



# Interfaces

---

The following topics explain how to configure the interfaces on your FTD device.

- [About FTD Interfaces, on page 1](#)
- [Guidelines and Limitations for Interfaces, on page 4](#)
- [Configure a Physical Interface, on page 6](#)
- [Configure Bridge Groups, on page 9](#)
- [Configure VLAN Subinterfaces and 802.1Q Trunking, on page 12](#)
- [Configure Advanced Interface Options, on page 15](#)
- [Monitoring Interfaces, on page 18](#)
- [Examples for Interfaces, on page 18](#)

## About FTD Interfaces

FTD includes data interfaces as well as a Management/Diagnostic interface.

When you attach a cable to an interface connection, you need to configure the interface. At minimum, you need to name the interface and enable it for it to pass traffic. If the interface is a member of a bridge group, this is sufficient. For non-bridge group members, you also need to give the interface an IP address. If you intend to create VLAN subinterfaces rather than a single physical interface on a given port, you would typically configure the IP addresses on the subinterface, not on the physical interface. VLAN subinterfaces let you divide a physical interface into multiple logical interfaces that are tagged with different VLAN IDs, which is useful when you connect to a trunk port on a switch.

The interface list shows the available interfaces, their names, addresses, and states. You can change the state of an interface, on or off, directly in the list of interfaces. The list shows the interface characteristics based on your configuration. Use the open/close arrow on a bridge group interface to view the member interfaces, which also appear by themselves in the list.

The following topics explain the limitations of configuring interfaces through the FDM as well as other interface management concepts.

## Interface Modes

You can configure one of the following modes for each interface:

### Routed

Each Layer 3 routed interface requires an IP address on a unique subnet. You would typically attach these interfaces to switches, a port on another router, or to an ISP/WAN gateway.

### BridgeGroupMember

A bridge group is a group of interfaces that the FTD device bridges instead of routes. All interfaces are on the same network. The bridge group is represented by a Bridge Virtual Interface (BVI) that has an IP address on the bridge network.

You can route between routed interfaces and BVIs, if you name the BVI. In this case, the BVI acts as the gateway between member interfaces and routed interfaces. If you do not name the BVI, traffic on the bridge group member interfaces cannot leave the bridge group. Normally, you would name the interface so that you can route member interfaces to the internet.

One use for a bridge group in routed mode is to use extra interfaces on the FTD device instead of an external switch. You can attach endpoints directly to bridge group member interfaces. You can also attach switches to add more endpoints to the same network as the BVI.

## Management/Diagnostic Interface

The physical port labeled Management actually has two separate interfaces associated with it.

- Management virtual interface—This IP address is used for system communication. This is the address the system uses for Smart Licensing and to retrieve database updates. You can open management sessions to it (FDM and CLI). You must configure a management address, which is defined on **System Settings > Management Interface**.
- Diagnostic virtual interface—You can use this interface to send syslog messages to an external syslog server. Configuring an IP address for the Diagnostic interface is optional. The main reason to configure the interface is if you want to use it for syslog messages. This interface appears, and is configurable, on the **Device > Interfaces** page. The Diagnostic interface only allows management traffic, and does not allow through traffic.

One way to configure Management/Diagnostic is to not wire the physical port to a network. Instead, configure the Management IP address only, and configure it to use the data interfaces as the gateway for obtaining updates from the internet. Then, open the inside interfaces to HTTPS/SSH traffic (by default, HTTPS is enabled) and open the FDM using the inside IP address (see [Configuring the Management Access List](#)).

## Recommendations for Configuring a Separate Management Network

If you want to use a separate management network, wire the physical Management interface to a switch or router.

Then, configure the following:

- Select **Device > System Settings > Management Interface** and configure IPv4 or IPv6 addresses (or both) on the attached network. If you want to, you can configure a DHCP server to provide IPv4 addresses to other endpoints on the network. If there is a router with a route to the internet on the management network, use that as the gateway. Otherwise, use the data interfaces as the gateway.
- Configure an address for the Diagnostic interface (on **Device > Interfaces**) only if you intend to send syslog messages through the interface to a syslog server. Otherwise, do not configure an address for Diagnostic; it is not needed. Any IP address you configure must be on the same subnet as the management IP address and cannot be in the DHCP server pool. For example, if you use 192.168.45.45 as the

management address, and 192.168.45.46-192.168.45.254 as the DHCP pool, you can configure Diagnostic using any address from 192.168.45.1 to 192.168.45.44.

