

Course Title	Cloud Security	
Topic	Deploying and securing an Ubuntu Web Server behind Check Point Firewall in Azure Cloud.	
Date	16/03/2022	
Content Owner	Mark Ashwin	
Batch	13	

Objectives

To host a web server in the azure cloud behind the checkpoint firewall.

Lab Environment

Virtual Labs using Azure cloud: Ubuntu Server 20.04 LTS, CloudGuard standalone FW.

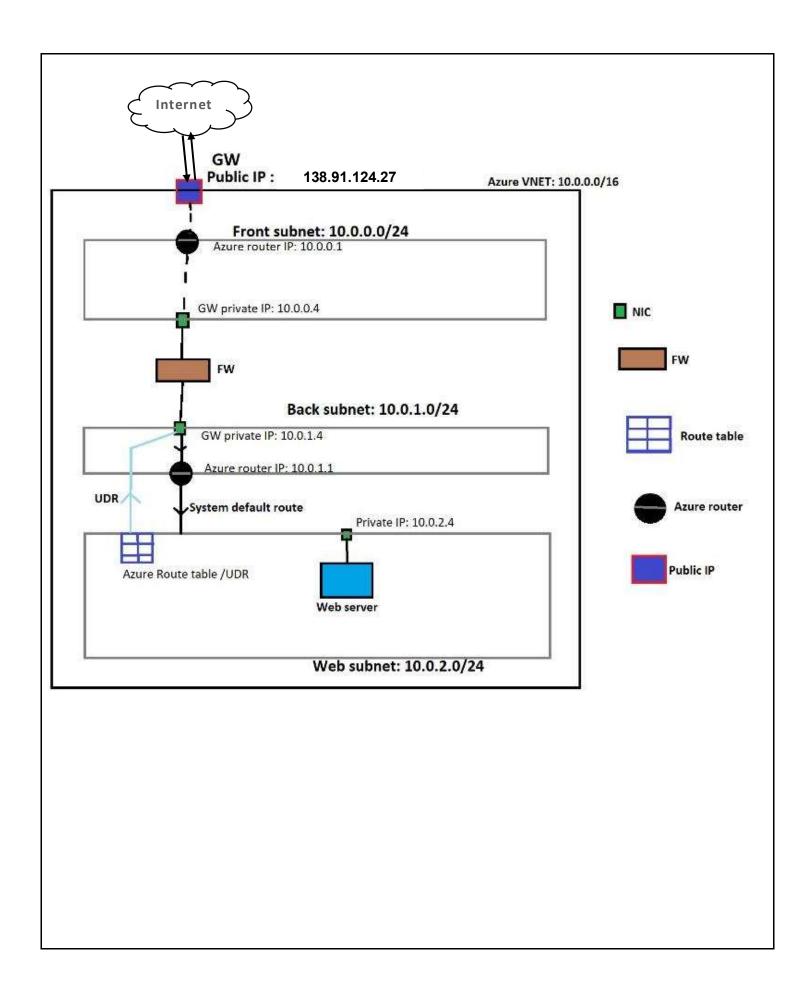
Azure Services used

- 1. Virtual Networks
- 2. IP route tables / User Defined Routes
- 3. Ubuntu Server 20.04 VM
- 4. CloudGuard Standalone Firewall VM (CPFW)

Network Topology

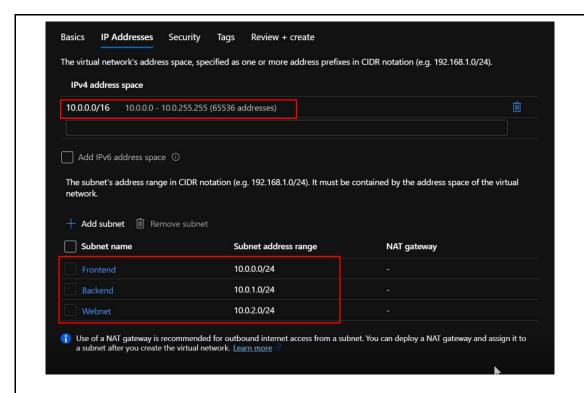
The Azure cloud network is designed in the following way: -

- 1. Virtual Network 10.0.0.0/16
 - a. Frontend subnet- 10.0.0.0/24:
 - i. CPFW External interface's Private IP 10.0.0.4/24
 - b. Backend subnet- 10.0.1.0/24:
 - i. CPFW Internal interface's Private IP-10.0.1.4/24
 - c. Web subnet- 10.0.2.0/24:
 - i. Ubuntu Server 20.04 VM Private IP 10.0.2.4/24
 - ii. Azure Route table Web-RT
- 2. CPFW External interface's Public IP -138.91.124.27

