### **Configure Secure Client Certificate Authentication on FTD Managed by FMC**

#### **Contents**

**Introduction** 

**Prerequisites** 

Requirements

Components Used

**Configure** 

Network Diagram

Configurations

Create/Import a Certificate Used for Server Authentication

Add a Trusted/Internal CA Certificate

Configure Address Pool for VPN Users

Upload Secure Client Images

Create and Upload XML Profile

Remote Access VPN Configuration

**Verify** 

**Troubleshoot** 

#### Introduction

This document describes configuring remote access VPN on Firepower Threat Defense (FTD) managed by Firepower Management Center (FMC) with certificate authentication.

#### **Prerequisites**

#### Requirements

Cisco recommends that you have knowledge of these topics:

- Manual certificate enrollment and basics of Secure Sockets Layer (SSL)
- FMC
- Basic Authentication knowledge for Remote Access VPN
- Third-party Certificate Authority (CA) like Entrust, Geotrust, GoDaddy, Thawte, and VeriSign

#### **Components Used**

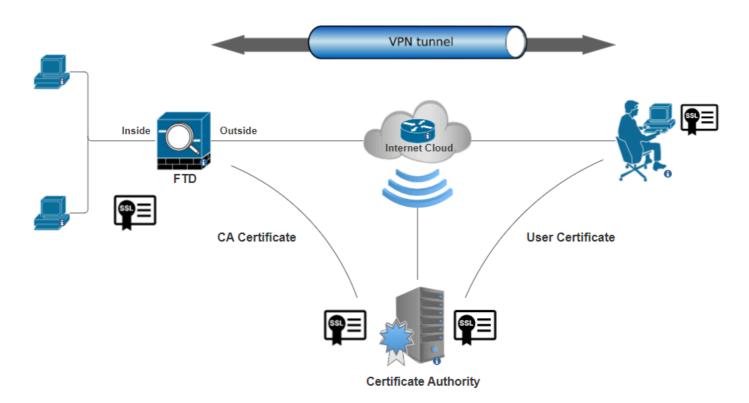
The information in this document is based on these software versions:

- Secure Firepower Threat Defense version 7.4.1
- FMC version 7.4.1
- Secure Client version 5.0.05040
- Microsoft Windows Server 2019 as the CA server

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, ensure that you understand the potential impact of any command.

#### **Configure**

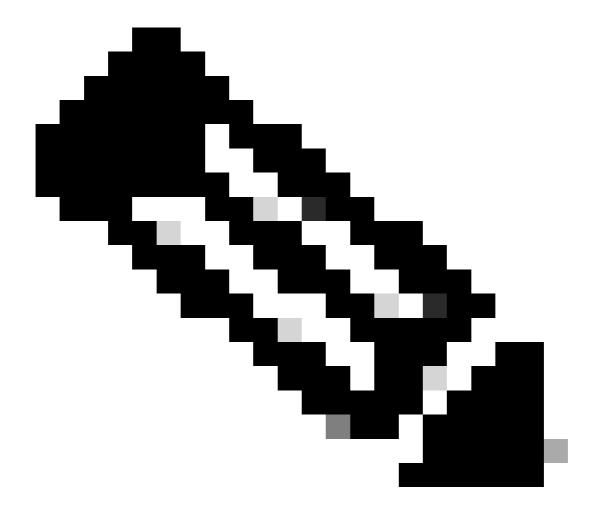
#### **Network Diagram**



Network Diagram

#### **Configurations**

**Create/Import a Certificate Used for Server Authentication** 



**Note**: On FMC, a Certificate Authority (CA) certificate is needed before you can generate the CSR. If CSR is generated from an external source (OpenSSL or 3rd party), the manual method fails and PKCS12 certificate format must be used.

Step 1. Navigate to Devices > Certificates and click Add. Choose **Device** and click the plus sign (+) under Cert Enrollment.



Add a new certificate to the device using cert enrollment object which is used to generate CA and identify certificate.

# Device\*: FTD-A-7.4.1 Cert Enrollment\*: + Cancel Add

Add Cert Enrollment

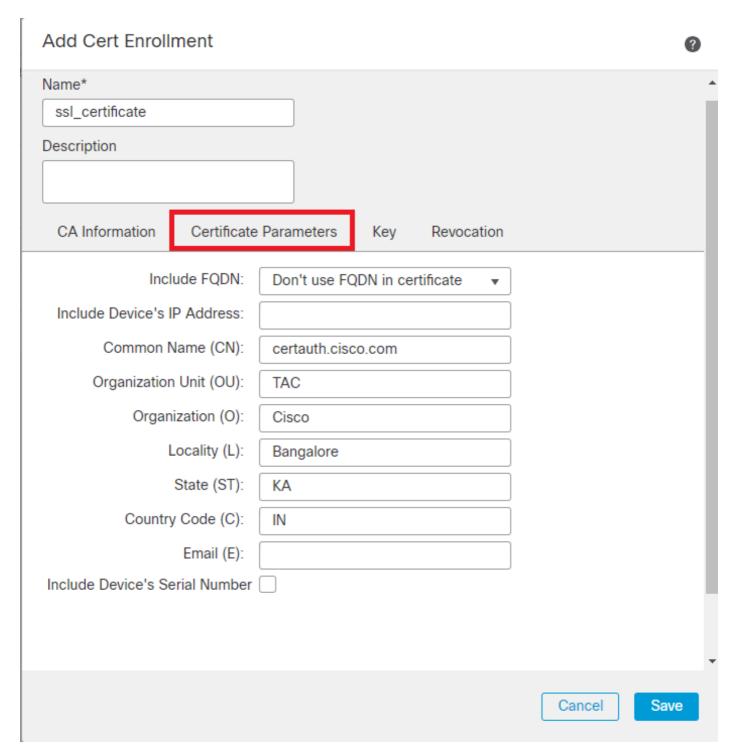
Step 2. Under the CA Information, choose the Enrollment Type as Manual and paste the CA certificate used to sign the CSR.