## Limitations for Management/Diagnostic Interface Configuration for a Separate Management Network

If you wire the physical Management interface, ensure that you follow these limitations:

- If you want a DHCP server on the management network, configure it on the Management interface (**Device > System Settings > Management Interface**). You cannot configure a DHCP server on the Diagnostic interface.
- If there is another DHCP server on the management network, disable it or the DHCP server running on Management. As a rule, a given subnet should have no more than one DHCP server.
- If you configure addresses for both Management and Diagnostic, ensure that they are on the same subnet.
- You can use the data interfaces as the management gateway even if you configure an IP address for Diagnostic. But Diagnostic will not use the data interfaces as a gateway. If you need a path from Diagnostic to other networks, another router on the management network needs to route the traffic originating from the Diagnostic IP address. If necessary, configure static routes for the Diagnostic interface (select **Device > Routing**).

## Security Zones

Each interface can be assigned to a single security zone. You then apply your security policy based on zones. For example, you can assign the inside interface to the inside zone; and the outside interface to the outside zone. You can configure your access control policy to enable traffic to go from inside to outside, but not from outside to inside, for example.

For bridge groups, you add member interfaces to the zones, you cannot add the Bridge Virtual Interface (BVI).

You do not include the Management/Diagnostic interface in a zone. Zones apply to data interfaces only.

You can create security zones on the **Objects** page.

## IPv6 Addressing

You can configure two types of unicast addresses for IPv6:

- Global—The global address is a public address that you can use on the public network. For a bridge group, you configure the global address on the Bridge Virtual Interface (BVI), not on each member interface. You cannot specify any of the following as a global address.
  - Internally reserved IPv6 addresses: fd00::/56 (from=fd00:: to= fd00:0000:0000:00ff:ffff:ffff:ffff:ffff)
  - An unspecified address, such as ::/128
  - The loopback address, ::1/128
  - multicast addresses, ff00::/8
  - Link-local addresses, fe80::/10

- **Link-local**—The link-local address is a private address that you can only use on the directly-connected network. Routers do not forward packets using link-local addresses; they are only for communication on a particular physical network segment. They can be used for address configuration or for the Network Discovery functions such as address resolution and neighbor discovery. In a bridge group, enabling IPv6 on the BVI automatically configures link-local addresses for each bridge group member interface. Each interface must have its own address because the link-local address is only available on a segment, and is tied to the interface MAC address.

At a minimum, you need to configure a link-local address for IPv6 to operate. If you configure a global address, a link-local address is automatically configured on the interface, so you do not also need to specifically configure a link-local address. If you do not configure a global address, then you need to configure the link-local address, either automatically or manually.

## Auto-MDI/MDIX Feature

For RJ-45 interfaces, the default auto-negotiation setting also includes the Auto-MDI/MDIX feature. Auto-MDI/MDIX eliminates the need for crossover cabling by performing an internal crossover when a straight cable is detected during the auto-negotiation phase. Either the speed or duplex must be set to auto-negotiate to enable Auto-MDI/MDIX for the interface. If you explicitly set both the speed and duplex to a fixed value, thus disabling auto-negotiation for both settings, then Auto-MDI/MDIX is also disabled. For Gigabit Ethernet, when the speed and duplex are set to 1000 and full, then the interface always auto-negotiates; therefore Auto-MDI/MDIX is always enabled and you cannot disable it.

## Guidelines and Limitations for Interfaces

The following topics cover some of the limitations for interfaces.

### Limitations for Interface Configuration

When you use the FDM to configure the device, there are several limitations to interface configuration. If you need any of the following features, you must use the FMC to configure the device.

- Routed firewall mode only is supported. You cannot configure transparent firewall mode interfaces.
- You cannot configure passive or ERSPAN interfaces.
- You cannot configure interfaces to be inline (in an inline set), or inline tap, for IPS-only processing. IPS-only mode interfaces bypass many firewall checks and only support IPS security policy. In comparison, Firewall mode interfaces subject traffic to firewall functions such as maintaining flows, tracking flow states at both IP and TCP layers, IP defragmentation, and TCP normalization. You can also optionally configure IPS functions for this firewall mode traffic according to your security policy.
- You cannot configure EtherChannel or redundant interfaces.
- You can only add one bridge group.
- You cannot configure PPPoE for IPv4. If the Internet interface is connected to a DSL, cable modem, or other connection to your ISP, and your ISP uses PPPoE to provide your IP address, you must use the FMC instead of the FDM.

- For the ASA 5512-X, 5515-X, 5525-X, 5545-X, and 5555-X, you can install an optional network interface module. Modules are only discovered during bootstrap (that is, during installation, when switching between local/remote management, and during a major/minor release upgrade, but not patch or hot fix upgrades). For a module that includes SFP interfaces, the FDM sets the speed and duplex to auto; however, the SFP interfaces do not support the speed and duplex set to auto. For these interfaces, select the right speed (for example, 1000), or select **Default** for the speed and duplex. The Default setting tells FDM to simply not configure the options, and thus leave them at their default settings (any existing configuration is not cleared). Please refer to the network module documentation to determine the maximum speed supported by the interface. You can also select **No Negotiate** for the speed setting if the interface accepts it, but select this option only if you are certain it is supported.



