



CHAPTER 2

Getting Started

This chapter describes how to get started with your ASA. This chapter includes the following sections:

- [Factory Default Configurations, page 2-1](#)
- [Accessing the Command-Line Interface, page 2-4](#)
- [Working with the Configuration, page 2-5](#)
- [Applying Configuration Changes to Connections, page 2-9](#)

Factory Default Configurations

The factory default configuration is the configuration applied by Cisco to new ASAs.

For the ASA 5510 and higher ASAs, the factory default configuration configures an interface for management so you can connect to it using ASDM, with which you can then complete your configuration.

For the ASA 5505 adaptive security appliance, the factory default configuration configures interfaces and NAT so that the ASA is ready to use in your network immediately.

The factory default configuration is available only for routed firewall mode and single context mode. See [Chapter 5, “Managing Multiple Context Mode,”](#) for more information about multiple context mode. See [Chapter 4, “Configuring the Transparent or Routed Firewall,”](#) for more information about routed and transparent firewall mode.



Note

In addition to the image files and the (hidden) default configuration, the following folders and files are standard in flash memory: log/, crypto_archive/, and coredumpinfo/coredump.cfg. The date on these files may not match the date of the image files in flash memory. These files aid in potential troubleshooting; they do not indicate that a failure has occurred.

This section includes the following topics:

- [Restoring the Factory Default Configuration, page 2-2](#)
- [ASA 5505 Default Configuration, page 2-2](#)
- [ASA 5510 and Higher Default Configuration, page 2-3](#)

Restoring the Factory Default Configuration

This section describes how to restore the factory default configuration.

Detailed Steps

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	<pre>configure factory-default [<i>ip_address</i> [<i>mask</i>]]</pre> <p>Example: <pre>hostname(config)# configure factory-default 10.1.1.1 255.255.255.0</pre></p>	<p>Restores the factory default configuration.</p> <p>If you specify the <i>ip_address</i>, then you set the inside or management interface IP address, depending on your model, instead of using the default IP address of 192.168.1.1. The http address command range consists of addresses within the subnet that you specify.</p> <p>Note This command also clears the boot system command, if present, along with the rest of the configuration. The boot system command lets you boot from a specific image, including an image on the external Flash memory card. The next time you reload the ASA after restoring the factory configuration, it boots from the first image in internal Flash memory; if you do not have an image in internal Flash memory, the ASA does not boot.</p>
Step 2	<pre>write memory</pre> <p>Example: <pre>active(config)# write memory</pre></p>	<p>Saves the default configuration to Flash memory. This command saves the running configuration to the default location for the startup configuration, even if you previously configured the boot config command to set a different location; when the configuration was cleared, this path was also cleared.</p>

What to Do Next

To configure additional settings that are useful for a full configuration, see the **setup** command.

ASA 5505 Default Configuration

The default factory configuration for the ASA 5505 adaptive security appliance configures the following:

- An inside VLAN 1 interface that includes the Ethernet 0/1 through 0/7 switch ports. If you did not set the IP address in the **configure factory-default** command, then the VLAN 1 IP address and mask are 192.168.1.1 and 255.255.255.0.
- An outside VLAN 2 interface that includes the Ethernet 0/0 switch port. VLAN 2 derives its IP address using DHCP.
- The default route is also derived from DHCP.
- All inside IP addresses are translated when accessing the outside using interface PAT.
- By default, inside users can access the outside, and outside users are prevented from accessing the inside.

- The DHCP server is enabled on the ASA, so a PC connecting to the VLAN 1 interface receives an address between 192.168.1.2 and 192.168.1.254.
- The HTTP server is enabled for ASDM and is accessible to users on the 192.168.1.0 network.