Add Cert Enrollme	ent ②
ssl_certificate  Description	
CA Information	Certificate Parameters Key Revocation
Enrollment Type:	Manual ▼  CA Only  Check this option if you do not require an identity certificate to be created from this CA
CA Certificate:	vceEfWF+K2 XZJhv4P9v+OpCVRID/LV82Cf6V VVUNZipBIT8/iKxOOUM7vN1Wy mEGMCQvS7U5Sd nylPKCQM8mBGQaOUMi9olgISn I4YwtFbh9Ci4iwRO1LI+AlHvIVQ ma2Mn8GIYZ6N 2YPIddD1/LBOBSfQlcrmh7RB0Q VyLZwZpER2zGhv+NCKQjyXoxij KGkh5J8wTbdd xYbi_lcipcYvR4g==
Validation Usage:	<ul> <li>□ IPsec Client □ SSL Client □ SSL Server</li> <li>✓ Skip Check for CA flag in basic constraints of the CA Certificate</li> </ul>
	Cancel

Add CA Information

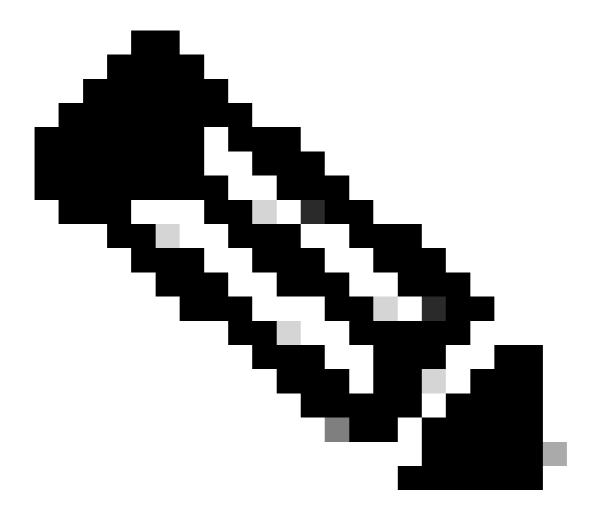
Step 3. Choose Skip Check for CA flag in basic constraints of the CA Certificate as shown in the earlier image.

Step 4. Under Certificate Parameters, fill in the subject name details.



Add Certificate Parameters

Step 5. Under Keychoose the key type as RSA with a key name and size. Clicksave.



**Note**: For RSA key type, the minimum key size is 2048 bits.

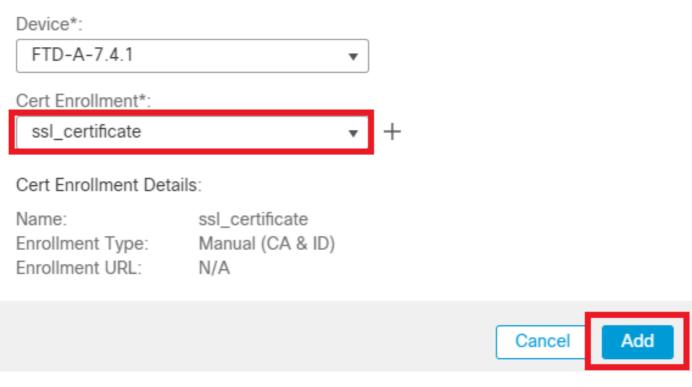
#### Add Cert Enrollment Name\* ssl\_certificate Description **CA** Information Certificate Parameters Key Revocation Key Type: ○ ECDSA □ EdDSA RSA Key Name:\* rsakey Key Size: 2048 ▼ Advanced Settings Ignore IPsec Key Usage Save Cancel

Step 6. Under Cert Enrollment, choose the trust point from the dropdown which was just created and click Add.

Add RSA key



Add a new certificate to the device using cert enrollment object which is used to generate CA and identify certificate.



Add new Certificate

Step 7. Click **ID**, then click Yes on further prompt in order to generate the CSR.



Generate CSR

Step 8. Copy the CSR and get it signed by the Certificate authority. Once, the Identity certificate is issued by CA, import it by clicking Browse Identity Certificate and click Import.



#### Step 1

Send Certificate Signing Request (CSR) to the Certificate Authority.

Certificate Signing Request (Copy the CSR below and send to the Certificate Authority):

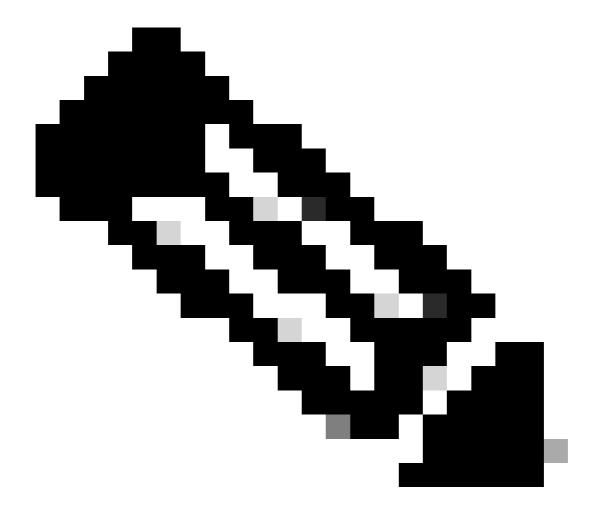
-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE REQUEST----MIIEyTCCArECAQAwVTEMMAoGA1UECwwDVEFDMQ4wDAYDVQQKDAVDaXNjbzEbMBkG
A1UEAwwSY2VydGF1dGguY2lzY28uY29tMQswCQYDVQQIDAJLQTELMAkGA1UEBhMC
SU4wggliMA0GCSqGSlb3DQEBAQUAA4ICDwAwggIKAolCAQDNZr431mtYG+f1bLFK
WY9Zd9wTaJfqs87FtAW7+n4UuxLDws54R/txe9teX/65uSyY8/bxKfdsgMq5rawO
3dogCVQjtAtel+95np1/myzFOZZRWfeBdK/H1plLEdR4X6ZlnM5fNA/GLV9MnPoP

#### Step 2

Once certificate authority responds back with identity certificate file, import it to device.

