

CISCO *Live!*

Let's go



The bridge to possible

Cisco ISE Performance, Scalability and Best Practices

BRKSEC-2234

Jesse Dubois, TAC Security Technical Leader

CISCO Live!

BRKSEC-2234

Introduction



About Jesse Dubois

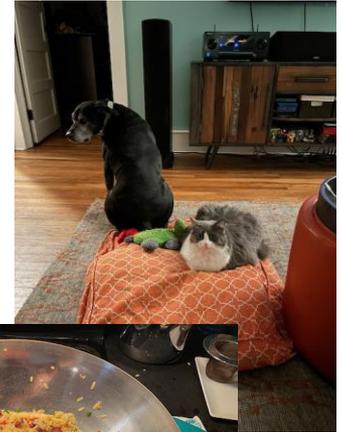
- name: Jesse Dubois
- job.jessedubois: 18 years in TAC
- details.jessedubois:

Location: Durham, North Carolina

Interests: Brewing, Golf, Cooking

Pets: Dunkel, Apollo, Comet, Calypso

Latest Travel: Brussels, Belgium



Session Abstract

In today's world of constant attacks, malware and Ransomware, its important to design, deploy and manage your network with an identity aware secure access platform. Cisco ISE plays a key role for many security solutions and is also one of the main pillars in the overall Cisco's Software defined Access Architecture.

This session will show you how to deliver scalable and highly available access control services using ISE for wired, wireless, and VPN from a single campus to a global deployment.

Methodologies for increasing scalability and redundancy will be covered such as load distribution with and without load balancers, optimal profiling design, lessons learned from the trenches, as well as serviceability tips and tricks to help you gain optimal value and productivity from ISE.

Attendees of this session will gain knowledge on how to best design ISE to ensure peak operational performance, stability, and to support large volumes of authentication activity. Various deployment architectures will be discussed including ISE platform selection, sizing, and network placement. Cisco ISE also enables cross-platform network system collaboration across your IT infrastructure by using pxGrid to monitor security, detect threats, and set network policy. Manage assets, configuration, identity, and access. The session will go through such deployment considerations and common architectures.

Session Objectives

- How to choose the deployment design that works for you!
- How to get the most out of your deployment.
- **My Tips** – What we see in TAC/Escalation (Best Practices)
 - Avoid commonly seen pitfalls.
- Not a session on configuration.
 - Will include links where appropriate to guides.



Agenda

- Deployment/Sizing
- Scaling ISE Services
 - Certificates
 - Network Devices
 - Load Balancing
 - Profiling
 - External Databases
- MnT / Log Analytics

Deployment / Sizing

ISE Architecture

Standalone ISE



Policy Administration Node (PAN)

- Single plane of glass for ISE admin
- Replication hub for all config changes



Monitoring & Troubleshooting Node (MnT)

- Reporting and logging node
- Syslog collector from ISE Nodes



Policy Services Node (PSN)

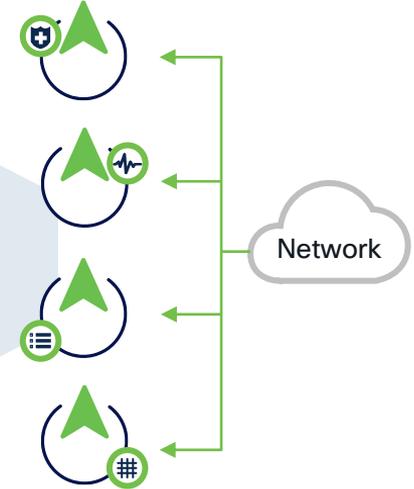
- Makes policy decisions
- RADIUS / TACACS+ Servers



pxGrid Controller

- Facilitates sharing of context

Distributed ISE



Single Node (Virtual/Appliance)



Multiple Nodes (Virtual/Appliance)

Up to **50,000** concurrent endpoints

3700

Up to **2,000,000** concurrent endpoints

Deployment Options

Small

- All Personas on 2 nodes
- Optional 3rd node for:
 - Dedicated PSN
 - pxGrid node
 - Health Check node
- 3rd node does not increase scale, it is for redundancy and load sharing purposes only!



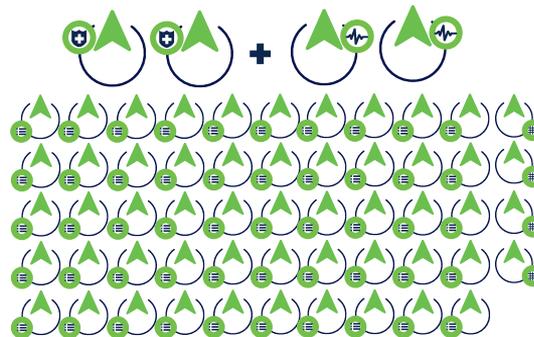
Medium

- Maximum 8 nodes
- PAN + MnT on same node
- PSNs on dedicated nodes
- pxGrid can be enabled on up to 2 nodes
 - Dedicated with 4 PSNs
 - Added to PAN + MnT
 - Added to 2 PSNs

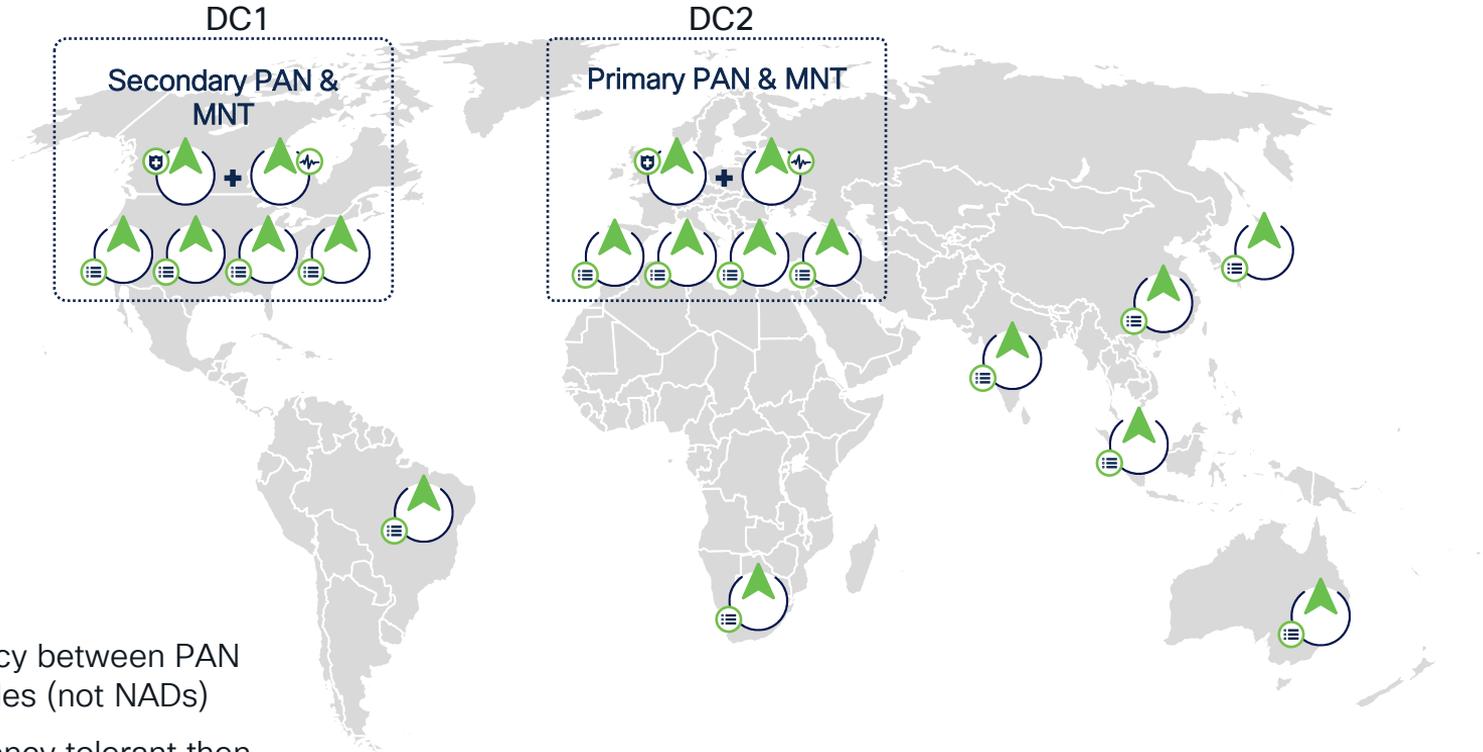


Large

- Maximum of 58 nodes
- All personas on dedicated nodes.
- Up to 50 PSNs
- Up to 4 pxGrid nodes



Large Deployment: Centralized or Distributed



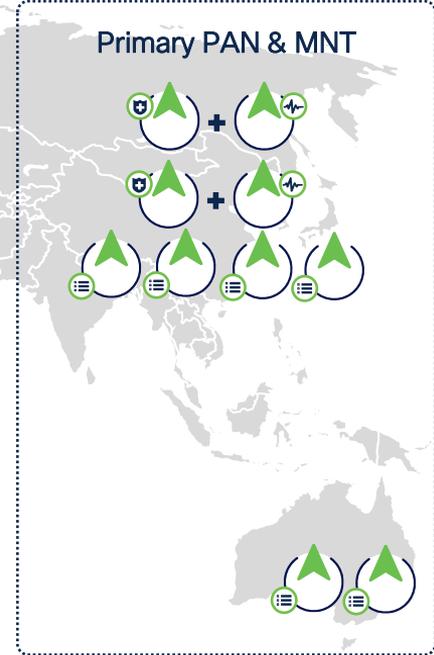
- Max 300ms latency between PAN and other ISE nodes (not NADs)
- RADIUS more latency tolerant than internode communication.

Large Deployment: Separate Cubes

Deployment 1



Deployment 2



- Max 300ms latency between PAN and other ISE nodes (not NADs)
- RADIUS more latency tolerant than internode communication.

Latency Guidance

- Latency guidance is **not a “fall off the cliff”** number, but a guard rail based on what QA has tested.
 - 300ms can be **ok**
 - 150ms may be **to much**
- Profiler config is primary determinant in replication requirements.
- **Higher auth/profiling rates** may require lower latency.

ISE Max Sessions

Maximum Concurrent Active Sessions

- ISE Licensing counts *active endpoint sessions*
- RADIUS Accounting defines session Start & Stop events
- Sessions **Start** upon RADIUS Authorization
- Sessions **Stop** upon :
 - 1) Disconnect
 - 2) Session Expiration
 - 3) Idle Timeout

Table 3. Maximum Concurrent Active Sessions for Deployments

Deployment	Cisco SNS 3595	Cisco SNS 3615	Cisco SNS 3715	Cisco SNS 3655	Cisco SNS 3755	Cisco SNS 3695	Cisco SNS 3795
Large	500,000	Unsupported	Unsupported	500,000	750,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
Medium	20,000	12,500	75,000	25,000	150,000	50,000	150,000
Small	20,000	12,500	25,000	25,000	50,000	50,000	50,000

Steady State versus Peak Demand

- Must take into account **transactions per second** (TPS)!
- You will have a mix of **static** and **mobile** endpoints
- Some endpoints are always on with long (8+ hours) session expirations
- Usage patterns will cause regional and periodic **ebbs, flows, and spikes**
 - Increased regional activity “follows the sun”
 - Wireless roaming spikes on the hour to change classrooms and meetings
- Mobile endpoints hibernate & roam causing a **3-10X+ larger load**
- Misconfigured devices can have **100-1000X** larger than average auth load

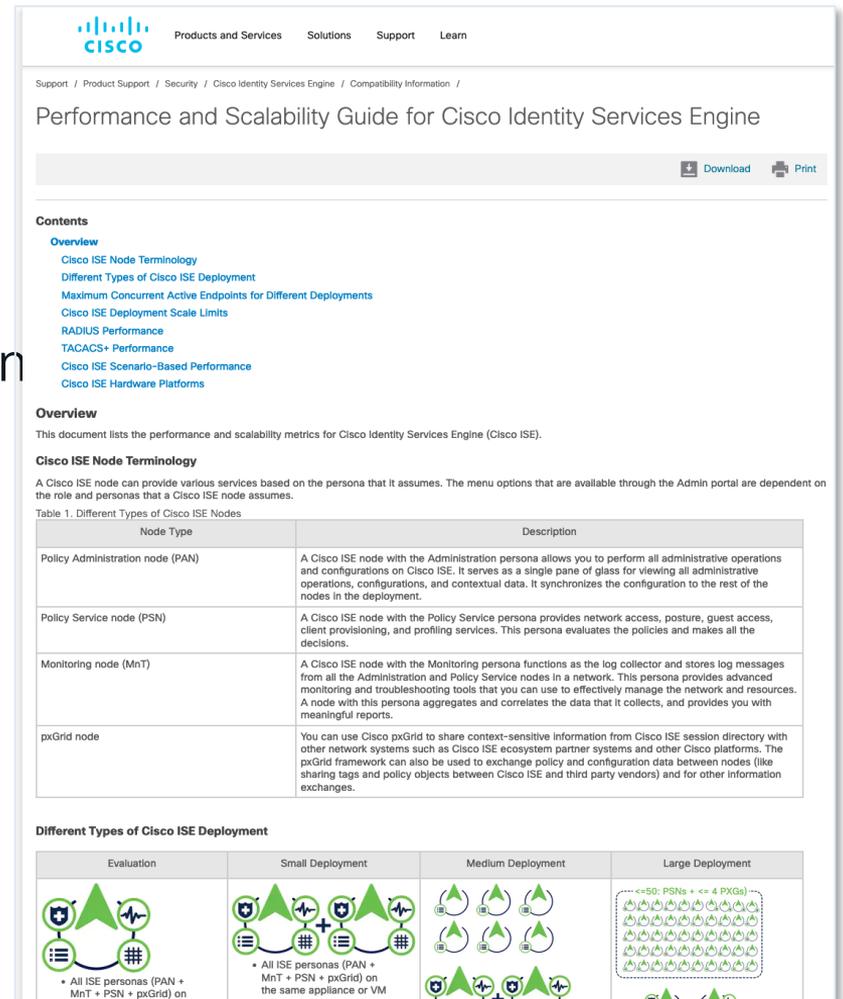
Table 4. Maximum Concurrent Active Sessions for Different ISE Appliances Acting as PSNs

PSN Type	Cisco SNS 3595	Cisco SNS 3615	Cisco SNS 3715	Cisco SNS 3655	Cisco SNS 3755	Cisco SNS 3695	Cisco SNS 3795
Dedicated PSN (only PSN persona)	40,000	25,000	50,000	50,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Shared PSN (multiple personas)	20,000	12,500	25,000	25,000	50,000	50,000	50,000

ISE Performance & Scale

- Deployment Types
- Maximum Concurrent Active Sessions
- Deployment Scale Limits
- Protocol Performance
- Scenario Performance
- Configuration Objects

 cs.co/ise-scale



The screenshot shows the top of a Cisco document page. At the top left is the Cisco logo. To its right are navigation links: Products and Services, Solutions, Support, and Learn. Below these is a breadcrumb trail: Support / Product Support / Security / Cisco Identity Services Engine / Compatibility Information / Performance and Scalability Guide for Cisco Identity Services Engine. On the right side of the breadcrumb trail are 'Download' and 'Print' icons. Below the breadcrumb trail is a 'Contents' section with a blue 'Overview' link. Under 'Overview', there is a list of links: Cisco ISE Node Terminology, Different Types of Cisco ISE Deployment, Maximum Concurrent Active Endpoints for Different Deployments, Cisco ISE Deployment Scale Limits, RADIUS Performance, TACACS+ Performance, Cisco ISE Scenario-Based Performance, and Cisco ISE Hardware Platforms. Below the links is an 'Overview' section with a paragraph: 'This document lists the performance and scalability metrics for Cisco Identity Services Engine (Cisco ISE).' This is followed by a 'Cisco ISE Node Terminology' section with a paragraph: 'A Cisco ISE node can provide various services based on the persona that it assumes. The menu options that are available through the Admin portal are dependent on the role and personas that a Cisco ISE node assumes.' Below this is 'Table 1. Different Types of Cisco ISE Nodes'. The table has two columns: 'Node Type' and 'Description'. The rows are: Policy Administration node (PAN), Policy Service node (PSN), Monitoring node (MnT), and pxGrid node. Below the table is a 'Different Types of Cisco ISE Deployment' section with a diagram showing four deployment scenarios: Evaluation, Small Deployment, Medium Deployment, and Large Deployment. Each scenario is represented by a grid of icons (a shield with a checkmark, a gear, a person, and a network symbol) and a plus sign. The 'Large Deployment' scenario is enclosed in a dashed box and includes the text '<=50: PSNs + <= 4 PX(Ga)'. Below the diagram is a list of personas for each deployment type: Evaluation (All ISE personas (PAN + MnT + PSN + pxGrid) on the same appliance or VM), Small Deployment (All ISE personas (PAN + MnT + PSN + pxGrid) on the same appliance or VM), Medium Deployment (All ISE personas (PAN + MnT + PSN + pxGrid) on the same appliance or VM), and Large Deployment (All ISE personas (PAN + MnT + PSN + pxGrid) on the same appliance or VM).

Node Resource Profiles

Platform	Extra Small	Small	Medium	Large
Hardware	N/A	SNS-3715-K9	SNS-3755-K9	SNS-3795-K9
VMWare/Hyper-V/KVM	8 CPUs 32GB RAM 300GB Disk	24 CPUs 32GB RAM 300GB - 1.2TB Disk	40 CPUs 96GB RAM 300 GB - 1.2TB Disk	40 CPUs 256GB RAM 1.2TB - 2.4TB Disk
AWS	m5.2xlarge	c5.9xlarge* m5.8xlarge	m5.16xlarge	m5.16xlarge
Azure	Standard_D8s_v4	Standard_F32s_v2* Standard_D32s_v4	Standard_D64s_v4	Standard_D64s_v4
OCI	Optimized3.Flex (8 OCPU and 32 GB)	Optimized3.Flex (16 OCPU and 64 GB)* Standard3.Flex (16 OCPU and 128 GB)	Standard3.Flex (16 OCPU and 128 GB)	Standard3.Flex (32 OCPU and 256 GB)

*This instance is compute-optimized and provides better performance compared to the general purpose instances.

Node is “profiled” each time it boots up, if profiles change resources are reallocated.

Why Do Node Resource Profiles Matter?

- Internal Resources Allocated:
 - Java Heap Sizes
 - Oracle Memory Sizes
 - Thread Pool Sizes
 - Max Sessions
 - Etc...
- Virtual appliances mapped to physical profiles

Example:

What we check:

```
#Active profile properties [profile = sns3615, persona = pap_mnt]
```

Profile differences:

```
<sns3615>.tomcat.runtimeThreadPool.maxThreads=200  
<sns3755>.tomcat.runtimeThreadPool.maxThreads=300
```

Persona differences:

```
<sns3615>.oracle.pga=1200  
<sns3615>.<mnt>.oracle.pga=2400
```

ISE Platform Properties

Verify ISE Detects Proper VM Resource Allocation

- From CLI...
 - ise-node/admin# show tech | begin "Displaying ISE Profile"

```
*****  
Displaying ISE Profile ...  
*****  
Profile : sns3615  
TPM: Module Absent
```

ISE Counters ⓘ
From 2024-01-21 00:00:00.0 To 2024-01-21 10:29:51.0

Filters: ⓘ

* Ser... v SNS_3615 * ise-dunkel v

* Time Ra... v * Is exactly (or eq... v * Today v

Counter Attribute Threshold

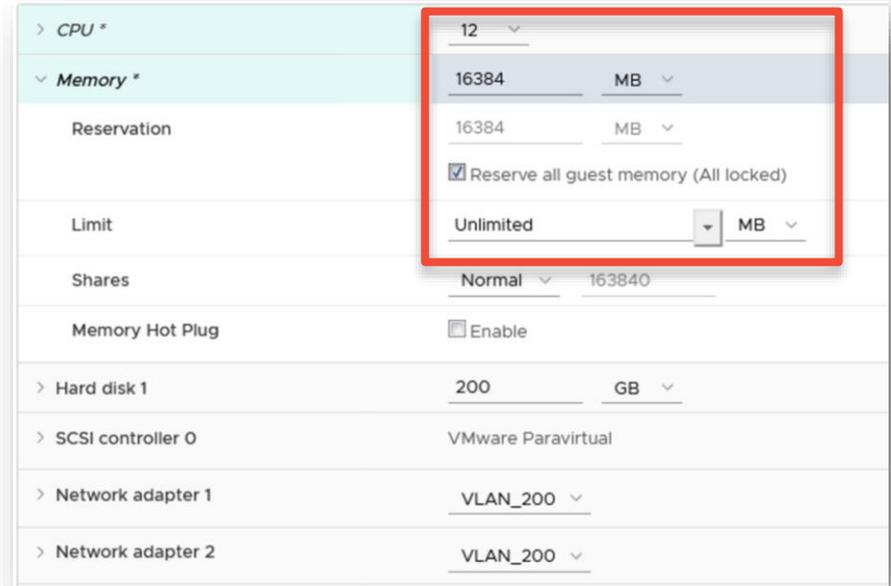
Attribute Name	ISE Profile	Threshold
ARP Cache Insert Update R...	SNS_3615	95000
DHCP Endpoint Detected	SNS_3615	8000
DHCP Skip Profiling	SNS_3615	8000

- From Admin UI
 - Operations > Reports > Diagnostics > ISE Counters > [node] (Under ISE Profile column)

Virtual Machine Resources

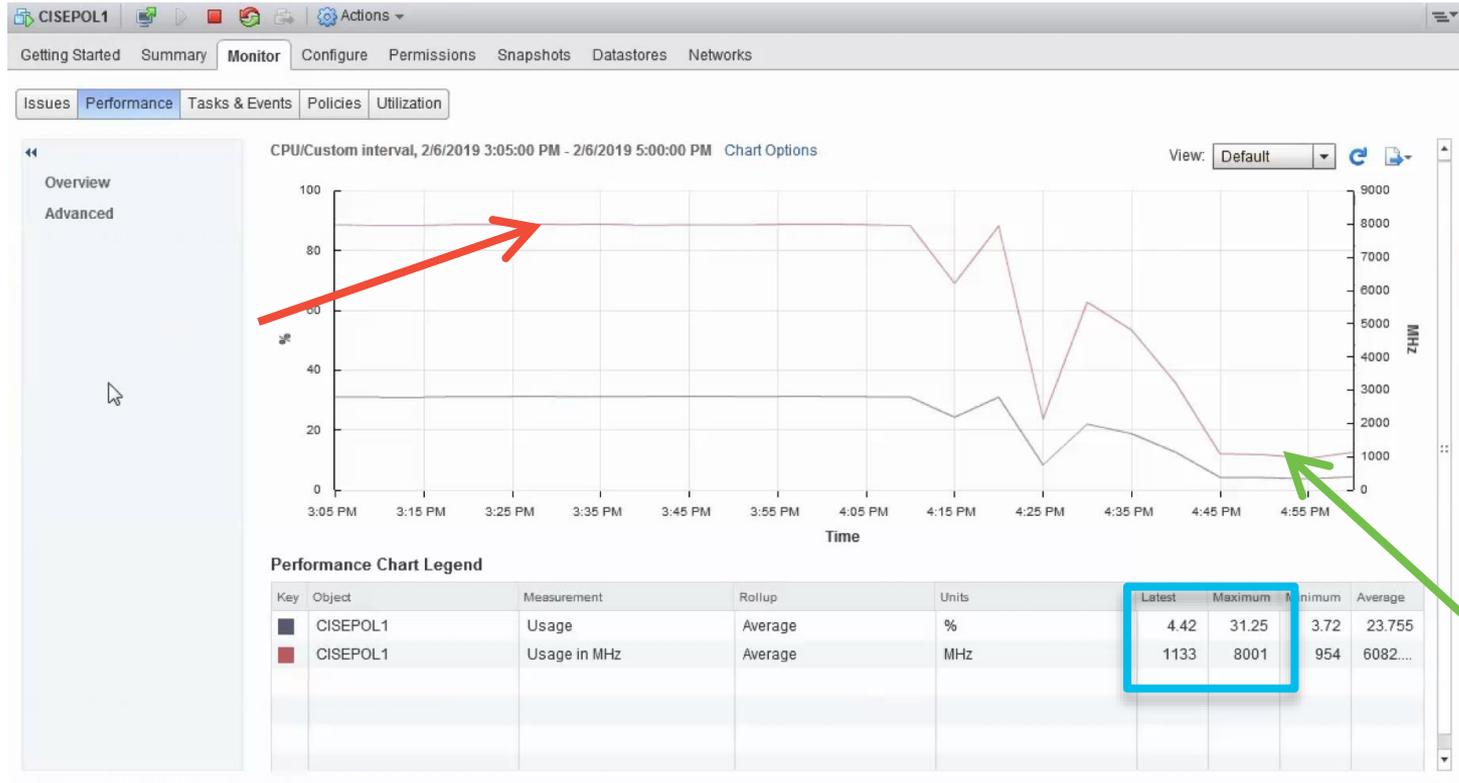
Reservations/Features

- Applies to all virtual platforms – VMWare, KVM, Hyper-V, AHV
- Reserve 100% of CPU and Memory
- Use thick provisioning of disk.
- Do not set resource limits.



