

Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN and Microsoft's Secure Service Edge (SSE) Solution Integration User Guide

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Introduction

Cisco and Microsoft's Secure Service Edge (SSE) solution have collaborated to enhance the security of customer branch internet traffic through efficient redirection. The integration of Cisco Catalyst® SD-WAN with Microsoft's SSE solution facilitates inspection of north-south traffic originating from SD-WAN branches destined for the internet or Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) applications routed through Microsoft's SSE solution.

This guide details the process of securing Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN sites using Microsoft's SSE solution specifically for internet and SaaS applications. The integration has undergone extensive testing and validation for deployment on Cisco IOS® XE SD-WAN routers running software versions 17.12 or 20.12, in conjunction with the Microsoft's SSE solution cloud dashboard. A key customer benefit is the seamless deployment of a comprehensive end-to-end SD-WAN and security solution.

Microsoft Entra Internet Access and Microsoft Entra Private Access are integral components of Microsoft's SSE solution. Microsoft Entra Internet Access ensures secure access to internet and SaaS apps, providing robust protection for users, devices, and data against internet-borne threats. This document focuses on the Internet Access use case.

Overview of configuration steps

Step 1. Create remote networks using the Microsoft Entra Admin Center.

Step 2. Establish connectivity—Configure an IPsec tunnel in Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Manager using a SIG parcel.

Step 3. Redirect traffic—Configure data policy for application-based traffic redirected from branch edge devices.

Step 4. Validate the configuration.

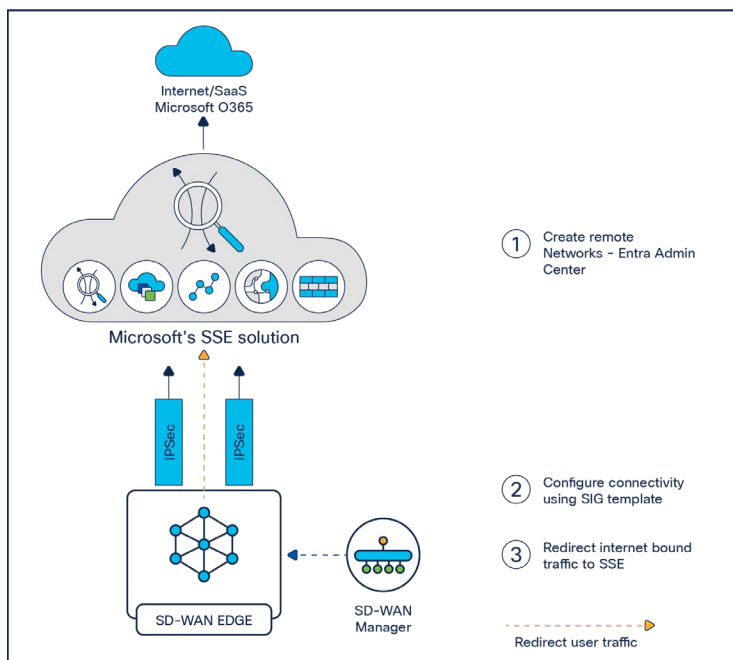


Figure 1. Integration between Catalyst SD-WAN and Microsoft's SSE solution

Detailed steps

Step 1. Create remote networks using the Microsoft Entra Admin Center

Remote networks enable administrators to define and configure remote network locations, including names, regions, and bandwidth capacity, and add one or more Customer Premises Equipment (CPE) links to a given remote network.

Overview

- Create two different remote networks in two different regions. For each remote network, create two links. Each of these links will be used for active/backup tunnel configuration when designing High Availability (HA) pairs on CPE.

Reference: [How to create a remote network with Global Secure Access \(preview\) –Global Secure Access | Microsoft Learn](#)

- For each link definition, fill in the basic link details, IPsec-related security attributes, and IKEv2 values.

Workflow

1. On the Microsoft Entra Admin Center homepage, select Global Secure Access (preview) > Connect > Remote Networks, and click the Create Remote Network button.

