



Network Security Hardening Guide  
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# About This Document

This document provides information and explains measures that users can take to secure network devices to improve network security.

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# Introduction

Hikvision network devices, like any other network devices, may be exposed to cybersecurity risks. To protect the network from the risk, Hikvision takes measures such as disabling the Telnet and FTP interface, and adopting the security activation mechanism.

**Note:** This document is written as a general guideline. Measurements should be taken into consideration depending on the application scenarios.

## Passwords

How to create a strong password?

We all know the common guidelines for choosing a strong password:

- Include numbers, symbols, uppercase and lowercase letters.
- Password should be more than eight characters long.
- Avoid any password based on repetition, dictionary words, letter or number sequences, usernames, relative or pet names, or biographical information (birthday).

### The Password Phrase Method:

The phrase method is an easy way to remember complicated passwords that are hard to crack.

Use the Password Phrase Method:

- Choose a phrase that has numbers.
- Use only the first letter in each word.
- Use the proper case for each letter, just as it appears in the phrase.
- Use actual numbers whenever possible. Use "2" for "two" or "to" and "4" for "four" or "for."
- Include punctuation.

**Let's take the following phrase as an example:**

"My flight to New York will leave at three in the afternoon!"

Using the Password Phrase method explained above, the password becomes:

"MftNYwla3ita!"

### **Some general password/security tips**

- Avoid using dictionary words in any language.
- Avoid sequences or repeated characters.
- Change your password on a schedule.
- Do not allow Internet Explorer to store passwords.
- Do not type passwords on computers that you do not control.
- Never provide your password via email.
- Never respond to an email asking for personal information. (Banks will never ask you for your personal information in an email.)
- Patch and update the software you use on a regular basis.
- Use caution when opening email attachments.
- Limit the amount of personal information you post about yourself.

## **What is a firewall?**

The short answer is this: A firewall intercepts all communications between you and the Internet, and decides if the information is allowed to pass through to you.

Most firewalls, by default, will block all traffic both in and out. This is what we call “Deny all by Default.” In this default state, it is as if your computer is not even connected to the Internet. While this is a very safe state to be in, it is not very useful. So, we have to create a set of rules to tell the firewall what we consider safe.. Everything else is, by default, considered not safe.

As you create rules to allow traffic in and out, you are creating tiny holes in your firewall for the traffic to flow through. That is why many Internet users call “creating rules pinholing your firewall.” The more pinholes you create in your firewall, the less secure your network becomes. You should only create as many pinholes, or rules, as you need.

# Standard Configuration

This is the standard configuration for homes, office or small business.

Configurations will be different based on the network the size of the system you are installing.

This is the minimum recommended for small monitoring system.

## Activate the device by setting a strong password

You are required to activate the device first by setting a strong password for it before you can use the device.

Activation via web browser, Activation via SADP, and Activation via client software are all supported.

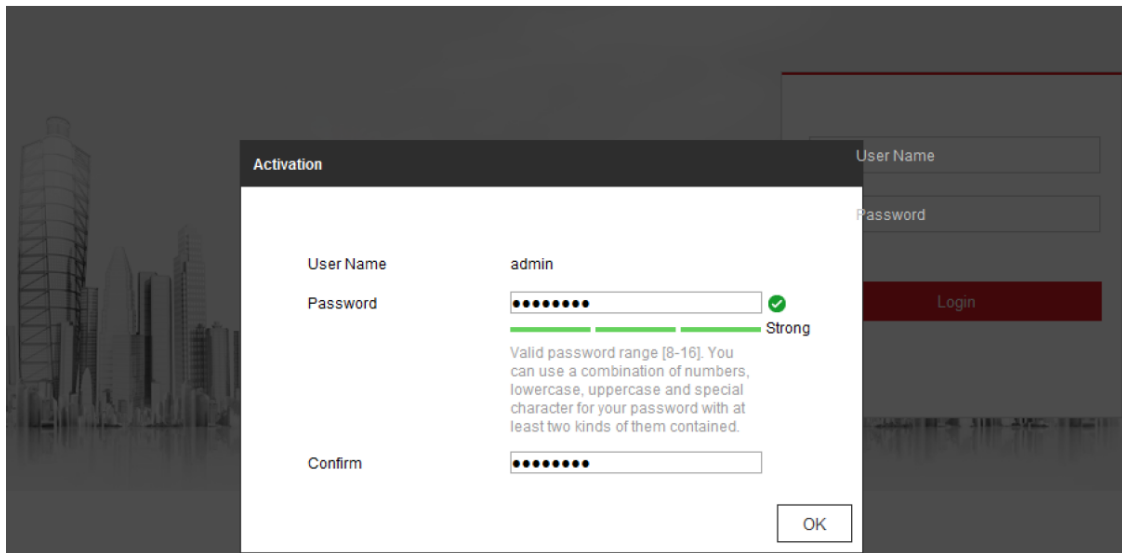
## Activate via web browser

### ***Steps:***

1. Power on the device, and connect the device to the network.
2. Input the IP address into the address bar of the web browser, and click **Enter** to enter the activation interface.

### ***Notes:***

- The default IP address of the device is 192.168.1.64.
- The device enables the DHCP by default, the IP address is allocated automatically. It is necessary to activate the device via SADP software. Please refer to the following chapter for Activation via SADP.



3. Create a password and input the password into the password field.

**STRONG PASSWORD RECOMMENDED**– We highly recommend you create a strong password of your own choosing (using a minimum of eight characters, including at least three of the following categories: upper case letters, lower case letters, numbers, and special characters) in order to increase the security of your product. And we recommend you reset your password regularly. Resetting the password monthly or weekly can better protect your product.

