

# CX10K Hands on Lab User Guide

by Toby Makepeace / Don Zaine

## Abstract

This is the user workbook for the DPU test-drive hands on lab

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## Doc version

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## Key Abbreviations

These will help you reference any abbreviations you encounter while reading through the lab Guide

**DPU** = Data Processing Unit

**vDS** = VMWare Distributed Switch

**DSM** = Distributed Services Module

**ELK** = Elasticsearch Logstash Kibana

**PSM** = Policy and Services Manager

**VM** = Virtual Machine

**WS** = Workstation

## Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this Hand's on Lab you will be able to:

1. Understand the value and benefit of a DPU enabled smart switch
2. Interpret VMware networking, PSM policy and ELK visibility
3. Familiarize yourself with the layout of PSM and ELK interfaces
4. Understand how micro- and macro-segmentation can be achieved on east/west workloads on the CX 10000 which can help you achieve your Zero Trust architecture goals in your datacenter architecture
5. Have a working knowledge of basic base policy features of PSM

## Getting Started

This guide provides a high-level overview of the capabilities of the CX10000. Its purpose is to provide guidance and inspiration for experimenting within your own controlled, self-contained lab environment either through the PSM or via the API. Since each hosted environment of the DPU test-drive will vary, the course leader will explain any local variations or changes. This course aims to familiarize you with the features that can be configured and managed via PSM. Please Explore, break, learn and enhance your knowledge of the products during this time.

## Scenario

Throughout this lab activity, you will learn how the HPE Aruba CX1000 with AMD Pensando DPU solution can enable a next gen Data Center architecture.

By inserting stateful service capabilities in a data Center fabric, security and visibility are now integrated into your environment and placed closer to where applications and workloads live without any impact on existing network architecture or software configuration changes.

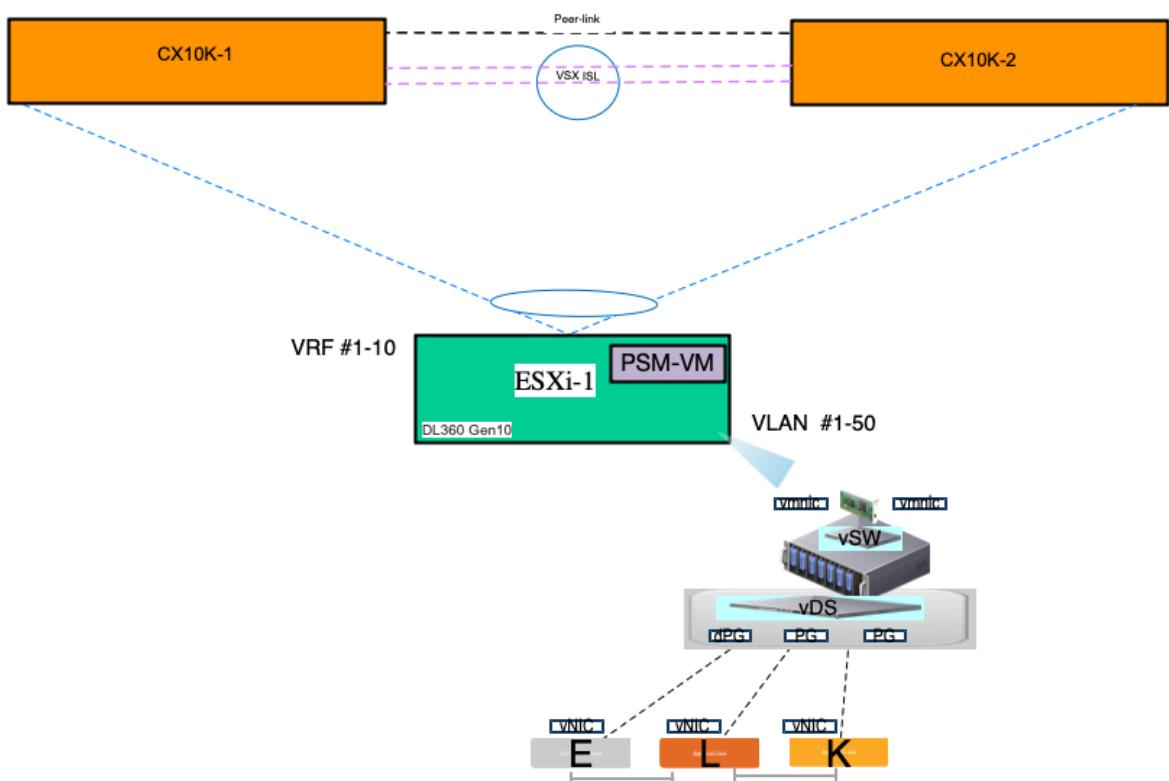
In this lab you will learn how to review and understand VMware networking, set up micro-segmentation and firewalling services policy through the Pensando Policy and Services Manager (PSM) and gain visibility to your data in the Elastic - ELK stack.

The CX10k includes a pair of Pensando/AMD DPU's. While these DPUs support multiple programmable functions like stateful firewalling, encryption, NAT, and real-time telemetry, this lab focuses on firewalling, security and policy enforcement.

**(PSM)** = Pensando Services manager is a programmable, secure and highly available centralized system for managing infrastructure policy. It is designed to establish and manage policies for every CX10000 Distributed Services Switch (DSS).

**ELK** = Is a suite of open-source tools for log management, analysis, and visualization comprised of Elasticsearch, Kibana, Beats, and Logstash (also known as the ELK Stack). It allows you to take data from the CX 10000 switch in any format, then search, analyze, and visualize that data.

## Topology



# Understanding the Lab Environment

## Username

The username you have been assigned is based on a pod ID. This allows for segmentation of your environment from other students. However, as this is running on shared infrastructure for the vSphere, PSM and ELK environments we ask that everyone stays within their own pod.

To access any items specific to your pod simply replace the <POD> in the examples with your given assigned pod ID.

Example:

POD	PSM user	VCenter user	ELK User
1	vrf1_user	vrf1_user@vsphere.local	vrf1_user
2	vrf2_user	vrf2_user@vsphere.local	vrf2_user
....			

## PSM Username

There are two accounts below that allow you to login to PSM. The read-only account grants access to the entirety of PSM, while the second account has restricted write permissions, allowing you to modify your network and policies within your pod.

The read-only account is optional for exploration of all that PSM has to offer and is not required but it can be useful to allow better understanding of the layout and options available along with how the Role Based Access works.

Username	Password	Role
read-only	Pensando0\$	Read-only
vrf<pod>_user	Pensando0\$	vrf(pod)

## PSM Role Read-only.

The read-only role has full read permissions to all object's inside of PSM, it does not have any write, update or delete permissions.

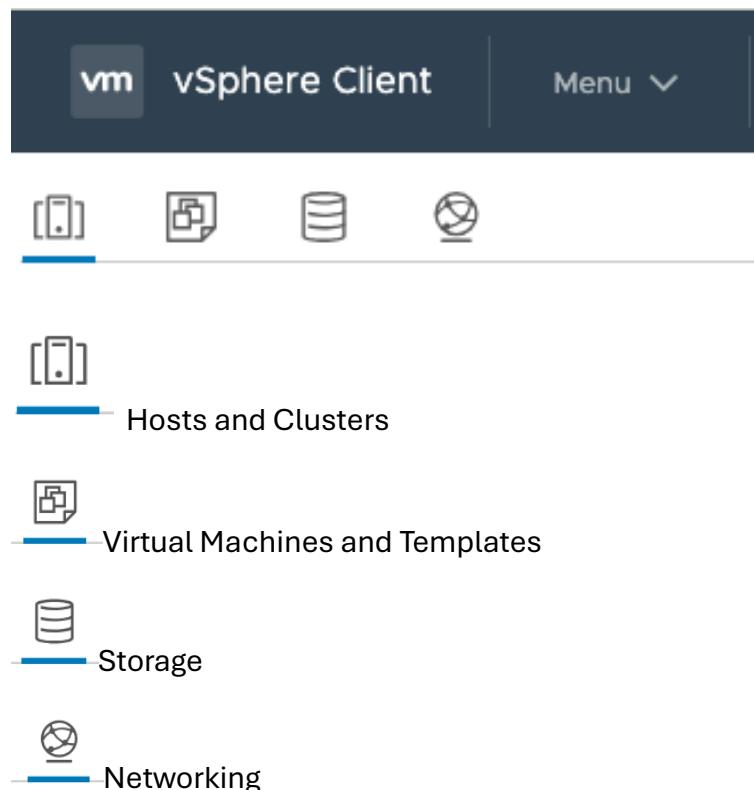
## PSM Role vrf (pod)

The (pod) role has full read access to most of the object tree. However, for VRF, Networks, and Security policies, it only has read-write permissions for the assigned objects.

