



Authentication and Authorization Between Multiple RADIUS Servers

- [Information About Authentication and Authorization Between Multiple RADIUS Servers, on page 1](#)
- [Configuring 802.1X Security for WLAN with Split Authentication and Authorization Servers, on page 2](#)
- [Configuring Web Authentication for WLAN with Split Authentication and Authorization Servers, on page 7](#)
- [Verifying Split Authentication and Authorization Configuration, on page 9](#)
- [Configuration Examples, on page 10](#)

Information About Authentication and Authorization Between Multiple RADIUS Servers

Cisco Catalyst 9800 Series Wireless Controller uses the approach of request and response transaction with a single RADIUS server that combines both authentication and authorization. You can split the authentication and authorization on the controller between multiple RADIUS servers.

A RADIUS sever can assume the role of either an authentication server, authorization server, or both. In cases where there are disparate RADIUS servers for authentication and authorization, the Session Aware Networking (SANet) component on the controller now allows authentication on one server and authorization on another when a client joins the controller .

Authentication can be done using the Cisco ISE, Cisco Catalyst Center, Free RADIUS, or any third-party RADIUS Server. After successful authentication from an authentication server, the controller relays attributes received from the authentication server to another RADIUS sever designated as authorization server.

The authorization server then performs the following:

- Processes received attributes with the other policies or rules defined on the server.
- Derives attributes as part of the authorization response and returns it to the controller .



Note

In a split authentication and authorization configuration, both servers must be available and must successfully authenticate and authorize with an ACCESS-ACCEPT for a session to be accepted by the controller .



Note A maximum of 100 entries is supported in the Authentication/Authorization list created through Cisco Catalyst Center provisioning. The entries beyond 100 do not work even though they can be created.

Configuring 802.1X Security for WLAN with Split Authentication and Authorization Servers

Configuring Explicit Authentication and Authorization Server List (GUI)

Procedure

- Step 1** Choose **Configuration > Security > AAA**.
- Step 2** On the **Authentication Authorization and Accounting** page, click the **Servers/Groups** tab.
- Step 3** Click the type of AAA server you want to configure from the following options:
 - RADIUS
 - TACACS+
 - LDAP

In this procedure, the RADIUS server configuration is described.
- Step 4** With the **RADIUS** option selected, click **Add**.
- Step 5** Enter a name for the RADIUS server and the IPv4 or IPV6 address of the server.
- Step 6** Enter the authentication and encryption key to be used between the device and the key string RADIUS daemon running on the RADIUS server. You can choose to use either a PAC key or a non-PAC key.
- Step 7** Enter the server timeout value; valid range is 1 to 1000 seconds.
- Step 8** Enter a retry count; valid range is 0 to 100.
- Step 9** Leave the **Support for CoA** field in **Enabled** state.
- Step 10** Click **Save & Apply to Device**.
- Step 11** On the **Authentication Authorization and Accounting** page, with **RADIUS** option selected, click the **Server Groups** tab.
- Step 12** Click **Add**.
- Step 13** In the **Create AAA RADIUS Server Group** window that is displayed, enter a name for the RADIUS server group.
- Step 14** From the **MAC-Delimiter** drop-down list, choose the delimiter to be used in the MAC addresses that are sent to the RADIUS servers.
- Step 15** From the **MAC Filtering** drop-down list, choose a value based on which to filter MAC addresses.
- Step 16** To configure dead time for the server group and direct AAA traffic to alternative groups of servers that have different operational characteristics, in the **Dead-Time** field, enter the amount of time, in minutes, after which a server is assumed to be dead.

- Step 17** Choose the servers that you want to include in the server group from the **Available Servers** list and move them to the **Assigned Servers** list.
- Step 18** Click **Save & Apply to Device**.

Configuring Explicit Authentication Server List (GUI)

Procedure

- Step 1** Choose **Configuration > Security > AAA > Servers/Groups**.
- Step 2** Choose **RADIUS > Servers** tab.
- Step 3** Click **Add** to add a new server or click an existing server.
- Step 4** Enter the **Name**, the **Server Address**, **Key**, **Confirm Key**, **Auth Port** and **Acct Port**. Check the **PAC Key** checkbox and enter the **PAC key** and **Confirm PAC Key**.
- Step 5** Click **Apply to Device**.
- Step 6** Choose **RADIUS > Server Groups** and click **Add** to add a new server group or click an existing server group.
- Step 7** Enter the **Name** of the server group and choose the servers that you want to include in the server group, from the **Available Servers** list and move them to the **Assigned Servers** list.
- Step 8** Click **Apply to Device**.

Configuring Explicit Authentication Server List (CLI)

Procedure

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	enable Example: Device> enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode. Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	configure terminal Example: Device# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	radius server <i>server-name</i> Example: Device(config)# radius server free-radius-authc-server	Specifies the RADIUS server name.
Step 4	address ipv4 <i>address</i> auth-port <i>auth_port_number</i> acct-port <i>acct_port_number</i> Example:	Specifies the RADIUS server parameters.

