

CIS Cisco IOS Switch L2S STIG Benchmark

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Overview

Target Technology Details

Cisco IOS Switch L2S Secure Technical Implementation Guide (STIG)

Version: 3 Release: 1 Benchmark

Date: 24 Jul 2024

Intended Audience

This benchmark is intended for system and application administrators, security specialists, auditors, help desk, and platform deployment personnel who plan to develop, deploy, assess, or secure solutions that incorporate Cisco IOS Switch L2S and are looking to comply with the STIG guidance

Recommendation Definitions

The following defines the various components included in a CIS recommendation as applicable. If any of the components are not applicable it will be noted, or the component will not be included in the recommendation.

Title

Concise description for the recommendation's intended configuration.

Assessment Status

An assessment status is included for every recommendation. The assessment status indicates whether the given recommendation can be automated or requires manual steps to implement. Both statuses are equally important and are determined and supported as defined below:

Automated

Represents recommendations for which assessment of a technical control can be fully automated and validated to a pass/fail state. Recommendations will include the necessary information to implement automation.

Manual

Represents recommendations for which assessment of a technical control cannot be fully automated and requires all or some manual steps to validate that the configured state is set as expected. The expected state can vary depending on the environment.

Profile

A collection of recommendations (or rules) for securing a technology or a supporting platform. STIG Benchmark profiles are used to identify which Vulnerability Severity Category Code (CAT) each rule is associated with.

Description

The Rule Title from the STIG.

Rationale Statement

Detailed reasoning for the recommendation to provide the user a clear and concise understanding on the importance of the recommendation.

Audit Procedure

Systematic instructions for determining if the target system complies with the recommendation.

Remediation Procedure

Systematic instructions for applying recommendations to the target system to bring it into compliance according to the recommendation.

Additional Information

References from the STIG Rule if applicable.

Profile Definitions

The following configuration profiles are defined by this Benchmark:

- **SEVERITY: CAT I**

Items in this profile exhibit one or more of the following characteristics:

- are considered to be high severity
- are intended for environments or use cases where following STIG based security guidance is paramount.
- acts as defense in depth measure.
- may negatively inhibit the utility or performance of the technology.

This profile is intended for servers and workstations.

- **SEVERITY: CAT II**

Items in this profile exhibit one or more of the following characteristics:

- are considered to be medium severity
- are intended for environments or use cases where following STIG based security guidance is paramount.
- acts as defense in depth measure.
- may negatively inhibit the utility or performance of the technology.

This profile is intended for servers and workstations.

- **SEVERITY: CAT III**

Items in this profile exhibit one or more of the following characteristics:

- are considered to be low severity
- are intended for environments or use cases where following STIG based security guidance is paramount.
- acts as defense in depth measure.
- may negatively inhibit the utility or performance of the technology.

This profile is intended for servers and workstations.

Acknowledgements

The Recommendations in this Benchmark are a representation of the Rules in the unclassified DISA STIG for Cisco IOS Switch L2S

Recommendations

1 STIG RULES

Cisco IOS Switch

Cisco IOS Switch L2S Secure Technical Implementation Guide (STIG)

Version: 3 Release: 1 Benchmark

Date: 24 Jul 2024

CLASSIFICATION unclassified

1.1 CISC-L2-000020 (Manual)

Profile Applicability:

- SEVERITY: CAT I

Description:

The Cisco switch must uniquely identify and authenticate all network-connected endpoint devices before establishing any connection.

GROUP ID: V-220623 RULE ID: SV-220623r863275

Rationale:

Controlling LAN access via 802.1x authentication can assist in preventing a malicious user from connecting an unauthorized PC to a switch port to inject or receive data from the network without detection.

Audit:

Verify that the switch configuration has 802.1x authentication implemented for all access switch ports connecting to LAN outlets (i.e., RJ-45 wall plates) or devices not located in the telecom room, wiring closets, or equipment rooms. MAC Authentication Bypass (MAB) must be configured on switch ports connected to devices that do not support an 802.1x supplicant.

Step 1: Verify that 802.1x is configured on all host-facing interfaces as shown in the example below:

```
interface GigabitEthernet1/0
switchport access vlan 12
switchport mode access
authentication port-control auto
dot1x pae authenticator
```

!

```
interface GigabitEthernet1/1
switchport access vlan 13
switchport mode access
authentication port-control auto
dot1x pae authenticator
```

!

```
interface GigabitEthernet1/2
switchport access vlan 13
switchport mode access
authentication port-control auto
dot1x pae authenticator
```

Step 2: Verify that 802.1x authentication is configured on the switch as shown in the example below:

```
aaa new-model
```

!

!

```
aaa group server radius RADIUS_SERVERS
server name RADIUS_1
server name RADIUS_2
```

!

```
aaa authentication dot1x default group RADIUS_SERVERS
```

...

...

...

dot1x system-auth-control

Step 3: Verify that the radius servers have been defined:

```
SW1#show radius server-group RADIUS_SERVERS
```

Note: Single-host is the default. Host-mode multi-domain (for VoIP phone plus PC) or multi-auth (multiple PCs connected to a hub) can be configured as alternatives. Host-mode multi-host is not compliant with this requirement.

If 802.1x authentication or MAB is not configured on all access switch ports connecting to LAN outlets or devices not located in the telecom room, wiring closets, or equipment rooms, this is a finding.

Remediation:

Configure 802.1 x authentications on all host-facing access switch ports. To authenticate devices that do not support 802.1x, MAC Authentication Bypass must be configured.

