

Block DNS with Security Intelligence using Firepower Management Center

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Introduction

This document describes the procedure to add a Domain Name System (DNS) List to a DNS Policy so that you can apply it with Security Intelligence (SI).

Prerequisites

Requirements

Cisco recommends that you have knowledge of these topics:

- Cisco ASA55XX Threat Defense configuration
- Cisco Firepower Management Center configuration

Components Used

- Cisco ASA5506W-X Threat Defense (75) Version 6.2.3.4 (Build 42)
- Cisco Firepower Management Center for VMWare Software Version: 6.2.3.4 (build 42)OS: Cisco Fire Linux OS 6.2.3 (build13)

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

Security Intelligence works by blocking traffic to or from IP addresses, URLs, or domain names that have a known bad reputation. In this document, the main focus is domain name blacklisting.

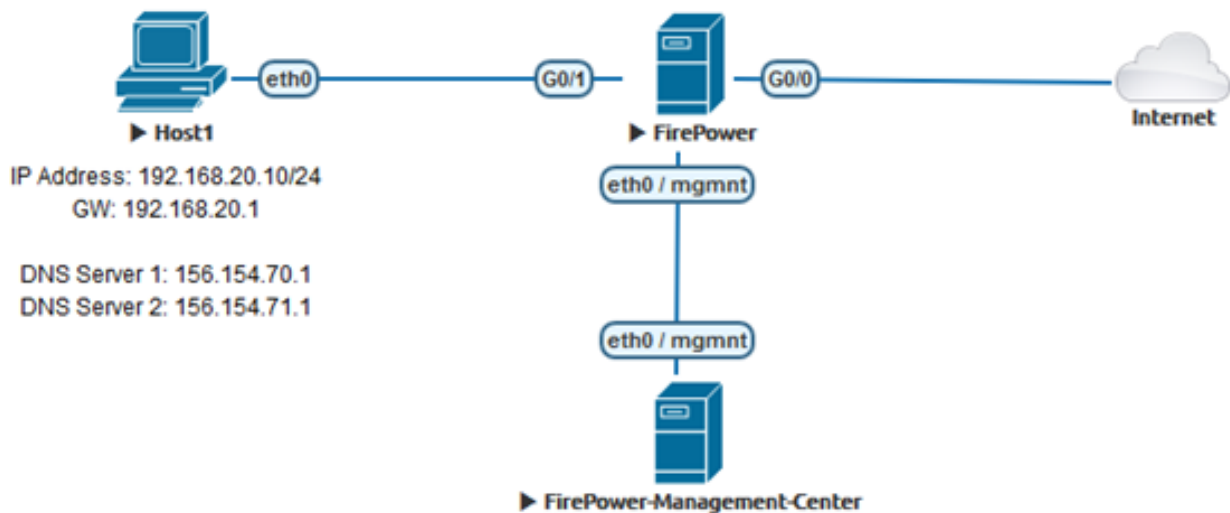
The example used blocks 1 domain:

- cisco.com

You could use URL filtering to block some of these sites, but the problem is that the URL must be an exact match. On the other hand, DNS blacklisting with SI can focus on domains like “cisco.com” without the need to worry about any sub-domains or changes in URL.

At the end of this document, an optional Sinkhole configuration is also demonstrated.

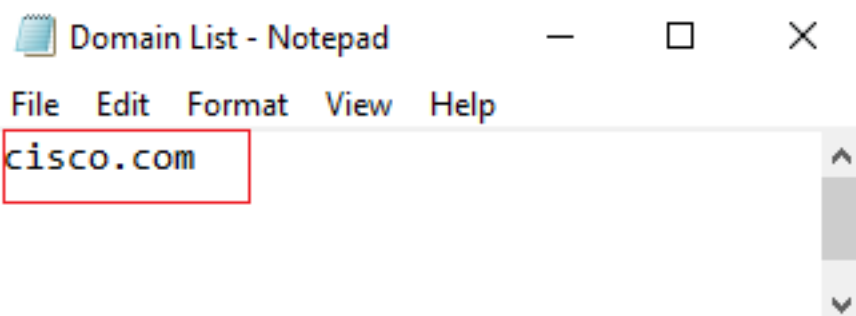
Network Diagram



Configure

Configure a custom DNS List with the domains we want to block and upload the list to FMC

Step 1. Create a .txt file with the domains that you would like to block. Save the .txt file on your computer:



Step 2. In FMC navigate to Object >> Object Management >> DNS Lists and Feeds >> Add DNS List and Feeds.

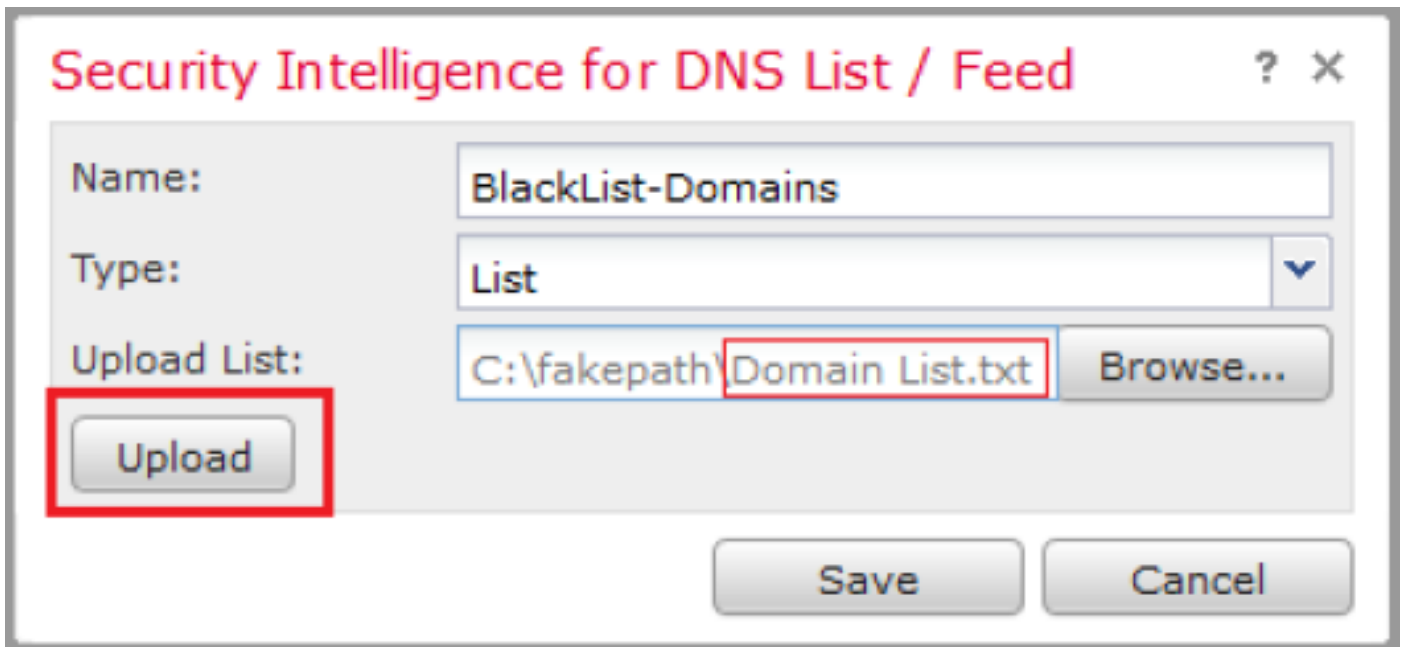
The screenshot shows the FMC navigation menu with 'Objects' selected. Under 'Object Management', 'DNS Lists and Feeds' is highlighted. In the main content area, the 'Add DNS Lists and Feeds' button is visible. Below it is a table of existing DNS lists and feeds.

