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CHAPTER 1

Configuring User Accounts and RBAC

This chapter describes how to configure user accounts and role-based access control (RBAC) on the Nexus 5000 Series switch.

This chapter includes the following sections:

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Information About User Accounts and RBAC

You can create and manage users accounts and assign roles that limit access to operations on the Nexus 5000 Series switch. RBAC allows you to define the rules for an assign role that restrict the authorization that the user has to access management operations.

This section includes the following topics:

- [About User Accounts, page 1-1](#)
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- [About User Roles, page 1-2](#)
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About User Accounts



Tip

The following words are reserved and cannot be used to configure users: bin, daemon, adm, lp, sync, shutdown, halt, mail, news, uucp, operator, games, gopher, ftp, nobody, nscd, mailnull, rpc, rpcuser, xfs, gdm, mtsuser, ftpuser, man, and sys.

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Note

User passwords are not displayed in the configuration files.



Caution

The Nexus 5000 Series switch does not support all numeric usernames, whether created with TACACS+ or RADIUS, or created locally. Local users with all numeric names cannot be created. If an all numeric user name exists on an AAA server and is entered during login, the user is not logged in. Usernames must begin with an alphanumeric character and can contain only these special characters: (+ = . _ \ -). The # and ! symbols are not supported. If the username contains characters that are not allowed, the specified user is unable to log in.

Characteristics of Strong Passwords

A strong password has the following characteristics:

- At least eight characters long
- Does not contain many consecutive characters (such as “abcd”)
- Does not contain many repeating characters (such as “aaabbb”)
- Does not contain dictionary words
- Does not contain proper names
- Contains both uppercase and lowercase characters
- Contains numbers

The following are examples of strong passwords:

- If2CoM18
- 2004AsdfLkj30
- Cb1955S21



Note

Clear text passwords can contain alphanumeric characters only. Special characters, such as the dollar sign (\$) or the percent sign (%), are not allowed.



Tip

If a password is trivial (such as a short, easy-to-decipher password), the Nexus 5000 Series switch will reject your password configuration. Be sure to configure a strong password as shown in the sample configuration. Passwords are case sensitive.

About User Roles

User roles contain rules that define the operations allowed for the user who is assigned the role. Each user role can contain multiple rules and each user can have multiple roles. For example, if role1 allows access only to configuration operations, and role2 allows access only to debug operations, then users who belong to both role1 and role2 can access configuration and debug operations. You can also limit access to specific VSANs, VLANs and interfaces.

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The Nexus 5000 Series switch provides the following default user roles:

- network-admin (superuser)—Complete read and write access to the entire Nexus 5000 Series switch.
- network-operator—Complete read access to the Nexus 5000 Series switch.

**Note**

If you belong to multiple roles, you can execute a combination of all the commands permitted by these roles. Access to a command takes priority over being denied access to a command. For example, suppose a user has RoleA, which denied access to the configuration commands. However, the users also has RoleB, which has access to the configuration commands. In this case, the users has access to the configuration commands.

About Rules

The rule is the basic element of a role. A rule defines what operations the role allows the user to perform. You can apply rules for the following parameters:

- Command—A command or group of commands defined in a regular expression.
- Feature—Commands that apply to a function provided by the Nexus 5000 Series switch.
 - Enter the **show role feature** command to display the feature names available for this parameter.
- Feature group—Default or user-defined group of features.
 - Enter the **show role feature-group** command to display the default feature groups available for this parameter.

These parameters create a hierarchical relationship. The most basic control parameter is the command. The next control parameter is the feature, which represents all commands associated with the feature. The last control parameter is the feature group. The feature group combines related features and allows you to easily manage of the rules.

You can configure up to 256 rules for each role. The user-specified rule number determines the order in which the rules are applied. Rules are applied in descending order. For example, if a role has three rules, rule 3 is applied before rule 2, which is applied before rule 1.

About User Role Policies

You can define user role policies to limit the switch resources that the user can access. You can define user role policies to limit access to interfaces, VLANs and VSANs.

User role policies are constrained by the rules defined for the role. For example, if you define an interface policy to permit access to specific interfaces, the user will not have access to the interfaces unless you configure a command rule for the role to permit the interface command. The [Changing User Role Interface Policies, page 1-7](#) contains an example configuration.

