# Rule-Based Decryption Policies

The following topics provide details about rule-based decryption policies.

# About rule-based decryption policies

### Rule-based decryption policies

Decryption policy you create using a wizard that steps you through the available options for inbound decryption, outbound decryption, or both. After you create the rule-based decryption policy, you can add more rules to it, reorder rules, or make other changes to suit your needs.

A rule-based decryption policy is the most flexible but also the most potentially complicated. You can convert a standard decryption policy to a rule-based policy at any time.

# Which type of decryption policy is right for me?

This topic discusses standard decryption policies and rule-based decryption policies.

### Standard decryption policies

We recommend the standard decryption policy type because it's easy to set up with a wizard-like appearance, enabling you to easily pick security zones, users and networks, and other objects to use in your policy. A standard decryption policy is particularly suited for anyone who is not proficient at understanding the ins and outs of decryption policies.

Following is an example of setting up a standard decryption policy.

The preceding policy decrypts outbound traffic only. All traffic from the OutsideZone security zone on any IPv4 network is decrypted using an internal CA named `IntCA`.

Note the following:

- The preceding rule is a partial example; more options are available.

- You can configure inbound criteria, outbound criteria, or both.

- In addition to objects, you can also optionally configure outbound decryption exclusions, such as:

  - Undecryptable applications (such as ones that use certificate pinning).

  - URL categories such as medical, trading, and finance.

- You can configure outbound block criteria for certificate status and TLS version.

- A standard policy has advanced policy options that are similar to rule-based policies.

## Rule-based decryption policies

Decryption policy you create using a wizard that steps you through the available options for inbound decryption, outbound decryption, or both. After you create the rule-based decryption policy, you can add more rules to it, reorder rules, or make other changes to suit your needs.

A rule-based decryption policy is the most flexible but also the most potentially complicated. You can convert a standard decryption policy to a rule-based policy at any time.

# Create a rule-based decryption policy

You can create any of the following types of rule-based decryption policies:

- *Outbound protection* policy with rules that protect outbound connections; that is, the destination server is outside your protected network. This type of rule has a **Decrypt - Resign** rule action. We also create additional rules with a **Do Not Decrypt** action that excludes traffic you specify (such as traffic that uses certificate pinning).

  See Create a rule-based decryption policy with outbound connection protection, on page 3

- *Inbound protection* policy with a rule that protects inbound connections; that is, the destination server is inside your protected network. This type of rule has a **Decrypt - Known Key** or **Decrypt - Replace Cert** rule action. We also create additional rules with a **Do Not Decrypt** action that excludes traffic you specify (such as traffic that uses certificate pinning.) These rules are disabled initially but you can modify and enable them later if you wish.

  See Create a rule-based decryption policy with inbound connection protection, on page 5

- Other actions (including **Do Not Decrypt**, **Block**, and **Block with Reset**).

  See Create a rule-based decryption policy with other rule actions, on page 14

## Create a rule-based decryption policy with outbound connection protection

This task discusses how to create a decryption policy with a rule that protects outbound connections; that is, the destination server is outside your protected network. This type of rule has a **Decrypt - Resign** rule action.

When you create a decryption policy, you can create multiple rules at the same time, including multiple **Decrypt - Known Key** rules, multiple **Decrypt - Replace Cert** rules, and multiple **Decrypt - Resign** rules.

If you enabled Change Management, you must create and assign a ticket before you can create a decryption policy. Before the decryption policy can be used, the ticket and all associated objects (like certificate authorities) must be approved. For more information, see Creating Change Management Tickets and Policies and Objects that Support Change Management.

**Before you begin**

You can optionally must upload or generate an internal CA certificate for your managed device before you can create a decryption policy that protects outbound connections. You can do this in any of the following ways:

- Create an internal CA certificate object by going to **Objects** > **PKI** > **Internal CAs** and referring to PKI.

- At the time you create this decryption policy.

