

# PIX/ASA 7.x and later: SSH/Telnet on the Inside and Outside Interface Configuration Example

Document ID: 69373

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## Introduction

This document provides a sample configuration of Secure Shell (SSH) on the inside and outside interfaces of Cisco Series Security Appliance version 7.x and later. The configuration of the Series Security Appliance remotely with the command line involves the use of either Telnet or SSH. Because Telnet communications are sent in clear text, which includes passwords, SSH is highly recommended. SSH traffic is encrypted in a tunnel and thereby helps protect passwords and other configuration commands from interception.

The Security Appliance allows SSH connections to the security appliance for management purposes. The security appliance allows a maximum of five concurrent SSH connections for each security context, if available, and a global maximum of 100 connections for all of the contexts combined.

In this configuration example, the PIX Security Appliance is considered to be the SSH server. The traffic from SSH clients (10.1.1.2/24 and 172.16.1.1/16) to the SSH server is encrypted. The security appliance supports the SSH remote shell functionality provided in SSH versions 1 and 2 and supports Data Encryption Standard (DES) and 3DES ciphers. SSH versions 1 and 2 are different and are not interoperable.

## Prerequisites

### Requirements

There are no specific requirements for this document.

## Components Used

The information in this document is based on Cisco PIX Firewall Software version 7.1 and 8.0.

The information in this document was created from the devices in a specific lab environment. All of the devices used in this document started with a cleared (default) configuration. If your network is live, make sure that you understand the potential impact of any command.

## Related Products

This configuration can also be used with the Cisco ASA 5500 Series Security Appliance.

## Conventions

Refer to the Cisco Technical Tips Conventions for more information on document conventions.

## Configure

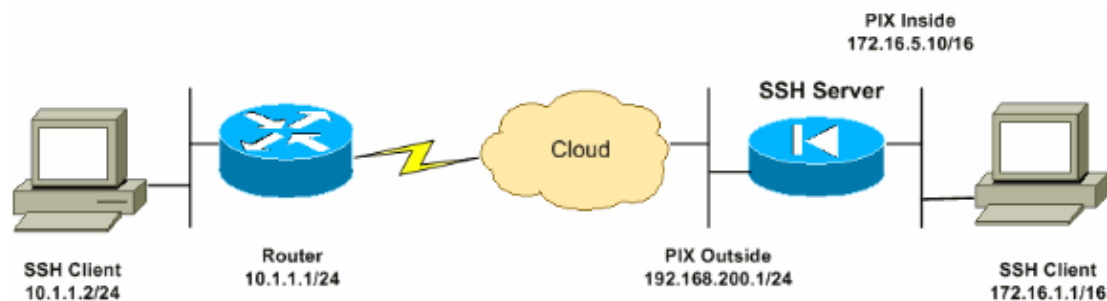
In this section, you are presented with the information to configure the features described in this document.

**Note:** Each configuration step is presented with the necessary information to use the command line or the Adaptive Security Device Manager (ASDM).

**Note:** Use the Command Lookup Tool (registered customers only) in order to obtain more information on the commands used in this section.

## Network Diagram

This document uses this network setup:



## SSH Configurations

This document uses these configurations:

- SSH Access to the Security Appliance
- How to use an SSH Client
- PIX Configuration

### SSH Access to the Security Appliance

Complete these steps in order to configure SSH access to the security appliance:

1. SSH sessions always require a username and password for authentication. There are two ways to meet this requirement.

Configure a username and password and use AAA:

Syntax :

```
pix(config)#username username password password
```

```
pix(config)#aaa authentication {telnet | ssh | http | serial} console {LOCAL | server_group [LOCAL]}
```

**Note:** If you use a TACACS+ or RADIUS server group for authentication, you can configure the security appliance to use the local database as a fallback method if the AAA server is unavailable. Specify the server group name and then LOCAL (LOCAL is case sensitive). We recommend that you use the same username and password in the local database as the AAA server, because the security appliance prompt does not give any indication which method is used.

**Note:** Example :

```
pix(config)#aaa authentication ssh console TACACS+ LOCAL
```

**Note:** You can alternatively use the local database as your main method of authentication with no fallback. In order to do this, enter LOCAL alone.

Example :

```
pix(config)#aaa authentication ssh console LOCAL
```

**OR**

Use the default username of **pix** and the default Telnet password of **cisco**. You can change the Telnet password with this command:

```
pix(config)#passwd password
```

**Note:** The **password** command can also be used in this situation. Both commands do the same thing.

2. Generate an RSA key pair for the PIX Firewall, which is required for SSH:

```
pix(config)#crypto key generate rsa modulus modulus_size
```

**Note:** The *modulus\_size* (in bits) can be 512, 768, 1024, or 2048. The larger the key modulus size you specify, the longer it takes to generate the RSA key pair. The value of 1024 is recommended.

**Note:** The command used to generate an RSA key pair is different for PIX software versions earlier than 7.x. In earlier versions, a domain name must be set before you can create keys.

**Note:** In multiple context mode, you must generate the RSA keys for every contexts. In addition, crypto commands are not supported in system context mode.

3. Specify the hosts allowed to connect to the security appliance.

This command specifies the source address, netmask and interface of the host(s) allowed to connect with SSH. It can be entered multiple times for multiple hosts, networks, or interfaces. In this example, one host on the inside and one host on the outside are permitted.

```
pix(config)#ssh 172.16.1.1 255.255.255.255 inside
pix(config)#ssh 10.1.1.2 255.255.255.255 outside
```

4. **Optional:** By default, the security appliance allows both SSH version 1 and version 2. Enter this command in order to restrict connections to a specific version:

```
pix(config)# ssh version <version_number>
```

**Note:** The `version_number` can be 1 or 2.

5. **Optional:** By default, SSH sessions are closed after five minutes of inactivity. This timeout can be configured to last for between 1 and 60 minutes.

```
pix(config)#ssh timeout minutes
```

## How to use an SSH Client

Provide the username and the login password of the PIX 500 Series Security Appliance while you open the SSH session. When you start an SSH session, a dot (.) displays on the security appliance console before the SSH user authentication prompt appears:

```
hostname(config)# .
```

The display of the dot does not affect the functionality of SSH. The dot appears at the console when a server key is generated or a message is decrypted with private keys during SSH key exchange before user authentication occurs. These tasks can take up to two minutes or longer. The dot is a progress indicator that verifies that the security appliance is busy and has not hung.

SSH versions 1.x and 2 are entirely different protocols and are not compatible. Download a compatible client. Refer to the Obtain an SSH Client section of Advanced Configurations for more information.