If a command rule permits access to specific resources (interfaces, VLANs or VSANs), the user is permitted to access these resources, even if they are not listed in the user role policies associated with that user.

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Guidelines and Limitations

User account and RBAC have the following configuration guidelines and limitations:

- You can add up to 256 rules to a user role.
- You can assign a maximum of 64 user roles to a user account.



Note

If you are familiar with the Cisco IOS CLI, be aware that the Cisco NX-OS commands for this feature might differ from the Cisco IOS commands that you would use.



Note

A user account must have at least one user role.

Configuring User Accounts

You can create a maximum of 256 user accounts on a Nexus 5000 Series switch. User accounts have the following attributes:

- Username
- Password
- Expiry date
- User roles

User accounts can have a maximum of 64 user roles. For more information on user roles, see the [“Configuring RBAC” section on page 1-5](#).



Note

Changes to user account attributes do not take effect until the user logs in and creates a new session.

To configure a user account, perform this task:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	<code>switch(config)# show role</code>	(Optional) Displays the user roles available. You can configure other user roles, if necessary (see the “Creating User Roles and Rules” section on page 1-5)
Step 2	<code>switch# configure terminal</code> <code>switch(config)#</code>	Enters global configuration mode.

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	Command	Purpose
Step 3	<code>switch(config)# username user-id [password password] [expire date] [role role-name]</code>	Configure a user account. The <i>user-id</i> argument is a case-sensitive, alphanumeric character string with a maximum length of 28 characters. The default password is undefined. Note If you do not specify a password, the user might not be able to log in to the Nexus 5000 Series switch. The expire date option format is YYYY-MM-DD. The default is no expiry date.
Step 4	<code>switch(config)# exit</code> <code>switch#</code>	Exits global configuration mode.
Step 5	<code>switch# show user-account</code>	(Optional) Displays the role configuration.
Step 6	<code>switch# copy running-config startup-config</code>	(Optional) Copies the running configuration to the startup configuration.

The following example shows how to configure a user account:

```
switch# configure terminal
switch(config)# username NewUser password 4Ty18Rnt
switch(config)# exit
switch# show user-account
switch# copy running-config startup-config
```

Configuring RBAC

This section includes the following topics:

- [Creating User Roles and Rules, page 1-5](#)
- [Changing User Role Interface Policies, page 1-7](#)

Creating User Roles and Rules

Each user role can have up to 256 rules. You can assign a user role to more than one user account.

The rule number you specify determines the order in which the rules are applied. Rules are applied in descending order. For example, if a role has three rules, rule 3 is applied before rule 2, which is applied before rule 1.

To create user roles and specify rules, perform this task:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	<code>switch# configure terminal</code>	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 2	<code>switch(config)# role name role-name</code>	Specifies a user role and enters role configuration mode. The <i>role-name</i> argument is a case-sensitive, alphanumeric character string with a maximum length of 16 characters.

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Creating Feature Groups

To create feature groups, perform this task:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	<code>switch# configure terminal</code>	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 2	<code>switch(config)# role feature-group group-name</code>	Specifies a user role feature group and enters role feature group configuration mode. The <i>group-name</i> argument is a case-sensitive, alphanumeric character string with a maximum length of 32 characters.
Step 3	<code>switch(config-role-featuregrp)# exit</code>	Exits role feature group configuration mode.
Step 4	<code>switch(config)# show role feature-group</code>	(Optional) Displays the role feature group configuration.
Step 5	<code>switch(config)# copy running-config startup-config</code>	(Optional) Copies the running configuration to the startup configuration.

Changing User Role Interface Policies

You can change a user role interface policy to limit the interfaces that the user can access. To change a user role interface policy, perform this task:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	<code>switch# configure terminal</code>	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 2	<code>switch(config)# role name role-name</code>	Specifies a user role and enters role configuration mode.
Step 3	<code>switch(config-role)# rule number permit command configure terminal ; interface *</code>	Configures a command rule to allow access to all interfaces.
Step 4	<code>switch(config-role)# interface policy deny</code>	Enters role interface policy configuration mode.
Step 5	<code>switch(config-role-interface)# permit interface interface-list</code>	Specifies a list of interfaces that the role can access. Repeat this command for as many interfaces as needed. For this command, you can specify Ethernet interfaces, Fibre Channel interfaces and virtual Fibre Channel interfaces.
Step 6	<code>switch(config-role-interface)# exit</code>	Exits role interface policy configuration mode.

