

# Security Configuration Benchmark For

## Cisco IOS Internet Edge

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## Overview

This document, *Security Configuration Benchmark for Cisco IOS*, provides prescriptive guidance for establishing a secure configuration posture for *Cisco IOS* version 15.0M running on *Cisco routing and switching platforms*. This guide was tested against *Cisco IOS IP Advanced Services v15.0.1* as installed by *c880data-universalk9-mz.150-1.M4.bin*. To obtain the latest version of this guide, please visit <http://cisecurity.org>. If you have questions, comments, or have identified ways to improve this guide, please write us at [feedback@cisecurity.org](mailto:feedback@cisecurity.org).

## Prerequisites

Configure *Cisco IOS* using the recommendations defined in the *CIS Cisco IOS Benchmark v3.0.0* Level I or Level I and II profile.

## Consensus Guidance

This benchmark was created using a consensus review process comprised of volunteer and contract subject matter experts. Consensus participants provide perspective from a diverse set of backgrounds including consulting, software development, audit and compliance, security research, operations, government, and legal.

Each CIS benchmark undergoes two phases of consensus review. The first phase occurs during initial benchmark development. During this phase, subject matter experts convene to discuss, create, and test working drafts of the benchmark. This discussion occurs until consensus has been reached on benchmark recommendations. The second phase begins after the benchmark has been released to the public Internet. During this phase, all feedback provided by the Internet community is reviewed by the consensus team for incorporation in to the CIS benchmark. If you are interested in participating in the consensus review process, please send us a note to [feedback@cisecurity.org](mailto:feedback@cisecurity.org).

## Intended Audience

This benchmark is intended for system and application administrators, security specialists, auditors, help desk, and platform deployment personnel who plan to develop, deploy, assess, or secure solutions that incorporate *Cisco IOS* on *Cisco routing and switching* platforms.

## Acknowledgements

This benchmark exemplifies the great things a community of users, vendors, and subject matter experts can accomplish through consensus collaboration. The CIS community thanks the entire consensus team with special recognition to the following individuals who contributed greatly to the creation of this guide:

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## Typographic Conventions

The following typographical conventions are used throughout this guide:

Convention	Meaning
<code>Stylized Monospace font</code>	Used for blocks of code, command, and script examples. Text should be interpreted exactly as presented.
<code>Monospace font</code>	Used for inline code, commands, or examples. Text should be interpreted exactly as presented.
<i>&lt;italic font in brackets&gt;</i>	Italic texts set in angle brackets denote a variable requiring substitution for a real value.
<i>Italic font</i>	Used to denote the title of a book, article, or other publication.
<b>Note</b>	Additional information or caveats

## Configuration Levels

This section defines the configuration levels that are associated with each benchmark recommendation. Configuration levels represent increasing levels of security assurance.

### *Level-I Benchmark settings/actions*

Level-I Benchmark recommendations are intended to:

- be practical and prudent;
- provide a clear security benefit; and
- do not negatively inhibit the utility of the technology beyond acceptable means

### *Level-II Benchmark settings/actions*

Level-II Benchmark recommendations exhibit one or more of the following characteristics:

- are intended for environments or use cases where security is paramount
- acts as defense in depth measure
- may negatively inhibit the utility or performance of the technology

## Scoring Status

This section defines the scoring statuses used within this document. The scoring status indicates whether compliance with the given recommendation is discernible in an automated manner.

### *Scorable*

The platform's compliance with the given recommendation can be determined via automated means.

### *Not Scorable*

The platform's compliance with the given recommendation cannot be determined via automated means.

# 1. Recommendations

## 1.1 Develop Zones to Protect Against Attacks

### **Description:**

Cisco IOS (starting in version 12.4(6)) now provides Zone-based Policy Firewall (ZFW) functionality.

A zone defines the boundary of each network based on the level of security necessary for a particular zone.

### **Rationale:**

The ZFW has an advantage over the typical stateless in and out ACLs as it is more configurable and reusable as the applications are based on interzone communications instead of just into or out of an interface.

