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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.
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