Configure 802.1X Authentication on Catalyst 9800 Wireless Controller Series

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Introduction

This document describes how to set up a WLAN with 802.1X security on a Cisco Catalyst 9800 Series Wireless Controller.

Prerequisites

Requirements

Cisco recommends that you have knowledge of these topics:

• 802.1X

Components Used

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

- Catalyst 9800 Wireless Controller Series (Catalyst 9800-CL)
- Cisco IOS® XE Gibraltar 17.3.x
- Cisco ISE 3.0

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.

Configure

Network Diagram



WLC Configuration

AAA Configuration on 9800 WLCs

GUI:

Step 1. Declare RADIUS server. Navigate to Configuration > Security > AAA > Servers / Groups > RADIUS > Servers > + Add and enter the RADIUS server information.

Q Search Menu Items	Authentication Authorization and Accounting						
📷 Dashboard	+ AAA Wizard						
Monitoring >	AAA Method List	Servers / Gro	oups	AAA Advanced			
Configuration >	+ Add X Delete						
Administration >	RADIUS						
💥 Troubleshooting	TACACS+	Servers	Server	Groups			
	LDAP	Name		Address			

Ensure **Support for CoA** is enabled if you plan to use Central Web Authentication (or any kind of security that requires Change of Authorization [CoA]) in the future.

Create AAA Radius Server				×
Name*	ISE-kcg	Clear PAC Key		
IPV4/IPv6 Server Address*	172.16.0.11	Set New PAC Key		
Shared Secret*				
Confirm Shared Secret*				
Auth Port	1812			
Acct Port	1813			
Server Timeout (seconds)	1-1000			
Retry Count	0-100			
Support for CoA				
Cancel			[Save & Apply to Device

Step 2. Add the RADIUS server to a RADIUS group. Navigate to Configuration > Security > AAA > Servers / Groups > RADIUS > Server Groups > + Add. Give a name to your group and move the server you created earlier in the list of Assigned Servers.

Create AAA Radius Serve	r Group	×
Name*	ISE-grp-r	name
Group Type	RADIUS	
MAC-Delimiter	none	•
MAC-Filtering	none	•
Dead-Time (mins)	1-1440	
Available Servers		Assigned Servers
	>	ISE-kcg
Cancel		📓 Save & Apply to Device

Step 3. Create an Authentication Method List. Navigate to Configuration > Security > AAA > AAA Method List > Authentication > + Add.



Enter the information:

Quick Setup: AAA Authentica	tion	×
Method List Name*	list-name	
Туре*	dot1x 🔹	
Group Type	group 🗸	
Fallback to local Available Server Groups	Assigned Server Groups	
radius Idap tacacs+ ISE-kcg-grp	> ISE-grp-name	
Cancel	🗎 Save & A	pply to Device

CLI:

```
# config t
# aaa new-model
# radius server <radius-server-name>
# address ipv4 <radius-server-ip> auth-port 1812 acct-port 1813
# timeout 300
# retransmit 3
# key <shared-key>
# exit
# aaa group server radius <radius-grp-name>
# server name <radius-server-name>
# exit
# aaa server radius dynamic-author
# client <radius-server-ip> server-key <shared-key>
# aaa authentication dot1x <dot1x-list-name> group <radius-grp-name>
# aaa name
```

Note on the AAA Dead-Server Detection

After you have configured your RADIUS server, you can check if it is considered as "ALIVE":

```
#show aaa servers | s WNCD
Platform State from WNCD (1) : current UP
Platform State from WNCD (2) : current UP
Platform State from WNCD (3) : current UP
Platform State from WNCD (4) : current UP
...
```

You can configure the dead criteria, as well as the deadtime on your WLC, especially if you use multiple **RADIUS** servers.

```
#radius-server dead-criteria time 5 tries 3
#radius-server deadtime 5
```



Note: The dead criteria is the criteria used to mark a RADIUS server as dead. It consists of: 1. A timeout (in seconds) which represents the amount of time that must elapse from the time the controller last received a valid packet from the RADIUS server to the time the server is marked as dead. 2. A counter, which represents the number of consecutive timeouts that must occur on the controller before the RADIUS server is marked as dead.

