



Avaya SBCE 8.1 Security Configuration and Best Practices Guide

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Introduction

This document provides an overview of security configuration and best practices for SBCE Release 8.1. The goal is to equip Avaya partners, customers, and sales and system engineers with the information required to configure SBCE securely.

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Avaya SBCE security overview

This document describes the security-related considerations, features, and services for Avaya SBCE. As a security product, Avaya SBCE must be resilient to attacks that cause malfunction or theft of service.

Avaya SBCE as part of the Avaya solution must be protected from security threats such as:

- Unauthorized access or modification of data
- Theft of data
- Denial of Service (DoS) attacks
- Viruses and Worms
- Theft of data

Avaya multilayer hardening strategy

To prevent security violations and attacks, Avaya SBCE uses the Avaya multilayer hardening strategy:

- Secure by design
- Secure by default
- Secure communications

Secure by design

Secure by design encompasses a secure deployment strategy that separates Management from the enterprise production network.

The architecture is for the trusted communication framework infrastructure security layer and allows the design of dedicated security zones for:

- Management network
- Untrusted public network
- Trusted Enterprise network

The zones are like dedicated networks for particular functions or services. They do not need to have access from or to any other zones because they only accommodate the data they are built for.

Management network should be on different VLAN than untrusted and trusted networks on the Avaya SBCE.

Secure by default

Secure by default incorporates a hardened Red Hat Enterprise Linux operating system with inherent security features for Avaya SBCE. This hardened operating system provides only the functions necessary to support the core applications, which is important for securing mission-critical call processing applications and protecting the customer from toll fraud and other malicious attacks.

The Red Hat that Avaya has hardened limits the number of access ports, services, and executables. Also based on the service number of messages, or connection rate will be rate limited. These limits protect

the system from typical modes of attack. At the same time, the reduction of Linux functions reduces the attack surface which reduces the number of mandatory security patches needed.

Secure Communication

Communications can be secured by encrypting the signaling and media with TLS/SRTP and granular admission control. Criteria used for admission control include source subnet, user agent, and URI group; which can be used to control things like device type and/or users that are allowed thru the SBC. See admin guide and app notes for admission control configuration in Endpoint Flows and Domain Policies.

Multilayer security firewall

To prevent network attacks, Avaya SBCE uses the Avaya multilayer firewall strategy.

Architecturally there are three firewall layers, each layer using different techniques/technology to target specific type of attacks. This Layered firewall approach designed to delay and limit the impact of an attack through multiple layers.



There are mainly three layers:

PCF - PCF is a custom-built Linux firewall module for Avaya SBCE. This module functionality includes:

- blocks all the traffic by default
- allow only configured ports.
- Media ports opened per call basis based on signaling negotiation
- To minimize any latency in media, the media packets are processed in fast path mode.

Iptables - Iptables is an extremely flexible firewall utility built for Linux operating systems. Avaya SBCE uses iptables for Layer 3 and layer 4 firewall in Avaya SBCE. By default, all the IP traffic is blocked and based on the configuration iptables rules are added for

- Rate limiting the UDP packets

- Rate limit the connection rate
- Rate limit traffic through the connection
- Detect and protect from known attack vectors
- Black list/ white list IP addresses or subnets

Avaya SBCE SIP security layer – Avaya SBCE implemented various techniques to detect and prevent different type of attacks. Refer to section [Avaya SBCE Application security](#) for further details.

Complementing security guides of other Avaya products

This document describes security-related issues and security features of Avaya SBCE. This document complements the security guides that are available for all the managed elements in the Avaya solution. The security guides describe the potential security risks to Avaya products and the features that Avaya products offer to mitigate these security risks.

This document is a descriptive guide, not a procedural guide. Where appropriate, the guide references other product documentation for the actual procedures for configuring and using security features.

