



Fabric Security

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About Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS)

The Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) Publication 140-3, Security Requirements for Cryptographic Modules, details the U.S. government requirements for cryptographic modules. FIPS 140-3 specifies that a cryptographic module should be a set of hardware, software, firmware, or some combination that implements cryptographic functions or processes, including cryptographic algorithms and, optionally, key generation, and is contained within a defined cryptographic boundary.

FIPS specifies certain cryptographic algorithms as secure, and it also identifies which algorithms should be used if a cryptographic module is to be called FIPS compliant.

Guidelines and Limitations for FIPS

The following guidelines and limitations apply to FIPS:

- When FIPS is enabled, FIPS is applied across the Cisco Application Policy Infrastructure Controller (APIC).
- When FIPS is enabled, you must disable FIPS before you downgrade the Cisco APIC to a release that does not support FIPS.
- When FIPS is enabled, you must manually power cycle or reload the standby Cisco APIC when upgraded to the 6.1(1) release or later. This is to apply FIPS to the standby Cisco APIC.
- Make your passwords a minimum of eight characters in length.
- Disable Telnet. Log in using only SSH. Telnet is not supported in 5.3(1) and later releases.
- Delete all SSH Server RSA1 keypairs.

- Secure Shell (SSH) and SNMP are supported.
- Disable SNMP v1 and v2. Any existing user accounts on the switch that have been configured for SNMPv3 should be configured only with SHA for authentication and AES for privacy.
- Starting with the 2.3(1) release, FIPS can be configured at the switch level.
- Starting with the 3.1(1) release, when FIPS is enabled, NTP will operate in FIPS mode, Under FIPS mode NTP supports authentication with HMAC-SHA1 and no authentication.
- In the 5.2(3) release and earlier, after enabling FIPS on the Cisco APIC, reload the dual supervisor spine switches twice for FIPS to take effect.
- In the 5.2(4) release and later, after enabling FIPS on the Cisco APIC, reload and then power cycle the dual supervisor spine switches for FIPS to take effect.
- In the 5.2(3) release and earlier, on a dual supervisor spine switch that has FIPS enabled, if all the supervisors are replaced, then the spine switch must be reloaded twice for FIPS to take effect.
- In the 5.2(4) release and later, on a dual supervisor spine switch that has FIPS enabled, if all supervisors are replaced, then the spine switch must be reloaded and then power cycled for FIPS to take effect.
- In the 5.2(3) release and earlier, disable the RADIUS and TACACS+ remote authentication methods. Only the local and LDAP authentication methods are supported in FIPS mode.
- In the 5.2(4) release and later, disable the RADIUS, TACACS+, and RSA remote authentication methods. Only the local, LDAP, OAuth2, and SAML authentication methods are supported in FIPS mode.

Configuring FIPS for Cisco APIC Using the GUI

When FIPS is enabled, it is applied across the Cisco Application Policy Infrastructure Controller (APIC).

Procedure

- Step 1** On the menu bar, choose **System > System Settings**.
- Step 2** In the **Navigation** pane, choose **Fabric Security**.
- Step 3** In the **Work** pane, in the **Properties** area, choose the desired FIPS mode.

The options for FIPS mode are **Disable** and **Enable**. The default value is **Disable**.

Note

You must reboot to complete the configuration. Anytime you change the mode, you must reboot to complete the configuration.

Configuring FIPS for Cisco APIC Using the NX-OS Style CLI

When FIPS is enabled, it is applied across Cisco Application Policy Infrastructure Controller (APIC).

Procedure

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	Enter the configuration mode. Example: <code>apic1# configure</code>	
Step 2	Enable FIPS. Example: <code>apic1(config)# fips mode enable</code>	You must reboot to complete the configuration. Anytime you change the mode, you must reboot to complete the configuration. The no fips mode enable command disables FIPS.

Configuring FIPS for Cisco APIC Using REST API

When FIPS is enabled, it is applied across Cisco APIC.

Procedure

Configure FIPS for all tenants.

Example:

```
https://apic1.cisco.com/api/node/mo/uni/userext.xml
<aaaFabricSec fipsMode="enable" />
```

Note

You must reboot to complete the configuration. Anytime you change the mode, you must reboot to complete the configuration.