	Command or Action	Purpose
	Device(config-radius-server)# address ipv4 9.2.62.56 auth-port 1812 acct-port 1813	
Step 5	[pac] key <i>key</i> Example: Device(config-radius-server)# key cisco	Specify the authentication and encryption key used between the Device and the key string RADIUS daemon running on the RADIUS server.
Step 6	exit Example: Device(config-radius-server)# exit	Returns to the configuration mode.
Step 7	aaa group server radius <i>server-group</i> Example: Device(config)# aaa group server radius authc-server-group	Creates a radius server-group identification. <i>server-group</i> refers to the server group name. The valid range is from 1 to 32 alphanumeric characters. If the IP address of the RADIUS server is not added to the routes defined for the controller, the default route is used. We recommend that you define a specific route to source the traffic from the defined SVI in the AAA server group.
Step 8	server name <i>server-name</i> Example: Device(config)# server name free-radius-authc-server	Configures the server name.
Step 9	end Example: Device(config)# end	Returns to privileged EXEC mode. Alternatively, you can also press Ctrl-Z to exit global configuration mode. For more information, see Configuring AAA for External Authentication .

Configuring Explicit Authorization Server List (GUI)

Procedure

-
- Step 1** Choose **Configuration > Security > AAA > Servers/Groups**.
 - Step 2** Choose **RADIUS > Servers** tab.
 - Step 3** Click **Add** to add a new server or click an existing server.
 - Step 4** Enter the **Name**, the **Server Address**, **Key**, **Confirm Key**, **Auth Port** and **Acct Port**. Check the **PAC Key** checkbox and enter the **PAC key** and **Confirm PAC Key**.
 - Step 5** Click **Apply to Device**.

- Step 6** Choose **RADIUS > Server Groups** and click **Add** to add a new server group or click an existing server group.
- Step 7** Enter the **Name** of the server group and choose the servers that you want to include in the server group, from the **Available Servers** list and move them to the **Assigned Servers** list.
- Step 8** Click **Apply to Device**.

Configuring Explicit Authorization Server List (CLI)

Procedure

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	enable Example: Device> enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode. Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	configure terminal Example: Device# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	radius server <i>server-name</i> Example: Device(config)# radius server cisco-catalyst-center-authz-server	Specifies the RADIUS server name.
Step 4	address ipv4 <i>address</i> auth-port <i>auth_port_number</i> acct-port <i>acct_port_number</i> Example: Device(config-radius-server)# address ipv4 9.4.62.32 auth-port 1812 acct-port 1813	Specifies the RADIUS server parameters.
Step 5	[pac] key <i>key</i> Example: Device(config-radius-server)# pac key cisco	Specify the authorization and encryption key used between the Device and the key string RADIUS daemon running on the RADIUS server.
Step 6	exit Example: Device(config-radius-server)# exit	Returns to the configuration mode.
Step 7	aaa group server radius <i>server-group</i> Example: Device(config)# aaa group server radius authz-server-group	Creates a radius server-group identification. Note <i>server-group</i> refers to the server group name. The valid range is from 1 to 32 alphanumeric characters.

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 8	server name <i>server-name</i> Example: Device(config)# server name cisco-catalyst-center-authz-server	
Step 9	end Example: Device(config)# end	Returns to privileged EXEC mode. Alternatively, you can also press Ctrl-Z to exit global configuration mode.

Configuring Authentication and Authorization List for 802.1X Security (GUI)

Procedure

-
- Step 1** Choose **Configuration > Tags & Profiles > WLANs**.
 - Step 2** Click **Add**.
 - Step 3** In the **General** tab, enter the **Profile Name**, the **SSID**, and the **WLAN ID**.
 - Step 4** In the **Security > AAA** tab, choose the Authentication list from the **Authentication List** drop-down list.
 - Step 5** Click **Apply to Device**.
-

Configuring Authentication and Authorization List for 802.1X Security

Procedure

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	enable Example: Device> enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode. Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	configure terminal Example: Device# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	wlan <i>wlan-name wlan-id SSID-name</i> Example: Device(config)# wlan wlan-foo 222 foo-ssid	Enters WLAN configuration sub-mode. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>wlan-name</i>: Is the name of the configured WLAN. • <i>wlan-id</i>: Is the wireless LAN identifier. Range is from 1 to 512. • <i>SSID-name</i>: Is the SSID name which can contain 32 alphanumeric characters.

	Command or Action	Purpose
		Note If you have already configured this command, enter wlan wlan-name command.
Step 4	security dot1x authentication-list <i>authenticate-list-name</i> Example: Device(config-wlan) # security dot1x authentication-list authc-server-group	Enables authentication list for dot1x security.
Step 5	security dot1x authorization-list <i>authorize-list-name</i> Example: Device(config-wlan) # security dot1x authorization-list authz-server-group	Specifies authorization list for dot1x security. For more information on the Cisco Catalyst Center , see the Cisco Catalyst Center documentation .
Step 6	end Example: Device(config-wlan) # end	Returns to privileged EXEC mode. Alternatively, you can also press Ctrl-Z to exit global configuration mode.

