

# Configure NetFlow Secure Event Logging on Firepower Threat Defense

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## Introduction

This document describes how to configure NetFlow Secure Event Logging (NSEL) on Firepower Threat Defense (FTD) via Firepower Management Center (FMC).

## Prerequisites

### Requirements

Cisco recommends that you have knowledge of these topics:

- Knowledge of FMC
- Knowledge of FTD
- Knowledge of the FlexConfig Policy

### Components Used

The information in this document is based on these software and hardware versions:

- FTD version 6.6.1
- FMC version 6.6.1

The information in this document was created from the devices in a specific lab environment. All of the devices used in this document started with a cleared (default) configuration. If your network is live, ensure that you understand the potential impact of any command.

### Background Information

This document describes how to configure NetFlow Secure Event Logging (NSEL) on Firepower Threat Defense (FTD) via Firepower Management Center (FMC).

The FlexConfig text objects are associated with variables used in the predefined FlexConfig objects. Predefined FlexConfig objects and associated text objects are found in FMC to configure NSEL. There are

four predefined FlexConfig objects within the FMC and three predefined text objects. Predefined FlexConfig objects are read-only and cannot be modified. In order to modify the parameters of NetFlow, the objects can be copied.

The four predefined objects are listed in the table:

FlexConfig Object Name	Description
Netflow_Add_Destination	Creates and configures a NetFlow export destination
Netflow_Set_Parameters	Sets global parameters for NetFlow export
Netflow_Delete_Destinations	Deletes a NetFlow export destination
Netflow_Clear_Parameters	Restores Netflow export global default settings

The three predefined text objects are listed in the table:

Text Object Name	Description
netflow_Destination	Define the single NetFlow export destination's interface, destination IP address and UDP port number for NetFlow.
netflow_Event_Types	Define NetFlow events based on event type
netflow_Parameters	Define values for active refresh-interval, delay flow-create and template timeout-rate.

## Configure

This section describes how to configure NSEL on FMC through a FlexConfig Policy.

Step 1. Set the parameters of the Text Objects for Netflow.

In order to set the variable parameters, navigate to **Objects > FlexConfig > Text Objects**. Edit the netflow\_Destination object. Define the multiple variable type and count set to 3. Set the interface name, destination IP address and port.

In this configuration example, the interface is DMZ, the NetFlow Collector IP address is 10.20.20.1 and the UDP port is 2055.

# Edit Text Object



Name:

netflow\_Destination

Description:

This variable defines a single NetFlow export destination.

Variable Type

Multiple

Count

3

1	DMZ
2	10.20.20.1
3	2055



**Note:** Default values for netflow\_Event\_Types and netflow\_Parameters are used.

Step 2. Configure an Extended Access List Object to match specific traffic.

In order to create an Extended Access List on FMC, navigate to **Objects > Object Management** and on the left menu, under **Access List** select **Extended**. Click **Add Extended Access List**.

Fill in the **Name** field. In this example, the name is flow\_export\_acl. Click the **Add** button. Configure the **Access Control** entries to match specific traffic.

In this example traffic from host 10.10.10.1 to any destination and traffic between host 172.16.0.20 and 192.168.1.20 is excluded. Any other traffic is included.

Name

Entries (3)

Add

Sequence	Action	Source	Source Port	Destination	Destination Port	
1	 Block	10.10.10.1	Any	Any	Any	 
2	 Block	172.16.0.20	Any	192.168.1.20	Any	 
3	 Allow	Any	Any	Any	Any	 

Allow Overrides

Cancel

Save

Step 3. Configure a FlexConfig Object.

In order to configure the FlexConfig Objects navigate to **Objects > FlexConfig > FlexConfig Objects** and click on **Add FlexConfig Object** button.

Define the class map that identifies traffic for which NetFlow events need to be exported. In this example, the name of the object is flow\_export\_class.

**Select** the Access List created in Step 2. Click on **Insert > Insert Policy Object > Extended ACL Object** and assign a name. Then, click on **Add** button. In this example, the name of the variable is flow\_export\_acl. Click **Save**.

## Insert Extended Access List Object Variable



Variable Name:

Description:

Available Objects

flow\_export\_acl

Add

Selected Object

flow\_export\_acl

Cancel

Save

Add the next configuration lines in the blank field right and include the variable previously defined (**\$flow\_export\_acl**.) in the match access-list configuration line.

Notice that a \$ symbol begins the variable name. This helps define that a variable comes after it.

```
<#root>
```

```
class-map flow_export_class  
match access-list  
  
$flow_export_acl
```

Click on **Save** when finished.

Name:

flow\_export\_class

Description:

⚠ Copy-pasting any rich text might introduce line breaks while generating CLI. Please verify the CLI before deployment.

Insert ▾



Deployment:

Everytime ▾

Type:

Append ▾

```
class-map flow_export_class
match access-list $flow export acl
```

▼ Variables

Name	Dimension	Default Value	Property (Type:Name)	Override	Description
flow_export_class	SINGLE	flow_export_acl	EXD_ACL:fl...	false	

Cancel

Save

#### Step 4. Configure the Netflow Destination

In order to configure the Netflow Destination, navigate to **Objects > FlexConfig > FlexConfig Objects** and filter by Netflow. **Copy** the object Netflow\_Add\_Destination. The Netflow\_Add\_Destination\_Copy is created.

