

Course: Cloud and Network Security-C1-2026

Cyber Shujaa Program

Week 5: Securing Network Layers 4, 5, 6 &7

Assignment 2: Configuring Site-to-Site VPNs

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Introduction

This lab involves the configuration of Site-to-Site IPsec VPN between routers R1 and R3. Utilizing the provided addressing table and topology, the goal is to define interesting traffic, configure crypto maps, and establish a secure IPsec tunnel. This ensures that communication between PC-A and PC-C is encrypted providing a secure path over the non-secure serial links connecting the 10.1.1.0 and 10.2.2.0

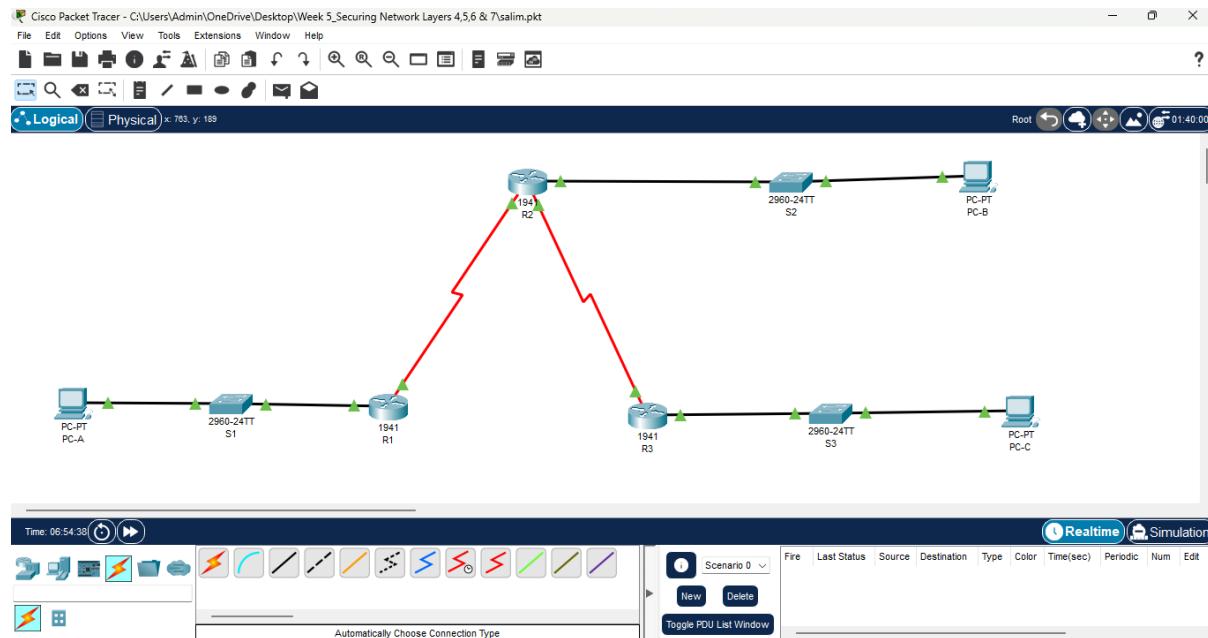
Objectives

The objectives of the assignment were:

1. To configure Site-to-Site IPsec VPN
2. To define interesting traffic
3. To implement IKE Phase 1 (ISAKMP)
4. To implement IKE phase 2 (IPsec)
5. To apply Crypto Maps

Packet Tracer – Configuring VPNs (Optional)

Topology

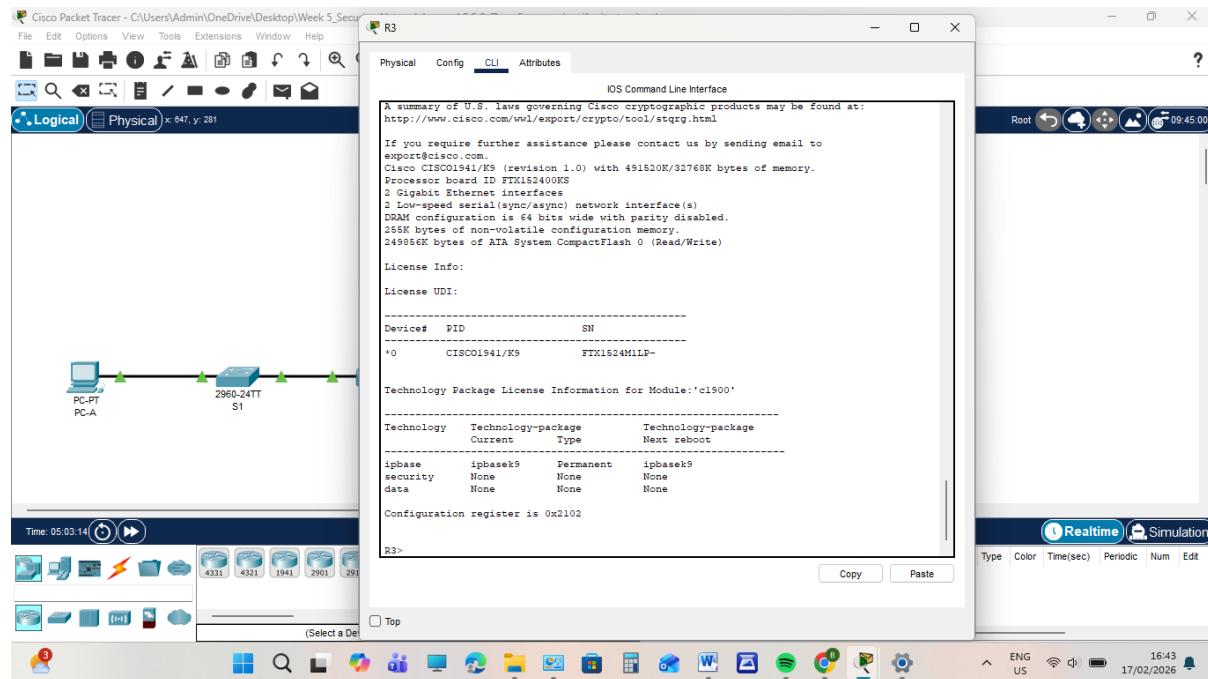


Part 1: Enable Security Features

Step 1: Activate securityk9 module

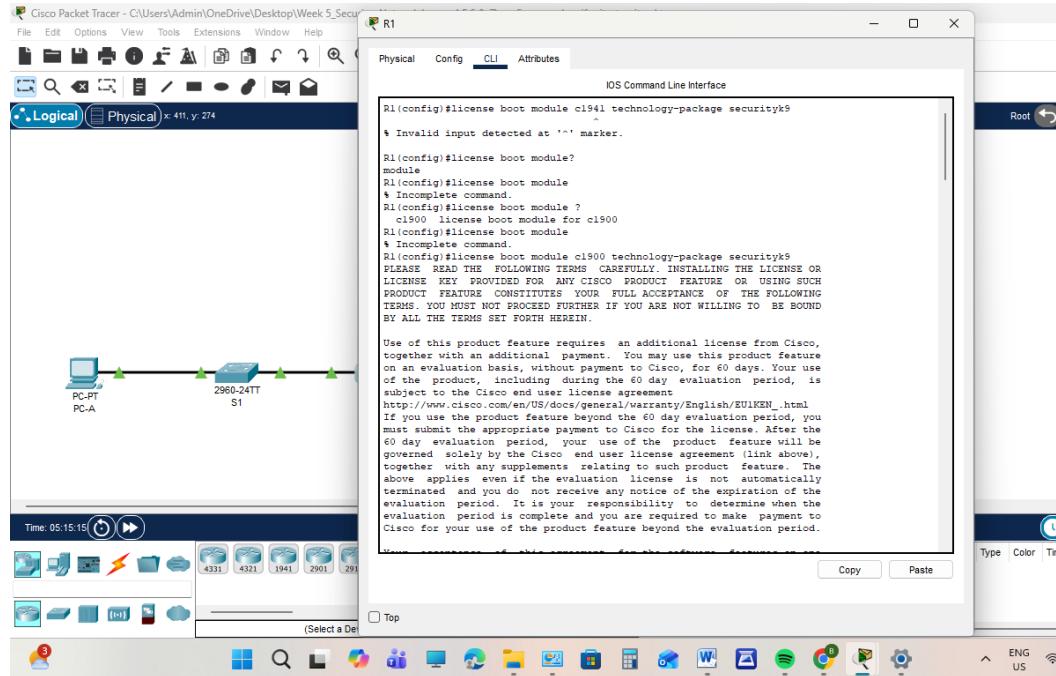
a) Verification

I initially accessed the CLI of R1 and used the show version command to check the current license status. I observed that the securityk9 package was not yet active