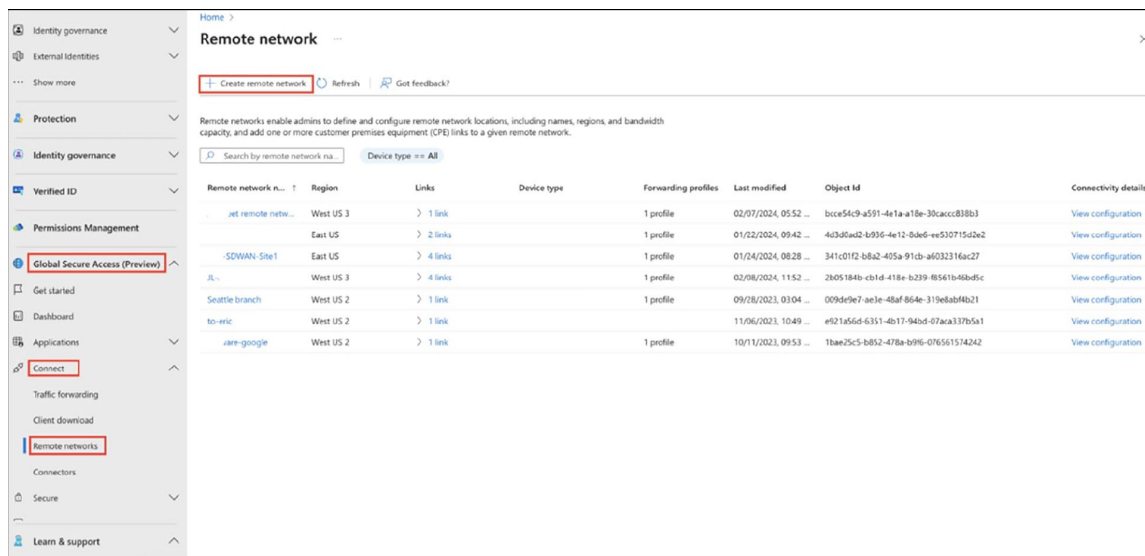


Figure 2. Creating a remote network in the Microsoft Entra Admin Center

2. On the Basics tab, fill in the remote network name and select the region.

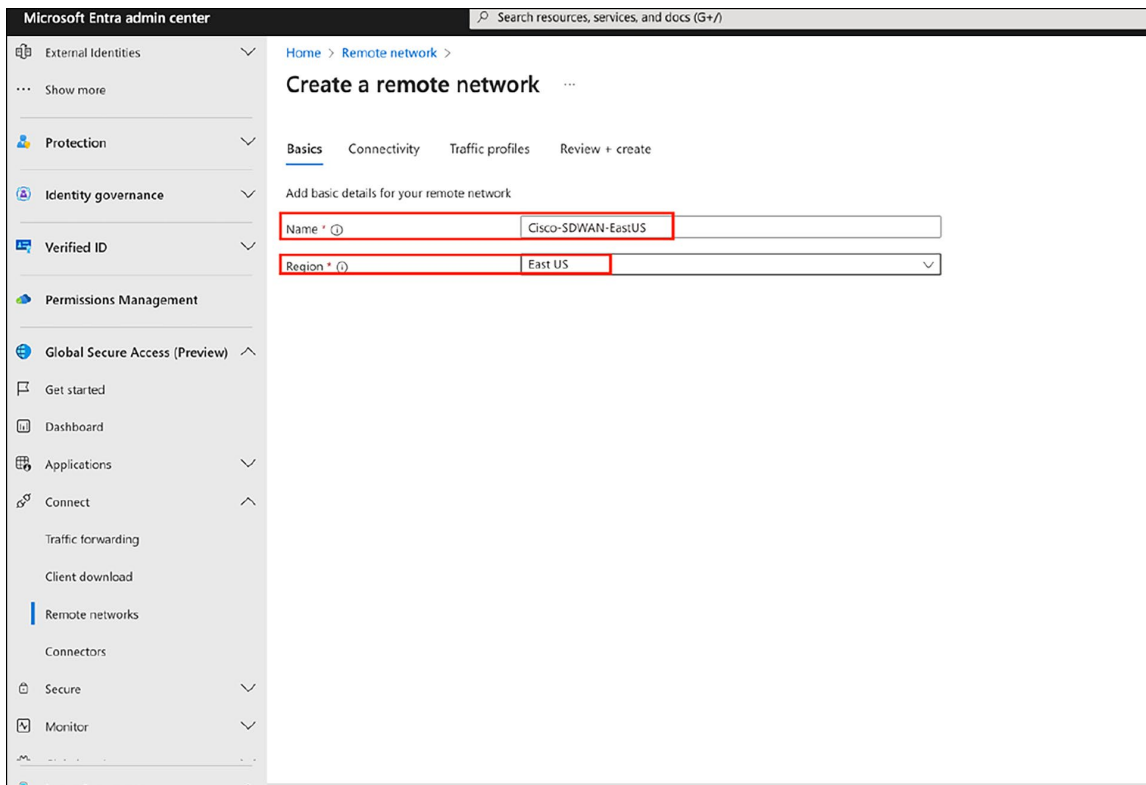


Figure 3.
Entering the network name and region

3. On the Connectivity tab, create two links for the CPE to ensure the creation of multiple tunnels, with the same remote endpoint (CPE public IP) but different local endpoints. Users can set up two or more tunnels based on their requirements.

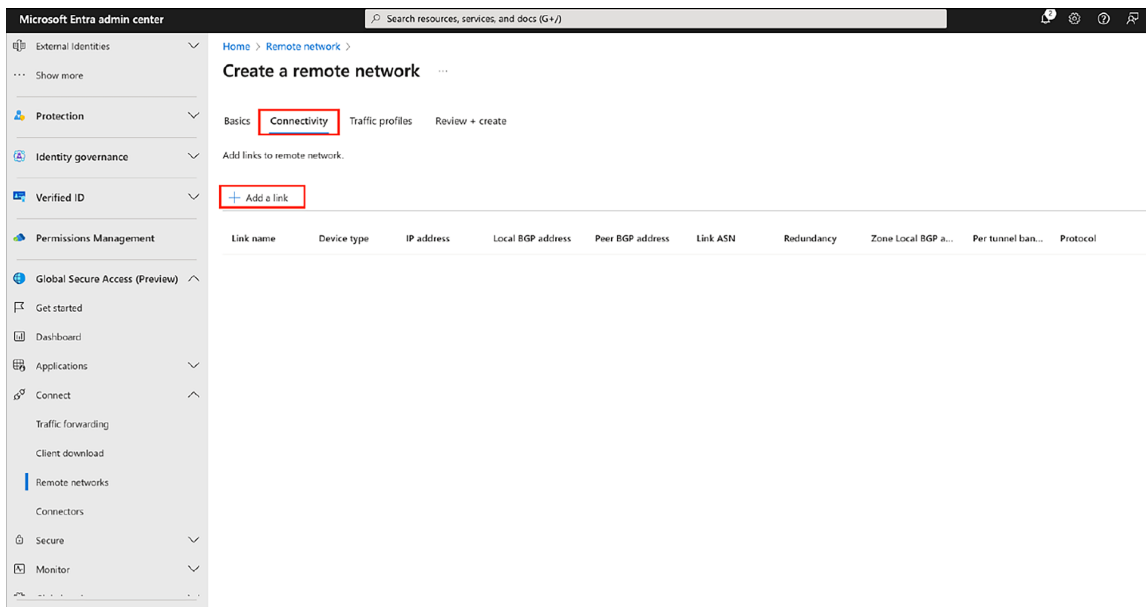


Figure 4.
Adding connectivity links

Note: Cisco uses policy-based packet redirection to tunnel for Microsoft apps. Therefore, Cisco routers do not require Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) for prefixes from Microsoft's SSE solution. Users should enter dummy values for BGP-related fields, as they are marked mandatory on the UI but do not affect tunnel establishment and routing.

3a. For link1 (Cisco-SDWAN-EastUS-Link1), fill in the general information including link name, device type (select “other”), IP address (CPE public IP), local BGP address, peer BGP address, link ASN, redundancy, and bandwidth capacity (Mbps).

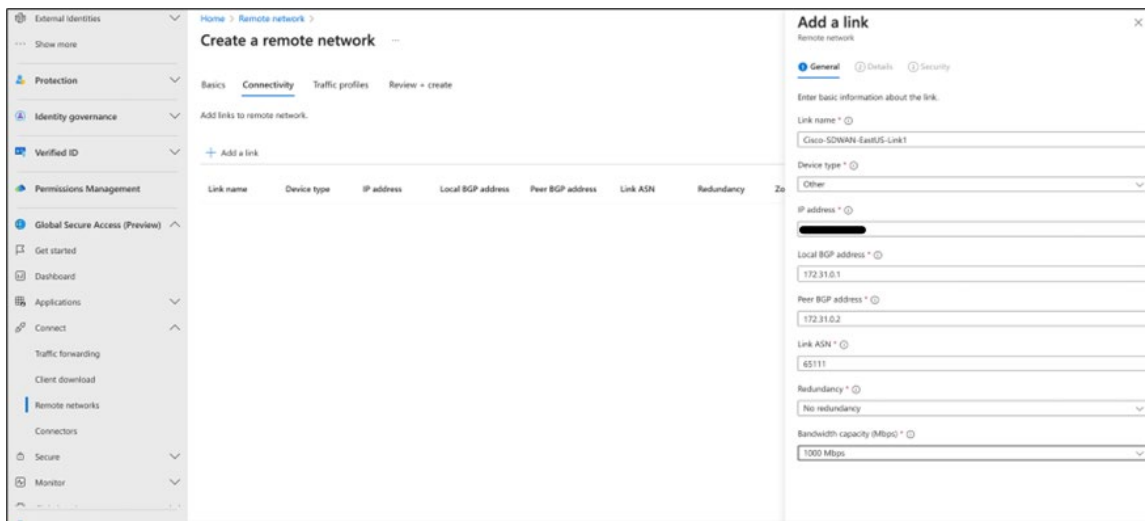


Figure 5.
Providing general link information

3b. On the Details tab of the Add a Link pane, fill in the IPsec and IKE v2 information.