4. Confirm the password.

5. Click **OK** to save the password and enter the live view interface.

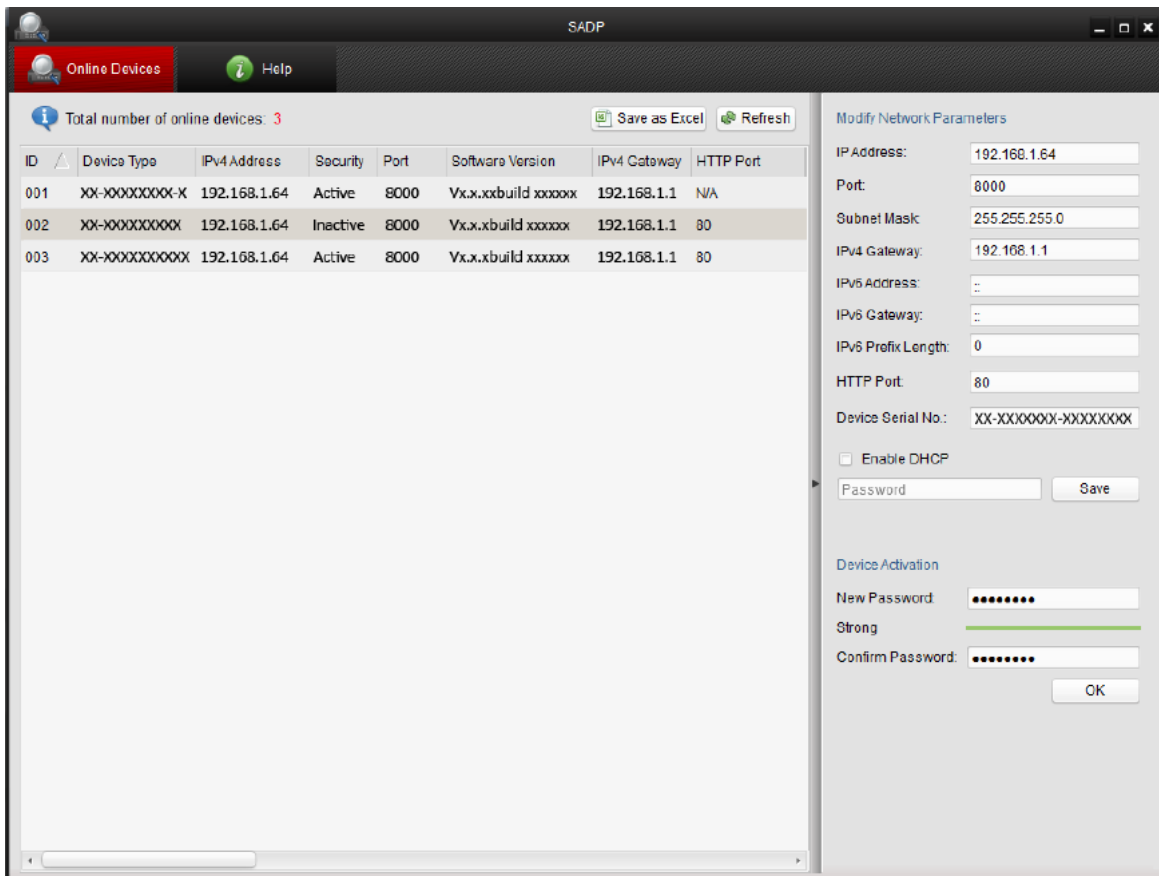
## Activate via SADP software

SADP software is used for detecting the online device, activating the device, and resetting the password.

Get the SADP software from the supplied disk or the official website, and install the SADP according to the prompts. Follow the steps to activate the device.

### ***Steps:***

1. Run the SADP software to search the online devices.
2. Check the device status from the device list, and select the inactive device.



3. Create a password and input the password in the password field, and confirm the password.

**STRONG PASSWORD RECOMMENDED**– We highly recommend you create a strong password of your own choosing (using a minimum of eight characters, including at least three of the following categories: uppercase letters, lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters) in order to increase the security of your product. And we recommend you reset your password regularly. Resetting the password monthly or weekly can better protect your product.

4. Click **OK** to save the password.

You can check whether the activation is completed on the popup window. If activation failed, please make sure that the password meets the requirement and try again.

5. Change the device IP address to the same subnet with your computer by either modifying the IP address manually or checking the checkbox of Enable DHCP.

Modify Network Parameters

IP Address: 192.168.1.64

Port: 8000

Subnet Mask: 255.255.255.0

IPv4 Gateway: 192.168.1.1

IPv6 Address: ::

IPv6 Gateway: ::

IPv6 Prefix Length: 0

HTTP Port: 80

Device Serial No.: XX-XXXXXX-XXXXXX

☐ Enable DHCP

Password

Save

6. Input the password and click the **Save** button to activate your IP address modification.

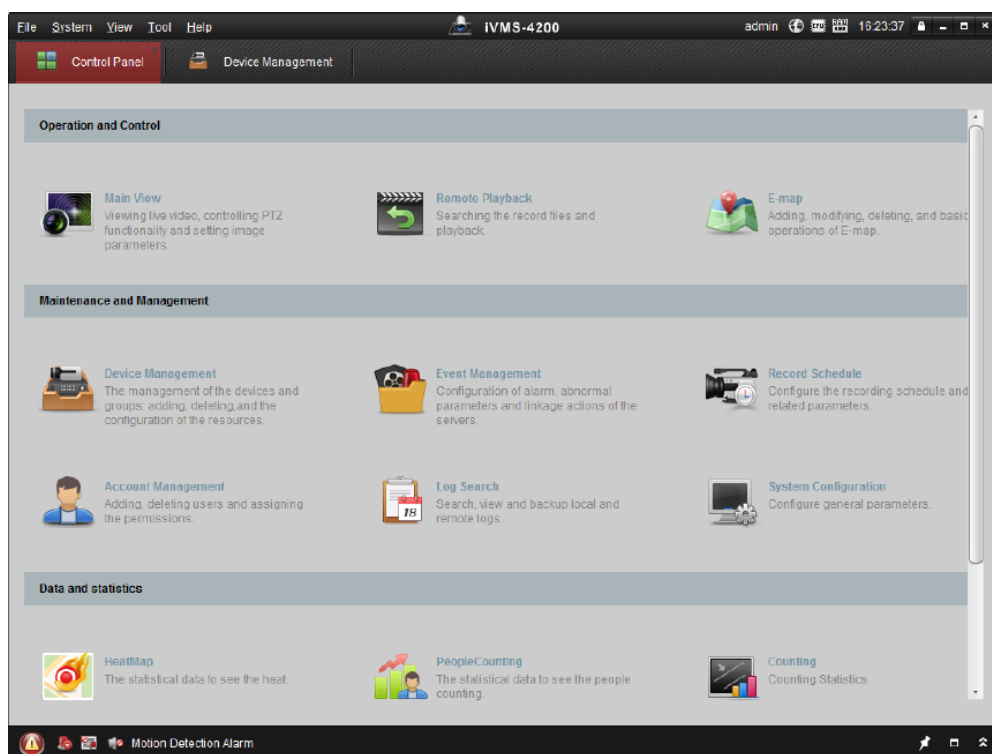
## Activate via client software

The client software is versatile video management software for multiple kinds of devices.

