

SIP ALG Hardening for NAT and Firewall

The SIP ALG Hardening for NAT and Firewall feature provides better memory management and RFC compliance over the existing Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) application-level gateway (ALG) support for Network Address Translation (NAT) and firewall. This feature provides the following enhancements:

- Management of the local database for all SIP Layer 7 data
- Processing of the Via header
- Support for logging additional SIP methods
- Support for Provisional Response Acknowledgment (PRACK) call flow
- Support for the Record-Route header

The above enhancements are available by default; no additional configuration is required on NAT or firewall.

This module explains the SIP ALG enhancements and describes how to enable NAT and firewall support for SIP.

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Restrictions for SIP ALG Hardening for NAT and Firewall

- Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) application-level gateway (ALG) does not provide any security features.
- SIP ALG manages the local database based on call IDs. There might be a corner case involving two calls coming from two different clients with the same call ID, resulting in call ID duplication.

Information About SIP ALG Hardening for NAT and Firewall

SIP Overview

Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) is an application-layer control (signaling) protocol for creating, modifying, and terminating sessions with one or more participants. These sessions could include Internet telephone calls, multimedia distribution, and multimedia conferences. SIP is based on an HTTP-like request/response transaction model. Each transaction consists of a request that invokes a particular method or function on the server and at least one response.

SIP invitations that are used to create sessions carry session descriptions that allow participants to agree on a set of compatible media types. SIP makes use of elements called proxy servers to help route requests to users' current locations, authenticate and authorize users for services, implement provider call-routing policies, and provide features to users. SIP also provides a registration function that allows users to upload their current locations for use by proxy servers. SIP runs on top of several different transport protocols.

Application-Level Gateways

An application-level gateway (ALG), also known as an application-layer gateway, is an application that translates the IP address information inside the payload of an application packet. An ALG is used to interpret the application-layer protocol and perform firewall and Network Address Translation (NAT) actions. These actions can be one or more of the following depending on your configuration of the firewall and NAT:

- Allow client applications to use dynamic TCP or UDP ports to communicate with the server application.
- Recognize application-specific commands and offer granular security control over them.
- Synchronize multiple streams or sessions of data between two hosts that are exchanging data.
- Translate the network-layer address information that is available in the application payload.

The firewall opens a pinhole, and NAT performs translation service on any TCP or UDP traffic that does not carry the source and destination IP addresses in the application-layer data stream. Specific protocols or applications that embed IP address information require the support of an ALG.

SIP ALG Local Database Management

A Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) trunk is a direct connection of an IP PBX to a service provider over an IP network using SIP. There can be numerous concurrent calls in a SIP trunk. During the call setup process, all calls use the same control channel for call establishment. More than one call uses the same control channel for call setup. When the same control channel is used by more than one call, the stateful information stored in the control-channel sessions becomes unreliable. SIP stateful information consists of media channel information such as the IP address and port number used by client and server endpoints to send media data. The media channel information is used to create a firewall pinhole and a Network Address Translation (NAT) door for the data channel in firewall and NAT, respectively. Because multiple calls use the same control channel for call setup, there will be multiple sets of media data.

In a SIP trunk, more than one call shares the same firewall and NAT session. NAT and firewall identify and manage a SIP session by using the 5 tuple in a SIP packet—source address, destination address, source port,

destination port, and protocol. The conventional method of using the 5 tuple to identify and match calls does not completely support SIP trunking and often leads to Layer 7 data memory leaks and call matching issues.

In contrast to other application-level gateways (ALGs), SIP ALG manages the SIP Layer 7 data by using a local database to store all media-related information contained in normal SIP calls and in SIP calls embedded in a SIP trunk. SIP ALG uses the Call-ID header field contained in a SIP message to search the local database for call matching and to manage and terminate calls. The Call-ID header field is a dialog identifier that identifies messages belonging to the same SIP dialog.

SIP ALG uses the call ID to perform search in the local database and to manage memory resources. In certain scenarios where SIP ALG is unable to free up a Layer 7 data record from the database, a session timer is used to manage and free resources to ensure that there are no stalled call records in the database.



Note Because all Layer 7 data is managed by SIP ALG by using a local database, SIP ALG never replies on firewall and NAT to free SIP Layer 7 data; SIP ALG frees the data by itself. If you use the **clear** command to clear all NAT translations and firewall sessions, the SIP Layer 7 data in the local database is not freed.

SIP ALG Via Header Support

A Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) INVITE request contains a Via header field. The Via header field indicates the transport paths taken by a SIP request. The Via header also contains information about the return path for subsequent SIP responses, which includes the IP address and the port to which the response message is to be sent.

SIP ALG creates a firewall pinhole or a Network Address Translation (NAT) door based on the first value in the Via header field for each SIP request received, except the acknowledge (ACK) message. If the port number information is missing from the first Via header, the port number is assumed to be 5060.

SIP ALG Method Logging Support

The SIP ALG Hardening for NAT and Firewall feature provides support for detailed logging of the following methods in Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) application-level gateway (ALG) statistics:

- PUBLISH
- OPTIONS
- 1XX (excluding 100,180,183)
- 2XX (excluding 200)

The existing SIP methods that are logged in SIP ALG statistics include ACK, BYE, CANCEL, INFO, INVITE, MESSAGE, NOTIFY, REFER, REGISTER, SUBSCRIBE, and 1XX-6XX.

