SECURITY OPERATIONS FUNDAMENTALS V2

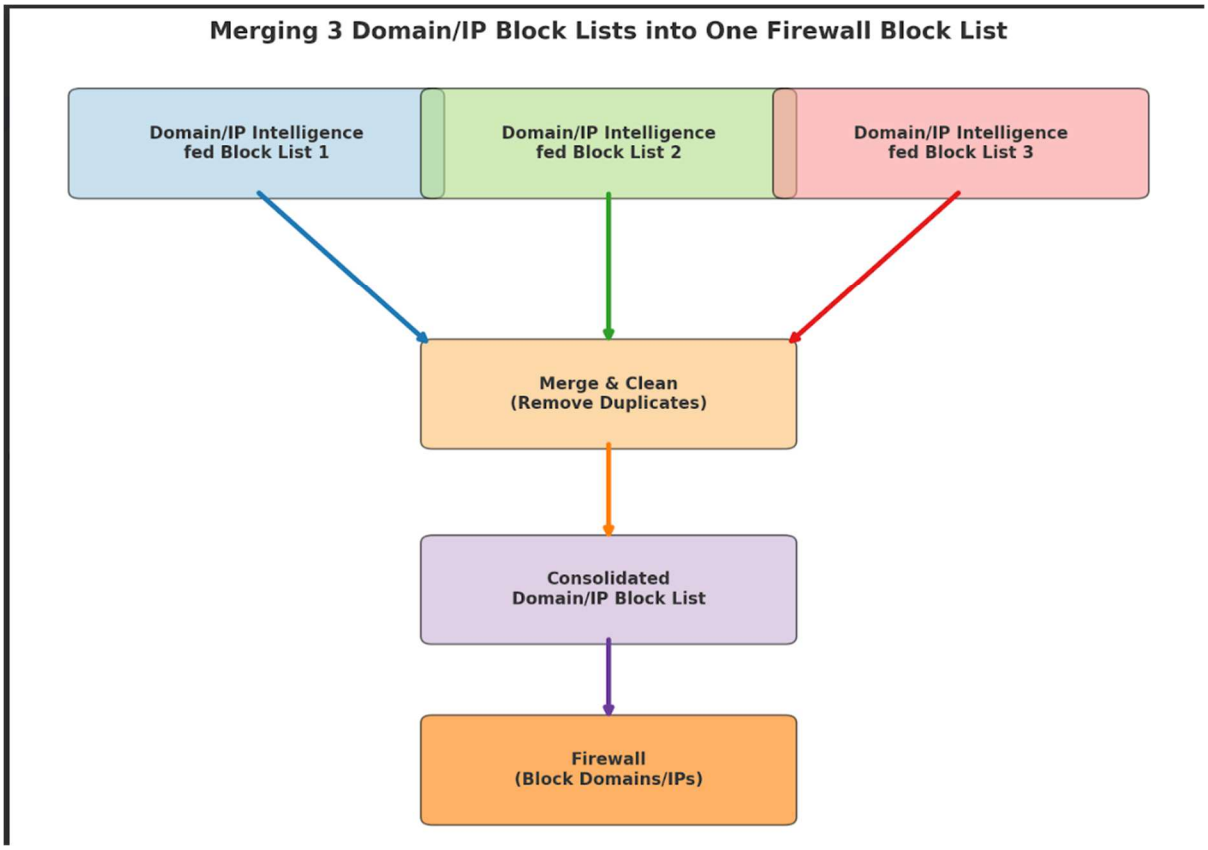
Lab 7: Threat Intelligence

Document Version: 2025-04-18

Contents

Introduction

In this lab, you will use python scripts to create a domain block list and an IP address blocklist. The scripts will use intelligence feeds from 3 different sources and combine them into one domain blocklist and one IP address blocklist. The scripts will also create localhost websites to post the blocklists on. You will then configure your firewall to use the blocklists to block traffic sourced from the entries in the blocklists.

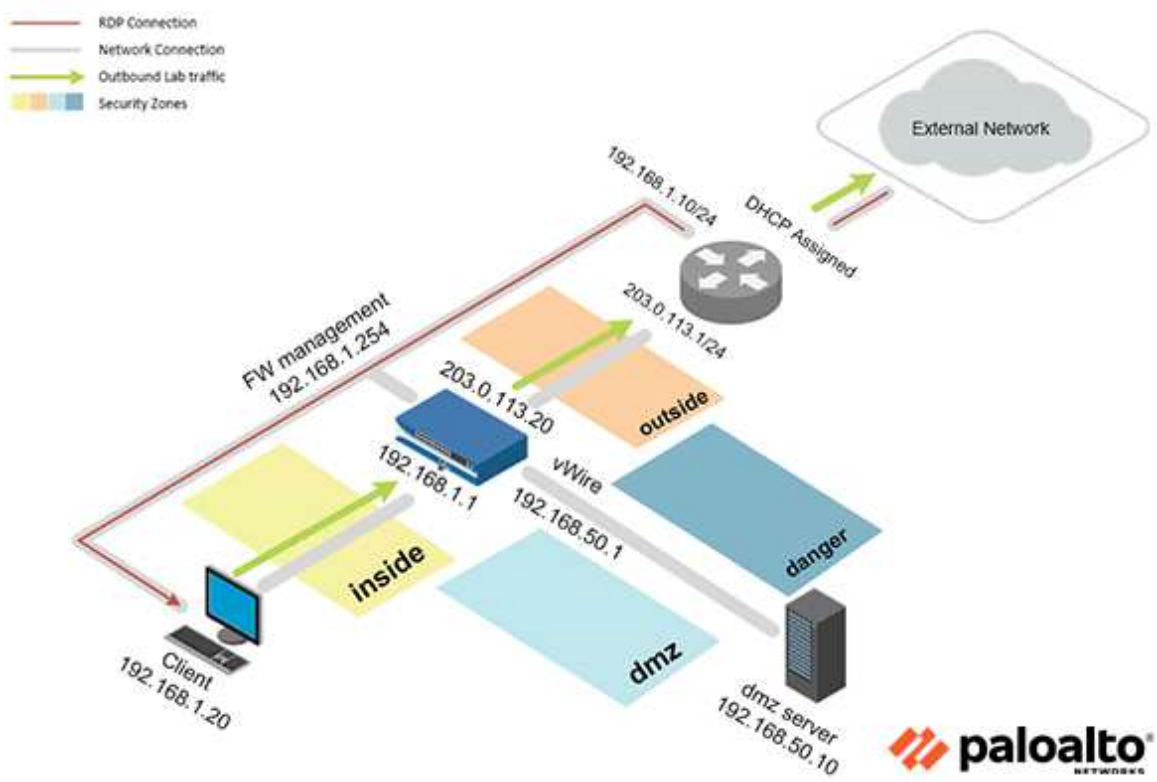


Objective

In this lab, you will perform the following tasks:

- Explore and comprehend intelligence feed blocklists
- Understand how a python script can use intelligence feeds to create a domain blocklist and or IP blocklist from intelligence feeds
- Execute python scripts to create blocklists
- Configure the firewall appliance to use the blocklists to block traffic from malicious sites

Lab Topology



Lab Settings

The information in the table below will be needed in order to complete the lab. The task sections below provide details on the use of this information.

Virtual Machine	IP Address	Account (if needed)	Password (if needed)
Client	192.168.1.20	`lab-user`	`Pal0Alt0!`
DMZ	192.168.50.10	`root`	`Pal0Alt0!`
Firewall	192.168.1.254	`admin`	`Pal0Alt0!`

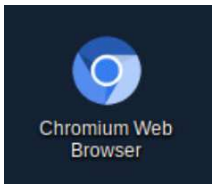
1 Threat Intelligence

1.0 Load Lab Configuration

In this section, you will load the Firewall configuration file.

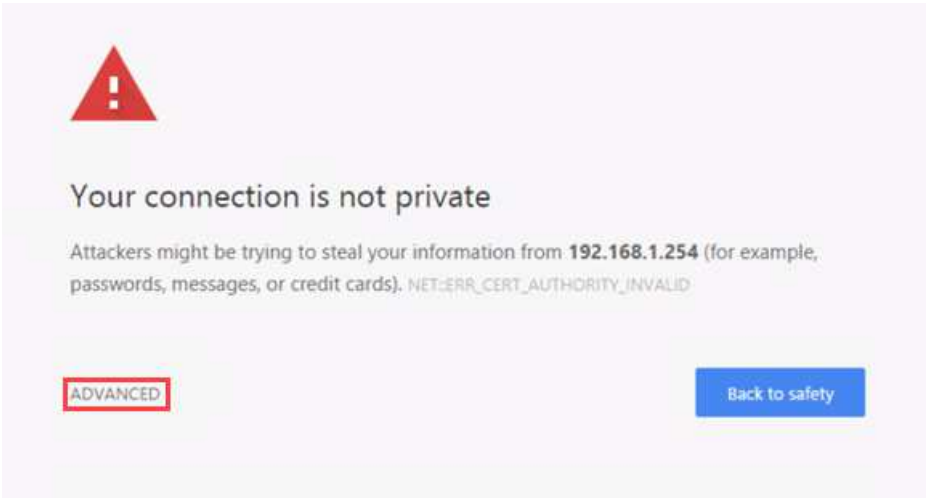
1. Click on the **Client** tab to access the client PC.

2. Log in to the client PC with the username `lab-user` and password `Pal0Alt0!`.
3. Double-click the **Chromium** icon located on the desktop.



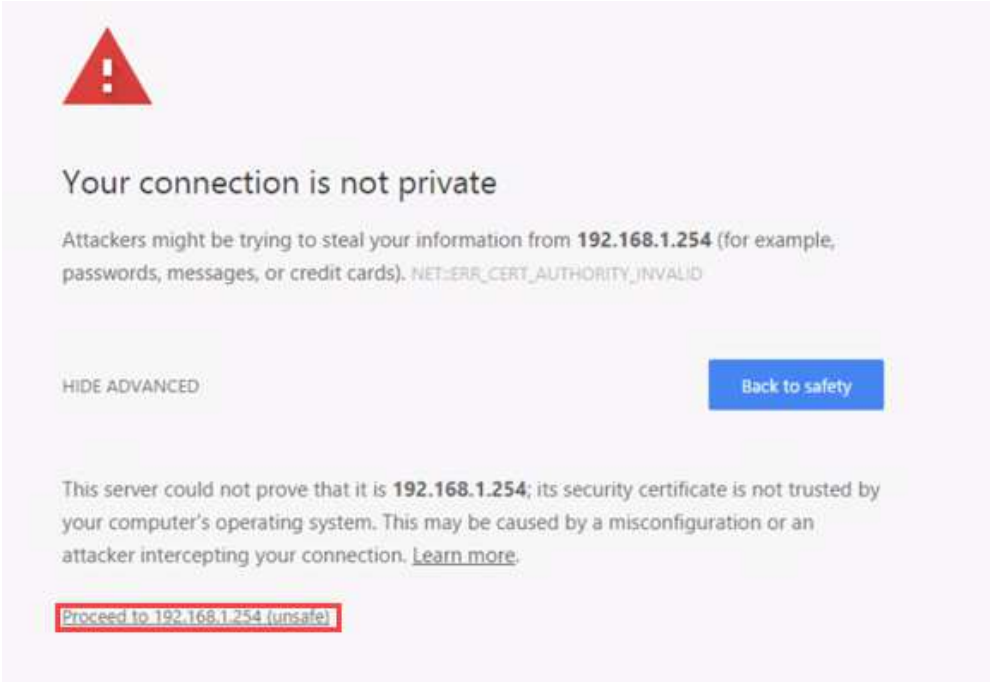
4. In the *Chromium* address field, type `https://192.168.1.254` and press **Enter**.