Step 1: Configure the radius servers as shown in the example below:

```
SW1(config)#radius server RADIUS_1
SW1(config-radius-server)#address ipv4 10.1.22.3
SW1(config-radius-server)#key xxxxxx
SW1(config-radius-server)#exit
SW1(config)#radius server RADIUS_2
SW1(config-radius-server)#address ipv4 10.1.14.5
SW1(config-radius-server)#key xxxxxx
SW1(config-radius-server)#exit
```

Step 2: Enable 802.1x authentication on the switch:

```
SW1(config)#aaa new-model
SW1(config)#aaa group server radius RADIUS_SERVERS
SW1(config-sg-radius)#server name RADIUS_1
SW1(config-sg-radius)#server name RADIUS_2
SW1(config-sg-radius)#exit
SW1(config)#aaa authentication dot1x default group RADIUS_SERVERS
SW1(config)#dot1x system-auth-control
```

Step 3: Enable 802.1x on all host-facing interfaces as shown in the example below:

```
SW1(config)#int range g1/0 - 8
SW1(config-if-range)#switchport mode access
SW1(config-if-range)#authentication host-mode single-host
SW1(config-if-range)#dot1x pae authenticator
SW1(config-if-range)#authentication port-control auto
SW1(config-if-range)#end
```

Note: Single-host is the default. Host-mode multi-domain (for VoIP phone plus PC) or multi-auth (multiple PCs connected to a hub) can be configured as alternatives.

Additional Information:

CCI-000778 Uniquely identify organization-defined devices and/or types of devices before establishing a local, remote, and/or network connection.

- NIST SP 800-53::IA-3
- NIST SP 800-53A::IA-3.1 (ii)
- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 4::IA-3
- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5::IA-3

CCI-001958 Authenticate organization-defined devices and/or types of devices before establishing a local, remote, and/or network connection.

- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 4::IA-3
- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5::IA-3

1.2 CISC-L2-000030 (Manual)

Profile Applicability:

- SEVERITY: CAT II

Description:

The Cisco switch must authenticate all VLAN Trunk Protocol (VTP) messages with a hash function using the most secured cryptographic algorithm available.

GROUP ID: V-220624 RULE ID: SV-220624r539671

Rationale:

VTP provides central management of VLAN domains, thus reducing administration in a switched network. When configuring a new VLAN on a VTP server, the VLAN is distributed through all switches in the domain. This reduces the need to configure the same VLAN everywhere.

VTP pruning preserves bandwidth by preventing VLAN traffic (unknown MAC, broadcast, multicast) from being sent down trunk links when not needed (e.g., there are no access switch ports in neighboring switches belonging to such VLANs).

An attack can force a digest change for the VTP domain, enabling a rogue device to become the VTP server. This could allow unauthorized access to previously blocked VLANs or allow the addition of unauthorized switches into the domain. Authenticating VTP messages with a cryptographic hash function can reduce the risk of the VTP domain being compromised.

Audit:

Review the switch configuration to verify that VTP is enabled using the show vtp status command as shown in the example below:

```
Switch#show vtp status
VTP Version capable : 1 to 3
VTP version running : 1
VTP Domain Name :
VTP Pruning Mode : Disabled
VTP Traps Generation : Disabled
Device ID : 5e00.0000.8000
```

Feature VLAN:

VTP Operating Mode : Off

Maximum VLANs supported locally : 1005

Number of existing VLANs : 5

Configuration Revision : 0

MD5 digest : 0x57 0xCD 0x40 0x65 0x63 0x59 0x47 0xBD

0x56 0x9D 0x4A 0x3E 0xA5 0x69 0x35 0xBC

Switch#

If mode is set to anything other than off, verify that a password has been configured using the show vtp password command.

Note: VTP authenticates all messages using an MD5 hash that consists of the VTP version plus the VTP Password plus VTP Domain plus VTP Configuration Revision. If VTP is enabled on the switch and is not authenticating VTP messages with a hash function using a configured password, this is a finding.

Remediation:

Configure the switch to authenticate all VTP messages with a hash function using a configured password as shown in the example below:

```
SW1(config)#vtp password xxxxxxxxx
```

Additional Information:

CCI-000803 Implement mechanisms for authentication to a cryptographic module that meet the requirements of applicable laws, Executive Orders, directives, policies, regulations, standards, and guidance for such authentication.

- NIST SP 800-53::IA-7
- NIST SP 800-53A::IA-7.1
- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 4::IA-7
- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5::IA-7

1.3 CISC-L2-000040 (Manual)

Profile Applicability:

- SEVERITY: CAT II

Description:

The Cisco switch must manage excess bandwidth to limit the effects of packet-flooding types of denial-of-service (DoS) attacks.

GROUP ID: V-220625 RULE ID: SV-220625r991847

Rationale:

Denial of service is a condition when a resource is not available for legitimate users. Packet-flooding distributed DoS (DDoS) attacks are referred to as volumetric attacks and have the objective of overloading a network or circuit to deny or seriously degrade performance, which denies access to the services that normally traverse the network or circuit. Volumetric attacks have become relatively easy to launch by using readily available tools such as Low Orbit Ion Cannon or botnets.

Measures to mitigate the effects of a successful volumetric attack must be taken to ensure that sufficient capacity is available for mission-critical traffic. Managing capacity may include, for example, establishing selected network usage priorities or quotas and enforcing them using rate limiting, Quality of Service (QoS), or other resource reservation control methods. These measures may also mitigate the effects of sudden decreases in network capacity that are the result of accidental or intentional physical damage to telecommunications facilities (such as cable cuts or weather-related outages).

Audit:

Review the switch configuration to verify QoS has been enabled as shown below:

```
mls qos
```

If QoS has not been enabled, this is a finding.

Remediation:

Enable QoS on the switch:

```
SW1(config)#mls qos
```

Additional Information:

CCI-001095 Manage capacity, bandwidth, or other redundancy to limit the effects of information flooding types of denial-of-service attacks.

- NIST SP 800-53::SC-5 (2)
- NIST SP 800-53A::SC-5 (2).1
- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 4::SC-5 (2)
- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5::SC-5 (2)

CCI-004866 Employ organization-defined controls by type of denial-of-service to achieve the denial-of-service objective.

- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5::SC-5 b

1.4 CISC-L2-000090 (Manual)

Profile Applicability:

- SEVERITY: CAT III

Description:

The Cisco switch must have Root Guard enabled on all switch ports connecting to access layer switches.

GROUP ID: V-220629 RULE ID: SV-220629r856223

Rationale:

Spanning Tree Protocol (STP) does not provide any means for the network administrator to securely enforce the topology of the switched network. Any switch can be the root bridge in a network. However, a more optimal forwarding topology places the root bridge at a specific predetermined location. With the standard STP, any bridge in the network with a lower bridge ID takes the role of the root bridge. The administrator cannot enforce the position of the root bridge but can set the root bridge priority to "0" in an effort to secure the root bridge position.

The Root Guard feature provides a way to enforce the root bridge placement in the network. If the bridge receives superior STP Bridge Protocol Data Units (BPDUs) on a Root Guard-enabled port, Root Guard moves this port to a root-inconsistent STP state and no traffic can be forwarded across this port while it is in this state. To enforce the position of the root bridge, it is imperative that Root Guard is enabled on all ports where the root bridge should never appear.

Audit:

Review the switch topology as well as the configuration to verify that Root Guard is enabled on all switch ports connecting to access layer switches.

```
interface GigabitEthernet0/0
spanning-tree guard root
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/1
spanning-tree guard root
...
...
...
```

```
interface GigabitEthernet0/9
spanning-tree guard root
```

If the switch has not enabled Root Guard on all switch ports connecting to access layer switches, this is a finding.

Remediation:

Configure the switch to have Root Guard enabled on all ports connecting to access layer switches.

```
SW1(config)#int range g0/0 - 9
```

```
SW1(config-if-range)#spanning-tree guard root
```

Additional Information:

CCI-002385 Protect against or limit the effects of organization-defined types of denial-of-service events.

- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 4::SC-5
- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5::SC-5 a

1.5 CISC-L2-000100 (Manual)

Profile Applicability:

- SEVERITY: CAT II

Description:

The Cisco switch must have Bridge Protocol Data Unit (BPDU) Guard enabled on all user-facing or untrusted access switch ports.

GROUP ID: V-220630 RULE ID: SV-220630r856224

Rationale:

If a rogue switch is introduced into the topology and transmits a BPDU with a lower bridge priority than the existing root bridge, it will become the new root bridge and cause a topology change, rendering the network in a suboptimal state.

The STP PortFast BPDU Guard enhancement allows network designers to enforce the STP domain borders and keep the active topology predictable. The devices behind the ports that have STP PortFast enabled are not able to influence the STP topology. At the reception of BPDUs, the BPDU Guard operation disables the port that has PortFast configured. The BPDU Guard transitions the port into "errdisable" state and sends a log message.

Audit:

Review the switch configuration to verify that BPDU Guard is enabled on all user-facing or untrusted access switch ports as shown in the configuration example below:

```
interface GigabitEthernet0/0
spanning-tree bpduguard enable
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/1
spanning-tree bpduguard enable
```

...

...

...

```
interface GigabitEthernet0/9
spanning-tree bpduguard enable
```

If the switch has not enabled BPDU Guard, this is a finding.

Remediation:

Enable BPDU Guard on all user-facing or untrusted access switch ports as shown in the configuration example below:

```
SW1(config)#int range g0/0 - 9
```

```
SW1(config-if-range)#spanning-tree bpduguard enable
```

Note: BPDU Guard can also be enabled globally on all Port Fast-enabled ports by using the spanning-tree portfast bpduguard default command.

Additional Information:

CCI-002385 Protect against or limit the effects of organization-defined types of denial-of-service events.

- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 4::SC-5
- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5::SC-5 a

1.6 CISC-L2-000110 (Manual)

Profile Applicability:

- SEVERITY: CAT II

Description:

The Cisco switch must have Spanning Tree Protocol (STP) Loop Guard enabled.

GROUP ID: V-220631 RULE ID: SV-220631r856225

Rationale:

The STP loop guard feature provides additional protection against STP loops. An STP loop is created when an STP blocking port in a redundant topology erroneously transitions to the forwarding state. In its operation, STP relies on continuous reception and transmission of BPDUs based on the port role.

The designated port transmits BPDUs, and the non-designated port receives BPDUs. When one of the ports in a physically redundant topology no longer receives BPDUs, the STP conceives that the topology is loop free. Eventually, the blocking port from the alternate or backup port becomes a designated port and moves to a forwarding state. This situation creates a loop. The Loop Guard feature makes additional checks. If BPDUs are not received on a non-designated port and loop guard is enabled, that port is moved into the STP loop-inconsistent blocking state.

Audit:

Review the switch configuration to verify that STP Loop Guard is enabled as shown in the configuration example below:

```
hostname SW2
```

```
...
```

```
...
```

```
...
```

```
spanning-tree mode pvst
```

```
spanning-tree loopguard default
```

If STP Loop Guard is not enabled, this is a finding.

Remediation:

Configure the switch to have STP Loop Guard enabled via the spanning-tree loopguard default global command.

Additional Information:

CCI-002385 Protect against or limit the effects of organization-defined types of denial-of-service events.

- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 4::SC-5
- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5::SC-5 a

1.7 CISC-L2-000120 (Manual)

Profile Applicability:

- SEVERITY: CAT II

Description:

The Cisco switch must have Unknown Unicast Flood Blocking (UUFb) enabled.

GROUP ID: V-220632 RULE ID: SV-220632r856226

Rationale:

Access layer switches use the Content Addressable Memory (CAM) table to direct traffic to specific ports based on the VLAN number and the destination MAC address of the frame. When a router has an Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) entry for a destination host and forwards it to the access layer switch and there is no entry corresponding to the frame's destination MAC address in the incoming VLAN, the frame will be sent to all forwarding ports within the respective VLAN, which causes flooding.

Large amounts of flooded traffic can saturate low-bandwidth links, causing network performance issues or complete connectivity outage to the connected devices. Unknown unicast flooding has been a nagging problem in networks that have asymmetric routing and default timers.

