RADIUS Configuration Guide, Cisco IOS XE Release 3SE (Catalyst 3650 Switches)

First Published: August 08, 2013

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Configuring RADIUS

The RADIUS security system is a distributed client/server system that secures networks against unauthorized access. In the Cisco implementation, RADIUS clients run on Cisco devices and send authentication requests to a central RADIUS server that contains all user authentication and network service access information.

Finding Feature Information

Your software release may not support all the features documented in this module. For the latest caveats and feature information, see Bug Search Tool and the release notes for your platform and software release. To find information about the features documented in this module, and to see a list of the releases in which each feature is supported, see the feature information table at the end of this module.

Use Cisco Feature Navigator to find information about platform support and Cisco software image support. To access Cisco Feature Navigator, go to www.cisco.com/go/cfn. An account on Cisco.com is not required.

Prerequisites for RADIUS

To configure RADIUS on your Cisco device or access server, you must perform these tasks:

- Use the **aaa new-model** global configuration command to enable Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA). AAA must be configured if you plan to use RADIUS.
- Use the **aaa authentication** global configuration command to define method lists for RADIUS authentication.

• Use **line** and **interface** commands to enable the defined method lists to be used.

Information About RADIUS

RADIUS Network Environments

Cisco supports RADIUS under its authentication, authorization, and accounting (AAA) security paradigm. RADIUS can be used with other AAA security protocols such as TACACS+, Kerberos, and local username lookup. RADIUS is supported on all Cisco platforms, but some RADIUS-supported features run only on specified platforms.

RADIUS has been implemented in a variety of network environments that require high levels of security while maintaining network access for remote users.

Use RADIUS in the following network environments that require access security:

• Networks with multiple-vendor access servers, each supporting RADIUS. For example, access servers from several vendors use a single RADIUS server-based security database. In an IP-based network with multiple vendors' access servers, dial-in users are authenticated through a RADIUS server that has been customized to work with the Kerberos security system.

• Turnkey network security environments in which applications support the RADIUS protocol, such as in an access environment that uses a smart card access control system. In one case, RADIUS has been used with Enigma's security cards to validate users and grant access to network resources.

• Networks already using RADIUS. You can add a Cisco device with RADIUS to the network. This might be the first step when you make a transition to a TACACS+ server.

• Networks in which a user must only access a single service. Using RADIUS, you can control user access to a single host, to a single utility such as Telnet, or to a single protocol such as PPP. For example, when a user logs in, RADIUS identifies this user as having authorization to run PPP using the IP address 10.2.3.4 and the defined access list is started.

• Networks that require resource accounting. You can use RADIUS accounting independent of RADIUS authentication or authorization. The RADIUS accounting functions allow data to be sent at the start and end of services, indicating the amount of resources (such as time, packets, and bytes) used during the session. An ISP might use a freeware-based version of RADIUS access control and accounting software to meet special security and billing needs.

• Networks that support preauthentication. Using the RADIUS server in your network, you can configure AAA preauthentication and set up the preauthentication profiles. Preauthentication enables service providers to better manage ports using their existing RADIUS solutions, and to efficiently manage the use of shared resources to offer differing service-level agreements.

RADIUS is not suitable in these network security situations:

• Multiprotocol access environments. RADIUS does not support the following protocols:

  • AppleTalk Remote Access (ARA)

  • NetBIOS Frame Control Protocol (NBFCP)

  • NetWare Asynchronous Services Interface (NASI)

• X.25 Packet Assemblers/Disassemblers (PAD) connections

• Device-to-device situations. RADIUS does not provide two-way authentication. RADIUS can be used to authenticate from one device to a non-Cisco device if the non-Cisco device requires RADIUS authentication.

• Networks using a variety of services. RADIUS generally binds a user to one service model.

RADIUS Operation

When a user attempts to log in and authenticate to an access server using RADIUS, the following steps occur:

1 The user is prompted to enter the username and password.

2 The username and encrypted password are sent over the network to the RADIUS server.

3 The user receives one of the following responses from the RADIUS server:

1 ACCEPT—The user is authenticated.

2 CHALLENGE—A challenge is issued by the RADIUS server. The challenge collects additional data from the user.

3 CHANGE PASSWORD—A request is issued by the RADIUS server, asking the user to select a new password.

4 REJECT—The user is not authenticated and is prompted to reenter the username and password, or access is denied.

The ACCEPT or REJECT response is bundled with additional data that is used for EXEC or network authorization. You must first complete RADIUS authentication before using RADIUS authorization. The additional data included with the ACCEPT or REJECT packets consists of the following:

• Services that the user can access, including connections such as Telnet, rlogin, or local-area transport (LAT), and services such as PPP, Serial Line Protocol (SLIP), or EXEC services.

• Connection parameters, including the host or client IP address, access list, and user timeouts.

RADIUS Attributes

The network access server monitors the RADIUS authorization and accounting functions defined by RADIUS attributes in each user profile:

Vendor-Proprietary RADIUS Attributes

An Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) standard for RADIUS specifies a method for communicating vendor-proprietary information between the network access server and the RADIUS server. Some vendors, nevertheless, have extended the RADIUS attribute set in a unique way. Cisco software supports a subset of vendor-proprietary RADIUS attributes.

RADIUS Tunnel Attributes

RADIUS is a security server AAA protocol originally developed by Livingston, Inc. RADIUS uses attribute value (AV) pairs to communicate information between the security server and the network access server.

RFC 2138 and RFC 2139 describe the basic functionality of RADIUS and the original set of IETF-standard AV pairs used to send AAA information. Two IETF standards, "RADIUS Attributes for Tunnel Protocol Support" and "RADIUS Accounting Modifications for Tunnel Protocol Support," extend the IETF-defined set of AV pairs to include attributes specific to VPNs. These attributes are used to carry the tunneling information between the RADIUS server and the tunnel initiator.

RFC 2865 and RFC 2868 extend the IETF-defined set of AV pairs to include attributes specific to compulsory tunneling in VPNs by allowing the user to specify authentication names for the network access server and the RADIUS server.

Cisco devices and access servers support new RADIUS IETF-standard virtual private dialup network (VPDN) tunnel attributes.

Preauthentication on a RADIUS Server

RADIUS attributes are configured in the RADIUS preauthentication profiles to specify preauthentication behavior. In addition to configuring preauthentication on your Cisco device, you must set up the preauthentication profiles on the RADIUS server.

RADIUS Profile for DNIS or CLID Preauthentication

To configure the RADIUS preauthentication profile, use the Dialed Number Identification Service (DNIS) or Calling Line Identification (CLID) number as the username, and use the password defined in the **dnis** or **clid** command as the password.

Note The preauthentication profile must have "outbound" as the service type because the password is predefined on the network access server (NAS). Setting up the preauthentication profile in this manner prevents users from trying to log in to the NAS with the username of the DNIS number, CLID number, or call type and an obvious password. The "outbound" service type is also included in the Access-Request packet sent to the RADIUS server.

RADIUS Profile for Call Type Preauthentication

To set up the RADIUS preauthentication profile, use the call type string as the username, and use the password defined in the **ctype** command as the password. The table below lists the call type strings that can be used in the preauthentication profile.

Table 1: Call Type Strings Used in Preauthentication

Call Type String	ISDN Bearer Capabilities
digital	Unrestricted digital, restricted digital.

Call Type String	ISDN Bearer Capabilities
speech	Speech, 3.1 kHz audio, 7 kHz audio. **Note** This is the only call type available for channel-associated signaling (CAS) .
v.110	Anything with the V.110 user information layer.
v.120	Anything with the V.120 user information layer.

Note   The preauthentication profile must have "outbound" as the service type because the password is predefined on the NAS. Setting up the preauthentication profile in this manner prevents users from trying to log in to the NAS with the username of the DNIS number, CLID number, or call type and an obvious password. The "outbound" service type is also included in the Access-Request packet sent to the RADIUS server and should be a checkin item if the RADIUS server supports checkin items.

RADIUS Profile for Preauthentication Enhancements for Callback

Callback allows remote network users such as telecommuters to dial in to the NAS without being charged. When callback is required, the NAS hangs up the current call and dials the caller back. When the NAS performs the callback, only information for the outgoing connection is applied. The rest of the attributes from the preauthentication access-accept message are discarded.

Note   The destination IP address is not required to be returned from the RADIUS server.

The following example shows a RADIUS profile configuration with a callback number of 555-0101 and the service type set to outbound. The cisco-avpair = "preauth:send-name=<string>" uses the string "user1" and the cisco-avpair = "preauth:send-secret=<string>" uses the password "cisco."

```
5550101 password = "cisco", Service-Type = Outbound
Service-Type = Callback-Framed
Framed-Protocol = PPP,
Dialback-No = "5550119"
Class = "ISP12"
cisco-avpair = "preauth:send-name=user1"
cisco-avpair = "preauth:send-secret=cisco"
```

RADIUS Profile for a Remote Hostname Used for Large-Scale Dial-Out

The following example protects against accidentally calling a valid telephone number but accessing the wrong device by providing the name of the remote device, for use in large-scale dial-out:

```
5550101 password = "PASSWORD1", Service-Type = Outbound
        Service-Type = Callback-Framed
        Framed-Protocol = PPP,
        Dialback-No = "5550190"
        Class = "ISP12"
```

```
                        cisco-avpair = "preauth:send-name=user1"
                        cisco-avpair = "preauth:send-secret=PASSWORD1"
                        cisco-avpair = "preauth:remote-name=Device2"
```

RADIUS Profile for Modem Management

When DNIS, CLID, or call type preauthentication is used, the affirmative response from the RADIUS server might include a modem string for modem management in the NAS through vendor-specific attribute (VSA) 26. The modem management VSA has this syntax:

```
cisco-avpair = "preauth:modem-service=modem min-speed <
x
> max-speed <
y
>
modulation <
z
> error-correction <
a
> compression <
b
>"
```

The table below lists the modem management string elements within the VSA.

Table 2: Modem Management String

Command	Argument
min-speed	300 to 56000, any
max-speed	300 to 56000, any
modulation	K56Flex, v22bis, v32bis, v34, v90, any
error-correction	lapm, mnp4
compression	mnp5, v42bis

When the modem management string is received from the RADIUS server in the form of a VSA, the information is passed to the Cisco software and applied on a per-call basis. Modem ISDN channel aggregation (MICA) modems provide a control channel through which messages can be sent during the call setup time. Hence, this modem management feature is supported only with MICA modems. This feature is not supported with Microcom modems.

RADIUS Profile for Subsequent Authentication

If preauthentication passes, you can use vendor-proprietary RADIUS attribute 201 (Require-Auth) in the preauthentication profile to determine whether subsequent authentication is performed. If attribute 201, returned in the access-accept message, has a value of 0, subsequent authentication is not performed. If attribute 201 has a value of 1, subsequent authentication is performed as usual.

Attribute 201 has this syntax:

```
cisco-avpair = "preauth:auth-required=<
```

```
n
>"
```
where *<n>* has the same value range as attribute 201 (that is, 0 or 1).

If attribute 201 is missing in the preauthentication profile, a value of 1 is assumed, and subsequent authentication is performed.

Note   Before you can perform subsequent authentication, you must set up a regular user profile in addition to a preauthentication profile.