5. You will see a "*Your connection is not private*" message. Click on the **ADVANCED** link.



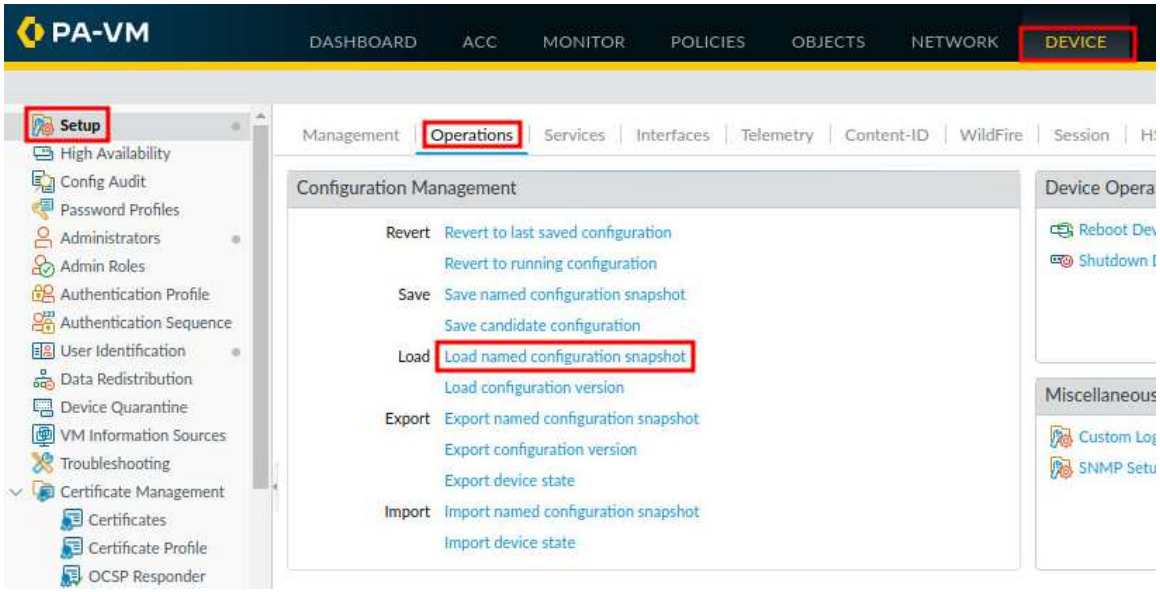
If you encounter the *"Unable to connect"* or *"502 Bad Gateway"* message while attempting to connect to the IP specified above, please wait an additional 1-3 minutes for the Firewall to fully initialize. Refresh the page to continue.

6. Click on **Proceed to 192.168.1.254 (unsafe)**.



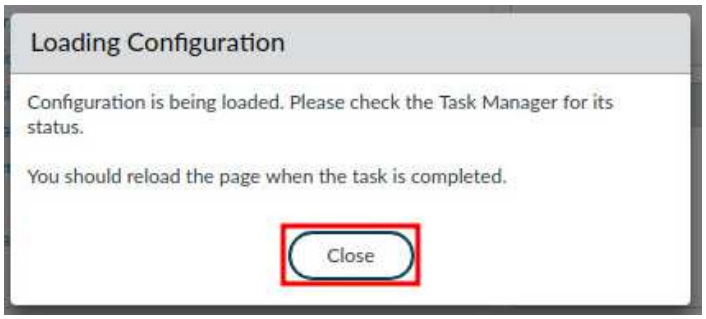
7. Log in to the Firewall web interface as username `admin`, password `Pal0Alt0!`.

8. In the web interface, navigate to **Device > Setup > Operations** and click on **Load named configuration snapshot** in the *Configuration Management* section.



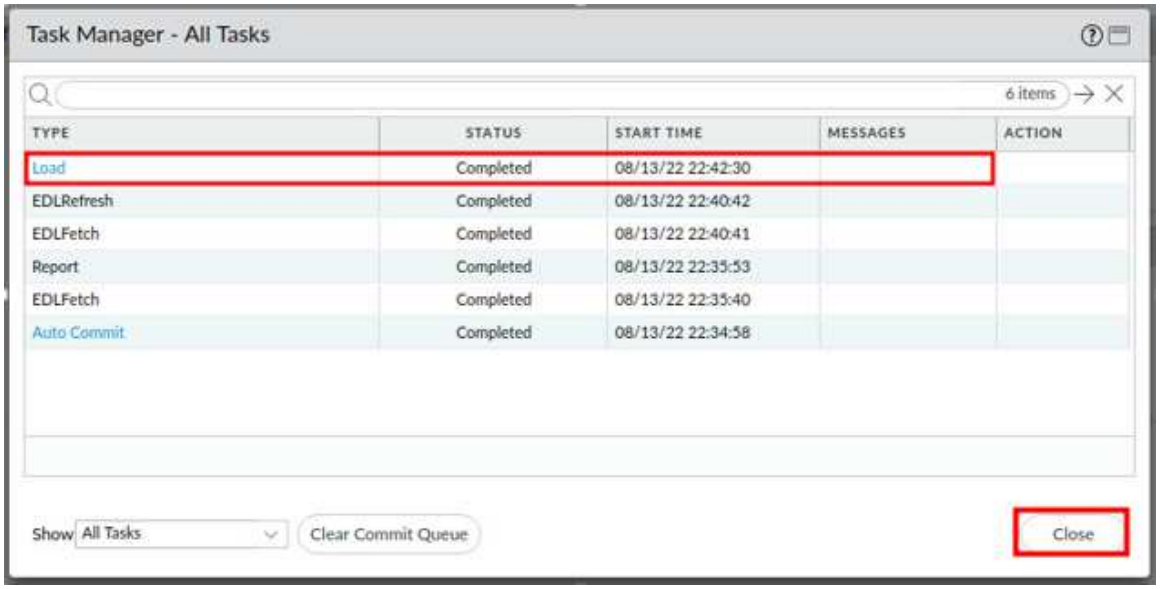
9. In the *Load Named Configuration* window, select **pan-sof-lab-07.xml** from the *Name* dropdown list and click **OK**.

10. In the *Loading Configuration* window, a message will say *Configuration is being loaded. Please check the Task Manager for its status. You should reload the page when the task is completed.* Click **Close** to continue.

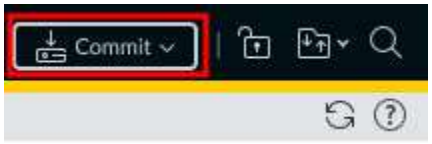


11. Click the **Tasks** icon located at the bottom-right of the web interface.

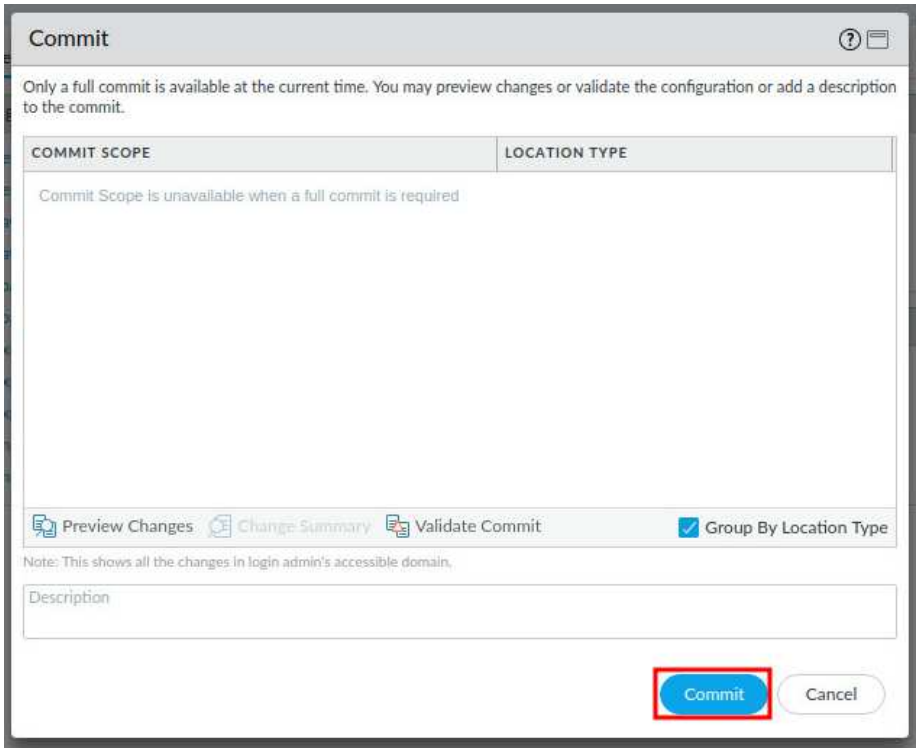
12. In the *Task Manager – All Tasks* window, verify that the *Load* type has successfully completed. Click **Close**.



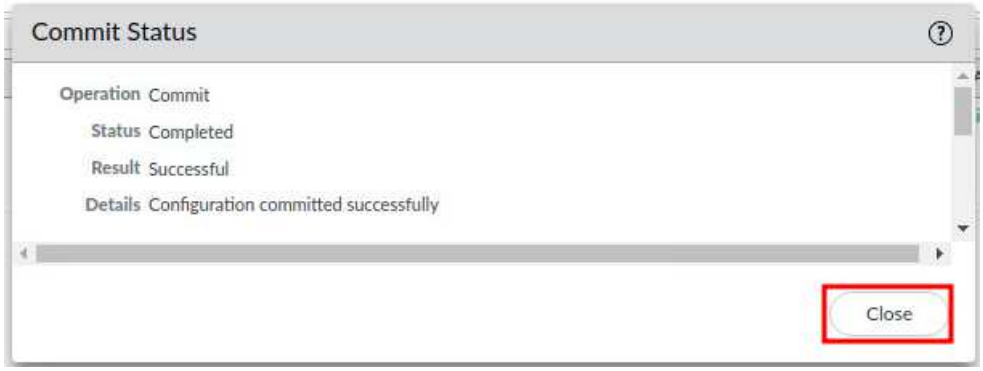
13. Click the **Commit** link located at the top-right of the web interface.



14. In the *Commit* window, click **Commit** to proceed with committing the changes.



15. When the commit operation successfully completes, click **Close** to continue.



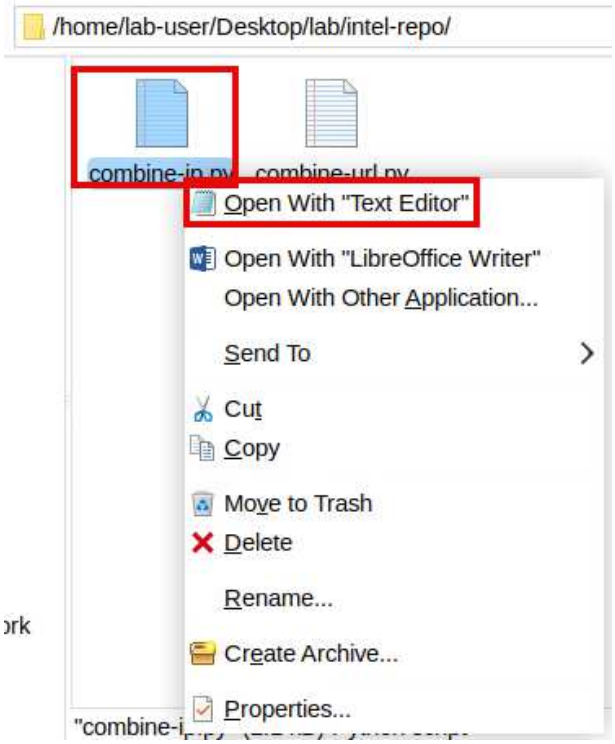
The commit process takes changes made to the Firewall and copies them to the running configuration, which will activate all configuration changes since the last commit.

