



# ExtremeNAC/A3

## Addressing MAC Address Randomization

**Abstract:** This guide details options for using ExtremeNAC/A3 with MAC address randomization.

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## About MAC randomization

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In response to these privacy vulnerabilities, most OSs—including Android, iOS, and Windows—began to implement their own variant of MAC address randomization while probing the Wi-Fi network. This probe mode guarantees anonymity until the client gets associated with an access point. IEEE 802.11 also stepped up to specify a similar feature in the IEEE 802.11aq Pre-Association Service Discovery amendment to the 802.11-2016 standard.

More recently, OSs have started to implement the use of MAC address randomization for device association to the network. The address is kept consistent per network (i.e., Service Set Identifier [SSID]), so the user does not have to authenticate each time it connects to the same SSID.

- In Google Android versions 10 and 11
  - MAC address randomization is enabled by default.
  - Randomization can be disabled per network profile (SSID).
  - Random MAC addresses are persistent per SSID. The same random MAC address is used even if the network profile is deleted and recreated.
- In Apple iOS 14, watchOS 7, and iPadOS 14
  - MAC address randomization is enabled by default.
  - Randomization can be disabled per network profile (SSID).
  - Random MAC addresses are persistent per SSID. The same random MAC address is used even if the network profile is deleted and recreated.
  - MAC address randomization is enabled for all existing network profiles upon OS upgrade.
- In Microsoft Windows 10
  - MAC address randomization is disabled by default.
  - Randomization can be enabled both per network profile (SSID) and globally for all wireless profiles.
  - Random MAC addresses are persistent per SSID. The same random MAC address is used as long as the user does not delete the network profile.

## Expected Impact of MAC Randomization on Current NAC Installations

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- The list of MAC addresses in the NAC configuration may need to be updated after an endpoint is upgraded to the new OS that has MAC randomization enabled.
- There should not be a significant impact on licensing:
  - ExtremeNAC/AC calculates active sessions. The physical MAC and randomized MAC will not be active at the same time.
- Search for end-systems will return both physical and randomized MACs.

- If integration between NAC and MDM (or similar 3<sup>rd</sup> party solutions) systems is used, then the Randomization should be disabled. The MDM usually reports the physical MAC, but physical MAC is not seen in the network if the Randomization is enabled.
- A majority of customers will not see a significant impact of MAC address randomization in their standard NAC deployments.

## How to Recognize a Randomized MAC Address?

MAC address randomization uses locally administered addresses. Universally administered and locally administered addresses are distinguished by setting the second-least-significant bit of the first octet of the address. This bit is also referred to as the U/L bit, short for Universal/Local, which identifies how the address is administered. If the bit is 1, the address is locally administered. The table below shows which MAC addresses are considered local MAC addresses.

Local MAC ranges	
x <b>2</b> – xx – xx – xx – xx – xx	x <b>A</b> – xx – xx – xx – xx – xx
x <b>6</b> – xx – xx – xx – xx – xx	x <b>E</b> – xx – xx – xx – xx – xx

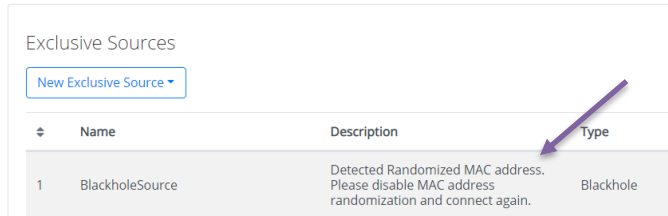
## What Options are Available?

