RADIUS and FreeRADIUS

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Modification of Chris' last year presentation and addition of borrowed materials from Peter R. Egli of Indigoo.com

Presented at AfNOG 2015



Ingredients

- Theory
 - What is RADIUS
 - Why use RADIUS
 - How RADIUS works
 - User databases
 - Attributes
- Practical
 - Installing FreeRADIUS
 - Adding RADIUS users
 - Network User Authenticating using Cisco IOS image

What is RADIUS?

- Remote Authentication Dial In User Service
- Authentication
 - "Who are you?"
- Authorization
 - "What services am I allowed to give you?"
- Accounting
 - "What did you do with my services while you were using them?,,Accounting information may be used to track the user's usage for charging purposes



Why RADIUS?

- What are the alternatives?
 - LDAP, Kerberos, Active Directory
- Advantages of RADIUS:
 - Lightweight and efficient
 - Supported by many clients, e.g. 802.1x, switches and routers
- Disadvantages of RADIUS:
 - Limited attribute set, limited use for desktop authentication



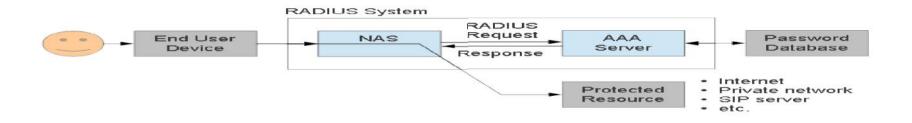
How does RADIUS work?

- Authentication
 - Password authentication, plain text and hashed
 - Lookup in various user databases: passwd, SQL, text
- Authorization
 - Using a set of rules or other templates
- Accounting
 - Measuring, communicating and recording resources accessed by user
- See Wikipedia for list of RFCs



RADIUS Architecture (1)

- RADIUS protocol is between NAS(Network Access Server) or a RAS(Remote Access server) and AAA server
- NAS controls access to protected resource



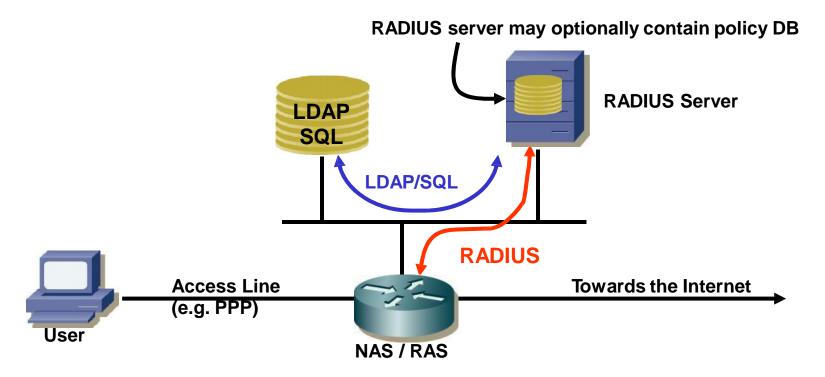


RADIUS Architecture (2)

Scenario 1

In this scenario, a front-end NAS (network access server) or RAS (remote access server) performs authentication of a user with a backend RADIUS server.

The NAS/RAS sends user information (credentials) to the RADIUS server carried in RADIUS packets. The RADIUS server implements the access policy (who is granted access with what authorizations) or may retrieve policies from a database through LDAP (Lightweight Directory Access Protocol).



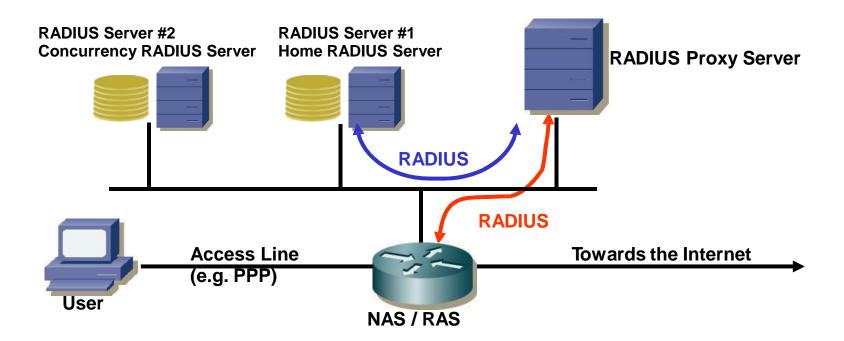


RADIUS Architecture (3)

Scenario 2

In this scenario, a first RADIUS server does not perform authentication but acts as a proxy that routes RADIUS requests to the appropriate home RADIUS server. The routing is based on username and realm.

The home RADIUS server performs the actual authentication by accessing a user DB. A concurrency RADIUS server may be employed to make sure that a user is not logged in more than once, e.g. in scenarios with multiple RADIUS servers for redundancy / load balancing.

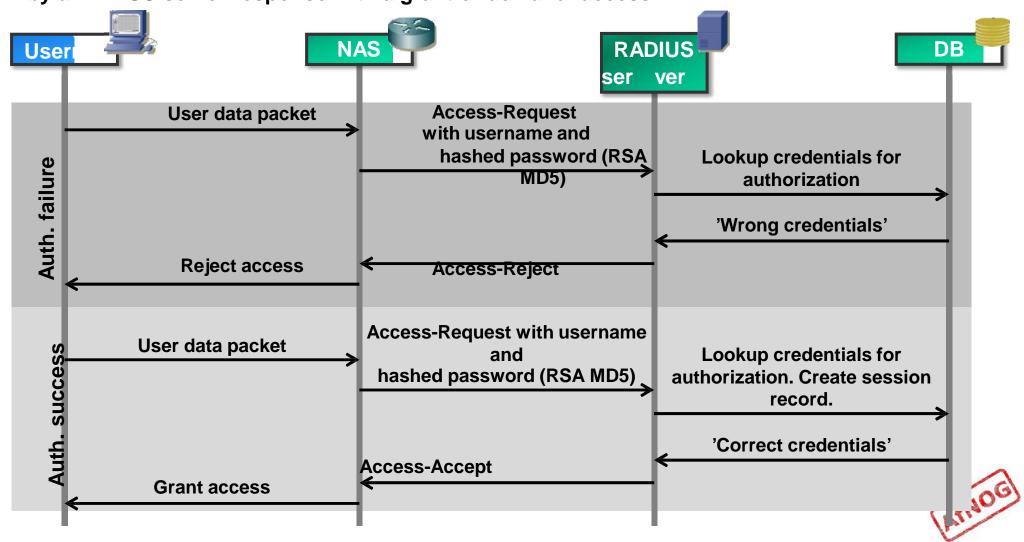




RADIUS Authentication

RADIUS transaction

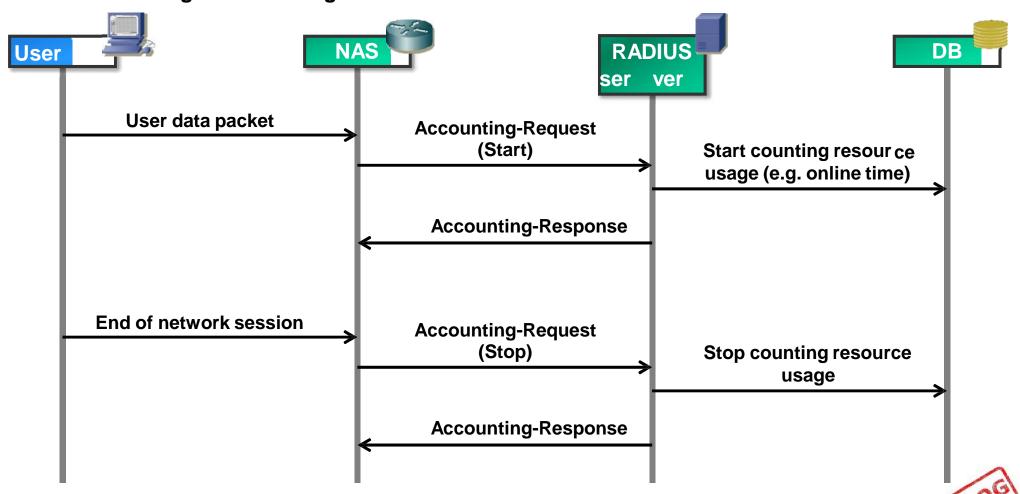
A RADIUS transaction typically starts with an Access-Request carrying user credentials followed by a RADIUS server response with a grant or denial of access.



RADIUS Accounting (1)

RADIUS accounting

Once a network session is up and running (successful authentication), the NAS may request to start counting network usage of the user.



RADIUS Accounting (2)

RADIUS accounting

Accounting with RADIUS is specified in a separate RFC (RFC2866). A set of special accounting RADIUS attributes (attribute values 40 – 59) are used to transfer accounting data between the RADIUS client (NAS) and server.

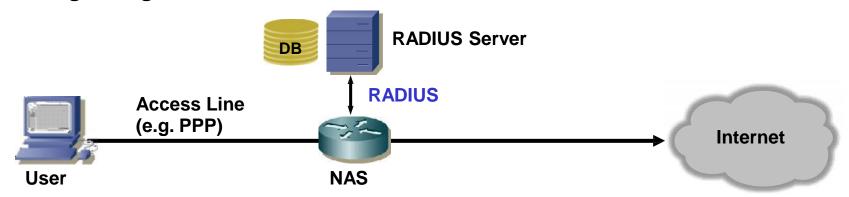
Value	Туре	Description
40	Acct-Status-Type	Indicates start or stop of accounting.
41	Acct-Delay-Time	Delay between event causing accounting request and server response (used to compensate for processing delay time).
42	Acct-Input-Octets	Used by client to report number of received octets to server.
43	Acct-Output-Octets	Used by client to report number of transmitted octets to server.
44	Acct-Session-Id	Used by client to identify user session to server.
45	Acct-Authentic	Used by client to report authentication method to server, e.g. user autenticated by NAS itself, user authenticated by RADIUS or user authenticated by external protocol.
46	Acct-Session-Time	Used by client to report to server how many seconds the user session is running.
47	Acct-Input-Packets	Used by client to report number of packets received by a user.
48	Acct-Output-Packets	Used by client to report number of packets sent by a user.
49	Acct-Terminate-Cause	Used by client to report cause of service termination (e.g. error, termination upon user request, timeout).
50	Acct-Multi-Session-Id	Similar to Acct-Session-Id, but used to link multiple sessions to one for correlation in log file.
51	Acct-Link-Count	Used by client to report number of links used by user.