1.1 Examine and Run the IP Blocking List Intelligence Script

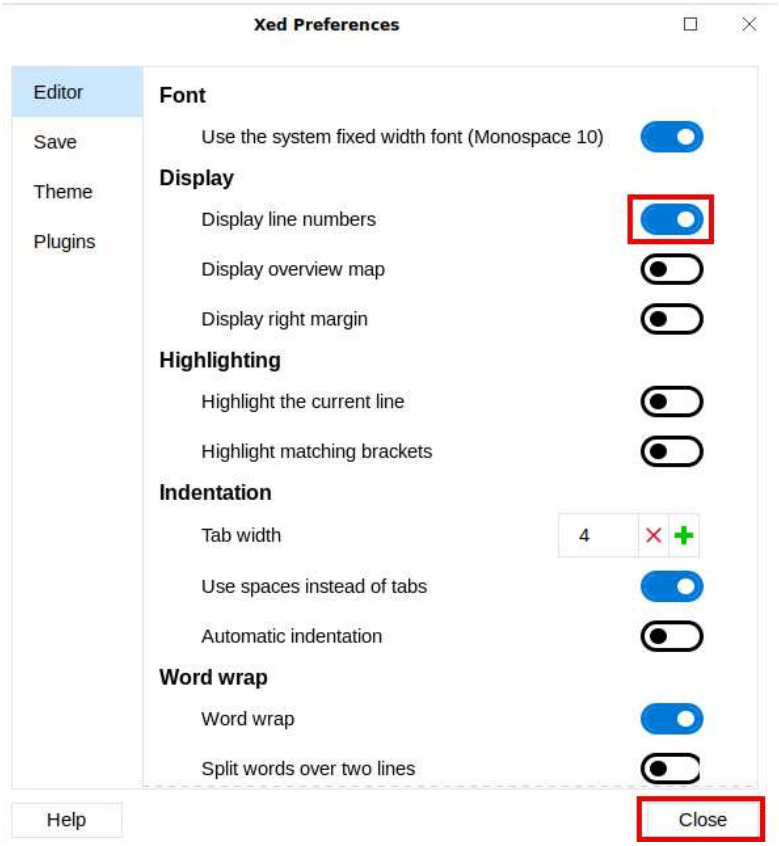
In this section, you will examine and run the *combine-ip.py* python script. This script will use three cybersecurity intelligence feeds to create one IP blocklist that will be posted on a localhost website.

1. While on the *Client*, open the **lab** folder on the Desktop. Then, navigate to the **intel-repo** folder within it.

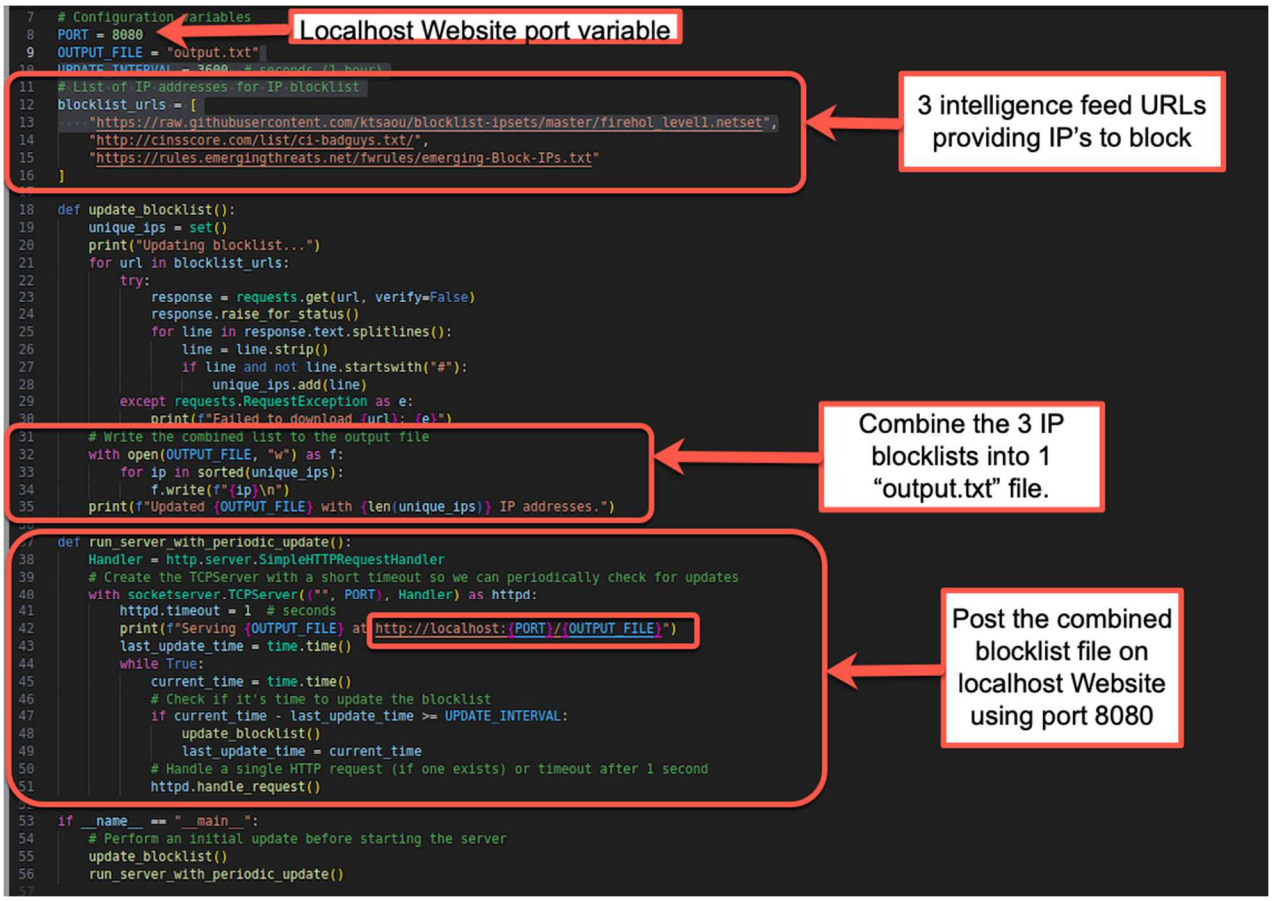
2. Right-click the **combine-ip.py** and open it with the text editor.



3. In the new text editor window, navigate to **Edit** and enable **Display line numbers** to help you examine the python script. Click **Close** in the *Xed Preferences* window.

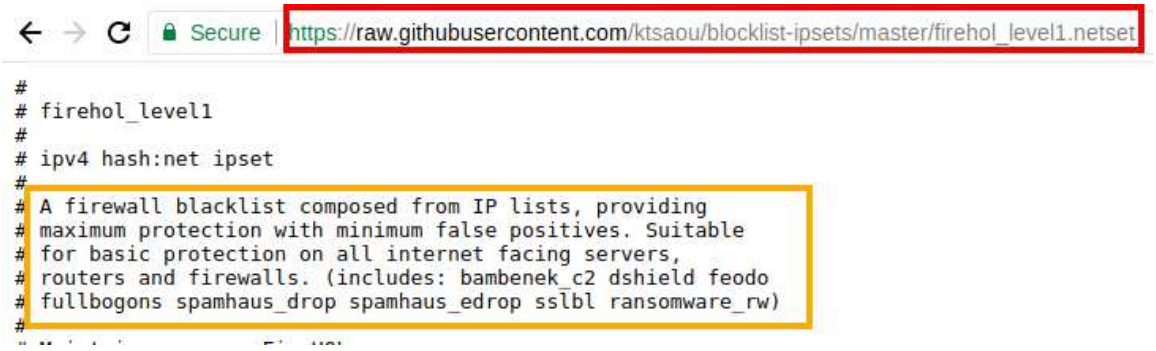


4. Examine the *combine-ip.py* python script using the screenshot below as your guide. Lines 12-16 provide the URL addresses for the intelligence feeds that will provide the IP blocklists. These are IP addresses of known bad Internet hosts identified via the intelligence sources. Lines 31-35 combine the IP blocklists from the three intelligence repositories into one *output.txt* file. Lines 37-51 post the *output.txt* on a localhost website using port *8080,* which was listed as a *PORT* variable in line 8 of the script.



5. Copy the first blocklist URL listed from line 13, **https://raw.githubusercontent.com/ktsaou/blocklist-ipsets/master/firehol_level1.netset**.

6. Navigate to the *Chromium* web browser, paste the URL into a new open tab, and access the website with a list of bad IP addresses. Note the description of this blocklist:



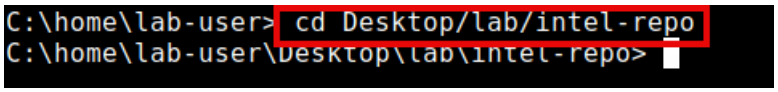
"*A firewall blacklist composed from IP lists, providing maximum protection with minimum false positives. Suitable for basic protection on all internet facing servers, routers and firewalls. (includes: bambenek_c2 dshield feodo fullbogons spamhaus_drop spamhaus_edrop sslbl ransomware_rw)*"

After you have completed your review, close the *combine-ip.py* text file and be sure not to save any accidental changes you may have made to this file.

7. Open the **Xfce Terminal** by clicking on the **Terminal** icon.

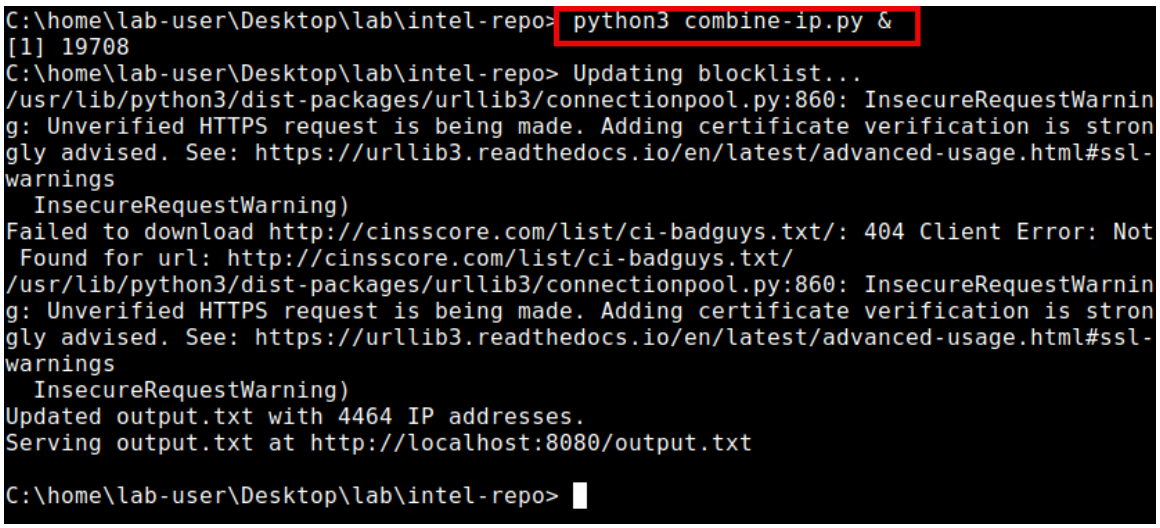
8. In the terminal, change to the *intel-repo* directory where the python scripts are located.

```
C:\home\lab-user> cd Desktop/lab/intel-repo
```

