Configuring Cisco TrustSec SXP

Cisco TrustSec

Cisco TrustSec enables organizations to secure their networks and services through identity-based access control to anyone, anywhere, anytime. The solution also offers data integrity and confidentiality services, policy-based governance, and centralized monitoring, troubleshooting, and reporting services. You can combine Cisco TrustSec with personalized, professional service offerings to simplify the solution deployment and management, and is a foundational security component to Cisco Borderless Networks.

The Cisco TrustSec security architecture helps build secure networks by establishing domains of trusted network devices. Each device in the domain is authenticated by its peers. Communication on the links between the devices in the domain is secured with a combination of encryption, message integrity check, and data path replay protection mechanisms. Cisco TrustSec uses a device and user credentials that are acquired during authentication for classifying the packets by security groups (SGs), as they enter the network. This packet classification is maintained by tagging packets on an ingress to the Cisco TrustSec network. This is because they can be correctly identified to apply security and other policy criteria along the data path. The tag, called the security group tag (SGT), allows the network to enforce the access control policy by enabling the endpoint device to act upon the SGT to filter traffic. Note that the Cisco TrustSec security group tag is applied only when you enable AAA override on a WLAN.

One of the components of Cisco TrustSec architecture is the security group-based access control. In the security group-based access control component, access policies in the Cisco TrustSec domain are topology-independent, based on the roles (as indicated by the security group number) of source and destination devices rather than on network addresses. Individual packets are tagged with the security group number of the source.

The Cisco TrustSec solution is implemented across the following three distinct phases:

- Client classification at ingress by a centralized policy database (Cisco ISE) and assigning unique SGT to clients based on client identity attributes such as the role and so on.
- Propagation of IP-to-SGT binding to neighboring devices using the SGT Exchange Protocol (SXP) or inline tagging methods or both.

- Security Group Access Control List (SGACL) policy enforcement. Cisco AP is the enforcement point for central or local switching (central authentication).

For more information about deploying the Cisco TrustSec solution, see the *Wireless TrustSec Deployment Guide* at:

https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/td/docs/wireless/controller/technotes/8-4/b_wireless_trustsec_deployment_guide.html.

SGT Exchange Protocol

Cisco devices use the SGT Exchange Protocol (SXP) to propagate SGTs across network devices that do not have any hardware support for Cisco TrustSec. The SXP is the software solution to eliminate the need for upgrade of Cisco TrustSec hardware on all Cisco switches. Controller supports the SXP as part of the Cisco TrustSec architecture. The SXP sends SGT information to the Cisco TrustSec-enabled switches so that appropriate role-based access control lists (RBAC lists) can be activated. This depends on the role information present in the SGT. To implement the SXP on a network, only the egress distribution switch has to be Cisco TrustSec-enabled. All the other switches can be non-Cisco TrustSec-capable switches.

The SXP runs between the access layer and the distribution switch or between two distribution switches. The SXP uses TCP as the transport layer. Cisco TrustSec authentication is performed for the host (client) joining the network on the access layer switch. This is similar to an access switch with the hardware that is enabled with Cisco TrustSec. The access layer switch is not Cisco TrustSec hardware enabled. Therefore, data traffic is not encrypted or cryptographically authenticated when it passes through the access layer switch. The SXP is used to pass the IP address of the authenticated device, which is a wireless client and the corresponding SGT up to the distribution switch. If the distribution switch is a hardware that is enabled with Cisco TrustSec, the switch inserts the SGT into the packet on behalf of the access layer switch. If the distribution switch is not a hardware that is enabled with Cisco TrustSec, the SXP on the distribution switch passes the IP-SGT mapping to all the distribution switches that have the Cisco TrustSec hardware. On the egress side, the enforcement of the RBAC lists occurs at the egress L3 interface on the distribution switch.

The following are some guidelines for Cisco TrustSec SXP:

- The SXP is supported only on the following security policies:
  - WPA2-dot1x
  - WPA-dot1x
  - MAC filtering using RADIUS servers
  - Web authentication using RADIUS servers for user authentication
- The SXP is supported for both IPv4 and IPv6 clients.
- By default, the controller always works in the Speaker mode.
- From Release 8.3, the SXP on the controller is supported for both centrally and locally switched networks.
- It is possible to do IP-SGT mapping on the WLANs as well for clients that are not authenticated by Cisco ISE.

For more information about Cisco TrustSec, see http://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/solutions/enterprise-networks/trustsec/index.html.