Some Avaya Security Guides available on the Support website are:

- Avaya Toll Fraud Security Guide
- Security Best Practices Checklist for Unified Communications Deployment
- Avaya and Vulnerability Scanning
- Mapping Common Vulnerability Exposure (CVE) numbers to Avaya Security Advisories (ASAs)

Virtualization

Virtualization of SBCs becomes more common. However, some network security professionals are concerned that DMZ virtualization might decrease security. This is understandable, because virtualization involves new terminology and technology. The biggest risk to a DMZ in a virtual environment is misconfiguration, not the technology. Thus you need strong audit controls to ensure that you avoid misconfiguration, either accidental or malicious. Before deploying SBC refer to VMware best practices guide for DMZ - http://www.vmware.com/files/pdf/dmz_virtualization_vmware_infra_wp.pdf

Because of this following is our order of preference:

1. Physical appliance
2. VMware –DMZ with Separate Physical Trust Zones – Aura and Avaya SBCE located in separate servers
3. VMware - DMZ with Virtual Separation of Trust Zones – Aura and Avaya SBCE located in same servers and are separated by virtual trust zones. need strong audit controls to ensure that you avoid misconfiguration. Virtual servers must use the physical network and pass through physical security devices to communicate Avaya SBCE trust zones. In other words use separated NICs for trusted and untrusted zones.

4. VMware – collapsed DMZ - This completely virtual infrastructure can fully enforce isolation and security between the Avaya SBCE zones. This will be complex and highly risky. So, least preferred and we don't recommend this option.

Management/services should always use separate NIC.

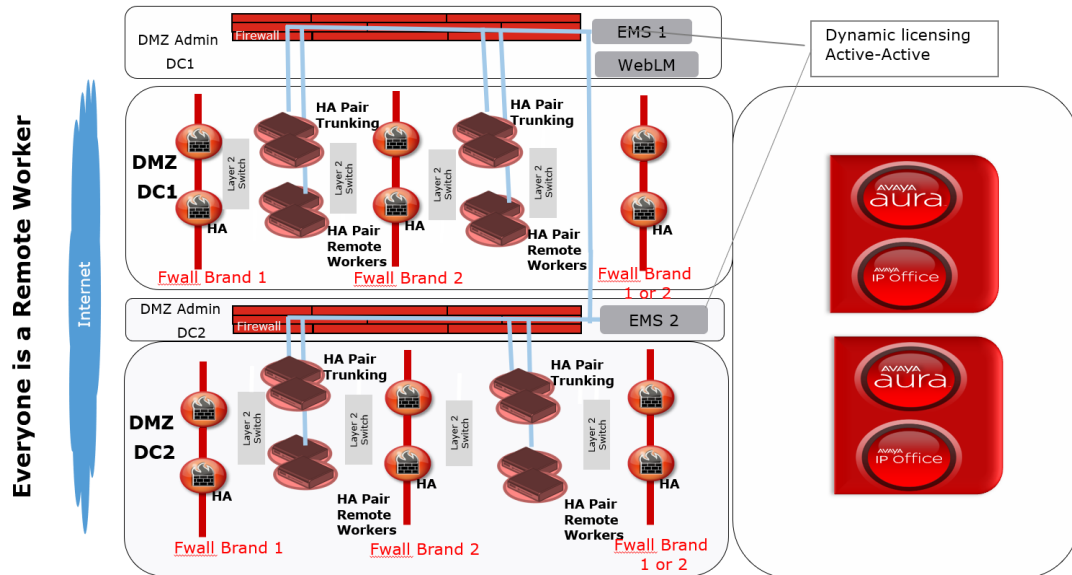
Best practices deployment

When it comes to best practices, ultimately the final decision will always be yours and more specifically the one from your internal security team. Security is not a set of features or a product but a combination of these latter and a set of constantly evolving practices enabling one infrastructure to be and remain secure.