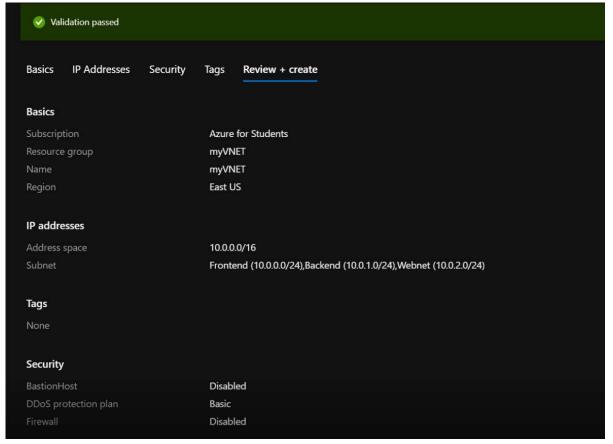


Configuring a Virtual Network

- 1. Go to Azure Marketplace > Search "Virtual Network".
- 2. Select "Virtual Network" > Click on "Create"
- 3. Select a resource group for your Virtual Network if you have created one already. I have already created one: "myVNET".
- 4. If you have not created a resource group, you can simply select the "create new" link next to the "resource group" field and give a name to it.
- 5. Give the name of the Virtual Network. I have given the name as "myVNET".
- 6. Give the region of the VNET as "East US".
- 7. Click on "Next"
- 8. We give the IP address range of the Network as "10.0.0.0/16".
- 9. We are going to divide this network into 3 subnets
 - a. Frontend -10.0.0.0/24, this is the subnet where firewall's external interface will reside in which will be used to communicate with the internet.
 - b. Backend -10.0.1.0/24, this is the subnet that will connect the Firewall's internal interface with the internal networks.
 - c. Webnet 10.0.2.0/24, this is the internal subnet in which our Ubuntu web server will reside in which will be hiding behind the internal interface of our Firewall.
- 10.To create these subnets, select "Add Subnet" button.
- 11. The subnet configurations are shown in the image below:

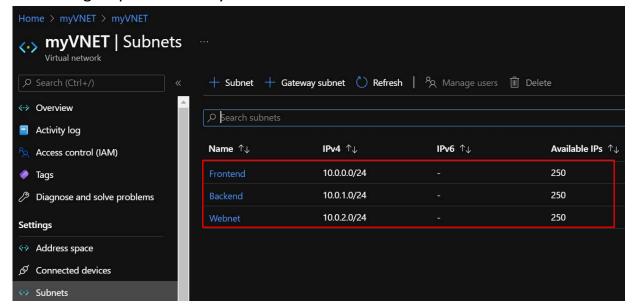


12. Leave the rest of the settings as default and click on "Next" till you reach "Review + create".



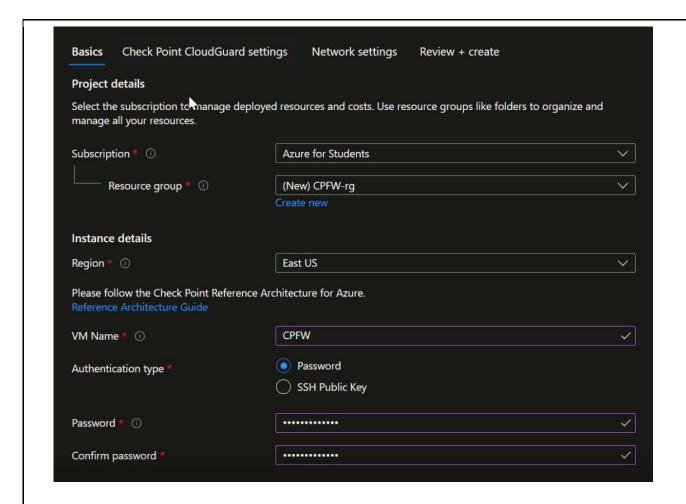
13. Wait for the validation to pass and click on "Create".

14.To view all the subnets that had created, go to Resource groups > Select "myVNET" resource group > Select "myVNET" virtual network > Subnets.

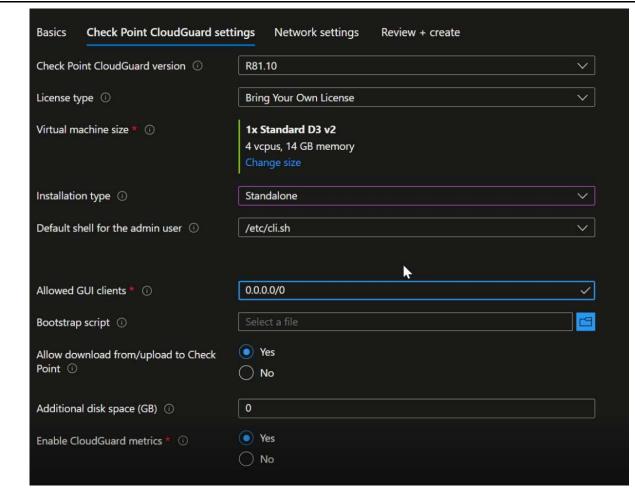


Deploying CloudGuard CPFW

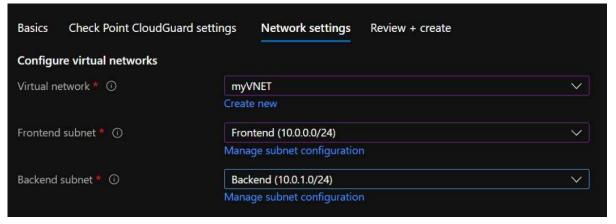
- 1. Go to Azure Marketplace > Search for Check point firewall.
- 2. Select "CloudGuard Network Security Firewall & Threat Prevention" and then Select the "CloudGuard Single Gateway" plan.
- 3. Select the Azure Subscription that you have taken.
- 4. If you haven't made a resource group for the Check Point firewall then you can create one by selecting "create new" option and give a name to the resource group (in my case, it will be "CPFW-rg" as shown in the image below.)
- 5. Give a region for your firewall. I have selected "East US" since my account subscription is of East US region.
- 6. Give the name for your Firewall VM. I have given CPFW.
- 7. Select Authentication type as "Password" and give the password for your CP firewall's admin account. Please remember this password as this the only way we can get access to the checkpoint web interface.
- 8. Select "Next".