## PIX Configuration

This document uses this configuration:

PIX Configuration
<pre>PIX Version 7.1(1) ! hostname pix enable password 8Ry2YjIyt7RRXU24 encrypted names ! interface Ethernet0  nameif outside  security-level 0  ip address 192.168.200.1 255.255.255.0 ! interface Ethernet1  nameif inside  security-level 100  ip address 172.16.5.10 255.255.0.0 ! passwd 2KFQnbNIdI.2KYOU encrypted ftp mode passive pager lines 24 mtu outside 1500 mtu inside 1500 no failover icmp permit any outside</pre>

```
no asdm history enable
arp timeout 14400
route outside 10.1.1.0 255.255.255.0 192.168.200.1 1
timeout xlate 3:00:00
timeout conn 1:00:00 half-closed 0:10:00 udp 0:02:00 icmp 0:00:02
timeout sunrpc 0:10:00 h323 0:05:00 h225 1:00:00 mgcp 0:05:00
timeout mgcp-pat 0:05:00 sip 0:30:00 sip_media 0:02:00
timeout uauth 0:05:00 absolute

!--- AAA for the SSH configuration

username ciscouser password 3USUcOPFUiMCO4Jk encrypted
aaa authentication ssh console LOCAL

http server enable
http 172.16.0.0 255.255.0.0 inside
no snmp-server location
no snmp-server contact
snmp-server enable traps snmp authentication linkup linkdown coldstar
telnet timeout 5

!--- Enter this command for each address or subnet
!--- to identify the IP addresses from which
!--- the security appliance accepts connections.
!--- The security appliance accepts SSH connections from all interfaces.

ssh 10.1.1.2 255.255.255.255 outside

!--- Allows the users on the host 172.161.1.1
!--- to access the security appliance
!--- on the inside interface.

ssh 172.16.1.1 255.255.255.255 inside

!--- Sets the duration from 1 to 60 minutes
!--- (default 5 minutes) that the SSH session can be idle,
!--- before the security appliance disconnects the session.

ssh timeout 60

console timeout 0
!
class-map inspection_default
 match default-inspection-traffic
!
!
policy-map global_policy
 class inspection_default
  inspect dns maximum-length 512
  inspect ftp
  inspect h323 h225
  inspect h323 ras
  inspect netbios
  inspect rsh
  inspect rtsp
  inspect skinny
  inspect esmtp
  inspect sqlnet
  inspect sunrpc
```

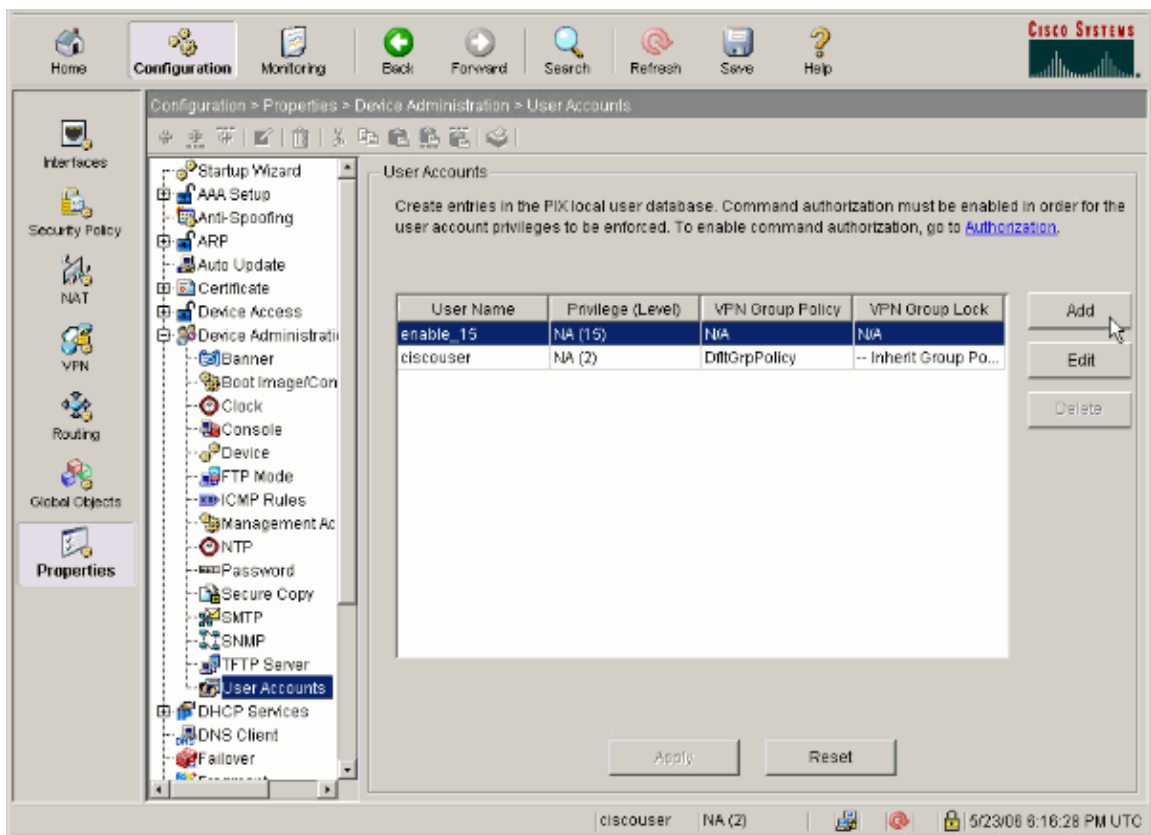
```
inspect tftp
inspect sip
inspect xdmpc
!
service-policy global_policy global
Cryptochecksum:a6b05fd04f9fbd0a39f1ca7328de91f7
: end
```

**Note:** In order to access the management interface of the ASA/PIX using SSH, issue this command: `ssh 172.16.16.160 255.255.255.255 Management`

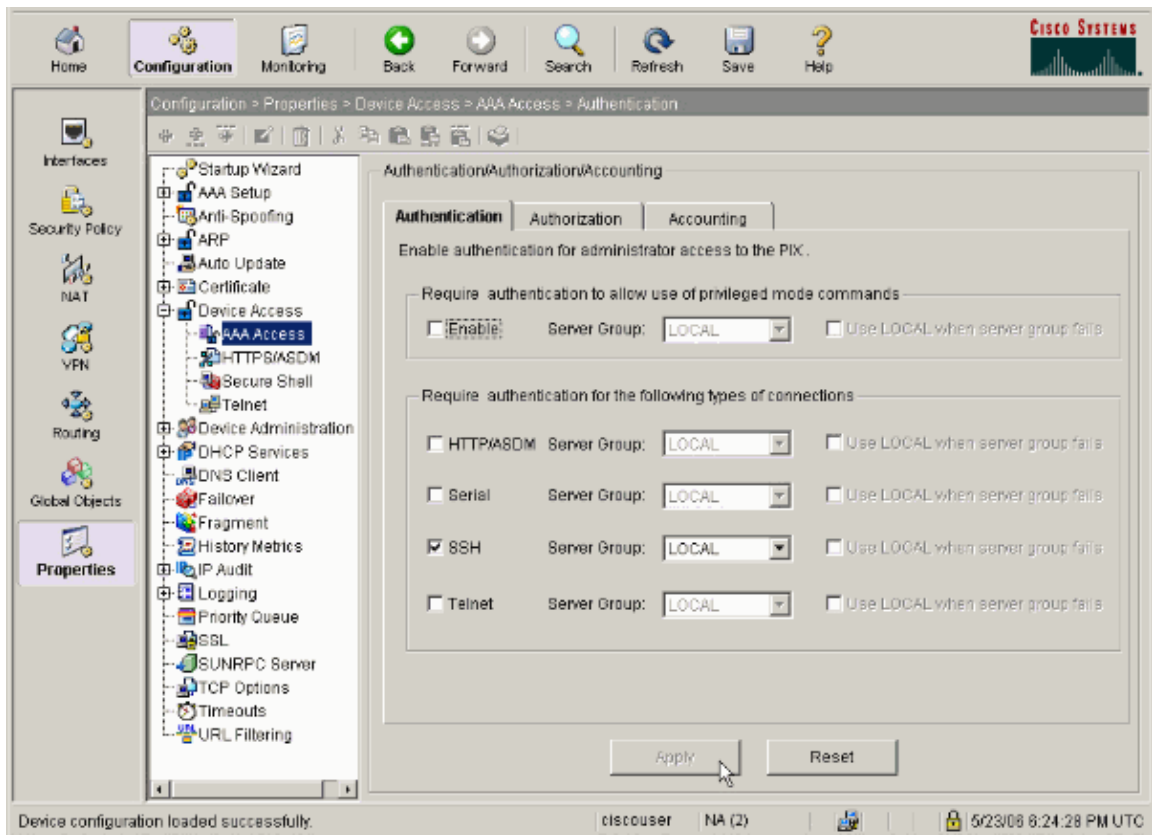
## Configuration with ASDM 5.x

Complete these steps in order to configure the device for SSH using ASDM:

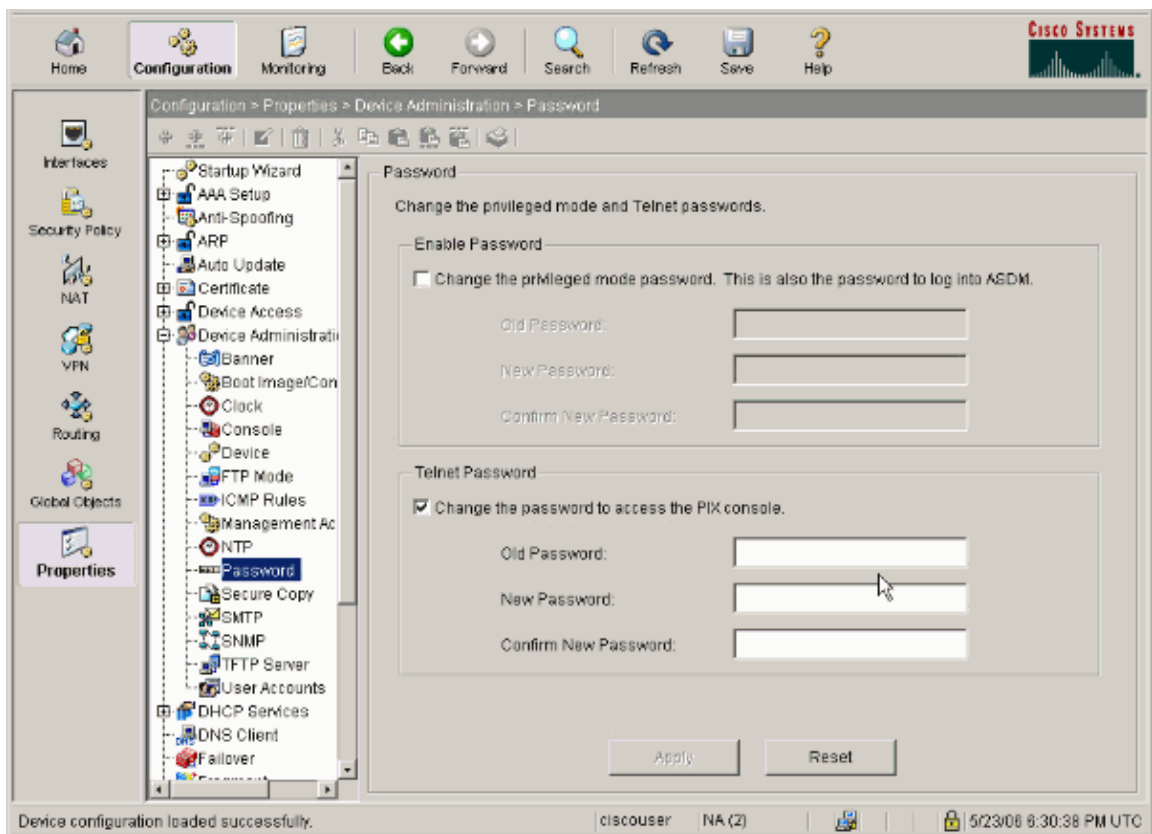
1. Choose **Configuration > Properties > Device Administration > User Accounts** in order to add a user with ASDM.



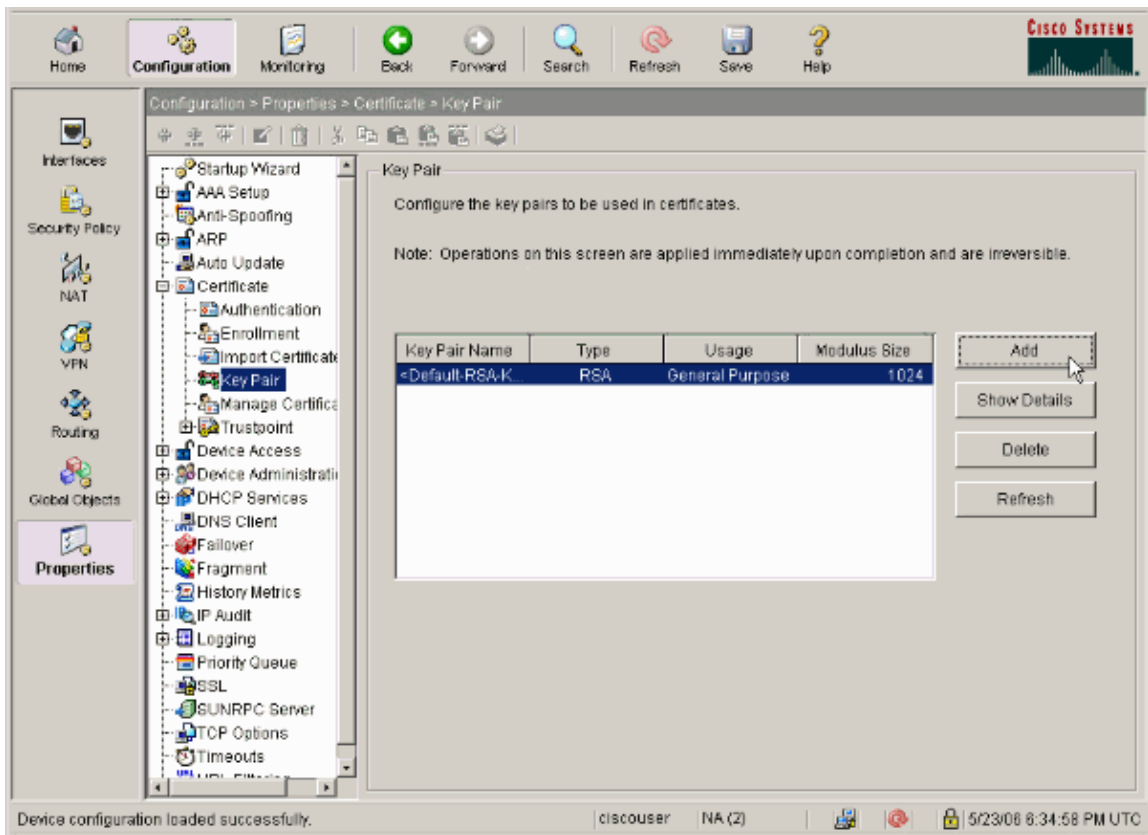
2. Choose **Configuration > Properties > Device Access > AAA Access > Authentication** in order to set up AAA authentication for SSH with ASDM.



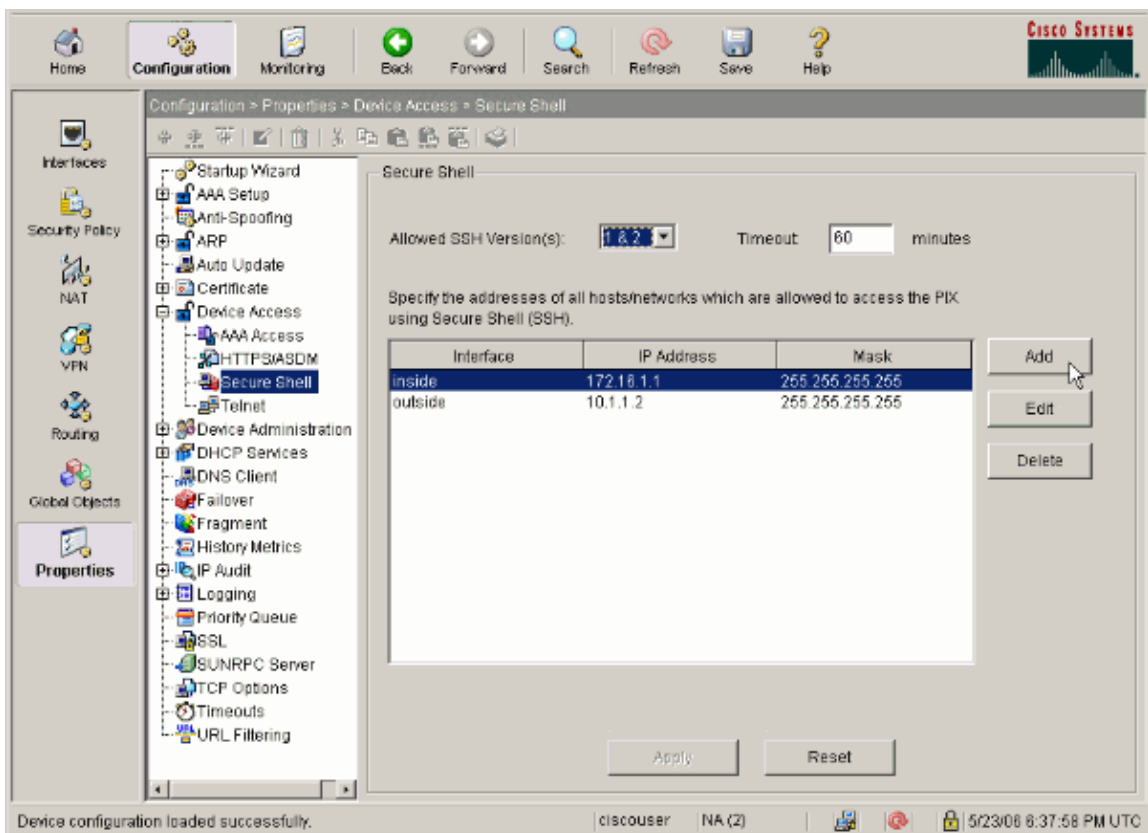
3. Choose **Configuration > Properties > Device Administration > Password** in order to change the Telnet password with ASDM.



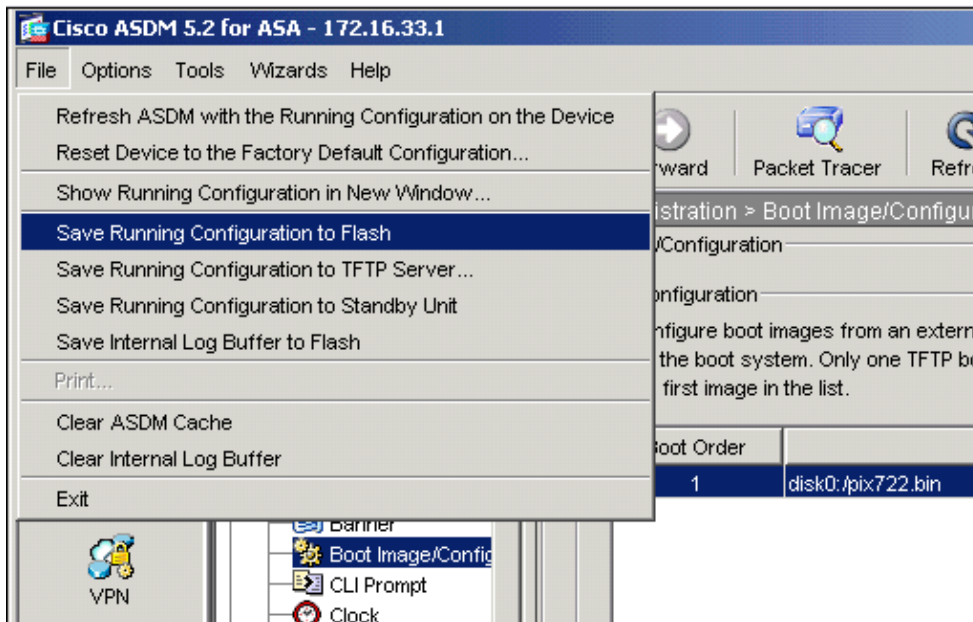
4. Choose **Configuration > Properties > Certificate > Key Pair**, click **Add** and use the default options presented in order to generate the same RSA keys with ASDM.



5. Choose **Configuration > Properties > Device Access > Secure Shell** in order to use ASDM to specify hosts allowed to connect with SSH and to specify the version and timeout options.



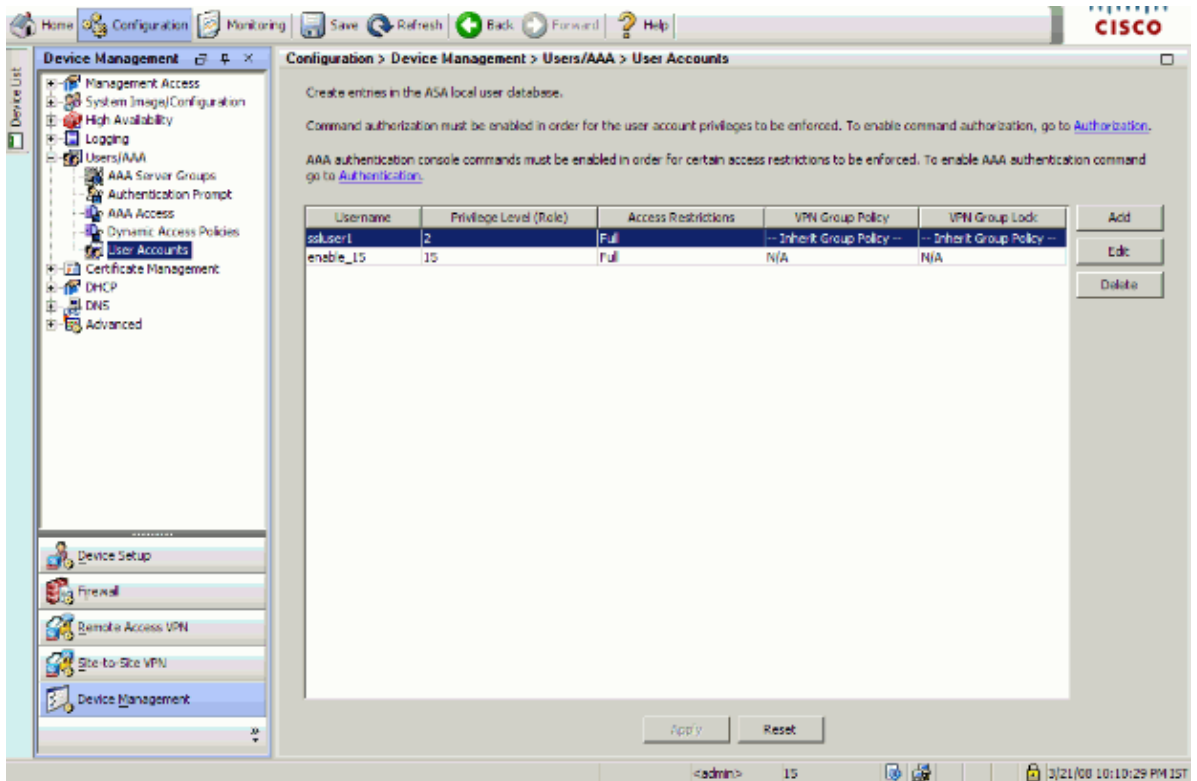
6. Click **File > Save Running Configuration to Flash** in order to save the configuration.



