



# Configuring SMB Direct with RoCE v2 in Windows

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## Guidelines for Using SMB Direct support on Windows using RDMA over converged Ethernet (RoCE) v2

### General Guidelines and Limitations:

- Cisco Intersight Managed Mode support Microsoft SMB Direct with RoCE v2 on Microsoft Windows Server 2019 and later. Cisco recommends that you have all KB updates from Microsoft for your Windows Server release.



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#### Note

- RoCE v2 is not supported on Microsoft Windows Server 2016.
  - Refer to [Windows Requirements](#) for specific supported Operating System(OS).
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- Cisco recommends you check [UCS Hardware and Software Compatibility](#) specific to your UCS Manager release to determine support for Microsoft SMB Direct with RoCE v2 on Microsoft Windows.
  - Microsoft SMB Direct with RoCE v2 is supported only with Cisco UCS VIC 1400 Series, VIC 14000, and VIC 15000 Series adapters. It is not supported with UCS VIC 1200 Series and VIC 1300 Series adapters. SMB Direct with RoCE v2 is supported on all UCS Fabric Interconnects.




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**Note** RoCE v1 is not supported on Cisco UCS VIC 1400 Series, VIC 14000 Series, and VIC 15000 series adapters.

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- RoCE v2 configuration is supported only between Cisco adapters. Interoperability between Cisco adapters and third party adapters is not supported.
- RoCE v2 supports two RoCE v2 enabled vNIC per adapter and four virtual ports per adapter interface, independent of SET switch configuration.
- RoCE v2 enabled vNIC interfaces must have the no-drop QoS system class enabled in Cisco Intersight Managed Mode domain profile.
- The RoCE Properties queue pairs setting must for be a minimum of four queue pairs and maximum number of queue pairs per adapter is 2048.
- The QoS No Drop class configuration must be properly configured on upstream switches such as Cisco Nexus 9000 series switches. QoS configurations will vary between different upstream switches.
- The maximum number of memory regions per rNIC interface is 131072.
- SMB Direct with RoCE v2 is supported on both IPv4 and IPv6.
- RoCE v2 cannot be used on the same vNIC interface as NVGRE, NetFlow, and VMQ features.
- RoCE v2 cannot be used with usNIC.
- RoCE v2 cannot be used with GENEVE offload.

#### **MTU Properties:**

- In older versions of the VIC driver, the MTU was derived from either a Cisco Intersight server profile or from the Cisco IMC vNIC MTU setting in standalone mode. This behavior varies for Cisco UCS VIC 1400 Series, VIC 14000 Series, and VIC 15000 Series adapters, where MTU is controlled from the Windows OS Jumbo Packet advanced property.
- The RoCE v2 MTU value is always power-of-two and its maximum limit is 4096.
- RoCE v2 MTU is derived from the Ethernet MTU.
- RoCE v2 MTU is the highest power-of-two that is less than the Ethernet MTU. For example:
  - If the Ethernet value is 1500, then the RoCE v2 MTU value is 1024
  - If the Ethernet value is 4096, then the RoCE v2 MTU value is 4096
  - If the Ethernet value is 9000, then the RoCE v2 MTU value is 4096

#### **Windows NDPKI Modes of Operation:**

- Cisco's implementation of Network Direct Kernel Provider Interface (NDPKI) supports two modes of operation: Mode 1 and Mode 2. Implementation of Network Direct Kernel Provider Interface (NDKPI) differs in Mode 1 and Mode 2 of operation: Mode 1 is native RDMA, and Mode 2 involves configuration for the virtual port with RDMA. Cisco does not support NDPKI Mode 3 operation.
- The recommended default adapter policy for RoCE v2 Mode 1 is Win-HPN-SMBd.

- The recommended default adapter policy for RoCE v2 Mode 2 is MQ-SMBd.
- RoCE v2 enabled vNICs for Mode 2 operation require the QoS host control policy set to full.
- Mode 2 is inclusive of Mode 1: Mode 1 must be enabled to operate Mode 2.
- On Windows, the RoCE v2 interface supports both MSI & MSIx interrupts mode. Default interrupt mode is MSIx. Cisco recommends you avoid changing interrupt mode when the interface is configured with RoCE v2 properties.

**Downgrade Limitations:**

- Cisco recommends you remove the RoCE v2 configuration before downgrading to any non-supported firmware release. If the configuration is not removed or disabled, downgrade will fail.