To mitigate the risk of a connectivity outage, the UUFb feature must be implemented on all access layer switches. The UUFb feature will block unknown unicast traffic flooding and only permit egress traffic with MAC addresses that are known to exit on the port.

Audit:

Review the switch configuration to verify that UUFb is enabled on all access switch ports as shown in the configuration example below:

```
interface GigabitEthernet0/0
switchport block unicast
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/1
switchport block unicast
...
...
...
interface GigabitEthernet0/9
switchport block unicast
```

If any access switch ports do not have UUFb enabled, this is a finding.

Remediation:

Configure the switch to have UUFB enabled as shown in the configuration example below:

```
SW1(config)#int range g0/0 - 9
```

```
SW1(config-if-range)#switchport block unicast
```

Additional Information:

CCI-002385 Protect against or limit the effects of organization-defined types of denial-of-service events.

- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 4::SC-5
- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5::SC-5 a

1.8 CISC-L2-000130 (Manual)

Profile Applicability:

- SEVERITY: CAT II

Description:

The Cisco switch must have DHCP snooping for all user VLANs to validate DHCP messages from untrusted sources.

GROUP ID: V-220633 RULE ID: SV-220633r929007

Rationale:

In an enterprise network, devices under administrative control are trusted sources. These devices include the switches, routers, and servers in the network. Host ports and unknown DHCP servers are considered untrusted sources. An unknown DHCP server on the network on an untrusted port is called a spurious DHCP server, any device (PC, wireless access point) that is loaded with DHCP server enabled.

The DHCP snooping feature determines whether traffic sources are trusted or untrusted. The potential exists for a spurious DHCP server to respond to DHCPDISCOVER messages before the real server has time to respond. DHCP snooping allows switches on the network to trust the port a DHCP server is connected to and not trust the other ports.

The DHCP snooping feature validates DHCP messages received from untrusted sources, filters out invalid messages, and rate-limits DHCP traffic from trusted and untrusted sources. The DHCP snooping feature builds and maintains a binding database, which contains information about untrusted hosts with leased IP addresses, and it uses the database to validate subsequent requests from untrusted hosts.

Other security features, such as IP Source Guard and Dynamic Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) Inspection (DAI), also use information stored in the DHCP snooping binding database. Hence, it is imperative that the DHCP snooping feature is enabled on all VLANs.

Audit:

Review the switch configuration and verify that DHCP snooping is enabled on all user VLANs as shown in the example below:

```
hostname SW2
```

```
...
```

```
...
```

```
...
```

```
ip dhcp snooping vlan 2,4-8,11
```

```
ip dhcp snooping
```

Note: Switchports assigned to a user VLAN would have drops in the area where the user community would reside; hence, the "untrusted" term is used. Server and printer VLANs would not be applicable.

If the switch does not have DHCP snooping enabled for all user VLANs to validate DHCP messages from untrusted sources, this is a finding.

Remediation:

Configure the switch to have DHCP snooping for all user VLANs to validate DHCP messages from untrusted sources as shown in the example below:

```
SW2(config)#ip dhcp snooping
```

```
SW2(config)#ip dhcp snooping vlan 2,4-8,11
```

Additional Information:

CCI-002385 Protect against or limit the effects of organization-defined types of denial-of-service events.

- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 4::SC-5
- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5::SC-5 a

1.9 CISC-L2-000140 (Manual)

Profile Applicability:

- SEVERITY: CAT II

Description:

The Cisco switch must have IP Source Guard enabled on all user-facing or untrusted access switch ports.

GROUP ID: V-220634 RULE ID: SV-220634r929009

Rationale:

IP Source Guard provides source IP address filtering on a Layer 2 port to prevent a malicious host from impersonating a legitimate host by assuming the legitimate host's IP address. The feature uses dynamic DHCP snooping and static IP source binding to match IP addresses to hosts on untrusted Layer 2 access ports.

Initially, all IP traffic on the protected port is blocked except for DHCP packets. After a client receives an IP address from the DHCP server, or after static IP source binding is configured by the administrator, all traffic with that IP source address is permitted from that client. Traffic from other hosts is denied. This filtering limits a host's ability to attack the network by claiming a neighbor host's IP address.

Audit:

Review the switch configuration to verify IP Source Guard is enabled on all user-facing or untrusted access switch ports as shown in the example below:

```
interface GigabitEthernet0/0
ip verify source
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/1
ip verify source
...
...
...
interface GigabitEthernet0/9
ip verify source
```

Note: The IP Source Guard feature depends on the entries in the DHCP snooping database or static IP-MAC-VLAN configuration commands to verify IP-to-MAC address bindings.

If the switch does not have IP Source Guard enabled on all untrusted access switch ports, this is a finding.

Remediation:

Configure the switch to have IP Source Guard enabled on all user-facing or untrusted access switch ports:

```
SW2(config)#int range g0/0 - 9
```

```
SW2(config-if-range)#ip verify source
```

Additional Information:

CCI-002385 Protect against or limit the effects of organization-defined types of denial-of-service events.

- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 4::SC-5
- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5::SC-5 a

1.10 CISC-L2-000150 (Manual)

Profile Applicability:

- SEVERITY: CAT II

Description:

The Cisco switch must have Dynamic Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) Inspection (DAI) enabled on all user VLANs.

GROUP ID: V-220635 RULE ID: SV-220635r929011

Rationale:

DAI intercepts ARP requests and verifies that each of these packets has a valid IP-to-MAC address binding before updating the local ARP cache and before forwarding the packet to the appropriate destination. Invalid ARP packets are dropped and logged.

DAI determines the validity of an ARP packet based on valid IP-to-MAC address bindings stored in the DHCP snooping binding database. If the ARP packet is received on a trusted interface, the switch forwards the packet without any checks. On untrusted interfaces, the switch forwards the packet only if it is valid.