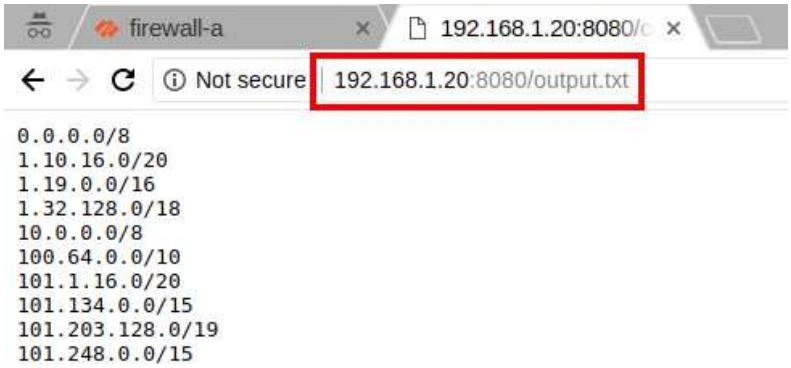


9. Run the **combine-ip.py** python script. After entering the command, press the **Enter** key once more to return to the prompt. Keep the terminal window open and uninterrupted.

```
C:\home\lab-user\Desktop\lab\intel-repo> python3 combine-ip.py &
```



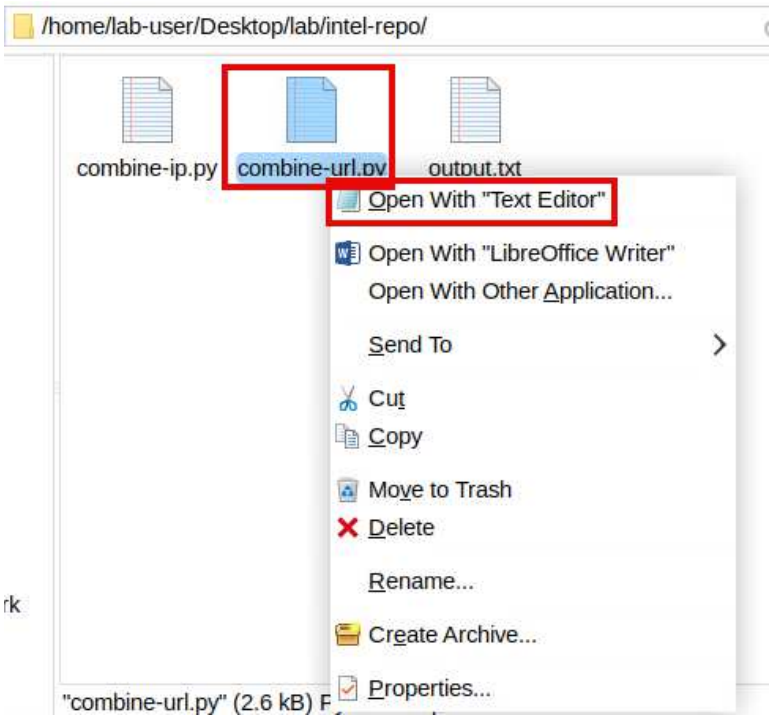
10. Navigate to the **Chromium** web browser, open a new tab, and enter the following URL to view the consolidated IP blocklist: `http://192.168.1.20:8080/output.txt`.



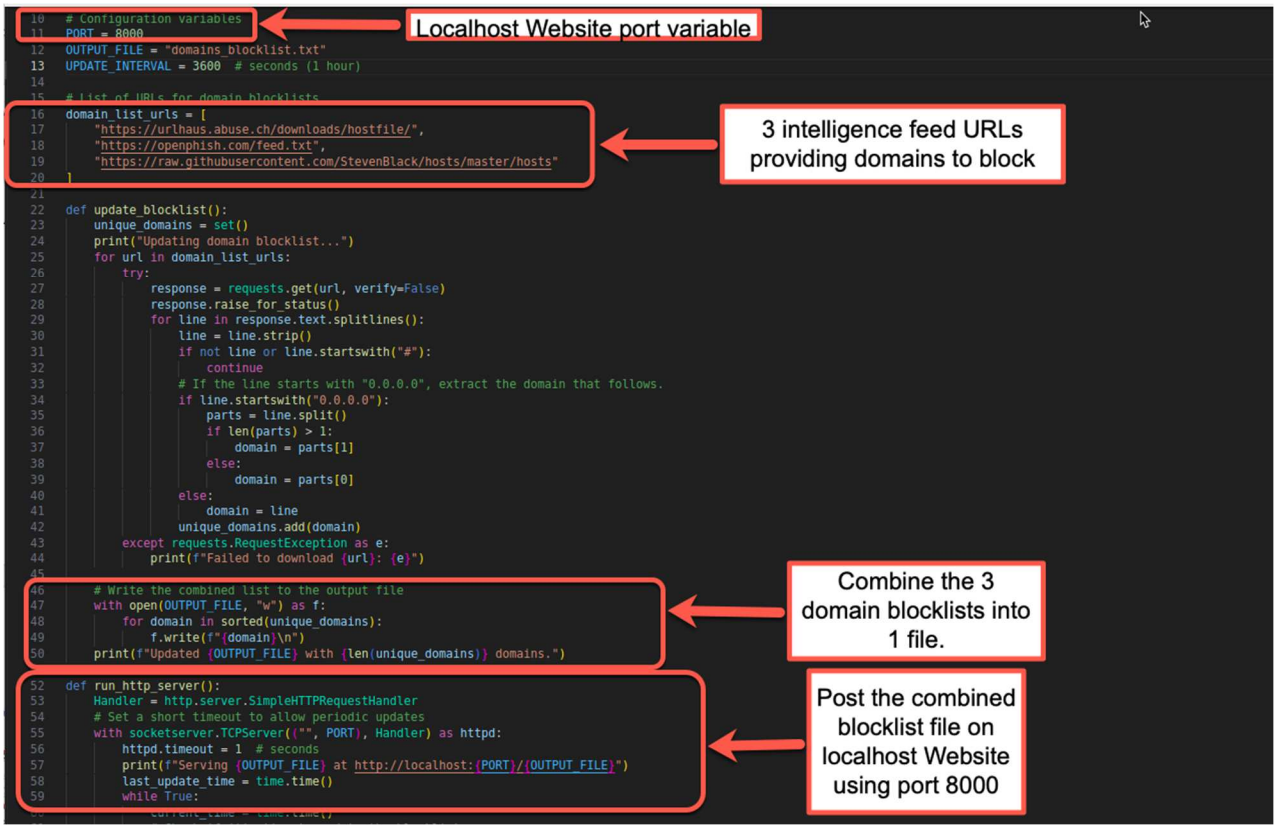
1.2 Examine and Run the Domain Blocking List Intelligence Feed Script

1. While on the *Client*, open the **lab** folder on the Desktop. Then, navigate to the **intel-repo** folder.

2. Right-click the **combine-url.py** and open it with the text editor.



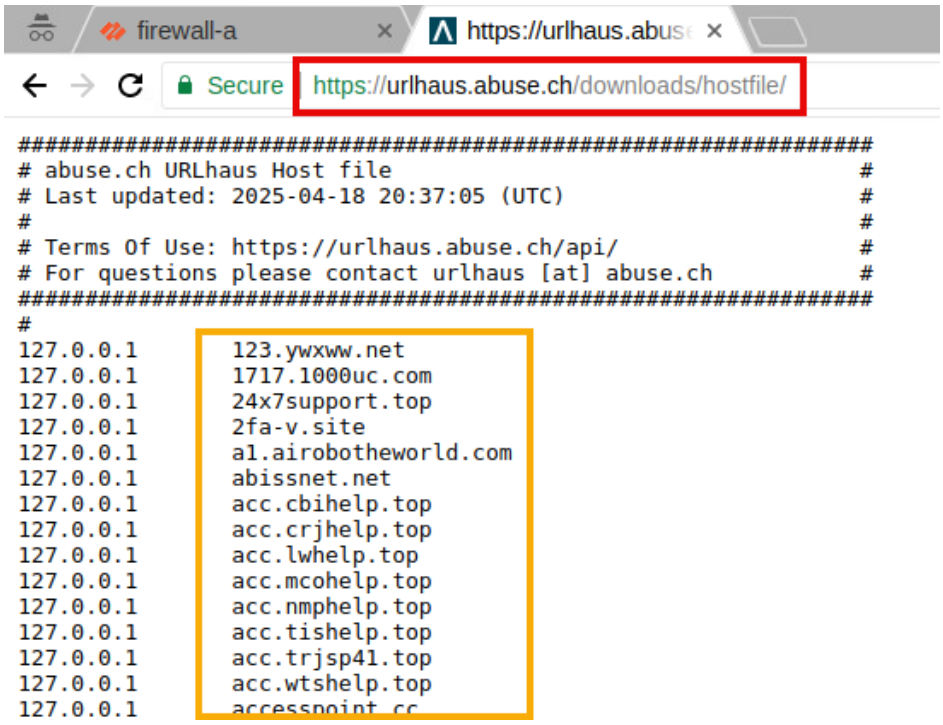
3. Examine the *combine-url.py* python script using the screenshot below as your guide. Note that the format for this domain name blocklist script is almost identical to the IP blocklist script. The main difference is that this script will post the domain blocklist on a localhost website using port *8000* instead of port *8080*.




```
# Configuration variables
PORT = 8000
OUTPUT_FILE = "domains_blocklist.txt"
UPDATE_INTERVAL = 3600  # seconds (1 hour)

# List of URLs for domain blocklists
domain_list_urls = [
    "https://urlhaus.abuse.ch/downloads/hostfile/",
    "https://openphish.com/feed.txt",
    "https://raw.githubusercontent.com/StevenBlack/hosts/master/hosts"
]

def update_blocklist():
    unique_domains = set()
    print("Updating domain blocklist...")
    for url in domain_list_urls:
        try:
            response = requests.get(url, verify=False)
            response.raise_for_status()
            for line in response.text.splitlines():
                line = line.strip()
                if not line or line.startswith("#"):
                    continue
                # If the line starts with "0.0.0.0", extract the domain that follows.
                if line.startswith("0.0.0.0"):
                    parts = line.split()
                    if len(parts) > 1:
                        domain = parts[1]
                    else:
                        domain = parts[0]
                else:
                    domain = line
                unique_domains.add(domain)
        except requests.RequestException as e:
            print(f"Failed to download {url}: {e}")

    # Write the combined list to the output file
    with open(OUTPUT_FILE, "w") as f:
        for domain in sorted(unique_domains):
            f.write(f"{domain}\n")
    print(f"Updated {OUTPUT_FILE} with {len(unique_domains)} domains.")

def run_http_server():
    Handler = http.server.SimpleHTTPRequestHandler
    # Set a short timeout to allow periodic updates
    with socketserver.TCPServer(("", PORT), Handler) as httpd:
        httpd.timeout = 1  # seconds
        print(f"Serving {OUTPUT_FILE} at http://localhost:{PORT}/{OUTPUT_FILE}")
        last_update_time = time.time()
        while True:
```

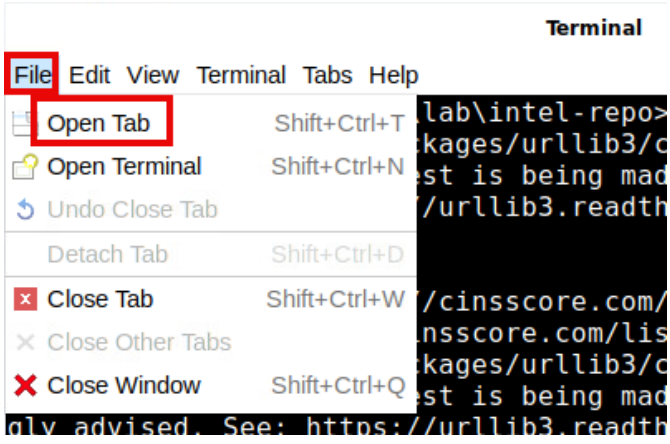

4. Copy the first blocklist URL listed in line 17, **https://urlhaus.abuse.ch/downloads/hostfile/**.

5. Navigate to the **Chromium** web browser, paste the URL into a new open tab, and access the website with a list of bad domains. Note that this blocklist contains domain names.



After you have completed your review, close the *combine-url.py* text file and be sure not to save any accidental changes you may have made to this file.

