

Troubleshooting

The following topics describe ways to diagnose problems you may encounter:

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Guidelines and best practices for troubleshooting

Follow these best practices to troubleshoot system issues effectively and prepare for potential support escalation:

- Before you make changes to try to fix a problem, generate a troubleshooting file to capture the original problem. See Health monitor reports for troubleshooting, on page 14 and its subsections.

  You may need this troubleshooting file if you need to contact Cisco TAC for support.

- Start your investigation by looking at error and warning messages in the Message Center. See System messages, on page 2

- Look for applicable Tech Notes and other troubleshooting resources under the "Troubleshoot and Alerts" heading on the product documentation page for your product.

- During the troubleshooting process, as several commands are executed simultaneously, the CPU usage becomes high. We recommend that you perform troubleshooting during periods of lower network traffic and fewer users.

- The time taken to troubleshoot the system depends on the configuration settings and the number of devices configured. This duration can range from nine to sixty minutes.

System messages

When you need to track down problems occurring in the system, the Message Center is the place to start your investigation. This feature allows you to view the messages that the system continually generates about system activities and status.

Message center access and display

To open the Message Center, click the System Status icon, next to the **Deploy** button on the home page. This icon changes based on the system status:

- **Error** ( ): Indicates one or more errors and any number of warnings are present on the system.
- **Warning** ( ): Indicates one or more warnings and no errors are present on the system.
- **Success** ( ): Indicates no warnings or errors are present on the system.

If a number is displayed with the icon, it indicates the total current number of error or warning messages.

To close the Message Center, click anywhere outside of it within the web interface.

The web interface also displays pop-up notifications in response to your actions and ongoing system activities. Some pop-up notifications automatically disappear after five seconds, while others are "sticky," meaning they display until you explicitly dismiss them by clicking **Dismiss** ( ). Click the **Dismiss** link at the top of the notifications list to dismiss all notifications at once.

Tip Hovering your cursor over a non-sticky pop-up notification causes it to be sticky.

The system determines which messages it displays to users in pop-up notifications and the Message Center based on their licenses, domains, and access roles.

Message types

The Message Center displays messages reporting system activities and status organized into three different tabs.

The Message Center organizes system status messages into these tabs:

- **Deployments**: Displays current status related to configuration deployment for each appliance in your system, grouped by domain.
- **Upgrades**: Displays the current status related to software upgrade tasks for the managed devices.
- **Health**: Displays current health status information for each appliance in your system, grouped by domain.
- **Tasks**: Displays the status of long-running tasks such as configuration backups, update installation, etc,.

Deployment status

The system reports these deployment status. You can get additional detail about the deployment jobs by clicking **Show History**.

- Running (**Spinning**): The configuration is in the process of deploying.
- **Success**: The configuration has successfully been deployed.
- **Warning** ( ) : Warning deployment statuses contribute to the message count displayed with the **Warning System Status icon**.
- **Failure**: The configuration has failed to deploy. Failed deployments contribute to the message count displayed with the **Error System Status icon**.

Upgrade status

The system reports these upgrade status values on the Upgrade tab:

- **In progress**: Indicates that the upgrade task is in progress.
- **Completed**: Indicates that the software upgrade task is completed successful.
- **Failed**: Indicates that the software upgrade task has failed to complete.

Health status

This tab displays current health status information for each appliance in your system, grouped by domain. Health status is generated by health modules as described in Health monitoring. The system reports the following health status values on this tab:

- **Warning** ( ): Indicates that warning limits have been exceeded for a health module on an appliance and the problem has not been corrected. The Health Monitoring page indicates these conditions with a **Yellow Triangle** ( ). Warning statuses contribute to the message count displayed with the **Warning System Status icon**.
- **Critical** ( ): Indicates that critical limits have been exceeded for a health module on an appliance and the problem has not been corrected. The Health Monitoring page indicates these conditions with a **Critical** ( ) icon. Critical statuses contribute to the message count displayed with the **Error System Status icon**.
- **Error** ( ): Indicates that a health monitoring module has failed on an appliance and has not been successfully re-run since the failure occurred. The Health Monitoring page indicates these conditions with a **Error icon**. Error statuses contribute to the message count displayed with the **Error System Status icon**.

You can click on links in the Health tab to view related detailed information on the Health Monitoring page. If there are no current health status conditions, the Health tab displays no messages.

Task status

Certain tasks (such as configuration backups or update installation) can require some time to complete. This tab displays the status of these long-running tasks, and can include tasks initiated by you or, if you have

appropriate access, other users of the system. The tab presents messages in reverse chronological order based on the most recent update time for each message. Some task status messages include links to more detailed information about the task in question. The system reports the following task status values on this tab:

- **Waiting**(): Indicates a task that is waiting to run until another in-progress task is complete. This message type displays an updating progress bar.
- **Running**: Indicates a task that is in-progress. This message type displays an updating progress bar.
- **Retrying**: Indicates a task that is automatically retrying. Note that not all tasks are permitted to try again. This message type displays an updating progress bar.
- **Success**: Indicates a task that has completed successfully.
- **Failure**: Indicates a task that did not complete successfully. Failed tasks contribute to the message count displayed with the **Error System Status icon**.
- **Stopped or Suspended**: Indicates a task that was interrupted due to a system update. Stopped tasks cannot be resumed. After normal operations are restored, start the task again.
- Skipped: A process in progress prevented the task from starting. Try again to start the task.

New messages appear in this tab as new tasks are started. As tasks complete (status success, failure, or stopped), this tab continues to display messages with final status indicated until you remove them. We recommend you remove messages to reduce clutter in the Tasks tab as well as the message database.