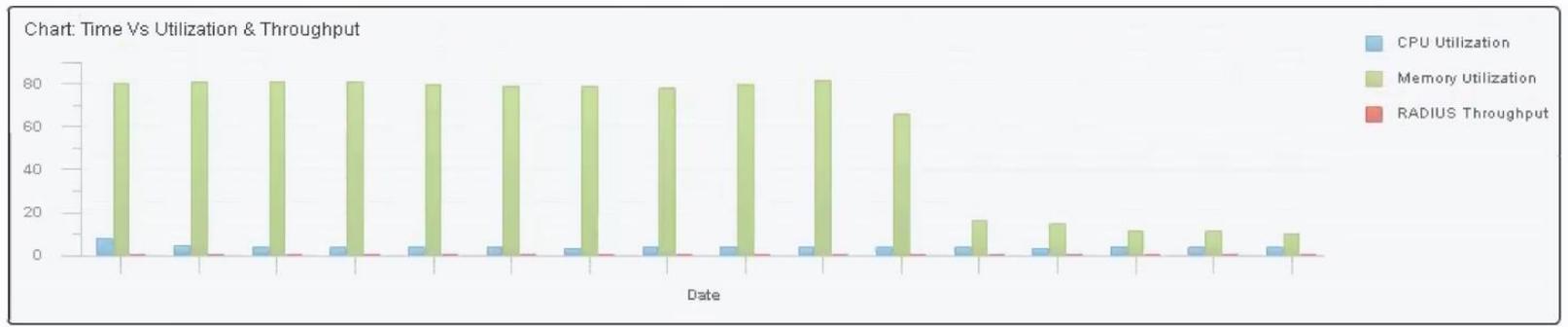
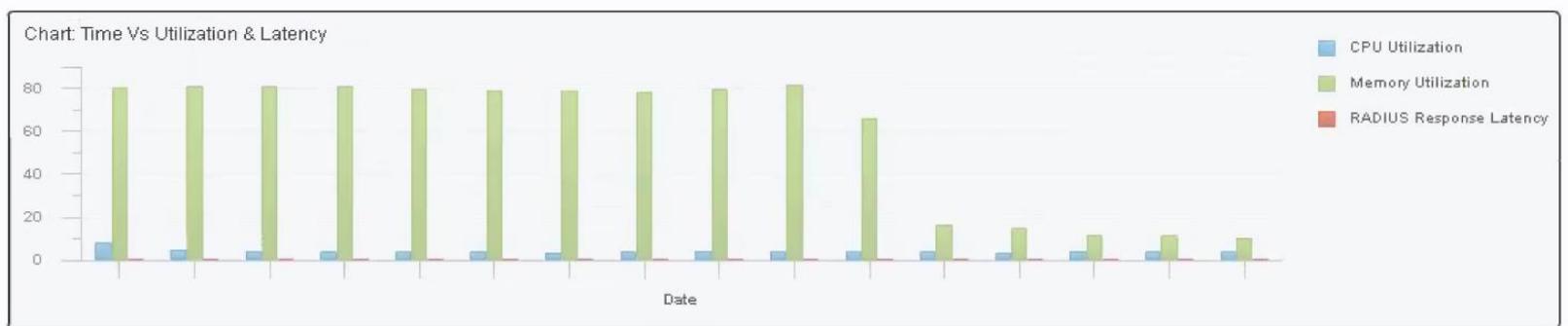
Virtual Machine Resources

Reservations – Before and After



Advice: VM Resources

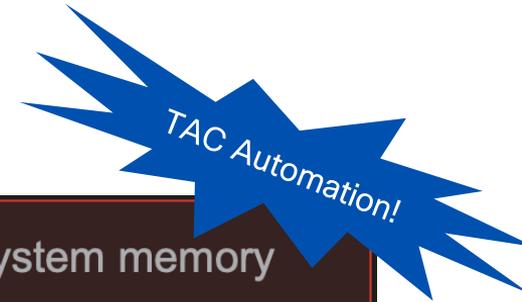
Reservations – Latency Before & After



Virtual Machine Resources

Limits

- Do not set resource limits!
 - Resource requirements change between versions.



! Virtual Machine Memory limit is lower than the allocated system memory

The VM Memory Limit is currently set to 16777216 kB and VM system memory is currently 32719416 kB.

When the VM Memory Limit is less than system memory, this can lead to the Application Server or OS crashing and not being able to recover on it's own.

Please verify that the VM memory limit is greater than or equal to the allocated system memory in the VM settings. If limit is unset that is also acceptable.

Better Yet! Use the OVAs.

- Simplified for ISE 3.3
- Choose OVA based on Disk Size required.
- Will be prompted to choose node size needed.
- Reservations set automatically.

ISE 3.3 OVA file - 1200GB disk for Medium or Large with 37xx support (Recommend for PAN or MnT).



[Cisco-vISE-1200-3.3.0.430a.ova](#)

[Advisories](#)

ISE 3.3 OVA file - 2400GB disk for Extra Large with 37xx support (Recommend for PAN or MnT).



[Cisco-vISE-2400-3.3.0.430a.ova](#)

[Advisories](#)

ISE 3.3 OVA file - 300GB disk for Eval, Small, Medium with 37xx support (Recommend for Evaluation, PSN or PxGrid).



[Cisco-vISE-300-3.3.0.430a.ova](#)

[Advisories](#)

ISE 3.3 OVA file - 600GB disk for Small or Medium with 37xx support (Recommend for PAN or MnT).



[Cisco-vISE-600-3.3.0.430a.ova](#)

[Advisories](#)

Other Cautions

- **No** snapshots!
 - Unable to quiesce database.
 - Use ISE Backup/Restore functionality for disaster recovery.
- Hot vMotion is **supported**.
 - Tested by System Scale and Test team.
 - TAC Experience:
 - Every environment is different, still some risk in losing the node.
 - Some risk in storage not re-attaching at they hypervisor level.
 - **Safer** to shut down the node and use cold vMotion.

Scaling ISE Services



The Fall Out From the Mobile Explosion and IoT

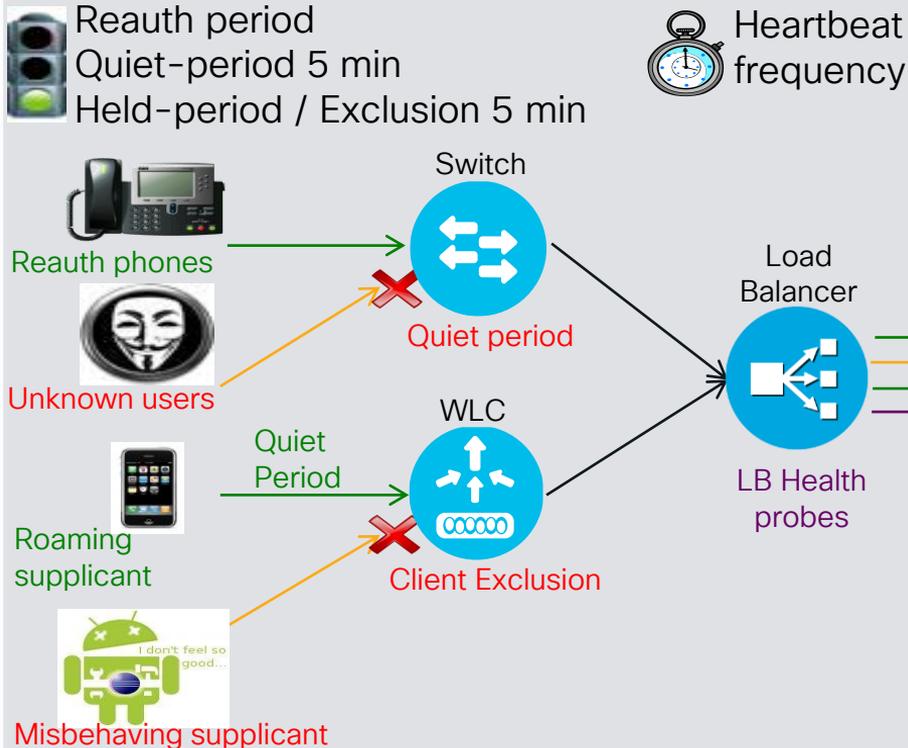
- Explosion in number and type of endpoints on the network.
- High auth rates from mobile devices—many personal (unmanaged).
 - Short-lived connections: Continuous sleep/hibernation to conserve battery power, roaming, ...
- Misbehaving supplicants: Unmanaged endpoints from numerous mobile vendors may be misconfigured, missing root CA certificates, or running less-than-optimal OS versions
- Misconfigured NADs. Often timeouts too low & misbehaving clients go unchecked/not throttled.
- Misconfigured Load Balancers—Suboptimal persistence and excessive RADIUS health probes.
- Increased logging from Authentication, Profiling, NADs, Guest Activity, ...
- System not originally built to scale to new loads.
- End user behavior when above issues occur.
- Bugs in client, NAD, or ISE.



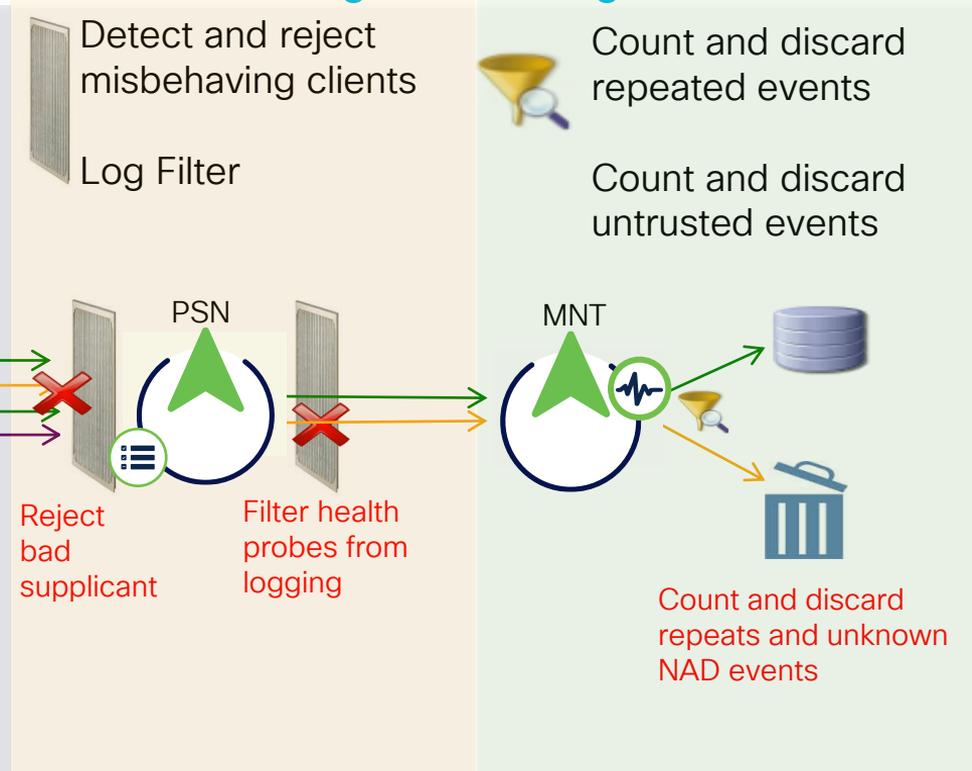
Turn Down the Firehose

Multilayer Approach

Rate Limiting at Source

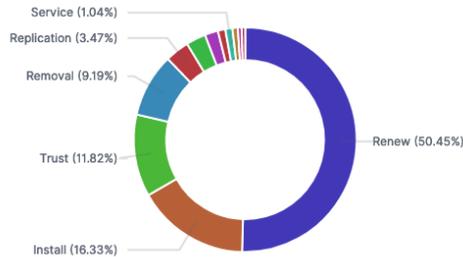
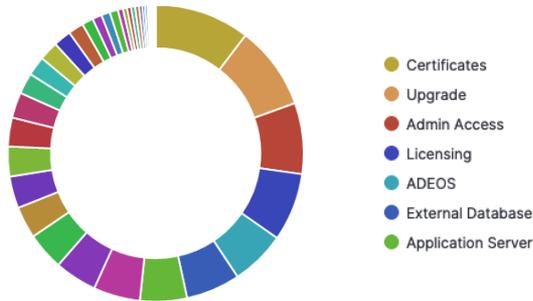


Filtering at Receiving Chain



Let's Talk About Certificates

- Top TAC Case Generator!



- While we're here....
 - Purchase Public Certificates!
 - Don't train users to accept man-in-the-middle attacks.



Warning: Potential Security Risk Ahead

Firefox detected a potential security threat and did not continue to **172.18.124.28**. If you visit this site, attackers could try to steal information like your passwords, emails, or credit card details.

What can you do about it?

The issue is most likely with the website, and there is nothing you can do to resolve it.

If you are on a corporate network or using antivirus software, you can reach out to the support teams for assistance. You can also notify the website's administrator about the problem.

[Learn more...](#)

Go Back (Recommended)

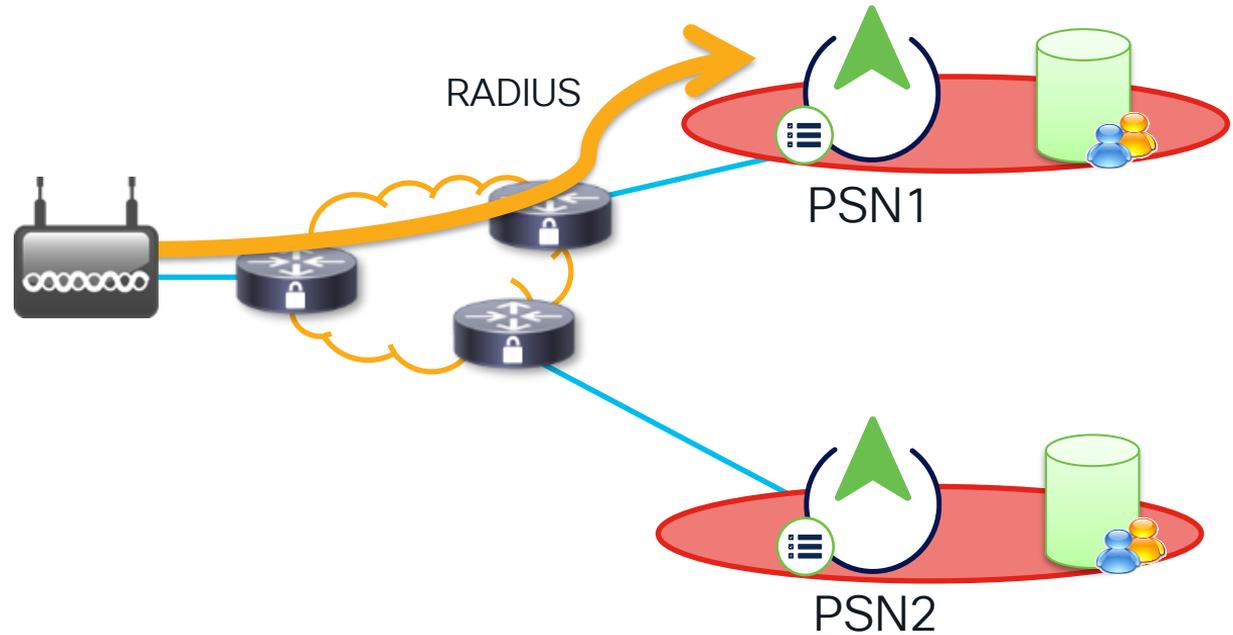
Advanced...

Hoverboarder

The Skaterboarder[^]

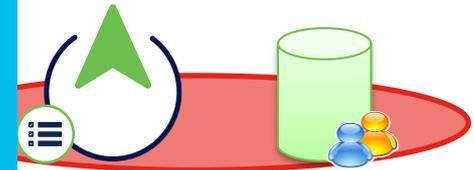
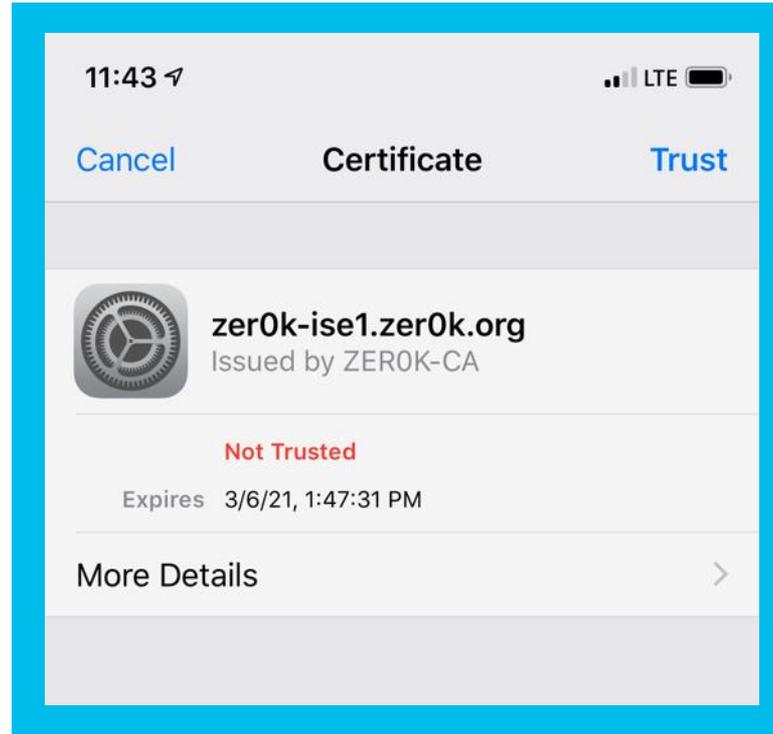
iPhones and Certificates

Problem

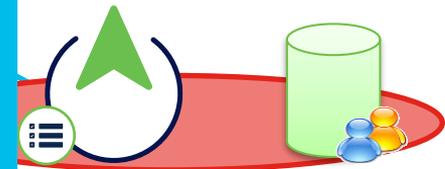


iPhones and Certificates

Problem



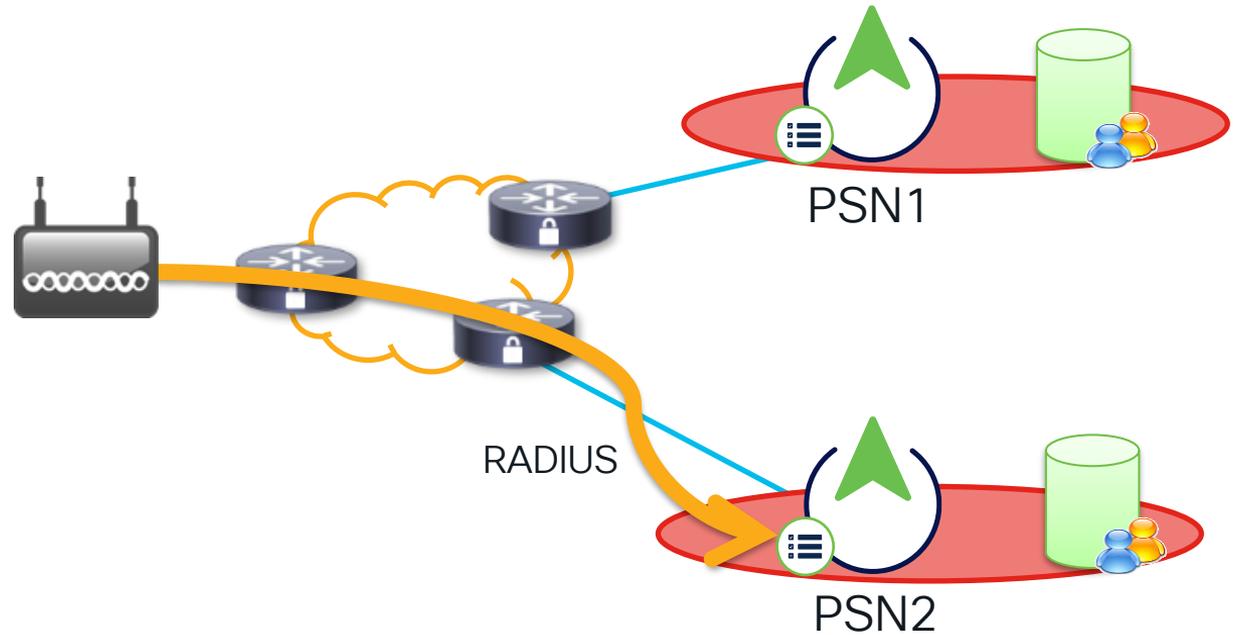
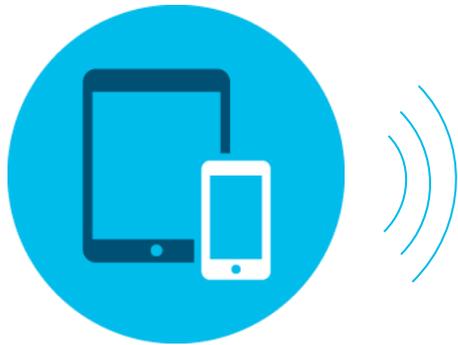
PSN1