Identity Certificate File:	Browse	ldentity (	Certificate
	С	ancel	Import

Import ID Certificate



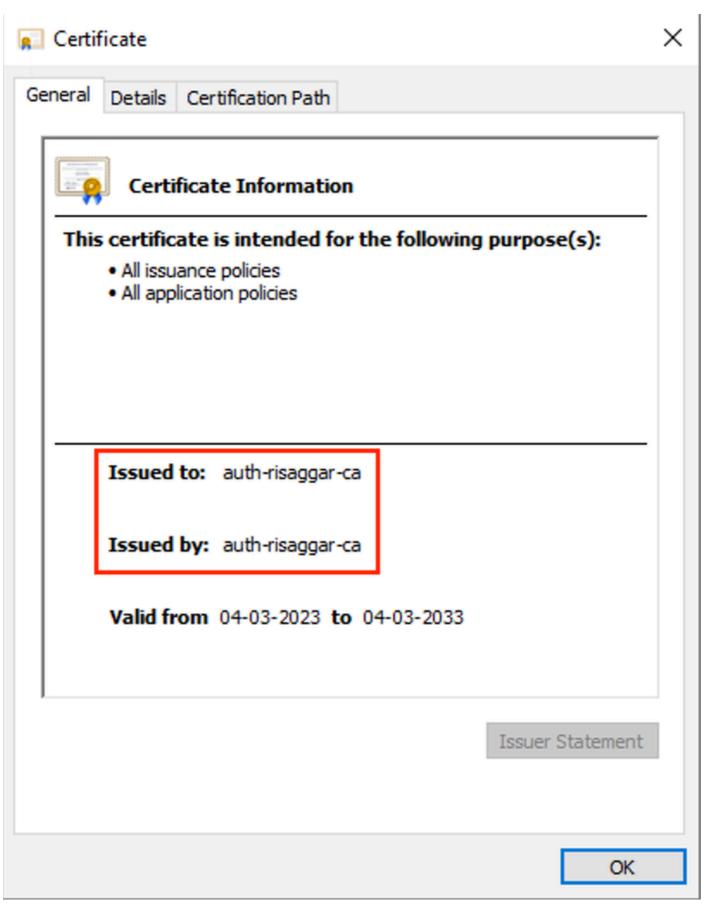
**Note**: If the issuance of the ID certificate takes time, you can repeat Step 7. later. This will generate the same CSR and you can import the ID certificate.

#### Add a Trusted/Internal CA Certificate

Step 1. Navigate to Devices > Certificates and click Add.

Choose **Device** and click the plus sign (+) under Cert Enrollment.

Here, auth-risaggar-ca is used in order to issue identity/user certificates.

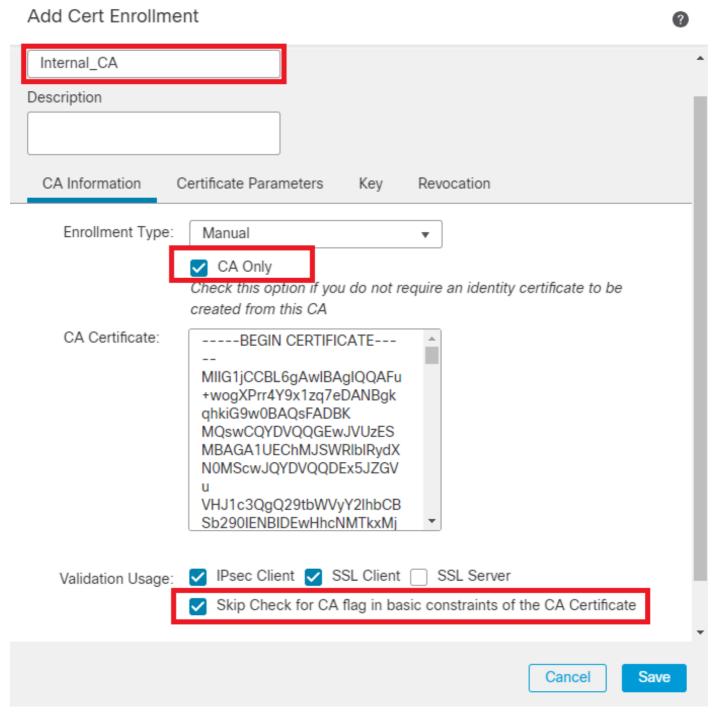


auth-risaggar-ca

Step 2. Enter a trustpoint name and chooseManual as the enrollment type under CA information.

Step 3. Check CA Onlyand paste the trusted/internal CA certificate in **pem** format.

Step 4. Check Skip Check for CA flag in basic constraints of the CA Certificate and click Save.

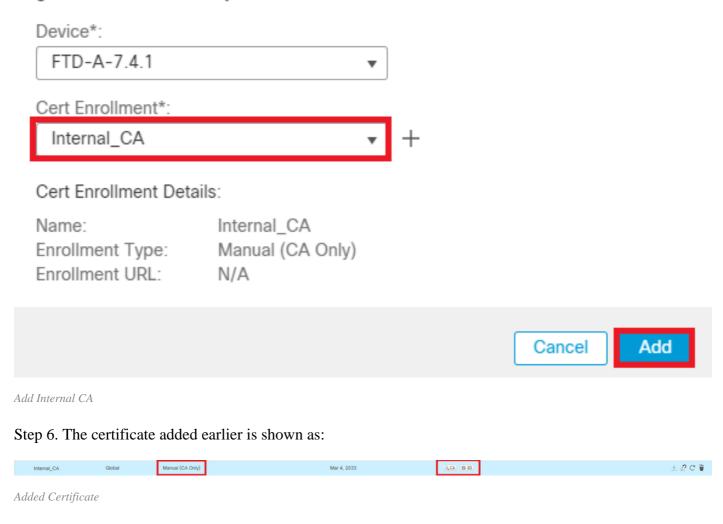


Add Trustpoint

Step 5. Under Cert Enrollment, choose the trustpoint from the dropdown which was just created and click Add.



Add a new certificate to the device using cert enrollment object which is used to generate CA and identify certificate.



#### **Configure Address Pool for VPN Users**

Step 1. Navigate to Objects > Object Management > Address Pools > IPv4 Pools.

