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Introduction

You can increase the amount of traffic inspected on a network segment by stacking the 8000 Series appliances and use their combined resources in a single, shared, configuration. This document describes how to configure stack on the Firepower 8000 Series appliances.

In a stack deployment, one of the device connected to the network segments is designated as the primary device, wherein all other devices are designated as secondary devices and are deployed to provide additional resources to the primary device.

Prerequisites

Requirements

You must make sure all of the devices on the stack...

- Have the stacking cables physically connected to their stacking modules
Tip: If you do not have stacking cables, use the PID `FP-NMSB-CABLE=` to order it. Similarly, if you need to order stacking modules, use `FP8000-STACK-MOD` as the PID for stacking modules.
- Have the same hardware
- Have the same software versions
- Have the same Access Control Policy, and NAT policy (if any)
- Have the same licenses

Note: In case of higher end device models like 8360, you may have only one license to apply, after the stack is formed. The individual devices to be stacked may be unlicensed. After the devices are stacked, the license page appears under the stack section rather than the device section.

Supported Devices

The following chart summarizes the supported models of Firepower devices that you can use to build a stack. To learn the detail [specification and throughput](#) of each model, please read the

related data sheet.

Product Family	Supported Model	Primary Device	Secondary Device	Total Rack Unit
81xx Family	8140	<i>A single 8140 does not constitute a stack</i>		1U
	8140*	One 8140 as Primary, and	One 8140 as Secondary	2U
	8250	<i>A single 8250 does not constitute a stack</i>		2U
82xx Family	8260	One 8250 as Primary, and	One 8250 as Secondary	4U
	8270	One 8250 as Primary, and	Two 8250s as Secondary	6U
	8290	One 8250 as Primary, and	Three 8250s as Secondary	8U
	8350	<i>A single 8350 does not constitute a stack</i>		2U
	8360	One 8350 as Primary, and	One 8350 as Secondary	4U
83xx Family	8370	One 8350 as Primary, and	Two 8350s as Secondary	6U
	8390	One 8350 as Primary, and	Three 8350s as Secondary	8U

* The chassis of a 8140 model device is identical to the chassis of 8120 and 8130 models. However, the stacking capability is available only in 8140 model. Unlike 82xx and 83xx family, the model number remains the same for a stack of two 8140 devices.

Registration Checklists

- In order to stack the devices, all of them should be registered to the FireSIGHT Management Center. If this requirement is not fulfilled, a Management Center does not allow you to add devices in the stack along with an error message stating there are not enough devices to stack.



For example, if you want to stack three 8370 devices, you need to register the primary device as well as the other two secondary devices to the Management Center.

- All of the stack members need to be configured with separate management IP addresses.

Components Used

The information in this document utilizes the following products:

- FireSIGHT Management Center Virtual Appliance (Software Version 5.4.1.2)
- Two Firepower 8140 devices (Both are running Version 5.4.0.3)
- Stacking cables
- Stacking network modules (NetMod)

Once a stacking network module is available, it is displayed in the user interface of the Management Center as below:



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.

Configuration Steps

Once the [requirements](#) are fulfilled, use the FireSIGHT Management Center to establish the stack. Follow the steps below to configure the stack:

Step 1. Login to the FireSIGHT Management Center. Navigate to the **Devices > Device Management**. In this page, you will be able to verify if the devices that you want to stack have the same licenses, OS version and Access Control Policy.

Note: It is not mandatory to keep the system policy and health policy same on both devices, but it is advisable to make sure all the applied policies are identical. All of the devices in a stack should have the same Access Control Policy applied.

Step 2. At the top right corner, select **Add** and from the drop down list. Select **Add Stack > Primary Device**.

The screenshot shows the 'Device Management' page in the FireSIGHT Management Center. The table below lists five ungrouped devices. The 'Add...' button in the top right corner is circled in red.

