



Prepared by – Sohail Ahmed

Position – IT Intern

Assignment Title – Sophos XGS2300 and Sophos Firewall Base

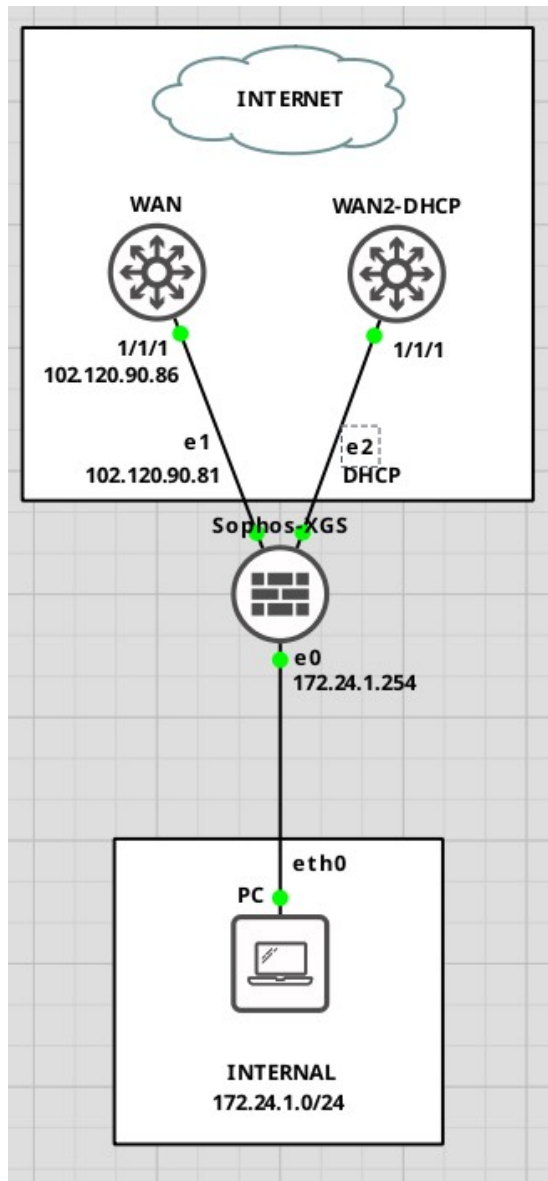
Configuration & Adding Exception

Supervisor – Sir Noman Rajput, Sr. Assistant Director IT

Sophos XGS2300 and Sophos Firewall Base

Configuration & Adding Exception





Initial Setup

Let's begin with the initial setup. Once the hardware is powered up, we can access the WebUI through port 1 (LAN).



The default IP set on the Sophos XG/XGS is always “172.16.16.16/24”, so we have to set an IP on our local device.

I am using GNS3 for this. The client I will use to access Sophos is the “webterm” appliance for GNS3. First, we will set the IP on the client.

List the interfaces. “lo” is the loopback interface. “eth0” is the one we want.

```
fedora-kde :: ~ » ifconfig
```

```
eth0  Link encap:Ethernet  HWaddr 4e:21:aa:73:1b:05

      inet6 addr: fe80::4c21:aaff:fe73:1b05/64 Scope:Link

      UP BROADCAST RUNNING MULTICAST  MTU:1500  Metric:1

      RX packets:0 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0

      TX packets:9 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0

      collisions:0 txqueuelen:1000

      RX bytes:0 (0.0 B)  TX bytes:726 (726.0 B)
```

```
lo    Link encap:Local Loopback

      inet addr:127.0.0.1  Mask:255.0.0.0

      inet6 addr: ::1/128 Scope:Host

      UP LOOPBACK RUNNING  MTU:65536  Metric:1

      RX packets:368 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0

      TX packets:368 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0

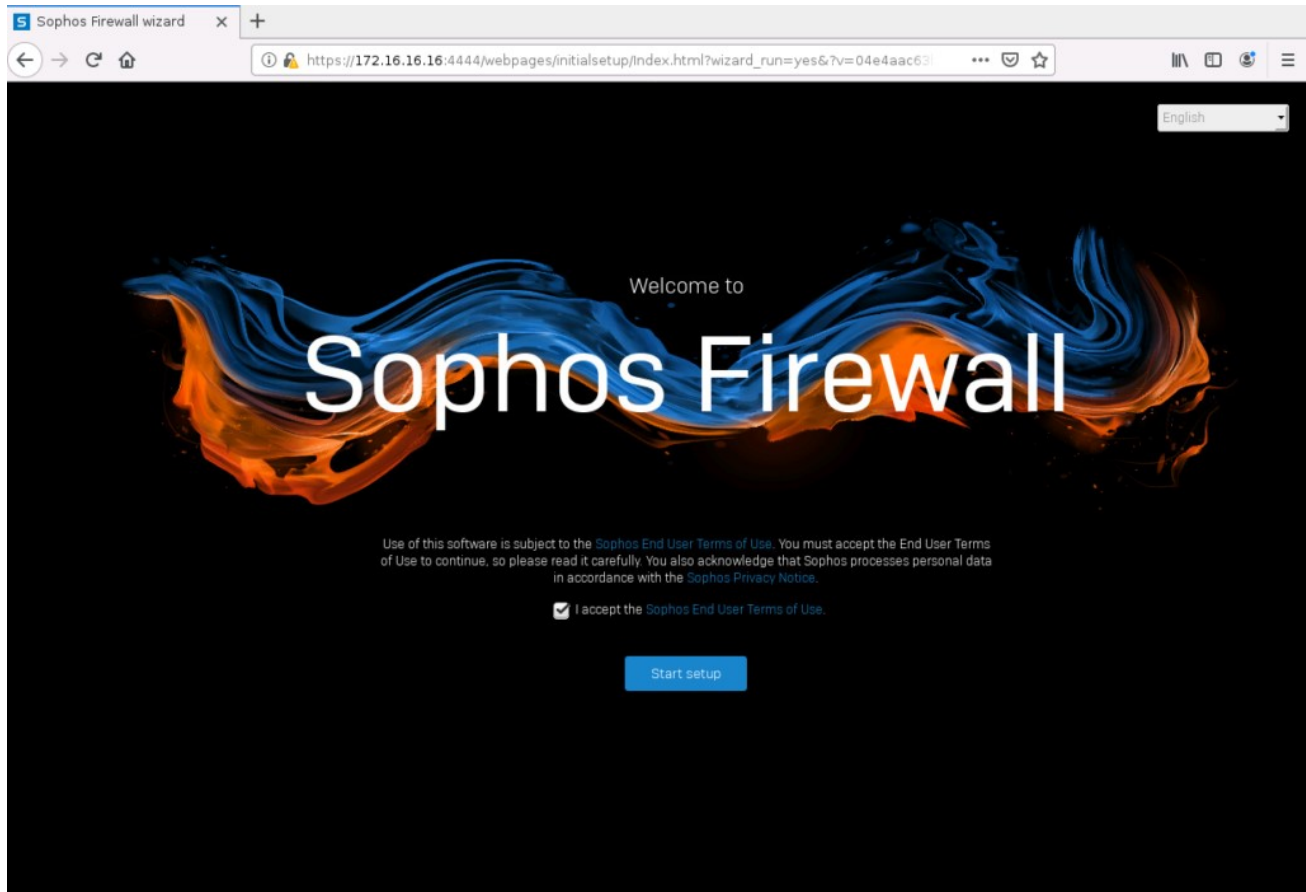
      collisions:0 txqueuelen:1000

      RX bytes:31784 (31.0 KiB)  TX bytes:31784 (31.0 KiB)
```

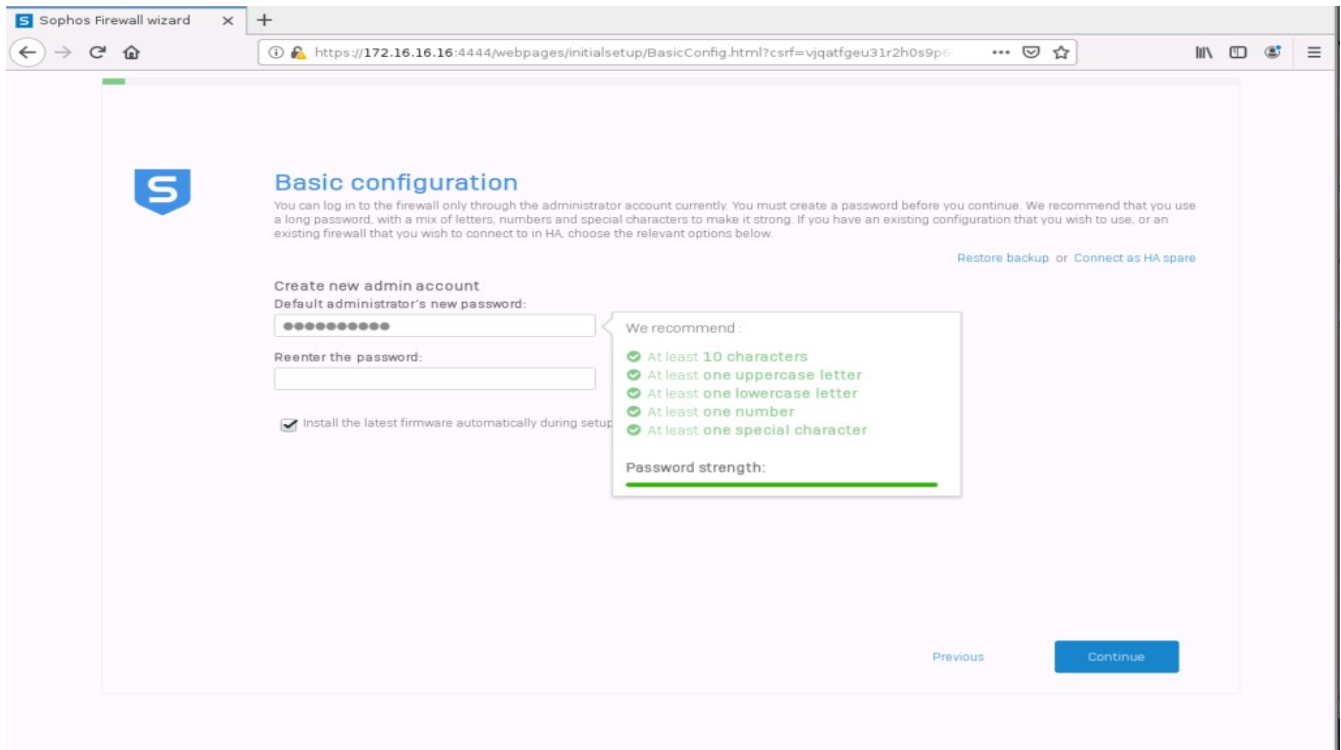
Next, set the IP for eth0.

```
fedora-kde :: ~ » ifconfig eth0 172.16.16.10/24
```

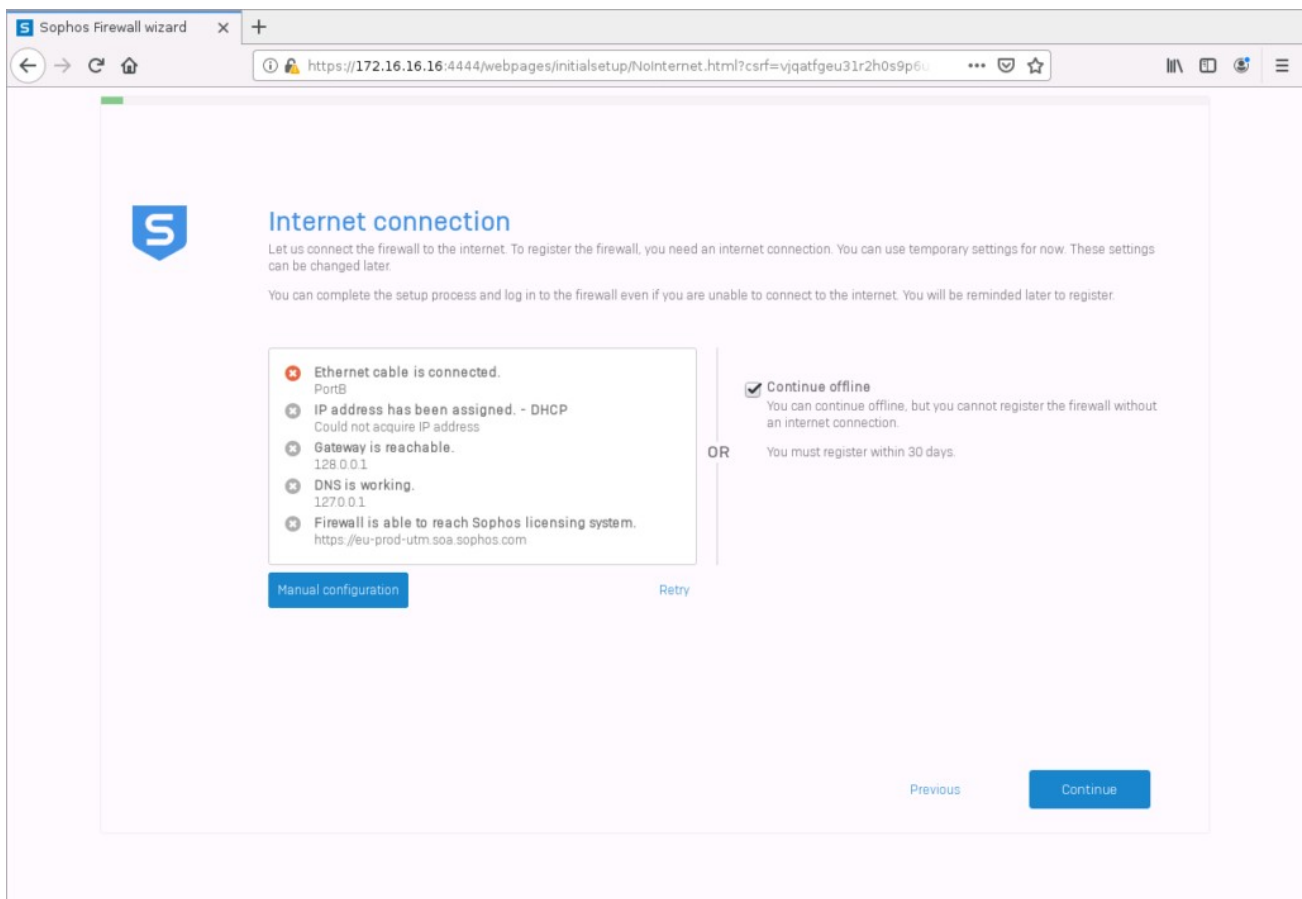
Now we can access the WebUI. Open a browser and enter “https://172.16.16.16:4444”. Accept the terms and click on “Start setup”.



