

Gaia API Workshop

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Solution Architect, October 2021

Duration: 2 Hours

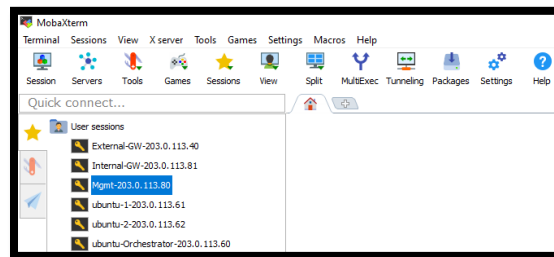
Introduction

In this workshop, we will learn how to use the Gaia API to manage the Gaia OS. There are multiple ways to use the API such as:

- Directly on the appliance using the mgmt_cli tool.
- Using Web tools such as Postman.
- Via the management API (Proxy).
- Using the Check Point Python SDK.

Exercise 1: Gaia API Infrastructure

1. Use the preinstalled SSH client MobaXterm to connect to the saved management server “Mgmt-203.0.113.80” (*double-click to connect*).



2. Run the command “gaia_api” to list all the available options.

```
[Expert@Mgmt:0]# gaia_api
Usage: gaia_api [OPTION]
stop
  [-f|--force <comment>]
start
restart
  [-f|--force <comment>]
status
  [-s <comment>]
login
  [-v|--version] {1|1.1|..}
  [-f|--format] {text|json}
access
  <-u|--user> <username> <-e|--enable> <true|false>
fingerprint
version

Stop server
Use 'force all' to terminate running tasks
Start server
Restart server
Use 'force all' to terminate running tasks
Show server's status
File named debug_pkg_<comment>.tar will be created in user home directory
Login to server with current user

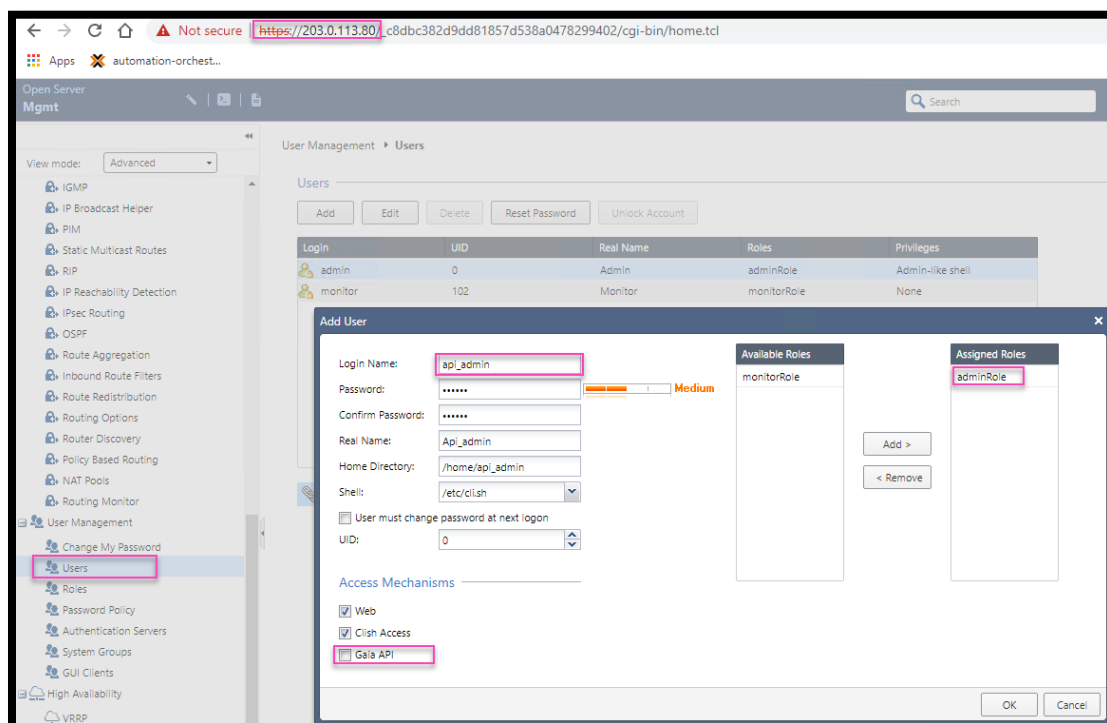
Grant REST API access to specific users
Show server's fingerprint
Show GAIA API version

Examples:
gaia_api start
gaia_api status
gaia_api status -s debug_12.2
gaia_api login --version 1.1 --format text
gaia_api restart -f all
gaia_api access -u user1 -e true
gaia_api version
```

3. Run the command “gaia_api status” and verify the status of the server.

```
[Expert@Mgmt:0]# gaia_api status
API Status:
-----
Build: cp901255046
Uptime: 0:58:50.121000
Current Sessions: 1
Latest Version: 1.6
-----
Processes:
-----
Name          State      PID
-----
GAIA_API      Started    4607
GAIA_API_DOCS Started    4604
APACHE        Started    4517
CONFD         Started    4514
CLISHD        Started    4599
CELERY        Started    4600
REDIS         Started    4605
-----
Port Details:
-----
APACHE Gaia Port: 443
-----
Overall API Status: Started
```

- Note that the Gaia API has a login option. Access to the Gaia API requires a login via a user that is allowed access to the Gaia API infrastructure. Only predefined administrators are allowed by default.
4. Open a browser and log in to the Gaia Portal of the management server (<https://203.0.113.80> username: admin, password: vpn123) and add a new user (Login name: api_admin, password: vpn123).
 5. Note that the Gaia API access is unchecked by default, leave it **unchecked**.



6. Use the `mgmt_cli` tool to log in to the Gaia API server with the user we just created (`api_admin/vpn123`).

```
[Expert@Mgmt:0]# mgmt_cli -u api_admin -p vpn123 --context gaia_api show-hostname
code: "err_login_failed_wrong_username_or_password"
errors: "Login authentication failed"
message: "Login Failed Due to Wrong Username or Password"
```

7. Use the command "`gaia_api access -u api_admin -e true`" to grant the user permission to log in to the Gaia API.

```
[Expert@Mgmt:0]# gaia_api access -u api_admin -e true
[Expert@Mgmt:0]#
```

- Note that for the permission to apply, we need to restart the Gaia API server using the command (`gaia_api restart`)
8. Run the `mgmt_cli` command from step 5 again and make sure you are getting the expected results.

```
[Expert@Mgmt:0]# gaia_api restart
[Expert@Mgmt:0]# mgmt_cli -u api_admin -p vpn123 --context gaia_api show-hostname
name: Mgmt
```

- Note: it is also possible to make the changes using the Gaia Portal via the user settings page or via the command (`add rba user api_admin access-mechanisms Gaia-API`)

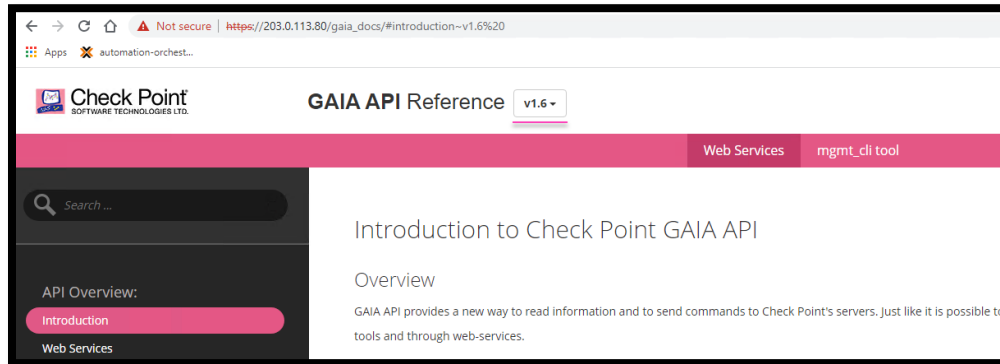
Exercise 2: Using Gaia API Documentation