**Note** If you make a mistake and need to unconfigure **No Negotiate**, set the option to **Auto** and deploy. The deployment will fail. You can then set the option to **Default** and deploy again, and this should result in a successful deployment.

## Maximum Number of VLAN Subinterfaces by Device Model

The device model limits the maximum number of VLAN subinterfaces that you can configure. Note that you can configure subinterfaces on data interfaces only, you cannot configure them on the management interface.

The following table explains the limits for each device model.


Model	Maximum VLAN Subinterfaces
ASA 5506-X	30
ASA 5506W-X	
ASA 5506H-X	
ASA 5508-X	50
ASA 5512-X	100
ASA 5515-X	
ASA 5516-X	100
ASA 5525-X	200
ASA 5545-X	300
ASA 5555-X	500

# Configure a Physical Interface

At minimum, you must enable a physical interface to use it. You would also typically name it and configure IP addressing. You would not configure IP addressing if you intend to create VLAN subinterfaces, or if you intend to add the interface to a bridge group.

You can disable an interface to temporarily prevent transmission on the connected network. You do not need to remove the interface's configuration.

## Procedure

- Step 1** Click **Device**, then click the link in the **Interfaces** summary.
- The interface list shows the available interfaces, their names, addresses, and states.
- Step 2** Click the edit icon (  ) for the physical interface you want to edit.
- Step 3** Set the following:

? ×

### Ethernet1/2 Edit Physical Interface

Interface Name	Mode	Status
<input type="text" value="inside"/>	<input style="border: none; background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 2px 5px; font-size: 0.9em; font-weight: normal; border-bottom: 1px solid #ccc;" type="text" value="Routed"/> ▾	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

*Most features work with named interfaces only, although some require unnamed interfaces.*

Description

IPv4 Address
IPv6 Address
Advanced

---

Type

Static ▾

IP Address and Subnet Mask

/

*e.g. 192.168.5.15/17 or 192.168.5.15/255.255.128.0*

Standby IP Address and Subnet Mask


/

*e.g. 192.168.5.16*

- a) Set the **Interface Name**.

Set the name for the interface, up to 48 characters. Alphabetic characters must be lower case. For example, **inside** or **outside**. Without a name, the rest of the interface configuration is ignored. Unless you configure subinterfaces, the interface should have a name.

**Note** If you change the name, the change is automatically reflected everywhere you used the old name, including security zones, syslog server objects, and DHCP server definitions. However, you cannot remove the name until you first remove all configurations that use the name, because you typically cannot use an unnamed interface for any policy or setting.

b) Set the **Status** slider to the enabled setting ()

If you intend to configure subinterfaces for this physical interface, you are probably done. Click **Save** and continue with [Configure VLAN Subinterfaces and 802.1Q Trunking, on page 12](#). Otherwise, continue.

**Note** Even when configuring subinterfaces, it is valid to name the interface and supply IP addresses. This is not the typical setup, but if you know that is what you need, you can configure it.

c) (Optional) Set the **Description**.

The description can be up to 200 characters on a single line, without carriage returns.

**Step 4** Click the **IPv4 Address** tab and configure the IPv4 address.

Select one of the following options from the **Type** field:

- **DHCP**—Choose this option if the address should be obtained from the DHCP server on the network. Change the following options if necessary:
  - **Route Metric**—If you obtain the default route from the DHCP server, the administrative distance to the learned route, between 1 and 255. The default is 1.
  - **Obtain Default Route**—Whether to get the default route from the DHCP server. You would normally select this option, which is the default.
- **Static**—Choose this option if you want to assign an address that should not change. Type in the interface's IP address and the subnet mask for the network attached to the interface. For example, if you attach the 10.100.10.0/24 network, you could enter 10.100.10.1/24. Ensure that the address is not already used on the network.

**Note** For an existing interface, your ability to change the address is constrained if you have a DHCP server configured for the interface. The new IP address must be on the same subnet as the DHCP address pool, and it cannot be part of that pool. If you need to configure an address on a different subnet, first delete the DHCP server configuration. See [Configuring the DHCP Server](#).

**Step 5** (Optional.) Click the **IPv6 Address** tab and configure the IPv6 address.

- **State**—To enable IPv6 processing and to automatically configure the link-local address when you do not configure the global address, select **Enabled**. The link local address is generated based on the interface MAC addresses (*Modified* EUI-64 format).

**Note** Disabling IPv6 does not disable IPv6 processing on an interface that is configured with an explicit IPv6 address or that is enabled for autoconfiguration.