RADIUS Profile for Subsequent Authentication Types

If you specified subsequent authentication in the preauthentication profile, you must also specify the authentication types to be used for subsequent authentication. To specify the authentication types allowed in subsequent authentication, use this VSA:

```
cisco-avpair = "preauth:auth-type=<
string
>"
```
The table below lists the allowed values for the *<string>* element.

Table 3: <string> Element Values

String	Description
chap	Requires the username and password for the Challenge-Handshake Authentication Protocol (CHAP) for PPP authentication.
ms-chap	Requires the username and password for the MS-CHAP for PPP authentication.
pap	Requires the username and password for the Password Authentication Protocol (PAP) for PPP authentication.

To specify that multiple authentication types are allowed, you can configure more than one instance of this VSA in the preauthentication profile. The sequence of the authentication type VSAs in the preauthentication profile is significant because it specifies the order of authentication types to be used in the PPP negotiation.

This VSA is a per-user attribute and replaces the authentication type list in the **ppp authentication** interface configuration command.

Note   You should use this VSA only if subsequent authentication is required because it specifies the authentication type for subsequent authentication.

RADIUS Profile to Include the Username

If only preauthentication is used to authenticate a call, the NAS could be missing a username when it brings up the call. RADIUS can provide a username for the NAS to use through RADIUS attribute 1 (User-Name) or through a VSA returned in the Access-Accept packet. The VSA for specifying the username has this syntax:

```
cisco-avpair = "preauth:username=<
string
>"
```

If no username is specified, the DNIS number, CLID number, or call type is used, depending on the last preauthentication command configured (for example, if **clid** was the last preauthentication command configured, the CLID number is used as the username).

If subsequent authentication is used to authenticate a call, there might be two usernames: one provided by RADIUS and one provided by the user. In this case, the username provided by the user overrides the one contained in the RADIUS preauthentication profile. The username provided by the user is used for both authentication and accounting.

RADIUS Profile for Two-Way Authentication

In the case of two-way authentication, the calling networking device must authenticate the NAS. The PAP username and password or CHAP username and password need not be configured locally on the NAS. Instead, the username and password can be included in the Access-Accept messages for preauthentication.

> **Note** Do not configure the **ppp authentication** command with the **radius** command.

To set up PAP, do not configure the **ppp pap sent-name password** command on the interface. The VSAs "preauth:send-name" and "preauth:send-secret" are used as the PAP username and PAP password for outbound authentication.

For CHAP, "preauth:send-name" is used not only for outbound authentication but also for inbound authentication. For a CHAP inbound case, the NAS uses the name defined in "preauth:send-name" in the challenge packet to the caller networking device. For a CHAP outbound case, both "preauth:send-name" and "preauth:send-secret" are used in the response packet.

The following example shows a configuration that specifies two-way authentication:

```
5550101 password = "PASSWORD2", Service-Type = Outbound
Service-Type = Framed-User
cisco-avpair = "preauth:auth-required=1"
cisco-avpair = "preauth:auth-type=pap"
cisco-avpair = "preauth:send-name=user1"
cisco-avpair = "preauth:send-secret=PASSWORD2"
class = "<some class>"
```

> **Note** Two-way authentication does not work when resource pooling is enabled.

RADIUS Profile to Support Authorization

If only preauthentication is configured, subsequent authentication is bypassed. Note that because the username and password are not available, authorization is also bypassed. However, you can include authorization attributes in the preauthentication profile to apply per-user attributes and avoid having to return subsequently to RADIUS for authorization. To initiate the authorization process, you must also configure the **aaa authorization network** command on the NAS.

You can configure authorization attributes in the preauthentication profile with one exception: the service-type attribute (attribute 6). The service-type attribute must be converted to a VSA in the preauthentication profile. This VSA has this syntax:

```
cisco-avpair = "preauth:service-type=<
n
>"
```
where <*n*> is one of the standard RFC 2865 values for attribute 6.

Note If subsequent authentication is required, the authorization attributes in the preauthentication profile are not applied.

RADIUS Authentication

After you have identified the RADIUS server and defined the RADIUS authentication key, you must define method lists for RADIUS authentication. Because RADIUS authentication is facilitated through AAA, you must enter the **aaa authentication** command, specifying RADIUS as the authentication method.

RADIUS Authorization

AAA authorization lets you set parameters that restrict a user's access to the network. Authorization using RADIUS provides one method for remote access control, including one-time authorization or authorization for each service, per-user account list and profile, user group support, and support of IP, IPX, AppleTalk Remote Access (ARA), and Telnet. Because RADIUS authorization is facilitated through AAA, you must enter the **aaa authorization** command, specifying RADIUS as the authorization method.

RADIUS Accounting

The AAA accounting feature enables you to track the services users are accessing and the amount of network resources they are consuming. Because RADIUS accounting is facilitated through AAA, you must enter the **aaa accounting** command, specifying RADIUS as the accounting method.

RADIUS Login-IP-Host

To enable the network access server (NAS) to attempt more than one login host when trying to connect a dial-in user, you can enter as many as three Login-IP-Host entries in the user's profile on the RADIUS server.

The following example shows that three Login-IP-Host instances are configured for the user *user1*, and that TCP-Clear is used for the connection:

```
user1 Password = xyz
        Service-Type = Login,
        Login-Service = TCP-Clear,
        Login-IP-Host = 10.0.0.0,
        Login-IP-Host = 10.2.2.2,
        Login-IP-Host = 10.255.255.255,
        Login-TCP-Port = 23
```

The order in which the hosts are entered is the order in which they are attempted. Use the **ip tcp synwait-time** command to set the number of seconds that the NAS waits before trying to connect to the next host on the list; the default is 30 seconds.

Your RADIUS server might permit more than three Login-IP-Host entries; however, the NAS supports only three hosts in Access-Accept packets.

RADIUS Prompt

To control whether user responses to Access-Challenge packets are echoed to the screen, you can configure the Prompt attribute in the user profile on the RADIUS server. This attribute is included only in Access-Challenge packets. The following example shows the Prompt attribute set to No-Echo, which prevents the user's responses from echoing:

```
user1 Password = xyz
Service-Type = Login,
Login-Service = Telnet,
Prompt = No-Echo,
Login-IP-Host = 172.31.255.255
```

To allow user responses to echo, set the attribute to Echo. If the Prompt attribute is not included in the user profile, responses are echoed by default.

This attribute overrides the behavior of the **radius-server challenge-noecho** command configured on the access server. For example, if the access server is configured to suppress echoing, but the individual user profile allows echoing, the user responses are echoed.

Note   If you want to use the Prompt attribute, your RADIUS server must be configured to support Access-Challenge packets.

Vendor-Specific RADIUS Attributes

The IETF standard specifies a method for communicating vendor-specific information between the network access server and the RADIUS server by using the vendor-specific attribute (attribute 26). Vendor-specific attributes (VSAs) allow vendors to support their own extended attributes not suitable for general use. The Cisco RADIUS implementation supports one vendor-specific option using the format recommended in the specification. Cisco's vendor ID is 9, and the supported option has vendor type 1, which is named "cisco-avpair." The value is a string with this format:

```
protocol : attribute sep value *
```

"Protocol" is a value of the Cisco "protocol" attribute for a particular type of authorization; protocols that can be used include IP, Internetwork Packet Exchange (IPX), VPDN, VoIP, Secure Shell (SSH), Resource

Reservation Protocol (RSVP), Serial Interface Processor (SIP), AirNet, and Outbound. "Attribute" and "value" are an appropriate AV pair defined in the Cisco TACACS+ specification, and "sep" is "=" for mandatory attributes and "*" for optional attributes, allowing the full set of features available for TACACS+ authorization to also be used for RADIUS.

For example, the following AV pair causes Cisco's "multiple named ip address pools" feature to be activated during IP authorization (during PPP's Internet Protocol Control Protocol (IPCP) address assignment):

```
cisco-avpair= "ip:addr-pool=first"
```
If you insert an "*", the AV pair "ip:addr-pool=first" becomes optional. Note that any AV pair can be made optional:

```
cisco-avpair= "ip:addr-pool*first"
```
The following example shows how to cause a user logging in from a network access server to have immediate access to EXEC commands:

```
cisco-avpair= "shell:priv-lvl=15"
```
Other vendors have their own unique vendor IDs, options, and associated VSAs.

Static Routes and IP Addresses on the RADIUS Server

Some vendor-proprietary implementations of RADIUS let the user define static routes and IP pool definitions on the RADIUS server instead of on each individual network access server in the network. Each network access server then queries the RADIUS server for static route and IP pool information.

To have the Cisco device or access server query the RADIUS server for static routes and IP pool definitions when the device starts up, use the **radius-server configure-nas** command.

Because the **radius-server configure-nas** command is performed when the Cisco devcie starts up, it does not take effect until you enter a **copy system:running-config nvram:startup-config** command.

How to Configure RADIUS

Configuring a Device for Vendor-Proprietary RADIUS Server Communication

Although an IETF standard for RADIUS specifies a method for communicating vendor-proprietary information between the network access server and the RADIUS server, some vendors have extended the RADIUS attribute set in a unique way. Cisco software supports a subset of vendor-proprietary RADIUS attributes.

To configure RADIUS (whether vendor-proprietary or IETF compliant), you must use the **radius-server** commands to specify the host running the RADIUS server daemon and the secret text string it shares with the Cisco device. To identify that the RADIUS server is using a vendor-proprietary implementation of RADIUS, use the **radius-server host non-standard** command. Vendor-proprietary attributes are not supported unless you use the **radius-server host non-standard** command.

> ✎
>
> **Note** To configure an IPv4 or IPv6 RADIUS server, use the commands as mentioned below:
>
> - If you have configured an IPv4 RADIUS server, you can use either the **radius-server host** command or the **radius server** *name* command.
>
> - If you have configured an IPv6 RADIUS server, use the **radius server** *name* command.
>
> For more information about the **radius server** command, see *Cisco IOS Security Command Reference: Commands M to R*.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **enable**
2. **configure terminal**
3. **radius-server vsa send** [**accounting** | **authentication**]
4. **radius-server host** {*hostname* | *ip-address*} **non-standard**
5. **radius-server key** {**0** *string* | **7** *string* | *string*}
6. **exit**

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	**Purpose**
Step 1	**enable** **Example:** `Device> enable`	Enables privileged EXEC mode. • Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	**configure terminal** **Example:** `Device# configure terminal`	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	**radius-server vsa send** [**accounting**	**authentication**] **Example:** `Device(config)# radius-server vsa send`	Enables the network access server to recognize and use VSAs as defined by RADIUS IETF attribute 26.
Step 4	**radius-server host** {*hostname*	*ip-address*} **non-standard** **Example:** `Device(config)# radius-server host host1 non-standard`	Specifies the IP address or hostname of the remote RADIUS server host and identifies that it is using a vendor-proprietary implementation of RADIUS.

	Command or Action	**Purpose**
		Note To configure an IPv4 or IPv6 RADIUS server, use the commands as mentioned below:
		• If you have configured an IPv4 RADIUS server, you can use either the **radius-server host** command or the **radius server** *name* command.
		• If you have configured an IPv6 RADIUS server, use the **radius server** *name* command.
		For more information about the **radius server** command, see *Cisco IOS Security Command Reference: Commands M to R*.
Step 5	**radius-server key** {**0** *string*	**7** *string*	*string*} **Example:** Device(config)# radius-server key myRaDIUSpassword	Specifies the shared secret text string used between the device and the vendor-proprietary RADIUS server. • The device and the RADIUS server use this text string to encrypt passwords and exchange responses.
Step 6	**exit** **Example:** Device(config)# exit	Returns to privileged EXEC mode.