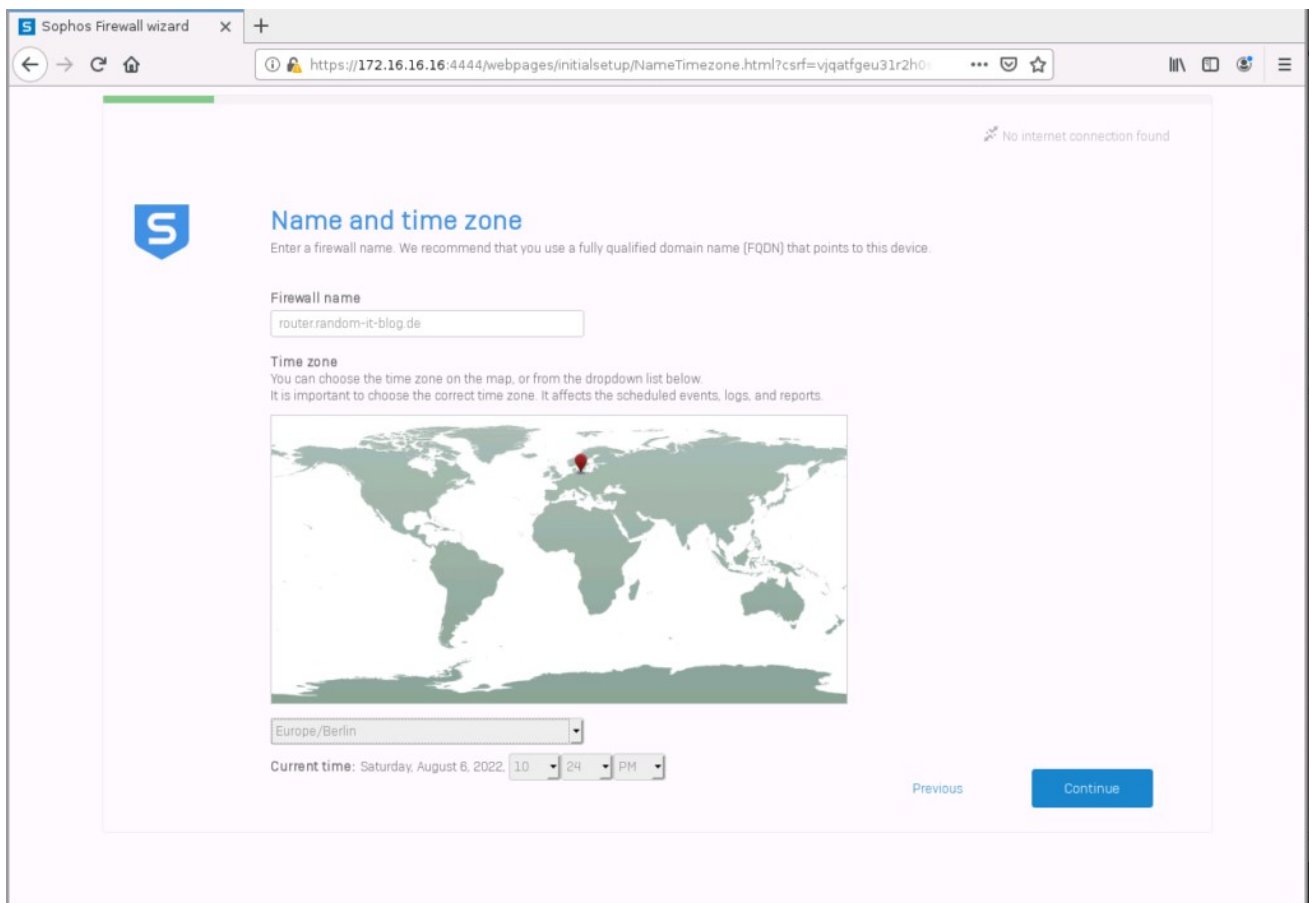
The first step is to set a password for the “admin” user. I will deselect the “install the latest firmware automatically during setup” since this is from a VM without internet access. Click on “Continue”.



Here we set up the internet connection. I tend to skip this step by selecting “Continue offline”.

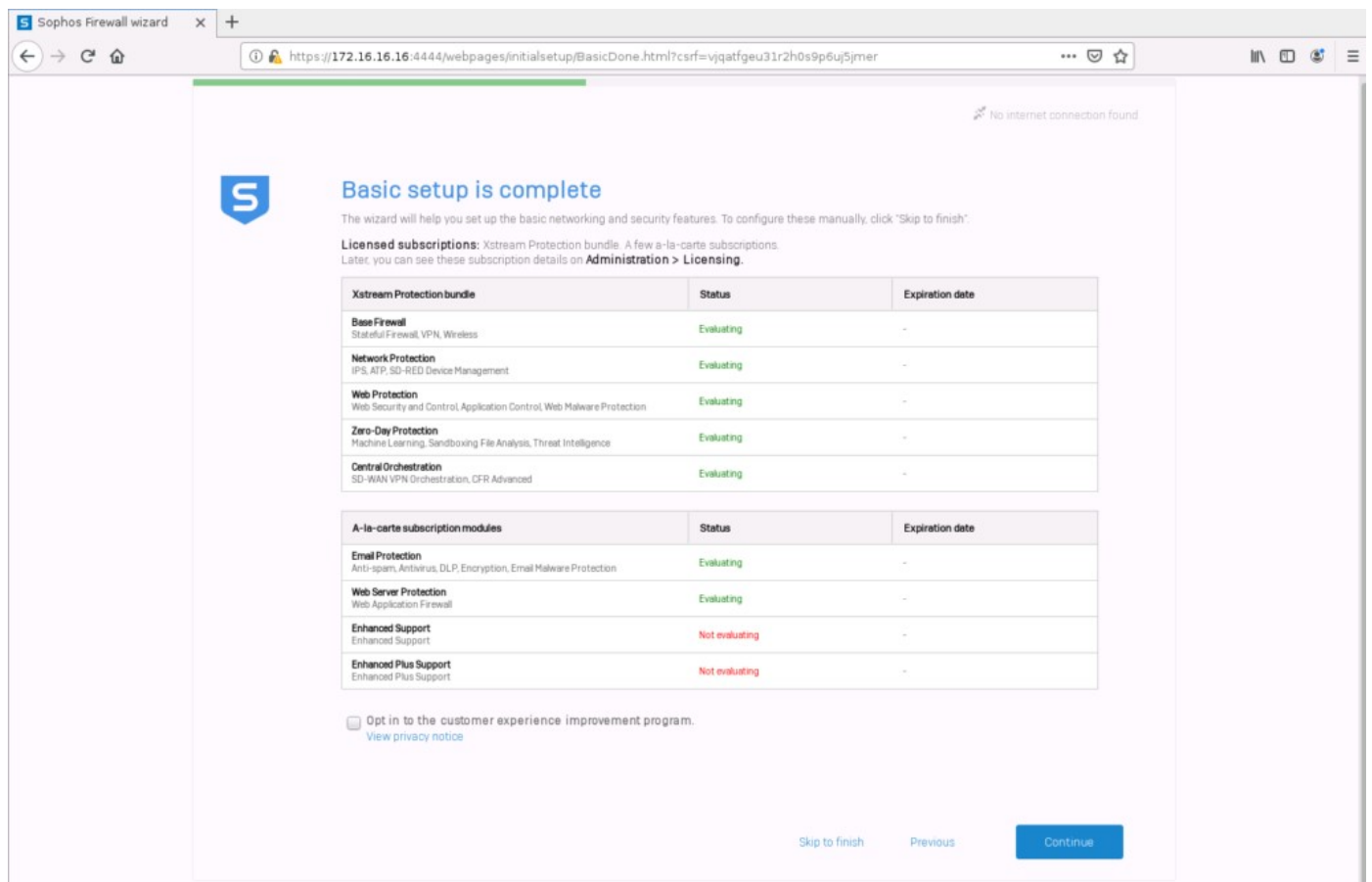


Type in the hostname and select the timezone for the firewall.

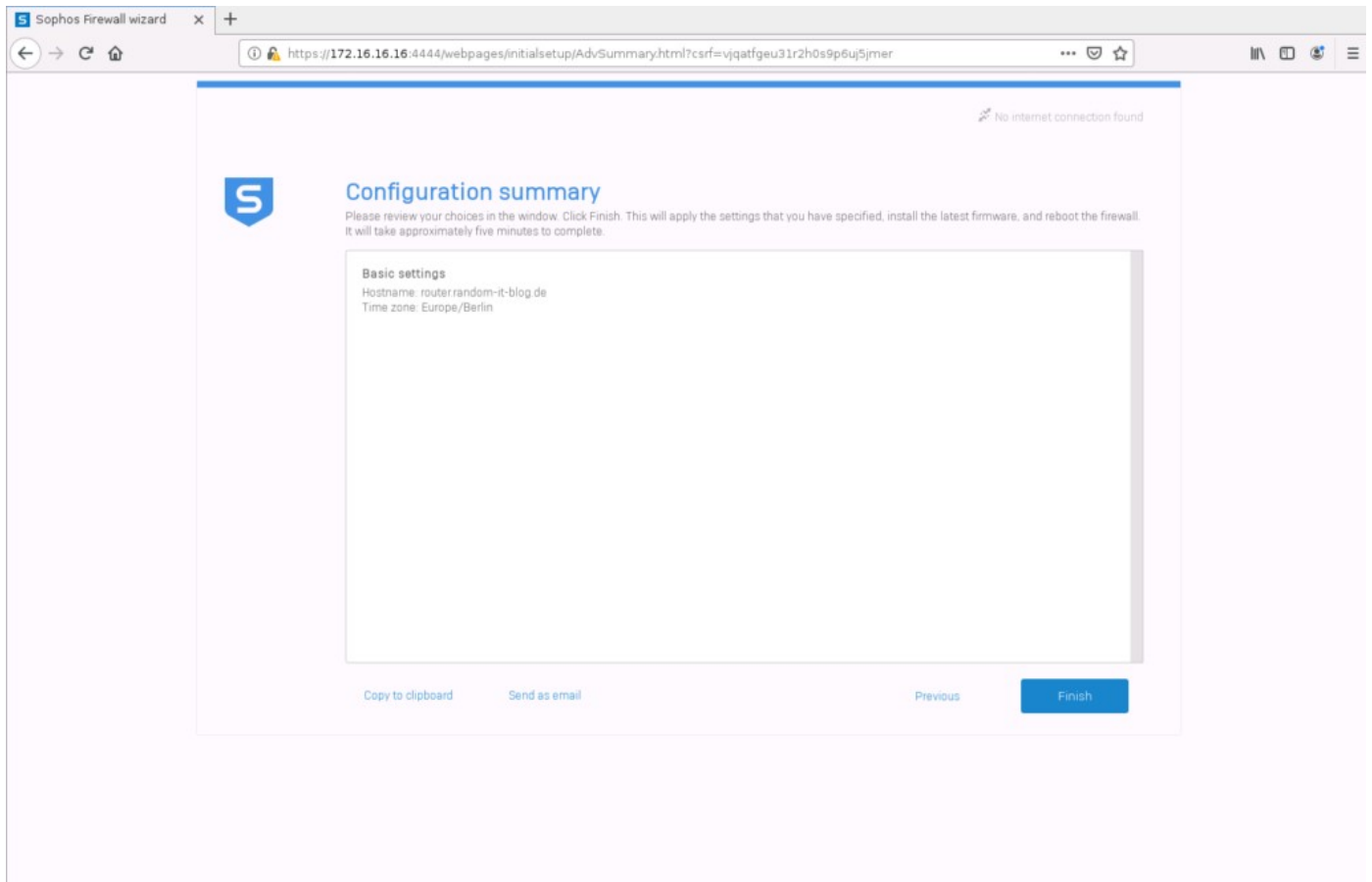


Now we are technically done. We can select “Skip to finish” which would restart the firewall and greet us with a login screen.

We could also continue with the configuration. This would allow us to enable a few things like the web filter and firewall rules, but I like to set this up myself.