- **Address Auto Configuration**—Select this option to have the address automatically configured. IPv6 stateless autoconfiguration will generate a global IPv6 address only if the link on which the device resides has a router configured to provide IPv6 services, including the advertisement of an IPv6 global prefix for use on the link. If IPv6 routing services are not available on the link, you will get a link-local IPv6 address only, which you cannot access outside of the device's immediate network link. The link local address is based on the Modified EUI-64 interface ID.

Although RFC 4862 specifies that hosts configured for stateless autoconfiguration do not send Router Advertisement messages, the FTD device does send Router Advertisement messages in this case. Select **Suppress RA** to suppress messages and conform to the RFC.

- **Static Address/Prefix**—If you do not use stateless autoconfiguration, enter the full static global IPv6 address and network prefix. For example, 2001:0DB8::BA98:0:3210/48. For more information on IPv6 addressing, see [IPv6 Addressing, on page 3](#).

If you want to use the address as link local only, select the **Link - Local** option. Link local addresses are not accessible outside the local network. You cannot configure a link-local address on a bridge group interface.

**Note** A link-local address should start with FE8, FE9, FEA, or FEB, for example fe80::20d:88ff:feee:6a82. Note that we recommend automatically assigning the link-local address based on the Modified EUI-64 format. For example, if other devices enforce the use of the Modified EUI-64 format, then a manually-assigned link-local address may cause packets to be dropped.

- **Suppress RA**—Whether to suppress router advertisements. The FTD can participate in router advertisements so that neighboring devices can dynamically learn a default router address. By default, router advertisement messages (ICMPv6 Type 134) are periodically sent out each IPv6 configured interface.

Router advertisements are also sent in response to router solicitation messages (ICMPv6 Type 133). Router solicitation messages are sent by hosts at system startup so that the host can immediately autoconfigure without needing to wait for the next scheduled router advertisement message.

You might want to suppress these messages on any interface for which you do not want the FTD device to supply the IPv6 prefix (for example, the outside interface).

**Step 6** (Optional.) [Configure Advanced Options, on page 16](#).

The advanced settings have defaults that are appropriate for most networks. Edit them only if you are resolving network issues.

**Step 7** Click **OK**.

---

### What to do next

- Add the interfaces to the appropriate security zones. See [Configuring Security Zones](#).



# Configure Bridge Groups

A bridge group is a virtual interface that groups one or more interfaces. The main reason to group interfaces is to create a group of switched interfaces. Thus, you can attach workstations or other endpoint devices directly to the interfaces included in the bridge group. You do not need to connect them through a separate physical switch, although you can also attach a switch to a bridge group member.

The group members do not have IP addresses. Instead, all member interfaces share the IP address of the Bridge Virtual Interface (BVI). If you enable IPv6 on the BVI, member interfaces are automatically assigned unique link-local addresses.

You enable and disable the member interfaces individually. Thus, you can disable any unused interfaces without needing to remove them from the bridge group. The bridge group itself is always enabled.

You typically configure a DHCP server on the bridge group interface (BVI), which provides IP addresses for any endpoints connected through member interfaces. However, you can configure static addresses on the endpoints connected to the member interfaces if you prefer. All endpoints within the bridge group must have IP addresses on the same subnet as the bridge group IP address.

## Guidelines and Limitations

- You can add one bridge group.
- For all ASA 5506-X models, on a new version 6.2+ system, or a reimaged 6.2+ system, the device comes pre-configured with bridge group BV11, named **inside**, which includes all data interfaces except for the **outside** interface. Thus, the device is pre-configured with one port used for linking to the Internet or other upstream network, and all other ports enabled and available for direct connections to endpoints. If you want to use an inside interface for a new subnet, you must first remove the needed interfaces from BV11.

## Before you begin

Configure the interfaces that will be members of the bridge group. Specifically, each member interface must meet the following requirements:

- The interface must have a name.
- The interface cannot have any IPv4 or IPv6 addresses defined for it, either static or served through DHCP. If you need to remove the address from an interface that you are currently using, you might also need to remove other configurations for the interface, such as static routes, DHCP server, or NAT rules, that depend on the interface having an address.
- You must remove the interface from its security zone (if it is in a zone), and delete any NAT rules for the interface, before you can add it to a bridge group.

## Procedure

**Step 1** Click **Device**, then click the link in the **Interfaces** summary.

The interface list shows the available interfaces, their names, addresses, and states. If there is already a bridge group, it is a folder. Click the open/close arrow to view the member interfaces. Member interfaces also appear separately in the list.

**Step 2** Do one of the following:

- Click the edit icon (🔗) for the BVI1 bridge group.
- Select **Add Bridge Group Interface** from the gear drop-down list to create a new group.
 