## Overview of Configuring RoCE v2 Mode 1 and Mode 2 in Windows

Configuration of RoCE v2 on the Windows platform requires first configuring RoCE v2 Mode 1, then configuring RoCE v2 Mode 2.

- To configure RoCE v2 Mode 1, you will:
  - Configure a no-drop class in System QoS policy. Platinum with CoS 5 is a default setting in Cisco Intersight domain profile.
  - Configure Mode 1 in Cisco Intersight by creating an Ethernet Adapter policy or using *Win-HPN-SMBd*, the default (pre-defined) configuration in Ethernet Adapter policy.
  - Configure Mode 1 on the host operating system.
- To configure RoCE v2 Mode 2, RoCE v2 Mode 1 must be configured first and you will:
  - Configure an Ethernet Adapter policy with VMMQ connection or use the *MQ-SMBd* default (pre-defined) configuration in Ethernet Adapter policy for Mode 2 in Cisco Intersight.
  - Configure Mode 2 on the host operating system.

## Windows Requirements

Configuration and use of RDMA over Converged Ethernet for RoCE v2 in Windows Server requires the following:

- VIC Driver version 5.4.0.x or later
- Cisco UCS M5 B-Series and C-Series with Cisco UCS 1400 Series adapters.
- Cisco UCS M6 B-Series, C-Series, or X-Series servers with Cisco UCS VIC 1400, VIC 14000, or VIC 15000 series adapters.
- Cisco UCS M7 C-Series, or X-Series servers with Cisco UCS VIC 1400, VIC 14000, or VIC 15000 series adapters.

- Cisco UCS M8 C-Series servers with Cisco UCS VIC 1400, VIC 14000, or VIC 15000 series adapters.



**Note** All Powershell commands or advanced property configurations are common across Windows 2019 and 2022 unless explicitly mentioned.

## Configuring Mode 1 on Cisco Intersight

Use these steps to configure the RoCE v2 Mode 1 interface on Cisco Intersight.

To avoid possible RDMA packet drops, ensure same no-drop COS is configured across the network. The following steps allows you to configure a no-drop class in System QoS policies and use it for RDMA supported interfaces.

### Procedure

- Step 1** Navigate to **CONFIGURE > Policies**. Click **Create Policy**, select **UCS Domain** platform type, search or choose **System QoS**, and click **Start**.
- Step 2** In the **General** page, enter the policy name and click **Next**, and then in the **Policy Details** page, configure the property setting for System QoS policy as follows:
- For **Priority**, choose **Platinum**
  - For **Allow Packet Drops**, uncheck the check box.

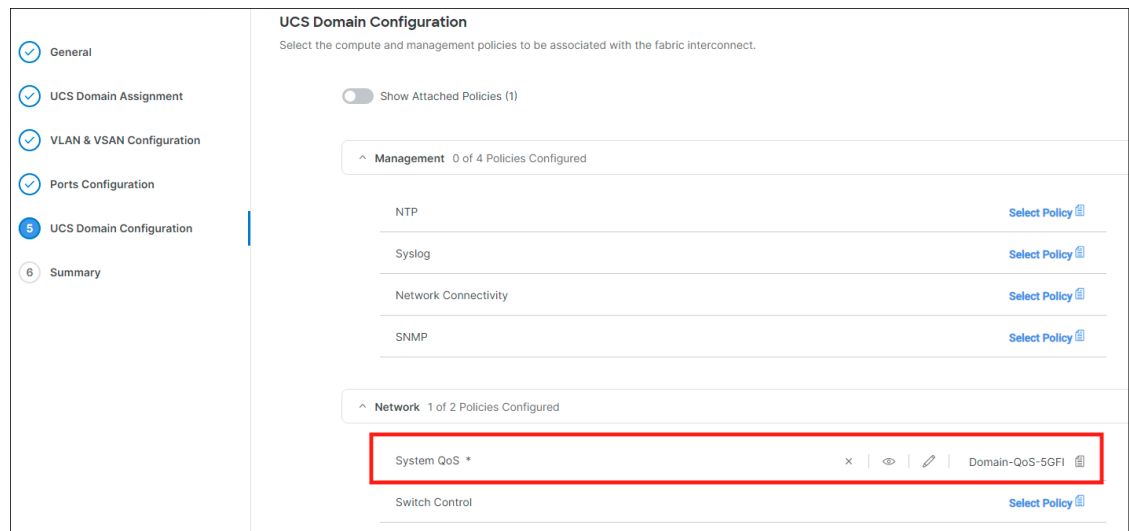
**Note** For more information on MTU field, see *MTU Properties* in [Guidelines for Using SMB Direct support on Windows using RDMA over converged Ethernet \(RoCE\) v2, on page 1](#)