Note: The deadtime specifies the amount of time (in minutes) the server remains in dead status after dead-criteria marks it as dead. Once the deadtime expires, the controller marks the server as UP (ALIVE) and notifies the registered clients about the state change. If the server is still unreachable after the state is marked as UP and if the dead criteria is met, then server is marked as dead again for the deadtime interval.

WLAN Profile Configuration

GUI:

Step 1. Create the WLAN. Navigate to Configuration > Wireless > WLANs > + Add and configure the network as needed.



Step 2. Enter the WLAN information

Add WLAN				×
General	Security	Adva	nced	
Profile Name*	prof-name	Radio Policy	All	
SSID	ssid-name	Broadcast SSID		
WLAN ID*	1			
Status				
Cancel			🖹 Save & Apply	/ to Device

Step 3. Navigate to the **Security** tab and select the needed security method. In this case **WPA2** + **802.1x**.

Add WLAN			>	6
General	Security	Advanced		l
Layer2	Layer3	ААА		
Layer 2 Security Mode	WPA + WPA2 🔻	Fast Transition	Adaptive Enab 🔻	
MAC Filtering		Over the DS		
Protected Management Frame		Reassociation Timeout	20	
PMF	Disabled v			
WPA Parameters				
WPA Policy			Ţ	
Cancel			Save & Apply to Device	

Add WLAN		×
PMF	Disabled •	I
WPA Parameters		
WPA Policy		
WPA2 Policy		l
WPA2 Encryption	AES(CCMP128) CCMP256 GCMP128 GCMP256	ļ
Auth Key Mgmt	802.1x v	
Cancel	Save & Apply to Device	

Step 4. From the Security > AAA tab, select the authentication method created on Step 3 from AAA Configuration on 9800 WLC section.

A	dd WLAN				×
	General	Security		Advanced	
_	Layer2	Layer3		ΑΑΑ	
	Authentication List	list-name	•		
	Local EAP Authentication				
	Cancel				Save & Apply to Device

CLI:

- # wlan <profile-name> <wlan-id> <ssid-name>
- # security dot1x authentication-list <dot1x-list-name>

Policy Profile Configuration

Inside a Policy Profile you can decide to which VLAN to assign the clients, among other settings (like Access Controls List [ACLs], Quality of Service [QoS], Mobility Anchor, Timers, and so on).

You can either use your default policy profile or you can create a new profile.

GUI:

Navigate to **Configuration > Tags & Profiles > Policy Profile** and either configure your **default-policyprofile** or create a new one.

Q Search Menu Items		Policy Profile		
📷 Dashboard		+ Add X Delete		
Monitoring	>	Policy Profile Name	×	Description
<u> </u>		voice		
Configuration	>	default-policy-profile		default policy profile
C Administration	>	◀ ◀ 1 ► ► 10 ▼ items per pag	ge	

Ensure the profile is enabled.

Also, if your Access Point (AP) is in local mode, ensure the policy profile have **Central Switching** and **Central Authentication** enabled.

Policy Profile				
General Access Polic	ies QOS and	AVC	Mobility	Advanced
A Configuring	in enabled state will result in	n loss of conne	ectivity for clients a	ssociated with this profile.
Name*	default-policy-profile	Г	WLAN Switchir	ng Policy
Description	default policy profile		Central Switching	g 🔽
Status			Central Authentio	cation 🗹
Passive Client	DISABLED		Central DHCP	
Encrypted Traffic Analytics	DISABLED	L	Central Associati	ion Enable 🗹
CTS Policy			Flex NAT/PAT	
Inline Tagging				
SGACL Enforcement				
Default SGT	2-65519			

Select the VLAN where the clients need to be assigned in the Access Policies tab.