**Note** You can have a single bridge group. If you already have a bridge group defined, you should edit that group instead of trying to create a new one. If you need to create a new bridge group, you must first delete the existing bridge group.
- Click the delete icon (🗑️) for the bridge group if you no longer need it. When you delete a bridge group, its members become standard routed interfaces, and any NAT rules or security zone membership are retained. You can edit the interfaces to give them IP addresses. If you want to add them to a new bridge group, first you need to remove the NAT rules and remove the interface from its security zone.

**Step 3** Configure the following:

a) (Optional) Set the **Interface Name**.

Set the name for the bridge group, up to 48 characters. Alphabetic characters must be lower case. For example, **inside** or **outside**. Set the name if you want this BVI to participate in routing between it and other named interfaces.

**Note** If you change the name, the change is automatically reflected everywhere you used the old name, including security zones, syslog server objects, and DHCP server definitions. However, you cannot remove the name until you first remove all configurations that use the name, because you typically cannot use an unnamed interface for any policy or setting.

b) (Optional) Set the **Description**.

The description can be up to 200 characters on a single line, without carriage returns.

c) Edit the **Bridge Group Members** list.

You can add up to 64 interfaces or subinterfaces to a single bridge group.

- Add an interface—Click the plus icon (+), click one or more interfaces, and then click **OK**.
- Remove an interface—Mouse over an interface and click the **x** on the right side.

**Step 4** Click the **IPv4 Address** tab and configure the IPv4 address.

Select one of the following options from the **Type** field:

- **Static**—Choose this option if you want to assign an address that should not change. Type in the bridge group's IP address and the subnet mask. All attached endpoints will be on this network. For models with a pre-configured bridge group, the default for the BV11 “inside” network is 192.168.1.1/24 (i.e. 255.255.255.0). Ensure that the address is not already used on the network.

**Note** For an existing bridge group, your ability to change the address is constrained if you have a DHCP server configured for the group. The new IP address must be on the same subnet as the DHCP address pool, and it cannot be part of that pool. If you need to configure an address on a different subnet, first delete the DHCP server configuration. See [Configuring the DHCP Server](#).

- **Dynamic (DHCP)**—Choose this option if the address should be obtained from the DHCP server on the network. This is not the typical option for bridge groups, but you can configure it if needed. Change the following options if necessary:
  - **Route Metric**—If you obtain the default route from the DHCP server, the administrative distance to the learned route, between 1 and 255. The default is 1.
  - **Obtain Default Route**—Whether to get the default route from the DHCP server. You would normally select this option, which is the default.

**Step 5** (Optional.) Click the **IPv6 Address** tab and configure the IPv6 address.

- **State**—To enable IPv6 processing and to automatically configure the link-local address when you do not configure the global address, select **Enabled**. The link local address is generated based on the interface MAC addresses (*Modified* EUI-64 format).

**Note** Disabling IPv6 does not disable IPv6 processing on an interface that is configured with an explicit IPv6 address or that is enabled for autoconfiguration.

- **Static Address/Prefix**—If you do not use stateless autoconfiguration, enter the full static global IPv6 address and network prefix. For example, 2001:0DB8::BA98:0:3210/48. For more information on IPv6 addressing, see [IPv6 Addressing, on page 3](#).

If you want to use the address as link local only, select the **Link - Local** option. Link local addresses are not accessible outside the local network. You cannot configure a link-local address on a bridge group interface.

**Note** A link-local address should start with FE8, FE9, FEA, or FEB, for example fe80::20d:88ff:feee:6a82. Note that we recommend automatically assigning the link-local address based on the Modified EUI-64 format. For example, if other devices enforce the use of the Modified EUI-64 format, then a manually-assigned link-local address may cause packets to be dropped.

- **Suppress RA**—Whether to suppress router advertisements. The FTD device can participate in router advertisements so that neighboring devices can dynamically learn a default router address. By default, router advertisement messages (ICMPv6 Type 134) are periodically sent out each IPv6 configured interface.

Router advertisements are also sent in response to router solicitation messages (ICMPv6 Type 133). Router solicitation messages are sent by hosts at system startup so that the host can immediately autoconfigure without needing to wait for the next scheduled router advertisement message.

You might want to suppress these messages on any interface for which you do not want the FTD device to supply the IPv6 prefix (for example, the outside interface).

**Step 6** (Optional.) [Configure Advanced Options, on page 16](#).

You configure most advanced options on bridge group *member* interfaces, but some are available for the bridge group interface.

The advanced settings have defaults that are appropriate for most networks. Edit them only if you are resolving network issues.

