Implementing Access Lists and Prefix Lists

Understanding Access Lists

Access lists perform packet filtering to control which packets move through the network and where. Such controls help to limit network traffic and restrict the access of users and devices to the network. Access lists have many uses, and therefore many commands accept a reference to an access list in their command syntax. Access lists can be used to do the following:

An access control list (ACL) consists of one or more access control entries (ACE) that collectively define the network traffic profile. This profile can then be referenced by Cisco IOS XR software features such as traffic filtering, route filtering, QoS classification, and access control. There are 2 types of ACLs:

- Standard ACLs- Verifies only the source IP address of the packets. Traffic is controlled by the comparison of the address or prefix configured in the ACL, with the source address found in the packet.
- Extended ACLs- Verifies more than just the source address of the packets. Attributes such as destination address, specific IP protocols, UDP or TCP port numbers, DSCP, and so on are validated. Traffic is controlled by a comparison of the attributes stated in the ACL with those in the incoming or outgoing packets.

Cisco IOS XR does not differentiate between standard and extended access lists. Standard access list support is provided for backward compatibility.

Purpose of IP Access Lists

- Filter incoming or outgoing packets on an interface.
- Filter packets for mirroring.
- Redirect traffic as required.

- Restrict the contents of routing updates.
- Limit debug output based on an address or protocol.
- Control vty access.
- Identify or classify traffic for advanced features, such as congestion avoidance, congestion management, and priority and custom queueing.

How an IP Access List Works

An access list is a sequential list consisting of permit and deny statements that apply to IP addresses and possibly upper-layer IP protocols. The access list has a name by which it is referenced. Many software commands accept an access list as part of their syntax.

An access list can be configured and named, but it is not in effect until the access list is referenced by a command that accepts an access list. Multiple commands can reference the same access list. An access list can control traffic arriving at the router or leaving the router, but not traffic originating at the router.

Source address and destination addresses are two of the most typical fields in an IP packet on which to base an access list. Specify source addresses to control packets from certain networking devices or hosts. Specify destination addresses to control packets being sent to certain networking devices or hosts.

You can also filter packets on the basis of transport layer information, such as whether the packet is a TCP, UDP, ICMP, or IGMP packet.

ACL Workflow

The following image illustrates the workflow of an ACL.

IP Access List Process and Rules

Use the following process and rules when configuring an IP access list:

- The software tests the source or destination address or the protocol of each packet being filtered against the conditions in the access list, one condition (permit or deny statement) at a time.
- If a packet does not match an access list statement, the packet is then tested against the next statement in the list.
- If a packet and an access list statement match, the remaining statements in the list are skipped and the packet is permitted or denied as specified in the matched statement. The first entry that the packet matches determines whether the software permits or denies the packet. That is, after the first match, no subsequent entries are considered.
- If the access list denies the address or protocol, the software discards the packet and returns an Internet Control Message Protocol (ICMP) Host Unreachable message. ICMP is configurable in the Cisco IOS XR software.
- If no conditions match, the software drops the packet because each access list ends with an unwritten or implicit deny statement. That is, if the packet has not been permitted or denied by the time it was tested against each statement, it is denied.
- The access list should contain at least one permit statement or else all packets are denied.

- Because the software stops testing conditions after the first match, the order of the conditions is critical. The same permit or deny statements specified in a different order could result in a packet being passed under one circumstance and denied in another circumstance.
- Only one access list per interface, per protocol, per direction is allowed.
- Inbound access lists process packets arriving at the router. Incoming packets are processed before being routed to an outbound interface. An inbound access list is efficient because it saves the overhead of routing lookups if the packet is to be discarded because it is denied by the filtering tests. If the packet is permitted by the tests, it is then processed for routing. For inbound lists, permit means continue to process the packet after receiving it on an inbound interface; **deny** means discard the packet.
- Outbound access lists process packets before they leave the router. Incoming packets are routed to the outbound interface and then processed through the outbound access list. For outbound lists, permit means send it to the output buffer; deny means discard the packet.
- An access list can not be removed if that access list is being applied by an access group in use. To remove an access list, remove the access group that is referencing the access list and then remove the access list.
- Before removing an interface, which is configured with an ACL that denies certain traffic, you must remove the ACL and commit your configuration. If this is not done, then some packets are leaked through the interface as soon as the **no interface <interface-name>** command is configured and committed.
- An access list must exist before you can use the **ipv4 | ipv6 access group** command.