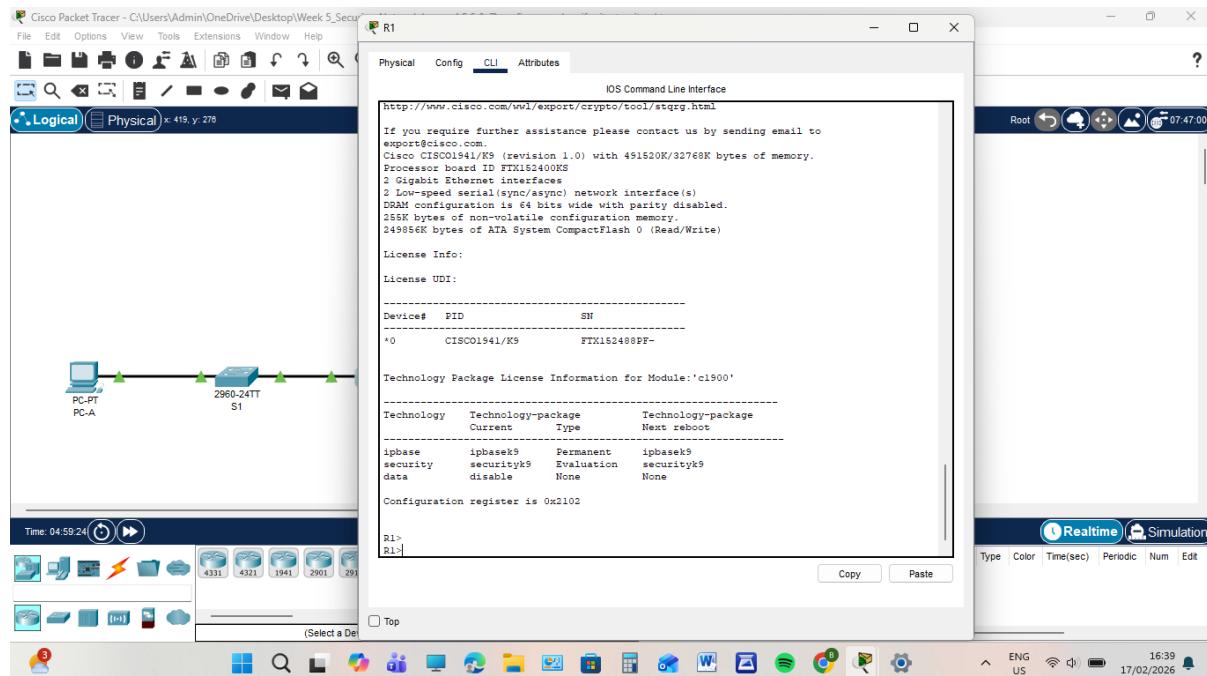
b) Activation

I entered Global Configuration mode and issued the command license boot module c1900 technology-package securityk9 to officially accept the End User License Agreement (EULA) by typing yes when prompted



c) Saving and initialization

To finalize the process I moved back to privileged EXEC mode saved the configuration using copy running-config startup-config and execute a reload. This restart was necessary for the router to initialize the security technology package

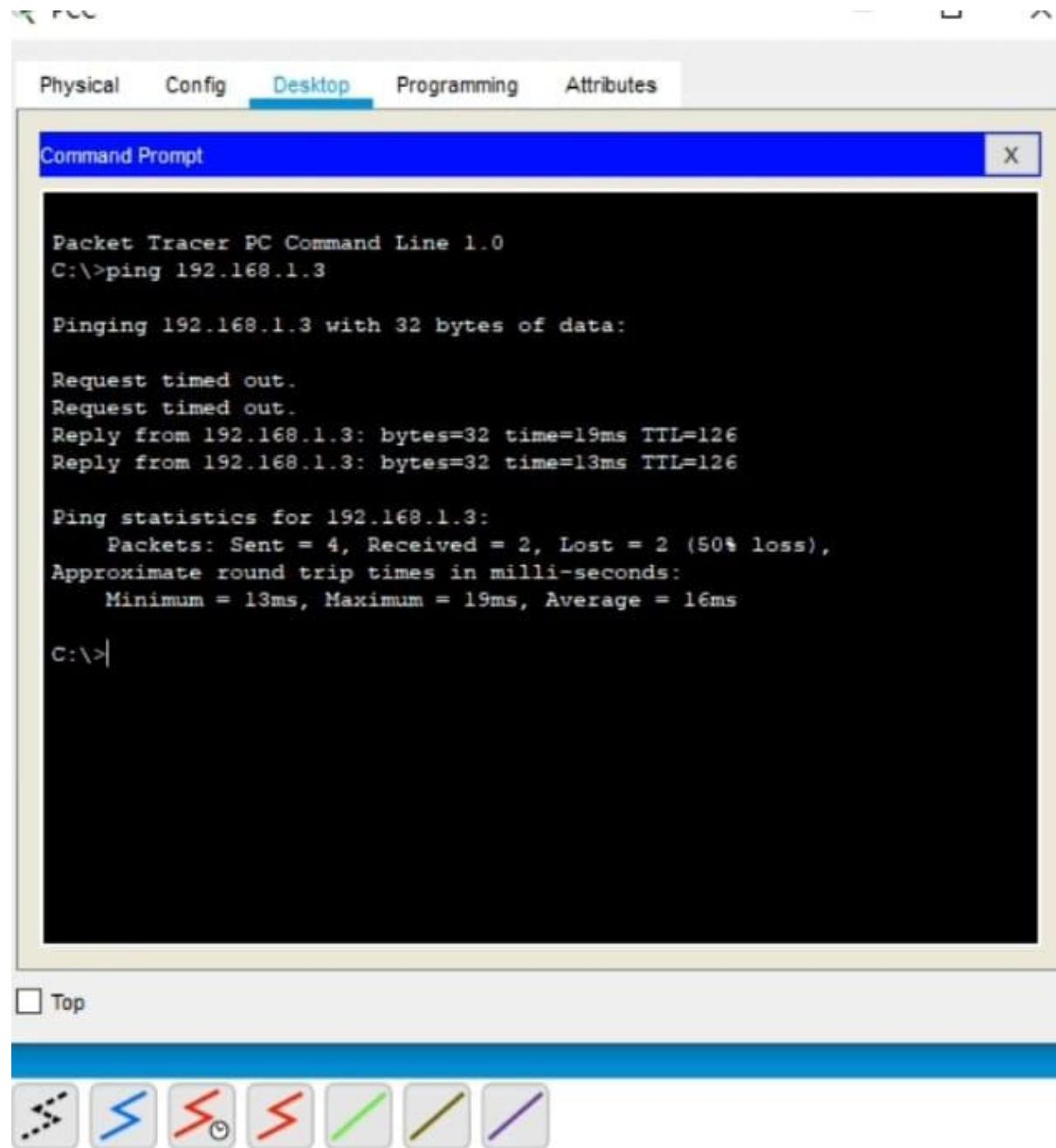


Part 2: Configure IPsec Parameters on R1

Step 1: Test connectivity

Ping from PC-A to PC-C

I ping and I got the following results



The screenshot shows a Windows-style window titled "Command Prompt". The window has tabs at the top: Physical, Config, Desktop (which is selected), Programming, and Attributes. The main area of the window displays the output of a ping command:

```
Packet Tracer PC Command Line 1.0
C:\>ping 192.168.1.3

Pinging 192.168.1.3 with 32 bytes of data:

Request timed out.
Request timed out.
Reply from 192.168.1.3: bytes=32 time=19ms TTL=126
Reply from 192.168.1.3: bytes=32 time=13ms TTL=126

Ping statistics for 192.168.1.3:
    Packets: Sent = 4, Received = 2, Lost = 2 (50% loss),
    Approximate round trip times in milli-seconds:
        Minimum = 13ms, Maximum = 19ms, Average = 16ms

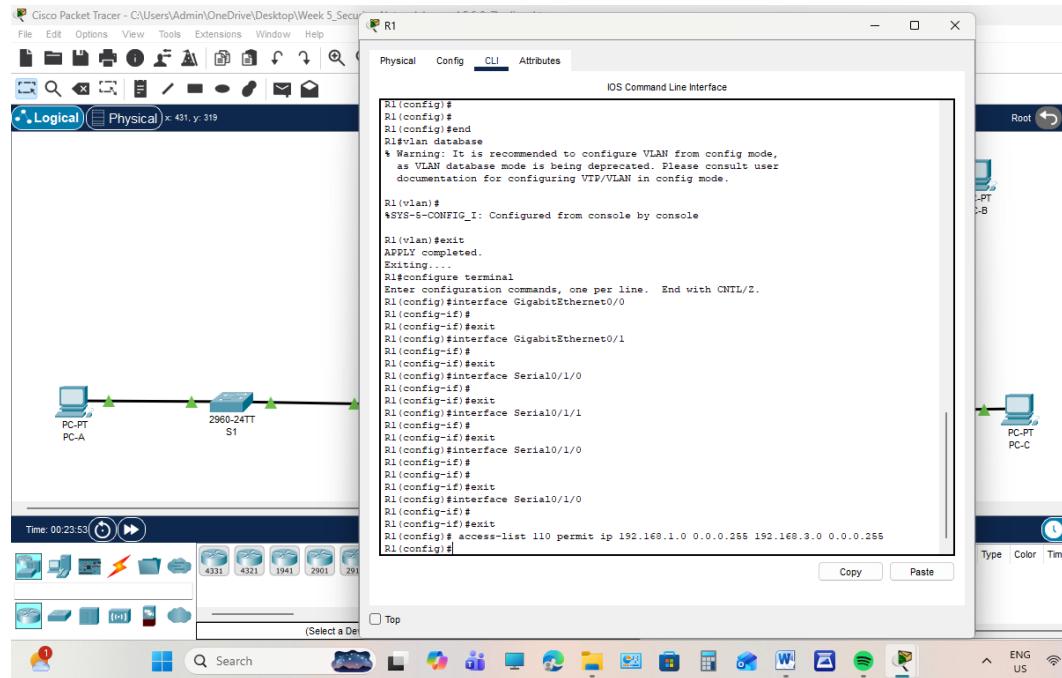
C:\>
```

Below the window, there is a toolbar with several icons: a dashed line, a blue line, a red line with a circle, a red line with a dot, a green line, a brown line, and a purple line.