SIP ALG PRACK Call-Flow Support

Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) defines two types of responses: final and provisional. Final responses convey the result of processing a request and are sent reliably. Provisional responses, on the other hand, provide information about the progress of processing a request but are not sent reliably.

Provisional Response Acknowledgement (PRACK) is a SIP method that provides an acknowledgment (ACK) system for provisional responses. PRACK allows reliable exchanges of SIP provisional responses between SIP endpoints. SIP reliable provisional responses ensure that media information is exchanged and resource reservation can occur before connecting the call.

SIP uses the connection, media, and attribute fields of the Session Description Protocol (SDP) during connection negotiation. SIP application-level gateway (ALG) supports SDP information within a PRACK message. If media information exists in a PRACK message, SIP ALG retrieves and processes the media information. SIP ALG also handles the creation of media channels for subsequent media streams. SIP ALG creates a firewall pinhole and a NAT door based on the SDP information in PRACK messages.

SIP ALG Record-Route Header Support

The Record-Route header field is added by a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) proxy to a SIP request to force future requests in a SIP dialog to be routed through the proxy. Messages sent within a dialog then traverse all SIP proxies, which add a Record-Route header field to the SIP request. The Record-Route header field contains a globally reachable Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) that identifies the proxy.

SIP application-level gateway (ALG) parses the Contact header and uses the IP address and the port value in the Contact header to create a firewall pinhole and a Network Address Translation (NAT) door. In addition, SIP ALG supports the parsing of the Record-Route header to create a firewall pinhole and a NAT door for future messages that are routed through proxies.

How to Configure SIP ALG Hardening for NAT and Firewall

Enabling NAT for SIP Support

NAT support for SIP is enabled by default on port 5060. If this feature has been disabled, perform this task to re-enable NAT support for SIP. To disable the NAT support for SIP, use the **no ip nat service sip** command.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **enable**
2. **configure terminal**
3. **ip nat service sip** {**tcp** | **udp**} **port** *port-number*
4. **end**

DETAILED STEPS

Procedure

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	**enable** **Example:** `Device> enable`	Enables privileged EXEC mode. • Enter your password if prompted.

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 2	**configure terminal** **Example:** `Device# configure terminal`	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	**ip nat service sip** {**tcp** | **udp**} **port** *port-number* **Example:** `Device(config)# ip nat service sip tcp port 5060`	Enables NAT support for SIP.
Step 4	**end** **Example:** `Device(config)# end`	Exist global configuration mode and returns to privileged EXEC mode.

Enabling SIP Inspection

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **enable**
2. **configure terminal**
3. **class-map type inspect match-any** *class-map-name*
4. **match protocol** *protocol-name*
5. **exit**
6. **policy-map type inspect** *policy-map-name*
7. **class type inspect** *class-map-name*
8. **inspect**
9. **exit**
10. **class class-default**
11. **end**

DETAILED STEPS

Procedure

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	**enable** **Example:** `Device> enable`	Enables privileged EXEC mode. • Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	**configure terminal** **Example:** `Device# configure terminal`	Enters global configuration mode.

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 3	**class-map type inspect match-any** *class-map-name* **Example:** `Device(config)# class-map type inspect match-any sip-class1`	Creates an inspect type class map and enters class-map configuration mode.
Step 4	**match protocol** *protocol-name* **Example:** `Device(config-cmap)# match protocol sip`	Configures the match criterion for a class map based on the named protocol.
Step 5	**exit** **Example:** `Device(config-cmap)# exit`	Exits class-map configuration mode.
Step 6	**policy-map type inspect** *policy-map-name* **Example:** `Device(config)# policy-map type inspect sip-policy`	Creates an inspect type policy map and enters policy-map configuration mode.
Step 7	**class type inspect** *class-map-name* **Example:** `Device(config-pmap)# class type inspect sip-class1`	Specifies the class on which the action is performed and enters policy-map class configuration mode.
Step 8	**inspect** **Example:** `Device(config-pmap-c)# inspect`	Enables stateful packet inspection.
Step 9	**exit** **Example:** `Device(config-pmap-c)# exit`	Exits policy-map class configuration mode and returns to policy-map configuration mode.
Step 10	**class class-default** **Example:** `Device(config-pmap)# class class-default`	Specifies that these policy map settings apply to the predefined default class. • If traffic does not match any of the match criteria in the configured class maps, it is directed to the predefined default class.
Step 11	**end** **Example:** `Device(config-pmap)# end`	Exits policy-map configuration mode and returns to privileged EXEC mode.