| Name | Type |
|---|------|
| Cisco-DNS-and-URL-Intelligence-Feed <i>Last Updated: 2019-02-14 10:21:48</i> | Feed |
| Global-Blacklist-for-DNS | List |
| Global-Whitelist-for-DNS | List |

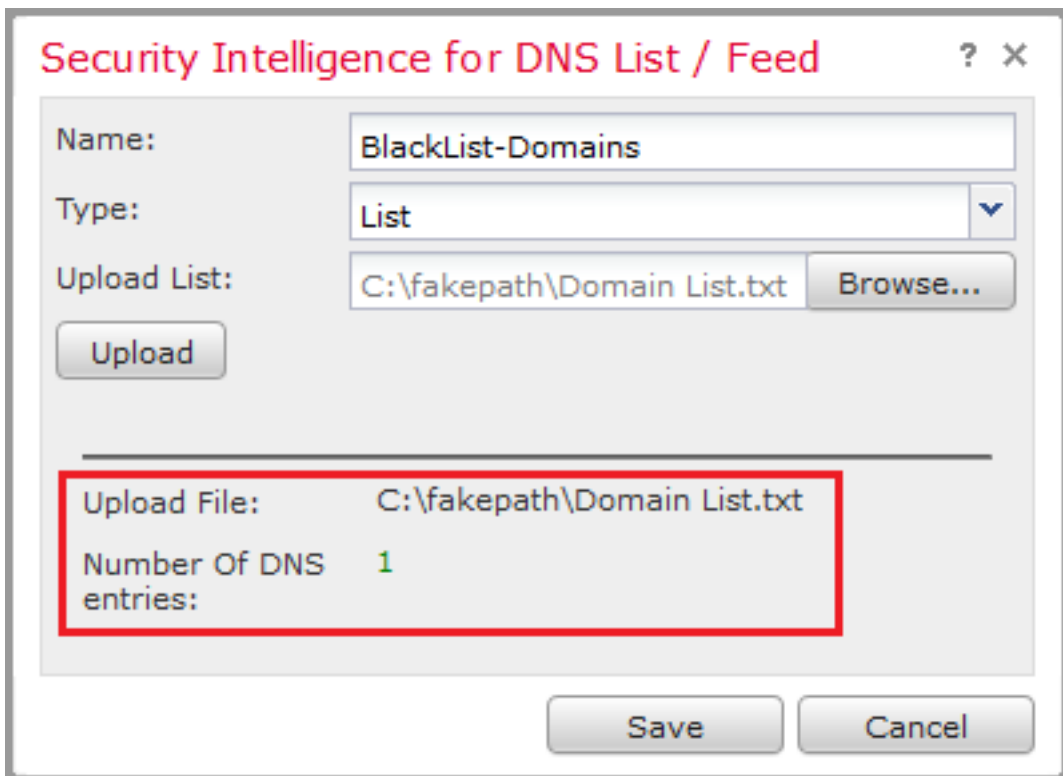
Step 3. Create a list called “BlackList-Domains”, the type should be list and the .txt file with the domains in question should be uploaded as seen in the images:

The dialog box is titled 'Security Intelligence for DNS List / Feed'. It contains the following fields and buttons:

- Name: BlackList-Domains
- Type: List (selected in a dropdown menu)
- Upload List: [Empty text box] [Browse...]
- [Upload] button
- [Save] button
- [Cancel] button