**Step 7** Click **OK**.

---

#### What to do next

- Ensure that all member interfaces that you intend to use are enabled.
- Configure a DHCP server for the bridge group. See [Configuring the DHCP Server](#).
- Add the member interfaces to the appropriate security zones. See [Configuring Security Zones](#).
- Ensure that policies, such as identity, NAT, and access, supply the required services for the bridge group and member interfaces.

## Configure VLAN Subinterfaces and 802.1Q Trunking

VLAN subinterfaces let you divide a physical interface into multiple logical interfaces that are tagged with different VLAN IDs. An interface with one or more VLAN subinterfaces is automatically configured as an 802.1Q trunk. Because VLANs allow you to keep traffic separate on a given physical interface, you can increase the number of interfaces available to your network without adding additional physical interfaces or devices.

Create subinterfaces if you attach the physical interface to a trunk port on a switch. Create a subinterface for each VLAN that can appear on the switch trunk port. If you attach the physical interface to an access port on the switch, there is no point in creating a subinterface.

#### Guidelines and Limitations

- Preventing untagged packets on the physical interface—If you use subinterfaces, you typically do not also want the physical interface to pass traffic, because the physical interface passes untagged packets. Because the physical interface must be enabled for the subinterface to pass traffic, ensure that the physical interface does not pass traffic by not naming the interface. If you want to let the physical interface pass untagged packets, you can name the interface as usual.
- You cannot configure IP addresses on bridge group member interfaces, although you can modify advanced settings as needed.
- All subinterfaces on the same parent interface must be either bridge group members or routed interfaces; you cannot mix and match.
- FTD does not support the Dynamic Trunking Protocol (DTP), so you must configure the connected switch port to trunk unconditionally.
- You might want to assign unique MAC addresses to subinterfaces defined on the FTD device, because they use the same burned-in MAC address of the parent interface. For example, your service provider might perform access control based on the MAC address. Also, because IPv6 link-local addresses are generated based on the MAC address, assigning unique MAC addresses to subinterfaces allows for unique IPv6 link-local addresses, which can avoid traffic disruption in certain instances on the FTD device.


## Procedure


---

**Step 1** Click **Device**, then click the link in the **Interfaces** summary.

The interface list shows the available interfaces, their names, addresses, and states.

**Step 2** Do one of the following:

- Select **Add Subinterface** from the gear drop-down list to create a new subinterface.
- Click the edit icon () for the subinterface you want to edit.

If you no longer need a subinterface, click the delete icon () for the subinterface to delete it.

**Step 3** Set the **Status** slider to the enabled setting (.

**Step 4** Configure the parent interface, name, and description:

a) Choose the **Parent Interface**.

The parent interface is the physical interface to which you want to add the subinterface. You cannot change the parent interface after you create the subinterface.

b) Set the **Subinterface Name**, up to 48 characters.

Alphabetic characters must be lower case. For example, **inside** or **outside**. Without a name, the rest of the interface configuration is ignored.

**Note** If you change the name, the change is automatically reflected everywhere you used the old name, including security zones, syslog server objects, and DHCP server definitions. However, you cannot remove the name until you first remove all configurations that use the name, because you typically cannot use an unnamed interface for any policy or setting.

c) (Optional) Set a **Description**.

The description can be up to 200 characters on a single line, without carriage returns.

d) Set the **VLAN ID**.

Enter the VLAN ID between 1 and 4094 that will be used to tag the packets on this subinterface.

e) Set the **Subinterface ID**.

Enter the subinterface ID as an integer between 1 and 4294967295. This ID is appended to the interface ID; for example Ethernet1/1.100. You can match the VLAN ID for convenience, but it is not required. You cannot change the ID after you create the subinterface.

**Step 5** Click the **IPv4 Address** tab and configure the IPv4 address.

Select one of the following options from the **Type** field:

- **DHCP**—Choose this option if the address should be obtained from the DHCP server on the network. Change the following options if necessary:
  - **Route Metric**—If you obtain the default route from the DHCP server, the administrative distance to the learned route, between 1 and 255. The default is 1.
  - **Obtain Default Route**—Whether to get the default route from the DHCP server. You would normally select this option, which is the default.
- **Static**—Choose this option if you want to assign an address that should not change. Type in the interface's IP address and the subnet mask for the network attached to the interface. For example, if you attach the 10.100.10.0/24 network, you could enter 10.100.10.1/24. Ensure that the address is not already used on the network.

**Note** For an existing interface, your ability to change the address is constrained if you have a DHCP server configured for the interface. The new IP address must be on the same subnet as the DHCP address pool, and it cannot be part of that pool. If you need to configure an address on a different subnet, first delete the DHCP server configuration. See [Configuring the DHCP Server](#).