RADIUS Applications(1)

NAS network access (ISP):

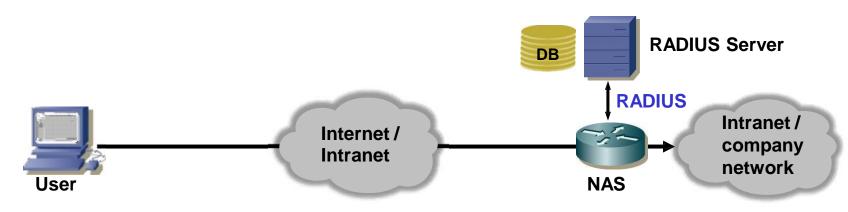
A user dials in on a NAS server run by the Internet provider.

Prior to granting access to the Internet, the NAS authenticates the user with RADIUS.



RAS Intranet access (enterprise dial-in):

This application is similar to the NAS scenario. The RAS (Remote Access Server) sits at the edge of the company network and authenticates a user prior to granting access to the network.





RADIUS Applications(2)

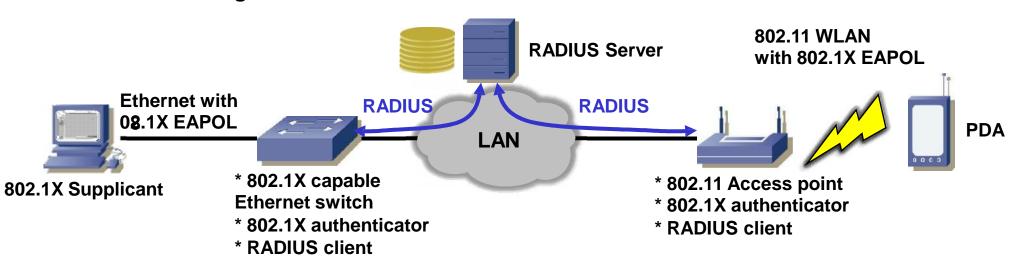
802.1X backend control for Ethernet and WLAN network access:

IEEE 802.1X is a generic protocol for authentication and authorization in IEEE 802 based networks.

The 802.1X supplicant ('the user') sends an EAPOL (Extensible Authentication Protocol Over LAN) message to the 802.1X authenticator (switch, access point).

The switch or access point enables the Ethernet or WiFi port if the backend authentication based on credentials provided via 802.1X is successful.

Using a central server for authentication (username and password storage) eases administration in large networks.





Why do we need RADIUS?

- Many services require password authentication!
- Users don't want to remember many passwords
- Easier to change password regularly or if compromised
- Easier to secure a single password database
- Enables user-password auth with 802.1x
- Alternative to TACACS for network equipment
- ◆ Used for PPP authentication in ISPs (PAP/CHAP)



RADIUS message types

- Access-Request
- Access-Challenge
- Access-Accept
- Access-Reject
- Accounting-Request
- Accounting-Response
- Status-Server (experimental)
- Status-Client (experimental)



RADIUS attributes

- ◆ Name=Value
 - User-Name
 - User-Password
 - NAS-IP-Address
 - NAS-Port
 - Service-Type
 - NAS-Identifier
 - Framed-Protocol
 - Vendor-Specific
 - Calling-Station-ID
 - Called-Station-Id



RADIUS users database (file)

- Flat text file
 - Easy to understand and edit
 - Alternatives include Kerberos, LDAP and SQL
- Each user entry has three parts:
 - Username
 - List of check items (requirements)
 - List of reply items (assignments)



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User entry example

Franko Password = 'testing12'

Service-Type = Frame-User,

Framed-protocol = PPP,

Framed-IP-Address = 192.168.1.4

Framed-IP-Netmask = 255.255.255.0

- Username is Franko (case sensitive!)
- Check items (first line, all must match Access-Req):
 - password = testing12
- Reply items (indented lines):
 - Service-Type, Framed-IP-Address...



User name and check items

• Username

- First part of each user entry
- Up to 63 printable, non-space, ASCII characters

Check Items

- Listed on the first line of a user entry, after username
- Multiple items are separated by commas
- Entry only matches if all check items are present in the Access-Request and match
- Fall-Through = Yes allows server to try other entries
- First line (user name + check items) must not exceed 255 characters.

Operators in user entries

- ◆ The "=" and "==" operators mean different things in check items and reply items!
- In check items:
 - Use "=" for server configuration attributes (Password, Auth-Type)
 - Sets the value if not already set (set without override)
 - Use "==" for RADIUS protocol attributes
 - True if value is present and has the same value, never sets
- In reply items:
 - Use "=" for RADIUS protocol attributes
 - ◆ Do not use "==", it is never valid



The Auth-Type check item

- Used to specify where (how) to lookup the password:
 - Local (in the users file)
 - System (query the OS, /etc/shadow or PAM)
 - SecurID
- Defaults to Local
- Example:

Franko Auth-Type = Local, Password = 'test123'



Password expiration

- Disable logins after a particular date
- Use the *Expiration* check item:

Franko Password="test12", Expiration="May 12 2009"

- Date must be specified in "Mm dd yyyy" format!
- Use the *Password-Warning* check item to warn the user *before* their password expires:

VALUE Server-Config Password-Expiration 30

VALUE Server-Config Password-Warning 5



Checking the NAS IP address and port

- NAS-IP-Address check item
 - Matches a particular NAS (by IP address)
 - Will only match if the user connected to (Access-Request came from) that specific NAS.
- NAS-Port-Type check item
 - Will only match if the NAS reports that the user connected to a specify the type of port
 - Options include: Async, Sync, ISDN
- NAS-Port check item
 - Will only match if the NAS reports that the user connected to a specific port (ethernet or serial)



Reply items

- If all check items in the user entry are satisfied by the access-request, then:
- Radius server sends an Access-Accept packet to the NAS, containing the reply items
- Gives information to the NAS about the user
 - For example, which IP address to assign to them



The Service-Type reply item

- Service Type
 - Must be specified
 - Login-User User connects via telnet, rlogin
 - Framed-User User uses PPP or SLIP for connection
 - Outbound-User User uses telnet for outbound connections.
- Framed-User is by far the most used now
- Framed-User requires a Framed-Protocol:

```
Franko Auth-Type = System

Service-Type = Framed-User

Framed-Protocol = PPP
```



The Framed-IP-Address reply item

- Specifies the user's IP address to the NAS
- Set to 255.255.255.255 to force the NAS to negotiate the address with the end-node (dial-in user)
- ◆ Set to 255.255.255.254, or leave out, to force the NAS to assign an IP address to the dial-in user from the assigned address pool

```
Franko Auth-Type = System

Service-Type = Framed-User

Framed-Protocol = PPP

Framed-IP-Address = 192.168.1.4
```



Netmask and Route reply items

- Use *Framed-IP-Netmask* to specify a netmask for the user's IP address
 - ◆ The default subnet mask is 255.255.255.255
- Use *Framed-Route* to add a route to NAS routing table when service to the user begins
 - Three pieces of information are required:
 - the destination IP address
 - gateway IP address
 - metric
 - For example:
 - ◆ Framed-Route = "196.200.219.0 196.200.219.4 1"



Accounting records

- FreeRADIUS writes to its Detail log file
- Typically Start and Stop accounting records

```
Tue May 12 14:12:14 2009
```

Acct-Session-Id = "25000005"

User-Name = "franko"

NAS-IP-Address = 196.200.219.2

NAS-Port = 1

NAS-Port-Type = Async

Acct-Status-Type = **Start**

Acct-Authentic = RADIUS

Service-Type = Login-User

Login-Service = Telnet

Login-IP-Host = 196.200.219.254

Acct-Delay-Time = 0

Timestamp = 838763356



Accounting attributes

- Acct-Status-Type attribute
 - indicates whether the record was sent when the connection began (Start) or when it ended (Stop)
- Acct-Session-Id attribute
 - ties the Start and Stop records together, indicating that it's the same session



What is FreeRADIUS?

- The premier open source RADIUS server
- Similar to Livingston RADIUS 2.0
- Many additional features
- Free!