PSN2

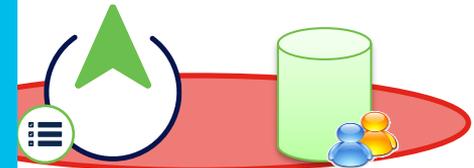
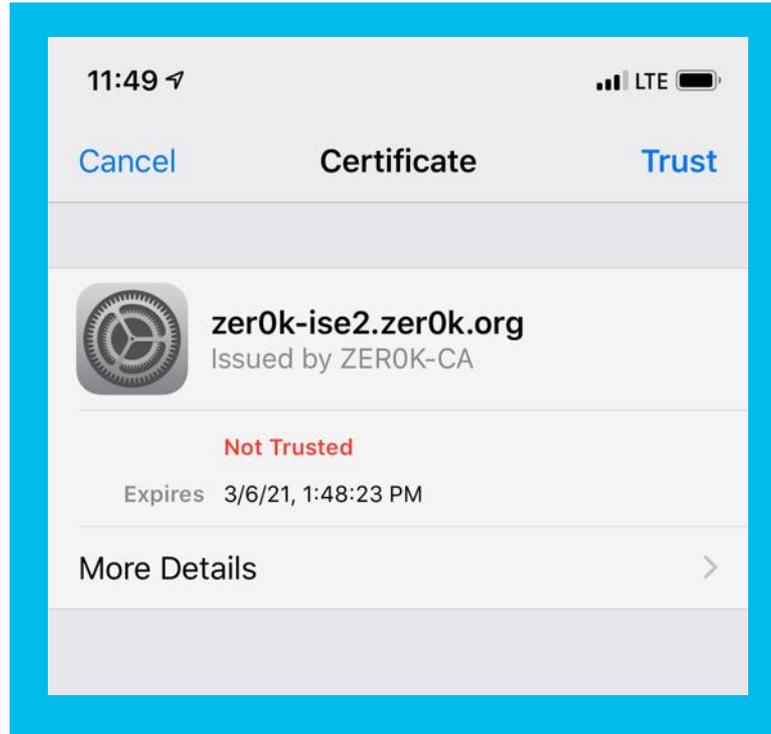
iPhones and Certificates

Problem

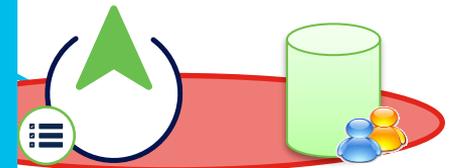


iPhones and Certificates

Problem



PSN1



PSN2

iPhones and Certificates

Problem

- If users aren't looking at the phone:

Jun 05, 2019 10:57:56.269 AM			jfrost	EC:2C:E2:16:05:4A	5440 Endpoint abandoned EAP session and started new
Jun 05, 2019 10:57:05.726 AM			jfrost	EC:2C:E2:16:05:4A	5440 Endpoint abandoned EAP session and started new

- Multiply this by hundreds of phones and multiple PSNs...
- Additionally, it is a poor end user experience.

Wildcard Certificates

WildSAN or MultiSAN

Details

Issued To

Common Name (CN) zer0k-ise.zer0k.org

Organization Unit (OU) TAC

Organization (O) Cisco

City (L) RTP

State (ST) NC

Country (C) US

Serial Number 42:00:00:00:0D:46:82:65:3D:42:C8:3C:CE:00:00:00:00:0D

Subject Alternative Names DNS:zer0k-ise.zer0k.org,DNS:*.zer0k.org

Details

Issued To

Common Name (CN) zer0k-ise.zer0k.org

Organization Unit (OU) TAC

Organization (O) Cisco

City (L) Durham

State (ST) NC

Country (C) US

Serial Number 42:00:00:00:0E:A2:5A:BC:97:2A:E9:9A:9F:00:00:00:00:0E

Subject Alternative Names DNS:zer0k-zer0k.org,DNS:ise-dunkel.zer0k.org,DNS:ise-maibock.zer0k.org,DNS:zer0k-ise1.zer0k.org,DNS:zer0k-ise2.zer0k.org

WildSAN Security

- Certificate is valid for the entire domain:
 - Ex. zer0k.org
- If key is lost, cert could validate any site in the domain.
- Solution – subdomain!
- Deploy ISE in a subdomain:
 - Ex. ise.zer0k.org
 - Limits validity of the certificate.
- Deploy MultiSAN
 - More expensive.
 - More difficult to expand deployment in future.

Detour: Common Pitfall

Wildcard Certificate Renewal

Friendly Name	Used By	Portal group tag	Issued To	Issued By	Valid From	Expiration Date	Status
zer0k-wildsan	Admin, EAP Authentication		zer0k-ise.zer0k.org	zer0k-ca	Wed, 10 Jan 2024	Fri, 9 Jan 2026	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Active

- Problem.... Renew certificate but keep same CN
- ISE does not allow 2 certificates with same subject.
- Uploading cert with same subject replaces existing cert.
- Can't stage the certificate.
- Inconsistent replication of wildcard certs.



zer0k-ise.zer0k.org
Issued By : zer0k-ca
Expires : Fri, 9 Jan 2026 16:44:40 EST

Certificate status is good

Details

Issued To

Common Name (CN) zer0k-ise.zer0k.org

Organization Unit (OU) TAC

Organization (O) Cisco

City (L) RTP

State (ST) NC

Country (C) US

Serial Number 42:00:00:00:0D:46:82:65:3D:42:C8:3C:CE:00:00:00:00:0D

Subject Alternative Names DNS:zer0k-ise.zer0k.org,DNS:*.zer0k.org

Wildcard Certificate Renewal

Friendly Name	Used By	Portal group tag	Issued To	Issued By	Valid From	Expiration Date	Status
zer0k-wildsan	Admin, EAP Authentication		zer0k-ise.zer0k.org	zer0k-ca	Wed, 10 Jan 2024	Fri, 9 Jan 2026	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Active

- **Solution!**
- The subject isn't just the CN, it is all of this!
- Change any 1 field and the subject is unique.



zer0k-ise.zer0k.org
Issued By : zer0k-ca
Expires : Fri, 9 Jan 2026 16:44:40 EST

Certificate status is good

Details

Issued To

Common Name (CN)	zer0k-ise.zer0k.org
Organization Unit (OU)	TAC
Organization (O)	Cisco
City (L)	RTP
State (ST)	NC
Country (C)	US

Serial Number 42:00:00:00:0D:46:82:65:3D:42:C8:3C:CE:00:00:00:00:0D

Subject Alternative Names DNS:zer0k-ise.zer0k.org,DNS:*.zer0k.org

Wildcard Certificate Renewal

Friendly Name	Used By	Portal group tag	Issued To	Issued By	Valid From	Expiration Date	Status
<input type="checkbox"/> zer0k-wildsan	Admin, EAP Authentication		zer0k-ise.zer0k.org	zer0k-ca	Wed, 10 Jan 2024	Fri, 9 Jan 2026	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Active

-- Prerequisite --

- Ensure all nodes are in sync and not replicating slowly
- If CA certs have changed:
 - Upload them to ISE
 - Set them for “Trust for authentication within ISE” (admin) and/or “Trust for client authentication and Syslog” (EAP)



zer0k-ise.zer0k.org
Issued By : zer0k-ca
Expires : Fri, 9 Jan 2026 16:44:40 EST

Certificate status is good

Details

Issued To

Common Name (CN) zer0k-ise.zer0k.org

Organization Unit (OU) TAC

Organization (O) Cisco

City (L) RTP

State (ST) NC

Country (C) US

Serial Number 42:00:00:00:0D:46:82:65:3D:42:C8:3C:CE:00:00:00:00:0D

Subject Alternative Names DNS:zer0k-ise.zer0k.org,DNS:*.zer0k.org

Wildcard Certificate Renewal

Friendly Name	Used By	Portal group tag	Issued To	Issued By	Valid From	Expiration Date	Status
zer0k-wildsan	Admin, EAP Authentication		zer0k-ise.zer0k.org	zer0k-ca	Wed, 10 Jan 2024	Fri, 9 Jan 2026	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Active

-- Step1 --

- Create a new CSR modifying the OU, O, L, ST, or C field.
 - OU tends to be the best candidate.
- Have CSR signed by CA.

Subject

Common Name (CN)
ise.zer0k.org ⓘ

Organizational Unit (OU)
TAC 2024 ⓘ

Organization (O)
Cisco ⓘ

City (L)
RTP

State (ST)
NC

Country (C)
US ⓘ

Subject Alternative Name (SAN)

⋮ DNS Name ⓘ ise.zer0k.org - +

⋮ DNS Name ⓘ *.zer0k.org - + ⓘ

Wildcard Certificate Renewal

<input type="checkbox"/>	zer0k-ise2024	Not in use	ise.zer0k.org	zer0k-ca	Mon, 22 Jan 2024	Wed, 21 Jan 2026	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Active
<input type="checkbox"/>	zer0k-wildsan	Admin, EAP zer0k-wildsan authentication	zer0k-ise.zer0k.org	zer0k-ca	Wed, 10 Jan 2024	Fri, 9 Jan 2026	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Active

--= Step 2 ==

- Bind cert to CSR without choosing any roles.
- Log directly into each node and view the certificates page.
- Verify that the certificate has been successfully replicated to all nodes.
- If not:
 - ISE 3.2+, syncup nodes with missing certs.
 - ISE 3.1 or earlier, delete cert, fix nodes, try again –or– deregister nodes, install wildcard cert, reregister nodes.

Bind CA Signed Certificate

* Certificate File zer0k-ise12024.cer

Friendly Name ⓘ

Validate Certificate Extensions ⓘ

Usage

- Admin: Use certificate to authenticate the ISE Admin Portal and DataConnect
- EAP Authentication: Use certificate for EAP protocols that use SSL/TLS tunneling
- RADIUS DTLS: Use certificate for the RADSec server
- pxGrid: Use certificate for the pxGrid Controller
- ISE Messaging Service: Use certificate for the ISE Messaging Service
- NativeIPSec: Use certificate for Native IPSec
- Portal: Use for portal

Wildcard Certificate Renewal

<input type="checkbox"/>	zer0k-ise2024	Admin, EAP Authentication	ise.zer0k.org	zer0k-ca	Mon, 22 Jan 2024	Wed, 21 Jan 2026	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Active
--------------------------	---------------	------------------------------	---------------	----------	------------------	---------------------	-------------------------------------	--------

--= Step 3 ==

- Select desired roles for certificate.
 - If admin is selected all nodes will reboot.
 - ISE 3.3+ has scheduled restart feature.
- Test!
- Delete the old certificate.



ise.zer0k.org
Issued By : zer0k-ca
Expires : Wed, 21 Jan 2026 15:13:47 EST

Certificate status is good

Details

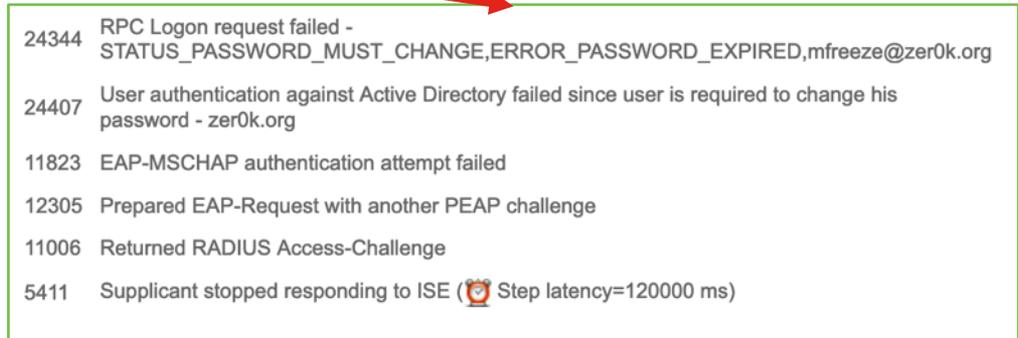
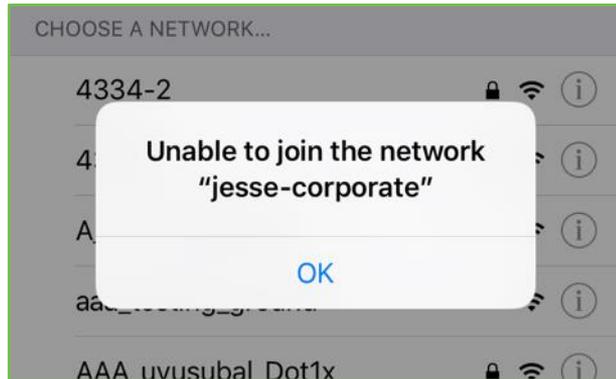
Issued To

Common Name (CN)	ise.zer0k.org
Organization Unit (OU)	TAC 2024
Organization (O)	Cisco
City (L)	RTP
State (ST)	NC
Country (C)	US
Serial Number	42:00:00:00:11:20:F6:40:A9:E6:63:0C:6B:00:00:00:00:11
Subject Alternative Names	DNS:ise.zer0k.org,DNS:*.zer0k.org

PEAP Password Retries

Problem

- Very few supplicants support PEAP Password Retries
- Supplicants will restart authentication when not supported.



PEAP Password Retries

Problem

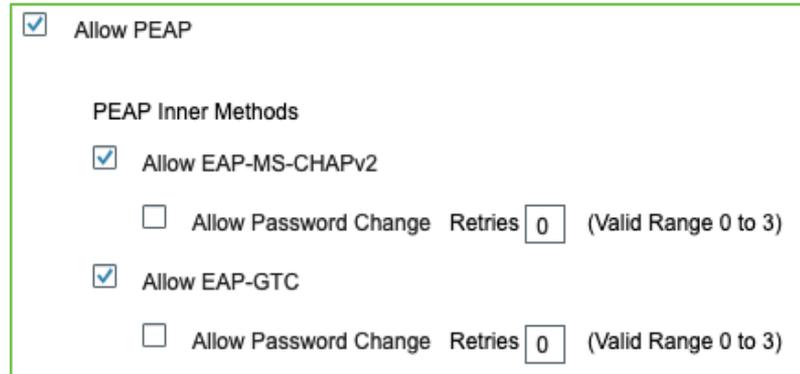
- Wireless Client Exclusions never kick in...

Jun 05, 2019 12:24:53.541 PM	✘	📄	mfreeze	E4:A7:A0:81:72:A7	24407 User authentication against Active Directory failed since user i...
Jun 05, 2019 12:24:05.948 PM	✘	📄 ✘	mfreeze	✘ E4:A7:A0:81:72:A7 ✘	24407 User authentication against Active Directory failed since user i...
Jun 05, 2019 12:22:35.013 PM	✘	📄	mfreeze	E4:A7:A0:81:72:A7	24407 User authentication against Active Directory failed since user i...
Jun 05, 2019 12:21:03.401 PM	✘	📄	mfreeze	E4:A7:A0:81:72:A7	24407 User authentication against Active Directory failed since user i...
Jun 05, 2019 12:19:31.953 PM	✘	📄	mfreeze	E4:A7:A0:81:72:A7	24407 User authentication against Active Directory failed since user i...
Jun 05, 2019 12:18:00.613 PM	✘	📄	mfreeze	E4:A7:A0:81:72:A7	24407 User authentication against Active Directory failed since user i...
Jun 05, 2019 12:16:28.959 PM	✘	📄	mfreeze	E4:A7:A0:81:72:A7	24407 User authentication against Active Directory failed since user i...
Jun 05, 2019 12:14:57.771 PM	✘	📄	mfreeze	E4:A7:A0:81:72:A7	24407 User authentication against Active Directory failed since user i...
Jun 05, 2019 12:13:26.166 PM	✘	📄	mfreeze	E4:A7:A0:81:72:A7	24407 User authentication against Active Directory failed since user i...
Jun 05, 2019 12:04:22.019 PM	✘	📄	mfreeze	48:A1:95:54:D1:28	24407 User authentication against Active Directory failed since user i...

PEAP Password Retries

Solution

- Disable PEAP Password Retries
- Policy -> Policy Elements -> Results -> Authentication -> Allowed Protocols



Allow PEAP

PEAP Inner Methods

Allow EAP-MS-CHAPv2

Allow Password Change Retries (Valid Range 0 to 3)

Allow EAP-GTC

Allow Password Change Retries (Valid Range 0 to 3)

- Create separate authentication rules if retries are needed for Windows Suppllicants

Enable EAP Session Resume / Fast Reconnect

Major performance boost, but not complete auth so avoid excessive timeout value



Identity Services Engine Administration > Settings > EAP TLS Settings

Enable EAP TLS Session Resume
* EAP TLS Session Timeout (in seconds) (s)

Cache TLS (TLS Handshake Only/Skip Cert)

Cache TLS session

Peap Settings

Enable PEAP Session Resume
* PEAP Session Timeout (in seconds)

Enable Fast Reconnect

Skip inner method

Save Reset

Select Authentication Method: **Win 7 Supplicant**

Secured password (EAP-MSCHAP v2)

Enable Fast Reconnect

Enforce Network Access Protection

Disconnect if server does not present cryptobinding TLV

Note: Both Server and Client must be configured for Fast Reconnect

ISE Stateless Session Resume

Allows Session Resume Across All PSNs

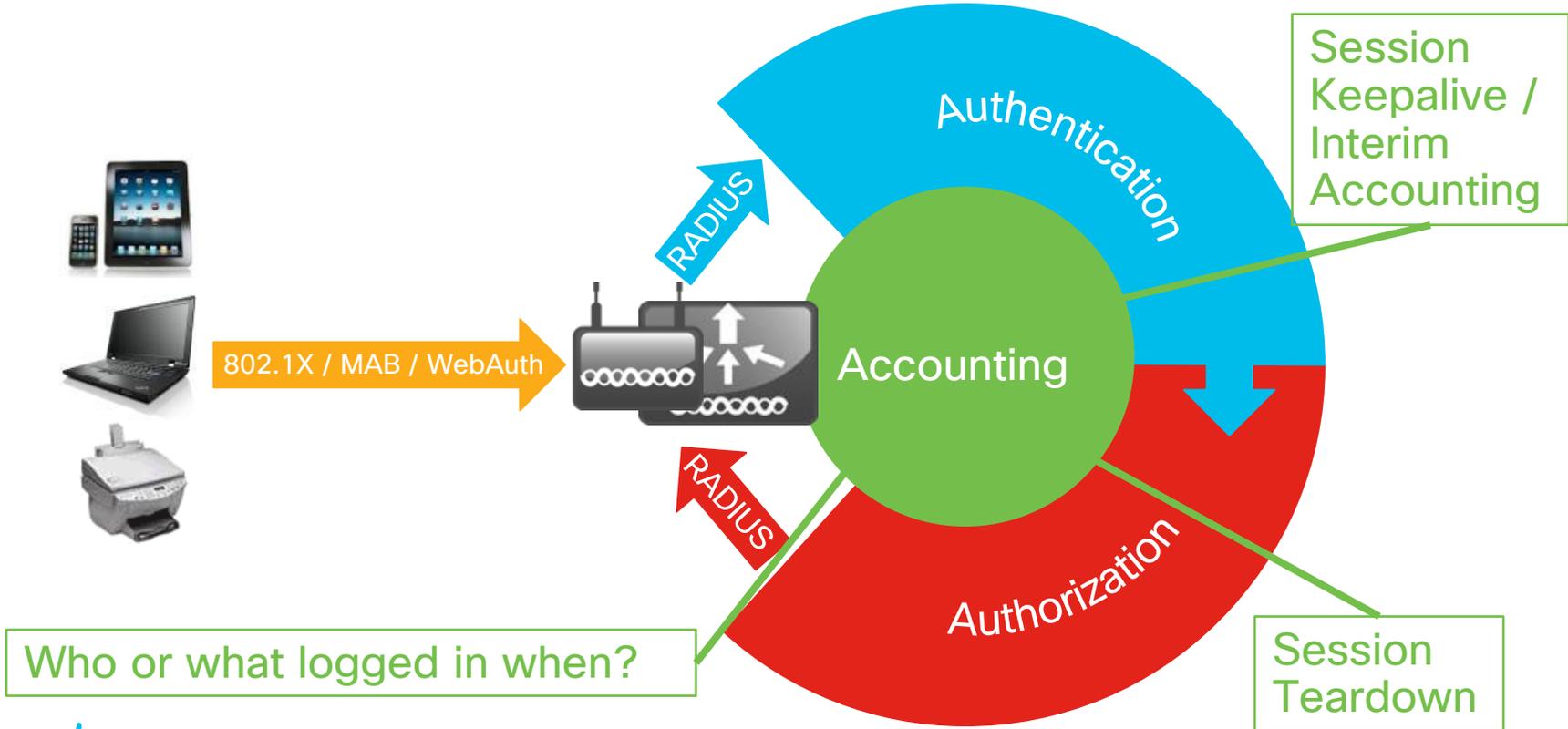
- Session ticket extension per RFC 5077
[Transport Layer Security (TLS) Session Resumption without Server-Side State]
- ISE issues TLS client a session ticket that can be presented to any PSN to shortcut reauth process (**Default = Disabled**)

The screenshot shows the configuration for Allowed Protocols in ISE. The 'Enable Stateless Session Resume' checkbox is checked and circled in red. Below it, the 'Session ticket time to live' is set to 2 Hours. A callout box points to the 'Hours' dropdown menu with the text 'Time until session ticket expires'. Another callout box points to the top of the configuration area with the text 'Allows resume with Load Balancers'. The breadcrumb path at the bottom is 'Policy > Policy Elements > Results > Authentication > Allowed Protocols'.