11. Navigate to your previously opened terminal and select **File > Open Tab**.

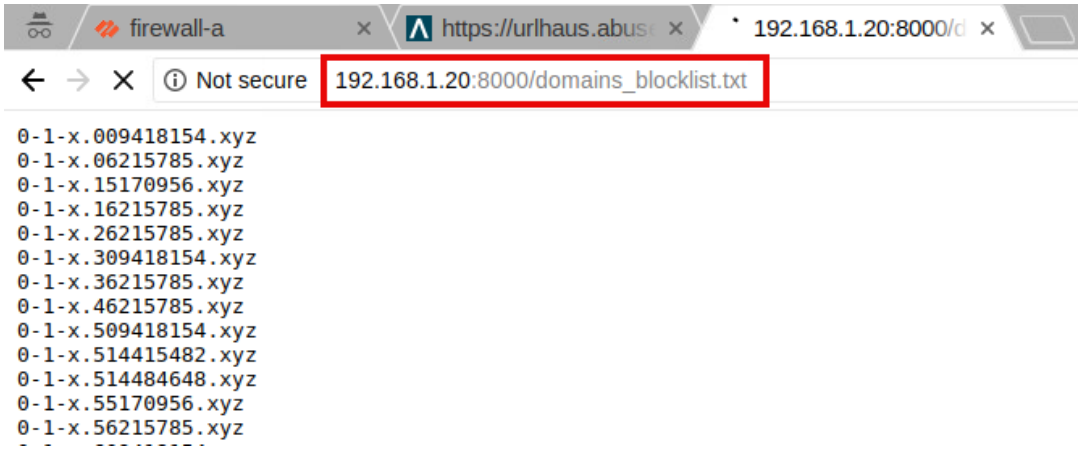


12. Run the **combine-url.py** python script. After entering the command, press the **Enter** key once more to return to the prompt. Keep the terminal window open and uninterrupted.

```
C:\home\lab-user\Desktop\lab\intel-repo> python3 combine-url.py &
```

```
C:\home\lab-user\Desktop\lab\intel-repo> python3 combine-url.py &
[1] 20203
C:\home\lab-user\Desktop\lab\intel-repo> Updating domain blocklist...
Updated domains_blocklist.txt with 144655 domains.
Serving domains_blocklist.txt at http://localhost:8000/domains_blocklist.txt

C:\home\lab-user\Desktop\lab\intel-repo>
```

6. Navigate to the **Chromium** web browser, open a new tab, and enter the following URL to view the consolidated domain name blocklist: `http://192.168.1.20:8000/domains_blocklist.txt`.

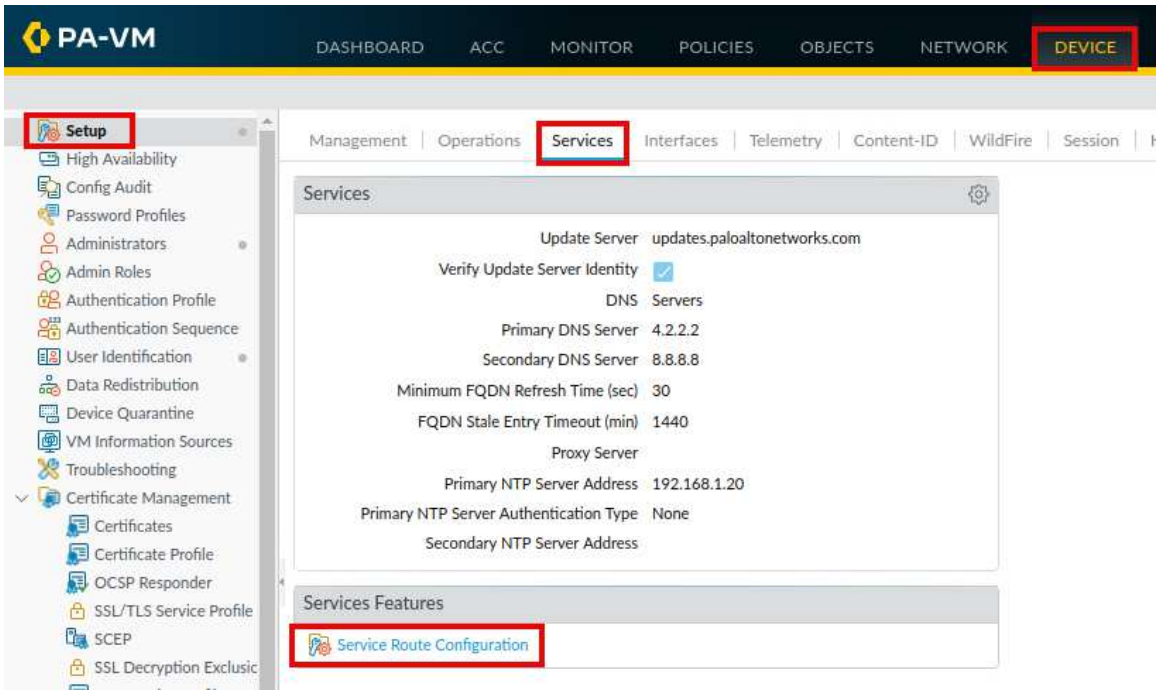


1.3 Configure an External Dynamic List (EDL) on the Firewall Appliance Using the Python Script Blocklists

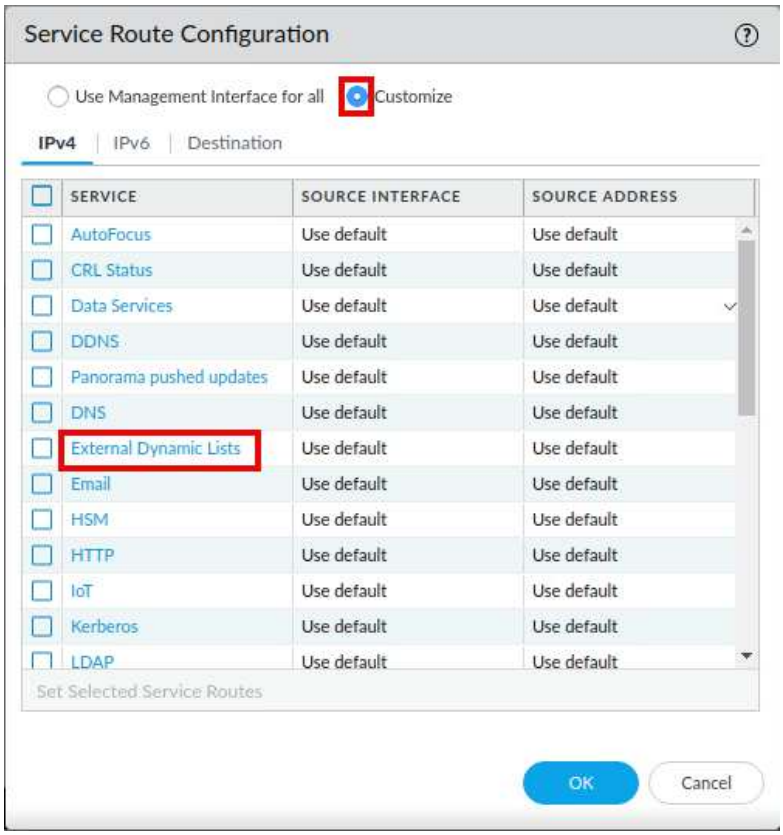
In this section, you will configure an *External Dynamic List (EDL*) on the firewall to use the python-scripted blocklists and then use the EDL in a security policy rule to block incoming traffic.

1. In the *Chromium* web browser, click on the **firewall-a** tab to return to the firewall web interface..

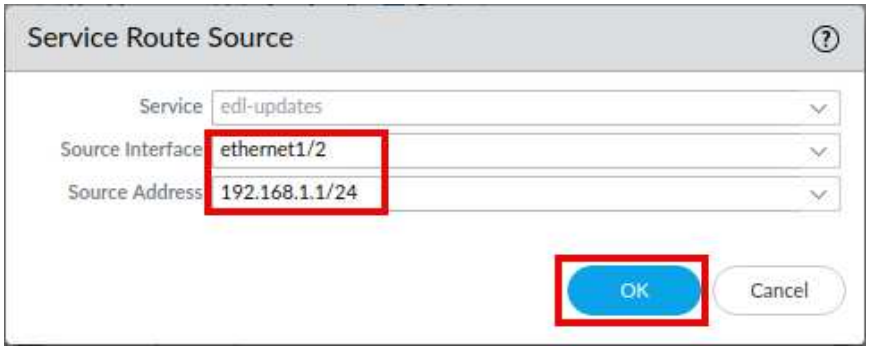
2. Navigate to **Device > Setup > Services** and select **Service Route Configuration**.



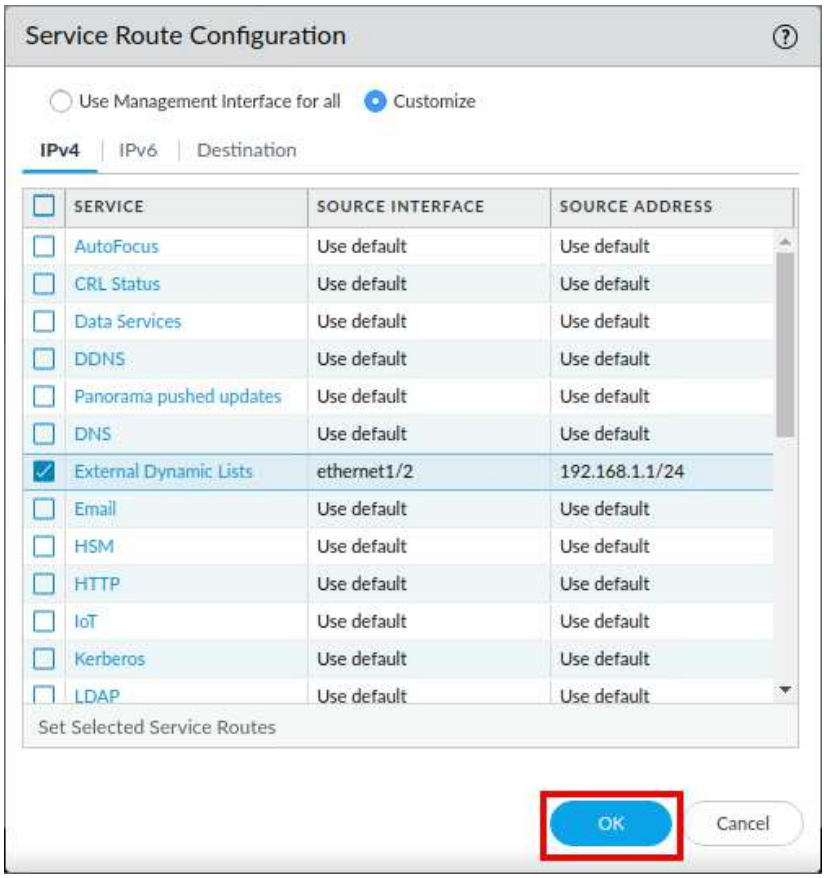
3. In the *Service Route Configuration* dialog box, select **Customize**. Click on **External Dynamic Lists**.