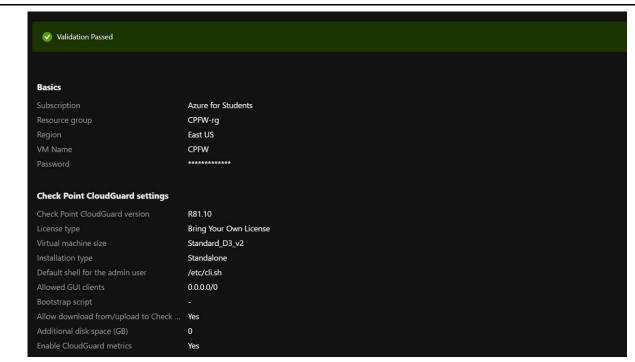
- 9. Select the latest Check Point CloudGuard version.
- 10. Select the license type.
- 11. Give the installation type as Standalone.
- 12. Give "Allowed GUI clients" as "0.0.0.0/0" which means that anyone can access the Check Point firewall. (Do this setting only in a testing environment, we need this setting right now since we need to make some basic configurations on our firewall from the web interface first.)
- 13. Leave the rest of the settings as default and Select "Next".



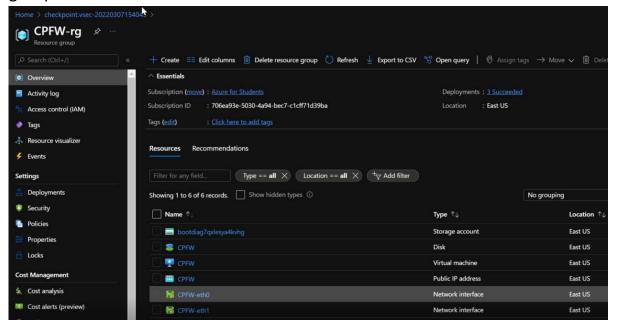
- 14. Select the Virtual Network that we had created, "myVNET".
- 15. Select the same frontend subnet and backend subnet that we had created before as shown in the image below:



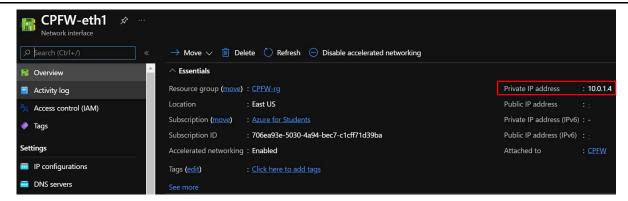
- 16. Now select "Next".
- 17. Review all the configured settings and wait for the validation to pass. Then Select "Create"



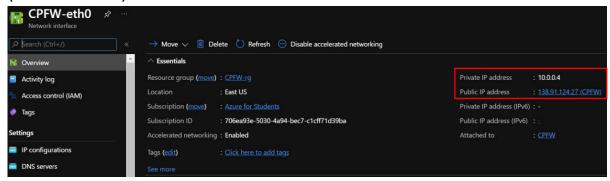
18.To view the Check Point Firewall we deployed, go to Resource groups > "CPFW-rg" resource group.



- 19. As we can see, we have the CPFW VM, Internal interface of Check Point: "CPFW-eth1" and the External interface of Check Point: "CPFW-eth0".
- 20. As you can see, our internal interface has only a Private IP (10.0.1.4) and no Public IP.



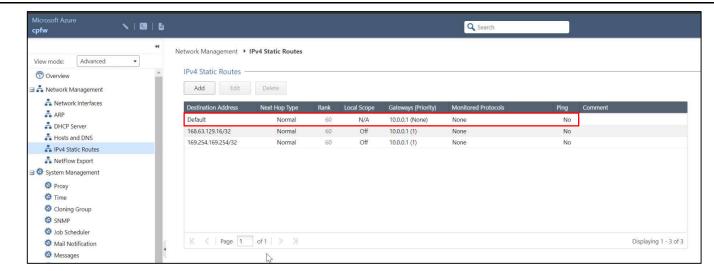
21. However, our External interface on the other hand has Private IP (10.0.0.4) and Public IP (138.91.124.27) as well.



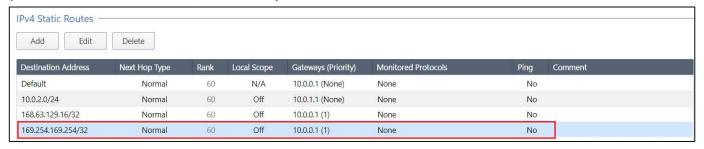
Now we will be configuring our firewall via the Gaia Web interface of the firewall.

Configuring the initial setup of CPFW from web interface

- 1. Browse to the Public IP of the CPFW (138.91.124.27) via the browser.
- 2. Enter the admin credentials that we had configured for Firewall and login.
- 3. Download the Smart console from the CP web interface.
- 4. While that downloads, go to IPv4 Static Routes and verify if there is a default route to the internet so that our CPFW and Internal networks can reach the internet.
- 5. As you can see from the image below, by default, Azure has configured a default route via 10.0.0.1 which is the IP of the Azure router in 10.0.0.0/24 Frontend sub-network.