**Step 6** (Optional.) Click the **IPv6 Address** tab and configure the IPv6 address.

- **State**—To enable IPv6 processing and to automatically configure the link-local address when you do not configure the global address, select **Enabled**. The link local address is generated based on the interface MAC addresses (*Modified EUI-64* format).
- **Note** Disabling IPv6 does not disable IPv6 processing on an interface that is configured with an explicit IPv6 address or that is enabled for autoconfiguration.
- **Address Auto Configuration**—Select this option to have the address automatically configured. IPv6 stateless autoconfiguration will generate a global IPv6 address only if the link on which the device resides has a router configured to provide IPv6 services, including the advertisement of an IPv6 global prefix for use on the link. If IPv6 routing services are not available on the link, you will get a link-local IPv6 address only, which you cannot access outside of the device's immediate network link. The link local address is based on the Modified EUI-64 interface ID.

Although RFC 4862 specifies that hosts configured for stateless autoconfiguration do not send Router Advertisement messages, the FTD device does send Router Advertisement messages in this case. Select **Suppress RA** to suppress messages and conform to the RFC.

- **Static Address/Prefix**—If you do not use stateless autoconfiguration, enter the full static global IPv6 address and network prefix. For example, 2001:0DB8::BA98:0:3210/48. For more information on IPv6 addressing, see [IPv6 Addressing, on page 3](#).

If you want to use the address as link local only, select the **Link - Local** option. Link local addresses are not accessible outside the local network. You cannot configure a link-local address on a bridge group interface.

**Note** A link-local address should start with FE8, FE9, FEA, or FEB, for example fe80::20d:88ff:feee:6a82. Note that we recommend automatically assigning the link-local address based on the Modified EUI-64 format. For example, if other devices enforce the use of the Modified EUI-64 format, then a manually-assigned link-local address may cause packets to be dropped.

- **Suppress RA**—Whether to suppress router advertisements. The FTD can participate in router advertisements so that neighboring devices can dynamically learn a default router address. By default, router advertisement messages (ICMPv6 Type 134) are periodically sent out each IPv6 configured interface.

Router advertisements are also sent in response to router solicitation messages (ICMPv6 Type 133). Router solicitation messages are sent by hosts at system startup so that the host can immediately autoconfigure without needing to wait for the next scheduled router advertisement message.

You might want to suppress these messages on any interface for which you do not want the FTD device to supply the IPv6 prefix (for example, the outside interface).

**Step 7** (Optional.) [Configure Advanced Options, on page 16](#).

The advanced settings have defaults that are appropriate for most networks. Edit them only if you are resolving network issues.

**Step 8** Click **OK**.

---

#### What to do next

- Add the subinterfaces to the appropriate security zones. See [Configuring Security Zones](#).

## Configure Advanced Interface Options

Advanced options include setting the MTU, hardware settings, management only, MAC address, and other settings.

### About the MTU

The MTU specifies the maximum frame *payload* size that the FTD device can transmit on a given Ethernet interface. The MTU value is the frame size *without* Ethernet headers, VLAN tagging, or other overhead. For example, when you set the MTU to 1500, the expected frame size is 1518 bytes including the headers, or 1522 when using VLAN. Do not set the MTU value higher to accommodate these headers.

## Path MTU Discovery

The FTD device supports Path MTU Discovery (as defined in RFC 1191), which lets all devices in a network path between two hosts coordinate the MTU so they can standardize on the lowest MTU in the path.

## MTU and Fragmentation

For IPv4, if an outgoing IP packet is larger than the specified MTU, it is fragmented into 2 or more frames. Fragments are reassembled at the destination (and sometimes at intermediate hops), and fragmentation can cause performance degradation. For IPv6, packets are typically not allowed to be fragmented at all. Therefore, your IP packets should fit within the MTU size to avoid fragmentation.

For UDP or ICMP, the application should take the MTU into account to avoid fragmentation.



---

**Note** The FTD device can receive frames larger than the configured MTU as long as there is room in memory.

---

## MTU and Jumbo Frames

A larger MTU lets you send larger packets. Larger packets might be more efficient for your network. See the following guidelines:

- Matching MTUs on the traffic path—We recommend that you set the MTU on all FTD interfaces and other device interfaces along the traffic path to be the same. Matching MTUs prevents intermediate devices from fragmenting the packets.
- Accommodating jumbo frames—A jumbo frame is an Ethernet packet larger than the standard maximum of 1522 bytes (including Layer 2 header and VLAN header), up to 9216 bytes. You can set the MTU to 9000 bytes or higher to accommodate jumbo frames. The maximum depends on the model.



---

**Note** Increasing the MTU assigns more memory for jumbo frames, which might limit the maximum usage of other features, such as access rules. If you increase the MTU above the default 1500 on ASA 5500-X series devices, you must reboot the system.