Message management

From the Message Center you can perform these tasks:

- Choose to display pop-up notifications.
- Display more task status messages from the system database (if any are available that have not been removed).
- Remove individual task status messages. (This affects all users who can view the removed messages.)
- Remove task status messages in bulk. (This affects all users who can view the removed messages.)



Tip Cisco recommends that you periodically remove accumulated task status messages from the Task tab to reduce clutter in both the display and the database. When the number of messages in the database approaches 100,000, the system automatically deletes task status messages that you have removed.

View basic system information

The About page displays information about your appliance, including the model, serial number, and version information for various components of the system. It also includes Cisco copyright information.

Procedure

Step 1 Click **Help** (?) in the toolbar at the top of the page.

Step 2 Choose **About**.

View appliance information

Procedure

Choose **System** (⚙) > **Configuration**.

Manage system messages

Use the Message Center to monitor and manage different types of system notifications including configuration deployments, device upgrades, system health alerts, and long-running tasks.

Procedure

Step 1 Click **Notifications** to display the Message Center.

Step 2 Choose from the available notification types:

- Click **Deployments** to view messages related to configuration deployments. See View deployment messages, on page 6. You must be an Admin user or have the **Deploy Configuration to Devices** permission to view these messages.
- Click **Upgrades** to view messages related to device upgrade tasks. See Viewing Upgrade Messages. See Viewing Upgrade Messages. You must be an Admin user or have **Updates** permission to view these messages.
- Click **Health** to view messages related to the health of your Firewall Management Center and the devices registered to it. See View health messages, on page 7. You must be an Admin user or have the **Health** permission to view these messages.

  You can navigate to the Health Monitor page by clicking the **Health monitor** link.

- Click **Tasks** to view or manage messages related to long-running tasks. See View task messages, on page 8 or Manage task messages, on page 9. Everyone can see their own tasks. To see the tasks of other users, you must be an Admin user or have the **View Other Users' Tasks** permission. You can remove the completed tasks from the notification by clicking the **Remove completed tasks** link.
- Click **Show Notifications** slider to enable or disable pop-up notification display.

View deployment messages

View deployment messages to monitor the status of configuration deployments and access detailed deployment history for troubleshooting.

If you are an Admin user or have the **Deploy Configuration to Devices** permission, you can view deployment messages and history.

Complete these steps to view deployment messages and deployment history:

Procedure

Step 1 Click **Notifications** to display the Message Center.

Step 2 Click **Deployments**.

Step 3 You have the following choices:

- Click **total** to view all current deployment statuses.
- Click a status value to view only messages with that deployment status.
- Hover your cursor over the time elapsed indicator for a message (for example, **1m 5s**) to view the elapsed time, and start and stop times for the deployment.

Step 4 Click **show deployment history** to view more detailed information about the deployment jobs.

The Deployment History table lists the deployment jobs in the left column in reverse chronological order.

a) Select a deployment job.

The table in the right column shows each device that was included in the job, and the deployment status per device.

b) To view responses from the device, and commands sent to the device during deployment, click download in the **Transcript** column for the device.

The transcript includes the following sections:

- **Snort Apply**: If there are any failures or responses from Snort-related policies, messages appear in this section. Normally, this section is empty.
- **CLI Apply**: This section covers features that are configured using commands sent to the Lina process.
- **Infrastructure Messages**: This section shows the status of different deployment modules.

In the **CLI Apply** section, the deployment transcript lists commands sent to the device as well as any responses returned from the device. These responses can be informative messages or error messages. If a deployment fails, review the error messages to understand which commands were problematic. If you use FlexConfig policies to configure features, these messages can help you identify and correct issues in your FlexConfig scripts.

Note
The transcript does not distinguish between commands sent for managed features and those generated from FlexConfig policies.

For example, this sequence shows that the Firewall Management Center sent commands to configure GigabitEthernet0/0 with the logical name outside. The device responded that it automatically set the security level to 0. The Firewall Threat Defense does not use the security level for anything.

```
========= CLI APPLY =========

FMC >> interface GigabitEthernet0/0
FMC >>  nameif outside
FTDv 192.168.0.152 >> [info] : INFO: Security level for "outside" set to 0 by default.
```

You can view deployment messages, monitor deployment statuses, and access detailed deployment history, including device transcripts to troubleshoot deployment issues.

View upgrade messages

View and monitor upgrade messages to track the status of current upgrade tasks and access detailed information about upgrade processes.

Only Admin users or users with the **Updates** permission can view these messages.

Procedure

Step 1 Click **Notifications** to display the Message Center.

Step 2 Click **Upgrades**.

Step 3 You can do the following:

- Click **total** to view all current upgrade tasks.
- Click on a status value to see messages with only that status.
- Click **Device Management** for more details on the upgrade task.

View health messages

Monitor system status, identify issues, and access detailed health information for troubleshooting and maintenance.

You must be an Admin user or have the **Health** permission to view health messages. Using the Message Center provides a streamlined way to monitor the system's health and filter messages by severity.

Complete these steps to view health messages in the Message Center:

Procedure

Step 1 Click **Notifications** to display the Message Center.

Step 2 Click **Health**.

Step 3 You have the following choices:

- Click **total** to view all current health statuses. You also see the severity levels: warning, critical, and error.
- Click on a status value to view only messages with that status.
- Hover your cursor over the relative time indicator for a message (for example, **3 day(s) ago**) to view the time of the most recent update for that message.
- To view detailed health status information for a particular message, click the message.
- To view complete health status on the Health Monitoring page, click **Health Monitor**.