In addition to providing ACL services, the ZFW includes services including but not limited to stateful packet filtering, URL filtering, and Denial of Service (DoS) mitigation, application inspection and control.

### *1.1.1 Define Zones (Level 2, Scorable)*

### **Description:**

Define each zone that will be in use on the router.

### **Rationale:**

The number of zones will depend on each organization's architecture. The basic zones that are necessary for the Internet Edge are Untrust (Internet facing) and Trust (Internal network).

### **Platform:**

IOS

### **Dependencies:**

IOS: None

### **Remediation:**

Perform the following to define a zone...

```
hostname(config)# zone security <zone_name>
```

### **Audit:**

Perform the following to determine if the appropriate zone(s) are set properly:

```
hostname# sh run | incl zone security
```

### **Default Value:**

Zones are not defined by default.



**References:**

1. [Zone-Based Policy Firewall Design and Application Guide](#)
2. [Cisco IOS Security Command Reference](#)

### *1.1.2 Define Access List (Level 2, Scorable)*

**Description:**

Define an access control list (ACL) to define the allowed paths for a zone.

**Rationale:**

The allowed paths (device(s), network(s), and/or protocols) for each zone will depend on each organization's architecture.

**Platform:**

IOS

**Dependencies:**

IOS: None

**Remediation:**

Perform the following to define an access list...

```
hostname(config)# access-list <access_list_number_or_name>  
<permit|deny> <protocol> <source> <destination> [log]
```

**Audit:**

Perform the following to determine if the appropriate ACL(s) are set properly:

```
hostname# sh ip access-list
```

**Default Value:**

Access lists are not defined by default.

**References:**

1. [Zone-Based Policy Firewall Design and Application Guide](#)
2. [Cisco IOS Security Command Reference](#)

### *1.1.3 Define Class(es) to Inspect (Level 2, Scorable)*

**Description:**

Each class-map requires inspection of one or more protocols.

**Rationale:**

The layer 3 and 4 allowed paths chosen will depend on the organization's security policy.

**Platform:**

IOS

**Dependencies:**

IOS: None

**Remediation:**

Perform the following to define a class-map...

```
hostname(config)# class-map type inspect {match-any | match-all }  
<class_map_name>
```

**Audit:**

Perform the following to determine if the necessary class-map is defined:

```
hostname# sh run | incl class-map type
```

**Default Value:**

A class-map is not configured by default.

**References:**

1. [Zone-Based Policy Firewall Design and Application Guide](#)
2. [Cisco IOS Security Command Reference](#)

### 1.1.3.1 *Define Protocol(s) to Inspect (Level 2, Scorable)*

**Description:**

Each class-map requires inspection of one or more protocols.

**Rationale:**

The protocols chosen will depend on the organization's security policy.

**Platform:**

IOS

**Dependencies:**

IOS: [1.1.3 Define Class\(es\) to Inspect](#)

**Remediation:**

Perform the following to define a class-map...

```
hostname(config-cmap)# match protocol <protocol_name>
```

**Audit:**

Perform the following to determine if the necessary protocol is defined:

```
hostname# sh run | incl match protocol
```

**Default Value:**

A match protocol is not configured by default

**References:**

1. [Zone-Based Policy Firewall Design and Application Guide](#)
2. [Cisco IOS Security Command Reference](#)

### *1.1.3.2 Define Access-Group to Inspect (Level 2, Scorable)*

**Description:**

Each class-map requires inspection of one or more access-groups.

**Rationale:**

The access-groups developed and chosen will depend on the organization's security policy.

**Platform:**

IOS

**Dependencies:**

IOS: [1.1.2 Define Access List](#)

[1.1.3 Define Class\(es\) to Inspect](#)

**Remediation:**

Perform the following to define an access-group...

```
hostname(config-cmap)# match access-group <access_list_number_or_name>
```

**Audit:**

Perform the following to determine if the necessary access-group is defined:

```
hostname# sh run | incl match access-group
```

**Default Value:**

An access-group is not configured by default.