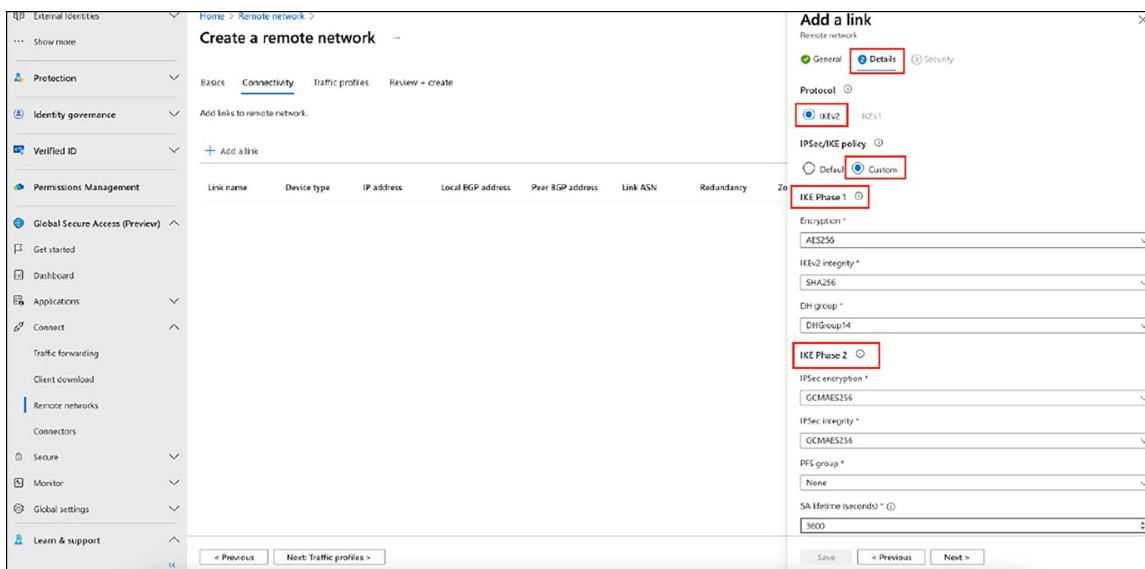


Figure 6.
Specifying IPsec and IKEv2 information

3c. On the Security tab of the Add a Link pane, fill in the Pre-Shared Key (PSK) value.

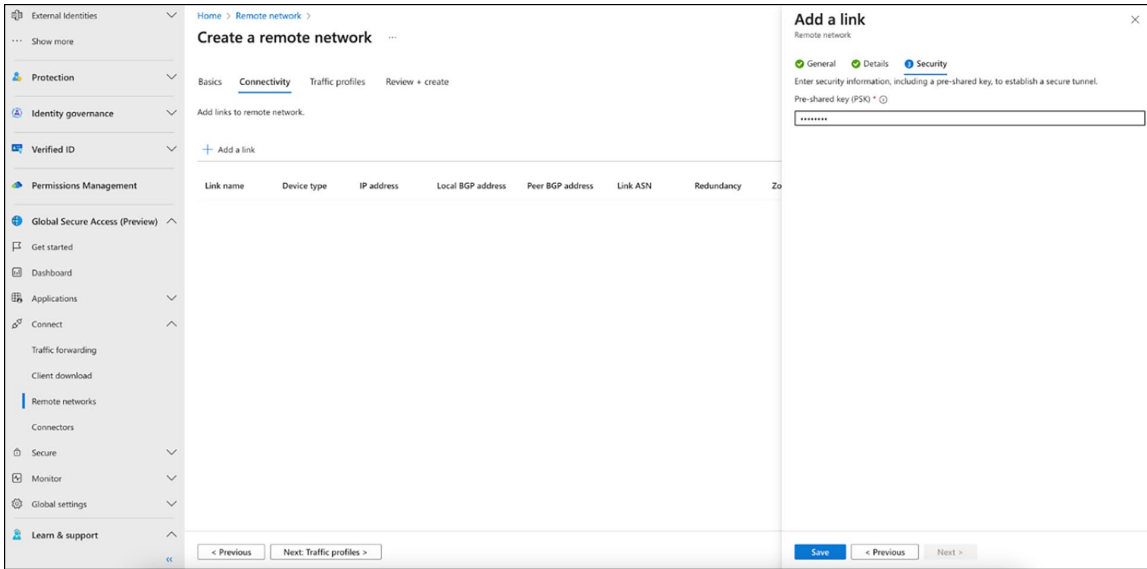


Figure 7.
Providing the PSK value

4. Create another link (Cisco-SDWAN-EastUS-Link2) for the same remote network by filling in details similar to those for link1 (Cisco-SDWAN-EastUS-Link1).

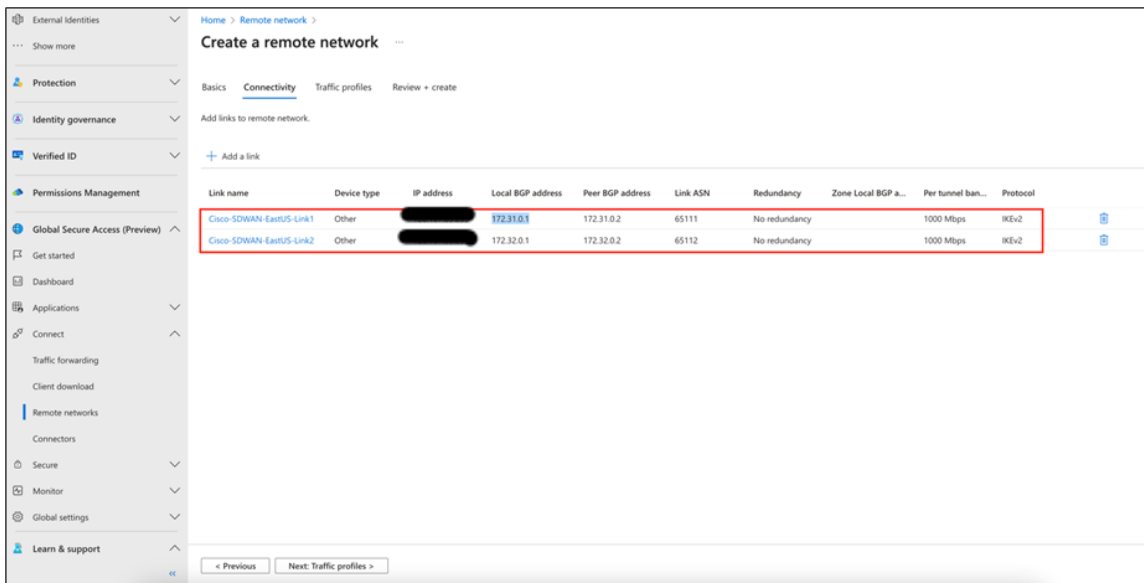


Figure 8.
Creating a second link

- On the Traffic Profiles tab of the remote network, select which traffic is to be allowed through these links. Currently, only the Microsoft 365 traffic forwarding profile is available for selection.