You will primarily use the `vrf<pod>_user` account throughout the lab. However, in some cases you may need to log in with the full read-only account. When doing so, it is best to use and incognito window.

## VMware

For those unfamiliar with the vSphere client, the symbols below represent the main areas you will be working in. From left to right they are:

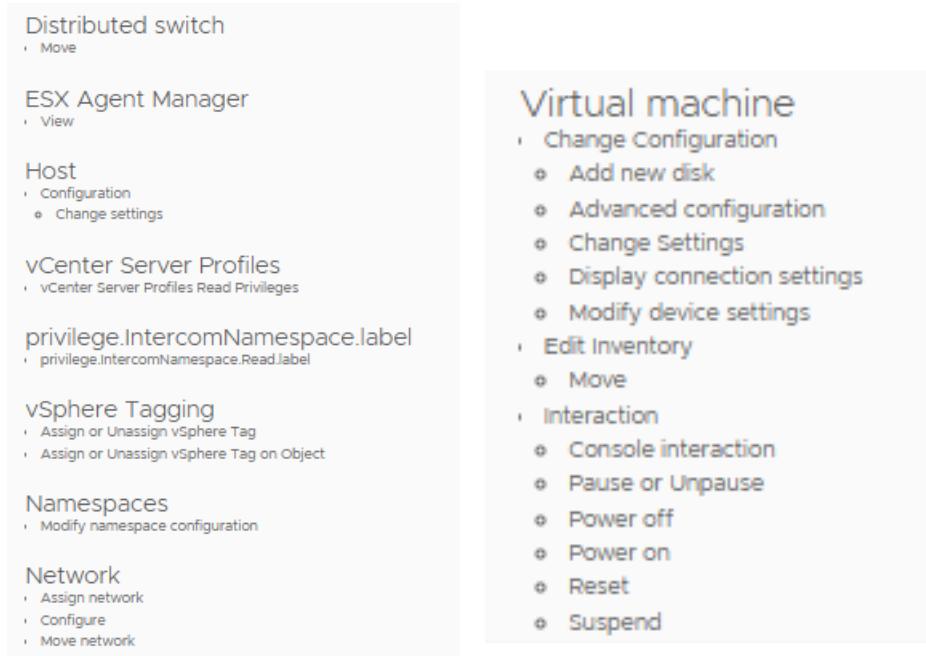


You will also receive credentials to access a shared vCenter server environment. This account will have permissions scoped to the Port groups, Resource Pools and virtual machine workloads assigned to you.

Username	Password	Role
vrf<pod>_user@vsphere.local	Pensando0\$	TestDrive
readonly@vsphere.local	Pensando0\$	Read only

## Role TestDrive.

The “TestDrive” role includes the following assigned permissions:



## VMware Role read-only

The read-only role has full read permissions to all objects inside vSphere, it does not have any write, update or delete permissions.

# Workstations (VM's)

## VM Accounts

Each pod is provisioned with three workstations. These VM's are initially assigned IP addresses from the primary network range and vlan but may be moved or migrated

across different networks to test and validate various policy changes and configurations.

User	Password
tc	VMware1!
root	VMware1!

## Commands to edit a VM's IP

To change the IP address of the workstation, the following command options are available:

### *Option 1.*

```
sudo ifconfig eth0 <IP> netmask <mask> up
sudo route add default gw <gateway>
```

example.

```
sudo ifconfig eth0 192.168.11.11 netmask 255.255.255.0 up
sudo route add default gw 192.168.11.1
```

### *Option 2.*

```
sudo /opt/set-ipv4-address.sh <IP> <mask> <broadcast> <Gateway> <DNS> <domain>
```

example.

```
sudo /opt/set-ipv4-address.sh 192.168.11.11 255.255.255.0 192.168.11.255
192.168.11.1 192.168.101.1 testdrive
```

## VM Networks and subnets

Each pod has been allocated three VLANs and three subnet ranges specific to the pod.

The model for the networks and subnets is based on the pod number.

VRF – vrf<pod>

Network	Subnet	Mask	Gateway	DNS	Domain
VLAN<pod>1	192.168.<pod>1.0	/24	192.168.<pod>1.1	8.8.8.8	Testdrive
VLAN<pod>2	192.168.<pod>2.0	/24	192.168.<pod>2.1	8.8.8.8	Testdrive
VLAN<pod>3	192.168.<pod>3.0	/24	192.168.<pod>3.1	8.8.8.8	Testdrive

For example, Pod 1.

VRF – vrf1		Network	Subnet	Mask	Gateway	DNS	Domain
VLAN11	192.168.11.0	255.255.255.0	192.168.11.1	8.8.8.8	Testdrive		
VLAN12	192.168.12.0	255.255.255.0	192.168.12.1	8.8.8.8	Testdrive		
VLAN13	192.168.13.0	255.255.255.0	192.168.13.1	8.8.8.8	Testdrive		

## Workstation Addresses

Each pod has three workstations deployed on the first network and the following Port-Group

VRF – vrf<pod>		Workstation	IP Address	Port Group	Example
Workstation<pod>1_11	192.168.<pod>1.11	<pod>1_10<pod>1_PRO	Workstation11_11 / 192.168.11.11/11_1011_PRO		
Workstation<pod>1_12	192.168.<pod>1.12	<pod>1_10<pod>1_PRO	Workstation11_12 / 192.168.11.12/11_1011_PRO		
Workstation<pod>1_13	192.168.<pod>1.13	<pod>1_10<pod>1_PRO	Workstation11_13 / 192.168.11.13/11_1011_PRO		

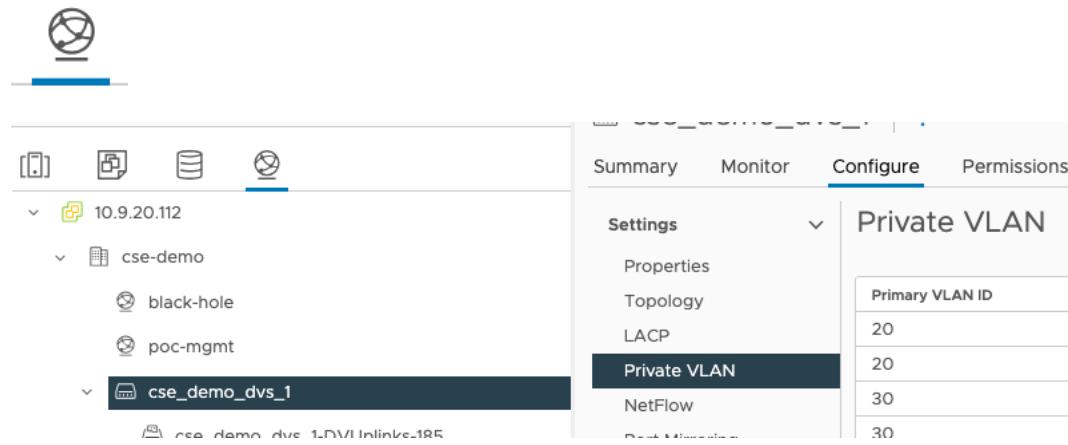
## VMWare Networking Exploration

The VMware Distributed Switch and Port groups have been pre-configured, each individual pod space has been allocated a total of 6 Port groups with 2 port groups per vlan based on a standard PVLAN configuration. In the micro-segmentation scenario, we use PVLAN isolation to get the traffic from the Distributed switch port group out and up to the CX10000, allowing traffic to be visualised and managed.