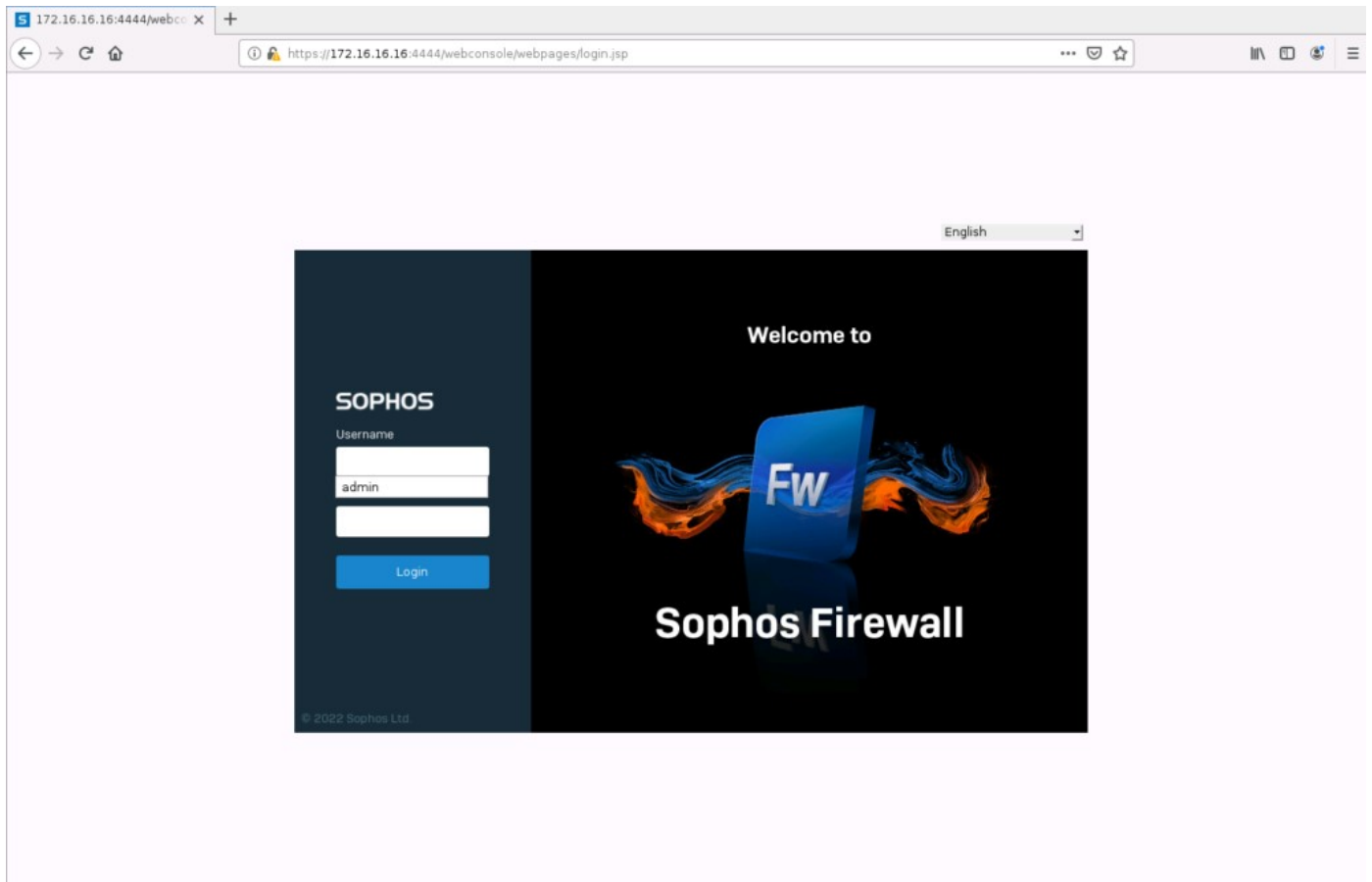
Click "Finish" to complete the setup and restart.



Basic Setup

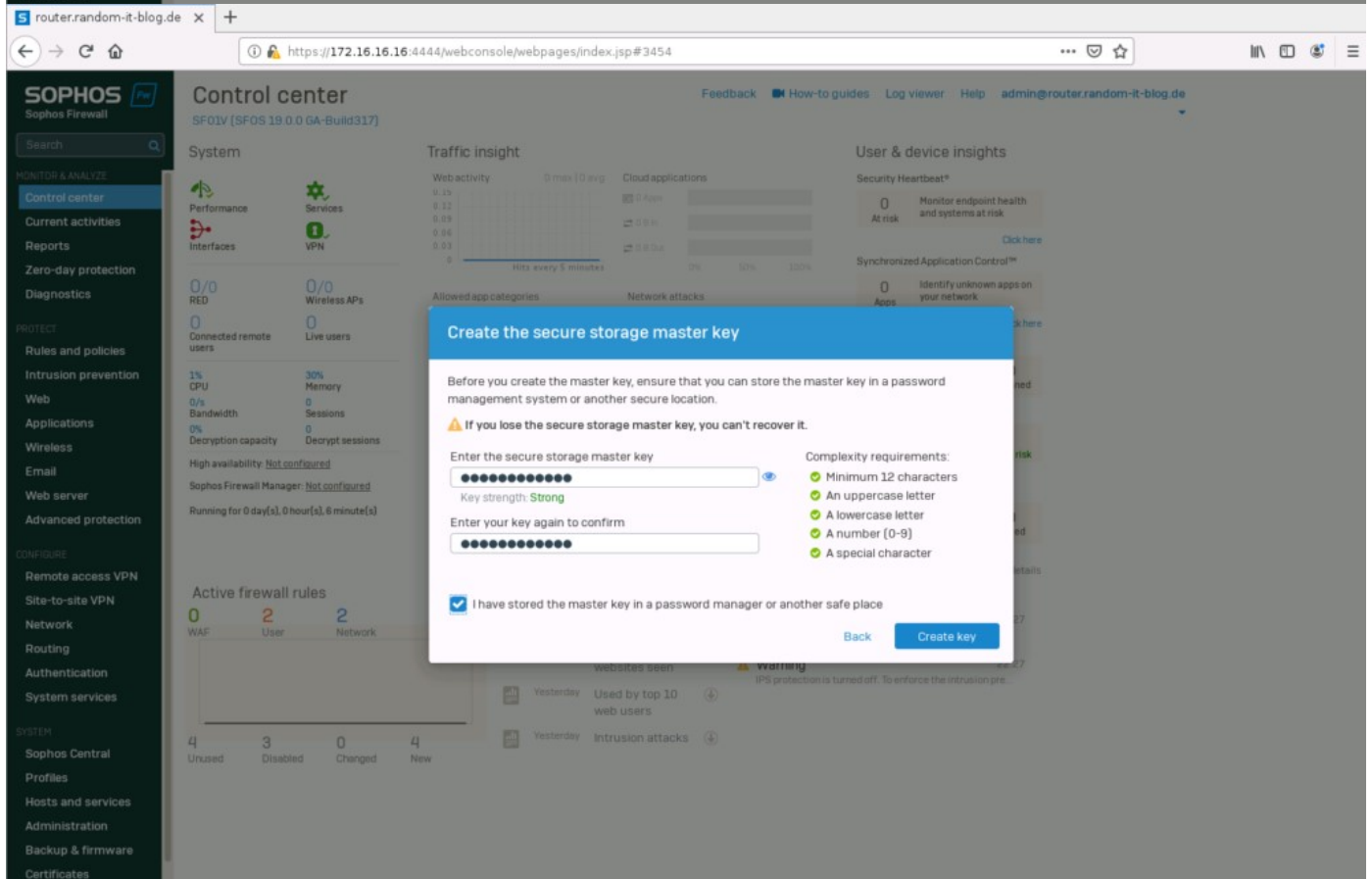
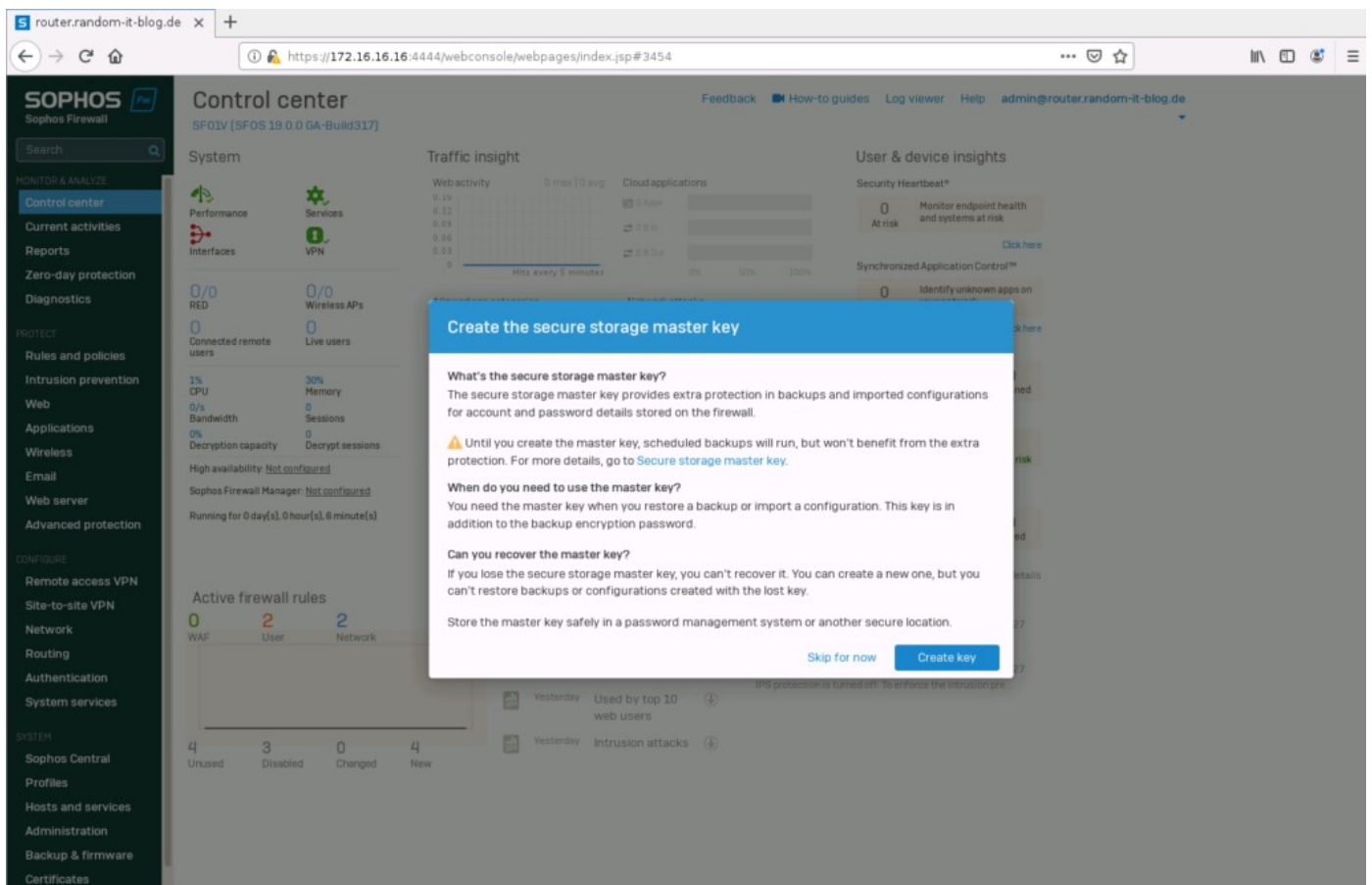
Interface configuration

OK, after a couple of minutes the system should be up and running. We can log in with the username “admin” and the password we set earlier. Let us get through a basic setup, enough to be able to (somewhat) safely access the internet.



Once we are in, we are greeted by a pop-up, which asks us to create a “Storage Master Key”. This is an additional password for your Sophos backups. We will create one now.

Do not lose this password, since we cannot recover it. You can always set a new one for new backups, though.



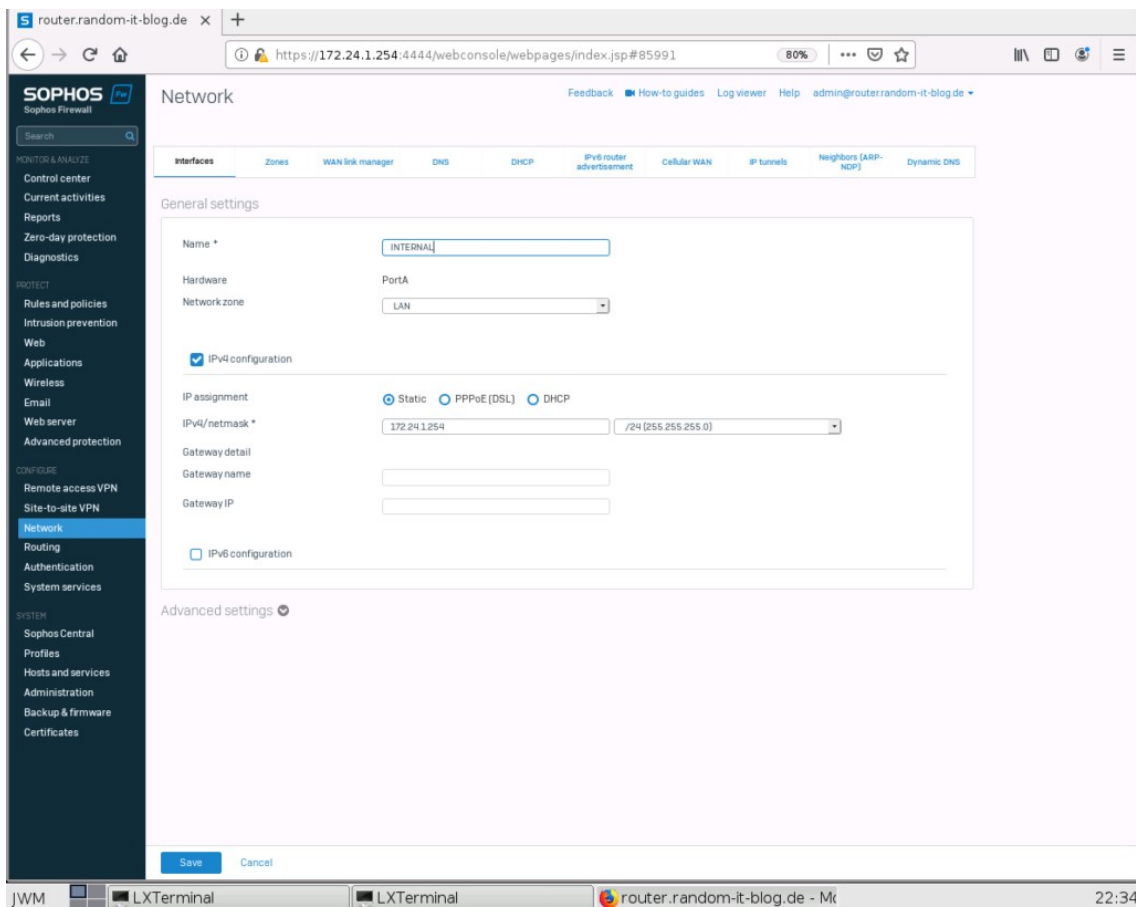
Now we are in. The first step for me is to set the interfaces. So let's begin there.

