

Lab 5.7.6: Securing/Hardening a Cisco Managed Switch

From TestOut CompTIA Security+ Course

In this lab I will be securing and hardening a Cisco Managed switch.

The scenario for this lab is as follows:

“You are the IT security administrator for a small corporate network. You need to secure access to your switch, which is still configured with the default settings.

Access the switch management console through Chrome on **http://192.168.0.2** with the username **cisco** and password **cisco**.

In this lab, your task is to:

- Create a new user account with the following settings:
 - Username: **ITSwitchAdmin**
 - Password: **Admin\$only1844**
 - User Level: **Read/Write Management Access (15)**
- Edit the default user account as follows:
 - Username: **cisco**
 - Password: **CLI\$only1958**
 - User Level: **Read-Only CLI Access (1)**
- Save the changes to the switch's startup configuration file.”

As the lab states we know that our Switch still has the default credentials. We will need to log in to change these. According to the lab, the Cisco Switch is located at **192.168.0.2**. I will enter this into the web browser provided to me by the lab.

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The screenshot displays the TestOut IT Administration interface. On the left, a 'Scenario' panel provides context and tasks. The main area shows a web browser with the Cisco switch login page at http://192.168.0.2/config/log_off_page.htm. The login page has fields for Username (cisco), Password (masked), and Language (English), along with 'Log In' and 'Secure Browsing (HTTPS)' buttons. A task list on the left includes creating a new user account and editing the default user account.

Scenario

You are the IT security administrator for a small corporate network. You need to secure access to your switch, which is still configured with the default settings.

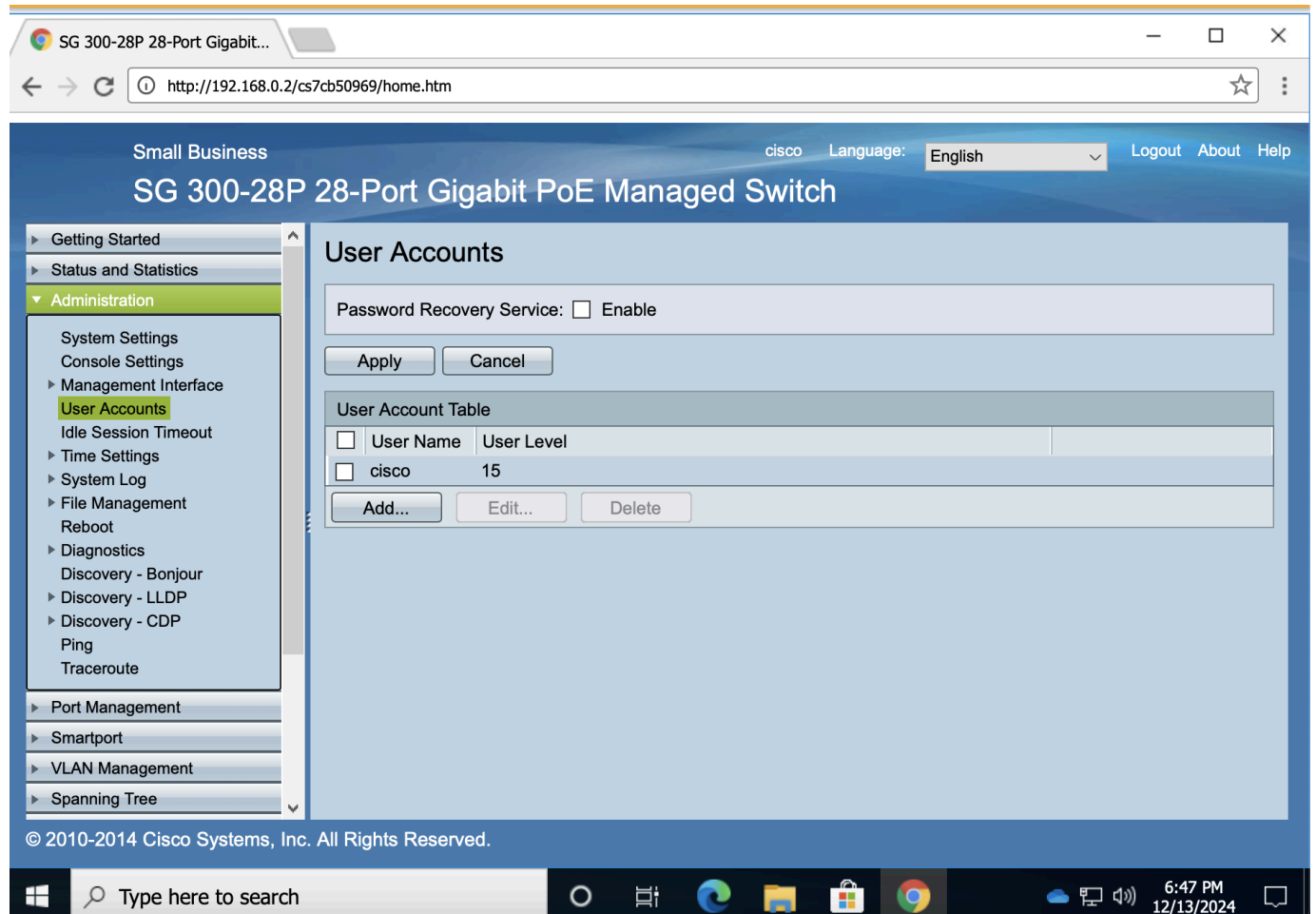
Access the switch management console through Chrome on <http://192.168.0.2> with the username cisco and password cisco.