The configuration consists of the following commands:

```
interface Ethernet 0/0
  switchport access vlan 2
interface Ethernet 0/1
  switchport access vlan 1
interface Ethernet 0/2
  switchport access vlan 1
interface Ethernet 0/3
  switchport access vlan 1
interface Ethernet 0/4
  switchport access vlan 1
interface Ethernet 0/5
  switchport access vlan 1
interface Ethernet 0/6
  switchport access vlan 1
interface Ethernet 0/7
  switchport access vlan 1
interface vlan2
  nameif outside
  ip address dhcp setroute
interface vlan1
  nameif inside
  ip address 192.168.1.1 255.255.255.0
  security-level 100
global (outside) 1 interface
nat (inside) 1 0 0
http server enable
http 192.168.1.0 255.255.255.0 inside
dhcpd address 192.168.1.2-192.168.1.254 inside
dhcpd auto_config outside
dhcpd enable inside
logging asdm informational
```

ASA 5510 and Higher Default Configuration

The default factory configuration for the ASA 5510 and higher adaptive security appliance configures the following:

- The management interface, Management 0/0. If you did not set the IP address in the **configure factory-default** command, then the IP address and mask are 192.168.1.1 and 255.255.255.0.
- The DHCP server is enabled on the ASA, so a PC connecting to the interface receives an address between 192.168.1.2 and 192.168.1.254.
- The HTTP server is enabled for ASDM and is accessible to users on the 192.168.1.0 network.

The configuration consists of the following commands:

```
interface management 0/0
  ip address 192.168.1.1 255.255.255.0
  nameif management
  security-level 100
asdm logging informational 100
asdm history enable
http server enable
http 192.168.1.0 255.255.255.0 management
```

```

dhcpd address 192.168.1.2-192.168.1.254 management
dhcpd lease 3600
dhcpd ping_timeout 750
dhcpd enable management

```

Accessing the Command-Line Interface

For initial configuration, access the command-line interface directly from the console port. Later, you can configure remote access using Telnet or SSH according to [Chapter 37, “Configuring Management Access.”](#) If your system is already in multiple context mode, then accessing the console port places you in the system execution space. See [Chapter 5, “Managing Multiple Context Mode,”](#) for more information about multiple context mode.



Note

If you want to use ASDM to configure the ASA instead of the command-line interface, you can connect to the default management address of 192.168.1.1 (if your ASA includes a factory default configuration. See the [“Factory Default Configurations”](#) section on page 2-1.). On the ASA 5510 and higher adaptive security appliances, the interface to which you connect with ASDM is Management 0/0. For the ASA 5505 adaptive security appliance, the switch port to which you connect with ASDM is any port, except for Ethernet 0/0. If you do not have a factory default configuration, follow the steps in this section to access the command-line interface. You can then configure the minimum parameters to access ASDM by entering the **setup** command.

To access the command-line interface, perform the following steps:

-
- Step 1** Connect a PC to the console port using the provided console cable, and connect to the console using a terminal emulator set for 9600 baud, 8 data bits, no parity, 1 stop bit, no flow control.
- See the hardware guide that came with your ASA for more information about the console cable.
- Step 2** Press the **Enter** key to see the following prompt:
- ```
hostname>
```
- This prompt indicates that you are in user EXEC mode.
- Step 3** To access privileged EXEC mode, enter the following command:
- ```
hostname> enable
```
- The following prompt appears:
- ```
Password:
```
- Step 4** Enter the enable password at the prompt.
- By default, the password is blank, and you can press the **Enter** key to continue. See the [“Changing the Enable Password”](#) section on page 8-2 to change the enable password.
- The prompt changes to:
- ```
hostname#
```
- To exit privileged mode, enter the **disable**, **exit**, or **quit** command.
- Step 5** To access global configuration mode, enter the following command:
- ```
hostname# configure terminal
```

The prompt changes to the following:

```
hostname(config)#
```

To exit global configuration mode, enter the **exit**, **quit**, or **end** command.

## Working with the Configuration

This section describes how to work with the configuration. The ASA loads the configuration from a text file, called the startup configuration. This file resides by default as a hidden file in internal Flash memory. You can, however, specify a different path for the startup configuration. (For more information, see [Chapter 78, “Managing Software and Configurations.”](#))

When you enter a command, the change is made only to the running configuration in memory. You must manually save the running configuration to the startup configuration for your changes to remain after a reboot.