Policy > Policy Elements > Results > Authentication > Allowed Protocols

Network Device Recommendations

Accounting



Accounting Best Practices (Wired)

- Ensure that start and stop accounting is configured
- Keep interim accounting to a minimum
 - Inactive sessions are purged after **5 days**

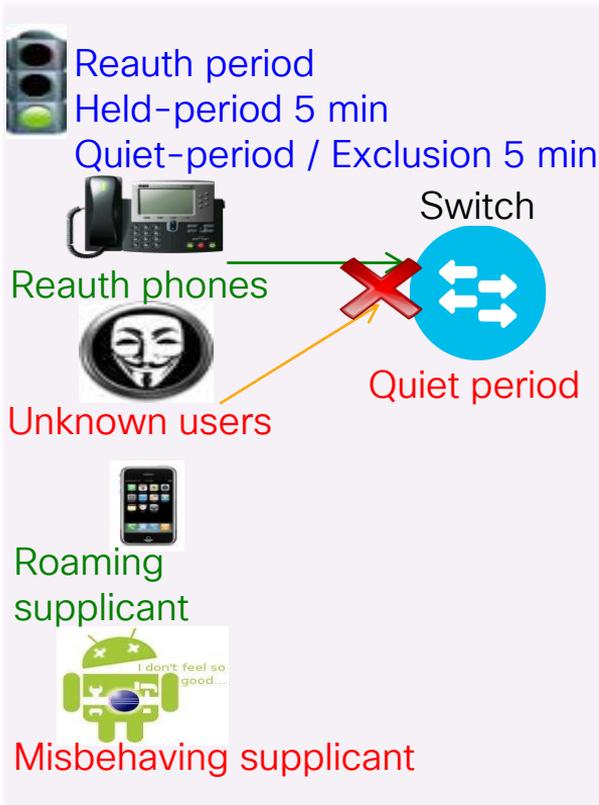
Cisco Switches

sw# aaa accounting update newinfo periodic 1440

 <https://community.cisco.com/t5/security-documents/ise-secure-wired-access-prescriptive-deployment-guide/ta-p/3641515>

Tune Wired NAD Configuration

Rate Limiting at **Wired** Source



- **802.1X Timeouts**

- held-period: Increase to 300+ sec
- quiet-period: Increase to 300+ sec
- ratelimit-period: Increase to 300+ sec
- tx-period: 10 seconds
- **Inactivity Timer:** Disable or increase to 1+ hours (3600+ sec)
- **Session Timeout:** Disable or increase to 2+ hours (7200+ sec)
- **Reauth Timer:** Disable or increase to 2+ hours (7200+ sec)
- **Bugfixes:** Upgrade software to address critical defects.

AireOS WLC Recommended Configuration



- Do not configure interim accounting to ISE servers
 - Interim accounting set by default when needed by ISE
 - Increases load with no added benefit
 - Pre 8.0 leave the interim accounting setting disabled
 - Post 8.0 check the interim accounting box with a timer of 0 seconds
- Use public certificates on ISE and WLC Virtual IP to reduce client messaging.
- When using an Anchor/Foreign Setup do not configure AAA on the Anchor Controller.

Prevent Large Scale RADIUS Meltdowns

<https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/support/docs/wireless-mobility/wireless-lan-wlan/118703-technote-wlc-00.html>

Advice: Timers - WLANs

Interim Update

- WLC 7.6:
 - Recommended setting: **Disabled**
- WLC 8.0+:
 - Recommended setting: **Enabled with Interval set to 0**
 - Behavior: Only send update on IP address change
 - Device Sensor updates not impacted
- Settings mapped correctly on upgrades

General Security QoS Policy-Mapping Advanced

Layer 2 Layer 3 AAA Servers

Radius Servers

Radius Server Overwrite interface Enabled

	Authentication Servers	Accounting Servers
Server 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enabled	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enabled
Server 1	IP:10.1.98.8, Port:1812	IP:10.1.98.8, Port:1813
Server 2	None	None
Server 3	None	None
Server 4	None	None
Server 5	None	None
Server 6	None	None

Radius Server Accounting

Interim Update Interim Interval 0

9800 WLC

- Configure Interim-Accounting to send updates on new-info or roam only.



Configuration > Security > AAA Show Me How

+ AAA Wizard

Servers / Groups AAA Method List **AAA Advanced**

Global Config

RADIUS Fallback

Attribute List Name

Device Authentication

AP Policy

Password Policy

Local Authentication None

Local Authorization None

Radius Server Load Balance DISABLED

Interim Update

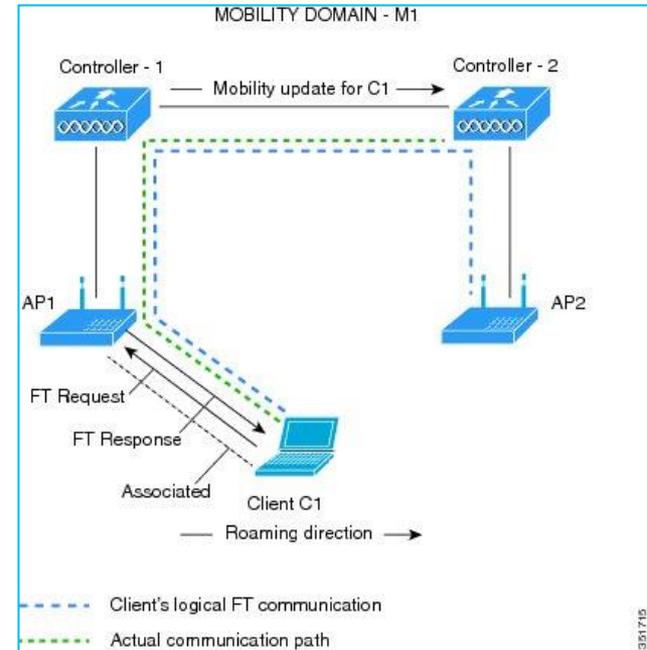
Interim Interval (Minutes) 0

[Show Advanced Settings >>>](#)

<https://community.cisco.com/t5/security-knowledge-base/ise-and-catalyst-9800-series-integration-guide/ta-p/3753060>

Use Fast BSS Transition (802.11r)

- Allow clients to roam without full 802.1x authentication.
- Supported by:
 - Apple Devices
 - Android Devices (platform and version dependent)
 - Some Windows devices (driver dependent)
- Clients that don't support 802.11r work on the same WLAN.
- TAC recommends over-the-air mode.



https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/td/docs/wireless/controller/9800/config-guide/b_wl_16_10_cg/802-11r-bss-fast-transition.html

9800 WLC Client Exclusions

Configuration > Security > **Wireless Protection Policies**

Rogue Policies Rogue AP Rules **Client Exclusion Policies**

Select all events	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Excessive 802.11 Association Failures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Excessive 802.1X Authentication Failures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Excessive 802.1X Authentication Timeout	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
IP Theft or IP Reuse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Excessive Web Authentication Failures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Configuration > Tags & Profiles > Policy

General Access Policies QOS and AVC Mobility **Advanced**

WLAN Timeout

Session Timeout (sec)	<input type="text" value="3600"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idle Timeout (sec)	<input type="text" value="300"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idle Threshold (bytes)	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Client Exclusion Timeout (sec)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="text" value="120"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9800 WLC Client Exclusions

Tweaking EAP Timers

- Clients excluded on
 - 6th 802.1x failure
 - 5th 802.1x timeout
- Advanced EAP timers should be tweaked to allow exclusion before client restarts.

Configuration > Security > **Advanced EAP**

EAP-Identity-Request Timeout (sec)*	<input type="text" value="5"/>
EAP-Identity-Request Max Retries*	<input type="text" value="5"/>
EAP Max-Login Ignore Identity Response	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISABLED
EAP-Request Timeout (sec)*	<input type="text" value="5"/>
EAP-Request Max Retries*	<input type="text" value="5"/>
EAPOL-Key Timeout (ms)*	<input type="text" value="1000"/>
EAPOL-Key Max Retries*	<input type="text" value="2"/>
EAP-Broadcast Key Interval (sec)*	<input type="text" value="3600"/>

Number of RADIUS Servers

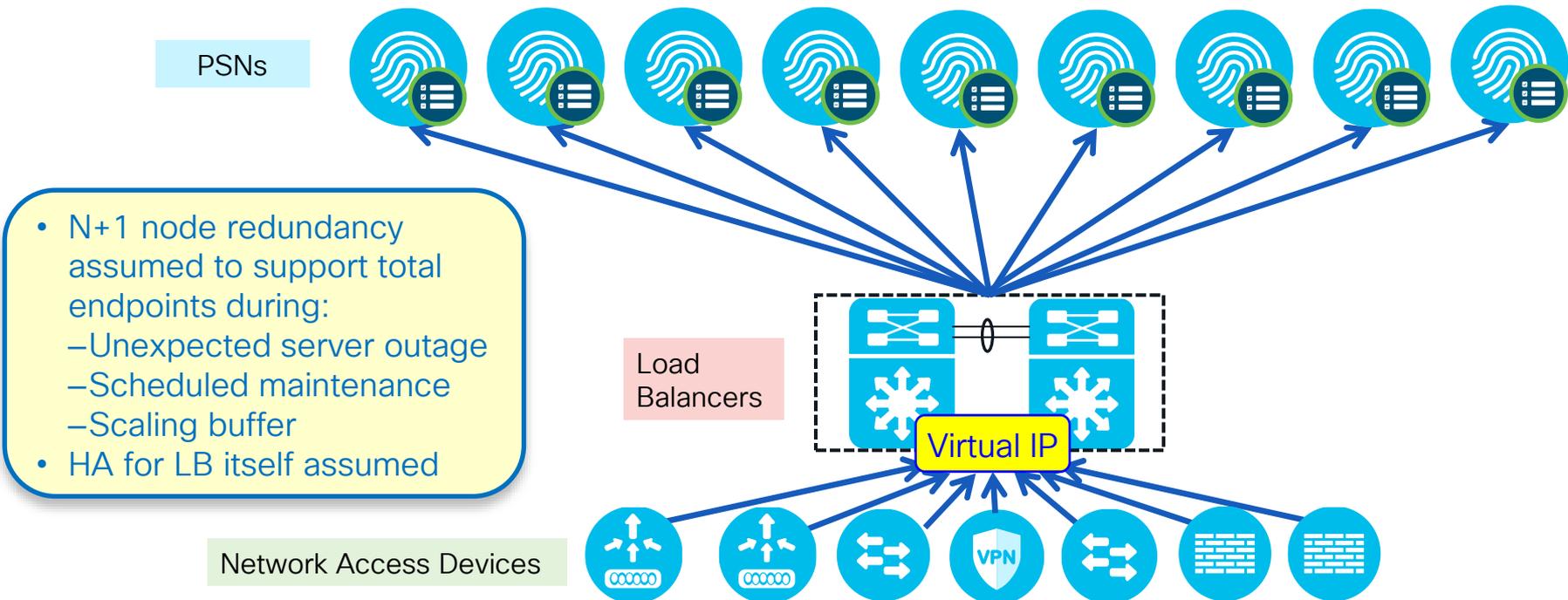
- Keep it to **3 or less**
- 3 retries at 5 seconds means 15 seconds per server.
- Devices won't wait long enough to make more worth while.
- More adds more chance for cascading failures.
- Need more? Add a load balancer!
- Use a **dead timer** of 10 minutes or more.
 - If all servers are exhausted the top server will be tried before the deadtime expires.

Load Balancing

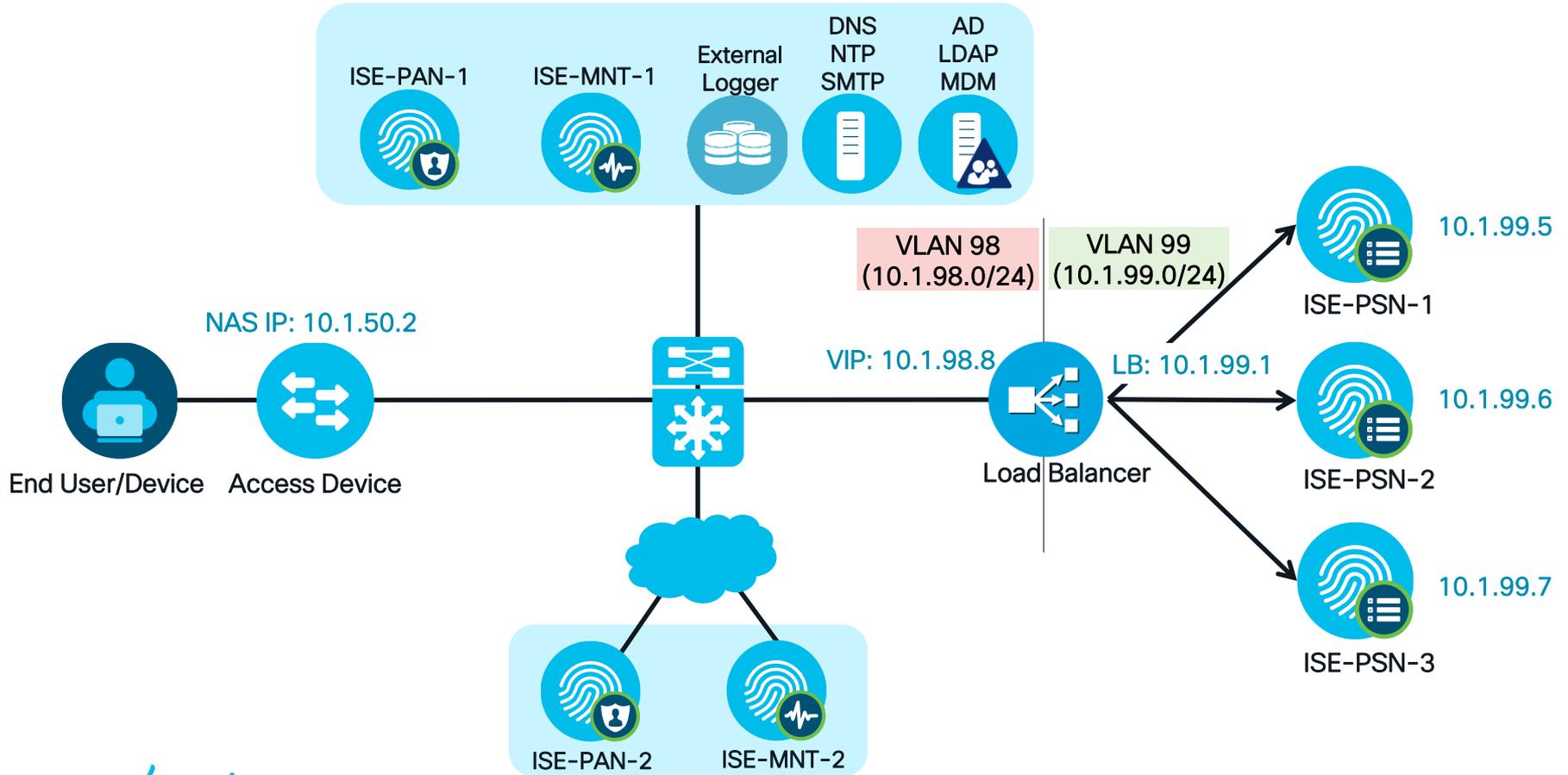


Load Balancing RADIUS, Web, and Profiling Services

- Policy Service nodes can be configured in a cluster behind a load balancer (LB).
- Access Devices send RADIUS and TACACS+ AAA requests to LB virtual IP.



High-Level Load Balancing Diagram

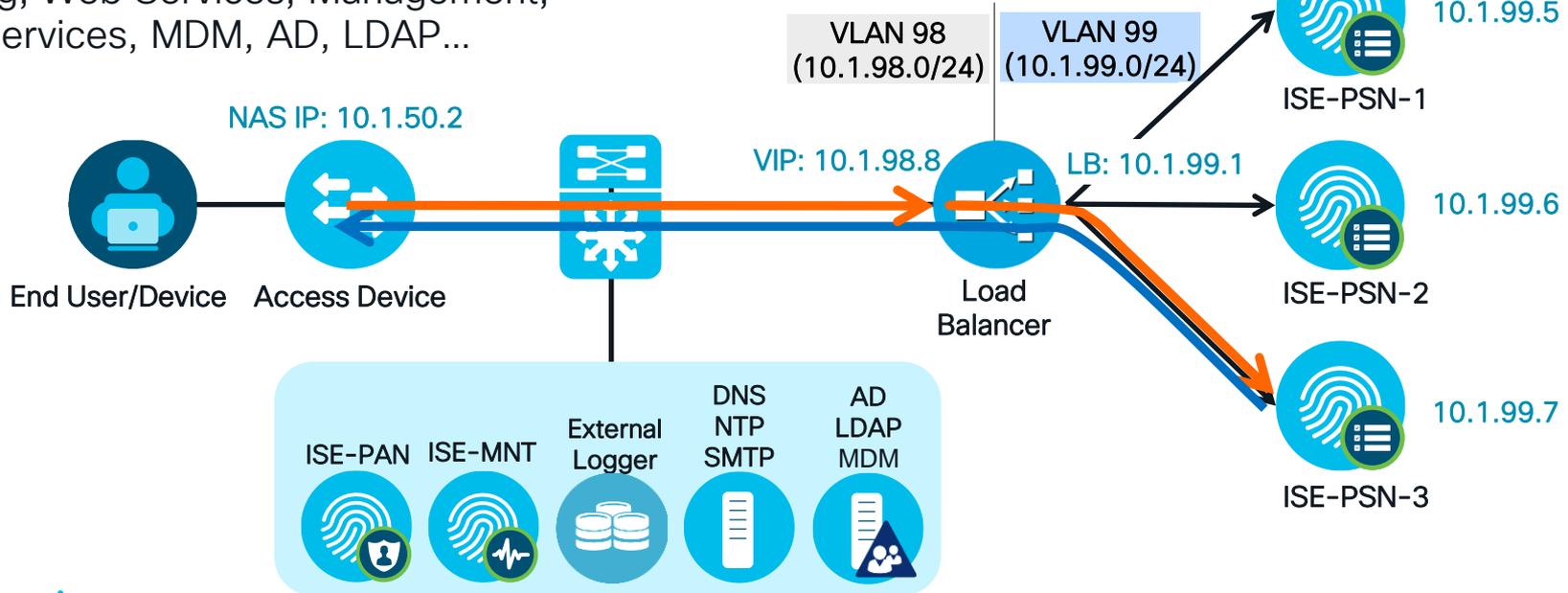


Traffic Flow—Fully Inline: Physical Separation

Physical Network Separation Using Separate LB Interfaces

Fully Inline Traffic Flow recommended—physical or logical

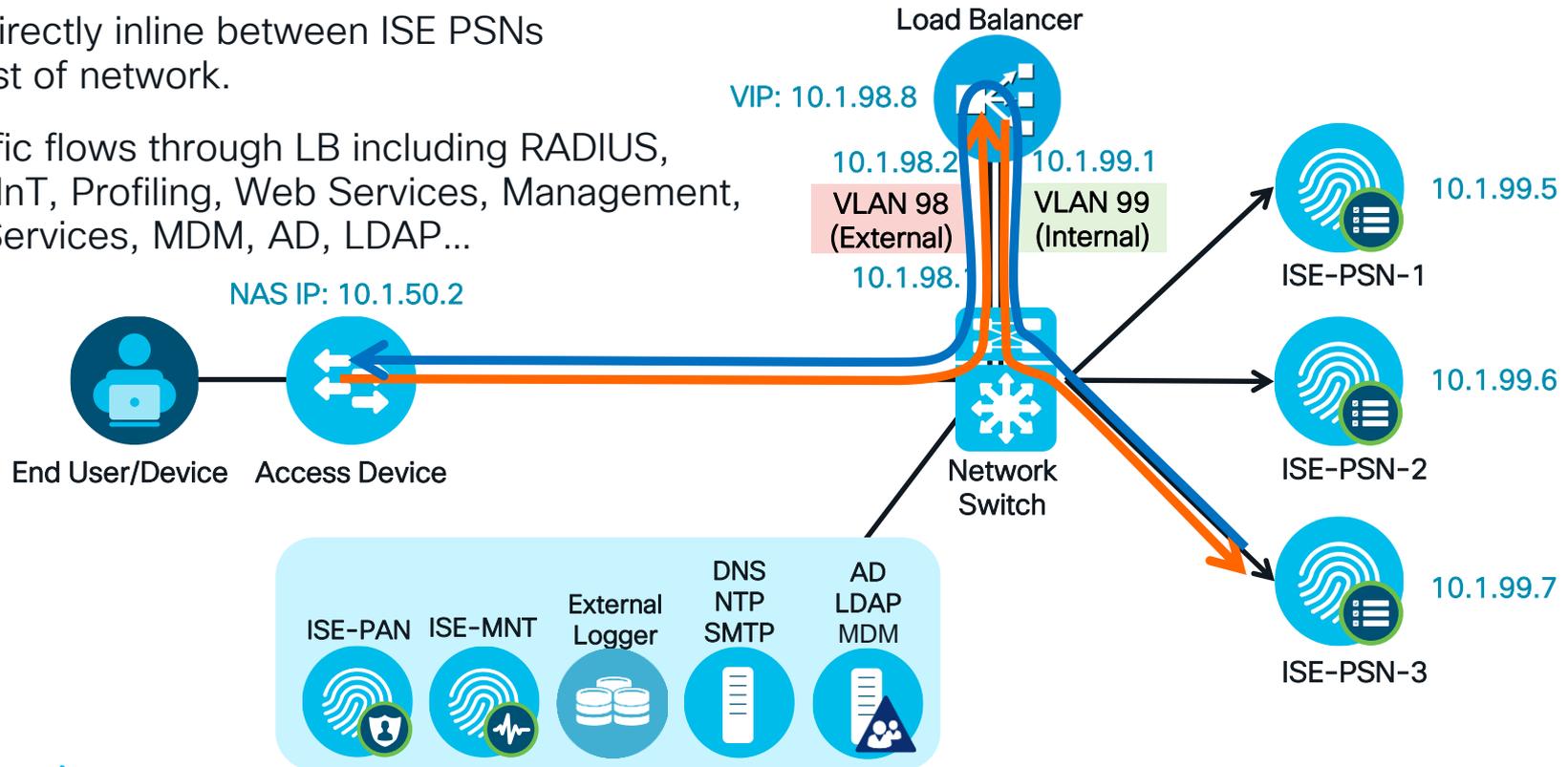
- Load Balancer is directly inline between PSNs and rest of network.
- All traffic flows through Load Balancer including RADIUS, PAN/MnT, Profiling, Web Services, Management, Feed Services, MDM, AD, LDAP...



Traffic Flow—Fully Inline: VLAN Separation

Logical Network Separation Using Single LB Interface and VLAN Trunking

- LB is directly inline between ISE PSNs and rest of network.
- All traffic flows through LB including RADIUS, PAN/MnT, Profiling, Web Services, Management, Feed Services, MDM, AD, LDAP...