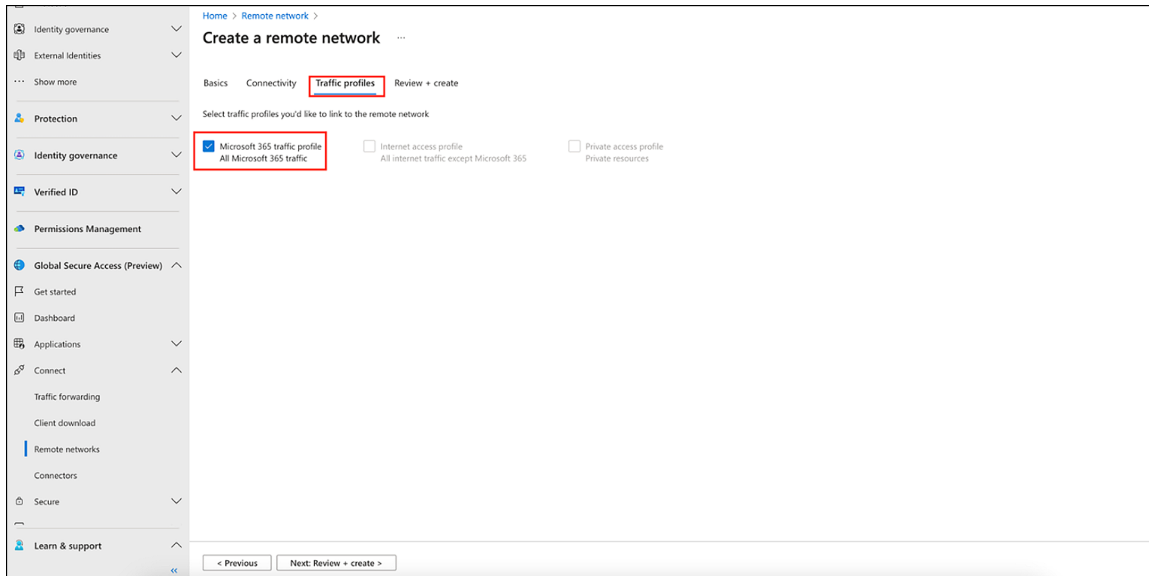


Figure 9.
Completing the Traffic Profiles tab

- Review and create the remote network as the final step.

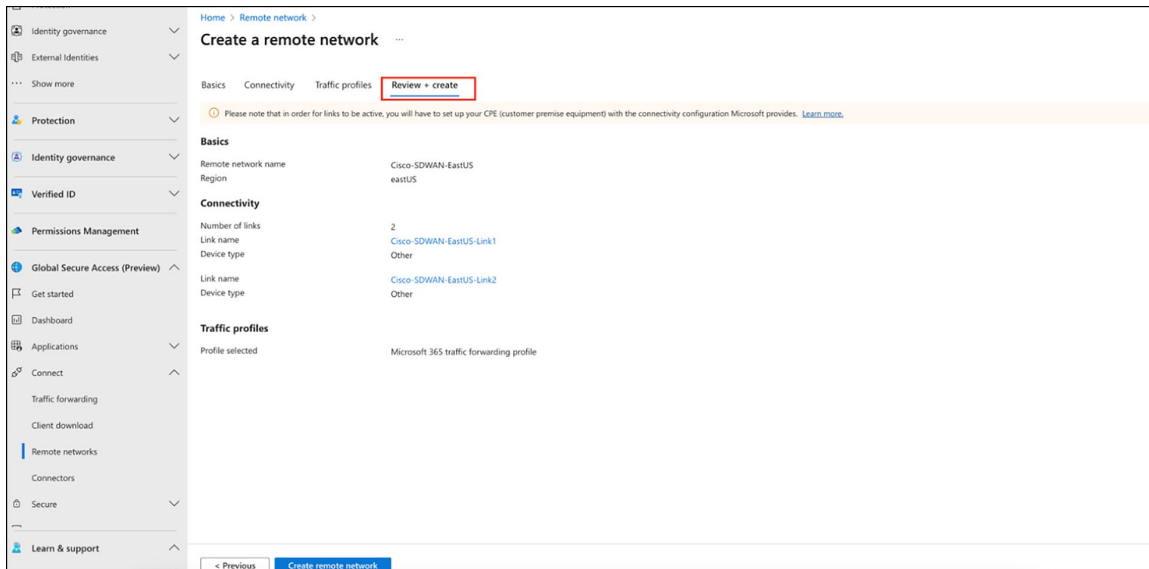


Figure 10.
Reviewing and creating the remote network

- Optional steps are needed when CPE uses multiple HA pairs. Create another remote network in the west region with two WAN links, using values similar to those used for the remote network in the east region.

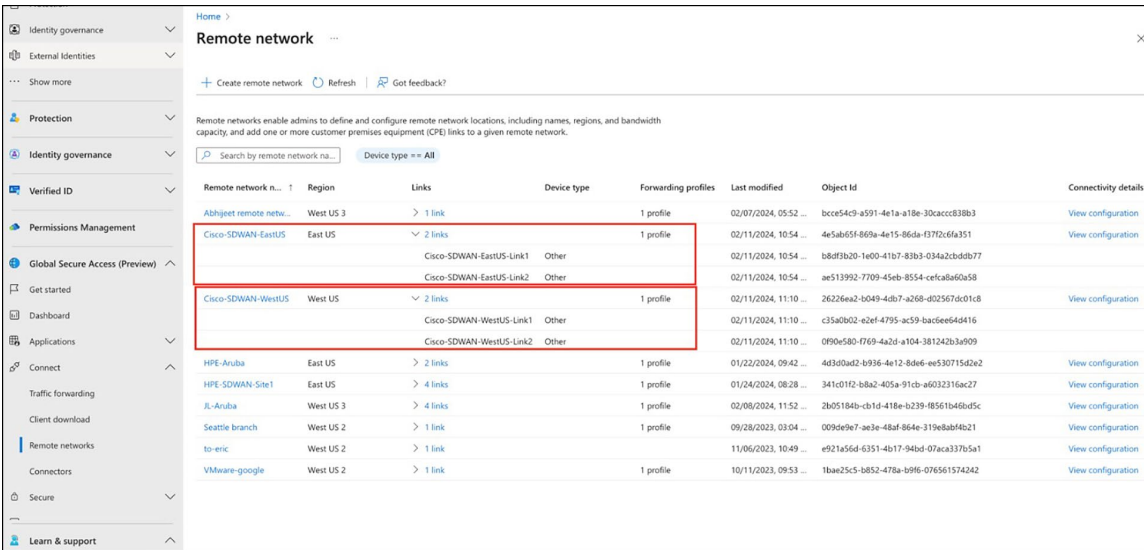


Figure 11.
Creating another remote network in the west region

- Users can click the View Configuration option for each remote network to see the data center IPs and IKE encryption/auth details to be used in Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Manager.

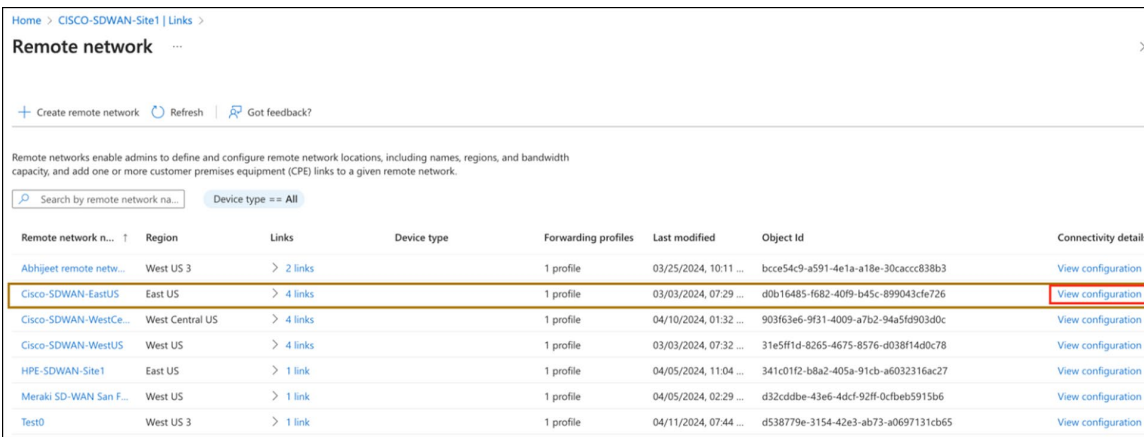


Figure 12.
Locating the View Configuration option

Step 2. Configure an IPsec tunnel in Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Manager using a SIG parcel

1. Configure the IPsec tunnel in Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Manager using a Secure Internet Gateway (SIG) parcel. This configuration establishes a secure remote network connection between Microsoft's SSE solution and the Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN using an IPsec tunnel.
2. Set up tunnels using SIG templates: On the Catalyst SD-WAN Manager dashboard, select Configuration -> Policy Group -> Secure Internet Gateway (SIG).
3. Click the Add Secure Internet Gateway tab and create a SIG named Microsoft SSE.
4. Within the SIG template, select the Generic Tunnel option. Additionally, create a tracker to ensure the health of the tunnel. In this example, we have used microsoft.com.