The below summarizes the dimensions that Avaya has captured as needing to be considered when looking at best Avaya SBCE deployment:

1. Type of appliance – Hardware vs Virtual – this dimension has been discussed in the previous chapter – the conclusion is that there is no right or best answer – whatever you, as an IT team feels more comfortable with is the right answer for you.
2. Overall deployment Topology – Whether you are considering a single Datacenter or Geo redundant, local user to your DC or 100% remote workers, the recommended deployment approach is to sandwich your SBCE in the DMZ between two firewalls of different brands.
3. Vertical layering: To simplify the SBCE configuration, ease of licensing management but above all Isolation of functions for better control and behavior predictability (to quickly identify and react to any abnormality which could be related to a hack / hack attempt)
4. Horizontal layering : Most commonly encountered nowadays in Europe and/or financial institution vertical, this layering approach consist in 2 layers of DMZ – 3 firewalls with SBCEs in each of the DMZ to separate the security duties and isolate the privacy policies check and enforcement (the more traditional security policies being taken care of in the first DMZ)
5. High Availability and Geo-redundancy: Avaya SBCE being the single point central point where your SIP trunking and remote worker collapse, making sure that High availability combined with geo redundancy is obviously one of the best practice dimensions. The former protecting your environment against a hardware appliance failure, the second against a total datacenter failure.
6. Optimal Software licensing: in this dimension besides considering the HA licensing, dynamic licensing comes into play to enable cost optimized and load balancing geo redundant setups
7. And finally overall SBCE management and configuration: in this category falls, keeping your SBCE software up to date, not using wild card certs, not white listing *.* , managing your SBCE only from trusted side, separating your SIP traffic from the management traffic, encrypting all communications when possible (not all ITSP offer encrypted SIP trunks)

When all of these Best practices' dimensions are considered and come together then the "ideal" topology for an highly secure and robust deployment comes down to the following diagram:



The diagram should not be considered as what you must do for making your deployment secure.

At the end of the day, a single SBCE connected directly to the internet is going to secure an SMB UC/CC access but the above should be really considered as what an highly security aware enterprise IT team in the highly regulated vertical such as finance, Telecom or Governmental institutions should thrive for.

Avaya SBCE Application security

The Avaya SBCE Control Center allows you to view various security-related features of Avaya SBCE security products, such as:

- Denial-of-Service (DoS) Policies
- Protocol Scrubber Rules
- Encryption
- Secure Remote Access

Denial-of-Service (DoS) Policies

The Avaya SBCE supports following DOS policies:

Single Source DoS Any type of DoS attack that is directed against one or more enterprise endpoints that originate from a single source. Based on the deployment thresholds for this are configurable. These thresholds are global. Avaya SBCE enforces these thresholds based on the source of an attack.

Although default configuration is provided, it is recommended that based on the traffic it needs to be tuned to avoid false positives/ negatives.

Default configuration

Single source DoS threshold value is 300 (default) SIP messages per 5sec and Action is **Alert**.

Recommended initial configuration

For Trunk solution the configuration Single source DOS threshold value should be **20** SIP messages per 5sec and Action should be **Block**.

For remote worker solution the configuration Single source DOS threshold value should be changed to **300** SIP messages per 5sec and Action should be **Block**.

If the SBCE is configured for Trunk and Remote worker solution use the remote worker limits.

To configure Single source DOS thresholds, go to **Global Parameters -> DOS/DDOS -> Single Source DoS**

To enable single source DOS feature for the SBCE go to **Device specific settings -> Advanced Options -> Feature control**

Phone DoS/DDoS A type of DoS attack that is directed against a single enterprise endpoint. Based on the deployment thresholds for this are configurable. These thresholds are absolute. Avaya SBCE enforces these thresholds based on the destination of an attack. This ensures Avaya SBCE can identify DDoS attacks on a particular destination. Although default configuration is provided, it is recommended that based on the traffic it needs to be tuned to avoid false positives/ negatives.

Default configuration

Phone DoS/DDoS threshold value is 200 (default) SIP messages per 3sec and action is **Alert**.

Recommended initial configuration

For Trunk solution the configuration Phone DoS/DDoS threshold value should be **10** SIP messages per 3sec and Action should be **Block**.

For remote worker solution the configuration Phone DoS/DDoS threshold value should be changed to **200** SIP messages per 3 sec and Action should be **Block**.

If the SBCE is configured for Trunk and Remote worker solution use the remote worker limits.