You can now view, filter, and access detailed health status messages for monitoring and troubleshooting your system.

Related Topics

Health monitoring

View task messages

View task status messages to monitor the progress and completion status of various system tasks.

You can view your tasks. But, to see the tasks of other users, you must be an Admin user or have the **View Other Users' Tasks** permission.

Procedure

Step 1 Click **Notifications** to display the Message Center.

Step 2 Click **Tasks**.

Step 3 You have these choices:

- Click **total** to view all current task statuses. To view tasks based on a specific status—such as waiting, running, retrying, success, or failure—click its corresponding label.
- Click a status value to view only messages for tasks with that status.

  Note
  Messages for stopped tasks appear only in the total list of task status messages. You cannot filter on stopped tasks.

- Hover your cursor over the relative time indicator for a message (e.g., **3 day(s) ago**) to view the time of the most recent update for that message.
- Click any link within a message to view more information about the task.
- If more task status messages are available for display, click **Fetch more messages** at the bottom of the message list to retrieve them.

Manage task messages

You can view your tasks. But, to see the tasks of other users, you must be an Admin user or have the **View Other Users' Tasks** permission.

Procedure

Step 1 Click System Status to display the Message Center.

Step 2 Click **Tasks**.

Step 3 Select one of the available management options:

- If more task status messages are available for display, click **Fetch more messages** at the bottom of the message list to retrieve them.
- To remove a single message for a completed task (status stopped, success, or failure), click **Remove** ( ) next to the message.
- To remove all messages for all tasks that have completed (status stopped, success, or failure), filter the messages on **total** and click **Remove all completed tasks**.
- To remove all messages for all tasks that have completed successfully, filter the messages on **success**, and click **Remove all successful tasks**.
- To remove all messages for all tasks that have failed, filter the messages on **failure**, and click **Remove all failed tasks**.

Memory usage thresholds for health monitor alerts

The memory usage health module compares memory usage on an appliance to the limits configured for the module and alerts when usage exceeds the levels. The module monitors data from managed devices and from the Firewall Management Center itself.

Two configurable thresholds for memory usage, critical and warning, can be set as a percentage of memory used. When these thresholds are exceeded, a health alarm is generated with the severity level specified. However, the health alarm system does not calculate these thresholds in an exact manner.

With high memory devices, certain processes are expected to use a larger percentage of total system memory than in a low memory footprint device. The design is to use as much of the physical memory as possible while leaving a small value of memory free for ancillary processes.

Compare two devices, one with 32 GB of memory and one with 4 GB of memory. In the device with 32 GB of memory, 5% of memory (1.6GB) is a much larger value of memory to leave for ancillary processes than in the device with 4 GB of memory (5% of 4GB = 200MB).

To account for the higher percentage use of system memory by certain processes, the Firewall Management Center calculates the total memory to include both total physical memory and total swap memory. Thus the enforced memory threshold for the user-configured threshold input can result in a Health Event where the **Value** column of the event does not match the value that was entered to determine the exceeded threshold.

The following table shows examples of user-input thresholds and the enforced thresholds, depending on the installed system memory.

Note The values in this table are examples. You can use this information to extrapolate thresholds for devices that do not match the installed RAM shown here, or you can contact Cisco TAC for more precise threshold calculations.

Table 1: Memory usage thresholds based on installed RAM

User-Input Threshold Value	Enforced Threshold Per Installed Memory (RAM)			
	4 GB	6 GB	32 GB	48 GB
10%	10%	34%	72%	81%
20%	20%	41%	75%	83%
30%	30%	48%	78%	85%
40%	40%	56%	81%	88%
50%	50%	63%	84%	90%
60%	60%	70%	88%	92%
70%	70%	78%	91%	94%
80%	80%	85%	94%	96%
90%	90%	93%	97%	98%
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Disk usage and drain of events health monitor alerts

This topic describes the symptoms and troubleshooting guidelines for two health alerts generated by the Disk Usage health module:

- Frequent Drain of Events
- Drain of Unprocessed Events

Disk usage overview

The disk usage health module compares disk usage on a managed device's hard drive and malware storage pack to the limits configured for the module and alerts when usage exceeds the percentages configured for the module. This module also alerts when the system excessively deletes files in monitored disk usage categories, or when disk usage excluding those categories reaches excessive levels, based on module thresholds.

The disk manager process manages the disk usage of a device. Each type of file monitored by the disk manager is assigned with a silo. Based on the amount of disk space available on the system the disk manager computes a High Water Mark (HWM) and a Low Water Mark (LWM) for each silo.

To display detailed disk usage information for each part of the system, including silos, LWMs, and HWMs, use the **show disk-manager** command.

Examples

The following is an example of the disk manager information:

```
> show disk-manager
Silo                                Used        Minimum     Maximum
Temporary Files                     0 KB        499.197 MB  1.950 GB
Action Queue Results                0 KB        499.197 MB  1.950 GB
User Identity Events                0 KB        499.197 MB  1.950 GB
UI Caches                           4 KB        1.462 GB    2.925 GB
Backups                             0 KB        3.900 GB    9.750 GB
Updates                             0 KB        5.850 GB    14.625 GB
Other Detection Engine              0 KB        2.925 GB    5.850 GB
Performance Statistics              33 KB       998.395 MB  11.700 GB
Other Events                        0 KB        1.950 GB    3.900 GB
IP Reputation & URL Filtering       0 KB        2.437 GB    4.875 GB
Archives & Cores & File Logs        0 KB        3.900 GB    19.500 GB
Unified Low Priority Events         1.329 MB    4.875 GB    24.375 GB
RNA Events                          0 KB        3.900 GB    15.600 GB
File Capture                        0 KB        9.750 GB    19.500 GB
Unified High Priority Events        0 KB        14.625 GB   34.125 GB
IPS Events                          0 KB        11.700 GB   29.250 GB
```

Health alert format

When the Health Monitor process on the Firewall Management Center runs (once every 5 minutes or when a manual run is triggered), the Disk Usage module looks into the diskmanager.log file and, if the correct conditions are met, the health alert is triggered.