Assign the class created in Step 3. You can create a new policy map to apply the flow-export actions to the defined classes.

In this example, the class is inserted in the current policy (global policy).

```
<#root>
```

```
## destination: interface_name if destination_ip udp_port
## event-types: any subset of {all, flow-create, flow-denied, flow-teardown, flow-update}
flow-export destination $netflow_Destination.get(0) $netflow_Destination.get(1) $netflow_Destination.get(2)
policy-map global_policy
class
```

```
flow_export_class
```

```
#foreach ( $event_type in $netflow_Event_Types )
flow-export event-type $event_type destination $netflow_Destination.get(1)
```

#end

Click on **Save** when finished.

### Edit FlexConfig Object

Name:

Netflow\_Add\_Destination\_Copy

Description:

Create and configure a NetFlow export destination.

⚠ Copy-pasting any rich text might introduce line breaks while generating CLI. Please verify the CLI before deployment.

Insert ▾



Deployment:

Once ▾

Type:

Append ▾

```
## destination: interface nameif destination ip udp port
## event-types: any subset of {all, flow-create, flow-denied, flow-teardown, flow-update}
flow-
export destination $netflow Destination.get(0) $netflow Destination.get(1) $netflow Destination.get(2)
policy-map global_policy
  class flow_export_class
    #foreach ( $event_type in $netflow_Event_Types )
      flow-export event-type $event_type destination $netflow Destination.get(1)
    #end
```

#### ▼ Variables

Name	Dimension	Default Value	Property (Type:Name)	Override	Description
netflow_Event_Types	MULTIPLE	[all]	FREEFORM:...	false	This variable provides the glo...
netflow_Destination	MULTIPLE	[DMZ, 10.20.20....	FREEFORM:...	false	This variable defines a single ...

Cancel

Save

### Step 5. Assign the FlexConfig Policy to the FTD

Navigate to **Devices > FlexConfig** and create a new policy (unless there is already one created for another purpose and assigned to the same FTD). In this example, the FlexConfig is already created. Edit the FlexConfig Policy and **Select** the FlexConfig objects created in previous steps.

In this example, the default Netflow export parameters are used, therefore, the Netflow\_Set\_Parameters is selected. **Save** the changed and deploy.

FlexConfigPolicy You have unsaved changes [Preview Config](#) [Save](#) [Cancel](#)

Enter Description Policy Assignments (1)

Available FlexConfig FlexConfig Object

netflow

- ▼ User Defined
  - Netflow\_Add\_Destination\_Copy
  - Netflow\_Delete\_Destination\_Copy
  - Netflow\_export\_Copy
  - Netflow\_Set\_Parameters\_Copy
- ▼ System Defined
  - Netflow\_Add\_Destination
  - Netflow\_Clear\_Parameters
  - Netflow\_Delete\_Destination
  - Netflow\_Set\_Parameters

Selected Prepend FlexConfigs

#	Name	Description

Selected Append FlexConfigs

#	Name	Description
1	flow_export_class	
2	Netflow_Add_Destination_Copy	Create and configure a NetFlow export destination.
3	Netflow_Set_Parameters	Set global parameters for NetFlow export.

[How To](#)

**Note:** In order to match all traffic without the need to match specific traffic, you can skip from Steps 2 through 4 and use the predefined NetFlow Objects.

FlexConfigPolicy You have unsaved changes [Preview Config](#) [Save](#) [Cancel](#)

Enter Description Policy Assignments (1)

Available FlexConfig FlexConfig Object

netflow

- ▼ User Defined
  - Netflow\_Add\_Destination\_Copy
  - Netflow\_Delete\_Destination\_Copy
  - Netflow\_export\_Copy
  - Netflow\_Set\_Parameters\_Copy
- ▼ System Defined
  - Netflow\_Add\_Destination
  - Netflow\_Clear\_Parameters
  - Netflow\_Delete\_Destination
  - Netflow\_Set\_Parameters

Selected Prepend FlexConfigs

#	Name	Description

Selected Append FlexConfigs

#	Name	Description
1	Netflow_Set_Parameters	Set global parameters for NetFlow export.
2	Netflow_Add_Destination	Create and configure a NetFlow export destination.

[How To](#)

**Note:** To add a second NSEL collector to which NetFlow packets are sent. In Step 1, add 4 variables to add the second Netflow collector IP address.



# Edit Text Object



Name:

netflow\_Destination

Description:

This variable defines a single NetFlow export destination.