The “Distributed switch” created is called “VRF-DEMO”, and the configuration can and should be reviewed with the read-only account to gain a better understanding of the environment. (use the [readonly@vsphere.local](mailto:readonly@vsphere.local) account to review)

## vSphere Distributed Switch

In the **Networking** tab under your provisioned DVS in the configure section of the distributed switch you can find the Private VLAN section. Each primary Network VLAN ID will require a secondary VLAN configured under it and selected for Isolated mode.



In this setup, Isolated mode is used to direct traffic to the CX10k's SVI interfaces for management. While community mode is an available option for PVLAN configuration it is not used in this scenario.

## vSphere Port-Groups

The configuration of the Isolated and Primary networks must align with the network settings on the CX10k's.

Primary VLAN	Secondary VLAN	Primary Port Group	Isolation Port Group
<pod>1	10<pod>1	<pod>1_10<pod>1_PRO	<pod>1_10<pod>1_ISO
<pod>2	10<pod>2	<pod>2_10<pod>2_PRO	<pod>2_10<pod>2_ISO
<pod>3	10<pod>3	<pod>3_10<pod>3_PRO	<pod>3_10<pod>3_ISO

\*PRO designates a promiscuous vlan type

\*ISO designates an isolated vlan type

## Example

Primary VLAN	Secondary VLAN	Primary Port Group	Isolation Port Group
11	1011	11_1011_PRO	11_1011_ISO
12	1012	12_1012_PRO	12_1012_ISO
13	1013	13_1013_PRO	13_1013_ISO

## PVLAN Modes

Promiscuous	A port that is a member of the primary VLAN. These ports can send packets to all ports of the primary VLAN and ports of associated isolated and community VLANs. Promiscuous ports are used to communicate outside the PVLAN domain.
Isolated	A secured VLAN where hosts cannot communicate with each other through L2 switching.
Community	VLAN where hosts can communicate with each other through L2 switching. There can be multiple community VLANs associated with a primary VLAN.

## PSM

The majority of your tasks will be performed through PSM, the management platform responsible for the security components of the CX10K.

The PSM can be deployed as an OVA image on VMware, VHD on Hyper-V, or qcow image on any KVM based platform.

Additional information and Options regarding PSM can be found in the online user-guide.

## PSM VRF and Network

To match the VLANs configured on the CX10k switch and the VMware environment, every pod is allocated 3 networks in PSM within the dedicated pod VRF you have been assigned.

The networks within PSM are linked to the CX10K based on the VLAN ID, VRF ID and must match the primary (Promiscuous VLAN) in the PVLAN configuration on the VMware environment.

VRF – vrf<pod>
----------------

Network	VLAN ID	VRF	Ingress Policy	Egress Policy
VLAN<pod>1	<pod>1	vrf<pod>		
VLAN<pod>2	<pod>2	vrf<pod>		
VLAN<pod>3	<pod>3	vrf<pod>		

Example from Pod 1.

VRF – vrf1
------------

Network	VLAN ID	VRF	Ingress Policy	Egress Policy
VLAN<pod>1	<pod>1	vrf<pod>		
VLAN<pod>2	<pod>2	vrf<pod>		
VLAN<pod>3	<pod>3	vrf<pod>		

## PSM Security Policies

There have been 6 pre-defined security policies created for each pod to begin your work with, they can be assigned to either Egress or Ingress on the VRF or Network.

The names allocated to the policies as part of the lab are available to use in any way you see fit. It is recommended that you use the first policy as the active policy and your newly created policy as the policy you will migrate your environment to.

Policies		Example Pod 1	
vrf<pod>_vlan<pod>1_First	vrf<pod>_vlan<pod>1_new	vrf1_vlan11_First	vrf1_vlan11_new
vrf<pod>_vlan<pod>2_First	vrf<pod>_vlan<pod>2_new	vrf1_vlan12_First	vrf1_vlan12_new
vrf<pod>_vlan<pod>3_First	vrf<pod>_vlan<pod>3_new	vrf1_vlan13_First	vrf1_vlan13_new

⚠ Additional information regarding Policy enforcement from a PSM/DPU perspective regarding ingress and egress definitions can be found here Pg.94

[https://arubanetworking.hpe.com/techdocs/Pensando/AMD\\_Pensando\\_PSM\\_for\\_DSS\\_Guide-1.100.2-T.pdf](https://arubanetworking.hpe.com/techdocs/Pensando/AMD_Pensando_PSM_for_DSS_Guide-1.100.2-T.pdf)

## Activities

**The URL for the Vcenter server will be provided by the trainer, as it is unique to every lab.**

### Exploring VMware networking

Review The VMware configuration using the “read-only” account, to get a better understanding of the layout.

Username	Password	Role
readonly@vsphere.local	Pensando0\$	Read only



1. Go to the **network tab** and select the “VRF-Demo” Distributed switch.
  - a. Look at the configure – Private VLAN section, you will see the VLAN mappings.

Primary VLAN ID	Secondary VLAN ID	VLAN Type
11	11	Promiscuous
11	1011	Isolated
12	12	Promiscuous
12	1012	Isolated
13	13	Promiscuous
13	1013	Isolated
21	21	Promiscuous
21	1021	Isolated
22	22	Promiscuous
22	1022	Isolated
23	23	Promiscuous
23	1023	Isolated
24	24	Promiscuous

- b. Look at the VRF-Demo-DVUplinks

Port ID	Name	Connected	Runtime MAC Addr...	Port Group	State	VLAN ID
72	dvUplink1	10.66.1.5 - vmnic1	--	VRF-Demo-DVUplin...	<span>Link Up</span>	VLAN trunk: 0-4094
73	dvUplink2	--	--	VRF-Demo-DVUplin...	--	VLAN trunk: 0-4094
74	dvUplink3	--	--	VRF-Demo-DVUplin...	--	VLAN trunk: 0-4094
75	dvUplink4	--	--	VRF-Demo-DVUplin...	--	VLAN trunk: 0-4094
76	dvUplink1	10.66.1.6 - vmnic2	--	VRF-Demo-DVUplin...	<span>Link Up</span>	VLAN trunk: 0-4094
77	dvUplink2	10.66.1.6 - vmnic3	--	VRF-Demo-DVUplin...	<span>Link Up</span>	VLAN trunk: 0-4094
78	dvUplink3	--	--	VRF-Demo-DVUplin...	--	VLAN trunk: 0-4094
79	dvUplink4	--	--	VRF-Demo-DVUplin...	--	VLAN trunk: 0-4094

- c. Check the ports allocated and then go to the host and look at the physical host interfaces and LLDP config.

Device	Actual Speed	Configured Speed	Switch	MAC Address	Observed IP Ranges	Wake on LAN Sup...
vmnic0	1 Gbit/s	Auto negotiate	vSwitch0	98:f2:b3:8e:c5:04	No networks	Yes
vmnic1	1 Gbit/s	Auto negotiate	VRF-Demo	98:f2:b3:8e:c5:05	No networks	Yes

What do you see?

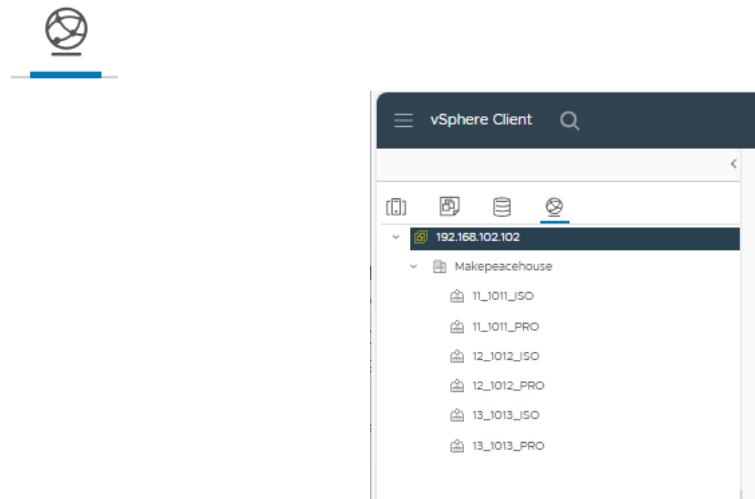
Your vSphere Networking/Physical adapters section should look similar to the above, ask questions if you do not understand or need clarification on anything.