**Procedure**

**Step 1**    Log in to Secure Firewall Management Center if you haven't already done so.

**Step 2**    Click **Policies** > **Security policies** > **Decryption**.

**Step 3**    Click **Create New** > **Decryption Policy (Rule-Based)**.

**Step 4**    Give the policy a unique **Name** and, optionally, a **Description**.

The following characters are not supported in decryption policy names:

- #,;,{,},=,$,<,>

**Step 5**    Click the **Outbound Connections** tab.



**Step 6**    From the **Internal CA** list, upload or choose certificates for the rules.

For more information about internal certificates, see Generate an internal CA for outbound protection and Upload an internal CA for outbound protection.

**Step 7**    (Optional.) Choose networks and ports.

For more information:

- Network rule conditions

- Port rule conditions

**Step 8**    Click **Next**.

**Step 9**    Continue with Rule-based decryption policy block connections, on page 7.

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**What to do next**

- Add rule conditions: Rule-based decryption rule conditions

- Add a default policy action: Rule-based decryption policy default actions, on page 15

- Configure logging options for the default action as described in *Logging Connections with a Policy Default Action* in the *Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center Administration Guide* .

- Set advanced policy properties: Rule-based decryption policy advanced options, on page 18.

- Associate the decryption policy with an access control policy as described in Associating other policies with access control.

- Deploy configuration changes; see Deploy Configuration Changes.

# Create a rule-based decryption policy with inbound connection protection

This task discusses how to create a decryption policy with a rule that protects inbound connections; that is, the destination server is inside your protected network. This type of rule has a **Decrypt - Known Key** or **Decrypt - Replace Cert** rule action.

When you create a decryption policy, you can create multiple rules at the same time, including multiple **Decrypt - Known Key** or **Decrypt - Replace Cert** rules and multiple **Decrypt - Resign** rules.

**Before you begin**

You can optionally upload an internal certificate for your internal server before you can create a decryption policy that protects inbound connections. You can do this in any of the following ways:

- Create an internal certificate object by going to **Objects** > **PKI** > **Internal Certs** and referring to PKI.

- At the time you create this decryption policy.

If you enabled Change Management, you must create and assign a ticket before you can create a decryption policy. Before the decryption policy can be used, the ticket and all associated objects (like certificate authorities) must be approved. For more information, see Creating Change Management Tickets and Policies and Objects that Support Change Management.

**Procedure**

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**Step 1**    Log in to Secure Firewall Management Center if you haven't already done so.

**Step 2**    Click **Policies** > **Security policies** > **Decryption**.

**Step 3**    Click **Create New** > **Decryption Policy (Rule-Based)**.

**Step 4** Give the policy a unique **Name** and, optionally, a **Description**.

The following characters are not supported in decryption policy names:

- #,;,{,},=,$,<,>

**Step 5** From the **Internal Certificates** list, upload or choose certificates for the rules.

For more information about internal CA certificates, see Internal Certificate Authority Objects.

**Step 6** (Optional.) Choose networks and ports.

For more information:

- Network rule conditions

- Port rule conditions

**Step 7** Click the **Inbound Connections** tab.



**Step 8** Click **Next**.

**Step 9** Continue with

**Step 10** Continue with .

**What to do next**

- Add rule conditions: Rule-based decryption rule conditions

- Add a default policy action:

- Configure logging options for the default action as described in *Logging Connections with a Policy Default Action* in the *Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center Administration Guide* .

- Set advanced policy properties: Rule-based decryption policy advanced options, on page 18.

- Associate the decryption policy with an access control policy as described in Associating other policies with access control.

- Deploy configuration changes; see Deploy Configuration Changes.

# Rule-based decryption policy block connections

This topic provides details about how to block connections to servers with unsecure TLS versions and server certificate statuses while creating a rule-based decryption policy . The **Block with Reset** rules are created in your decryption policy that are disabled by default.

**Procedure**

**Step 1**    Complete the tasks mentioned in:

- Create a rule-based decryption policy with outbound connection protection, on page 3
- Create a rule-based decryption policy with inbound connection protection, on page 5

**Step 2**    The **Blocking** page provides the following options. By default, all the options are *disabled* for decryption policy actions.