Step 2: identify interesting traffic on R1

This is the definition of “Interesting Traffic”

The router uses this list to distinguish between regular internet traffic and traffic that needs to be encrypted. I defined a rule that permits any IP traffic travelling from the local LAN (192.168.1.0) to the remote LAN (192.168.3.0) to trigger the VPN tunnel

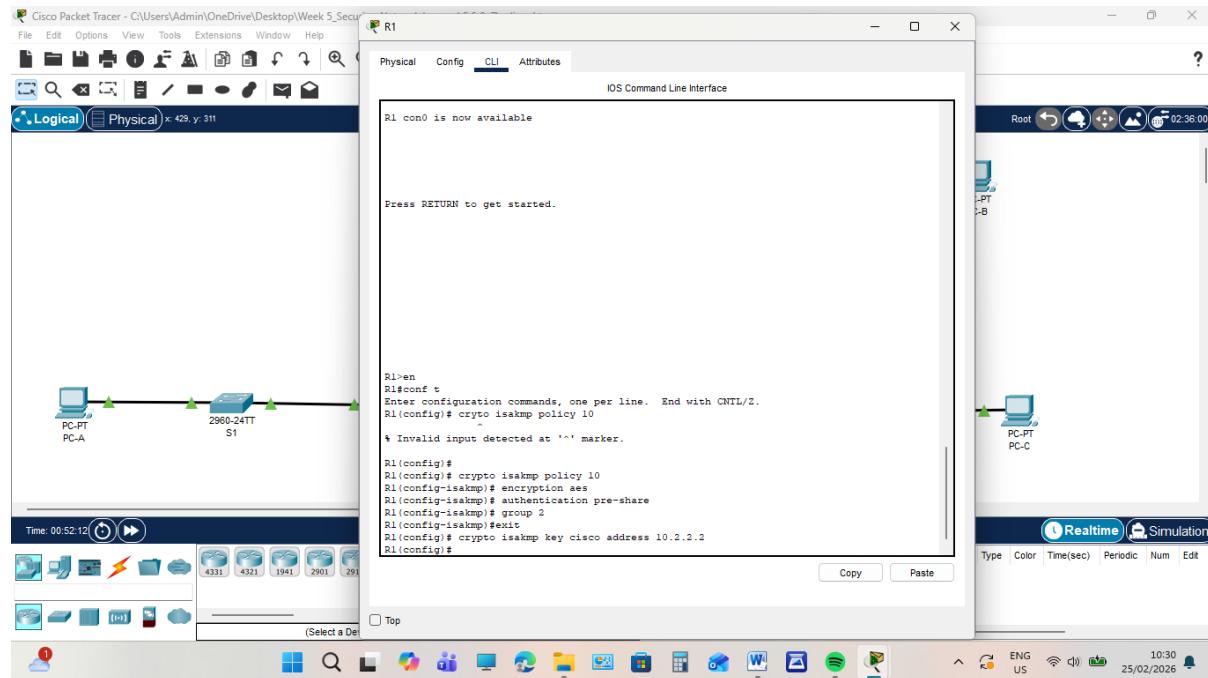


Step 3: Configure the ISAKMP Phase 1 properties on R1

This screenshot shows the configuration of IKE Phase 1. This phase establishes a secure management connection between R1 and R3

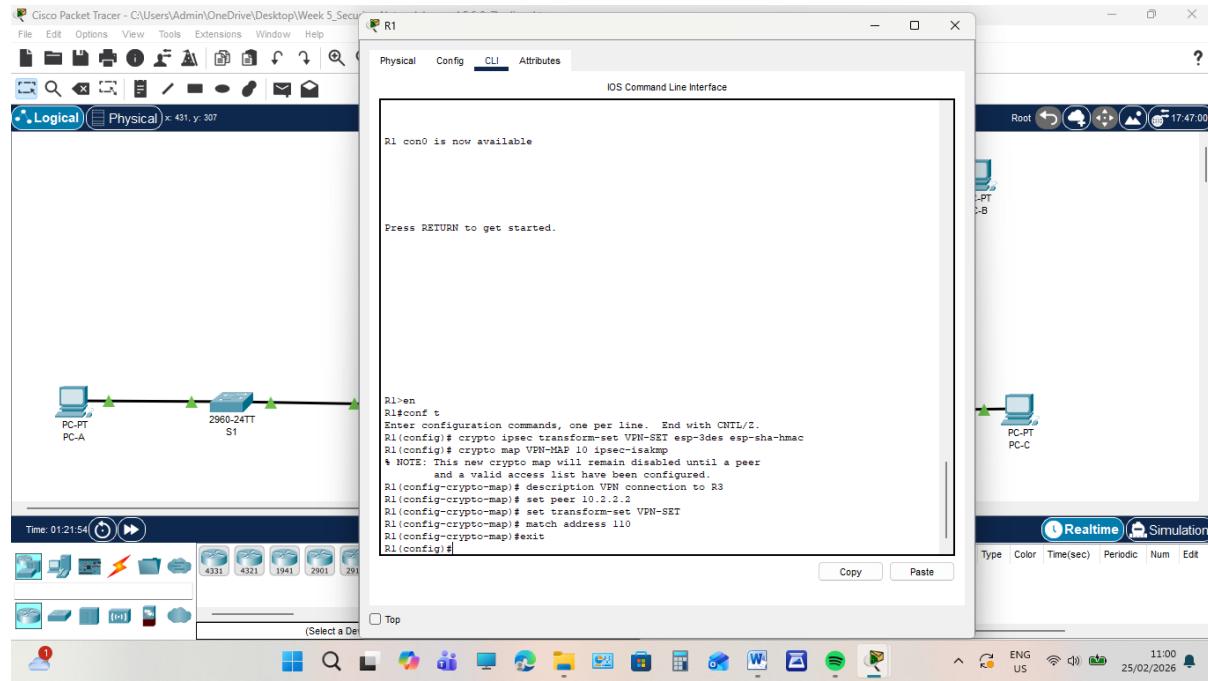
Policy 10- it defines the encryption (AES) and Diffie-Hellman group (Group 2) used for the handshake

Pre-shared key-the crypto isakmp key cisco command sets a shared password (“cisco”) that both routers use to authenticate each other before building the tunnel



Step 4: Configure the ISAKMP Phase 2 properties on R1

This is the final step that binds the phase 1 and phase 2 configurations together. Applying the crypto map to the outgoing serial interface activates the VPN logic for all traffic exiting the router toward the internet

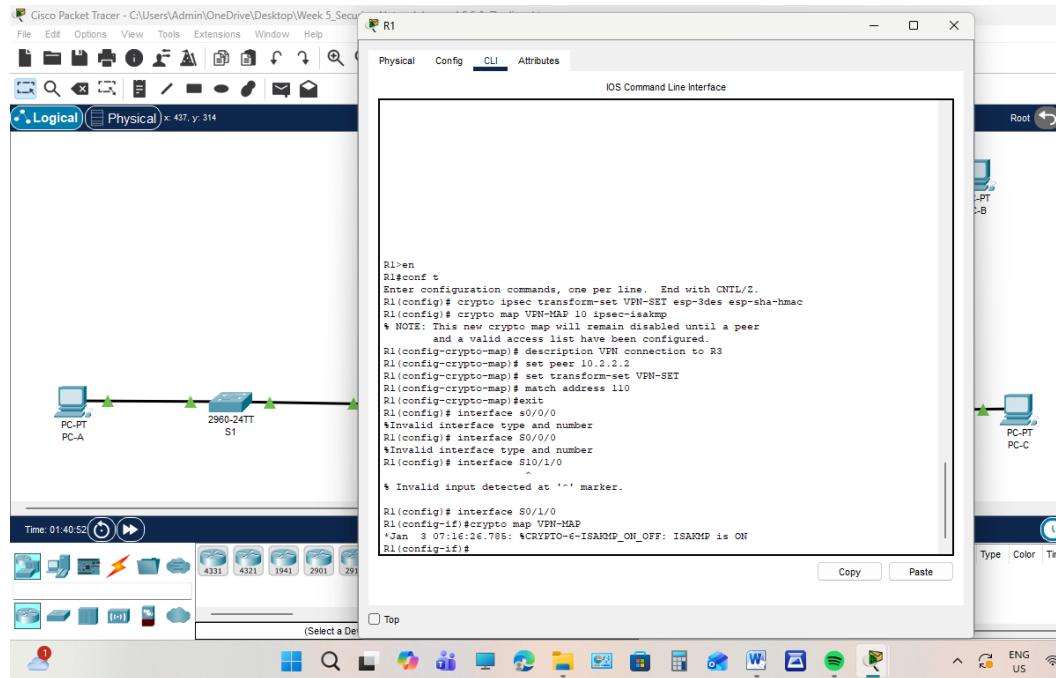


Step 5: Configure the crypto map on the outgoing interface

I encountered an 'Invalid input' error when trying to bind the VPN to the interface. This served as a key troubleshooting moment. I used the show ip interface brief command to verify the exact hardware naming. I discovered that while the lab manual suggested S0/0/0, my specific Packet Tracer topology required **Serial0/1/0**. Correcting this allowed the crypto map to attach successfully.