**References:**

1. [Zone-Based Policy Firewall Design and Application Guide](#)
2. [Cisco IOS Security Command Reference](#)

### *1.1.4 Define Policy to Inspect (Level 2, Scorable)*

**Description:**

Define a policy map.

**Rationale:**

This is a required step in developing a ZFW policy.

**Platform:**

IOS

**Dependencies:**

IOS: None

**Remediation:**

Perform the following to define a policy-map...

```
hostname(config)# policy-map type inspect <policy_map_name>
```

**Audit:**

Perform the following to determine if the necessary inspect policy-map is defined:

```
hostname# sh run | incl policy-map type
```

**Default Value:**

A policy-map is not configured by default.

**References:**

1. [Zone-Based Policy Firewall Design and Application Guide](#)
2. [Cisco IOS Security Command Reference](#)

### *1.1.4.1 Define the Class to Inspect (Level 2, Scorable)*

**Description:**

Each policy-map evaluates traffic based on one or more class-maps.

**Rationale:**

The class-map(s) chosen will depend on the organization's security policy.

**Platform:**

IOS

**Dependencies:**

IOS: 1.1.4 Define Policy to Inspect

**Remediation:**

Perform the following to define a policy-map...

```
hostname(config-pmap)# class type inspect <class_map_name>
```

**Audit:**

Perform the following to determine if the necessary class-map is defined:

```
hostname# sh run | incl class type
```

**Default Value:**

A class type is not configured by default.

**References:**

1. [Zone-Based Policy Firewall Design and Application Guide](#)
2. [Cisco IOS Security Command Reference](#)

### *1.1.4.1.1 Set the policy-map Class to Inspect (Level 2, Scorable)*

**Description:**

Define each class type to inspect.

**Rationale:**

This enables the policy-map to inspect the traffic.

**Platform:**

IOS

**Dependencies:**

IOS: [1.1.4 Define Policy to Inspect](#)

[1.1.4.1 Define the Class to Inspect](#)

**Remediation:**

Perform the following to set inspection for a policy-map...

```
hostname(config-pmap-c)# inspect
```

**Audit:**

Perform the following to determine if the necessary inspection is defined:

```
hostname# sh policy-map
```

**Default Value:**

A class type is not configured by default.

**References:**

1. [Zone-Based Policy Firewall Design and Application Guide](#)
2. [Cisco IOS Security Command Reference](#)

### *1.1.5 Define the Zone Mapping (Level 2, Scorable)*

**Description:**

Interzone traffic requires a defined mapping.

**Rationale:**

Mapping of the zones allows for the granular definition of which zone uses which policy.

**Platform:**

IOS

**Dependencies:**

IOS: [1.1.1 Define Zones](#)

[1.1.4.1.1 Set the policy-map Class to Inspect](#)

**Remediation:**

Perform the following to map interzone traffic...

```
hostname(config)# zone-pair security <zone_pair_name> source  
<source_zone> destination <destination_zone> service-policy type  
inspect <policy_map_name>
```

**Audit:**

Perform the following to determine if the necessary zone-pair is defined:

```
hostname# sh run | incl zone-pair
```

**Default Value:**

A zone-pair is not configured by default.

**References:**

1. [Zone-Based Policy Firewall Design and Application Guide](#)
2. [Cisco IOS Security Command Reference](#)

### *1.1.5.1 Define a Description of the Zone Mapping (Level 2, Scorable)*

**Description:**

Provide a description for each zone-pair.

**Rationale:**

A description provides a more detailed understanding of the purpose of the zone-pair as this level of detail is not typically appropriate (due to size) for name of the zone-pair itself.

**Remediation:**

Perform the following to set the zone-pair description...

```
hostname(config-sec zone-pair)# description <zone_pair_description>
```

**Audit:**

Perform the following to determine if the necessary class-map is defined:

```
Hostname(config)# sh run | incl description
```

**Default Value:**

A zone-pair description is not configured by default.

**References:**

1. [Zone-Based Policy Firewall Design and Application Guide](#)
2. [Cisco IOS Security Command Reference](#)

### *1.1.5.2 Define the Policy to Inspect in the Zone Mapping (Level 2, Scorable)*

**Description:**

Interzone traffic requires a define mapping.