ACL Filtering by Wildcard Mask and Implicit Wildcard Mask

Address filtering uses wildcard masking to indicate whether the software checks or ignores corresponding IP address bits when comparing the address bits in an access-list entry to a packet being submitted to the access list. By carefully setting wildcard masks, an administrator can select a single or several IP addresses for permit or deny tests.

Wildcard masking for IP address bits uses the number 1 and the number 0 to specify how the software treats the corresponding IP address bits. A wildcard mask is sometimes referred to as an *inverted mask*, because a 1 and 0 mean the opposite of what they mean in a subnet (network) mask.

- A wildcard mask bit 0 means *check* the corresponding bit value.
- A wildcard mask bit 1 means *ignore* that corresponding bit value.

You do not have to supply a wildcard mask with a source or destination address in an access list statement. If you use the **host** keyword, the software assumes a wildcard mask of 0.0.0.0.

Unlike subnet masks, which require contiguous bits indicating network and subnet to be ones, wildcard masks allow noncontiguous bits in the mask.

You can also use CIDR format (/x) in place of wildcard bits. For example, the IPv4 address 1.2.3.4 0.255.255.255 corresponds to 1.2.3.4/8 and for IPv6 address 2001:db8:abcd:0012:0000:0000:0000:0000 corresponds to 2001:db8:abcd:0012::0/64.

Restrictions for Configuring Access Lists

You must be aware of the following restrictions for configuring access lists.

- IPv4 and IPv6 ACLs are not supported for loopback and interflex interfaces.

- If the TCAM utilization is high and large ACLs are modified, then an error may occur. During such instances, remove the ACL from the interface and reconfigure the ACL. Later, reapply the ACL to the interface.
- Filtering of MPLS packets through interface ACL is not supported.
- ICMP type and code such as ECHO, ECHO-REPLY, MASK-REPLY, MASK-REQUEST, and so on are not supported.
- From Release 6.0.2 onward, modifying an ACL when it is attached to the interface is supported.

Including Comments in Access Lists

You can include comments (remarks) about entries in any named IP access list using the remark access list configuration command. The remarks make the access list easier for the network administrator to understand and scan. Each remark line is limited to 255 characters.

The remark can go before or after a **permit** or **deny** statement. You should be consistent about where you put the remark so it is clear which remark describes which **permit** or **deny** statement. For example, it would be confusing to have some remarks before the associated **permit** or **deny** statements and some remarks after the associated statements. Remarks can be sequenced.

Remember to apply the access list to an interface or terminal line after the access list is created.

Configuring IPv4 ACLs

This section describes the basic configuration of IPv4 ingress and egress ACLs.

Notes and Restrictions for Configuring IPv4 Ingress ACLs

IPv4 ingress ACLs are characterized by the following behavior.

- Ingress IPv4 ACLs are supported on all interfaces except management interfaces.
- ACL-based Forwarding (ABF) is supported only in the ingress direction.
- The total number of ACLs allowed by default per NPU is 31.
- The number of attached ACEs allowed per line card is 4000.
- Packet Length (using the **pkt-length** keyword) is supported only for ingress IPv4 ACLs. The **pkt-length** filtering values can only be specified in increments of 16 bytes by default.
- ACL logging with input interface (using the **log-input** keyword) is not supported.

Notes and Restrictions for Configuring IPv4 Egress ACLs

IPv4 egress ACLs are characterized by the following behavior.

- Egress IPv4 ACLs are supported on main physical interfaces and bundle interfaces.

Note Egress ACLs are not directly supported on sub-interfaces. However, If you configure an egress ACL on a main interface that has sub-interfaces, the ACL action is also applied to the sub-interface traffic. This egress ACL behavior holds true even if the sub-interfaces are configured after the ACL is applied to the main interface.

- ACL is not supported on Management interface on egress direction.
- The number of attached ACEs allowed per line card is 4000.
- ACL logging (using the **log** command) and ACL logging with input interface (using the **log-input** command) is not supported.