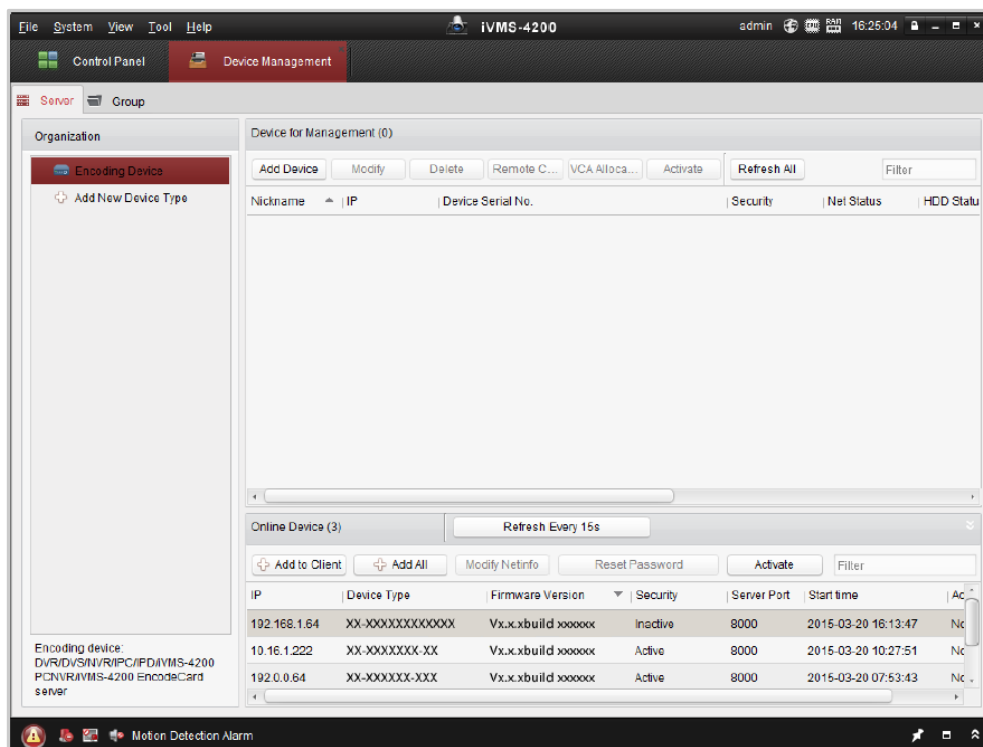
Get the client software from the supplied disk or the official website, and install the software according to the prompts. Follow the steps to activate the device.

### **Steps:**

1. Run the client software and the control panel of the software pops up, as shown in the figure below.



2. Click the **Device Management** icon to enter the Device Management interface, as shown in the figure below.



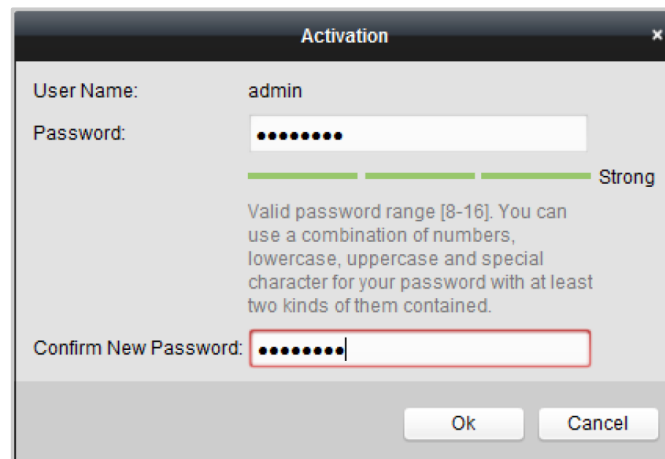
3. Check the device status from the device list, and select an inactive device.

4. Click the **Activate** button to pop up the Activation interface.

5. Create a password and input the password in the password field, and confirm the password.

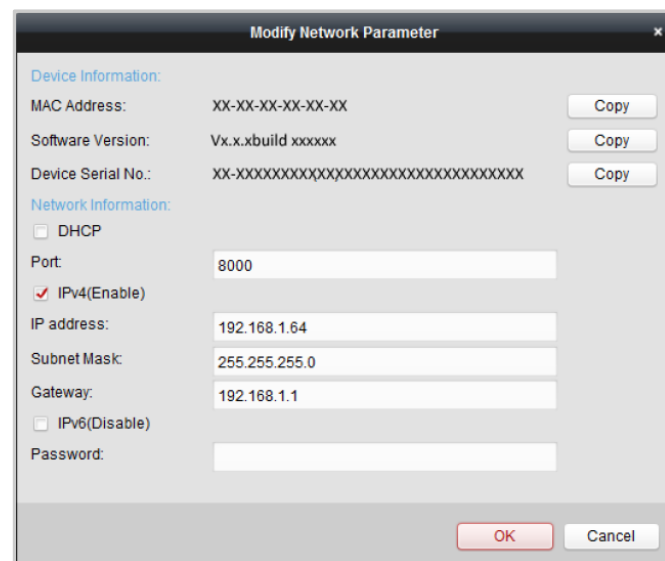
**STRONG PASSWORD RECOMMENDED**– We highly recommend you create a strong password of your own choosing (using a minimum of eight characters, including at least three of the following categories: uppercase letters, lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters) in order to increase the security of your product. And we recommend you reset your password regularly. Resetting the password monthly or weekly can better protect your product.

4. Click **OK** to save the password.

A dialog box titled "Activation" with a close button (X) in the top right corner. It contains two text input fields: "User Name:" with the value "admin" and "Password:" with a masked password of eight dots. Below the password field is a green progress bar and the word "Strong". A text block below the progress bar reads: "Valid password range [8-16]. You can use a combination of numbers, lowercase, uppercase and special character for your password with at least two kinds of them contained." Below this is a "Confirm New Password:" field with a masked password of eight dots. At the bottom right are "Ok" and "Cancel" buttons.