Step 2. Enter the name and IPv4 address range with a mask.

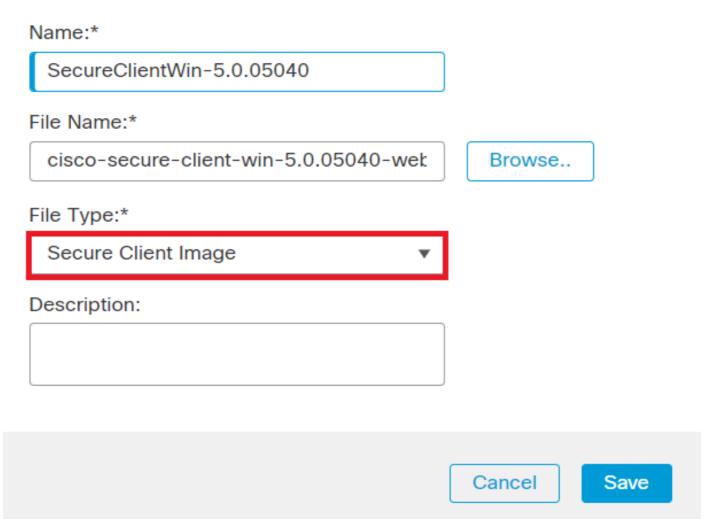


Name*		
vpn_pool		
Description		
IPv4 Address Range*		
10.20.20.1-10.20.20.130		
Format: ipaddr-ipaddr e.g., 10.72.1.1-10.72.1.150		
Mask*		
255.255.255.0		
✓ Allow Overrides		
Configure device overrides in the address pool object to avoid IP address conflicts in case of object is shared across multiple devices		
▶ Override (0)		
	Cancel	Save

Add IPv4 Pool

#### **Upload Secure Client Images**

- Step 1. Download webdeploy secure client images as per OS from Cisco Software site.
- Step 2. Navigate to Objects > Object Management > VPN > Secure Client File > Add Secure Client File.
- Step 3. Enter the name and choose the Secure Client file from the disk.
- Step 4. Choose the file type as Secure Client Image and click Save.



Add Secure Client Image

#### **Create and Upload XML Profile**

Step 1. Download and install the Secure Client Profile Editor from Cisco Software site.

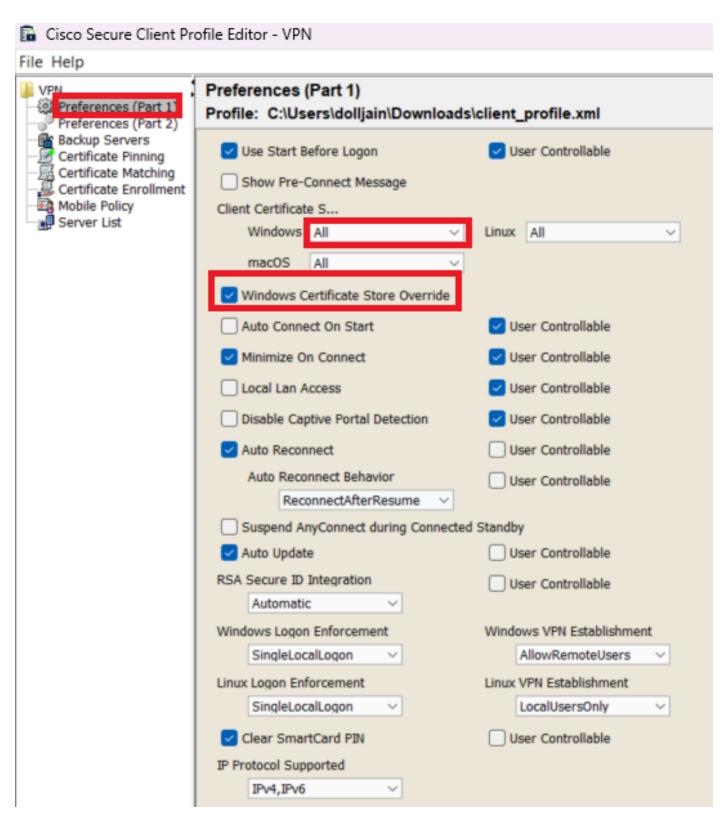
Step 2. Create a new profile and choose All from the Client Certificate Selection dropdown. It mainly controls which certificate store(s) Secure Client can use in order to store and read certificates.

Two other available options are:

- 1. Machine Secure Client is restricted to certificate lookup on the Windows local machine certificate store.
- 2. User Secure Client is restricted to certificate lookup on the local Windows user certificate store.

Set Certificate Store Override as True.

This allows an administrator to direct Secure Client to utilize certificates in the Windows machine (Local System) certificate store for client certificate authentication. Certificate Store Override only applies to SSL, where the connection is initiated, by default, by the UI process. When using IPSec/IKEv2, this feature in the Secure Client Profile is not applicable.

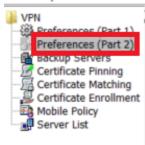


Add Preferences (Part1)

Step 3. (Optional) Uncheck the Disable Automatic Certificate Selection as it avoids the prompt for the user to choose the authentication certificate.