Practical exercise overview

- Build and install FreeRADIUS
- Configure and start FreeRADIUS
- Test authentication using FreeRADIUS
- Configure a service to authenticate using RADIUS



Installing FreeRADIUS

- Installing a binary package:
 - sudo apt-get install freeradius freeradius-utils
- Check if FreeRadius is running using below command

Start FreeRADIUS server:

```
afnog@pc38:~$ sudo service freeradius start
afnog@pc38:~$ [
```



Creating Local user Accounts

- sudo vi /etc/freeradius/users :
 - Add a new section:

```
test Auth-Type = Local, Password = "test123"
```

- Restart FreeRADIUS:
 - sudo service freeradius restart



Running FreeRadius in debug mode

- You should review the configuration files carefully
 - /etc/freeradius/ *
- Debugging mode is extremely useful:
 - sudo /usr/sbin/freeradius -X (capital X)
- Output should end with as shown below:

```
Listening on authentication address * port 1812
Listening on accounting address * port 1813
Listening on authentication address 127.0.0.1 port 18120 as server inner-tunnel
Listening on proxy address * port 1814
Ready to process requests.
```

- Server is now running in debugging mode
 - ◆ Leave it running, and open another window/session on the server to run more commands

Testing the default configuration(1)

- FreeRADIUS should now respond to RADIUS requests
- Test by running:
 - radtest test test123 localhost 0 testing123
 - What happens?
 - You should see the server receive the access-request and respond with an access-accept in both cases

Testing the default configuration(2)

- > Try a local user that does exist, with password:
 - radtest afnog afnog localhost 0 testing123
 - What happens?
- You should see the server receive the access-request and respond with an access-reject *in both cases*

Changing the Shared Secret

- We've been using the default shared secret, testing 123
 - Not very secret, so let's change it!
- Edit /etc/freeradius/clients.conf
 - sudo vi /etc/freeradius/clients.conf
 - Find the section client localhost
 - ◆ Find the line secret = testing123
 - Generate a new secret and for our example use afnog 123
- Restart FreeRADIUS and test with the new secret:
 - radtest afnog afnog localhost 0 afnog123



Secret (digression)

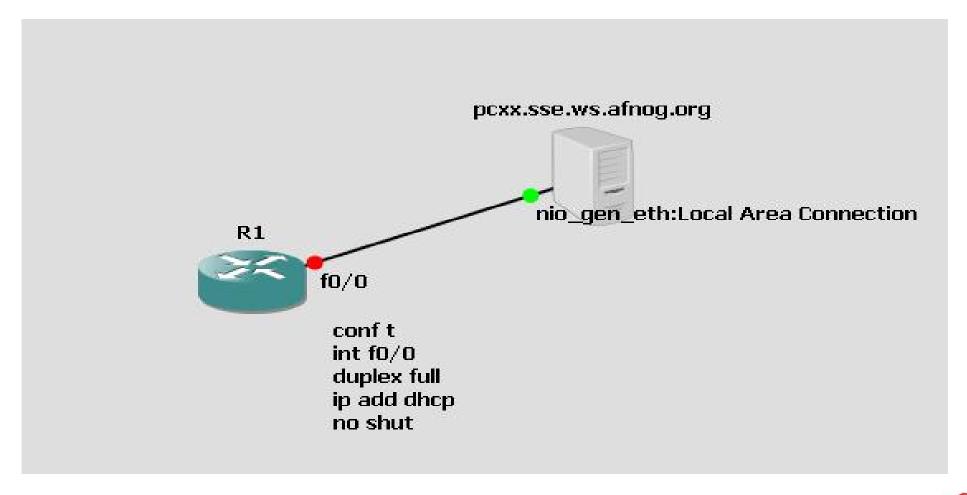
• From RFC 2865:

- ◆ The secret (password shared between the client and the RADIUS server) SHOULD be at least as large and unguessable as a well-chosen password. It is preferred that the secret be at least 16 octets. This is to ensure a sufficiently large range for the secret to provide protection against exhaustive search attacks. The secret MUST NOT be empty (length 0) since this would allow packets to be trivially forged.
- How to generate a new, secure random key:
 - dd if=/dev/random bs=16 count=1 | base64
 - eAiYEcnU/nxEsp6of5DaGQ== (for example)



Authenticating Cisco Devices using FreeRadius

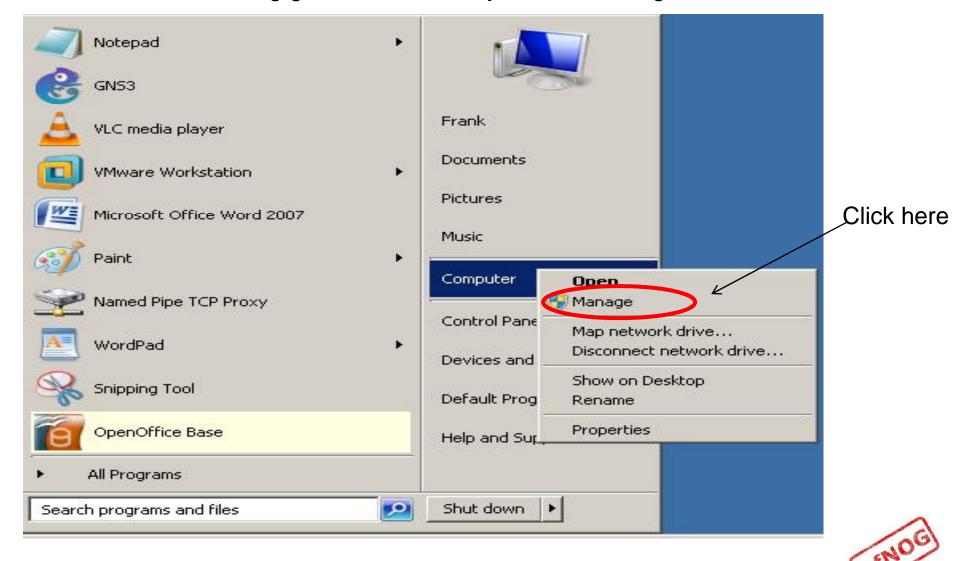
Diagram Below is a GNS3 simulation topology for this exercise





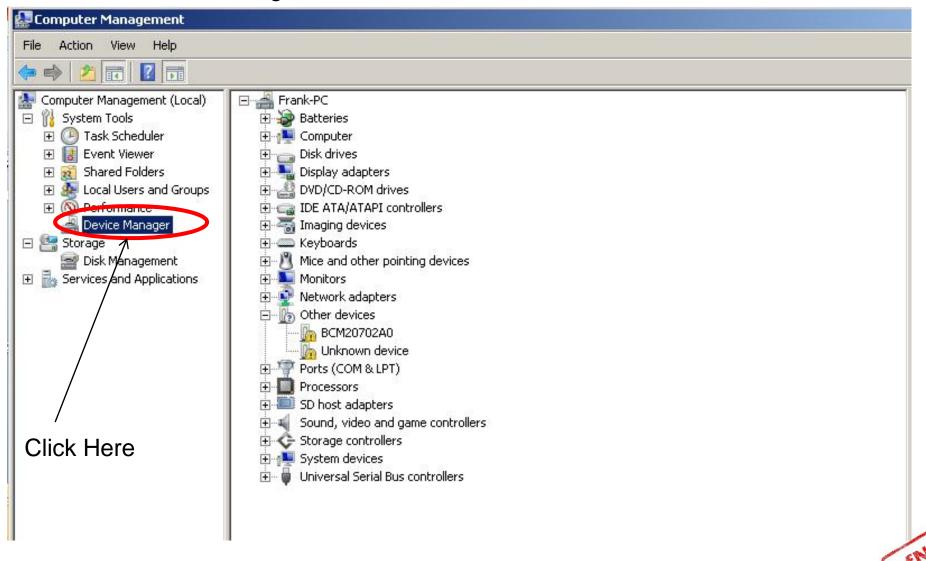
Create A Windows Loopback Adapter (1)

On windows, the following guidelines below by click on Manage



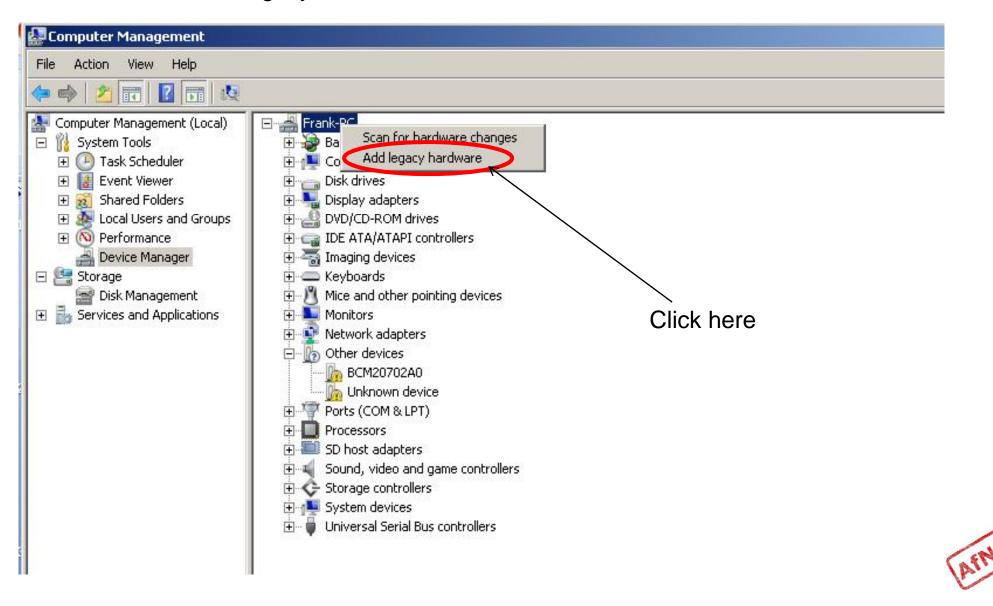
Create A Windows Loopback Adapter (2)

Click on Device Manager



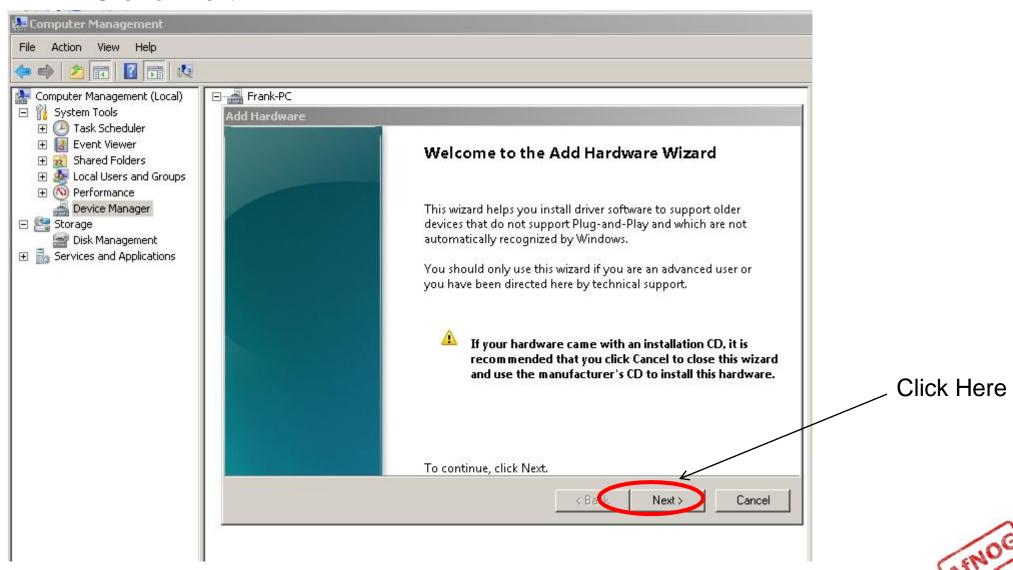
Create A Windows Loopback Adapter (3)