- **Block connections based on TLS version**—Check this check box to block connections to servers using unsecure TLS versions. By default, **SSL v3.0**, **TLS v1.0**, and **TLS v1.1** which are known to be vulnerable, are selected. You can choose other versions from the drop-down list.
- **Block connections based on server certificate status**—Check this check box to block connections to servers with unsecure server certificate statuses. By default, **Invalid Signature**, **Expired**, **Not Yet Valid**, and **Invalid Certificate** are selected. You can choose other statuses from the drop-down list.

Click **Delete**  (✕) to remove the selections or click **Reset to default** to revert back to the default selections.

**Step 3**    Click **Next**.

**What to do next**

Continue with Rule-based decryption policy exclusions, on page 7.

# Rule-based decryption policy exclusions

This task discusses how to exclude certain types of traffic from decryption. We create **Do Not Decrypt** rules in your decryption policy for these although the rules are initially enabled only for an outbound decryption policy (that is, one that uses the **Decrypt - Resign** policy action).

**Before you begin**

You must upload an internal CA certificate for your managed device before you can create a rule-based decryption policy that protects outbound connections. You can do this in any of the following ways:

- Create an internal CA certificate object by going to **Objects** > **PKI** > **Internal CAs** and referring to PKI.

- At the time you create this decryption policy.

**Procedure**

**Step 1** Complete the tasks discussed in:

- Create a rule-based decryption policy with outbound connection protection, on page 3

- For more information, see Create a rule-based decryption policy with inbound connection protection, on page 5

**Step 2** The exclusions page provides the following options. All options are *enabled* for an outbound protection policy (**Decrypt - Resign** rule action) and *disabled* for all other decryption policy actions.

| Item | Description |
|------|-------------|
| **Bypass decryption for sensitive URL categories** | Check the box to not decrypt traffic from the indicated categories. Depending on the laws in your area, decryption certain traffic, such as finance or health-related, might be prohibited. Consult an authority in your area for more information. Click **Add** to add more categories. Click **Delete** (✕) to remove categories. |
| **Bypass decryption for undecryptable distinguished names** | Check the box to not decrypt traffic when re-signing the certificate is likely to cause the connection to fail. Typically, this behavior is associated with *certificate pinning*, which is discussed in TLS/SSL certificate pinning guidelines. The list of undecryptable distinguished names is maintained by Cisco. |
| **Bypass decryption for undecryptable applications** | Check the box to not decrypt traffic when re-signing the certificate is likely to cause the connection to fail. Typically, this behavior is associated with *certificate pinning*, which is discussed in TLS/SSL certificate pinning guidelines. Undecryptable applications are updated automatically in the Vulnerability Database (VDB). You can find a list of all applications on the Secure Firewall Application Detectors page; the **undecryptable** tag identifies applications Cisco determines are undecryptable. The list of undecryptable applications is maintained by Cisco. |

| Item | Description |
|---|---|
| **Bypass decryption for very low-risk connections** | Check this check box to not decrypt traffic for very low-risk clients connecting to trusted servers, based on the threat confidence levels of clients which is determined by the Encrypted Visibility Engine (EVE) and the URL Category Reputation. An **Auto-Rule-Low-Risk-Connections** Do Not Decrypt rule is created and enabled in the new decryption policy.<br><br>To use the **Bypass decryption for very low-risk connections** option, you must enable the EVE in the corresponding access control policy, and the managed devices must be running Version 7.7 or later with a valid IPS license.<br><br>To see our current list of application risk and relevance categorizations, go to Secure Firewall Application Detectors. |

The following figure shows the default options.

## Create Decryption Policy

① **Policy Details**
Enter name, description, choose policy type and certificates.

② **Blocking**
(Optional) Configure blocking based on TLS version and certificate status

③ **Decryption Exclusions**
(Optional) Configure exclusions for outbound connections.

