

National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences Islamabad Campus

CS-3001 COMPUTER NETWORKS

Semester Project

Network Infrastructure on Cisco Packet Tracer

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Project Objectives

The objective of this project is to design and configure a multi-block enterprise network in Cisco Packet Tracer using advanced networking concepts. The tasks were structured to help us learn and apply key networking principles, including subnetting with VLSM, assigning IPs based on host requirements, and configuring dynamic routing protocols (EIGRP, OSPF Area 1 & 2, and RIP) along with route redistribution across blocks. A centralized DHCP server in Block D was used to dynamically assign IP addresses to designated networks.

Additionally, the project included implementing NAT on the routers with Network F and Network K using a provided public IP and a private IP to enable internet access for internal hosts. Access Control Lists (ACLs) were used to restrict web server access for specified devices (in Network A and B) and all hosts in network D. A Mail Server was configured to allow email communication between specific networks, and FTP Server access was restricted to authorized systems. These tasks reinforced our understanding of network segmentation, IP management, routing protocols, NAT, ACLs, and network service configuration.

Steps Followed During Implementation

1. Initial IP Address Planning and Network Design

Began by analyzing the assigned host requirements for each network from the provided file. Using Variable Length Subnet Masking (VLSM), appropriate IP addresses and subnet masks were allocated. The main allocations included:

Network L: 192.168.0.0/16 (supports 65,000 hosts)

Network N: 192.169.0.0/18 (supports 16,000 hosts)

Network M: 192.169.64.0/18

Network G: 192.169.128.0/18

Network F: 172.16.0.0/18 (private)

Network H: 192.170.0.0/16

Network I: 192.171.0.0/16

Network J: 192.172.0.0/15

Network K: 172.18.0.0/15 (private)

Network A: 192.174.32.0/19

Network B: 192.174.64.0/18

Network C: 192.174.128.0/23

2. Design and Configuration of Block D (Core Block)

- Designed Block D first, as it included the centralized DHCP Server.
- Configured the DHCP server to serve dynamic IP addresses to all networks in EIGRP, RIP, and OSPF Area 1 & 2.
- Implemented the required IP addressing for all internal devices and router interfaces based on the subnetting scheme.

3. Routing Configuration by Block

For each block, appropriate routing protocols were configured based on the instructions:

- EIGRP for designated Block F and Block B
- RIP for Block E
- OSPF Area 0, Area 1 and Area 2 in Block D, A and C respectively

Routing was configured first for each block before any other services were implemented.

4. Stepwise Block Connectivity and Redistribution

- After completing a block's routing configuration, the next connected block was designed.
- Redistributed routes between blocks where different routing protocols were used, ensuring full interconnectivity.

• After establishing routing within and between blocks, DHCP pools were added to the server for all networks using dynamic IP assignment.

5. Access Control List (ACL) Implementation

Configured ACLs on the router connected to the Web Server to enforce restrictions and deny access to the web server from:

- One PC in Network A
- One Laptop in Network E
- Smart Phone in Network B
- All hosts in Network D

6. Network Address Translation (NAT) Configuration

Implemented NAT on:

- Router with the Network F
- Router with the Network K
- Used 192.168.2.26 as the public IP address (assigned)
- Used 172.16.254.30 as the private IP address for NAT translation.

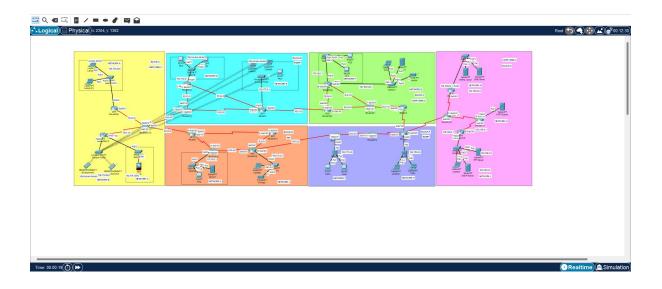
7. Service Configuration

Configured the following services toward the end after completing the above configurations:

- Web Server for general HTTP access (except for the end systems whichss were restricted)
- Mail Server in Block D to allow email communication between Network H and Network I
- FTP Server, with access and upload permissions restricted exclusively to Network G

Network Design and Configuration Details

The network was designed using Cisco Packet Tracer based on the provided scenario and assigned IP address resources. The design followed modular block-based topology, with each block using a specific routing protocol and interconnecting through redistribution where needed. All subnets were calculated using VLSM (Variable Length Subnet Masking) to optimize IP usage.