---

## Configure Advanced Options

Advanced interface options have default settings that are appropriate for most networks. Configure them only if you are resolving networking problems.

The following procedure assumes the interface is already defined. You can also edit these settings while initially editing or creating the interface.


### Limitations

- For bridge groups, you configure most of these options on the member interfaces. Except for DAD attempts, these options are not available for the Bridge Virtual Interface (BVI).



## Procedure

---

- Step 1** Click **Device**, then click the link in the **Interfaces** summary.
- The interface list shows the available interfaces, their names, addresses, and states.
- Step 2** Click the edit icon (  ) for the interface you want to edit.
- Step 3** Click **Advanced Options**.
- Step 4** To make a data interface management only, select **Management Only**.
- A management only interface does not allow through traffic, so there is very little value in setting a data interface as management only. You cannot change this setting for the Management/Diagnostic interface, which is always management only.
- Step 5** Change the **MTU** (maximum transmission unit) to the desired value.
- The default MTU is 1500 bytes. The minimum and maximum depend on your platform. Set a high value if you typically see jumbo frames on your network.
- Note** If you increase MTU above 1500 on ASA 5500-X series devices, you must reboot the device.
- Step 6** (Physical interface only.) Modify the speed and duplex settings.
- The default is that the interface negotiates the best duplex and speed with the interface at the other end of the wire, but you can force a specific duplex or speed if necessary. Before setting these options for interfaces on a network module, please read [Limitations for Interface Configuration, on page 4](#).
- **Duplex**—Choose **Auto**, **Half** or **Full**. SFP interfaces only support **Full** duplex.
  - **Speed**—Choose a speed (varies depending on the model), or **Auto**.
- Step 7** Modify the **IPv6 Configuration** settings.
- **Enable DHCP for IPv6 address configuration**—Whether to set the Managed Address Configuration flag in the IPv6 router advertisement packet. This flag informs IPv6 autoconfiguration clients that they should use DHCPv6 to obtain addresses, in addition to the derived stateless autoconfiguration address.
  - **Enable DHCP for IPv6 non-address configuration**—Whether to set the Other Address Configuration flag in the IPv6 router advertisement packet. This flag informs IPv6 autoconfiguration clients that they should use DHCPv6 to obtain additional information from DHCPv6, such as the DNS server address.
  - **DAD Attempts**—How often the interface performs Duplicate Address Detection (DAD), from 0 - 600. The default is 1. During the stateless autoconfiguration process, DAD verifies the uniqueness of new unicast IPv6 addresses before the addresses are assigned to interfaces. If the duplicate address is the link-local address of the interface, the processing of IPv6 packets is disabled on the interface. If the duplicate address is a global address, the address is not used. The interface uses neighbor solicitation messages to perform Duplicate Address Detection. Set the value to 0 to disable duplicate address detection (DAD) processing.
- Step 8** Click **OK**.
-

# Monitoring Interfaces

You can view some basic information about interfaces in the following areas:

- **Device.** Use the port graphic to monitor the current state of the interfaces. Mouse over a port to see its IP addresses and enabled and link statuses. The IP addresses can be statically assigned or obtained using DHCP.

Interface ports use the following color coding:

- Green—The interface is configured, enabled, and the link is up.
  - Gray—The interface is not enabled.
  - Orange/Red—The interface is configured and enabled, but the link is down. If the interface is wired, this is an error condition that needs correction. If the interface is not wired, this is the expected status.
- **Monitoring > System.** The **Throughput** dashboard shows information on traffic flowing through the system. You can view information on all interfaces, or you can select a specific interface to examine.
  - **Monitoring > Ingress Zones and Egress Zones.** These dashboards show statistics based on zones, which are composed of interfaces. You can drill into this information for more detail.

## Monitoring Interfaces in the CLI

You can also log into the device CLI and use the following commands to get more detailed information about interface-related behavior and statistics.

- **show interface** displays interface statistics and configuration information. This command has many keywords you can use to get to the information you need. Use ? as a keyword to see the available options.
- **show ipv6 interface** displays IPv6 configuration information about the interfaces.
- **show bridge-group** displays information about Bridge Virtual Interfaces (BVI), including member information and IP addresses.
- **show conn** displays information about the connections currently established through the interfaces.
- **show traffic** displays statistics about traffic flowing through each interface.
- **show ipv6 traffic** displays statistics about IPv6 traffic flowing through the device.
- **show dhcpd** displays statistics and other information about DHCP usage on the interfaces, particularly about the DHCP servers configured on interfaces.

# Examples for Interfaces

The use case chapter includes the following interface-related examples:

- [How to Configure the Device in FDM](#)
- [How to Add a Subnet](#)