The Gaia API documentation is available online and can be accessed via the link below:
<https://sc1.checkpoint.com/documents/latest/GaiaAPIs/#introduction~v1.6%20>

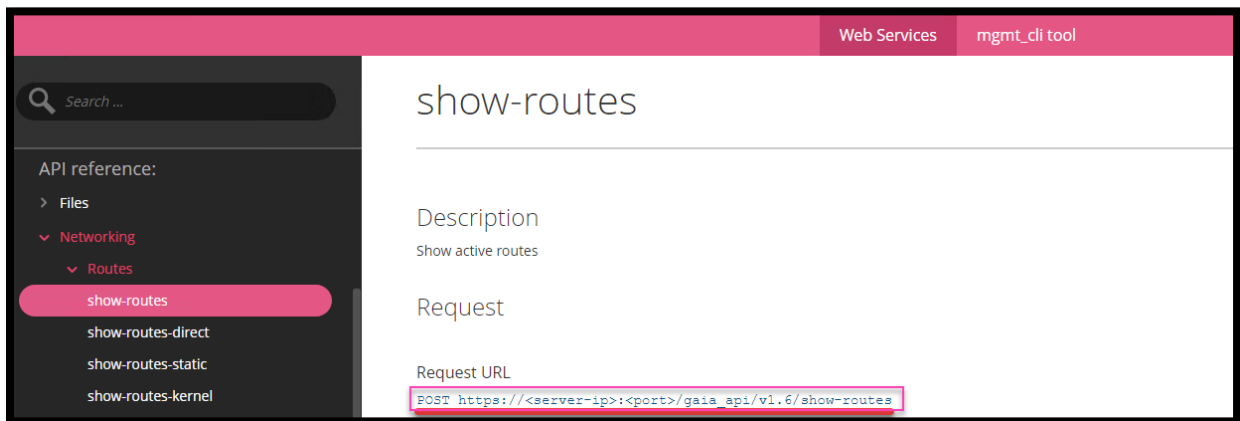
The documentation service is also a part of the Gaia API server. We will use the API reference to find the API commands for the `mgmt_cli` tool and also for the Web Services. All versions are accessible up to the latest version installed on the server.

1. Navigate to the Gaia documentations portal on the management server via the link (https://203.0.113.80/gaia_docs/).

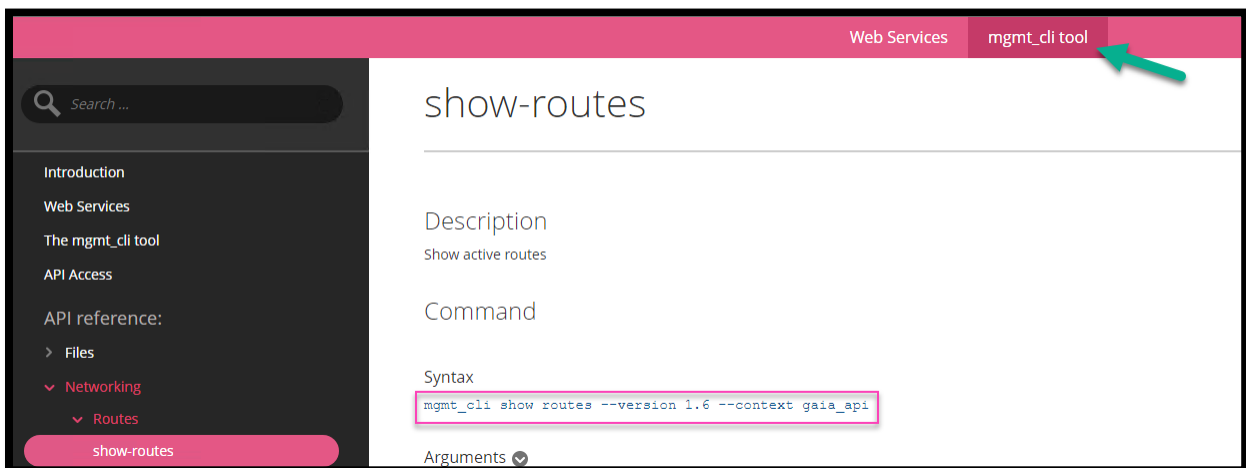
- **Note** that the forward slash at the end is necessary.



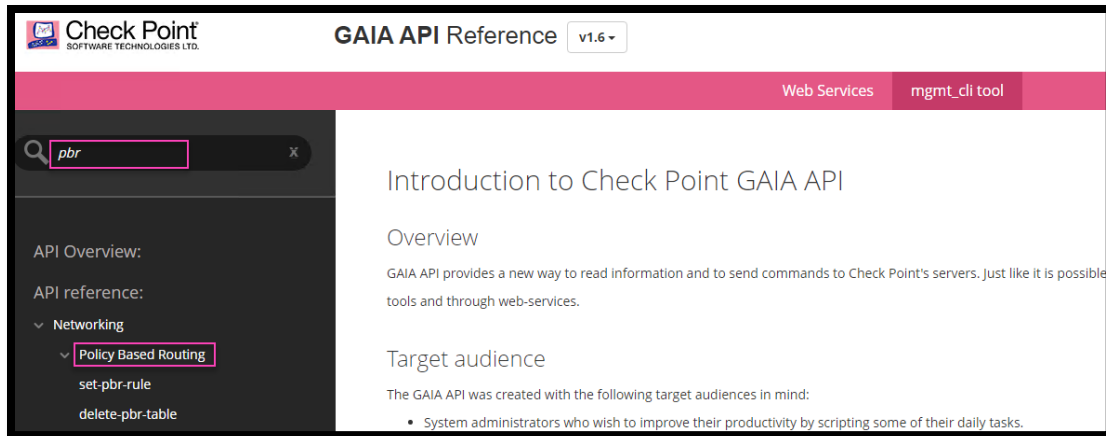
- From the menu on the left side, navigate to the routes section and select the show-routes command documentation (Networking -> Routes -> show-routes).



- The API reference defaults to the Web Service page, switch to the “mgmt_cli tool” section from the top menu, and check the command format when using mgmt_cli.

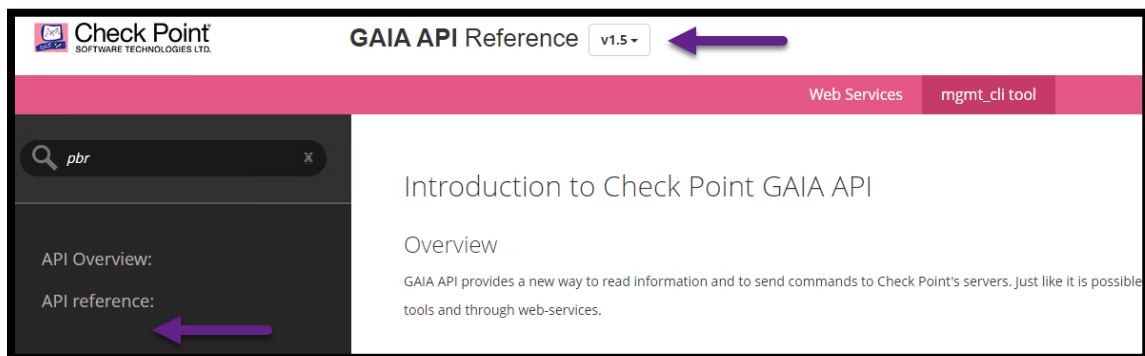


- Use the search tab to search for policy-based routing (PBR) API calls.



- Note that you need to search using the works expected in the API call. The search mechanism does not look for titles or section names. If you search for “Policy Based Routing”, you will see no results.