### Decryption Exclusions

☐ **Bypass decryption for sensitive URL categories**

In many environments, certain categories of websites are not inspected for regulatory, compliance or privacy reasons. Customize the list below to bypass inspection for designated categories.
Note: **URL License is Required**

URL Categories: **Health and Medicine** ✕  **Online Trading** ✕  **Finance** ✕   ＋ Add

☑ **Bypass decryption for undecryptable distinguished names**

Bypass decryption based on Cisco's list of known undecryptable distinguished names.
Note: **This option is selected by default to allow traffic which cannot be decrypted to remain encrypted. Disabling this option might cause decryption to fail for unsupported distinguished names.**

👁 56 Distinguished names included ⌄

☑ **Bypass decryption for undecryptable applications**

Certain enterprise applications are not supported for decryption due to a variety of reasons (Certificate Pinning, Client Certificate Authentication, etc.). Bypass decryption based on Cisco's list of known undecryptable applications.
Note: **This option is selected by default to allow traffic which cannot be decrypted to remain encrypted. Disabling this option might cause decryption to fail for unsupported applications.**

👁 56 Applications included ⌄

### Intelligent Decryption Bypass

☐ **Bypass decryption for very low–risk connections**                    New

Bypass decryption for very low–risk clients connecting to trusted servers.
Note: **The access control policy associated with this decryption policy must have the Encrypted Visibility Engine (EVE) enabled. The device to which this policy is deployed must run version 7.7 or later and must have a valid IPS license.**

Cancel      Back      **Create Policy**

**Step 3**      Click **Create Policy**.

The following figure shows a sample outbound protection policy.

In the preceding example, the **Do Not Decrypt** rules corresponding to your choices for rule exclusions are automatically added before the **Decrypt - Resign** rule. The rule for sensitive URL categories is disabled because, by default, that exclusion is disabled. Had you selected the **Bypass decryption for sensitive URL categories** check box, the rule would have been enabled.

**Step 4**     Click **Create Policy**.

**What to do next**

- Add rule conditions: Rule-based decryption rule conditions

- Add a default policy action: Rule-based decryption policy default actions, on page 15

- Configure logging options for the default action as described in *Logging Connections with a Policy Default Action* in the *Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center Administration Guide* .

- Set advanced policy properties: Rule-based decryption policy advanced options, on page 18.

- Associate the decryption policy with an access control policy as described in Associating other policies with access control.

- Deploy configuration changes; see Deploy Configuration Changes.

# Generate an internal CA for outbound protection

This task discusses how you can optionally generate an internal certificate authority when you create a decryption rule that protects outbound connections. You can also perform these tasks using **Objects** as discussed in Uploading a Signed Certificate Issued in Response to a CSR.

**Before you begin**

Make sure you understand the requirements for generating an internal certificate authority object as discussed in Internal Certificate Authority Objects.

**Procedure**

**Step 1**    From the **Internal CA** list, click **Create New** > **Generate CA**.

**Step 2**    Give the internal CA a **Name** and provide a two-letter **Country Name**.

**Step 3**    Click **Self-Signed** or **CSR**.

For more information about these options, see Internal Certificate Authority Objects.

**Step 4**    Enter the requested information in the provided fields.

**Step 5**    Click **Save**.

**Step 6**    If you chose **CSR**, after the signing request has been completed, click **Install Certificate** as follows:

    a)  Repeat the preceding steps in this procedure.

    b)  Edit the CA from the **Internal CA** list as follows.



    c)  Click **Install Certificate**.

    d)  Follow the prompts on your screen to complete the task.

**Step 7**    Continue creating the policy as discussed in Create a rule-based decryption policy with outbound connection protection, on page 3.

# Upload an internal CA for outbound protection

This task discusses how you can optionally upload an internal certificate authority when you create a decryption rule that protects outbound connections. You can also perform these tasks using **Objects** as discussed in Uploading a Signed Certificate Issued in Response to a CSR.
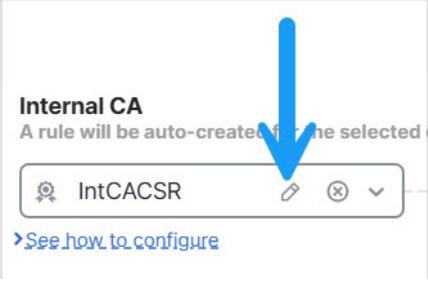
**Before you begin**

Make sure you understand the requirements for generating an internal certificate authority object as discussed in Internal Certificate Authority Objects.