Configuring an Ingress IPv4 ACL on a Gigabit Ethernet Interface

Use the following configuration to configure an ingress IPv4 ACL on a GigE interface.

```
/* Configure a GigE interface with an IPv4 address */
Router(config)# interface gigabitEthernet 0/0/0/0
Router(config-if)# ipv4 address 10.1.1.1 255.255.255.0
Router(config-if)# no shut
Router(config-if)# commit
Thu Jan 25 10:07:54.700 IST
Router(config-if)# exit

/* Verify if the interface is up */
Router(config)# do show ipv4 interface brief
Thu Jan 25 10:08:49.087 IST

Interface                      IP-Address      Status          Protocol Vrf-Name
GigabitEthernet0/0/0/0         10.1.1.1        Up              Up       default

/* Configure an IPv4 ingress ACL */
Router(config)# ipv4 access-list V4-ACL-INGRESS
Router(config-ipv4-acl)# 10 permit tcp 10.2.1.1 0.0.0.255 any
Router(config-ipv4-acl)# 20 deny udp any any
Router(config-ipv4-acl)# 30 permit ipv4 10.2.0.0 0.255.255.255 any
Router(config-ipv4-acl)# commit
Thu Jan 25 10:16:11.473 IST

/* Verify the ingress ACL creation */
Router(config)# do show access-lists ipv4
Thu Jan 25 10:25:19.896 IST
...
ipv4 access-list V4-ACL-INGRESS
 10 permit tcp 10.2.1.0 0.0.0.255 any
 20 deny udp any any
 30 permit ipv4 10.0.0.0 0.255.255.255 any


/* Apply the ingress ACL to the GigE interface */
Router(config)# interface GigabitEthernet0/0/0/0
Router(config-if)# ipv4 access-group V4-ACL-INGRESS ingress
Router(config-if)# commit
Thu Jan 25 10:28:19.671 IST
Router(config-if)# exit
```

```
/* Verify if the ingress ACL has been successfully applied to the interface */
Router(config)# do show ipv4 interface
Thu Jan 25 10:29:44.944 IST
GigabitEthernet0/0/0/0 is Up, ipv4 protocol is Up
  Vrf is default (vrfid 0x60000000)
  Internet address is 10.1.1.1/24
  MTU is 1514 (1500 is available to IP)
  Helper address is not set
  Directed broadcast forwarding is disabled
  Outgoing access list is not set
  Inbound  common access list is not set, access list is V4-ACL-INGRESS
  Proxy ARP is disabled
  ICMP redirects are never sent
  ICMP unreachables are always sent
  ICMP mask replies are never sent
  Table Id is 0xe0000000
```

You have successfully configured an IPv4 ingress ACL on a Gigabit Ethernet interface.

Configuring an Egress IPv4 ACL on a Gigabit Ethernet Interface

Use the following configuration to configure an egress IPv4 ACL on a GigE interface.

```
/* Configure a GigE interface with an IPv4 address */
Router(config)# interface gigabitEthernet 0/0/0/0
Router(config-if)# ipv4 address 20.1.1.1 255.255.255.0
Router(config-if)# no shut
Router(config-if)# commit
Thu Jan 25 10:08:38.767 IST
Router(config-if)# exit

/* Verify if the interface is up */
Router(config)# do show ipv4 interface brief
Thu Jan 25 10:08:49.087 IST

Interface                      IP-Address      Status          Protocol Vrf-Name
GigabitEthernet0/0/0/0         10.1.1.1        Up              Up       default
GigabitEthernet0/0/0/0         20.1.1.1        Up              Up       default

/* Configure an IPv4 egress ACL */
Router(config)# ipv4 access-list V4-ACL-EGRESS
Router(config-ipv4-acl)# 10 permit ipv4 10.2.0.0 0.255.255.255 20.2.0.0 0.255.255.255
Router(config-ipv4-acl)# 20 deny ipv4 any any
Router(config-ipv4-acl)# commit
Thu Jan 25 10:25:04.655 IST

/* Verify the egress ACL creation */
Router(config)# do show access-lists ipv4
Thu Jan 25 10:25:19.896 IST
ipv4 access-list V4-ACL-EGRESS
 10 permit ipv4 10.0.0.0 0.255.255.255 20.0.0.0 0.255.255.255
 20 deny ipv4 any any
...

/* Apply the egress ACL to the GigE interface */
Router(config)# interface gigabitEthernet 0/0/0/1
Router(config-if)# ipv4 access-group V4-ACL-EGRESS egress
Router(config-if)# commit
Thu Jan 25 10:28:45.937 IST
Router(config-if)# exit

/* Verify if the egress ACL has been successfully applied to the interface */
```

```
Router(config)# do show ipv4 interface
Thu Jan 25 10:29:44.944 IST
GigabitEthernet 0/0/0/1 is Up, ipv4 protocol is Up
  Vrf is default (vrfid 0x60000000)
  Internet address is 20.1.1.1/24
  MTU is 1514 (1500 is available to IP)
  Helper address is not set
  Directed broadcast forwarding is disabled
  Outgoing access list is V4-ACL-EGRESS
  Inbound  common access list is not set, access list is not set
  Proxy ARP is disabled
  ICMP redirects are never sent
  ICMP unreachables are always sent
  ICMP mask replies are never sent
  Table Id is 0xe0000000
...
```