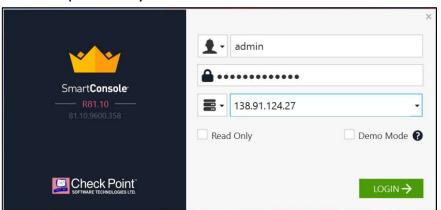
- 6. Side note: By default, whenever we create a virtual network or even a sub-network in Azure, the 1st IP of the network is reserved for the Azure router, 2nd and 3rd IP is reserved for the Azure DNS services, the last IP (x.x.x.255) is reserved for the broadcast address. So, if you notice the IP addresses of the interfaces of the CPFW, they always start with "x.x.x.4" by default.
- 7. So now, our internal webserver can reach the internet or in other words, our firewall is able to route outbound traffic.
- 8. But there is something missing in this Static Route configuration. If External users want to reach our Ubuntu Web Server's IP, then traffic will first flow to the Public IP of our CPFW -> Azure router in 10.0.0.0/24 Frontend subnet -> Private IP of our CPFW-external interface -> Private IP of our CPFW-external interface -> Azure router in 10.0.1.0/24 Backend subnet -> Webserver.
- 9. So, we need to configure a static route to our Webserver's subnet 10.0.2.0/24 via 10.0.1.1 (Azure router in 10.0.1.0/24 subnet).



10. Save these changes.

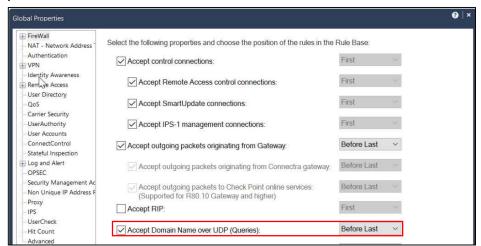
Configuring the policies on CPFW

1. Login to your CPFW Public IP via the smart console using the same admin credentials that we used previously.



2.

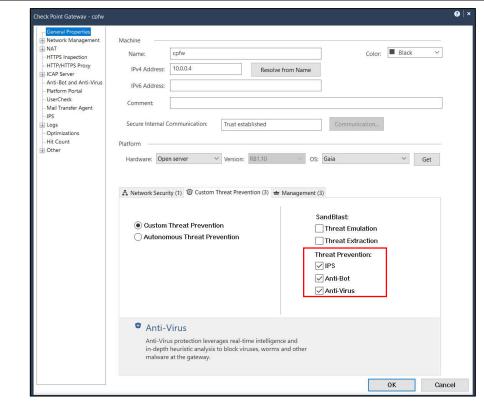
3. We will need to turn on the implicit rule for allowing DNS queries over UDP by going to Menu > Global Properties > Firewall > Enable "Accept Domain Name over UDP" and select "Before Last" so that the DNS query will be allowed before the "Clean up rule" (Last rule) is processed.



4. Now go to the "CPFW" object in "Gateway and Servers" tab on the left pane.



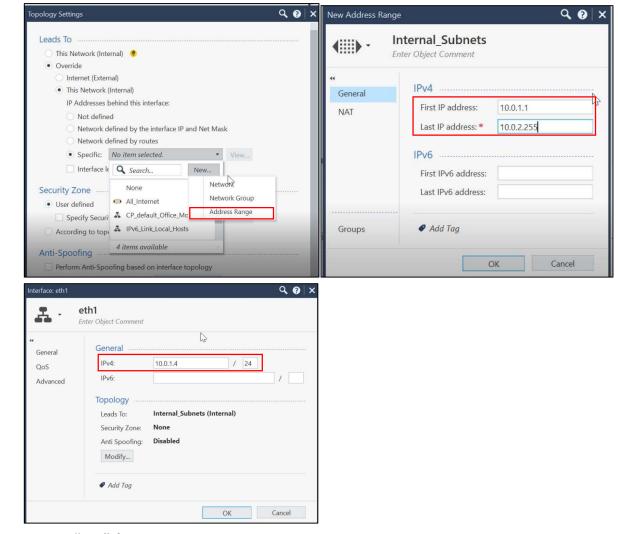
5. Make sure that all the necessary blades such as: Firewall, IPS, Anti-Bot, Anti-Virus blades are enabled by going to General Properties > Check the blades in Network Security and Custom Threat Prevention section.



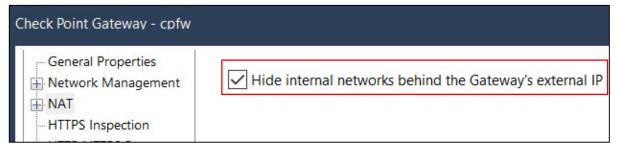
6. Go to Network Management > Get Interfaces with Topology.