**Rationale:**

Mapping of the zones allows for the granular definition of which zone uses which policy.

**Platform:**

IOS

**Dependencies:**

IOS: [1.1.4.1.1 Set the policy-map Class to Inspect](#)

[1.1.5 Define the Zone Mapping](#)

**Remediation:**

Perform the following to map interzone traffic...

```
hostname(config-sec zone-pair) # service-policy type inspect  
<policy_map_name>
```

**Audit:**

Perform the following to determine if the necessary policy-map is defined:

```
hostname# sh run | incl service-policy
```

**Default Value:**

A zone-pair service-policy is not configured by default.

**References:**

1. [Zone-Based Policy Firewall Design and Application Guide](#)
2. [Cisco IOS Security Command Reference](#)

### *1.1.6 Apply Zone to Appropriate Interface (Level 2, Scorable)*

**Description:**

Each interface requiring ZFW services must apply a zone to the interface itself.

**Rationale:**

The zone applied to the interface will depend on the security level of the applications and/or device(s) attached to that network.

**Platform:**

IOS

**Dependencies:**

IOS: [1.1.1 Define Zones](#)

**Remediation:**

Perform the following to apply a zone to an interface...

```
hostname(config)# int <interface>  
hostname(config-if)# zone-member security <zone_name>
```

**Audit:**

Perform the following to determine if the necessary zone is applied to the interface:

```
hostname# sh run int <interface> | incl zone-member
```

**Default Value:**

A zone-member is not configured by default.

**References:**

1. Configure *Cisco IOS* using the recommendations defined in the *CIS Cisco IOS Benchmark v3.0.0* Level I or Level I and II profile.
2. [Zone-Based Policy Firewall Design and Application Guide](#)
3. [Cisco IOS Security Command Reference](#)

## 1.2 Increase Administrative Restrictions

**Description:**

Due to the router being at the Internet Edge, there is sufficient need to increase specific requirements around administration of the router.

### 1.2.1 Require a Minimum Password Length (Level 2, Scorable)

**Description:**

Require a password of at least 15 characters.

**Rationale:**

In conjunction with encrypted administrative access, increasing the length of a complex password will decrease the potential for cracking. This should be in conjunction with encrypted remote administration protocols (e.g. SSH).

**Platform:**

IOS

**Dependencies:**

IOS: None

**Remediation:**

Perform the following to require a minimum password length...

```
hostname(config)# security passwords min-length <length>
```

**Audit:**

Perform the following to determine if the password length is applied:

```
hostname# sh run | incl min-length
```

**Default Value:**

A minimum password length is not configured by default.

**References:**

1. [Network Security Baseline](#)
2. [Cisco IOS Security Command Reference](#)

### 1.2.2 Require a Delay between Login Attempts (Level 2, Scorable)

**Description:**

Require a delay between login attempts.



**Rationale:**

Increasing the time between login attempts decreases the speed of password attacks. This should be in conjunction with encrypted remote administration protocols (e.g. SSH).

Platform:

IOS

**Dependencies:**

IOS: None

**Remediation:**

Perform the following to require a delay...

```
hostname(config)# login delay <length_in_seconds>
```

**Audit:**

Perform the following to determine if the login delay is applied:

```
hostname# sh run | incl delay
```

**Default Value:**

A login delay is not configured by default.

**References:**

1. [Network Security Baseline](#)
2. [Cisco IOS Security Command Reference](#)

### *1.2.3 Create an Internet Edge ACL to Protect the Untrust Interface (Level 1, Scorable)*

**Description:**

Create ACL to protect the router's untrusted interface, next hop routing communications, and against anti-spoofing.

**Rationale:**

The Internet Edge router is the first line network defense and limits general types of traffic from entering the network and restricts source/destination of border routing protocols.