- Default approach
  - Treat devices with randomized MAC and unique MAC the same.
- Assign different captive portal workflow
  - The user will be redirected to the captive portal and provided with instructions.
  - See chapter: Assign Captive Portal Workflow
- Deny access to devices with randomized MAC addresses
  - The user will not get network access. The user is presented with captive portal message.
  - See chapter: Deny Access to Devices with Randomized MAC Addresses
- Permit access to devices with randomized MAC addresses
  - The user will be presented Acceptable use Policy.
  - See chapter: Assign Guest Access to Devices with Randomized MAC Addresses

## Deny Access to Devices with Randomized MAC Addresses

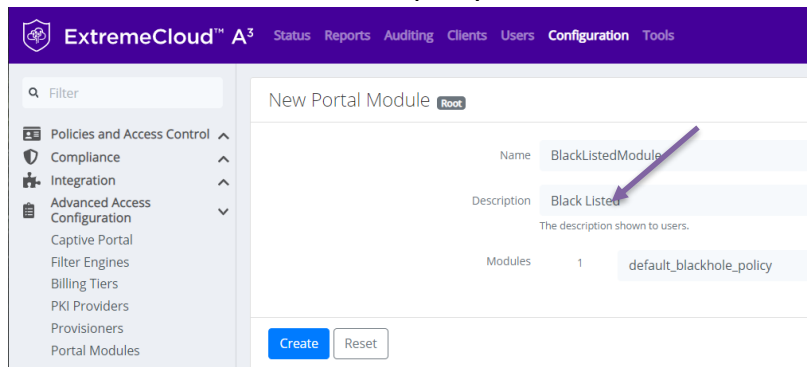
The device with a randomized MAC address will be assigned a custom Authentication Source. This Authentication Source will provide the user with customized captive portal content.

- Create new Exclusive Authentication Source.
  - Click Configuration -> Policies and Access Control -> Authentication Sources -> New Exclusive Source -> Blackhole.

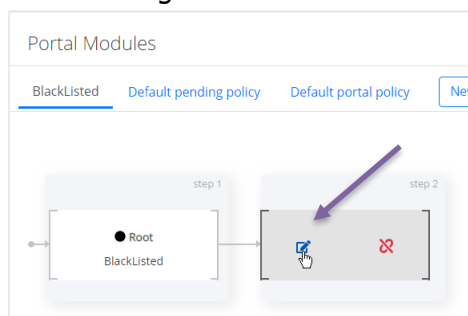


The Description will be displayed to the user in the captive portal.

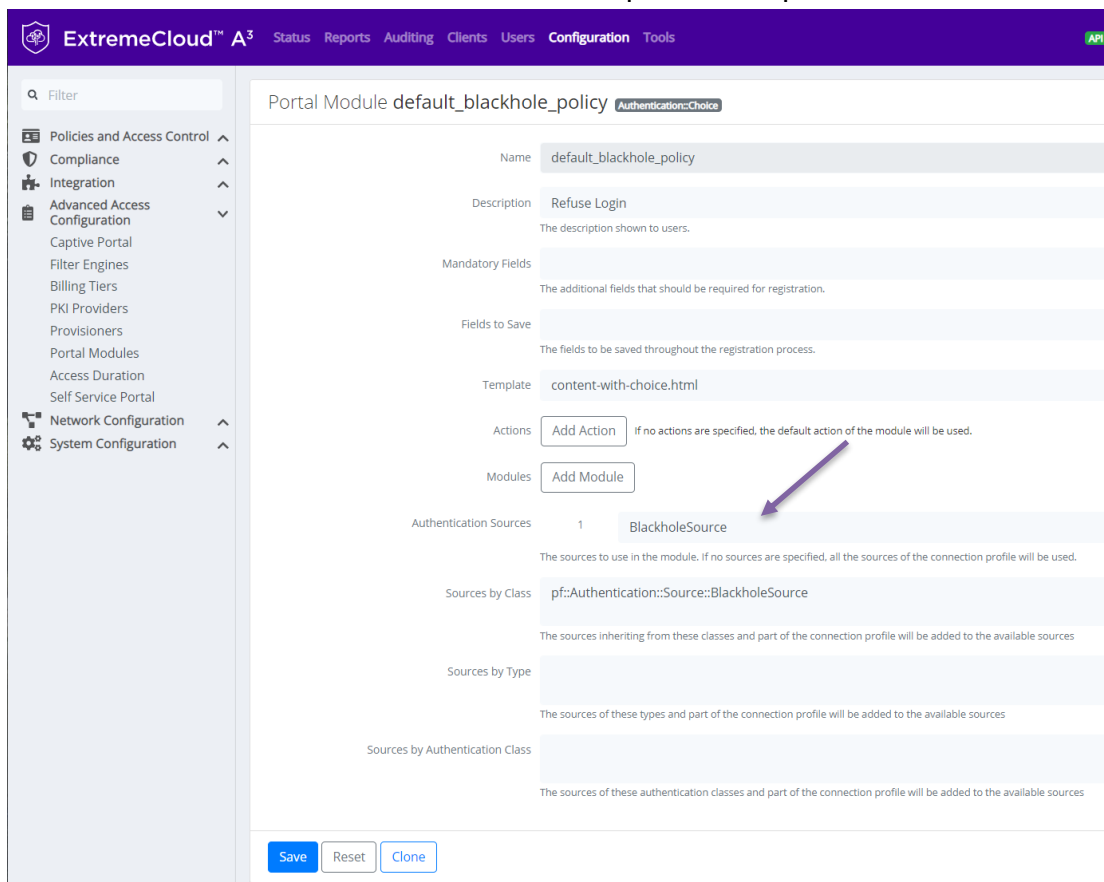
- Create new Root Portal Module.
  - Click Configuration ->Advanced Access Configuration -> Portal Modules -> New Root Module
    - Add module default\_blackhole\_policy



- Change the Refuse Login behavior (step 2).
  - Click Configuration ->Advanced Access Configuration -> Portal Modules -> BlackListed ->Refuse Login -> edit.

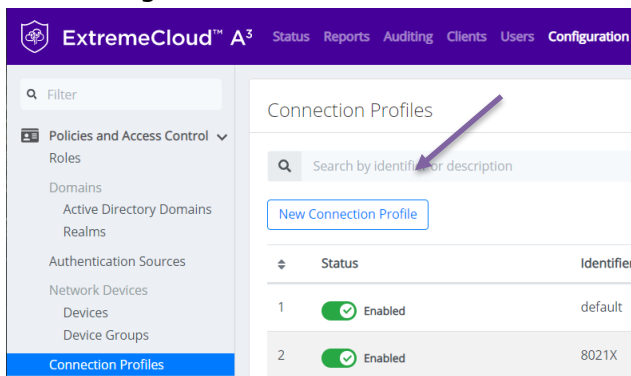


- Select the Authentication Source created in the previous step.



- Create a Connection profile for randomized MACs.

– Click Configuration -> Policies and Access Control -> Connection Profiles -> New Connection Profile.



- In the profile disable all options except:
  - Enable Profile: yes
  - Root Portal Module: BlackListed
  - Define Advanced Filter as:
    - mac =~ "[0-9,A-F,a-f][2,6,A,E]:[0-9,A-F,a-f][0-9,A-F,a-f]:[0-9,A-F,a-f][0-9,A-F,a-f]:[0-9,A-F,a-f][0-9,A-F,a-f]:[0-9,A-F,a-f][0-9,A-F,a-f]:[0-9,A-F,a-f][0-9,A-F,a-f]:[0-9,A-F,a-f][0-9,A-F,a-f]"

**ExtremeCloud™ A<sup>3</sup>** Status Reports Auditing Clients Users Configuration Tools

Filter

**Policies and Access Control**

- Roles
- Domains
  - Active Directory Domains
  - Realms
- Authentication Sources
- Network Devices
  - Devices
  - Device Groups
- Connection Profiles
- Compliance

**Connection Profile RandomizedMACs** Preview

Settings Captive Portal Files

Profile Name: RandomizedMACs  
Profile IDs may only contain alphanumeric characters

Profile Description: Access for Randomized MACs

Enable Profile:

Root Portal Module: BlackListed  
The Root Portal Module to use.

Filters: any

Filter: Add Filter With no filter specified, an advanced filter must be specified.

Advanced Filter: mac =~ "[0-9,A-F,a-f]{2,6,A,E};[0-9,A-F,a-f]{0-9,A-F,a-f};[0-9,A-F,a-f]{0-9,A-F,a-f};[0-9,A-F,a-f]{0-9,A-F,a-f};[0-9,A-F,a-f];[0-9,A-F,a-f];[0-9,A-F,a-f];[0-9,A-F,a-f];[0-9,A-F,a-f];[0-9,A-F,a-f];[0-9,A-F,a-f]"

Sources: Add Source If no source is specified, all internal and external sources are used.

Billing Tiers: Add Billing Tier If no billing tiers are specified, all billing tiers are used.

Provisioners: Add Provisioner If no provisioners are specified, the provisioners in the default profile are used.

Scanners: Add Scanner If no scanners are specified, scanning is not performed.

Self service policy

- Reorder the connection profiles based on your need.

**ExtremeCloud™ A<sup>3</sup>** Status Reports Auditing Clients Users Configuration Tools

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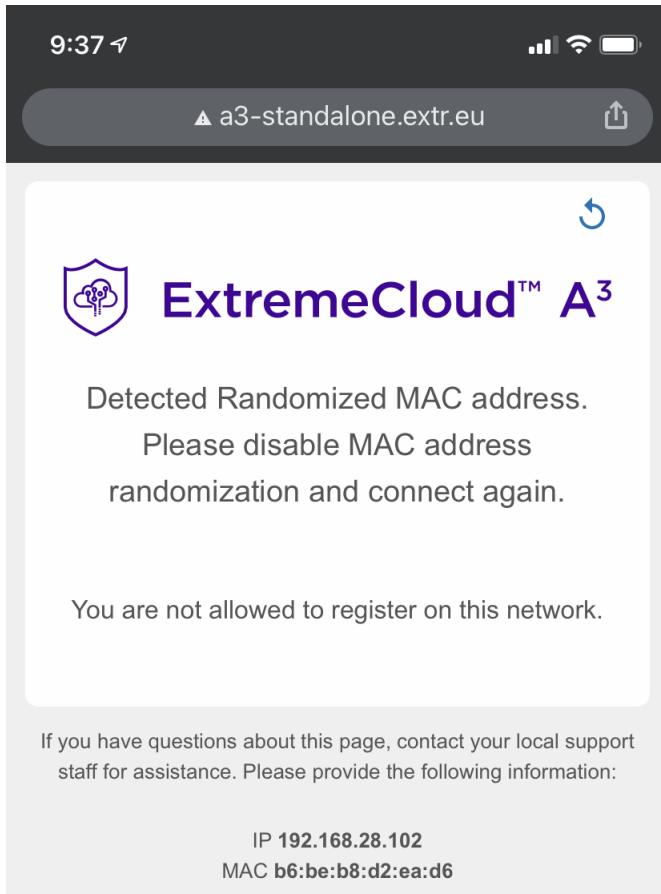
**Connection Profiles**

Search by identifier or description

New Connection Profile

	Status	Identifier
1	Enabled	default
2	Enabled	RandomizedMACs
3	Enabled	8021X
4	Enabled	MAC_authentication

## User Experience When Denied access

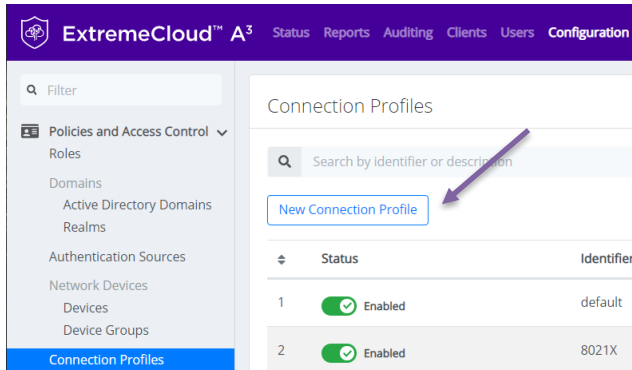




## Assign Guest Access to Devices with Randomized MAC Addresses

The device with a randomized MAC address is automatically assigned Guest Access after Acceptable Use Policy is accepted.

- Create Connection profile for randomized MACs.
  - Click Configuration -> Policies and Access Control -> Connection Profiles -> New Connection Profile.



- In the profile disable all options except:
  - Enable Profile: yes
  - Root Portal Module: Default portal policy (the guest will be given Acceptable Use Policy)
  - Automatically Register Clients = yes
  - Define Advanced Filter as:
    - mac =~ "[0-9,A-F,a-f][2,6,A,E]:[0-9,A-F,a-f][0-9,A-F,a-f]:[0-9,A-F,a-f][0-9,A-F,a-f]:[0-9,A-F,a-f][0-9,A-F,a-f]:[0-9,A-F,a-f]:[0-9,A-F,a-f]:[0-9,A-F,a-f]:[0-9,A-F,a-f]"
  - Sources = null

ExtremeCloud™ A<sup>3</sup> Status Reports Auditing Clients Users Configuration Tools

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Connection Profile RandomizedMACs [Preview](#)

Settings Captive Portal Files

Profile Name: RandomizedMACs  
Profile IDs may only contain alphanumeric characters, dashes, periods, and underscores.

Profile Description: Automatically register Randomized MACs

Enable Profile:

Root Portal Module: Default portal policy  
The Root Portal Module to use.

Activate Preregistration:   
If enabled, a local account created during registration is displayed instead of the enable "Create local account" on all the sources associated with this connection profile.

Automatically Register Clients:   
Automatically register clients for this profile. Clients will not be shown a captive port authentication.

Filters: any

Filter: Add Filter With no filter specified, an advanced filter must be specified.

Advanced Filter: mac =~ "[0-9,A-F,a-f]{2,6,A,E}[0-9,A-F,a-f]{0-9,A-F,a-f}[0-9,A-F,a-f]{0-9,A-F,a-f}[0-9,A-F,a-f]{0-9,A-F,a-f}[0-9,A-F,a-f]{0-9,A-F,a-f}[0-9,A-F,a-f]{0-9,A-F,a-f}[0-9,A-F,a-f]{0-9,A-F,a-f}"

Sources: 1 null

Billing Tiers: Add Billing Tier If no billing tiers are specified, all billing tiers are used.

Provisioners: Add Provisioner If no provisioners are specified, the provisioners in the default profile are used.

Scanners: Add Scanner If no scanners are specified, scanning is not performed.

Self service policy

- Reorder the connection profiles based on your need.

ExtremeCloud™ A<sup>3</sup> Status Reports Auditing Clients Users Configuration Tools

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Connection Profiles

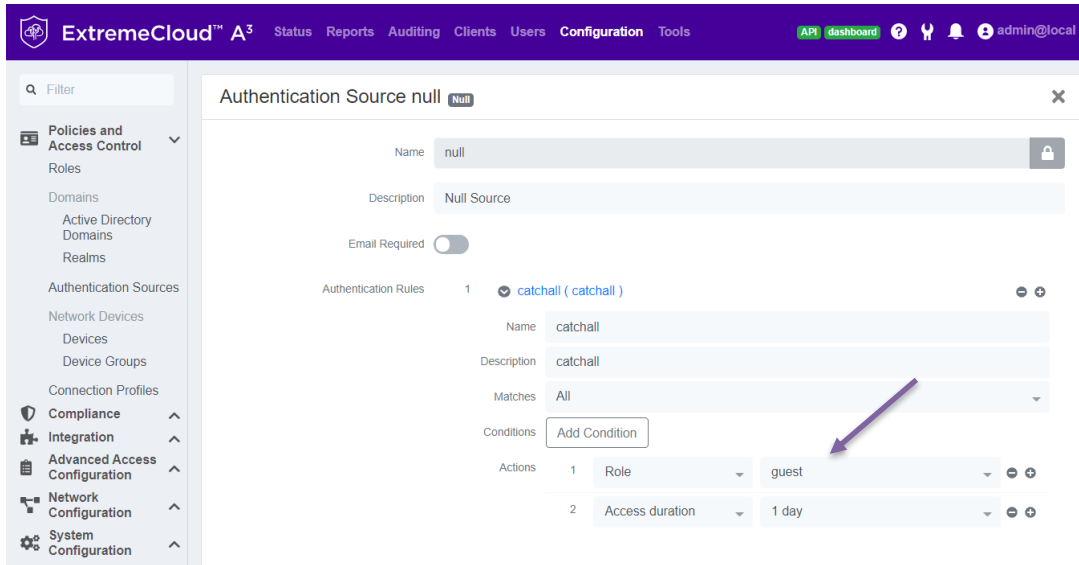
Search by identifier or description

[New Connection Profile](#)

	Status	Identifier	Description
1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enabled	default	Default Profile
2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enabled	RandomizedMACs	Automatically register Randomized MACs
3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enabled	8021X	Dot1x profile wired and wireless
4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enabled	MAC_authentication	Mac Authentication

- The Guest role and behavior is defined in the source.

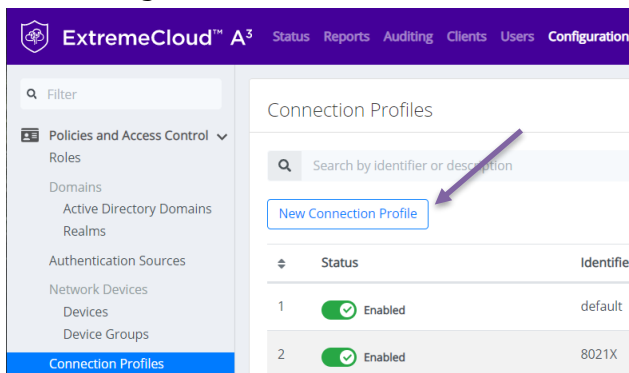
- Click Configuration -> Policies and Access Control -> Authentication Sources -> External Sources -> null



## Assign Captive Portal Workflow

The device with a randomized MAC address is automatically assigned a custom captive portal workflow. The Role can be assigned in the Authentication Source. The Authentication Source is referenced in the Captive Portal configuration.

- Create a new Root Portal Module.
  - Click Configuration ->Advanced Access Configuration -> Portal Modules -> New Root Module. Configure the desired workflow.
- Create a Connection profile for randomized MACs.
  - Click Configuration -> Policies and Access Control -> Connection Profiles -> New Connection Profile.



- In the profile disable all options except:
  - Enable Profile: yes
  - Root Portal Module: choose the portal behavior you created in previous step
  - Define Advanced Filter as:
    - `mac =~ "[0-9,A-F,a-f][2,6,A,E]:[0-9,A-F,a-f][0-9,A-F,a-f]:[0-9,A-F,a-f][0-9,A-F,a-f]:[0-9,A-F,a-f][0-9,A-F,a-f]:[0-9,A-F,a-f]:[0-9,A-F,a-f]:[0-9,A-F,a-f]:[0-9,A-F,a-f]"`

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### Connection Profile RandomizedMACs Preview

Settings Captive Portal Files

Profile Name: RandomizedMACs  
Profile IDs may only contain alphanumeric characters, dashes, periods, and under

Profile Description: Access for Randomized MACs

Enable Profile:

Root Portal Module: default\_policy  
 Type to filter results  
 Default portal policy  
 Default pending policy  
 BlackListed

Activate Preregistration

Automatically Register Clients

Filters: any

Filter:  Add Filter With no filter specified, an advanced filter must be specified.

Advanced Filter: `mac =~ "[0-9,A-F,a-f]{2,6,A,E};[0-9,A-F,a-f][0-9,A-F,a-f];[0-9,A-F,a-f][0-9,A-F,a-f];[0-9,A-F,a-f][0-9,A-F,a-f];[0-9,A-F,a-f][0-9,A-F,a-f];[0-9,A-F,a-f][0-9,A-F,a-f];[0-9,A-F,a-f][0-9,A-F,a-f];[0-9,A-F,a-f][0-9,A-F,a-f];[0-9,A-F,a-f][0-9,A-F,a-f]"`

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	Status	Identifier
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2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enabled	RandomizedMACs
3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enabled	8021X
4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enabled	MAC_authentication

## Resources

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- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MAC\\_address](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MAC_address)