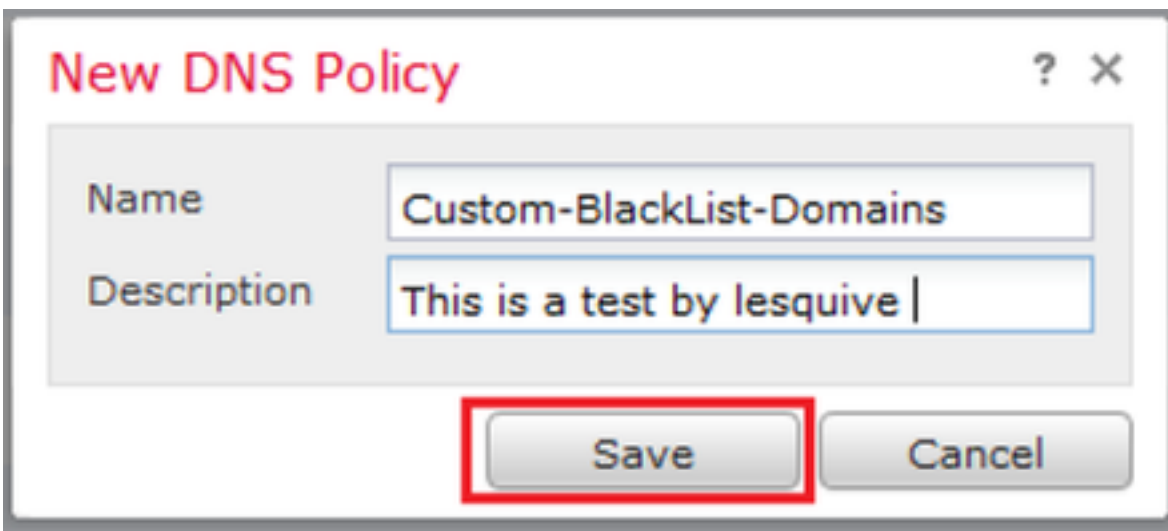
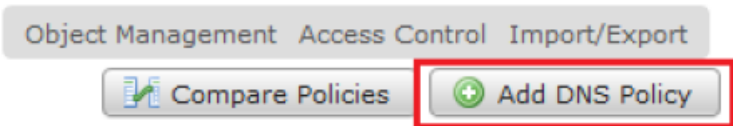
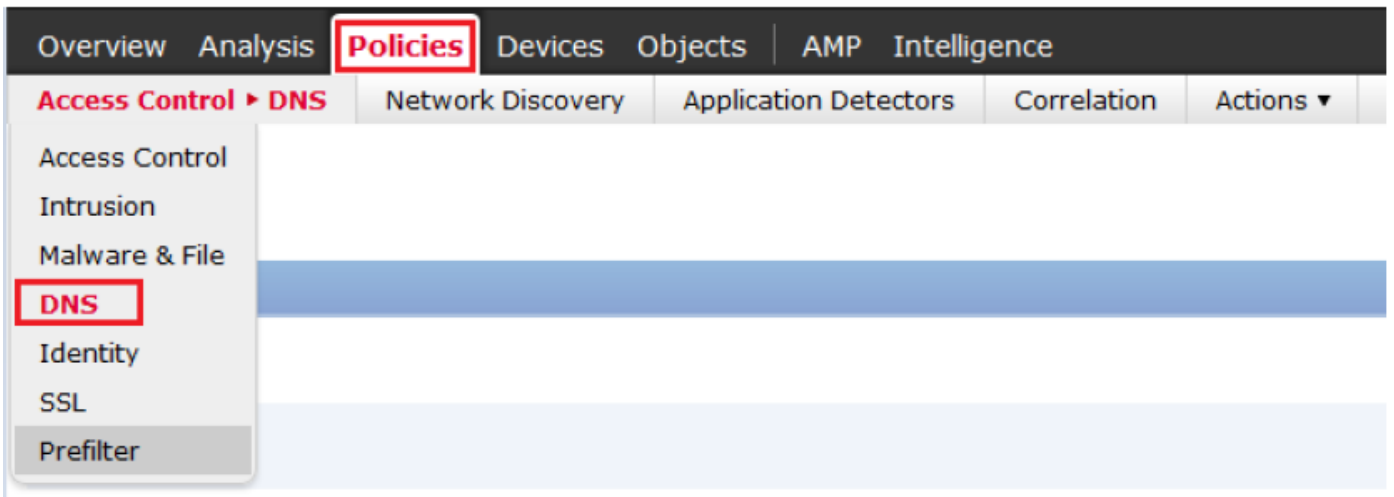
*Notice that when you upload the .txt file, the Number of DNS entries should read all domains. In this example, a total of 1:



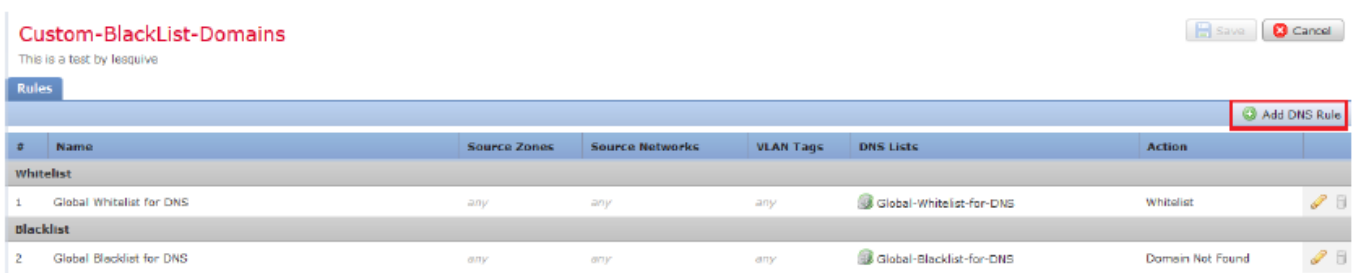
Add a new DNS Policy with the 'action configured to 'domain not found'

*Ensure you add a source zone, source network, and DNS List.

Step 1. Navigate to Policies >> Access Control >> DNS >> Add DNS Policy:



Step 2. Add A DNS rule as seen in the image:



Add Rule

? x

Name: Enabled

Action:

Zones | Networks | VLAN Tags | DNS

Available Zones

- Search by name
- JVILLALToutside
- lesquive-INSIDE
- lesquive-OUTSIDE
- Manuel-Inside
- MANUEL-INSIDE-2
- Manuel-Outside
- MANUEL-OUTSIDE-2
- Marco-Inside
- Marco-Outside
- Melincide

Source Zones (1)

- lesquive-INSIDE

Add to Source

Add Cancel

Add Rule

? x

Name: Enabled

Action:

Zones | Networks | VLAN Tags | DNS

Available Zones

- Search by name
- JVILLALToutside
- lesquive-INSIDE
- lesquive-OUTSIDE
- Manuel-Inside
- MANUEL-INSIDE-2
- Manuel-Outside
- MANUEL-OUTSIDE-2
- Marco-Inside
- Marco-Outside
- Melincide

Source Zones (1)

- lesquive-INSIDE

Add to Source

Add Cancel

Add Rule

? x

Name: Enabled

Action:

Networks | Zones | VLAN Tags | DNS

Available Networks

- Search by name or value
- IPv6-to-IPv4-Relay-Anycast
- jvillalt-Inside
- lesquive-inside-network
- lesquive-network
- Manuel-Inside-NET
- Marco_PAT
- Network_Marco
- Outside-isaac
- pat-hugo
- Pat_Marco

Source Networks (1)

- lesquive-network

Add to Source

Enter an IP address Add

Add Cancel

Add Rule

Name: Enabled

Action:

Zones Networks VLAN Tags **DNS**

DNS Lists and Feeds

- DNS Phishing
- DNS Response
- DNS Spam
- DNS Suspicious
- DNS Tor_exit_node
- 0.0.0.0
- BlackList-Domains**
- Global-Blacklist-for-DNS
- Global-Whitelist-for-DNS
- test

Selected Items (1)