- 7. Now, we need to our CPFW to know all the sub-networks that hide behind the "10.0.1.0/24" subnet.
- 8. Select "eth1" interface > General > Topology > Modify > Leads To > Override > This Network > Specific > Select "New" > Address range. Give the range as (10.0.1.1 10.0.2.255)



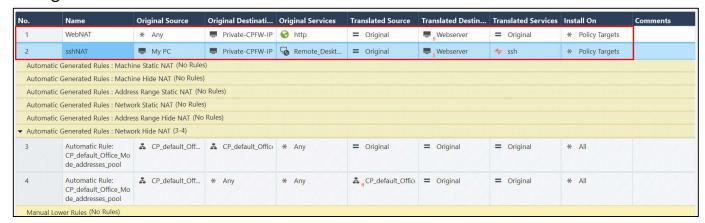
- 9. Select "OK" for all the settings.
- 10. If any device in our internal networks wants to reach the internet, they will need to do so by hiding behind the external interface of our CPFW. So, we will need to enable "Hide NAT".
- 11.Go to NAT > Select "Hide internal networks behind the Gateway's external IP."



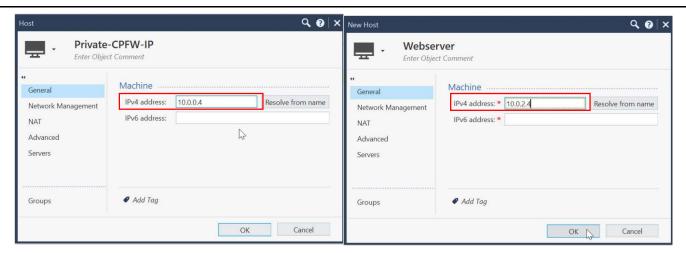
- 12. Now if an external user tries to access my CPFW Public IP on port 80 (http), the request should get Natted to my Webserver's Private IP address.
- 13. We are now going to configure a NAT rule for this.
- 14.Go to Security Policies > Access Control > NAT > Select "Add a rule above" option.



15. Configure the NAT rules as shown below:



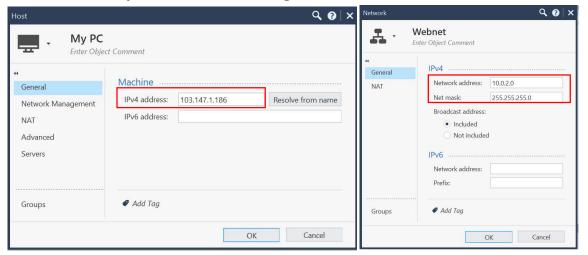
- 16. Why are we Natting the Private IP of the Ext-interface of CPFW to Private IP of Webserver? Shouldn't we NAT the Public IP of CPFW-ext to Private IP of Webserver? The reason is because Public IP of CPFW-external interface is already being Natted to Private IP of CPFW-external interface by the Azure router in the "10.0.0.0/24" Frontend subnet)
- 17. Since my Webserver doesn't have a Public IP, I cannot access it via SSH from Putty. If I do a normal "Destination NAT" where I only NAT the Public IP of my CPFW to the Private IP of my Webserver over SSH, then I will be able to access my Webserver which is hidden behind the CPFW, but I will lose SSH access to my CPFW console which is also on port 22.
- 18.So, the solution here is to use "Port Address Translation" or PAT where I can translate the request going to the Public IP of RDP port (3389) on my CPFW to Private IP of my Webserver on SSH port (22). This way I have access to both of the devices.
- 19. The network objects present in the NAT rules configured above is shown in the images below:



20. Now go to Access Control > Policy. Configure the access policies in the following way:



21. The network objects used in the image above is shown below:



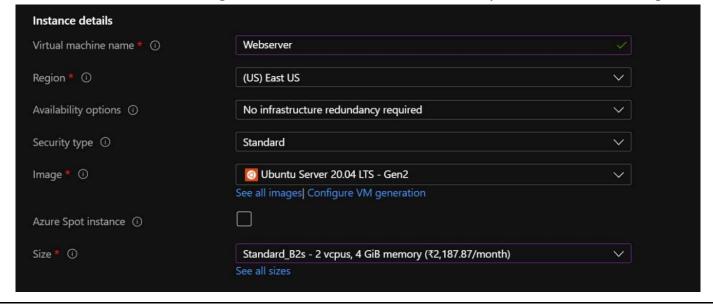
- 22. We will configure a Threat Prevention policy to make our Internal networks more secure.
- 23.Go to Threat Prevention > Custom Policy. Configure the policy as per the image below:

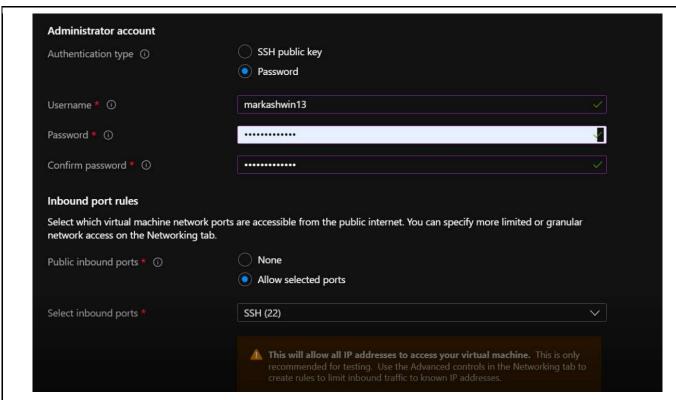


24. Now Publish and Install the Policy.

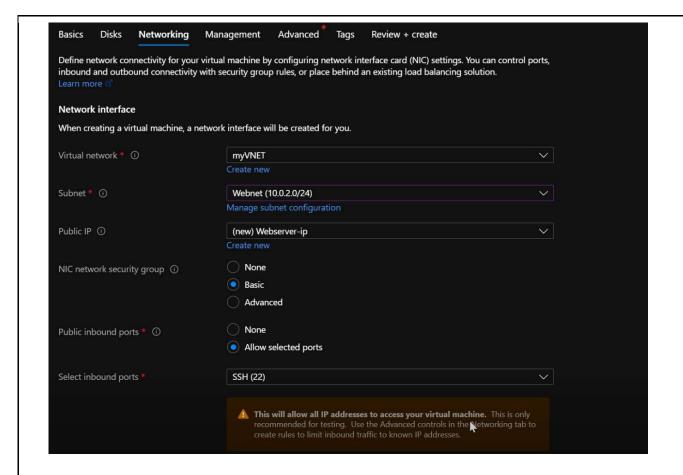
Deploying Ubuntu Web Server

- 1. Go to Azure Marketplace > Search for Ubuntu Server 20.04 LTS and select the Ubuntu web server.
- 2. Select the resource group for your Ubuntu Web Server. I have selected "myVNET" resource group since I don't have any Virtual Machines occupying that resource group. You can also choose to create a separate resource group for the Ubuntu web server if you wish to do so.
- 3. Give the VM name as "Webserver".
- 4. Give region as "East US"
- 5. Select the size as "Standard B2s". I have selected this option since it is the most economical option available.
- 6. Select the Authentication type as "Password".
- 7. Enter the username and password that you will use to login to the web server.
- 8. Leave the rest of the settings as default and click on "Next" till you reach "Networking" tab.

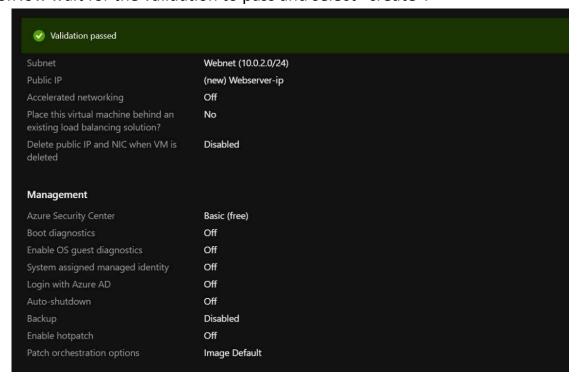




- 9. Now, select the virtual network that we had created in the beginning which is myVNET.
- 10. Select the subnet that we had created specifically for our webserver which is "Webnet".
- 11.Leave rest of the settings as default including the default Public IP that is given to us by Azure as we will be needing this IP to make some initial configurations to the server and then we will disable the Public IP of the server so that we can hide our web server behind the Public IP of the Firewall.
- 12. Now click on "Next" till you reach the "Review + create" tab.



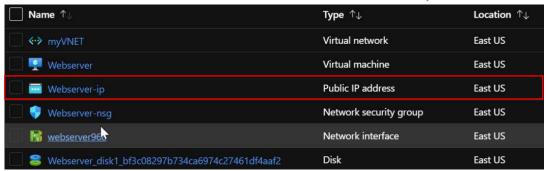
13. Now wait for the validation to pass and select "create".



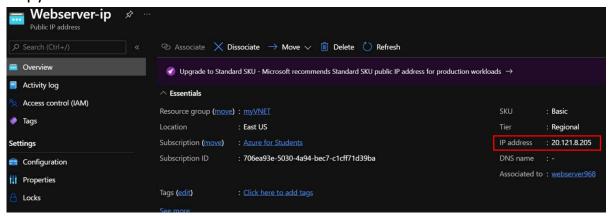
You will be able to find the Ubuntu VM in the "myVNET" resource group.

Configuring Ubuntu Web Server

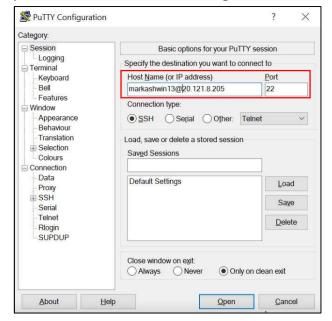
1. Go to the Public IP of the Ubuntu VM which is in the "myVNET" resource group.



2. Copy the Public IP address of the Ubuntu VM.



3. Open Putty.exe client and login using ssh to the Public IP of Ubuntu with username and password that we had configured before deployment and then select "Open".



4. As you can see, we have successfully logged in.

```
🗬 markashwin13@Webserver: ~
  System information as of Mon Mar 7 10:56:45 UTC 2022
                                                          113
  System load:
  Usage of /:
                4.7% of 28.90GB
                                  Users logged in:
  Memory usage: 6%
                                  IPv4 address for eth0: 10.0.2.4
  Swap usage:
 update can be applied immediately.
To see these additional updates run: apt list --upgradable
The programs included with the Ubuntu system are free software;
the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the
individual files in /usr/share/doc/*/copyright.
Ubuntu comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by
applicable law.
To run a command as administrator (user "root"), use "sudo <command>".
See "man sudo root" for details.
markashwin13@Webserver:~$
```

5. Now we are going to run some commands to setup this web server.

sudo apt update

sudo apt upgrade

sudo apt-get install apache2

sudo systemctl start apache2

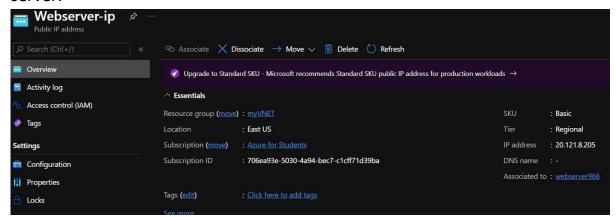
sudo systemctl enable apache2 [So that the web service starts at boot by default.] These commands are going to update our Ubuntu system, install and start the Apache2 web service on it.