	Edit Policy Prof	ile					
	General	Access Policies	QOS and AVC	Mobility	/ Adv	vanced	
	WLAN Local P	rofiling			WLAN ACL		
<	HTTP TLV Cach	ing			IPv4 ACL	Search or Select	•
	RADIUS Profiling	9			IPv6 ACL	Search or Select	•
	DHCP TLV Cach	ing			URL Filters		
	Local Subscribe	r Policy Name	Search or Select		Pre Auth	Search or Select	•
	VLAN				Post Auth	Search or Select	
	VLAN/VLAN Gro	pup	VLAN2602				
	Multicast VLAN		Enter Multicast VLAN				

If you plan to have ISE return attributes in the Access-Accept like VLAN Assignment, please enable AAA

override in the Advanced tab:

General Access Policies QOS and AVC Mobility Advanced WLAN Timeout Fabric Profile Sea Session Timeout (sec) 1800 Umbrella Parameter Map Not Idle Timeout (sec) 300 mDNS Service defa Idle Threshold (bytes) 0 WLAN Flex Policy defa Client Exclusion Timeout (sec) 60 WLAN Flex Policy Sea IPV4 DHCP Required ✓ 60 VLAN Central Switching Sea DHCP IPV4 DHCP Required ✓ Air Time Fairness Policies Show more >>> 5 GHz Policy Sea	
WLAN Timeout Fabric Profile Season Session Timeout (sec) 1800 Umbrella Parameter Map Not Parameter Map Idle Timeout (sec) 300 mDNS Service Policy defa 	
Session Timeout (sec) 1800 Umbrella Parameter Map Not Idle Timeout (sec) 300 mDNS Service defa Idle Threshold (bytes) 0 WLAN Flex Policy Mot Client Exclusion Timeout (sec) ✓ 60 WLAN Flex Policy Mot DHCP ✓ 60 VLAN Central Switching Split MAC ACL Sea IPv4 DHCP Required ✓ Air Time Fairness Policies 2.4 GHz Policy Sea Show more >>> S GHz Policy Sea	rch or Select
Idle Timeout (sec) 300 Idle Threshold (bytes) 0 Client Exclusion Timeout (sec) ✓ 60 WLAN Flex Policy VLAN Central Switching Split MAC ACL Sea IPv4 DHCP Required ✓ DHCP ✓ DHCP Server IP Address chow more >>> AAA Policy Sea	Configured 🔻
Idle Threshold (bytes) 0 Client Exclusion Timeout (sec) ✓ 60 VLAN Flex Policy VLAN Central Switching □ Split MAC ACL Sea DHCP ✓ IPv4 DHCP Required ✓ DHCP Server IP Address Air Time Fairness Policies how more >>> 5 GHz Policy AAA Policy Sea	ult-mdns-service
Client Exclusion Timeout (sec) 60 CHCP IPv4 DHCP Required DHCP Server IP Address how more >>> AAA Policy Client Exclusion Timeout (sec) 60 CLAN Central Switching CLAN Central S	Clear
DHCP IPv4 DHCP Required DHCP Server IP Address how more >>> AAA Policy Sea 5 GHz Policy	
IPv4 DHCP Required ✓ DHCP Server IP Address Air Time Fairness Policies how more >>> 2.4 GHz Policy Sea AAA Policy Sea	rch or Select
Air Time Fairness Policies 2.4 GHz Policy Sea 5 GHz Policy Sea	
AAA Policy Sea	
AAA Policy Sea	rch or Select
AAA Policy	rch or Select
Allow AAA Override	
NAC State	
Policy Name default-aaa-policy x v	

CLI:

- # config
- # wireless profile policy <policy-profile-name>
- # aaa-override
- # central switching
- # description "<description>"
- # vlan <vlanID-or-VLAN_name>
- # no shutdown

Policy Tag Configuration

Policy Tag is used to link the SSID with the Policy Profile. You can either create a new Policy Tag or use the default-policy tag.