Here, I am building the **Crypto Map**, which serves as the 'logic center' for the VPN. It ties together three distinct parts:

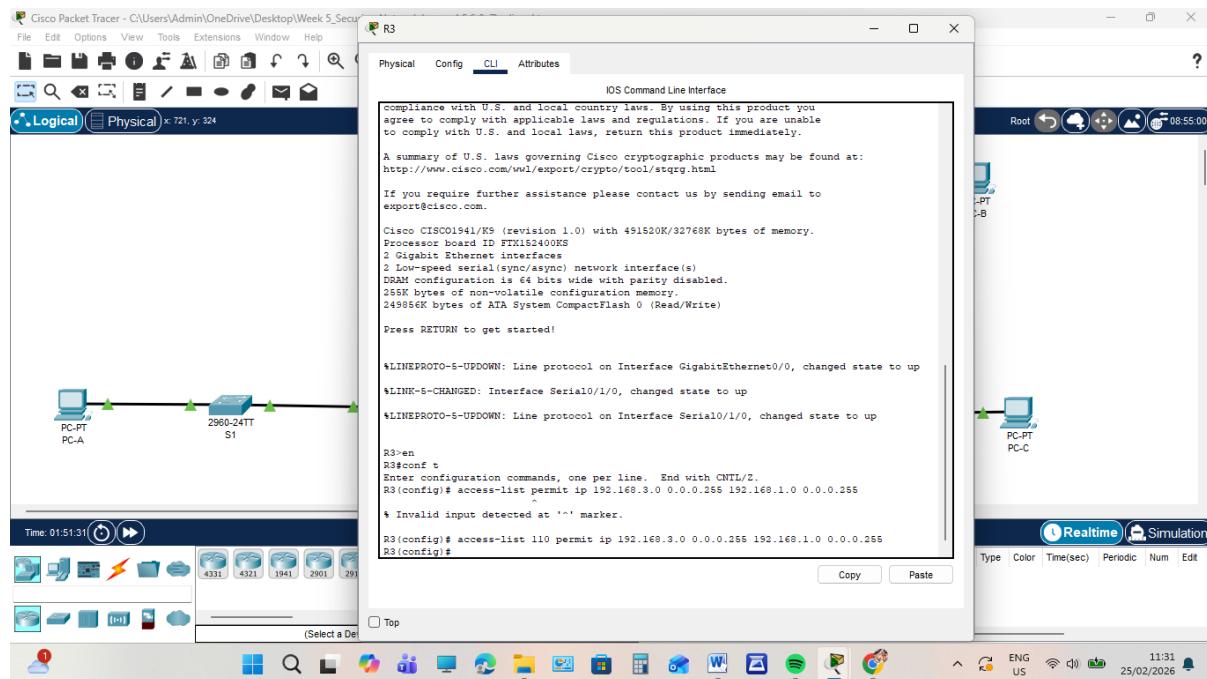
1. **Where to go:** The Peer IP (10.2.2.2).
2. **How to encrypt:** The Transform Set (ESP-3DES-SHA).
3. **What to protect:** The ACL 110. The final log message *Jan 3 07:16:26.785: %CRYPTO-6-ISAKMP_ON_OFF: ISAKMP is ON confirms that the VPN engine is now active on the interface.



Part 3: Configure IPsec Parameters on R3

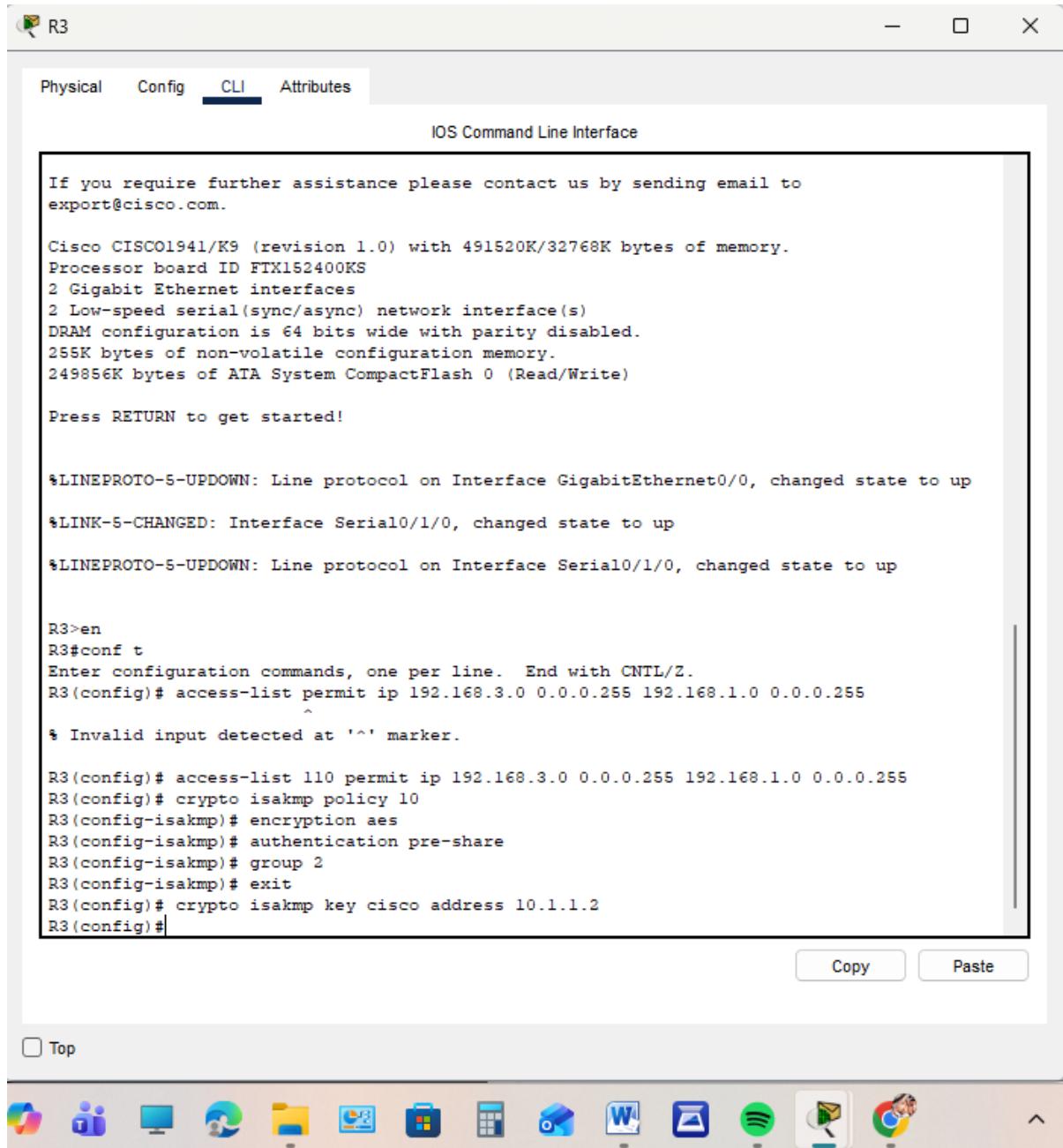
Step 1: Configure router R3 to support a site-to-site VPN with R1

To establish a Site-to-Site VPN, the configuration on the remote peer (R3) must be a 'mirror image' of the local peer (R1). In this screenshot, I configured **ACL 110** on R3. Notice that the source and destination networks are swapped compared to R1: it now identifies traffic coming from R3's LAN (**192.168.3.0**) going to R1's LAN (**192.168.1.0**) as the interesting traffic to be encrypted.



Step 2: Configure the ISAKMP Phase 1 properties on R3

Shows the IKE Phase 1 handshake configuration on R3. Note that the crypto isakmp key cisco address 10.1.1.2 command uses R1's public Serial interface IP as the peer address. This ensures both routers have a matching "secret" to authenticate each other.