6. Click **OK** button to start activation.

7. Click the **Modify Netinfo** button to pop up the Network Parameter Modification interface, as shown in the figure below.

A dialog box titled "Modify Network Parameter" with a close button (X) in the top right corner. It is divided into two sections: "Device Information:" and "Network Information:". Under "Device Information:", there are three rows: "MAC Address:" with value "XX-XX-XX-XX-XX-XX" and a "Copy" button; "Software Version:" with value "Vx.x.xbuild.xxxxxx" and a "Copy" button; and "Device Serial No.:" with value "XX-XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX" and a "Copy" button. Under "Network Information:", there is a checkbox for "DHCP" which is unchecked. Below it is a "Port:" field with value "8000". Then a checked checkbox for "IPv4(Enable)". Below that are three fields: "IP address:" with value "192.168.1.64", "Subnet Mask:" with value "255.255.255.0", and "Gateway:" with value "192.168.1.1". Then an unchecked checkbox for "IPv6(Disable)". At the bottom is a "Password:" field. At the bottom right are "OK" and "Cancel" buttons.

8. Change the device IP address to the same subnet with your computer by either modifying the IP

address manually or checking the checkbox of Enable DHCP.

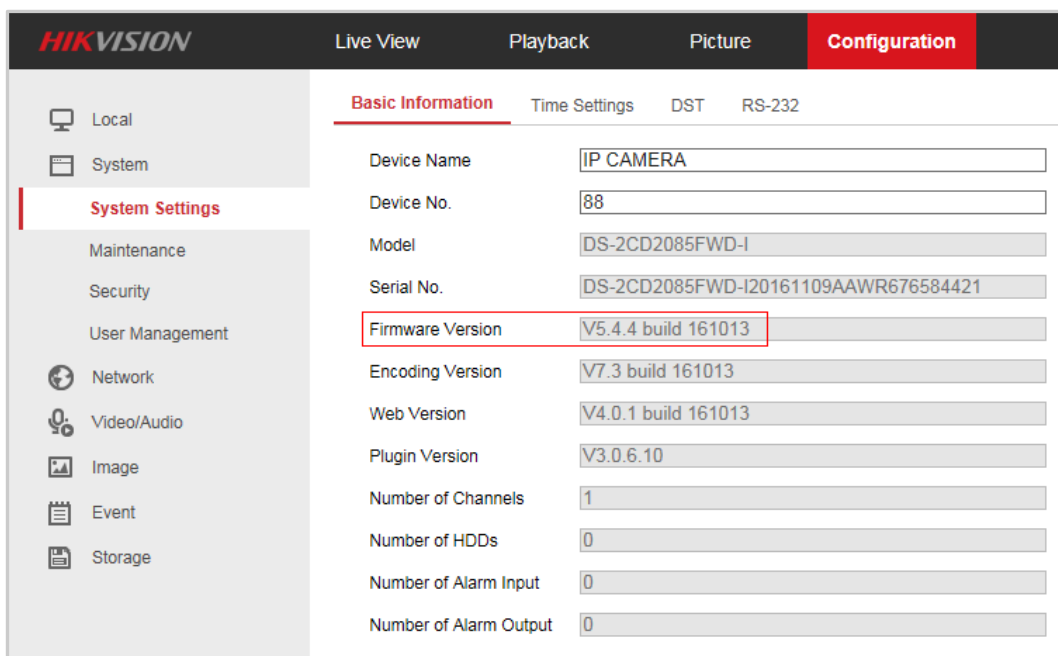
9. Input the password to activate your IP address modification.

## System restoring and upgrading

Firmware is the software that enables and controls the functionality of network devices. Always use the latest firmware so that you get all possible security updates and bug fixes.

### Check the current firmware

Check the current firmware version in page: **Configuration > Maintenance > Upgrade & Maintenance**



The screenshot displays the Hikvision web interface. The top navigation bar includes 'Live View', 'Playback', 'Picture', and 'Configuration' (highlighted in red). The left sidebar shows a tree structure with 'System Settings' expanded. The main content area is titled 'Basic Information' and lists various device parameters. The 'Firmware Version' field is highlighted with a red box, showing 'V5.4.4 build 161013'.

Parameter	Value
Device Name	IP CAMERA
Device No.	88
Model	DS-2CD2085FWD-I
Serial No.	DS-2CD2085FWD-I20161109AAWR676584421
Firmware Version	V5.4.4 build 161013
Encoding Version	V7.3 build 161013
Web Version	V4.0.1 build 161013
Plugin Version	V3.0.6.10
Number of Channels	1
Number of HDDs	0
Number of Alarm Input	0
Number of Alarm Output	0

### Upgrade the device to a certain version

#### Steps:

1. Select Firmware or Firmware Directory to locate the upgrade file.

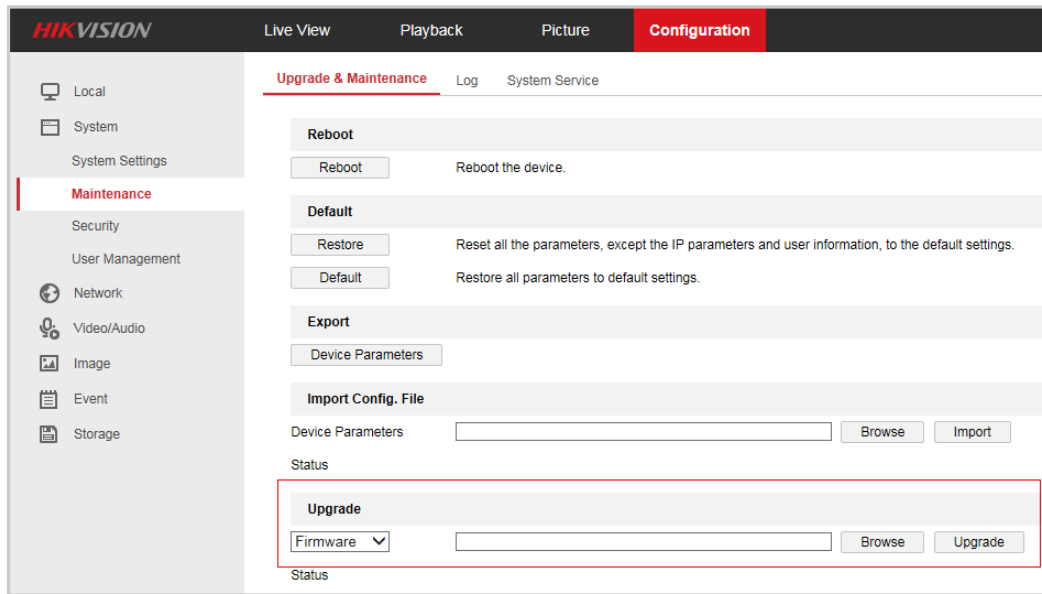
Firmware: Locate the exact path of the upgrade file.