Audit:

Review the switch configuration to verify that the DAI feature is enabled on all user VLANs:

```
hostname SW2
```

```
...
```

```
...
```

```
...
```

```
ip arp inspection vlan 2,4-8,11
```

Note: DAI depends on the entries in the DHCP snooping binding database to verify IP-to-MAC address bindings in incoming ARP requests and ARP responses.

If DAI is not enabled on all user VLANs, this is a finding.

Remediation:

Configure the switch to have DAI enabled on all user VLANs as shown in the example below:

```
SW2(config)#ip arp inspection vlan 2,4-8,11
```

Additional Information:

CCI-002385 Protect against or limit the effects of organization-defined types of denial-of-service events.

- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 4::SC-5
- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5::SC-5 a

1.11 CISC-L2-000160 (Manual)

Profile Applicability:

- SEVERITY: CAT III

Description:

The Cisco switch must have Storm Control configured on all host-facing switchports.

GROUP ID: V-220636 RULE ID: SV-220636r648763

Rationale:

A traffic storm occurs when packets flood a LAN, creating excessive traffic and degrading network performance. Traffic storm control prevents network disruption by suppressing ingress traffic when the number of packets reaches a configured threshold levels.

Traffic storm control monitors ingress traffic levels on a port and drops traffic when the number of packets reaches the configured threshold level during any one-second interval.

Audit:

Review the switch configuration to verify that storm control is enabled on all host-facing interfaces as shown in the example below:

```
interface GigabitEthernet0/3
switchport access vlan 12
storm-control unicast level bps 62000000
storm-control broadcast level bps 20000000
```

Note: Bandwidth percentage thresholds (via level parameter) can be used in lieu of PPS rate.

If storm control is not enabled at a minimum for broadcast traffic, this is a finding.

Remediation:

Configure storm control for each host-facing interface as shown in the example below:

```
SW1(config)#int range g0/2 - 8
SW1(config-if-range)#storm-control unicast bps 62000000
SW1(config-if-range)#storm-control broadcast level bps 20000000
```

Note: The acceptable range is 10000000 -1000000000 for a gigabit Ethernet interface, and 100000000-10000000000 for a 10-gigabit interface. Storm control is not supported on most FastEthernet interfaces.

Additional Information:

CCI-000366 Implement the security configuration settings.

- NIST SP 800-53::CM-6 b
- NIST SP 800-53A::CM-6.1 (iv)
- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 4::CM-6 b
- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5::CM-6 b

1.12 CISC-L2-000170 (Manual)

Profile Applicability:

- SEVERITY: CAT III

Description:

The Cisco switch must have IGMP or MLD Snooping configured on all VLANs.

GROUP ID: V-220637 RULE ID: SV-220637r539671

Rationale:

IGMP and MLD snooping provide a way to constrain multicast traffic at Layer 2. By monitoring the IGMP or MLD membership reports sent by hosts within a VLAN, the snooping application can set up Layer 2 multicast forwarding tables to deliver specific multicast traffic only to interfaces connected to hosts interested in receiving the traffic, thereby significantly reducing the volume of multicast traffic that would otherwise flood the VLAN.

Audit:

Review the switch configuration to verify that IGMP or MLD snooping has been configured for IPv4 and IPv6 multicast traffic respectively. The example below shows the steps to verify that IGMP snooping is enabled for each VLAN.

Step 1: Verify that IGMP or MLD snooping is enabled globally. By default, IGMP snooping is enabled globally; hence, the following command should not be in the switch configuration:

```
no ip igmp snooping
```

Step 2: Verify that IGMP snooping is not disabled for any VLAN as shown in the example below:

```
no ip igmp snooping vlan 11
```

Note: When IGMP snooping is globally enabled, it is also enabled by default on all VLANs but can be disabled on a per-VLAN basis. If global snooping is disabled, VLAN snooping cannot be enabled.

If the switch is not configured to implement IGMP or MLD snooping for each VLAN, this is a finding.

Remediation:

Globally configure IGMP or MLD snooping for IPv4 and IPv6 multicast traffic respectively:

```
SW1(config)#ip igmp snooping
```

Additional Information:

CCI-000366 Implement the security configuration settings.

- NIST SP 800-53::CM-6 b
- NIST SP 800-53A::CM-6.1 (iv)
- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 4::CM-6 b
- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5::CM-6 b

1.13 CISC-L2-000180 (Manual)

Profile Applicability:

- SEVERITY: CAT II

Description:

The Cisco switch must implement Rapid Spanning Tree Protocol (STP) where VLANs span multiple switches with redundant links.

GROUP ID: V-220638 RULE ID: SV-220638r539671

Rationale:

STP is implemented on bridges and switches to prevent Layer 2 loops when a broadcast domain spans multiple bridges and switches and when redundant links are provisioned to provide high availability in case of link failures.

Convergence time can be significantly reduced using Rapid STP (802.1w) instead of STP (802.1d), resulting in improved availability. Rapid STP should be deployed by implementing either Rapid Per-VLAN-Spanning-Tree (Rapid-PVST) or Multiple Spanning-Tree Protocol (MSTP). The latter scales much better when there are many VLANs.

Audit:

In cases where VLANs do not span multiple switches, it is a best practice to not implement STP. Avoiding the use of STP will provide the most deterministic and highly available network topology. If STP is required, review the switch configuration to verify that Rapid STP has been implemented:

```
hostname SW2
```

```
...
```

```
...
```

```
...
```

```
spanning-tree mode rapid-pvst
```

Note: MSTP can be configured as an alternate mode. MSTP uses RSTP for rapid convergence and enables multiple VLANs to be grouped into and mapped to the same spanning-tree instance, thereby reducing the number of spanning-tree instances needed to support a large number of VLANs.

If either RSTP or MSTP has not been implemented where STP is required, this is a finding.