The screenshot shows a Cisco IOS CLI window titled 'R3'. The tabs at the top are 'Physical', 'Config', 'CLI' (which is selected), and 'Attributes'. The main area displays the following text:

```

IOS Command Line Interface

If you require further assistance please contact us by sending email to
export@cisco.com.

Cisco CISCO1941/K9 (revision 1.0) with 491520K/32768K bytes of memory.
Processor board ID FTX152400KS
2 Gigabit Ethernet interfaces
2 Low-speed serial(sync/async) network interface(s)
DRAM configuration is 64 bits wide with parity disabled.
255K bytes of non-volatile configuration memory.
249856K bytes of ATA System CompactFlash 0 (Read/Write)

Press RETURN to get started!

%LINEPROTO-5-UPDOWN: Line protocol on Interface GigabitEthernet0/0, changed state to up
%LINK-5-CHANGED: Interface Serial0/1/0, changed state to up
%LINEPROTO-5-UPDOWN: Line protocol on Interface Serial0/1/0, changed state to up

R3>en
R3#conf t
Enter configuration commands, one per line. End with CNTL/Z.
R3(config)# access-list permit ip 192.168.3.0 0.0.0.255 192.168.1.0 0.0.0.255
      ^
% Invalid input detected at '^' marker.

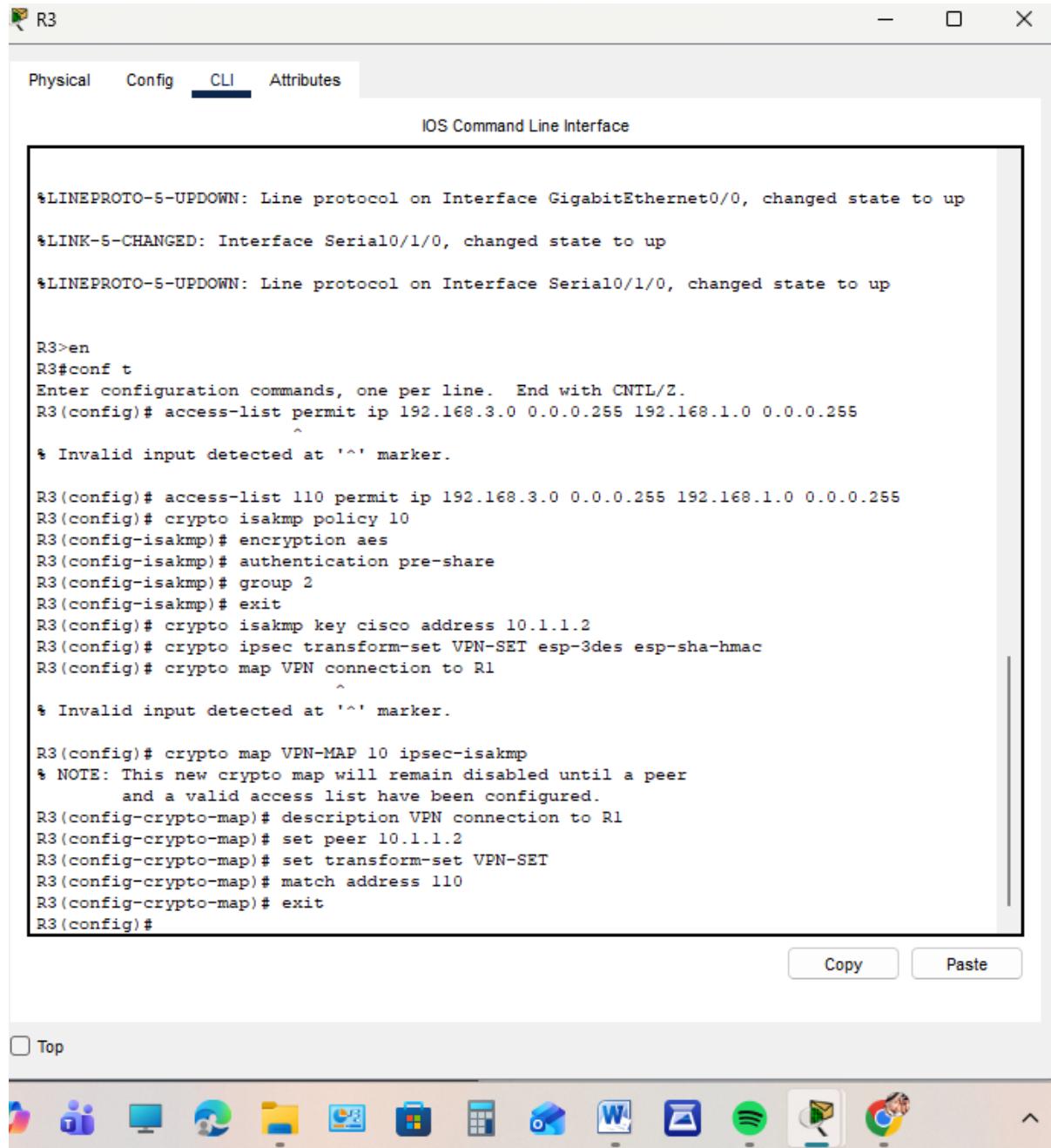
R3(config)# access-list 110 permit ip 192.168.3.0 0.0.0.255 192.168.1.0 0.0.0.255
R3(config)# crypto isakmp policy 10
R3(config-isakmp)# encryption aes
R3(config-isakmp)# authentication pre-share
R3(config-isakmp)# group 2
R3(config-isakmp)# exit
R3(config)# crypto isakmp key cisco address 10.1.1.2
R3(config)#

```

At the bottom right of the CLI window are 'Copy' and 'Paste' buttons. Below the window is a taskbar with various icons for file operations and system monitoring.

Step 3: Configure the ISAKMP Phase 2 properties on R1

"In this final configuration phase for R3, I created the Crypto Map named VPN-MAP. This map binds the security policy together by specifying the remote peer (**R1**) and the traffic to be encrypted (ACL 110). The router issued a notification that the map would remain 'disabled' until a valid peer and ACL were bound, which I successfully completed in these steps



The screenshot shows a Windows Command Prompt window titled "R3". The tab bar at the top has "Physical", "Config", "CLI" (which is selected), and "Attributes". Below the tabs is the text "IOS Command Line Interface". The main area contains the following configuration commands:

```

%LINEPROTO-5-UPDOWN: Line protocol on Interface GigabitEthernet0/0, changed state to up
%LINK-5-CHANGED: Interface Serial0/1/0, changed state to up
%LINEPROTO-5-UPDOWN: Line protocol on Interface Serial0/1/0, changed state to up

R3>en
R3#conf t
Enter configuration commands, one per line. End with CNTL/Z.
R3(config)# access-list permit ip 192.168.3.0 0.0.0.255 192.168.1.0 0.0.0.255
^
% Invalid input detected at '^' marker.

R3(config)# access-list 110 permit ip 192.168.3.0 0.0.0.255 192.168.1.0 0.0.0.255
R3(config)# crypto isakmp policy 10
R3(config-isakmp)# encryption aes
R3(config-isakmp)# authentication pre-share
R3(config-isakmp)# group 2
R3(config-isakmp)# exit
R3(config)# crypto isakmp key cisco address 10.1.1.2
R3(config)# crypto ipsec transform-set VPN-SET esp-3des esp-sha-hmac
R3(config)# crypto map VPN connection to R1
^
% Invalid input detected at '^' marker.

R3(config)# crypto map VPN-MAP 10 ipsec-isakmp
% NOTE: This new crypto map will remain disabled until a peer
      and a valid access list have been configured.
R3(config-crypto-map)# description VPN connection to R1
R3(config-crypto-map)# set peer 10.1.1.2
R3(config-crypto-map)# set transform-set VPN-SET
R3(config-crypto-map)# match address 110
R3(config-crypto-map)# exit
R3(config)#

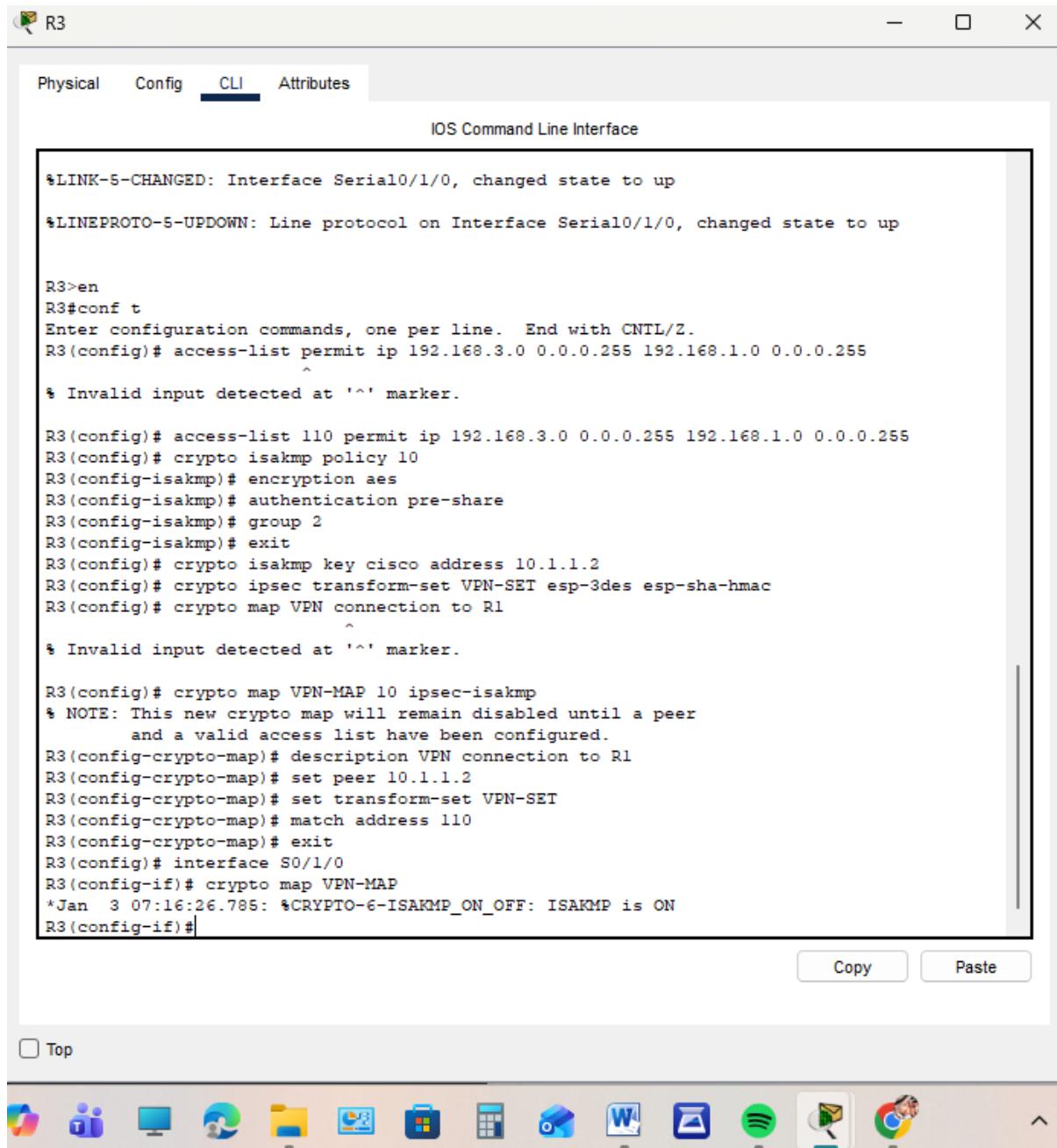
```

At the bottom of the command window, there are "Copy" and "Paste" buttons. Below the window, a taskbar shows various application icons.

Step 4: configure the crypto map on the outgoing interface

□ *Jan 3 07:16:26.785: %CRYPTO-6-ISAKMP_ON_OFF: ISAKMP is ON.