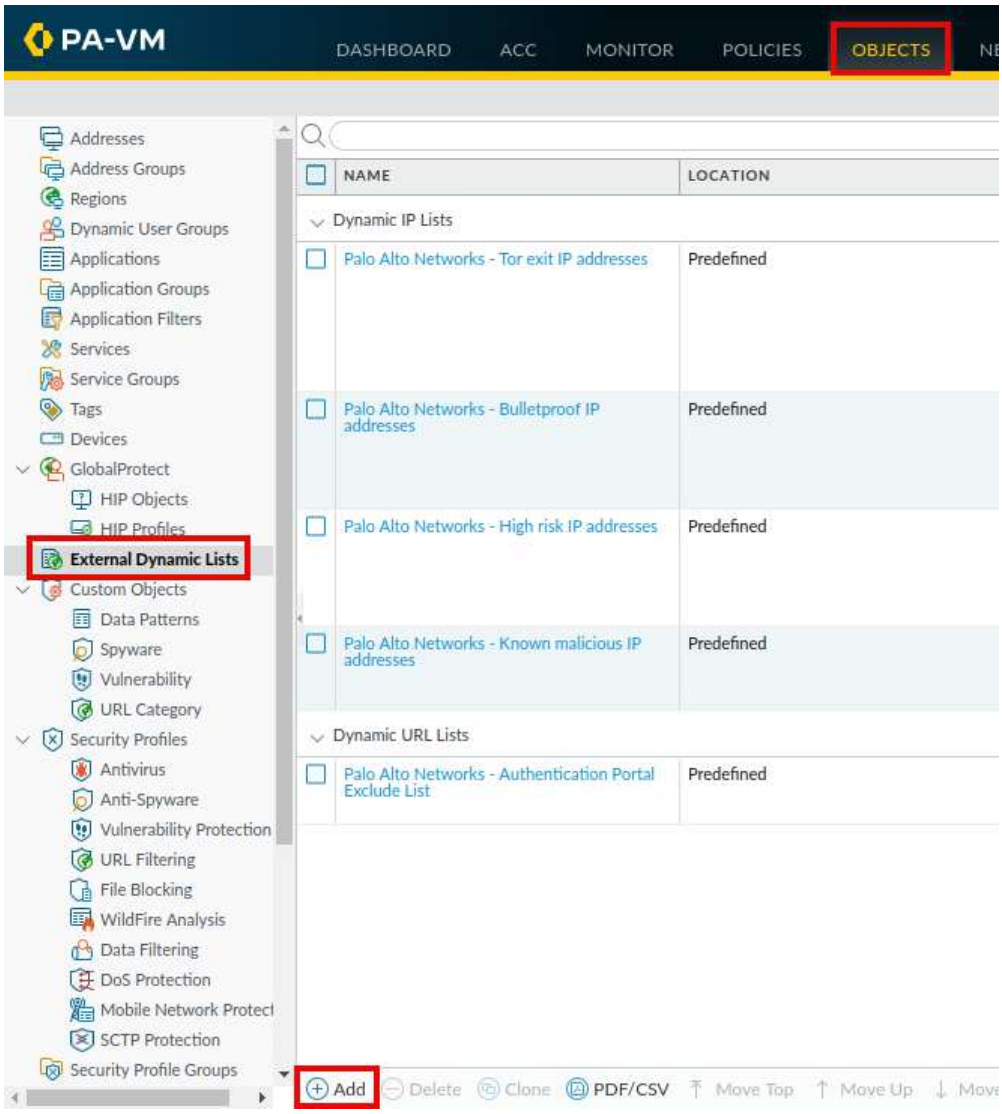
4. In the *Service Route Source* dialog box, select **ethernet1/2** for the *Source Interface* and verify *192.168.1.1/24* for the *Source Address*. Click **OK.**



5. In the *Service Route Configuration* window, click **OK**.

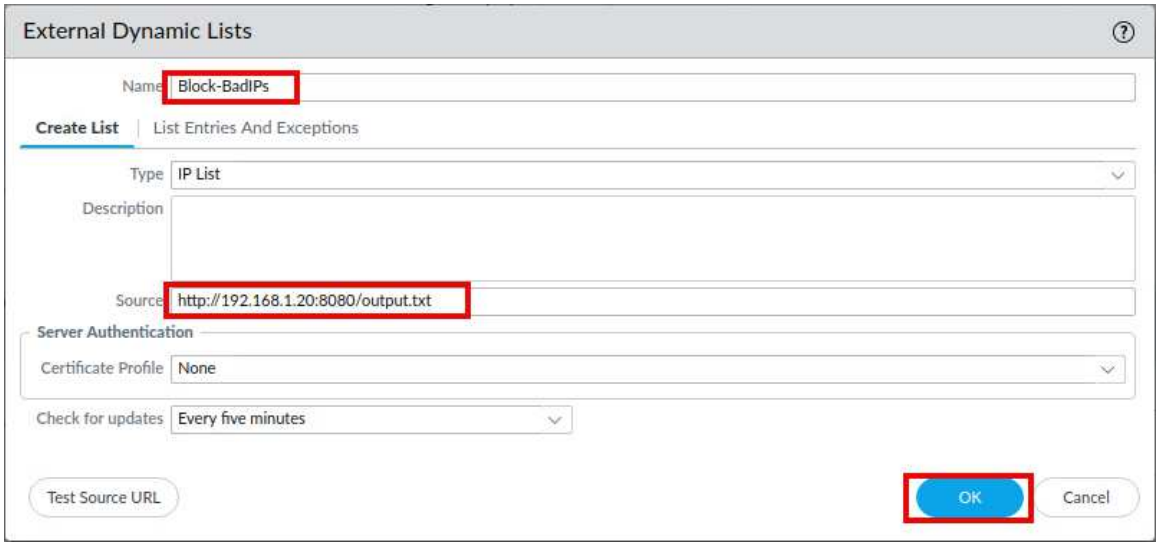


6. Navigate to **Objects > External Dynamic Lists** and click **Add**.

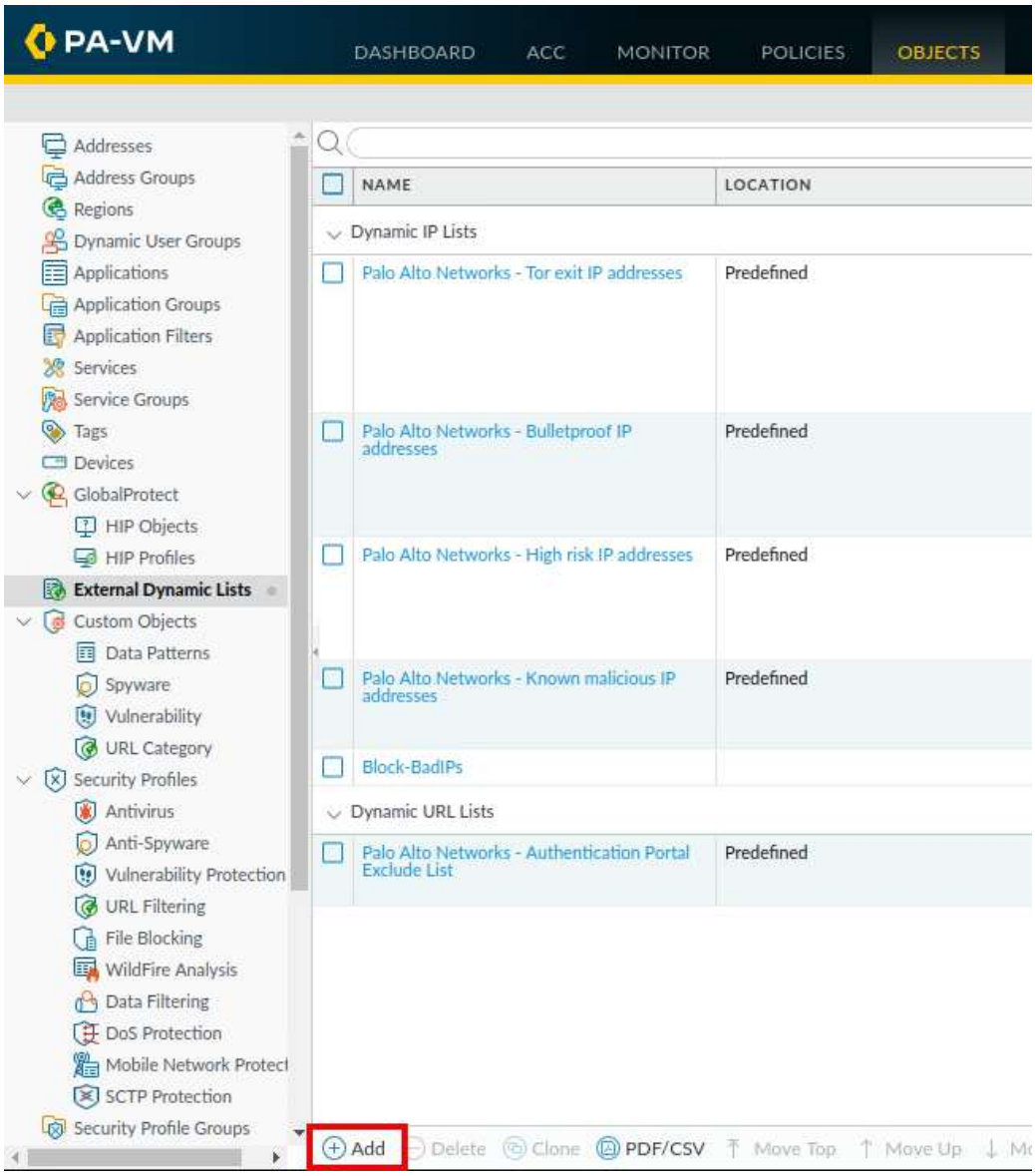


7. If a notice appears regarding appending ending tokens to entries, select **Do not show this message again** and click **Cancel** to continue.

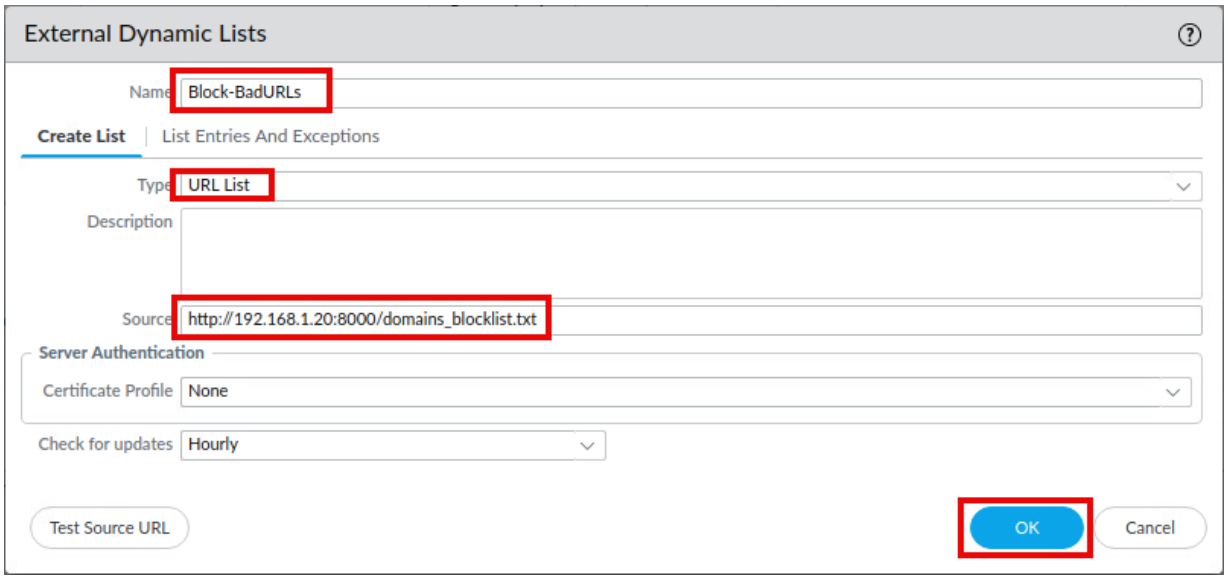
8. In the *External Dynamic Lists* window, type `Block-BadIPs` in the *Name* field, and enter `http://192.168.1.20:8080/output.txt` for the *Source*. Click **OK**.