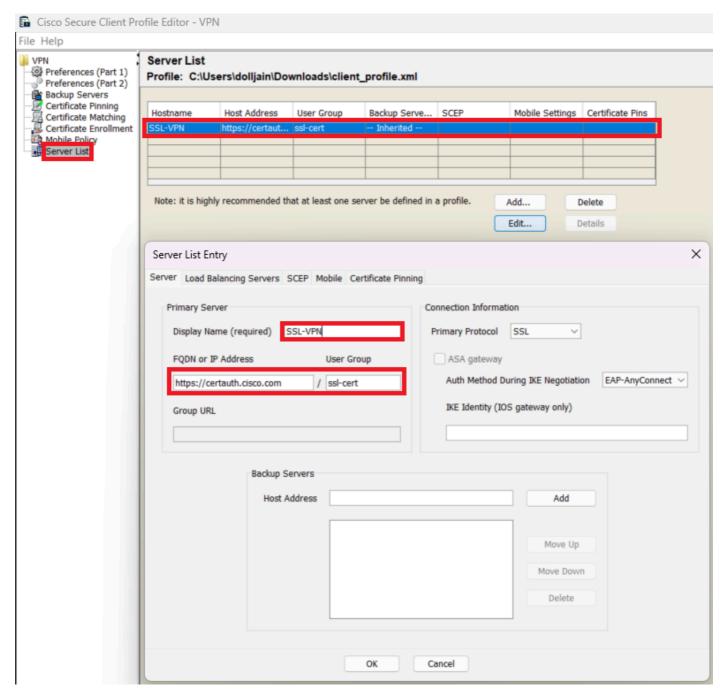
a Cisco Secure Client Profile Editor - VPN

File Help



Public Proxy Server Address:  Note: Enter public Proxy Server address and Allow Local Proxy Connections  Enable Optimal Gateway Selection  Suspension Time Threshold (hours)  Performance Improvement Threshold (%)  Automatic VPN Policy  Trusted Network Policy  Untrusted Network Policy  Bypass connect upon VPN session timeout  Trusted DNS Domains  Trusted DNS Servers  Note: adding all DNS servers in use is recommended will trusted Servers (https:// <server>[:<pre>port&gt;]</pre>  https://  Certificate Hash:  Disable interfaces without trusted server connectivity while Always On  Allow VPN Disconnect  Allow access to the following hosts with VPN disconn</server>	User Controllable  Disconnect
Note: Enter public Proxy Server address and Allow Local Proxy Connections  Enable Optimal Gateway Selection  Suspension Time Threshold (hours)  Performance Improvement Threshold (%)  Automatic VPN Policy  Trusted Network Policy  Untrusted Network Policy  Bypass connect upon VPN session timeout  Trusted DNS Domains  Trusted DNS Servers  Note: adding all DNS servers in use is recommended with trusted Servers ⊕ https:// <server>[:<port>]  https://  Certificate Hash:  Disable interfaces without trusted server connectivity while Always On  Allow VPN Disconnect  Allow access to the following hosts with VPN disconn  Connect Failure Policy  Allow Captive Portal Remediation  Remediation Timeout (min.)  Apply Last VPN Local Resource Rules  Captive Portal Remediation Browser Failover  Allow Manual Host Input</port></server>	User Controllable  Disconnect
Allow Local Proxy Connections  Enable Optimal Gateway Selection Suspension Time Threshold (hours) Performance Improvement Threshold (%) Automatic VPN Policy Trusted Network Policy Untrusted Network Policy Bypass connect upon VPN session timeout Trusted DNS Domains Trusted DNS Servers Note: adding all DNS servers in use is recommended with trusted Servers (https://server>[: <port>] https://  Certificate Hash:  Disable interfaces without trusted server connectivity while Always On Allow VPN Disconnect Allow access to the following hosts with VPN disconn Connect Failure Policy Allow Captive Portal Remediation Remediation Timeout (min.) Apply Last VPN Local Resource Rules  Captive Portal Remediation Browser Failover Allow Manual Host Input</port>	User Controllable  Disconnect
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Trusted Network Policy    Bypass connect upon VPN session timeout  Trusted DNS Domains  Trusted DNS Servers   Note: adding all DNS servers in use is recommended will  Trusted Servers @ https:// <server>[:<port>] https://    Certificate Hash:    Disable interfaces without trusted server connectivity while   Always On</port></server>	onnect
Untrusted Network Policy  Bypass connect upon VPN session timeout  Trusted DNS Domains  Trusted DNS Servers Note: adding all DNS servers in use is recommended wi  Trusted Servers @ https:// <server>[:<port>] https://  Disable interfaces without trusted server connectivity while Always On Allow VPN Disconnect Allow access to the following hosts with VPN disconn  Connect Failure Policy Allow Captive Portal Remediation Remediation Timeout (min.) Apply Last VPN Local Resource Rules  Captive Portal Remediation Browser Failover  Allow Manual Host Input</port></server>	onnect
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Apply Last VPN Local Resource Rules  Captive Portal Remediation Browser Failover  Allow Manual Host Input	
Captive Portal Remediation Browser Failover  Allow Manual Host Input	
✓ Allow Manual Host Input	
PP Exclusion Disable	
0.00010	User Controllable
PP Exclusion Server IP (	User Controllable
Enable Scripting	
Terminate Script On Next Event Enable Post	User Controllable
Retain VPN on Logoff	User Controllable SBL On Connect Script
	J
authentication Timeout (seconds)	J

for setting up a profile in Secure Client VPN by providing group-alias and group-url under the Server List and save the XML profile.



Add Server List

Step 5. Finally, the XML profile is ready for use.

XML Profile

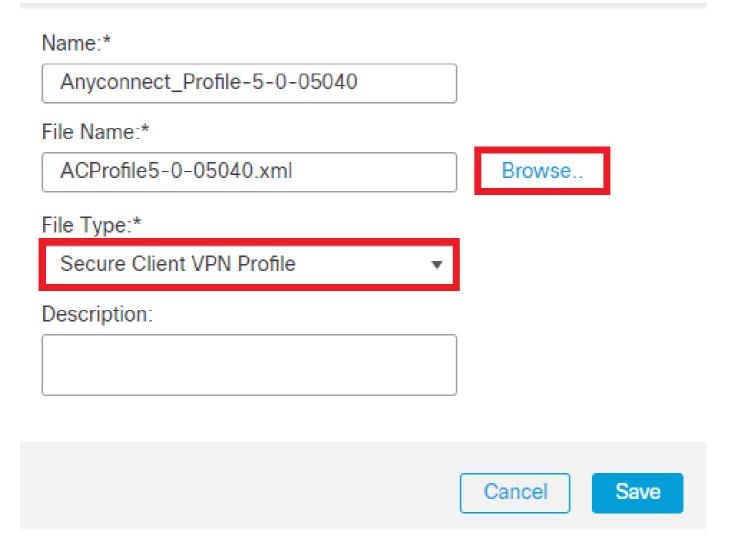
Location of XML profiles for various operating systems:

- Windows C:\ProgramData\Cisco\Cisco Secure Client\VPN\Profile
- MacOS /opt/cisco/anyconnect/profile
- Linux /opt/cisco/anyconnect/profile

Step 6. Navigate to Objects > Object Management > VPN > Secure Client File > Add Secure Client Profile.