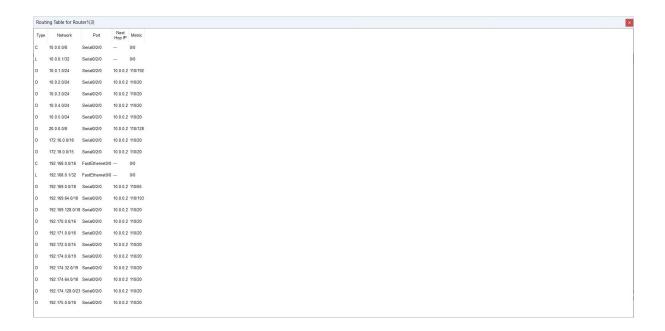


1. IP Address Allocation (VLSM-Based)

Each network was assigned an IP range based on the number of required hosts. The following addresses and subnet masks were used:

| Network | IP Address | Subnet Mask | CIDR | Description |
|---------|---------------|---------------|------|---------------|
| L | 192.168.0.0 | 255.255.0.0 | /16 | ~65,000 hosts |
| N | 192.169.0.0 | 255.255.192.0 | /18 | ~13,000 hosts |
| M | 192.169.64.0 | 255.255.192.0 | /18 | ~11,000 hosts |
| G | 192.169.128.0 | 255.255.192.0 | /18 | ~9,000 hosts |
| F | 172.16.0.0 | 255.252.0.0 | /18 | ~9,000 hosts |

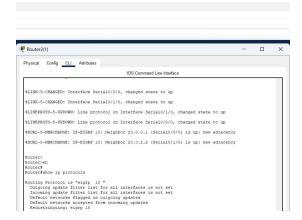
| Н | 192.170.0.0 | 255.255.0.0 | /16 | ~65,000 hosts |
|---|---------------|---------------|-------|---------------|
| I | 192.171.0.0 | 255.255.0.0 | /16 | ~65,000 hosts |
| J | 192.172.0.0 | 255.254.0.0 | /15 | ~75,000 hosts |
| K | 172.18.0.0 | 255.254.0.0 | /15 | ~85,000 hosts |
| A | 192.174.32.0 | 255.255.224.0 |)/19 | ~7,000 hosts |
| В | 192.174.64.0 | 255.255.192.0 |)/18 | ~10,000 hosts |
| C | 192.174.128.0 | 255.255.254.0 |) /23 | ~500 hosts |



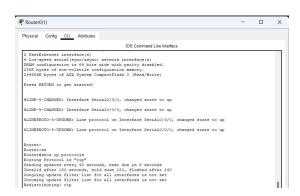
2. Routing Protocols Used

Each block was configured with a specific routing protocol as follows:

• EIGRP for selected blocks e.g The protocol shown on a router in Block F is "eigrp 10"



• RIP for other assigned blocks e.g the The protocol shown on a router in Block E is "rip"



• OSPF Area 0, 1 and 2 where specified e.g The protocol shown on a router in Block A is "ospf 10"



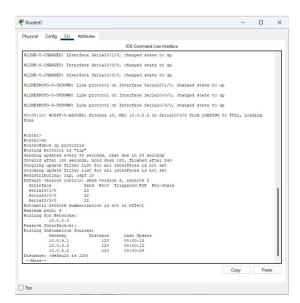
Routers connecting blocks with different routing protocols were configured with route redistribution to ensure connectivity.

The following boundary router in Block E is part of RIP and is redistributed over OSPF 10:

Implementation:

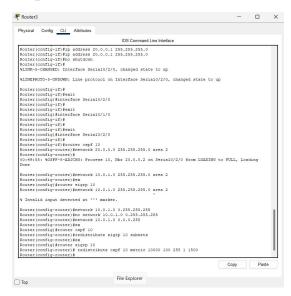


After redistribution:



The following boundary router in Block C is part of OSPF and is redistributed over EIGRP 10:

Implementation:



After redistribution:

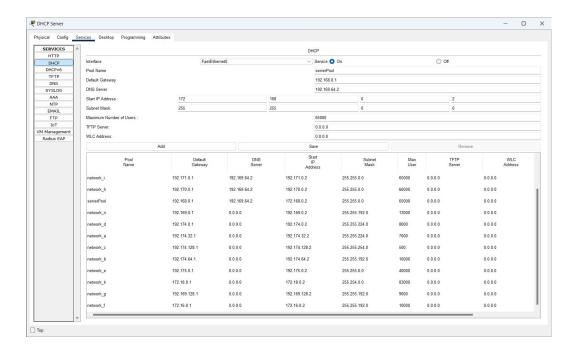


3. DHCP Server Setup

A centralized DHCP Server was placed in Block D.

All devices in EIGRP, RIP, OSPF Area 1, and Area 2 received IP addresses dynamically from this server.

DHCP pools were created for each subnet based on their address and mask.

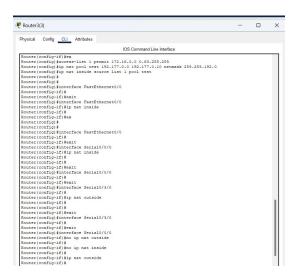


4. NAT Configuration

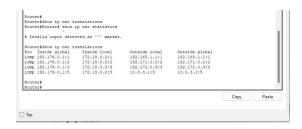
NAT was implemented to allow private IP address translation for internet access:

Router with the Network F and Router with Network K were configured with NAT. The following shows the router in Network K:

Implementation:



After implementation:



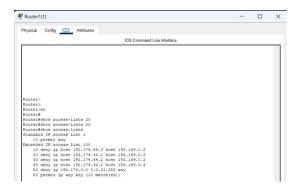
5. Access Control Lists (ACLs)

