

Document Generated: 12/14/2025

Learning Style: On Demand

Technology: Cisco

Difficulty: Intermediate

Course Duration: 40 Hours

Securing Email with Cisco Email Security Appliance (SESA) v3.0 - On Demand



About this course:

This course shows you how to deploy and use Cisco Email Security Appliance to establish protection for your email systems against phishing, business email compromise, and ransomware, and to help streamline email security policy

management.

This hands-on course provides you with the knowledge and skills to implement, troubleshoot, and administer Cisco Email Security Appliance, including key capabilities such as advanced malware protection, spam blocking, anti-virus protection, outbreak filtering, encryption, quarantines, and data loss prevention.

This course helps prepare you for the Securing Email with Cisco Email Security Appliance (300-720 SESA) exam, which leads to CCNP Security and the Certified Specialist - Email Content Security certifications.

Course Objective:

After taking this course, you should be able to:

- Describe and administer the Cisco Email Security Appliance (ESA)
- Control sender and recipient domains
- Control spam with Cisco Talos SenderBase and anti-spam
- Use anti-virus and outbreak filters
- Use mail policies
- · Use content filters
- Use message filters to enforce email policies
- Prevent data loss
- Perform Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) queries
- Authenticate Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) sessions
- Authenticate email
- Encrypt email
- Use system guarantines and delivery methods
- Perform centralized management using clusters
- Test and troubleshoot

Audience:

- Security engineers
- Security administrators
- Security architects
- Operations engineers
- Network engineers
- Network administrators
- Network or security technicians
- Network managers
- System designers
- Cisco integrators and partners

Prerequisite:

The knowledge and skills that a student must have before attending this course are:

TCP/IP services, including Domain Name System (DNS), Secure Shell

(SSH), FTP, Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP), HTTP, and HTTPS

Experience with IP routing

To fully benefit from this course, you should have one or more of the following basic technical competencies:

- Cisco certification (Cisco CCENT certification or higher)
- Relevant industry certification [International Information System Security Certification Consortium ((ISC)²), Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA) Security+, International Council of Electronic Commerce Consultants (EC-Council), Global Information Assurance Certification (GIAC), ISACA]
- Cisco Networking Academy letter of completion (CCNA 1 and CCNA 2)
- Windows expertise: Microsoft [Microsoft Specialist, Microsoft Certified Solutions Associate (MCSA), Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE)], CompTIA (A+, Network+, Server+)

Course Outline:

Describing the Cisco Email Security Appliance

Cisco Email Security Appliance Overview
Technology Use Case
Cisco Email Security Appliance Data Sheet
SMTP Overview
Email Pipeline Overview
Installation Scenarios
Initial Cisco Email Security Appliance Configuration
Centralizing Services on a Cisco Content Security Management Appliance
(SMA)
Release Notes for AsyncOS 11.x

Administering the Cisco Email Security Appliance

Distributing Administrative Tasks
System Administration
Managing and Monitoring Using the Command Line Interface (CLI)
Other Tasks in the GUI
Advanced Network Configuration
Using Email Security Monitor
Tracking Messages
Logging

Controlling Sender and Recipient Domains

Public and Private Listeners Configuring the Gateway to Receive Email Host Access Table Overview Recipient Access Table Overview

Configuring Routing and Delivery Features

Controlling Spam with Talos SenderBase and Anti-Spam

SenderBase Overview
Anti-Spam
Managing Graymail
Protecting Against Malicious or Undesirable URLs
File Reputation Filtering and File Analysis
Bounce Verification

Using Anti-Virus and Outbreak Filters

Anti-Virus Scanning Overview
Sophos Anti-Virus Filtering
McAfee Anti-Virus Filtering
Configuring the Appliance to Scan for Viruses
Outbreak Filters
How the Outbreak Filters Feature Works
Managing Outbreak Filters

Using Mail Policies

Email Security Manager Overview
Mail Policies Overview
Handling Incoming and Outgoing Messages Differently
Matching Users to a Mail Policy
Message Splintering
Configuring Mail Policies

Using Content Filters

Content Filters Overview
Content Filter Conditions
Content Filter Actions
Filter Messages Based on Content
Text Resources Overview
Using and Testing the Content Dictionaries Filter Rules
Understanding Text Resources
Text Resource Management
Using Text Resources

Using Message Filters to Enforce Email Policies

Message Filters Overview
Components of a Message Filter
Message Filter Processing
Message Filter Rules
Message Filter Actions
Attachment Scanning

Examples of Attachment Scanning Message Filters

Using the CLI to Manage Message Filters

Message Filter Examples

Configuring Scan Behavior

Preventing Data Loss

Overview of the Data Loss Prevention (DLP) Scanning Process

Setting Up Data Loss Prevention

Policies for Data Loss Prevention

Message Actions

Updating the DLP Engine and Content Matching Classifiers

Using LDAP

Overview of LDAP

Working with LDAP

Using LDAP Queries

Authenticating End-Users of the Spam Quarantine

Configuring External LDAP Authentication for Users

Testing Servers and Queries

Using LDAP for Directory Harvest Attack Prevention

Spam Quarantine Alias Consolidation Queries

Validating Recipients Using an SMTP Server

SMTP Session Authentication

Configuring AsyncOS for SMTP Authentication

Authenticating SMTP Sessions Using Client Certificates

Checking the Validity of a Client Certificate

Authenticating User Using LDAP Directory

Authenticating SMTP Connection Over Transport Layer Security (TLS)

Using a Client Certificate

Establishing a TLS Connection from the Appliance

Updating a List of Revoked Certificates

Email Authentication

Email Authentication Overview

Configuring DomainKeys and DomainKeys Identified MailDKIM) Signing

Verifying Incoming Messages Using DKIM

Overview of Sender Policy FrameworkSPF) and SIDF Verification

Domain-based Message Authentication Reporting and Conformance

(DMARC) Verification

Forged Email Detection

Email Encryption

Overview of Cisco Email Encryption

Encrypting Messages

Determining Which Messages to Encrypt

Inserting Encryption Headers into Messages

Encrypting Communication with Other Message Transfer Agents (MTAs)

Working with Certificates

Managing Lists of Certificate Authorities

Enabling TLS on a Listener's Host Access Table (HAT)

Enabling TLS and Certificate Verification on Delivery

Secure/Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions (S/MIME) Security Services

Using System Quarantines and Delivery Methods

Describing Quarantines

Spam Quarantine

Setting Up the Centralized Spam Quarantine

Using Safelists and Blocklists to Control Email Delivery Based on Sender

Configuring Spam Management Features for End Users

Managing Messages in the Spam Quarantine

Policy, Virus, and Outbreak Quarantines

Managing Policy, Virus, and Outbreak Quarantines

Working with Messages in Policy, Virus, or Outbreak Quarantines

Delivery Methods

Centralized Management Using Clusters

Overview of Centralized Management Using Clusters

Cluster Organization

Creating and Joining a Cluster

Managing Clusters

Cluster Communication

Loading a Configuration in Clustered Appliances

Best Practices

Testing and Troubleshooting

Debugging Mail Flow Using Test Messages: Trace

Using the Listener to Test the Appliance

Troubleshooting the Network

Troubleshooting the Listener

Troubleshooting Email Delivery

Troubleshooting Performance

Web Interface Appearance and Rendering Issues

Responding to Alerts

Troubleshooting Hardware Issues

Working with Technical Support

References

Model Specifications for Large Enterprises

Model Specifications for Midsize Enterprises and Small-to-Midsize

Enterprises or Branch Offices

Cisco Email Security Appliance Model Specifications for Virtual Appliances

Packages and Licenses