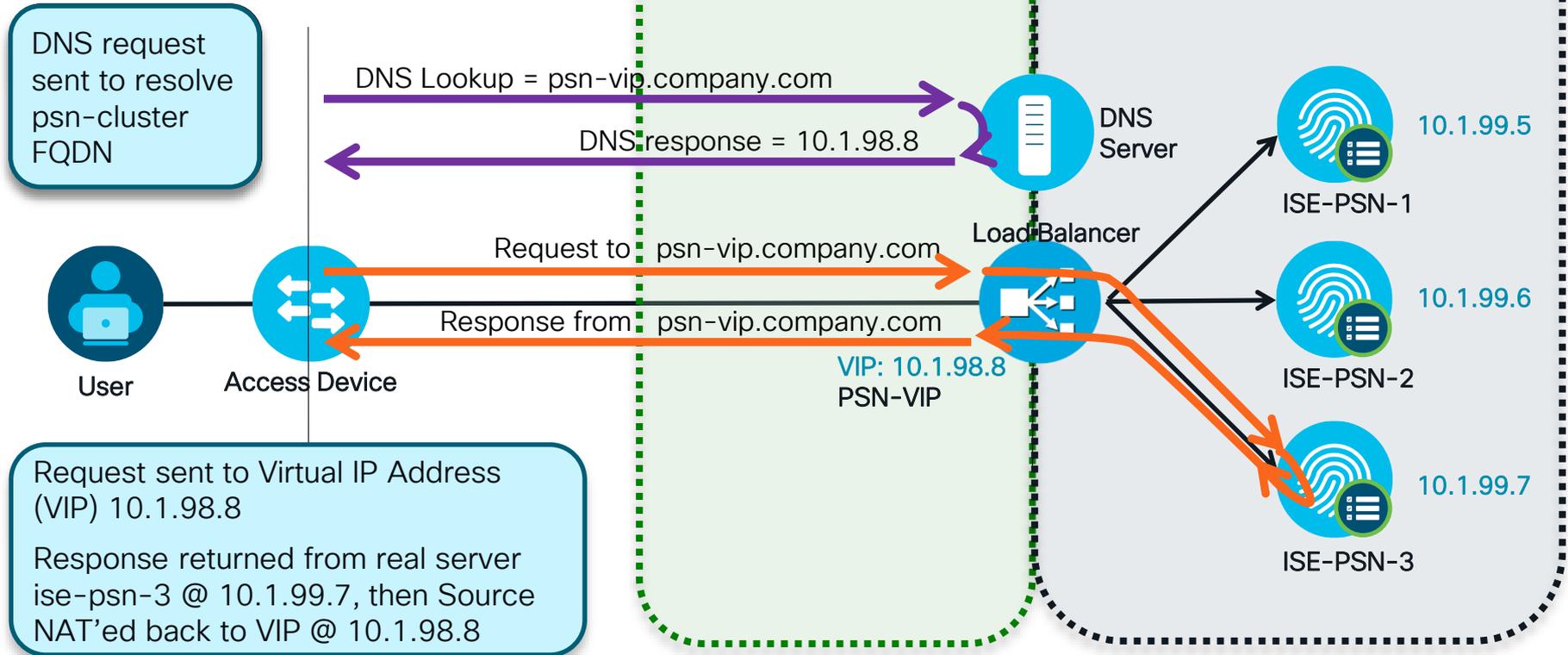


PSN Load Balancing

Sample Topology and Flow



For Your Reference



Load Balancing Policy Services

- **RADIUS AAA Services**

Packets sent to LB virtual IP are load-balanced to real PSN based on configured algorithm. Sticky algorithm determines method to ensure same Policy Service node services same endpoint.

- **Web Services:**

- **URL-Redirected:** Posture (CPP) / Central WebAuth (CWA) / Native Supplicant Provisioning (NSP) / Hotspot / Device Registration WebAuth (DRW), Partner MDM.

No LB Required! PSN that terminates RADIUS returns URL Redirect with its own certificate CN name substituted for 'ip' variable in URL.

Direct HTTP/S: Local WebAuth (LWA) / Sponsor / MyDevices Portal, OCSP

Single web portal domain name should resolve to LB virtual IP for http/s load balancing.

- **Profiling Services:** DHCP Helper / SNMP Traps / Netflow / RADIUS

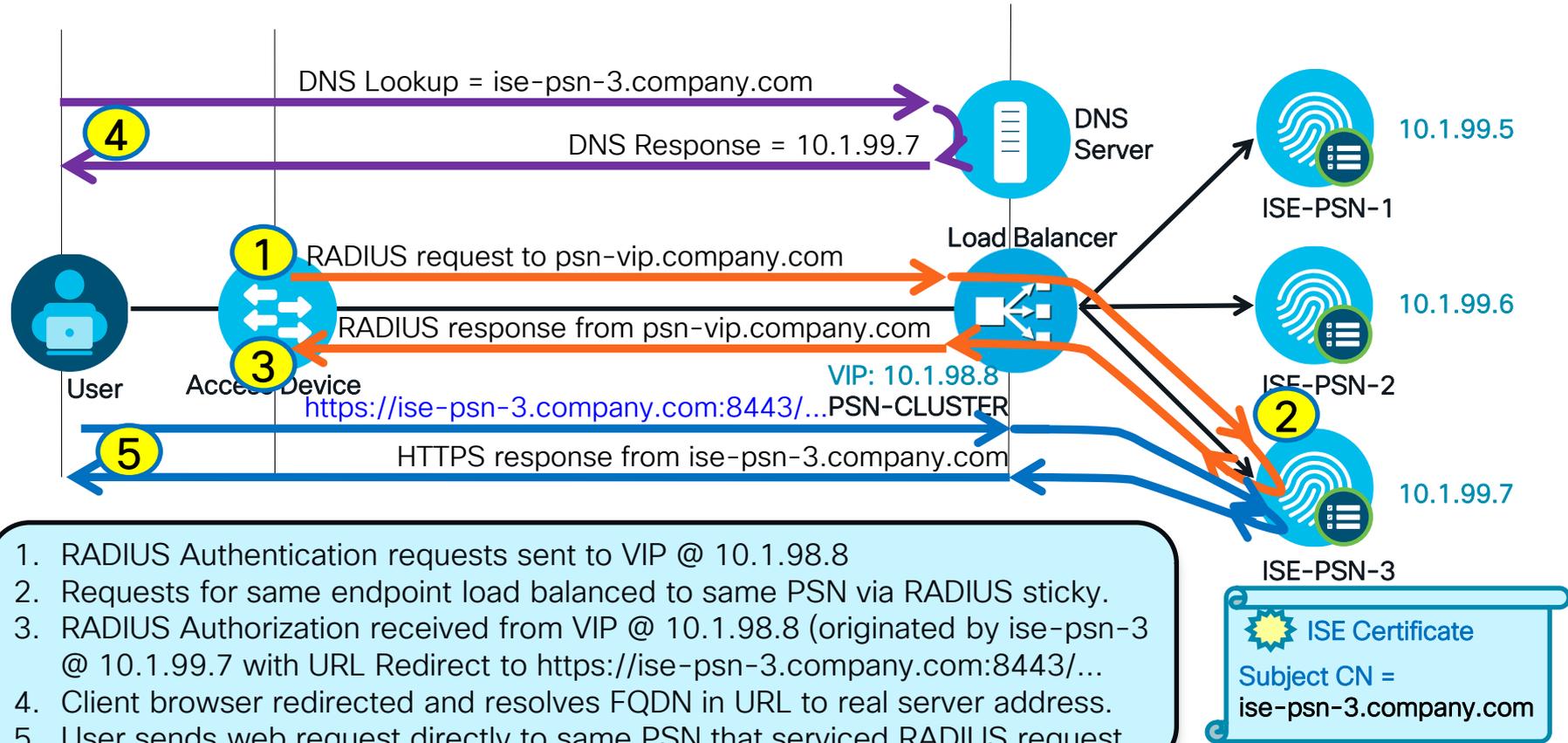
LB VIP is the target for one-way Profile Data (no response required). VIP can be same or different than one used by RADIUS LB; Real server interface can be same or different than one used by RADIUS

- **TACACS+ AAA Services: (Session and Command Auth and Accounting)**

LB VIP is target for TACACS+ requests. T+ not session based like RADIUS, so not required that requests go to same PSN

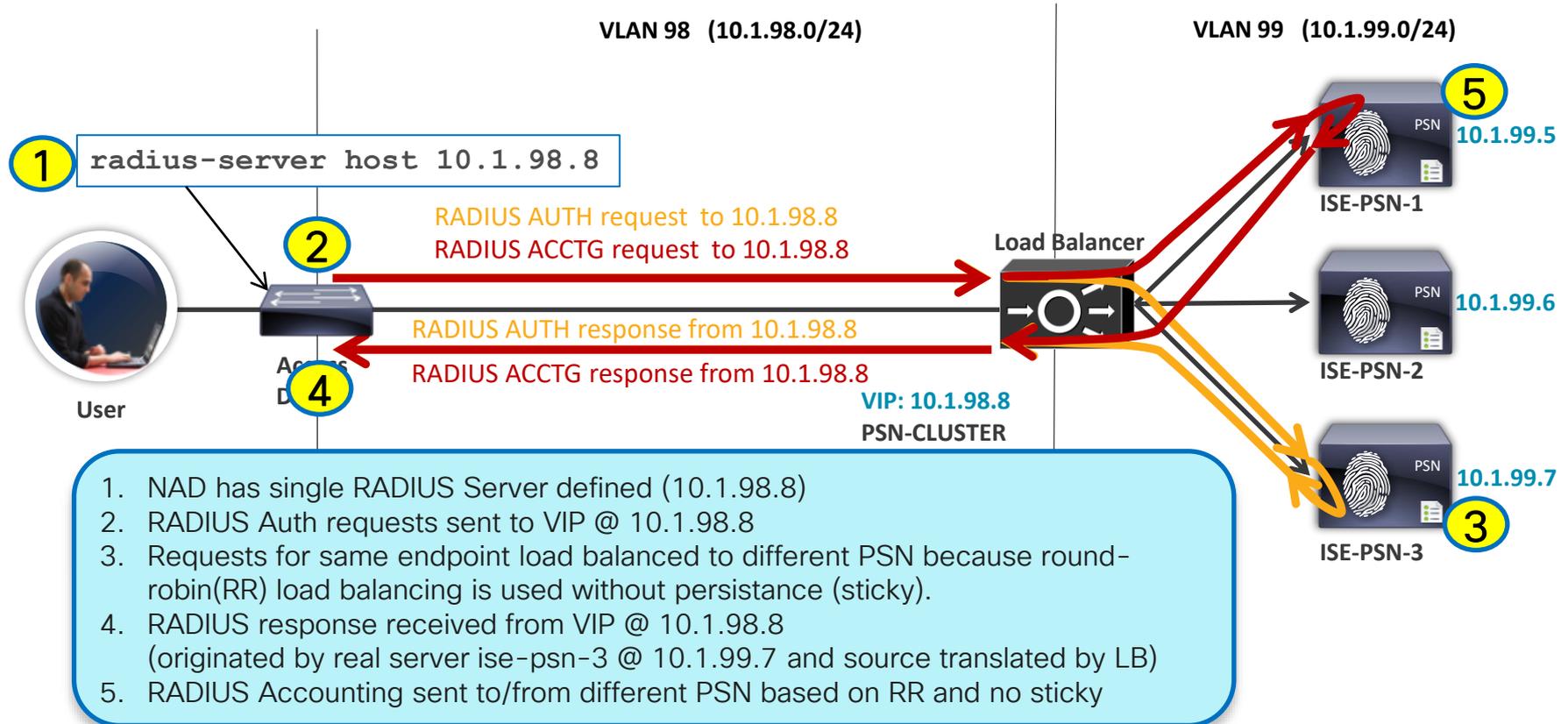
Load Balancing with URL-Redirection

URL Redirect Web Services: Hotspot/DRW, CWA, BYOD, Posture, MDM



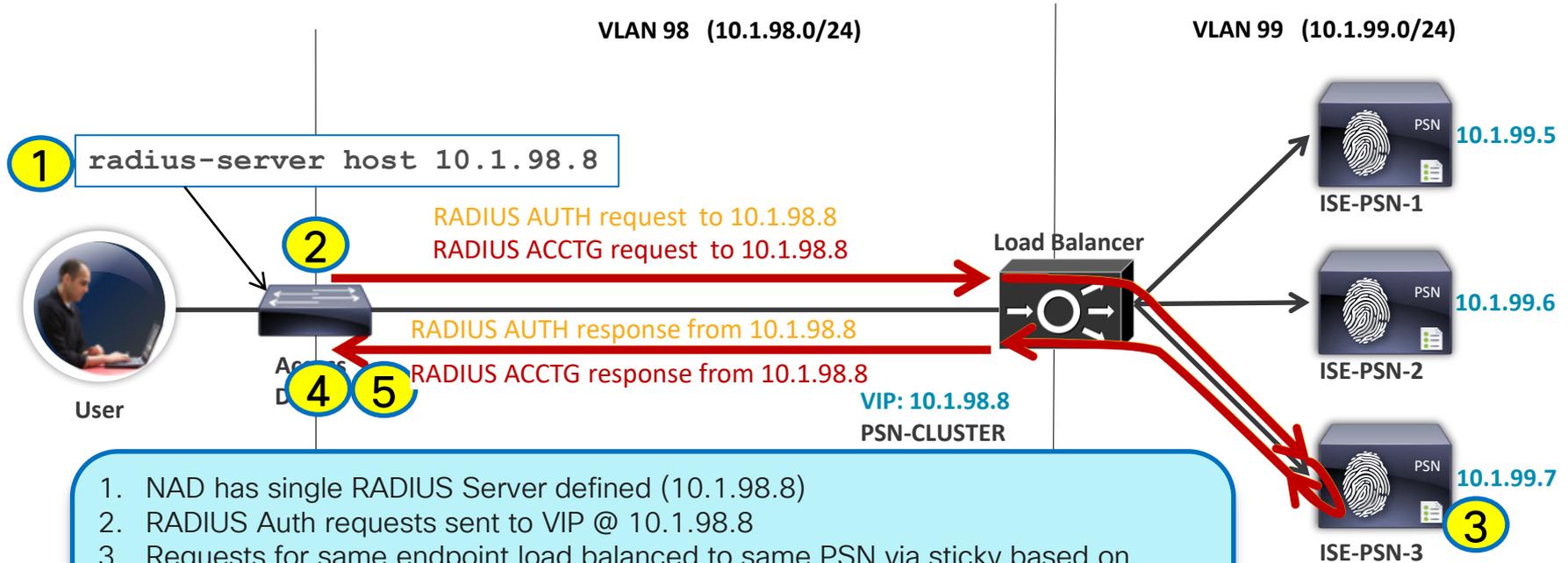
Load Balancing RADIUS

Not Sticky



Load Balancing RADIUS

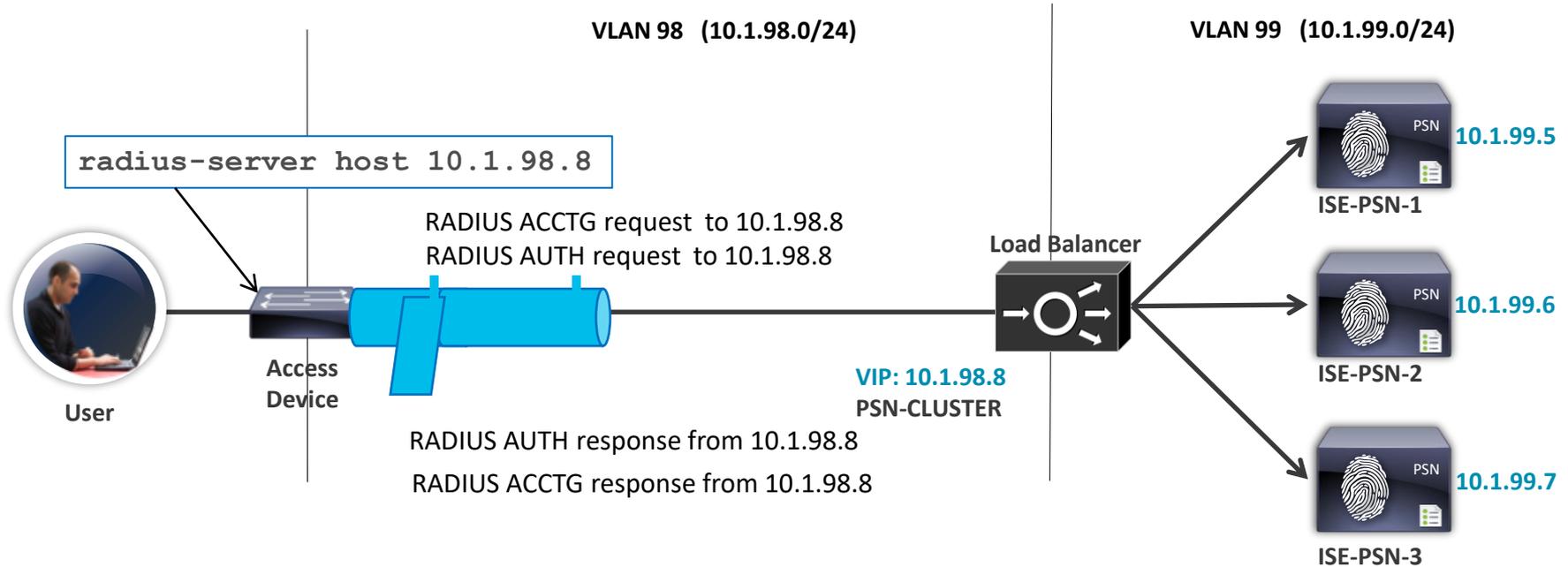
Sticky



1. NAD has single RADIUS Server defined (10.1.98.8)
2. RADIUS Auth requests sent to VIP @ 10.1.98.8
3. Requests for same endpoint load balanced to same PSN via sticky based on RADIUS Calling-Station-ID and Framed-IP-Address
4. RADIUS response received from VIP @ 10.1.98.8 (originated by real server ise-psn-3 @ 10.1.99.7 and source translated by LB)
5. RADIUS Accounting sent to/from same PSN based on sticky

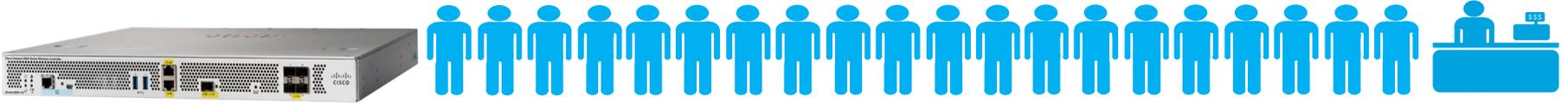
Load Balancing RADIUS

Avoid spraying packets!!!



Load Balancing RADIUS

IP vs Calling Station ID Stickiness



Use Calling-Station-ID for Stickiness



Load Balancer RADIUS Test Probes



Citrix Example

- Probe frequency and retry settings:
 - Time interval between probes:
`interval seconds` # Default: 5
 - Number of retries
`retries number` # Default: 3
- Sample Citrix probe configuration:

```
add lb monitor PSN-Probe RADIUS -respCode 2
-userName citrix_probe -password citrix123
-radKey cisco123 -LRTM ENABLED -interval 10
-retries 3 -destPort 1812
```

- Recommended setting:** Failover must occur before RADIUS timeout (typically 15–35 sec) while avoiding excessive probing

F5 Example

- Probe frequency and retry settings:
 - Time interval between probes:
`Interval seconds` # Default: 10
 - Timeout before failure = $3 * (\text{interval}) + 1$:
`Timeout seconds` # Default: 31
- Sample F5 RADIUS probe configuration:

```
Name PSN-Probe
Type RADIUS
Interval 10
Timeout 31
Manual Resume No
Check Util Up Yes
User Name f5-probe
Password f5-ltm123
Secret cisco123
Alias Address * All Addresses
Alias Service Port 1812
Debug No
```

Load Balancer for ISE Best Practice Check List

- Persistence (**Stickyness**) is a must!
- Persistence based on **Calling-Station-ID** is best
- **Avoid** using **Source-IP address** for sticky value
- Sticky Timers need to be at least 1 hour
- **DO NOT** Round Robin Traffic
- Use the **vendor specific guides** from the community:



<https://community.cisco.com/t5/security-knowledge-base/ise-security-ecosystem-integration-guides/ta-p/4782363#load-balancing>

Profiling

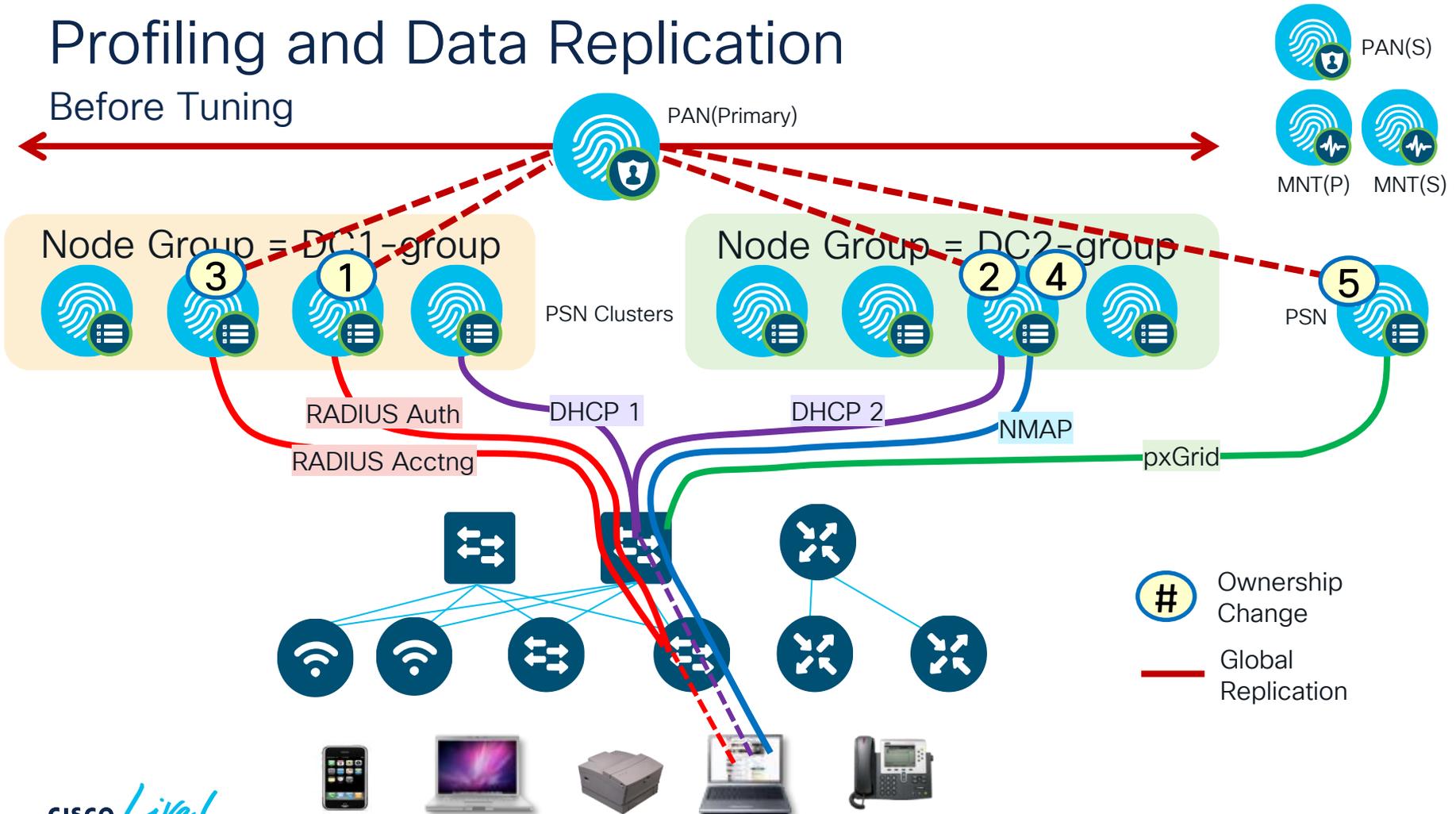


Profiling Probe Selection Best Practices

Probe	Key Profiling Attributes
RADIUS	MAC Address (OUI), IP Address, NDG values
RADIUS w/Device Sensor	CDP/LLDP, DHCP, User-Agent, mDNS, H323/SIP
RADIUS w/ACIDex	MAC Address (OUI), UDID, Operating System, Platform/Device Type
SNMP	MAC Address (OUI), CDP/LLDP, ARP tables
DHCP	DHCP
DNS	FQDN
HTTP	User-Agent
NetFlow	Protocol, Source/Dest IP, Source/DestPorts
NMAP	OS, Common and custom ports, Service Version Info, SMB & SNMP data
AD	Operating System and Version, AD Domain
pxGrid	IoT Asset, Custom Attributes
Endpoint Custom Attributes	<i>Customer defined</i>

