Configuring Cisco TrustSec

Information about Cisco TrustSec

Cisco TrustSec provides security improvements to Cisco network devices based on the capability to strongly identify users, hosts, and network devices within a network. TrustSec provides topology-independent and scalable access controls by uniquely classifying data traffic for a particular role. TrustSec ensures data confidentiality and integrity by establishing trust among authenticated peers and encrypting links with those peers.

The key component of Cisco TrustSec is the Cisco Identity Services Engine (ISE). Cisco ISE can provision switches with TrustSec Identities and Security Group ACLs (SGACLs), though these may be configured manually on the switch.

MTU Guidelines

CTS tagged packets greater than 1518 bytes may get dropped on the Cisco vWLC controller. This is due to a restriction on the size of incoming packets on the UCS server, which is hosting vWLC instances. The UCS server have a default MTU of 1500 thereby allowing packets of 1518 bytes only. Here, the additional 18 bytes includes 4 bytes of 802.1Q and 14 bytes of Ethernet header.

An Ethernet link configured for CTS tagging imposes a 8-byte encapsulation called Cisco metadata. As a result, the total size of the Ethernet packet is increased by 8 bytes to 1526 bytes (1518+8 = 1526). Hence, the MTU of the receiving interface has to be increased by 8-bytes to accommodate the additional 8 bytes in the Ethernet.

While CTS interfaces on the routers and switches (for example, Cisco ASR 1000 Series Routers, Cisco 4000 Series Integrated Services Routers, Cisco Catalyst 3000 Series Switches, Cisco Catalyst 9000 Series Switches) auto-adjusts MTU to 1508 bytes to accommodate additional 8-byte. However, other devices like UCS servers requires manual update to increase the MTU to 1508. For information on how to configure jumbo MTU on UCS, see the following link:

https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/support/docs/servers-unified-computing/ucs-b-series-blade-servers/117601-configure-UCS-00.html

Cisco TrustSec Features

The table below lists the Cisco TrustSec features implemented on Cisco TrustSec-enabled Catalyst 2960-X and 2960-XR Series Switches:

Cisco TrustSec Feature	Description
Endpoint Admission Control (EAC)	EAC is an authentication process for an endpoint user or a device connecting to the TrustSec domain. Usually EAC takes place at the access level switch. Successful authentication and authorization in the EAC process results in Security Group Tag assignment for the user or device. Currently EAC can be 802.1X, MAC Authentication Bypass (MAB), and Web Authentication Proxy (WebAuth).
SGT Exchange Protocol (SXP)	Security Group Tag Exchange Protocol (SXP). With SXP, devices that are not TrustSec-hardware-capable can receive SGT attributes for authenticated users and devices from the Cisco Identity Services Engine (ISE) or the Cisco Secure Access Control System (ACS). The devices can then forward a sourceIP-to-SGT binding to a TrustSec-hardware-capable device will tag the source traffic for SGACL enforcement.

Feature Information for Cisco TrustSec

Table 1: Feature Information for Cisco TrustSec

Feature Name	Release	Feature Information
SXPv1 and SXPv2	Cisco IOS XE 15.0(2)EX1	SXP is introduced on the Catalyst 2960-XR switch.