Hybrid Mesh Network Security

06 May 2026

CHECK POINT GATEWAY AND MANAGEMENT HARDENING

Administration Guide

CHECK POINT™

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Important Information

Latest Software
We recommend that you install the most recent software release to stay up-to-date with the latest functional improvements, stability fixes, security enhancements and protection against new and evolving attacks.

Certifications
For third party independent certification of Check Point products, see the Check Point Certifications page.

Check Point Gateway and Management Hardening Administration Guide

Latest Version of this Document in English
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Feedback
Check Point is engaged in a continuous effort to improve its documentation.
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Revision History

Date	Description
06 May 2026	Updated *"Gaia OS Hardening" on page 21* - added recommendations for the LOM interface
04 May 2026	First release of this document

Table of Contents

Introduction

This document provides practical hardening recommendations for Check Point Security Gateways and Management Servers running supported Gaia OS releases. The recommendations apply to these versions:

- R82.10
- R82
- R81.20

Recent industry developments, including Anthropic's Mythos and related initiatives, reflect a fundamental shift in the cyber threat landscape. Advanced AI capabilities are expected to significantly accelerate the pace, scale, and automation of attacks, reducing the time and effort required to identify, adapt, and operationalize attack techniques. As a result, attackers are increasingly expected to focus on management planes, control planes, privileged access paths, trust relationships, and operational misconfigurations for assets that provide disproportionate leverage when abused.

This shift does not depend on weaknesses in specific products. Rather, it highlights a broader reality: highly trusted platforms and administrative systems must be continuously hardened to remain resilient as attack speed and sophistication increase.

Check Point is providing this guidance to help customers proactively strengthen their environments, reduce exposed attack surface, and limit the potential impact of control plane or identity-based abuse. These recommendations are part of a defense in depth approach designed to improve preparedness as AI accelerated attack techniques become more prevalent across the industry.

Each recommendation in this document includes:

- What to do
- Why it is recommended
- Default vs. recommended behavior
- An example where appropriate
- A direct reference to official Check Point documentation or SecureKnowledge for implementation

Decreasing Security Gateway Exposure with Policy

Security Gateway Stealth Rule

Recommendation: Configure a Stealth Rule to drop traffic that is directed to the Security Gateway itself, except for explicitly required management and control traffic.

Security Gateways are frequently scanned. A Stealth Rule reduces the Security Gateway's exposure and limits which hosts can reach Security Gateway services.

Item	Default (Typical)	Recommended
Security Gateway is reachable on data plane interfaces	Depends on policy	Allow only required traffic that is directed to the Security Gateway. Drop all other traffic directed to the Security Gateway.
Logging of stealth drops	Depends on policy	Enable during rollout, then tune to reduce noise.

Example policy pattern (simplified):

- Allow & Log: Admin Jump Hosts and Specific Admin user groups -> Security Gateway (HTTPS / SSH / API as used)
- Drop & Log: Any -> Security Gateway (all other traffic directed to Security Gateway)

No.	Name	Source	Destination	Services & Applications	Action	Track	Install On
Security Gateways Access (1-2)							
1	Administrator Access to Gateways	Admins	Corporate-GW	Manage Services	Accept	Log	Policy Targets
2	Stealth rule	Any	Corporate-GW	Any	Drop	Log	Policy Targets

Implementation reference:

R82.10 Security Management Administration Guide > Creating an Access Control Policy, Best Practices for Access Control Rules

Limit and Log Implied Rules

Recommendation: Review implied rules settings, only enable those that are necessary and ensure that logging for implied rules remain enabled.

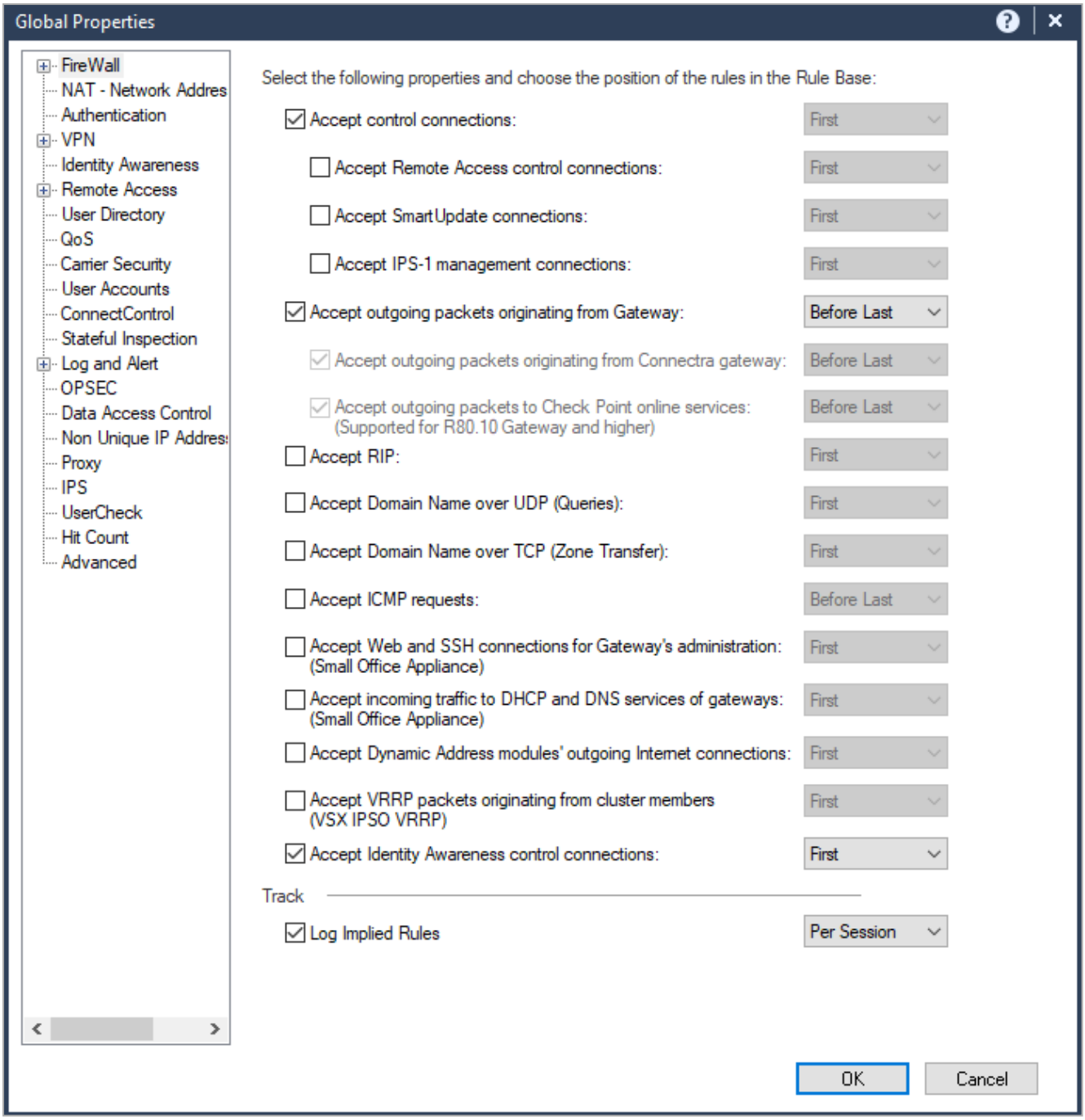
Implied Rules allow essential Check Point internal communication, connectivity for essential features (e.g. VPN & Remotes Access).

Reducing these to the minimum will reduce the potential attack surface and logging them improves auditability and troubleshooting without breaking functionality.

Item	Default (Typical)	Recommended
Implied rules execution	Enabled	Keep enabled unless you implement full explicit replacement.
Logging for implied rules	Disabled	Enable logging for visibility and troubleshooting.

Operational note: Disabling implied rules without correct explicit rules can cause policy install failures and loss of management / log connectivity.

Check Point Security Gateway clusters using static IP addresses, without remote access enabled, should be set up as follows:



Implementation reference:

R82.10 Security Management Administration Guide > Creating an Access Control Policy, Implied Rules.

Management Plane Protection

Protect the Management Server Behind a Firewall

Recommendation: Deploy the Security Management Server behind a firewall or protected network segment and restrict inbound access to required administrative sources only.

The Management Server controls policy installation, trust relationships (SIC), and administrator access. Segmentation reduces exposure and blast radius.

Item	Default (Typical)	Recommended
Management server exposure	Environment specific	Limit access to admin networks / jump hosts and required Security Gateways only.
Dedicated management network	Environment specific	Use a dedicated management VLAN / subnet where possible.

Example allowed sources: Admin jump hosts, Security Gateways / Clusters (for SIC/policy/logs), and dedicated log servers (if used).

Restrict Administrative Source IP Addresses

Recommendation: Restrict SmartConsole / WebUI / SSH / API access to specific internal IP ranges or jump hosts.

Network-level restrictions stop broad scanning and brute force attempts before authentication is attempted.

Item	Default (Typical)	Recommended
Admin source restriction	Environment specific	Restricted to admin jump hosts / administrator subnets only.
Direct Internet admin access	Environment specific	Avoid. Require VPN.

We recommend using Web SmartConsole to access the Management Server, as it only requires access to the TCP port 443.

The Desktop SmartConsole application needs access to these ports on the Management Server:

- TCP 18190
- TCP 18264
- TCP 19009

A complete list of ports used is listed in sk52421.

Implementation reference:

R82.10 Installation and Upgrade Guide > Installing SmartConsole.

Administrator Identity and Access Control

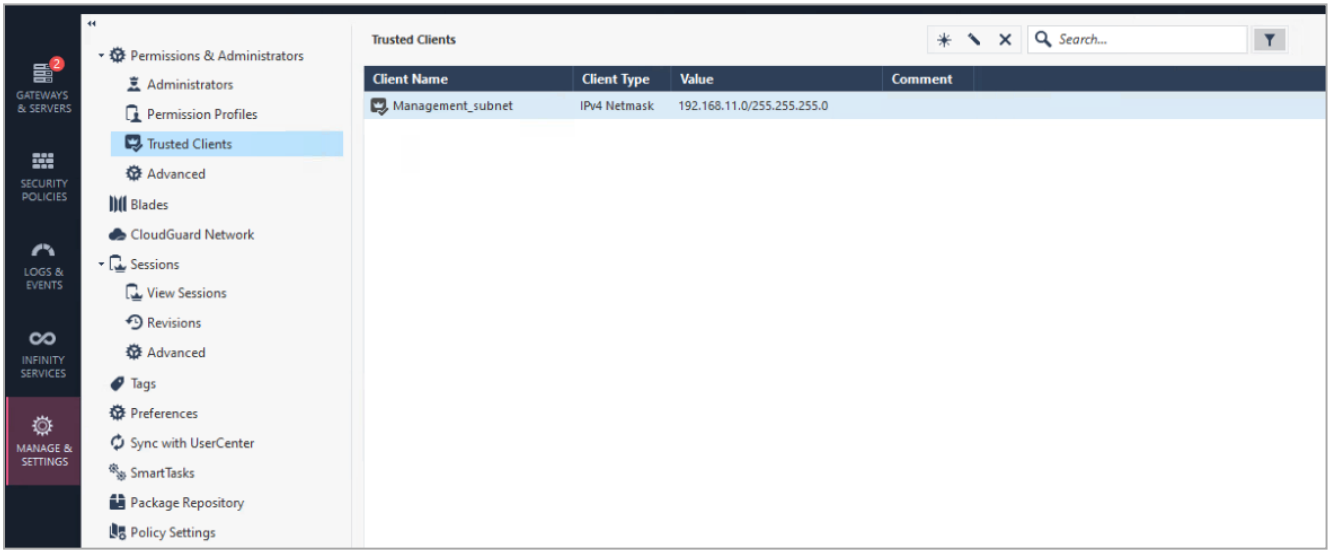
Limit SmartConsole Trusted Client Access settings

Recommendation: Restrict the IP addresses, subnets and ranges that can use a SmartConsole to the necessary minimum.