Configuring a Device to Expand Network Access Server Port Information

Sometimes PPP or login authentication occurs on an interface that is different from the interface on which the call itself comes in. For example, in a V.120 ISDN call, login or PPP authentication occurs on a virtual asynchronous interface "ttt", but the call itself occurs on one of the channels of the ISDN interface.

The **radius-server attribute nas-port extended** command configures RADIUS to expand the size of the NAS-Port attribute (RADIUS IETF attribute 5) field to 32 bits. The upper 16 bits of the NAS-Port attribute display the type and number of the controlling interface; the lower 16 bits indicate the interface undergoing authentication.

Note The **radius-server attribute nas-port format** command replaces the **radius-server extended-portnames** command and the **radius-server attribute nas-port extended** command.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **enable**
2. **configure terminal**
3. **radius-server configure-nas**
4. **radius-server attribute nas-port format**
5. **exit**

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	**Purpose**
Step 1	**enable** **Example:** Device> enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode. • Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	**configure terminal** **Example:** Device# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	**radius-server configure-nas** **Example:** Device(config)# radius-server configure-nas	(Optional) Tells the Cisco device or access server to query the RADIUS server for the static routes and IP pool definitions used throughout its domain. **Note**　Because the **radius-server configure-nas** command is used when the Cisco device starts up, it does not take effect until you issue a **copy system:running-config nvram:startup-config** command.
Step 4	**radius-server attribute nas-port format** **Example:** Device(config)# radius-server attribute nas-port format	Expands the size of the NAS-Port attribute from 16 to 32 bits to display extended interface information.
Step 5	**exit** **Example:** Device(config)# exit	Returns to privileged EXEC mode.

Replacing the NAS-Port Attribute with the RADIUS Attribute

On platforms with multiple interfaces (ports) per slot, the Cisco RADIUS implementation does not provide a unique NAS-Port attribute that permits distinguishing between the interfaces. For example, if a dual PRI is in slot 1, calls on both Serial1/0:1 and Serial1/1:1 appear as NAS-Port = 20101 because of the 16-bit field size limitation associated with the RADIUS IETF NAS-Port attribute. In this case, you can replace the NAS-Port attribute with a VSA (RADIUS IETF attribute 26). Cisco's vendor ID is 9, and the Cisco-NAS-Port attribute is subtype 2. VSAs can be turned on by entering the **radius-server vsa send** command. The port information in this attribute is provided and configured using the **aaa nas port extended** command.

The standard NAS-Port attribute (RADIUS IETF attribute 5) is sent. If you do not want this information to be sent, you can suppress it by using the **no radius-server attribute nas-port** command. After this command is configured, the standard NAS-Port attribute is no longer sent.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **enable**
2. **configure terminal**
3. **radius-server vsa send** [**accounting** | **authentication**]
4. **aaa nas port extended**
5. **exit**

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	**enable** **Example:** Device> enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode. • Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	**configure terminal** **Example:** Device# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	**radius-server vsa send** [**accounting**	**authentication**] **Example:** Device(config)# radius-server vsa send	Enables the network access server to recognize and use vendor-specific attributes as defined by RADIUS IETF attribute 26.
Step 4	**aaa nas port extended** **Example:** Device(config)# aaa nas port extended	Expands the size of the VSA NAS-Port field from 16 to 32 bits to display extended interface information.

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 5	**exit** **Example:** Device(config)# exit	Returns to privileged EXEC mode.

Monitoring and Maintaining RADIUS

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **enable**
2. **debug radius**
3. **show radius statistics**
4. **show aaa servers**
5. **exit**

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	**enable** **Example:** Device> enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode. • Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	**debug radius** **Example:** Device# debug radius	Displays information associated with RADIUS.
Step 3	**show radius statistics** **Example:** Device# show radius statistics	Displays the RADIUS statistics for accounting and authentication packets.
Step 4	**show aaa servers** **Example:** Device# show aaa servers	Displays the status and number of packets that are sent to and received from all public and private AAA RADIUS servers as interpreted by the AAA Server MIB.

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 5	**exit** **Example:** `Device# exit`	Exits the device session.

Configuration Examples for RADIUS

Example: RADIUS Authentication and Authorization

The following example shows how to configure the device to authenticate and authorize using RADIUS:

```
aaa authentication login use-radius group radius local
aaa authentication ppp user-radius if-needed group radius
aaa authorization exec default group radius
aaa authorization network default group radius
```

The lines in this sample RADIUS authentication and authorization configuration are defined as follows:

- The **aaa authentication login use-radius group radius local** command configures the device to use RADIUS for authentication at the login prompt. If RADIUS returns an error, the user is authenticated using the local database. In this example, **use-radius** is the name of the method list, which specifies RADIUS and then local authentication.

- The **aaa authentication ppp user-radius if-needed group radius** command configures the Cisco software to use RADIUS authentication for lines using PPP with CHAP or PAP if the user has not already been authorized. If the EXEC facility has authenticated the user, RADIUS authentication is not performed. In this example, **user-radius** is the name of the method list defining RADIUS as the if-needed authentication method.

- The **aaa authorization exec default group radius** command sets the RADIUS information that is used for EXEC authorization, autocommands, and access lists.

- The **aaa authorization network default group radius** command sets RADIUS for network authorization, address assignment, and access lists.

Example: RADIUS Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting

The following example shows a general configuration using RADIUS with the AAA command set:

```
radius-server host 10.45.1.2
radius-server key myRaDiUSpassWoRd
username root password ALongPassword
aaa authentication ppp dialins group radius local
aaa authorization network default group radius local
aaa accounting network default start-stop group radius
aaa authentication login admins local
aaa authorization exec default local
```

```
line 1 16
 autoselect ppp
 autoselect during-login
 login authentication admins
 modem ri-is-cd
interface group-async 1
 encaps ppp
 ppp authentication pap dialins
```

The lines in this example RADIUS authentication, authorization, and accounting configuration are defined as follows:

- The **radius-server host** command defines the IP address of the RADIUS server host.

- The **radius-server key** command defines the shared secret text string between the network access server and the RADIUS server host.

- The **aaa authentication ppp dialins group radius local** command defines the authentication method list "dialins," which specifies that RADIUS authentication and then (if the RADIUS server does not respond) local authentication is used on serial lines using PPP.

- The **aaa authorization network default group radius local** command is used to assign an address and other network parameters to the RADIUS user.

- The **aaa accounting network default start-stop group radius** command tracks PPP usage.

- The **aaa authentication login admins local** command defines another method list, "admins," for login authentication.

- The **login authentication admins** command applies the "admins" method list for login authentication.

- The **ppp authentication pap dialins** command applies the "dialins" method list to the lines specified.

Example: Vendor-Proprietary RADIUS Configuration

The following example shows a general configuration using vendor-proprietary RADIUS with the AAA command set:

Note   To configure an IPv4 or IPv6 RADIUS server, use the commands as mentioned below:

- If you have configured an IPv4 RADIUS server, you can use either the **radius-server host** command or the **radius server** *name* command.

- If you have configured an IPv6 RADIUS server, use the **radius server** *name* command.

For more information about the **radius server** command, see *Cisco IOS Security Command Reference: Commands M to R*.

```
radius server myserver
radius server address ipv4 192.0.2.2
radius server non-standard
radius server key 7 anykey
radius-server configure-nas
username root password ALongPassword
aaa authentication ppp dialins group radius local
aaa authorization network default group radius local
aaa accounting network default start-stop group radius
aaa authentication login admins local
aaa authorization exec default local
```

The lines in this RADIUS authentication, authorization, and accounting configuration example are defined as follows:

- The **radius server** *name* **non-standard** command defines the name of the RADIUS server host and identifies that this RADIUS host uses a vendor-proprietary version of RADIUS.

- The **radius server** *name* **key** command defines the shared secret text string between the network access server and the RADIUS server host.

- The **radius-server configure-nas** command defines that the Cisco device or access server queries the RADIUS server for static routes and IP pool definitions when the device first starts up.

- The **aaa authentication ppp dialins group radius local** command defines the authentication method list "dialins," which specifies that RADIUS authentication and then (if the RADIUS server does not respond) local authentication is used on serial lines using PPP.

- The **aaa authorization network default group radius local** command assigns an address and other network parameters to the RADIUS user.

- The **aaa accounting network default start-stop group radius** command tracks PPP usage.

- The **aaa authentication login admins local** command defines another method list, "admins," for login authentication.

Example: Multiple RADIUS Server Entries for the Same Server IP Address

The following example shows how to configure the network access server to recognize several RADIUS host entries with the same IP address. Two different host entries on the same RADIUS server are configured for the same services—authentication and accounting. The second host entry configured acts as failover backup to the first one. (The RADIUS host entries are tried in the order they are configured.)

```
! This command enables AAA.
aaa new-model
! The next command configures default RADIUS parameters.
aaa authentication ppp default group radius
! The next set of commands configures multiple host entries for the same IP address.
radius-server host 172.20.0.1 auth-port 1000 acct-port 1001
radius-server host 172.20.0.1 auth-port 2000 acct-port 2000
```

Additional References

Related Documents

Related Topic	Document Title
Cisco IOS commands	Cisco IOS Master Command List, All Releases
AAA and RADIUS commands	*Cisco IOS Security Command Reference*
RADIUS attributes	*RADIUS Attributes Configuration Guide* (part of the Securing User Services Configuration Library)

Related Topic	Document Title
AAA	*Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting Configuration Guide* (part of the Securing User Services Configuration Library)
L2TP, VPN, or VPDN	*Dial Technologies Configuration Guide* and *VPDN Configuration Guide*
Modem configuration and management	*Dial Technologies Configuration Guide*
RADIUS port identification for PPP	*Wide-Area Networking Configuration Guide*

RFCs

RFC	Title
RFC 2138	*Remote Authentication Dial-In User Service (RADIUS)*
RFC 2139	*RADIUS Accounting*
RFC 2865	*RADIUS*
RFC 2867	*RADIUS Accounting Modifications for Tunnel Protocol Support*
RFC 2868	*RADIUS Attributes for Tunnel Protocol Support*

Technical Assistance

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

Feature Information for Configuring RADIUS

The following table provides release information about the feature or features described in this module. This table lists only the software release that introduced support for a given feature in a given software release train. Unless noted otherwise, subsequent releases of that software release train also support that feature.

Use Cisco Feature Navigator to find information about platform support and Cisco software image support. To access Cisco Feature Navigator, go to www.cisco.com/go/cfn. An account on Cisco.com is not required.