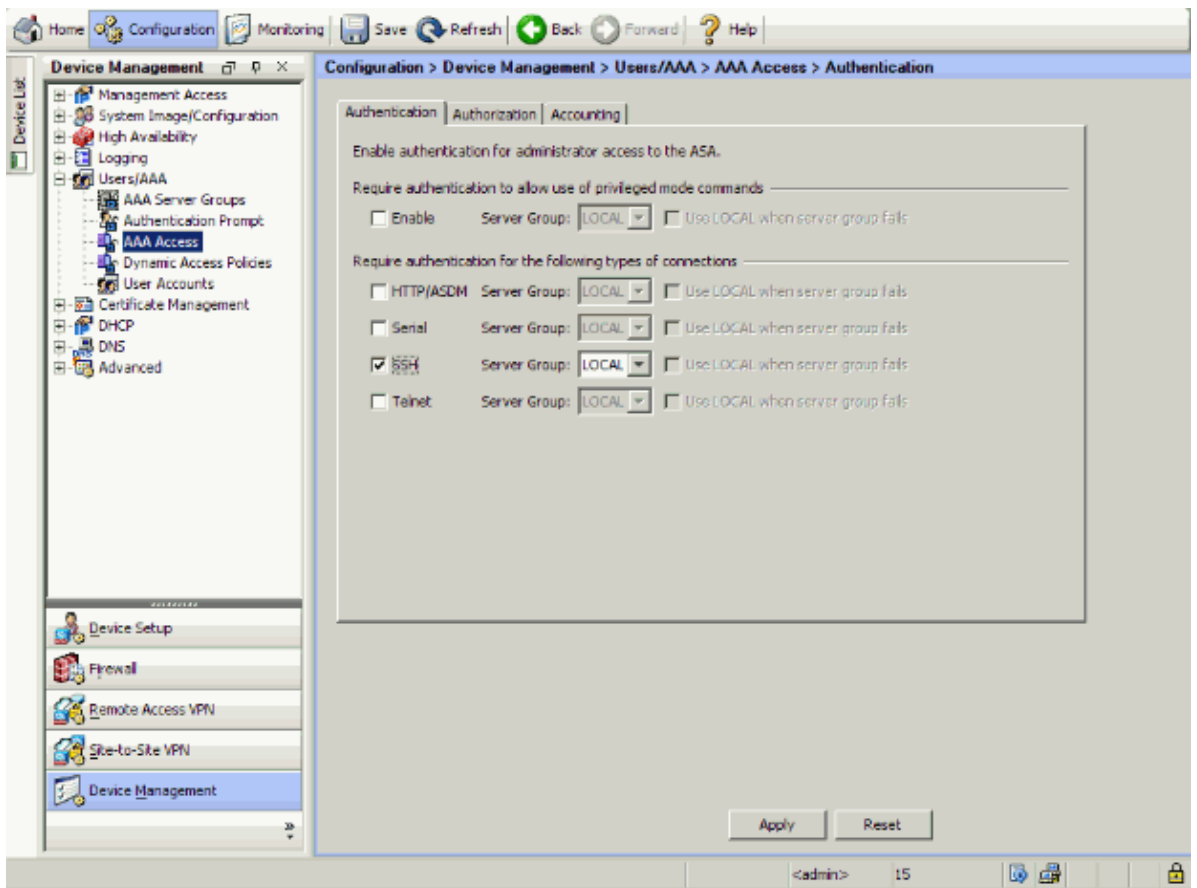
## Configuration with ASDM 6.x

Complete these steps:

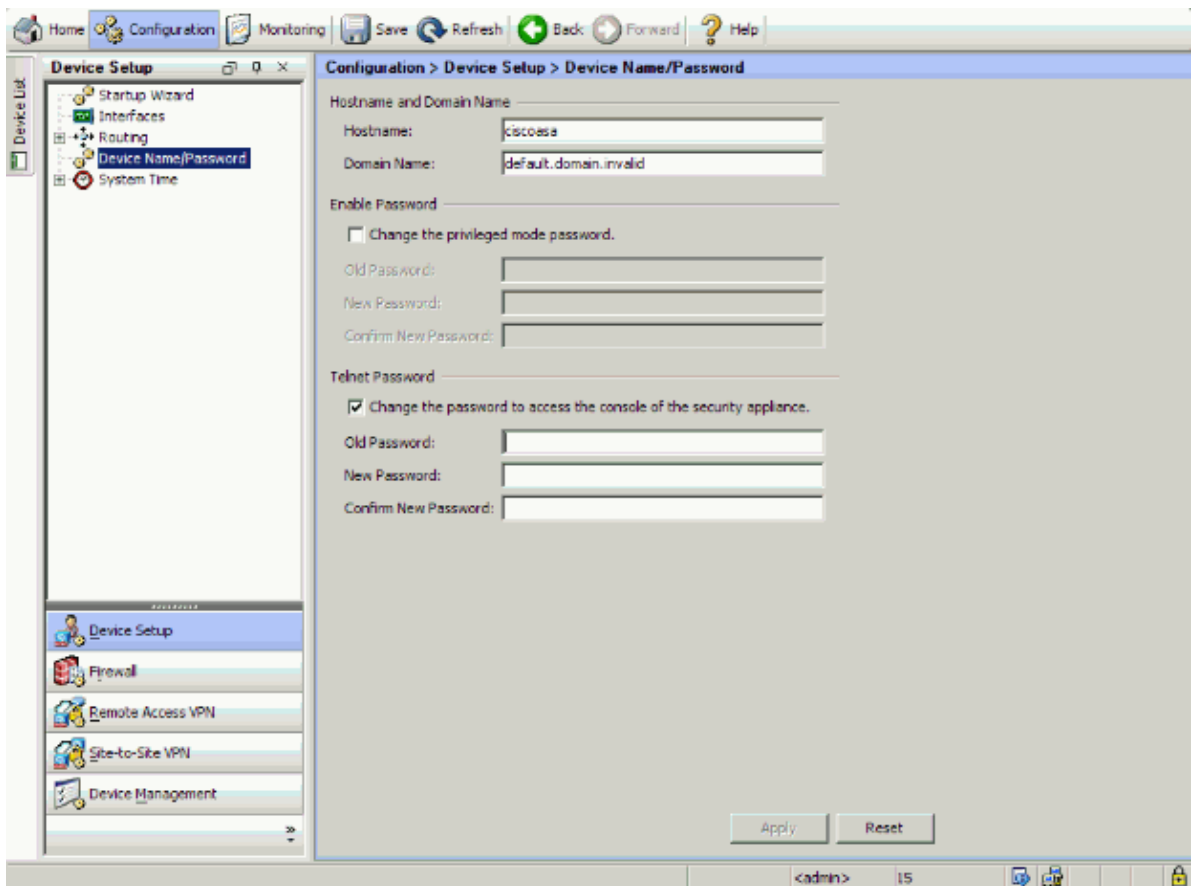
1. Choose **Configuration > Device Management > Users/AAA > User Accounts** in order to add a user with ASDM.