In this lab, your task is to:

- Create a new user account with the following settings:
 - Username: ITSwitchAdmin
 - Password: Admin\$only1844
 - User Level: Read/Write Management Access (15)
- Edit the default user account as follows:
 - Username: cisco
 - Password: CLI\$only1958
 - User Level: Read-Only CLI Access (1)
- Save the changes to the switch's startup configuration file.

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On the left menu bar that pops up I'll head to **Administration > User accounts** in order to complete the first task of this lab which is to create a new user account.



Small Business cisco Language: English Logout About Help

SG 300-28P 28-Port Gigabit PoE Managed Switch

Getting Started

Status and Statistics

Administration

- System Settings
- Console Settings
- Management Interface
 - User Accounts
- Idle Session Timeout
- Time Settings
- System Log
- File Management
- Reboot
- Diagnostics
 - Discovery - Bonjour
 - Discovery - LLDP
 - Discovery - CDP
 - Ping
 - Traceroute
- Port Management
- Smartport
- VLAN Management
- Spanning Tree

User Accounts

Password Recovery Service: ☐ Enable

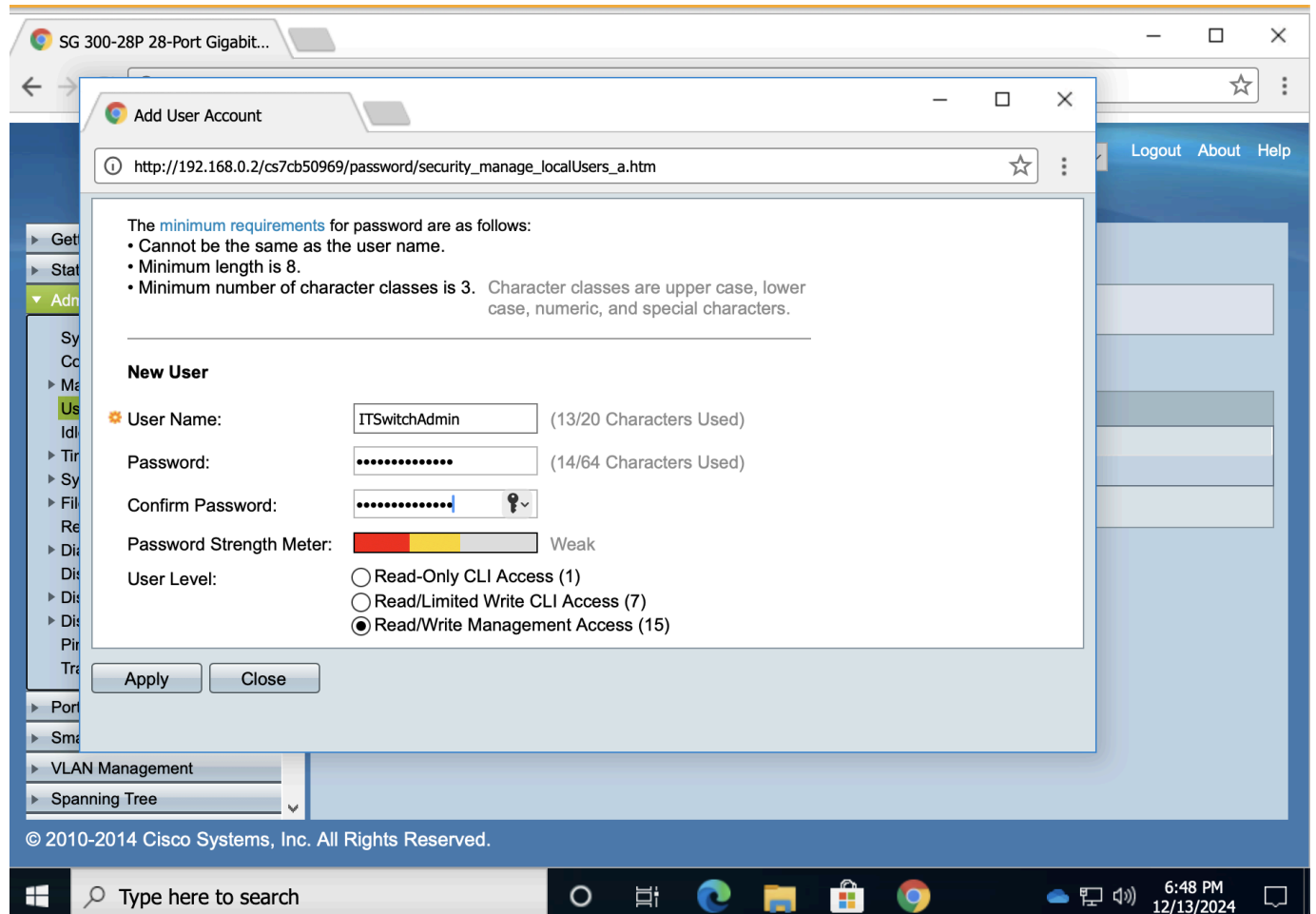
Apply Cancel

| User Name | User Level |
|-----------|------------|
| cisco | 15 |

Add... Edit... Delete

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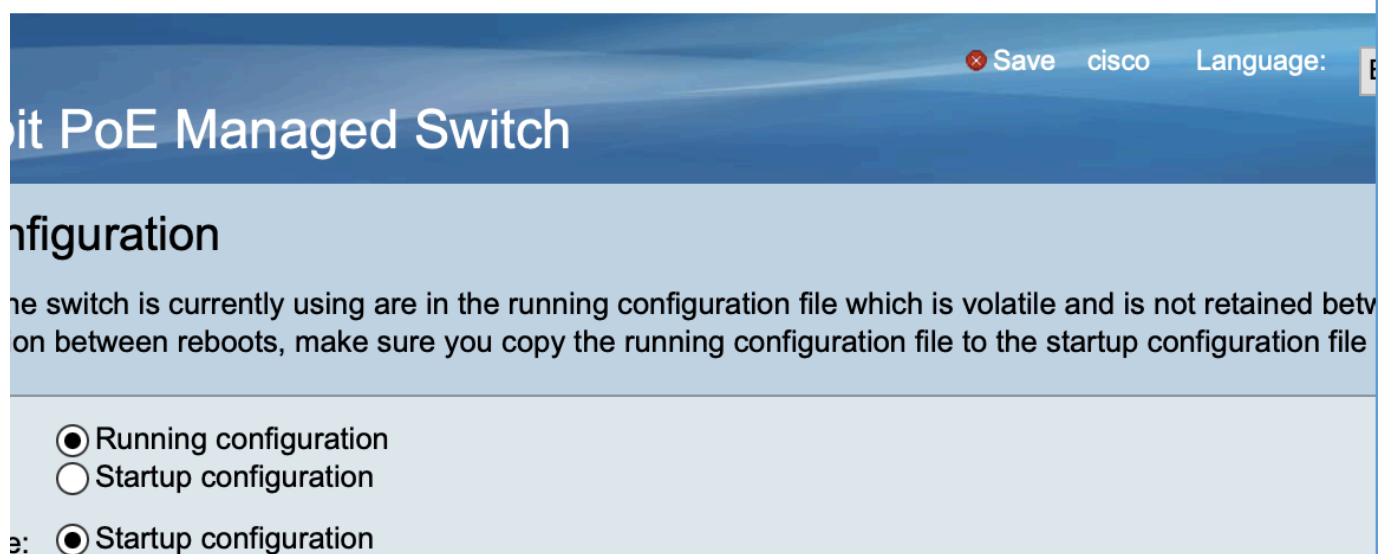
I'll click the **Add** Button underneath the cisco user we logged in with.