**This is the same for other Hypervisors and other physical switches.**

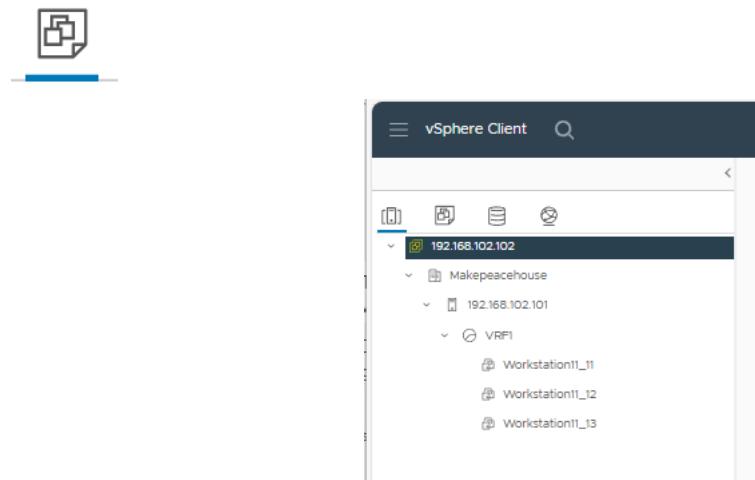
## Access vSphere workloads

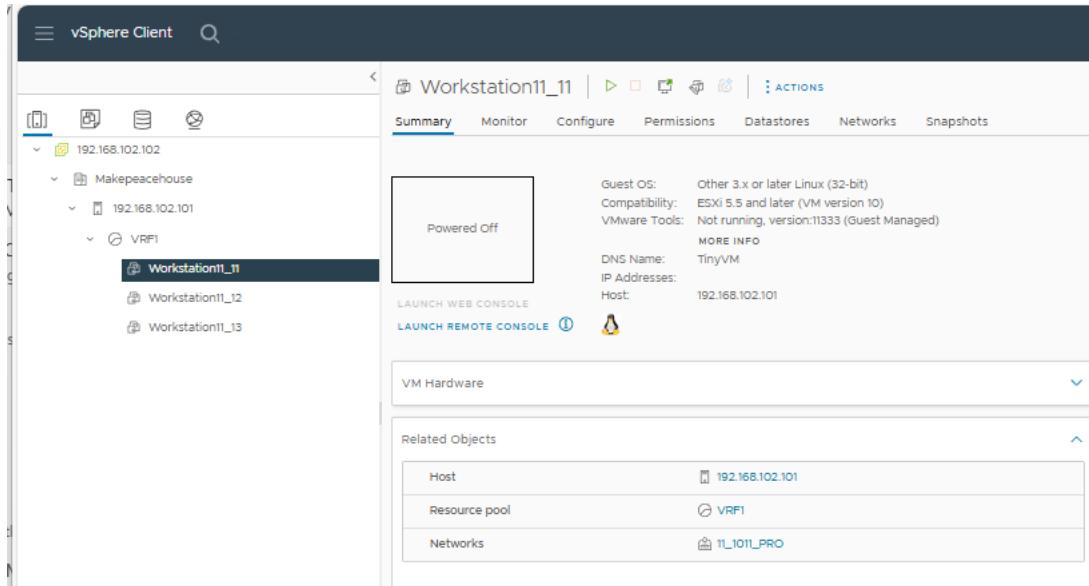
The vm console can be accessed via the Vcenter server by selecting your desired vm and launching the Web Console.

1. Login into Vcenter with you vrf<pod>@vsphere.local account. Review the **VMware networking** you have been allocated.



2. Look at the **workloads** you have been allocated and the networks they have been assigned.





3.

In a later step you will be assigning your workloads to different Port-groups, but to start with we recommend leaving them on the default Port Group's they are bound too.

## Confirm VM Base Networking

If you happened to edit any of the original Port Group configuration you would also need to edit the IP address of the workloads so they can access the corresponding network. At this point, if no changes have been made to port groups or IP addressing then the workloads should be able to communicate.

```

Workstation11_11
=====
Address Family Configuration
-----
IPv4: Static
IPv6: Auto-Configuration

Your IPv4 Address
-----
192.168.11.11

Your IPv6 Link-Local Address
-----
fe80::250:56ff:fea6:36ab

Your IPv6 Global Unicast Address(es)
-----

tc@TinyVM:~$ tc@TinyVM:~$
```

1. You can perform simple ping tests to validate this.

Refer to the commands in the section [Commands to change IP](#) and test that you can access the SVI interface on the CX10k switch and the any other workstations.

### Testing VM Networking

To validate network connectivity, ensure you can successfully ping both your pods VLAN gateway and the IP addresses of the peer VM's. If connectivity fails, troubleshoot and resolve the network issue before proceeding to the next step.

At this stage, no security policies are enforced, and any traffic restrictions would be most likely due to network or vSphere misconfiguration

### Testing / Exploring in PSM

**The URL for the PSM will be provided by the trainer, as it is unique to every lab.**

### Enable Policy

To begin enabling policy enforcement, we ned to use the assigned axis pod cross launch link or IP for PSM and place it in a browser to continue to login with you `vrf<pod>` account.

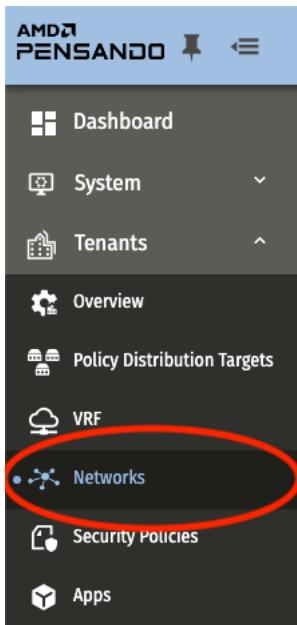
Username	Password	Role
<code>vrf&lt;pod&gt;_user</code>	Pensando0\$	<code>vrf(pod)</code>

**⚠ Note:** You may see an 'Authorization failed' notification in the top-right window corner when working in the PSM GUI. This can be ignored, as it is related to the assigned permissions.





Policy creation and enforcement begins under the Tenant portion of the menu in PSM, specifically under the **Network** section. For the initial phase we focus on the network section.



Networks									<a href="#">ADD NETWORK</a>
Networks Overview									
<a href="#">Networks (54)</a>		Maximum CPS	Maximum Sessions	Allow Session Reuse	Connection Tracking Mode	IP Fragments Forwarding	Service Bypass	Labels	Modification Time
<input type="checkbox"/>	VLAN	↑	Inherited from VRF	Inherited from VRF	Inherited from VF	Inherited from VF	enabled	disabled	2025-03-11 09:59:30 GMT+00:00
<input type="checkbox"/>	10	Inherited from VRF	Inherited from VRF	Inherited from VF	Inherited from VF	enabled	disabled	disabled	2025-03-11 09:59:30 GMT+00:00
<input type="checkbox"/>	11	Inherited from VRF	Inherited from VRF	Inherited from VF	Inherited from VF	enabled	disabled	disabled	2025-03-11 09:59:30 GMT+00:00
<input type="checkbox"/>	12	Inherited from VRF	Inherited from VRF	Inherited from VF	Inherited from VF	enabled	disabled	disabled	2025-03-11 09:59:30 GMT+00:00
<input type="checkbox"/>	13	Inherited from VRF	Inherited from VRF	Inherited from VF	Inherited from VF	enabled	disabled	disabled	2025-03-11 09:59:30 GMT+00:00

1. Select the pencil option on the right end of the line to edit any network configuration.

From the **network** overview section, you can see the policies assigned on ingress or egress, and the service bypass mode is “enabled”.

(All default policies have been created with only an allow rule to get started).