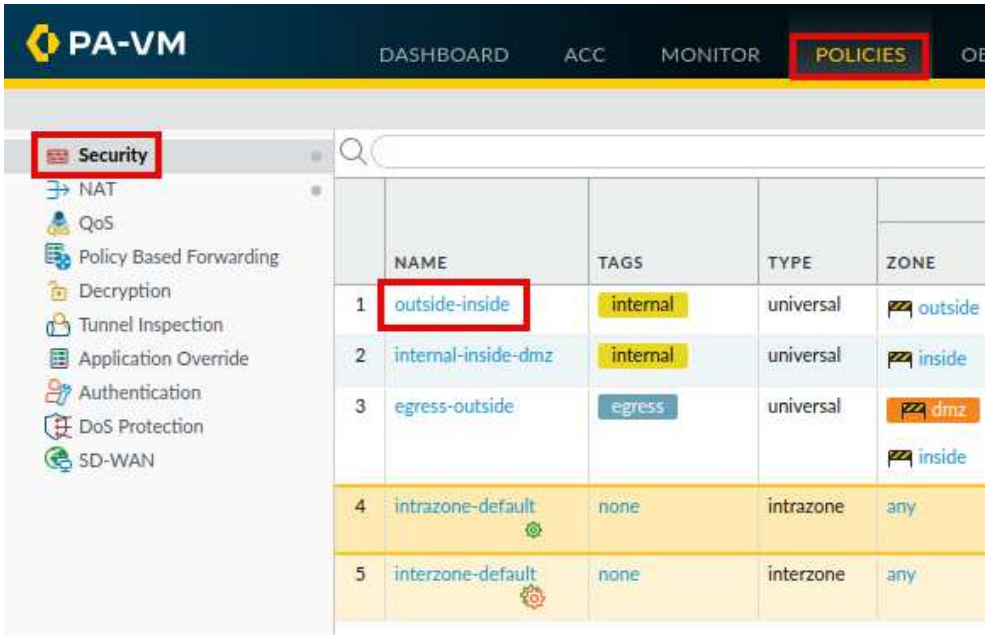
9. On the *External Dynamic Lists* page, click **Add** again.



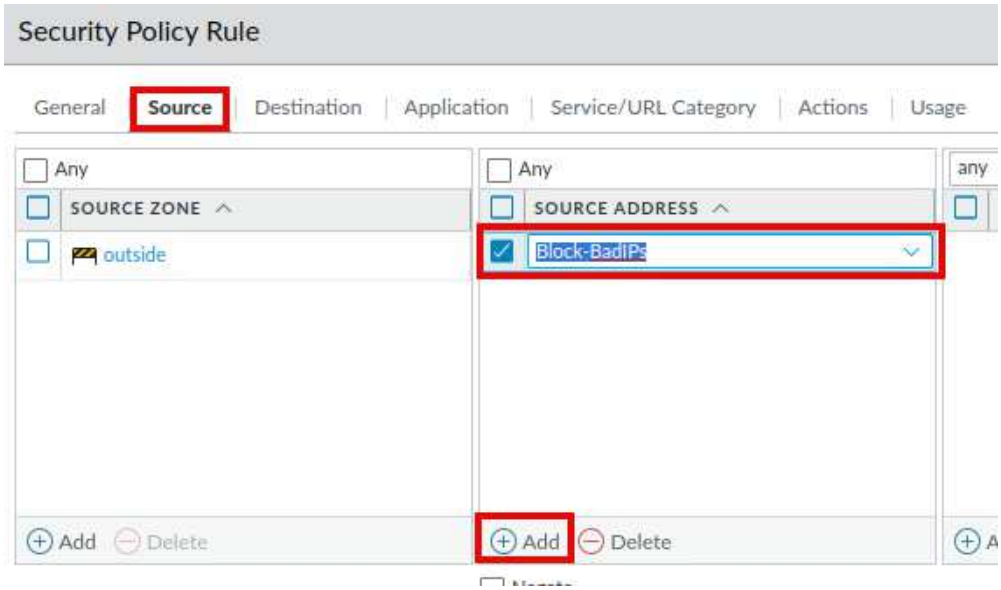
10. In the *External Dynamic Lists* window, type `Block-BadURLs` in the *Name* field, select **URL List** from the *Type* drop-down list, and enter `http://192.168.1.20:8000/domains_blocklist.txt` for the *Source*. Click **OK**.



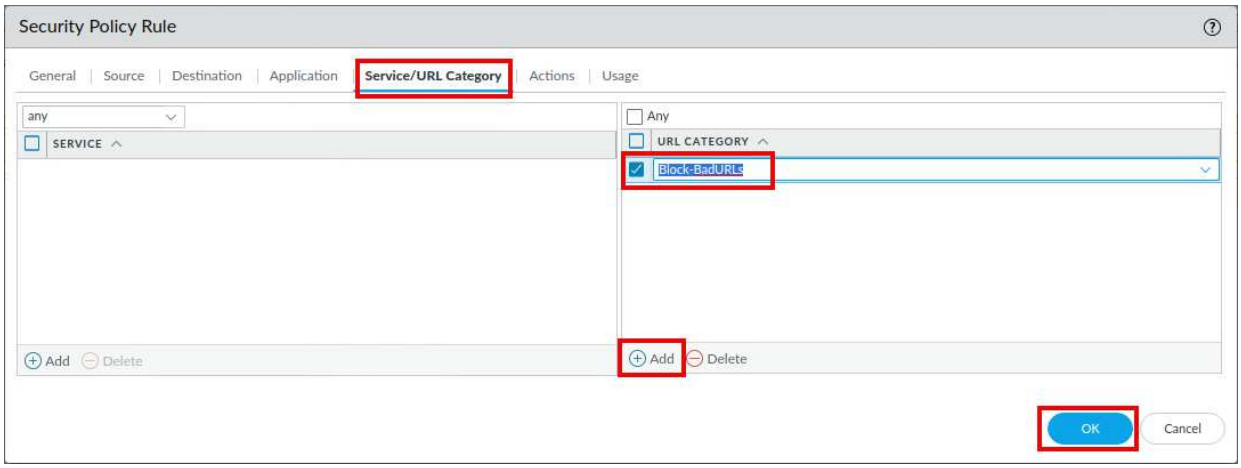
11. Navigate to **Policies > Security** and select the **outside-inside** policy.



12. In the *Security Policy Rule* window, select the **Source** tab. In the *Source Address* box, click **Add** and select **Block-BadIPs** from the dropdown menu.

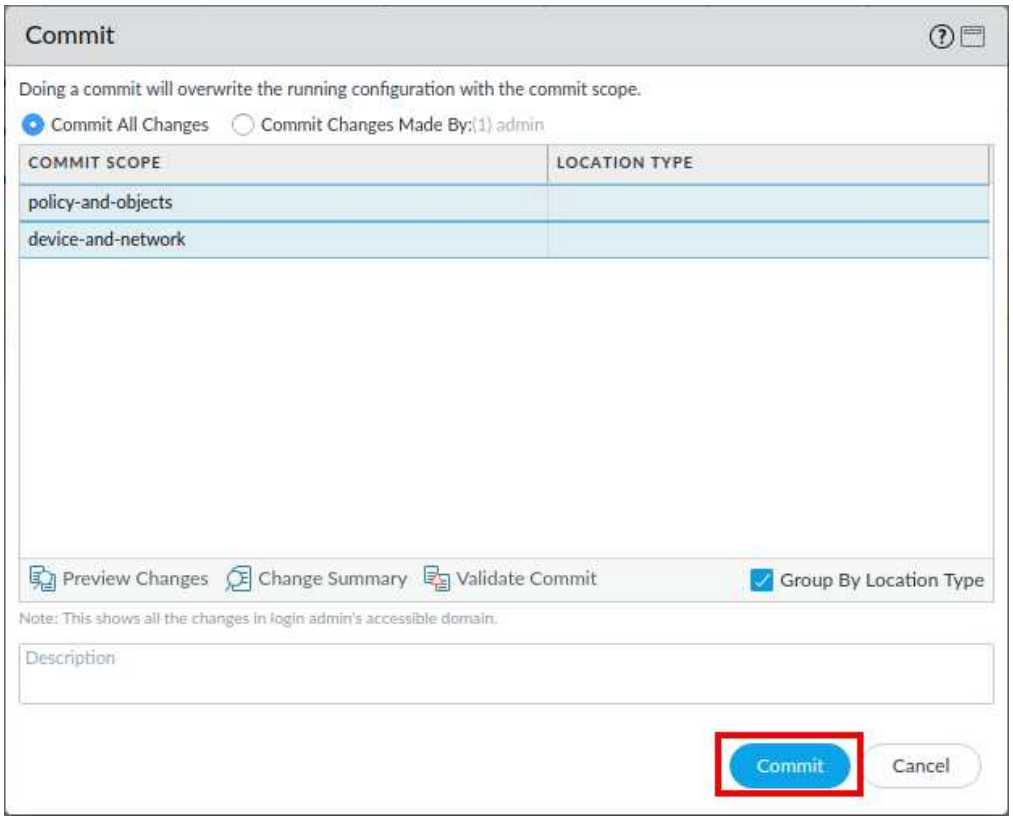


13. In the *Security Policy Rule* window, select the **Service/URL Category** tab. In the *URL Category* box, click **Add** and select **Block-BadURLs** from the dropdown menu. Click **OK** to save changes and to close the window.