5. Change the reference version from v1.6 to v1.5. Notice that the results disappeared.



- Note: The policy-based routing was added in v1.6. Switching the reference version will only show documentation for v1.5, which does not include the Policy Based Routing API commands.
- The Changelogs for the Gaia API are documented under the Gaia API solution “[sk143612](#)”.
- The version can be used in the API command using the argument (--version). For example:

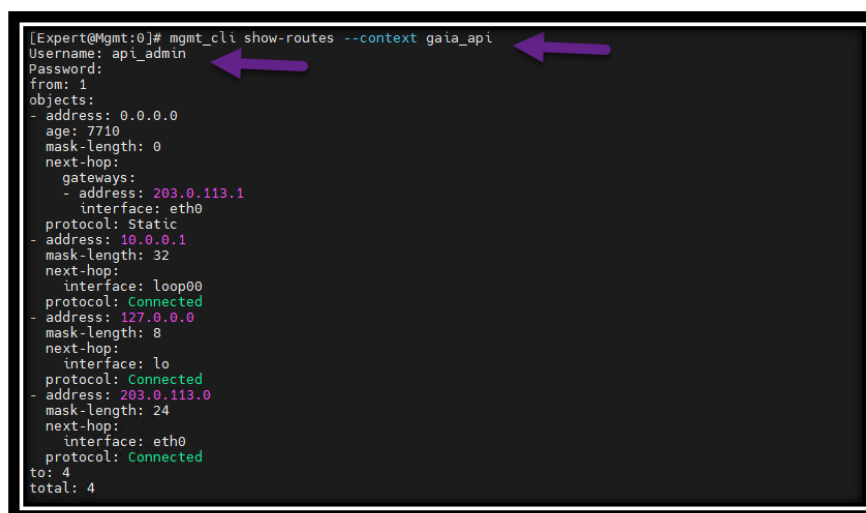
```
mgmt_cli show api-versions --version 1.5 --context gaia_api
```

6. Switch the version back to v1.6.

Exercise 3: Using mgmt_cli tool

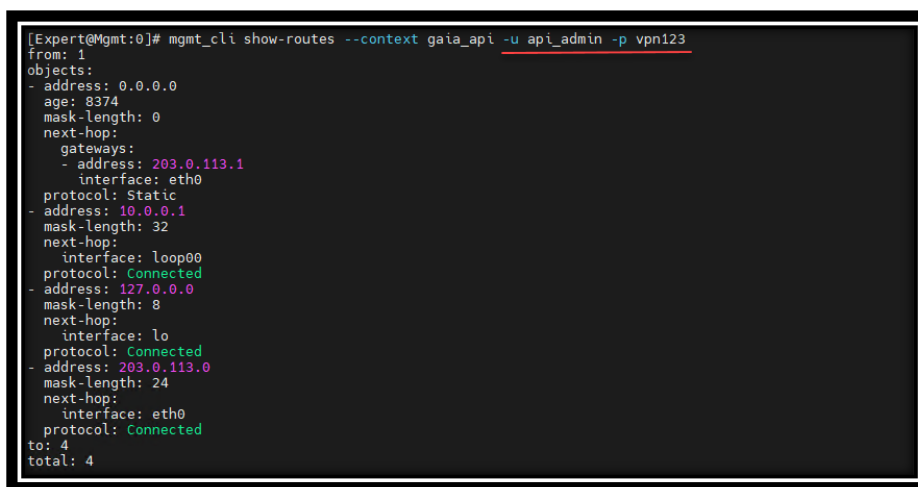
The `mgmt_cli` tool is installed as part of Gaia on all R80 gateways and can be used in scripts running in expert mode. It is also installed as part of the R80 SmartConsole installation (typically under `C:\Program Files (x86)\CheckPoint\SmartConsole\R80\PROGRAM\`) and can be copied to run on any Windows machine. In this exercise, we will use the tool to perform Gaia API calls.

1. Connect to the CLI of the management using Mobaxterm and issue the command (`mgmt_cli show-routes --context gaia_api`). Note that the `mgmt_cli` tool will prompt you for the credentials, as it was not provided with the command.



```
[Expert@Mgmt:0]# mgmt_cli show-routes --context gaia_api
Username: api_admin
Password:
from: 1
objects:
- address: 0.0.0.0
  age: 7710
  mask-length: 0
  next-hop:
    gateways:
      - address: 203.0.113.1
        interface: eth0
    protocol: Static
- address: 10.0.0.1
  mask-length: 32
  next-hop:
    interface: loop00
    protocol: Connected
- address: 127.0.0.0
  mask-length: 8
  next-hop:
    interface: lo
    protocol: Connected
- address: 203.0.113.0
  mask-length: 24
  next-hop:
    interface: eth0
    protocol: Connected
to: 4
total: 4
```

2. Run the command again and this time provide the credentials using the flag “-u” for the user name and “-p” for the password.



```
[Expert@Mgmt:0]# mgmt_cli show-routes --context gaia_api -u api_admin -p vpn123
from: 1
objects:
- address: 0.0.0.0
  age: 8374
  mask-length: 0
  next-hop:
    gateways:
      - address: 203.0.113.1
        interface: eth0
    protocol: Static
- address: 10.0.0.1
  mask-length: 32
  next-hop:
    interface: loop00
    protocol: Connected
- address: 127.0.0.0
  mask-length: 8
  next-hop:
    interface: lo
    protocol: Connected
- address: 203.0.113.0
  mask-length: 24
  next-hop:
    interface: eth0
    protocol: Connected
to: 4
total: 4
```

- Note that it is possible to use environment variables with the `mgmt_cli` tool. The table below shows the variables that can be exported instead of providing the user name and password on the terminal.

Parameter name	Short name	Environment variable
User name	-u	MGMT_CLI_USER
Password	-p	MGMT_CLI_PASSWORD
Check Point server address	-m	MGMT_CLI_MANAGEMENT

- Login to the Gaia API using the command below and notice that we received a session ID (sid) back from the server.

```
[Expert@Mgmt:0]# mgmt_cli login -u api_admin -p vpn123 --context gaia_api
api-server-version: "1.6"
last-login-was-at:
  iso-8601: "2021-10-18T16:41+2000"
  posix: "1634589660209"
read-only: "false"
session-timeout: "600"
sid: "77625179228320476"
url: "https://127.0.0.1:443/gaia_api"
```

- Run a new API call to get the hostname of the Gaia server using the session ID we received in the previous step.

```
[Expert@Mgmt:0]# mgmt_cli show hostname --context gaia_api --session-id "77625179228320476"
name: Mgmt
```

- Note that it is inconvenient to provide the session-id manually to each command. The proper way is to save the reply from the server to a text file where `mgmt_cli` can read the "SID".
- Use the command below to log in to the Gaia API server and save the results in a text file called `id.txt`. Note that we're using the argument `--format` (you can also use `-f` to request the server to reply using JSON format)

```
[Expert@Mgmt:0]# mgmt_cli login user api_admin password vpn123 --context gaia_api --format json > id.txt
[Expert@Mgmt:0]#
[Expert@Mgmt:0]# cat id.txt
{
  "api-server-version": "1.6",
  "last-login-was-at": {
    "iso-8601": "2021-10-18T16:43+2000",
    "posix": 1634589796613
  },
  "read-only": false,
  "session-timeout": 600,
  "sid": "17721119114752232659",
  "url": "https://127.0.0.1:443/gaia_api"
}
```

6. Use the `mgmt_cli` to show the hostname while reading the session ID from the file we saved in the previous step. Use the `--format JSON` to receive the reply in a JSON format.

```
[Expert@Mgmt:0]# mgmt_cli show hostname -s id.txt --format json
{
  "name": "Mgmt"
}
```

7. Finally, log out using the command below. This renders the session ID invalid and a login is required before issuing any new command.

```
[Expert@Mgmt:0]# mgmt_cli logout -s id.txt
message: OK
```

Exercise 4: Gaia API via Management (Proxy)

In the previous exercise, we used `mgmt_cli` to access the Gaia API locally. The management Web API also uses `mgmt_cli`. In this exercise, we will learn how to use the management API as a proxy to run GAIA API commands against any target gateway.