To configure Phone DOS thresholds go to **Global Parameters -> DOS/DDOS -> Phone DoS**

To enable Phone DOS feature for the SBCE go to **Device specific settings -> Advanced Options -> Feature control**

Stealth DoS/DDoS A type of low-volume DoS attack that is directed against an endpoint. These thresholds are Global. Avaya SBCE enforces these thresholds based on the destination of an attack. This ensures Avaya SBCE can identify DDoS attacks on a particular destination where the source of the call is constantly changed. Although default configuration is provided, it is recommended that based on the traffic it needs to be tuned to avoid false positives/ negatives.

By Default this feature will be disabled.

For Trunk/Remote worker solutions recommended threshold value **5** consecutive average inter call duration threshold violations with average inter call duration threshold of **2** min.

Initially configure Action as **alert** to see if there are any false positives.

To configure Stealth DoS/DDoS thresholds go to **Global Parameters -> DOS/DDOS -> Stealth DoS/DDoS**.

To enable Stealth DoS/DDoS feature for the SBCE go to **Device specific settings -> Advanced Options -> Feature control**

Call Walking A type of DoS attack whereby serial calls originating from a single source (normally spoofed) are directed against a sequential group of endpoints. This feature stops the attacks at the reconnaissance phase itself, when an attacker is collecting data to launch attacks. The thresholds are based on unique destinations per minute. Although default configuration is provided, it is recommended that based on the traffic it needs to be tuned to avoid false positives/ negatives.

By Default this feature will be disabled.

Recommended thresholds for Trunk/Remote worker solutions:

10 sip messages in 1 min

5 INV in 1 min

5 REG in 1 min

Initially configure Action as **alert** to see if there are any false positives.

To configure Call Walking thresholds go to **Global Parameters -> DOS/DDOS -> Call Walking**

To enable Call Walking feature for the SBCE go to **Device specific settings -> Advanced Options -> Feature control**

Server DOS Per-device signaling and media overload control, call rate control to prevent DoS attacks from reaching service infrastructure such as SIP servers. SIP servers are identified on per IP basis. Since the destination IP of a server cannot be identified before routing is applied, these thresholds are applied after routing. The thresholds are based on both policy and absolute server capacity. Avaya SBCE provides an easy configuration screen for initial recommended thresholds and then admin can adjust the

thresholds as needed. Although default configuration is provided, it is recommended that based on the traffic it needs to be tuned to avoid false positives/ negatives.

Remote worker solution - recommended values for 1000 users and 100 Max Concurrent Sessions (Active calls).

SIP Method	Initiated Threshold (per 10 sec)	Pending Threshold	Failed Threshold (per 10 sec)
ALL	16958	1696	1696
INVITE	16	3	2
OPTIONS	2200	440	110
PUBLISH	2200	440	110
REGISTER	2200	440	110
SUBSCRIBE	8800	880	880

Trunk Solution - recommended values for 100 Max Concurrent Sessions(Active calls).

SIP Method	Initiated Threshold (per 10 sec)	Pending Threshold	Failed Threshold (per 10 sec)
ALL	227	45	23
INVITE	166	33	17
OPTIONS	20	10	10
PUBLISH	0	0	0
REGISTER	2200	440	110
SUBSCRIBE	0	0	0

To configure Server DoS go to **Server Configuration -> {Server Profile} -> Advanced Tab** and select the **Enable DoS Protection** checkbox. Next select the **Dos Protection** tab and recalculate values.

Domain DOS This is similar to server DOS. Avaya SBCE provides an easy configuration screen for initial settings and then admin can adjust the thresholds as needed. Although default configuration is

provided, it is recommended that based on the traffic it needs to be tuned to avoid false positives/negatives.

Remote worker solution - recommended values for 1000 users and 100 Max Concurrent Sessions (Active calls).

SIP Method	Initiated Threshold (per 10 sec)	Pending Threshold	Failed Threshold (per 10 sec)
ALL	16958	1696	1696
INVITE	16	3	2
OPTIONS	2200	440	110
PUBLISH	2200	440	110
REGISTER	2200	440	110
SUBSCRIBE	8800	880	880

Trunk Solution - recommended values for 100 Max Concurrent Sessions(Active calls).