The structures of these health alerts are as follows:

- Frequent drain of *SILO NAME*
- Drain of unprocessed events from *SILO NAME*

For example,

- Frequent drain of Low Priority Events
- Drain of unprocessed events from Low Priority Events

Its possible for any silo to generate a *Frequent drain of SILO NAME* health alert. However, the most commonly seen are the alerts related to events. Among the event silos, the *Low Priority Events* are often seen because device generates this type of events frequently.

A *Frequent drain of <SILO NAME>* event has a **Warning** severity level when seen in relation to an event-related silo, because events will be queued to be sent to the Firewall Management Center. For a non-event related silo, such as the *Backups* silo, the alert has a **Critical** severity level because this information is lost.

Note Only event silos generate a *Drain of unprocessed events from SILO NAME* health alert. This alert always has a **Critical** severity level.

Additional symptoms besides the alerts can include:

- Slowness on the Firewall Management Center user interface
- Loss of events

Common troubleshoot scenarios

A *Frequent drain of SILO NAME* event is caused by too much input into the silo for its size. In this case, the disk manager drains (purges) that file at least twice in the last 5-minute interval. In an event type silo, this is typically caused by excessive logging of that event type.

A *Drain of unprocessed events of SILO NAME* health alert is caused by a bottleneck in the event processing path.

There are three potential bottlenecks with respect to these Disk Usage alerts:

- Excessive logging — The EventHandler process on Firewall Threat Defense is oversubscribed (it reads slower than what Snort writes).
- Sftunnel bottleneck — The Eventing interface is unstable or oversubscribed.
- SFDataCorrelator bottleneck — The data transmission channel between the Firewall Management Center and the managed device is oversubscribed.

Excessive logging

One of the most common causes for the health alerts of this type is excessive input. The difference between the Low Water Mark (LWM) and High Water Mark (HWM) gathered from the **show disk-manager** command shows how much space there is available to take on that silo to go from LWM (freshly drained) to the HWM value. If there are frequent drain of events (with or without unprocessed events), review the logging configuration.

- Check for double logging — Double logging scenarios can be identified if you look at the correlator *perfstats* on the Firewall Management Center:

  ```
  admin@FMC:~$ sudo perfstats -Cq < /var/sf/rna/correlator-stats/now
  ```

- Check logging settings for the ACP — Review the logging settings of the Access Control Policy (ACP). If the logging setting includes both "Beginning" and "End" of connection, modify the setting to log only the end to reduce the number of events.

  Ensure that you follow the best practices described in Best practices for connection logging.

Communications Bottleneck – Sftunnel

Sftunnel is responsible for encrypted communications between the Firewall Management Center and the managed device. Events are sent over the tunnel to the Firewall Management Center. Connectivity issues and/or instability in the communication channel (sftunnel) between the managed device and the Firewall Management Center can be due to:

- Sftunnel is down or is unstable (flaps).

  Ensure that the Firewall Management Center and the managed device have reachability between their management interfaces on TCP port 8305.

The sftunnel process should be stable and should not restart unexpectedly. Verify this by checking the `/var/log/message` file and search for messages that contain the **sftunneld** string.

- Sftunnel is oversubscribed.

  Review trend data from the Heath Monitor and look for signs of oversubscription of the Firewall Management Center's management interface, which can be a spike in management traffic or a constant oversubscription.

  Use as a secondary management interface for eventing. To use this interface, you must configure its IP address and other parameters at the Firewall Threat Defense CLI using the **configure network management-interface** command.

Communications Bottleneck – SFDataCorrelator

The SFDataCorrelator manages data transmission between the Firewall Management Center and the managed device; on the Firewall Management Center, it analyzes binary files created by the system to generate events, connection data, and network maps. The first step is to review the **diskmanager.log** file for important information to be gathered, such as:

- The frequency of the drain.
- The number of files with Unprocessed Events drained.
- The occurrence of the drain with Unprocessed Events.

Each time the disk manager process runs it generates an entry for each of the different silos on its own log file, which is located under **[/ngfw]/var/log/diskmanager.log**. Information gathered from the diskmanager.log (in CSV format) can be used to help narrow the search for a cause.

Additional troubleshooting steps:

- The command **stats_unified.pl** can help you to determine if the managed device does have some data which must be sent to Firewall Management Center. This condition can happen when the managed device and the Firewall Management Center experience a connectivity issue. The managed device stores the log data on to a hard drive.

  ```
  admin@FMC:~$ sudo stats_unified.pl
  ```

- The **manage_proc.pl** command can reconfigure the correlator on the Firewall Management Center side.

  ```
  root@FMC:~# manage_procs.pl
  ```

Before you contact Cisco TAC

It is highly recommended to collect these items before you contact Cisco TAC:

- Screenshots of the health alert seen.
- Troubleshoot file generated from the Firewall Management Center.
- Troubleshoot file generated from the affected managed device.
- Date and Time when the problem was first seen.
- Information about any recent changes done to the policies (if applicable).

- The output of the stats_unified.pl command as described in Communications Bottleneck — SFDataCorrelator, on page 13.