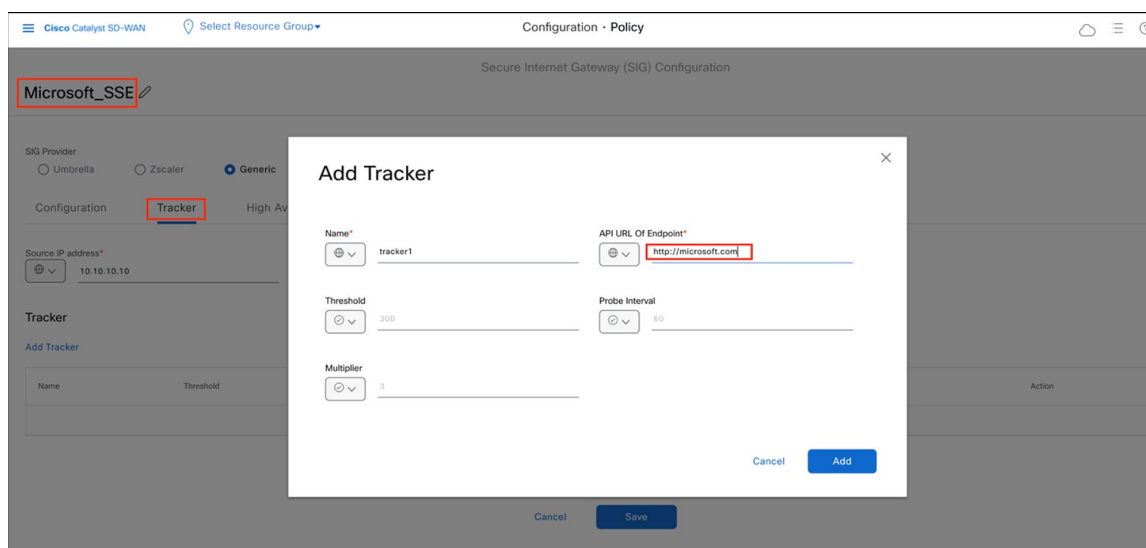


Figure 13.
Adding a tracker to the IPsec tunnel in the Catalyst SD-WAN Manager dashboard

After establishing the tracker, create four IPsec tunnels. Configure two tunnels for HA-pair1 and another two tunnels for HA-pair2. The two HA pairs are configured as shown below:

```
ipsec1 ----- > HA-pair1 (active tunnel), connected through WAN link1 of CPE to  
Microsoft Cisco-SDWAN-WestUS-Link1  
ipsec2 ----- > HA-pair1 (standby tunnel), connected through WAN link1 of CPE to  
Microsoft Cisco-SDWAN-EastUS-Link1  
ipsec3 ----- > HA-pair2 (active tunnel), connected through WAN link2 of CPE to  
Microsoft Cisco-SDWAN-WestUS-Link2  
ipsec4 ----- > HA-pair2 (standby tunnel), connected through WAN link2 of CPE to  
Microsoft Cisco-SDWAN-EastUS-Link2
```

Note: Users can create up to four HA pairs, enabling a total of eight IPsec tunnels.

5. Add the basic tunnel information, fill in the mandatory fields, including Interface Name, Tracker, Tunnel Source Interface (WAN Link1), the Cisco-SDWAN-EastUS-Link1 remote IP address, and Pre-shared Key (as configured in the Microsoft Entra Admin Center).

The screenshot shows the 'Add Tunnel' configuration page. Under the 'Basic Settings' section, the 'Tunnel Type' is set to 'ipsec'. The 'Interface Name' is 'ipsec1', 'Tracker' is 'tracker1', and 'Tunnel Source Interface' is 'GigabitEthernet1'. The 'Tunnel Destination IP Address/FQDN(ipsec)' is '20.245.199.205'. The 'Preshared Key' is masked with dots and has a 'SHOW' link. The 'Description' is '<SYSTEM DEFAULT>'. Each field has a globe icon and a dropdown arrow.

Figure 14.
Providing basic tunnel information

6. Under Advanced Options, update the fields as required.

The screenshot shows the 'Add Tunnel' configuration page with the 'Advanced Options' section expanded. Under 'General', the 'Shutdown' toggle is turned off. 'IP MTU' is set to '1400', 'DPD Interval' is '10', and 'DPD Retries' is '3'. The 'TCP MSS' field is set to '<SYSTEM DEFAULT>'. Each field has a globe icon and a dropdown arrow.

Figure 15.
Specifying advanced options

7. For the Advanced Options IKE value, fill in the encryption parameters as configured on the IKEv2 tab of Microsoft Entra Admin Center.

Cisco SD-WAN IKE config >>>

The screenshot shows the Cisco SD-WAN IKE configuration interface. It includes the following fields:

- IKE Rekey Interval(seconds):** 14400
- IKE Cipher Suite*:** aes256-cbc-sha2
- IKE Diffie-Hellman Group*:** 14
- IKE ID for Local End Point*:** 128.107.83.233
- IKE ID for Remote End Point*:** 20.245.199.205

Microsoft-SSE IKE config >>>

The screenshot shows the Microsoft-SSE IKE configuration interface. It includes the following fields:

- IKE Phase 1 ⓘ**
- Encryption *:** AES256
- IKEv2 integrity *:** SHA256
- DH group *:** DHGroup14

Figure 16.
Specifying the IKE value in Catalyst SD-WAN Manager

8. For the Advanced Options IPsec value, enter the encryption parameters as configured on the IKEv2 tab of the Microsoft Entra Admin Center.

Cisco SD-WAN IPsec config >>>

The screenshot shows the Cisco SD-WAN IPsec configuration interface. It includes the following fields:

- IPSec Rekey Interval(seconds):** 3600
- IPsec Replay Window:** 512
- IPsec Cipher Suite*:** aes256-gcm
- Perfect Forward Secrecy:** none

Microsoft-SSE IPSec config >>>

IKE Phase 2 ⓘ

IPSec encryption *
GCMAES256

IPSec integrity *
GCMAES256

PFS group *
None

SA lifetime (seconds) * ⓘ
3600

Figure 17.
Specifying the IPsec value in Catalyst SD-WAN Manager

9. After establishing four IPsec tunnels, create two HA pairs using these four tunnels. The screen shot below shows tunnels configured that will participate in the HA pairs.