Select “Network” on the left. Depending on the hardware you are using, the interface page might look slightly different. We will ignore the “GuestAP” interface. I will begin with the internal interface, so select “PortA” or click on the collapsed menu on the right.

The screenshot shows the Sophos Firewall web interface. The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with sections: MONITOR & ANALYZE, PROTECT, CONFIGURE, and SYSTEM. The 'Network' option under CONFIGURE is selected. The main content area is titled 'Network' and shows a list of interfaces. The 'PortA' interface is highlighted with a yellow circle. A red square highlights the configuration icon (three horizontal lines) for PortA. The table below shows the details of the interfaces.

Interface	Status/Interface speed	IP address	Misc
GuestAP WiFi Wireless protection	Unplugged Auto-negotiated	10.255.0.1/255.255.255.0 Static	Hardware: GuestAP
PortA LAN Physical	Connected Auto-negotiated	172.16.16.16/255.255.255.0 Static	Hardware: PortA
PortB WAN Physical	Unplugged Auto-negotiated	N/A DHCP	Hardware: PortB
PortC Unbound Physical	Disabled Auto-negotiated	N/A	Hardware: PortC
PortD Unbound Physical	Disabled Auto-negotiated	N/A	Hardware: PortD

Choose a fitting name, I will use “INTERNAL” and set the IP address. “172.24.1.254/24” in my case. Click on Save to confirm.



To be able to access the system again, we have to change the IP of our device. And while we are at it, let's set the gateway.

```
fedora-kde :: ~ » ifconfig eth0 172.24.1.1/24
```

```
fedora-kde :: ~ » ip route add default via 172.24.1.254
```

```
fedora-kde :: ~ » ip route
```

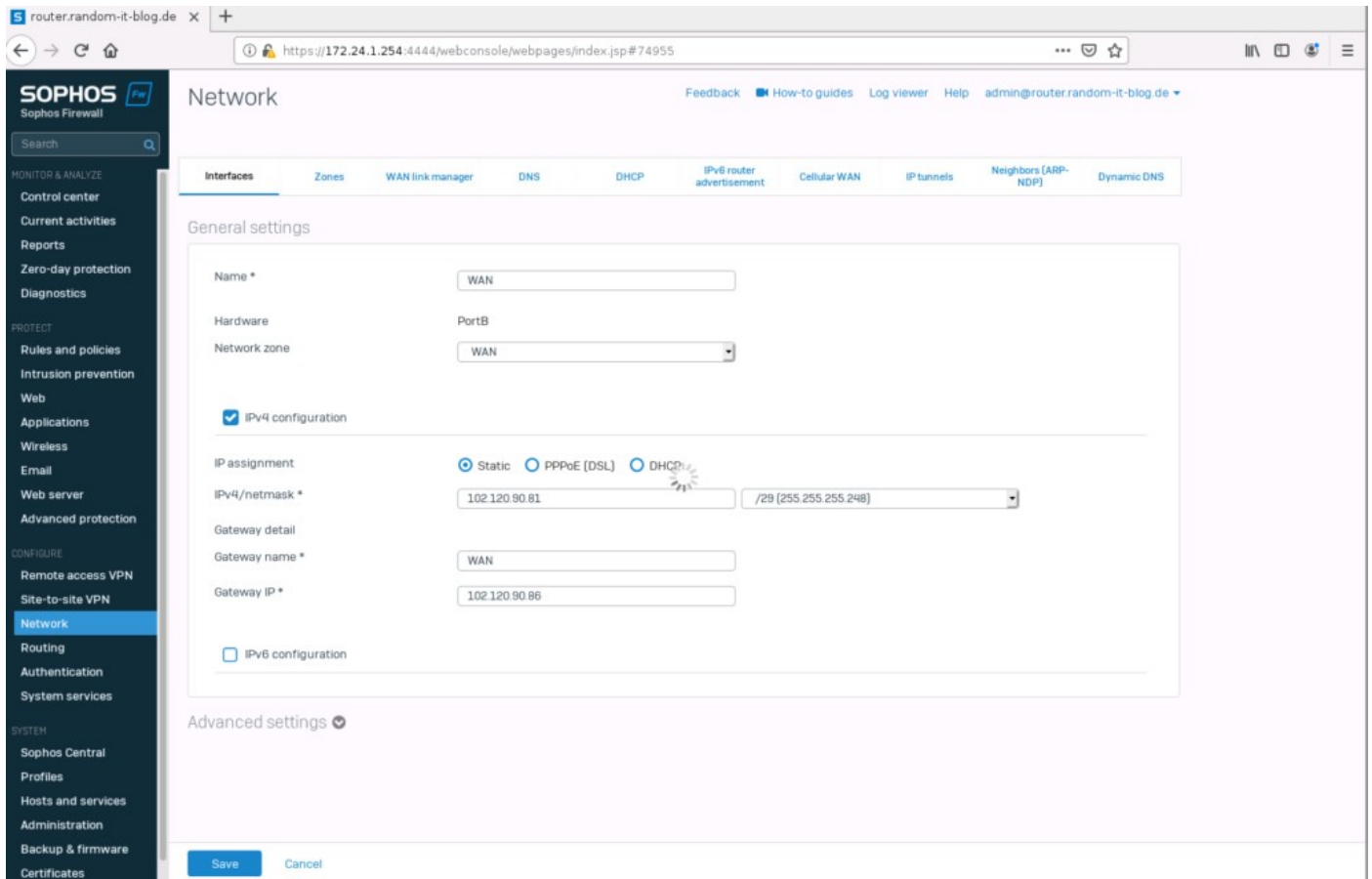
```
default via 172.24.1.254 dev eth0
```

```
172.24.1.0/24 dev eth0 proto kernel scope link src 172.24.1.1
```

OK. Now let's log back in.

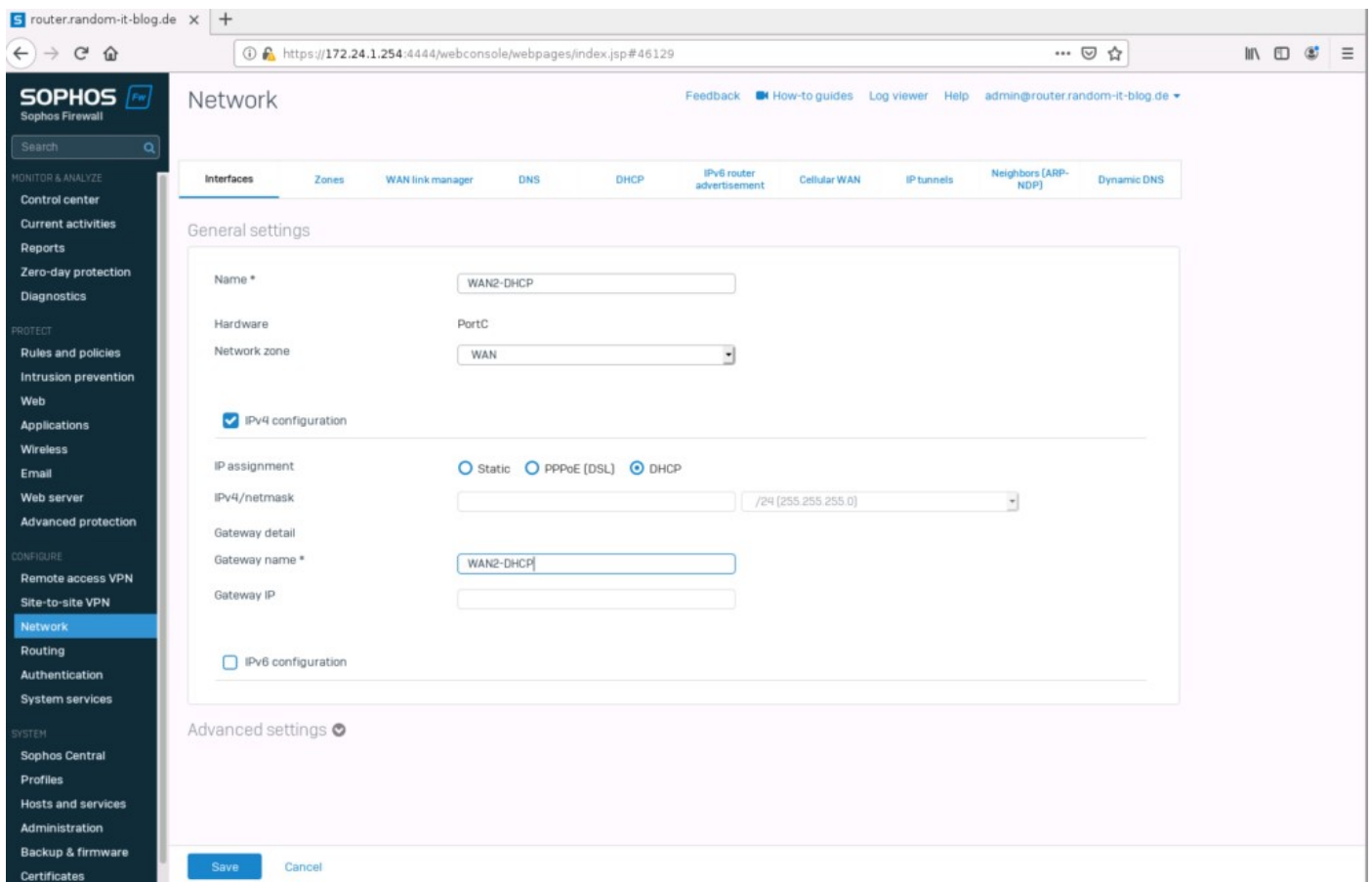
Let us set up the "WAN" interface. I will be using the second port for this. So click on "PortB".

Let's just assume that my provider assigned the network 102.120.90.80/29 to me and the gateway is the last IP in that subnet. So 102.120.90.86. I will be using the first possible IP, 102.120.90.81. The interface will be named "WAN".



This customer has also a second ISP, so we have to configure another interface. Select “PortC”. For this, we will assume the ISP assigned the IPs via DHCP, so no additional configuration is needed.

Select the “Network Zone” WAN and give it a pretty name. I will choose “WAN2-DHCP”.

