

Classic Filters Overview

The dynamic firewall feature supports classic filters and fast update filters. Classic filters are compiled at commit time. When a service activation takes place, the router creates an interface-specific clone of the filter and attaches the clone to the specified logical interface. Classic filters are static filters, and therefore cannot contain subscriber-specific terms, as opposed to fast update filters, which are subscriber-specific.

This overview covers:

- Classic Filter Types on page 1
- Classic Filter Components on page 1
- Classic Filter Processing on page 2
- Guidelines for Creating and Applying Classic Filters for Subscriber Interfaces on page 2

Classic Filter Types

The following classic filter types are supported:

- Port (Layer 2) firewall filter—Port firewall filters apply to Layer 2 switch ports. You can apply port firewall filters only in the ingress direction on a physical port.
- VLAN firewall filter—VLAN firewall filters provide access control for packets that enter a VLAN, are bridged within a VLAN, and leave a VLAN. You can apply VLAN firewall filters in both ingress and egress directions on a VLAN. VLAN firewall filters are applied to all packets that are forwarded to or forwarded from the VLAN.
- Router (Layer 3) firewall filter—You can apply a router firewall filter in both ingress and egress directions on Layer 3 (routed) interfaces.

Classic Filter Components

When creating a classic filter, you first define the family address type (`inet`) and then you define one or more terms that specify the filtering criteria and the action to take if a match occurs.

Each term, or rule, consists of the following components:

- Match conditions—Specifies values or fields that the packet must contain. You can define various match conditions, including the IP source address field, IP destination address field, Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) or User Datagram Protocol (UDP) source port field, IP protocol field, Internet Control Message Protocol (ICMP) packet type, TCP flags, and interfaces.
- Actions—Specifies what to do if a match condition occurs. Possible actions are to accept or discard a packet. In addition, packets can be counted to collect statistical information. If no action is specified for a term, the default action is to accept the packet.

Classic Filter Processing

The order of the terms within a classic filter is important. Packets are tested against each term in the order in which the terms are listed in the firewall filter configuration. When a firewall filter contains multiple terms, the router takes a top-down approach and compares a packet against the first term in the firewall filter. If the packet matches the first term, the router executes the action defined by that term to either permit or deny the packet, and no other terms are evaluated. If the router does not find a match between the packet and first term, it then compares the packet to the next term in the firewall filter by using the same match process. If no match occurs between the packet and the second term, the router continues to compare the packet to each successive term defined in the firewall filter until a match is found. If a packet does not match any terms in a firewall filter, the default action is to discard the packet.

In addition to the top-down term processing within filters, you can specify a precedence (from 0 through 255) for input and output filters within a dynamic profile to force filter processing in a particular order. Setting a lower precedence value for a filter gives it a higher precedence within the dynamic profile. In other words, filters with lower precedence values are applied to interfaces before filters with higher precedence values. A precedence of zero (the default) gives the filter the highest precedence. If no precedence is specified, the filter receives a precedence of zero (highest precedence). Filters with matching precedence (zero or otherwise) are applied in random order.

Guidelines for Creating and Applying Classic Filters for Subscriber Interfaces

This release does not support the dynamic configuration of firewall filters. However, you can create static firewall filters for interfaces as you do normally, and then dynamically apply those filters to statically created interfaces using dynamic profiles. You can also use dynamic profiles to attach input and output filters through RADIUS.

When creating and applying filters, keep the following in mind:

- This release supports dynamic application of only input and output filters.
- The filters must be interface-specific.
- This release supports only **family inet** filters.
- You can chain up to five input filters and four output filters together.
- If you do not configure and apply a filter, the interface uses the default group filter configuration.
- You cannot modify a firewall filter while subscribers on the same logical interface are bound.

Related Topics

- [Dynamic Firewall Filters Overview](#)
- [Fast Update Filters Overview](#)
- [Dynamically Attaching Statically Created Filters](#)

- Dynamically Attaching Filters Using RADIUS Variables
- Verifying and Managing Firewall Filter Configuration

Published: 2009-07-16