Note: The default-policy-tag automatically maps any SSID with a WLAN ID between 1 and 16 to the default-policy-profile. It cannot be modified nor deleted. If you have a WLAN with ID 17 or higher, the default-policy-tag cannot be used.

GUI:

Navigate to Configugation > Tags & Profiles > Tags > Policy and add a new one if needed.

Q Search Menu Items	Manage Tags	
📰 Dashboard	Policy Site RF AP	
Monitoring ;	+ Add	
Configuration ;	Policy Tag Name	 Description
	central-anchor	
	default-policy-tag	default policy-tag
X Troubleshooting	I I ► ► 10 ▼ items per page	

Link your WLAN Profile to the desired Policy Profile.

Add Policy Tag				×
Name*	PolicyTagName			
Description	Enter Description			
+ Add X Dele				
WLAN Profile		~	Policy Profile	~
	10 🔹 items per page			No items to display
Cancel				🖹 Save & Apply to Device

Add Policy Tag			×
Name*	PolicyTagName		
Description	Enter Description		
+ Add X Dele			
WLAN Profile	~	Policy Profile	~
	10 🔻 items per page		No items to display
Map WLAN and Poli	су		
WLAN Profile*	prof-name	Policy Profile*	default-policy-profile
	×	~	
Cancel			📋 Save & Apply to Device

Add Policy Tag				×
Name*	PolicyTagName			
Description	Enter Description			
+ Add X Dela				
WLAN Profile		~	Policy Profile	~
prof-name			default-policy-profile	
	10 🔻 items per page			1 - 1 of 1 items
Cancel			[Save & Apply to Device



config t
wireless tag policy <policy-tag-name>
wlan <profile-name> policy <policy-profile-name>

Policy Tag Assignation

Assign the Policy Tag to the needed APs.

GUI:

To assign the tag to one AP, navigate to Configuration > Wireless > Access Points > AP Name > General Tags, assign the relevant policy tag and then click Update & Apply to Device.

Edit AP						
General Interfaces	High Availability	Inventory Adv	vanced			
General		Version				
AP Name*	AP3802-02-WS	Primary Softw	vare Version	10.0.000 50		
Location*	default location	Predownload	ed Status	N/A		
Base Radio MAC	00:42:68:c6:41:20	Predownload	ed Version	N/A		
Ethernet MAC	00:42:68:a0:d0:22	Next Retry Ti	me	N/A		
Admin Status	Enabled 🔹	Boot Version		1. J		
AP Mode	Local 🔻	IOS Version		10.0.200.52		
Operation Status	Registered	Mini IOS Vers	ion	0.0.0.0		
Fabric Status Disabled		IP Config	IP Config			
Tags		IP Address		172.16.0.207		
Policy	default-policy-tag	Static IP				
Site	default-site-tag	Time Statist	Time Statistics			
RF	default-rf-tag	Up Time		9 days 1 hrs 17 mins 24 secs		
		Controller As	sociated Time	0 days 3 hrs 26 mins 41 secs		
		Controller As	sociation Latency	8 days 21 hrs 50 mins 33 secs		
Cancel				🗄 Update & Apply	y to Device	

Note: Be aware that when the policy tag on an AP is changed, it drops its association to the 9800 WLC and joins back a few moments later.

To assign the same Policy Tag to several APs, navigate to Configuration > Wireless Setup > Advanced > Start Now > Apply.



review the chapter: Manage Network Devices from the Cisco Identity Services Engine Administrator Guide, : <u>Network Device Groups</u>

Create New User on ISE

Step 1. Navigate to Administration > Identity Management > Identities > Users > Add as shown in the image:



Step 2. Enter the information for the user. In this example, this user belongs to a group called ALL_ACCOUNTS but it can be adjusted as needed as shown in the image:

Cisco ISE	Administration - Identity Management	🔺 Evaluation Mode 85 Days 🔍 💮 🗖 🔯
Identities Groups	External Identity Sources Identity Source Sequences Settings	
Users Latest Manual Network Scan Res	Network Access Users List > New Network Access User	
Latest Manual Network Scan Res	 Network Access User * Name user! Status Enabled Email Passwords Password Type: internal Users Password Re-Enter Password Login Password Generate Password Generate Password Muser Information Account Options Account Disable Policy User Groups LL_ACCOUNTS (default) 	assword () assword ()

Create Authorization Profile

The Authorization Profile consists of a set of attributes that are returned when a condition is matched. The authorization profile determines if the client has access or not to the network, push Access Control Lists (ACLs), VLAN override or any other parameter. The authorization profile shown in this example sends an

access accept for the client and assigns the client to VLAN 1416.

Step 1. Navigate to Policy > Policy Elements > Results > Authorization > Authorization Profiles and click the Add button.

≡ Cisco ISE	Policy · Policy Elements	🔺 Evaluation Mode 85 Days Q 🕜 🔎
Dictionaries Conditions	Results	
Authentication	Standard Authorization Profiles	Cisco
Authorization V	For Policy Export go to Administration > System > Backup & Restore > Policy Export Page	Selected 0 Total 10 😝 🧔
Downloadable ACLs	Edit + Add Duplicate Delete	ai \sim $~$ Δ
Profiling >	Name Profile	∧ Description
Posture >	Authz_Profile_IPSK	
Client Provisioning	Blackhole_Wireless_Access 🗰 Cisco 🕥	Default profile used to blacklist wireless devices. Ensure that you configu
Gilent Provisioning	Cisco_IP_Phones Cisco ()	Default profile used for Cisco Phones.

Step 2. Enter the values as shown in the image. Here we can return AAA override attributes like VLAN as example. WLC 9800 accepts tunnel attributes 64, 65, 81 that uses VLAN id or Name, and accepts also the use of the AirSpace-Interface-Name attribute.

E Cisco ISE	Policy · Policy Elements	A Evaluation Mode 83 Days	0	6	٢
Dictionaries Conditions	Results				
Authentication >	Authorization Profiles > PermitAccessVian1416				
Authorization \sim					
Authorization Profiles	* Name PermitAccessVlan1416				
Downloadable ACLs	Description				
Profiling >	* Access Type ACCESS_ACCEPT ~				
Posture >	Network Device Profile 🗮 Cisco 🗸 🕀				
Client Provisioning >	Service Template				
	Track Movement				
	Agentiess Posture				
	Passive Identity Tracking 🔲 🕕				
	VLAN Tag ID 1 Edit Tag ID/Name 1416	y			
	✓ Advanced Attributes Settings				
	Elect an item V = +				
	✓ Attributes Details				
	Access Type = ACCESS_ACCEPT Tunnel-Private-Group-ID = 1:1416 Tunnel-Type = 1:13				
	Tunnel-Medium-Type = 1:6				

Create a Policy Set

A Policy Set defines a collection of Authentication and Authorization rules. To create one, go to Policy > Policy Sets, click on the gear of the first Policy Set in the list and select Insert new row above as shown in this image:

licy	Sets					Reset Reset P	Policyset Hitcounts	Save
•	Status	Policy Set Name	Description	Cor	ditions	Allowed Protocols / Server	Sequence Hits Action	s Viev
(Q	Search							
11	0	Policy_Set_IPSK		F	Cisco-cisco-av-pair EQUALS cisco-wlan- ssid=WLAN_iPSK	Default Network Access	∞ ∨+ 77 δ	>
	0	Default	Default policy set			Default Network Access	Insert new row above	>
							Insert new row below	
							Duplicate below	Save

Configure a name and create a condition for this Policy Set. In this example, the condition specifies that we match the traffic that comes from the WLC:

Radius:NAS-IP-Address EQUALS X.X.X.X // X.X.X.X is the WLC IP address

E Cisco ISE		Policy - Policy Sets	🛕 Evaluation Mode 85 Days Q 💮 🕫
Policy Sets			Reset Policyset Hitcounts Save
+ Status Policy Set Name	Description	Conditions	Allowed Protocols / Server Sequence Hits Actions View
Q Search			
Policy_Set_802.1X		Radius-NAS-IP-Address EQUALS 10.48.38.86	Default Network Access 🛛 🗸 + 3 🏠

Make sure Default Network Access is selected under Allowed Protocols / Server Sequence.