Firmware Directory: Only the directory the upgrade file belongs to is required.

2. Click Browse to select the local upgrade file and then click Upgrade to start remote upgrade.

**Note:** The upgrading process will take 1 to 10 minutes. Please don't disconnect power of the device

during the process. The device reboots automatically after upgrade.



## Restore default settings

If you are not sure about what has been changed to the device, you can always set it to the default settings to make it in a known status.

### Steps:

Enter the Maintenance interface: **Configuration > System > Maintenance > Upgrade & Maintenance.**

- **Restore:** Reset all the parameters, except the IP parameters and user information, to the default settings.
- **Default:** Restore all the parameters to the factory default.

**Note:** After restoring the default settings, the IP address is also restored to the default IP address, please be careful with this action.

## Configure basic network settings

### Steps:

1. Go to **Configuration > Network > Basic Settings > TCP/IP.**
2. Specify the IP address, subnet mask and Default Gateway.
3. Save parameters.

HIKVISION

Live View

Playback

Picture

Configuration

Local

System

Network

Basic Settings

Advanced Settings

Video/Audio

Image

Event

Storage

TCP/IP

DDNS

PPPoE

Port

NAT

NIC Type

Auto

☐

DHCP

IPv4 Address

10.5.3.173

Test

IPv4 Subnet Mask

255.255.255.0

IPv4 Default Gateway

10.5.3.254

IPv6 Mode

Route Advertisement

View Route Advertisement

IPv6 Address

IPv6 Subnet Mask

IPv6 Default Gateway

Mac Address

a4:14:37:ea:57:3a

MTU

1500

Multicast Address

☐

Enable Multicast Discovery

DNS Server

Preferred DNS Server

8.8.8.8

Alternate DNS Server

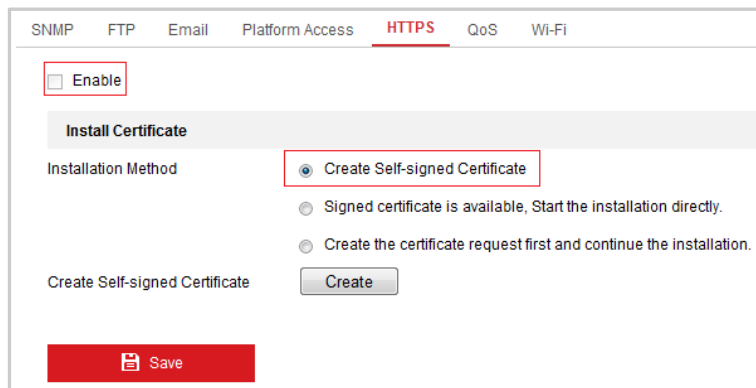
## Enable encryption

HTTPS provides authentication of the website and its associated web server, which protects against man-in-the-middle attacks. Perform the following steps to set the port number of HTTPS.

E.g., If you set the port number as 443 and the IP address is 192.168.1.64, you may access the device by inputting `https://192.168.1.64:443` via the web browser.

### Steps:

1. Enter the HTTPS settings interface. **Configuration > Network > Advanced Settings > HTTPS.**
2. Check the checkbox of Enable to enable the function.



The screenshot shows the 'HTTPS' configuration page. At the top, there are tabs for 'SNMP', 'FTP', 'Email', 'Platform Access', 'HTTPS' (selected), 'QoS', and 'Wi-Fi'. Below the tabs, there is a section for 'Enable' with a checked checkbox. Underneath, there is a section titled 'Install Certificate'. Within this section, 'Installation Method' has three radio button options: 'Create Self-signed Certificate' (selected), 'Signed certificate is available, Start the installation directly.', and 'Create the certificate request first and continue the installation.'. Below these options, there is a 'Create Self-signed Certificate' label and a 'Create' button. At the bottom of the page, there is a large red 'Save' button.

3. Create the self-signed certificate or authorized certificate.

- Create the self-signed certificate

(1) Select **Create Self-signed Certificate** as the Installation Method.

(2) Click **Create** button to enter the creation interface.

(3) Enter the country, host name/IP, validity and other information.

(4) Click **OK** to save the settings.

**Note:** If you already had a certificate installed, the Create Self-signed Certificate is grayed out.

- Create the authorized certificate

(1) Select **Create the certificate request first and continue the installation as the Installation Method.**

(2) Click **Create** button to create the certificate request. Fill in the required information in the popup window.

(3) Download the certificate request and submit it to the trusted certificate authority for signature.

(4) After receiving the signed valid certificate, import the certificate to the device.

4. There will be the certificate information after you successfully create and install the certificate.

The image shows a 'Certificate Details' window. It has a tab labeled 'Installed Certificate'. Below the tab, there is a text area displaying the following information: 'C=CN, ST=ZJ, L=HZ, OU=embeddedsoftware, H/IP=1'. To the right of this text area is a 'Delete' button. Below the text area, there is a scrollable list of properties: 'Subject: C=CN, ST=ZJ, L=HZ, OU=embeddedsoftware, H/IP=192.168.1.64, EM=com.cn', 'Issuer: C=CN, ST=ZJ, L=HZ, OU=embeddedsoftware, H/IP=192.168.1.64, EM=com.cn', and 'Validity: 2016-11-10 11:20:11 ~ 2019-11-10 11:20:11'.

5. Click the **Save** button to save the settings.

## User access control

### Set permission level to users

When you add and modify user settings, you can set the permission level for each user to set limitations on the device control.

#### Steps:

1. Go to **Configuration > System > User Management**.

The image shows the 'User Management' interface. At the top, there is a tab labeled 'User Management' and a sub-tab labeled 'Online Users'. Below the tabs, there is a 'User List' table. The table has three columns: 'No.', 'User Name', and 'Level'. There are two rows of data: one for 'admin' with level 'Administrator' and one for 'test' with level 'Operator'. To the right of the table, there are three buttons: 'Add', 'Modify', and 'Delete'. The 'Add' and 'Modify' buttons are highlighted with a red box.