Health monitor reports for troubleshooting

In some cases, if you have a problem with your appliance, support may ask you to supply troubleshooting files to help them diagnose the problem. The system can produce troubleshooting files with information targeted to specific functional areas, as well as advanced troubleshooting files you retrieve in cooperation with Support. You can select any of the options listed in the table below to customize the contents of a troubleshooting file for a specific function.

Note Some options overlap in terms of the data they report, but the troubleshooting files will not contain redundant copies, regardless of what options you select.

Table 2: Selectable troubleshoot options

This option...	Reports...
Snort Performance and Configuration	data and configuration settings related to Snort on the appliance
Hardware Performance and Logs	data and logs related to the performance of the appliance hardware
System Configuration, Policy, and Logs	configuration settings, data, and logs related to the current system configuration of the appliance
Detection Configuration, Policy, and Logs	configuration settings, data, and logs related to detection on the appliance
Interface and Network Related Data	configuration settings, data, and logs related to inline sets and network configuration of the appliance
Discovery, Awareness, VDB Data, and Logs	configuration settings, data, and logs related to the current discovery and awareness configuration on the appliance
Upgrade Data and Logs	data and logs related to prior upgrades of the appliance
All Database Data	all database-related data that is included in a troubleshoot report
All Log Data	all logs collected by the appliance database
Network Map Information	current network topology data

Generate troubleshooting files for specific system functions

You can generate and download customized troubleshooting files that you can send to support.

Before you begin

You must be an Admin, Maintenance, Security Analyst, or Security Analyst (Read Only) user to perform this task.

Procedure

Step 1 Perform the steps in View the device health monitor.

Step 2 Choose **System** (⚙) > **Health** > **Monitor**, click the device in the left panel, then **View System & Troubleshoot Details**, and then click **Generate Troubleshooting Files**.

Note

- Troubleshooting files generated from the Firewall Management Center web interface are stored on the Firewall Management Center. Only the latest troubleshooting file for each appliance is stored.
- Troubleshooting files generated from the CLI are stored locally and are not overwritten.
- If you initiate the troubleshooting log generation while one is already in the queue, the new request is dropped.

Step 3 Choose **All Data** to generate all possible troubleshooting data, or check individual boxes as described in View task messages, on page 8.

Step 4 Click **Generate**.

Step 5 View task messages in the Message Center; see View task messages, on page 8.

Step 6 Find the task that corresponds to the troubleshooting files you generated.

Step 7 After the appliance generated the troubleshooting files and the task status changes to `Completed`, click **Click to retrieve generated files**.

Step 8 Follow your browser's prompts to download the file. (The troubleshooting files are downloaded in a single `.tar.gz` file.)

Step 9 Follow the directions from Support to send the troubleshooting files to Cisco.

Download advanced troubleshooting files

You download troubleshooting files to provide them to Cisco support for advanced troubleshooting assistance when requested.

Before you begin

You must be an Admin, Maintenance, Security Analyst, or Security Analyst (Read Only) user to perform this task.

Procedure

Step 1 View the health monitor for the appliance; see , View the device health monitor.

Step 2 Choose **System** (⚙) > **Health** > **Monitor** >, click the device in the left panel, then **View System & Troubleshoot Details**, and then click **Advanced Troubleshooting.**

Step 3 In **File Download**, enter the file name supplied by Support.

Step 4 Click **Download.**

Step 5 Follow your browser's prompts to download the file.

Note
For managed devices, the system renames the file by prepending the device name to the file name.

Step 6 Follow the directions from Support to send the troubleshooting files to Cisco.

General troubleshooting

An internal power failure (hardware failure, power surge, and so on) or an external power failure (unplugged cord) can result in an ungraceful shutdown or reboot of the system. This can result in data corruption.

Connection-based troubleshooting

Connection-based troubleshooting or debugging provides uniform debugging across modules to collect appropriate logs for a specific connection. It also supports level-based debugging up to seven levels and enables uniform log collection mechanism across modules. Connection-based debugging supports the following:

- A common connection-based debugging subsystem to troubleshoot issues in Firewall Threat Defense
- Uniform format for debug messages across modules
- Persistent debug messages across reboots
- End-to-end debugging across modules based on an existing connection
- Debugging ongoing connections

Note Connection-based debugging is not supported on Firepower 2100 Series devices.

For more information about the troubleshooting connections, see Troubleshoot a connection, on page 16.

Troubleshoot a connection

This task enables you to identify and analyze connection issues by capturing and examining packet debug information for specific traffic flows.

Procedure

Step 1 Configure a filter to identify a connection using the **debug packet-condition** command.

Example:

```
Debug packet-condition match tcp 192.168.100.177 255.255.255.255 192.168.102.177
255.255.255.255
```

Step 2 Enable debugs for the interested modules and the corresponding levels. Enter the **debug packet** command.

Example:

```
Debug packet acl 5
```

Step 3 Start debugging the packets using the following command:

```
debug packet-start
```

Step 4 Fetch the debug messages from database to analyze the debug messages using the following command:

```
show packet-debugs
```

Step 5 Stop debugging the packets using the following command:

```
debug packet-stop
```

Advanced troubleshooting for the Secure Firewall Threat Defense device

You can use Packet Tracer and Packet Capture features to perform an in-depth troubleshooting analysis on a Secure Firewall Threat Defense device. A packet tracer allows a firewall administrator to inject a virtual packet into a security appliance and track the flow from ingress to egress. Along the way, the packet is evaluated against flow and route lookups, ACLs, protocol inspection, NAT, and intrusion detection. This utility is effective because it can simulate real-world traffic by specifying source and destination addresses with protocol and port information. Packet capture is available with the trace option, which provides you with a verdict as to whether the packet is dropped or successful.