Create Authentication Policy

To configure Authentication and Authorization policies, you need to enter the Policy Set configuration. This can be done if you click the blue arrow at the right of the **Policy Set** line:

Pol	Policy Sets					Reset	t Policyset Hitcounts			Save		
(Ð !	Status Policy Set Name Description		Conditions		Allowed Protocols	/ Server S	equence	Hits	Actions	View	
(Q	Search										
		ø	Policy_Set_802.1X		٥	Radius-NAS-IP-Address EQUALS 10.48.38.86	Default Network	Access 🔇	<u> </u>	3	<u>ئې</u>	>

Authentication policies are used to verify if the credentials of the users are correct (verify if the user really is who it says it is). Under **Authenticaton Policy**, create an Authentication Policy and configure it as shown in this image. The condition for the policy used in this example is:

RADIUS:Called-Station-ID ENDS_WITH <SSID> // <SSID> is the SSID of your WLAN

Also, choose the Internal Users under the Use tab of this Authentication Policy.

Status Policy Set Name	Description	Conditions	All	owed Protocols / Server	Sequence
Q Search					
Policy_Set_802.1X		Radius-NAS-IP-Address EQUALS 10.48.38.86	D	Default Network Access	∞ ~+
uthentication Policy (1)					
Status Rule Name	Conditions		Use		Hits Actio

Create Authorization Policy

On the same page, go to Authorization Policy and create a new one. The condition for this Authorization Policy is:

```
RADIUS:Called-Station-ID ENDS_WITH <SSID> // <SSID> is the SSID of your WLAN
```

Under the **Result** > **Profiles** tab of this policy, select the **Authorization Profile** you created earlier. This causes ISE to send the correct attributes to the WLC if the user is authenticated.

Authenticatio	n Policy (2)						
Authorization	Policy - Local Exceptions						
Authorization	Policy - Global Exceptions						
Authorization	Policy (2)						
			Blt-				
			Results				
+ Status	Rule Name	Conditions	Results Profiles	Security Groups		Hits	Action
Status Q Search	Rule Name	Conditions	Results Profiles	Security Groups		Hits	Action
Status Q Search	Rule Name	Conditions	Results Profiles	Security Groups		Hits	Action
 Status Search 	Rule Name Authz_Policy_802.1X	Conditions Radius-Called-Station-ID ENDS_WITH Test- 802.1X	Profiles PermitAccessVian1416 × ×	Security Groups	<u>~</u> +	Hits 14	Action

At this point, all the configuration for the WLC and ISE is complete, you can now try to connect with a client.

For more information about ISE Allow Protocols Policies check the chapter: Manage Authentication Policies from the Cisco Identity Services Engine Administrator Guide <u>Manage Authentication Policies</u>

For more information about ISE Identity Sources check the chapter: Manage Users and External Identity Sources from the Cisco Identity Services Engine Administrator Guide: <u>Identity Sources</u>

Verify

You can use these commands to verify your current configuration:

- # show run wlan // WLAN configuration
- # show run aaa // AAA configuration (server, server group, methods)
- # show aaa servers // Configured AAA servers
- # show ap config general // AP's configurations
- # show ap name <ap-name> config general // Detailed configuration of specific AP
- # show ap tag summary // Tag information for AP'S
- # show wlan { summary | id | name | all } // WLAN details
- # show wireless tag policy detailed <policy-tag name> // Detailed information on given policy tag
- # show wireless profile policy detailed <policy-profile name>// Detailed information on given policy pr

Troubleshoot



Note: The usage of external load balancers is fine. However, make sure your load balancer works

on a per-client basis by using the calling-station-id RADIUS attribute. Relying on UDP source port is not a supported mechanism for balancing RADIUS requests from the 9800.

