

Adaptive Profiles

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About Adaptive Profiles

Adaptive profiles must be enabled in order to:

- Perform application and file control, including malware protection (AMP), and to allow intrusion rules to use service metadata.

Caution Adaptive profiling **must** be enabled (its default state) as described in Configuring Adaptive Profiles, on page 4 for access control rules to perform application and file control, including malware protection (AMP), and for intrusion rules to use service metadata.

- For passive deployments, enable adaptive profile updates to defragment and reassemble IP traffic according to the destination hosts' operating systems.

Note For inline deployments Cisco recommends that, instead of enabling adaptive profile updates, you configure the inline normalization preprocessor with the **Normalize TCP Payload** option enabled.

License Requirements for Adaptive Profiles

FTD License

Threat

Classic License

Protection

Requirements and Prerequisites for Adaptive Profiles

Model Support

Any.

Supported Domains

Any

User Roles

- Admin
- Access Admin
- Network Admin

Adaptive Profile Updates

Typically, the system uses the static settings in your network analysis policy to preprocess and analyze traffic. With adaptive profile updates, the system can adapt processing behavior using host information either detected by network discovery or imported from a third party.

Profile updates, like the target-based profiles you can configure manually in a network analysis policy, help to defragment IP packets and reassemble streams in the same way as the operating system on the target host. The intrusion rules engine then analyzes the data in the same format as that used by the destination host.

Manually configured target-based profiles apply either the default operating system profile you select, or profiles you bind to specific hosts. Profile updates, however, switch to the appropriate operating system profile based on the operating system in the host profile for the target host.

Consider a scenario where you configure profile updates for the 10.6.0.0/16 subnet and set the default IP Defragmentation target-based policy to Linux. The Firepower Management Center where you configure the settings has a network map that includes the 10.6.0.0/16 subnet.

- When the system detects traffic from Host A, which is not in the 10.6.0.0/16 subnet, it uses the Linux target-based policy to reassemble IP fragments.

- When the system detects traffic from Host B, which is in the 10.6.0.0/16 subnet, it retrieves Host B's operating system data from the network map. The system uses a profile based on that operating system to defragment the traffic destined for Host B.

Adaptive Profile Updates and Firepower Recommended Rules

The adaptive profile updates feature is an advanced setting in an access control policy that applies globally to all intrusion policies invoked by that access control policy. The Firepower recommended rules feature applies to the individual intrusion policy where you configure it.

Like Firepower recommended rules, profile updates compare metadata in a rule to host information to determine whether a rule should apply for a particular host. However, while Firepower recommended rules provide recommendations for enabling or disabling rules using that information, profile updates use the information to apply specific rules to specific traffic.

Firepower recommended rules require your interaction to implement suggested changes to rule states. Profile updates, on the other hand, do not modify intrusion policies. Treatment of rules based on profile updates happens on a packet-by-packet basis.

Additionally, Firepower recommended rules can result in enabling disabled rules. Profile updates, in contrast, only affect the application of rules that are already enabled in intrusion policies. Profile updates never change the rule state.

You can use profile updates and Firepower recommended rules in combination. Profile updates use the rule state for a rule when your intrusion policy is deployed to determine whether to include it as a candidate for applying, and your choices to accept or decline recommendations are reflected in that rule state. You can use both features to ensure that you have enabled or disabled the most appropriate rules for each network you monitor, and then to apply enabled rules most efficiently for specific traffic.

Related Topics

About Firepower Recommended Rules

Adaptive Profile Options

Enable

Enabling this option is required for:

- access control rules to perform application and file control, including malware protection (AMP)
- intrusion rules to use service metadata

This option is enabled by default.

Enable Profile Updates

In passive deployments, enable profile updates to defragment and reassemble IP traffic according to a profile of the operating system used by the hosts in your network map

Adaptive Profiles - Attribute Update Interval

When profile updates are enabled, you can control how frequently in minutes network map data is synced from the Firepower Management Center to its managed devices. The system uses the data to determine what profiles should be used when processing traffic. Increasing the value for this option can improve performance in a large network.

Adaptive Profiles - Networks

Optionally, when profile updates are enabled, you can improve performance by constraining profile updates to a comma-separated list of IP addresses, address blocks, and network variables. If you use a network variable, the system uses the variable's value in the variable set linked to the default intrusion policy for your access control policy. For example, you could enter: **`192.168.1.101, 192.168.4.0/24, $HOME_NET`**. IPv4 and IPv6 are supported.

The default value (**`0.0.0.0/0`**) applies adaptive profile updates to all networks.

Note The system builds a separate network map for each leaf domain. In a multidomain deployment, using literal IP addresses to constrain this configuration can have unexpected results. If you enable and enforce profile updates in an ancestor policy, Cisco recommends you keep the default network constraint of **`0.0.0.0/0`**, or use a network variable with a value of `any` . This setting applies profile updates to all monitored hosts in all subdomains.

Related Topics

Inspection of Packets That Pass Before Traffic Is Identified
Firepower System IP Address Conventions
Variable Sets

Configuring Adaptive Profiles

In a passive deployment, Cisco recommends that you configure adaptive profile updates. In an inline deployment, configure the inline normalization preprocessor with the **Normalize TCP Payload** option enabled.

Caution Adaptive profiling **must** be enabled (its default state) as described in this procedure for access control rules to perform application or file control, including malware protection (AMP), and for intrusion rules to use service metadata. Enabling or disabling adaptive profiles restarts the Snort process when you deploy configuration changes, temporarily interrupting traffic inspection. Whether traffic drops during this interruption or passes without further inspection depends on how the target device handles traffic. See Snort® Restart Traffic Behavior for more information.

Before you begin

The access control policy must have a network discovery policy that is enabled to do host/service discovery, or host data must be imported from a third-party source.

Procedure

Step 1 In the access control policy editor, click **Advanced**, then click **Edit** ( ) next to the Detection Enhancement Settings section.

If **View** ( ) appears instead, settings are inherited from an ancestor policy, or you do not have permission to modify the settings.If the configuration is unlocked, uncheck **Inherit from base policy** to enable editing.

Step 2 Set adaptive profile options as described in Adaptive Profile Options, on page 3.

Step 3 Click **OK**.

Step 4 Click **Save** to save the policy.

What to do next

- Deploy configuration changes; see Deploy Configuration Changes.

Related Topics

The Inline Normalization Preprocessor
Snort® Restart Scenarios