Network Design for Airport Enterprise

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Introduction

The aim of this project is to design and implement communication network for airports with performance parameters being security, quality and reliability. The project has explored various utilities to construct a highly secure network for airport which includes crucial operations ranging from flight timing control, airplanes coordination, passenger services through servers and databases.

The potential utilities for such a network include hardware firewalls, IP access control, MAC address port security, domain servers, proxy servers, failover firewall utility, Inter VLAN Routing, a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) server, a Domain Name System (DNS) and cabled connections. These utilities will have been configured to provide a secure and reliable environment for various parties such as Management Authority, Flight Service Provider and Guests to intercommunicate and prevents compromising of sensitive information such as flight management and service providers to potential attackers.

This project aims to establish a communication network for an airport. The network is able to facilitate three groups namely Airport Authority, Flight Service Providers (FSP's) and Guest Members. Each group is assigned appropriate network privileges and functionality to perform relevant tasks and is allocated appropriate service over the network. The Airport Authority and Flight Service Provider have their respective servers while the guests are only allowed to connect to the internet using either Wireless or Ethernet based connectivity. The project has implemented appropriate yet scaled-down measures of cybersecurity, such as cabled connections, virtual LANs, subnetting, firewall, access restriction and isolation to prevent unwanted access into the network.

Project Scope and Problem Description

As discussed above, the main features of an airport network include a highly secure network, flight timing control, airplanes coordination, and passenger services. They can, more generally, be divided into features associated with two types of interactions. Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems are critical infrastructure responsible maintaining electrical power systems, water, gas and other utilities in transportation systems as airport. They provide physical isolation and technical uniqueness against cyber-attacks by playing

crucial rule on enterprise and corporate networks. SCADA systems are now being integrated into information technology systems network using TCP/IP.

Developing technologies are giving rise to whole new arena of cyber-attacks and the need for robust privacy and security systems are ever great. For example, according to Chief IT Officer of Los Angeles airport, there were 6400 reported attempts to hack into file server after 2 days it was employed; and about 59,000 internet misuse cases and abuse attempts were reportedly block; and over one year period, about 2.9 million hacking attempts were blocked [1]. Most of these vulnerabilities lie in poor and partial configuration of Wireless Access Point (WAP), Network Access Points (NAP), unsecured SQL databases, poorly optimized and configured firewalls, interconnected peer networks with compromised security and several others.

In case of airports, most common cyberattacks takes place in form of Speak-Phishing emails containing malware packages like Sykipot that when is running target machine will establish an SSL connection to command and control server, where more malicious files are then downloaded and installed in victim's computer. Information of airport network layout, flight timings, routes, passengers' details and airport facilities are compromised. According to one of the studies [1], 77 percent of Airtight networks were non-hotspot out of which 80 percent were unsecured or using legacy WEP encryption, fatally flawed protocol.

Networking Requirement

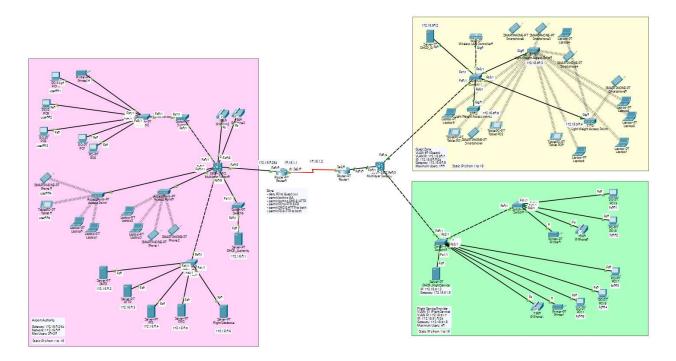
- 1) Airport Authority: It is responsible for maintaining the flight management protocols and is also responsible for assigning dynamic IPs to the Guest users as well as controlling the limitation and access of Flight Service Providers. Both the servers mentioned above are regulated by Airport Authority. There are total of 20 users in this VLAN.
- 2) Flight Service Providers: This department is responsible for handling the details of passengers, incoming/outgoing flights and arrival/departure times. There are total of 40 users in this VLAN.
- 3) Guest Members: These are ordinary people or passengers who will likely browse the internet for their email, to look for hotel bookings, to book a taxi etc. Their access is most limited to the internal network, which comprise the flight service providers and airport authority networks. They virtually only connect to the Internet and not the internal network of the airport. There are maximum of 100 users in this VLAN.