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	Command	Purpose
Step 7	<code>switch(config-role)# show role</code>	(Optional) Displays the role configuration.
Step 8	<code>switch(config-role)# copy running-config startup-config</code>	(Optional) Copies the running configuration to the startup configuration.

You can specify a list of interfaces that the role can access. You can specify it for as many interfaces as needed:

```
switch(config-role-interface)# permit interface ethernet 2/1
switch(config-role-interface)# permit interface fc 3/1
switch(config-role-interface)# permit interface vfc 30/1
```

Changing User Role VLAN Policies

You can change a user role VLAN policy to limit the VLANs that the user can access. To change a user role VLAN policy, perform this task:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	<code>switch# configure terminal</code>	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 2	<code>switch(config)# role name role-name</code>	Specifies a user role and enters role configuration mode.
Step 3	<code>switch(config-role)# rule number permit command configure terminal ; vlan *</code>	Configures a command rule to allow access to all VLANs.
Step 4	<code>switch(config-role)# vlan policy deny</code>	Enters role VLAN policy configuration mode.
Step 5	<code>switch(config-role-vlan)# permit vlan vlan-list</code>	Specifies a range of VLANs that the role can access. Repeat this command for as many VLANs as needed.
Step 6	<code>switch(config-role-vlan)# exit</code>	Exits role VLAN policy configuration mode.
Step 7	<code>switch(config-role)# show role</code>	(Optional) Displays the role configuration.
Step 8	<code>switch(config-role)# copy running-config startup-config</code>	(Optional) Copies the running configuration to the startup configuration.

Changing User Role VSAN Policies

You can change a user role VSAN policy to limit the VSANs that the user can access.

To change a user role VSAN policy to limit the VSANs that the user can access, perform this task:

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	Command	Purpose
Step 1	switch# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 2	switch(config-role)# role name role-name	Specifies a user role and enters role configuration mode.
Step 3	switch(config-role)# rule number permit command vsan database; vsan *	Configures a command rule to allow access to all VSANs.
Step 4	switch(config-role)# vsan policy deny	Enters role VSAN policy configuration mode.
Step 5	switch(config-role-vsan)# permit vsan vsan-list	Specifies a range of VSANs that the role can access. Repeat this command for as many VSANs as needed.
Step 6	switch(config-role-vsan)# exit	Exits role VSAN policy configuration mode.
Step 7	switch(config-role)# show role	(Optional) Displays the role configuration.
	Example: switch(config-role)# show role	
Step 8	switch(config-role)# copy running-config startup-config	(Optional) Copies the running configuration to the startup configuration.

Verifying User Accounts and RBAC Configuration

To display user account and RBAC configuration information, perform one of the following tasks:

Command	Purpose
show role	Displays the user role configuration
show role feature	Displays the feature list.
show role feature-group	Displays the feature group configuration.
show startup-config security	Displays the user account configuration in the startup configuration.
show running-config security [all]	Displays the user account configuration in the running configuration. The all keyword displays the default values for the user accounts.
show user-account	Displays user account information.

Example User Accounts and RBAC Configuration

The following example shows how to configure a user role:

```
role name UserA
  rule 3 permit read feature l2nac
  rule 2 permit read feature dot1x
  rule 1 deny command clear *
```

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The following example shows how to configure a user role feature group:

```
role feature-group name Security-features
  feature radius
  feature tacacs
  feature aaa
  feature acl
  feature access-list
```

Default Settings

Table 1-1 lists the default settings for user accounts and RBAC parameters.

Table 1-1 Default User Accounts and RBAC Parameters

Parameters	Default
User account password	Undefined.
User account expiry date.	None.
Interface policy	All interfaces are accessible.
VLAN policy	All VLANs are accessible.
VFC policy	All VFCs are accessible.
VETH policy	All VETHs are accessible.