Variable Type

Multiple

Count

4

1	DMZ
2	10.20.20.1
3	2055
4	10.20.20.2

*Multiple-Netflow-Text-Object*

In Step 4., add the configuration line: flow-export destination \$netflow\_Destination.get(0) \$netflow\_Destination.get(1) \$netflow\_Destination.get(2)

**Edit** the variable \$netflow\_Destination.get for the correspondence variable. In this example the variable value is 3. For example:

```
flow-export destination $netflow_Destination.get(0) $netflow_Destination.get(1) $netflow_Destination.get(2)
flow-export destination $netflow_Destination.get(0) $netflow_Destination.get(3) $netflow_Destination.get(2)
```

Also, add the second variable \$netflow\_Destination.get in the configuration line: flow-export event-type \$event\_type destination \$netflow\_Destination.get(1). For example:

```
flow-export event-type $event_type destination $netflow_Destination.get(1) $netflow_Destination.get(3)
```

**Validate** this configuration as seen in the image below:

Name:

Netflow\_Add\_Destination\_Copy

Description:

Create and configure a NetFlow export destination.

**Warning:** Copy-pasting any rich text might introduce line breaks while generating CLI. Please verify the CLI before deployment.

|  | 
 Deployment:  | 
 Type:

```
## destination: interface nameif destination_ip udp port
## event-types: any subset of {all, flow-create, flow-denied, flow-teardown, flow-update}
flow-
export destination $netflow_Destination.get(0) $netflow_Destination.get(1) $netflow_Destination.get(2)
flow-
export destination $netflow_Destination.get(0) $netflow_Destination.get(3) $netflow_Destination.get(2)
policy-map global_policy
  class flow_export_class
    foreach ( $event_type in $netflow_Event_Types )
      flow-export event-
type $event_type destination $netflow_Destination.get(1)$netflow_Destination.get(3)

  #end
```

▼ Variables

Name	Dimension	Default Value	Property (Type:Name)	Override	Description
netflow_Event_Types	MULTIPLE	[all]	FREEFORM:...	false	This variable provides the glo...
netflow_Destination	MULTIPLE	[DMZ, 10.20.20....	FREEFORM:...	false	This variable defines a single ...

## Verify

The NetFlow configuration can be verified within the FlexConfig Policy. In order to preview the configuration click on **Preview Config**. **Select** the FTD and verify the configuration.

## Preview FlexConfig



Select Device:

FTD-b

```
exit

!INTERFACE_END

###Flex-config Appended CLI ###
class-map flow_export_class
match access-list flow_export_acl

flow-export destination DMZ 10.20.20.1 2055
policy-map global_policy
 class flow_export_class
  flow-export event-type all destination 10.20.20.1

flow-export active refresh-interval 1
no flow-export delay flow-create 1
flow-export template timeout-rate 30
```

Close

Access the FTD through Secure Shell (SSH) and use the command system support diagnostic-cli and run these commands:

```
> system support diagnostic-cli
Attaching to Diagnostic CLI ... Press 'Ctrl+a then d' to detach.
Type help or '?' for a list of available commands.
```

```
firepower# show access-list flow_export_acl
access-list flow_export_acl; 3 elements; name hash: 0xe30f1adf
access-list flow_export_acl line 1 extended deny object-group ProxySG_ExtendedACL_34359742097 object 10
access-list flow_export_acl line 1 extended deny ip host 10.10.10.1 any (hitcnt=0) 0x3d4f23a4
access-list flow_export_acl line 2 extended deny object-group ProxySG_ExtendedACL_34359742101 object 17
access-list flow_export_acl line 2 extended deny ip host 172.16.0.20 host 192.168.1.20 (hitcnt=0) 0x134
access-list flow_export_acl line 3 extended permit object-group ProxySG_ExtendedACL_30064776111 any any
access-list flow_export_acl line 3 extended permit ip any any (hitcnt=0) 0x759f5ecf
```

```
firepower# sh running-config class-map flow_export_class
class-map flow_export_class
match access-list flow_export_acl
```

```
firepower# show running-config policy-map
```

```
!  
policy-map type inspect dns preset_dns_map  
parameters  
message-length maximum client auto  
message-length maximum 512  
no tcp-inspection  
policy-map type inspect ip-options UM_STATIC_IP_OPTIONS_MAP  
parameters  
eool action allow  
nop action allow  
router-alert action allow  
policy-map global_policy  
class inspection_default  
inspect dns preset_dns_map  
inspect ftp  
inspect h323 h225  
inspect h323 ras  
inspect rsh  
inspect rtsp  
inspect sqlnet  
inspect skinny  
inspect sunrpc  
inspect xdmcp  
inspect sip  
inspect netbios  
inspect tftp  
inspect icmp  
inspect icmp error  
inspect ip-options UM_STATIC_IP_OPTIONS_MAP  
inspect snmp  
class flow_export_class  
flow-export event-type all destination 10.20.20.1  
class class-default  
set connection advanced-options UM_STATIC_TCP_MAP
```

```
firepower# show running-config | include flow  
access-list flow_export_acl extended deny object-group ProxySG_ExtendedACL_34359742097 object 10.10.10.  
access-list flow_export_acl extended deny object-group ProxySG_ExtendedACL_34359742101 object 172.16.0.  
access-list flow_export_acl extended permit object-group ProxySG_ExtendedACL_30064776111 any any  
flow-export destination DMZ 10.20.20.1 2055  
class-map flow_export_class  
match access-list flow_export_acl  
class flow_export_class  
flow-export event-type all destination 10.20.20.1
```

## Related Information

- [Cisco Technical Support & Downloads](#)