

Static and Default Routes for Firepower Threat Defense

This chapter describes how to configure static and default routes on the Firepower Threat Defense.

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About Static and Default Routes

To route traffic to a non-connected host or network, you must define a route to the host or network, either using static or dynamic routing. Generally, you must configure at least one static route: a default route for all traffic that is not routed by other means to a default network gateway, typically the next hop router.

Default Route

The simplest option is to configure a default static route to send all traffic to an upstream router, relying on the router to route the traffic for you. A default route identifies the gateway IP address to which the FTD device sends all IP packets for which it does not have a learned or static route. A default static route is simply a static route with 0.0.0.0/0 (IPv4) or ::/0 (IPv6) as the destination IP address.

You should always define a default route.

Because FTD uses separate routing tables for data traffic and for management traffic, you can optionally configure a default route for data traffic and another default route for management traffic. Note that from-the-device traffic uses either the management-only or data routing table by default depending on the type (see Routing Table for Management Traffic), but will fall back to the other routing table if a route is not found. Default routes will always match traffic, and will prevent a fall back to the other routing table. In this case, you must specify the interface you want to use for egress traffic if that interface is not in the default routing table. The Diagnostic interface is included in the management-only table. The special Management interface uses a separate Linux routing table, and has its own default route. See the **configure network** commands.

Static Routes

You might want to use static routes in the following cases:

- Your networks use an unsupported router discovery protocol.
- Your network is small and you can easily manage static routes.
- You do not want the traffic or CPU overhead associated with routing protocols.
- In some cases, a default route is not enough. The default gateway might not be able to reach the destination network, so you must also configure more specific static routes. For example, if the default gateway is outside, then the default route cannot direct traffic to any inside networks that are not directly connected to the FTD device.
- You are using a feature that does not support dynamic routing protocols.

Route Priorities

- Routes that identify a specific destination take precedence over the default route.
- When multiple routes exist to the same destination (either static or dynamic), then the administrative distance for the route determines priority. Static routes are set to 1, so they typically are the highest priority routes.
- When you have multiple static routes to the same destination with the same administrative distance, see Equal-Cost Multi-Path (ECMP) Routing.
- For traffic emerging from a tunnel with the Tunneled option, this route overrides any other configured or learned default routes.

Transparent Firewall Mode Routes

For traffic that originates on the FTD device and is destined through a bridge group member interface for a non-directly connected network, you need to configure either a default route or static routes so the FTD device knows out of which bridge group member interface to send traffic. Traffic that originates on the FTD device might include communications to a syslog server or SNMP server. If you have servers that cannot all be reached through a single default route, then you must configure static routes. For transparent mode, you cannot specify the BVI as the gateway interface; only member interfaces can be used. See #unique_948 for more information.

Static Route Tracking

One of the problems with static routes is that there is no inherent mechanism for determining if the route is up or down. They remain in the routing table even if the next hop gateway becomes unavailable. Static routes are only removed from the routing table if the associated interface on the FTD device goes down.

The static route tracking feature provides a method for tracking the availability of a static route and installing a backup route if the primary route should fail. For example, you can define a default route to an ISP gateway and a backup default route to a secondary ISP in case the primary ISP becomes unavailable.

The FTD device implements static route tracking by associating a static route with a monitoring target host on the destination network that the FTD device monitors using ICMP echo requests. If an echo reply is not received within a specified time period, the host is considered down, and the associated route is removed from the routing table. An untracked backup route with a higher metric is used in place of the removed route.

When selecting a monitoring target, you need to make sure that it can respond to ICMP echo requests. The target can be any network object that you choose, but you should consider using the following:

- The ISP gateway (for dual ISP support) address
- The next hop gateway address (if you are concerned about the availability of the gateway)
- A server on the target network, such as a syslog server, that the FTD device needs to communicate with
- A persistent network object on the destination network



Note A PC that may be shut down at night is not a good choice.

You can configure static route tracking for statically defined routes or default routes obtained through DHCP or PPPoE. You can only enable PPPoE clients on multiple interfaces with route tracking configured.

Requirements and Prerequisites for Static Routes

Model Support

FTD

Supported Domains

Any

User Roles

Admin

Network Admin

Guidelines for Static and Default Routes

Firewall Mode and Bridge Groups

- In transparent mode, static routes must use the bridge group member interface as the gateway; you cannot specify the BVI.
- Static route tracking is not supported for bridge group member interfaces.

Supported Network Address

- Static route tracking is not supported for IPv6.

- ASA does not support CLASS E routing. Hence, CLASS E network is not routable as static routes.

Clustering and Multiple Context Mode

- In clustering, static route tracking is only supported on the primary unit.
- Static route tracking is not supported in multiple context mode.

ASP and RIB Route Entries

All routes and its distance installed on the device are captured in the ASP routing table. This is common for all static and dynamic routing protocols. Only the best distance route is captured in the RIB table.

Add a Static Route

A static route defines where to send traffic for specific destination networks. You should at a minimum define a default route. A default route is simply a static route with 0.0.0.0/0 as the destination IP address.

Procedure

Step 1 Choose **Devices** > **Device Management**, and edit the Firepower Threat Defense device.

Step 2 Click **Routing**.

Step 3 Select **Static Route**.

Step 4 Click **Add Routes**.

Step 5 Click **IPv4** or **IPv6** depending on the type of static route that you are adding.

Step 6 Choose the **Interface** to which this static route applies.

For transparent mode, choose a bridge group member interface name.

Step 7 In the **Available Network** list, choose the destination network.

To define a default route, create an object with the address 0.0.0.0/0 and select it here.

Step 8 In the **Gateway** or **IPv6 Gateway** field, enter or choose the gateway router which is the next hop for this route. You can provide an IP address or a Networks/Hosts object.

Step 9 In the **Metric** field, enter the number of hops to the destination network. Valid values range from 1 to 255; the default value is 1. The metric is a measurement of the "expense" of a route, based on the number of hops (hop count) to the network on which a specific host resides. Hop count is the number of networks that a network packet must traverse, including the destination network, before it reaches its final destination. The metric is used to compare routes among different routing protocols. The default administrative distance for static routes is 1, giving it precedence over routes discovered by dynamic routing protocols but not directly connected routes. The default administrative distance for routes discovered by OSPF is 110. If a static route has the same administrative distance as a dynamic route, the static route takes precedence. Connected routes always take precedence over static or dynamically discovered routes.

Step 10 (Optional) For a default route, click the **Tunneled** checkbox to define a separate default route for VPN traffic.

You can define a separate default route for VPN traffic if you want your VPN traffic to use a different default route than your non VPN traffic. For example, traffic incoming from VPN connections can be easily directed towards internal networks, while traffic from internal networks can be directed towards the outside. When

you create a default route with the tunneled option, all traffic from a tunnel terminating on the device that cannot be routed using learned or static routes, is sent to this route. You can configure only one default tunneled gateway per device. ECMP for tunneled traffic is not supported.

Step 11 (IPv4 static route only) To monitor route availability, enter or choose the name of an SLA (service level agreement) Monitor object that defines the monitoring policy, in the **Route Tracking** field.

See SLA Monitor Objects.

Step 12 Click **Ok**.