The information in this section applies to both single and multiple security contexts, except where noted. Additional information about contexts is in [Chapter 5, “Managing Multiple Context Mode.”](#)

This section includes the following topics:

- [Saving Configuration Changes, page 2-5](#)
- [Copying the Startup Configuration to the Running Configuration, page 2-7](#)
- [Viewing the Configuration, page 2-7](#)
- [Clearing and Removing Configuration Settings, page 2-8](#)
- [Creating Text Configuration Files Offline, page 2-8](#)

## Saving Configuration Changes

This section describes how to save your configuration, and includes the following topics:

- [Saving Configuration Changes in Single Context Mode, page 2-5](#)
- [Saving Configuration Changes in Multiple Context Mode, page 2-6](#)

### Saving Configuration Changes in Single Context Mode

To save the running configuration to the startup configuration, enter the following command:

| Command                                                | Purpose                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>write memory</code>                              | Saves the running configuration to the startup configuration.                                                                   |
| <b>Example:</b><br><code>hostname# write memory</code> | <b>Note</b> The <code>copy running-config startup-config</code> command is equivalent to the <code>write memory</code> command. |

## Saving Configuration Changes in Multiple Context Mode

You can save each context (and system) configuration separately, or you can save all context configurations at the same time. This section includes the following topics:

- [Saving Each Context and System Separately, page 2-6](#)
- [Saving All Context Configurations at the Same Time, page 2-6](#)

### Saving Each Context and System Separately

To save the system or context configuration, enter the following command within the system or context:

| Command                                                                   | Purpose                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <pre>write memory</pre> <p><b>Example:</b><br/>hostname# write memory</p> | <p>Saves the running configuration to the startup configuration.</p> <p>For multiple context mode, context startup configurations can reside on external servers. In this case, the ASA saves the configuration back to the server you identified in the context URL, except for an HTTP or HTTPS URL, which do not let you save the configuration to the server.</p> <p><b>Note</b> The <b>copy running-config startup-config</b> command is equivalent to the <b>write memory</b> command.</p> |

### Saving All Context Configurations at the Same Time

To save all context configurations at the same time, as well as the system configuration, enter the following command in the system execution space:

| Command                                                                                                   | Purpose                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <pre>write memory all [/noconfirm]</pre> <p><b>Example:</b><br/>hostname# write memory all /noconfirm</p> | <p>Saves the running configuration to the startup configuration for all contexts and the system configuration.</p> <p>If you do not enter the <b>/noconfirm</b> keyword, you see the following prompt:<br/>Are you sure [Y/N]:</p> <p>After you enter <b>Y</b>, the ASA saves the system configuration and each context. Context startup configurations can reside on external servers. In this case, the ASA saves the configuration back to the server you identified in the context URL, except for an HTTP or HTTPS URL, which do not let you save the configuration to the server.</p> |

After the ASA saves each context, the following message appears:

```
'Saving context 'b' ... (1/3 contexts saved) '
```

Sometimes, a context is not saved because of an error. See the following information for errors:

- For contexts that are not saved because of low memory, the following message appears:  
The context 'context a' could not be saved due to Unavailability of resources
- For contexts that are not saved because the remote destination is unreachable, the following message appears:  
The context 'context a' could not be saved due to non-reachability of destination

- For contexts that are not saved because the context is locked, the following message appears:  

```
Unable to save the configuration for the following contexts as these contexts are
locked.
context 'a' , context 'x' , context 'z' .
```

A context is only locked if another user is already saving the configuration or in the process of deleting the context.
- For contexts that are not saved because the startup configuration is read-only (for example, on an HTTP server), the following message report is printed at the end of all other messages:  

```
Unable to save the configuration for the following contexts as these contexts have
read-only config-urls:
context 'a' , context 'b' , context 'c' .
```
- For contexts that are not saved because of bad sectors in the Flash memory, the following message appears:  

```
The context 'context a' could not be saved due to Unknown errors
```

## Copying the Startup Configuration to the Running Configuration

Copy a new startup configuration to the running configuration using one of the following options.

| Command                                                                             | Purpose                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>copy startup-config running-config</code>                                     | Merges the startup configuration with the running configuration. A merge adds any new commands from the new configuration to the running configuration. If the configurations are the same, no changes occur. If commands conflict or if commands affect the running of the context, then the effect of the merge depends on the command. You might get errors, or you might have unexpected results. |
| <code>reload</code>                                                                 | Reloads the ASA, which loads the startup configuration and discards the running configuration.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <code>clear configure all</code><br><code>copy startup-config running-config</code> | Loads the startup configuration and discards the running configuration without requiring a reload.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

## Viewing the Configuration

The following commands let you view the running and startup configurations.