Table 4: Feature Information for Configuring RADIUS

Feature Name	Releases	Feature Information
Configuring RADIUS	Cisco IOS XE 3.2SE Cisco IOS XE 3.3SE	The RADIUS security system is a distributed client/server system that secures networks against unauthorized access. In the Cisco implementation, RADIUS clients run on Cisco devices and send authentication requests to a central RADIUS server that contains all user authentication and network service access information. In Cisco IOS XE Release 3.2SE, this feature was supported on the following platforms: • Catalyst 3850 Series Switches • Cisco 5760 Wireless LAN Controller In Cisco IOS XE Release 3.3SE, this feature was supported on the following platforms: • Catalyst 3650 Series Switches

Feature Name	Releases	Feature Information
RADIUS Statistics via SNMP	Cisco IOS XE 3.2SE Cisco IOS XE 3.3SE	This feature provides statistics related to RADIUS traffic and private RADIUS servers. In Cisco IOS XE Release 3.2SE, this feature was supported on the following platforms: • Catalyst 3850 Series Switches • Cisco 5760 Wireless LAN Controller In Cisco IOS XE Release 3.3SE, this feature was supported on the following platforms: • Catalyst 3650 Series Switches The following commands were introduced or modified: **show aaa servers**, **show radius statistics**.

AAA Server Groups

Configuring a device to use authentication, authorization, and accounting (AAA) server groups provides a way to group existing server hosts. Grouping existing server hosts allows you to select a subset of the configured server hosts and use them for a particular service. Configuring deadtime within a server group allows you to direct AAA traffic to separate groups of servers that have different operational characteristics. This feature module describes how to configure AAA server groups and the deadtimer.

Finding Feature Information

Your software release may not support all the features documented in this module. For the latest caveats and feature information, see Bug Search Tool and the release notes for your platform and software release. To find information about the features documented in this module, and to see a list of the releases in which each feature is supported, see the feature information table at the end of this module.

Use Cisco Feature Navigator to find information about platform support and Cisco software image support. To access Cisco Feature Navigator, go to www.cisco.com/go/cfn. An account on Cisco.com is not required.

Information About AAA Server Groups

AAA Server Groups

Configuring the device to use AAA server groups provides a way to group existing server hosts. Grouping existing server hosts allows you to select a subset of the configured server hosts and use them for a particular

service. A server group is used with a global server-host list. The server group lists the IP addresses of the selected server hosts.

Server groups can also include multiple host entries for the same server, as long as each entry has a unique identifier. The combination of an IP address and a UDP port number creates a unique identifier, allowing different ports to be individually defined as RADIUS hosts providing a specific AAA service. This unique identifier enables RADIUS requests to be sent to different UDP ports on a server at the same IP address. If two different host entries on the same RADIUS server are configured for the same service—for example, accounting—the second host entry that is configured acts as a failover backup to the first one. If the first host entry fails to provide accounting services, the network access server tries the second host entry configured on the same device for accounting services. (The RADIUS host entries are tried in the order in which they are configured.)

AAA Server Groups with a Deadtimer

After you configure a server host with a server name, you can use the **deadtime** command to configure each server per server group. Configuring deadtime within a server group allows you to direct AAA traffic to separate groups of servers that have different operational characteristics.

Configuring deadtime is not limited to a global configuration. A separate timer is attached to each server host in every server group. Therefore, when a server is found to be unresponsive after numerous retransmissions and timeouts, the server is assumed to be dead. The timers attached to each server host in all server groups are triggered. In essence, the timers are checked and subsequent requests to a server (once it is assumed to be dead) are directed to alternate timers, if configured. When the network access server receives a reply from the server, it checks and stops all configured timers (if running) for that server in all server groups.

If the timer has expired, the server to which the timer is attached is assumed to be alive. This becomes the only server that can be tried for later AAA requests using the server groups to which the timer belongs.

Note Because one server has different timers and might have different deadtime values configured in the server groups, the same server might, in the future, have different states (dead and alive) at the same time.

Note To change the state of a server, you must start and stop all configured timers in all server groups.

The size of the server group will be slightly increased because of the addition of new timers and the deadtime attribute. The overall impact of the structure depends on the number and size of the server groups and how the servers are shared among server groups in a specific configuration.

How to Configure AAA Server Groups

Configuring AAA Server Groups

To define a server host with a server group name, enter the following commands in global configuration mode. The listed server must exist in global configuration mode.

Before You Begin

Each server in the group must be defined previously using the **radius-server host** command.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **enable**

2. **configure terminal**

3. **radius-server host** {*hostname* | *ip-address*} [**auth-port** *port-number*] [**acct-port** *port-number*] [**timeout** *seconds*] [**retransmit** *retries*] [**key** *string*] [**alias** {*hostname* | *ip-address*}]

4. **aaa group server** {**radius** | **tacacs+**} *group-name*

5. **server** *ip-address* [**auth-port** *port-number*] [**acct-port** *port-number*]

6. **end**

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	**enable** **Example:** `Device> enable`	Enables privileged EXEC mode. • Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	**configure terminal** **Example:** `Device# configure terminal`	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	**radius-server host** {*hostname*	*ip-address*} [**auth-port** *port-number*] [**acct-port** *port-number*] [**timeout** *seconds*] [**retransmit** *retries*] [**key** *string*] [**alias** {*hostname*	*ip-address*}] **Example:** `Device(config)# radius-server host 10.45.1.2`	Specifies and defines the IP address of the server host before configuring the AAA server group.
Step 4	**aaa group server** {**radius**	**tacacs+**} *group-name* **Example:** `Device(config)# aaa group server radius group1`	Defines the AAA server group with a group name. • All members of a group must be the same type, that is, RADIUS or TACACS+. This command puts the device in server group RADIUS configuration mode.
Step 5	**server** *ip-address* [**auth-port** *port-number*] [**acct-port** *port-number*] **Example:** `Device(config-sg-radius)# server 172.16.1.1 acct-port 1616`	Associates a particular RADIUS server with the defined server group. • Each security server is identified by its IP address and UDP port number.

	Command or Action	Purpose
		• Repeat this step for each RADIUS server in the AAA server group.
Step 6	**end** **Example:** Device(config-sg-radius)# end	Exits server group RADIUS configuration mode and returns to privileged EXEC mode.

Configuring AAA Server Groups with a Deadtimer

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **enable**
2. **configure terminal**
3. **aaa group server radius** *group*
4. **deadtime** *minutes*
5. **end**

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	**enable** **Example:** Device> enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode. • Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	**configure terminal** **Example:** Device# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	**aaa group server radius** *group* **Example:** Device(config)# aaa group server radius group1	Defines a RADIUS type server group and enters server group RADIUS configuration mode.
Step 4	**deadtime** *minutes*	Configures and defines a deadtime value in minutes.

	Command or Action	Purpose
	Example: `Device(config-sg-radius)# deadtime 1`	**Note** Local server group deadtime overrides the global configuration. If the deadtime vlaue is omitted from the local server group configuration, it is inherited from the master list.
Step 5	**end** **Example:** `Device(config-sg-radius)# end`	Exits server group RADIUS configuration mode and returns to privileged EXEC mode.

Configuration Examples for AAA Server Groups

Examples: AAA Server Groups

The following example shows how to create server group radgroup1 with three different RADIUS server members, each using the default authentication port (1645) and accounting port (1646):

```
aaa group server radius radgroup1
 server 172.16.1.11
 server 172.17.1.21
 server 172.18.1.31
```

The following example shows how to create server group radgroup2 with three RADIUS server members, each with the same IP address but with unique authentication and accounting ports:

```
aaa group server radius radgroup2
 server 172.16.1.1 auth-port 1000 acct-port 1001
 server 172.16.1.1 auth-port 2000 acct-port 2001
 server 172.16.1.1 auth-port 3000 acct-port 3001
```

Example: Multiple RADIUS Server Entries Using AAA Server Groups

The following example shows how to configure the network access server to recognize two different RADIUS server groups. One of these groups, group1, has two different host entries on the same RADIUS server configured for the same services. The second host entry configured acts as failover backup to the first one. Each group is individually configured for the deadtime; the deadtime for group 1 is one minute, and the deadtime for group 2 is two minutes.

Note In cases where both global commands and **server** commands are used, the **server** command takes precedence over the global command.

```
! This command enables AAA.
aaa new-model
```

```
! The next command configures default RADIUS parameters.
aaa authentication ppp default group group1
! The following commands define the group1 RADIUS server group and associate servers
! with it and configures a deadtime of one minute.
aaa group server radius group1
 server 10.1.1.1 auth-port 1645 acct-port 1646
 server 10.2.2.2 auth-port 2000 acct-port 2001
 deadtime 1
! The following commands define the group2 RADIUS server group and associate servers
! with it and configures a deadtime of two minutes.
aaa group server radius group2
 server 10.2.2.2 auth-port 2000 acct-port 2001
 server 10.3.3.3 auth-port 1645 acct-port 1646
 deadtime 2
! The following set of commands configures the RADIUS attributes for each host entry
! associated with one of the defined server groups.
radius-server host 10.1.1.1 auth-port 1645 acct-port 1646
radius-server host 10.2.2.2 auth-port 2000 acct-port 2001
radius-server host 10.3.3.3 auth-port 1645 acct-port 1646
```

Additional References

Related Documents

Related Topic	Document Title
Cisco IOS commands	Cisco IOS Master Command List, All Releases
AAA and RADIUS commands	*Cisco IOS Security Command Reference*
RADIUS attributes	*RADIUS Attributes Configuration Guide* (part of the Securing User Services Configuration Library)
AAA	*Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting Configuration Guide* (part of the Securing User Services Configuration Library)
L2TP, VPN, or VPDN	*Dial Technologies Configuration Guide* and *VPDN Configuration Guide*
Modem configuration and management	*Dial Technologies Configuration Guide*
RADIUS port identification for PPP	*Wide-Area Networking Configuration Guide*

RFCs

RFC	Title
RFC 2138	*Remote Authentication Dial-In User Service (RADIUS)*
RFC 2139	*RADIUS Accounting*

RFC	Title
RFC 2865	*RADIUS*
RFC 2867	*RADIUS Accounting Modifications for Tunnel Protocol Support*
RFC 2868	*RADIUS Attributes for Tunnel Protocol Support*

Technical Assistance

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

Feature Information for AAA Server Groups

The following table provides release information about the feature or features described in this module. This table lists only the software release that introduced support for a given feature in a given software release train. Unless noted otherwise, subsequent releases of that software release train also support that feature.

Use Cisco Feature Navigator to find information about platform support and Cisco software image support. To access Cisco Feature Navigator, go to www.cisco.com/go/cfn. An account on Cisco.com is not required.

Table 5: Feature Information for AAA Server Groups

Feature Name	Releases	Feature Information
AAA Server Group	Cisco IOS XE 3.2SE Cisco IOS XE 3.3SE	Configuring the device to use AAA server groups provides a way to group existing server hosts. This allows you to select a subset of the configured server hosts and use them for a particular service. A server group is used with a global server-host list. The server group lists the IP addresses of the selected server hosts. In Cisco IOS XE Release 3.2SE, this feature was supported on the following platforms: • Catalyst 3850 Series Switches • Cisco 5760 Wireless LAN Controller In Cisco IOS XE Release 3.3SE, this feature was supported on the following platforms: • Catalyst 3650 Series Switches The following commands were introduced or modified: **aaa group server radius**, **aaa group server tacacs+**, and **server** (RADIUS).