- BlackList-Domains

Add to Rule

Add Cancel

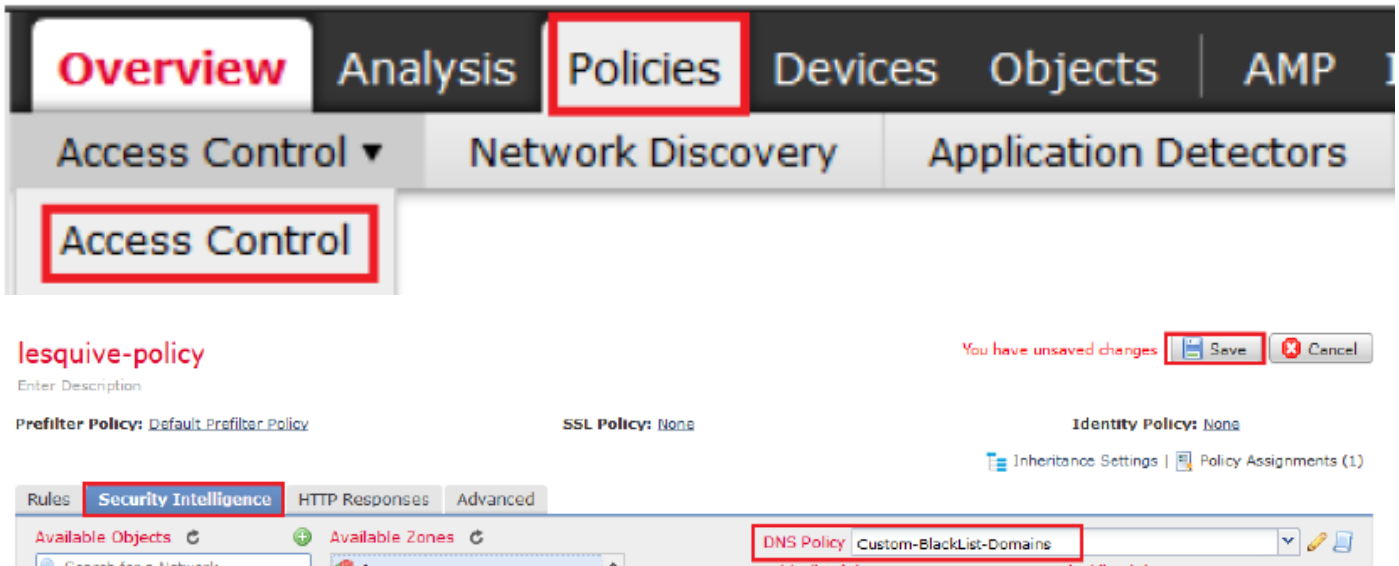
| # | Name | Source Zo... | Source Networks | VLAN Ta... | DNS Lists | Action | |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------------|------------------|------------|--------------------------|------------------|--|
| Whitelist | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Global Whitelist for DNS | any | any | any | Global-Whitelist-for-DNS | Whitelist | |
| Blacklist | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Global Blacklist for DNS | any | any | any | Global-Blacklist-for-DNS | Domain Not Found | |
| 3 | Block bad domains | lesquive-INS | lesquive-network | any | BlackList-Domains | Sinkhole | |

Important information on rule order:

- The Global Whitelist is always first and takes precedence over all other rules.
- The Descendant DNS Whitelists rule only appears in multi-domain deployments, in non-leaf domains. It is always second and takes precedence over all other rules except the Global Whitelist.
- The Whitelist section precedes the Blacklist section; whitelist rules always take precedence over other rules.
- The Global Blacklist is always first in the Blacklist section and takes precedence over all other Monitor and blacklist rules.
- The Descendant DNS Blacklists rule only appears in multi-domain deployments, in non-leaf domains. It is always second in the Blacklist section and takes precedence over all other Monitor and blacklist rules except the Global Blacklist.
- The Blacklist section contains Monitor and blacklist rules.
- When you first create a DNS rule, the system position sit last in the Whitelist section if you assign a Whitelist action, or last in the Blacklist section if you assign any other action

Assign the DNS Policy to your Access Control Policy

Go to Policies >> Access Control >> The Policy for your FTD >> Security Intelligence >> DNS Policy and add the Policy you created.

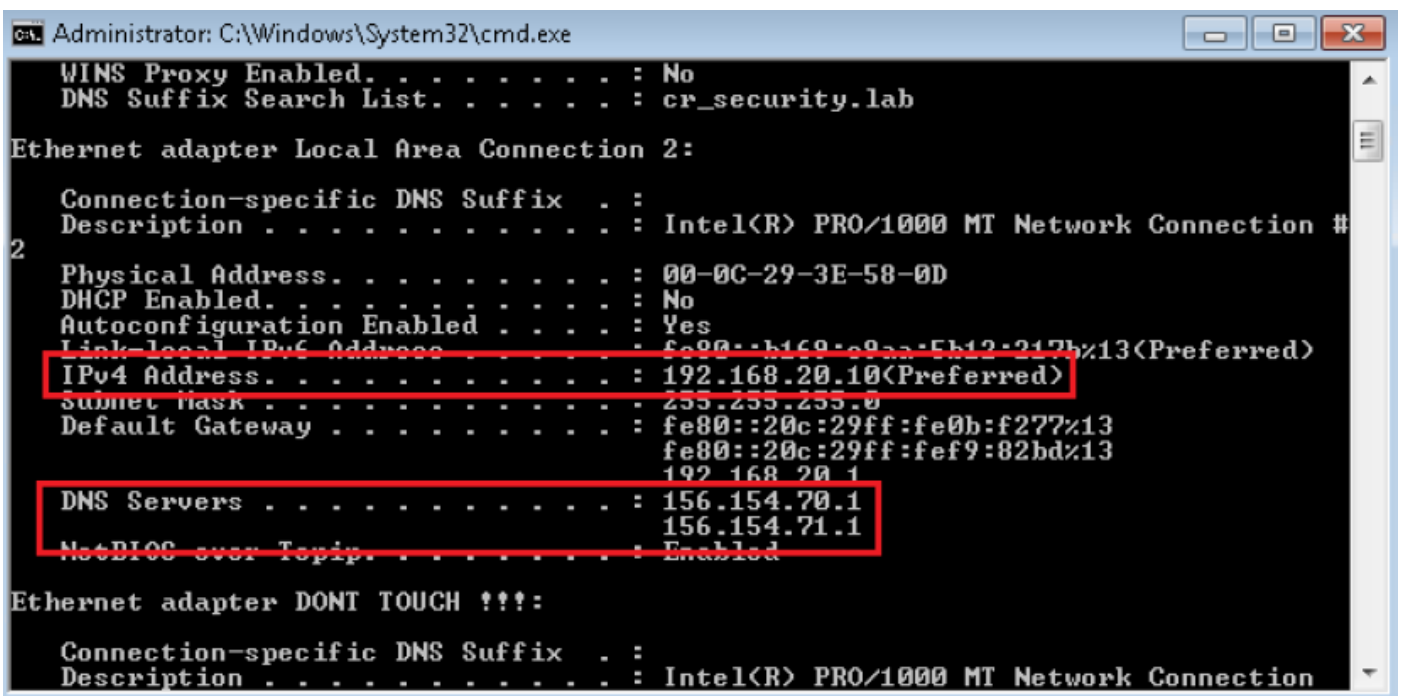


Ensure you deploy all changes when finished.