You have successfully configured an IPv4 egress ACL on a Gigabit Ethernet interface.

Modifying ACLs

This section describes a sample configuration for modification of ACLs.

```
*/ Create an Access List*/
Router(config)#ipv4 access-list acl_1

*/Add entries (ACEs) to the ACL*/
Router(config-ipv4-acl)#10 permit ip host 10.3.3.3 host 172.16.5.34
Router(config-ipv4-acl)#20 permit icmp any any
Router(config-ipv4-acl)#30 permit tcp any host 10.3.3.3
Router(config-ipv4-acl)#end

*/Verify the entries of the ACL*/:
Router#show access-lists ipv4 acl_1
ipv4 access-list acl_1
10 permit ip host 10.3.3.3 host 172.16.5.34
20 permit icmp any any
30 permit tcp any host 10.3.3.3

*/Add new entries, one with a sequence number "15" and another without a sequence number
to the ACL. Delete an entry with the sequence number "30":*/
Router(config)#ipv4 access-list acl_1
Router(config-ipv4-acl)# 15 permit 10.5.5.5 0.0.0.255
Router(config-ipv4-acl)# no 30
Router(config-ipv4-acl)# permit 10.4.4.4 0.0.0.255
Router(config-ipv4-acl)# commit


*/When an entry is added without a sequence number, it is automatically given a sequence
number
that puts it at the end of the access list. Because the default increment is 10, the entry
 will have a sequence
number 10 higher than the last entry in the existing access list*/

*/Verify the entries of the ACL:*/
Router(config)#show access-lists ipv4 acl_1
ipv4 access-list acl_1
 10 permit ipv4 host 10.3.3.3 host 172.16.5.34

15 permit 10.5.5.5 0.0.0.255---*/newly added ACE (with the sequence number)*/
```

```
20 permit icmp any any
30 permit ipv4 10.4.4.0 0.0.0.255 any ---*/newly added ACE (without the sequence number)*/

*/The entry with the sequence number 30, that is, "30 permit tcp any host 10.3.3.3" is
deleted from the ACL*/
```

You have successfully modified ACLs in operation.

Configuring ACLs with Fragment Control

The non-fragmented packets and the initial fragments of a packet were processed by IP extended access lists (if you apply this access list), but non-initial fragments were permitted, by default. However, now, the IP Extended Access Lists with Fragment Control feature allows more granularity of control over non-initial fragments of a packet. Using this feature, you can specify whether the system examines non-initial IP fragments of packets when applying an IP extended access list.

As non-initial fragments contain only Layer 3 information, these access-list entries containing only Layer 3 information, can now be applied to non-initial fragments also. The fragment has all the information the system requires to filter, so the access-list entry is applied to the fragments of a packet.

This feature adds the optional **fragments** keyword to the following IP access list commands: **deny** and **permit** . By specifying the **fragments** keyword in an access-list entry, that particular access-list entry applies only to non-initial fragments of packets; the fragment is either permitted or denied accordingly.

The behavior of access-list entries regarding the presence or absence of the **fragments** keyword can be summarized as follows:

If the Access-List Entry has...	Then...