In addition to network controls that may be in place, the management server can be configured to limit access as well. It is an additional safeguard to ensure access is limited only to the required locations.

To validate and apply these settings:

SmartConsole > **Manage & Settings** view > **Permissions & Administrators** > **Trusted Clients**.



MFA and Identity Provider Integration

Recommendation: Enforce MFA for all administrative access using an external Identity Provider (for example, SAML-based administrator login or TACACS / RADIUS where applicable).

MFA reduces the risk of credential compromise and enables centralized identity lifecycle management (join / move / leave).

Item	Default (Typical)	Recommended
MFA enforcement	Not guaranteed	Mandatory for all administrator roles
Local only admin authentication	Common	IdP + MFA for daily admin access; keep break glass accounts controlled

Implementation reference:

R82.10 Security Management Administration Guide > Creating an Administrator Account with SAML Authentication Login.

Review and Remove Unused Administrator Accounts Regularly

Recommendation: Periodically review administrator accounts and disable / remove accounts that are no longer used.

Dormant accounts are a common entry point for attackers and are often overlooked.

Item	Default (Typical)	Recommended
Admin account reviews	Ad hoc	Quarterly review as a minimum
Shared admin accounts	Sometimes exist	Avoid. Use named accounts only

Ensure administrator access, password policy, and idle timeout are set

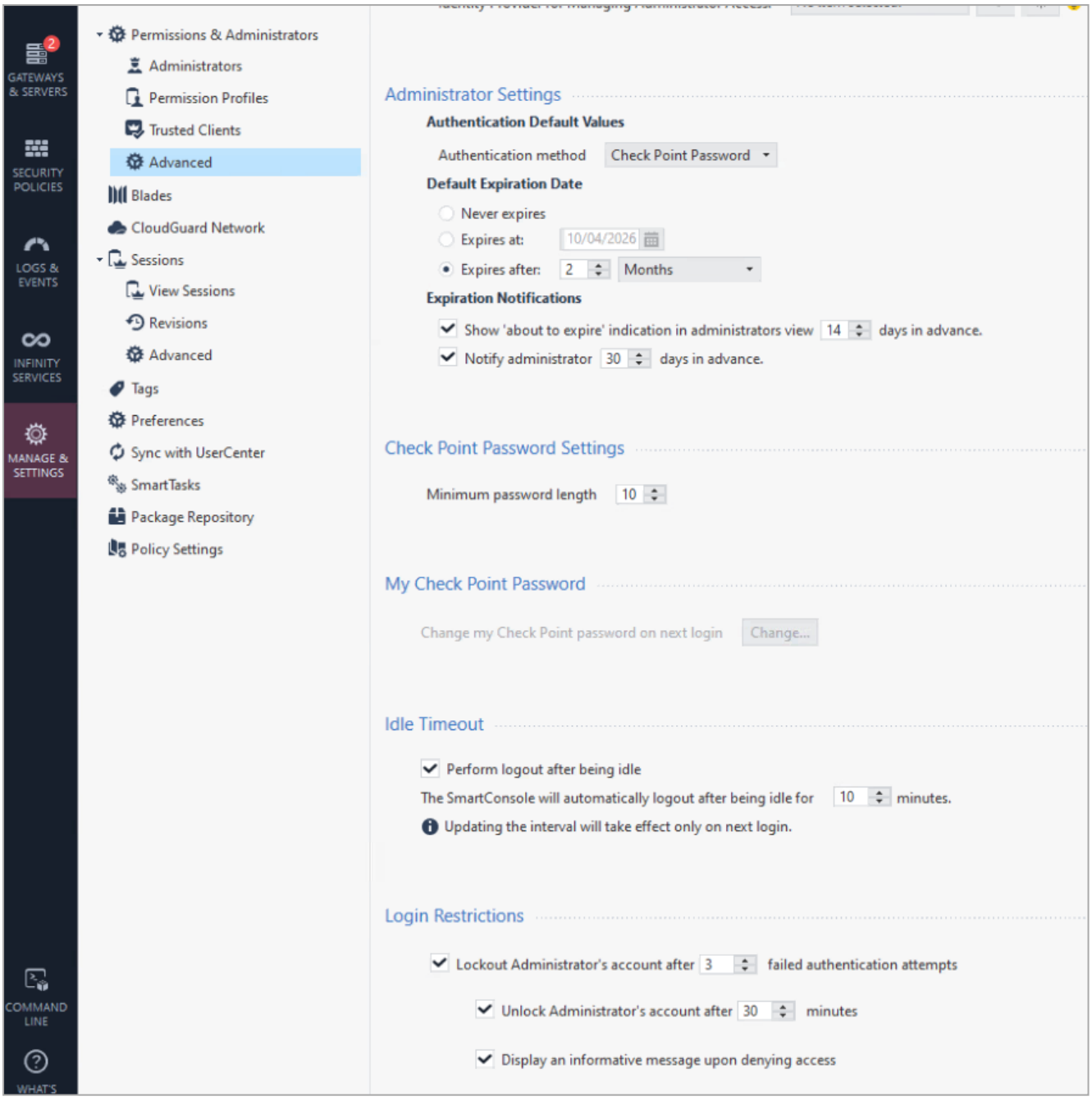
Recommendations:

- Administrator access should expire at a set interval of time.
- Administrator password length should be at least 10 characters long.
- SmartConsole should be disconnected after 10 minutes of idle time and an administrator account lockout setting should be applied.

Attackers may be able to take control of an administrator host or capture passwords using a keylogger. Restricting access, expiring accounts, and locking accounts after authentication failures will reduce the possibility of an attacker gaining control over the management server.

To validate and apply these settings:

SmartConsole > **Manage & Settings** view > **Permissions & Administrators** > **Advanced**.



Limiting Third-Party Integration Credentials

General Principle: Least Privilege for Integrations

Recommendation: Configure third-party integration credentials (directory, cloud, IdP, API) with the minimum privileges required - prefer read-only roles - and separate these credentials from interactive administrator accounts.

Integration credentials are often long-lived and non-interactive. Over privileged integration accounts increase blast radius if compromised.

Active Directory (AD) Integration Accounts

Recommendation: Use a dedicated directory service account for AD / LDAP integrations with read only permissions for user / group lookup and authentication. Do not use Domain Admin or highly privileged accounts.

Directory integrations typically do not require write permissions. Read only accounts reduce lateral movement risk.

Implementation reference:

sk93938 - Using Identity Awareness AD Query without Active Directory Administrator privileges

Cloud Controller Integrations (AWS, Azure, GCP)

Recommendation: Use cloud native roles / service accounts with read only permissions for discovery; add write permissions only if automation use cases require them.

Cloud credentials can expose large parts of your infrastructure and metadata. Read only roles reduce impact of credential compromise.

Examples (minimum privilege approach):

- AWS: IAM role limited to Describe* APIs only (for discovery)
- Azure: Service Principal / Managed Identity with Reader role
- GCP: Service Account with Viewer role

Implementation reference:

R82.10 CloudGuard Controller Administration Guide > Configuring Permissions for Amazon Web Services.

Identity Provider and API Integrations

Recommendation: Scope API credentials / tokens to the minimum required roles and APIs. Avoid using full administrative API tokens for integrations that only need authentication or limited identity attributes. Use certificates for authentication where possible, create API keys for a duration of two months and do not store these in clear-text file repositories.

Broad API permissions can allow unintended configuration changes if the token is exposed.

Implementation reference:

R82.10 Security Management Administration Guide > Managing Security through API, Creating an Administrator Account with API Key Authentication.

Updates, Health, and Ongoing Protection

Upgrade to Latest Recommended Jumbo Hotfix Accumulator

Check Point periodically releases Jumbo Hotfix Accumulators (JHFs) for each supported version. These releases consolidate stability fixes, reliability improvements, performance enhancements, and security related corrections into a tested and supported package.

Running the recommended Jumbo Hotfix Accumulator is a foundational hardening step and should be treated as a baseline requirement for production Security Gateways and Management Servers.

Recommendation: Always run Check Point Security Gateways and Management Servers on:

- A supported major release, and
- The currently recommended Jumbo Hotfix Accumulator for that release

Delaying adoption of recommended Jumbo Hotfix Accumulators increases operational risk, reduces platform resilience, and limits the effectiveness of other hardening controls described in this document.

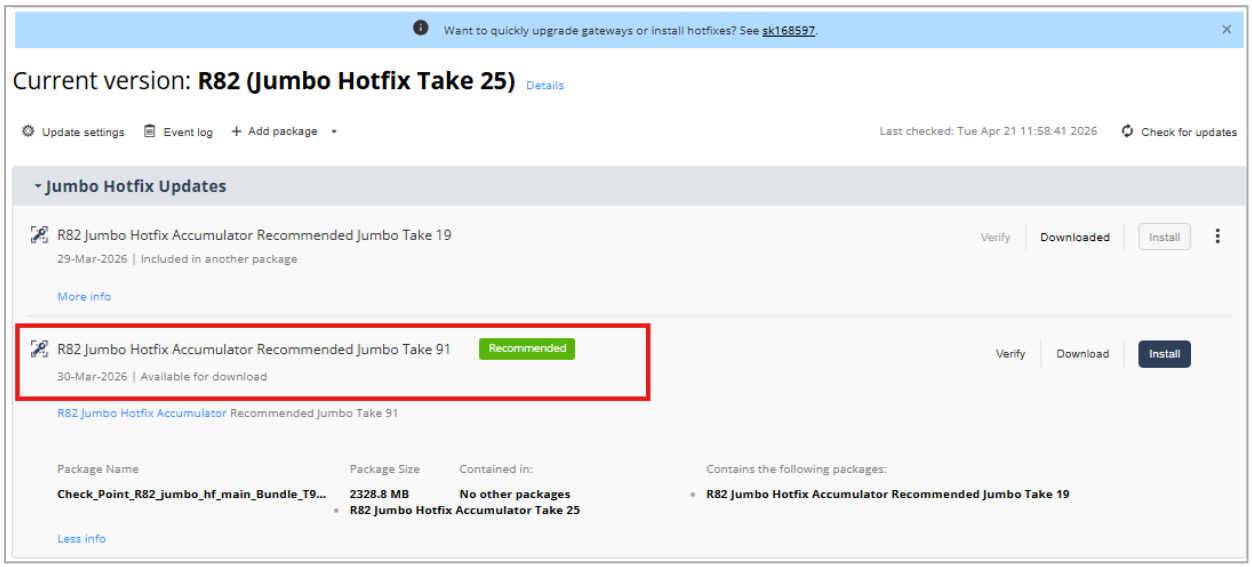
Recommended Jumbo Hotfix Accumulator Takes include important security and stability fixes that reduce exposure to known issues.