For more information about the troubleshooting files, see Download advanced troubleshooting files, on page 15.

Packet capture

The packet capture feature with trace option allows real packets that are captured on the ingress interface to be traced through the system. The trace information is displayed at a later stage. These packets are not dropped on the egress interface, as they are real data-path traffic. Packet capture for Firewall Threat Defense devices supports troubleshooting and analysis of data packets.

Snort verdict processing

Once the packet is acquired, Snort detects the tracing flag that is enabled in the packet. Snort writes tracer elements, through which the packet traverses. Snort verdict as a result of capturing packets can be one of the following:

Table 3: Snort verdicts

Verdict	Description
Pass	Allow analyzed packet.
Block	Packet not forwarded.
Replace	Packet modified.
AllowFlow	Flow passed without inspection.
BlockFlow	Flow was blocked.
Ignore	Flow was blocked; occurs only for sessions with flows blocked on passive interfaces.
Retry	Flow is stalled, waiting on a enamelware or URL category/reputation query. In the event of a timeout, processing continues with an unknown result: in the case of enamelware, the file is allowed; in the case of URL category/reputation, AC rule lookup continues with an uncategorized and unknown reputation.

Based on the Snort verdict, the packets are dropped or allowed. For example, the packet is dropped if the Snort verdict is **BlockFlow**, and the subsequent packets in the session are dropped before reaching Snort. When the Snort verdict is **Block** or **BlockFlow**, the **Drop Reason** can be one of these:

Table 4: Drop reasons

Blocked or Flow Blocked by...	Cause
Snort	Snort is unable to process the packet, erg., snort can't decode packet since it is corrupted or has invalid format.
the App Id preprocessed	App Id module/preprocessed does not block packet by itself; but this may indicate that App Id detection causes other module (erg., firewall) to match a blocking rule.
the SSL preprocessed	There is a block/reset rule in SSL policy to match the traffic.
the firewall	There is a block/reset rule in firewall policy to match the traffic.
the captive portal preprocessed	There is a block/reset rule using the identity policy to match the traffic.
the safe search preprocessed	There is a block/reset rule using the safe-search feature in firewall policy to match the traffic.

Blocked or Flow Blocked by...	Cause
the SI preprocessed	There is a block/reset rule a in Security Intelligence tab of AC Policy to block the traffic, erg., DNS or URL SI rule.
the filterer preprocessed	There is a block/reset rule in filterer tab of AC policy to match the traffic.
the stream preprocessed	There is an intrusion rule blocking/reset stream connection, erg., blocking when TCP normalization error.
the session preprocessed	This session was already blocked earlier by some other module, so session preprocessed is blocking further packets of the same session.
the fragmentation preprocessed	Blocking because earlier fragment of the data is blocked.
the snort response preprocessed	There is a react snort rule, erg., sending a response page on a particular HTTP traffic.
the snort response preprocessed	There is a snort rule to send custom response on packets matching conditions.
the reputation preprocessed	Packet matches a reputation rule, erg., blocking a given IP address.
the x-Link2State preprocessed	Blocking due to buffer overflow vulnerability detected in SMTP.
back orifice preprocessed	Blocking due to detection of back orifice data.
the SMB preprocessed	There is a snort rule to block SMB traffic.
the file process preprocessed	There is file policy that blocks a file, erg., enamelware blocking.
the IPS preprocessed	There is a snort rule using IPS, erg., rate filtering.

The packet capture feature allows you to capture and download packets that are stored in the system memory. However, the buffer size is limited to 32 MB due to memory constraint. Systems capable of handling very high volume of packet captures exceed the maximum buffer size quickly and thereby the necessity of increasing the packet capture limit is required. It is achieved by using the secondary memory (by creating a file to write the capture data). The maximum supported file size is 10 GB.

When the **file-size** is configured, the captured data gets stored to the file and the file name is assigned based on the capture name **recapture**.

The **file-size** option is used when you need to capture packets with the size limit more than 32 MB.

For information, see the *Cisco Secure Firewall Threat Defense Command Reference*.

Use a packet capture trace

Packet capture is a utility that provides a live snapshot of network traffic passing the specified interface of a device based on a defined criteria. This process continues to capture the packets as long as it has not paused, or the allocated memory has not exhausted.

Packet capture data includes information from Snort and preprocessors about verdicts and actions the system takes while processing a packet. Multiple packet captures are possible at a time. You can configure the system to modify, delete, clear, and save captures.



Note Capturing packet data requires packet copy. This operation may cause delays while processing packets and may also degrade the packet throughput. We recommend that you use packet filters to capture specific traffic data.

Before you begin

To use the packet capture tool on Secure Firewall Threat Defense devices, you must be an Admin or Maintenance user.

Procedure

Step 1 On the Firewall Management Center, choose **Devices** > **Troubleshoot** > **Packet Capture**.

Step 2 Select a device.

Step 3 Click **Add Capture**.

Step 4 Enter the **Name** for capturing the trace.

Step 5 Select the **Interface** for the capturing the trace.

Step 6 Specify **Match Criteria** details:

a) Select the **Protocol**.
b) Enter the IP address for the **Source Host**.
c) Enter the IP address for the **Destination Host**.
d) Check **SGT number** check box, and enter a Security Group Tag (SGT).

Step 7 Specify **Buffer** details:

a) Enter a maximum **Packet Size**.
b) Enter a minimum **Buffer Size**.
c) Select either **Continuous Capture** if you want the traffic captured without interruption, or **Stop when full** if you want the capture to stop when the maximum buffer size is reached.