Name <input type="text" value="vlan11"/>	Allow Session Reuse <input type="button" value="inherit from vrf"/>
IPv4 Ingress Security Policy <input type="button" value="Select Security Policy..."/>	IPv4 Egress Security Policy <input type="button" value="vrf1_vlan11_First (default)"/>
IPv6 Ingress Security Policy <input type="button" value="Select Security Policy..."/>	IPv6 Egress Security Policy <input type="button" value="Select Security Policy..."/>
Ingress Mirror Session <input type="button" value="Select Ingress Mirror Session..."/>	Egress Mirror Session <input type="button" value="Select Egress Mirror Session..."/>
VRF <input type="button" value="default"/>	VLAN ID <input type="text" value="11"/>
Maximum CPS <input type="button" value="Inherit from VRF"/> <input type="button" value="Unlimited"/> <input type="button" value="Set Value"/>	Maximum Sessions <input type="button" value="Inherit from VRF"/> <input type="button" value="Unlimited"/> <input type="button" value="Set Value"/>
Connection Tracking Mode <input type="button" value="inherit from vrf"/>	Service Bypass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="button" value="inherit from vrf"/>

2. Disable “service bypass”, and assign a policy, and save.

**⚠ Note:** Enable/Disable service-bypass. When enabled, the distributed services will be disabled.

Blue means enabled – meaning no polices will be enforced

## Data Visibility in PSM

Once a policy is enabled, all traffic traversing the switch is subject to the policy enforcement. All corresponding logs will be automatically forwarded to both the PSM and the pre-configured ELK stack for analysis and monitoring.

You can now generate test data between the workloads and out to the internet (if accessible).

### Ping works fine to start

```

fe80::250:56ff:fea6:36ab

Your IPv6 Global Unicast Address(es)
-----

tc@TinyUM:~$ ping 192.168.11.12
PING 192.168.11.12 (192.168.11.12): 56 data bytes
64 bytes from 192.168.11.12: seq=0 ttl=63 time=11.514 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.11.12: seq=1 ttl=63 time=0.474 ms
^C
--- 192.168.11.12 ping statistics ---
2 packets transmitted, 2 packets received, 0% packet loss
round-trip min/avg/max = 0.474/5.994/11.514 ms
tc@TinyUM:~$ ping 192.168.11.13
PING 192.168.11.13 (192.168.11.13): 56 data bytes
64 bytes from 192.168.11.13: seq=0 ttl=63 time=12.675 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.11.13: seq=1 ttl=63 time=0.794 ms
^C
--- 192.168.11.13 ping statistics ---
2 packets transmitted, 2 packets received, 0% packet loss
round-trip min/avg/max = 0.794/6.734/12.675 ms
tc@TinyUM:~$ 

```

## Viewing logs in PSM

Moving through the left-hand menu in the PSM GUI, go to the **Firewall Logs** section.

1. Select Firewall Logs from the menu.
2. Select the VRF you are interested in in the drop-down menu.
3. Next to the selected VRF choose the time period you are interested in and apply it to the search.

The screenshot shows the PSM GUI's left-hand navigation menu with 'Firewall Logs' selected. The main area is titled 'Firewall Logs' and contains a search interface with fields for DSS, Source, Port, Encryption Status, Protocol, Dest, Port, Action, VLANs, Policy Names, Flow Action, Primary VLANs, Max Records (set to 16000), and Sort options (Query by newest L...). A 'Source VRF' dropdown is set to 'vrf1', and a 'Past hour' time range is selected. Below the search interface is a table titled 'Firewall Logs (0)' with columns for Creation Time, Reporter, Security Policy, Source, Destination, Protocol, Src Port, Dest Port, Action, Direction, Session ID, Session Action, Source VLAN, Destination VRF, Rule Name, Destination VRF Name, IP Fragment Seen, and Fragment Seen. The entire search section is circled in red.

## **Do you see any log data?**

After disabling service bypass the Logs get forwarded to the PSM instance. This happens either every 5 minutes or 10,000 log events whichever happens first so, there may be a slight delay.

## **What logs do you see and not see? Why?**

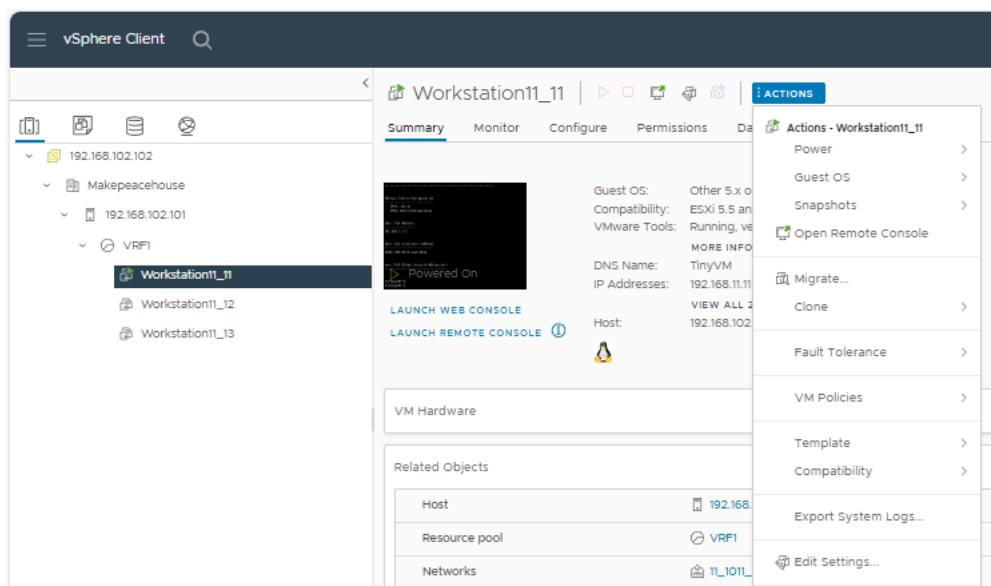
- Talk to the group and the trainer, to understand what you see and do not see and why.

## **Configure micro-segmentation**

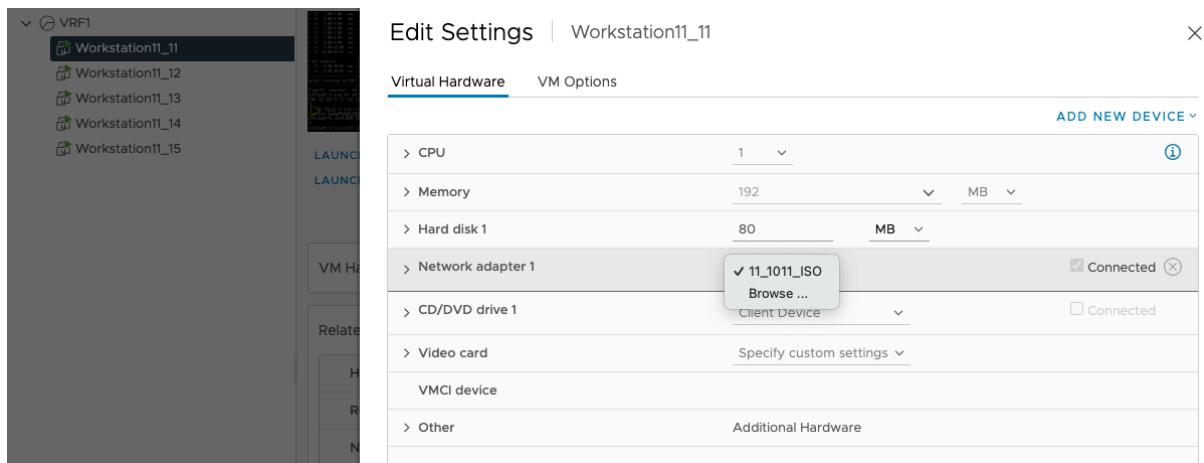
Currently, the attached Port-Group these Workloads have been assigned to is on a promiscuous network, meaning that switching is performed locally within the virtual switch inside the hypervisor and therefore this traffic never needs to leave the ESXi host.

To enable visibility and management of the traffic, the workload must be configured to communicate over a PVLAN in isolated mode. This ensures that traffic is forwarded upstream out of the host to the switch for inspection.

1. In vSphere Edit the selected **workload** settings.



2. Relocate the selected workload vm to your isolated VLAN by browsing the available networks and selecting the isolated version of that network that corresponds to your host's original network.