Remediation:

Configure Rapid STP or MSTP to be implemented at the access and distribution layers where VLANs span multiple switches as shown in the examples below:

```
SW2(config)#spanning-tree mode rapid-pvst
```

or

```
SW1(config)#spanning-tree mode mst
```

Additional Information:

CCI-000366 Implement the security configuration settings.

- NIST SP 800-53::CM-6 b
- NIST SP 800-53A::CM-6.1 (iv)
- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 4::CM-6 b
- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5::CM-6 b

1.14 CISC-L2-000190 (Manual)

Profile Applicability:

- SEVERITY: CAT II

Description:

The Cisco switch must enable Unidirectional Link Detection (UDLD) to protect against one-way connections.

GROUP ID: V-220639 RULE ID: SV-220639r539671

Rationale:

In topologies where fiber optic interconnections are used, physical misconnections can occur that allow a link to appear to be up when there is a mismatched set of transmit/receive pairs. When such a physical misconfiguration occurs, protocols such as STP can cause network instability.

UDLD is a Layer 2 protocol that can detect these physical misconfigurations by verifying that traffic is flowing bidirectionally between neighbors. Ports with UDLD enabled periodically transmit packets to neighbor devices. If the packets are not echoed back within a specific time frame, the link is flagged as unidirectional and the interface is shut down.

Audit:

If any of the switch ports have fiber optic interconnections with neighbors, review the switch configuration to verify that UDLD is enabled globally or on a per-interface basis as shown in the examples below:

```
hostname SW2
```

```
...
```

```
...
```

```
...
```

```
udld enable
```

```
or
```

```
interface GigabitEthernet0/1
```

```
udld port
```

Note: An alternative implementation when UDLD is not supported by connected device is to deploy a single member Link Aggregation Group (LAG) via IEEE 802.3ad Link Aggregation Control Protocol (LACP).

If the switch has fiber optic interconnections with neighbors and UDLD is not enabled, this is a finding.

Remediation:

Configure the switch to enable UDLD to protect against one-way connections:

```
SW2(config)#udld enable
```

or

```
SW2(config)#int g0/1
```

```
SW2(config-if)#udld port
```

Additional Information:

CCI-000366 Implement the security configuration settings.

- NIST SP 800-53::CM-6 b
- NIST SP 800-53A::CM-6.1 (iv)
- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 4::CM-6 b
- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5::CM-6 b

1.15 CISC-L2-000200 (Manual)

Profile Applicability:

- SEVERITY: CAT II

Description:

The Cisco switch must have all trunk links enabled statically.

GROUP ID: V-220640 RULE ID: SV-220640r539671

Rationale:

When trunk negotiation is enabled via Dynamic Trunk Protocol (DTP), considerable time can be spent negotiating trunk settings (802.1q or ISL) when a node or interface is restored. While this negotiation is happening, traffic is dropped because the link is up from a Layer 2 perspective.

Packet loss can be eliminated by setting the interface statically to trunk mode, thereby avoiding dynamic trunk protocol negotiation and significantly reducing any outage when restoring a failed link or switch.

Audit:

By default, DTP is enabled on all Cisco switches. Review the switch configuration to verify that trunk links will not form a trunk via negotiation as shown in the example below:

```
SW2#show interfaces switchport
Name: Gi0/0
Switchport: Enabled
Administrative Mode: dynamic auto
Operational Mode: static access
Administrative Trunking Encapsulation: negotiate
Operational Trunking Encapsulation: native
Negotiation of Trunking: On
If trunk negotiation is enabled on any interface, this is a finding.
```

Remediation:

Configure the switch to enable trunk links statically as shown in the configuration below:

```
SW2(config-if)#switchport trunk encapsulation dot1q
SW2(config-if)#switchport mode trunk
SW2(config-if)#switchport nonegotiate
```

Additional Information:

CCI-000366 Implement the security configuration settings.

- NIST SP 800-53::CM-6 b
- NIST SP 800-53A::CM-6.1 (iv)
- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 4::CM-6 b
- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5::CM-6 b

1.16 CISC-L2-000210 (Manual)

Profile Applicability:

- SEVERITY: CAT II

Description:

The Cisco switch must have all disabled switch ports assigned to an unused VLAN.

GROUP ID: V-220641 RULE ID: SV-220641r991848

Rationale:

A disabled port that is assigned to a user or management VLAN may become enabled by accident or by an attacker and as a result may gain access to that VLAN as a member.

Audit:

Step 1: Review the switch configurations and examine all access switch ports. Each access switch port not in use should have membership to an inactive VLAN.

```
interface GigabitEthernet0/0
switchport access vlan 999
shutdown
```

!

```
interface GigabitEthernet0/1
switchport access vlan 999
shutdown
```

...

...

...

```
interface GigabitEthernet0/9
switchport access vlan 999
shutdown
```

Step 2: Verify that traffic from the inactive VLAN is not allowed on any trunk links as shown in the example below:

```
interface GigabitEthernet1/1
switchport trunk allowed vlan 1-998,1000-4094
switchport trunk encapsulation dot1q
switchport mode trunk
```

Note: Switch ports configured for 802.1x are exempt from this requirement.

If any access switch ports are not in use and not in an inactive VLAN, this is a finding.

Remediation:

Assign all switch ports not in use to an inactive VLAN.

Step 1: Assign the disabled interfaces to an inactive VLAN:

```
SW3(config)#int range g0/0 – 9
```

```
SW3(config-if-range)# switchport access vlan 999
```

Step 2: Configure trunk links to not allow traffic from the inactive VLAN:

```
SW3(config)#int g1/1
```

```
SW3(config-if)#switchport trunk allowed vlan except 999
```

Additional Information:

CCI-004891 Implement physically or logically separate subnetworks to isolate organization-defined critical system components and functions.

- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5::SC-7 (29)

1.17 CISC-L2-000220 (Manual)

Profile Applicability:

- SEVERITY: CAT II

Description:

The Cisco switch must not have the default VLAN assigned to any host-facing switch ports.