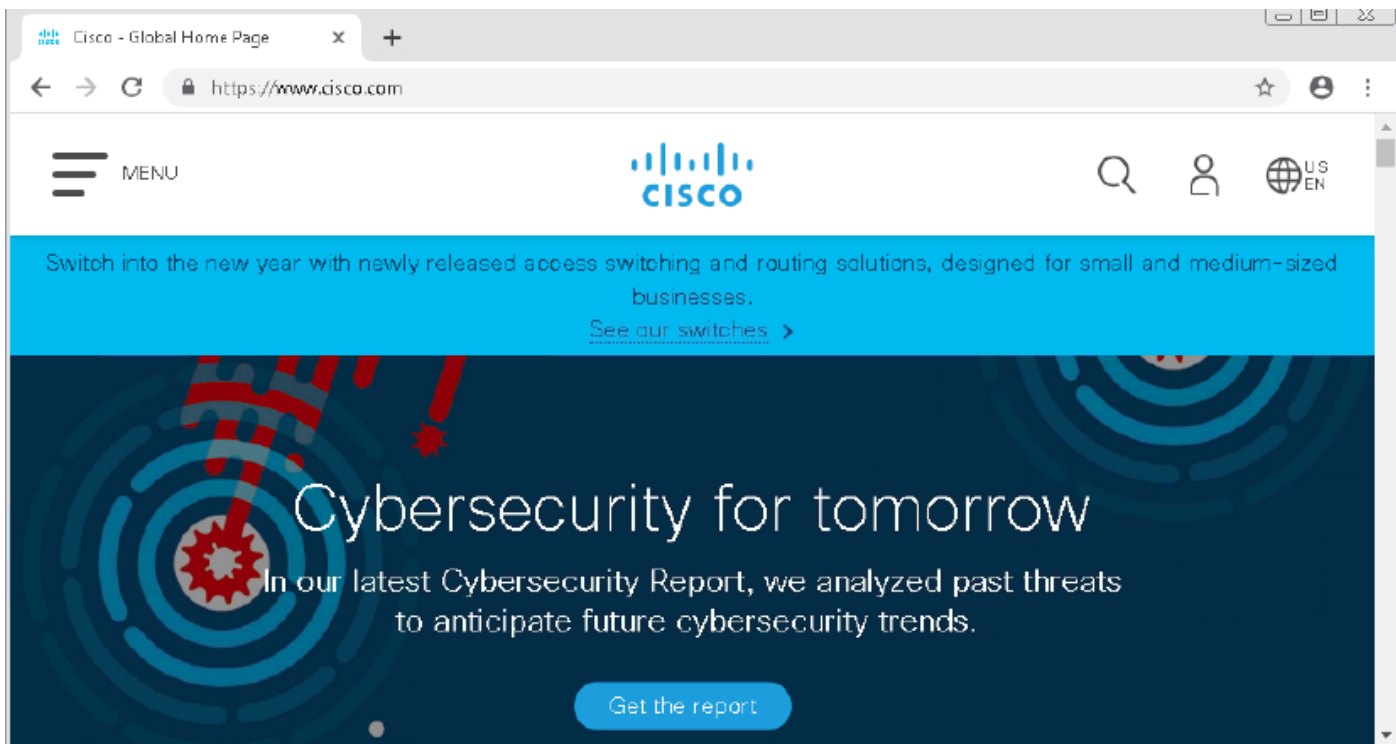
Verify

Before the DNS Policy is Applied

Step 1. Check the DNS server and IP address information on your host machine as seen in the image:



Step 2. Confirm you can navigate to cisco.com as seen in the image:



Step 3. Confirm with packet captures that DNS is resolved correctly:

The screenshot shows a Wireshark packet capture window titled '*Local Area Connection 2'. The packet list pane shows two DNS packets:

| No. | Time | Source | Destination | Protocol | Length | Info |
|------|-----------|---------------|---------------|----------|--------|---|
| 3510 | 22.702417 | 192.168.20.10 | 156.154.70.1 | DNS | 69 | Standard query 0x0004 A cisco.com |
| 3515 | 22.746661 | 156.154.70.1 | 192.168.20.10 | DNS | 271 | Standard query response 0x0004 A cisco.com A 72.163.4.185 |

The packet details pane for the selected packet (No. 3515) shows the following structure:

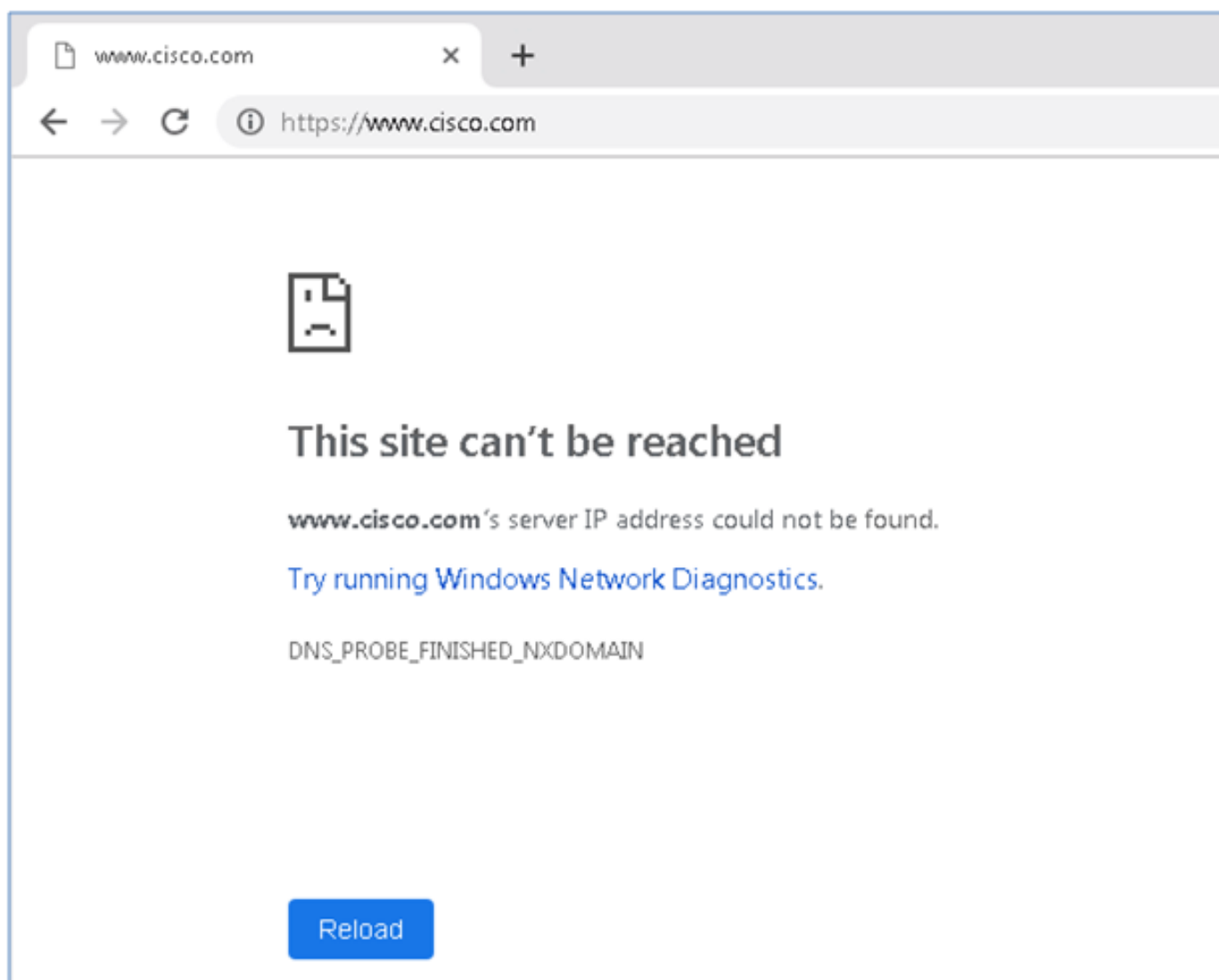
- Frame 3515: 271 bytes on wire (2168 bits), 271 bytes captured (2168 bits) on interface 0
- Ethernet II, Src: Cisco_cd:3a:fb (00:fe:c8:cd:3a:fb), Dst: Vmware_3e:58:0d (00:0c:29:3e:58:0d)
- Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 156.154.70.1, Dst: 192.168.20.10
- User Datagram Protocol, Src Port: 53, Dst Port: 49399
- Domain Name System (response)
 - Transaction ID: 0x0004
 - Flags: 0x8180 Standard query response, No error
 - Questions: 1
 - Answer RRs: 1
 - Authority RRs: 3
 - Additional RRs: 6
 - Queries
 - Answers
 - cisco.com: type A, class IN, addr 72.163.4.185
 - Name: cisco.com
 - Type: A (Host Address) (1)
 - Class: IN (0x0001)
 - Time to live: 2573
 - Data length: 4
 - Address: 72.163.4.185

After the DNS Policy is Applied

Step 1. Clear DNS cache on your host with the command `ipconfig /flushdns`.

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
C:\Windows\system32>ipconfig /flushdns
Windows IP Configuration
Successfully flushed the DNS Resolver Cache.
C:\Windows\system32>_
```

Step 2. Navigate to the domain in question with a web browser. It should be unreachable:



Step 3. Try to issue **nslookup** on the domain cisco.com. The name resolution fails.

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe - nslookup
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Windows\system32 nslookup
Default Server: rdns1.ultradns.net
Address: 156.154.70.1

> cisco.com
Server: rdns1.ultradns.net
Address: 156.154.70.1

www.ultra.ultradns.net can't find cisco.com: Non-existent domain
```

Step 4. Packet captures show a response from the FTD, instead of the DNS server.

The image shows a Wireshark packet capture for 'udp.stream eq 13'. The table below summarizes the captured packets:

| No. | Time | Source | Destination | Protocol | Length | Info |
|------|-----------|---------------|---------------|----------|--------|---|
| 1617 | 11.205257 | 192.168.20.10 | 156.154.70.1 | DNS | 69 | Standard query 0x0004 A cisco.com |
| 1618 | 11.205928 | 156.154.70.1 | 192.168.20.10 | DNS | 69 | Standard query response 0x0004 No such name A cisco.com |

Below the table, the details of the selected packet (No. 1618) are shown:

- Frame 1618: 69 bytes on wire (552 bits), 69 bytes captured (552 bits) on interface 0
- Ethernet II, Src: Cisco_cd:3a:fb (00:fe:c8:cd:3a:fb), Dst: Vmware_3e:58:0d (00:0c:29:3e:58:0d)
- Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 156.154.70.1, Dst: 192.168.20.10
- User Datagram Protocol, Src Port: 53, Dst Port: 50207
- Domain Name System (response)
 - Transaction ID: 0x0004
 - Flags: 0x8503 Standard query response, No such name
 - Questions: 1
 - Answer RRs: 0
 - Authority RRs: 0
 - Additional RRs: 0
 - Queries
 - [Request In: 1617](#)

[Time: 0.000671000 seconds]

Step 5. Run debugs in FTD CLI: system support firewall-engine-debug and specify UDP protocol.

```
>
> system support firewall-engine-debug

Please specify an IP protocol: udp
Please specify a client IP address:
Please specify a client port:
Please specify a server IP address:
Please specify a server port:
Monitoring firewall engine debug messages
```