| Command                                         | Purpose                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>show running-config</code>                | Views the running configuration.                       |
| <code>show running-config <i>command</i></code> | Views the running configuration of a specific command. |
| <code>show startup-config</code>                | Views the startup configuration.                       |

## Clearing and Removing Configuration Settings

To erase settings, enter one of the following commands.

| Command                                                                                        | Purpose                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>clear configure configurationcommand</code><br>[ <i>level2configurationcommand</i> ]     | <p>Clears all the configuration for a specified command. If you only want to clear the configuration for a specific version of the command, you can enter a value for <i>level2configurationcommand</i>.</p> <p>For example, to clear the configuration for all <b>aaa</b> commands, enter the following command:</p> <pre>hostname(config)# clear configure aaa</pre> <p>To clear the configuration for only <b>aaa authentication</b> commands, enter the following command:</p> <pre>hostname(config)# clear configure aaa authentication</pre> |
| <code>no configurationcommand</code><br>[ <i>level2configurationcommand</i> ] <i>qualifier</i> | <p>Disables the specific parameters or options of a command. In this case, you use the <b>no</b> command to remove the specific configuration identified by <i>qualifier</i>.</p> <p>For example, to remove a specific <b>nat</b> command, enter enough of the command to identify it uniquely as follows:</p> <pre>hostname(config)# no nat (inside) 1</pre>                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <code>write erase</code>                                                                       | Erases the startup configuration.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <code>clear configure all</code>                                                               | <p>Erases the running configuration.</p> <p><b>Note</b> In multiple context mode, if you enter <b>clear configure all</b> from the system configuration, you also remove all contexts and stop them from running. The context configuration files are not erased, and remain in their original location.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

## Creating Text Configuration Files Offline

This guide describes how to use the CLI to configure the ASA; when you save commands, the changes are written to a text file. Instead of using the CLI, however, you can edit a text file directly on your PC and paste a configuration at the configuration mode command-line prompt in its entirety, or line by line. Alternatively, you can download a text file to the ASA internal Flash memory. See [Chapter 78, “Managing Software and Configurations,”](#) for information on downloading the configuration file to the ASA.

In most cases, commands described in this guide are preceded by a CLI prompt. The prompt in the following example is “hostname(config)#”:

```
hostname(config)# context a
```

In the text configuration file you are not prompted to enter commands, so the prompt is omitted as follows:

```
context a
```

For additional information about formatting the file, see [Appendix B, “Using the Command-Line Interface.”](#)

# Applying Configuration Changes to Connections

When you make security policy changes to the configuration, all *new* connections use the new security policy. Existing connections continue to use the policy that was configured at the time of the connection establishment. **show** command output for old connections reflect the old configuration, and in some cases will not include data about the old connections.

For example, if you remove a QoS **service-policy** from an interface, then re-add a modified version, then the **show service-policy** command only displays QoS counters associated with new connections that match the new service policy; existing connections on the old policy no longer show in the command output.

To ensure that all connections use the new policy, you need to disconnect the current connections so they can reconnect using the new policy.

To disconnect connections, enter one of the following commands.

## Detailed Steps

| Command                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Purpose                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <pre>clear local-host [ip_address] [all]</pre> <p><b>Example:</b><br/>hostname(config)# clear local-host all</p>                                                                                                                                           | <p>This command reinitializes per-client run-time states such as connection limits and embryonic limits. As a result, this command removes any connection that uses those limits. See the <b>show local-host all</b> command to view all current connections per host.</p> <p>With no arguments, this command clears all affected through-the-box connections. To also clear to-the-box connections (including your current management session), use the <b>all</b> keyword. To clear connections to and from a particular IP address, use the <i>ip_address</i> argument.</p> |
| <pre>clear conn [all] [protocol {tcp   udp}] [address src_ip[-src_ip] [netmask mask]] [port src_port[-src_port]] [address dest_ip[-dest_ip] [netmask mask]] [port dest_port[-dest_port]]</pre> <p><b>Example:</b><br/>hostname(config)# clear conn all</p> | <p>This command terminates connections in any state. See the <b>show conn</b> command to view all current connections.</p> <p>With no arguments, this command clears all through-the-box connections. To also clear to-the-box connections (including your current management session), use the <b>all</b> keyword. To clear specific connections based on the source IP address, destination IP address, port, and/or protocol, you can specify the desired options.</p>                                                                                                      |