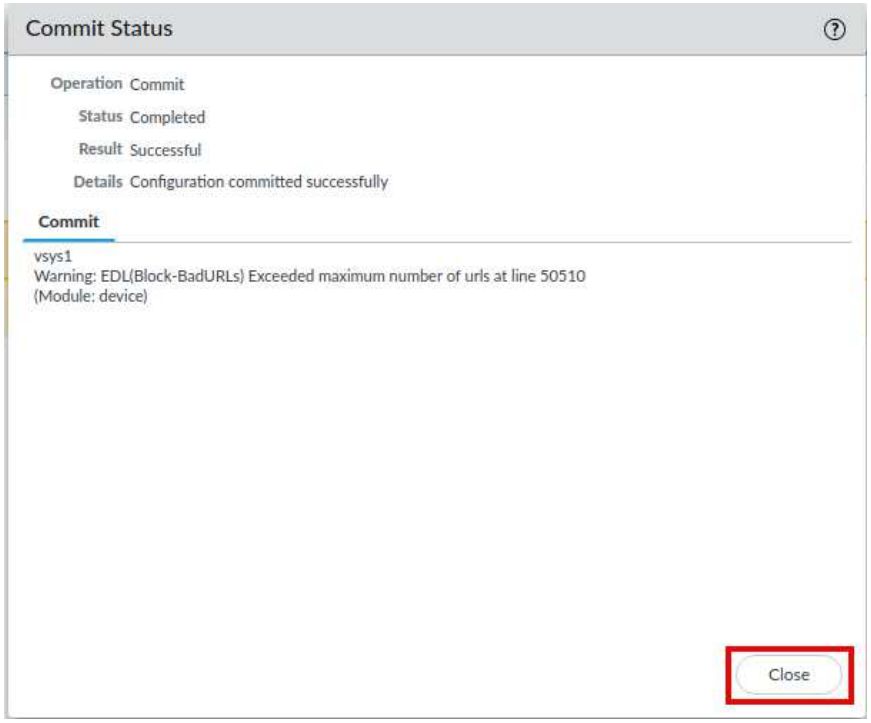


14. Click the **Commit** link located at the top-right of the web interface.

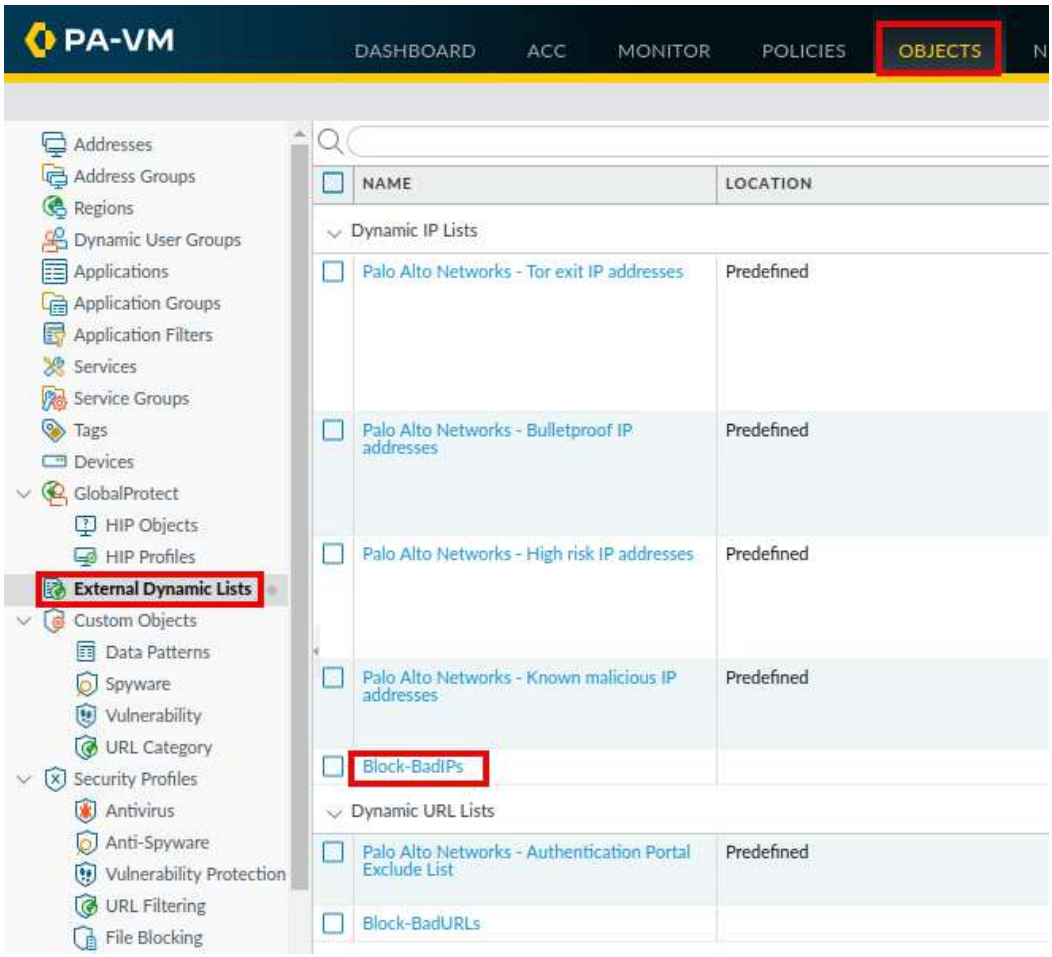
15. In the *Commit* window, click **Commit**.



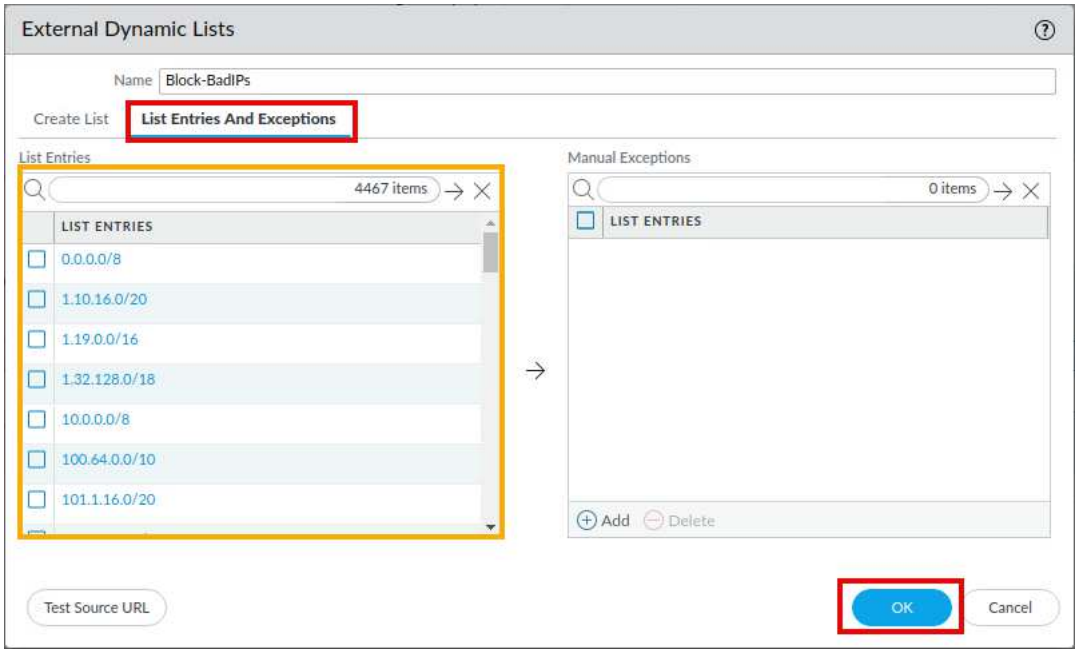
16. Once the commit finishes, click **Close**.



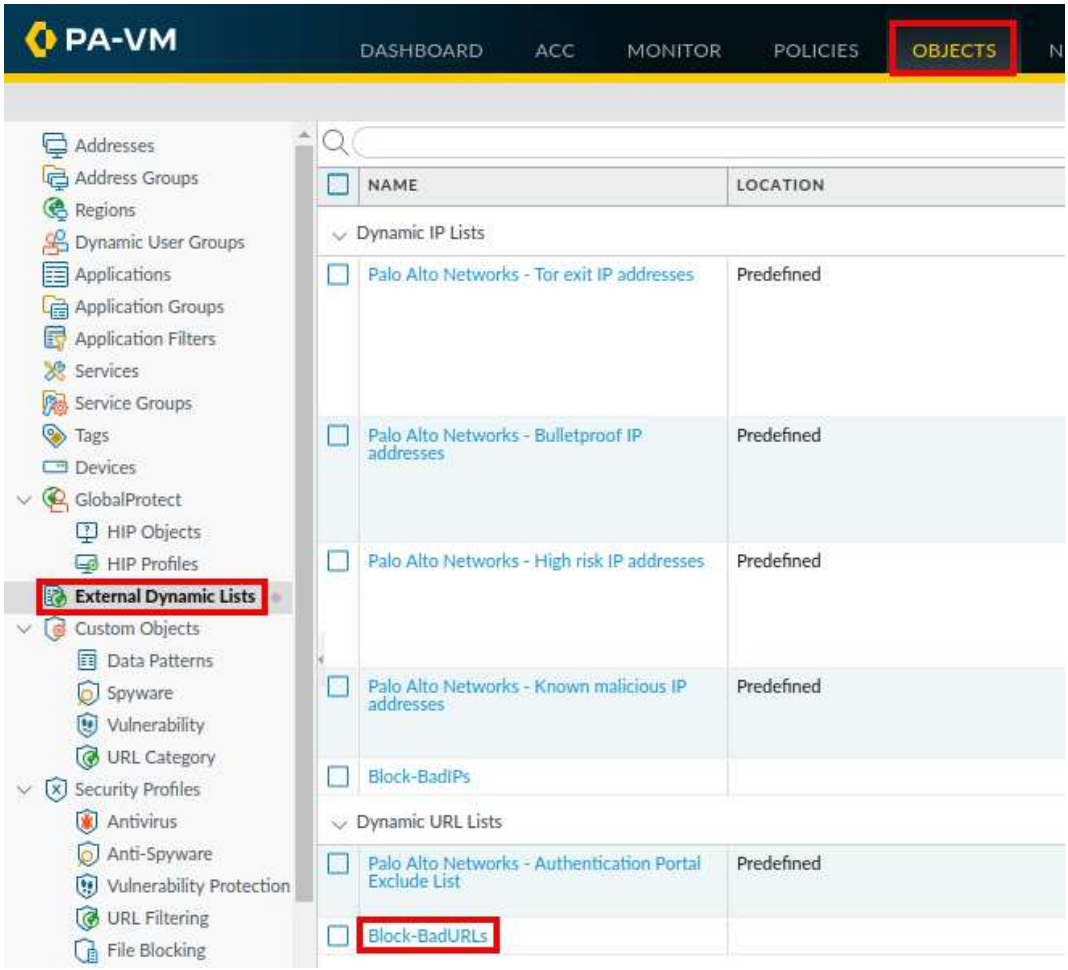
17. Navigate to **Objects > External Dynamic Lists** and click the **Block-BadIPs** list.



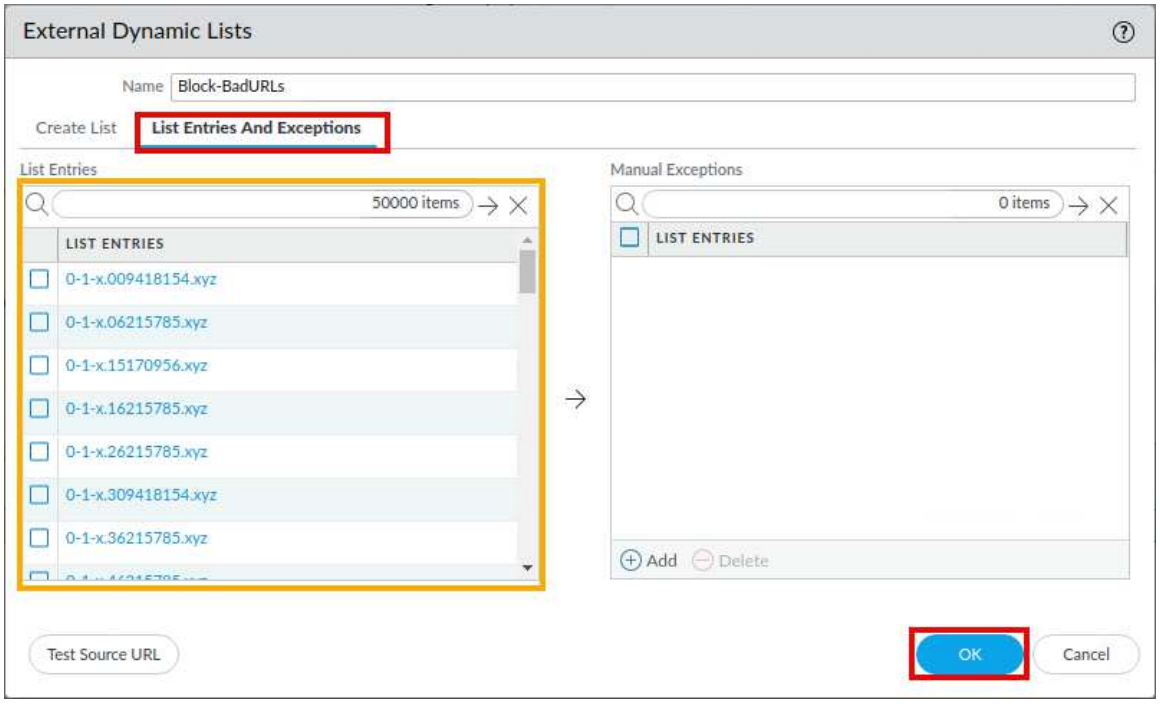
18. In the *External Dynamic Lists* window, select **List Entries and Exceptions** and observe the *IP block list indicators* feeding the *Firewall*. Click **OK**.



19. Navigate to **Objects > External Dynamic Lists** and click the **Block-BadURLs** list.



20. In the *External Dynamic Lists* window, select **List Entries and Exceptions** and observe the *URL block list indicators* feeding the *Firewall*. Click **OK**.



21. The lab is now complete; you may end your reservation.