**Procedure**

**Step 1** From the **Internal CA** list, click **Create New** > **Upload CA**.

**Step 2** Give the internal CA a **Name**.

**Step 3** Paste or browse to locate the certificate and its private key in the provided fields.

**Step 4** If the CA has a password, select the **Encrypted** check box and enter the password in the adjacent field.

**Step 5** Continue creating the policy as discussed in Create a rule-based decryption policy with outbound connection protection, on page 3.

# Upload an internal certificate for inbound protection

This task discusses how to upload an internal certificate when you create a decryption rule that protects inbound connections. You can also upload the internal certificate using **Objects** as discussed in Importing a CA Certificate and Private Key.

**Before you begin**

Make sure you have an internal certificate in one of the formats discussed in Internal Certificate Authority Objects.

**Procedure**

**Step 1** Log in to Secure Firewall Management Center if you haven't already done so.

**Step 2** Click **Policies** > **Security policies** > **Decryption**.

**Step 3** Enter a name for the policy in the **Name** field and an optional description in the **Description** field.

**Step 4** Click the **Inbound Connections** tab.

**Step 5** From the **Internal Certificates** list, click **Add** (╋).

**Step 6** If an internal certificate object exists, click its name.

**Step 7** Otherwise, click **Upload**.

**Step 8** Enter the required information.

See Adding Internal Certificate Objects.

**Step 9** Continue creating the decryption policy as discussed in Create a rule-based decryption policy with inbound connection protection, on page 5.

# Install an internal CA on client machines

To decrypt outbound traffic, the Firewall Threat Defense acts as a man-in-the-middle, first decrypting traffic (and subjecting it to deep inspection if you choose), then re-encrypting the traffic with a different internal

CA. When the encrypted traffic is returned to the client, the client must trust the CA, or users see errors in their browser.

For example, the error might be:

```
www.example.com uses an invalid security certificate. The certificate is not trusted because

the issuer certificate is unknown
```

To avoid this, import the internal CA on your client machines (typically using network policies). For more information, consult a resource such as:

- Windows: Distribute Certificates to Client Computers by Using Group Policy

- macOS: Use a third party tools that is equivalent to Windows Group Policy Object (GPO). Consult the documentation provided with your system for more information.

# Create a rule-based decryption policy  with other rule actions

To create a decryption rule with a **Do Not Decrypt**, **Block**, **Block With Reset,** or **Monitor** rule action, create a rule-based decryption  and edit the policy to add the rule.

When you create a rule-based decryption policy , you can create multiple rules at the same time, including multiple **Decrypt - Known Key** rules, multiple **Decrypt - Replace Cert** rules, and multiple **Decrypt - Resign** rules.

If you enabled Change Management, you must create and assign a ticket before you can create a decryption policy. Before the decryption policy can be used, the ticket and all associated objects (like certificate authorities) must be approved. For more information, see Creating Change Management Tickets and Policies and Objects that Support Change Management.

**Procedure**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Step 1** | Log in to Secure Firewall Management Center if you haven't already done so. |
| **Step 2** | Click **Policies** > **Security policies** > **Decryption**. |
| **Step 3** | Give the policy a unique **Name** and, optionally, a **Description**. |

The following characters are not supported in decryption policy names:

- #,;,{,},=,$,<,>

| | |
|---|---|
| **Step 4** | Click **Next**. |
| **Step 5** | The bypass page is provided for your information only; you cannot bypass traffic for other types of decryption (such as **Block**). |
| **Step 6** | Click **Create Policy**. |
| **Step 7** | Wait for the policy to be created. |
| **Step 8** | Click **Edit** (✎) next to the decryption policy name. |
| **Step 9** | Click **Add Rule**. |
| **Step 10** | Give the rule a **Name**. |
| **Step 11** | From the **Action** list, click a rule action and see one of the following sections for more information: |

- Rule-based decryption rule Do Not Decrypt action

- Rule-based decryption rule blocking actions

- Rule-based decryption rule monitor action

**Step 12** Click **Save**.

**What to do next**

- Add rule conditions: Rule-based decryption rule conditions

- Add a default policy action: Rule-based decryption policy default actions, on page 15

- Configure logging options for the default action as described in *Logging Connections with a Policy Default Action* in the *Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center Administration Guide* .