Microsoft_SSE ✎

SIG Provider
 Umbrella Zscaler Generic

Configuration Tracker High Availability

Tunnel (4)
[Add Tunnel](#)

Interface Name	Description	Shutdown	TCP MSS	IP MTU	Action
ipsec1	⊙	⊙ false	⊙	⊕ 1400	✎ 🗑
ipsec2	⊙	⊙ false	⊙	⊕ 1400	✎ 🗑
ipsec3	⊙	⊙ false	⊙	⊕ 1400	✎ 🗑
ipsec4	⊙	⊙ false	⊙	⊕ 1400	✎ 🗑

Figure 18.
Tunnels for HA pairs

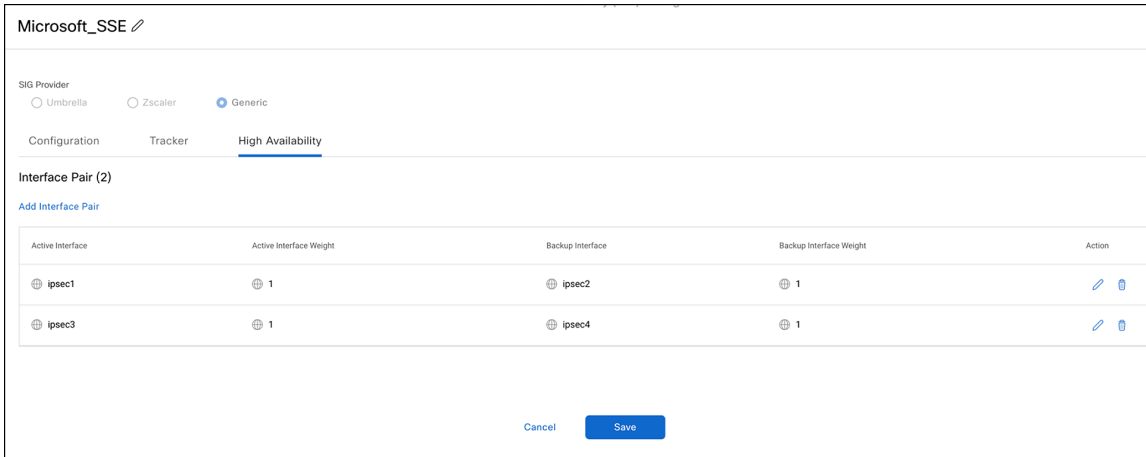


Figure 19.
HA pairs configured

10. Attach the “Microsoft_SSE” template to the policy group and then deploy it to the device.

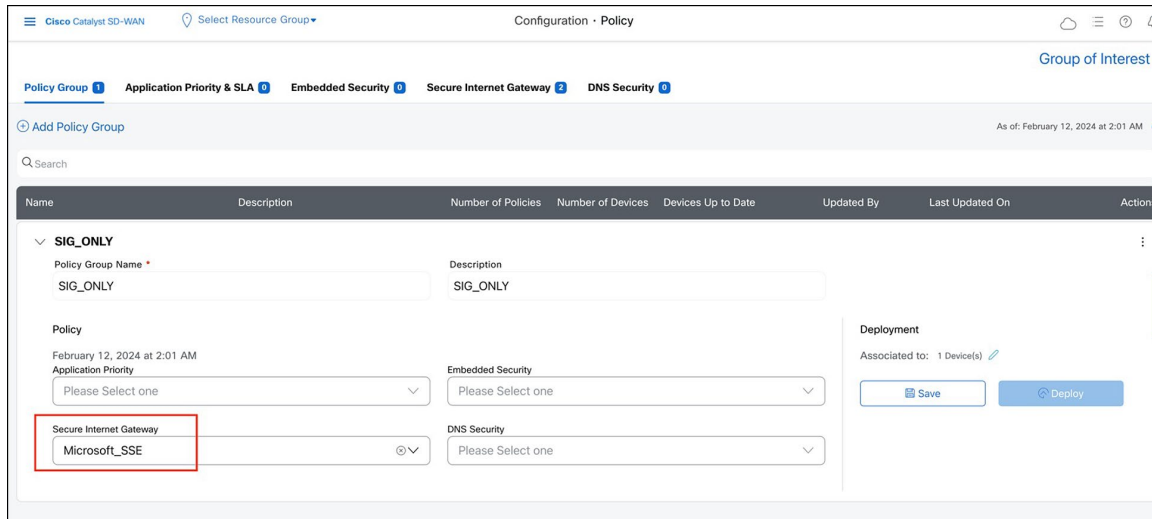


Figure 20.
Attaching the “Microsoft_SSE” template

11. After successfully deploying the policy group on the CPE, all four tunnels and their respective trackers should be displayed.

```
vm5#show ip int bri
```

Interface	IP-Address	OK?	Method	Status	Protocol
GigabitEthernet1	10.1.15.15	YES	other	up	up
GigabitEthernet2	10.0.20.15	YES	other	up	up
GigabitEthernet3	unassigned	YES	unset	up	up
GigabitEthernet3.101	172.16.11.2	YES	other	up	up
GigabitEthernet3.102	172.16.12.2	YES	other	up	up
GigabitEthernet3.103	172.16.13.2	YES	other	up	up
GigabitEthernet4	10.0.100.15	YES	other	up	up
GigabitEthernet5	10.0.1.15	YES	other	up	up
GigabitEthernet6	unassigned	YES	unset	up	up
Sdwan-system-intf	172.16.255.15	YES	unset	up	up
vmanage_system	unassigned	YES	unset	up	up
Loopback65528	192.168.1.1	YES	other	up	up
Loopback65529	11.1.255.15	YES	other	up	up
Loopback65530	10.10.10.10	YES	other	up	up
NVI0	unassigned	YES	unset	up	up
Tunnel1	10.1.15.15	YES	TFTP	up	up
Tunnel2	10.0.20.15	YES	TFTP	up	up
Tunnel15000001	10.1.15.15	YES	TFTP	up	up
Tunnel15000002	10.1.15.15	YES	TFTP	up	up
Tunnel15000003	10.0.20.15	YES	TFTP	up	up
Tunnel15000004	10.0.20.15	YES	TFTP	up	up

Figure 21.
“Show interface” output from a branch edge device

Tracker status from branch edge device

```
vm5#show endpoint-tracker
```

Interface	Record Name	Status	Address
Family	RTT in msec	Probe ID	Next Hop
Tunnel15000001	tracker1	Up	IPv4 226 30 None
Tunnel15000002	tracker1	Up	IPv4 334 33 None
Tunnel15000003	tracker1	Up	IPv4 345 31 None
Tunnel15000004	tracker1	Up	IPv4 662 32 None

Step 3. Configure data policy for application-based traffic redirected from CPE

On Microsoft SSE, the user has specified that only Microsoft apps will be forwarded through the tunnel on CPE. To achieve this, a data policy on the SD-WAN is needed for application-based traffic redirected toward the SIG tunnels. The SD-WAN data policy allows using the application family or subapplications as match criteria, with an action set for SSE redirection. On the Catalyst SD-WAN CPE side, configure a data policy to route traffic from the service VPN as needed. The following is a sample policy:

- **Rule 1:** Send all DNS traffic through Direct Internet Access (DIA) for resolution.
- **Rule 2:** Send Microsoft application traffic through the SIG tunnel.
- **Rule 3:** Send all other internet traffic through DIA.

Once the data policy is created, associate it to the controllers that will eventually be pushed to CPE.

Steps to configure a data policy

Step 1. On the Catalyst SD-WAN Manager dashboard, select Configuration > Policies > Centralized Policy, and then click Add Policy.

