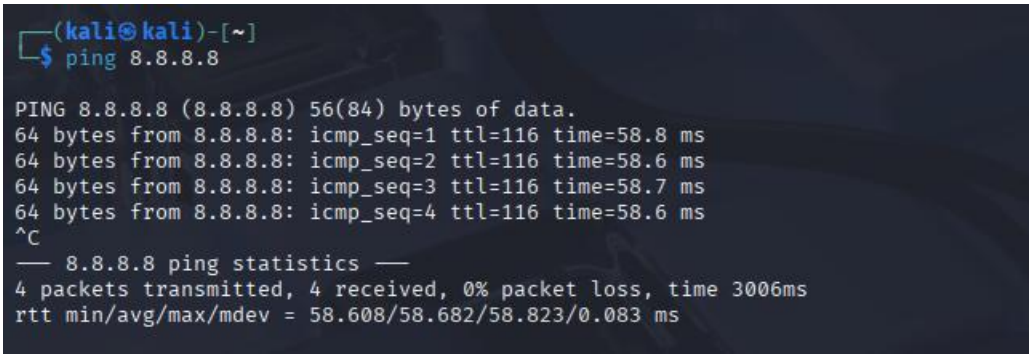
Step 8: Load Balancing Configuration

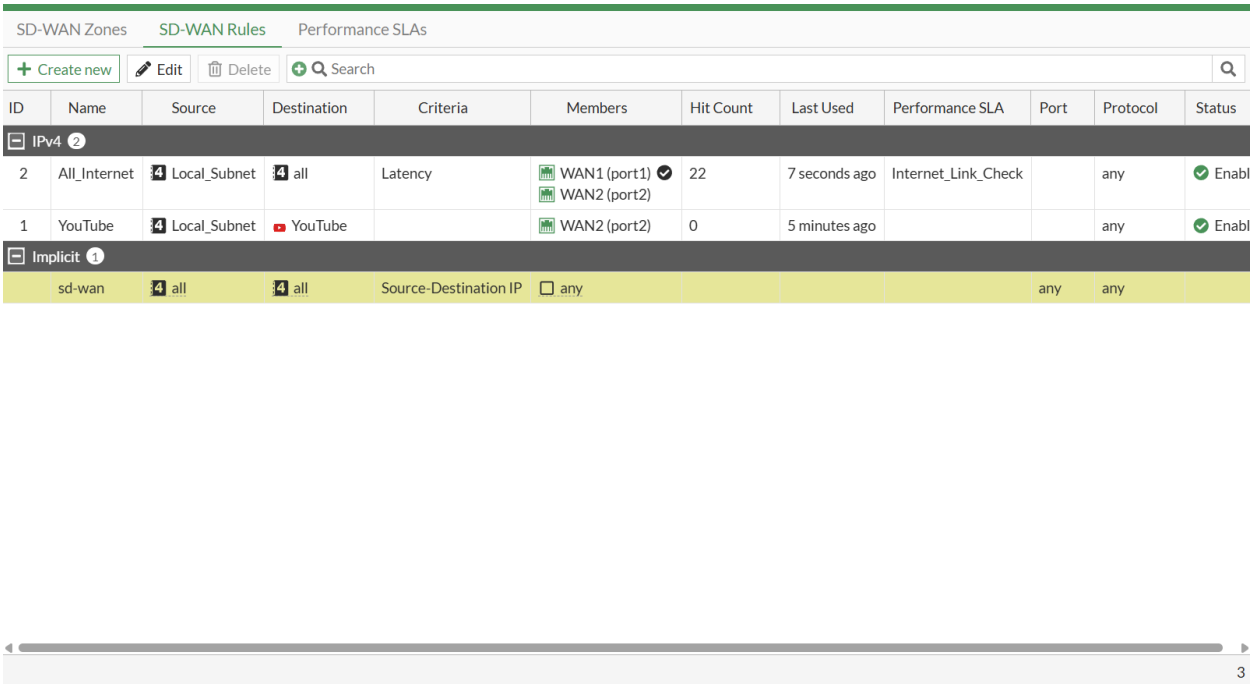
- **Mode:** Source-IP based
- **Purpose:** Distribute traffic across WAN links evenly while keeping sessions consistent per source IP.
- Configured in GUI (or optionally CLI for mode selection).



Step 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.

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