Click on Add legacy hardware



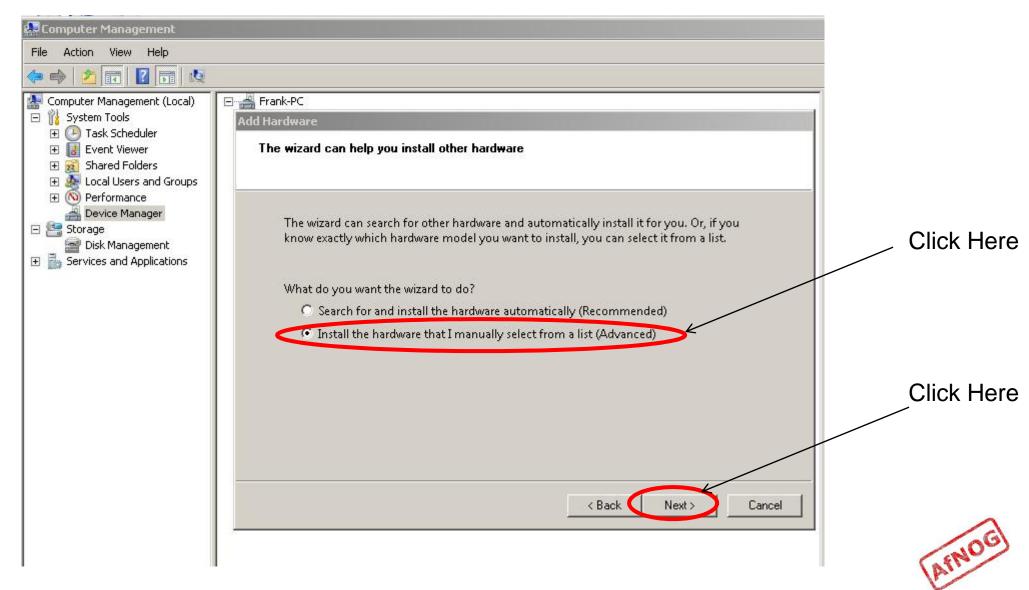
Create A Windows Loopback Adapter (4)

Click on Next



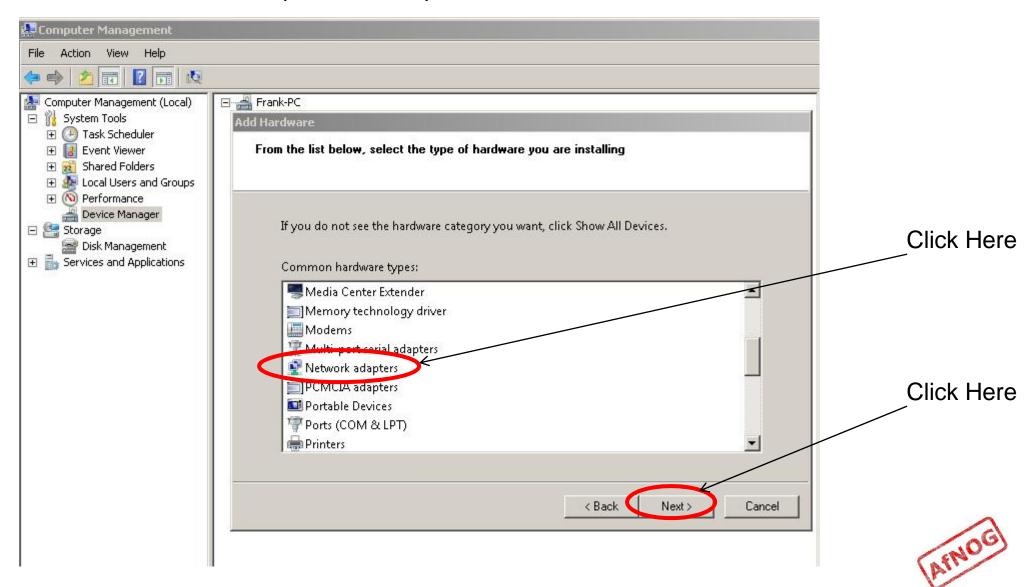
Create A Windows Loopback Adapter (5)

Click on Radio Button (install the hardware that I manually select from a list) and Click Next



Create A Windows Loopback Adapter (6)

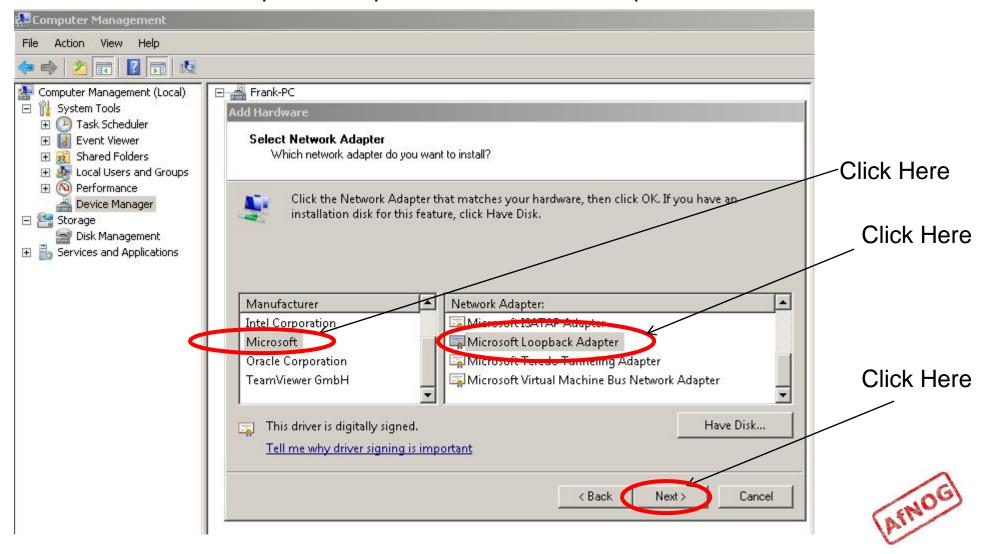
Select Network Adapters from dopbox menu and Click Next



Create A Windows Loopback Adapter (7)

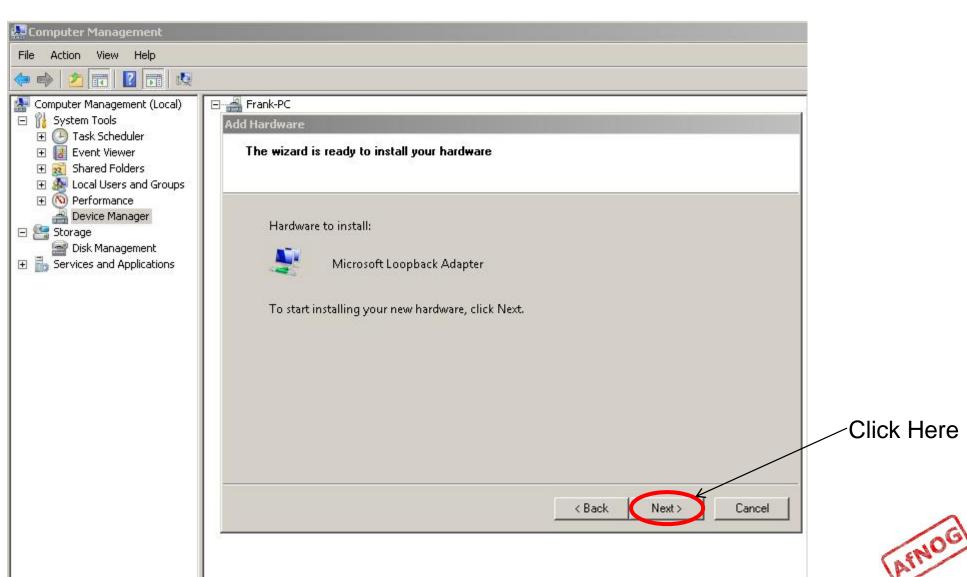
Select Microsoft from first dopbox menu

Select Microsoft Loopback Adapter from the second dopbox menu and Click Next



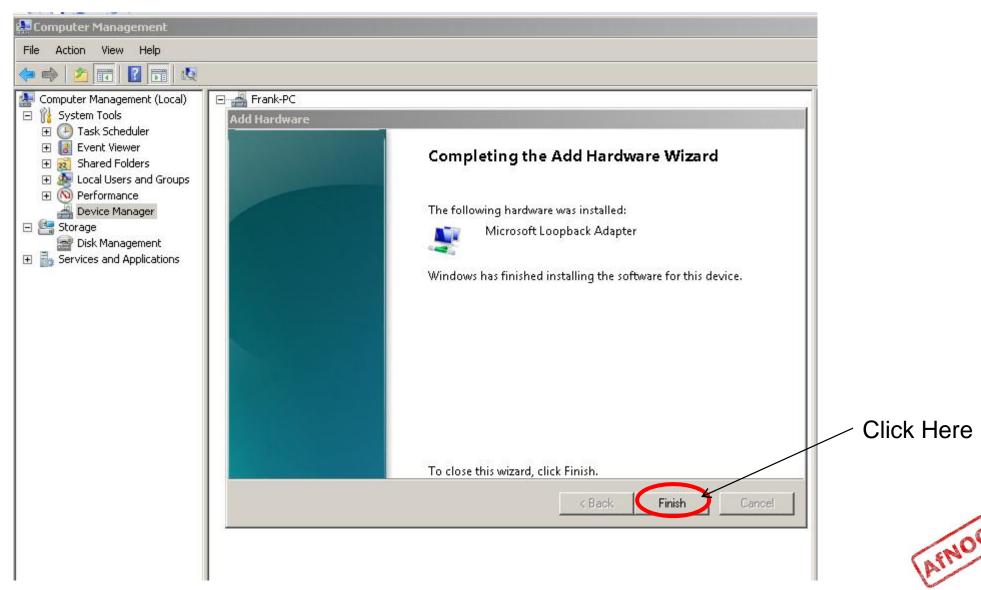
Create A Windows Loopback Adapter (8)

Click Next menu



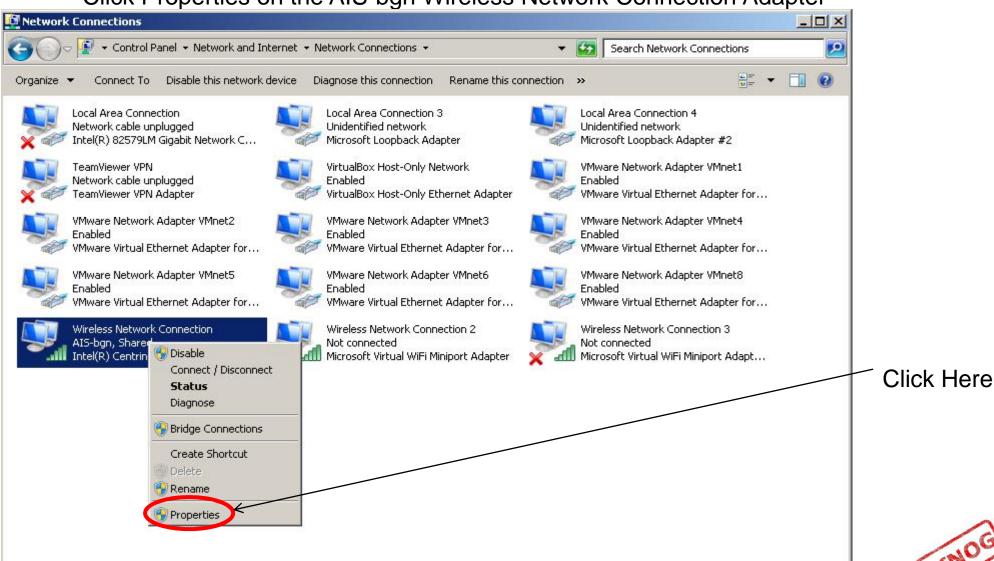
Create A Windows Loopback Adapter (9)

Click Finish menu



Sharing Internet Connection over Wireless Adapter with Loopback Adapter (1)

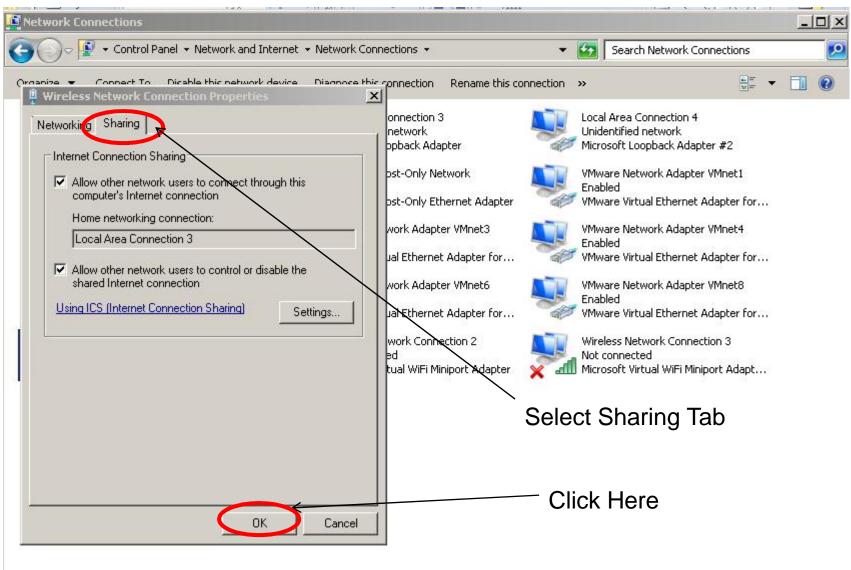
Click Properties on the AIS-bgn Wireless Network Connection Adapter





Sharing Internet Connection over Wireless Adapter with Loopback Adapter (2)

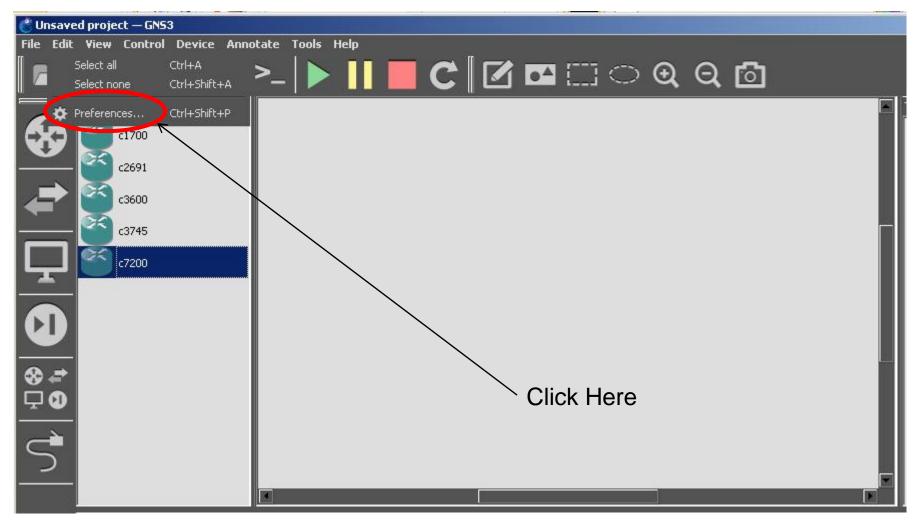
Select Sharing Tab; Select Loopback Adapter and check Radio Buttons and click Ok menu





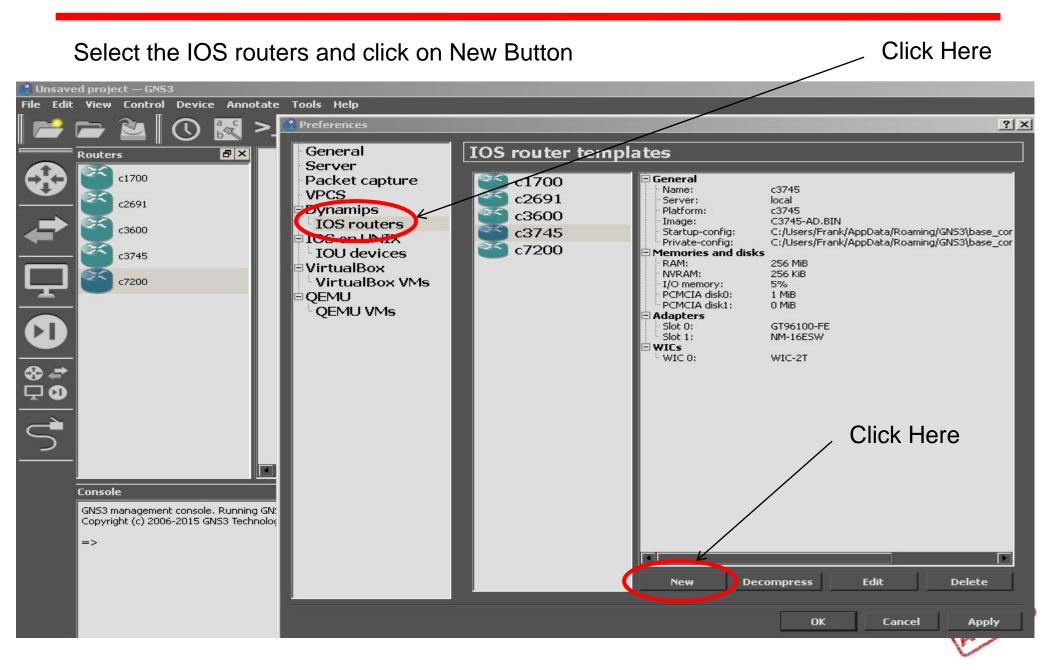
Configuring Gns3 topology as above (1)

Select the Edit Menu and click on Preferences Button



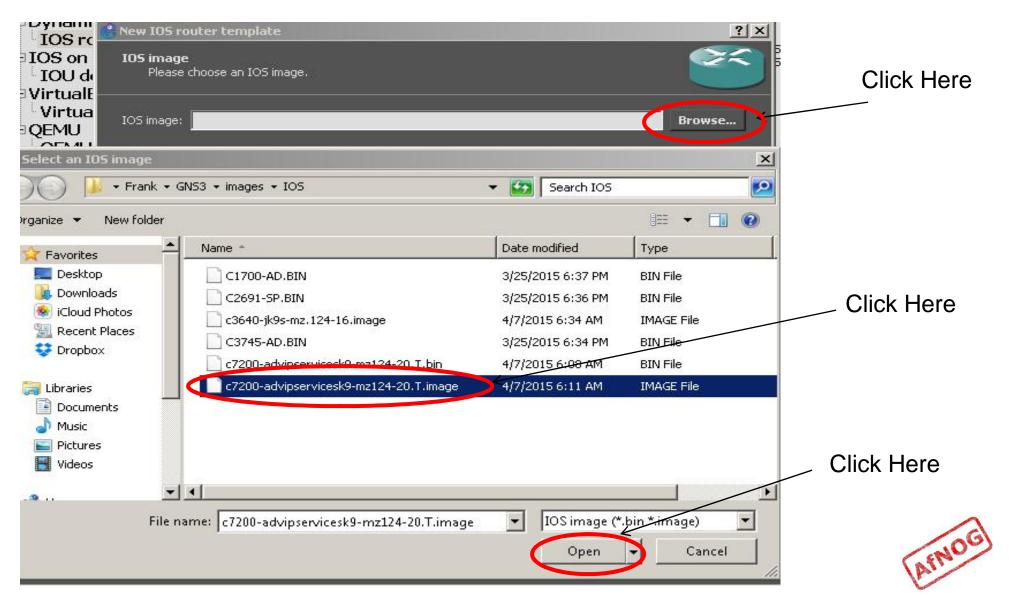


Configuring Gns3 topology as above (2)