Troubleshoot on the WLC

WLC 9800 provides ALWAYS-ON trace capabilities. This ensures all client connectivity-related errors, warnings, and notice level messages are constantly logged and you can view logs for an incident or failure condition after it has occurred.

It depends on the volume of logs generated but usually, you can go back a few hours to several days.

In order to view the traces that 9800 WLC collected by default, you can connect by SSH/Telnet to the 9800 WLC and perform these steps: (Ensure you log the session to a text file).

Step 1. Check the WLC current time so you can track the logs in the time back to when the issue occurred.

show clock

Step 2. Collect syslogs from the WLC buffer or the external syslog, as dictated by the system configuration. This provides a quick view into the system health and errors, if any.

show logging

Step 3. Verify if any debug conditions are enabled.

```
# show debugging
IOSXE Conditional Debug Configs:
Conditional Debug Global State: Stop
IOSXE Packet Tracing Configs:
Packet Infra debugs:
Ip Address
                                              Port
       -----|-----|
```

Note: If you see any condition listed, it means the traces are logged up to debug level for all the processes that encounter the enabled conditions (mac address, ip address, and so on). This increases the volume of logs. Therefore, it is recommended to clear all conditions when not actively debugging.

Step 4. Assume the mac address under test was not listed as a condition in Step 3, collect the always-on notice level traces for the specific mac address:

show logging profile wireless filter { mac | ip } { <aaaa.bbbb.cccc> | <a.b.c.d> } to-file always-on-

You can either display the content on the session or you can copy the file to an external TFTP server:

```
# more bootflash:always-on-<FILENAME.txt>
or
# copy bootflash:always-on-<FILENAME.txt> tftp://a.b.c.d/path/always-on-<FILENAME.txt>
```

Conditional Debugging and Radio Active Tracing

If the always-on traces do not give you enough information to determine the trigger for the problem under investigation, you can enable conditional debugging and capture Radio Active (RA) trace, which provides debug-level traces for all processes that interact with the specified condition (client mac address in this case). You can do this through the GUI or the CLI.

CLI:

In order to enable conditional debugging, perform these steps:

Step 5. Ensure there are no debug conditions enabled.

clear platform condition all

Step 6. Enable the debug condition for the wireless client mac address that you want to monitor.

This command starts to monitor the provided mac address for 30 minutes (1800 seconds). You can optionally increase this time up to 2085978494 seconds.

debug wireless mac <aaaa.bbbb.cccc> {monitor-time <seconds>}

Note: In order to monitor more than one client at a time, run debug wireless mac <aaaa.bbbb.cccc> command per mac address.

Note: You do not see the output of the client activity on a terminal session, as everything is buffered internally to be viewed later.

Step 7. Reproduce the issue or behavior that you want to monitor.

Step 8. Stop the debugs if the issue is reproduced before the default or configured monitor time elapses.

no debug wireless mac <aaaa.bbbb.cccc>

Once the monitor-time has elapsed or the debug wireless has been stopped, the 9800 WLC generates a local file with the name:

ra_trace_MAC_aaaabbbbcccc_HHMMSS.XXX_timezone_DayWeek_Month_Day_year.log

Step 9. Collect the file of the mac address activity. You can either copy the ra trace.log to an external server or display the output directly on the screen.

Check the name of the RA traces file:

dir bootflash: | inc ra_trace

Copy the file to an external server:

copy bootflash:ra_trace_MAC_aaaabbbbcccc_HHMMSS.XXX_timezone_DayWeek_Month_Day_year.log tftp://a.b.c.