Enter the name for the file and click Browse in order to choose the XML profile. Click Save.





Add Secure Client VPN Profile

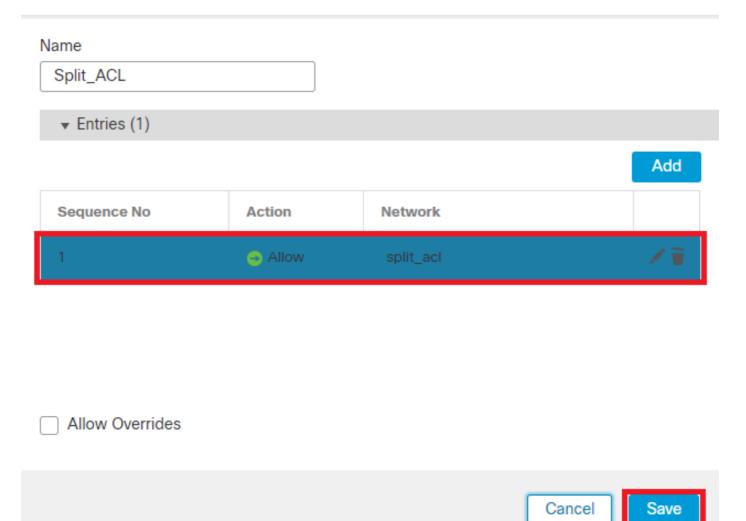
#### **Remote Access VPN Configuration**

Step 1. Create an ACL as per requirement in order to allow access to internal resources.

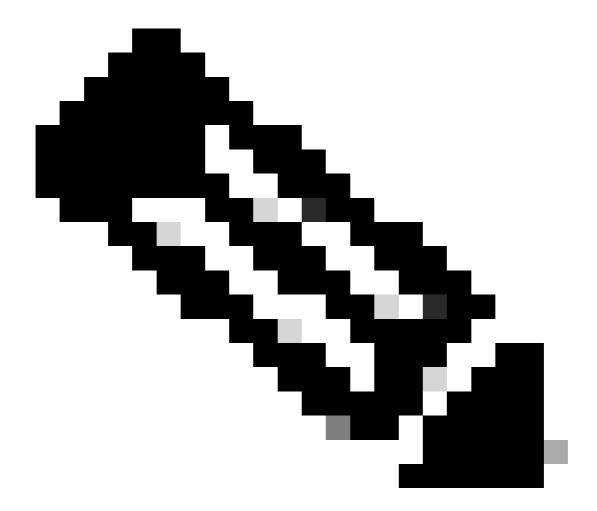
Navigate to Objects > Object Management > Access List > Standard and click Add Standard Access List.

#### Edit Standard Access List Object





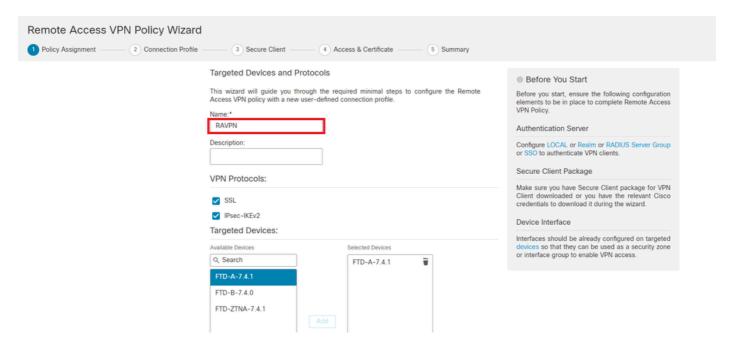
Add Standard ACL



Note: This ACL is used by Secure Client to add secure routes to internal resources.

Step 2. Navigate to Devices > VPN > Remote Access and click Add.

Step 3. Enter the name of the profile, then choose the FTD device and click **Next**.



Add Profile Name

Step 4. Enter the Connection Profile Name and choose the Authentication Method as Client Certificate Only under Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA).

#### Connection Profile: Connection Profiles specify the tunnel group policies for a VPN connection. These policies pertain to creating the tunnel itself, how AAA is accomplished and how addresses are assigned. They also include user attributes, which are defined in group policies. Connection Profile Name:\* RAVPN-CertAuth This name is configured as a connection alias, it can be used to connect to the VPN gateway Authentication, Authorization & Accounting (AAA): Specify the method of authentication (AAA, certificates or both), and the AAA servers that will be used for VPN connections. Authentication Method: Client Certificate Only Username From Certificate: Primary Field: CN (Common Name) Secondary Field: OU (Organisational Unit) Authorization Server: (Realm or RADIUS) Accounting Server:

Select Authentication Method

Step 5. Click Use IP Address Pools under Client Address Assignment and choose the IPv4 Address Pool created earlier.

## Client IP address can be assigned from AAA server, DHCP server and IP address pools. When multiple options are selected, IP address assignment is tried in the order of AAA server, DHCP server and IP address pool. Use AAA Server (Realm or RADIUS only) Use DHCP Servers Use IP Address Pools

Select Client Address Assignment

IPv4 Address Pools:

IPv6 Address Pools:

#### Step 6. Edit the Group Policy.

#### Group Policy:

A group policy is a collection of user-oriented session attributes which are assigned to client when a VPN connection is established. Select or create a Group Policy object.

Group Policy:*	DfltGrpPolicy	•	+
	Edit Group Policy		

vpn\_pool

Edit Group Policy

Step 7. Navigate to General > Split Tunneling, choose Tunnel networks specified below and then Standard Access List under Split Tunnel Network List Type.

Choose the ACL created earlier.