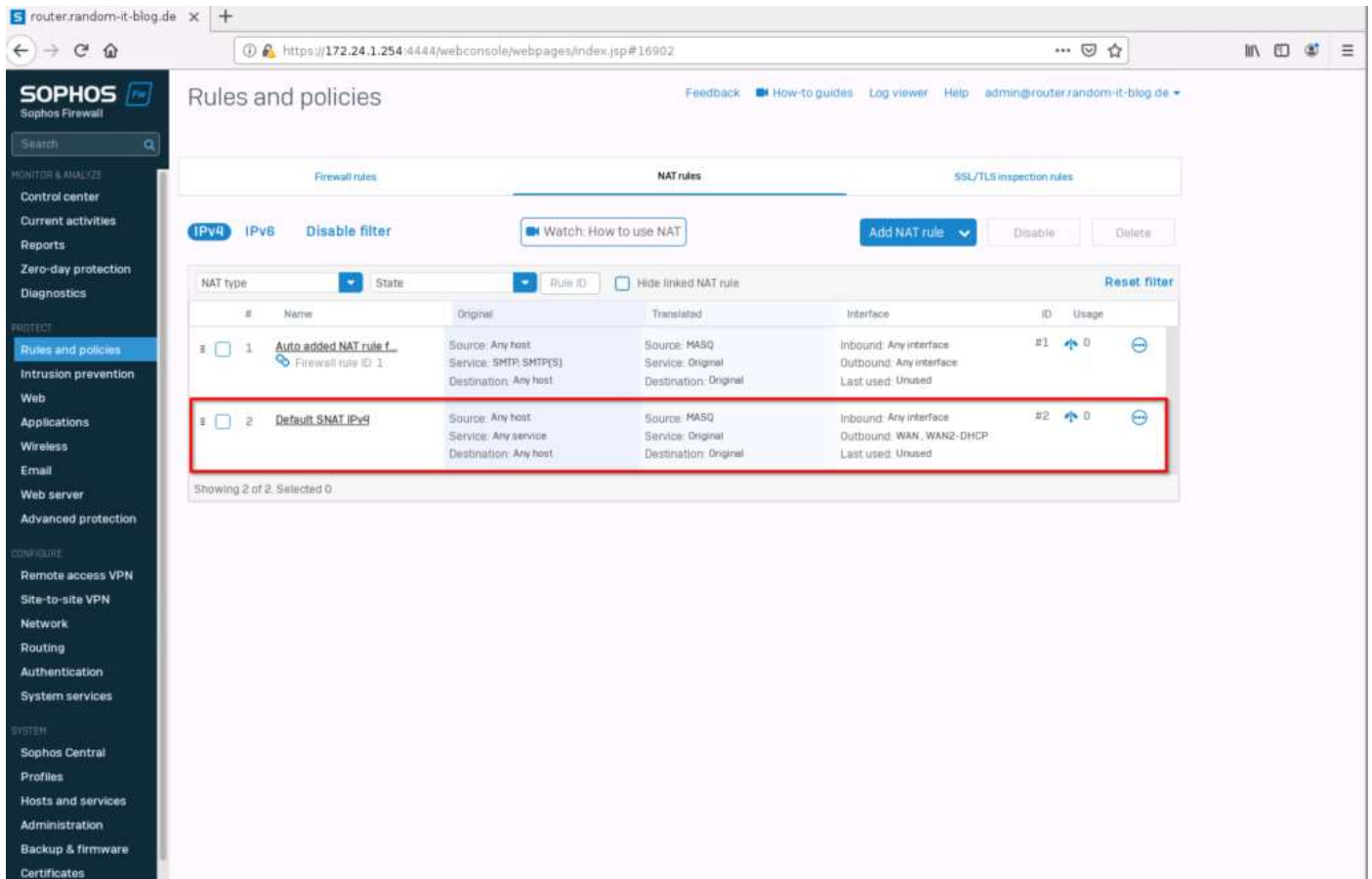


Checking NAT/Masq

Great. Next, we should check if there is a SNAT/Masq rule set. Normally it should be created automatically, but just to make sure. Click on “Rules and policies” and select “NAT rules” in the top bar.

We can see that the second rule is a “SNAT/MASQ” rule and includes both wan interfaces for the “outbound”.

If you don’t have that entry, create a new NAT rule and set the settings identically to the ones listed below.



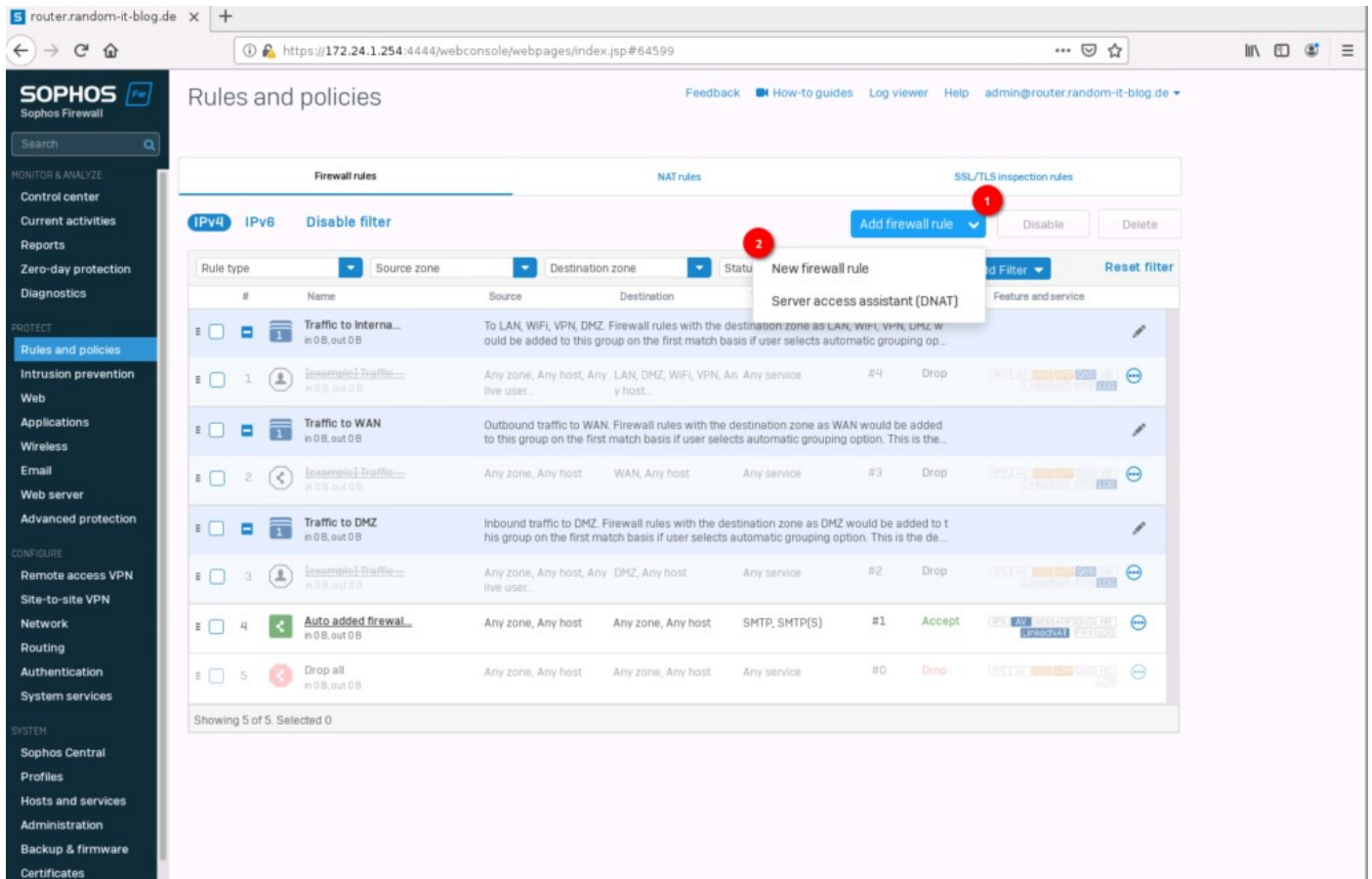
Firewall Configuration

Let's check the firewall rules. There are no active rules (except SMTP) since we skipped the end of the "initial setup".

The screenshot shows the Sophos Firewall web console interface. The left sidebar contains navigation menus for 'MONITOR & ANALYZE', 'PROTECT', 'CONFIGURE', and 'SYSTEM'. The main content area is titled 'Rules and policies' and shows a list of firewall rules. The rules are displayed in a table with columns for #, Name, Source, Destination, What, ID, Action, and Feature and service. The rules are sorted by ID, with rule #0 at the bottom and rule #4 at the top. The 'Add firewall rule' button is visible in the top right corner.

#	Name	Source	Destination	What	ID	Action	Feature and service
4	Traffic to internal...	To LAN, WiFi, VPN, DMZ. Firewall rules with the destination zone as LAN, WiFi, VPN, DMZ w...	Any zone, Any host, Any live user...	LAN, DMZ, WiFi, VPN, An y host...	#4	Drop	...
3	Traffic to WAN	Outbound traffic to WAN. Firewall rules with the destination zone as WAN would be added to this group on the first match basis if user selects automatic grouping option. This is the...	Any zone, Any host	WAN, Any host	Any service	#3	Drop
2	Traffic to DMZ	Inbound traffic to DMZ. Firewall rules with the destination zone as DMZ would be added to t his group on the first match basis if user selects automatic grouping option. This is the de...	Any zone, Any host, Any live user...	DMZ, Any host	Any service	#2	Drop
1	Auto added firewall...	Any zone, Any host	Any zone, Any host	SMTP, SMTP(S)	#1	Accept	...
0	Drop all	Any zone, Any host	Any zone, Any host	Any service	#0	Drop	...

Let's create one. Select "Add firewall rule" and click on "New firewall rule".



Give the new rule a name. I will create one for “webbrowsing”. For the “source zone” select “LAN”. In “Source networks and devices” remove “Any” and create a new “network” item.

Type in the internal network you use, in my case 172.24.1.0/24, and click on “Save”.

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https://172.24.1.254:4444/webconsole/webpages/index.jsp#64599 90%

SOPHOS Sophos Firewall

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- Control center
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PROTECT

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Add firewall rule

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Rule status ☒ Rule status

Rule name * Webbrowsing

Action Accept

☐ Log firewall traffic
Logs traffic matching this firewall rule on the appliance (by default) or on the configured syslog server.

Description Enter Description

Rule position Bottom

Rule group Automatic

Automatically adds rule to an existing group based on first match with rule type and source-destination zones.

Can't add the rule to an existing group based on the selected criteria.

Source
Select the source zones, networks, and devices.
The rule applies to traffic from these sources during the scheduled time period.

Source zones * LAN

Source networks and devices * Any

During scheduled time All the time

Select to apply the rule to a specific time period day of the week.

Destination and services
Select the destination zones, networks, devices, and services.
The rule applies to traffic to these destinations.

Destination zones *

Services * Any

Services are traffic types based on a combination of protocols and ports.

☐ Match known users

Save Cancel

Summary
Webbrowsing

Rule
Accept any service going to "not defined" zone, when in "LAN" zone, and coming from any network.

Source & schedule
LAN
Source networks and devices: Any
During scheduled time: All the time

Destination and services
Destination networks: Any
Services: Any

Exclusions
Source zones: Source networks and devices: Destination networks: Destination networks: Services:

Advanced
Synchronized security
Source: Minimum heartbeat is No restriction. Clients with no heartbeat allowed.
Destination: Minimum heartbeat is No restriction. Request to destination with no heartbeat allowed.

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https://172.24.1.254:4444/webconsole/webpages/index.jsp#64599 90%

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Add firewall rule

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Rule status ☒ Rule status

Rule name * Webbrowsing

Action Accept

☐ Log firewall traffic
Logs traffic matching this firewall rule on the appliance (by default) or on the configured syslog server.

Description Enter Description

Rule position Bottom

Rule group Automatic

Automatically adds rule to an existing group based on first match with rule type and source-destination zones.

Can't add the rule to an existing group based on the selected criteria.

Source
Select the source zones, networks, and devices.
The rule applies to traffic from these sources during the scheduled time period.

Source zones * LAN

Source networks and devices * Any

During scheduled time All the time

Select to apply the rule to a specific time period day of the week.

Destination and services
Select the destination zones, networks, devices, and services.
The rule applies to traffic to these destinations.

Destination zones *

Services * Any

Services are traffic types based on a combination of protocols and ports.

☐ Match known users

Save Cancel

Summary
Webbrowsing

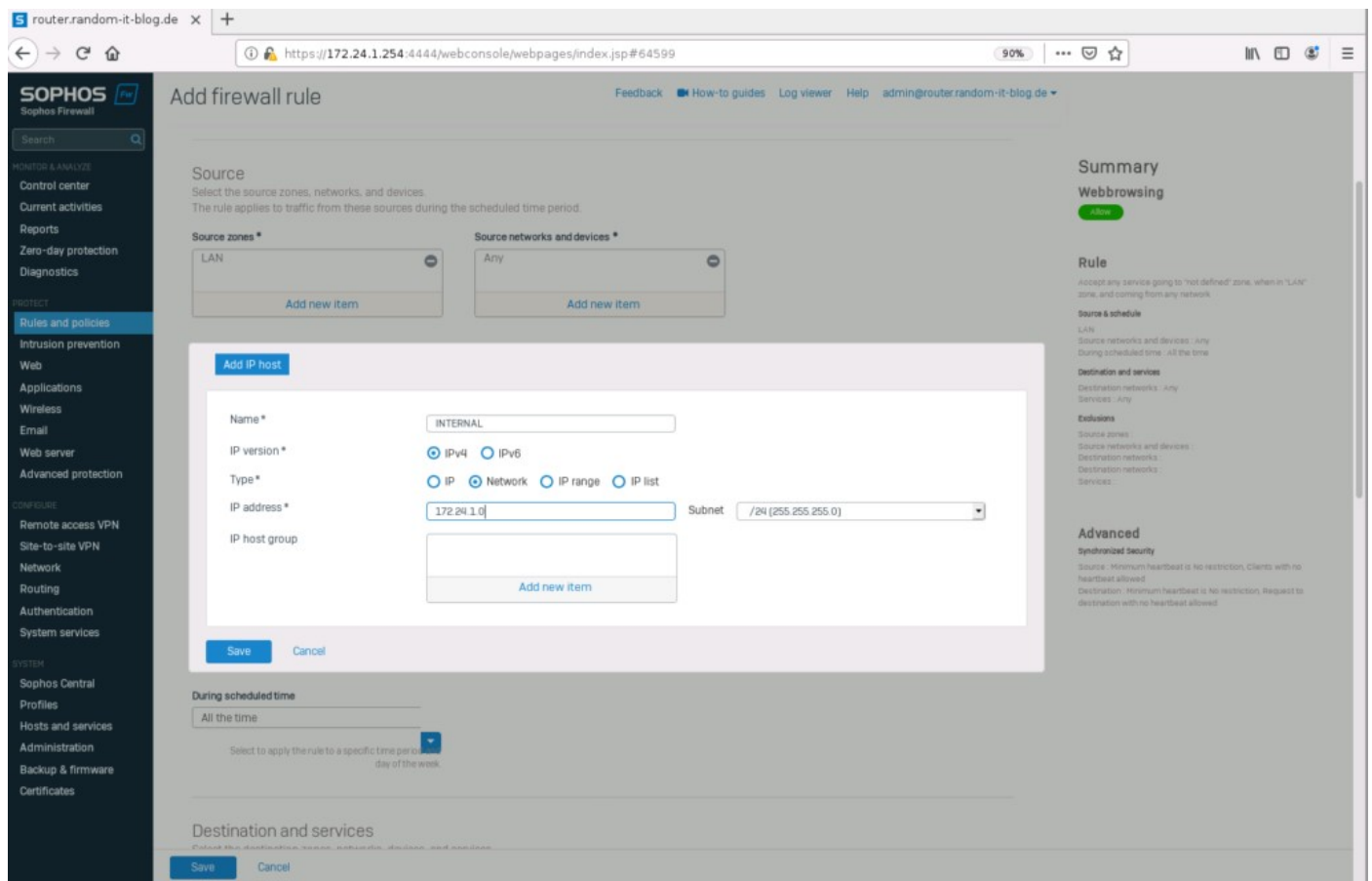
Rule
Accept any service going to "not defined" zone, when in "LAN" zone, and coming from any network.