The screenshot shows the Cisco Intersight interface for creating a System QoS policy. The 'Policy Details' section is highlighted with a red box, showing the configuration for the Platinum priority class. The configuration includes: CoS 5, Weight 10, Allow Packet Drops unchecked, and MTU 9000. Other priority classes (Gold, Silver, Bronze, Best Effort, Fibre Channel) are also visible below.

Priority	CoS	Weight	Allow Packet Drops	MTU
Platinum	5	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	9000
Gold			<input type="checkbox"/>	
Silver			<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bronze			<input type="checkbox"/>	
Best Effort	Any	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	1500
Fibre Channel	3	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	2240

**Step 3** Click **Create**

**Step 4** Associate the System QoS policy to the Domain Profile and deploy.



**Note** For more information, see *Creating System QoS Policy* in [Configuring Domain Policies](#) and [Configuring Domain Profiles](#).

The System QoS Policy is successfully created and deployed to the Domain Profile.

#### What to do next

Configure the server profile with RoCE v2 vNIC settings in LAN Connectivity policy.

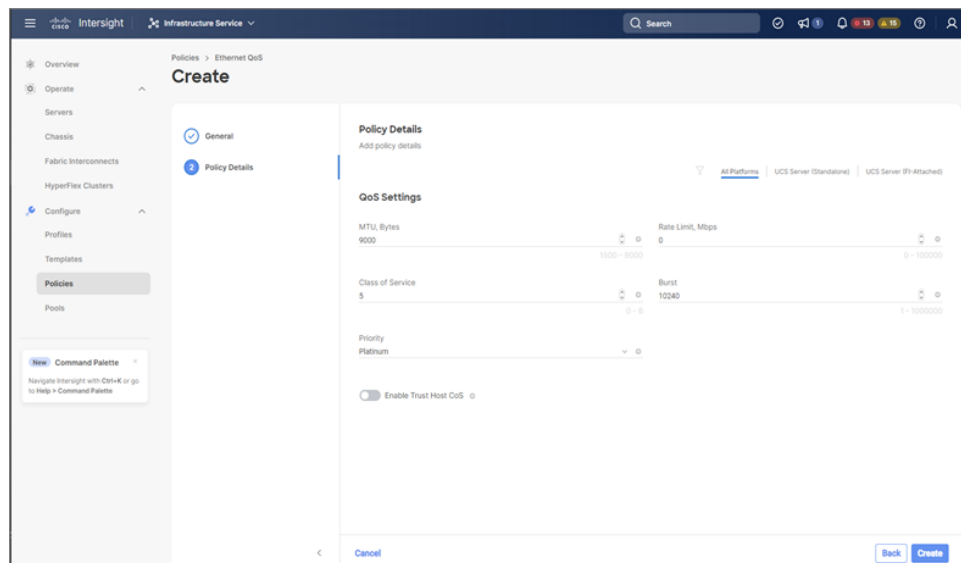
## Enabling RoCE Settings in LAN Connectivity Policy

Use these steps to configure the RoCE v2 vNIC settings in Mode 1. In Cisco Intersight LAN Connectivity policy, you can enable the RoCE settings on **Ethernet QoS** policy and **Ethernet Adapter** policy for Mode 1 configuration as follows:

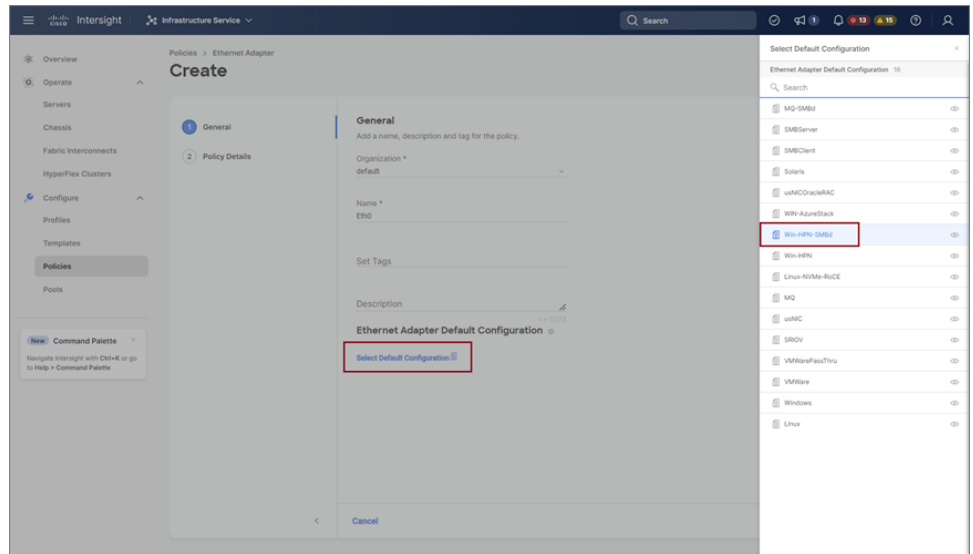
#### Procedure

- Step 1** Navigate to **CONFIGURE > Policies**. Click **Create Policy**, select **UCS Server** platform type, search or choose **LAN Connectivity** policy, and click **Start**.
- Step 2** In the policy **General** page, enter the policy name, select the Target Platform as **UCS Server (Standalone)** or **UCS Server (FI-Attached)**, and click **Next**.
- Step 3** In the **Policy Details** page, click **Add vNIC** to create a new vNIC.
- Step 4** In the **Add vNIC** page, follow the configuration parameters to enable the RoCE vNIC settings:
  - In the **General** section, provide a name for virtual ethernet interface.
  - In the **Consistent Device Naming (CDN)** section of the Standalone server or the **Failover** section of FI-attached server, do the following:

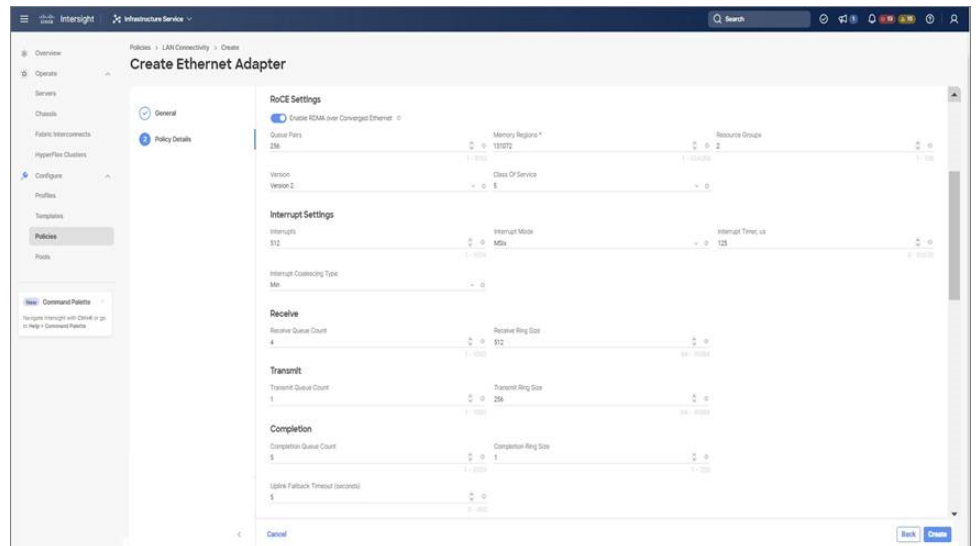
- Click **Select Policy** link below the **Ethernet QoS**. Use the **Create New** button to create a new Ethernet QoS policy with the following property settings:
  - For **MTU**, choose or enter **1500, 4096, or 9000**
  - For **Priority**, choose **Platinum** or **any no-drop**
  - For **Class of Service**, choose or enter **5**
    - Note** This property is available only on Standalone servers.
  - Slide to **Enable Trust Host CoS** toggle button.
    - Note** This property is available only on Intersight Managed Mode servers.