Network Design Strategy

- 1) The active networking components includes the following:
 - a) Routers (for connection to the internet).
 - b) Switches (for connection of the PC nodes and workstations within a VLAN, and for the interconnection of VLAN's).
 - c) Wireless Access Points (WAPs) for connecting nodes that do not seek a permanent connection, using a wireless medium.
- 2) The IP network design for each department. a) We have created network IDs with suitable subnet masks according to the number of nodes within a network. For example, the different departments are assigned different private network IDs and private IP addresses. To ensure no communication between the departments, we have configured different VLANs. The IP addresses of the routers in the network are default gateways for the nodes in the VLANs.
- 3) The network should support bandwidth sharing and restricted access for the different users in the network. This is especially true for the guest network, since the number of connecting nodes are very high, and any malicious agent can enter the core network of the airport from the guest network since the login details are public. This can be configured using the priority and bandwidth commands from the command-lineinterface in Cisco devices.

Network Topology Diagram

The diagram below shows the final network topology. It displays the conceptual layout of the topology. The routing to the internet is performed by two routers and two multi-switches. Multi-switch is also used to create VLANs. Appropriate restrictions are composed in routers as well as discussed in later section. Multiple servers are also placed in Authority zone to provide services of database, emailing, browsing, DNS, HTTP etc.



Airport Authority Topology

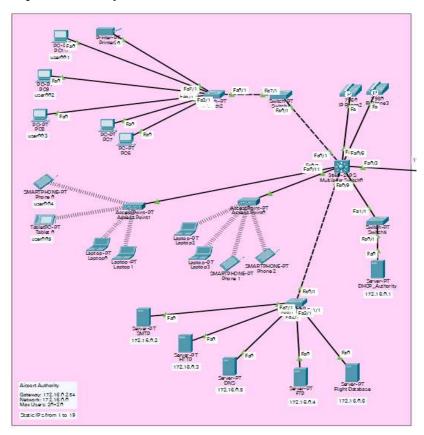
Network Address Table

Device	Network Zone	IP Interface	Gateway	User ID
SMTP Server	Airport Authority	172.16.0.2	172.16.0.254	-
HTTP Server	Airport Authority	172.16.0.3	172.16.0.254	-
DNS Server	Airport Authority	172.16.0.5	172.16.0.254	-
FTP Server	Airport Authority	172.16.0.4	172.16.0.254	-
Flight Database	Airport Authority	172.16.0.6	172.16.0.254	-
Server				
DHCP Authority	Airport Authority	172.16.0.1	172.16.0.254	-
Server				
DHCP Flight	Flight Service	172.18.51.2	172.18.51.8	-
Service				
DHCP Guests	Guests Zone	172.18.50.2	172.18.50.8	-
Router 1	Intermediate	Fa0/0	-	-
		Se2/0		
		10.16.1.2		
Router 0	Intermediate	Fa0/0	-	-
		172.16.0.254		
		Se2/0		
		10.16.1.1		
PC10	Airport Authority	Dynamic	172.16.0.254	User001
PC9	Airport Authority	Dynamic	172.16.0.254	User002
PC8	Airport Authority	Dynamic	172.16.0.254	User003
Smartphone 0	Airport Authority	Dynamic	172.16.0.254	User004