SIP Method	Initiated Threshold (per 10 sec)	Pending Threshold	Failed Threshold (per 10 sec)
ALL	227	45	23
INVITE	166	33	17
OPTIONS	20	10	10
PUBLISH	0	0	0
REGISTER	2200	440	110
SUBSCRIBE	0	0	0

To configure Domain DoS go to **Global Profiles -> Domain DoS**. After creating the profile you want to enable it on your Security Rules by going to **Domain Policies -> Security Rules -> {Security Profile} -> Domain DoS and Editing the DoS settings to select the profile created**.

Protocol Scrubber

Protocol Scrubbing is an Avaya SBCE feature that utilizes a highly sophisticated statistical mechanism to thoroughly check incoming SIP signaling messages for various types of protocol-specific events and anomalies. It verifies certain message characteristics such as proper message formatting, message sequence, field length, and content against updatable templates received from Avaya. Typically, messages which violate the security rules dictated by the scrubber templates will be dropped while those which violate syntax rules will be repaired (either re-written, truncate, rejected, or dropped, depending upon the processing rules imposed by the templates).

The following Scrubber Packages can be used for Remote Worker/Trunking Scenarios. There could be a common place holder ticket if there are false positives reported for these Scrubber Packages.

Package	Description	Used for
SPKG0001 - Syntax	Rules are derived based on the SIP 3261 ABNF for mandatory/optional SIP/SDP headers	Trunk
SPKG0002 – Protos	Rules are derived based on the SIP Protos Test Suite [Validates IP Address/Domains] for mandatory/optional SIP/SDP Headers	Trunk, Remote worker
SPKG0003	Not applicable to Avaya	Do not use
SPKG0004 - Avaya	Avaya	Remote worker

To configure Scrubber go to **Domain Policies -> Security Rules -> {Security Profile} -> Scrubber**

For Scrubber default action is **Alert**. To change the Scrubber action go to **Global Parameters -> Scrubber -> Rules**.

Encryption

Encryption can reduce the risk of intercepting phone conversations, voice mail, and the SIP messages that support them both. A call consists of voice (RTP) data and signaling (SIP) messages. Both media and signaling data can pass through many devices and networks, sometimes over a separate network or virtual path from each other. Without encrypting both data types anyone with access could intercept: □ RTP in phone calls and voice mail □ SIP messages.

□ compares how encryption

Following table shows how encryption mitigates the vulnerabilities in SIP and RTP.

	Unencrypted (Clear)	Encrypted
SIP	Susceptible to message spoofing and registration hijacking	Prevents message spoofing and hides sensitive information
RTP	Vulnerable to eavesdropping	Prevents eavesdropping

Avaya SBCE uses the Transport Layer Security (TLS) protocol as a transport protocol for encrypting SIP messages to prevent eavesdropping and tampering of communications sent across a network. Refer to Chapter 9 in the Administering Avaya Session Border Controller for Enterprise guide for configuring the TLS for remote worker solution.

Avaya SBCE supports SRTP for encrypting the media traffic to prevent eavesdropping. Refer to the Chapter 5 in Avaya SBCE admin guide for configuring SRTP as part of Media rules.

Secure Remote Access

Setting files and firmware files

In Remote Worker solution Avaya phones uses HTTP/HTTPS to get initial configurations settings file(46xx_settings.txt) and firmware upgrades. 96x1 phones supports identify certificates. These certificates can be used for TLS mutual authentication for securing the settings file download and firmware upgrades. To avoid unauthorized access to settings file and firmware files use TLS mutual authentication. Refer to Avaya SBCE admin guide for configuring the TLS mutual authentication in the TLS profile.

Please note all the phones does not support mutual authentication for firmware download, refer to the phone documentation for the support and configuration to enable TLS mutual authentication for firmware download.

Recommended configuration and procedures TLS mutual authentication

Configure SBCE http proxy service for https(no http) for settings file and firmware download. Do not use relay service for file downloads.

Phone staging:

A two-step approach is required if there is no http access from remote locations and mutual authentication is required.

- 1) The phone must internally download the settings/certificates via http
- 2) Ready for remote deployment

Port Matrix

Following are the default ports used.