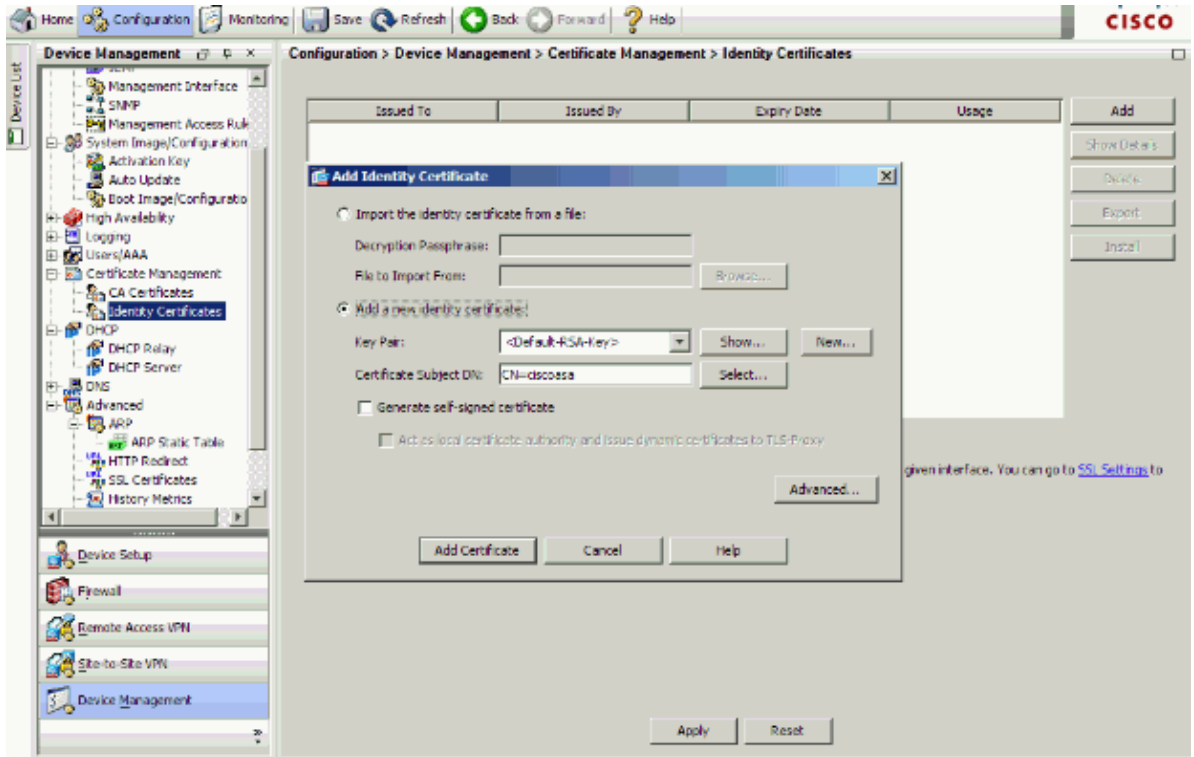
2. Choose **Configuration > Device Management > Users/AAA > AAA Access > Authentication** in order to set up AAA authentication for SSH with ASDM.



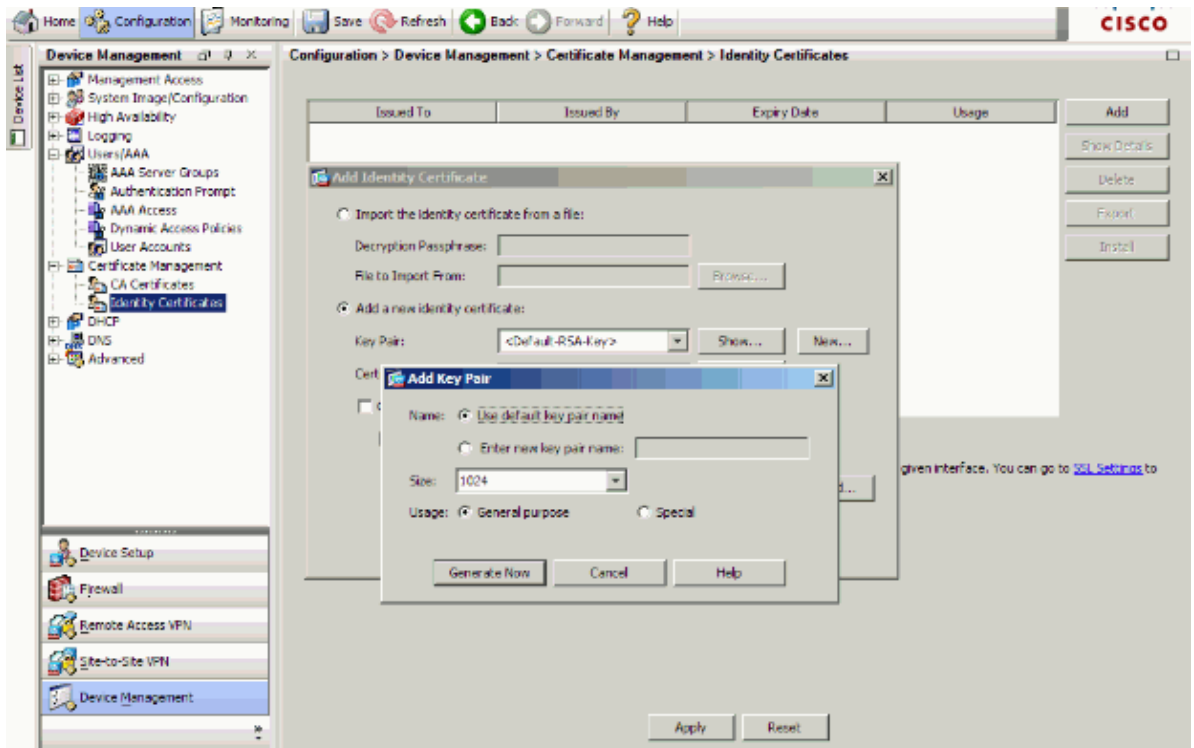
3. Choose **Configuration > Device Setup > Device Name/Password** in order to change the Telnet password with ASDM.



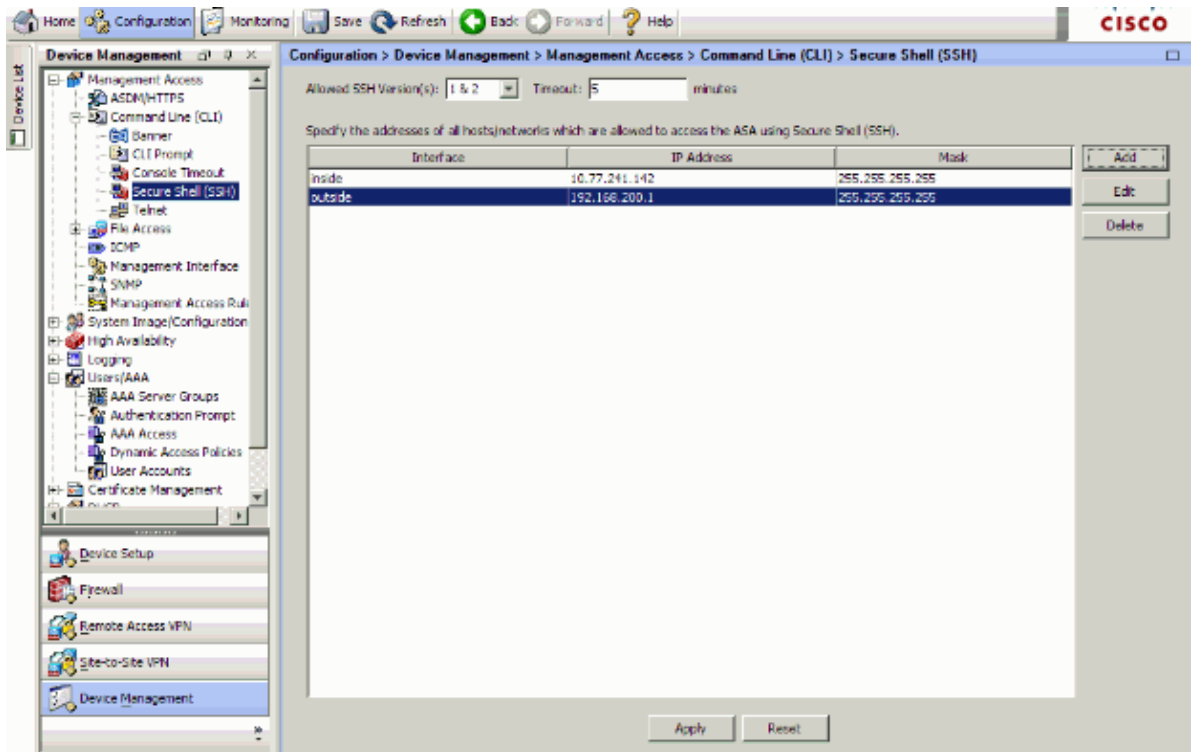
4. Choose **Configuration > Device Management > Certificate Management > Identity Certificates**, click **Add** and use the default options presented in order to generate the same RSA keys with ASDM.