- Set advanced policy properties: Rule-based decryption policy advanced options, on page 18.

- Associate the decryption policy with an access control policy as described in Associating other policies with access control.

- Deploy configuration changes; see Deploy Configuration Changes.

# Rule-based decryption policy default actions

The default action for a decryption policyrule-based decryption policy determines how the system handles decryptable encrypted traffic that does not match any non-monitor rule in the policy. When you deploy a decryption policyrule-based decryption policy that does not contain any decryption rules, the default action determines how all decryptable traffic on your network is handled. Note that the system does not perform any kind of inspection on encrypted traffic blocked by the default action.

To set the policy default action:

1.  Log in to the Secure Firewall Management Center if you haven't already done so.

2.  Click **Policies** > **Security policies** > **Decryption**.

3.  Click **Edit** (🖉) next to the name of the decryption policy.

4.  In the Default Action row, click one of the following actions from the list.

*Table 1: Decryption policy Default Actions*

| Default Action | Effect on Encrypted Traffic |
|---|---|
| Block | Block the TLS/SSL session without further inspection. |

| Default Action | Effect on Encrypted Traffic |
|---|---|
| Block with reset | Block the TLS/SSL session without further inspection and reset the TCP connection. Choose this option if traffic uses a connectionless protocol like UDP. In that case, the connectionless protocol tries to reestablish the connection until it is reset.<br><br>This action also displays a connection reset error in the browser so the user is informed that the connection is blocked. |
| Do not decrypt | Inspect the encrypted traffic with access control. |

# Default handling options for undecryptable traffic

*Table 2: Undecryptable Traffic Types*

| Type | Description | Default Action | Available Action |
|---|---|---|---|
| Compressed Session | The TLS/SSL session applies a data compression method. | Inherit default action | Do not decrypt<br><br>Block<br><br>Block with reset<br><br>Inherit default action |
| SSLv2 or SSL v3 Session | The session is encrypted with SSL version 2 or version 3. | Inherit default action | Do not decrypt<br><br>Block<br><br>Block with reset<br><br>Inherit default action |
| Unknown Cipher Suite | The system does not recognize the cipher suite. | Inherit default action | Do not decrypt<br><br>Block<br><br>Block with reset<br><br>Inherit default action |
| Unsupported Cipher Suite | The system does not support decryption based on the detected cipher suite. | Inherit default action | Do not decrypt<br><br>Block<br><br>Block with reset<br><br>Inherit default action |
| Session not cached | The TLS/SSL session has session reuse enabled, the client and server reestablished the session with the session identifier, and the system did not cache that session identifier. | Inherit default action | Do not decrypt<br><br>Block<br><br>Block with reset<br><br>Inherit default action |

| Type | Description | Default Action | Available Action |
|------|-------------|----------------|------------------|
| Handshake Errors | An error occurred during TLS/SSL handshake negotiation. | Inherit default action | Do not decrypt<br><br>Block<br><br>Block with reset<br><br>Inherit default action |
| Decryption Errors | An error occurred during traffic decryption. | Block | Block<br><br>Block with Reset |

When you first create a decryption policy, logging connections that are handled by the default action is disabled by default. Because the logging settings for the default action also apply to undecryptable traffic handling, logging connections handled by the undecryptable traffic actions is disabled by default.

Note that if your browser uses certificate pinning to verify a server certificate, you cannot decrypt this traffic by re-signing the server certificate. For more information, see rule-based decryption rules guidelines and limitations.

If a decryption policy is associated with an access control policy that uses TCP state bypass, matching traffic is acted on based on the policy's configured **Undecryptable Actions** for **Handshake Errors**.

For example, if a decryption policy's **Handshake Errors** is set to **Block**, traffic matching the rule is blocked and the connection event's action is reported as a handshake error.