#### Edit Group Policy



Save

Cancel

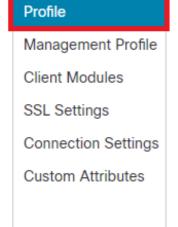
Name:* DfltGrpPolicy	
Description:	
General Secure	Client Advanced
VPN Protocols IP Address Pools Banner DNS/WINS Split Tunneling	IPv4 Split Tunneling:  Tunnel networks specified below ▼  IPv6 Split Tunneling:  Allow all traffic over tunnel  Split Tunnel Network List Type:  Standard Access List

Add Split Tunneling

Step~8.~Navigate~to~Secure~Client > Profile,~choose~the~Client~Profile~and~click~Save.

#### **Edit Group Policy**





Secure Client profiles contains settings for the VPN client functionality and optional features. The Firewall Threat Defense deploys the profiles during Secure Client connection.

Client Profile:

Anyconnect\_Profile-5-0-05040 ▼ | +

Standalone profile editor can be used to create a new or modify existing Secure Client profile. You can download the profile editor from Cisco Software Download Center.

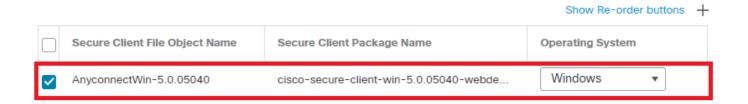
Add Secure Client Profile

Step 9. Click Next, then choose the Secure Client Image and click Next.

#### Secure Client Image

The VPN gateway can automatically download the latest Secure Client package to the client device when the VPN connection is initiated. Minimize connection setup time by choosing the appropriate OS for the selected package.

Download Secure Client packages from Cisco Software Download Center.



Add Secure Client Image

Step 10. Choose the Network Interface for VPN Access, choose the Device Certificates and check sysopt permit-vpn and click Next.

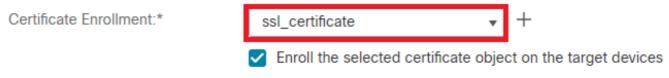
#### Network Interface for Incoming VPN Access

Select or create an Interface Group or a Security Zone that contains the network interfaces users will access for VPN connections.

▲ All the devices must have interfaces as part of the Interface Group/Security Zone selected.

#### **Device Certificates**

Device certificate (also called Identity certificate) identifies the VPN gateway to the remote access clients. Select a certificate which is used to authenticate the VPN gateway.



#### Access Control for VPN Traffic

All decrypted traffic in the VPN tunnel is subjected to the Access Control Policy by default. Select this option to bypass decrypted traffic from the Access Control Policy.

✓ Bypass Access Control policy for decrypted traffic (sysopt permit-vpn)

This option bypasses the Access Control Policy inspection, but VPN filter ACL and authorization ACL downloaded from AAA server are still applied to VPN traffic.

Add Access Control for VPN Traffic

Step 11. Finally, review all the configurations and click Finish.

#### Remote Access VPN Policy Configuration

Firewall Management Center will configure an RA VPN Policy with the following settings

Name: RAVPN

Device Targets: FTD-B-7.4.0

Connection Profile: RAVPN-CertAuth

Connection Alias: RAVPN-CertAuth

AAA:

Authentication Method: Client Certificate Only

Username From Certificate: -

Authorization Server: -

Accounting Server: -

Address Assignment:

Address from AAA: -

DHCP Servers: -

Address Pools (IPv4): vpn\_pool

Address Pools (IPv6):

Group Policy: DfltGrpPolicy

Secure Client Images: AnyconnectWin-5.0.05040

Interface Objects: outside-zone

Device Certificates: ssl\_certificate

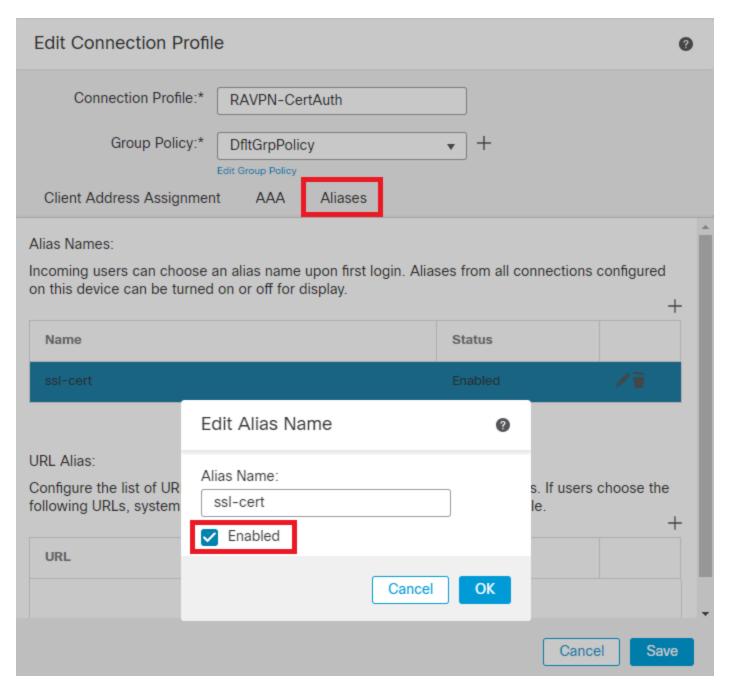
#### **Device Identity Certificate Enrollment**

Certificate enrollment object 'ssl\_certificate' is not installed on one or more targeted devices. Certificate installation will be initiated on the targeted devices on finishing the wizard. Go to the <u>Certificates</u> page to check the status of the installation.