This message is the "heartbeat" of the configuration. It proves that the router has verified all the settings and has officially activated the VPN engine on the outgoing port.



```

%LINK-5-CHANGED: Interface Serial0/1/0, changed state to up
%LINEPROTO-5-UPDOWN: Line protocol on Interface Serial0/1/0, changed state to up

R3>en
R3#conf t
Enter configuration commands, one per line. End with CNTL/Z.
R3(config)# access-list permit ip 192.168.3.0 0.0.0.255 192.168.1.0 0.0.0.255
^
% Invalid input detected at '^' marker.

R3(config)# access-list 110 permit ip 192.168.3.0 0.0.0.255 192.168.1.0 0.0.0.255
R3(config)# crypto isakmp policy 10
R3(config-isakmp)# encryption aes
R3(config-isakmp)# authentication pre-share
R3(config-isakmp)# group 2
R3(config-isakmp)# exit
R3(config)# crypto isakmp key cisco address 10.1.1.2
R3(config)# crypto ipsec transform-set VPN-SET esp-3des esp-sha-hmac
R3(config)# crypto map VPN connection to R1
^
% Invalid input detected at '^' marker.

R3(config)# crypto map VPN-MAP 10 ipsec-isakmp
% NOTE: This new crypto map will remain disabled until a peer
      and a valid access list have been configured.
R3(config-crypto-map)# description VPN connection to R1
R3(config-crypto-map)# set peer 10.1.1.2
R3(config-crypto-map)# set transform-set VPN-SET
R3(config-crypto-map)# match address 110
R3(config-crypto-map)# exit
R3(config)# interface S0/1/0
R3(config-if)# crypto map VPN-MAP
*Jan 3 07:16:26.785: %CRYPTO-6-ISAKMP_ON_OFF: ISAKMP is ON
R3(config-if)#

```

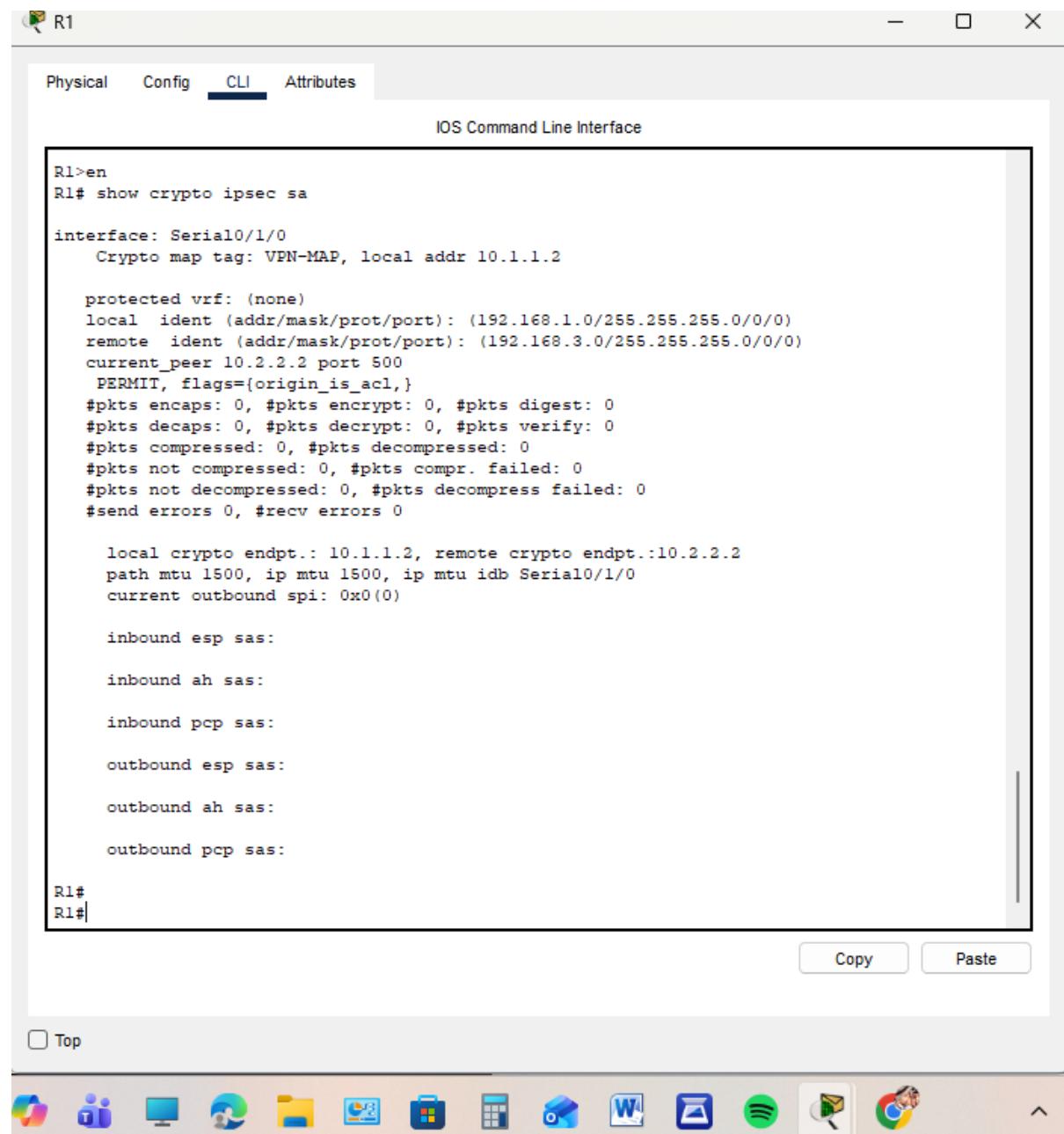
Top

Copy Paste

Part 4: Verify the IPsec VPN

Step 1: Verify the tunnel prior to interesting traffic

Definitive proof that the data was not sent as plain text. The increasing counters show that the router is actively "wrapping" (encapsulating) my pings in an encrypted IPsec header before sending them across the public network.



```
R1>en
R1# show crypto ipsec sa

interface: Serial0/1/0
Crypto map tag: VPN-MAP, local addr 10.1.1.2

protected vrf: (none)
local ident (addr/mask/prot/port): (192.168.1.0/255.255.255.0/0/0)
remote ident (addr/mask/prot/port): (192.168.3.0/255.255.255.0/0/0)
current_peer 10.2.2.2 port 500
    PERMIT, flags={origin_is_acl,}
#pkts encaps: 0, #pkts encrypt: 0, #pkts digest: 0
#pkts decaps: 0, #pkts decrypt: 0, #pkts verify: 0
#pkts compressed: 0, #pkts decompressed: 0
#pkts not compressed: 0, #pkts compr. failed: 0
#pkts not decompressed: 0, #pkts decompress failed: 0
#send errors 0, #recv errors 0

    local crypto endpt.: 10.1.1.2, remote crypto endpt.:10.2.2.2
    path mtu 1500, ip mtu 1500, ip mtu idb Serial0/1/0
    current outbound spi: 0x0(0)

    inbound esp sas:
    inbound ah sas:
    inbound pcp sas:
    outbound esp sas:
    outbound ah sas:
    outbound pcp sas:

R1#
R1#
```