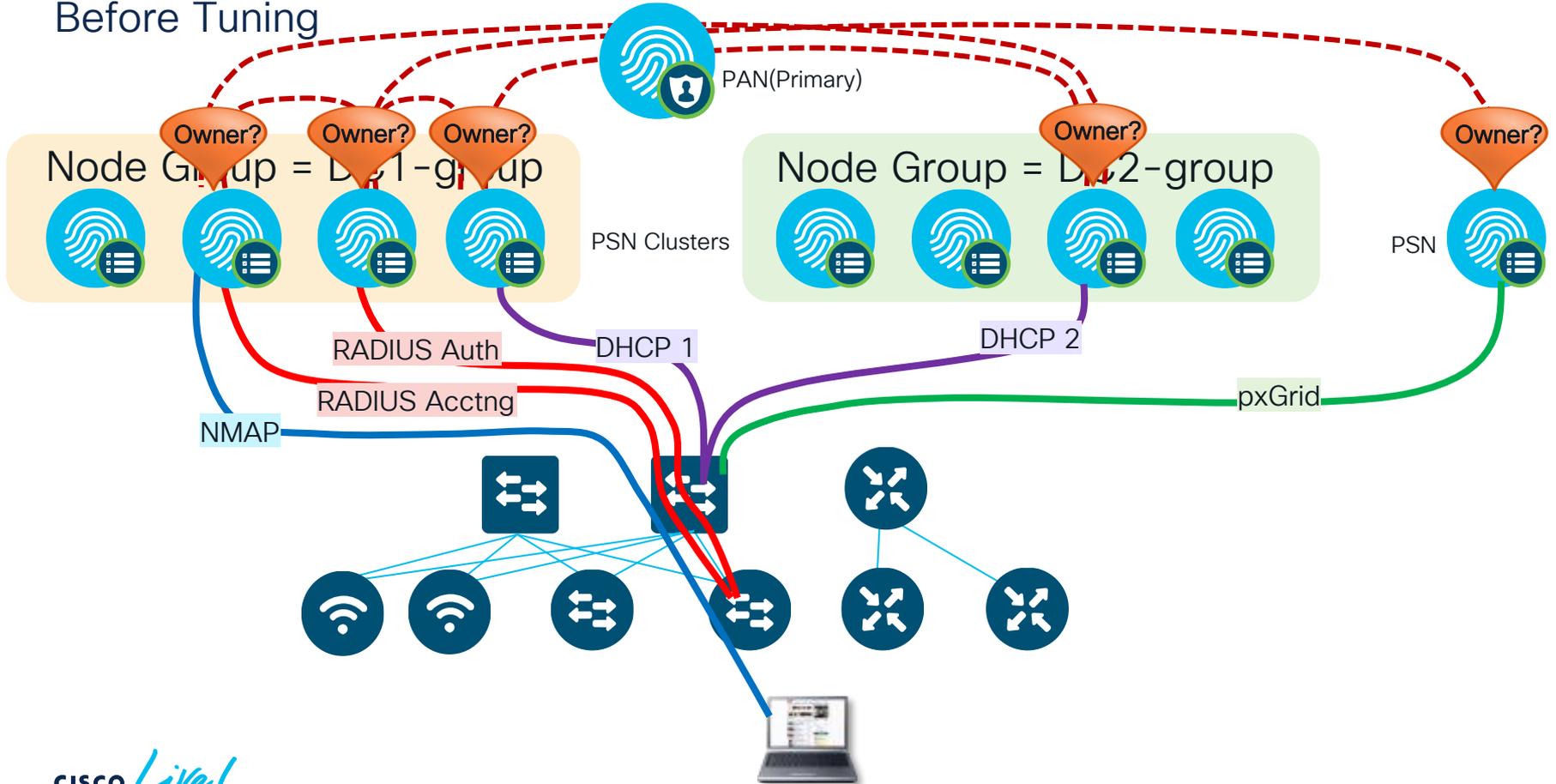
Profiling and Data Replication

Before Tuning



Impact of Ownership Changes

Before Tuning



Endpoint Attribute Filter and Whitelist Attributes

Reduces Data Collection and Replication to Subset of Profile-Specific Attributes

- Endpoint Attribute Filter – aka “Whitelist filter”
 - Disabled by default. If enabled, only these attributes are collected or replicated.

The screenshot shows the 'Profiler Configuration' page. At the top right, there is a breadcrumb trail: 'Administration > System Settings > Profiling'. The main configuration area includes a dropdown for '* CoA Type:' set to 'Reauth'. Below this are three text input fields for 'Current custom SNMP community strings', 'Change custom SNMP community strings', and 'Confirm changed custom SNMP community strings', each with a 'Show' button to its right. A red box highlights the 'EndPoint Attribute Filter:' checkbox, which is checked and labeled 'Enabled'. At the bottom left, there are 'Save' and 'Reset' buttons.

- Whitelist Filter limits profile attribute collection to those required to support default (Cisco-provided) profiles and critical RADIUS operations.
 - Filter must be disabled to collect and/or replicate other attributes.
 - Attributes used in custom conditions are automatically added to whitelist.

Device Sensor

- Sends profiling via RADIUS Accounting
- Replaces Probes:
 - HTTP Probe
 - SNMP Probe
 - CDP/LLDP
 - DHCP Probe
- No additional load balancing considerations
- Supported on Cisco Catalyst Switches and WLCs

Device Sensor (9800)

Configuration > Wireless > **Wireless Global**

Default Mobility Domain *

RF Group Name*

Maximum Login Sessions Per User*

Management Via Wireless

Device Classification

AP LAG Mode

Dot15 Radio

Wireless Password Policy

Configuration > Tags & Profiles > **Policy**

General **Access Policies** QOS and AVC Mobility Advanced

RADIUS Profiling

HTTP TLV Caching

DHCP TLV Caching

WLAN Local Profiling

Global State of Device Classification **Enabled** ⓘ

Local Subscriber Policy Name ⓘ

Profiling Filtering

Default Radius Probe

- Introduced in versions:
 - 2.7 patch 8, 3.0 patch 7, 3.1 patch 5, 3.2 patch 1, 3.3 FCS
- Default RADIUS Probe sends data to profiler -> Profiler profiles
 - Default RADIUS Probe gets SYSLOGs from runtime
 - Filter defines messages to be ignored by profiler
 - Reduces profiling events that were adding no value
- No action required by admin!
 - Other than be running one of the above versions or later.

Profiling Endpoint Owner Directory

- Changes how endpoint ownership works
- Rather than new PSN taking ownership and transferring attributes to itself, queries current owner instead.
 - Reduces owner thrashing
 - Reduces data sent between nodes
- **Administration -> System -> Settings -> Light Data Distribution**

Endpoint Owner Directory

Enable the Endpoint Owner Directory (EPOD) feature to store the PSN FQDN of each MAC address connecting to ISE and replicate this data across the PSNs in a deployment. The EPOD is used for profiling service, disabling this option will use legacy Profiler owners directory.

Enable Endpoint Owner Directory

Endpoint replication

- Endpoint replication has two channels, Jgroups and Redis (mesh)
- Remove redundant replication which was eating up resources
- Only impacts dynamically learned (profiled) endpoints
- Enabled by default after upgrade to ISE 3.3.
- [Administration](#) -> [System](#) -> [Settings](#) -> [Endpoint Replication](#)

Endpoint Replication

Enable or disable the replication of dynamically discovered endpoints across all Cisco ISE nodes by clicking the relevant radio button below.

This feature does not impact statically configured endpoints. Endpoints imported from CSV files and guest and posture-enabled endpoints are automatically replicated across all Cisco ISE nodes.

Replicate endpoints to all nodes ⓘ

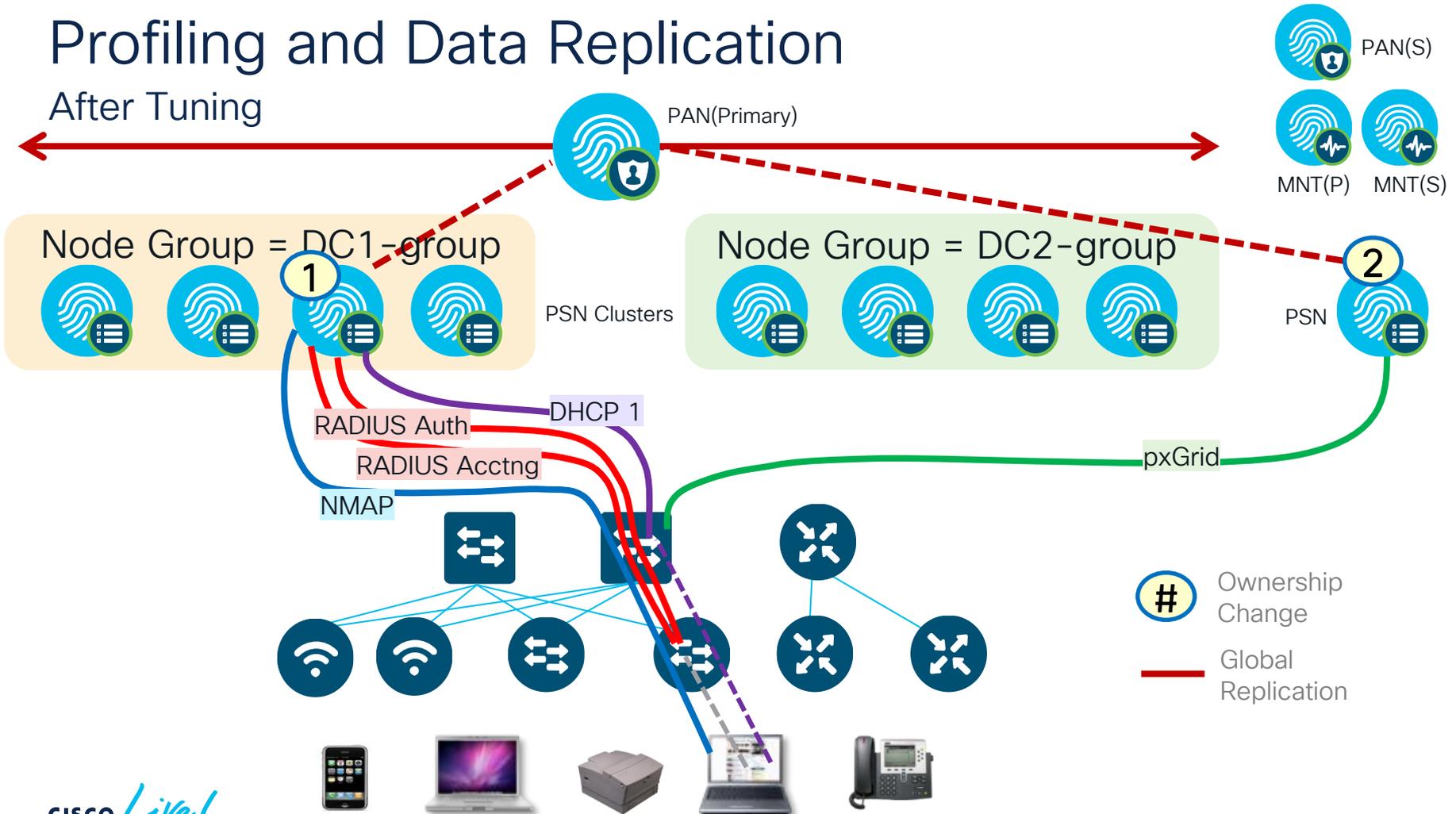
Disable endpoint replication to all nodes

Cancel

Save

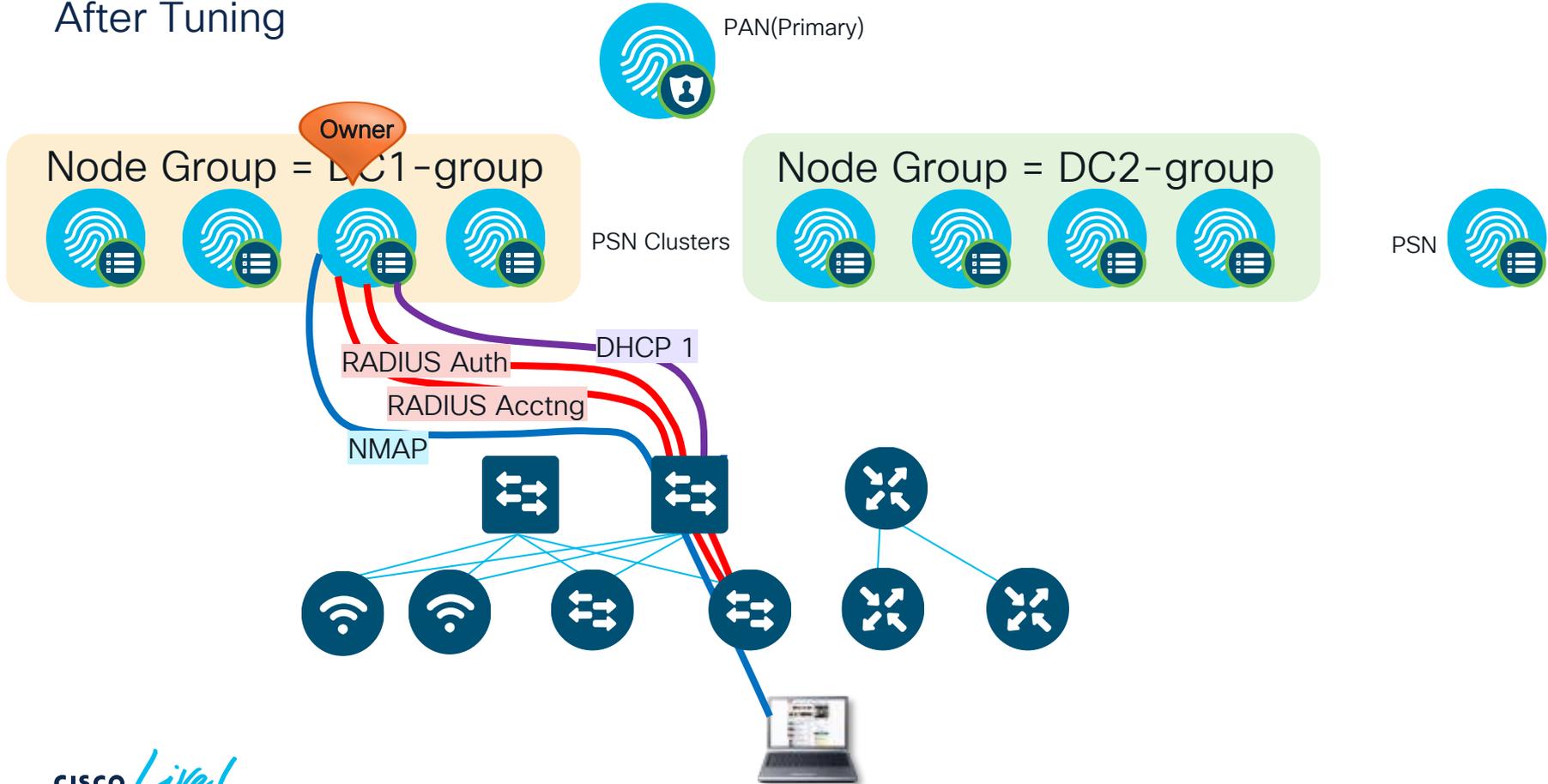
Profiling and Data Replication

After Tuning



Impact of Ownership Changes

After Tuning



ISE Profiling Best Practices

General Guidelines for Probes

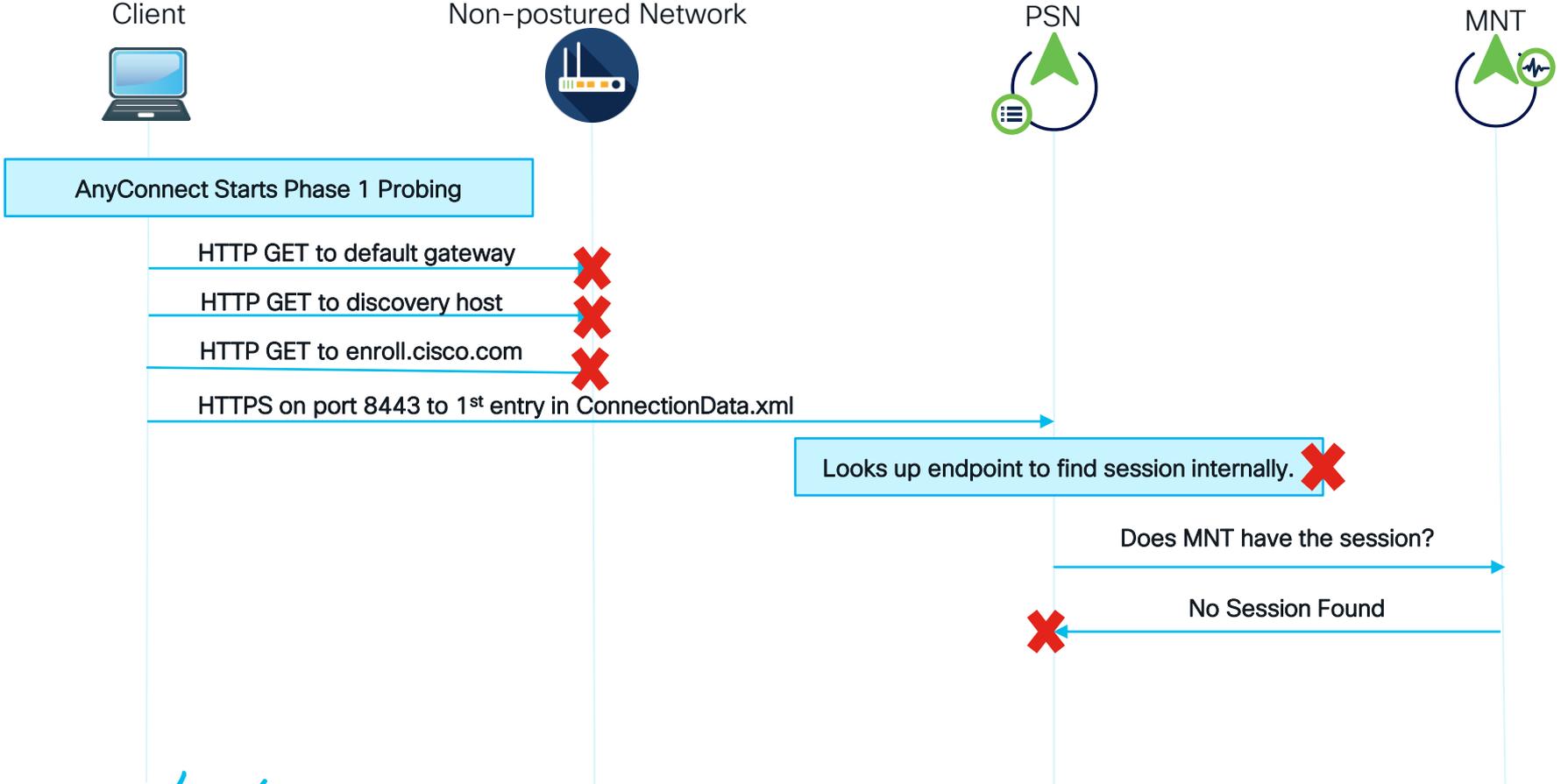
- **HTTP Probe:**
 - Use URL Redirects instead of SPAN to centralize collection and reduce traffic load related to SPAN/RSPAN.
 - **Avoid SPAN.** If used, look for key traffic chokepoints such as Internet edge or WLC connection; use intelligent SPAN/tap options or VACL Capture to limit amount of data sent to ISE. Also difficult to provide HA for SPAN.
- **DHCP Probe:**
 - Use IP Helpers when possible—be aware that L3 device serving DHCP will not relay DHCP for same!
 - **Avoid DHCP SPAN.** If used, make sure probe captures traffic to central DHCP Server. HA challenges.
- **SNMP Probe:**
 - For polled SNMP queries, avoid short polling intervals. Be sure to set optimal PSN for polling in ISE NAD config.
 - SNMP Traps primarily useful for non-RADIUS deployments like NAC Appliance—**Avoid SNMP Traps w/RADIUS auth.**
- **NetFlow Probe:**
 - **Use only for specific use cases in centralized deployments—Potential for high load on network devices and ISE.**
- **pxGrid Probe:**
 - **Limit # PSNs enabled for pxGrid as each becomes a Subscriber to same data. 2 needed for redundancy.**
 - **Dedicate PSNs for pxGrid Probe if high-volume data from Publishers.**

ISE Profiling Best Practices

- Whenever Possible...
- **Use Device Sensor** on Cisco switches & Wireless Controllers to optimize data collection.
- **Ensure profile data for a given endpoint is sent to a single PSN (or maximum of 2)**
 - Sending same profile data to multiple PSNs increases inter-PSN traffic and contention for endpoint ownership.
- **Ensure profile data for a given endpoint is sent to the *same* PSN**
 - Same issue as above, but not always possible across different probes
- **Use node groups and ensure profile data for a given endpoint is sent to *same* node group.**
 - Node Groups reduce inter-PSN communications and need to replicate endpoint changes outside of node group.
- **Avoid probes that collect the same endpoint attributes**
 - Example: Device Sensor + DHCP Probe
- **Enable **Endpoint Attribute Filter****

Posture

Posture Probe from Unknown Client



Posture Probe from Unknown Client

Client



Non-postured Network



PSN



MNT



AnyConnect Starts Phase 1 Probing

```
zer0k-ise1.zer0k.org172.18.124.26[localtime="Aug 10 13:42:27"]  
CISE_Administrative_and_Operational_Audit 0007009966 1 0 2021-08-10 13:42:27.511  
+00:00 0392179500 61034 NOTICE ResourceLimits: Maximum resource limit reached.,  
ConfigVersionId=8156, FailureFlag=true, AdminIPAddress=172.18.124.26,  
AdminName=system, OperationMessageText=Portal service thread pool reached threshold  
value, AcsInstance=zer0k-ise1,
```

Does MNT have the session?