1. From the MobaXterm CLI, we have opened to the management station, run the following command and notice the error message.

```
[Expert@Mgmt:0]# mgmt_cli -u admin -p vpn123 gaia-api/show-hostname target "203.0.113.81" --format json
{
  "command-name" : "show-hostname",
  "response-message" : {
    "name" : "Internal-GW"
  }
}
```

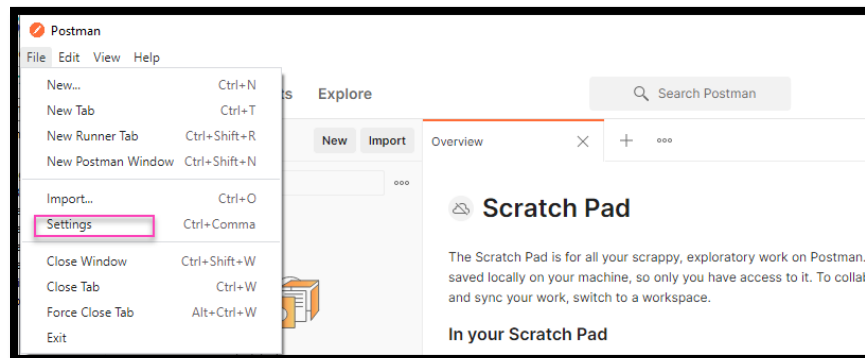
Notes:

- The credentials provided we used is the management administrator (not `api_admin` we created for the Gaia API).
- Instead of using the parameter `--context` we used the format `Gaia-api/<command>`.
- Using `--context`, tells `mgmt_cli` that we are trying to use Gaia API.
- You can use `-m <address>` with `mgmt_cli` to log in to a remote host.
- We provided a required argument called `target` to specify where the management API should run the GAIA API command.

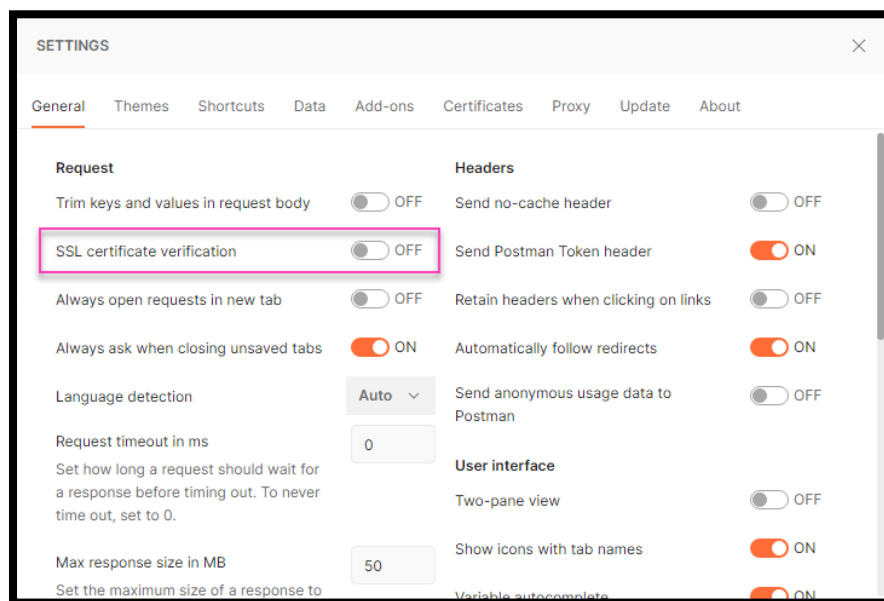
Exercise 5: Working with Postman

Up to this point, we used the mgmt_cli tool to run the Gaia API commands. In this exercise, we will use Postman to access the Gaia API.

1. From the Windows 10 Jumpbox, open Postman and open the settings windows.

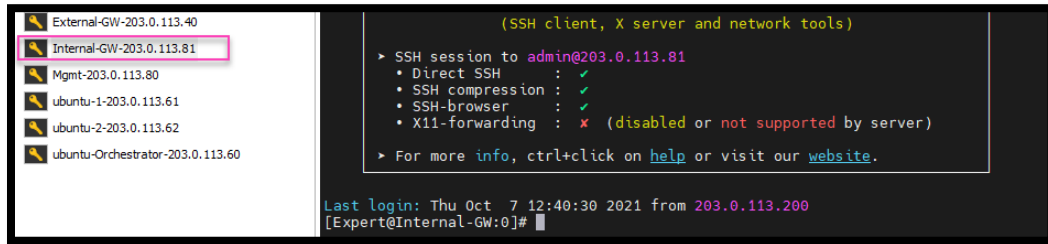


2. Disable the “SSL certificate verification”.

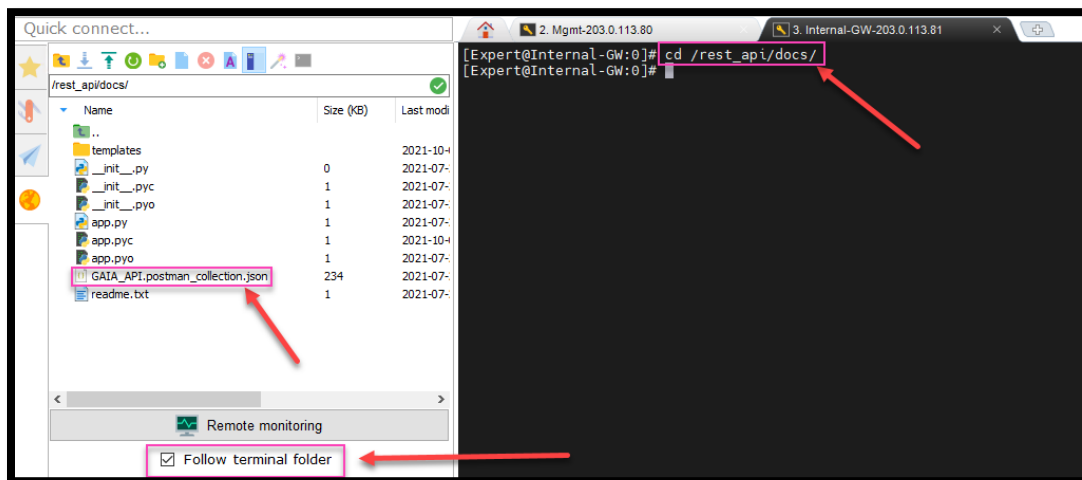


- Note: this step is necessary as we have a self-signed certificate on our Gaia servers.

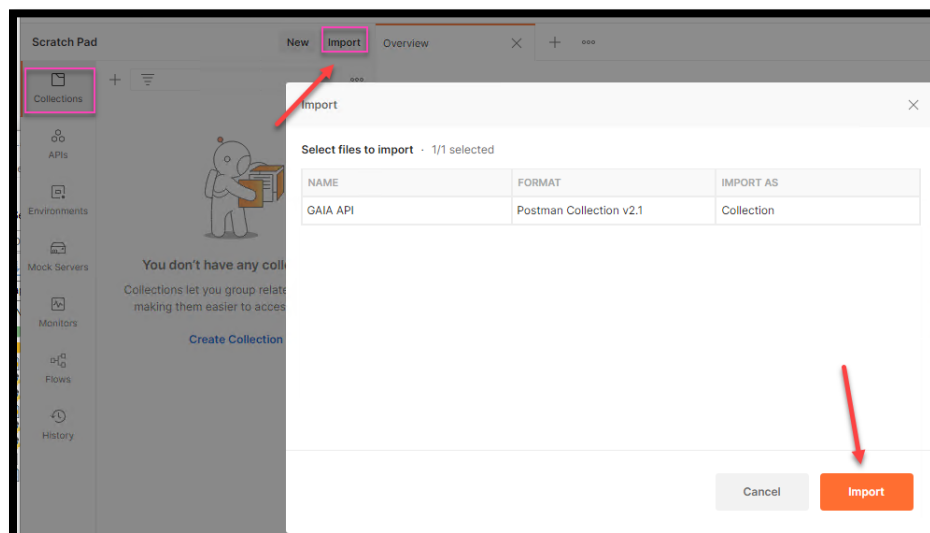
3. Use MobaXterm to connect to the Internal-GW-203.0.113.81 over SSH.