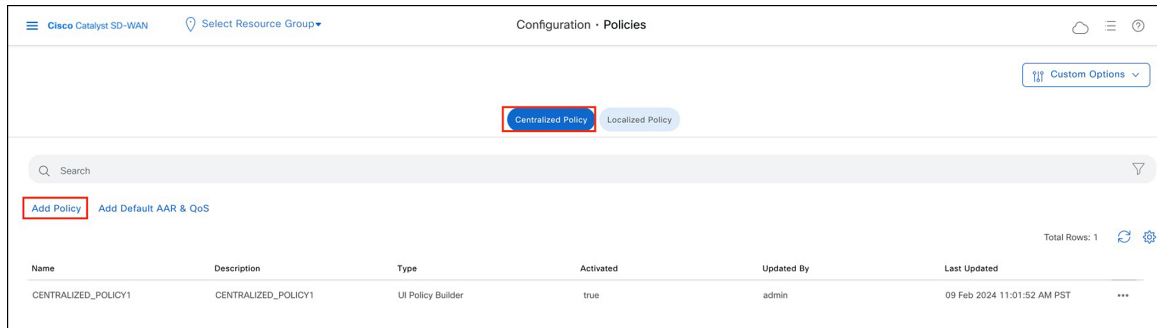


Figure 22.
Adding a data policy in Catalyst SD-WAN Manager

Step 2. On the Add Policy page, create groups of interest for VPN and Site.

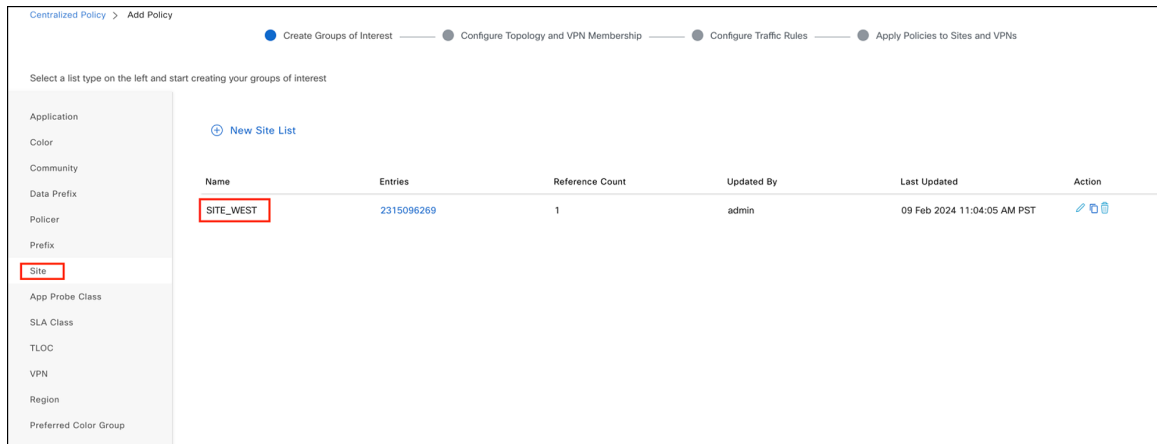


Figure 23.
Creating a Site group of interest

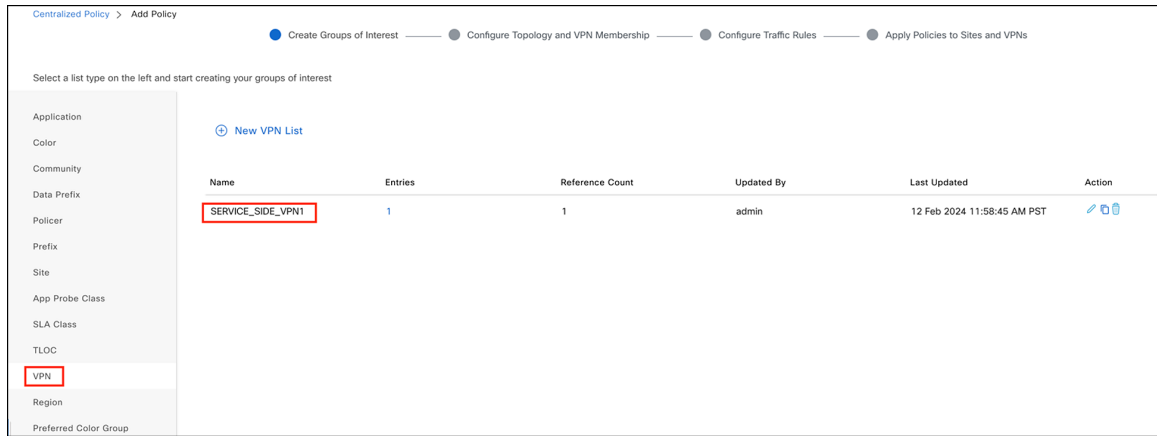


Figure 24.
Creating a VPN group of interest

Step 3. Navigate to the Configure Traffic Rules page and select Traffic Data to configure the data policy.

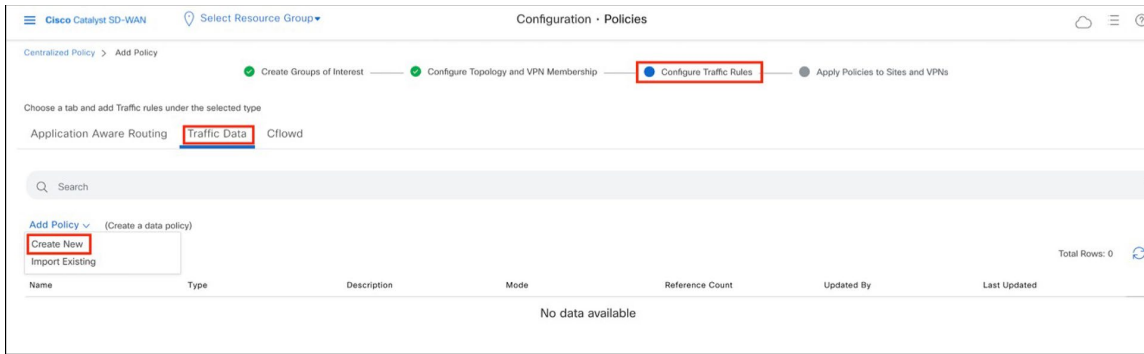


Figure 25.
Configuring traffic rules

Step 4. Add three sequences as the data policy defined above, with the three rules listed at the beginning of this section.

Below is a sample configuration for application-family-based policy rules (application family: Microsoft Apps, configured as a match condition for rule 2).