After hitting **Apply** I notice that a banner appears which states it was a Success.

Now, I will edit the default cisco account and change the default password. Having the default account is okay as long as we are able to change the password since its a well-known password within every hacker's dictionary file.

After doing so, I see a flashing "SAVE" button at the top of the portal page.




I'll click that , which brings up this page offering for us to save the config changes we made. This is the final step of this lab since we are asked to save it as **Startup Configuration**. I'll click the corresponding button for **Startup** .

Save cisco Language: E

28P 28-Port Gigabit PoE Managed Switch

Copy/Save Configuration

 Source File Name must be different from Destination File Name.

All configurations that the switch is currently using are in the running configuration file which is volatile and is not retained between reboots. To retain the configuration between reboots, make sure you copy the running configuration file to the startup configuration file.

Source File Name: ☒ Running configuration
☐ Startup configuration

Destination File Name: ☒ Startup configuration
☐ Backup configuration

Sensitive Data: ☐ Exclude
☒ Encrypted
☐ Plaintext
Available sensitive data options are determined by the current user's SSD rules

Save Icon Blinking: Enabled

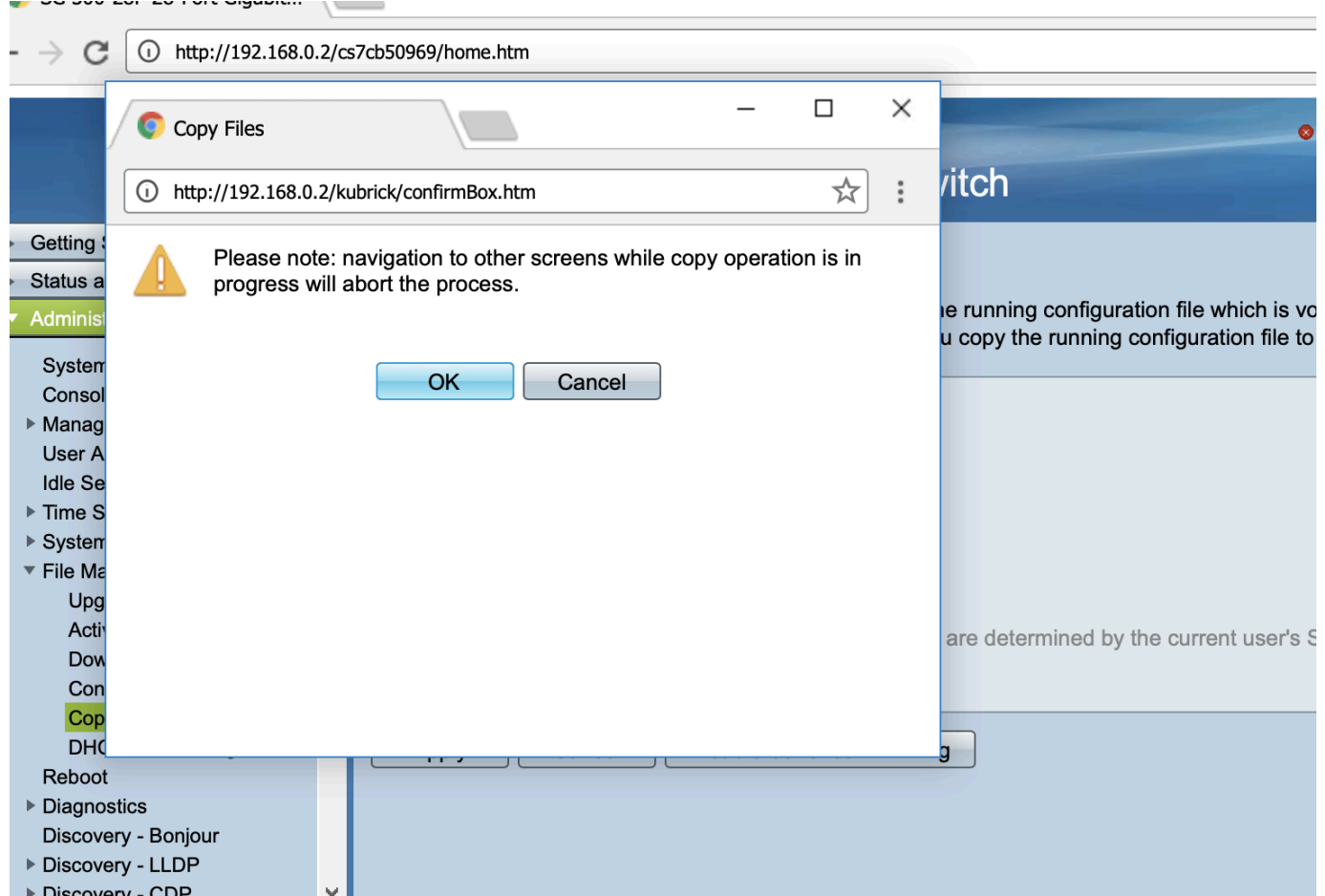
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Once I hit **Apply** we are finished with this lab !

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Mon December 2nd 2024



This warning message pops up to let me know not to navigate away from the page while the configuration is being saved.