Feature Name	Releases	Feature Information
AAA Server Group Enhancements	Cisco IOS XE 3.2SE Cisco IOS XE 3.3SE	AAA Server Group Enhancements enables the full configuration of a server in a server group. In Cisco IOS XE Release 3.2SE, this feature was supported on the following platforms: • Catalyst 3850 Series Switches • Cisco 5760 Wireless LAN Controller In Cisco IOS XE Release 3.3SE, this feature was supported on the following platforms: • Catalyst 3650 Series Switches
AAA Server Group Deadtimer	Cisco IOS XE 3.2SE Cisco IOS XE 3.3SE	Configuring deadtime within a server group allows you to direct AAA traffic to separate groups of servers that have different operational characteristics. In Cisco IOS XE Release 3.2SE, this feature was supported on the following platforms: • Catalyst 3850 Series Switches • Cisco 5760 Wireless LAN Controller In Cisco IOS XE Release 3.3SE, this feature was supported on the following platforms: • Catalyst 3650 Series Switches The following commands were introduced or modified: **deadtime**.

C H A P T E R 3

RADIUS for Multiple UDP Ports

RADIUS security servers are identified on the basis of their hostname or IP address, hostname and specific UDP port numbers, or IP address and specific UDP port numbers. The combination of the IP address and UDP port number creates a unique identifier, allowing different ports to be individually defined as RADIUS hosts providing a specific authentication, authorization, and accounting (AAA) service. This unique identifier enables RADIUS requests to be sent to multiple UDP ports on a server at the same IP address. If two different host entries on the same RADIUS server are configured for the same service—for example, accounting—the second host entry configured acts as a failover backup to the first one. If the first host entry fails to provide accounting services, the network access server tries the second host entry configured on the same device for accounting services.

Finding Feature Information

Your software release may not support all the features documented in this module. For the latest caveats and feature information, see Bug Search Tool and the release notes for your platform and software release. To find information about the features documented in this module, and to see a list of the releases in which each feature is supported, see the feature information table at the end of this module.

Use Cisco Feature Navigator to find information about platform support and Cisco software image support. To access Cisco Feature Navigator, go to www.cisco.com/go/cfn. An account on Cisco.com is not required.

Prerequisites for RADIUS for Multiple UDP Ports

To configure RADIUS on your Cisco device or access server, you must perform these tasks:

- Use the **aaa new-model** global configuration command to enable AAA. AAA must be configured if you plan to use RADIUS.

- Use the **aaa authentication** global configuration command to define method lists for RADIUS authentication.

- Use **line** and **interface** commands to enable the defined method lists to be used.

Information About RADIUS for Multiple UDP Ports

Device-to-RADIUS Server Communication

The RADIUS host is normally a multiuser system running RADIUS server software from Cisco (CiscoSecure ACS), Livingston, Merit, Microsoft, or another software provider. Configuring device to RADIUS server communication can have several components:

- Hostname or IP address

- Authentication destination port

- Accounting destination port

- Timeout period

- Retransmission value

- Key string

RADIUS security servers are identified on the basis of their hostname or IP address, hostname and specific UDP port numbers, or IP address and specific UDP port numbers. The combination of the IP address and UDP port number creates a unique identifier, allowing different ports to be individually defined as RADIUS hosts providing a specific AAA service. This unique identifier enables RADIUS requests to be sent to multiple UDP ports on a server at the same IP address. If two different host entries on the same RADIUS server are configured for the same service—for example, accounting—the second host entry configured acts as a failover backup to the first one. If the first host entry fails to provide accounting services, the network access server tries the second host entry configured on the same device for accounting services. (The RADIUS host entries are tried in the order they are configured.)

A RADIUS server and a Cisco device use a shared secret text string to encrypt passwords and exchange responses. To configure RADIUS to use the AAA security commands, you must specify the host running the RADIUS server daemon and a secret text (key) string that it shares with the device.

The timeout, retransmission, and encryption key values are configurable globally for all RADIUS servers, on a per-server basis or in some combination of global and per-server settings. To apply these settings globally to all RADIUS servers communicating with the device, use the three unique global commands: **radius-server timeout**, **radius-server retransmit**, and **radius-server key**. To apply these values on a specific RADIUS server, use the **radius-server host** command.

| Note | You can configure both global and per-server timeout, retransmission, and key value commands simultaneously on the same Cisco network access server. If both global and per-server functions are configured on a device, the per-server timer, retransmission, and key value commands override global timer, retransmission, and key value commands. |

How to Configure RADIUS for Multiple UDP Ports

Configuring Device-to-RADIUS Server Communication

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **enable**
2. **configure terminal**
3. **radius-server host** {*hostname* | *ip-address*} [**auth-port** *port-number*] [**acct-port** *port-number*] [**timeout** *seconds*] [**retransmit** *retries*] [**key** *string*] [**alias** {*hostname* | *ip-address*}]
4. **radius-server key** {**0** *string* | **7** *string* | *string*}
5. **radius-server retransmit** *retries*
6. **radius-server timeout** *seconds*
7. **radius-server deadtime** *minutes*
8. **exit**

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	**Purpose**
Step 1	**enable** **Example:** `Device> enable`	Enables privileged EXEC mode. • Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	**configure terminal** **Example:** `Device# configure terminal`	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	**radius-server host** {*hostname* | *ip-address*} [**auth-port** *port-number*] [**acct-port** *port-number*] [**timeout**	Specifies the IP address or hostname of the remote RADIUS server host and assigns authentication and accounting destination port numbers. **Note** In this step, the timeout, retransmission, and encryption key values are configured on a per-server basis.

	Command or Action	Purpose
	seconds] [**retransmit** *retries*] [**key** *string*] [**alias** {*hostname* | *ip-address*}] **Example:** Device(config)# radius-server host 10.45.1.2	• **auth-port** *port-number*—configures a specific UDP port on this RADIUS server to be used solely for authentication. • **acct-port** *port-number*—configures a specific UDP port on this RADIUS server to be used solely for accounting. • **alias**—configures up to eight multiple IP addresses for use when referring to RADIUS servers. • To configure the network access server to recognize more than one host entry associated with a single IP address, repeat this command as many times as necessary, making sure that each UDP port number is different. Set the timeout, retransmit, and encryption key values to use with the specific RADIUS host. • If no timeout is set, the global value is used; otherwise, enter a value from 1 to 1000. If no retransmit value is set, the global value is used; otherwise, enter a value from 1 to 1000. If no key string is specified, the global value is used. **Note** The key is a text string that must match the encryption key used on the RADIUS server. Always configure the key as the last item in the **radius-server host** command syntax because the leading spaces are ignored, but spaces within and at the end of the key are used. If you use spaces in your key, do not enclose the key in quotation marks unless the quotation marks themselves are part of the key.
Step 4	**radius-server key** {**0** *string* | **7** *string* | *string*} **Example:** Device(config)# radius-server key myRaDIUSpassword	Specifies the shared secret text string used between the device and a RADIUS server. **Note** In this step, the encryption key value is configured globally for all RADIUS servers. • Use the **0** *string* option to configure an unencrypted shared secret. Use the **7** *string* option to configure an encrypted shared secret.
Step 5	**radius-server retransmit** *retries* **Example:** Device(config)# radius-server retransmit 25	Specifies how many times the device transmits each RADIUS request to the server before giving up (the default is 3). **Note** In this step, the retransmission value is configured globally for all RADIUS servers.
Step 6	**radius-server timeout** *seconds* **Example:** Device(config)# radius-server timeout 6	Specifies for how many seconds a device waits for a reply to a RADIUS request before retransmitting the request. **Note** In this step, the timeout value is configured globally for all RADIUS servers.

	Command or Action	Purpose

Step 7	**radius-server deadtime** *minutes*
	
	Example:
	
	`Device(config)# radius-server`
	`deadtime 5`
		Specifies for how many minutes a RADIUS server that is not responding to authentication requests is passed over by requests for RADIUS authentication.

Step 8	**exit** **Example:** `Device(config)# exit`	Returns to privileged EXEC mode.

Configuration Examples for RADIUS for Multiple UDP Ports

Example: Device-to-RADIUS Server Communication

The following example shows how to configure two RADIUS servers with specific timeout, retransmit, and key values. In this example, the **aaa new-model** command enables AAA services on the device, and specific AAA commands define the AAA services. The **radius-server retransmit** command changes the global retransmission value to 4 for all RADIUS servers. The **radius-server host** command configures specific timeout, retransmission, and key values for the RADIUS server hosts with IP addresses 172.16.1.1 and 172.29.39.46.

```
! Enable AAA services on the device and define those services.
aaa new-model
aaa authentication login default group radius
aaa authentication login console-login none
aaa authentication ppp default group radius
aaa authorization network default group radius
aaa accounting exec default start-stop group radius
aaa accounting network default start-stop group radius
enable password tryit1
!
! Change the global retransmission value for all RADIUS servers.
radius-server retransmit 4
!
! Configure per-server specific timeout, retransmission, and key values.
! Change the default auth-port and acct-port values.
radius-server host 172.16.1.1 auth-port 1612 acct-port 1616 timeout 3 retransmit 3 key
radkey
!
! Configure per-server specific timeout and key values. This server uses the global
! retransmission value.
radius-server host 172.29.39.46 timeout 6 key rad123
```

Example: RADIUS Server with Server-Specific Values

The following example shows how to configure server-specific timeout, retransmit, and key values for the RADIUS server with IP address 172.31.39.46:

```
radius-server host 172.31.39.46 timeout 6 retransmit 5 key rad123
```

Additional References

Related Documents

Related Topic	Document Title
Cisco IOS commands	Cisco IOS Master Command List, All Releases
AAA and RADIUS commands	*Cisco IOS Security Command Reference*
AAA	*Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting Configuration Guide* (part of the Securing User Services Configuration Library)

Technical Assistance

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

Feature Information for RADIUS for Multiple UDP Ports

The following table provides release information about the feature or features described in this module. This table lists only the software release that introduced support for a given feature in a given software release train. Unless noted otherwise, subsequent releases of that software release train also support that feature.

Use Cisco Feature Navigator to find information about platform support and Cisco software image support. To access Cisco Feature Navigator, go to www.cisco.com/go/cfn. An account on Cisco.com is not required.

Table 6: Feature Information for RADIUS for Multiple UDP Ports

Feature Name	Releases	Feature Information
RADIUS for Multiple UDP Ports	Cisco IOS XE 3.2SE Cisco IOS XE 3.3SE	RADIUS security servers are identified on the basis of their hostname or IP address, hostname and specific UDP port numbers, or IP address and specific UDP port numbers. The combination of the IP address and UDP port number creates a unique identifier, allowing different ports to be individually defined as RADIUS hosts providing a specific AAA service. This unique identifier enables RADIUS requests to be sent to multiple UDP ports on a server at the same IP address. In Cisco IOS XE Release 3.2SE, this feature was supported on the following platforms: • Catalyst 3850 Series Switches In Cisco IOS XE Release 3.3SE, this feature was supported on the following platforms: • Catalyst 3650 Series Switches The following command was introduced or modified: **radius-server host**.

RADIUS Server Load Balancing

The RADIUS Server Load Balancing feature distributes authentication, authorization, and accounting (AAA) authentication and accounting transactions across RADIUS servers in a server group. These servers can share the AAA transaction load and thereby respond faster to incoming requests.

This module describes the RADIUS Server Load Balancing feature.

Finding Feature Information

Your software release may not support all the features documented in this module. For the latest caveats and feature information, see Bug Search Tool and the release notes for your platform and software release. To find information about the features documented in this module, and to see a list of the releases in which each feature is supported, see the feature information table at the end of this module.