Top

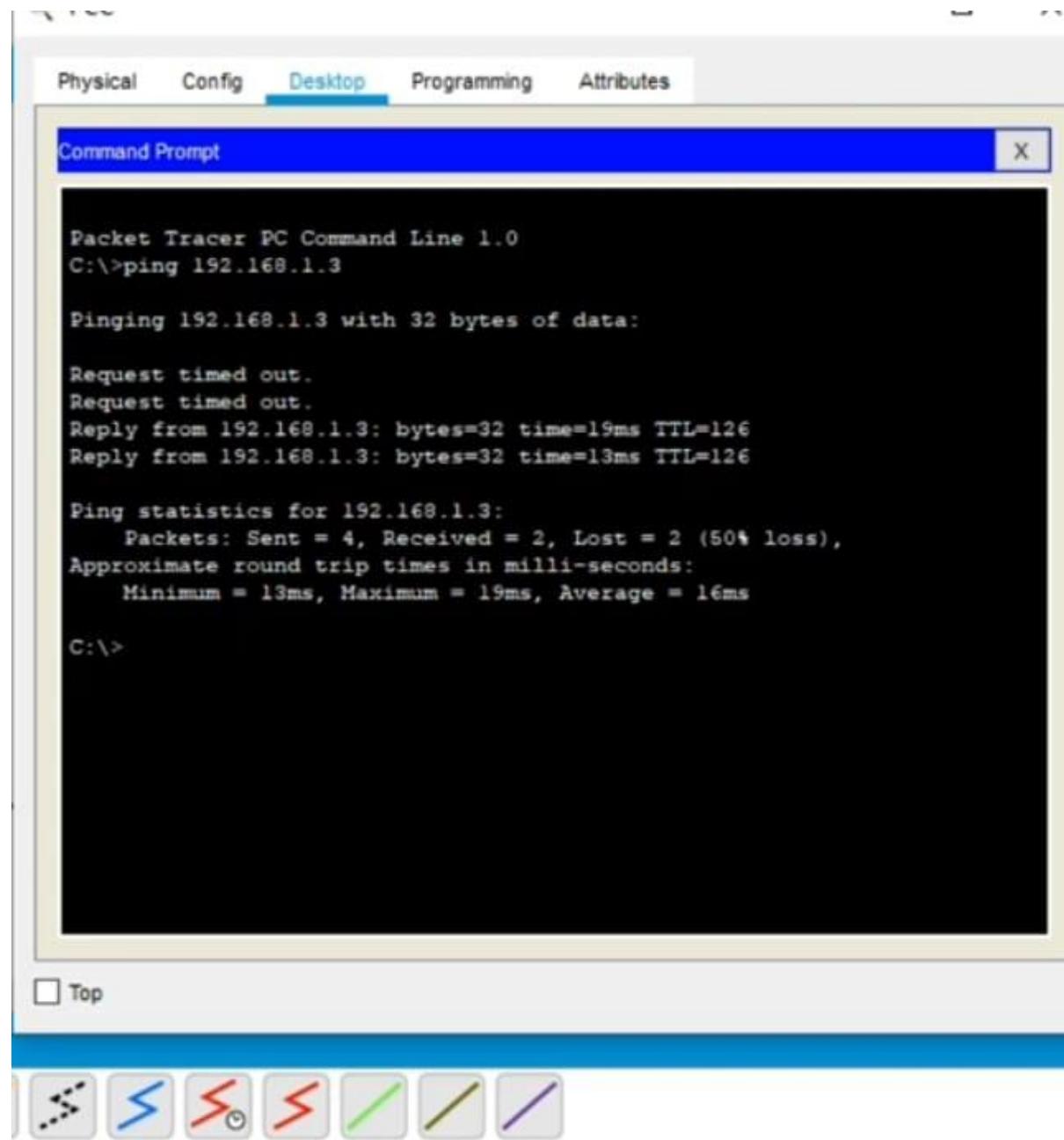
Copy Paste

File Explorer Task View Start File Home Insert Page Layout View Share

Step 2: Create Interesting traffic

Ping PC-C from PC-A

The subsequent "Reply" messages confirm that the tunnel became active. This proves that the local and remote crypto endpoints (R1 at **10.1.1.2** and R3 at **10.2.2.2**) successfully authenticated using the pre-shared key "cisco"



Physical Config **Desktop** Programming Attributes

Command Prompt X

```
Packet Tracer PC Command Line 1.0
C:\>ping 192.168.1.3

Pinging 192.168.1.3 with 32 bytes of data:

Request timed out.
Request timed out.
Reply from 192.168.1.3: bytes=32 time=19ms TTL=126
Reply from 192.168.1.3: bytes=32 time=13ms TTL=126

Ping statistics for 192.168.1.3:
    Packets: Sent = 4, Received = 2 (50% loss),
    Approximate round trip times in milli-seconds:
        Minimum = 13ms, Maximum = 19ms, Average = 16ms

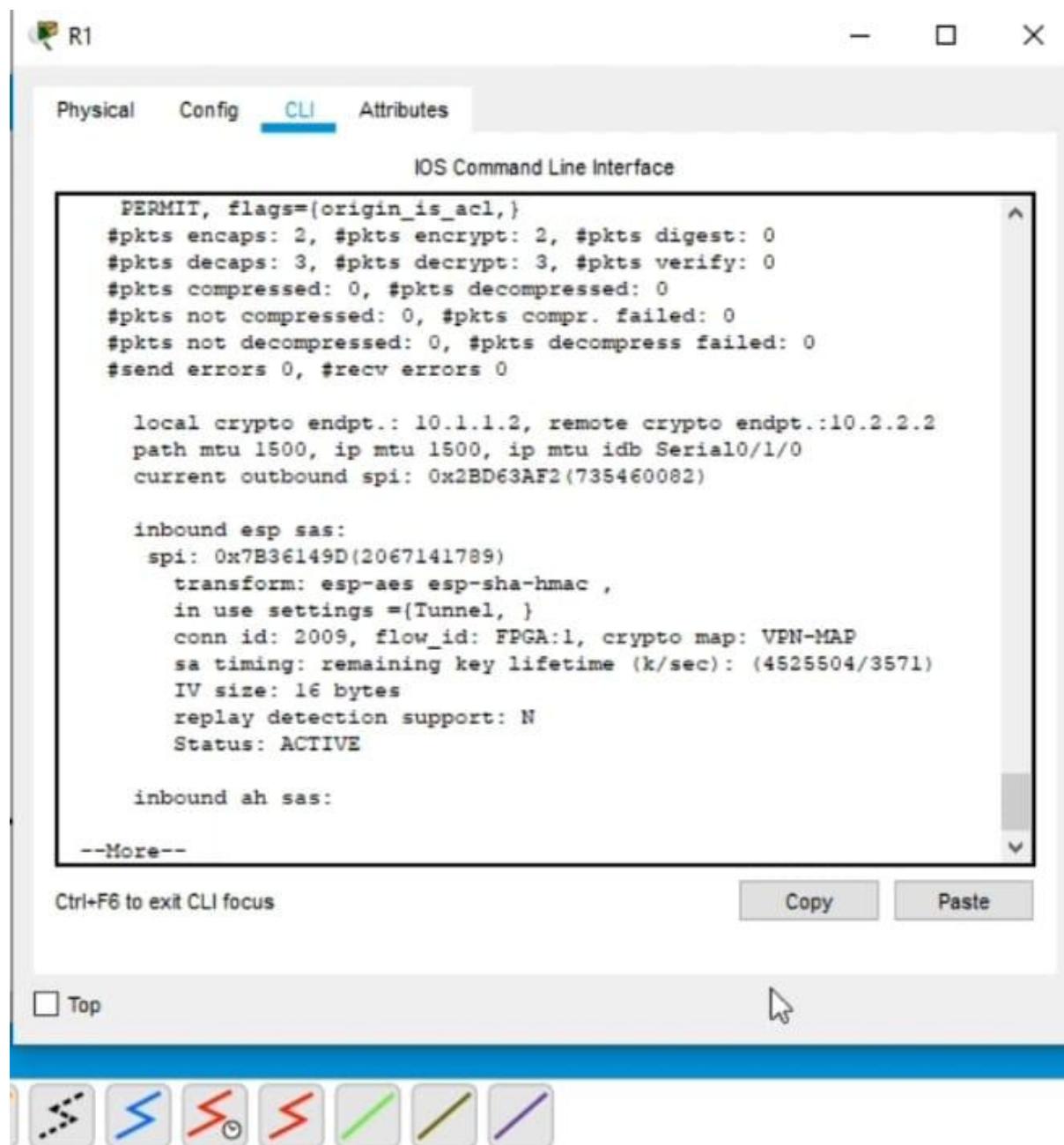
C:\>
```

Top

|       

Step 3: Verify the tunnel after interesting traffic

By generating 'interesting traffic' via a ping, I forced the routers to move from an idle state to an active encrypted state. The increase in the encapsulation counters in the show crypto ipsec sa output provides definitive evidence that the site-to-site VPN is correctly securing the data as it traverses the public network



R1

Physical Config **CLI** Attributes

IOS Command Line Interface

```
PERMIT, flags=(origin_is_acl,)
#pkts encaps: 2, #pkts encrypt: 2, #pkts digest: 0
#pkts decaps: 3, #pkts decrypt: 3, #pkts verify: 0
#pkts compressed: 0, #pkts decompressed: 0
#pkts not compressed: 0, #pkts compr. failed: 0
#pkts not decompressed: 0, #pkts decompress failed: 0
#send errors 0, #recv errors 0

local crypto endpt.: 10.1.1.2, remote crypto endpt.:10.2.2.2
path mtu 1500, ip mtu 1500, ip mtu idb Serial0/1/0
current outbound spi: 0x2BD63AF2(735460082)

inbound esp sas:
    spi: 0x7B36149D(2067141789)
        transform: esp-aes esp-sha-hmac ,
        in use settings =(Tunnel, )
        conn id: 2009, flow_id: FPGA:1, crypto map: VPN-MAP
        sa timing: remaining key lifetime (k/sec): (4525504/3571)
        IV size: 16 bytes
        replay detection support: N
        Status: ACTIVE

inbound ah sas:

--More--
```