...no **fragments** keyword and all of the access-list entry information matches	For an access-list entry containing only Layer 3 information:
	• The entry is applied to non-fragmented packets, initial fragments, and non-initial fragments.
	For an access-list entry containing Layer 3 and Layer 4 information:
	• The entry is applied to non-fragmented packets and initial fragments.
	  • If the entry matches and is a **permit** statement, the packet or fragment is permitted.
	  • If the entry matches and is a **deny** statement, the packet or fragment is denied.
	• The entry is also applied to non-initial fragments in the following manner. Because non-initial fragments contain only Layer 3 information, only the Layer 3 portion of an access-list entry can be applied. If the Layer 3 portion of the access-list entry matches, and
	  • If the entry is a **permit** statement, the non-initial fragment is permitted.
	  • If the entry is a **deny** statement, the next access-list entry is processed.
	Note The deny statements are handled differently for non-initial fragments versus non-fragmented or initial fragments.

...the **fragments** keyword and all of the access-list entry information matches	The access-list entry is applied only to non-initial fragments. **Note** The **fragments** keyword cannot be configured for an access-list entry that contains any Layer 4 information.

You should not add the **fragments** keyword to every access-list entry, because the first fragment of the IP packet is considered a non-fragment and is treated independently of the subsequent fragments. Because an initial fragment will not match an access list permit or deny entry that contains the **fragments** keyword, the packet is compared to the next access list entry until it is either permitted or denied by an access list entry that does not contain the **fragments** keyword. Therefore, you may need two access list entries for every deny entry. The first deny entry of the pair will not include the **fragments** keyword, and applies to the initial fragment. The second deny entry of the pair will include the **fragments** keyword and applies to the subsequent fragments. In the cases where there are multiple **deny** access list entries for the same host but with different Layer 4 ports, a single deny access-list entry with the **fragments** keyword for that host is all that has to be added. Thus all the fragments of a packet are handled in the same manner by the access list.

Packet fragments of IP datagrams are considered individual packets and each fragment counts individually as a packet in access-list accounting and access-list violation counts.

Note The **fragments** keyword cannot solve all cases involving access lists and IP fragments.

Note Within the scope of ACL processing, Layer 3 information refers to fields located within the IPv4 header; for example, source, destination, protocol. Layer 4 information refers to other data contained beyond the IPv4 header; for example, source and destination ports for TCP or UDP, flags for TCP, type and code for ICMP.

Understanding IP Access List Logging Messages

Cisco IOS XR software can provide logging messages about packets permitted or denied by a standard IP access list. That is, any packet that matches the access list causes an informational logging message about the packet to be sent to the console. The level of messages logged to the console is controlled by the **logging console** command in global configuration mode.

The first packet that triggers the access list causes an immediate logging message, and subsequent packets are collected over 5-minute intervals before they are displayed or logged. The logging message includes the access list number, whether the packet was permitted or denied, the source IP address of the packet, and the number of packets from that source permitted or denied in the prior 5-minute interval.

However, you can use the { **ipv4 | ipv6** } **access-list log-update threshold** command to set the number of packets that, when they match an access list (and are permitted or denied), cause the system to generate a log message. You might do this to receive log messages more frequently than at 5-minute intervals.

Caution If you set the *update-number* argument to 1, a log message is sent right away, rather than caching it; every packet that matches an access list causes a log message. A setting of 1 is not recommended because the volume of log messages could overwhelm the system.

Even if you use the { **ipv4 | ipv6} access-list log-update threshold** command, the 5-minute timer remains in effect, so each cache is emptied at the end of 5 minutes, regardless of the number of messages in each cache. Regardless of when the log message is sent, the cache is flushed and the count reset to 0 for that message the same way it is when a threshold is not specified.

Note The logging facility might drop some logging message packets if there are too many to be handled or if more than one logging message is handled in 1 second. This behavior prevents the router from using excessive CPU cycles because of too many logging packets. Therefore, the logging facility should not be used as a billing tool or as an accurate source of the number of matches to an access list.

Understanding Prefix Lists

Prefix lists are used in route maps and route filtering operations and can be used as an alternative to access lists in many Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) route filtering commands. A prefix is a portion of an IP address, starting from the far left bit of the far left octet. By specifying exactly how many bits of an address belong to a prefix, you can then use prefixes to aggregate addresses and perform some function on them, such as redistribution (filter routing updates).

