



Configuring MAC Authentication Bypass

Last Updated: December 21, 2012

The MAC Authentication Bypass feature is a MAC-address-based authentication mechanism that allows clients in a network to integrate with the Cisco Identity Based Networking Services (IBNS) and Network Admission Control (NAC) strategy using the client MAC address. The MAC Authentication Bypass feature is applicable to the following network environments:

- Network environments in which a supplicant code is not available for a given client platform.
- Network environments in which the end client configuration is not under administrative control, that is, the IEEE 802.1X requests are not supported on these networks.

Standalone MAC Authentication Bypass (MAB) is an authentication method that grants network access to specific MAC addresses regardless of 802.1X capability or credentials. As a result, devices such as cash registers, fax machines, and printers can be readily authenticated, and network features that are based on authorization policies can be made available.

Before standalone MAB support was available, MAB could be configured only as a failover method for 802.1x authentication. Standalone MAB is independent of 802.1x authentication.

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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.



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Prerequisites for Configuring MAC Authentication Bypass

IEEE 802.1x—Port-Based Network Access Control

You should understand the concepts of port-based network access control and have an understanding of how to configure port-based network access control on your Cisco platform. For more information, see the *Securing User Services Configuration Guide Library*.

RADIUS and ACLs

You should understand the concepts of the RADIUS protocol and have an understanding of how to create and apply access control lists (ACLs). For more information, see the documentation for your Cisco platform and the *Securing User Services Configuration Guide Library*.

The device must have a RADIUS configuration and be connected to the Cisco secure access control server (ACS). For more information, see the *User Guide for Secure ACS Appliance 3.2*.

Information About Configuring MAC Authentication Bypass

- [Overview of the Cisco IOS Auth Manager, page 2](#)
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Overview of the Cisco IOS Auth Manager

The capabilities of devices connecting to a given network can be different, thus requiring that the network support different authentication methods and authorization policies. The Cisco IOS Auth Manager handles network authentication requests and enforces authorization policies regardless of authentication method. The Auth Manager maintains operational data for all port-based network connection attempts, authentications, authorizations, and disconnections and, as such, serves as a session manager.

The possible states for Auth Manager sessions are as follows:

- Idle—In the idle state, the authentication session has been initialized, but no methods have yet been run. This is an intermediate state.
- Running—A method is currently running. This is an intermediate state.
- Authc Success—The authentication method has run successfully. This is an intermediate state.
- Authc Failed—The authentication method has failed. This is an intermediate state.
- Authz Success—All features have been successfully applied for this session. This is a terminal state.
- Authz Failed—At least one feature has failed to be applied for this session. This is a terminal state.
- No methods—There were no results for this session. This is a terminal state.

Standalone MAB

MAC Authentication Bypass (MAB) uses the MAC address of the connecting device to grant or deny network access. To support MAB, the RADIUS authentication server maintains a database of MAC addresses for devices that require access to the network. MAB generates a RADIUS request with a MAC address in the Calling-Station-Id (attribute 31) and with a Service-Type (attribute 6) 10. After a successful authentication, the Auth Manager enables various authorization features specified by the authorization policy, such as ACL assignment and VLAN assignment.

How to Configure Configuring MAC Authentication Bypass

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Enabling MAC Authentication Bypass

Perform this task to enable the MAC Authentication Bypass feature on an 802.1X port.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **enable**
2. **configure terminal**
3. **interface** *type slot / port*
4. **mab**
5. **end**
6. **show authentication sessions interface** *type slot / port details*

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	enable Example: Device> enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	configure terminal Example: Device# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	interface <i>type slot / port</i> Example: Device(config)# interface FastEthernet 2/1	Enters interface configuration mode.

Command or Action	Purpose
Step 4 <code>mab</code> Example: <pre>Device(config-if)# mab</pre>	Enables MAB.
Step 5 <code>end</code> Example: <pre>Device(config-if)# end</pre>	Returns to privileged EXEC mode.
Step 6 <code>show authentication sessions interface type slot / port details</code> Example: <pre>Device# show authentication session interface FastEthernet 2/1 details</pre>	Displays the interface configuration and the authenticator instances on the interface.