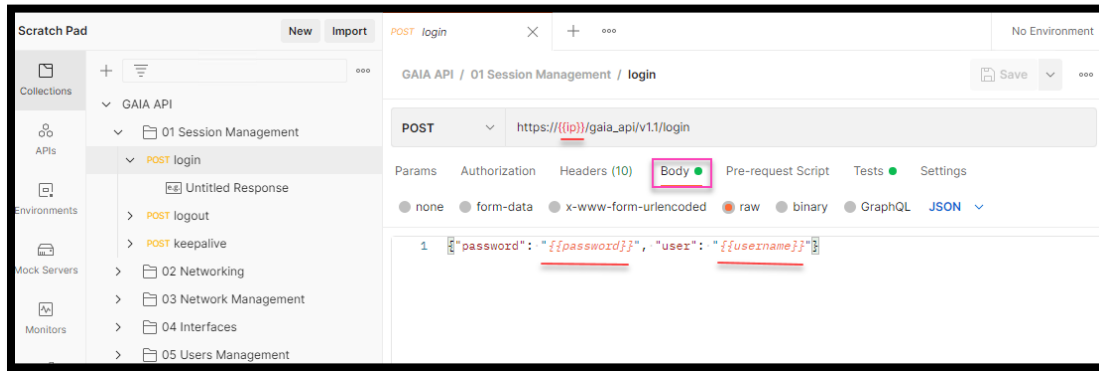
- Make sure to enable “Follow terminal folder”, then run the command “cd /rest_api/docs/” to access the location where the Gaia API collection for postman is located by default.



- Drag and drop the file to your desktop.
- Import the collection from the file as you can see in the screenshot below.

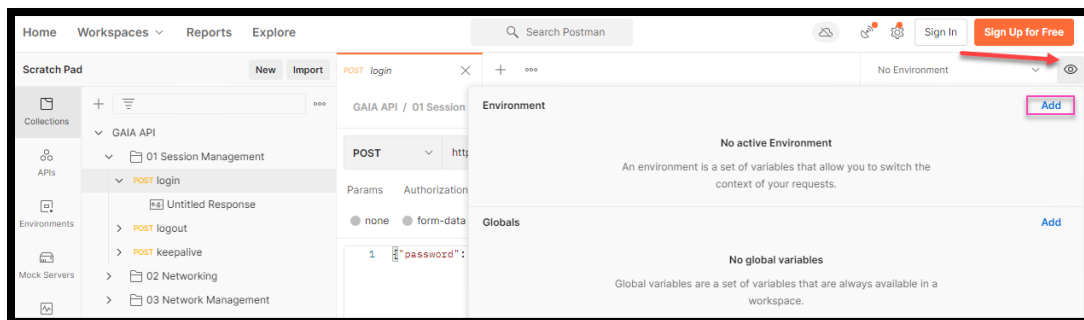


- Expand the Gaia API list and under “01 Session Management” select “POST Login” and switch to the “Body tab”.



- Note that the IP, user, and password were created as variables.
- You can replace that manually but the proper way is to create an environment that contains the values of those variables.
- Remember that each call has the same {{ip}} variable and manually replacing it with your address is not logical.

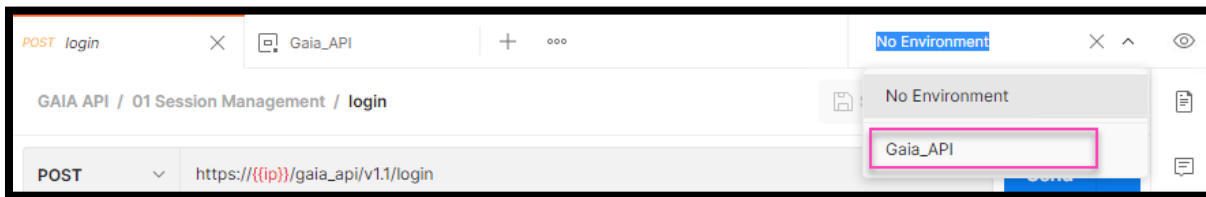
- Click in the environment icon seen in the screenshot below to create a new environment and click “Add”



- Fill in the details to provide values for those variables and click Save.

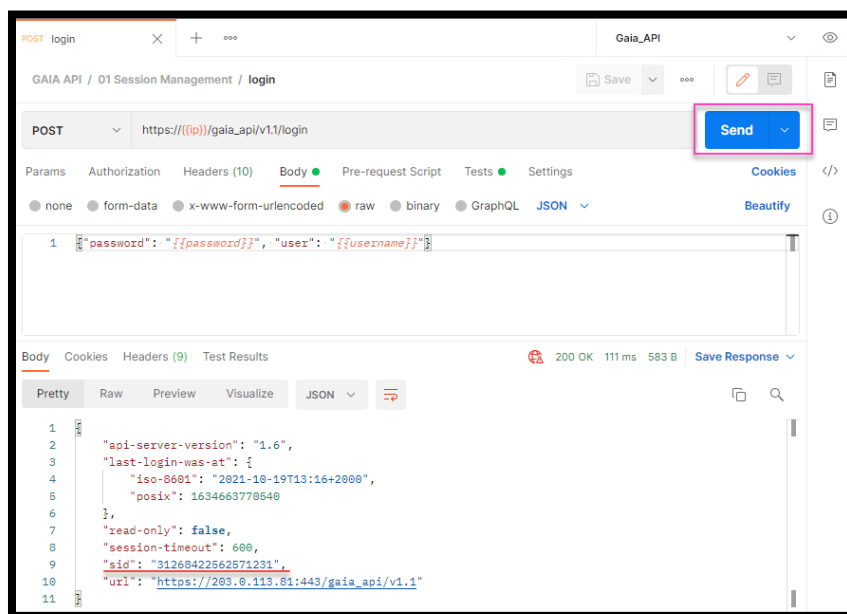
Gaia_API				Fork Save Share ...			i
	VARIABLE	INITIAL VALUE i	CURRENT VALUE i	...	Persist All	Reset All	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ip	203.0.113.81	203.0.113.81				v
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	username	admin	admin				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	password	vpn123	vpn123				

10. Select the environment we just created

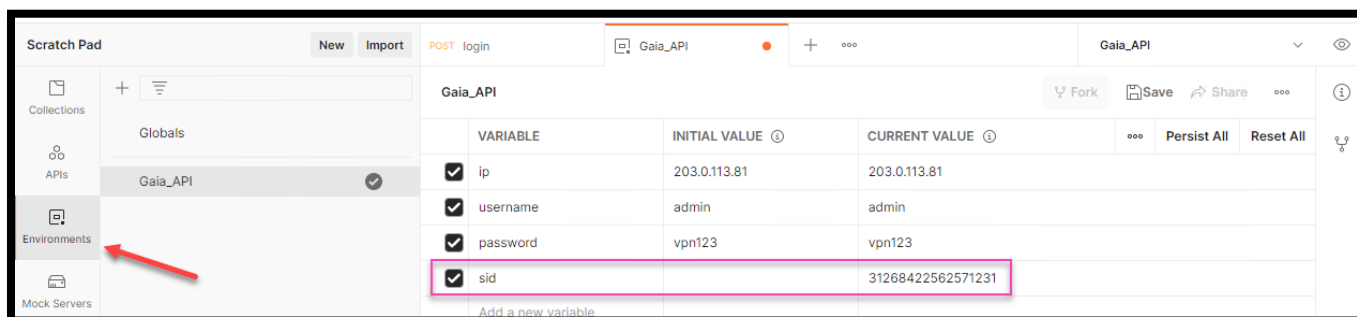


- Tip: Hover the mouse over the {{ip}} variable and make sure you can see the real address.