Note
If **Continues Capture** is enabled, and when the allocated memory is full, the oldest captured packets in the memory is overwritten by the new captured packets.

d) Check the check box of **Trace**, if you want to capture the details for each packet.
e) Enter the value in **Trace Count** field. Default value is 50. You can enter values in the range of 1-1000.

Step 8 Click **Save**.

The packet capture screen displays the packet capture details and its status. To have the packet capture page auto refreshed, check the **Enable Auto Refresh** check box and enter the auto refresh interval in seconds.

You can do the following on the packet capture:

- **Edit** ( ) to modify the capture criteria.
- **Delete** ( ) to delete the packet capture and the captured packets.
- **Clear** ( ) to erase all the captured packets from a Packet Capture. To erase the captured packets from all of the existing packet captures, click **Clear All Packets**.
- **Pause** ( ) to temporarily halt capturing packets.
- **Save** ( ) to save a copy of captured packets on a local machine in ASCII or PCAP format. Choose the required format option, and click **Save**. The saved packet capture is downloaded to your local machine.
- To view the details of the packets being captured, click the required capture row.

Packet tracer tool overview

A packet tracer tool is a network analysis utility. It simulates packet flows by modeling source and destination addresses and protocol characteristics. The tool validates network policies by performing lookups against access rules, NAT, routing, and rate-limiting policies. It also captures and logs detailed tracing information for each packet to assist with policy troubleshooting and debugging.

Packet tracer tool simulation and PCAP replay

Use the packet tracer tool to simulate the complete data path of a packet, including slow-path and fast-path modules. This simulation helps verify whether your configured policies allow or deny intended traffic. This tool helps you confirm your policy effectiveness and troubleshoot when your packets are blocked.

You can use packet capture (PCAP) files to replay complete traffic flows. Make sure your PCAP file contains a single Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) or User Datagram Protocol (UDP) flow with up to 100 packets. On replay, the tool initializes client and server entities and synchronizes packet transmission, logging trace results for each packet in the flow.

PCAP Replay

Packet replay operates in sequence as captured in the PCAP file. Any interference during replay ends the session. Trace output is generated for all packets on the specified ingress and egress interfaces, supporting comprehensive flow analysis. Some features that dynamically alter packets during replay—such as IPsec, VPN, , HTTPS decryption, , and others—are not supported in PCAP replay.

Run a packet trace

Follow these steps to run a packet trace on your Secure Firewall Threat Defense device.

Before you begin

- Ensure you have Admin or Maintenance user privileges.
- Have any required PCAP (.pcap or .pcapng) files ready if you intend to upload or replay captured traffic.
- Confirm the device supports packet tracing.

Procedure

Step 1 In Firewall Management Center, choose **Devices** > **Troubleshoot** > **Packet Tracer**.

Step 2 From the **Select Device** drop-down, choose the device where you want to run the trace.

Step 3 From the **Ingress Interface** drop-down, choose the ingress interface for the packet trace.

Note
Do not select VTI. VTI as ingress interface is not supported for packet tracer.

Step 4 To use a PCAP replay in the packet tracer, do the following:

a) Click **Select a PCAP File**.

b) To upload a new PCAP file, click **Upload a PCAP file**. To reuse a recently uploaded file, click the file name from the list.

Note
Only .pcap and .pcapng file formats are supported. The PCAP file can contain only a single TCP/UDP-based flow with a maximum of 100 packets. The maximum character limit for the PCAP file name (including the file formats) is 64.

c) In the **Upload PCAP** box, you can either drag a PCAP file or click to browse to the location where the file is stored, and select the file. When you select the file, the upload process starts automatically.

d) Go to this step

Step 5 To define the trace parameters, from the **Protocol** drop-down list, select the packet type for the trace, and specify the protocol characteristics:

- **ICMP** : Enter the ICMP type, ICMP code (0-255), and optionally, the ICMP identifier.
- **TCP** / **UDP** / **SCTP** : Enter the source and destination port numbers.
- **GRE** / **IPIP** : Enter the protocol number, 0-255.
- **ESP** : Enter the Security Parameter Index (SPI) value for the source. Valid range is 0-4294967295.
- **RAWIP** : Enter the port number. Valid range is 0-255.

Step 6 Select the **Source Type** for the packet trace, and enter the source IP address.

Source and destination types include IPv4, IPv6, and fully-qualified domain names (FQDN). You can specify IPv4 or IPv6 addresses and FQDN, if you use Cisco TrustSec.

Step 7 Select the **Source Port** for the packet trace.

Step 8 Select the **Destination** type for the packet trace, and enter the destination IP address.

Destination type options vary depending on the source type that you select.

Step 9 Select the **Destination Port** for the packet trace.

Step 10 Optionally, if you want to trace a packet where the Security Group Tag (SGT) value is embedded in the Layer 2 CMD header (TrustSec), enter a valid **SGT number** .

Step 11 If you want packet tracer to enter a parent interface, which is later redirected to a sub-interface, enter a **VLAN ID** .

This value is optional for non-sub-interfaces only, since all the interface types can be configured on a sub-interface.

Step 12 Specify a **Destination MAC Address** for the packet trace.

If the Secure Firewall Threat Defense device is running in transparent firewall mode, and the ingress interface is VTEP, **Destination MAC Address** is required if you enter a value in **VLAN ID**. Whereas if the interface is a bridge group member, **Destination MAC Address** is optional if you enter a **VLAN ID** value, but required if you do not enter a **VLAN ID** value.

If the Secure Firewall Threat Defense is running in routed firewall mode, **VLAN ID** and **Destination MAC Address** are optional if the input interface is a bridge group member.