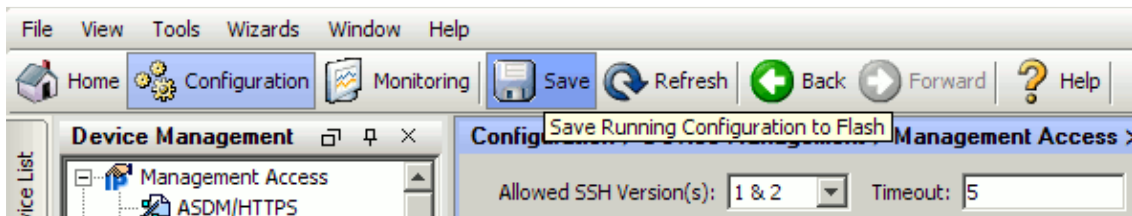
5. Under **Add a new Identity certificate** click **New** in order to add a default key pair if one does not exist. Then, click **Generate Now**.



6. Choose **Configuration > Device Management > Management Access > Command Line (CLI) > Secure Shell (SSH)** in order to use ASDM to specify hosts allowed to connect with SSH and to specify the version and timeout options.



7. Click **Save** on top of the window in order to save the configuration.



8. When prompted to save the configuration on flash, choose **Apply** in order to save the configuration.

## Telnet Configuration

In order to add Telnet access to the console and set the idle timeout, issue the **telnet** command in global configuration mode. By default, Telnet sessions that are left idle for five minutes are closed by the security appliance. In order to remove Telnet access from a previously set IP address, use the *no* form of this command.

```
telnet {{hostname | IP_address mask interface_name} | {IPv6_address interface_name} | {time}
no telnet {{hostname | IP_address mask interface_name} | {IPv6_address interface_name} | {time}}
```

The **telnet** command lets you specify which hosts can access the security appliance console with Telnet.

**Note:** You can enable Telnet to the security appliance on all interfaces. However, the security appliance enforces that all Telnet traffic to the outside interface be protected by IPsec. In order to enable a Telnet session to the outside interface, configure IPsec on the outside interface to include IP traffic that is generated by the security appliance and enable Telnet on the outside interface.

**Note:** In general, if any interface that has a security level of 0 or lower than any other interface, then PIX/ASA does not allow Telnet to that interface.

**Note:** It is not recommended to access the security appliance through a Telnet session. The authentication

credential information, such as password, is sent as clear text. The Telnet server and client communication happens only with the clear text. Cisco recommends to use SSH for a more secured data communication.

If you enter an IP address, you must also enter a netmask. There is no default netmask. Do not use the subnet mask of the internal network. The netmask is only a bit mask for the IP address. In order to limit access to a single IP address, use 255 in each octet; for example, 255.255.255.255.

If IPsec operates, you can specify an unsecure interface name, which is typically the outside interface. At a minimum, you can configure the **crypto map** command in order to specify an interface name with the **telnet** command.

Issue the **password** command in order to set a password for Telnet access to the console. The default is cisco. Issue the **who** command in order to view which IP addresses currently access the security appliance console. Issue the **kill** command in order to terminate an active Telnet console session.

In order to enable a Telnet session to the inside interface, review these examples:

### Example 1

This example permits only the host 10.1.1.1 to gain access to the security appliance console through Telnet:

```
pix(config)#telnet 10.1.1.1 255.255.255.255 inside
```

### Example 2

This example permits only the network 10.0.0.0/8 to gain access to the security appliance console through Telnet:

```
pix(config)#telnet 10.0.0.0 255.0.0.0 inside
```

### Example 3

This example allows all networks to gain access to the security appliance console through Telnet:

```
pix(config)#telnet 0.0.0.0 0.0.0.0 inside
```

If you use the **aaa** command with the console keyword, the Telnet console access must be authenticated with an authentication server.

**Note:** If you have configured the **aaa** command in order to require authentication for the security appliance Telnet console access and the console login request times out, you can gain access to the security appliance from the serial console. In order to do this, enter the security appliance username and the password that is set with the **enable password** command.

Issue the **telnet timeout** command in order to set the maximum time that a console Telnet session can be idle before it is logged off by the security appliance. You cannot use the **no telnet** command with the **telnet timeout** command.

This example shows how to change the maximum session idle duration:

```
hostname(config)#telnet timeout 10  
  
hostname(config)#show running-config telnet timeout  
  
telnet timeout 10 minutes
```

## SSH/Telnet Support in the ACS 4.x

If you look at the RADIUS functions, you can use the RADIUS for the SSH functionality.

When an attempt is made to access the security appliance with Telnet, SSH, HTTP, or a serial console connection and the traffic matches an authentication statement, the security appliance requests a username and password. It then sends these credentials to the RADIUS (ACS) server, and grants or denies CLI access based on the response from the server.

Refer to the AAA Server and Local Database Support section of Configuring AAA Servers and the Local Database for more information.

For instance, your ASA security appliance 7.0 needs an IP address from which the security appliance accepts connections, such as:

```
hostname(config)#ssh source_IP_address mask source_interface
```

Refer to the Allowing SSH Access section of Configuring AAA Servers and the Local Database for more information.

Refer to PIX/ASA : Cut-through Proxy for Network Access using TACACS+ and RADIUS Server Configuration Example for more information on how to configure SSH/Telnet access to PIX with ACS authentication.

## Verify

Use this section in order to confirm that your configuration works properly.

The Output Interpreter Tool ( registered customers only) (OIT) supports certain **show** commands. Use the OIT in order to view an analysis of **show** command output.

## Debug SSH

Issue the **debug ssh** command in order to turn on SSH debugging.

```
pix(config)#debug ssh
SSH debugging on
```

This output shows that the authentication request from host 10.1.1.2 (outside to PIX) to "pix" is successful:

```
pix#
Device ssh opened successfully.
SSH0: SSH client: IP = '10.1.1.2' interface # = 1
SSH: host key initialised
SSH0: starting SSH control process
SSH0: Exchanging versions - SSH-1.99-Cisco-1.25
SSH0: send SSH message: outdata is NULL
server version string:SSH-1.99-Cisco-1.25SSH0: receive SSH message
SSH0: client version is - SSH-1.99-3.2.0 SSH Secure Shell for Windows
client version string:SSH-1.99-3.2.0 SSH Secure Shell for WindowsS
begin server key generation
SSH0: complete server key generation, elapsed time = 1760 ms
SSH2 0: SSH2_MSG_KEXINIT sent
SSH2 0: SSH2_MSG_KEXINIT received
SSH2: kex: client->server aes128-cbc hmac-md5 none
SSH2: kex: server->client aes128-cbc hmac-md5 none
SSH2 0: expecting SSH2_MSG_KEXDH_INIT
```

```

SSH2 0: SSH2_MSG_KEXDH_INIT received
SSH2 0: signature length 143
SSH2: kex_derive_keys complete
SSH2 0: newkeys: mode 1
SSH2 0: SSH2_MSG_NEWKEYS sent
SSH2 0: waiting for SSH2_MSG_NEWKEYS
SSH2 0: newkeys: mode 0
SSH2 0: SSH2_MSG_NEWKEYS receivedSSH(pix): user authen method is
'no AAA', aaa server group ID = 0
SSH(pix): user authen method is 'no AAA', aaa server group ID = 0
SSH2 0: authentication successful for pix