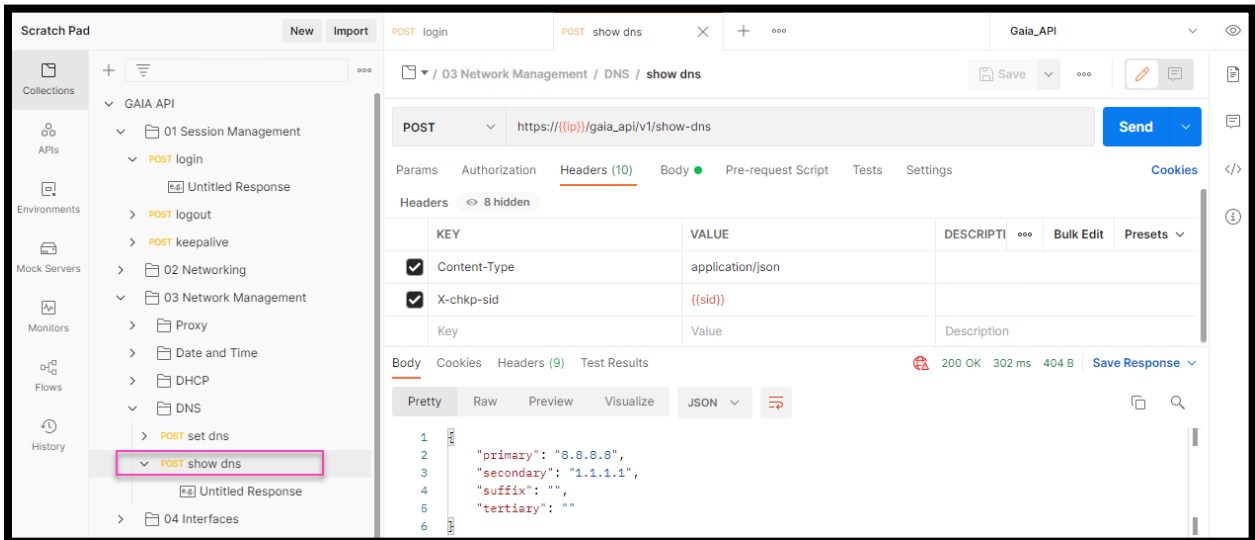
11. Run the login command by clicking “Send” and review the results.



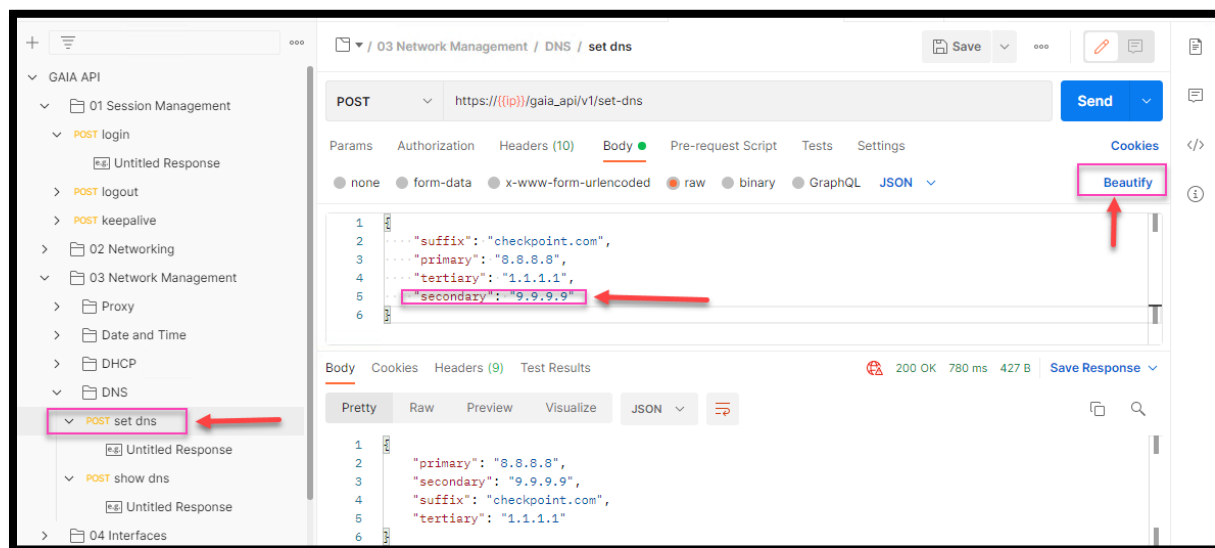
12. Under “Environments”, select the Gaia_API environment we created in the previous steps and notice that we now have the session ID “sid” saved.



13. Now that we are connected and have a session, we should be able to use any other call. Run a call to show the existing DNS server.



14. Use the saved call “set DNS” to add a third DNS server. Use the “Beautify” feature shown below to show the call in proper JSON format.



15. Run a few calls to get familiar with the required fields, header, and body for different calls.

16. Once you feel familiar with the commands, log out of the Gaia API.

Exercise 6: Using the Check Point Python SDK

In this exercise, we will use the Check Point python SDK to write a simple script to run the Gaia API command and manage our Gaia servers. The SDK and its documentation are available on GitHub (https://github.com/CheckPointSW/cp_mgmt_api_python_sdk).

1. Open Notepad++ and paste the code template below to the file or type it if you prefer or download from (https://github.com/alshawwaf/Gaia_API-Workshop_2021.git).

```
#!/usr/bin/env python3

""" Simple code to Check the hostname using Gaia API """

import sys
from cpapi import APIClient, APIClientArgs

def main():
    gaia_server = "203.0.113.81"
    username = "admin"
    password = "vpn123"

    client_args = APIClientArgs(server=gaia_server, context='gaia_api')
    with APIClient(client_args) as client:

        login = client.login(username, password)
        if not login.success:
            print(login.error_message)
            sys.exit(1)

        #####

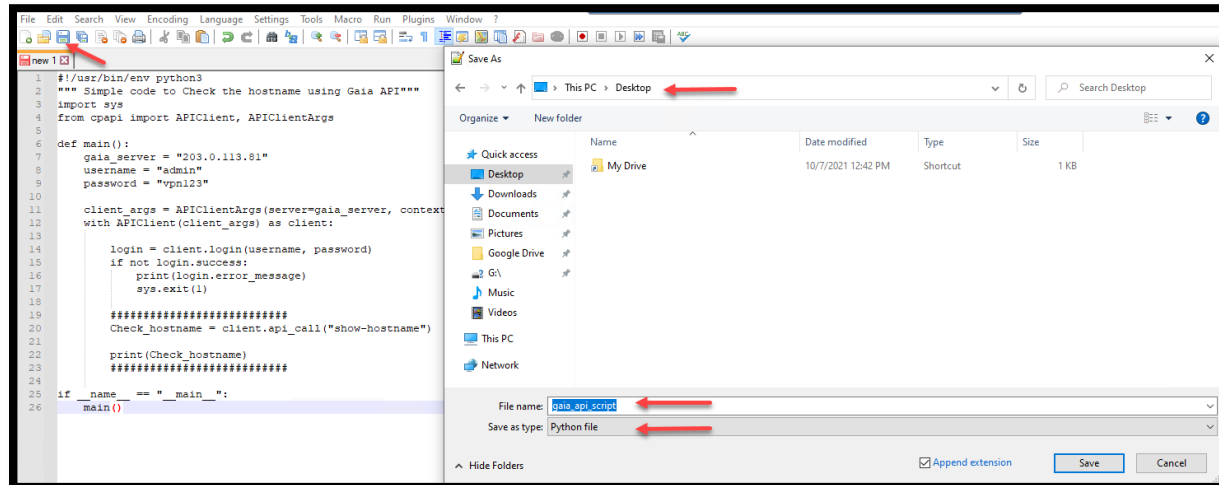
        Check_hostname = client.api_call("show-hostname")

        print(Check_hostname)

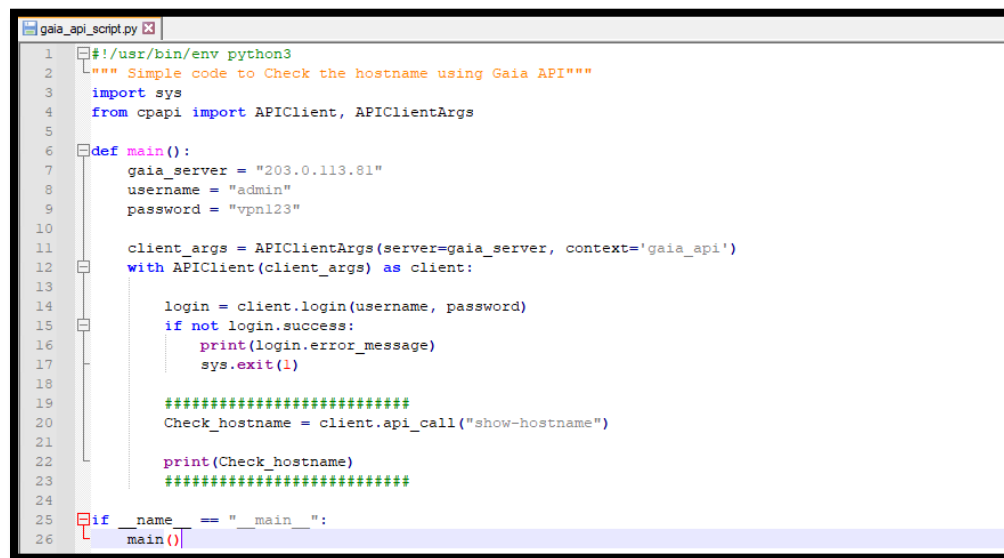
        #####

if __name__ == "__main__":
    main()
```