Implementation reference:

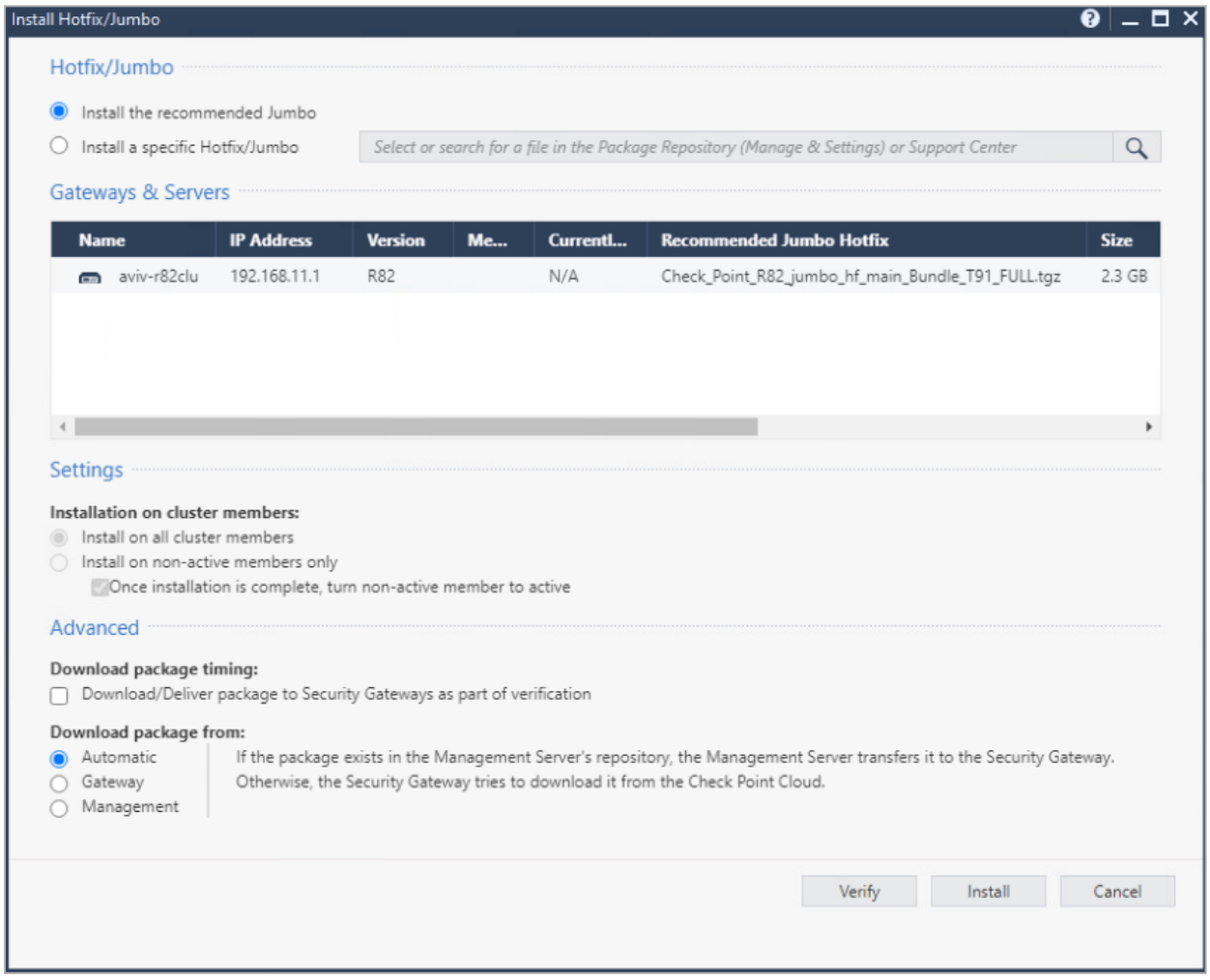
sk95746 - Check Point Recommended Version and Release Terminology.

Upgrades are available:

- From the local Gaia Portal:



- From SmartConsole:



Enable Dynamic Updates (AutoUpdater Utility)

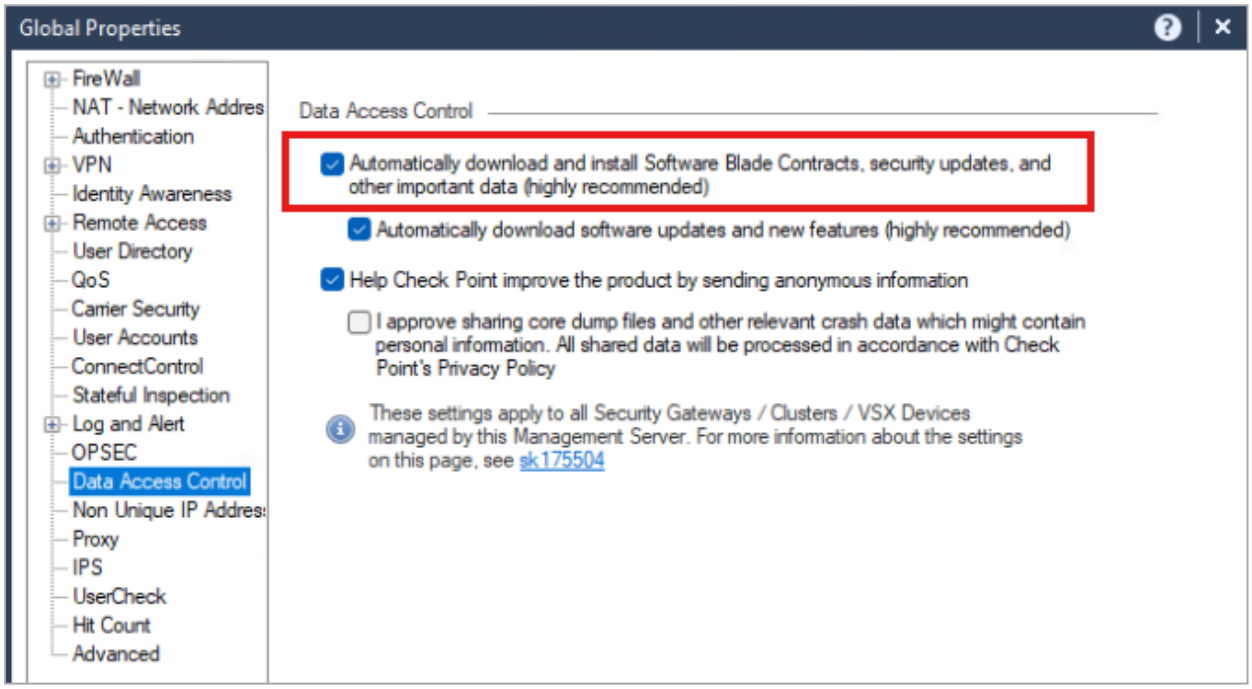
Recommendation: This utility enables dynamic security updates including IPS updates and security fixes.

Dynamic updates keep protections current without requiring disruptive upgrades or reboots.

Ensure that you provide consent for Check Point to install security updates as following the instructions in sk175504:

1. In SmartConsole top-left corner, click the **Menu** button > click **Global properties**.
2. In the **Data Access Control** pane, select this checkbox:

   Automatically download and install Software Blade Contracts, security updates, and other important data (highly recommended)



3. Click **OK**.
4. Install the Access Control policy.

This will ensure only security updates will be installed and no other unnecessary updates.

Check Point uses this mechanism to mitigate vulnerability as interim preventative measure that helped protect many customers before they were even aware.

Implementation reference:

- sk175504 - How to configure Check Point software to upload data to Check Point / download data from Check Point in versions R81.20 and higher.
- sk182376 - Interim preventative measure (VPNF) for CVE-2024-24919.

Enable Diagnostics and Telemetry (cpdiag)

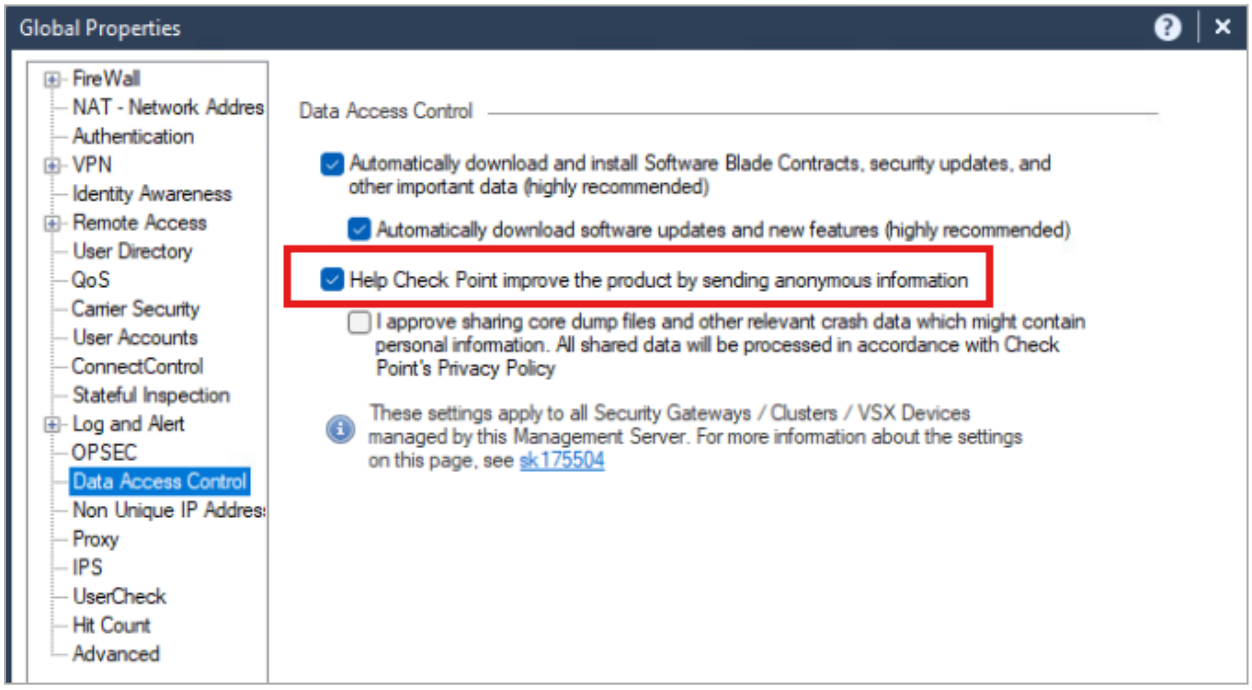
Recommendation: Enable your Check Point Management Servers and Security Gateways to share essential non-PII, diagnostics data with Check Point cloud.

Check Point Diagnostics collects usage information and status telemetry of the product operation. This helps improve supportability and enable proactive identification of issues (without replacing your logging strategy). This is essential for Check Point to identify and proactively alert if your products are exposed to a known vulnerability. The collection and transmission of the data is not CPU-intensive and is shared every 24 hours.

Ensure that you provide consent for Check Point to install security updates by following the instructions in sk175504:

1. In SmartConsole top-left corner, click the **Menu** button > click **Global properties**.
2. In the **Data Access Control** pane, select this checkbox:

   Help Check Point improve the product by sending anonymous information



3. Click **OK**.
4. Install the Access Control policy.

Implementation reference:

sk184778 - CPDiag (Check Point Diagnostics) Release Updates.

Gaia OS Hardening

Gaia Default Hardening Overview

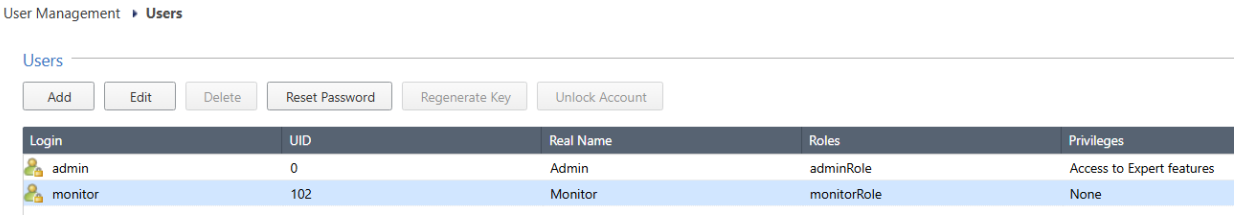
Gaia OS is delivered in a hardened baseline state. After the Gaia OS installation, the only network services on Gaia OS are OpenSSH (TCP 22), Gaia Portal secure web server (HTTPS TCP 443), cprid (TCP 18208), and Gaia REST API server (HTTPS via TCP 443).

Restrict access to these ports to internal trusted networks.

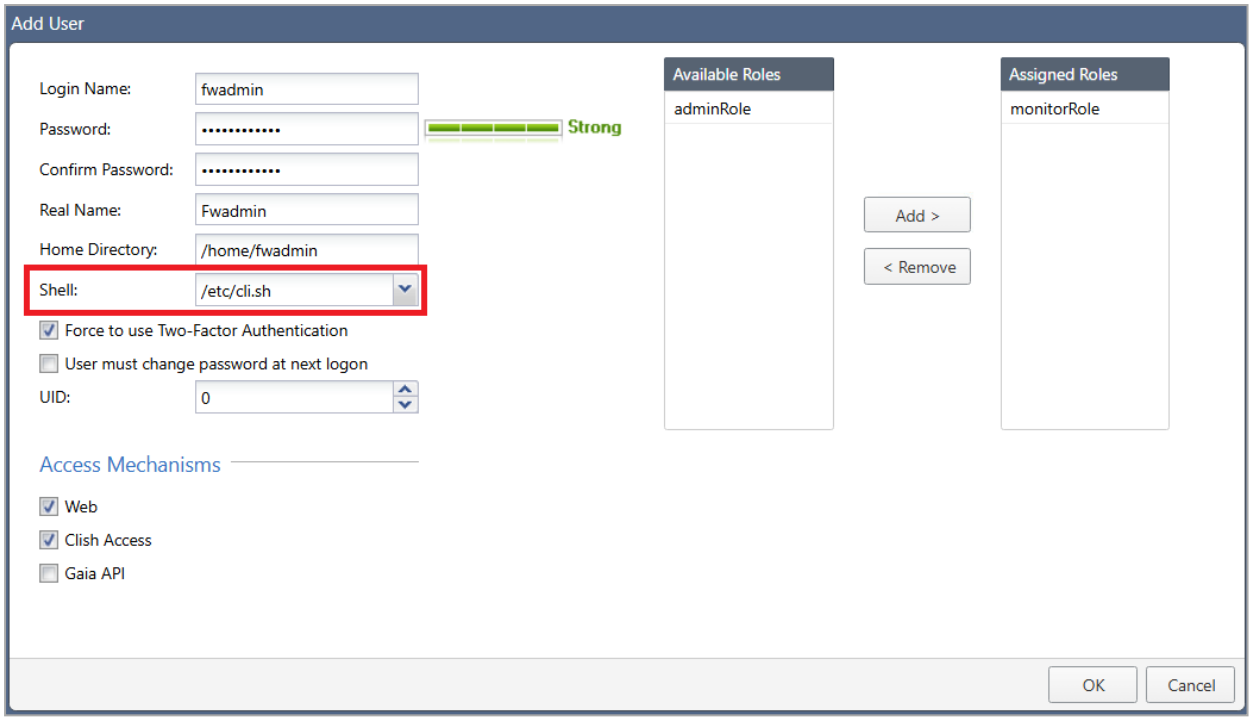
Gaia OS administrator settings

Review all users with access to the Gaia OS and ensure all users are authorized, use strong passwords, configure the access role to allow the minimal access required per user role, ensure the shell is set to Gaia Clish and force users to use MFA for access

1. In Gaia Portal, navigate to **User Management** > **Users**:



2. Select each user and click **Edit**.
3. Make sure the **Shell** is set to **/etc/cli.sh**:



4. Click **OK**.

Implementation reference:

R82.10 Gaia Administration Guide > User Management > Authentication.

Password Policy Hardening (Complexity, Age, Reuse)

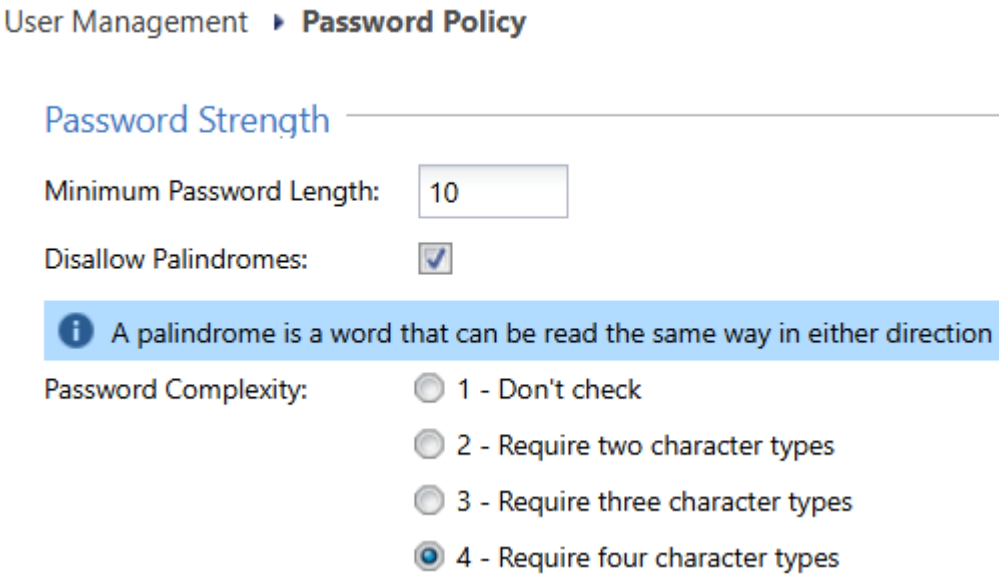
Recommendation: Enforce password complexity, multi-factor authentication (R82 or higher), password history (reuse prevention), password aging, auto lock out of admins with multiple authentication failures or with long inactivity periods.

Strong password policy reduces brute force and credential reuse risk. Automatically disabling dormant administrator accounts significantly reduces the attack surface by preventing access from accounts associated with former employees.

1. In Gaia Portal, navigate to **User Management** > **Password Policy**.
2. In the section **Password Strength**:

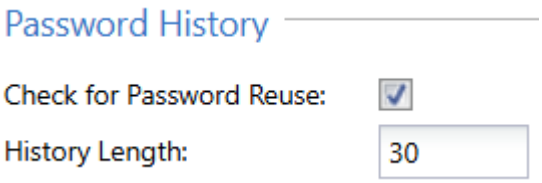
Item	Default	Recommended
Minimum Password Length	6 characters	10 characters

Item	Default	Recommended
Disallow Palindromes	Enabled	Enabled
Password Complexity	2 - Require two character types	4 - require four character types



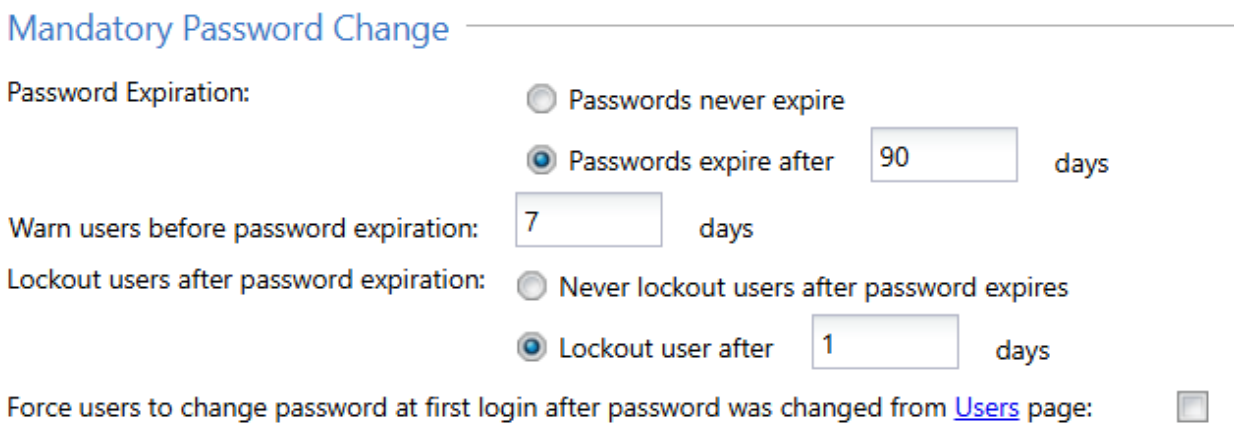
3. In the section **Password History**:

Item	Default	Recommended
Check for Password Reuse	Enabled	Enabled



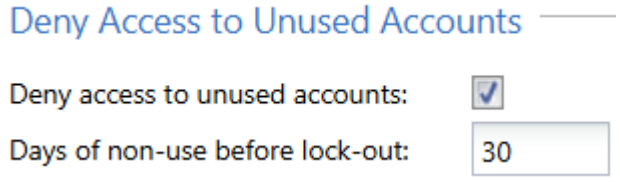
4. In the section **Mandatory Password Change**:

Item	Default	Recommended
Password Expiration	Passwords never expire	Passwords expire after 90 days
Lockout users after password expiration	Never lockout users after password expires	Lockout user after 1 days



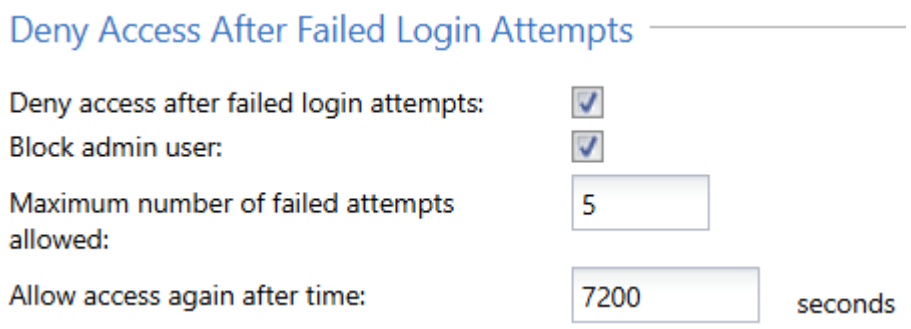
5. In the section **Deny Access to Unused Accounts**:

Item	Default	Recommended
Deny access to unused accounts	Disabled	Enabled
Days non-use before lock-out	365 days	30 days



6. In the section **Deny Access After Failed Login Attempts**:

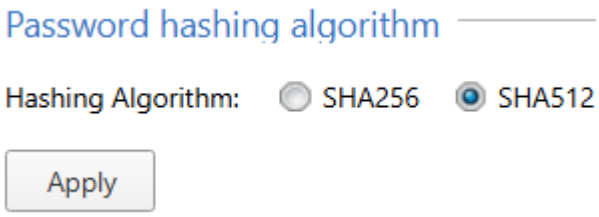
Item	Default	Recommended
Deny access after failed login attempts	Disabled	Enabled
Block admin user	Disabled	Enabled
Maximum number of failed attempts allowed	10	5
Allow access again after	1200 seconds (20 min)	7200 seconds (2 hours)



7. In the section **Password hashing algorithm**:

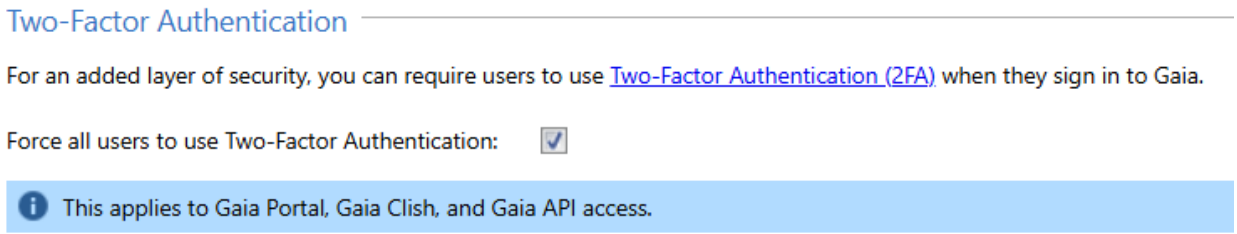
Item	Default	Recommended
Password Hashing	SHA512	SHA512

Important: If the Gaia server has been through multiple upgrades, you should reset the passwords to force them to be re-hashed with a stronger hashing function.



8. In the section **Two-Factor Authentication** (available in R82 and higher):

Item	Default	Recommended
Force all users to use Two-Factor Authentication	Disabled	Enabled



Implementation reference:

- R82.10 Gaia Administration Guide > User Management > Password Policy in Gaia Portal.
- sk181854 - Two-Factor Authentication for Gaia OS login.

Dynamic Routing Hardening

Recommendation: Enable only routing protocols required, accept routing protocols only from predefined list or routing peers, apply authentication (e.g., BGP MD5), use route filters to restrict learned routes impact.

Dynamic routing protocols require the Security Gateway to listen on specific ports to exchange routing information. Routing peers may be outside your organization, which increases risk. To reduce attack surface and prevent abuse or misconfiguration that could lead to security issues, allow routing updates only from approved peers, use authentication, and apply route filtering.

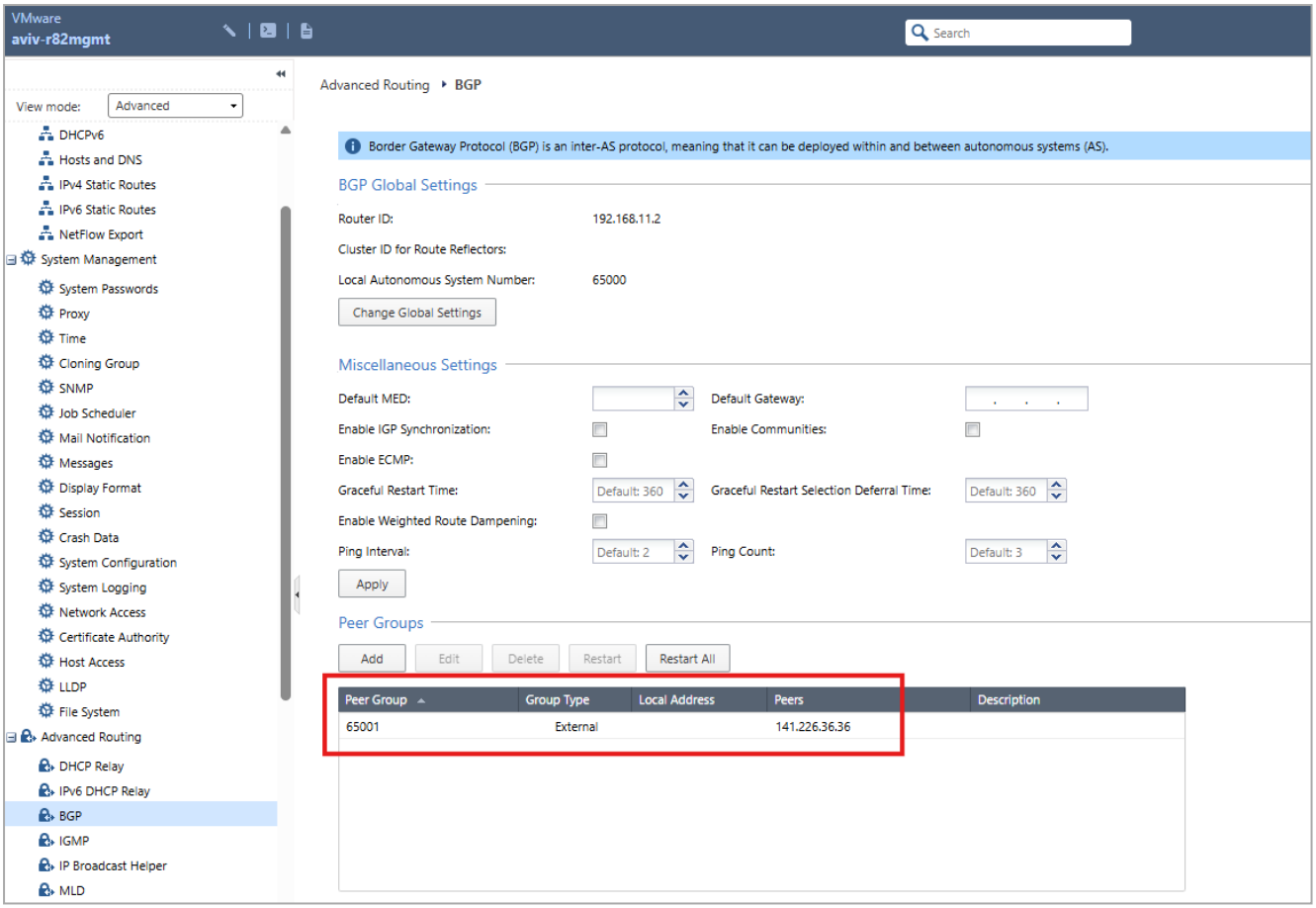
Start with disabling the implied rules relating to dynamic routing as mentioned in *"Decreasing Security Gateway Exposure with Policy" on page 7*. Instead use an explicit access rule that will let only routing peers connect to the Security Gateway.

In the example below, the group "`BGP_routing_peers`" contains the relevant IP address of the routing peers that it must communicate with, with a destination set to be the Security Gateway itself. Use the BGP protocol from application control as it will verify the protocol is indeed BGP and not an attempt to tunnel other traffic over a well known port.

No.	Name	Source	Destination	VPN	Services & Applications	Action	Track
1	explicit dynamic routing access	BGP_routing_peers	aviv-r82clu	Any	BGP Protocol	Accept	Log Accounting

To find the list of configured peers in Gaia Portal, navigate to **Advanced Routing** > **BGP**.

Example (it is for BGP, but should be repeated for other dynamic routing protocols):

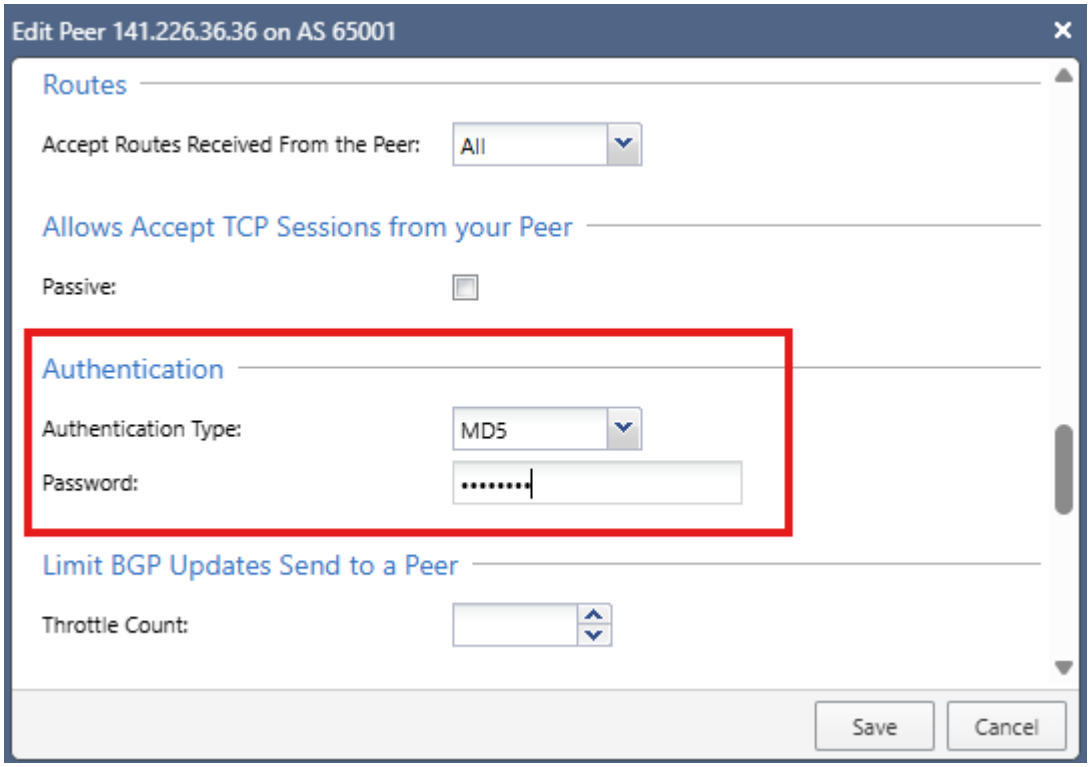


Configure MD5 authentication for BGP to improve the level of trust with peer routers:

1. In Gaia Portal, navigate to **Advanced Routing** > **BGP**.
2. Select the peer group and click **Edit**.
3. Select the specific peer and click **Edit**.
4. Click **Show Advanced Settings**.
5. Scroll down to the **Authentication** section.
   a. In the **Authentication Type** field, select **MD5**.
   b. In the **Password** field, enter the applicable password.

      Recommendation: Rotate this password every 90 days.

   Example:



6. Click **Save**.

Configure inbound route filters to ensure only desired routes are learned from peers.

For example, do not allow external routers to advertize routes for internal networks.

Implementation reference:

- R82.10 Gaia Advanced Routing Administration Guide > Configuring BGP Remote Peers in Gaia Portal.
- sk95967 - BGP on Gaia OS.
- sk98936 - How to configure route redistribution and inbound route filters in Gaia Portal.

SNMP Monitoring Hardening

Recommendation: Disable SNMP if not needed. If SNMP is required, use SNMPv3 with SHA512 authentication and AES256 encryption (do not use SNMPv1 or SNMPv2). Run the SNMP agent only on internal interfaces and only allow specific IPs to send requests to these interfaces. For monitoring of Check Point Security Gateways and Management Server, a read-only permission is sufficient.

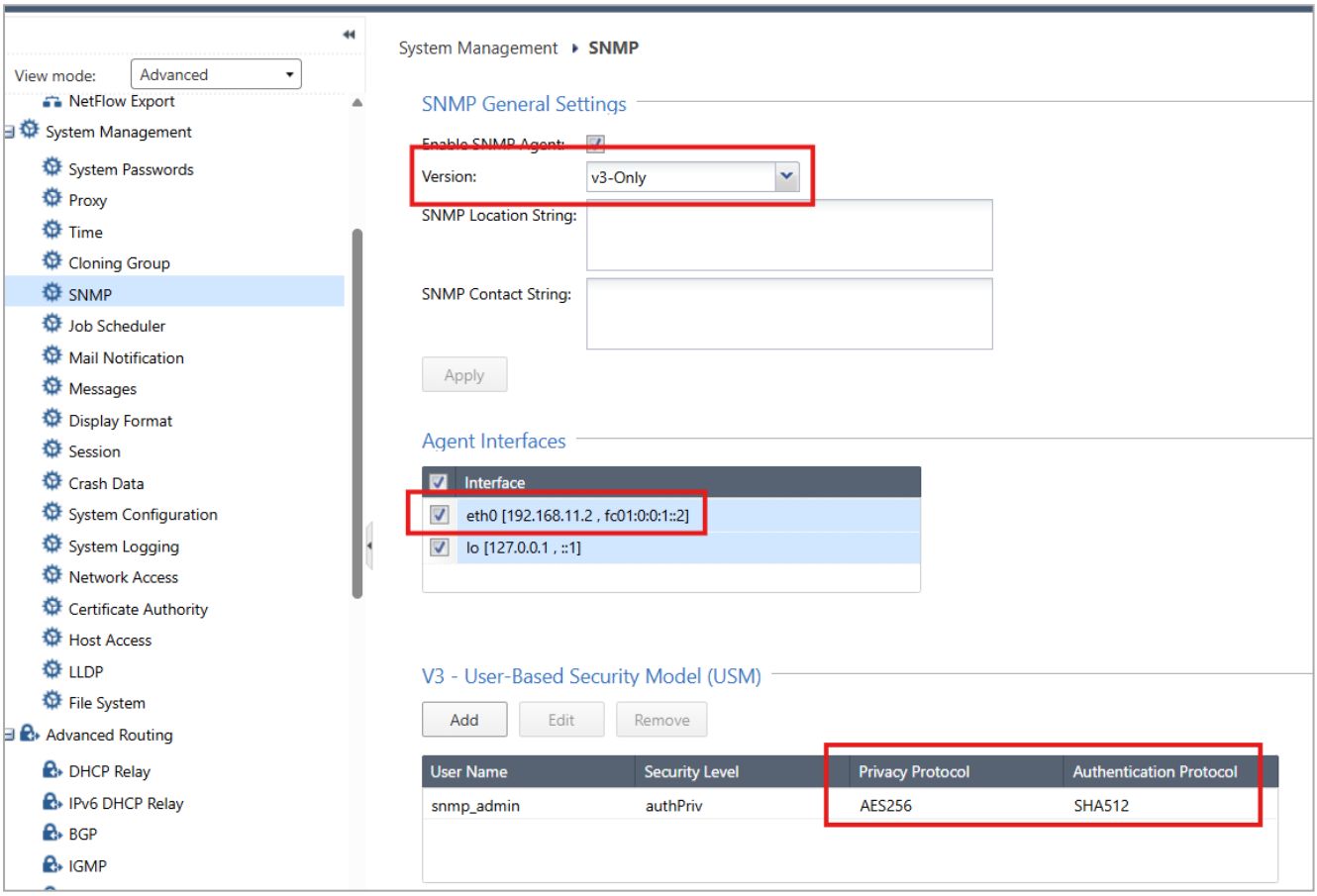
SNMP can expose operational details. Secure configuration reduces information disclosure risk.

1. In Gaia Portal, navigate to **System Management** > **SNMP**.
2. In the section **SNMP Genera Settings**:

a. In the **Version** field, select **v3-Only**.

b. Click **Apply**.

3. In the section **Agent Interfaces**:
   - Select only the relevant **internal** interfaces.
4. In the section **V3 - User-Based Security Model (USM)**:
   a. Add a new USM user.
   b. Configure the **Privacy Protocol** level to **AES256**.
   c. Configure the **Authentication Protocol** level to **SHA512**.



Implementation reference:

R82.10 Gaia Administration Guide > System Management > SNMP > Configuring SNMP in Gaia Portal.

Expert mode Governance

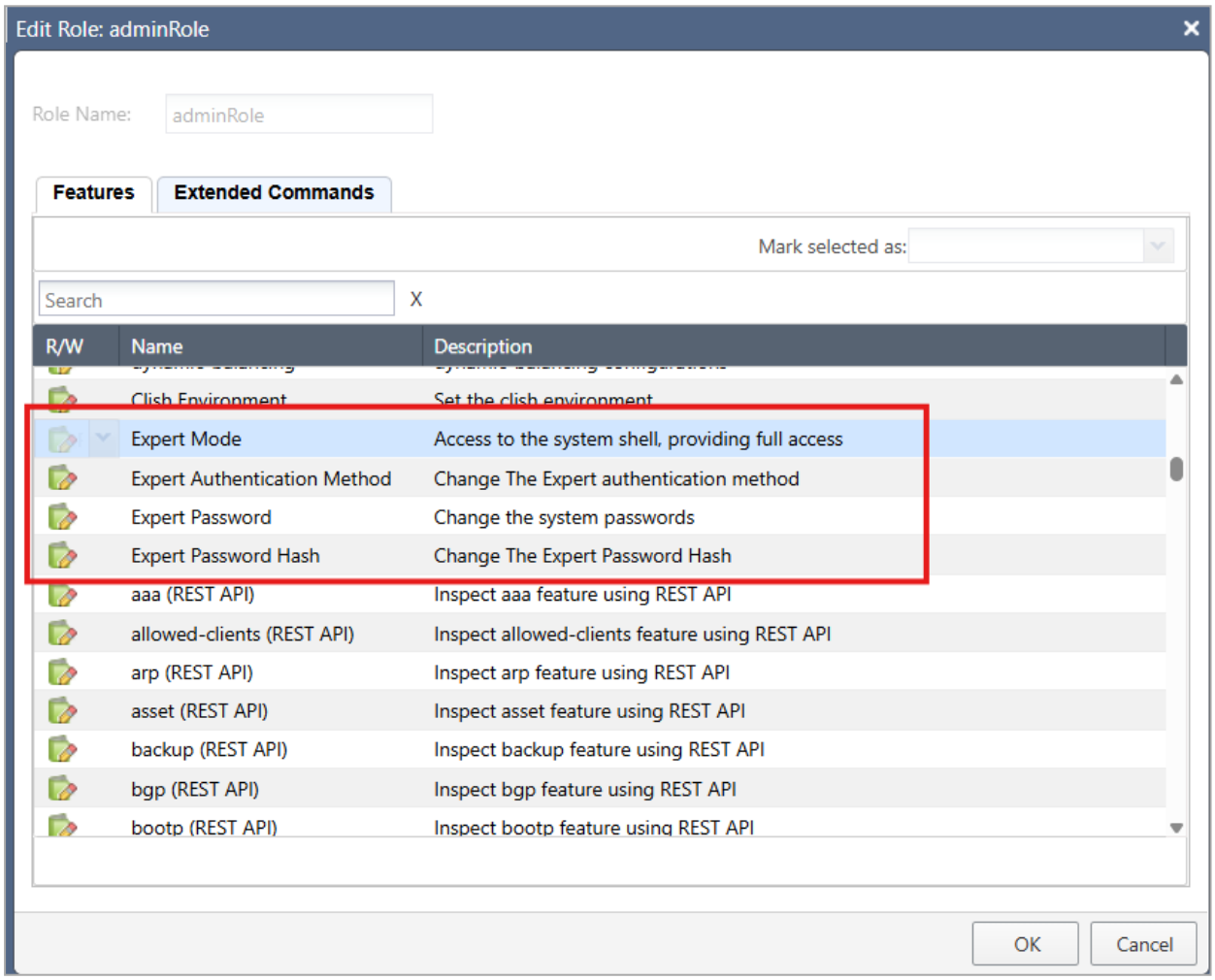
Recommendation: Restrict the Expert mode access to a limited, authorized set of administrators. Use integration with Check Point Playblocks to alert every time the Expert mode is activated (this Playblocks automation does **not** require a subscription to Playblocks).

The Expert mode provides full OS access as root user and should be tightly controlled.

1. In Gaia Portal, navigate to **User Management** > **Roles**.
2. Click **Add** to create a new role for administrators.

   In this role, in the leftmost column **R/W**, set the following features to **None** or **Read Only**:

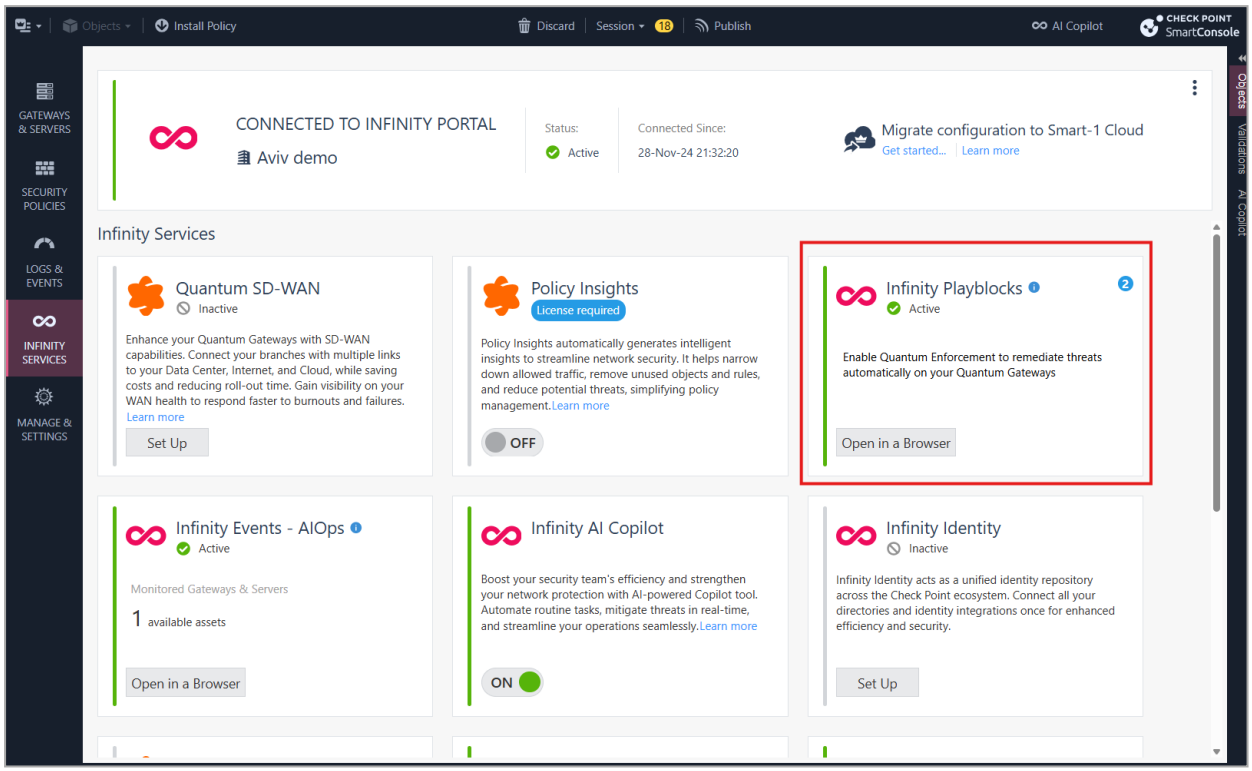
   - **Clish Environment**
   - **Expert Mode**
   - **Expert Authentication Method**
   - **Expert Password**
   - **Expert Password Hash**



3. Click **OK**.
4. In Gaia Portal, navigate to **User Management** > **Users**.
5. Create new administrator users - in the **Available Roles** list, select the above limited administrator role.

6. In SmartConsole, connect your Management Server to Check Point cloud services.
7. Activate the Playblocks service.

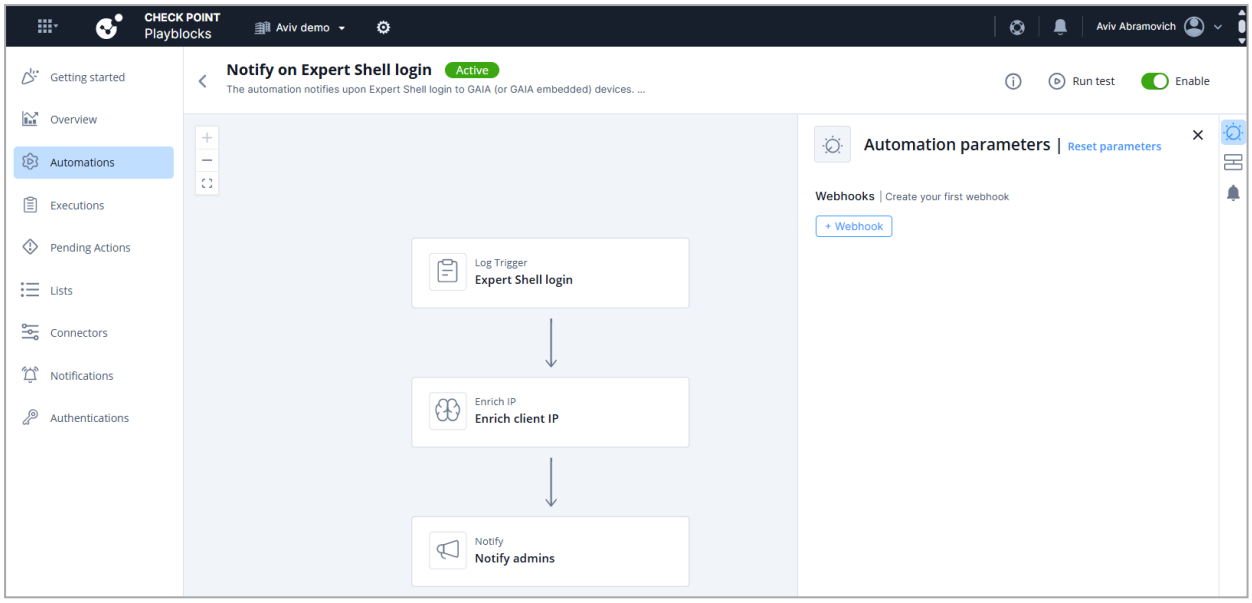
   Note: This is supported for both on-premises servers and Smart-1 Cloud.



8. In the Playblocks card, click the button **Open in a Browser** to sign in to *Check Point Portal* and to go to the correct tenant.
9. In the left panel, click the **Automations** page.

   Search for: expert.

   Enable **Notify** for **Expert Shell login**.



This setting will generate a notification as configured in Playblocks upon each attempt to log in to the Expert mode.

Use these notifications to identify any unauthorized access to Expert mode.

Implementation reference:

- R82.10 Gaia Administration Guide > User Management > Roles > Configuring Roles in Gaia Portal.
- Check Point Playblocks Administration Guide > Automations > Predefined Automations > Notify on Expert Shell Login.

Enable Security Gateway system logging to the Management Server

Recommendation: Configure each Security Gateway to forward its Gaia OS system logs (syslog) to the Management Server and avoid relying solely on local log files on the Security Gateway.

Local syslog retention on the Security Gateway should be treated as a temporary buffer only, not as the primary source of system level visibility, for these reasons:

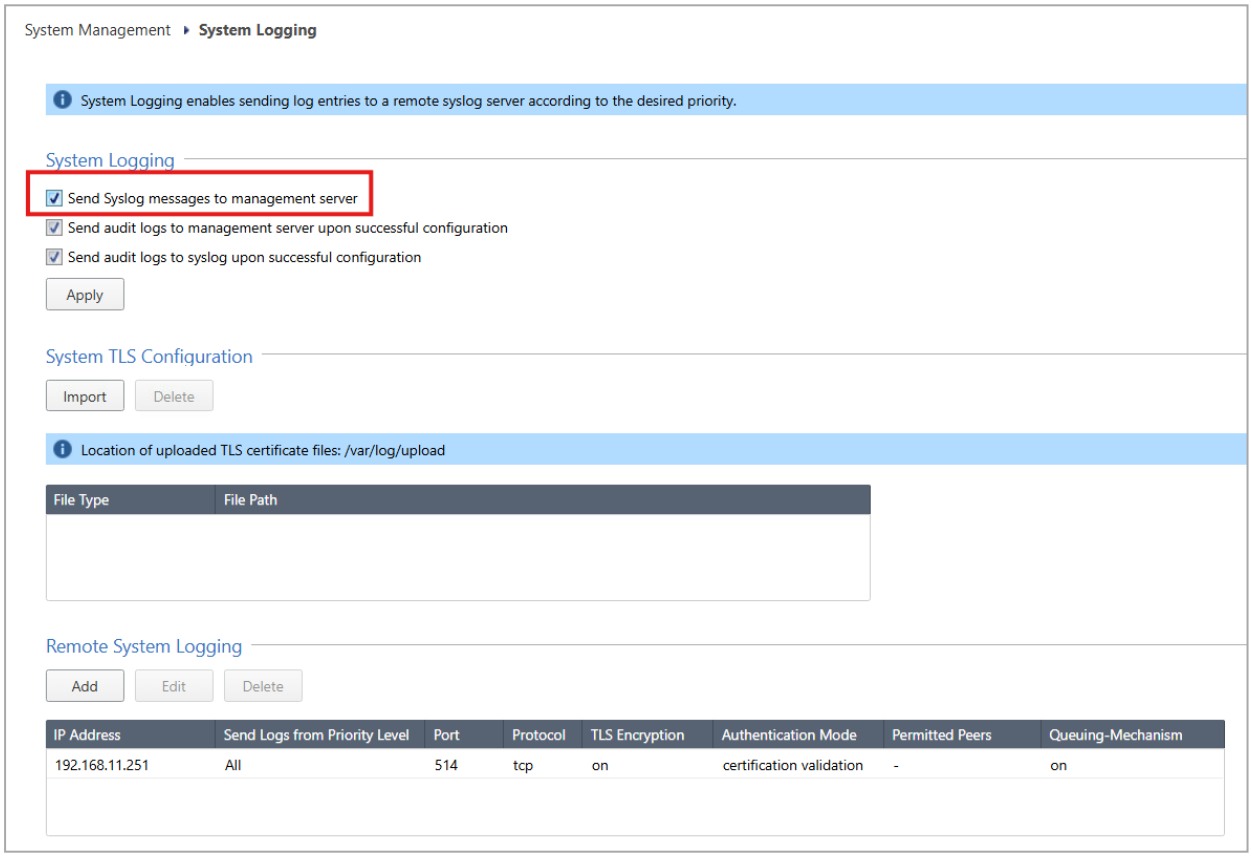
- Centralized operational visibility: Forwarding syslog to the Management Server allows administrators to review the Security Gateway's Gaia OS events alongside management plane activity.
- Improved troubleshooting: Many platform issues (for example routing daemon events, authentication failures, or service restarts) are visible only in system logs.

- Ability to audit. Central retention of system logs supports forensic analysis and operational audits.
- Resilience: Security Gateway local logs may be lost during reboot, disk issues, or hardware failure; central collection reduces this risk.

System logs complement - but do not replace - Security Gateway and traffic logging.

1. In Gaia Portal, navigate to **System Management** > **System Logging**.
2. In the **System Logging** section, select the checkbox **Send Syslog messages to management server**.

Item	Default	Recommended
Send syslog messages to management server	Disabled	Enabled

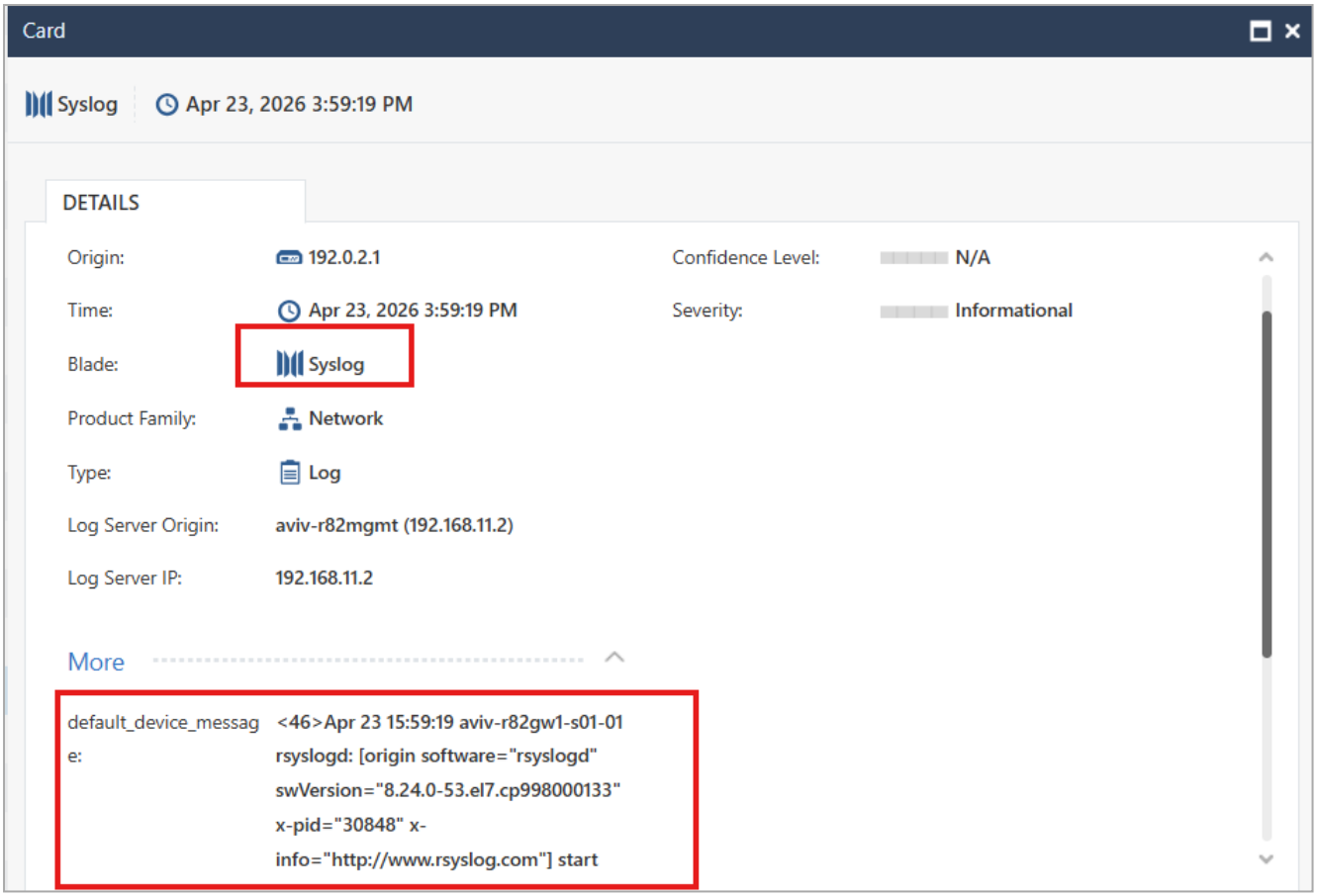


3. Click **Apply**.

This allows the Security Gateway to send its syslog messages to the Management Server / Log Server.

You can later use these syslog messages for forensics in case of suspicious activity.

Example:



Implementation reference:

R82.10 Gaia Administration Guide > System Management > System Logging > Configuring System Logging in Gaia Portal > Configuring the System Logging.

Enable Management Server system logging to an external server

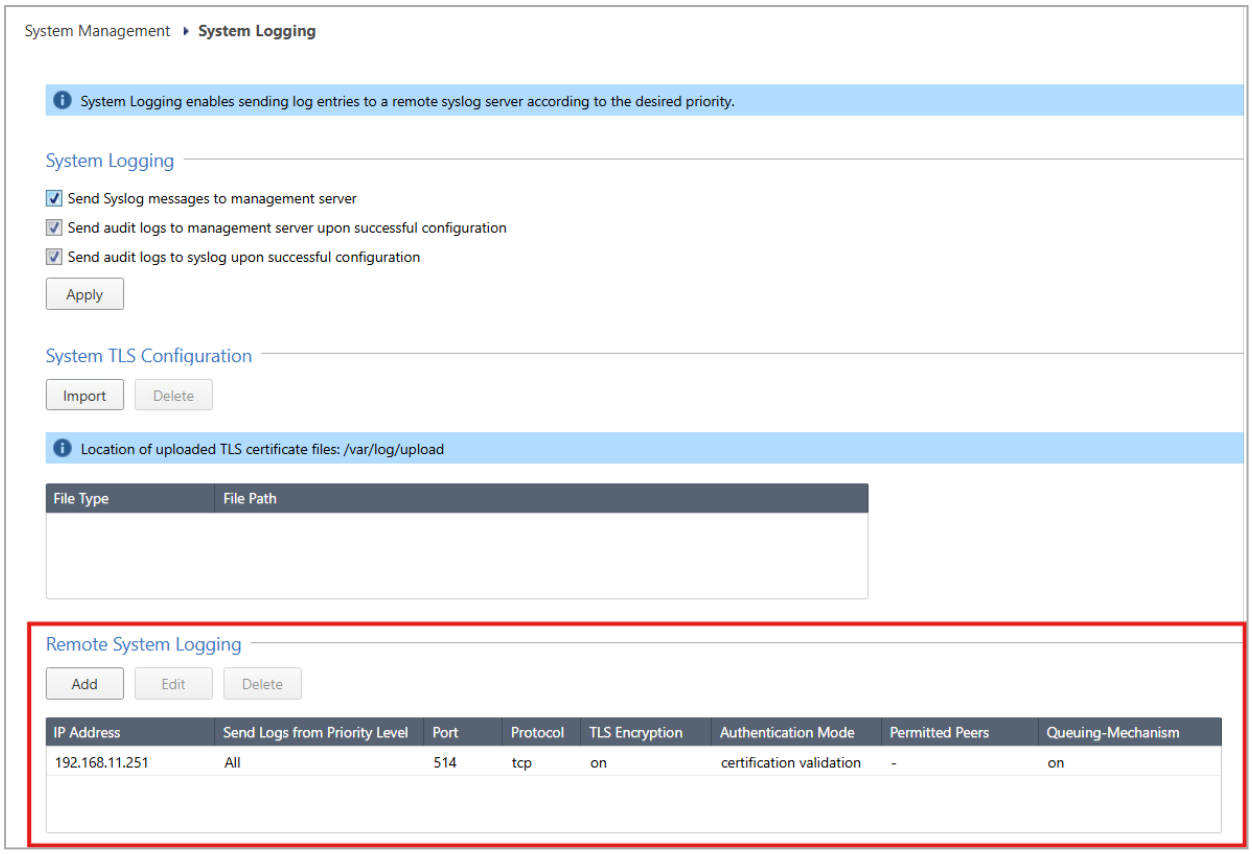
Recommendation: Configure the Management Server to forward its Gaia OS system logs (syslog) to an external centralized log server, in addition to retaining a local copy for short term operational troubleshooting.

System logs generated by the Management Server should not be retained only locally.

Centralized retention supports investigations, regulatory audits, and compliance evidence requirements.

1. In Gaia Portal, navigate to **System Management** > **System Logging**.
2. In the **Remote System Logging** section, add the applicable remote syslog server.

Example:



Implementation reference:

R82.10 Gaia Administration Guide > System Management > System Logging > Configuring System Logging in Gaia Portal > Configuring the Remote System Logging.

Restrict Access to Lights Out Management (LOM / Out of Band Management)

Many Check Point Appliances include a Lights Out Management (LOM) or out of band management interface that provides direct, low level access to the system, including remote console, power control, and hardware monitoring capabilities.

This interface operates independently of the Gaia OS and security policy, and therefore must be treated as highly privileged infrastructure access.

Recommendation:

Ensure that the LOM interface is:

- Not directly exposed to the Internet.
- Connected only to a dedicated, secured management network.
- Accessible only from explicitly authorized source IP addresses.

Access to the LOM interface must be tightly restricted and monitored.

Why:

- LOM provides direct hardware level control, bypassing operating system and security policy enforcement.
- Unauthorized access to LOM can allow:
  - Full system control (including reboot and console access).
  - Modification of boot behavior.
  - Access to sensitive system information.
- As attackers increasingly target management and control planes, out of band interfaces represent a high impact entry point if not properly isolated.
- Improper exposure (for example, direct Internet connectivity) significantly increases the risk of unauthorized access.

Advanced Hardening (High Security Environments Only)

Explicit Rules Instead of Implied Rules

Recommendation: Replace implied rules with explicit Access Control rules only in high security environments, following the Check Point guidance exactly.

Explicit rules increase visibility and auditability, but incorrect rules can break policy installation and management/log connectivity.

Implementation reference:

sk179346 - Configuring an Explicit Rule instead of Implied Rules.

Deployment Checklists

Use these checklists during deployment and periodic security reviews.

Quick Checklist (All Environments)

- Implement a Stealth Rule for a Security Gateway (drop non-required traffic directed to the Security Gateway).
- Review and (where needed) enable logging for Implied Rules.
- Place Management Server in a protected segment behind a firewall.
- Restrict admin access by source IP (jump hosts / admin networks only).
- Enforce MFA for administrators via Identity Provider.
- Remove / disable unused administrator accounts.
- Apply latest recommended Hotfix / Jumbo Hotfix Accumulator Take and confirm update health.
- Harden Gaia OS: password policy, SNMP, routing (only if needed), restrict Expert mode.
- Use least privilege credentials for AD / Cloud / API integrations and maintain an inventory.