**Platform:**

IOS

**Dependencies:**

IOS: None

**Remediation:**

Perform the following to create the ACL...

```
hostname(config)# ip access-list extended <internet_edge_acl_name>
hostname(config-nacl)# deny tcp any <internet_edge_network>
<internet_edge_network_wildcard_mask > fragments
```

```
hostname(config-nacl)# deny udp any <internet_edge_network>
<internet_edge_network_wildcard_mask > fragments
hostname(config-nacl)# deny icmp any <internet_edge_network>
<internet_edge_network_wildcard_mask > fragments
hostname(config-nacl)# <anti-spoofing_acl_lines_from_baseline_document>
hostname(config-nacl)# permit tcp host <internet_edge_router_ip> host
<bgp_peer_router_ip> eq bgp
hostname(config-nacl)# permit tcp host <internet_edge_router_ip> eq bgp
host <bgp_peer_router_ip>
hostname(config-nacl)# deny ip any <internet_edge_network>
<internet_edge_network_wildcard_mask>
hostname(config-nacl)# permit ip any any
```

### Audit:

Perform the following to determine if the ACL is defined properly:

```
hostname# sh ip access-list extended <internet_edge_acl_name>
```

### Default Value:

An Internet Edge ACL is not configured by default.

### References:

1. [Network Security Baseline](#)
2. [Cisco IOS Security Command Reference](#)

## 1.2.3.1 Apply the Internet Edge ACL (Level 2, Scorable)

### Description:

Apply the ACL to protect the router's external interface and next hop communication.

### Platform:

IOS

### Dependencies:

IOS: 1.2.3 Create an Internet Edge ACL to Protect the Untrust Interface

### Remediation:

Perform the following to protect the external interface...

```
hostname(config)# interface <external_interface>
hostname(config-if)# ip access-group <internet_edge_acl_name> in
```

### Audit:

Perform the following to determine if the necessary ACL is applied to the interface:

```
hostname# sh ip int <external_interface> | incl access list
```

### Default Value:

An Internet Edge ACL is not applied to an interface by default.

### References:

1. [Network Security Baseline](#)

## 2. [Cisco IOS Security Command Reference](#)

### 1.2.4 *Restrict Administrative Access to Trusted Interface (Level 2, Scorable)*

**Description:**

Bind administrative access of the Internet Edge router to the trusted interface.

**Rationale:**

Minimize the risk of external attacks against administrative features by restricting access to administrative functions such as SSH or SNMP, to the trusted interface.

**Platform:**

IOS

**Dependencies:**

IOS: 2.3.3.1.1 Enable Cisco Express Forwarding (CEF) – IOS Baseline

**Remediation:**

Perform the following to define an in-band management interface...

```
hostname(config)# control-plane host
hostname(config-cp-host)# management-interface <trusted_interface_type>
<trusted_interface_number> allow <mgmt_protocol_1> [mgmt_protocol_2]
[...]
```

**Audit:**

Perform the following to determine if the in-band management interface is defined:

```
hostname# sh run | incl management-interface
```

**Default Value:**

A management interface is not configured by default.

**References:**

1. [Cisco Guide to Harden Cisco IOS Devices](#)
2. [Understanding Control Plane Protection](#)

## Appendix A: References

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<http://www.cisco.com/image/gif/paws/13608/21.pdf>. Last accessed August 8, 2011
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5. Cisco Systems, Inc. (2011). Cisco IOS Security Command Reference.  
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## Appendix B: Change History

Date	Version	Changes for this version
July 24, 2011	0.1	ZFW section development
July 27, 2011	0.2	Password section development
August 8, 2011	0.3	Internet Edge ACL and MPP development
August 23, 2011	0.4	Added additional working to description and rationale sections
August 23, 2011	0.4	Corrected wording in several audit sections
September 7, 2011	0.5	Corrected inconsistencies in several sections
September 7, 2011	0.5	Added missing reference
September 20, 2011	1.0.0-A1	Initial consensus draft
October 20, 2011	1.0.0-A2	Updated incorrect audit description and change audit command for ACL
November 18, 2011	1.0.0-A3	Final formatting
November 22, 2011	1.0.0	Published