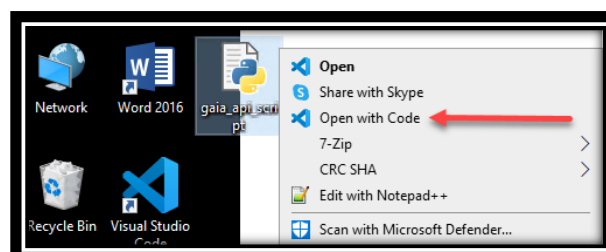
2. Save this file to your desktop and make sure the file type is set to “Python” as you can see below.



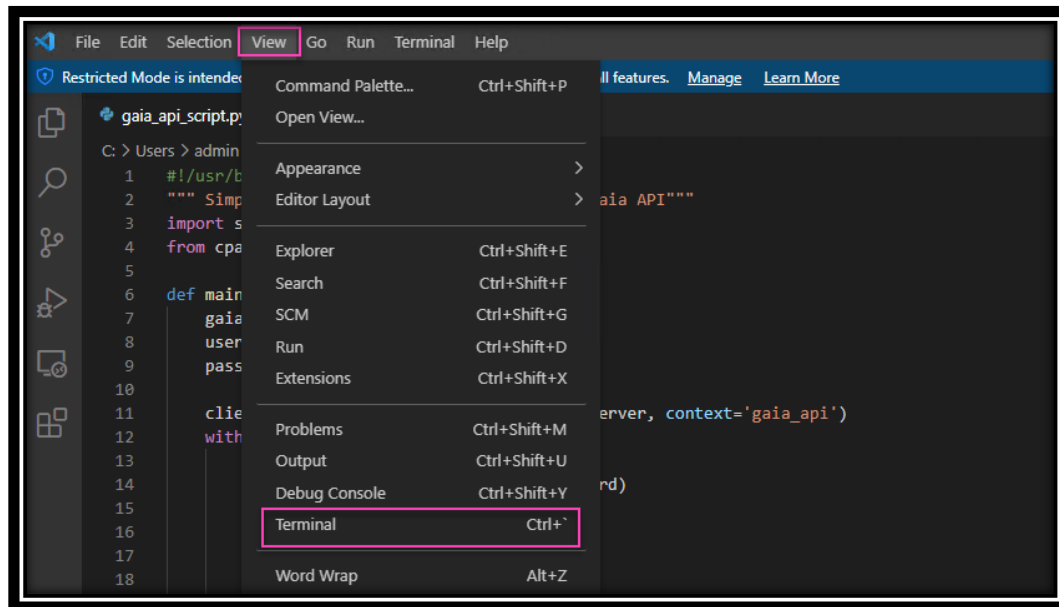
- Notice that Notepad++ is now showing the python script in a better format.



- It is preferred to use a more advanced IDE such as VSCode. Close your notepad++. Right-Click on the file from the desktop and select "Open with Code" to open the file using Visual Studio Code.

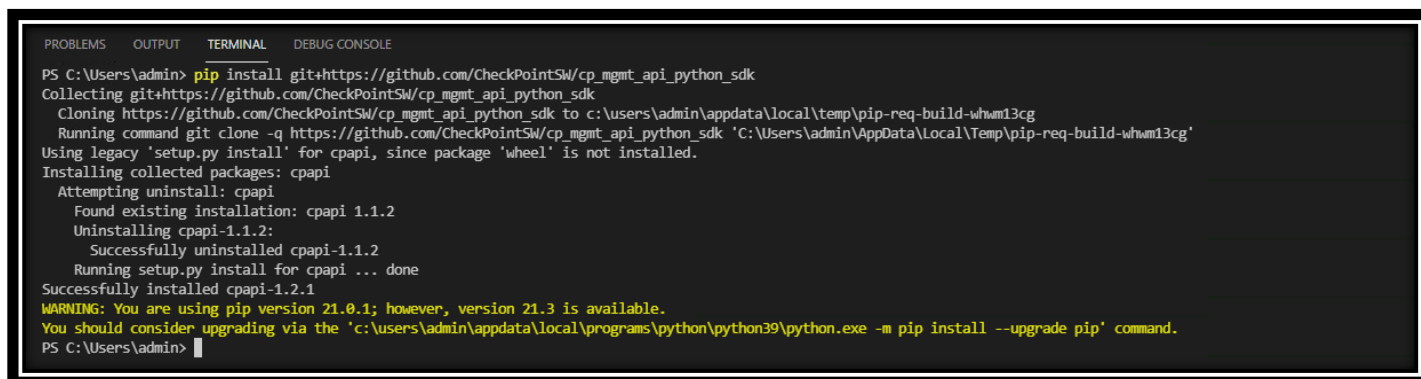


4. VSCode provides the ability to run scripts using integrated terminals. From the View tab, select “terminal” to open the default terminal or use (Ctrl+`).