Configuring Gns3 topology as above (3)

Select the IOS Image and click on Open Button N.B: Copy of it can be gotten from Afnog Site



Configuring Gns3 topology as above (4)

Click on Next Button

	200	1	
New IOS router - c7200-advipservicesk9-mz124-20.T.image	? ×		
Name and platform Please choose a descriptive name for this new IOS router and verify the platform and chassis.			
Name: c7200			
Platform: c7200	_		
Chassis:	_		
			Click Here
< Back Next >	Cancel		
		I	



Configuring Gns3 topology as above (5)

Click on Next Button





Configuring Gns3 topology as above (4)

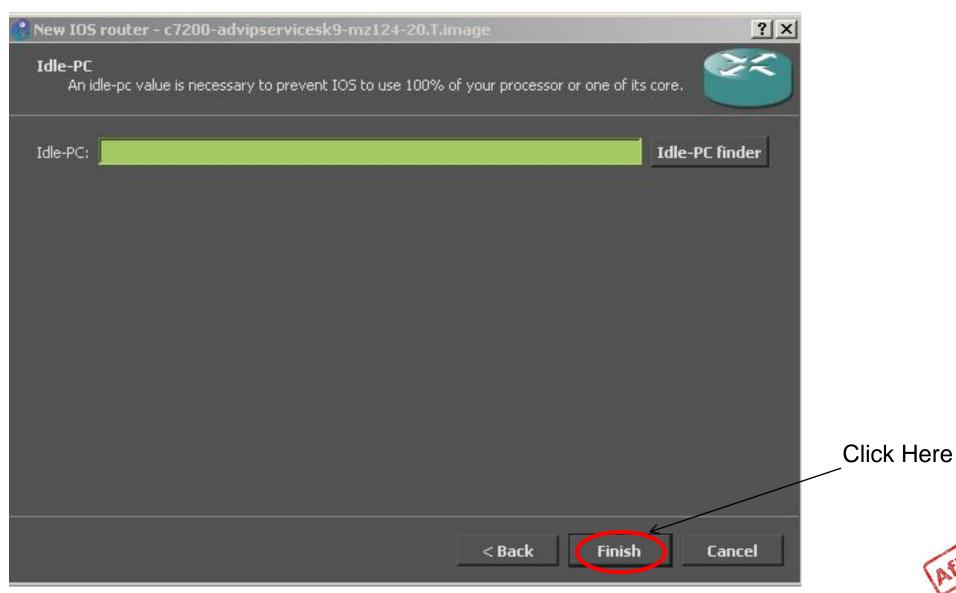
Click on Next Button

New IOS router - c7200-advipservicesk9-mz124-20.T.image	? ×	
Network adapters Please choose the default network adapters that should be inserted into every new instance of this router.		
slot 0: C7200-IO-FE	•	
slot 1:	•	
slot 2:	•	
slot 3:	_	
slot 4:	•	
slot 5:	▼	
slot 6:		
		Click Here
< Back Next >	Cancel	



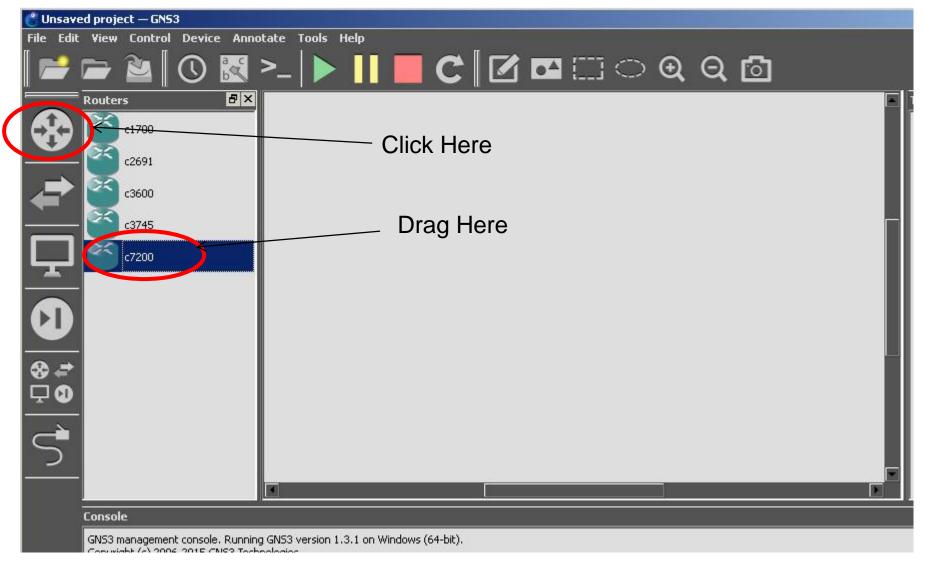
Configuring Gns3 topology as above (5)

Click on Finish Button



Configuring Gns3 topology as above (6)

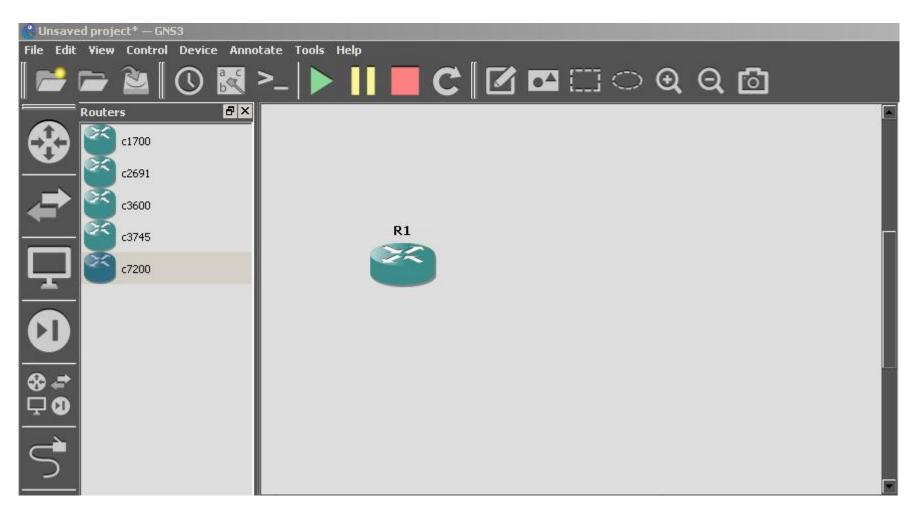
Click on Router sign and Drag c7200 image onto the Topology pane





Configuring Gns3 topology as above (7)

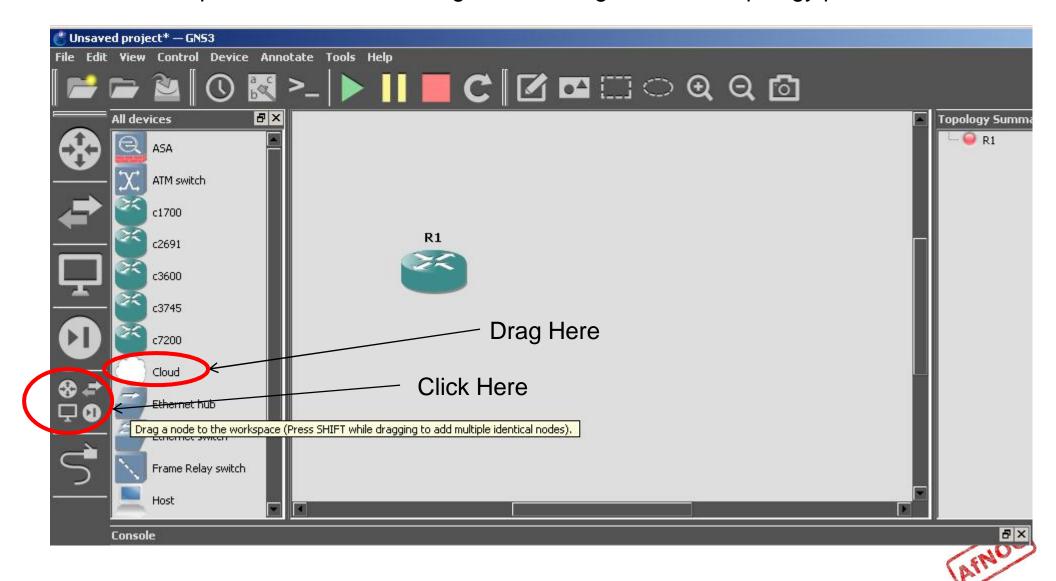
You should see the c7200 image onto the Topology pane as shown below





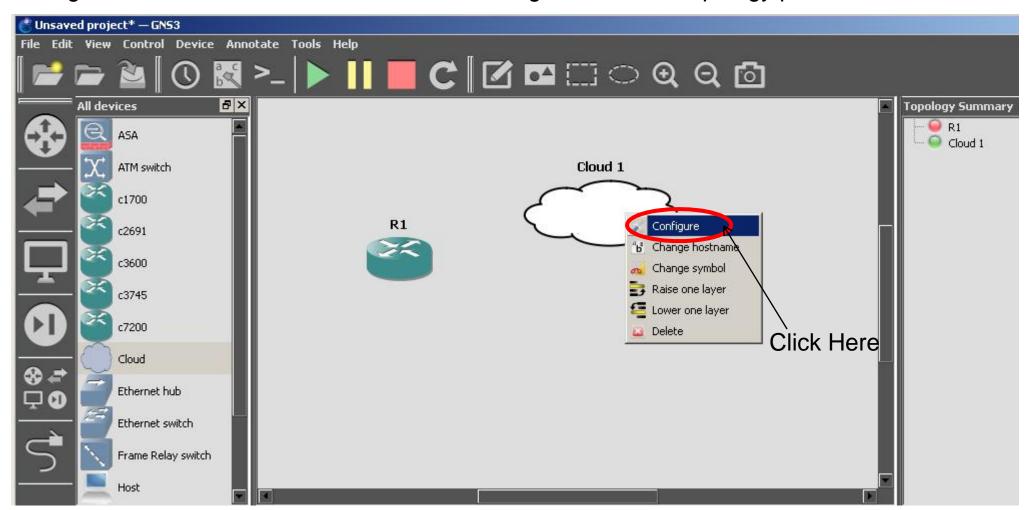
Configuring Gns3 topology as above (8)