No Session Found

Block Posture Probes

- Block TCP port 8443 to PSNs from Non-postured networks.
 - ACLs, Firewalls, SGTs, etc...
- If Sponsor or Guest portals are in use from those networks the portal ports can be changed.

▼ Portal Settings

HTTPS port: * 8443 (8000 - 8999)

RADIUS Session Directory

- Solves client contacting MnT for Sessions started on another PSN
- Protects MnT from unnecessary lookups
- Administration -> System -> Settings -> Light Data Distribution

RADIUS Session Directory

Enable the RADIUS Session Directory (RSD) feature to store the user session information and replicate it across the PSNs in a deployment. The RSD stores only the session attributes that are required for CoA.

Enable RADIUS Session Directory

External Databases

Policy Sets



- USE THEM!
- Group Like Rules:
 - Guest vs. Corporate SSID, MAB vs 802.1x devices, etc...
- Improves rule readability.
- Reduces configuration mistakes.
- Improves rule processing.
- Can be created based on any attribute available in initial RADIUS packet.

Authorization Best Practices

- Order conditions so internal attributes are matched before external attributes
- Do not authorize MAC addresses against Active Directory
 - Why would this be a bad idea?
 - Use **Network Access:AuthenticationIdentityStore** to reduce external ID store lookups
- Order rules from most used to least used

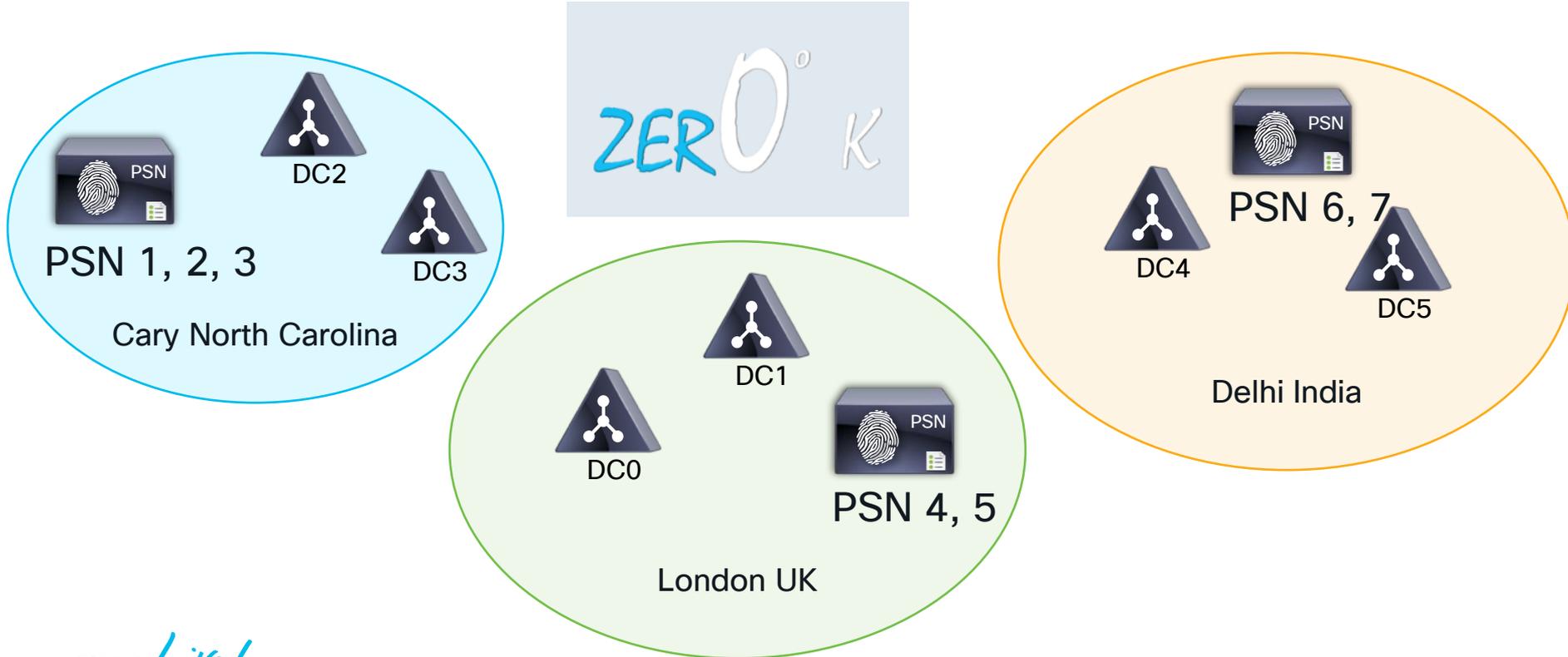


My Bad Rule	OR	<table border="1"><tr><td>zer0k.org·ExternalGroups EQUALS zer0k.org/Users/Engineering</td></tr><tr><td>Airespace·Airespace-Wlan-Id EQUALS 2</td></tr></table>	zer0k.org·ExternalGroups EQUALS zer0k.org/Users/Engineering	Airespace·Airespace-Wlan-Id EQUALS 2	* PermitAccess
zer0k.org·ExternalGroups EQUALS zer0k.org/Users/Engineering					
Airespace·Airespace-Wlan-Id EQUALS 2					



My Good Rule	AND	<table border="1"><tr><td>Airespace·Airespace-Wlan-Id EQUALS 2</td></tr><tr><td>zer0k.org·ExternalGroups EQUALS zer0k.org/Users/Engineering</td></tr></table>	Airespace·Airespace-Wlan-Id EQUALS 2	zer0k.org·ExternalGroups EQUALS zer0k.org/Users/Engineering	* PermitAccess
Airespace·Airespace-Wlan-Id EQUALS 2					
zer0k.org·ExternalGroups EQUALS zer0k.org/Users/Engineering					

MS AD Sites and Services



DNS Caching

- Active Directory is DNS Heavy!
- Enabled by default starting with ISE 3.3

From each node CLI:

service cache enable hosts ttl 180

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
1824	37.482898	172.18.124.26	172.18.124.23	DNS	121	Standard query 0xc9c9 SRV _ldap._tcp.Default-First-Site-Name._sites.gc._msdcs.zer0k.org
1825	37.484022	172.18.124.23	172.18.124.26	DNS	313	Standard query response 0xc9c9 SRV _ldap._tcp.Default-First-Site-Name._sites.gc._msdcs.zer0k.org
1840	37.687312	172.18.124.26	172.18.124.23	DNS	79	Standard query 0xfa2f A zer0k-dc1.zer0k.org
1841	37.687312	172.18.124.26	172.18.124.23	DNS	79	Standard query 0xfe2b AAAA zer0k-dc1.zer0k.org
1842	37.687640	172.18.124.23	172.18.124.26	DNS	135	Standard query response 0xfe2b AAAA zer0k-dc1.zer0k.org AAAA fd2f:624f:f359:c124:1eea:4:
1843	37.687643	172.18.124.23	172.18.124.26	DNS	111	Standard query response 0xfa2f A zer0k-dc1.zer0k.org A 172.18.124.23 A 172.30.112.1
2097	41.767565	172.18.124.26	172.18.124.23	DNS	80	Standard query 0xdd8a A ise-dunkel.zer0k.org
2098	41.767565	172.18.124.26	172.18.124.23	DNS	80	Standard query 0x5a88 AAAA ise-dunkel.zer0k.org
2099	41.767909	172.18.124.23	172.18.124.26	DNS	137	Standard query response 0x5a88 AAAA ise-dunkel.zer0k.org SOA zer0k-dc1.zer0k.org
2100	41.767909	172.18.124.23	172.18.124.26	DNS	96	Standard query response 0xdd8a A ise-dunkel.zer0k.org A 172.18.124.20
2144	42.784260	172.18.124.26	172.18.124.23	DNS	80	Standard query 0x9905 A zer0k-ise2.zer0k.org
2145	42.784260	172.18.124.26	172.18.124.23	DNS	80	Standard query 0xc20e AAAA zer0k-ise2.zer0k.org
2146	42.784586	172.18.124.23	172.18.124.26	DNS	96	Standard query response 0x9905 A zer0k-ise2.zer0k.org A 172.18.124.28
2147	42.784586	172.18.124.23	172.18.124.26	DNS	137	Standard query response 0xc20e AAAA zer0k-ise2.zer0k.org SOA zer0k-dc1.zer0k.org
2810	55.026035	172.18.124.26	172.18.124.23	DNS	81	Standard query 0x33c0 A ise-maibock.zer0k.org
2811	55.026035	172.18.124.26	172.18.124.23	DNS	81	Standard query 0xc53e AAAA ise-maibock.zer0k.org
2812	55.026389	172.18.124.23	172.18.124.26	DNS	97	Standard query response 0x33c0 A ise-maibock.zer0k.org A 172.18.124.21
2813	55.026394	172.18.124.23	172.18.124.26	DNS	138	Standard query response 0xc53e AAAA ise-maibock.zer0k.org SOA zer0k-dc1.zer0k.org
3969	78.222560	172.18.124.26	172.18.124.23	DNS	80	Standard query 0xaf3f A ise-dunkel.zer0k.org
3970	78.222560	172.18.124.26	172.18.124.23	DNS	80	Standard query 0xde3c AAAA ise-dunkel.zer0k.org
3971	78.222960	172.18.124.23	172.18.124.26	DNS	137	Standard query response 0xde3c AAAA ise-dunkel.zer0k.org SOA zer0k-dc1.zer0k.org
3972	78.223423	172.18.124.23	172.18.124.26	DNS	96	Standard query response 0xaf3f A ise-dunkel.zer0k.org A 172.18.124.20

AD Join Point and Authentication Domains

Connection **Allowed Domains** PassiveID Groups Attributes Advanced Settings

Use all Active Directory domains for authentication ⓘ

[Enable Selected](#) [Disable Selected](#) [Show Unusable Domains](#)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	Authent...	Forest	SID
<input type="checkbox"/>	subzer0.zer0k.org	NO	zer0k.org	S-1-5-21-2126304257-2360180230-2307...
<input type="checkbox"/>	zer0k.org	YES	zer0k.org	S-1-5-21-263584093-2727726975-78036...

- Trusted (intra-/inter-forest) domains automatically discovered from the Join Point.
- These are the domains with 2-way bidirectional trust with the Join Point.
- You can then select/deselect which one to use (all selected by default).
- Deselect domains not used by ISE.

AD Test Authentication

Can run from
AD Join Point

The screenshot displays the Cisco ISE configuration interface. On the left, a navigation pane shows 'Active Directory' expanded to 'zer0k'. The main content area features a toolbar with '+ Join', '+ Leave', 'Test User' (highlighted in a green box), 'Diagnostic Tool', and 'Refresh Table'. Below the toolbar is a table of ISE nodes:

<input type="checkbox"/>	ISE Node	ISE Node R...	Status	Domain Controller
<input type="checkbox"/>	ise-dunkel.zer0k.org	PRIMARY	Operational	zer0k-dc1.zer0k.org
<input type="checkbox"/>	ise-maibock.zer0k.org	SECONDARY	Operational	zer0k-dc1.zer0k.org
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	zer0k-ise1.zer0k.org	SECONDARY	Operational	zer0k-dc1.zer0k.org
<input type="checkbox"/>	zer0k-ise2.zer0k.org	SECONDARY	Operational	zer0k-dc1.zer0k.org

AD Test Authentication

Test User Authentication

* Username

* Password

Authentication Type

Authorization Data Retrieve Groups
 Retrieve Attributes

Authentication Result	Groups	Attributes
Instance	: Zer0k	
Authentication Result	: SUCCESS	
Authentication Domain	: Zer0k.org	
User Principal Name	: Jesse@zer0k.org	
User Distinguished Name	: CN=Jesse R. Dubois,CN=Users,DC=zer0k,DC=org	
Groups	: 6 Found.	
Attributes	: 40 Found.	
Authentication Time	: 35 Ms.	
Groups Fetching Time	: 11 Ms.	
Attributes Fetching Time	: 6 Ms.	

- Kerberos
- Lookup
- MS-RPC

Different authentication types

ISE node can be selected to run the test auth

Can provide group & attribute details if options are selected

Millisecond Response Times

Domain Diagnostics

The screenshot shows the Active Directory console for the domain **zer0k.org**. On the left is a navigation pane with folders for Active Directory, LDAP, ODBC, RADIUS Token, and RSA SecurID. The main area displays domain management options: Join, Leave, Test User, Diagnostic Tool, and Refresh Table. The 'Diagnostic Tool' button is highlighted with a green box. Below it is a table of ISE nodes.

<input type="checkbox"/>	ISE Node	ISE Node R...	Status	Domain Controller
<input type="checkbox"/>	ise-dunkel.zer0k.org	PRIMARY	Operational	zer0k-dc1.zer0k.org
<input type="checkbox"/>	ise-maibock.zer0k.org	SECONDARY	Operational	zer0k-dc1.zer0k.org
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	zer0k-ise1.zer0k.org	SECONDARY	Operational	zer0k-dc1.zer0k.org
<input type="checkbox"/>	zer0k-ise2.zer0k.org	SECONDARY	Operational	zer0k-dc1.zer0k.org

Can run from AD Join Point

Domain Diagnostics

Active Directory > zer0k.org > Active Directory Diagnostic Tool

Active Directory Diagnostic Tool

These tests check proper Active Directory configuration and operation of the Active Directory Service for use with ISE.

ISE node

Join Point

Not Running

<input type="checkbox"/>	Test Name	Join Point	Status	Result and Remedy	Started	Duration (sec)
<input type="checkbox"/>	DNS A record high level API query	zer0k.org	Not Run		-	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	DNS A record low level API query	zer0k.org	Not Run		-	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	DNS SRV record query	zer0k.org	Not Run		-	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	DNS SRV record size	zer0k.org	Not Run		-	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kerberos check SASL connectivity to AD	zer0k.org	Not Run		-	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kerberos test bind and query to ROOT DSE	zer0k.org	Not Run		-	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kerberos test obtaining join point TGT	zer0k.org	Not Run		-	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	LDAP test - DC locator	zer0k.org	Not Run		-	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	LDAP test - GC locator	zer0k.org	Not Run		-	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	LDAP test AD site association	zer0k.org	Not Run		-	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	LDAP test DCs availability	zer0k.org	Not Run		-	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	LDAP test DCs response time	zer0k.org	Not Run		-	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	System health - check AD service	System	Not Run		-	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	System health - check DNS configuration	System	Not Run		-	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	System health - check NTP	System	Not Run		-	-

Domain Diagnostics

+ Run Tests ▾ 🔍 View Test Details ▾ ⚠ Stop All Running Tests ↶ Reset All tests to "Not Run"

<input type="checkbox"/>	Test Name	Join Point	Status	Result and Remedy	Started
<input type="checkbox"/>	DNS A/AAAA record high level API ...	zer0k	✔ Success...	Address record found	00:18:02 06.02
<input type="checkbox"/>	DNS A/AAAA record low level API q...	zer0k	✔ Success...	Address record found	00:18:12 06.02
<input type="checkbox"/>	DNS SRV record query ⓘ	zer0k	✔ Success...	SRV record found.	00:18:12 06.02
<input type="checkbox"/>	DNS SRV record size ⓘ	zer0k	✔ Success...	SRV query size is under maximum limit of 4k.	00:18:12 06.02
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kerberos check SASL connectivity t...	zer0k	✔ Success...	SASL connectivity test to AD was successful	00:18:12 06.02
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kerberos test bind and query to RO...	zer0k	✔ Success...	ROOT_DSE was successfully reached	00:18:12 06.02
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kerberos test obtaining join point T...	zer0k	✔ Success...	TGT was obtained successfully	00:18:12 06.02

Domain Diagnostics

Active Directory > zer0k.org > Active Directory Diagnostic Tool

Active Directory Diagnostic Tool

These tests check proper Active Directory configuration and operation of the Active Directory Service for use with ISE.

ISE node:

Join Point:

Summary: ⚠ Warnings (See Details)

Test Details

```

Test Name      :System health - check NTP
Description    :Checks NTP configuration : available peers (which is not
local) and time sync
Instance       :System
Status         :Warning
Start Time     :17:25:54 05.07.2016 EDT
End Time       :17:26:14 05.07.2016 EDT
Duration       :20 sec
Result and Remedy...
NTP client is not synchronized - could not connect to any peer. This may impair
Kerberos functionality! Please check NTP and network configuration
Below is more low level troubleshooting information, such as listing of
unreachable peers. Note that peers are actual servers and not necessary the same
as high level definition in ntp.conf.
          
```

Test Name	Category	Status	Message	Started	Duration (sec)
System health - check AD service	System	Successful	AD service is running	17:25:54 05.07.2016 ...	<1
System health - check DNS configuration	System	Successful	DNS configuration & status test was successful	17:25:54 05.07.2016 ...	2
System health - check NTP	System	Warning	NTP client is not synchronized - could not connect t...	17:25:54 05.07.2016 ...	20

Active Directory Best Practices

- Use **Sites and Services** to contact local domain controllers
- Use **Allowed Domains** to restrict negative lookups
- **Dedicate Domain Controllers** in high volume environments
- Enable **DNS Caching** on each node
- Test and Monitor for **Request Latency**
- Use **Domain Diagnostics** to ensure Active Directory health

MnT / Log Analytics

External Syslog

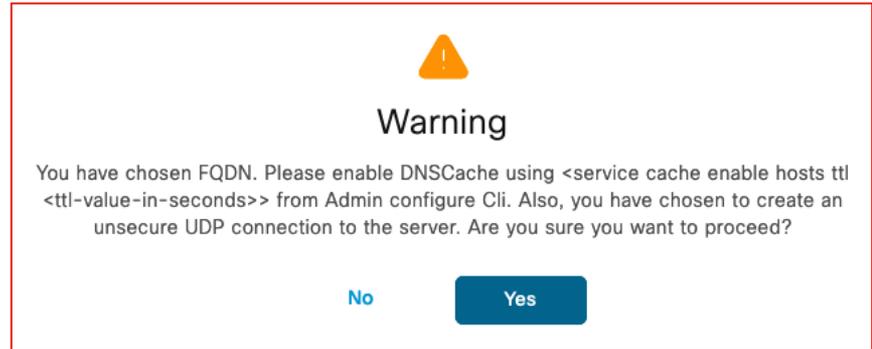
- Use IP address where possible
- Limit number of Syslog targets
- Limit log categories
- Logging is done directly from the PSNs

	<input type="radio"/>	zer0k_splunk	splunk.zer0k.org	514	UDP SysLog
	<input type="radio"/>	zer0k_splunk_IP	172.18.124.23	514	UDP SysLog

DNS Caching

- Enabled by default starting with ISE 3.3
 - External SYSLOG with FQDN sends DNS request for every SYSLOG packet without it!

service cache enable hosts ttl 180



Logging Suppression

Administration -> Settings -> Protocols -> RADIUS

RADIUS Settings

Suppression & Reports UDP Ports DTLS

Suppress Repeated Failed Clients

Suppress Repeated Failed Clients ⓘ

Detect two failures within ⓘ Minutes

Report failures once every ⓘ minutes (15-60)

Reject RADIUS requests from clients with repeated failures ⓘ

Failures prior to automatic rejection ⓘ (2-100)

Continue rejecting requests for ⓘ minutes (5-180)

Ignore repeated accounting updates within ⓘ seconds (1 - 86,400)

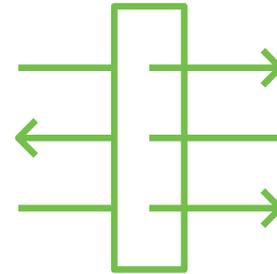
Suppress Successful Reports

Suppress repeated successful authentications ⓘ

Authentication Details

Highlight steps longer than ⓘ milliseconds (500 - 10,000)

- Do not disable suppression on production deployments.
- If troubleshooting, disable on a per client basis.
- Protects the deployment!



Per-Endpoint Suppression Bypass

The screenshot displays the Cisco Identity Services Engine (ISE) Operations console. The main content area shows a table of live sessions with columns for Identity, Endpoint ID, and Authentication Policy. A mouse cursor is hovering over a record, and an 'Actions' menu is open, highlighting the option 'Bypass Suppression Filtering for 1 hour'. The table includes the following data:

Time	Identity	Endpoint ID	Authentication Policy
Jul 05, 2016 06:14:47.442 AM	6C:72:E7:D7: 6C:72:E7:D7:51:5F	6C:72:E7:D7: 6C:72:E7:D7:51:5F	BYOD-Cisco >> WirelessMAB >> Default
Jul 05, 2016 06:14:46.703 AM	6C:72:E7:D7: 6C:72:E7:D7:51:5F	6C:72:E7:D7: 6C:72:E7:D7:51:5F	BYOD-Cisco >> WirelessMAB >> Default
Jul 05, 2016 06:14:46.674 AM	6C:72:E7:D7: 6C:72:E7:D7:51:5F	6C:72:E7:D7: 6C:72:E7:D7:51:5F	BYOD-Cisco >> WirelessMAB >> Default
Jul 05, 2016 08:29:42.693 PM	E8:11:32:66:A2:BD	E8:11:32:66:A2:BD	EasyConnect >> Default
Jul 05, 2016 08:29:42.668 PM	E8:11:32:66:A2:BD	E8:11:32:66:A2:BD	EasyConnect >> Default

Additional interface elements include a 'Refresh' button, a 'Filter' dropdown, and a 'Records Shown: 8' indicator at the bottom right. The status bar at the bottom indicates 'Last Updated: Tue Jul 05 2016 12:02:27 GMT-0400 (EDT)'.

Per-Endpoint Suppression Bypass

The screenshot displays the Cisco Identity Services Engine (ISE) Operations console. The main content area shows a table of live sessions with columns for Identity, Endpoint ID, and Authentication Policy. A mouse cursor is hovering over a record, and an 'Actions' menu is open, highlighting the option 'Bypass Suppression Filtering for 1 hour'.

