MAC Authentication Bypass

The MAC Authentication Bypass feature is a MAC-address-based authentication mechanism that allows clients in a network to integrate with the Cisco Identity Based Networking Services (IBNS) and Network Admission Control (NAC) strategy using the client MAC address. The MAC Authentication Bypass feature is applicable to the following network environments:

- Network environments in which a supplicant code is not available for a given client platform.
- Network environments in which the end client configuration is not under administrative control, that is, the IEEE 802.1X requests are not supported on these networks.

Finding Feature Information

Your software release may not support all the features documented in this module. For the latest caveats and feature information, see Bug Search Tool and the release notes for your platform and software release. To find information about the features documented in this module, and to see a list of the releases in which each feature is supported, see the feature information table.

Use Cisco Feature Navigator to find information about platform support and Cisco software image support. To access Cisco Feature Navigator, go to www.cisco.com/go/cfn. An account on Cisco.com is not required.

Prerequisites for Configuring MAC Authentication Bypass

IEEE 802.1x—Port-Based Network Access Control

You should understand the concepts of port-based network access control and have an understanding of how to configure port-based network access control on your Cisco platform. For more information, see the *Securing User Services Configuration Guide Library*.

RADIUS and ACLs

You should understand the concepts of the RADIUS protocol and have an understanding of how to create and apply access control lists (ACLs). For more information, see the documentation for your Cisco platform and the *Securing User Services Configuration Guide Library*.

The device must have a RADIUS configuration and be connected to the Cisco secure access control server (ACS). For more information, see the *User Guide for Secure ACS Appliance 3.2*.

Information About Configuring MAC Authentication Bypass

Overview of the Cisco IOS Auth Manager

The capabilities of devices connecting to a given network can be different, thus requiring that the network support different authentication methods and authorization policies. The Cisco IOS Auth Manager handles network authentication requests and enforces authorization policies regardless of authentication method. The Auth Manager maintains operational data for all port-based network connection attempts, authentications, authorizations, and disconnections and, as such, serves as a session manager.

The possible states for Auth Manager sessions are as follows:

- Idle—In the idle state, the authentication session has been initialized, but no methods have yet been run. This is an intermediate state.
- Running—A method is currently running. This is an intermediate state.
- Authc Success—The authentication method has run successfully. This is an intermediate state.
- Authc Failed—The authentication method has failed. This is an intermediate state.
- Authz Success—All features have been successfully applied for this session. This is a terminal state.
- Authz Failed—At least one feature has failed to be applied for this session. This is a terminal state.
- No methods—There were no results for this session. This is a terminal state.

How to Configure MAC Authentication Bypass

Enabling MAC Authentication Bypass

Perform this task to enable the MAC Authentication Bypass feature on an 802.1X port.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **enable**
2. **configure terminal**
3. **interface** *type slot* / *port*
4. **mab**
5. **end**
6. **show authentication sessions interface** *type slot* / *port* **details**

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	**enable** **Example:** `Device> enable`	Enables privileged EXEC mode. • Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	**configure terminal** **Example:** `Device# configure terminal`	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	**interface** *type slot* / *port* **Example:** `Device(config)# interface Gigabitethernet 1/2/1`	Enters interface configuration mode.
Step 4	**mab** **Example:** `Device(config-if)# mab`	Enables MAB.
Step 5	**end** **Example:** `Device(config-if)# end`	Returns to privileged EXEC mode.

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 6	**show authentication sessions interface** *type slot* / *port* **details** **Example:** `Device# show authentication session interface Gigabitethernet 1/2/1 details`	Displays the interface configuration and the authenticator instances on the interface.

Enabling Reauthentication on a Port

By default, ports are not automatically reauthenticated. You can enable automatic reauthentication and specify how often reauthentication attempts are made.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **enable**
2. **configure terminal**
3. **interface** *type slot* / *port*
4. **switchport**
5. **switchport mode access**
6. **authentication port-control auto**
7. **mab** [**eap**]
8. **authentication periodic**
9. **authentication timer reauthenticate** {*seconds* | **server**}
10. **end**

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	**enable** **Example:** `Device> enable`	Enables privileged EXEC mode. • Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	**configure terminal** **Example:** `Device# configure terminal`	Enters global configuration mode.

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 3	**interface** *type slot / port* **Example:** `Device(config)# interface Gigabitethernet 1/2/1`	Enters interface configuration mode.
Step 4	**switchport** **Example:** `Device(config-if)# switchport`	Places interface in Layer 2 switched mode.
Step 5	**switchport mode access** **Example:** `Device(config-if)# switchport mode access`	Sets the interface type as a nontrunking, nontagged single VLAN Layer 2 interface.
Step 6	**authentication port-control auto** **Example:** `Device(config-if)# authentication port-control auto`	Configures the authorization state of the port.
Step 7	**mab** [**eap**] **Example:** `Device(config-if)# mab`	Enables MAB.
Step 8	**authentication periodic** **Example:** `Device(config-if)# authentication periodic`	Enables reauthentication.
Step 9	**authentication timer reauthenticate** {*seconds* | **server**} **Example:** `Device(config-if)# authentication timer reauthenticate 900`	Configures the time, in seconds, between reauthentication attempts.
Step 10	**end** **Example:** `Device(config-if)# end`	Exits interface configuration mode and returns to privileged EXEC mode.