Name	License Type	Health Policy	System Policy	Access Control Policy
10.122.141.204 10.122.141.204 - 3D8140 - v5.4.0.3	Protection, Control, URL Filtering	Stack-Test	Initial_System_Policy_2015-07-23 21:46:32	Default Access Control
10.122.141.205 10.122.141.205 - 3D8140 - v5.4.0.3	Protection, Control, URL Filtering	Stack-Test	Initial_System_Policy_2015-07-23 21:46:32	YoutubeBlock
10.122.141.206 10.122.141.206 - 3D8140 - v5.4.0.3	Protection, Control, URL Filtering	Stack-Test	Initial_System_Policy_2015-07-23 21:46:32	YoutubeBlock

Step 3. Add a name for the stack. At least one secondary stack member is necessary to successfully configure a stack. To add a secondary stack member, select **Add**.

The 'Add Stack' dialog box is shown. The 'Primary' field is set to '10.122.141.205'. The 'Name' field contains 'BLR-Stack'. There is an 'Add' button next to the 'Secondaries' section. At the bottom, there is a message: 'At least one secondary connection is required.' and 'Stack' and 'Cancel' buttons.

Step 4. Once you click on **Add**, the following page appears. Select one of the available secondary devices.

Add Secondary Connection ? x

Primary Device Front View



Slot on Primary Device:

Secondary Device:

Slot on Secondary Device:

Slot on Primary Device:

Secondary Device:

Slot on Secondary Device:

Step 5. Select the stack cables appropriately as they are physically cabled.

Slot on Primary Device:

Secondary Device:

Slot on Secondary Device:

Step 6. After completing the above steps, the following page should appear. Click the **Stack** button.

Add Stack ? x

Primary:

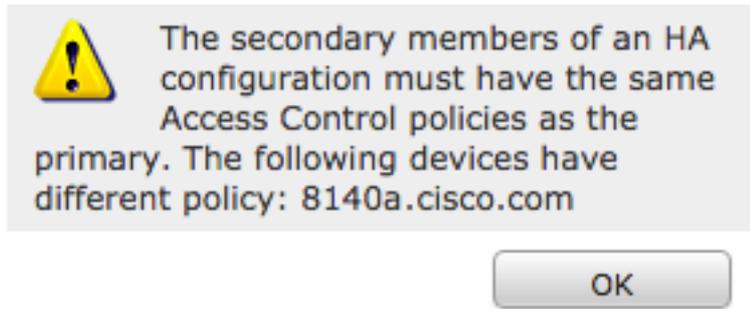
Name:

Secondaries:

Primary Slot	Secondary	Secondary Slot	
s2c1/s2c2	10.122.141.204	s2c1/s2c2	 

If there is any mismatch in the **Access Control Policies** on the devices in stack, the following error message is displayed:

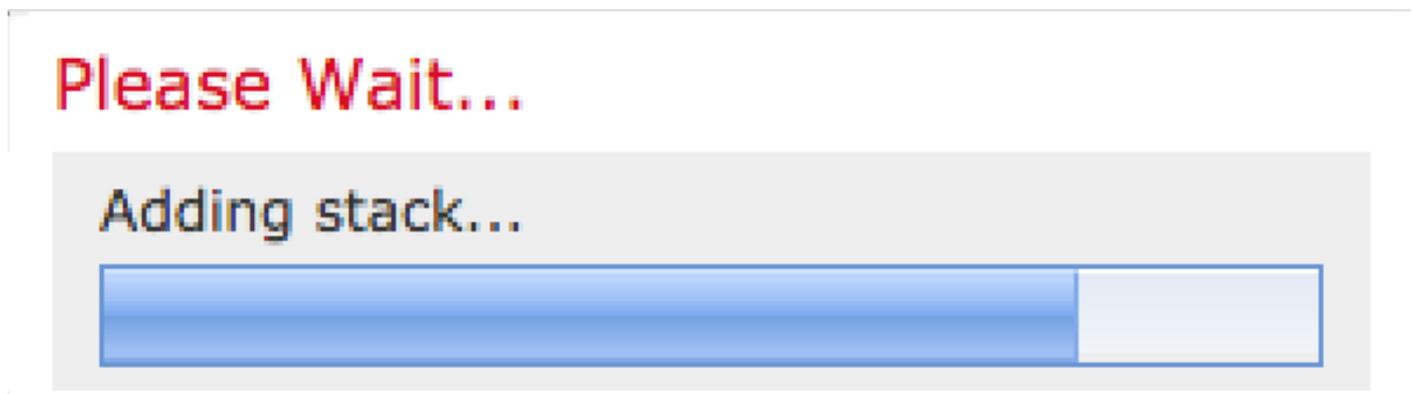
Error



The secondary members of an HA configuration must have the same Access Control policies as the primary. The following devices have different policy: 8140a.cisco.com

OK

If all of the [prerequisites](#) are met, and the above [steps](#) are followed, a progress bar is displayed.



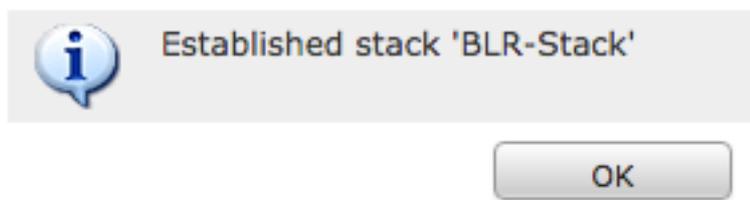
Please Wait...

Adding stack...

A progress bar is shown, indicating the process is in progress.

Once the process is complete, the stack is established. After the stack is established successfully, the **Stack Status** message confirms the status.

Stack status

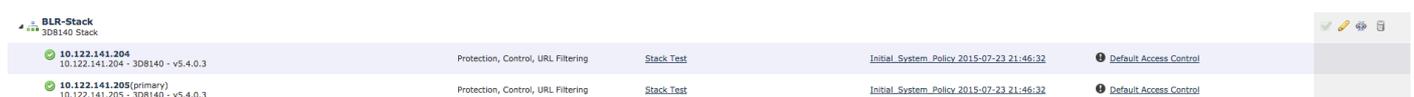


Established stack 'BLR-Stack'

OK

Verification

1. Navigate to **Devices > Device Management**. The list of managed devices appears.



BLR-Stack 308140 Stack					
10.122.141.204 10.122.141.204 - 308140 - v5-4.0.3	Protection, Control, URL Filtering	Stack_Test	Initial_System_Policy 2015-07-23 21:46:32	Default Access Control	
10.122.141.205(primary) 10.122.141.205 - 308140 - v5-4.0.3	Protection, Control, URL Filtering	Stack_Test	Initial_System_Policy 2015-07-23 21:46:32	Default Access Control	

2. Verify the newly formed stack. Click on the **Stack** tab. The Stack page shows various information about the stack.



3. In the **Stack** page, you can view the licenses of the Stack.

Note: The licenses for a stack is enabled under the **Stack** tab. However, in order to enable licenses on any individual devices, use the **Devices** page.

Optionally, if you want to make changes on any individual stack members, select the device from the top right of the page, using the **Select Device** drop down menu.

The screenshot displays the configuration page for a device with IP 10.122.141.205. The interface includes a navigation bar with tabs for Stack, Devices, Interfaces, Inline Sets, Virtual Switches, and Virtual Routers. The 'Devices' tab is active. A dropdown menu labeled 'Select Device' is open, showing three options: 10.122.141.205 (selected), 10.122.141.205, and 10.122.141.204. The main content area is divided into four sections: General, System, Health, and Management.

Section	Property	Value
General	Name	10.122.141.205
	Transfer Packets	Yes
System	Model	3D8140
	Serial	14031100500009-1-C
	Time	2015-09-14 10:23:32
	Version	5.4.0.3
Health	Status	✓
	Blacklist	None
Advanced	Application Bypass	Yes
	Bypass Threshold	3000 ms
	Inspect Local Router Traffic	No
	Fast-Path Rules	None
Management	Host	10.122.141.205
	Status	✓