For more information about TCP state bypass, see:

- Configure TCP state bypass

- Bypass TCP state checks for asymmetrical routing (TCP state bypass)

# Set default handling for undecryptable traffic

You can set undecryptable traffic actions at the decryption policyrule-based decryption policy level to handle certain types of encrypted traffic the system cannot decrypt or inspect. When you deploy adecryption policyrule-based decryption policy that contains no decryption rules, the undecryptable traffic actions determine how all undecryptable encrypted traffic on your network is handled.

Depending on the type of undecryptable traffic, you can choose to:

- Block the connection.

- Block the connection, then reset it. This option is preferrable for connectionless protocols like UDP, which keep trying to connect until the connection is blocked.

- Inspect the encrypted traffic with access control.

- Inherit the default action from the decryption policyrule-based decryption policy.

**Procedure**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Step 1** | Log in to Secure Firewall Management Center if you haven't already done so. |
| **Step 2** | Click **Policies** > **Security policies** > **Decryption**. |
| **Step 3** | Click **Edit** (✐) next to the name of the decryption policy. |
| **Step 4** | In the decryption policy editor, click **Undecryptable Actions**. |
| **Step 5** | For each field, choose either the decryption policy's default action or another action you want to take on the type of undecryptable traffic. See Default handling options for undecryptable traffic, on page 16 and Rule-based decryption policy default actions, on page 15 for more information. |
| **Step 6** | Click **Save** to save the policy. |

**What to do next**

- Configure default logging for connections handled by the undecryptable traffic actions; see *Logging Connections with a Policy Default Action* in the *Cisco Secure Firewall Management Center Administration Guide*.

- Deploy configuration changes; see Deploy Configuration Changes.

# Rule-based decryption policy advanced options

A decryption policyrule-based decryption policy 's **Advanced Settings** page has global settings that are applied to all managed devices that are configured for Snort 3 to which the policy is applied.

A decryption policyrule-based decryption policy advanced settings are all ignored on any managed device that runs:

- A version earlier than 7.1

- Snort 2

### Block flows requesting ESNI

Encrypted Server Name Indication (ESNI (link to draft proposal)) is a way for a client to tell a TLS 1.3 server what the client is requesting. Because the SNI is encrypted, you can optionally block these connections because the system cannot determine what the server is.

### Disable HTTP/3 advertisement

This option strips HTTP/3 (RFC 9114) from the ClientHello in TCP connections. HTTP/3 is part of the QUIC transport protocol, not the TCP transport protocol. Blocking clients from advertising HTTP/3 provides protection against attacks and evasion attempts potentially burried within QUIC connections.

### Propagate untrusted server certificates to clients

This applies only to traffic matching a **Decrypt - Resign** rule action.

Enable this option to substitute the certificate authority (CA) on the managed device for the server's certificate in cases where the server certificate is untrusted. An *untrusted* server certificate is one that is not listed as a trusted CA in the Secure Firewall Management Center. (**Objects** > **PKI** > **Trusted CAs**).

### Enable TLS 1.3 decryption

Whether to apply decryption rules to TLS 1.3 connections. If you do not enable this option, the decryption rules apply to TLS 1.2 or lower traffic only. See TLS 1.3 decryption best practices, on page 20.

### Enable adaptive TLS server identity probe

Automatically enabled when TLS 1.3 decryption is enabled. A *probe* is a partial TLS connection with the server, the purpose of which is to obtain the server certificate and cache it. (If the certificate is already cached, the probe is never established.)

If TLS 1.3 Server Identity Discovery is disabled on the access control policy with which the decryption policy is associated, we attempt to use the Server Name Indication (SNI), which is not as reliable.

The adaptive TLS server identity probe occurs on any of the following conditions as opposed to on every connection as in earlier releases:

- Certificate Issuer—Matched when the value of **Issuer DNs** in a decryption rule's DN rule condition is matched.

  For more information, see Distinguished Name (DN) rule conditions.

- Certificate Status—Matched when any of the **Cert Status** conditions are matched in a decryption rule.

  For more information, see Certificate Status Decryption rule Conditions.