No.	User Name	Level
1	admin	Administrator
2	test	Operator

User Management Interface

2. Click **Add** or **Modify** to add a user or modify a user.

3. Set **User Name**, **Level** and **Password**.

4. Check or uncheck the permissions.

5. Click **OK** to finish the user addition.

User Name:  ✓

Level:

Password:  ✓

Valid password range [8-16]. You can use a combination of numbers, lowercase, uppercase and special character for your password with at least two kinds of them contained.

Confirm:  ✓

☐ Select All

- ☐ Remote: Parameters Settings
- ☒ Remote: Log Search / Interrogate Wor...
- ☐ Remote: Upgrade / Format
- ☒ Remote: Two-way Audio
- ☐ Remote: Shutdown / Reboot
- ☐ Remote: Notify Surveillance Center / ...
- ☐ Remote: Video Output Control
- ☐ Remote: Serial Port Control
- ☒ Remote: Live View
- ☒ Remote: Manual Record
- ☒ Remote: PTZ Control
- ☒ Remote: Playback

OK Cancel

## Disable UPnP

Universal Plug and Play (UPnP™) is a networking architecture that provides compatibility among networking equipment, software and other hardware devices. The UPnP protocol allows devices to connect seamlessly and to simplify the implementation of networks in the home and corporate environments. **If the device is not connected to a hosted video service, disable UPnP.**

### Steps:

1. Go to **Configuration > Network > Basic Settings > NAT**.

TCP/IP DDNS PPPoE Port **NAT**

☐ Enable UPnP™

Nickname:

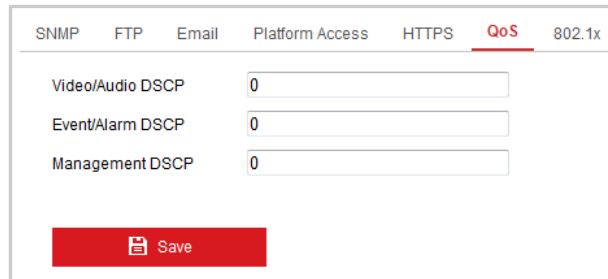
2. Uncheck the checkbox to disable the UPnP™ function.

## Disable QoS

QoS is suggested to be disabled, if Quality of Services is not being used.

### Steps:

1. Go to **Configuration > Network > Advanced Settings > QoS**



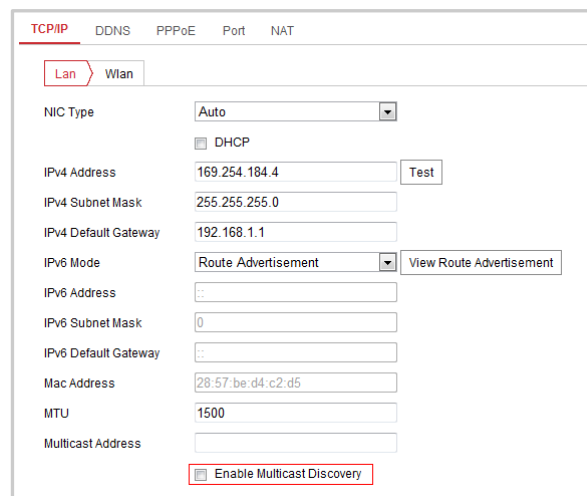
2. To disable QoS, enter the value zero in the QoS DSCP Settings fields.

## Disable multicast video

If multicast is not being used, it should be disabled.

### Steps:

1. Go to **Configuration > Network > Basic Settings > TCP/IP**



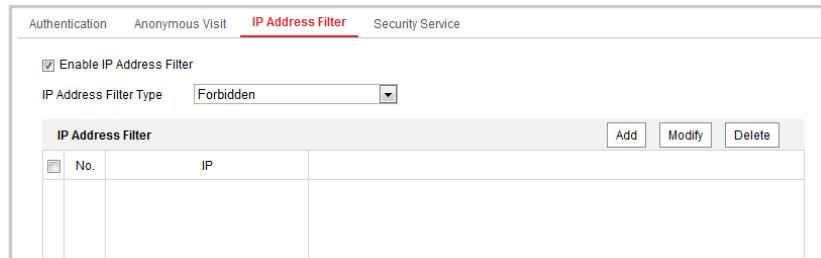
2. Clear **Enable Multicast Discovery**
3. Click **Save**

## Set IP address filter

Enabling IP filtering for authorized clients will prevent the device from being accessed by any other unauthorized clients.

### Steps:

1. Go to **Configuration > System > Security > IP Address Filter**



The screenshot shows the 'IP Address Filter' configuration page. At the top, there are tabs: 'Authentication', 'Anonymous Visit', 'IP Address Filter' (selected), and 'Security Service'. Below the tabs, there is a checkbox labeled 'Enable IP Address Filter' which is checked. Below this is a dropdown menu for 'IP Address Filter Type' with 'Forbidden' selected. At the bottom, there is a table with columns 'No.' and 'IP'. To the right of the table are buttons for 'Add', 'Modify', and 'Delete'.

2. Check the checkbox of **Enable IP Address Filter**.
3. Select the type of IP Address Filter in the drop-down list, **Forbidden** and **Allowed** are selectable.
4. Set the IP Address Filter list.

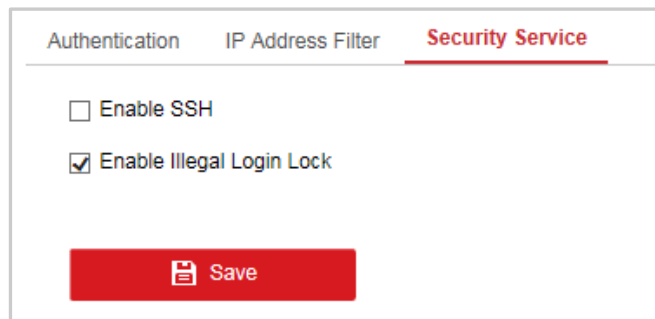
### Steps:

- (1) Click the **Add** to add an IP.
- (2) Input the IP Address.
- (3) Click the **OK** to finish adding.