To secure access to the Web Server, the following ACLs were configured:

Denied access from:

One PC in Network A, One Laptop in Network E, Smart Phone in Network B, All devices in Network D

ACLs were applied inbound on the router connected to the Web Server. The access-list on the router connected to the HTTP server is shown below:



6. FTP and Mail Configuration

FTP Server: Configured to only allow access and file uploads from devices in Network G. The access-list on the router connected to FTP server and a successful file upload from a host in Network G is shown below:

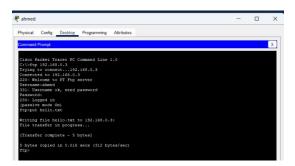
• Access-list:

```
Router>
Souter>
Souterion  
Souterion  
Inner configuration commands, one per line. End with CNTL/Z.

Enter configuration commands, one per line. End with CNTL/Z.

Router  
Souter  
S
```

• Writing File:

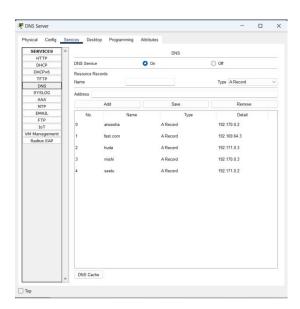


Mail Server: The DNS server was also configured for the hosts to be able to access the mail server. Only devices in Network H and Network I were configured with email client settings to exchange emails.

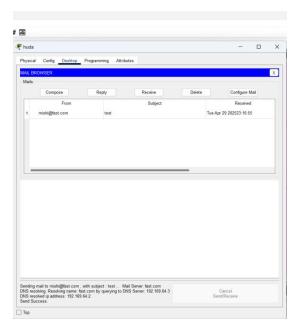
• Mail Server:



• DNS Server :



• Sending Mail:



7. Device Configuration

Each router and switch was configured with:

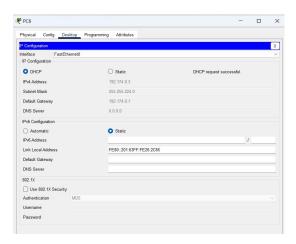
- Appropriate interface IPs
- Routing settings
- DHCP relay (ip helper-address) where required
- NAT and ACL rules
- Service configurations (FTP, HTTP, Mail)

Relevant Observations and Results

During the simulation and testing of the network, several observations were made that confirmed the correct implementation and functionality of the design:

1. Successful IP Assignment via DHCP

- All end devices across EIGRP, RIP, and OSPF areas successfully received IP addresses from the central DHCP server in Block D.
- IP address allocation matched the subnet ranges configured using VLSM.



2. End-to-End Connectivity

- Devices across different networks and blocks were able to ping each other successfully after proper routing and redistribution.
- Inter-block communication confirmed that routing protocols and redistribution were correctly configured.



3. NAT Functionality

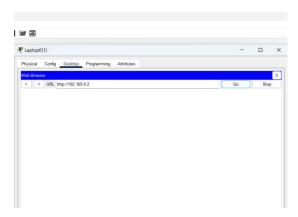
- Devices behind Router in Network F and Router21 Network K could access external services via NAT, using the public IP.
- NAT translations were verified through the **show ip nat translations** command on the routers.

4. Access Control Lists

The configured ACLs correctly blocked access to the Web Server from:

- A specific PC in Network A
- A specific Laptop in Network E
- A Smartphone in Network B
- All hosts in Network D

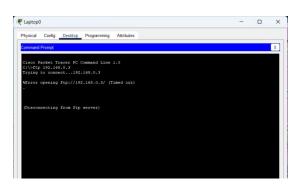
PC in Network A showed the following upon accessing web server failed:



All other devices could access the Web Server as expected, validating precise ACL configuration.

Only the devices in **Network** G could connect to and upload files to the FTP Server. Devices from other networks were denied access, demonstrating correct ACL and FTP configuration.

A PC in Network J upon accessing the FTP server **failed**:



5. Mail Server Functionality

- Devices in Network H and Network I were able to send and receive emails from each other.
- Other networks could not access the mail server, confirming correct restrictions.

6. Service Availability

- The Web, Mail, and FTP servers responded appropriately when accessed from authorized networks.
- Testing via web browsers and FTP clients in Cisco Packet Tracer showed successful connections.

7. Performance

- Network performance remained stable and efficient even with large subnets (e.g., Network G with /14).
- No IP conflicts or broadcast issues occurred due to correct subnetting and DHCP management.

Conclusion

This project provided a hands-on understanding of designing and implementing a complex computer network using Cisco Packet Tracer. By configuring IP addressing with VLSM, applying routing protocols like RIP, OSPF, and EIGRP, and managing inter-protocol communication through redistribution, we simulated a real-world scalable network. The integration of DHCP, NAT, ACLs, and server configurations (FTP, Mail, HTTP) further enhanced our practical networking skills. Overall, this project deepened our knowledge of enterprise-level network planning, implementation, and security enforcement, making us better equipped to tackle professional networking challenges.