Guidelines and Restrictions on Cisco TrustSec

- SXP is not supported on FlexConnect access points.
- SXP is supported only in centrally switched networks that have central authentication.
- By default, SXP is supported for APs that work in local mode only.
- The configuration of the default password should be consistent for both the controller and the switch.
- Fault tolerance is not supported because fault tolerance requires local switching on APs.
- Static IP-SGT mapping for local authentication of users is not supported.
- IP-SGT mapping requires authentication with external Cisco ISE servers.
- In auto-anchor/guest-anchor mobility, the SGT information that is passed by the RADIUS server to a foreign controller can be communicated to the anchor controller through the EoIP/CAPWAP mobility tunnel. The anchor controller can then build the SGT-IP mapping and communicate it to another peer via SXP.
- In a local web authentication with AAA override scenario, if a client tries to login after logging out, SGT from WLAN is not applied again and the client retains the AAA overridden SGT.
- It is possible to change the interface management IP address even if you have Cisco TrustSec SXP in enabled state.

Configuring SXP on Cisco WLC (GUI)

Step 1 Choose **Security** > **TrustSec** > **SXP Config**.

The **SXP Configuration** page is displayed with the following SXP configuration details:

- **Total SXP Connections**—Number of SXP connections that are configured.
- **SXP State**—Status of SXP connections as either disabled or enabled.
- **SXP Mode**—SXP mode of the Cisco WLC. The Cisco WLC is always set to Speaker mode for SXP connections.
- **Default Password**—Password for MD5 authentication of SXP messages. We recommend that the password contain a minimum of 6 characters.
- **Default Source IP**—IP address of the management interface. SXP uses the default source IP address for all new TCP connections.
- **Retry Period**—SXP retry timer. The default value is 120 seconds (2 minutes). The valid range is 0 to 64000 seconds. The SXP retry period determines how often the controller retries for an SXP connection. When an SXP connection is not successfully set up, the controller makes a new attempt to set up the connection after the SXP retry period timer expires. Setting the SXP retry period to 0 seconds disables the timer and retries are not attempted.

This page also displays the following information about SXP connections:

- **Peer IP Address**—The IP address of the peer, that is, the IP address of the next-hop switch to which the Cisco WLC is connected. There is no effect on the existing TCP connections when you configure a new peer connection.
- **Source IP Address**—The IP address of the source, that is, the management IP address of the Cisco WLC.
- **Connection Status**—Status of the SXP connection.

Step 2 From the **SXP State** drop-down list, choose **Enabled** to enable SXP.

Step 3 Enter the default password that should be used to make an SXP connection. We recommend that the password contain a minimum of 6 characters.

Step 4 In the **Retry Period** field, enter the time, in seconds, that determines how often the Cisco TrustSec software retries for an SXP connection.

Step 5 Click **Apply** to commit your changes.

Creating a New SXP Connection (GUI)

Step 1 Choose **SECURITY** > **TrustSec SXP** and click **New** to open the SXP Connection > New page.

Step 2 In the **Peer IP Address** text box, enter the IP address of the next hop switch to which the controller is connected.

Step 3 Click **Apply**.

Configuring SXP on Cisco WLC (CLI)

Procedure

- Enable or disable the SXP on the controller by entering this command:

  config cts sxp {**enable** | **disable**}

- Configure the default password for MD5 authentication of SXP messages by entering this command:

  config cts sxp default password *password*

- Configure the IP address of the next-hop switch with which the controller is connected by entering this command:

  config cts sxp connection peer *ip-address*

- Configure the interval between connection attempts by entering this command:

  config cts sxp retry period *time-in-seconds*

- Remove an SXP connection by entering this command:

  config cts sxp connection delete *ip-address*

- See a summary of the SXP configuration by entering this command:

  show cts sxp summary

The following is a sample output of this command:

```
SXP State..................................... Enable
SXP Mode...................................... Speaker
Default Password.............................. ****
Default Source IP............................. 209.165.200.224
Connection retry open period ................. 120
```

- See the list of SXP connections that are configured by entering this command:

  show cts sxp connections

  The following is a sample output of this command:

```
Total num of SXP Connections..................... 1
SXP State..................................... Enable
Peer IP            Source IP           Connection Status
---------------    ---------------     -----------------
209.165.200.229   209.165.200.224              On
```

- Establish connection between the controller and a Cisco Nexus 7000 Series switch by following either of these steps:
  - Enter the following commands:
    1. **config cts sxp version sxp version 1 or 2** *1*
    2. **config cts sxp disable**
    3. **config cts sxp enable**
  - If SXP version 2 is used on the controller and version 1 is used on the Cisco Nexus 7000 Series switch, an amount of retry period is required to establish the connection. We recommend that you initially have less interval between connection attempts. The default is 120 seconds.