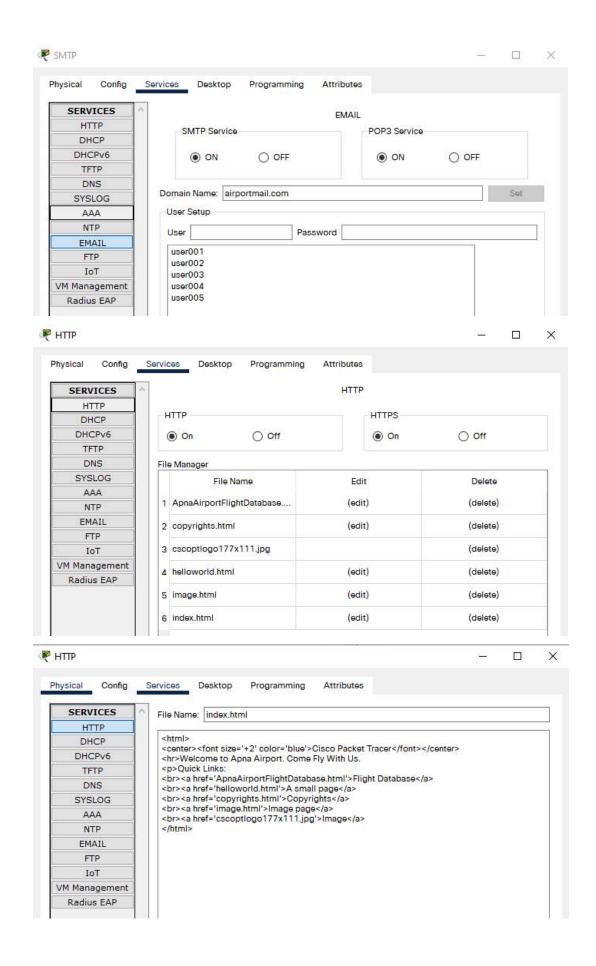
Tablet PC 0	Airport Authority	Dynamic	172.16.0.254	User005
PC15	Flight Service	Dynamic	172.18.51.8	Fc001
PC16	Flight Service	Dynamic	172.18.51.8	Fc002
PC17	Flight Service	Dynamic	172.18.51.8	Fc003
PC18	Flight Service	Dynamic	172.18.51.8	Fc004

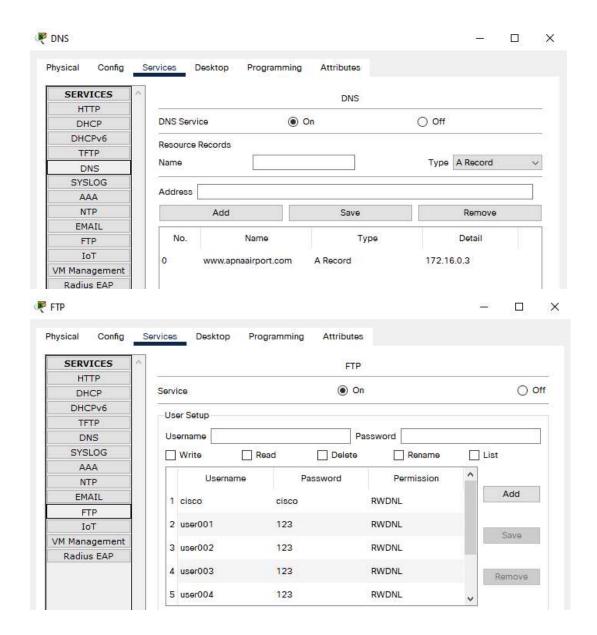
Network Configuration Details

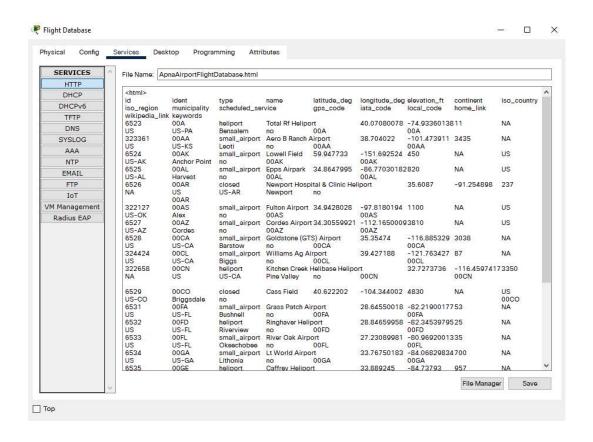
1. Airport Authority

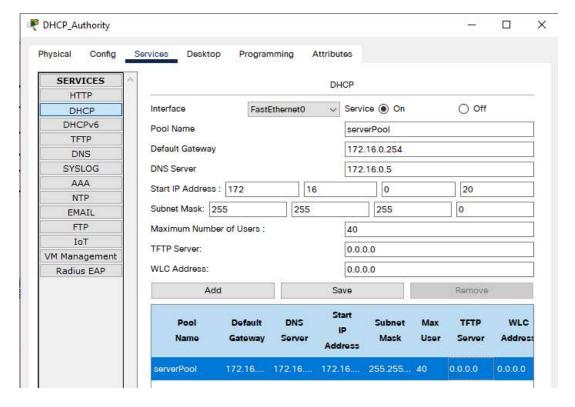


Authority has absolute control and command over all the Servers, Users and Service Providers in any of the network. Each User in Authority network is assumed to be staff person and is assigned IP dynamically using DHCP Authority and have access to configure all the server configured as above in topology. The zone contains both wired and wireless devices controlled via same Multilayer Switch. The screenshots of configurations for this zone are attached below:



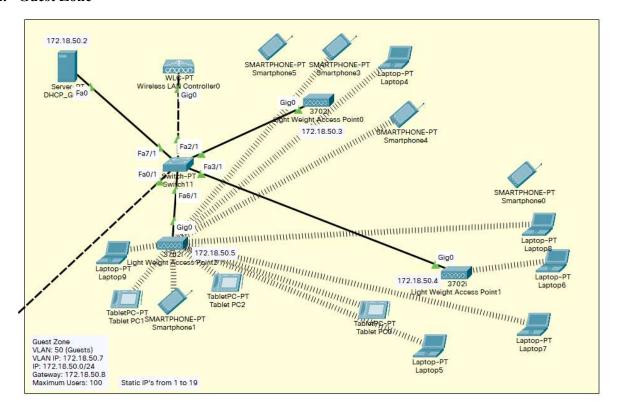






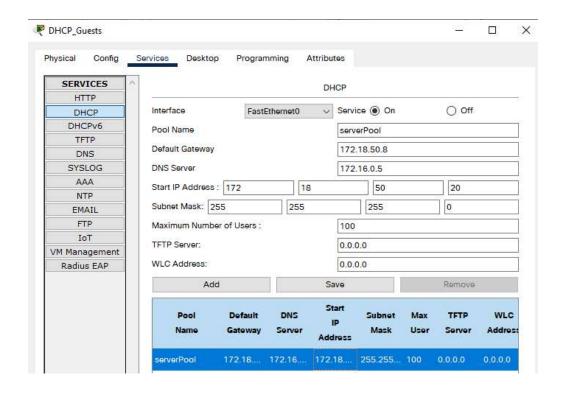
GLOBAL	^			Port	1				
Settings	P	ort Status							
INTERFACE		SSID 2.4 GHz Channel			Airport_Authority				
Port 0					6				
Port 1		Coverage Range (meters)		-	140.00				
	Ī	Authentication O Disabled WPA-PSK	○ WEP ⑥ WPA2-PSK	PSK User	Key Pass Phrase ID sword	wireless123			
		Encryption Type			AES				