*Debugs when cisco.com is matched:

```
> system support firewall-engine-debug

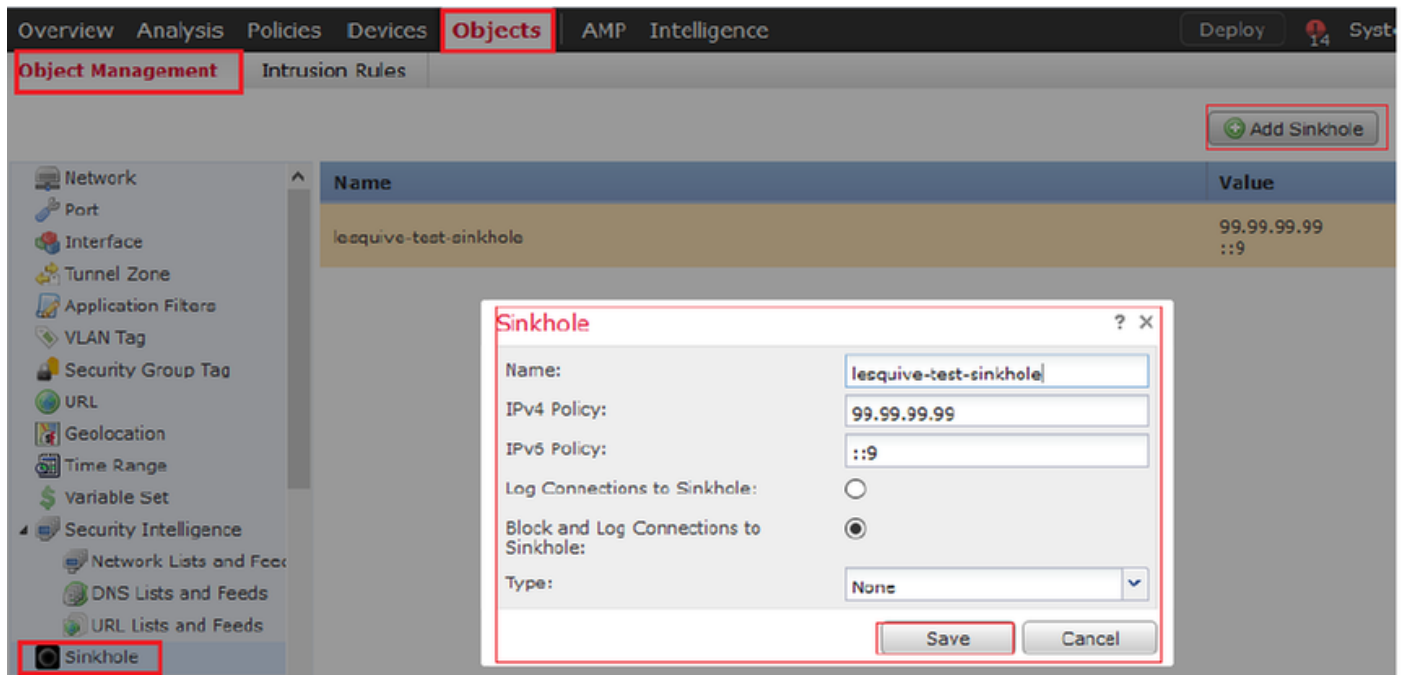
Please specify an IP protocol: udp
Please specify a client IP address:
Please specify a client port:
Please specify a server IP address:
Please specify a server port:
Monitoring firewall engine debug messages

192.168.20.10-61373 > 156.154.70.1-53 17 AS 1 I 0 DNS SI shared mem lookup returned 0 for cisco.com.cr security.lab
192.168.20.10-61373 > 156.154.70.1-53 17 AS 1 I 0 Skipping DNS rule lookup for cisco.com.cr security.lab since we've already gotten a response
192.168.20.10-61373 > 156.154.70.1-53 17 AS 1 I 0 Got end of flow event from hardware with flags 00000000
192.168.20.10-61374 > 156.154.70.1-53 17 AS 1 I 1 DNS SI shared mem lookup returned 0 for cisco.com.cr security.lab
192.168.20.10-61374 > 156.154.70.1-53 17 AS 1 I 1 Skipping DNS rule lookup for cisco.com.cr security.lab since we've already gotten a response
192.168.20.10-61374 > 156.154.70.1-53 17 AS 1 I 1 Got end of flow event from hardware with flags 00000000
192.168.20.10-61375 > 156.154.70.1-53 17 AS 1 I 1 DNS SI shared mem lookup returned 1 for cisco.com
192.168.20.10-61375 > 156.154.70.1-53 17 AS 1 I 1 Starting SrcZone first with intf's 1 -> 0, vlan 0
192.168.20.10-61375 > 156.154.70.1-53 17 AS 1 I 1 using rule order 1, id 1 action Allow
192.168.20.10-61375 > 156.154.70.1-53 17 AS 1 I 1 using rule order 2, id 3 action DNS NXDomain
192.168.20.10-61375 > 156.154.70.1-53 17 AS 1 I 1 using rule order 3, id 5 action DNS NXDomain
192.168.20.10-61375 > 156.154.70.1-53 17 AS 1 I 1 Got DNS list match. si list 1048620
192.168.20.10-61375 > 156.154.70.1-53 17 AS 1 I 1 Firing DNS action DNS NXDomain
192.168.20.10-61375 > 156.154.70.1-53 17 AS 1 I 1 Injecting NX domain reply.
192.168.20.10-61375 > 156.154.70.1-53 17 AS 1 I 1 DNS SI: Matched rule order 3, Id 5, si list id 1048620, action 22, reason 2048, SI Categories 1048620,0
192.168.20.10-61376 > 156.154.70.1-53 17 AS 1 I 0 DNS SI shared mem lookup returned 1 for cisco.com
192.168.20.10-61376 > 156.154.70.1-53 17 AS 1 I 0 Starting SrcZone first with intf's 1 -> 0, vlan 0
192.168.20.10-61376 > 156.154.70.1-53 17 AS 1 I 0 using rule order 1, id 1 action Allow
192.168.20.10-61376 > 156.154.70.1-53 17 AS 1 I 0 using rule order 2, id 3 action DNS NXDomain
192.168.20.10-61376 > 156.154.70.1-53 17 AS 1 I 0 using rule order 3, id 5 action DNS NXDomain
192.168.20.10-61376 > 156.154.70.1-53 17 AS 1 I 0 Got DNS list match. si list 1048620
192.168.20.10-61376 > 156.154.70.1-53 17 AS 1 I 0 Firing DNS action DNS NXDomain
192.168.20.10-61376 > 156.154.70.1-53 17 AS 1 I 0 Injecting NX domain reply.
192.168.20.10-61376 > 156.154.70.1-53 17 AS 1 I 0 DNS SI: Matched rule order 3, Id 5, si list id 1048620, action 22, reason 2048, SI Categories 1048620,0
```

Optional Sinkhole Configuration

A DNS sinkhole is a DNS server that provides false information. Instead of returning a “No such name” DNS response to DNS queries on domains you’re blocking, it returns a fake IP address.

Step 1. Navigate to Objects >> Object Management >> Sinkhole >> Add Sinkhole and create the fake IP address information.



Step 2. Apply the sinkhole to your DNS Policy and deploy changes to FTD.