## Lock illegal login IP address

The IP address will be locked if the admin user performs seven failed username/password attempts (five times for the operator/user)

1. Go to **Configuration > System > Security > Security Service**.



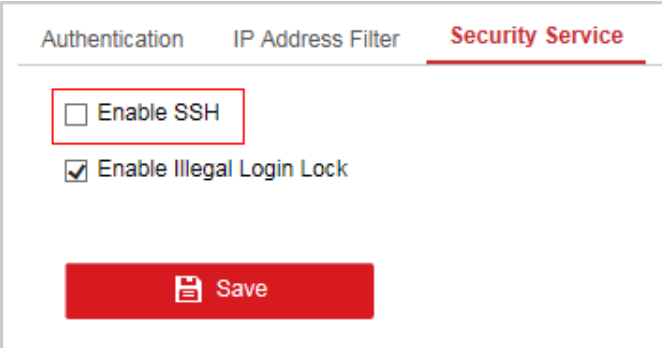
The screenshot shows the 'Security Service' configuration page. At the top, there are tabs: 'Authentication', 'IP Address Filter', and 'Security Service' (selected). Below the tabs, there are two checkboxes: 'Enable SSH' (unchecked) and 'Enable Illegal Login Lock' (checked). At the bottom, there is a red button with a save icon and the text 'Save'.

2. Check the checkbox of **Enable Illegal Login Lock**, and then the IP address will be locked if the admin user performs seven failed username/password attempts (five times for the operator/user).

**Note:** If the IP address is locked, you can try to login the device only after 30 minutes.

## Disable SSH

Hikvision's devices support Secure Shell and is disabled by default. Make sure it is disabled by checking the security service configuration interface: **Configuration > System > Security > Security Service**.



The screenshot shows a web interface for configuring security services. At the top, there are three tabs: 'Authentication', 'IP Address Filter', and 'Security Service'. The 'Security Service' tab is currently selected and highlighted with a red underline. Below the tabs, there are two checkboxes. The first checkbox is labeled 'Enable SSH' and is currently unchecked; it is highlighted with a red rectangular box. The second checkbox is labeled 'Enable Illegal Login Lock' and is currently checked. At the bottom of the configuration area, there is a red button with a white floppy disk icon and the text 'Save'.

**Note:** For devices without this configuration interface, SSH is disabled by default.

## Choose SNMP V3

### Steps:

1. Go to **Configuration > Network > Advanced Settings > SNMP**.

**HIKVISION** Live View Playback Picture **Configuration**

Local System Network Basic Settings **Advanced Settings** Video/Audio Image Event Storage

**SNMP** FTP Email Platform Access HTTPS QoS 802.1x

**SNMP v1/v2**

☐ Enable SNMPv1

☐ Enable SNMP v2c

Read SNMP Community public

Write SNMP Community private

Trap Address

Trap Port 162

Trap Community public

**SNMP v3**

☒ Enable SNMPv3

Read UserName

Security Level no auth, no priv

Authentication Algorithm MD5 SHA

Authentication Password

Private-key Algorithm DES AES

Private-key password

Write UserName

Security Level no auth, no priv

Authentication Algorithm MD5 SHA

Authentication Password

Private-key Algorithm DES AES

Private-key password

**SNMP Other Settings**

SNMP Port 161

**Save**

2. Check the checkbox of Enable SNMPv1, Enable SNMP v2c, Enable SNMPv3 to enable the feature correspondingly.

3. Configure the SNMP settings.

**Note:** The settings of the SNMP software should be the same as the settings you configure here.

4. Click **Save** to save and finish the settings.

**Notes:**

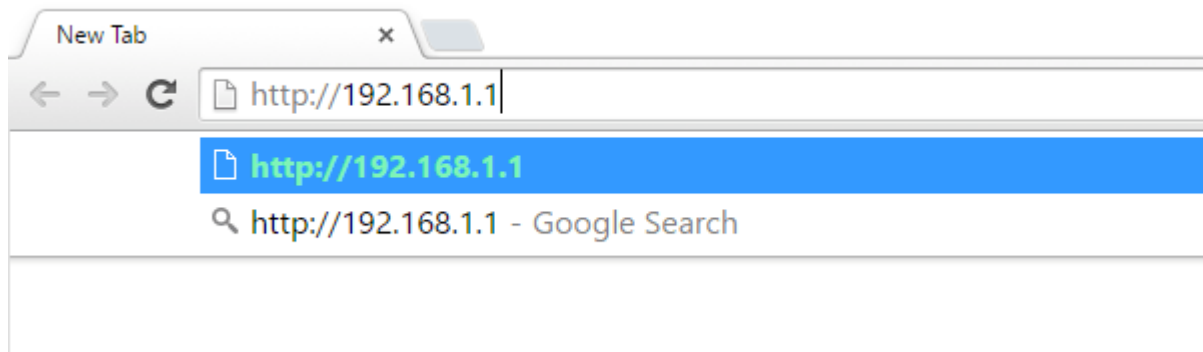
- A reboot is required for the settings to take effect.
- To lower the risk of information leakage, you are suggested to enable SNMP v3 instead of SNMP v1 or v2.

## Firewall setup on router

Please keep in mind that all firewall setups are different. The examples below are intended to give a general example and overview of what ports should be setup in a firewall.

Setup:

1. Go to your router IP address



2. Login to your router

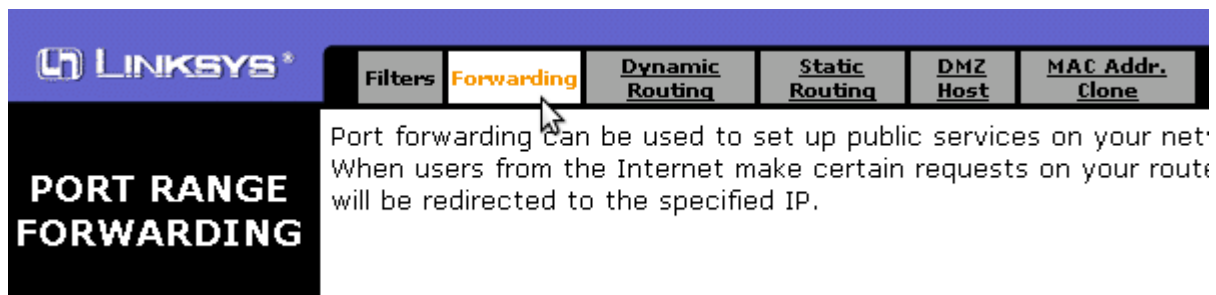
**Password identification**

Type in your login and password, then click on the **Apply** button.