Ctrl+F6 to exit CLI focus

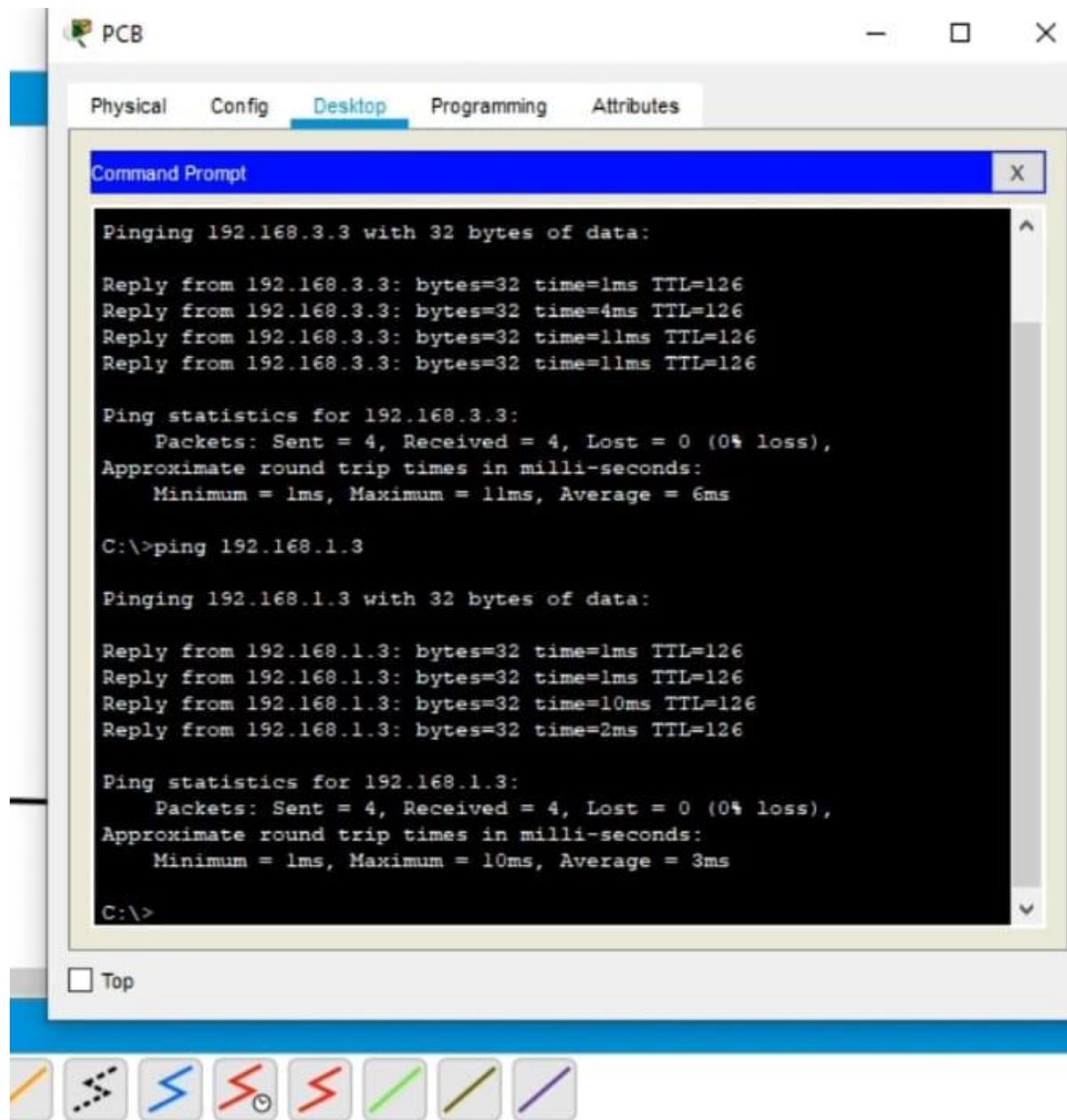
Top



Step 4: Create uninteresting traffic

Ping PC-B from PC-A

By testing both 'interesting' (Remote) and 'uninteresting' (Local) traffic, I have verified the precision of the Security Association. The VPN tunnel only activates for traffic destined for the remote branch office, ensuring that local network performance remains high while remote communications remain secure.



```
PCB - Desktop - X
Physical Config Desktop Programming Attributes

Command Prompt X

Pinging 192.168.3.3 with 32 bytes of data:
Reply from 192.168.3.3: bytes=32 time=1ms TTL=126
Reply from 192.168.3.3: bytes=32 time=4ms TTL=126
Reply from 192.168.3.3: bytes=32 time=11ms TTL=126
Reply from 192.168.3.3: bytes=32 time=11ms TTL=126

Ping statistics for 192.168.3.3:
    Packets: Sent = 4, Received = 4, Lost = 0 (0% loss),
    Approximate round trip times in milli-seconds:
        Minimum = 1ms, Maximum = 11ms, Average = 6ms

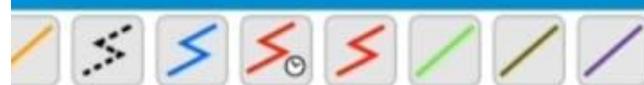
C:\>ping 192.168.1.3

Pinging 192.168.1.3 with 32 bytes of data:
Reply from 192.168.1.3: bytes=32 time=1ms TTL=126
Reply from 192.168.1.3: bytes=32 time=1ms TTL=126
Reply from 192.168.1.3: bytes=32 time=10ms TTL=126
Reply from 192.168.1.3: bytes=32 time=2ms TTL=126

Ping statistics for 192.168.1.3:
    Packets: Sent = 4, Received = 4, Lost = 0 (0% loss),
    Approximate round trip times in milli-seconds:
        Minimum = 1ms, Maximum = 10ms, Average = 3ms

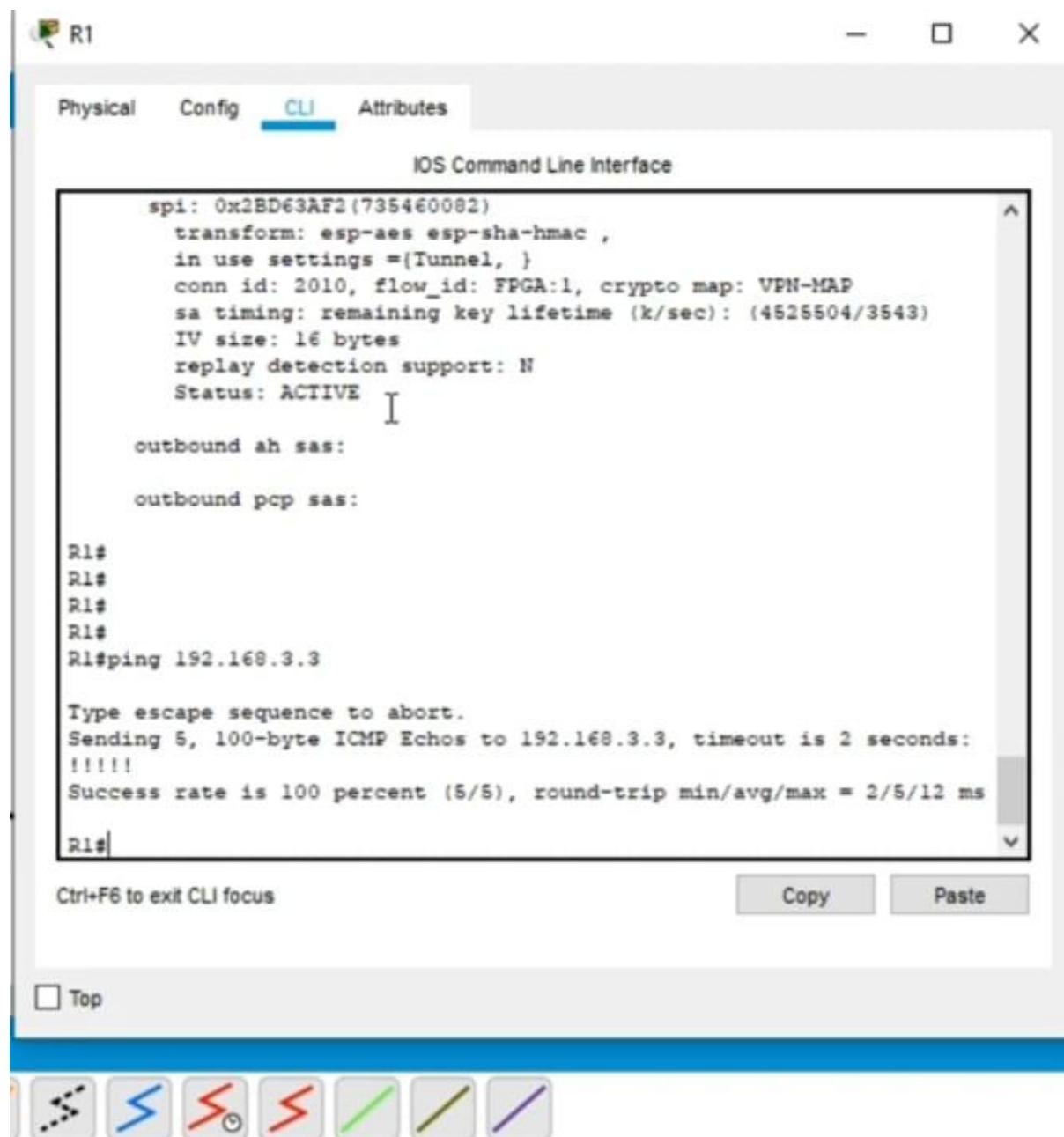
C:\>
```

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Step 5: Verify the tunnel

"By testing both types of traffic, I have verified that the VPN configuration is highly targeted. The tunnel provides security for remote branch communications while allowing local network traffic to function with maximum efficiency and zero encryption overhead. This completes the verification phase of the Site-to-Site IPsec VPN.



R1

Physical Config **CLI** Attributes

IOS Command Line Interface

```
spi: 0x2BD63AF2(735460082)
    transform: esp-aes esp-sha-hmac ,
    in use settings =(Tunnel, )
    conn id: 2010, flow_id: FPGA:1, crypto map: VPN-MAP
    sa timing: remaining key lifetime (k/sec): (4525504/3543)
    IV size: 16 bytes
    replay detection support: N
    Status: ACTIVE

outbound ah sas:

outbound pcp sas:

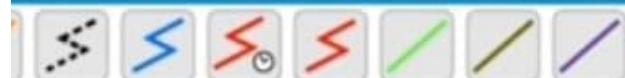
R1#
R1#
R1#
R1#
R1#ping 192.168.3.3

Type escape sequence to abort.
Sending 5, 100-byte ICMP Echos to 192.168.3.3, timeout is 2 seconds:
!!!!!
Success rate is 100 percent (5/5), round-trip min/avg/max = 2/5/12 ms

R1#
```

Ctrl+F6 to exit CLI focus

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Conclusion

In conclusion the objective of this assignment was to implement and verify a secure Site-to-Site IPsec VPN between two branch offices using Cisco routers. Through the successful configuration of IKE Phase 1 (ISAKMP) and IPsec Phase 2, I established an encrypted tunnel that ensures data confidentiality and integrity while traversing an untrusted public ISP network. **Verification through IOS commands confirmed that 'interesting traffic' was successfully encapsulated and encrypted, while local 'uninteresting traffic' remained unaffected.**"