Display the content:

more bootflash:ra_trace_MAC_aaaabbbbbcccc_HHMMSS.XXX_timezone_DayWeek_Month_Day_year.log

Step 10. If the root cause is still not obvious, collect the internal logs, which are a more verbose view of debug level logs. You do not need to debug the client again as we look further in detail at debug logs that have been already collected and internally stored.

show logging profile wireless internal filter { mac | ip } { <aaaa.bbbb.cccc> | <a.b.c.d> } to-file r

Note: This command output returns traces for all log levels for all processes and is quite voluminous. Please engage Cisco TAC to help parse through these traces.

You can either copy the ra-internal-FILENAME.txt to an external server or display the output directly on the screen.

Copy the file to an external server:

```
# copy bootflash:ra-internal-<FILENAME>.txt tftp://a.b.c.d/ra-internal-<FILENAME>.txt
```

Display the content:

more bootflash:ra-internal-<FILENAME>.txt

Step 11. Remove the debug conditions.

clear platform condition all

Note: Ensure you always remove the debug conditions after a troubleshoot session.

GUI:

Step 1. Go to Troubleshooting > Radioactive Trace > + Add and specify the MAC/IP address of the client(s) you want to troubleshoot.



Step 2. Click Start.

Step 3. Reproduce the issue.

Step 4. Click Stop.

Step 5. Click the Generate button, select the time interval you want to get the logs for, and click Apply to Device. In this example, the logs for the last 10 minutes are requested.

Troubleshooting - > Radioactive Trace			
Conditional Debug Global State: Stopped		Enter time interval	
		Enable Internal Logs	
→ Add × Delete		Generate logs for last 10 minutes 	
MAC/IP Address T Trace file		⊖ 30 minutes	
aaaa.bbbb.cccc	1 - 1 of 1 items	◯ 1 hour	
		⊖ since last boot	
		O 0-4294967295 seconds 👻	
		Cancel	9

Step 6. Download the Radioactive Trace on your computer and click the download button and inspect it.

Troubleshooting		
Conditional Debug Global State: Stopped		
+ Add × Delete Start Stop	Last Run Result	
MAC/IP Address Y Trace file	State Successful	
📄 aaaa.bbbb.cccc debugTrace_aaaa.bbbb.cccc.txt 🛓 🛅 🕞 Ge	enerate See Details	
1 • • 1 • • 10 • items per page 1 - 1	of 1 items MAC/IP Address aaaa.bbbb.cccc	
	Start Time 08/24/2022 08:46:49	1
	End Time 08/24/2022 08:47:00	1
	Trace file debugTrace_aaaa.bbbb.cccc.txt 📥	

Troubleshoot on ISE

If you experience issues with client authentication, you can verify the logs on the ISE server. Go to Operations > RADIUS > Live Logs and you see the list of authentication requests, as well as the Policy Set that was matched, the result for each request, and so on. You can get more details if you click the magnifying glass under the Details tab of each line, as shown in the image:

E Cisco ISE	Operations	s · RADIUS	A Evaluation Mode	85 Days Q ② 교 @
Live Logs Live Sessions				
Misconfigured Supplicants 🕕	Misconfigured Network Devices 🕕	RADIUS Drops	Client Stopped Responding 🕕	Repeat Counter 🕔
0	0	0	2	0
😥 Refresh 🛛 🖆 Reset Repeat Counts			Refresh Show Never V Latest 20 recor	ds → Last 3 hours → V Filter → Ø
Time Sta	atus Details Repea Identity	Endpoint ID Endpoint	Authenti Authoriz Authoriz	IP Address Netwo
×	V Identity	Endpoint ID Endpoint Pr	Authenticat Authorizatic Authorizatic	IP Address 🗸 Networ
Aug 23, 2022 06:18:42.5	0 user1	08:BE:AC:27:85: Unknown	Policy_Set Policy_Set PermitAcc	10.14.16.112,
Aug 23, 2022 09:45:48.1	S user1	BC:D0:74:2B:6D:		9800-W