This now concludes this lab!

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Mon December 2nd 2024

The screenshot displays a web browser window with the URL `labsimapp.testout.com/v6_0_654/simwindow.html?c2ltRGVmVXJl`. The browser has multiple tabs open, including 'Learning Platform | CompTIA', 'Network Security - Cisco Switch Hardening - G...', and 'robertmcarpenter/My-CompTIA-Security-Labs...'. The main content area shows a 'Lab Report' window for a 'SG 300-28P 28-Port Gigabit...' switch. The report indicates a 'Score: 3/3 (100%)' and 'Time Spent: 01:52'. Below the score is a 'TASK SUMMARY' section with 'Required Actions' listed as follows:

- ✓ Create a new user account [Show Details](#)
- ✓ Edit the default user account [Show Details](#)
- ✓ Save the changes to the switch's startup configuration file

The background interface is the 'TestOut' learning platform. The left sidebar contains a 'Scenario' section with the following text: 'You are the IT security administrator for a small corporate network. You need to secure access to your switch, which is still configured with the default settings.' Below this, there is a task list: 'In this lab, your task is to:'. The task list includes:

- Create a new user account with the following settings:
 - Username: ITSwitchAdmin
 - Password: Admin\$only1844
 - User Level: Read/Write Management Access (15)
- Edit the default user account as follows:
 - Username: cisco
 - Password: CLI\$only1958
 - User Level: Read-Only CLI Access (1)
- Save the changes to the switch's startup configuration file.

The bottom of the browser window shows a Windows taskbar with the search bar 'Type here to search' and the system clock displaying '7:07 PM 12/13/2024'.