GROUP ID: V-220642 RULE ID: SV-220642r991849

Rationale:

In a VLAN-based network, switches use the default VLAN (i.e., VLAN 1) for in-band management and to communicate with other networking devices using Spanning-Tree Protocol (STP), Dynamic Trunking Protocol (DTP), VLAN Trunking Protocol (VTP), and Port Aggregation Protocol (PAgP) - all untagged traffic.

As a consequence, the default VLAN may unwisely span the entire network if not appropriately pruned. If its scope is large enough, the risk of compromise can increase significantly.

Audit:

Review the switch configurations and verify that no access switch ports have been assigned membership to the default VLAN (i.e., VLAN 1). VLAN assignments can be verified via the show vlan command:

```
SW1#show vlan
```

VLAN Name Status Ports

1 default active

10 User VLAN active Gi0/3, Gi1/0, Gi1/1, Gi1/2
Gi1/3, Gi2/1

20 Management VLAN active Gi0/2

999 VLAN0999 active Gi2/0

If access switch ports are assigned to the default VLAN, this is a finding.

Remediation:

Remove the assignment of the default VLAN from all access switch ports.

Additional Information:

CCI-004891 Implement physically or logically separate subnetworks to isolate organization-defined critical system components and functions.

- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5::SC-7 (29)

1.18 CISC-L2-000230 (Manual)

Profile Applicability:

- SEVERITY: CAT II

Description:

The Cisco switch must have the default VLAN pruned from all trunk ports that do not require it.

GROUP ID: V-220643 RULE ID: SV-220643r991850

Rationale:

The default VLAN (i.e., VLAN 1) is a special VLAN used for control plane traffic such as Spanning-Tree Protocol (STP), Dynamic Trunking Protocol (DTP), VLAN Trunking Protocol (VTP), and Port Aggregation Protocol (PAgP). VLAN 1 is enabled on all trunks and ports by default.

With larger campus networks, care must be taken about the diameter of the STP domain for the default VLAN. Instability in one part of the network could affect the default VLAN, influencing control-plane stability and therefore STP stability for all other VLANs.

Audit:

Review the switch configuration and verify that the default VLAN is pruned from trunk links that do not require it:

```
SW1#show interfaces trunk
```

```
Port Mode Encapsulation Status Native vlan
```

```
Gi0/1 on 802.1q trunking 1
```

```
Gi0/2 on 802.1q trunking 1
```

```
Port Vlans allowed on trunk
```

```
Gi0/1 1-998,1000-4094
```

```
Gi0/2 1-4094
```

If the default VLAN is not pruned from trunk links that should not be transporting frames for the VLAN, this is a finding.

Remediation:

Prune VLAN 1 from any trunk links as necessary:

```
SW1(config)#int g0/2
```

```
SW1(config-if)#switchport trunk allowed vlan except 1
```

Verify that VLAN 1 is not allowed on the trunk link:

```
SW1#show interfaces trunk
```

Port Mode Encapsulation Status Native vlan

Gi0/1 on 802.1q trunking 1

Gi0/2 on 802.1q trunking 1

Port Vlans allowed on trunk

Gi0/1 1-998,1000-4094

Gi0/2 2-4094

Additional Information:

CCI-004891 Implement physically or logically separate subnetworks to isolate organization-defined critical system components and functions.

- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5::SC-7 (29)

1.19 CISC-L2-000240 (Manual)

Profile Applicability:

- SEVERITY: CAT II

Description:

The Cisco switch must not use the default VLAN for management traffic.

GROUP ID: V-220644 RULE ID: SV-220644r991852

Rationale:

Switches use the default VLAN (i.e., VLAN 1) for in-band management and to communicate with directly connected switches using Spanning-Tree Protocol (STP), Dynamic Trunking Protocol (DTP), VLAN Trunking Protocol (VTP), and Port Aggregation Protocol (PAgP) - all untagged traffic. As a consequence, the default VLAN may unwisely span the entire network if not appropriately pruned. If its scope is large enough, the risk of compromise can increase significantly.

Audit:

Review the switch configuration and verify that the default VLAN is pruned from trunk links that do not require it:

```
SW1#show interfaces trunk
Port Mode Encapsulation Status Native vlan
Gi0/1 on 802.1q trunking 1
Gi0/2 on 802.1q trunking 1
Port Vlans allowed on trunk
Gi0/1 1-998,1000-4094
Gi0/2 1-4094
```

If the default VLAN is not pruned from trunk links that should not be transporting frames for the VLAN, this is a finding.

Remediation:

Configure the switch for management access to use a VLAN other than the default VLAN:

```
SW1(config)#int vlan 22
SW1(config-if)#ip add 10.1.22.3 255.255.255.0
SW1(config-if)#no shut
```

Additional Information:

CCI-004931 Establish organization-defined alternate communications paths for system operations organizational command and control.

- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5::SC-47

1.20 CISC-L2-000250 (Manual)

Profile Applicability:

- SEVERITY: CAT II

Description:

The Cisco switch must have all user-facing or untrusted ports configured as access switch ports.

GROUP ID: V-220645 RULE ID: SV-220645r991853

Rationale:

Double encapsulation can be initiated by an attacker who has access to a switch port belonging to the native VLAN of the trunk port. Knowing the victim's MAC address and with the victim attached to a different switch belonging to the same trunk group, thereby requiring the trunk link and frame tagging, the malicious user can begin the attack by sending frames with two sets of tags.

The outer tag that will have the attacker's VLAN ID (probably the well-known and omnipresent default VLAN) is stripped off by the switch, and the inner tag that will have the victim's VLAN ID is used by the switch as the next hop and sent out the trunk port.

Audit:

Review the switch configurations and examine all user-facing or untrusted switchports. The example below depicts both access and trunk ports:

```
interface GigabitEthernet0/1
switchport trunk encapsulation dot1q
switchport mode trunk
negotiation auto
!
```

```
interface GigabitEthernet0/2
switchport access vlan 11
negotiation auto
!
```

```
interface GigabitEthernet0/3
switchport access vlan 12
negotiation auto
```

If any of the user-facing switch ports are configured as a trunk, this is a finding.