```

*!--- Authentication for the PIX was successful.*

```

SSH2 0: channel open request
SSH2 0: pty-req request
SSH2 0: requested tty: vt100, height 25, width 80
SSH2 0: shell request
SSH2 0: shell message received

```

If a user gives a wrong username, for example, "pix1" instead of "pix", the PIX Firewall rejects the authentication. This debug output shows the failed authentication:

```

pix#
Device ssh opened successfully.
SSH0: SSH client: IP = '10.1.1.2' interface # = 1
SSH: host key initialised
SSH0: starting SSH control process
SSH0: Exchanging versions - SSH-1.99-Cisco-1.25
SSH0: send SSH message: outdata is NULL
server version string:SSH-1.99-Cisco-1.25SSH0: receive SSH message: 83 (83)
SSH0: client version is - SSH-1.99-3.2.0 SSH Secure Shell for Windows client version
string:SSH-1.99-3.2.0 SSH Secure Shell for WindowsSSH0: begin server key gener
SSH0: complete server key generation, elapsed time = 1960 ms
SSH2 0: SSH2_MSG_KEXINIT sent
SSH2 0: SSH2_MSG_KEXINIT received
SSH2: kex: client->server aes128-cbc hmac-md5 none
SSH2: kex: server->client aes128-cbc hmac-md5 none
SSH2 0: expecting SSH2_MSG_KEXDH_INIT
SSH2 0: SSH2_MSG_KEXDH_INIT received
SSH2 0: signature length 143
SSH2: kex_derive_keys complete
SSH2 0: newkeys: mode 1
SSH2 0: SSH2_MSG_NEWKEYS sent
SSH2 0: waiting for SSH2_MSG_NEWKEYS
SSH2 0: newkeys: mode 0
SSH2 0: SSH2_MSG_NEWKEYS receivedSSH(pix1): user authen method is
'no AAA', aaa server group ID = 0
SSH(pix1): user authen method is 'no AAA', aaa server group ID = 0
SSH2 0: authentication failed for pix1

```

*!--- Authentication for pix1 was not successful due to the wrong username.*

Similarly, if the user provides the wrong password, this debug output shows you the failed authentication.

```

pix#
Device ssh opened successfully.
SSH0: SSH client: IP = '10.1.1.2' interface # = 1
SSH: host key initialised
SSH0: starting SSH control process
SSH0: Exchanging versions - SSH-1.99-Cisco-1.25
SSH0: send SSH message: outdata is NULL server version string:
SSH-1.99-Cisco-1.25SSH0: receive SSH message: 83 (83)
SSH0: client version is - SSH-1.99-3.2.0 SSH Secure Shell for

```

```

Windows client version string:SSH-1.99-3.2.0
      SSH Secure Shell for WindowsSSH0: begin server key generation
SSH0: complete server key generation, elapsed time = 1920 ms
SSH2 0: SSH2_MSG_KEXINIT sent
SSH2 0: SSH2_MSG_KEXINIT received
SSH2: kex: client->server aes128-cbc hmac-md5 none
SSH2: kex: server->client aes128-cbc hmac-md5 none
SSH2 0: expecting SSH2_MSG_KEXDH_INIT
SSH2 0: SSH2_MSG_KEXDH_INIT received
SSH2 0: signature length 143
SSH2: kex_derive_keys complete
SSH2 0: newkeys: mode 1
SSH2 0: SSH2_MSG_NEWKEYS sent
SSH2 0: waiting for SSH2_MSG_NEWKEYS
SSH2 0: newkeys: mode 0
SSH2 0: SSH2_MSG_NEWKEYS receivedSSH(pix): user authen method
is 'no AAA', aaa server group ID = 0
      SSH(pix): user authen method is 'no AAA', aaa server group ID = 0
SSH2 0: authentication failed for pixSSH(pix): user authen method
is 'no AAA', aaa server group ID = 0
SSH2 0: authentication failed for pix

```

*!--- Authentication for PIX was not successful due to the wrong password.*

## View Active SSH Sessions

Issue this command in order to check the number of SSH sessions that are connected and the connection state to the PIX:

```
pix#show ssh session
```

SID	Client IP	Version	Mode	Encryption	Hmac	State	Username
0	10.1.1.2	1.99	IN	aes128-cbc	md5	SessionStarted	pix
			OUT	aes128-cbc	md5	SessionStarted	pix

Choose **Monitoring > Properties > Device Access > Secure Shell Sessions** in order to view the sessions with ASDM.

## View Public RSA Key

Issue this command in order to view the public portion of the RSA keys on the security appliance:

```
pix#show crypto key mypubkey rsa
```

```

Key pair was generated at: 19:36:28 UTC May 19 2006
Key name: <Default-RSA-Key>
Usage: General Purpose Key
Modulus Size (bits): 1024
Key Data:

30819f30 0d06092a 864886f7 0d010101 05000381 8d003081 89028181 00c172f4
95f66c34 2c2ced37 aa3442d8 12158c93 131480dd 967985ab 1d7b92d9 5290f695
8e9b5b0d d88c0439 6169184c d8fb951c 19023347 d6b3f939 99ac2814 950f4422
69b67328 f64916b1 82e15341 07590da2 390fbefd 38758888 7319196c de61aef1
165c4bab 03d081d5 ddaf15cc c9ddb204 c2b451e0 f19ce0f3 485b1d69 8b020301 0001

```

Choose **Configuration > Properties > Certificate > Key Pair**, choose the key pair to view, and click **Show Details** in order to view RSA keys with ASDM.

# Troubleshoot

This section provides information you can use to troubleshoot your configuration.

## How to Remove the RSA Keys from the PIX

Certain situations, such as when you upgrade PIX software or change the SSH version in the PIX, can require you to remove and re-create RSA keys. Issue this command in order to remove the RSA key pair from the PIX:

```
pix(config)#crypto key zeroize rsa
```

Choose **Configuration > Properties > Certificate > Key Pair**, choose the key pair to view, and click **Delete** in order to remove RSA keys with ASDM.

## SSH Connection Failed

Error Message :

```
%PIX|ASA-3-315004: Fail to establish SSH session because RSA host key retrieval failed.
```

In order to resolve this issue, remove and re-create the RSA keys. Issue this command in order to remove the RSA key pair from ASA:

```
ASA(config)#crypto key zeroize rsa
```

Issue this command in order to generate the new key:

```
ASA(config)# crypto key generate rsa modulus 1024
```

## Unable to access ASA with SSH

Error message:

```
ssh_exchange_identification: read: Connection reset by peer
```

In order to resolve this issue, complete these steps:

1. Either reload the ASA or remove all SSH related config and the RSA keys.
2. Reconfigure the SSH commands and regenerate the RSA keys.

---

## Related Information

- [Cisco PIX 500 Series Security Appliances](#)
  - [Cisco ASA 5500 Series Adaptive Security Appliances](#)
  - [Cisco PIX Firewall Software](#)
  - [Cisco Secure PIX Firewall Command References](#)
  - [Configuring SSH Connections – Cisco routers & Cisco Concentrators](#)
  - [Requests for Comments \(RFCs\)](#)
  - [Technical Support & Documentation – Cisco Systems](#)
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