Remote Access VPN Policy Configuration

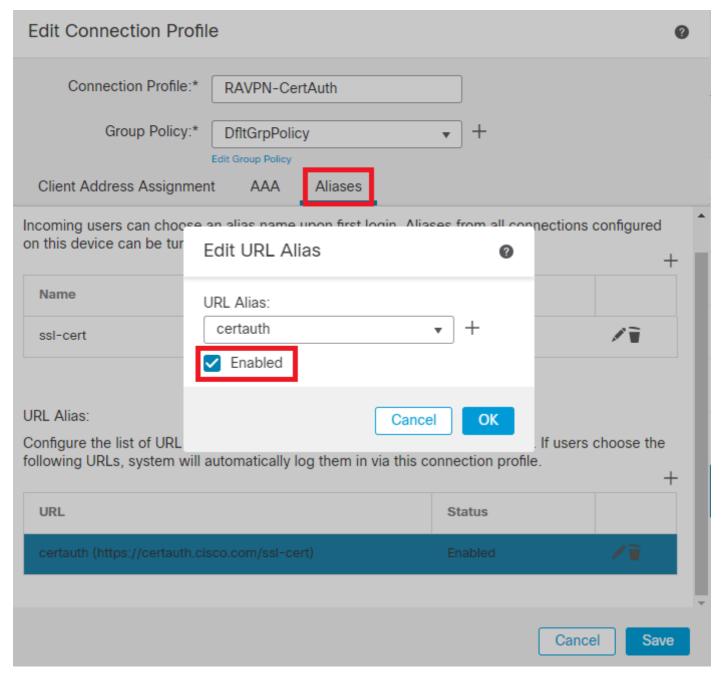
Step 12. Once the initial setup of Remote Access VPN is complete, edit the Connection Profile created and navigate to Aliases.

Step 13. Configure group-alias by clicking the plus icon (+).



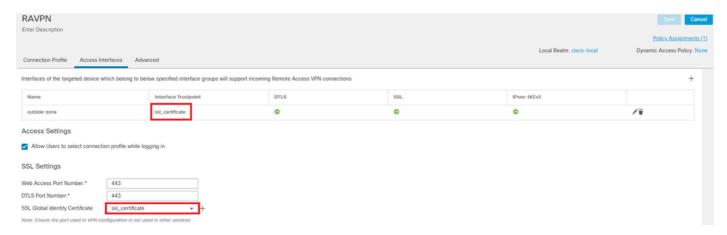
Edit Group Alias

Step 14. Configure group-url by clicking the plus icon (+). Use the same Group URL configured earlier in the Client Profile.



Edit Group URL

Step 15. Navigate to Access Interfaces. Choose the Interface Truspoint and the SSL Global Identity Certificate under the SSL settings.



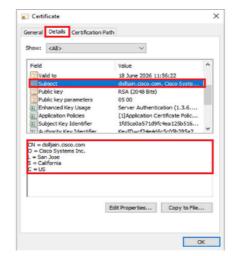
Step 16. Clicksave and deploy these changes.

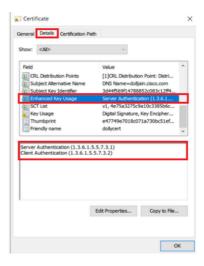
#### Verify

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

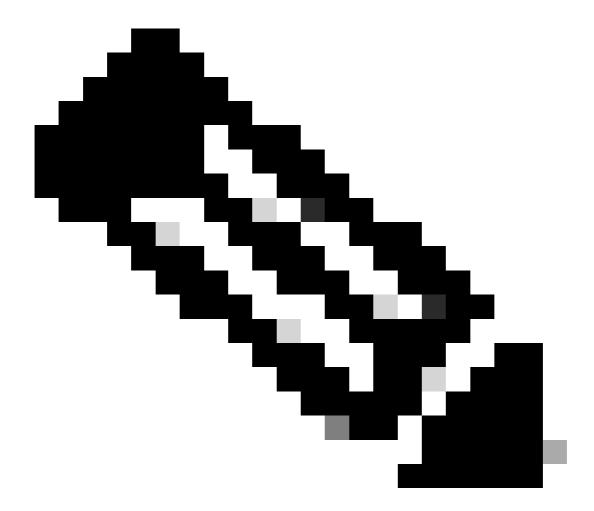
1. The secure client PC must have the certificate installed with a valid date, subject, and Enhanced Key Usage (EKU) on the PC of the user. This certificate must be issued by the CA whose certificate is installed on FTD as shown earlier. Here, the identity or user certificate is issued by **auth-risaggar-ca**.





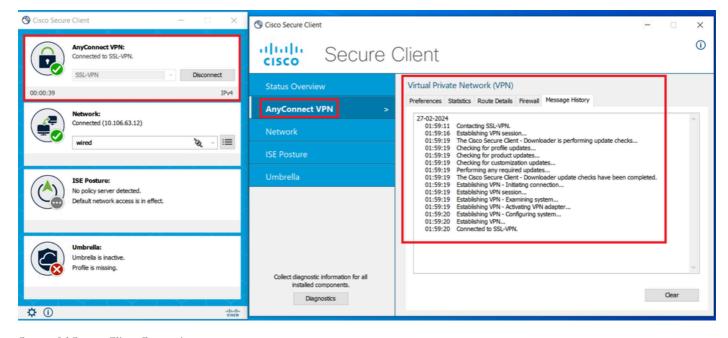


Certificate Highlights



Note: The client certificate must have the Client Authentication EKU.

2. Secure Client must establish the connection.



Successful Secure Client Connection

3. Run show vpn-sessiondb anyconnect in order to confirm the connection details of the active user under the used tunnel group.

firepower# show vpn-sessiondb anyconnect

Session Type: AnyConnect

Username : dolljain.cisco.com Index : 8

Assigned IP : 10.20.20.1 Public IP : 72.163.X.X

Protocol : AnyConnect-Parent SSL-Tunnel

License : AnyConnect Premium

Encryption : AnyConnect-Parent: (1)none SSL-Tunnel: (1)AES-GCM-128 Hashing : AnyConnect-Parent: (1)none SSL-Tunnel: (1)SHA256

Bytes Tx : 14402 Bytes Rx : 9652

Group Policy: DfltGrpPolicy Tunnel Group: RAVPN-CertAuth

Login Time : 08:32:22 UTC Mon Mar 18 2024

Duration : 0h:03m:59s Inactivity : 0h:00m:00s

Audt Sess ID : 0ac5de050000800065f7fc16

Security Grp: none Tunnel Zone: 0

#### **Troubleshoot**

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

1. Debugs can be run from the diagnostic CLI of the FTD:

```
debug crypto ca 14
debug webvpn anyconnect 255
debug crypto ike-common 255
```

2. Refer to this guide for common problems.