Table Data:

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Jul 05, 2016 06:14:47.442 AM	6C:72:E7:D7:6C:72:E7:D7:51:5F	6C:72:E7:D7:6C:72:E7:D7:51:5F	BYOD-Cisco >> WirelessMAB >> Default
Jul 05, 2016 06:14:46.703 AM	6C:72:E7:D7:6C:72:E7:D7:51:5F	6C:72:E7:D7:6C:72:E7:D7:51:5F	BYOD-Cisco >> WirelessMAB >> Default
Jul 05, 2016 06:14:46.674 AM	6C:72:E7:D7:6C:72:E7:D7:51:5F	6C:72:E7:D7:6C:72:E7:D7:51:5F	BYOD-Cisco >> WirelessMAB >> Default
Jul 05, 2016 08:29:42.693 PM	E8:11:32:66:A2:BD	E8:11:32:66:A2:BD	EasyConnect >> Default
Jul 05, 2016 08:29:42.668 PM	E8:11:32:66:A2:BD	E8:11:32:66:A2:BD	EasyConnect >> Default

Actions Menu:

- Endpoint Debug...
- Modify Collection Filters...
- Bypass Suppression Filtering for 1 hour**

Manual Collection Filters

Administration -> Logging -> Collection Filters

The screenshot displays the Cisco Identity Services Engine (ISE) Administration console. The top navigation bar includes the Cisco logo, the text 'Identity Services Engine', and the path 'Administration / System'. Below this, a secondary navigation bar contains tabs for 'Deployment', 'Licensing', 'Certificates', 'Logging' (which is selected), 'Maintenance', 'Upgrade', and 'Health Ch'. A left-hand sidebar lists various configuration options: 'Log Settings', 'Remote Logging Targets', 'Logging Categories', 'Message Catalog', 'Collection Filters' (highlighted), and a user profile icon. The main content area shows the 'Collection Filters' configuration page. At the top of this page, there is a breadcrumb 'Collection Filter List > New Collection Filter'. The page title is 'Collection Filters'. The configuration fields are as follows: '* Status' is set to 'Enabled' with a dropdown arrow; '* Attribute' is set to 'MAC Address' with a dropdown arrow; '* Value' is set to '00:11:22:33:44:55' with a text input field; '* Filter Type' is set to 'Bypass Suppression' with a dropdown arrow; and 'Duration' is set to '60' minutes, with a checked checkbox and an information icon.

Keepalive Probes

Failed Accepted

- IOS XE treats a failed authentication as alive
 - Some load balancers such as F5 and Netscaler as well
- Can expect probe to always fail authentication
- Filter only failed so any passed can be audited
- Other devices may see failed as alive, must test

<input type="checkbox"/>	Status	^	Attribute	Value	Filter Type	Time left (In minutes)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enabled		User Name	ios-probe	Filter Failed	Unlimited

Keepalive Probes

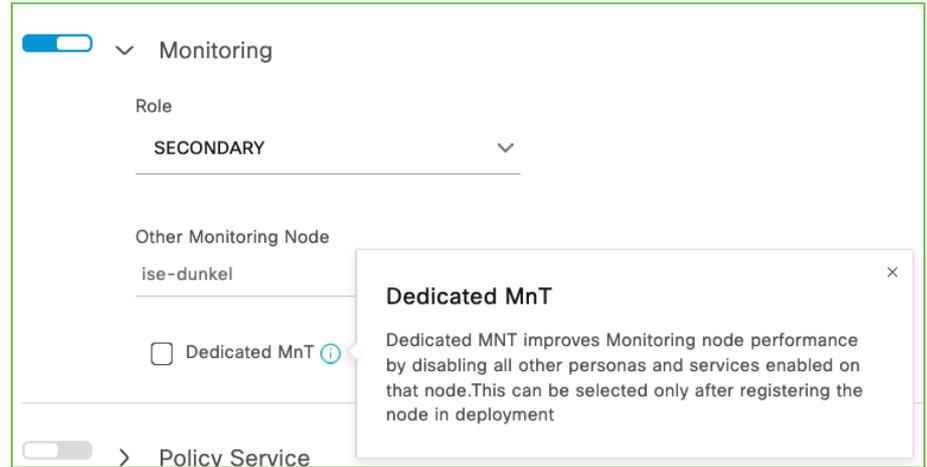
Passed Required

- If probe authentication must Pass
 - Use Local User
 - Prevents External Database slowness from impacting performance
- Filter Passed and Failed by Username

<input type="checkbox"/>	Status	^	Attribute	Value	Filter Type	Time left (in minutes)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enabled		User Name	loadbalance-probe	Filter All	Unlimited

Dedicated MnT

- Only supported in Large Deployment
- Disables all roles besides MnT
- Disables replication to node freeing up:
 - Disk I/O
 - CPU
 - Memory



Authentication Summary Report

Passed/Failed Ratio

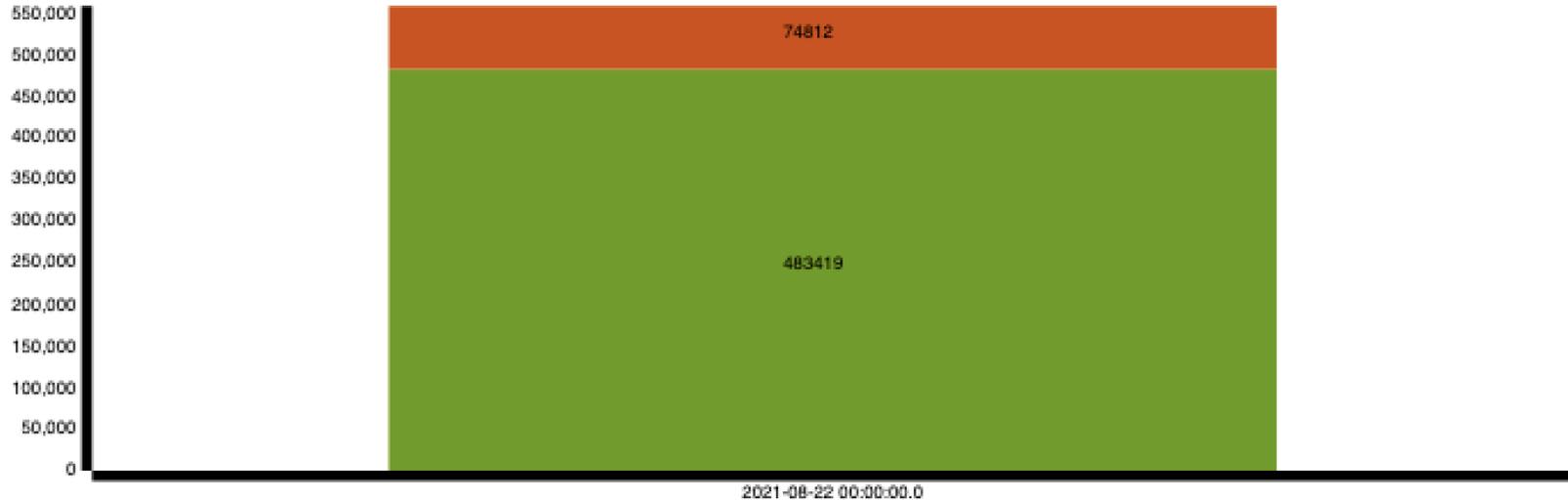


Chart: Passed Authentications By Day

Failed Authentications Passed Authentications

Authentication Summary Report

Authentications By Identity Store

Identity Store	Passed	Failed	Total	Failed (%)	Avg Response Time (ms)	Peak response Time (ms)
Internal Endpoints	261263	0	261263	0	15.06	27355
zer0k.org	193777	794	194571	0.41	54	17916
Internal Users	25136	1	25137	0	27.5	2778
Guest Users	77	6	83	7.23	14.87	60

Authentication Summary Report

Authentications By ISE Server

Server	Passed	Failed	Total	Failed (%)	Avg Response Time (ms)	Peak response Time (ms)
zer0k-ise1	114142	143	114285	0.13	17.03	50044
zer0k-ise2	69354	12697	82051	15.47	20.51	10009
zer0k-ise3	6531	51	6582	0.77	20.01	1551
zer0k-ise4	4331	0	4331	0	75.33	1128

Millisecond Timestamps in Live Logs

- Internal vs. External Latency
- Just because it isn't red doesn't mean it isn't impactful



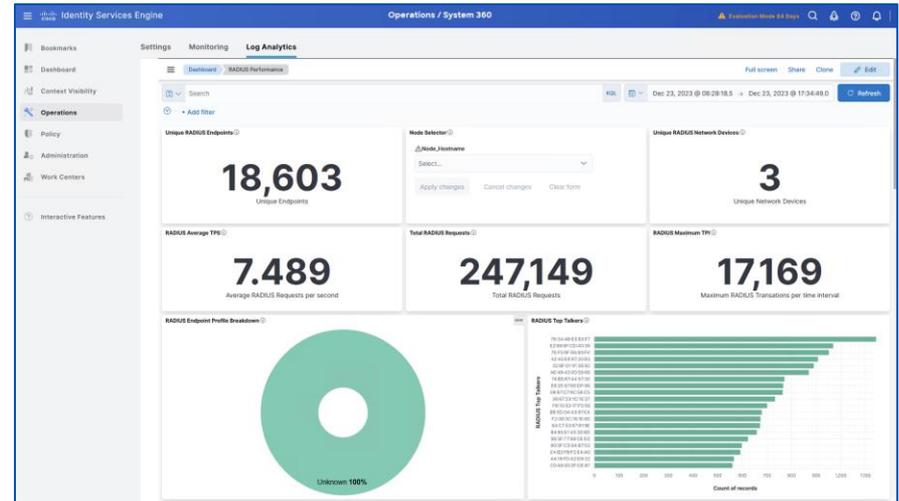
Steps		
Step ID	Description	Latency (ms)
11001	Received RADIUS Access-Request	
11017	RADIUS created a new session	0
11117	Generated a new session ID	1
15049	Evaluating Policy Group	84
15008	Evaluating Service Selection Policy	0
15041	Evaluating Identity Policy	181
15048	Queried PIP - Network Access.AuthenticationMethod	14
15013	Selected Identity Source - Internal Users	60
 24210	Looking up User in Internal Users IDStore - test1	509
24212	Found User in Internal Users IDStore	3
22037	Authentication Passed	0
24715	ISE has not confirmed locally previous successful machine authentication for user in Active Directory	0
15036	Evaluating Authorization Policy	1
24209	Looking up Endpoint in Internal Endpoints IDStore - test1	0
24217	The host is not found in the internal endpoints identity store	4
 15048	Queried PIP - Radius.NAS-Port-Type	680
15048	Queried PIP - Network Access.UserName	10
15048	Queried PIP - IdentityGroup.Name	2
15048	Queried PIP - EndPoints.LogicalProfile	5
15048	Queried PIP - Network Access.AuthenticationStatus	0
15016	Selected Authorization Profile - PermitAccess	2
22081	Max sessions policy passed	0
22080	New accounting session created in Session cache	0
11002	Returned RADIUS Access-Accept	1

Log Analytics

- Operations -> System 360 -> Log Analytics
- Available from ISE 3.1
- Enabled by default in ISE 3.3



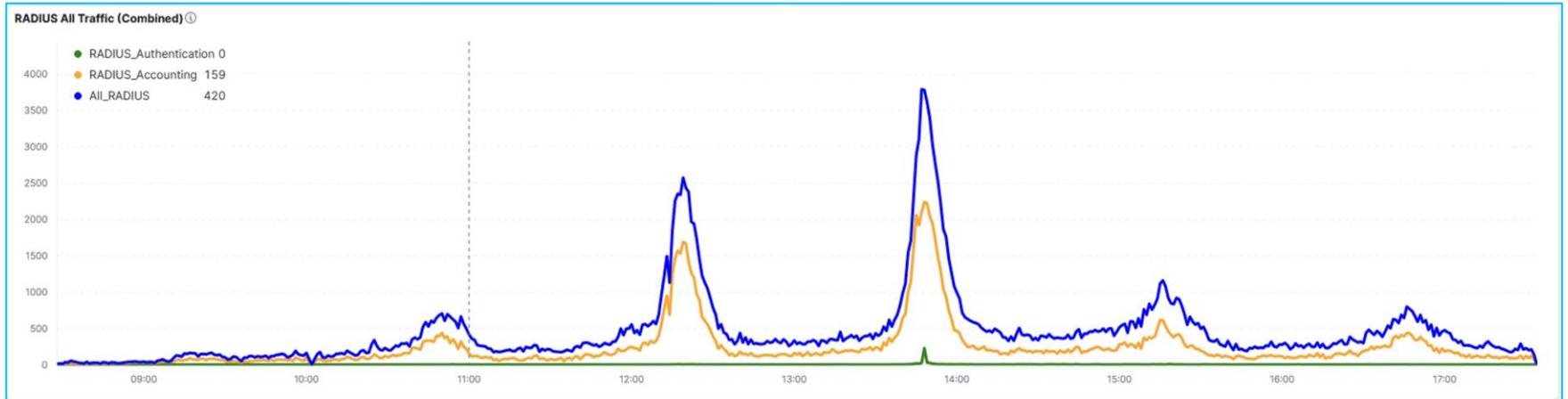
Understanding your
ISE deployment with
C.L.A.R.K. (Cisco Log
Analysis & Remediation
Kiosk)
BRKSEC-2897
CLUS 2023



<https://www.ciscolive.com/on-demand/on-demand-library.html#/session/1686177803851001VeK2>

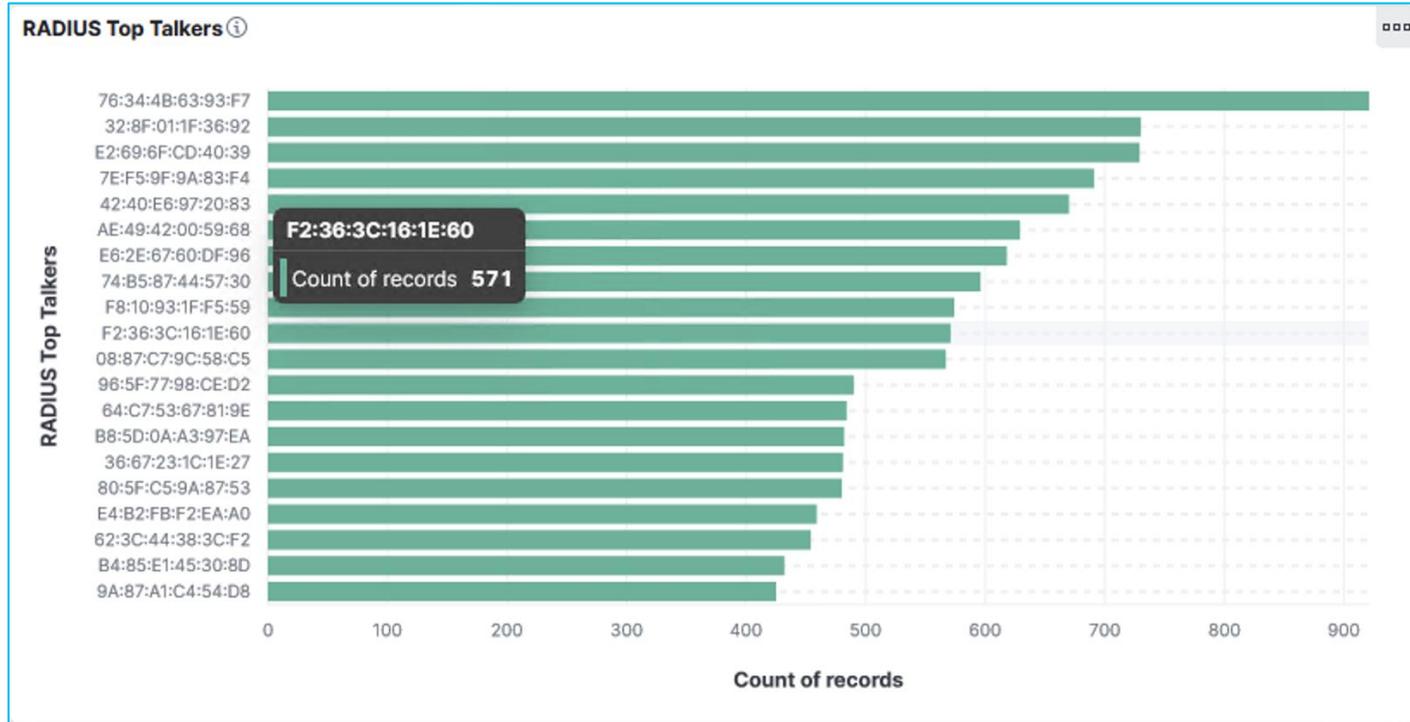
Log Analytics

TPS / Auth to Accounting Ratio



Log Analytics

Top Talkers

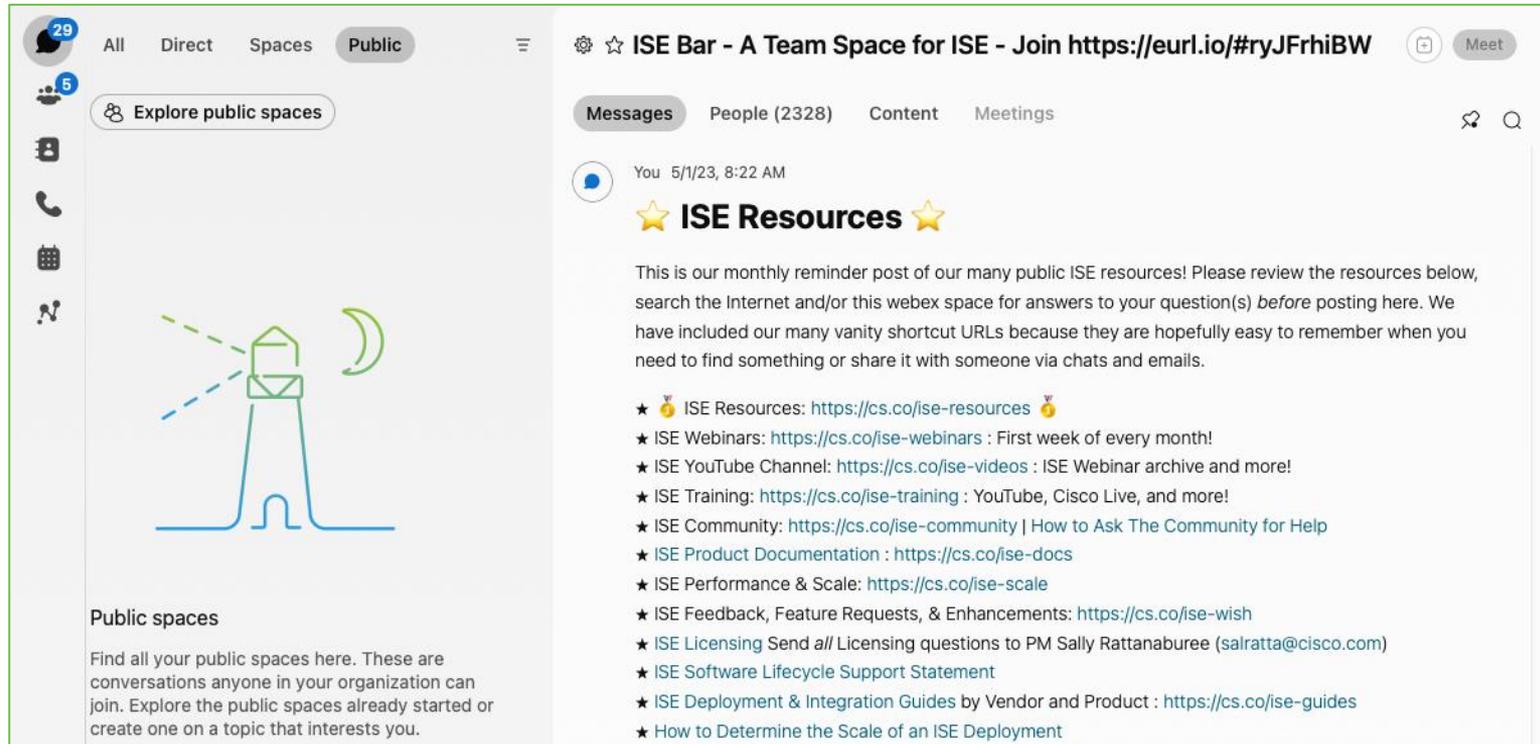


Key Takeaways

- **Adhere** to Deployment and Node **sizing guidelines** to ensure proper resources are allocated.
- Leverage load balancers for scale, high availability, and simplifying network config changes.
- Use **best practice network device configurations**.
- Ensure external databases are responding efficiently.
- **Don't** overwhelm ISE with unnecessary information.
- Monitor for changes that increase requests to ISE.

ISE Bar: A Webex Team Space for ISE

 eurl.io/#ryJFrhiBW



All Direct Spaces **Public**

Explore public spaces

ISE Bar - A Team Space for ISE - Join <https://eurl.io/#ryJFrhiBW> Meet

Messages People (2328) Content Meetings

You 5/1/23, 8:22 AM

★ ISE Resources ★

This is our monthly reminder post of our many public ISE resources! Please review the resources below, search the Internet and/or this webex space for answers to your question(s) *before* posting here. We have included our many vanity shortcut URLs because they are hopefully easy to remember when you need to find something or share it with someone via chats and emails.

- ★ 📌 ISE Resources: <https://cs.co/ise-resources> 📌
- ★ ISE Webinars: <https://cs.co/ise-webinars> : First week of every month!
- ★ ISE YouTube Channel: <https://cs.co/ise-videos> : ISE Webinar archive and more!
- ★ ISE Training: <https://cs.co/ise-training> : YouTube, Cisco Live, and more!
- ★ ISE Community: <https://cs.co/ise-community> | How to Ask The Community for Help
- ★ ISE Product Documentation : <https://cs.co/ise-docs>
- ★ ISE Performance & Scale: <https://cs.co/ise-scale>
- ★ ISE Feedback, Feature Requests, & Enhancements: <https://cs.co/ise-wish>
- ★ ISE Licensing Send *all* Licensing questions to PM Sally Rattanaburee (salratta@cisco.com)
- ★ ISE Software Lifecycle Support Statement
- ★ ISE Deployment & Integration Guides by Vendor and Product : <https://cs.co/ise-guides>
- ★ How to Determine the Scale of an ISE Deployment

Public spaces

Find all your public spaces here. These are conversations anyone in your organization can join. Explore the public spaces already started or create one on a topic that interests you.



The bridge to possible

Thank you

CISCO *Live!*

The Cisco Live! logo features the word "CISCO" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, followed by "Live!" in a black, cursive script font. The background of the entire image is a vibrant, multi-colored abstract pattern of overlapping, wavy bands in shades of red, orange, yellow, green, and blue, creating a sense of motion and energy.

CISCO *Live!*

Let's go