BGP Filtering Using Prefix Lists

Prefix lists can be used as an alternative to access lists in many BGP route filtering commands. It is configured under the Global configurations of the BGP protocol. The advantages of using prefix lists are as follows:

- Significant performance improvement in loading and route lookup of large lists.
- Incremental updates are supported.
- More user friendly CLI. The CLI for using access lists to filter BGP updates is difficult to understand and use because it uses the packet filtering format.
- Greater flexibility.

Before using a prefix list in a command, you must set up a prefix list, and you may want to assign sequence numbers to the entries in the prefix list.

How the System Filters Traffic by Prefix List

Filtering by prefix list involves matching the prefixes of routes with those listed in the prefix list. When there is a match, the route is used. More specifically, whether a prefix is permitted or denied is based upon the following rules:

- An empty prefix list permits all prefixes.
- An implicit deny is assumed if a given prefix does not match any entries of a prefix list.
- When multiple entries of a prefix list match a given prefix, the longest, most specific match is chosen.

Sequence numbers are generated automatically unless you disable this automatic generation. If you disable the automatic generation of sequence numbers, you must specify the sequence number for each entry using the *sequence-number* argument of the **permit** and **deny** commands in IPv4 or IPv6 prefix list configuration command. Use the **no** form of the **permit** or **deny** command with the *sequence-number* argument to remove a prefix-list entry.

The **show** commands include the sequence numbers in their output.

Configuring Prefix Lists

Configuration Example

Creates a prefix-list "pfx_2" with a remark "Deny all routes with a prefix of 10/8". This prefix-list denies all prefixes matching /24 in 128.0.0.0/8.

```
Router#configure
Router(config)#ipv4 prefix-list pfx_2
/* Use the ipv6 access-list command to create an IPv6 access list */

Router(config-ipv4_pfx)#10 remark Deny all routes with a prefix of 10/8
Router(config-ipv4_pfx)#20 deny 128.0.0.0/8 eq 24
/* Repeat the above step as necessary. Use the no sequence-number command to delete an
entry. */

Router(config-ipv4_pfx)#commit
```

Running Configuration

```
Router#show running-config ipv4 prefix-list pfx_2
ipv4 prefix-list pfx_2
 10 remark Deny all routes with a prefix of 10/8
 20 deny 128.0.0.0/8 eq 24
!
```

Verification

Verify that the permit and remark settings are according to the set configuration.

```
Router# show prefix-list pfx_2
ipv4 prefix-list pfx_2
 10 remark Deny all routes with a prefix of 10/8
 20 deny 128.0.0.0/8 eq 24
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios#
```

Associated Commands

- ipv4 prefix-list
- ipv6 prefix-list
- show prefix-list ipv4
- show prefix-list ipv6

Sequencing Prefix List Entries and Revising the Prefix List

Configuration Example

Assigns sequence numbers to entries in a named prefix list and how to add or delete an entry to or from a prefix list. It is assumed a user wants to revise a prefix list. Resequencing a prefix list is optional.

```
Router#config
Router(config)#ipv4 prefix-list cl_1
/* Use the ipv6 prefix-list command to create an IPv6 prefix-list */

Router(config)#10 permit 172.16.0.0 0.0.255.255
/* Repeat the above step as necessary adding statements by sequence number where you planned;
 use the no sequence-number command to delete an entry */

Router(config)#commit
end
Router#resequence prefix-list ipv4 cl_1 20 15
/* Use the resequence prefix-list ipv6 to resequence IPv6 prefix list */
```

Running Configuration

```
/*Before resequencing/*
Router#show running-config ipv4 prefix-list cl_1
ipv4 prefix-list cl_1
 10 permit 172.16.0.0/16
!
/* After resequencing using the resequence prefix-list ipv4 cl_1 20 15 command: */
Router#show running-config ipv4 prefix-list cl_1
```

```
ipv4 prefix-list cl_1
 35 permit 172.16.0.0/16
!
```

Verification

Verify that the prefix list has been resequenced:

```
Router#show prefix-list cl_1
ipv4 prefix-list cl_1
 35 permit 172.16.0.0/16
```

Associated Commands

- resequence prefix-list ipv4
- resequence prefix-list ipv6
- ipv4 prefix-list
- ipv6 prefix-list
- show prefix-lists ipv4
- show prefix-lists ipv6