Specifying the Security Violation Mode

When there is a security violation on a port, the port can be shut down or traffic can be restricted. By default, the port is shut down. You can configure the period of time for which the port is shut down.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **enable**
2. **configure terminal**
3. **interface** *type slot* / *port*
4. **switchport**
5. **switchport mode access**
6. **authentication port-control auto**
7. **mab** [**eap**]
8. **authentication violation** {**restrict** | **shutdown**}
9. **authentication timer restart** *seconds*
10. **end**

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	**enable** **Example:** `Device> enable`	Enables privileged EXEC mode. • Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	**configure terminal** **Example:** `Device# configure terminal`	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	**interface** *type slot* / *port* **Example:** `Device(config)# interface Gigabitethernet 1/2/1`	Enters interface configuration mode.
Step 4	**switchport** **Example:** `Device(config-if)# switchport`	Places interface in Layer 2 switched mode.

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 5	**switchport mode access** **Example:** `Device(config-if)# switchport mode access`	Sets the interface type as a nontrunking, nontagged single VLAN Layer 2 interface.
Step 6	**authentication port-control auto** **Example:** `Device(config-if)# authentication port-control auto`	Configures the authorization state of the port.
Step 7	**mab** [**eap**] **Example:** `Device(config-if)# mab`	Enables MAB.
Step 8	**authentication violation** {**restrict** | **shutdown**} **Example:** `Device(config-if)# authentication violation shutdown`	Configures the action to be taken when a security violation occurs on the port.
Step 9	**authentication timer restart** *seconds* **Example:** `Device(config-if)# authentication timer restart 30`	Configures the period of time, in seconds, after which an attempt is made to authenticate an unauthorized port.
Step 10	**end** **Example:** `Device(config-if)# end`	Exits interface configuration mode and returns to privileged EXEC mode.

Configuration Examples for MAC Authentication Bypass

Example: MAC Authentication Bypass Configuration

In the following example, the **mab** command has been configured to enable the MAC Authorization Bypass (MAB) feature on the specified interface. The optional **show authentication sessions** command has been enabled to display the interface configuration and the authentication instances on the interface.

```
Device> enable
Device# configure terminal
Device(config)# interface GigabitEthernet 1/2/1
Device(config-if)# mab
Device(config-if)# end
Device# show authentication sessions interface GigabitEthernet 1/2/1 details
```

Additional References

Related Documents

Related Topic	Document Title
Cisco IOS commands	Cisco IOS Master Command List, All Releases
Authentication commands	*Cisco IOS Security Command Reference*
IEEE 802.1x—Flexible Authentication	*Securing User Services Configuration Library*

MIBs

MIB	MIBs Link
• CISCO-AUTH-FRAMEWORK-MIB • CISCO-MAC-AUTH-BYPASS-MIB • CISCO-PAE-MIB • IEEE8021-PAE-MIB	To locate and download MIBs for selected platforms, Cisco IOS software releases, and feature sets, use Cisco MIB Locator found at the following URL: http://www.cisco.com/go/mibs

RFCs

RFC	Title
RFC 3580	*IEEE 802.1x Remote Authentication Dial In User Service (RADIUS)*

Technical Assistance

Description	Link
The Cisco Support and Documentation website provides online resources to download documentation, software, and tools. Use these resources to install and configure the software and to troubleshoot and resolve technical issues with Cisco products and technologies. Access to most tools on the Cisco Support and Documentation website requires a Cisco.com user ID and password.	http://www.cisco.com/cisco/web/support/index.html

Feature Information for MAC Authentication Bypass

The following table provides release information about the feature or features described in this module. This table lists only the software release that introduced support for a given feature in a given software release train. Unless noted otherwise, subsequent releases of that software release train also support that feature.

Use Cisco Feature Navigator to find information about platform support and Cisco software image support. To access Cisco Feature Navigator, go to . An account on Cisco.com is not required.

Table 1: Feature Information for MAC Authentication Bypass

Feature Name	Releases	Feature Information
MAC Authentication Bypass (MAB)	Cisco IOS XE 3.2SE Cisco IOS XE 3.3SE Cisco IOS XE 3.5E Cisco IOS XE Release 3.6E	The MAC Authentication Bypass feature is a MAC-address-based authentication mechanism that allows clients in a network to integrate with the Cisco IBNS and NAC strategy using the client MAC address. In Cisco IOS XE Release 3.2SE, this feature was supported on the following platforms: • Catalyst 3850 Series Switches • Cisco 5760 Wireless LAN Controller In Cisco IOS XE Release 3.3SE, this feature was supported on the following platforms: • Catalyst 3650 Series Switches In Cisco IOS XE Release 3.6E, this feature is supported on Cisco Catalyst 3850 Series Switches. The following commands were introduced or modified: **dot1x mac-auth-bypass**, **show dot1x interface**.