Configuring a Zone Pair and Attaching a SIP Policy Map

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **enable**

2. **configure terminal**
3. **zone security** {*zone-name* | **default**}
4. **exit**
5. **zone security** {*zone-name* | **default**}
6. **exit**
7. **zone-pair security** *zone-pair-name* [**source** {*source-zone-name* | **self** | **default**} **destination** [*destination-zone-name* | **self** | **default**]]
8. **service-policy type inspect** *policy-map-name*
9. **exit**
10. **interface** *type number*
11. **zone-member security** *zone-name*
12. **exit**
13. **interface** *type number*
14. **zone-member security** *zone-name*
15. **end**

DETAILED STEPS

Procedure

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	**enable** **Example:** `Device> enable`	Enables privileged EXEC mode. • Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	**configure terminal** **Example:** `Device# configure terminal`	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	**zone security** {*zone-name* | **default**} **Example:** `Device(config)# zone security zone1`	Creates a security zone to which interfaces can be assigned and enters security zone configuration mode.
Step 4	**exit** **Example:** `Device(config-sec-zone)# exit`	Exits security zone configuration mode and returns to global configuration mode.
Step 5	**zone security** {*zone-name* | **default**} **Example:** `Device(config)# zone security zone2`	Creates a security zone to which interfaces can be assigned and enters security zone configuration mode.
Step 6	**exit** **Example:** `Device(config-sec-zone)# exit`	Exits security zone configuration mode and returns to global configuration mode.

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 7	**zone-pair security** *zone-pair-name* [**source** {*source-zone-name* | **self** | **default**} **destination** [*destination-zone-name* | **self** | **default**]] **Example:** `Device(config)# zone-pair security in-out source zone1 destination zone2`	Creates a zone pair and returns to security zone-pair configuration mode. **Note** To apply a policy, you must configure a zo
Step 8	**service-policy type inspect** *policy-map-name* **Example:** `Device(config-sec-zone-pair)# service-policy type inspect sip-policy`	Attaches a firewall policy map to the destination zone pair. **Note** If a policy is not configured between a pair
Step 9	**exit** **Example:** `Device(config-sec-zone-pair)# exit`	Exits security zone-pair configuration mode and returns to global configuration mode.
Step 10	**interface** *type number* **Example:** `Device(config)# interface gigabitethernet 0/0/0`	Configures an interface and enters interface configuration mode.
Step 11	**zone-member security** *zone-name* **Example:** `Device(config-if)# zone-member security zone1`	Assigns an interface to a specified security zone. **Note** When you make an interface a member of a bound for the device or initiated by the devi must make the zone part of a zone pair to v flow through that interface.
Step 12	**exit** **Example:** `Device(config-if)# exit`	Exits interface configuration mode and returns to global configuration mode.
Step 13	**interface** *type number* **Example:** `Device(config)# interface gigabitethernet 0/1/1`	Configures an interface and enters interface configuration mode.
Step 14	**zone-member security** *zone-name* **Example:** `Device(config-if)# zone-member security zone2`	Assigns an interface to a specified security zone.
Step 15	**end** **Example:** `Device(config-if)# end`	Exits interface configuration mode and returns to privileged EXEC mode.

Configuration Examples for SIP ALG Hardening for NAT and Firewall

Example: Enabling NAT for SIP Support

```
Device> enable
Device# configure terminal
Device(config)# ip nat service sip tcp port 5060
Device(config)# end
```

Example: Enabling SIP Inspection

```
class-map type inspect match-any sip-class1
 match protocol sip
!
policy-map type inspect sip-policy
 class type inspect sip-class1
  inspect
!
class class-default
```

Example: Configuring a Zone Pair and Attaching a SIP Policy Map

```
zone security zone1
!
zone security zone2
!
zone-pair security in-out source zone1 destination zone2
 service-policy type inspect sip-policy
!
interface gigabitethernet 0/0/0
 zone security zone1
!
interface gigabitethernet 0/1/1
 zone security zone2
```

Additional References for SIP ALG Hardening for NAT and Firewall

Related Documents

Related Topic	Document Title
Cisco IOS commands	Cisco IOS Master Command List, All Releases
NAT configuration	*IP Addressing: NAT Configuration Guide*

Related Topic	Document Title
Firewall configuration	*Security Configuration Guide: Zone-Based Policy Firewall*
NAT commands	Cisco IOS IP Addressing Services Command Reference
Firewall commands	• Cisco IOS Security Command Reference: Commands A to C • Cisco IOS Security Command Reference: Commands D to L • Cisco IOS Security Command Reference: Commands M to R • Cisco IOS Security Command Reference: Commands S to Z

Standards and RFCs

Standard/RFC	Title
RFC 3261	*SIP: Session Initiation Protocol*

Technical Assistance

Description	Link
The Cisco Support and Documentation website provides online resources to download documentation, software, and tools. Use these resources to install and configure the software and to troubleshoot and resolve technical issues with Cisco products and technologies. Access to most tools on the Cisco Support and Documentation website requires a Cisco.com user ID and password.	http://www.cisco.com/cisco/web/support/index.html

Feature Information for SIP ALG Hardening for NAT and Firewall

Table 1: Feature Information for SIP ALG Hardening for NAT and Firewall

Feature Name	Releases	Feature Information
SIP ALG Hardening for NAT and Firewall	Cisco IOS XE Release 3.8S	The SIP ALG Hardening for NAT and Firewall feature provides better memory management and RFC compliance over the existing SIP ALG support for NAT and firewall.