Use Cisco Feature Navigator to find information about platform support and Cisco software image support. To access Cisco Feature Navigator, go to www.cisco.com/go/cfn. An account on Cisco.com is not required.

Prerequisites for RADIUS Server Load Balancing

- Authentication, authorization, and accounting (AAA) must be configured on the RADIUS server.
- AAA RADIUS server groups must be configured.

• RADIUS must be configured for functions such as authentication, accounting, or static route download.

Restrictions for RADIUS Server Load Balancing

• Incoming RADIUS requests, such as Packet of Disconnect (POD) requests, are not supported.

• Load balancing is not supported on proxy RADIUS servers and for private server groups.

Information About RADIUS Server Load Balancing

RADIUS Server Load Balancing Overview

Load balancing distributes batches of transactions to RADIUS servers within a server group. Load balancing assigns each batch of transactions to the server with the lowest number of outstanding transactions in its queue. The process of assigning a batch of transactions is as follows:

1 The first transaction is received for a new batch.

2 All server transaction queues are checked.

3 The server with the lowest number of outstanding transactions is identified.

4 The identified server is assigned the next batch of transactions.

The batch size is a user-configured parameter. Changes in the batch size may impact CPU load and network throughput. As batch size increases, CPU load decreases and network throughput increases. However, if a large batch size is used, all available server resources may not be fully utilized. As batch size decreases, CPU load increases and network throughput decreases.

Note   There is no set number for large or small batch sizes. A batch with more than 50 transactions is considered large and a batch with fewer than 25 transactions is considered small.

Note   If a server group contains ten or more servers, we recommend that you set a high batch size to reduce CPU load.

Transaction Load Balancing Across RADIUS Server Groups

You can configure load balancing either per-named RADIUS server group or for the global RADIUS server group. The load balancing server group must be referred to as "radius" in the authentication, authorization, and accounting (AAA) method lists. All public servers that are part of the RADIUS server group are then load balanced.

You can configure authentication and accounting to use the same RADIUS server or different servers. In some cases, the same server can be used for preauthentication, authentication, or accounting transactions for a session. The preferred server, which is an internal setting and is set as the default, informs AAA to use the same server for the start and stop record for a session regardless of the server cost. When using the preferred server setting, ensure that the server that is used for the initial transaction (for example, authentication), the preferred server, is part of any other server group that is used for a subsequent transaction (for example, accounting).

The preferred server is not used if one of the following criteria is true:

- The **load-balance method least-outstanding ignore-preferred-server** command is used.

- The preferred server is dead.

- The preferred server is in quarantine.

- The want server flag has been set, overriding the preferred server setting.

The want server flag, an internal setting, is used when the same server must be used for all stages of a multistage transaction regardless of the server cost. If the want server is not available, the transaction fails.

You can use the **load-balance method least-outstanding ignore-preferred-server** command if you have either of the following configurations:

- Dedicated authentication server and a separate dedicated accounting server

- Network where you can track all call record statistics and call record details, including start and stop records and records that are stored on separate servers

If you have a configuration where authentication servers are a superset of accounting servers, the preferred server is not used.

RADIUS Server Status and Automated Testing

The RADIUS Server Load Balancing feature considers the server status when assigning batches. Transaction batches are sent only to live servers. We recommend that you test the status of all RADIUS load-balanced servers, including low usage servers (for example, backup servers).

Transactions are not sent to a server that is marked dead. A server is marked dead until its timer expires, at which time it moves to quarantine state. A server is in quarantine until it is verified alive by the RADIUS automated tester functionality.

To determine if a server is alive and available to process transactions, the RADIUS automated tester sends a request periodically to the server for a test user ID. If the server returns an Access-Reject message, the server is alive; otherwise the server is either dead or quarantined.

A transaction sent to an unresponsive server is failed over to the next available server before the unresponsive server is marked dead. We recommend that you use the retry reorder mode for failed transactions.

When using the RADIUS automated tester, verify that the authentication, authorization, and accounting (AAA) servers are responding to the test packets that are sent by the network access server (NAS). If the servers are not configured correctly, packets may be dropped and the server erroneously marked dead.

⚠

Caution   We recommend that you use a test user that is not defined on the RADIUS server for the RADIUS server automated testing to protect against security issues that may arise if the test user is not correctly configured.

✎

Note   Use the **test aaa group** command to check load-balancing transactions.

How to Configure RADIUS Server Load Balancing

Enabling Load Balancing for a Named RADIUS Server Group

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **enable**
2. **configure terminal**
3. **radius-server host** {*hostname* | *ip-address*} [**test username** *name*] [**auth-port** *number*] [**ignore-auth-port**] [**acct-port** *number*] [**ignore-acct-port**] [**idle-time** *seconds*]
4. **aaa group server radius** *group-name*
5. **load-balance method least-outstanding** [**batch-size** *number*] [**ignore-preferred-server**]
6. **end**

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	**enable** **Example:** `Device> enable`	Enables privileged EXEC mode. • Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	**configure terminal** **Example:** `Device# configure terminal`	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	**radius-server host** {*hostname*	*ip-address*} [**test username** *name*] [**auth-port** *number*] [**ignore-auth-port**] [**acct-port** *number*] [**ignore-acct-port**] [**idle-time** *seconds*] **Example:** `Device(config)# radius-server host 192.0.2.1 test username test1 idle-time 1`	Enables RADIUS automated testing.

	Command or Action	**Purpose**
Step 4	**aaa group server radius** *group-name* **Example:** Device(config)# aaa group server radius rad-sg	Enters server group configuration mode.
Step 5	**load-balance method least-outstanding** [**batch-size** *number*] [**ignore-preferred-server**] **Example:** Device(config-sg)# load-balance method least-outstanding batch-size 30	Enables the least-outstanding load balancing for a named server group.
Step 6	**end** **Example:** Device(config-sg)# end	Exits server group configuration mode and enters privileged EXEC mode.

Enabling Load Balancing for a Global RADIUS Server Group

The global RADIUS server group is referred to as "radius" in the authentication, authorization, and accounting (AAA) method lists.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **enable**
2. **configure terminal**
3. **radius-server host** {*hostname | ip-address*} [**test username** *name*] [**auth-port** *number*] [**ignore-auth-port**] [**acct-port** *number*] [**ignore-acct-port**] [**idle-time** *seconds*]
4. **radius-server load-balance method   least-outstanding** [**batch-size** *number*] [**ignore-preferred-server**]
5. **load-balance method   least-outstanding** [**batch-size** *number*] [**ignore-preferred-server**]
6. **end**

DETAILED STEPS

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

	Command or Action	**Purpose**
Step 2	**configure terminal** **Example:** `Device# configure terminal`	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	**radius-server host** {*hostname* | *ip-address*} [**test username** *name*] [**auth-port** *number*] [**ignore-auth-port**] [**acct-port** *number*] [**ignore-acct-port**] [**idle-time** *seconds*] **Example:** `Device(config)# radius-server host 192.0.2.1 test username test1 idle-time 1`	Enables RADIUS automated testing.
Step 4	**radius-server load-balance method least-outstanding** [**batch-size** *number*] [**ignore-preferred-server**] **Example:** `Device(config)# radius-server load-balance method least-outstanding`	Enables the least-outstanding load balancing for the global RADIUS server group and enters server group configuration mode. • The default batch size is 25. The batch size range is from 1 to 2147483647.
Step 5	**load-balance method least-outstanding** [**batch-size** *number*] [**ignore-preferred-server**] **Example:** `Device(config-sg)# load-balance method least-outstanding batch-size 5`	Enables least-outstanding load balancing for a global named server group.
Step 6	**end** **Example:** `Device(config-sg)# end`	Exits server group configuration mode and enters privileged EXEC mode.

Troubleshooting RADIUS Server Load Balancing

After configuring the RADIUS Server Load Balancing feature, you can monitor the idle timer, dead timer, and load balancing server selection or verify the server status by using a manual test command.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. Use the **debug aaa test** command to determine when an idle timer or dead timer has expired, when test packets are sent, the status of the server, or to verify the server state.
2. Use the **debug aaa sg-server selection** command to determine the server that is selected for load balancing.
3. Use the **test aaa group** command to manually verify the RADIUS load-balanced server status.

DETAILED STEPS

Step 1   Use the **debug aaa test** command to determine when an idle timer or dead timer has expired, when test packets are sent, the status of the server, or to verify the server state.

The idle timer is used to check the server status and is updated with or without any incoming requests. Monitoring the idle timer helps to determine if there are nonresponsive servers and to keep the RADIUS server status updated to efficiently utilize available resources. For instance, an updated idle timer would help ensure that incoming requests are sent to servers that are alive.

The dead timer is used either to determine that a server is dead or to update a dead server's status appropriately.

Monitoring server selection helps to determine how often the server selection changes. Server selection is effective in analyzing if there are any bottlenecks, a large number of queued requests, or if only specific servers are processing incoming requests.

The following sample output from the **debug aaa test** command shows when the idle timer expired:

Example:
```
Device# debug aaa test

Jul 16 00:07:01: AAA/SG/TEST: Server (192.0.2.245:1700,1701) quarantined.
Jul 16 00:07:01: AAA/SG/TEST: Sending test request(s) to server (192.0.2.245:1700,1701)
Jul 16 00:07:01: AAA/SG/TEST: Sending 1 Access-Requests, 1 Accounting-Requests in current batch.
Jul 16 00:07:01: AAA/SG/TEST(Req#: 1): Sending test AAA Access-Request.
Jul 16 00:07:01: AAA/SG/TEST(Req#: 1): Sending test AAA Accounting-Request.
Jul 16 00:07:01: AAA/SG/TEST: Obtained Test response from server (192.0.2.245:1700,1701)
Jul 16 00:07:01: AAA/SG/TEST: Obtained Test response from server (192.0.2.245:1700,1701)
Jul 16 00:07:01: AAA/SG/TEST: Necessary responses received from server (192.0.2.245:1700,1701)
Jul 16 00:07:01: AAA/SG/TEST: Server (192.0.2.245:1700,1701) marked ALIVE. Idle timer set for 60
sec(s).
Jul 16 00:07:01: AAA/SG/TEST: Server (192.0.2.245:1700,1701) removed from quarantine.
```

Step 2   Use the **debug aaa sg-server selection** command to determine the server that is selected for load balancing.

The following sample output from the **debug aaa sg-server selection** command shows five access requests being sent to a server group with a batch size of three:

Example:
```
Device# debug aaa sg-server selection

Jul 16 03:15:05: AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT: Obtaining least loaded server.
Jul 16 03:15:05: AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT: [3] transactions remaining in batch. Reusing server.
Jul 16 03:15:05: AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT: Obtaining least loaded server.
Jul 16 03:15:05: AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT: [2] transactions remaining in batch. Reusing server.
Jul 16 03:15:05: AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT: Obtaining least loaded server.
Jul 16 03:15:05: AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT: [1] transactions remaining in batch. Reusing server.
Jul 16 03:15:05: AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT: Obtaining least loaded server.
Jul 16 03:15:05: AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT: No more transactions in batch. Obtaining a new server.
Jul 16 03:15:05: AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT: Obtaining a new least loaded server.
Jul 16 03:15:05: AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT: Server[0] load: 3
Jul 16 03:15:05: AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT: Server[1] load: 0
Jul 16 03:15:05: AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT: Server[2] load: 0
Jul 16 03:15:05: AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT: Selected Server[1] with load 0
Jul 16 03:15:05: AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT: [3] transactions remaining in batch.
Jul 16 03:15:05: AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT: Obtaining least loaded server.
Jul 16 03:15:05: AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT: [2] transactions remaining in batch. Reusing server.
```

Step 3   Use the **test aaa group** command to manually verify the RADIUS load-balanced server status.