## Select Network

X

Name	NSX Port Group ID	Distributed Switch
11_1011_ISO	--	VRF-Demo
11_1011_PRO	--	VRF-Demo
12_1012_ISO	--	VRF-Demo
12_1012_PRO	--	VRF-Demo
13_1013_ISO	--	VRF-Demo
13_1013_PRO	--	VRF-Demo

Filter

6 items

CANCEL
OK

3. Repeat this for any or all your workload vm's and continue to View\_in\_PSM

### View Visibility data in ELK

**The URL for the ELK stack will be provided by the trainer, as it is unique to every lab.**

Logs from the CX10K can be forwarded to any external syslog collector in real time.

The ELK stack has been selected as the demonstration tool for this lab due to its availability and popularity as a community edition and free open-source suite.

There are many paid and licensed tiers for ELK along with multiple other vendors who provide syslog collectors that can be used in conjunction with the CX10K. You are not tied to using ELK it is just what we have found to fit best for our lab purposes.

\*The ELK stack like the PSM and Vcenter instance is shared for all pods.

Username	Password	Role
vrf<pod>_user	Pensando0\$	

1. To access the ELK server, go to the url:

<http://<ELK IP>:5601/>

(credential: vrf<pod>\_user - Pensando0\$)

2. Select the **Dashboard** option, and search for AMD.

3. Select the “[AMD Pensando] NetOps Basic v2” Dashboard.

Timestamp	source_ip	source_port	destination_ip	destination_port	security_rule_name	session_action	session_flow_id	session_flow_label
Mar 12, 2023 6:14:07.37.000	192.168.11.10	36300	192.168.11.12	22 (tcp/2)		allow	0	0
Mar 12, 2023 6:14:07.35.000	192.168.11.11	36405	192.168.11.13	2348 (empty)		allow	0	0

4. Can you see your pod logs? Can you filter the logs to your pods VRF.

The screenshot shows a search interface with a KQL syntax filter. The query is set to 'vrf1'. The results table shows one entry: 'vrf1' under the 'Exists' column. There are 'Include' and 'Exclude' buttons at the bottom.

5. What logs do you see and not see? Why?
6. Explore the ELK dashboard by viewing your data through the various dashboards and visualizations. Continue to revisit the dashboards while performing other testing to monitor any changes and gain insights into how your traffic is behaving and what your traffic is doing.

## PSM Base Features Testing

There are several base features that exist in PSM regarding firewalling that must be understood to help you effectively apply and construct policies. The tasks we will focus on are:

- Block ICMP & Service Bypass
- IP-Fragmentation support
- Connection Tracking
- Session Reuse
- Block SSH
- Block traffic based on IP-Collections
- Block traffic based on VMware tags
- Block IPERF

### Task 1 - Block ICMP between two workloads

Make sure you have walked through the previous steps before proceeding.

You will now configure a simple deny ICMP policy between your workload1 and workload2 (directional) in your POD as a test of the next few features.

In the **Security policies** section find your security policy <vrflx\_vlanxx\_first>, select the pencil on the right side to “Edit Policy”. Under policy Rules click the “+” to add a rule to your policy. You may select either the “+” on at the top of the rules or the “+” at the end of the line, for the insertion of a rule above or below the existing “allow\_all rule”.

Policy Index	Search	Rule Name	Source	Destination	Action	Protocol	Labels	Actions	Details
1	Number	Host1	192.168.1.10	192.168.1.11	Allow	any			

Step 1- You need to provide a “Name” for the rule, verify the rule order number is 1, change the action to “Deny”, add a description if needed and type icmp in the protocol box. Enable rule is default

Policy Editing

1 GENERAL      2 SOURCE & DESTINATION      3 PREVIEW      SAVE      CANCEL

Rule Name BLOCK_ICMP_host1_to_2	Rule Order 1	Action Deny
Description test blocking ICMP	Disabled	Rule Profile... Rule Profile...
Protocol/Ports and Apps		
Protocol icmp	Ports	Apps Select Apps...
+ Protocols and Ports		
Rule Labels		
key	value	+ ADD

There are also additional options around the use of port, protocol or Pre-defined Apps that may be used. (Apps are L4 based on port and protocol only).

Step 2 - In the policy editing window define the source IP and destination IP of your chosen workloads. You have the option to use only the IP or a CIDR range from 0 – 32 if you wish.

**Policy Editing**

1 GENERAL    2 SOURCE & DESTINATION    3 PREVIEW    SAVE    CANCEL

Source and Destination

\* Enter at least one option in both source and destination fields.

Source Workload Groups  
Select Source Workload Groups... X v

Source IP Addresses  
192.168.11.11

Source IP Collections  
Select Source IP Collections... X v

Destination Workload Groups  
Select Destination Workload Groups... X v

Destination IP Addresses  
192.168.11.12

Destination IP Collections  
Select Destination IP Collections... X v

Step 3 - Preview the rule to make sure it meets the requirement and click save and Save policy at top of screen.

- Proceed to test if you can ping from host 1-2 and 2-1. Also review the logs in PSM and ELK
- Do they match what you expect?

**Policy Editing**

1 GENERAL    2 SOURCE & DESTINATION    3 PREVIEW    SAVE    CANCEL

PREVIEW

Source	Destination	Action	Protocol	Application	Other options	Rules	Run profile
Host1(192.168.11.1)	Host2(192.168.11.12)	Allow	TCP/UDP/ICMP	None	None	Test1	TestProfile
Host2(192.168.11.12)	Host1(192.168.11.1)	Allow	TCP/UDP/ICMP	None	None	Test2	TestProfile



### Learning Check Task 1

1. Navigate and Overview of the PSM Gui
2. Explore Security Policies
3. Created a security policy and all its attributes
4. Verified a working policy rule
5. Verified log collection on PSM and ELK

## Task 2 - PSM service Bypass

Service bypass is a feature that can be enabled to allow bypass of a VLAN from policy management.

Continuing from the Block-ICMP rule we just created in the previous section. From the **Networks section** go to your vlan and enable the service bypass slider by toggling it to ON (it will turn blue), click save and ok on pop up and then re-run the ping tests and check/view the logs.

Name vlan11	Allow Session Reuse inherit from vrf
IPv4 Ingress Security Policy Select Security Policy... X v	IPv4 Egress Security Policy vrf1_vlan11_First (default) X v
IPv6 Ingress Security Policy Select Security Policy... X v	IPv6 Egress Security Policy Select Security Policy... X v
Ingress Mirror Session Select Ingress Mirror Session... X v	Egress Mirror Session Select Egress Mirror Session... X v
VRF vrf1	VLAN ID 11
Maximum CPS Inherit from VRF   Unlimited   Set Value	
Maximum Sessions Inherit from VRF   Unlimited   Set Value	
Connection Tracking Mode inherit from vrf	Service Bypass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IP Fragments Forwarding inherit from vrf

**⚠ Note:** Enable/Disable service-bypass. When enabled, the distributed services will be disabled.

- Is the output as expected?
  - Are you seeing Logs
  - Is the Enforcement correct



### Learning Check Task 2

1. Using the PSM GUI to verify a policy
2. Working with service bypass feature
3. Verifying log visibility

## Task 3 - PSM Fragmentation

Any firewall by default will drop fragmented packets. In PSM you can enable support of fragmentation to allow fragmented packets. This is helpful in scenarios such as the early stages of deployment while you are still gaining visibility and learning about what is going on in the network.

To test this, you will send Jumbo ping packets before and after you set this flag to validate the feature.

Step 1 - From your **VM 1** #ping (workload2-ip) -s 9000

- What happens?

Step 2 - From the **Networks** section go to your vlan and enable IP fragment forwarding in the drop-down menu, click save and ok on pop-up.