Configuring Web Authentication for WLAN with Split Authentication and Authorization Servers

Configuring Authentication and Authorization List for Web Authentication (GUI)

Procedure

-
- Step 1** Choose **Configuration > Tags & Profiles > WLANs**.
 - Step 2** Click **Add**.
 - Step 3** In the **General** tab, enter the **Profile Name**, the **SSID**, and the **WLAN ID**.
 - Step 4** In the **Security > Layer2** tab, uncheck the **WPAPolicy**, **AES** and **802.1x** check boxes.
 - Step 5** Check the **MAC Filtering** check box to enable the feature. With MAC Filtering enabled, choose the Authorization list from the **Authorization List** drop-down list.
 - Step 6** In the **Security > AAA** tab, choose the Authentication list from the **Authentication List** drop-down list.
 - Step 7** Click **Apply to Device**.
-

Configuring Authentication and Authorization List for Web Authentication

Procedure

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	enable Example: Device> enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode. Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	configure terminal Example: Device# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	wlan wlan-name wlan-id SSID-name Example: Device(config)# wlan wlan-bar 1 bar-ssid	Enters WLAN configuration sub-mode. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>wlan-name</i>: Is the name of the configured WLAN. • <i>wlan-id</i>: Is the wireless LAN identifier. • <i>SSID-name</i>: Is the SSID name which can contain 32 alphanumeric characters. <p>Note If you have already configured this command, enter wlan wlan-name command.</p>
Step 4	no security wpa Example: Device(config-wlan)# no security wpa	Disables WPA security.
Step 5	no security wpa akm dot1x Example: Device(config-wlan)# no security wpa akm dot1x	Disables security AKM for dot1x.
Step 6	no security wpa wpa2 Example: Device(config-wlan)# no security wpa wpa2	Disables WPA2 security.
Step 7	security web-auth {authentication-list authenticate-list-name authorization-list authorize-list-name}	Enables authentication or authorization list for dot1x security.

	Command or Action	Purpose
	Example: Device(config-wlan) # security web-auth authentication-list authc-server-group	Note You get to view the following error, if you do not disable WPA security, AKM for dot1x, and WPA2 security: <pre>% switch-1:dbm:wireless:web-auth cannot be enabled. Invalid WPA/WPA2 settings.</pre>
Step 8	end Example: Device(config-wlan) # end	Returns to privileged EXEC mode. Alternatively, you can also press Ctrl-Z to exit global configuration mode.

Verifying Split Authentication and Authorization Configuration

To view the WLAN details, use the following command:

```
Device# show run wlan
wlan wlan-foo 2 foo-ssid
security dot1x authentication-list authc-server-group
security dot1x authorization-list authz-server-group

wlan wlan-bar 3 bar-ssid
security web-auth authentication-list authc-server-group
security web-auth authorization-list authz-server-group
```

To view the AAA authentication and server details, use the following command:

```
Device# show run aaa
!
aaa authentication dot1x default group radius
username cisco privilege 15 password 0 cisco
!
!
radius server free-radius-authc-server
address ipv4 9.2.62.56 auth-port 1812 acct-port 1813
key cisco
!
radius server cisco-catalyst-center-authz-server
address ipv4 9.4.62.32 auth-port 1812 acct-port 1813
pac key cisco
!
!
aaa new-model
aaa session-id common
!
```

To view the authentication and authorization list for 802.1X security, use the following command:

```
Device# show wlan name wlan-foo | sec 802.1x
802.1x authentication list name           : authc-server-group
802.1x authorization list name          : authz-server-group
                        802.1x           : Enabled
```

To view the authentication and authorization list for web authentication, use the following command:

```

Device# show wlan name wlan-bar | sec Webauth
      Webauth On-mac-filter Failure           : Disabled
      Webauth Authentication List Name       : authc-server-group
      Webauth Authorization List Name        : authz-server-group
      Webauth Parameter Map                  : Disabled

```

Configuration Examples

Configuring Cisco Catalyst 9800 Series Wireless Controller for Authentication with a Third-Party RADIUS Server: Example

This example shows how to configure Cisco Catalyst 9800 Series Wireless Controller for authentication with a third-party RADIUS server:

```

Device(config)# radius server free-radius-authc-server
Device(config-radius-server)# address ipv4 9.2.62.56 auth-port 1812 acct-port 1813
Device(config-radius-server)# key cisco
Device(config-radius-server)# exit
Device(config)# aaa group server radius authc-server-group
Device(config)# server name free-radius-authc-server
Device(config)# end

```

Configuring Cisco Catalyst 9800 Series Wireless Controller for Authorization with Cisco ISE or Cisco Catalyst Center: Example

This example shows how to configure Cisco Catalyst 9800 Series Wireless Controller for authorization with Cisco ISE or Cisco Catalyst Center:

```

Device(config)# radius server cisco-catalyst-center-authz-server
Device (config-radius-server)# address ipv4 9.4.62.32 auth-port 1812 acct-port 1813
Device (config-radius-server)# pac key cisco
Device (config-radius-server)# exit
Device(config)# aaa group server radius authz-server-group
Device(config)# server name cisco-catalyst-center-authz-server
Device(config)# end

```