- Click **Select Policy** link below the **Ethernet Adapter**. Follow on to click Create an Ethernet Adapter Policy:
  - **Use the Default Configuration:** Click **Create New** to create a new policy. In the **General** page, enter the name of the policy and under Ethernet Adapter Default Configuration click **Select Default Configuration** to search and select **Win-HPN-SMBd**, the pre-defined Ethernet Adapter Default Configuration. Click **Next** and then **Create**.



- **Configure RoCE Settings in the policy:** Click **Create New** to create a new policy. In the **General** page, enter the name of the policy. Under Policy Details page on right pane, use the following property settings, then click **Next**, and then **Create**.
  - For **Enable RDMA over Converged Ethernet**, slide to enable.
  - For **Queue Pairs**, choose or enter **256**
  - For **Memory Regions**, choose or enter **131072**
  - For **Resource Groups**, choose or enter **2**
  - For **Version**, select **Version 2**



- Click **Add** to add and save the new vNIC settings.

**Note** All the fields with \* are mandatory for creating LAN Connectivity Policy. Ensure they are filled out or selected with appropriate policies.

**Step 5** Click **Create** to complete the LAN Connectivity policy with RoCE v2 property settings.

**Step 6** Associate the LAN Connectivity policy to the server profile and deploy.

**Note** For more information, see *Creating a LAN Connectivity Policy*, *Creating an Ethernet QoS Policy*, and *Creating an Ethernet Adapter Policy* in [Configuring UCS Server Policies](#) and [Configuring UCS Server Profiles](#).

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The LAN Connectivity policy with the Ethernet QoS policy and Ethernet Adapter policy vNIC setting is successfully created and the server profile is deployed to enable RoCE v2 configuration.

#### What to do next

Once the policy configuration for RoCE v2 is complete, reboot the server, and proceed with the RoCE v2 Mode 1 configuration of the host.

## Configuring SMB Direct Mode 1 on the Host System

You will configure connection between smb-client and smb-server on two host interfaces. For each of these servers, smb-client and smb-server, configure the RoCE v2-enabled vNIC as described below.

#### Before you begin

Configure RoCE v2 for Mode 1 in Cisco Intersight.