Enabling Standalone MAB

Ports enabled with the Standalone MAB feature can use the MAC address of connecting devices to grant or deny network access. Perform the steps described in this section to enable standalone MAB on individual ports.

Before you can configure standalone MAB, the device must be connected to a Cisco Secure ACS server and RADIUS authentication, authorization, and accounting (AAA) must be configured.



Note

Standalone MAB can be configured on devices with switched ports only; it cannot be configured on devices with routed ports.



Note

If you are unsure whether MAB or MAB Extensible Authentication Protocol (EAP) is enabled or disabled on the switched port, use the **default mab** or **default mab eap** commands in interface configuration mode to configure MAB or MAB EAP.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **enable**
2. **configure terminal**
3. **interface** *type slot / port*
4. **switchport**
5. **switchport mode access**
6. **authentication port-control auto**
7. **mab**
8. **end**

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	enable Example: Device> enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	configure terminal Example: Device# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	interface <i>type slot / port</i> Example: Device(config)# interface FastEthernet2/1	Enters interface configuration mode.
Step 4	switchport Example: Switch(config-if)# switchport	Places interface in Layer 2 switched mode.
Step 5	switchport mode access Example: Device(config-if)# switchport mode access	Sets the interface type as nontrunking, nontagged single VLAN Layer 2 interface.

Command or Action	Purpose
Step 6 authentication port-control auto Example: Device(config-if)# authentication port-control auto	Configures the authorization state of the port.
Step 7 mab Example: Device(config-if)# mab	Enables MAB.
Step 8 end Example: Device(config-if)# end	Exits interface configuration mode and returns to privileged EXEC mode.

- [Troubleshooting Tips, page 6](#)

Troubleshooting Tips

The following commands can help troubleshoot standalone MAB:

- **debug authentication**
- **debug mab all**
- **show authentication registrations**
- **show authentication sessions**
- **show mab**

Enabling Reauthentication on a Port

By default, ports are not automatically reauthenticated. You can enable automatic reauthentication and specify how often reauthentication attempts are made.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **enable**
2. **configure terminal**
3. **interface** *type slot / port*
4. **switchport**
5. **switchport mode access**
6. **authentication port-control auto**
7. **mab** [eap]
8. **authentication periodic**
9. **authentication timer reauthenticate** {*seconds* | **server**}
10. **end**

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	enable Example: Device> enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	configure terminal Example: Device# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	interface <i>type slot / port</i> Example: Device(config)# interface FastEthernet2/1	Enters interface configuration mode.
Step 4	switchport Example: Device(config-if)# switchport	Places interface in Layer 2 switched mode.
Step 5	switchport mode access Example: Device(config-if)# switchport mode access	Sets the interface type as a nontrunking, nontagged single VLAN Layer 2 interface.

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 6	authentication port-control auto Example: Device(config-if)# authentication port-control auto	Configures the authorization state of the port.
Step 7	mab [eap] Example: Device(config-if)# mab	Enables MAB.
Step 8	authentication periodic Example: Device(config-if)# authentication periodic	Enables reauthentication.
Step 9	authentication timer reauthenticate {seconds server} Example: Device(config-if)# authentication timer reauthenticate 900	Configures the time, in seconds, between reauthentication attempts.
Step 10	end Example: Device(config-if)# end	Exits interface configuration mode and returns to privileged EXEC mode.

