



Secure Copy

This document provides the procedure to configure a Cisco device for Secure Copy (SCP) server-side functionality.

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Prerequisites for Secure Copy

- Configure Secure Shell (SSH), authentication, and authorization on the device.
- Because the Secure Copy Protocol (SCP) relies on SSH for its secure transport, the device must have a Rivest, Shamir, and Adelman (RSA) key pair.

Information About Secure Copy

The Secure Copy feature provides a secure and authenticated method for copying switch configurations or switch image files. The Secure Copy Protocol (SCP) relies on Secure Shell (SSH), an application and a protocol that provides a secure replacement for the Berkeley r-tools.

The behavior of SCP is similar to that of Remote Copy Protocol (RCP), which comes from the Berkeley r-tools suite (Berkeley university's own set of networking applications), except that SCP relies on SSH for security. In addition, SCP requires authentication, authorization, and accounting (AAA) to be configured to ensure that the device can determine whether a user has the correct privilege level.

SCP allows only users with a privilege level of 15 to copy a file in the Cisco IOS File System (Cisco IFS) to and from a device by using the **copy** command. An authorized administrator can also perform this action from a workstation.



Note

- Enable the SCP option while using the `pscp.exe` file.
 - An RSA public-private key pair must be configured on the device for SSH to work.
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Similar to SCP, SSH File Transfer Protocol (SFTP) can be used to copy switch configuration or image files. For more information, refer the *Configuring SSH File Transfer Protocol* chapter of the *Security Configuration Guide*.

Secure Copy Performance Improvements

SSH bulk data transfer mode can be used to enhance the throughput performance of SCP that is operating in the capacity of a client or a server. SSH bulk data transfer mode is enabled by default with default window size of 128KB. TCP selective acknowledgement (SACK) is enabled by default if the bulk mode window size is configured.

The default bulk mode window size of 128 KB is optimal to copy large files in most network settings. However, in long big networks where the round-trip time (RTT) is high, 128 KB is not enough. You can enable the most optimal SCP throughput performance by configuring the bulk mode window size using the **ip ssh bulk-mode window-size** command. For example, in an ideal lab testing environment, a window size of 2 MB in a 200-milliseconds round-trip time setting can give around 500 percent improved throughput performance when compared to the default 128-KB window size.

The bulk mode window size must be configured as per the network bandwidth-delay product, that is, a multiple of total available bandwidth in bits per second and the round-trip time in seconds. Because the CPU usage may increase with the increased window size, make sure to balance this by choosing the right window size.

How to Configure Secure Copy

The following sections provide information about the Secure Copy configuration tasks.

Configuring Secure Copy

To configure a Cisco device for SCP server-side functionality, perform the following steps.

Procedure

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	enable Example: <pre>Device> enable</pre>	Enables privileged EXEC mode. Enter your password, if prompted.
Step 2	configure terminal Example: <pre>Device# configure terminal</pre>	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	aaa new-model Example: <pre>Device(config)# aaa new-model</pre>	Sets AAA authentication at login.

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 4	aaa authentication login {default list-name} method1 [method2...] Example: <pre>Device(config)# aaa authentication login default group tacacs+</pre>	Enables the AAA access control system.
Step 5	username name [privilege level] password encryption-type encrypted-password Example: <pre>Device(config)# username superuser privilege 2 password 0 superpassword</pre>	Establishes a username-based authentication system. Note You can omit this step if a network-based authentication mechanism, such as TACACS+ or RADIUS, has been configured.
Step 6	ip scp server enable Example: <pre>Device(config)# ip scp server enable</pre>	Enables SCP server-side functionality.
Step 7	exit Example: <pre>Device(config)# exit</pre>	Exits global configuration mode and returns to privileged EXEC mode.
Step 8	debug ip scp Example: <pre>Device# debug ip scp</pre>	(Optional) Troubleshoots SCP authentication problems.