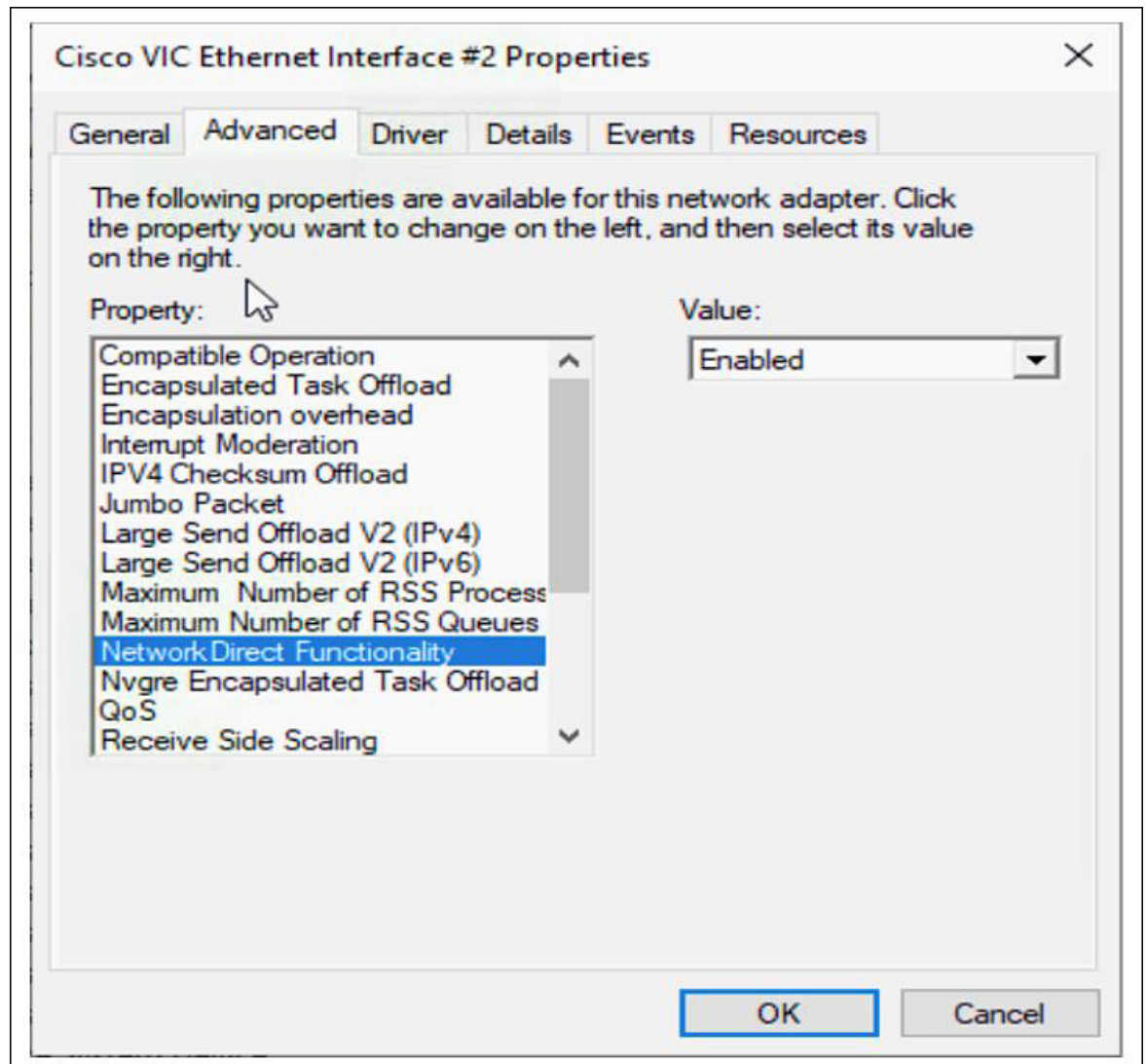
#### Procedure

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**Step 1** In the Windows host, go to the Device Manager and select the appropriate Cisco VIC Internet Interface.

**Step 2** Go to **Tools > Computer Management > Device Manager > Network Adapter** > click on **VIC Network Adapter > Properties > Advanced > Network Direct Functionality**. Perform this operation for both the smb-server and smb-client vNICs.





**Step 3** Verify that RoCE is enabled on the host operating system using PowerShell.

The `Get-NetOffloadGlobalSetting` command shows NetworkDirect is enabled.

```
PS C:\Users\Administrator> Get-NetOffloadGlobalSetting
```

```
ReceiveSideScaling           : Enabled
ReceiveSegmentCoalescing    : Enabled
Chimney                      : Disabled
TaskOffload                  : Enabled
NetworkDirect                : Enabled
NetworkDirectAcrossIPSubnets : Blocked
PacketCoalescingFilter      : Disabled
```

**Note** If the NetworkDirect setting is showing as disabled, enable it using the command:

```
Set-NetOffloadGlobalSetting -NetworkDirect enabled
```

**Step 4** Bring up Powershell and enter the command:

```
get-SmbClientNetworkInterface
```

```

PS C:\Users\Administrator>
PS C:\Users\Administrator> Get-SmbClientNetworkInterface
-----
Interface Index RSS Capable RDMA Capable Speed IpAddresses Friendly Name
-----
14          True      False    40 Gbps {10.37.60.162} vEthernet (vswitch)
26          True      True     40 Gbps {10.37.60.158} vEthernet (vp1)
9           True      True     40 Gbps {50.37.61.23} Ethernet 2
5           False     False    40 Gbps {169.254.10.5} Ethernet (Kernel Debugger)
8           True      False    40 Gbps {169.254.4.26} Ethernet 3
PS C:\Users\Administrator>