The following sample output shows the response from a load-balanced RADIUS server that is alive when the username "test" does not match a user profile. The server is verified alive when it issues an Access-Reject response to an authentication, authorization, and accounting (AAA) packet generated using the **test aaa group** command.

Example:
```
Device# test aaa group SG1 test lab new-code

00:06:07: RADIUS/ENCODE(00000000):Orig. component type = INVALID
00:06:07: RADIUS/ENCODE(00000000): dropping service type, "radius-server attribute 6 on-for-login-auth"
 is off
00:06:07: RADIUS(00000000): Config NAS IP: 192.0.2.4
00:06:07: RADIUS(00000000): sending
00:06:07: RADIUS/ENCODE: Best Local IP-Address 192.0.2.141 for Radius-Server 192.0.2.176
00:06:07: RADIUS(00000000): Send Access-Request to 192.0.2.176:1645 id 1645/1, len 50
00:06:07: RADIUS:  authenticator CA DB F4 9B 7B 66 C8 A9 - D1 99 4E 8E A4 46 99 B4
00:06:07: RADIUS:  User-Password      [2]   18   *
00:06:07: RADIUS:  User-Name          [1]   6    "test"
00:06:07: RADIUS:  NAS-IP-Address     [4]   6    192.0.2.141
00:06:07: RADIUS: Received from id 1645/1 192.0.2.176:1645, Access-Reject, len 44
00:06:07: RADIUS:  authenticator 2F 69 84 3E F0 4E F1 62 - AB B8 75 5B 38 82 49 C3
00:06:07: RADIUS:  Reply-Message      [18]  24
00:06:07: RADIUS:    41 75 74 68 65 6E 74 69 63 61 74 69 6F 6E 20 66  [Authentication f]
00:06:07: RADIUS:    61 69 6C 75 72 65                                 [failure]
00:06:07: RADIUS(00000000): Received from id 1645/1
00:06:07: RADIUS/DECODE: Reply-Message fragments, 22, total 22 bytes
```

Configuration Examples for RADIUS Server Load Balancing

Example: Enabling Load Balancing for a Named RADIUS Server Group

The following examples show load balancing enabled for a named RADIUS server group. These examples are shown in three parts: the current configuration of the RADIUS command output, debug output, and authentication, authorization, and accounting (AAA) server status information.

The following sample output shows the relevant RADIUS configuration:

```
Device# show running-config
.
.
.
aaa group server radius server-group1
 server 192.0.2.238 auth-port 2095 acct-port 2096
 server 192.0.2.238 auth-port 2015 acct-port 2016
 load-balance method least-outstanding batch-size 5
!
aaa authentication ppp default group server-group1
aaa accounting network default start-stop group server-group1
.
.
.
```

The lines in the current configuration of the preceding RADIUS command output are defined as follows:

- The **aaa group server radius** command shows the configuration of a server group with two member servers.

- The **load-balance** command enables load balancing for global RADIUS server groups with the batch size specified.

- The **aaa authentication ppp** command authenticates all PPP users using RADIUS.

- The **aaa accounting** command enables sending of all accounting requests to the AAA server when the client is authenticated and then disconnected using the **start-stop** keyword.

The show debug sample output below shows the selection of the preferred server and the processing of requests for the preceding configuration:

```
Device# show debug

*Feb 28 13:51:16.019:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT(0000002C):No preferred server available.
*Feb 28 13:51:16.019:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:Obtaining least loaded server.
*Feb 28 13:51:16.019:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:No more transactions in batch. Obtaining a new
server.
*Feb 28 13:51:16.019:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:Obtaining a new least loaded server.
*Feb 28 13:51:16.019:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:Server[0] load:0
*Feb 28 13:51:16.019:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:Server[1] load:0
*Feb 28 13:51:16.019:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:Selected Server[0] with load 0
*Feb 28 13:51:16.019:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:[5] transactions remaining in batch.
*Feb 28 13:51:16.019:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT(0000002C):Server (192.0.2.238:2095,2096) now being
 used as preferred server
*Feb 28 13:51:16.019:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT(0000002D):No preferred server available.
*Feb 28 13:51:16.019:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:Obtaining least loaded server.
*Feb 28 13:51:16.019:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:[4] transactions remaining in batch. Reusing
server.
*Feb 28 13:51:16.019:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT(0000002D):Server (192.0.2.238:2095,2096) now being
 used as preferred server
*Feb 28 13:51:16.019:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT(0000002E):No preferred server available.
*Feb 28 13:51:16.019:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:Obtaining least loaded server.
*Feb 28 13:51:16.019:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:[3] transactions remaining in batch. Reusing
server.
*Feb 28 13:51:16.019:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT(0000002E):Server (192.0.2.238:2095,2096) now being
 used as preferred server
*Feb 28 13:51:16.019:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT(0000002F):No preferred server available.
*Feb 28 13:51:16.019:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:Obtaining least loaded server.
*Feb 28 13:51:16.019:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:[2] transactions remaining in batch. Reusing
server.
*Feb 28 13:51:16.019:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT(0000002F):Server (192.0.2.238:2095,2096) now being
 used as preferred server
*Feb 28 13:51:16.019:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT(00000030):No preferred server available.
*Feb 28 13:51:16.019:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:Obtaining least loaded server.
*Feb 28 13:51:16.019:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:[1] transactions remaining in batch. Reusing
server.
*Feb 28 13:51:16.019:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT(00000030):Server (192.0.2.238:2095,2096) now being
 used as preferred server
*Feb 28 13:51:16.023:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT(00000031):No preferred server available.
*Feb 28 13:51:16.023:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:Obtaining least loaded server.
*Feb 28 13:51:16.023:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:No more transactions in batch. Obtaining a new
server.
*Feb 28 13:51:16.023:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:Obtaining a new least loaded server.
*Feb 28 13:51:16.023:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:Server[1] load:0
*Feb 28 13:51:16.023:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:Server[0] load:5
*Feb 28 13:51:16.023:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:Selected Server[1] with load 0
*Feb 28 13:51:16.023:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:[5] transactions remaining in batch.
*Feb 28 13:51:16.023:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT(00000031):Server (192.0.2.238:2015,2016) now being
 used as preferred server
*Feb 28 13:51:16.023:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT(00000032):No preferred server available.
*Feb 28 13:51:16.023:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:Obtaining least loaded server.
*Feb 28 13:51:16.023:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:[4] transactions remaining in batch. Reusing
server.
.
.
.
```

The following sample output from the **show aaa servers** command shows the AAA server status for the named RADIUS server group configuration:

The sample output shows the status of two RADIUS servers. Both servers are alive, and no requests have been processed since the counters were cleared 0 minutes ago.

```
Device# show aaa servers

RADIUS:id 8, priority 1, host 192.0.2.238, auth-port 2095, acct-port 2096
    State:current UP, duration 3781s, previous duration 0s
    Dead:total time 0s, count 0
    Quarantined:No
    Authen:request 0, timeouts 0
            Response:unexpected 0, server error 0, incorrect 0, time 0ms
            Transaction:success 0, failure 0
    Author:request 0, timeouts 0
            Response:unexpected 0, server error 0, incorrect 0, time 0ms
            Transaction:success 0, failure 0
    Account:request 0, timeouts 0
            Response:unexpected 0, server error 0, incorrect 0, time 0ms
            Transaction:success 0, failure 0
    Elapsed time since counters last cleared:0m
RADIUS:id 9, priority 2, host 192.0.2.238, auth-port 2015, acct-port 2016
    State:current UP, duration 3781s, previous duration 0s
    Dead:total time 0s, count 0
    Quarantined:No
    Authen:request 0, timeouts 0
            Response:unexpected 0, server error 0, incorrect 0, time 0ms
            Transaction:success 0, failure 0
    Author:request 0, timeouts 0
            Response:unexpected 0, server error 0, incorrect 0, time 0ms
            Transaction:success 0, failure 0
    Account:request 0, timeouts 0
            Response:unexpected 0, server error 0, incorrect 0, time 0ms
            Transaction:success 0, failure 0
    Elapsed time since counters last cleared:0m
```

Example: Enabling Load Balancing for a Global RADIUS Server Group

The following examples show how to enable load balancing for global RADIUS server groups. These examples are shown in three parts: the current configuration of the RADIUS command output, debug output, and authentication, authorization, and accounting (AAA) server status information. You can use delimiting characters to display relevant parts of the configuration.

The following example shows the relevant RADIUS configuration:

```
Device# show running-config | include radius

aaa authentication ppp default group radius
aaa accounting network default start-stop group radius
radius-server host 192.0.2.238 auth-port 2095 acct-port 2096 key cisco
radius-server host 192.0.2.238 auth-port 2015 acct-port 2016 key cisco
radius-server load-balance method least-outstanding batch-size 5
```

Lines in the current configuration of the preceding RADIUS command output are defined as follows:

- The **aaa authentication ppp** command authenticates all PPP users using RADIUS.

- The **aaa accounting** command enables the sending of all accounting requests to an AAA server when the client is authenticated and then disconnected through use of the **start-stop** keyword.

- The **radius-server host** command defines the IP address of the RADIUS server host with the authorization and accounting ports specified and the authentication and encryption keys identified.

- The **radius-server load-balance** command enables load balancing for global RADIUS server groups with the batch size specified.