Specifying the Security Violation Mode

When there is a security violation on a port, the port can be shut down or traffic can be restricted. By default, the port is shut down. You can configure the period of time for which the port is shut down.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **enable**
2. **configure terminal**
3. **interface** *type slot / port*
4. **switchport**
5. **switchport mode access**
6. **authentication port-control auto**
7. **mab** [eap]
8. **authentication violation** {restrict | shutdown}
9. **authentication timer restart** *seconds*
10. **end**

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	enable Example: Device> enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	configure terminal Example: Device# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	interface <i>type slot / port</i> Example: Device(config)# interface FastEthernet2/1	Enters interface configuration mode.
Step 4	switchport Example: Device(config-if)# switchport	Places interface in Layer 2 switched mode.
Step 5	switchport mode access Example: Device(config-if)# switchport mode access	Sets the interface type as a nontrunking, nontagged single VLAN Layer 2 interface.

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 6	authentication port-control auto Example: Device(config-if)# authentication port-control auto	Configures the authorization state of the port.
Step 7	mab [eap] Example: Device(config-if)# mab	Enables MAB.
Step 8	authentication violation {restrict shutdown} Example: Device(config-if)# authentication violation shutdown	Configures the action to be taken when a security violation occurs on the port.
Step 9	authentication timer restart <i>seconds</i> Example: Device(config-if)# authentication timer restart 30	Configures the period of time, in seconds, after which an attempt is made to authenticate an unauthorized port.
Step 10	end Example: Device(config-if)# end	Exits interface configuration mode and returns to privileged EXEC mode.

Configuration Examples for MAC Authentication Bypass

- [Example: Standalone MAB Configuration, page 10](#)

Example: Standalone MAB Configuration

The following example shows how to configure standalone MAB on a port. In this example, the client is reauthenticated every 1200 seconds and the connection is dropped after 600 seconds of inactivity.

```
Device> enable
Device# configure terminal
Device(config)# interface GigabitEthernet2/1
Device(config-if)# switchport
Device(config-if)# switchport mode access
Device(config-if)# switchport access vlan 2
Device(config-if)# authentication port-control auto
```

```

Device(config-if)# mab
Device(config-if)# authentication violation shutdown
Device(config-if)# authentication timer restart 30
Device(config-if)# authentication periodic
Device(config-if)# authentication timer reauthenticate 1200
Device(config-if)# authentication timer inactivity 600

```

Additional References

Related Documents

Related Topic	Document Title
Cisco IOS commands	Cisco IOS Master Command List, All Releases
Authentication commands	Cisco IOS Security Command Reference
IEEE 802.1x—Flexible Authentication	Securing User Services Configuration Library

MIBs

MIB	MIBs Link
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CISCO-AUTH-FRAMEWORK-MIB CISCO-MAC-AUTH-BYPASS-MIB CISCO-PAE-MIB IEEE8021-PAE-MIB 	<p>To locate and download MIBs for selected platforms, Cisco IOS software releases, and feature sets, use Cisco MIB Locator found at the following URL:</p> <p>http://www.cisco.com/go/mibs</p>

RFCs

RFC	Title
RFC 3580	IEEE 802.1x Remote Authentication Dial In User Service (RADIUS)

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 MAC Authentication Bypass

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 1 *Feature Information for Configuring MAC Authentication Bypass*

Feature Name	Releases	Feature Information
MAC Authentication Bypass (MAB)	12.1(22)T 12.2(31)SG 12.2(33)SXH 15.1(4)M	<p>The MAC Authentication Bypass feature is a MAC-address-based authentication mechanism that allows clients in a network to integrate with the Cisco IBNS and NAC strategy using the client MAC address.</p> <p>In Cisco IOS Release 15.1(4)M support was extended for Integrated Services Router Generation 2 (ISR G2) platforms.</p> <p>The following commands were introduced or modified: dot1x mac-auth-bypass, show dot1x interface.</p>
Standalone MAB Support	12.2(33)SXH , 15.2(2)T	<p>This feature grants network access to devices based on MAC address regardless of 802.1x capability or credentials.</p> <p>The following commands were introduced or modified: authentication periodic, authentication port-control, authentication timer inactivity, authentication timer reauthenticate, authentication timer restart, authentication violation, debug authentication mab, show authentication interface, show mab, show authentication registrations, show authentication sessions.</p>

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