Overview Analysis **Policies** Devices Objects AMP Intelligence Deploy System Help **lesquive**

Access Control ▸ DNS Network Discovery Application Detectors Correlation Actions ▾

Custom-BlackList-Domains

Editing Rule - Block bad domains

Name: Block bad domains Enabled

Action: Sinkhole Sinkhole: lesquive-test-sinkhole

Available Zones

- Elulin
- Esteban-inside
- Esteban-outside
- inside
- inside-1
- INSIDE-AA
- Inside-FTDIsaac
- Inside-Isaac
- Inside-Zone
- InsideZoneHugo

Source Zones (1)

- lesquive-INSIDE

OK Cancel

Rules

Add DNS Rule

| # | Name | Source Zo... | Source Networks | VLAN Ta... | DNS Lists | Action |
|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Whitelist | | | | | | |
| 1 | Global Whitelist for DNS | any | any | any | Global-Whitelist-for-DNS | Whitelist |
| Blacklist | | | | | | |
| 2 | Global Blacklist for DNS | any | any | any | Global-Blacklist-for-DNS | Domain Not Found |
| 3 | Block bad domains | lesquive-INS... | lesquive-network | any | BlackList-Domains | Sinkhole |

Deploy System Help **lesquive**

You have unsaved changes

Save Cancel

Verify Sinkhole is working

```

C:\Windows\system32>nslookup
Default Server: rdns1.ultradns.net
Address: 156.154.70.1

> cisco.com
Server: rdns1.ultradns.net
Address: 156.154.70.1

Non-authoritative answer:
Name: cisco.com
Addresses: ::9
          99.99.99.99
  
```

| No. | Time | Source | Destination | Protocol | Length | Info |
|------|-----------|---------------|---------------|----------|--------|---|
| 3495 | 51.991370 | 192.168.20.10 | 156.154.70.1 | DNS | 85 | Standard query 0x0002 A cisco.com.cr_security.lab |
| 3500 | 52.870896 | 156.154.70.1 | 192.168.20.10 | DNS | 160 | Standard query response 0x0002 No such name A cisco.com.cr_security.lab SOA a.root-servers.net |
| 3501 | 52.871268 | 192.168.20.10 | 156.154.70.1 | DNS | 85 | Standard query 0x0003 AAAA cisco.com.cr_security.lab |
| 3507 | 52.123890 | 156.154.70.1 | 192.168.20.10 | DNS | 160 | Standard query response 0x0003 No such name AAAA cisco.com.cr_security.lab SOA a.root-servers.net |
| 3508 | 52.123851 | 192.168.20.10 | 156.154.70.1 | DNS | 69 | Standard query 0x0004 A cisco.com |
| 3509 | 52.124678 | 156.154.70.1 | 192.168.20.10 | DNS | 85 | Standard query response 0x0004 A cisco.com A 93.99.99.99 |
| 3510 | 52.125319 | 192.168.20.10 | 156.154.70.1 | DNS | 69 | Standard query 0x0005 AAAA cisco.com |
| 3511 | 52.128125 | 156.154.70.1 | 192.168.20.10 | DNS | 97 | Standard query response 0x0005 AAAA cisco.com AAAA ::9 |

Troubleshoot

Navigate to Analysis >> Connections >> Security Intelligence Events to track all the events that are triggered by SI as long as you have enabled logging in the DNS Policy:

Security Intelligence Events (switch workflow)

[Security Intelligence with Application Details](#) > Table View of Security Intelligence Events

2019-02-14 13:42:42 - 2019-02-14 14:42:42 Expanding

No Search Constraints (Edit Search)

| | Jump to... | First Packet | Last Packet | Action | Reason | Initiator IP | Initiator Country | Responder IP | Responder Country | Security Intelligence Category | Ingress Security Zone | Egress Security Zone | Source Port | ICMP Type |
|---|------------|---------------------|-------------|------------------|-----------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------|
| ↓ | | 2019-02-14 14:36:57 | | Sinkhole | DNS Block | 192.168.20.10 | | 156.154.70.1 | USA | BlackList-Domains | lesquive-INSIDE | lesquive-OUTSIDE | 60548 / udp | |
| ↓ | | 2019-02-14 14:36:57 | | Sinkhole | DNS Block | 192.168.20.10 | | 156.154.70.1 | USA | BlackList-Domains | lesquive-INSIDE | lesquive-OUTSIDE | 60547 / udp | |
| ↓ | | 2019-02-14 14:36:52 | | Sinkhole | DNS Block | 192.168.20.10 | | 156.154.70.1 | USA | BlackList-Domains | lesquive-INSIDE | lesquive-OUTSIDE | 60544 / udp | |
| ↓ | | 2019-02-14 14:36:52 | | Sinkhole | DNS Block | 192.168.20.10 | | 156.154.70.1 | USA | BlackList-Domains | lesquive-INSIDE | lesquive-OUTSIDE | 60543 / udp | |
| ↓ | | 2019-02-14 14:36:41 | | Sinkhole | DNS Block | 192.168.20.10 | | 156.154.70.1 | USA | BlackList-Domains | lesquive-INSIDE | lesquive-OUTSIDE | 60540 / udp | |
| ↓ | | 2019-02-14 14:36:41 | | Sinkhole | DNS Block | 192.168.20.10 | | 156.154.70.1 | USA | BlackList-Domains | lesquive-INSIDE | lesquive-OUTSIDE | 60539 / udp | |
| ↓ | | 2019-02-14 14:30:24 | | Domain Not Found | DNS Block | 192.168.20.10 | | 156.154.70.1 | USA | BlackList-Domains | lesquive-INSIDE | lesquive-OUTSIDE | 62087 / udp | |
| ↓ | | 2019-02-14 14:30:24 | | Domain Not Found | DNS Block | 192.168.20.10 | | 156.154.70.1 | USA | BlackList-Domains | lesquive-INSIDE | lesquive-OUTSIDE | 61111 / udp | |
| ↓ | | 2019-02-14 14:14:24 | | Domain Not Found | DNS Block | 192.168.20.10 | | 156.154.70.1 | USA | BlackList-Domains | lesquive-INSIDE | lesquive-OUTSIDE | 50590 / udp | |
| ↓ | | 2019-02-14 14:14:24 | | Domain Not Found | DNS Block | 192.168.20.10 | | 156.154.70.1 | USA | BlackList-Domains | lesquive-INSIDE | lesquive-OUTSIDE | 62565 / udp | |
| ↓ | | 2019-02-14 14:13:43 | | Domain Not Found | DNS Block | 192.168.20.10 | | 156.154.70.1 | USA | BlackList-Domains | lesquive-INSIDE | lesquive-OUTSIDE | 60136 / udp | |
| ↓ | | 2019-02-14 14:13:43 | | Domain Not Found | DNS Block | 192.168.20.10 | | 156.154.70.1 | USA | BlackList-Domains | lesquive-INSIDE | lesquive-OUTSIDE | 53647 / udp | |

You can also use **system support firewall-engine-debug** command on the FTD that is managed by the FMC.

```
>
> system support firewall-engine-debug

Please specify an IP protocol: udp
Please specify a client IP address:
Please specify a client port:
Please specify a server IP address:
Please specify a server port:
Monitoring firewall engine debug messages
```

Packet captures can be helpful to confirm that DNS requests are making it to the FTD server. Don't forget to clear the cache on your local host when testing.

Administrator: C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe

Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Windows\system32>ipconfig /flushdns

Windows IP Configuration

Successfully flushed the DNS Resolver Cache.

C:\Windows\system32>_