Click on Multiple Device Box and Drag a cloud image onto the Topology pane



Configuring Gns3 topology as above (9)

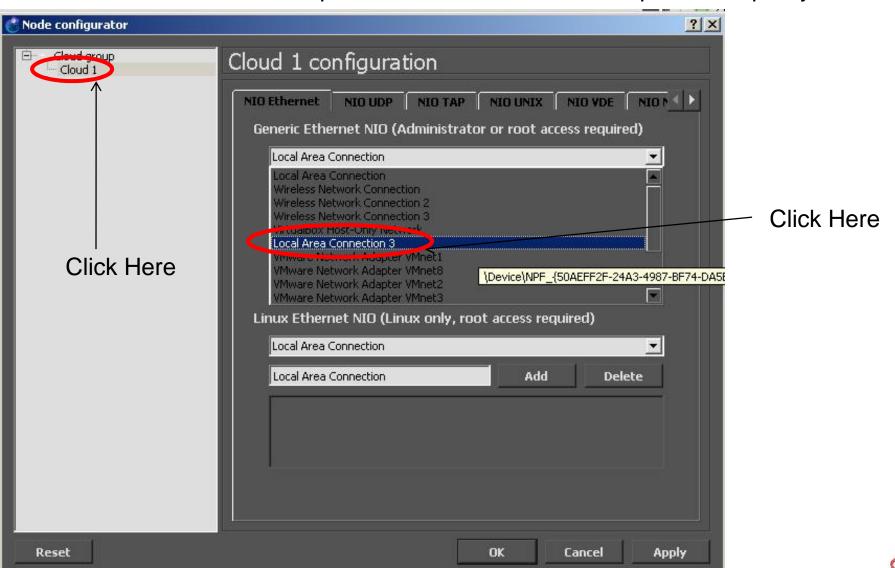
Right Click on the Cloud1 icon and click Configure from the Topology pane





Configuring Gns3 topology as above (10)

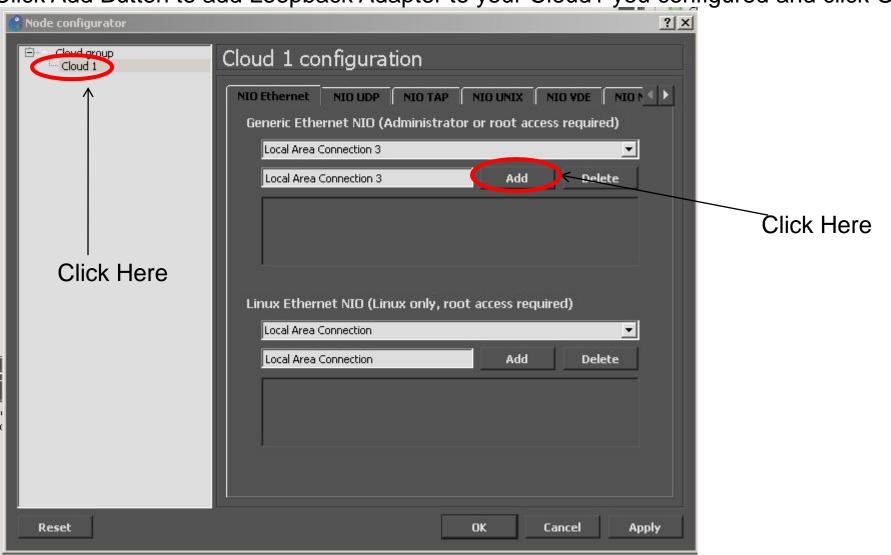
Click on Cloud1 icon from left pane and select the Local Loopback Adapter you configured





Configuring Gns3 topology as above (11)

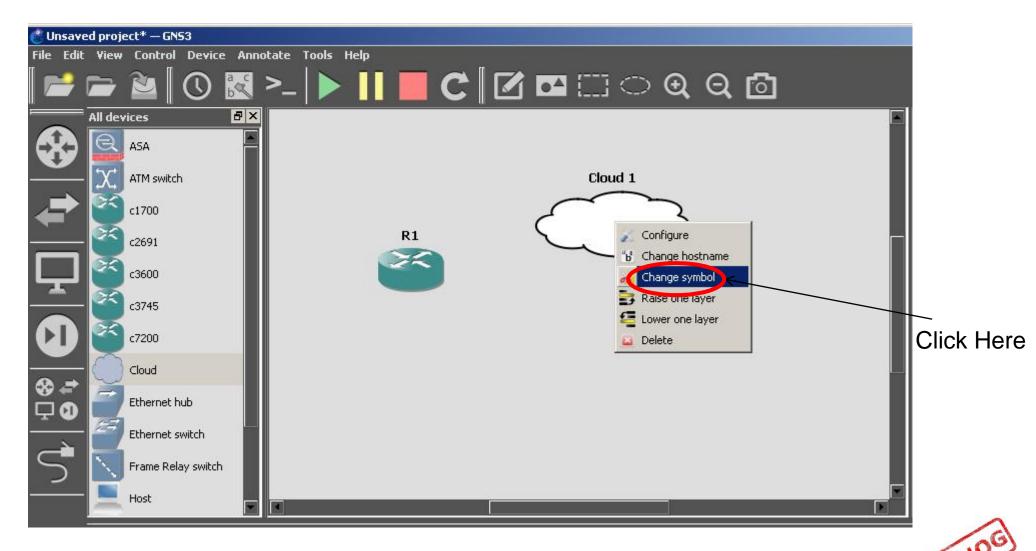
Click Add Button to add Loopback Adapter to your Cloud1 you configured and click OK Button





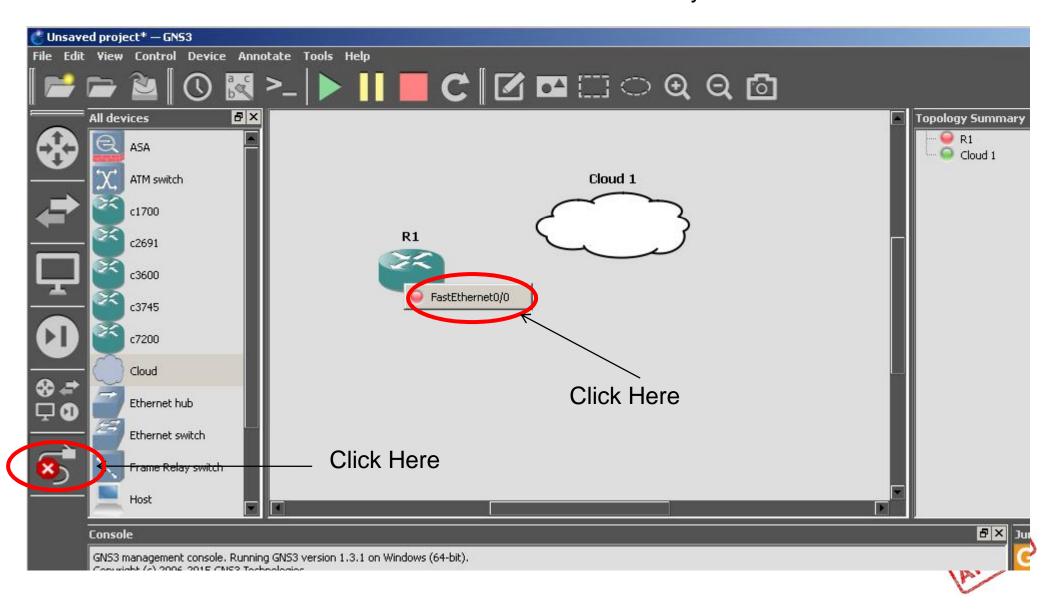
Configuring Gns3 topology as above (12)

Change the symbol of the cloud1 into the PC symbol



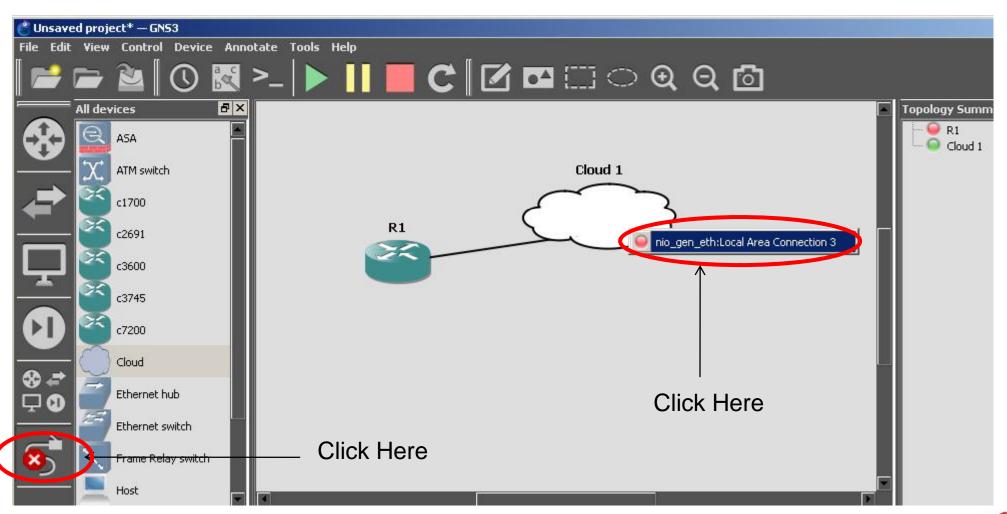
Configuring Gns3 topology as above (13)