Source & schedule
LAN
Source networks and devices: Any
During scheduled time: All the time

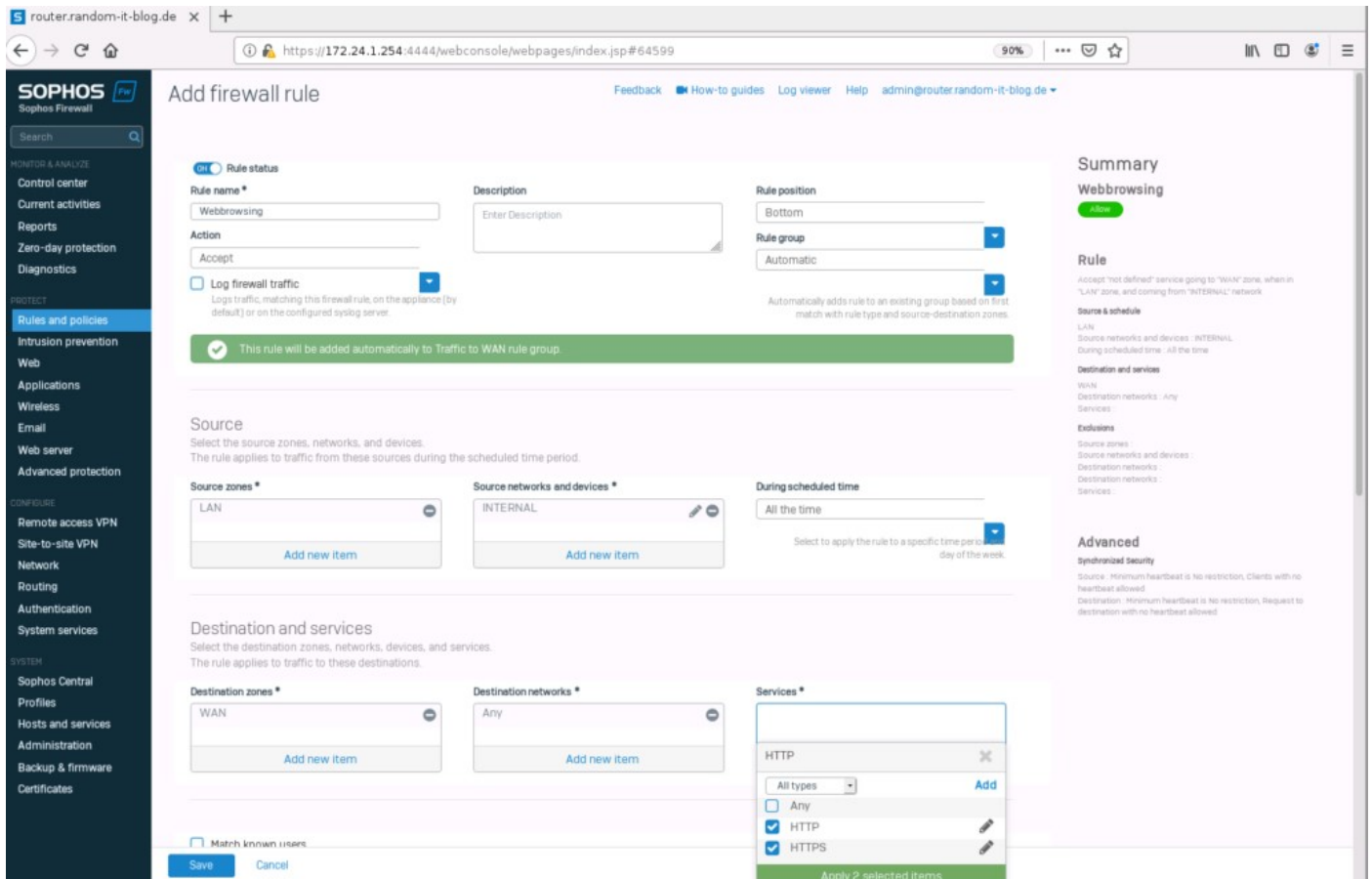
Destination and services
Destination networks: Any
Services: Any

Exclusions
Source zones: Source networks and devices: Destination networks: Destination networks: Services:

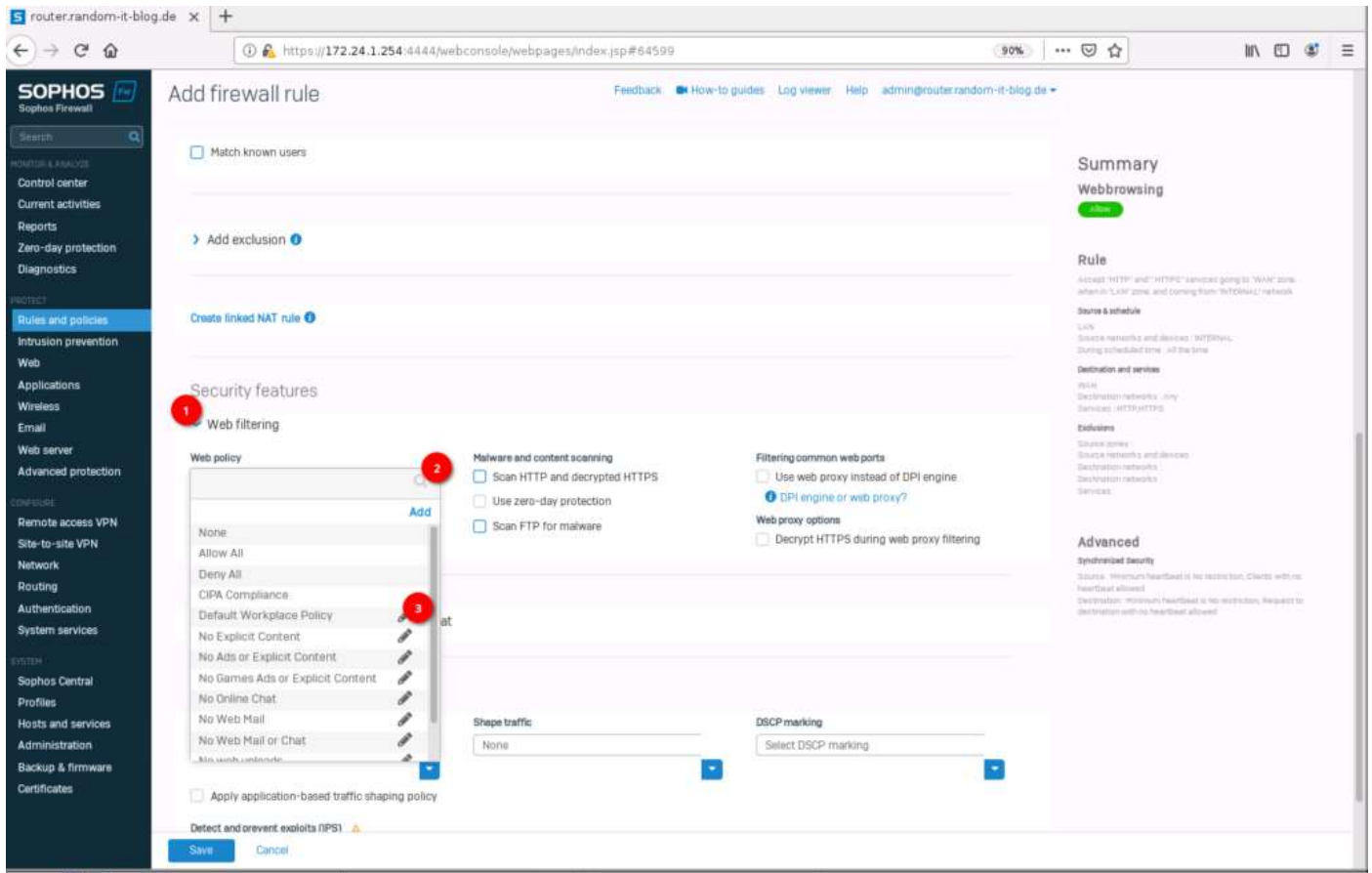
Advanced
Synchronized security
Source: Minimum heartbeat is No restriction. Clients with no heartbeat allowed.
Destination: Minimum heartbeat is No restriction. Request to destination with no heartbeat allowed.



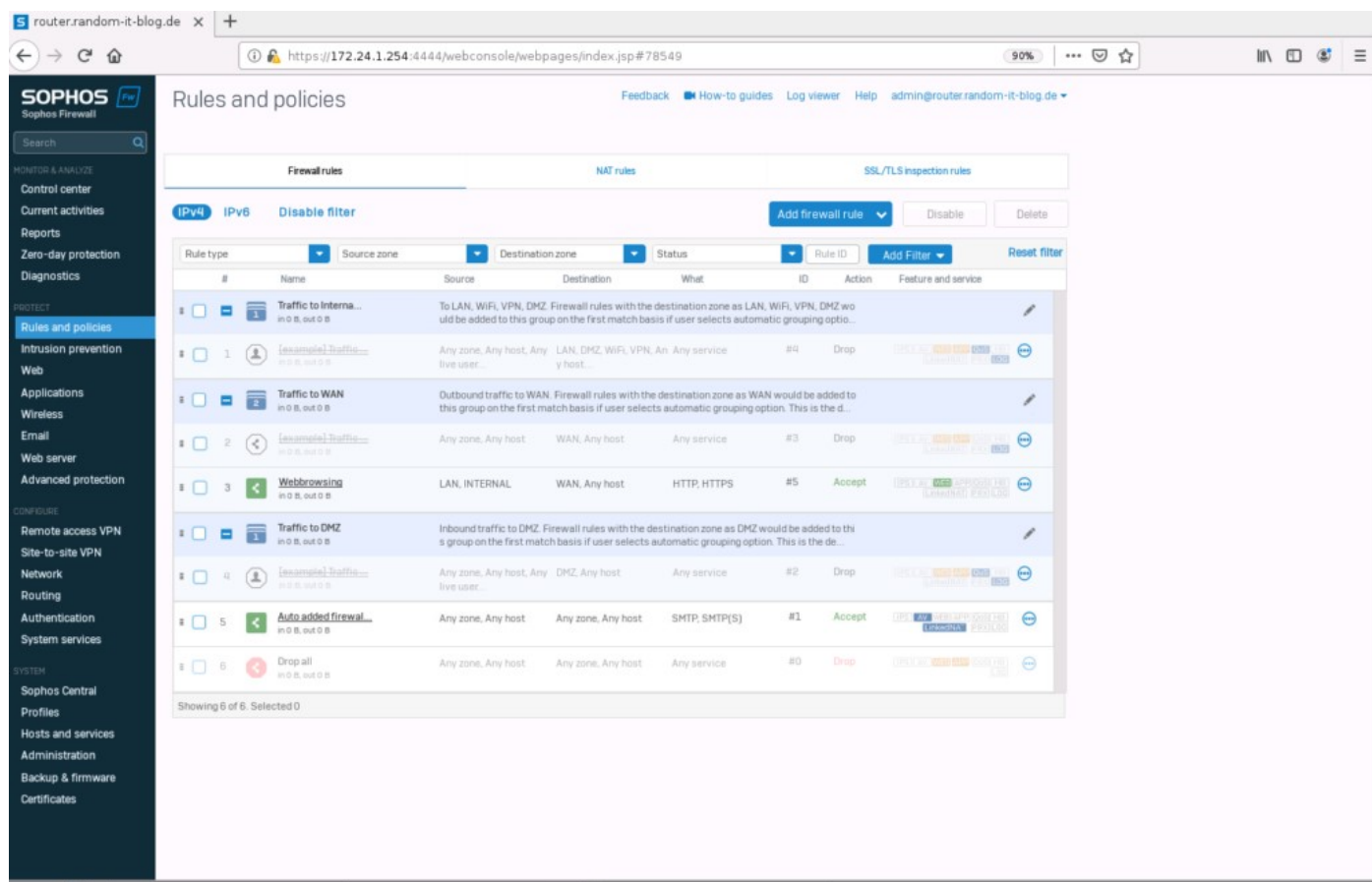
Choose “WAN” for the “destination zone”. Leave “Any” in the “destination networks”.
 Remove “Any” from the “Services” and click on “Add new item”. Here you can search for the protocol.
 Type in HTTP and select both “HTTP” and “HTTPS”.