5. Use the terminal to install the Check Point Python SDK using the command below:

```
pip install git+https://github.com/CheckPointSW/cp_mgmt_api_python_sdk
```



6. Now we should be able to run our script. Use the command “python .\Desktop\gaia_api_script.py” to run the script and accept the fingerprints if you see a prompt.


```
PS C:\Users\admin> python .\Desktop\gaia_api_script.py
APIResponse({
  "data": {
    "name": "Internal-GW"
  },
  "res_obj": {
    "data": {
      "name": "Internal-GW"
    },
    "status_code": 200
  },
  "status_code": 200,
  "success": true
})
```

7. Notice that we can filter the reply to show only the requested field without the status codes. Change the check_hostname call to add .data at the end "Check_hostname = client.api_call("show-hostname").data" This will only show fields inside the data object.

```
19 #####
20 Check_hostname = client.api_call("show-hostname").data
21
22 print(Check_hostname)
23 #####
24
25 if __name__ == "__main__":
26     main()

PROBLEMS OUTPUT TERMINAL DEBUG CONSOLE

})
PS C:\Users\admin> python .\Desktop\gaia_api_script.py
{'name': 'Internal-GW'}
```

8. We can also filter using the key of the JSON reply to show only the value.

```
19 #####
20 Check_hostname = client.api_call("show-hostname").data['name']
21
22 print(Check_hostname)
23 #####
24
25 if __name__ == "__main__":
26     main()

PROBLEMS OUTPUT TERMINAL DEBUG CONSOLE

PS C:\Users\admin> python .\Desktop\gaia_api_script.py
Internal-GW
```

9. Change your script to edit the interface “eth0” and add a comment to this interface. Consult with the Gaia API documentation to find the required fields. Notice that we are providing the required fields as payload.

```
18
19
20 add_interface_comment = client.api_call("set-physical-interface", payload={"enabled": "true", "name": "eth0", "comments": "eth0 interface via a python script" })
21
22 print(add_interface_comment)
23
24
25 if __name__ == "__main__":
26     main()
```

PROBLEMS OUTPUT TERMINAL DEBUG CONSOLE

```
PS C:\Users\admin> python .\Desktop\gaia_api_script.py
APIResponse({
  "data": {
    "auto-negotiation": true,
    "comments": "eth0 interface via a python script",
    "dhcp": {
      "enabled": false
    },
    "duplex": "full",
```

10. Review the interface settings via the Gaia Portal and make sure you can see the comment.

Interfaces

Add Edit Delete Refresh

Name	Type	IPv4 Address	Subnet Mask	IPv6 Address	IPv6 Mask Length	Link Status	Comment
eth0	Ethernet	10.1.1.81	255.255.255.0	-	-	Up	eth0 interface via a python script
eth1	Ethernet	10.1.2.81	255.255.255.0	-	-	Up	
eth2	Ethernet	10.1.3.81	255.255.255.0	-	-	Up	
eth3	Ethernet	10.1.4.81	255.255.255.0	-	-	Up	
eth4	Ethernet	203.0.113.81	255.255.255.0	-	-	Up	
lo	Loopback	127.0.0.1	255.0.0.0	-	-	Up	
loop00	Loopback	10.0.0.1	255.255.255.255	-	-	Up	License

11. Exit the VScode.

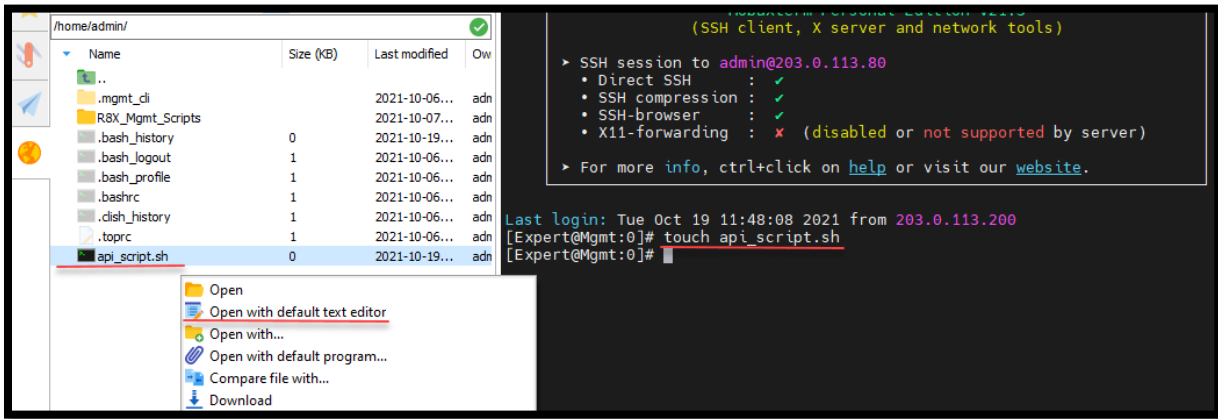
Exercise 7: Writing bash script with mgmt_cli

In this exercise, we will write simple bash scripts to utilize the mgmt_cli and perform tasks against the Gaia servers.

1. Connect to the CLI of the management server using Mobaxterm and create an empty file.

```
[Expert@Mgmt:0]# touch api_script.sh
[Expert@Mgmt:0]#
```

2. Use any text editor to edit the script file such as “vi”. Alternatively, you can open it using the default text editor of MobaXterm

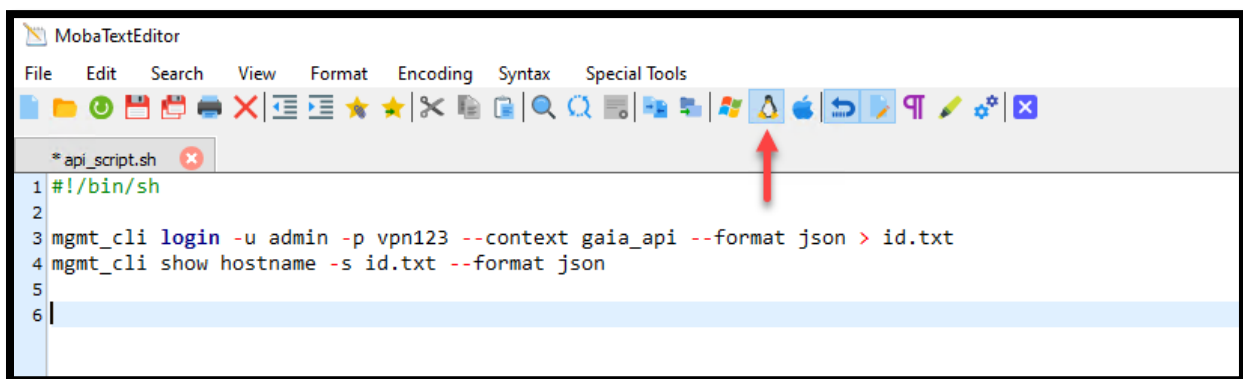


3. Copy the script lines below or type them if you prefer in the file we just created.

```
#!/bin/sh

mgmt_cli login -u admin -p vpn123 --context gaia_api --format json > id.txt
mgmt_cli show hostname -s id.txt --format json
```

- Note that if you use the built-in editor, you must select “UNIX format” as shown below.



4. Run your script from the command line using the command “bash gaia_api_script.sh”

```
[Expert@Mgmt:0]# bash api_script.sh  
{  
  "name": "Mgmt"  
}  
[Expert@Mgmt:0]#
```

5. Change the script to perform a call to get the version details of the Gaia server.

```
1 #!/bin/sh  
2  
3 mgmt_cli login -u admin -p vpn123 --context gaia_api --format json > id.txt  
4 mgmt_cli show-version -s id.txt --format json  
5
```

6. Run the script and examine the output details.

```
[Expert@Mgmt:0]# bash api_script.sh  
{  
  "os-build": "335",  
  "os-edition": "64-bit",  
  "os-kernel-version": "3.10.0-957.21.3cp86_64",  
  "product-version": "Check Point Gaia R81.10"  
}
```

7. Check Point Gaia has the JQ utility installed on all supported versions. This tool can help us filter the JSON response and have the exact field. Change the script and use “jq” to filter the response to only show the “product-version”

```
#!/bin/sh  
  
mgmt_cli login -u admin -p vpn123 --context gaia_api --format json > id.txt  
mgmt_cli show-version -s id.txt --format json | jq '.product-version'
```

8. Run the script and notice that only the product version was returned.

```
[Expert@Mgmt:0]# bash api_script.sh  
"Check Point Gaia R81.10"
```

- Note: use the flag “-r” with JQ to get rid of the quotes.

```
[Expert@Mgmt:0]# bash api_script.sh  
Check Point Gaia R81.10
```

Thank You