Add a Link to Connect the Router F0/0 interface to the PC symbol



Configuring Gns3 topology as above (14)

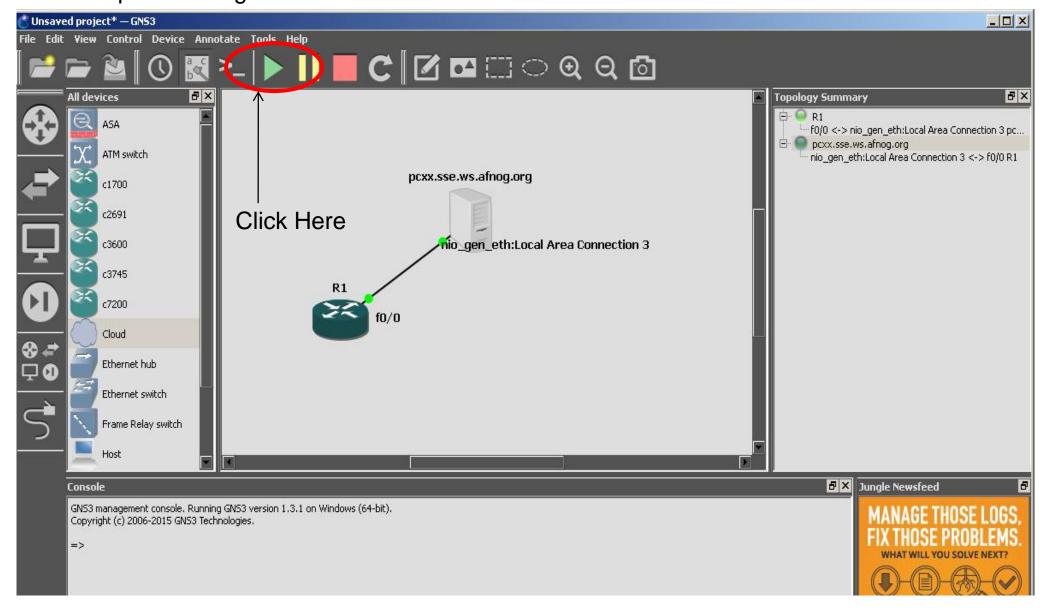
Add a Link to Connect the Router F0/0 interface to the PC symbol





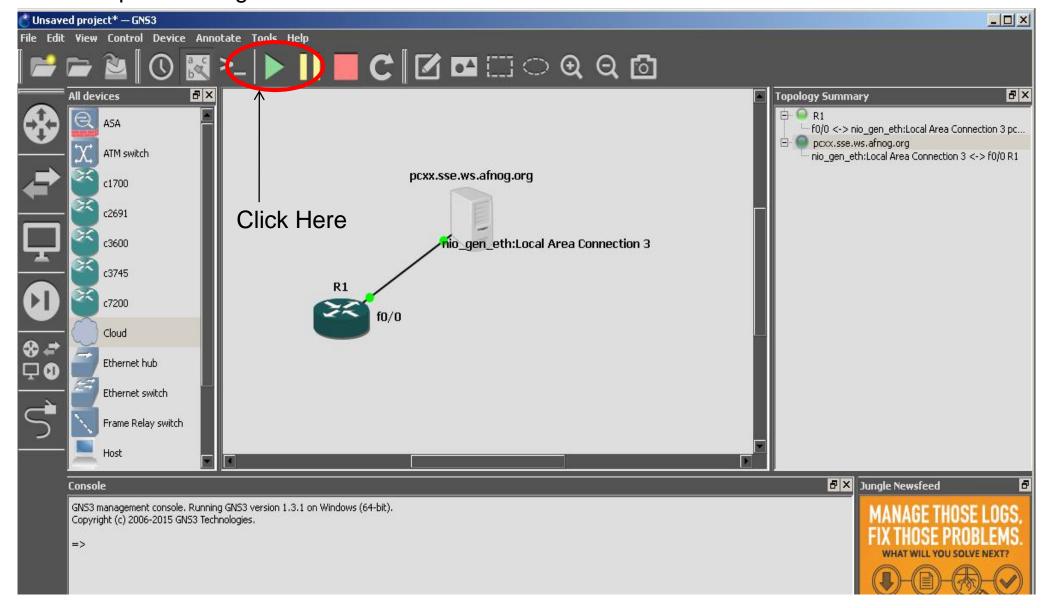
Configuring Gns3 topology as above (15)

A completed design should look like below and click on the start button to start the router



Configuring Gns3 topology as above (16)

A completed design should look like below and click on the start button to start the router



Enabling Network Clients

- sudo vi /etc/freeradius/clients.conf:
 - Add a new section:

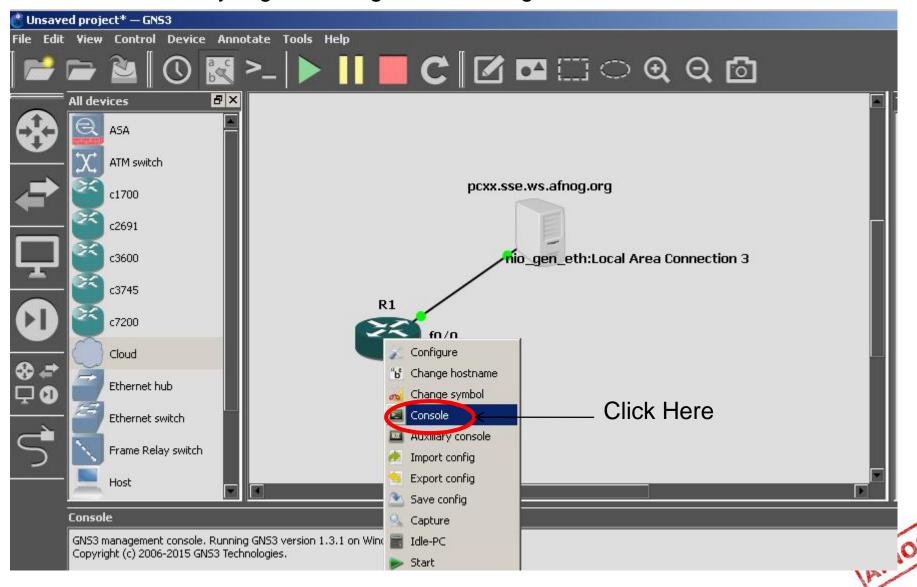
```
client 197.4.11.14 {
    secret = secretkey
    shortname = R1
    nastype = cisco
}
```

- N.B: the 197.4.11.14 should be replaced with your laptop's Wireless Interface Ip Address
- Restart FreeRADIUS:
 - sudo service freeradius restart



Router Configuration (1)

Connect to the Router by Right Clicking it and clicking on Console



Router Configuration (2)

- Configure the IP address for the interface connecting to the PC
 - Configure an IP address for the router to enable remote connectivity

```
R1(config)#int f0/0
R1(config-if)#duplex full
R1(config-if)#ip addres
R1(config-if)#ip address dhcp
R1(config-if)#no shut
R1(config-if)#
```

Check to ensure interface f0/0 has an IP address by running below command

```
R1#sh ip int brief
Interface IP-Address OK? Method Status Protocol
FastEthernetO/O 192.168.137.230 YES DHCP up up

SSLVPN-VIFO unassigned NO unset up up
R1#
```



Router Configuration (3)

- Configure users authentication for remote access to the router
 - Configure the Radius commands to allow authentication and accounting request

```
aaa new-model
!
!
aaa group server radius RadiusGrp
server-private 197.4.11.138 auth-port 1812 acct-port 1813 key secretkey
!
aaa authentication login default group RadiusGrp
aaa authorization exec default group RadiusGrp
aaa accounting exec default start-stop group RadiusGrp
aaa accounting system default start-stop group RadiusGrp
```

- Ensure commands are entered using conf t
- Ensure you replace the 197.4.11.138 with your Server IP address
- Configure the vty session to allow remote connection to the router
 - Enable telnet and ssh session over it using the command below.

```
R1#conf t
Enter configuration commands, one per line. End with CNTL/Z.
R1(config)#line vty 0 4
R1(config-line)#transport input telnet ssh
R1(config-line)#
```

Creating Network user Accounts

- sudo vi /etc/freeradius/users :
 - Add a new section:

```
frank Cleartext-Password := "pass123"
Service-Type = NAS-Prompt-User,
Cisco-AVPair = "shell:priv-lvl=15"
```

- Restart FreeRADIUS:
 - sudo service freeradius restart



Testing Remote Connectivity (1)

- Get the IP address of the f0/0 interface using the command below
 - Configure an IP address for the router to enable remote connectivity

```
R1#sh ip int brief
Interface IP-Address OK? Method Status Protocol
FastEthernetO/O 192.168.137.230 YES DHCP up up
SSLVPN-VIFO unassigned NO unset up up
R1#
```

Configure Putty with the following features as below.



Testing Remote Connectivity (2)

Test user login using Accounts created above

```
User Access Verification
Username: frank
Password:
R1#
```

Note, a Successful login will allow the created users inside the Radius access to the Router.



What have we achieved?

- Debian RADIUS server answers authentication requests:
 - Flat text file (users file)
 - Installation and configuration of Gns3
 - Mounting a Cisco Router image
 - Network authentication for Cisco NAS equipment

 We can deploy new services without having to create separate password databases



What more could we do?

- Store credentials in:
 - a database (MySQL, PostgreSQL)
 - LDAP
 - Kerberos
- Integrate with network access control (802.1x)
- Generate accounting data
 - so that we could bill for timed access to resources
 - for example a wireless hotspot or a hotel network
- Generate reports from accounting data



Bibliography

- FreeRADIUS website
 - http://www.freeradius.org/
- GNS3
 - www.gns3.net
- Other resource
 - http://www.indigoo.com/dox/itdp/09_Access/AAA_RA
 DIUS.pdf