Scroll down until you see the “Security features”. Select “Web filtering” and click on “Default Workplace Policy”. We will set this up later.



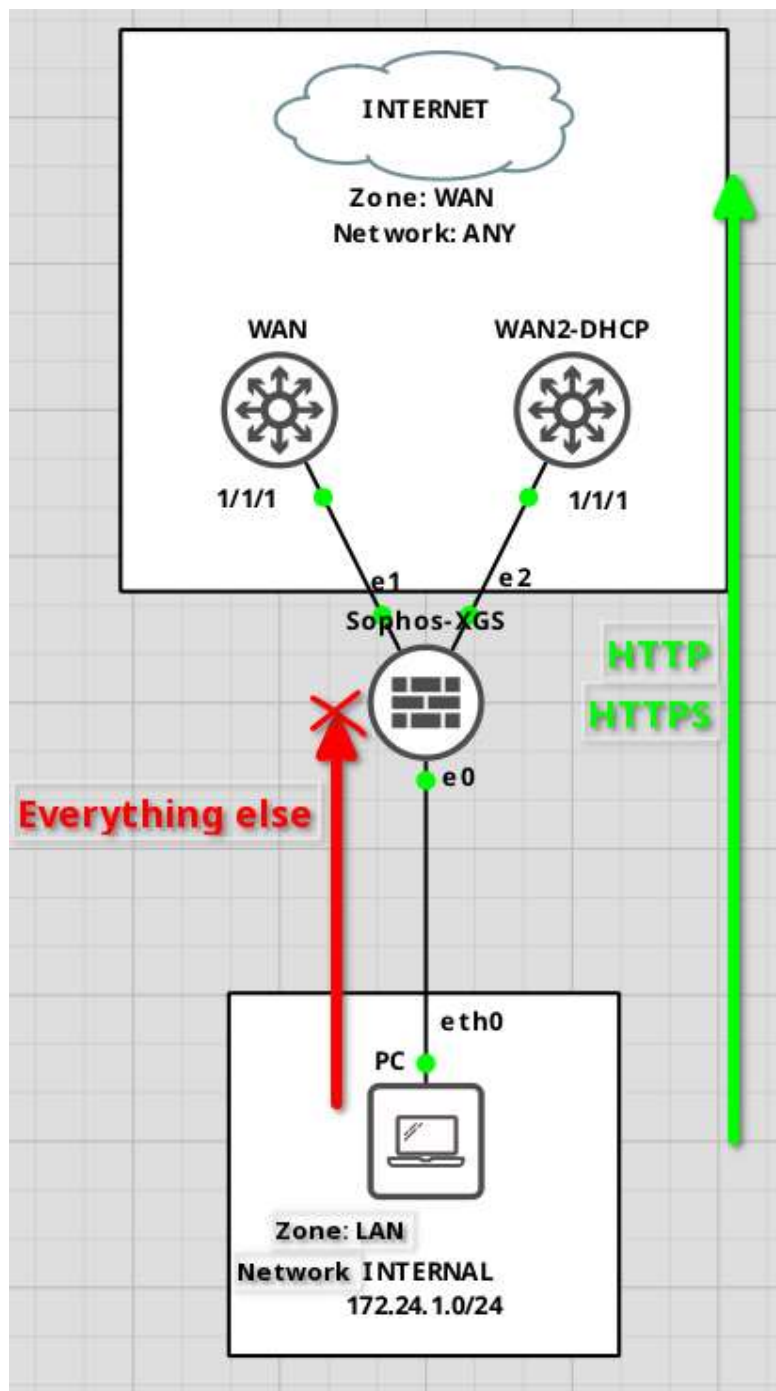
That's it. Click on Save.



This rule allows any system from the “LAN” zone with an IP from the “INTERNAL” network to access “Any” IP in the “WAN” zone (basically the internet) with the protocols HTTP (80/TCP) and HTTPs (443/TCP).

The default is to block everything.

Maybe this helps to understand the concept a little bit?



Webfilter Configuration

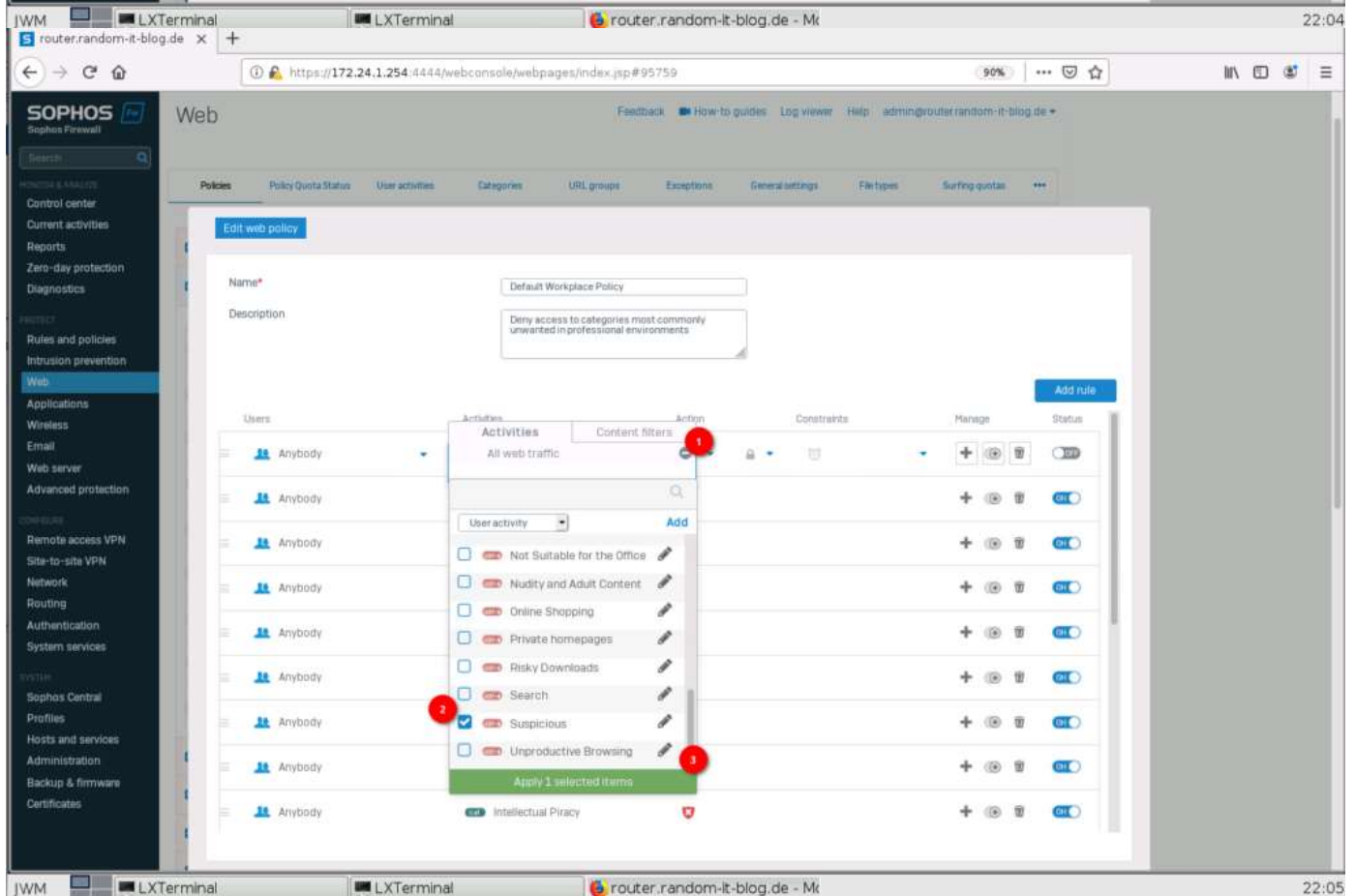
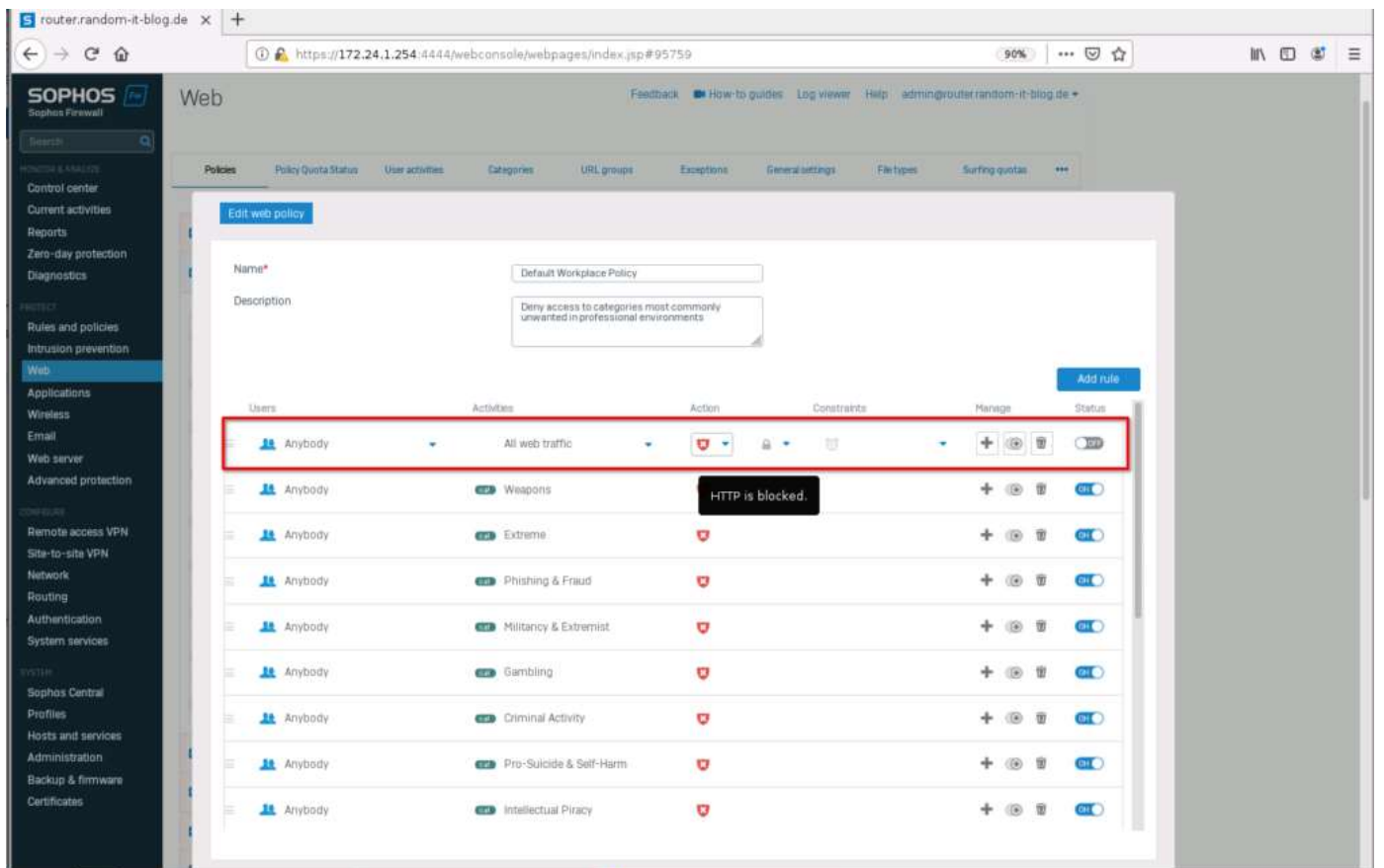
Onto the Webfilter configuration. Click on “Web” and select “Default Workplace Policy”.