Name <input type="text" value="vlan11"/>	Allow Session Reuse <input type="text" value="inherit from vrf"/>
IPv4 Ingress Security Policy <input type="text" value="Select Security Policy..."/>	IPv4 Egress Security Policy <input type="text" value="vrf1_vlan11_First (default)"/>
IPv6 Ingress Security Policy <input type="text" value="Select Security Policy..."/>	IPv6 Egress Security Policy <input type="text" value="Select Security Policy..."/>
Ingress Mirror Session <input type="text" value="Select Ingress Mirror Session..."/>	Egress Mirror Session <input type="text" value="Select Egress Mirror Session..."/>
VRF <input type="text" value="vrf1"/>	VLAN ID <input type="text" value="11"/>
Maximum CPS <input type="text" value="Inherit from VRF"/> <input type="text" value="Unlimited"/> <input type="text" value="Set Value"/>	Maximum Sessions <input type="text" value="Inherit from VRF"/> <input type="text" value="Unlimited"/> <input type="text" value="Set Value"/>
Connection Tracking Mode <input type="text" value="inherit from vrf"/>	Service Bypass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IP Fragments Forwarding <input type="text" value="enable"/>

Step 3 - From your VM 1 #ping (workload2-ip) -s 9000

- What happens?

Now check the logs in both PSM and ELK and notice the fragmentation flag is set.

Firewall Logs (1,000)														<input type="button" value="LOAD MORE"/>	<input type="button" value="Detail Log Entries"/>			
Log Level	Log Type	Severity	Action	Destination	Protocol	Src Port	Dst Port	Allow	Deny	Source IP	Source Action	Src VLAN	Dest VLAN	Dest IP	Dest Action	Destination IP Name	Destination VRF Name	IP Fragmentation
2025-03-12T12:25:19Z 00000	Switch Name: esxi01.vsan-4040	Debug	Drop	10.85.53.124	TCP	50275	50271	Allow	Drop Host	10.85.53.100	Drop_create	190	818	Any,any	818	Drop	False	
2025-03-12T12:25:19Z 00000	Switch Name: esxi01.vsan-4040	Debug	Drop	10.85.53.122	TCP	50275	50271	Allow	Drop Host	10.85.53.122	Drop_create	190	818	Any,any	818	Drop	False	



1. Using the PSM GUI to verify a policy
2. Working with the IP Fragments feature
3. Verify ping and log visibility

## Task 4 - PSM Connection Tracking (CT)

DSM modules enforce stateful firewall policies. However, when transitioning from no policy to full enforcement, starting in stateless mode can help. It lets you drop traffic with minimal disruption while monitoring network behavior.

To use stateless mode, set the connection tracking state to 'Disabled' instead of the default 'Enabled'. In this mode, rules act like traditional ACLs, so you may need to define traffic in both directions for bidirectional communication.

**Before making any changes to stateless mode:**

1. Enable service bypass from your vlan and create a new rule from your security policy to block SSH. (apply on egress on the network). (click Save)
2. Connect a SSH session between workload 1 and workload 2.

User	Password
tc	VMware1!

#ssh tc@192.168.x.x

3. With connection tracking enabled, disable service bypass, what happens to the SSH session. (Save)
4. Re-enable service bypass. (Save)

**Change to stateless. (disable connection tracking).**

Name	Allow Session Reuse				
vlan11	inherit from vrf				
IPv4 Ingress Security Policy	IPv4 Egress Security Policy				
Select Security Policy...	X	▼	vrf1_vlan11_First (default)	X	▼
IPv6 Ingress Security Policy	IPv6 Egress Security Policy				
Select Security Policy...	X	▼	Select Security Policy...	X	▼
Ingress Mirror Session	Egress Mirror Session				
Select Ingress Mirror Session...	X	▼	Select Egress Mirror Session...	X	▼
VRF	VLAN ID				
vrf1	▼		11		
Maximum CPS	Maximum Sessions				
<input type="button" value="Inherit from VRF"/>	<input type="button" value="Unlimited"/>	<input type="button" value="Set Value"/>	<input type="button" value="Inherit from VRF"/>	<input type="button" value="Unlimited"/>	<input type="button" value="Set Value"/>
Connection Tracking Mode	Service Bypass IP Fragments Forwarding				
disable	▼	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	enable	▼	

5. Connect a SSH session between workload 1 and workload 2.
6. With connection tracking disabled, disable service bypass, what happens to the SSH session. (Save)
7. Re-enable service bypass. (Save)



#### Learning Check Task 4

1. Using the PSM GUI to verify a policy
  2. Working with the Service Bypass feature
  3. Working with the Connection Tracking feature
  4. Testing SSH connectivity

#### Task 5 - Block IPERF traffic based on IP-Collection

An IP collection is a list of IP addresses that can be referenced at a later time in a firewall policy. This makes policy creation simpler and allows for easier changes to policy in the future. We will add IP Collections for your selected POD Networks.

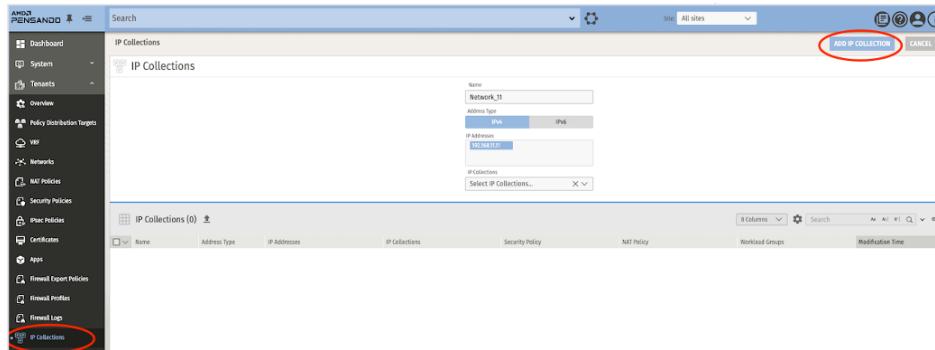
From your PSM:

In this scenario, the IP Collections have already been preconfigured on the PSM instance for each specific POD, based on its associated VRF and VLAN. If you were to create them manually, you would follow the steps outlined below.

In the **PSM GUI** move to the **Tenants - IP Collections –Add IP collection** section.

- Provide a name for the Network = **Network\_XX**
- Add the correct IP Addresses of your workloads = **192.168.xx.xx**
- Leave “IP Collections” field blank
- Submit by clicking “Add IP Collection” at top of page
- Click “Save Policy” at the top to deploy the changes.

Repeat for additional Networks



iPerf is a tool for active measurements of the maximum achievable bandwidth and throughput (UDP/TCP) on IP networks between a sender and a receiver as well as other abilities.

To test this, we will use 2 hosts **WS1 & WS2** in your respective environment and one will be used as a sender and the other as a receiver.

We will now configure a simple deny IPERF policy between your workload1 (Server) and workload2 (client) using an IP collection to test this specific feature.

Before creating any policy:

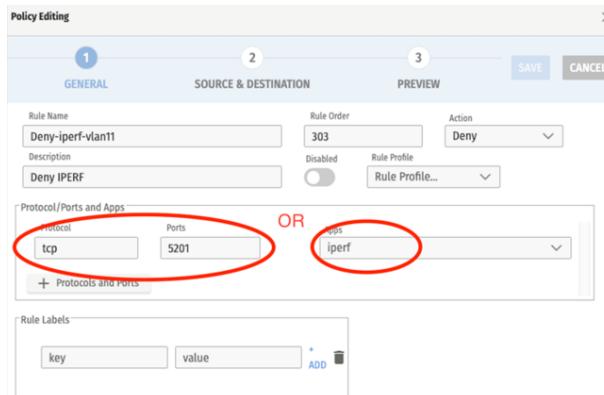
- Proceed to test if you can start the iperf server on WS1 and initiate an iperf connection on port 5201 from WS2. (Reference the commands in the “from your Host” section below and run them from your WorkStation)
- Review the logs in PSM and ELK
- Do they match what you expect?

From your PSM:

In the **PSM GUI** move to the **Tenants - Security Policy** section. Hover over the existing policy named <vrfx\_vlanxx\_first> and select the pencil on the right side to “Edit Policy on Details Page”. Click the “+” to Add a rule to our policy.