The **show debug** sample output below shows the selection of the preferred server and the processing of requests for the configuration:

```
Device# show debug

General OS:
  AAA server group server selection debugging is on
#
<sending 10 pppoe requests>
Device#
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT(00000014):No preferred server available.
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:Obtaining least loaded server.
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:No more transactions in batch. Obtaining a new
server.
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:Obtaining a new least loaded server.
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:Server[0] load:0
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:Server[1] load:0
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:Selected Server[0] with load 0
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:[5] transactions remaining in batch.
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT(00000014):Server (192.0.2.238:2095,2096) now being
 used as preferred server
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT(00000015):No preferred server available.
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:Obtaining least loaded server.
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:[4] transactions remaining in batch. Reusing
server.
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT(00000015):Server (192.0.2.238:2095,2096) now being
 used as preferred server
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT(00000016):No preferred server available.
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:Obtaining least loaded server.
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:[3] transactions remaining in batch. Reusing
server.
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT(00000016):Server (192.0.2.238:2095,2096) now being
 used as preferred server
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT(00000017):No preferred server available.
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:Obtaining least loaded server.
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:[2] transactions remaining in batch. Reusing
server.
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT(00000017):Server (192.0.2.238:2095,2096) now being
 used as preferred server
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT(00000018):No preferred server available.
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:Obtaining least loaded server.
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:[1] transactions remaining in batch. Reusing
server.
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT(00000018):Server (192.0.2.238:2095,2096) now being
 used as preferred server
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT(00000019):No preferred server available.
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:Obtaining least loaded server.
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:No more transactions in batch. Obtaining a new
server.
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:Obtaining a new least loaded server.
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:Server[1] load:0
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:Server[0] load:5
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:Selected Server[1] with load 0
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT:[5] transactions remaining in batch.
*Feb 28 13:40:32.199:AAA/SG/SERVER_SELECT(00000019):Server (192.0.2.238:2015,2016) now being
 used as preferred server.
```

The following sample output from the **show aaa servers** command shows the AAA server status for the global RADIUS server group configuration:

The sample output shows the status of two RADIUS servers. Both servers are up and successfully processed in the last 2 minutes:

- Five out of six authentication requests

- Five out of five accounting requests

```
Device# show aaa servers

RADIUS:id 4, priority 1, host 192.0.2.238, auth-port 2095, acct-port 2096
    State:current UP, duration 3175s, previous duration 0s
```

```
            Dead:total time 0s, count 0
            Quarantined:No
            Authen:request 6, timeouts 1
                    Response:unexpected 1, server error 0, incorrect 0, time 1841ms
                    Transaction:success 5, failure 0
            Author:request 0, timeouts 0
                    Response:unexpected 0, server error 0, incorrect 0, time 0ms
                    Transaction:success 0, failure 0
            Account:request 5, timeouts 0
                    Response:unexpected 0, server error 0, incorrect 0, time 3303ms
                    Transaction:success 5, failure 0
            Elapsed time since counters last cleared:2m
RADIUS:id 5, priority 2, host 192.0.2.238, auth-port 2015, acct-port 2016
            State:current UP, duration 3175s, previous duration 0s
            Dead:total time 0s, count 0
            Quarantined:No
            Authen:request 6, timeouts 1
                    Response:unexpected 1, server error 0, incorrect 0, time 1955ms
                    Transaction:success 5, failure 0
            Author:request 0, timeouts 0
                    Response:unexpected 0, server error 0, incorrect 0, time 0ms
                    Transaction:success 0, failure 0
            Account:request 5, timeouts 0
                    Response:unexpected 0, server error 0, incorrect 0, time 3247ms
                    Transaction:success 5, failure 0
            Elapsed time since counters last cleared:2m
```

Example: Monitoring Idle Timer

The following example shows idle timer and related server state for load balancing enabled for a named RADIUS server group. The current configuration of the RADIUS command output and debug command output are also displayed.

The following sample output shows the relevant RADIUS configuration:

```
Device# show running-config | include radius

aaa group server radius server-group1
radius-server host 192.0.2.238 auth-port 2095 acct-port 2096 test username junk1 idle-time
 1 key cisco
radius-server host 192.0.2.238 auth-port 2015 acct-port 2016 test username junk1 idle-time
 1 key cisco
radius-server load-balance method least-outstanding batch-size 5
```

The lines in the current configuration of the preceding RADIUS command output are defined as follows:

- The **aaa group server radius** command shows the configuration of a server group.

- The **radius-server host** command defines the IP address of the RADIUS server host with authorization and accounting ports specified and the authentication and encryption key identified.

- The **radius-server load-balance** command enables load balancing for the RADIUS server with the batch size specified.

The **show debug** sample output below shows test requests being sent to servers. The response to the test request sent to the server is received, the server is removed from quarantine as appropriate, the server is marked alive, and then the idle timer is reset.

```
Device# show debug

*Feb 28 13:52:20.835:AAA/SG/TEST:Server (192.0.2.238:2015,2016) quarantined.
*Feb 28 13:52:20.835:AAA/SG/TEST:Sending test request(s) to server (192.0.2.238:2015,2016)
*Feb 28 13:52:20.835:AAA/SG/TEST:Sending 1 Access-Requests, 1 Accounting-Requests in current
 batch.
*Feb 28 13:52:20.835:AAA/SG/TEST(Req#:1):Sending test AAA Access-Request.
*Feb 28 13:52:20.835:AAA/SG/TEST(Req#:1):Sending test AAA Accounting-Request.
```

```
*Feb 28 13:52:21.087:AAA/SG/TEST:Obtained Test response from server (192.0.2.238:2015,2016)
*Feb 28 13:52:22.651:AAA/SG/TEST:Obtained Test response from server (192.0.2.238:2015,2016)
*Feb 28 13:52:22.651:AAA/SG/TEST:Necessary responses received from server
(192.0.2.238:2015,2016)
*Feb 28 13:52:22.651:AAA/SG/TEST:Server (192.0.2.238:2015,2016) marked ALIVE. Idle timer
set for 60 secs(s).
*Feb 28 13:52:22.651:AAA/SG/TEST:Server (192.0.2.238:2015,2016) removed from quarantine.
.
.
.
```

Example: Configuring the Preferred Server with the Same Authentication and Authorization Server

The following example shows an authentication server group and an authorization server group that use the same servers 209.165.200.225 and 209.165.200.226. Both server groups have the preferred server flag enabled.

```
aaa group server radius authentication-group
   server 209.165.200.225 key radkey1
   server 209.165.200.226 key radkey2
aaa group server radius accounting-group
   server 209.165.200.225 key radkey1
   server 209.165.200.226 key radkey2
```

When a preferred server is selected for a session, all transactions for that session will continue to use the original preferred server. The servers 209.165.200.225 and 209.165.200.226 are load balanced based on sessions rather than transactions.

Example: Configuring the Preferred Server with Different Authentication and Authorization Servers

The following example shows an authentication server group that uses servers 209.165.200.225 and 209.165.200.226 and an authorization server group that uses servers 209.165.201.1 and 209.165.201.2. Both server groups have the preferred server flag enabled.

```
aaa group server radius authentication-group
   server 209.165.200.225 key radkey1
   server 209.165.200.226 key radkey2
aaa group server radius accounting-group
   server 209.165.201.1 key radkey3
   server 209.165.201.2 key radkey4
```

The authentication server group and the accounting server group do not share any common servers. A preferred server is never found for accounting transactions; therefore, authentication and accounting servers are load-balanced based on transactions. Start and stop records are sent to the same server for a session.

Example: Configuring the Preferred Server with Overlapping Authentication and Authorization Servers

The following example shows an authentication server group that uses servers 209.165.200.225, 209.165.200.226, and 209.165.201.1 and an accounting server group that uses servers 209.165.201.1 and 209.165.201.2. Both server groups have the preferred server flag enabled.

```
aaa group server radius authentication-group
   server 209.165.200.225 key radkey1
   server 209.165.200.226 key radkey2
```

```
   server 209.165.201.1 key radkey3
aaa group server radius accounting-group
   server 209.165.201.1 key radkey3
   server 209.165.201.2 key radkey4
```

If all servers have equal transaction processing capability, one-third of all authentication transactions are directed toward the server 209.165.201.1. Therefore, one-third of all accounting transactions are also directed toward the server 209.165.201.1. The remaining two-third of accounting transactions are load balanced equally between servers 209.165.201.1 and 209.165.201.2. The server 209.165.201.1 receives fewer authentication transactions because the server 209.165.201.1 has outstanding accounting transactions.

Example: Configuring the Preferred Server with Authentication Servers As a Subset of Authorization Servers

The following example shows an authentication server group that uses servers 209.165.200.225 and 209.165.200.226 and an authorization server group that uses servers 209.165.200.225, 209.165.200.226, and 209.165.201.1. Both server groups have the preferred server flag enabled.

```
aaa group server radius authentication-group
   server 209.165.200.225 key radkey1
   server 209.165.200.226 key radkey2
aaa group server radius accounting-group
  server 209.165.200.225 key radkey1
   server 209.165.200.226 key radkey2
   server 209.165.201.1 key radkey3
```

One-half of all authentication transactions are sent to the server 209.165.200.225 and the other half to the server 209.165.200.226. Servers 209.165.200.225 and 209.165.200.226 are preferred servers for authentication and accounting transaction. Therefore, there is an equal distribution of authentication and accounting transactions across servers 209.165.200.225 and 209.165.200.226. The server 209.165.201.1 is relatively unused.

Example: Configuring the Preferred Server with Authentication Servers As a Superset of Authorization Servers

The following example shows an authentication server group that uses servers 209.165.200.225, 209.165.200.226, and 209.165.201.1 and an authorization server group that uses servers 209.165.200.225 and 209.165.200.226. Both server groups have the preferred server flag enabled.

```
aaa group server radius authentication-group
   server 209.165.200.225 key radkey1
   server 209.165.200.226 key radkey2
   server 209.165.201.1 key radkey3
aaa group server radius accounting-group
  server 209.165.200.225 key radkey1
   server 209.165.200.226 key radkey2
```

Initially, one-third of authentication transactions are assigned to each server in the authorization server group. As accounting transactions are generated for more sessions, accounting transactions are sent to servers 209.165.200.225 and 209.165.200.226 because the preferred server flag is on. As servers 209.165.200.225 and 209.165.200.226 begin to process more transactions, authentication transactions will start to be sent to server 209.165.201.1. Transaction requests authenticated by server 209.165.201.1 do not have any preferred server setting and are split between servers 209.165.200.225 and 209.165.200.226, which negates the use of the preferred server flag. This configuration should be used cautiously.

Additional References for RADIUS Server Load Balancing

Related Documents

Related Topic	Document Title
Cisco IOS commands	Cisco IOS Master Command List, All Releases
Security commands	• Security Command Reference: Commands A to C • Security Command Reference: Commands D to L • Security Command Reference: Commands M to R • Security Command Reference: Commands S to Z
AAA and RADIUS	*Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting Configuration Guide*
AAA server groups and RADIUS configuration	"Configuring RADIUS" module in the *RADIUS Configuration Guide*
Failover retry reorder mode	"RADIUS Server Reorder on Failure" module in the *RADIUS Configuration Guide*

Technical Assistance

Description	Link
The Cisco Support website provides extensive online resources, including documentation and tools for troubleshooting and resolving technical issues with Cisco products and technologies. To receive security and technical information about your products, you can subscribe to various services, such as the Product Alert Tool (accessed from Field Notices), the Cisco Technical Services Newsletter, and Really Simple Syndication (RSS) Feeds. Access to most tools on the Cisco Support website requires a Cisco.com user ID and password.	http://www.cisco.com/techsupport

Feature Information for RADIUS Server Load Balancing

The following table provides release information about the feature or features described in this module. This table lists only the software release that introduced support for a given feature in a given software release train. Unless noted otherwise, subsequent releases of that software release train also support that feature.

Use Cisco Feature Navigator to find information about platform support and Cisco software image support. To access Cisco Feature Navigator, go to www.cisco.com/go/cfn. An account on Cisco.com is not required.

Table 7: Feature Information for RADIUS Server Load Balancing

Feature Name	Releases	Feature Information
RADIUS Server Load Balancing	Cisco IOS XE 3.2SE Cisco IOS XE 3.3SE Cisco IOS XE 3.5E	The RADIUS Server Load Balancing feature distributes authentication, authorization, and accounting (AAA) authentication and accounting transactions across servers in a server group. These servers can share the AAA transaction load and thereby respond faster to incoming requests. In Cisco IOS XE Release 3.2SE, this feature was supported on the following platforms: • Catalyst 3850 Series Switches • Cisco 5760 Wireless LAN Controller In Cisco IOS XE Release 3.3SE, this feature was supported on the following platforms: • Catalyst 3650 Series Switches The following commands were introduced or modified: **debug aaa sg-server selection**, **debug aaa test**, **load-balance (server-group)**, **radius-server host**, **radius-server load-balance**, and **test aaa group**.