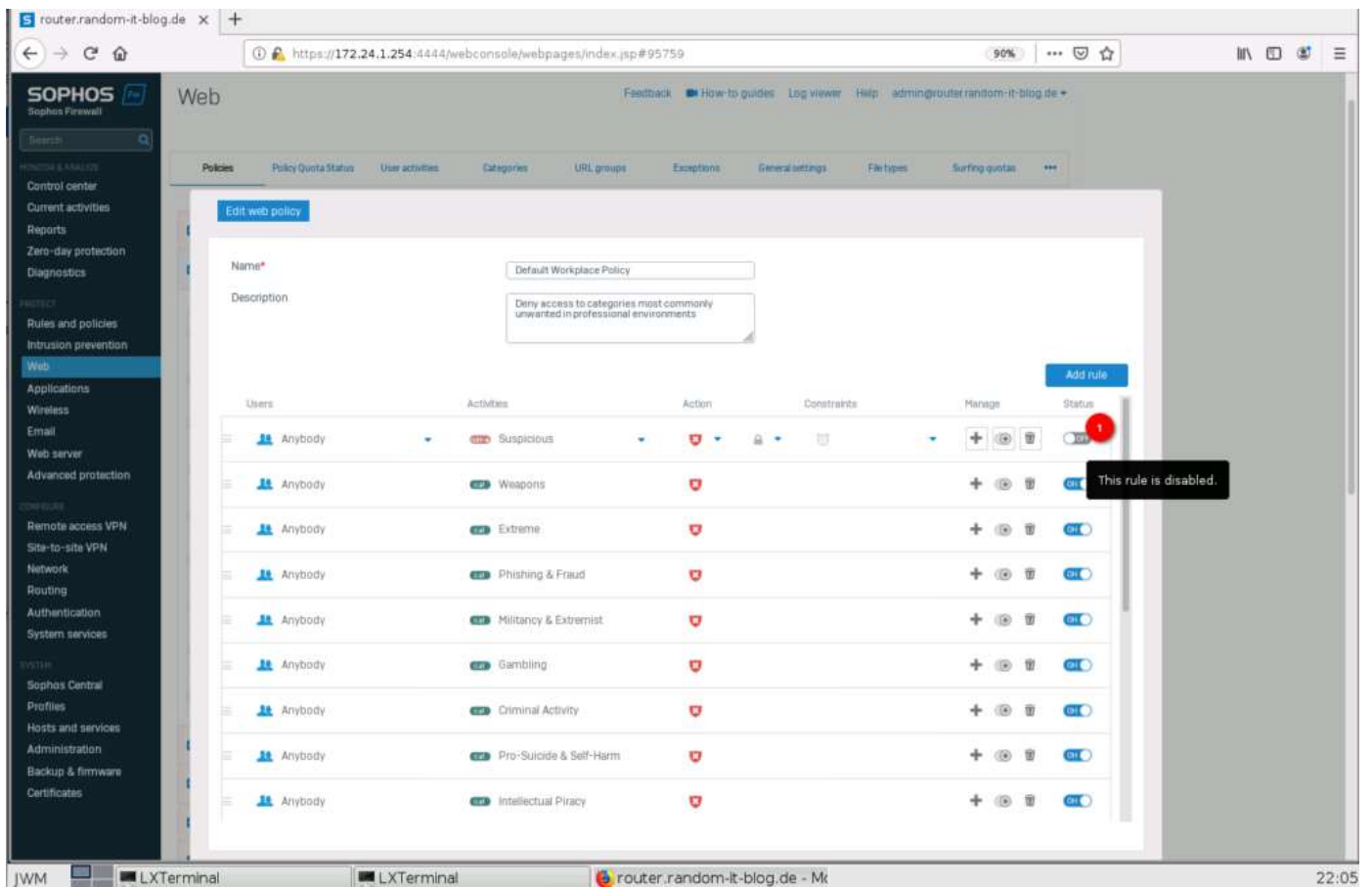
For the most part, this filter is actually fine, but let’s just add another rule. Click on the pen symbol and select “Add rule”.

24 IT Intern (**SOHAIL AHMED**) | Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA)

This will add a new line at the top of the list. Here you can choose what kind of activities should be filtered, what kind of action should be taken and during what time (only weekends for instance).

Click on “All web traffic” under “Activities”, deselect it, and select something more specific. I will choose “User activity” “Suspicious”. You could also choose something more specific, by switching to “All types” in the drop-down above. Enable the rule with the switch on the right.

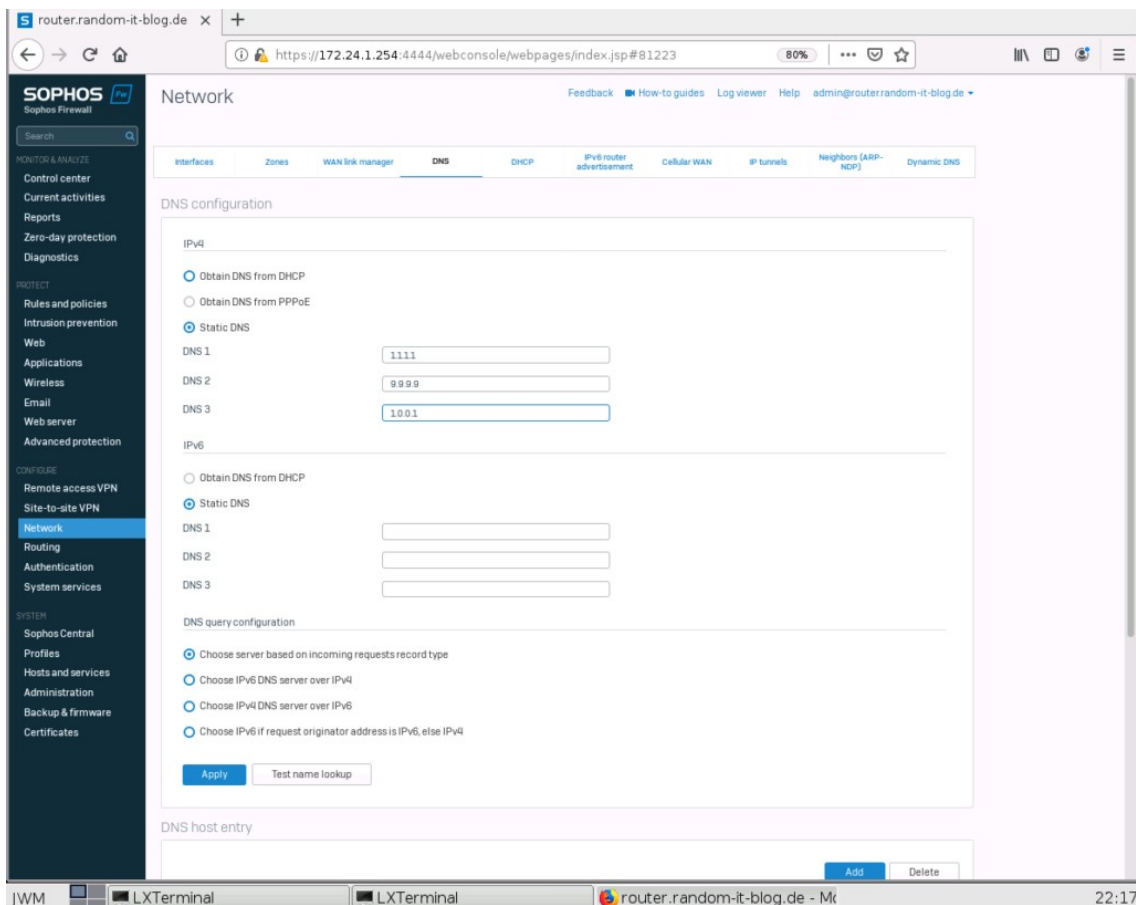




DNS Configuration

DNS is next on the list.

Select "Network" -> "DNS". Here we can set the nameservers we want to use. I will use a few public DNS servers. Two are from Cloudflare and the other one is Quad9. Apply the configuration.



DHCP Configuration

This should be the last setting. DHCP is disabled in the default configuration. This will stay disabled for the customer, but we will enable it for this demonstration.

Select “Network” -> “DHCP” and just click on the “Default DHCP Server”. Change the IP range to the correct subnet and the desired range. Enter the DNS server you want to distribute and click on “Save”.

Now switch the “off” button on the right to enable the DHCP Server. That’s it.

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https://172.24.1.254:4444/webconsole/webpages/index.jsp#78435

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Network

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Interfaces Zones WAN link manager DNS DHCP IPv6 router advertisement Cellular WAN IP tunnels Neighbors (ARP-NDP) Dynamic DNS

Server

Add Delete

Name	Interface	Lease detail	Dynamic	Static	IP version	Status	Manage
Default DHCP Server	LAN-172.24.1.254	172.16.16.17-172.16.16.254	-	-	IPv4	ON	
GuestAccess DHCP	GuestAP-10.255.0.1	10.255.0.2-10.255.0.254	-	-	IPv4	ON	

Relay

Add Delete

Name	Interface	DHCP server IP	IP version	Manage
No records found				

IPv4 lease

Leased IP	Leased start time	Leased end time	Client physical address	Client hostname	Lease type
No records found					

IPv6 lease

Leased IP	Leased start time	Leased end time	Client physical address	DUID
No records found				

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Network

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Interfaces Zones WAN link manager DNS DHCP IPv6 router advertisement Cellular WAN IP tunnels Neighbors (ARP-NDP) Dynamic DNS

General settings

Name * Default_DHCP_Server

Interface LAN-172.24.1.254

Accept client request via relay

Dynamic IP lease

Start IP 172.24.1.10 End IP 172.24.1.100

* Press Tab to add a new row

Static IP MAC mapping

Hostname	MAC address	IP address

* Press Tab to add a new row

Subnet mask * /24 (255.255.255.0)

Domain name

Gateway * ☒ Use interface IP as gateway

172.24.1.254

Default lease time * 1440 1-43200 minutes (30 days)

Max lease time * 2880 1-43200 minutes (30 days)

Conflict detection ☒ Enable

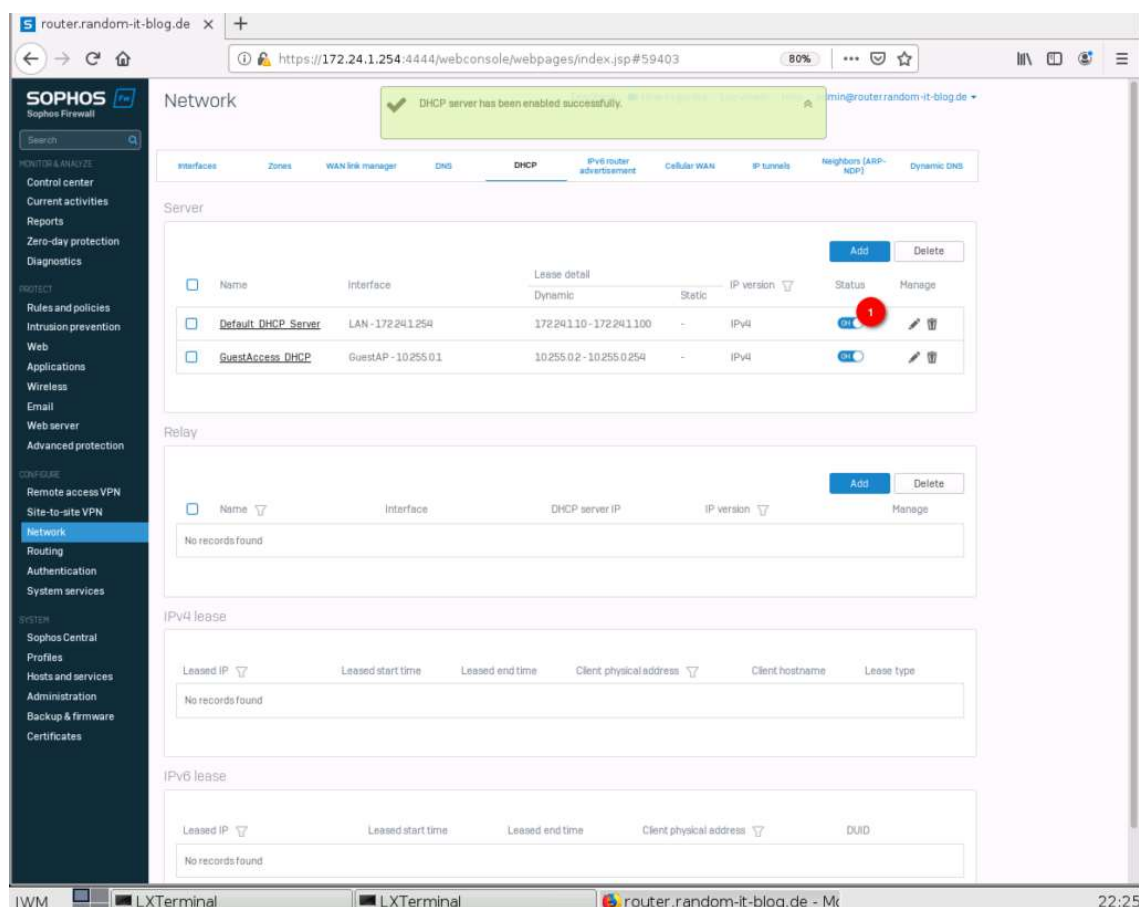
DNS server

☐ Use device's DNS settings

Primary DNS 172.24.1.254

Secondary DNS

Save Cancel



Add Exceptions to WAF on Sophos XG Firewall

To add exceptions or exclusions to the Web Application Firewall (WAF) on a Sophos XG Firewall, you typically need to create specific rules that bypass the WAF inspection for certain web traffic or URLs. Here's a general guide on how to add exceptions to the WAF on a Sophos XG Firewall:

Access the Sophos XG Firewall Interface: Log in to the Sophos XG Firewall's web-based administration interface using your administrator credentials.

Navigate to the WAF Configuration: Go to the section of the administration interface where you can configure the Web Application Firewall settings. This is typically found under the "Protection" or "Firewall" menu.

Create a New WAF Policy: If you haven't already created a separate policy for managing exceptions, you may want to do so. This will allow you to keep exception rules separate from your regular WAF rules.

Add an Exception Rule: Within the WAF policy or rule set, locate the option to add a new rule. Depending on the interface design of the Sophos XG Firewall, this may involve clicking on a "Add Rule" button or similar action.

Configure the Exception Rule:

Define the criteria for the exception rule. This could include specifying the source IP addresses, destination URLs, or other attributes that identify the traffic you want to exclude from WAF inspection.

Specify the action for the rule. In this case, you would typically select an action that bypasses or excludes the traffic from WAF inspection. This may be labeled as "Bypass", "Exclude", or similar.

Optionally, provide a description or comment to document the purpose of the exception rule for future reference.

Save the Rule: Once you have configured the exception rule, save your changes to apply the rule to the WAF policy.

Test the Exception Rule: Before deploying the exception rule in a production environment, test it to ensure that it effectively bypasses WAF inspection for the intended traffic without unintended consequences.

Monitor and Maintain: Regularly monitor the WAF logs and reports to verify that the exception rules are working as expected and are not being abused or misused. Make any necessary adjustments to the exception rules based on changes in your network environment or security requirements.

By following these steps, you can add exceptions to the Web Application Firewall on a Sophos XG Firewall to allow certain web traffic to bypass WAF inspection when necessary.