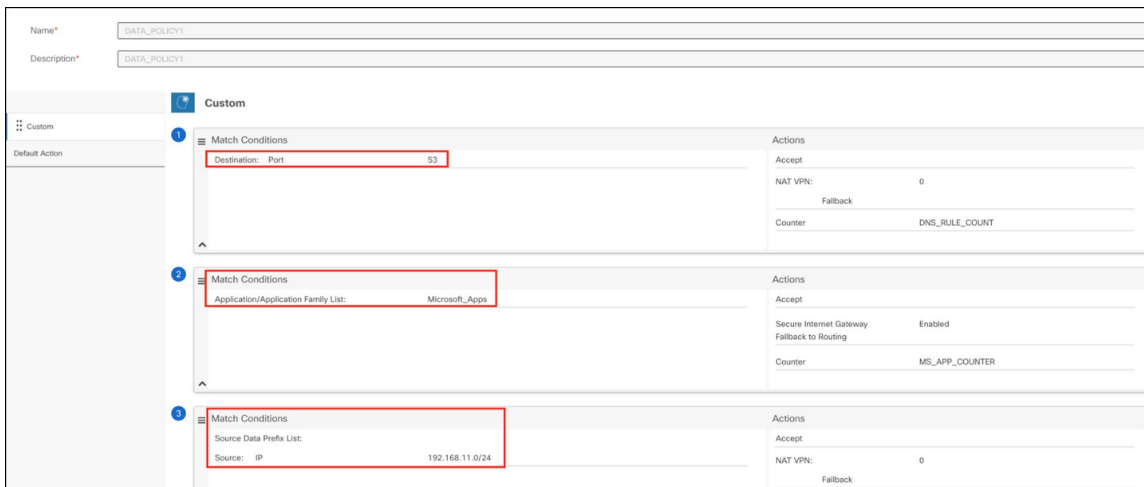


Figure 26.
Configuring a policy rule based on application family

As another example of a more granular application, the user can configure a custom list of applications, each of which can have one or more subapplications, such as SharePoint.

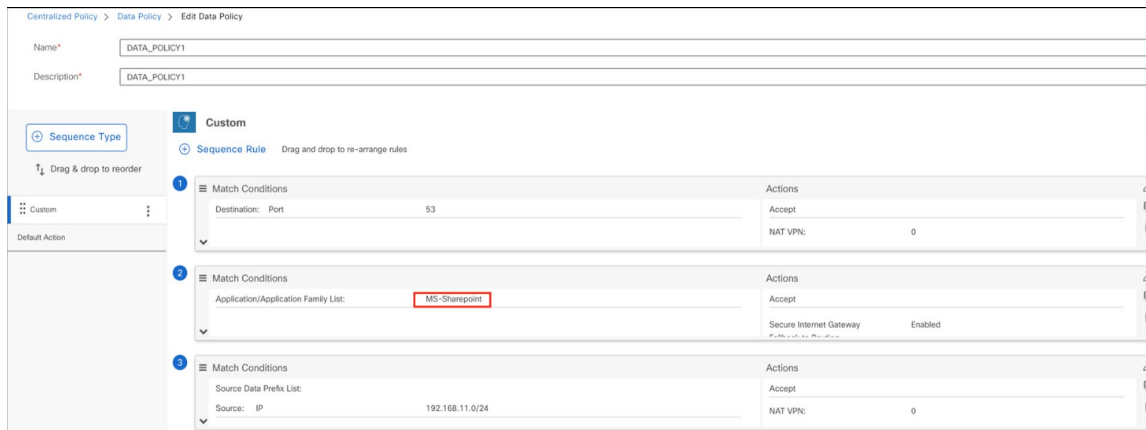


Figure 27.
Configuring a policy rule for a subapplication

Step 5. Navigate to Apply Policies to Sites and VPNs. Click Traffic Data, and then select New Site/ Region List and VPN List. Choose the Site and VPN to apply to the data policy, and save the configuration.

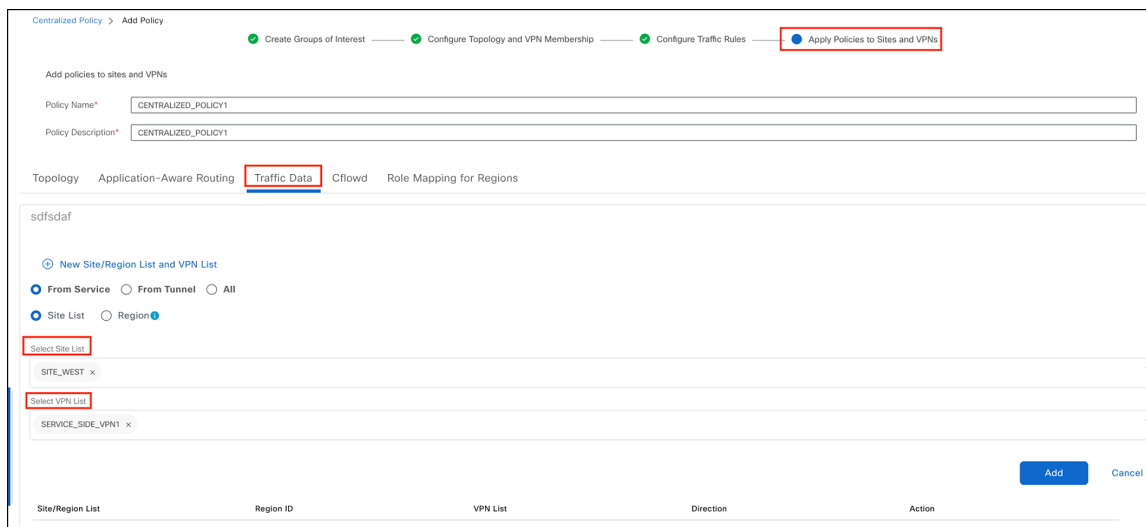


Figure 28.
Choosing the site and VPN for the data policy

Step 6. Activate the data policy and check that the policy is configured on the branch edge device.

```
site1#show sdwan policy from-vsmart
from-vsmart data-policy _SERVICE_SIDE_VPN1_DATA_POLICY1
direction from-service
vpn-list SERVICE_SIDE_VPN1
sequence 1
match
  source-ip      0.0.0.0/0
  destination-port 53
action accept
count DNS_RULE_COUNT_-817261861
nat use-vpn 0
no nat fallback
sequence 11
match
  source-ip 0.0.0.0/0
  app-list Microsoft_Apps
action accept
count MS_APP_COUNTER_-817261861
sig
sequence 21
match
  source-ip 192.168.11.0/24
action accept
count ALL_DIA_COUNTER_-817261861
nat use-vpn 0
no nat fallback
default-action accept
from-vsmart lists vpn-list SERVICE_SIDE_VPN1
vpn 1
from-vsmart lists app-list Microsoft_Apps
app bing
app excel_online
app groove
app hockeyapp
app live_groups
app live_hotmail
app live_mesh
app live_storage
app livemail_mobile
app lync
app lync_online
app microsoft
app ms-lync
```

```
app ms-lync-audio
app ms-lync-control
app ms-lync-video
app ms-office-365
app ms-office-web-apps
app ms-services
app ms-update
app ms_communicator
app ms_onenote
app ms_planner
app ms_sway
app ms_translator
app office365
app office_docs
app onedrive
app outlook
app outlook-web-service
app owa
app powerpoint_online
app share-point
app sharepoint
app sharepoint_admin
app sharepoint_blog
app sharepoint_calendar
app sharepoint_document
app sharepoint_online
app skydrive
app skydrive_login
app skype
app windows-azure
app windows_azure
app windows_marketplace
app windows_update
app windowlive
app windowlivespace
app windowmedia
app word_online
app xbox
app xbox_music
app xbox_video
app xboxlive
app xboxlive_marketplace
app yammer
```

Figure 29.
Verifying the data policy

Step 4. Validate the configuration—Send different application traffic and check the stats on different IPsec tunnels

```
vm5#show interfaces Tunnel15000001 stats
Tunnel15000001
      Switching path   Pkts In   Chars In   Pkts Out   Chars Out
      Processor        0         0         0         0
      Route cache      0         0         0         0
      Distributed cache 0         0         0         0
      Total             0         0         0         0
```

Figure 30.
Validating the configuration

For more information

Please visit:

- [Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Security](#)
- [Microsoft Entra Internet Access](#)

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