6. To check if the Apache web service is running run the following command:

sudo systemctl status apache2

7. If it says "Active", then you are good to go.

- 8. Now we are going to disable the Public IP of the Ubuntu Web server since we don't need it anymore. (We will be accessing the webserver via our CPFW's Public IP)
- 9. Go to "myVNET" resource group > "Webserver-ip" which is the public IP of the ubuntu web server.



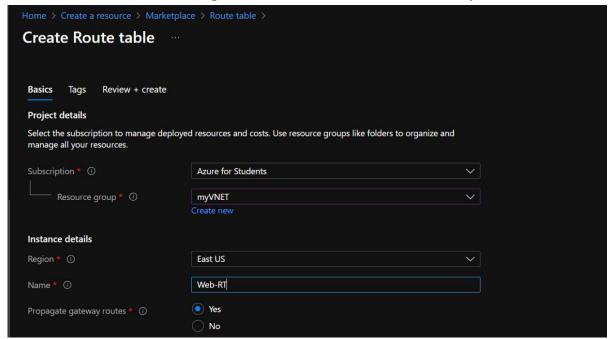
10. Select "Dissociate" which will disable the public IP.

We are only going to need the Private IP of the webserver for communication.

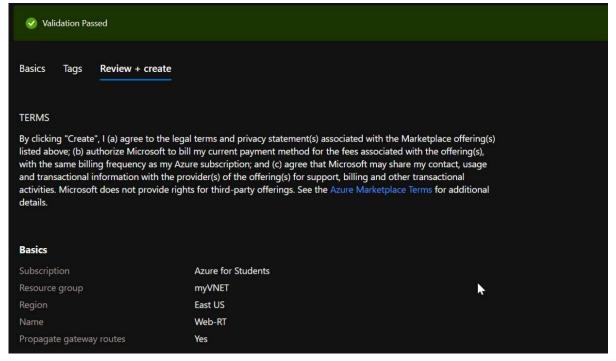
Configuring routing on the "Webnet" subnet using IP route tables

- 1. Now by default, whenever we create a new subnet, Azure has "System routes" in place which connects all the various subnets within a virtual network. So therefore, I don't need to configure routing between the various subnets that I had created since Azure's System routes already handle that for me. But, since we need traffic from our Webserver's to traverse via our Check Point FW so that we can monitor traffic and protect the server, we need to override the System routes in place with our own "User Defined Routes" (UDR).
- 2. UDR's help us gain more control over the routing of traffic of a specific subnet that it is associated with. The way we can define user defined routes is with the help of IP Route tables in Azure. If you wish to know more about System routes and User defined routes in Azure, check out this reference link: https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-network/virtual-networks-udr-overview
- 3. To add an IP route table for our Webserver, go to Azure marketplace and search for "Route tables".
- 4. Select "Route tables" and click on "Create".
- 5. Now select a resource group for this Route table. I have selected "myVNET" resource group that I had created earlier (If you don't have a resource group for this you can simply click on "Create new" near the "Resource group" field)

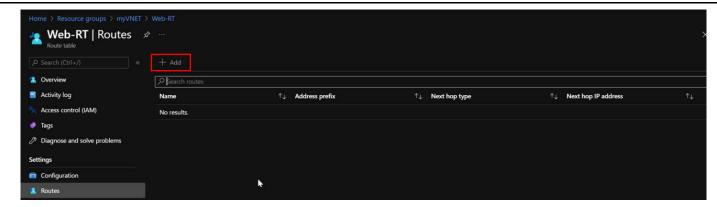
- 6. Give the name of the Route table as "Web-RT".
- 7. Leave the rest of the settings as default and select "Next" till you reach "Review + create"



8. Wait for the validation to pass and select "Create".



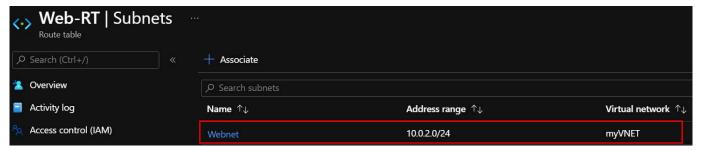
9. Now, go to the "Web-RT" route table that we had configured in the "myVNET" resource group and click on "Routes".



- 10. We are going to add 2 routes:
 - a. 1 route for communication within the "10.0.0.0/16" Virtual network
 - b. 1 route for communication with the internet (0.0.0.0/0) via our CPFW internal interface gateway.



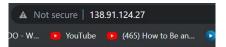
- 11. We need to attach this Route table to our "Webnet" subnet.
- 12.To do this, go to "Subnets" on the left pane > Click on "Associate". Add the "Webnet" subnet and select "OK".



