Configuring Secure Shell

The Secure Shell (SSH) feature is an application and a protocol that provides a secure replacement to the Berkeley r-tools. The protocol secures sessions using standard cryptographic mechanisms, and the application can be used similarly to the Berkeley rexec and rsh tools. Two versions of SSH are available: SSH Version 1 and SSH Version 2. Unless otherwise noted, the term “SSH” denotes “SSH Version 1” only. For information about SSH Version 2, see the “ Secure Shell Version 2 Support” feature module.

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 Configuring SSH

Note Unless otherwise noted, the term “SSH” denotes “SSH Version 1” only.

- Download the required image on the device. The Secure Shell (SSH) server requires an IPsec (Data Encryption Standard [DES] or 3DES) encryption software image; the SSH client requires an IPsec (DES or 3DES) encryption software image.) For information about downloading a software image, see the *Loading and Managing System Images Configuration Guide*.
- Configure a hostname and host domain for your device by using the **hostname** and **ip domain-name** commands in global configuration mode.
- Generate a Rivest, Shamir, and Adleman (RSA) key pair for your device. This key pair automatically enables SSH and remote authentication when the **crypto key generate rsa** command is entered in global configuration mode.

Note To delete the RSA key pair, use the **crypto key zeroize rsa** global configuration command. Once you delete the RSA key pair, you automatically disable the SSH server.

- Configure user authentication for local or remote access. You can configure authentication with or without authentication, authorization, and accounting (AAA). For more information, see the *Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting Configuration Guide*.

Restrictions for Configuring SSH

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- The Secure Shell (SSH) server and SSH client are supported on Data Encryption Standard (DES) (56-bit) and 3DES (168-bit) data encryption software images only. In DES software images, DES is the only encryption algorithm available. In 3DES software images, both DES and 3DES encryption algorithms are available.
- Execution shell is the only application supported.
- The login banner is not supported in Secure Shell Version 1. It is supported in Secure Shell Version 2.

Information About Secure Shell (SSH)

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SSH Server

Note Unless otherwise noted, the term “SSH” denotes “SSH Version 1” only.

The Secure Shell (SSH) Server feature enables an SSH client to make a secure, encrypted connection to a Cisco device. This connection provides functionality that is similar to that of an inbound Telnet connection. Before SSH, security was limited to Telnet security. SSH allows a strong encryption to be used with the Cisco software authentication. The SSH server in Cisco software works with publicly and commercially available SSH clients.

SSH Integrated Client

Note Unless otherwise noted, the term “SSH” denotes “SSH Version 1” only.

The Secure Shell (SSH) Integrated Client feature is an application that runs over the SSH protocol to provide device authentication and encryption. The SSH client enables a Cisco device to make a secure, encrypted connection to another Cisco device or to any other device running the SSH server. This connection provides functionality similar to that of an outbound Telnet connection except that the connection is encrypted. With authentication and encryption, the SSH client allows for secure communication over an unsecured network.

The SSH client in Cisco software works with publicly and commercially available SSH servers. The SSH client supports the ciphers of Data Encryption Standard (DES), 3DES, and password authentication. User authentication is performed like that in the Telnet session to the device. The user authentication mechanisms supported for SSH are RADIUS, TACACS+, and the use of locally stored usernames and passwords.

Note The SSH client functionality is available only when the SSH server is enabled.

RSA Authentication Support

Rivest, Shamir, and Adleman (RSA) authentication available in Secure Shell (SSH) clients is not supported on the SSH server for Cisco software by default. For more information about RSA authentication support, see the “Configuring a Router for SSH Version 2 Using RSA Pairs” section of the “Secure Shell Version 2 Support” module.

How to Configure SSH

Configuring an SSH Server

Note Unless otherwise noted, the term "SSH" denotes "SSH Version 1" only.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **enable**
2. **configure terminal**
3. **ip ssh** {**timeout** *seconds* | **authentication-retries** *integer*}
4. **ip ssh rekey** {**time** *time* | **volume** *volume*}
5. **exit**
6. **show ip ssh**

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	**ip ssh** {**timeout** *seconds* | **authentication-retries** *integer*} **Example:** `Device(config)# ip ssh timeout 30`	Configures Secure Shell (SSH) control parameters. **Note** This command can also be used to establish the number of password prompts provided to the user. The number is the lower of the following two values: • Value proposed by the client using the **ssh -o numberofpasswordprompt** command. • Value configured on the device using the **ip ssh authentication-retries** *integer*command, plus one.

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 4	**ip ssh rekey** {**time** *time* | **volume** *volume*} **Example:** `Device(config)# ip ssh rekey time 108`	(Optional) Configures a time-based rekey or a volume-based rekey for SSH.
Step 5	**exit** **Example:** `Device(config)# exit`	Returns to privileged EXEC mode.
Step 6	**show ip ssh** **Example:** `Device# show ip ssh`	(Optional) Verifies that the SSH server is enabled and displays the version and configuration data for the SSH connection.

Invoking an SSH Client

Note Unless otherwise noted, the term "SSH" denotes "SSH Version 1" only.

Perform this task to invoke the Secure Shell (SSH) client. The SSH client runs in user EXEC mode and has no specific configuration tasks.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **enable**
2. **ssh -l** *username* **-vrf** *vrf-name* *ip-address*

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	**enable** **Example:** `Device> enable`	Enables privileged EXEC mode. • Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	**ssh -l** *username* **-vrf** *vrf-name* *ip-address* **Example:** `Device# ssh -l user1 -vrf vrf1 192.0.2.1`	Invokes the SSH client to connect to an IP host or address in the specified virtual routing and forwarding (VRF) instance.

Troubleshooting Tips

Note Unless otherwise noted, the term “SSH” denotes “SSH Version 1” only.

- If your Secure Shell (SSH) configuration commands are rejected as illegal commands, you have not successfully generated an Rivest, Shamir, and Adleman (RSA) key pair for your device. Make sure that you have specified a hostname and domain. Then use the **crypto key generate rsa** command to generate an RSA key pair and enable the SSH server.
- When configuring the RSA key pair, you might encounter the following error messages:
  - No hostname specified.
    You must configure a hostname for the device using the **hostname** global configuration command. See the “IPsec and Quality of Service” module for more information.
  - No domain specified.
    You must configure a host domain for the device using the **ip domain-name** global configuration command. See the “IPsec and Quality of Service” module for more information
- The number of allowable SSH connections is limited to the maximum number of vtys configured for the device. Each SSH connection uses a vty resource.
- SSH uses either local security or the security protocol that is configured through AAA on your device for user authentication. When configuring Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA), you must ensure that AAA is disabled on the console for user authentication. AAA authorization is disabled on the console by default. If AAA authorization is enabled on the console, disable it by configuring the **no aaa authorization console** command during the AAA configuration stage.

Configuration Examples for SSH

Example: Configuring an SSH Server

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The following is an example of the Secure Shell (SSH) control parameters configured for the server. In this example, the timeout interval of 30 seconds has been specified. This timeout interval is used during the SSH negotiation phase.

```
Device> enable
Device# configure terminal
```

```
Device(config)# ip ssh timeout 30
Device(config)# end
```

Example: Invoking an SSH Client

Note Unless otherwise noted, the term “SSH” denotes “SSH Version 1” only.

In the following example, the Secure Shell (SSH) client has been invoked to connect to IP address 192.0.2.1 in the specified virtual routing and forwarding (VRF) instance:

```
Device> enable
Device# configure terminal
Device(config)# ssh -l user1 -vrf vrf1 192.0.2.1
Device(config)# end
```

Example: Verifying SSH

Note Unless otherwise noted, the term “SSH” denotes “SSH Version 1” only.

To verify that the Secure Shell (SSH) server is enabled and to display the version and configuration data for your SSH connection, use the **show ip ssh** command. The following example shows that SSH is enabled:

```
Device# show ip ssh

SSH Enabled - version 1.5
Authentication timeout: 120 secs; Authentication retries: 3
```

The following example shows that SSH is disabled:

```
Device# show ip ssh

%SSH has not been enabled
```

To verify the status of your SSH server connections, use the **show ssh** command. The following example shows the SSH server connections on the device when SSH is enabled:

```
Device# show ssh

Connection      Version     Encryption State Username
 0 1.5 3DES Session Started  guest
```

The following example shows that SSH is disabled:

```
Device# show ssh

%No SSH server connections running.
```

Additional References

Related Documents

Related Topic	Document Title
Cisco IOS commands	Cisco IOS Master Command List, All Releases
Authentication, authorization, and accounting (AAA)	*Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting Configuration Guide*
IPsec	"IPsec and Quality of Service" module
SSH Version 2	"Secure Shell Version 2 Support" module
Downloading a software image	*Loading and Managing System Images Configuration Guide*

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 Secure Shell

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.

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Table 1: Feature Information for Configuring Secure Shell

Feature Name	Releases	Feature Information
Secure Shell	12.0(5)S 15.0(2)SE 15.1(1)SY	The Secure Shell (SSH) feature is an application and a protocol that provides a secure replacement to the Berkeley r-tools. The protocol secures sessions using standard cryptographic mechanisms, and the application can be used similarly to the Berkeley rexec and rsh tools. Two versions of SSH are available: SSH Version 1 and SSH Version 2. This document describes SSH Version 1. This document also includes information about the Secure Shell SSH Version 1 Integrated Client feature and the Secure Shell SSH Version 1 Server Support feature. Both features are part of the Secure Shell functionality.