Configuring SCP Username Password

To configure a username and password for SCP, perform the following steps:

Procedure

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	enable Example: <pre>Device> enable</pre>	Enables privileged EXEC mode. Enter your password, if prompted.
Step 2	configure terminal Example: <pre>Device# configure terminal</pre>	Enters global configuration mode.

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 3	ip scp username <i>username</i> Example: Device# ip scp username cisco	Defines the username.
Step 4	ip scp password <i>password</i> Example: Device# ip scp password 0 cisco	Defines the password. Specify the encryption level. • 0 – Unencrypted password. • 0 – Encrypted password. • Line – Clear text password.
Step 5	exit Example: Device (config)# exit	Exits global configuration mode and returns to privileged EXEC mode.

Enabling Secure Copy on the SSH Server

The following task shows how to configure the server-side functionality for SCP. This task shows a typical configuration that allows a device to securely copy files from a remote workstation.

Procedure

	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	aaa new-model Example: Device (config)# aaa new-model	Enables the Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA) access control model.
Step 4	aaa authentication login default local Example: Device (config)# aaa authentication login default local	Sets AAA authentication to use the local username database for authentication at login.
Step 5	aaa authorization exec default local Example:	Sets the parameters that restrict user access to a network, runs the authorization to determine if the user ID is allowed to run an privileged

	Command or Action	Purpose
	Device(config)# aaa authorization exec default local	EXEC shell, and specifies that the system must use the local database for authorization.
Step 6	username name privilege privilege-level password password Example: Device(config)# username samplename privilege 15 password password1	Establishes a username-based authentication system, and specifies the username, privilege level, and an unencrypted password. Note The minimum required value for the <i>privilege-level</i> argument is 15. A privilege level of less than 15 results in the connection closing.
Step 7	ip ssh time-out seconds Example: Device(config)# ip ssh time-out 120	Sets the time interval (in seconds) that the device waits for the SSH client to respond.
Step 8	ip ssh authentication-retries integer Example: Device(config)# ip ssh authentication-retries 3	Sets the number of authentication attempts after which the interface is reset.
Step 9	ip scp server enable Example: Device(config)# ip scp server enable	Enables the device to securely copy files from a remote workstation.
Step 10	ip ssh bulk-mode window-size Example: Device(config)# ip ssh bulk-mode 33107232	(Optional) Sets the bulk mode window size to enhance the throughput performance of SCP. Note SSH bulk data transfer mode is enabled by default with default window size of 128KB.
Step 11	exit Example: Device(config)# exit	Exits global configuration mode and returns to privileged EXEC mode.
Step 12	debug ip scp Example: Device# debug ip scp	(Optional) Provides diagnostic information about SCP authentication problems.

Configuration Examples for Secure Copy

The following are examples of the Secure Copy configuration.

Example: Secure Copy Configuration Using Local Authentication

The following example shows how to configure the server-side functionality of Secure Copy. This example uses a locally defined username and password.

```
! AAA authentication and authorization must be configured properly in order for SCP to work.
Device> enable
Device# configure terminal
Device(config)# aaa new-model
Device(config)# aaa authentication login default local
Device(config)# aaa authorization exec default local
Device(config)# username user1 privilege 15 password 0 lab
! SSH must be configured and functioning properly.
Device(config)# ip scp server enable
Device(config)# end
```

Example: Secure Copy Server-Side Configuration Using Network-Based Authentication

The following example shows how to configure the server-side functionality of Secure Copy using a network-based authentication mechanism:

```
! AAA authentication and authorization must be configured properly for SCP to work.
Device> enable
Device# configure terminal
Device(config)# aaa new-model
Device(config)# aaa authentication login default group tacacs+
Device(config)# aaa authorization exec default group tacacs+
! SSH must be configured and functioning properly.
Device(config)# ip ssh time-out 120
Device(config)# ip ssh authentication-retries 3
Device(config)# ip scp server enable
Device(config)# end
```