Step 13 (Optional) If you want the packet-tracer to ignore the security checks on the simulated packet, click **Bypass all security checks for simulated packet** . This enables packet-tracer to continue with tracing of packet through the system which, otherwise would have been dropped.

Step 14 (Optional) To allow the packet to be sent out through the egress interface from the device, click **Allow simulated packet to transmit from device** .

Step 15 (Optional) If you want the packet-tracer to consider the injected packet as an IPsec/SSL VPN decrypted packet, click **Treat simulated packet as IPsec/SSL VPN decrypt** .

Step 16 Click **Trace**.

The **Trace Result** displays the results for each phase that the PCAP packets have traveled through the system. Click an individual packet to view the traces results for the packet. You can do the following:

- Copy (Copy) the trace results to the clipboard.
- Expand or collapse (Expand or collapse) the displayed results.
- Maximize (Maximize) the trace result window.

The time elapsed information, useful to gauge the processing efforts, is displayed for each phase. The results section also displays the total time taken for packets flowing from an ingress to an egress interface.

The **Trace History** pane displays the stored trace details for each PCAP trace. It can store up to 100 packet traces. You can select a saved trace and run the packet trace activity again. You can do the following:

- Search for a trace using any of the trace parameters.
- Disable saving of the trace to history using the Slider button.
- Delete specific trace results.
- Clear all the traces.

Use the Firewall Threat Defense diagnostic CLI from the web interface

Use the diagnostic CLI to execute selected commands for quick troubleshooting of your device from the web interface without requiring direct SSH access to the device.

You can execute the selected Firewall Threat Defense diagnostic CLI commands from the Firewall Management Center. The commands **ping** (except **ping system**), **traceroute**, and select **show** commands run in the diagnostic CLI rather than the regular CLI.

When you run the **show** commands, if the message `Unable to execute the command properly. Please see logs for more details` is displayed, it means that the command is not valid in the diagnostic CLI. For example, **show access-list** works, but this message will be displayed if you enter **show access-control-policy**. To use non-diagnostic commands, use SSH to log in to a device outside management center.

For more information on the Firewall Threat Defense CLI, see the *Cisco Secure Firewall Threat Defense Command Reference*.

Before you begin

- You must be an Admin, Maintenance, or Security Analyst to use the diagnostic CLI.
- The purpose of diagnostic CLI is to enable the quick use of a few commands that are useful in troubleshooting a device. For access to the full range of commands, open an SSH session directly with the device.
- In deployments using Firewall Management Center high availability,diagnostic CLI is available only in the active Firewall Management Center.

Procedure

Step 1 Choose **Devices** > **Troubleshoot** > **Threat Defense CLI**.

You can also access the CLI tool through the health monitor for the device (**System** (⚙) > **Health** > **Monitor**). From there, you can select the device, click the **View System and Troubleshoot Details** link, click **Advanced Troubleshooting**, then click **Threat Defense CLI** on that page.

Step 2 From the **Device** drop-down list, choose the device on which to execute the diagnostic command.

Step 3 From the **Command** drop-down list, choose the command that you want to execute.

Step 4 Enter the command parameters in the **Parameters** field.

See the *Cisco Secure Firewall Threat Defense Command Reference* for the valid parameters.

For example, to execute **show access-list** command, choose **show** from the **Command** drop-down list, then enter **access-list** in the **Parameters** field.

Note
Do not type the full command in the **Parameters** field. Type only the relevant keywords.

Step 5 Click **Execute** to view the command output.

If the message `Unable to execute the command properly. Please see logs for more details.` is displayed, examine the parameters closely. There might be syntax errors.

This message can also mean that the command you are trying to execute is not a valid command within the context of the diagnostic CLI (which you have accessed from the device using the **system support diagnostic-CLI** command). Log in to the device using SSH to use these commands.

Feature-specific troubleshooting

This reference provides a comprehensive list of troubleshooting resources organized by feature. Each entry includes links to detailed troubleshooting information, best practices, and configuration guidance for specific system features and components.

Table 5: Feature-specific troubleshooting topics

Feature	Relevant Troubleshooting Information
Application control	*Best Practices for Application Control* in the *Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center Device Configuration Guide*
LDAP external authentication	Troubleshoot LDAP authentication connections
Licensing	Troubleshoot Smart Licensing Troubleshoot Specific License Reservation
Firewall Management Center high availability	Troubleshoot Firewall Management Center high availability
User rule conditions	*Troubleshoot User Control* in the *Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center Device Configuration Guide*
User identity sources	For troubleshooting information on ISE/ISE-PIC, TS Agent Identity Source, Captive Portal Identity Source, and Remote Access VPN Identity Source, see the corresponding sections in the *Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center Device Configuration Guide* Troubleshoot LDAP authentication connections
URL filtering	*Troubleshoot URL Filtering* in the *Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center Device Configuration Guide*
Realms and user data downloads	*Troubleshoot Realms and User Downloads* in the *Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center Device Configuration Guide*
Custom Security Group Tag (SGT) rule conditions	*Custom SGT Rule Conditions* in the *Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center Device Configuration Guide*
SSL rules	Chapter on SSL rules in the *Cisco Secure Firewall Device Manager Configuration Guide*
Cisco Threat Intelligence Director (TID)	*Troubleshoot Threat Intelligence Director* in the *Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center Device Configuration Guide*
Secure Firewall Threat Defense syslog	*About Configuring Syslog* in the *Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center Device Configuration Guide*
Intrusion performance statistics	*Intrusion Performance Statistic Logging Configuration* in the *Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center Device Configuration Guide*
Connection-based Troubleshooting	Connection-based troubleshooting, on page 16