- Internal/External Certificate—Internal certificates can be matched by the certificate used in **Decrypt - Known Key** rule actions; external certificates can be matched in **Certificates** rule conditions.

  For more information, see Known Key Decryption (Incoming Traffic) and Certificate rule conditions.

- Application ID—Can be matched by **Applications** rule conditions in either an access control policy or a decryption policy.

  For more information, see Application rule conditions.

- URL Category—Can be matched by **URLs** rule conditions in an access control policy.

  For more information, see URL rule conditions.

**Note** **Enable adaptive TLS server discovery mode** is not supported on any Secure Firewall Threat Defense Virtual deployed to AWS. If you have any such managed devices managed by the Secure Firewall Management Center, the connection event **PROBE_FLOW_DROP_BYPASS_PROXY** increments every time the device attempts to extract the server certificate.

### Enable QUIC Decryption

Whether to apply decryption rules to connections that use the HTTP/3 over the QUIC protocol. When you decrypt QUIC connections, the system can inspect the contents of the sessions for intrusions, malware, or other issues. You can also apply granular control and filtering of decrypted QUIC connections based on specific criteria in the access control policy. QUIC support is in line with RFC 9000, 9001, 9002, 9114, 9204.

Consider the following when implementing QUIC decryption:

- On high availability or clustered devices, QUIC decryption works only if the connection remains on the same node. If the connection fails over, or is forwarded to another node, the connection drops and must be re-established. Multi-instance is supported without restrictions.

- Rules that apply to QUIC traffic would include the UDP protocol with destination port 443.

- Access control rules that apply to QUIC traffic would include the HTTP/3 or QUIC protocols, either explicitly or by implication.

The following limitations apply to QUIC decryption:

- QUIC decryption applies to Firewall Threat Defense 7.6+ only. Devices running a lower release cannot decrypt QUIC connections.

- Connections from browsers using the Chromium stack (Google Chrome, Opera, Edge) cannot be decrypted for outbound traffic. But inbound traffic from the same browsers can be decrypted.

- Connection Migration as described in RFC 9000 is not supported. The concept of Connection ID in QUIC allows endpoints to retain the same connection in the event of address change.

- Key update, session resumption, and QUIC version 2 are not supported.

- Interactive Block and Interactive Block with Reset (in access control rules) is not supported. These actions will work as Block and Block with Reset.

- The active connection-ID per connection is limited to 5. If necessary, you can modify these limits using the **system support quic-tuning** and **system support quic-tuning-reset** commands in the device CLI.

# TLS 1.3 decryption best practices

### Recommendation: When to enable advanced options

Both the decryption policyrule-based decryption policy and the access control policy have advanced options that affect how traffic is handled, whether the traffic is being decrypted or not.

The advanced options are:

- Decryption policy:

    - TLS 1.3 decryption

    - TLS adaptive server identity probe

- Access control policy: TLS 1.3 Server Identity Discovery

    The access control policy setting takes precedence over the decryption policy setting.

Use the following table to decide which option to enable:

| TLS adaptive server identity probe setting (decryption policy) | TLS 1.3 Server Identity Discovery setting (access control policy) | Result | Recommended when |
|---|---|---|---|
| Enabled | Disabled | Adaptive probe sent if decryption policy contains *any* rule conditions specified in Rule-based decryption policy advanced options, on page 18 *and* if the server certificate is not cached. | • You're not using application or URL conditions in access control rules<br><br>• You're decrypting traffic |
| Enabled | Enabled | Probe is always sent if the server certificate is not cached. | Use only if your access control rules have URL or application conditions |
| Disabled | Enabled | Probe is always sent if the server certificate is not cached. | Not recommended. |
| Disabled | Disabled | Probe is never sent. | Very limited usefulness; use only if not decrypting traffic and not using application or URL conditions in the access control rule |

**Note** A cached TLS server's certificate is available to all Snort instances on a particular Firewall Threat Defense. The cache can be cleared with a CLI command and is automatically cleared when the device is rebooted.

### Reference

For more information, see the discussion of TLS server identity discovery on secure.cisco.com.