Remediation:

Disable trunking on all user-facing or untrusted switch ports:

```
SW1(config)#int g0/6
SW1(config-if)#switchport mode access
SW1(config-if)#end
```

Additional Information:

CCI-004891 Implement physically or logically separate subnetworks to isolate organization-defined critical system components and functions.

- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5::SC-7 (29)

1.21 CISC-L2-000260 (Manual)

Profile Applicability:

- SEVERITY: CAT II

Description:

The Cisco switch must have the native VLAN assigned to an ID other than the default VLAN for all 802.1q trunk links.

GROUP ID: V-220646 RULE ID: SV-220646r991854

Rationale:

VLAN hopping can be initiated by an attacker who has access to a switch port belonging to the same VLAN as the native VLAN of the trunk link connecting to another switch that the victim is connected to. If the attacker knows the victim's MAC address, it can forge a frame with two 802.1q tags and a Layer 2 header with the destination address of the victim.

Because the frame will ingress the switch from a port belonging to its native VLAN, the trunk port connecting to the victim's switch will remove the outer tag because native VLAN traffic is to be untagged. The switch will forward the frame on to the trunk link, unaware of the inner tag with a VLAN ID of which the victim's switch port is a member.

Audit:

Review the switch configurations and examine all trunk links. Verify the native VLAN has been configured to a VLAN ID other than the ID of the default VLAN (i.e., VLAN 1) as shown in the example below:

```
interface GigabitEthernet0/1
switchport trunk encapsulation dot1q
switchport trunk native vlan 44
switchport mode trunk
negotiation auto
```

Note: An alternative to configuring a dedicated native VLAN is to ensure that all native VLAN traffic is tagged. This will mitigate the risk of VLAN hopping because there will always be an outer tag for native traffic as it traverses an 802.1q trunk link.

If the native VLAN has the same VLAN ID as the default VLAN, this is a finding.

Remediation:

To ensure the integrity of the trunk link and prevent unauthorized access, the ID of the native VLAN of the trunk port must be changed from the default VLAN (i.e., VLAN 1) to its own unique VLAN ID.

```
SW1(config)#int g0/1
```

```
SW1(config-if)#switchport trunk native vlan 44
```

Note: The native VLAN ID must be the same on both ends of the trunk link; otherwise, traffic could accidentally leak between broadcast domains.

Additional Information:

CCI-004891 Implement physically or logically separate subnetworks to isolate organization-defined critical system components and functions.

- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5::SC-7 (29)

1.22 CISCO-L2-000270 (Manual)

Profile Applicability:

- SEVERITY: CAT III

Description:

The Cisco switch must not have any switchports assigned to the native VLAN.

GROUP ID: V-220647 RULE ID: SV-220647r991855

Rationale:

Double encapsulation can be initiated by an attacker who has access to a switch port belonging to the native VLAN of the trunk port. Knowing the victim's MAC address and with the victim attached to a different switch belonging to the same trunk group, thereby requiring the trunk link and frame tagging, the malicious user can begin the attack by sending frames with two sets of tags.

The outer tag that will have the attacker's VLAN ID (probably the well-known and omnipresent default VLAN) is stripped off by the switch, and the inner tag that will have the victim's VLAN ID is used by the switch as the next hop and sent out the trunk port.

Audit:

Review the switch configurations and examine all access switch ports. Verify that they do not belong to the native VLAN as shown in the example below:

```
interface GigabitEthernet0/1
switchport trunk encapsulation dot1q
switchport trunk native vlan 44
switchport mode trunk
negotiation auto
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/2
switchport access vlan 11
negotiation auto
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/3
switchport access vlan 12
negotiation auto
!
```

If any access switch ports have been assigned to the same VLAN ID as the native VLAN, this is a finding.

Remediation:

Configure all access switch ports to a VLAN other than the native VLAN.

Additional Information:

CCI-004891 Implement physically or logically separate subnetworks to isolate organization-defined critical system components and functions.

- NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5::SC-7 (29)

Appendix: Summary Table

CIS Benchmark Recommendation		Set Correctly	
		Yes	No
1	STIG RULES		
1.1	CISC-L2-000020 (Manual)	☐	☐
1.2	CISC-L2-000030 (Manual)	☐	☐
1.3	CISC-L2-000040 (Manual)	☐	☐
1.4	CISC-L2-000090 (Manual)	☐	☐
1.5	CISC-L2-000100 (Manual)	☐	☐
1.6	CISC-L2-000110 (Manual)	☐	☐
1.7	CISC-L2-000120 (Manual)	☐	☐
1.8	CISC-L2-000130 (Manual)	☐	☐
1.9	CISC-L2-000140 (Manual)	☐	☐
1.10	CISC-L2-000150 (Manual)	☐	☐
1.11	CISC-L2-000160 (Manual)	☐	☐
1.12	CISC-L2-000170 (Manual)	☐	☐
1.13	CISC-L2-000180 (Manual)	☐	☐
1.14	CISC-L2-000190 (Manual)	☐	☐
1.15	CISC-L2-000200 (Manual)	☐	☐
1.16	CISC-L2-000210 (Manual)	☐	☐
1.17	CISC-L2-000220 (Manual)	☐	☐
1.18	CISC-L2-000230 (Manual)	☐	☐
1.19	CISC-L2-000240 (Manual)	☐	☐

CIS Benchmark Recommendation		Set Correctly	
		Yes	No
1.20	CISC-L2-000250 (Manual)	☐	☐
1.21	CISC-L2-000260 (Manual)	☐	☐
1.22	CISC-L2-000270 (Manual)	☐	☐

Appendix: Change History

Date	Version	Changes for this version
Aug 25, 2025	1.0.0	Initial CIS Release