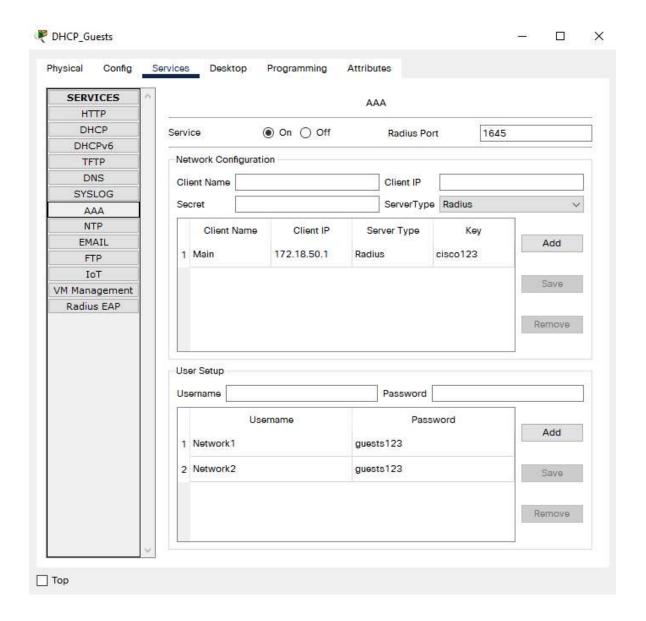
2. Guest Zone

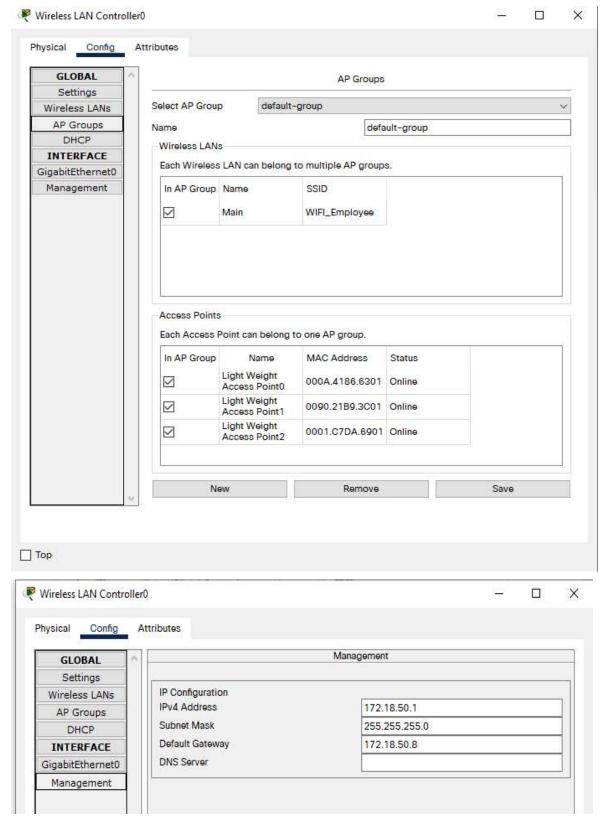


Guests are only permitted to access HTTP Server to access browsing within the Authority Zone. Guests are assigned IP using DHCP Guests. Single Wireless LAN Controller is used to control all the access points in Guest Zone, each of which have varying coverage and static IP assigned to it. Single Wireless LAN Controller allows to configure SSD, Pass, AAA Authentication, DHCP on single device. All devices in this

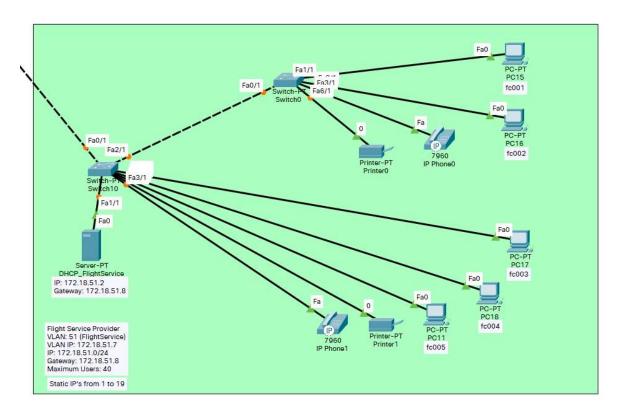
zone are wireless and are assumed to be simple passengers in the network. This network is created on VLAN 50 with other configuration details shown below:



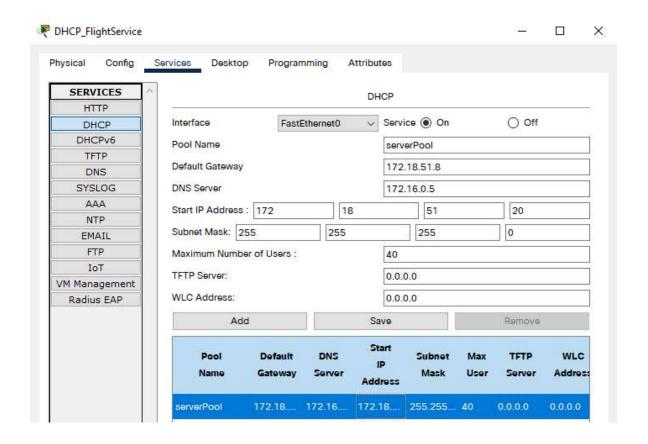




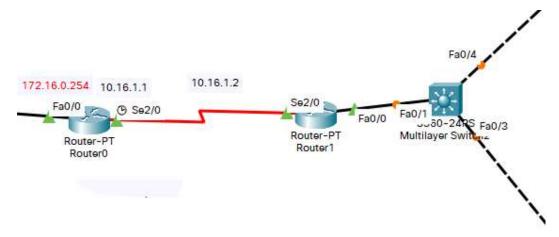
3. Flight Service Provider



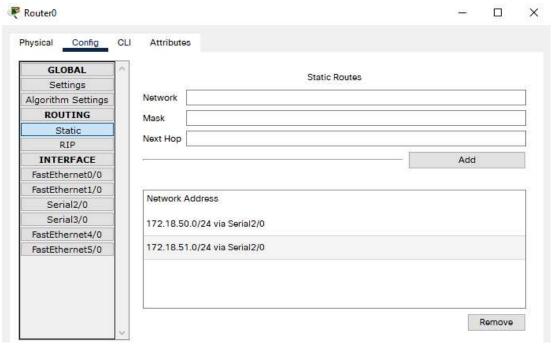
This zone contain staff responsible for managing Flight Database and should only have access to the Flight Database Server within Authority Network to access the Flight Schedules, Users Details, Departure Details, Routing etc. Multiple users in this network are assigned User Address by the Flight Database Server as FCuser001 etc. They are able to modify the Flight Database by having permission of read, write, delete, overwrite etc. This network is created on VLAN 51 with other configuration details attached below:

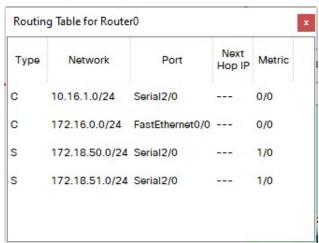


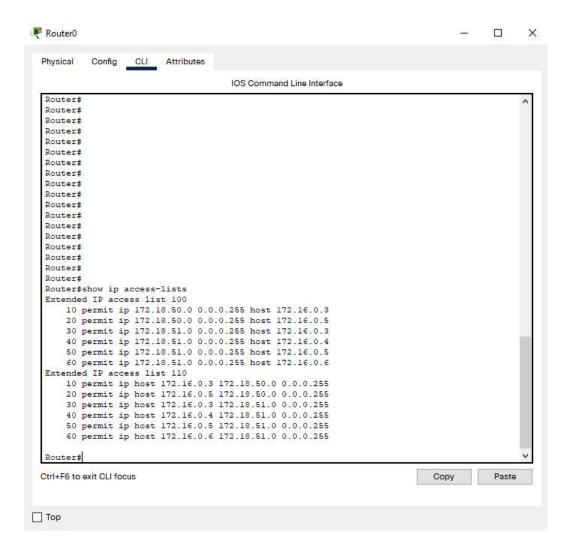
4. Intermediate Zone

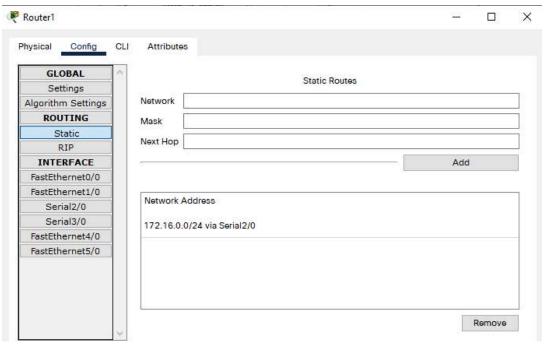


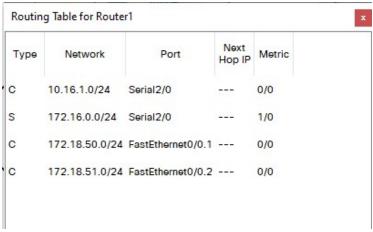
This Zone contains two routers and a Multilayer Switch and is responsible for interconnecting all the Zones together. The Gateways are configured on this network having own IP of 10.16.0.0. The VLANs 50 and 51 are configured here along with encapsulation dot1q for the Inter VLAN routing. The Static routing protocol is also defined here. The Access Control List (ACL) is also configured here which deny Flight Control Access to Guests, permits both the Flight Service and Guests to HTTP and DNS server and Flight Service is additionally permitted to Flight Database. No users in either of three networks are allowed to intercommunicate directly. The configuration for all the tasks are mentioned below with results and verification in next section:

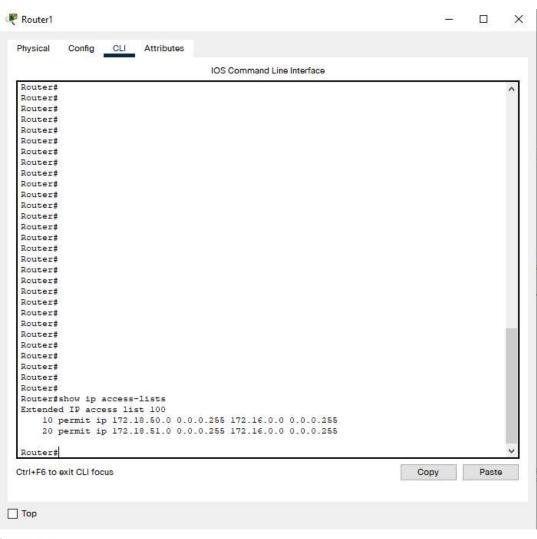


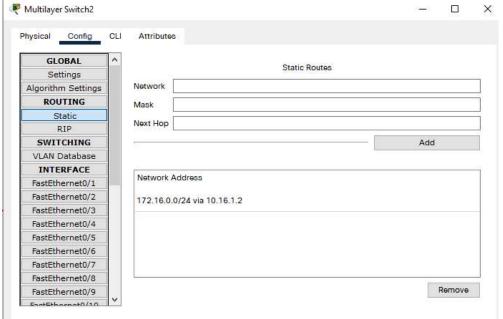


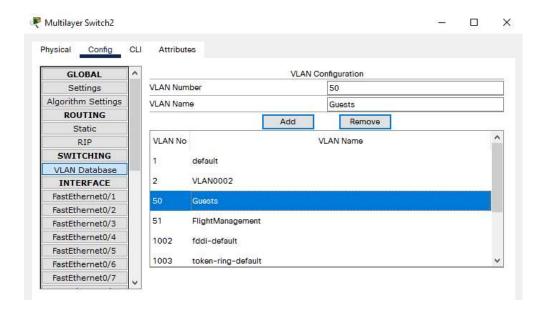










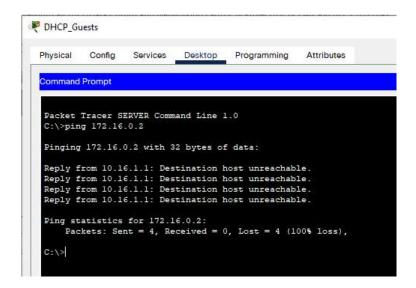


Verification and Testing

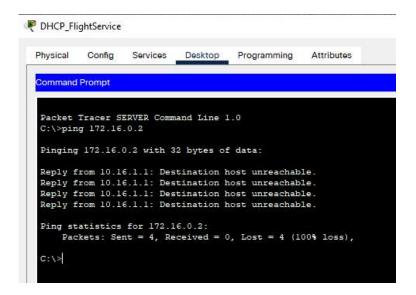
We must first demonstrate that no communication takes place between the Guest and Flight Service Provider (FSP) VLANs. This can be demonstrated by pinging two different workstations between the VLANs. For convenience, we will show the ping result between the DHCP server in the Guest VLAN and the DHCP server in the FSP VLAN.



We can also demonstrate that, no workstation in the Guest and FSP VLAN can access the internal network of the Airport Authority (AA), except for the designated servers¹. To demonstrate this, we shall show the ping result from the DHCP servers in Guest and FSP VLAN, to the Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) server in the AA VLAN. The SMTP server manages the corporate email service in the AA only. The following result will demonstrate successful access restriction.

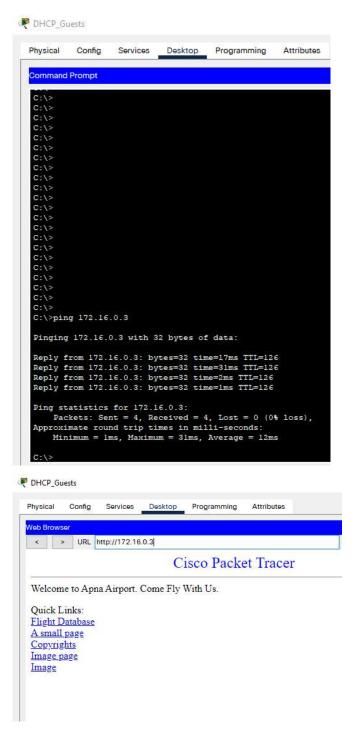


¹ To reiterate: the Guest VLAN can only access the DNS serve and HTTP server; the FSP VLAN can access DNS, HTTP, FTP and Flight Database server.

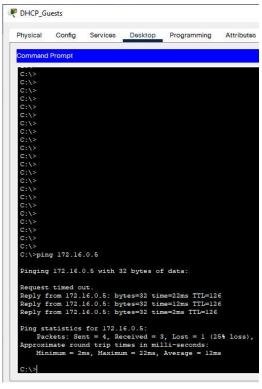


Communication between the designated servers and clients in all the VLAN's is happening successfully:

1. Guest VLAN to HTTP

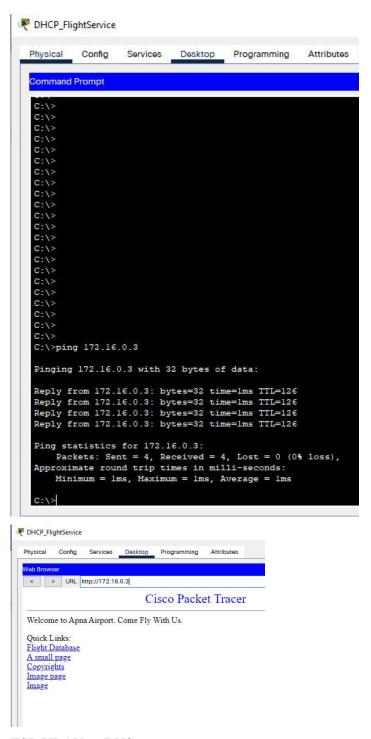


2. Guest VLAN to DNS

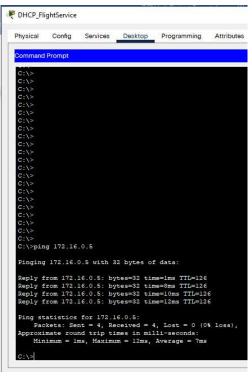


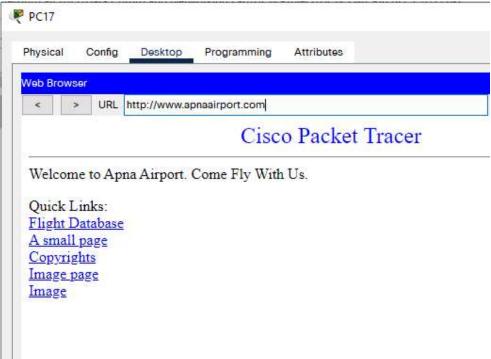


3. FSP VLAN to HTTP



4. FSP VLAN to DNS



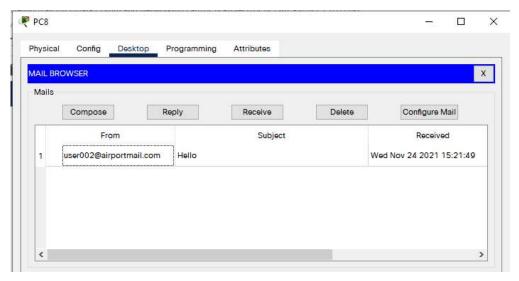


5. FSP VLAN to FTP

6. FSP VLAN to Flight Database server



The corporate email service is also online within the AA VLAN is also functional:



Thus, we have demonstrated the main services and access restriction as proposed in the proposal document.

Conclusion and Future Work

For this project, we intend to cater the potential SCADA threat at airports by establishing Internet connection in the airport for guests to be temporary by nature, and so the main challenge in catering to cater to providing around 100 guests access to the internet on-the-fly, would be through ad-hoc networks. In setting up those networks, two types of wireless access topologies can be implemented: the Basic Service Set (BSS) and the Extended Service Set (ESS), as laid out by the IEEE 802.11 standard. In an airport setting, ESS would be typically employed to increase the coverage area and reduce down-time during handover mode. Some key parameters to measure the reliability of the internet are [2]:

- 1. Average Packet Residence Time (APRT) in the network is the time a packet spends within a network.
- 2. Successfully received packets within a network.
- 3. Packet dropping probability.
- 4. Throughput.

These will be the network related parameters, and an analysis of these can ascertain a network's efficiency adequately, but there are other parameters that lie outside the scope of this project, like battery consumption of smartphones and laptops that guests use. In future, the above SCADA modelling can be performed in context of Airport Enterprise Network [4].

References

- 1. J. McCarthy and W. Mahoney, "SCADA threats in the modern airport," International Journal of Cyber Warfare and Terrorism (IJCWT), vol. 3, no. 4, pp. 32–39, 2013.
- 2. I. E. Ahmed, B. R. Qazi and J. M. H. Elmirghani, "Performance Analysis of an Ad Hoc Network in the INtelligent Airport," 2010 Fourth International Conference on Next Generation Mobile Applications, Services and Technologies, 2010, pp. 198-202, doi: 10.1109/NGMAST.2010.47.
- **3.** "Smart Airport Agile Network," Huawei.com. [Online]. Available: https://e.huawei.com/ae/solutions/industries/transportation/smart-aviation/agile-network. [Accessed: 31-Oct-2021].
- E. and "Challenges digital 4. S. Zaharia C. V. Pietreanu, in airport transformation," Transportation Research Procedia, vol. 35, pp. 90–99, 2018.