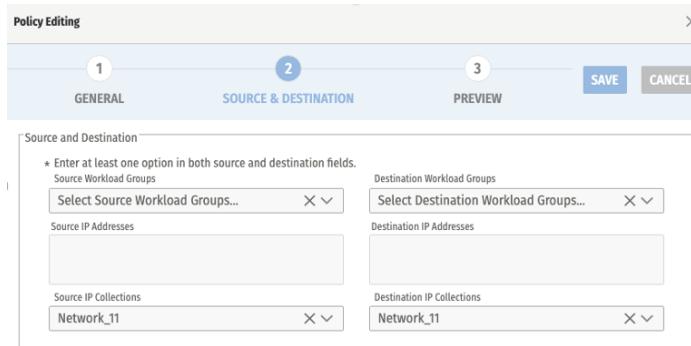
### Step 1

- Provide a name for this rule “Deny-iperf-vlan x” (vlan x is one of your choosing from your pod)
- Provide an Action of type “Deny”
- Set Rule Order to 1
- Set App to **iPerf** or type the protocol tcp/port 5201 in the appropriate box



### Step 2

- Proceed to section 2 for “Source and Destination”
- In the drop down change the Destination and Source IP Collections to be the statically configured Network\_xx ip collection= created above



### Step 3

- Preview the new Rule in “vrfx\_vlanxx\_first”
- Click Save
- Click “Save Policy” at the top to deploy the change.

After policy creation:

- Proceed to test if you can start the iperf server on WS1 and initiate an iperf connection on port 5201 from WS2. (Reference the commands in the “from your Host” section below and run them from your WorkStation)
- Review the logs in PSM and ELK
- Do they match what you expect?

From your hosts:

iperf3 is already installed on the workstations and you can verify this by running the following command from the VM’s console-

```
#iperf3 -v
```

 Iperf3 listens on port 5201 by default

To test

From **Workstation #1** we will set up iperf server to run and start listening on port 5201 with the following command:

```
#iperf3 -s -p 5201
```

From **Workstation #2** we will initiate an iperf connection on port 5201 to see if the connection is allowed with the following command:

```
#iperf3 -c 192.168.x.x -t 10 -b 1000000000 -p 5201
```

 If there are any issues with starting iperf on the server machine such as ‘Unable to start listener...’ you can run the following commands and try again:

```
#ps -ef  
Find the pid number for the iperf process  
#sudo kill *PID*
```

### Learning Check Task 5

1. Using the PSM GUI to verify policy
2. Verifying IP collections
3. Adding a rule to existing policy for iperf
4. Testing host to host connectivity
5. Verifying log visibility

## Task 6 - Block SSH traffic based on VMware Tag's

A *workload group* is a logical grouping of endpoint IP addresses or workload objects based on either one or more workload labels or tags, a list of IP collections, or a mix of both workload labels and IP collection objects. A workload-based label selector can be used only on those workloads/VMs that are dynamically imported from vCenter, with the assumption that the workloads are already tagged in vCenter prior to import.

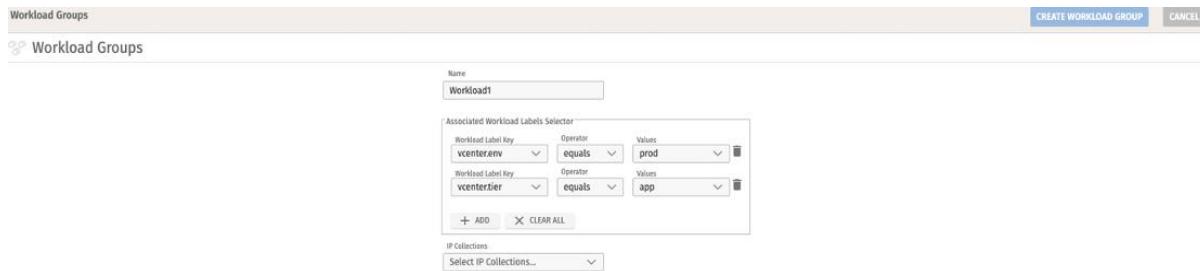
When workload groups are used in a security policy, it enhances the user experience of defining a policy and brings out the abstraction of IP address constructs, as policy no longer needs to be based on IP addresses.

From your PSM:

In this scenario, the Workload Groups have already been preconfigured on the PSM instance for each specific POD, based on its associated labels and values. If you were to create them manually, you would follow the steps outlined below.

In the **PSM GUI** move to the **Workload – Workload Groups – Add Workload Group** section.

- Provide a name for the Workload Group **Workload\_x**
- Select the desired Workload Label Key **vcenter.env**
- Select the operator as **equals**
- Select the value as **prod**
- Select the desired Workload Label Key **vcenter.tier**
- Select the operator as **equals**
- Select the value as **app**
- Click “Save Policy” at the top to deploy the changes.



In your vSphere environment the VM's already contain the appropriate Tags and attributes ...

## SSH

We will now configure a simple deny SSH policy between your workload1 and workload2 (directional) to test this specific feature. To test this, again we will use 2 hosts WS1 & WS2 in your respective environment.

Before creating any policy:

- Proceed to test if you can ssh from host 1-2 and 2-1. Also review the logs in PSM and ELK
- Do they match what you expect?
- Did you verify service bypass setting?

From your PSM:

In the **PSM GUI** move to the **Tenants - Security Policy** section. Hover over the existing policy named <vrfx\_vlanxx\_first> and select the pencil on the right side to “Edit Policy on Details Page”. Click the “+” to Add a rule to our policy. Under policy Rules click the “+” to add a rule to your policy.



Step 1- You need to provide a “Name” for the rule, verify the rule order is above the default\_allow, change the action to “Deny”, add a description if needed and type the protocol tcp/port 22 in the appropriate box. Enable rule is default

Policy Editing

1 GENERAL    2 SOURCE & DESTINATION    3 PREVIEW    SAVE CANCEL

Rule Name: Block\_SSH    Rule Order: 1    Action: Deny

Description: Test Block SSH    Disabled:     Rule Profile: Rule Profile...

Protocol/Ports and Apps

Protocol: tcp	Ports: 22	Apps: SSH
<input type="button" value="+ Protocols and Ports"/>		

Rule Labels

key	value	<input type="button" value="ADD"/>
-----	-------	------------------------------------

Step 2 - In the policy editing window from the Source Workload Groups dropdown select the previously created workload group

Policy Editing

1 GENERAL    2 SOURCE & DESTINATION    3 PREVIEW    SAVE CANCEL

Source and Destination

\* Enter at least one option in both source and destination fields.

Source Workload Groups: Workload1	Destination Workload Groups: Workload1
Source IP Addresses:	Destination IP Addresses:
Source IP Collections: Select Source IP Collections...	Destination IP Collections: Select Destination IP Collections...

Step 3 - Preview the rule to make sure it meets the requirement and click save and Save policy at top of screen.

Policy Editing

1 GENERAL    2 SOURCE & DESTINATION    3 PREVIEW    SAVE CANCEL

Preview

Number	Rule Name	Sources	Destinations	Action	Protocol Port	Applications	Description	Status	Rule Profile
1	BLOCK_ICMP_Host1_to_2	IPs: 192.168.11.11	IPs: 192.168.11.12	Deny	icmp		test blocking ICMP	Enabled	
2	allow_all	IPs: any	IPs: any	Permit	any			Enabled	
3	Block_SSH	IPs: 192.168.11.11	IPs: 192.168.11.12	Deny	tcp/22		test block ssh	Enabled	

- Proceed to test if you can ssh from host 1-2 and 2-1. Also review the logs in PSM and ELK
- Do they match what you expect?

- Did you check service bypass setting?



### Learning Check Task 6

1. Using the PSM GUI to verify policy
2. Verifying Workload groups
3. Adding a rule to existing policy for iperf
4. Testing host to host connectivity
5. Verifying log visibility

## Task 7 - Move workload to separate Networks and subnets (Working)

Possible front end to back-end scenario

Vlan x to y

NGINX scenario w / Curl

Tests inter VLAN egress and ingress rules.

Test with workload groups and Ip collections.

## Summary

This guide offered a high-level overview of the CX10000's capabilities. It was designed to help you explore and experiment with vSphere, PSM and ELK in a controlled lab environment. The goal was to get you familiar with what you can configure and manage through these tools. Hopefully this provided you the opportunity to test, learn, and deepen your understanding of the entire solution. Feel free to reach out with any issues, questions, additional use-cases or recommended improvement and keep an eye out for the survey that will be sent out after the lab completion.