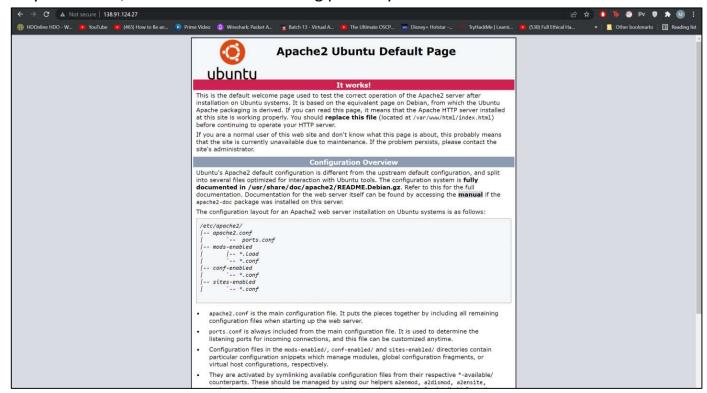
13. Now our Webserver will be able to communicate with all the devices in the "myVNET" Virtual Network and the internet.

Testing our Ubuntu Web Server Connectivity

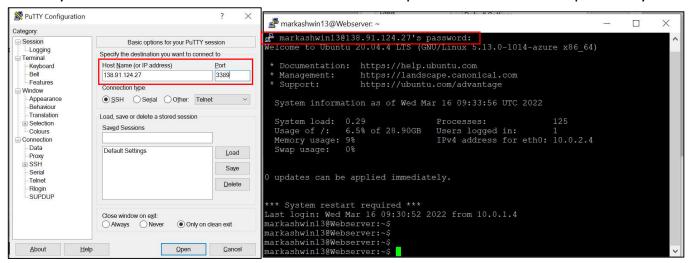
- 1. Now, browse to the Public IP of our CPFW using http service.
- 2. The link in my case is: http:// 138.91.124.27



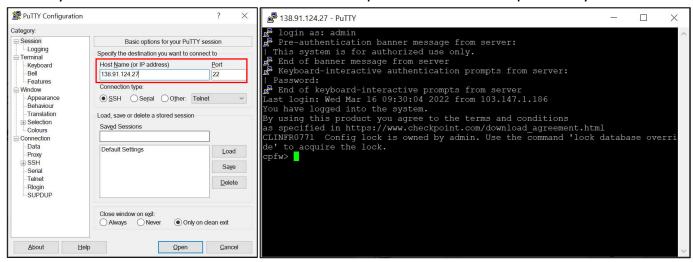
3. As you can see, our Webserver is working perfectly.



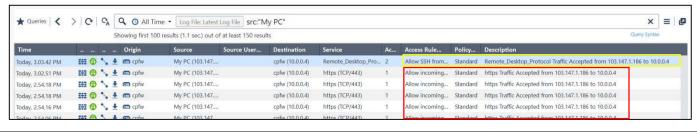
4. Let's try to access our Webserver console via SSH on port 3389 with the help of Putty



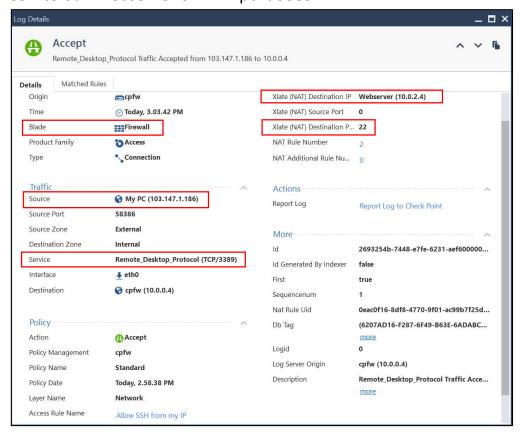
5. Let's try to access our CPFW console via SSH on port 22 with the help of Putty



- 6. As you can see, we are able to get console access via SSH on the respective devices properly. This means, our PAT and Destination NAT policies are working perfectly.
- 7. Let us take a look at the logs to verify this from our SmartConsole.



8. SSH to our Webserver on RDP port 3389:



Testing the Threat Prevention blade for our Ubuntu Web Server

- 1. I tried to launch a basic Reconnaissance attack on the Ubuntu Web Server hiding behind the CPFW with the help of nmapAutomator tool from my Kali Linux VM.
- 2. I used the following command on my Kali VM for conducting the Recon attack:
 - # ./nmapAutomator.sh -H 138.91.124.27 80 -t Recon

```
oot© kali)-[/home/kali/thm/nmapAutomator]
/nmapAutomator.sh -H 138.91.124.27 80 -t Recon
Running a Recon scan on 138.91.124.27
No ping detected.. Will not use ping scans!
Host is likely running Unknown OS!
       -----Starting Port Scan------
         STATE SERVICE
PORT
22/tcp
        open
               ssh
               http
80/tcp
        open
264/tcp open
443/tcp open
               https
3389/tcp open ms-wbt-server
```

- 3. Once the Attack started, I went to the SmartConsole on my PC and looked for the Threat Prevention blade logs.
- 4. As you can see, our Check Point that was deployed in Azure was successfully able to defend against many critical vulnerabilities with the help the Threat Prevention blades available.



5. A detailed view of one of the logs:

