

Policy-Based Forwarding



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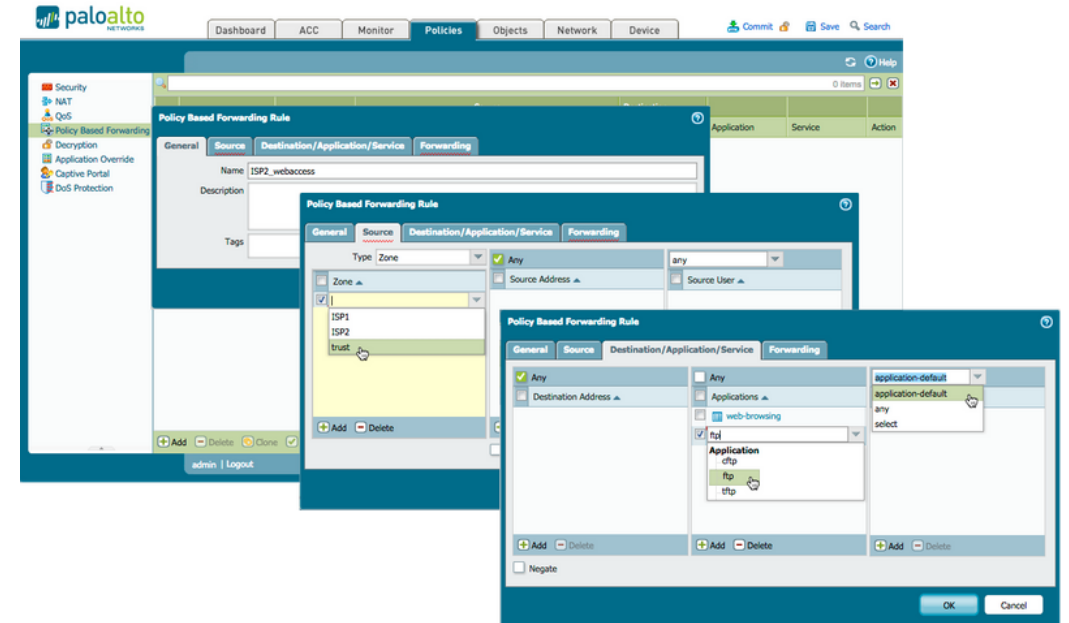
Policy Based Forwarding

Under normal circumstances, a security device (firewall, Next-generation Firewall (NGFW)) uses the destination IP address in the packet header to determine the egress interface. Policy-based Forwarding (PBF) allows a network / security engineer to override the routing table, and to specify the egress interface based on specific parameters such as source or destination IP address, or type of traffic.



The screenshot shows the Palo Alto Networks GUI with the 'Policies' tab selected. A table displays two Policy Based Forwarding rules:

Name	Tags	Source Zone	Destination Zone	Original Packet				Translated Packet	
				Destination Interface	Source Address	Destination Address	Service	Source Translation	Destination Translation
1 outbound-nat	none	trust	ISP1	ethernet1/1	any	any	any	dynamic-ip-and-port	ethernet1/1
2 outbound-nat-ISP2	none	trust	ISP2	ethernet1/2	any	any	any	dynamic-ip-and-port	ethernet1/2



The screenshot shows the configuration interface for a Policy Based Forwarding rule named 'ISP2_webaccess'. The 'Forwarding' tab is active, showing the following configuration:

- Name:** ISP2_webaccess
- Description:**
- Tags:**
- Source:** Any
- Destination:** Any
- Application:** web-browsing
- Service:** Any
- Action:** application-default

The 'Forwarding' tab also shows a list of applications and services that can be selected for the rule. The 'Application' dropdown is set to 'Any', and the 'Service' dropdown is set to 'Any'. The 'Action' dropdown is set to 'application-default'.

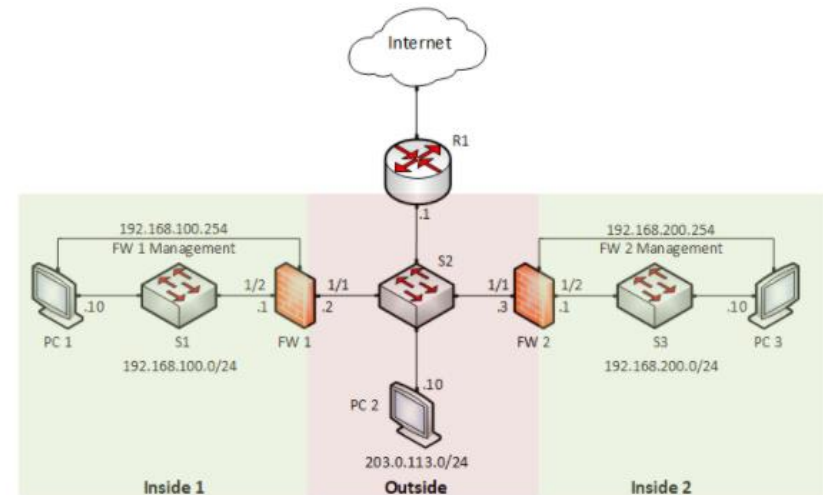
Scenario Description

- Large company infrastructure with high traffic volumes
- Company has access to two ISP's
- Company uses FTP to transfer files between locations
- Company accesses an offsite FTP server
- Company would like to utilize the second ISP to securely transport FTP traffic



Proposed Solution and Implementation

- Establish a Policy-based Forwarding rule to separate the FTP traffic
- Non-FTP traffic will continue through ISP 1 which is the default route
- Verify connectivity to the external FTP server throughout



Conclusion

- Policy-Based Forwarding is utilized to filter traffic at the NGFW
- Establishing a Policy-Based Forwarding rule will allow a company to separate traffic by type of traffic and or source or destination
- This strategy will allow the company to utilize Policy-Based Forwarding to increase security of FTP traffic to their external server