Login	<input type="text" value="admin"/>
Password	<input type="password" value="....."/>

**Apply**

3. Go to the port forwarding section



Find the section that mentions protocols, internal and external ports, and a destination IP address or Server IP address, such as this:

### Virtual Servers / Port Forwarding

Description	Inbound Port	Type	Private IP Address	Local Port
-------------	--------------	------	--------------------	------------

## Port forwarding

Port forwarding should only be used when devices need to be accessed via the Internet. To ensure proper security configuration, please carefully follow instructions below:

1. Minimize the port numbers exposed to the Internet. Port forwarding should only be configured when absolutely necessary. For example, to use web service, only port 443 should be forwarded.
2. Avoid common ports and reconfigure them to customized ports. For example, port 80 is commonly used for HTTP. It is recommended that the user change to a customized port on the device other than port 80 for the designated service, following TCIP/IP port rule (1 – 65535).

## Create a port forwarding rule

Ports that Hikvision uses, you can change these ports to anything you want.

- 80 Web Port
- 443 Secure Web Port
- 8000, 10554 for IVMS application

To create the port forwarding rule, firstly set a name for the rule. It's just a reminder of what type of service you are forwarding the port for.

Add Virtual Server

Description

Inbound Port

Format

Private IP Address

Local Port

to

TCP

0.0.0.0

to

Add Virtual Server

Cancel

In "protocol," select TCP, UDP, or Both depending on which application(s) need port forwarding.

Protocol	Type
TCP	Port
UDP	
both	

For instance, you need both TCP and UDP protocols forwarding. Some routers only have a TCP or an UDP option, not both. On those routers, if both protocols are needed, two rules must be created, one for TCP and one for UDP.

The external and destination port will be the same. Because some lower-numbered ports are being used by the system by default, or by specific applications, it's best to choose a port between 50000 and 65535.

Finally, on the destination IP address, select the static IP previously chosen for the PC.

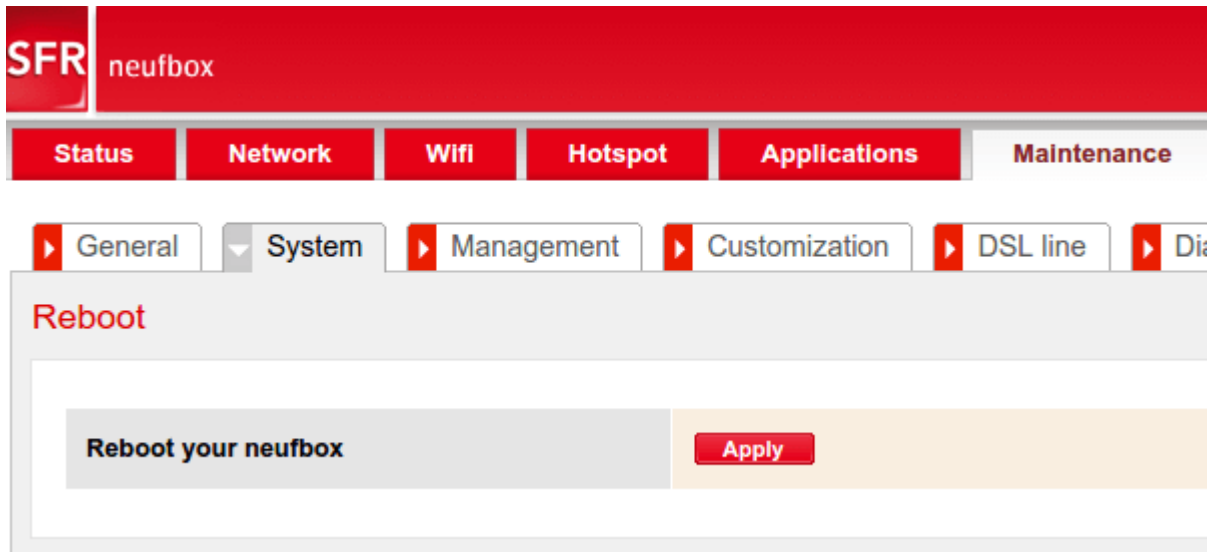
Destination IP address

192
168
1
150

After that, save the new rule.

IP address	Destination ports	Activation
168 . 1 . 150	52348	Enable

On most routers, port forwarding activates immediately. Some routers, though, need a reboot to apply the rule.



#### Check Port Forwarding

To make sure that Port Forwarding works correctly, use one of the multiple free services on the Internet.

First, ensure that the program or device that needs port forwarding is up and running, and uses the proper port.

Then, navigate to [canyouseeme.org](http://canyouseeme.org)

Add the proper port and select "Check Port."

This is a free utility for remotely verifying if a port is open or closed. It is useful to users who wish to verify port forwarding and check to see if a server is running or to determine if a firewall or ISP is blocking certain ports.

Your IP: 172.19.131.106

Port to Check: 80

Check Port

**Success:** I can see your service on [redacted] on port (52348)

Your ISP is not blocking port 52348


Your IP: [redacted]

Port to Check: 52348

Check Port

Can two devices on the same LAN use the same port forwarding?

Port forwarding is set up on a unique IP address, and can't set up a rule for the same port with two or more IP addresses.

External ports	Destination IP address
52348	192.168.1.150
52348 Port already in use	192 . 168 . 1 . 200 

To set up the same program on two different devices, it is necessary to create two rules for two separate ports, one for each device.

# Conclusion

This hardening guide is intended to be a living document and will be updated regularly to reflect the most up-to-date cybersecurity best practices. It is one of the many industry-leading cybersecurity resources provided by Hikvision. Please visit the [Hikvision Security Center](http://www.hikvision.com/us/SecurityCenter_10636.html) on our website [http://www.hikvision.com/us/SecurityCenter\\_10636.html](http://www.hikvision.com/us/SecurityCenter_10636.html) to learn about other available cybersecurity resources. If you have questions, please contact your Hikvision representative or contact [Security.USA@hikvision.com](mailto:Security.USA@hikvision.com)