```

**Step 5** Enter `enable - netadapterrdma [-name] ["Ethernetname"]`

**Step 6** Verify the overall RoCE v2 Mode 1 configuration at the Host as follows:

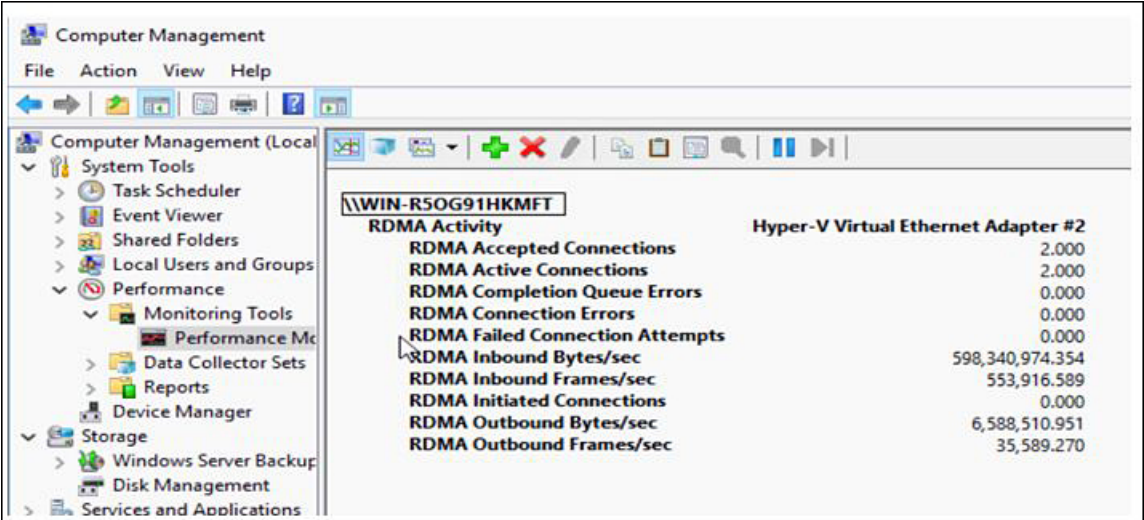
- a) Use the Powershell command `netstat -xan` to verify the listeners in both the smb-client and smb-server Windows host; listeners will be shown in the command output.

```

PS C:\Users\Administrator>
PS C:\Users\Administrator> netstat -xan
Active NetworkDirect Connections, Listeners, SharedEndpoints
-----
Mode      IfIndex Type           Local Address      Foreign Address    PID
-----
Kernel   9 Listener      50.37.61.23:445    NA                 0
Kernel   26 Listener      10.37.60.158:445  NA                 0
PS C:\Users\Administrator>

```

- b) Go to the smb-client server fileshare and start an I/O operation.
- c) Go to the performance monitor and check that it displays the RDMA activity.



**Step 7** In the Powershell command window, check the connection entries with the `netstat -xan` output command to make sure they are displayed. You can also run `netstat -xan` from the command prompt. If the connection entry shows up in netstat-xan output, the RoCE v2 mode1 connections are correctly established between client and server.

```

PS C:\Users\Administrator> netstat -xan
Active NetworkDirect Connections, Listeners, SharedEndpoints

```

Mode	IfIndex	Type	Local Address	Foreign Address	PID
Kernel	4	Connection	50.37.61.22:445	50.37.61.71:2240	0
Kernel	4	Connection	50.37.61.22:445	50.37.61.71:2496	0
Kernel	11	Connection	50.37.61.122:445	50.37.61.71:2752	0
Kernel	11	Connection	50.37.61.122:445	50.37.61.71:3008	0
Kernel	32	Connection	10.37.60.155:445	50.37.60.61:49092	0
Kernel	32	Connection	10.37.60.155:445	50.37.60.61:49348	0
Kernel	26	Connection	50.37.60.32:445	50.37.60.61:48580	0
Kernel	26	Connection	50.37.60.32:445	50.37.60.61:48836	0
Kernel	4	Listener	50.37.61.22:445	NA	0
Kernel	11	Listener	50.37.61.122:445	NA	0
Kernel	32	Listener	10.37.60.155:445	NA	0
Kernel	26	Listener	50.37.60.32:445	NA	0

**Note** IP values are representative only.

**Step 8** By default, Microsoft's SMB Direct establishes two RDMA connections per RDMA interface. You can change the number of RDMA connections per RDMA interface to one or any number of connections.

For example, to increase the number of RDMA connections to 4, type the following command in PowerShell:

```

PS C:\Users\Administrator> Set-ItemProperty -Path `
"HKLM:\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\LanmanWorkstation\Parameters"
ConnectionCountPerRdmaNetworkInterface -Type DWORD -Value 4 -Force

```

## Configuring Mode 2 on Cisco Intersight

Use these steps to configure the RoCE v2 policies in Mode 2. In Cisco Intersight LAN Connectivity Policy, you can enable the RoCE settings on **Ethernet QoS** policy and **Ethernet Adapter** policy, and **VMMQ Adapter** policy for Mode 2 configuration as follows:

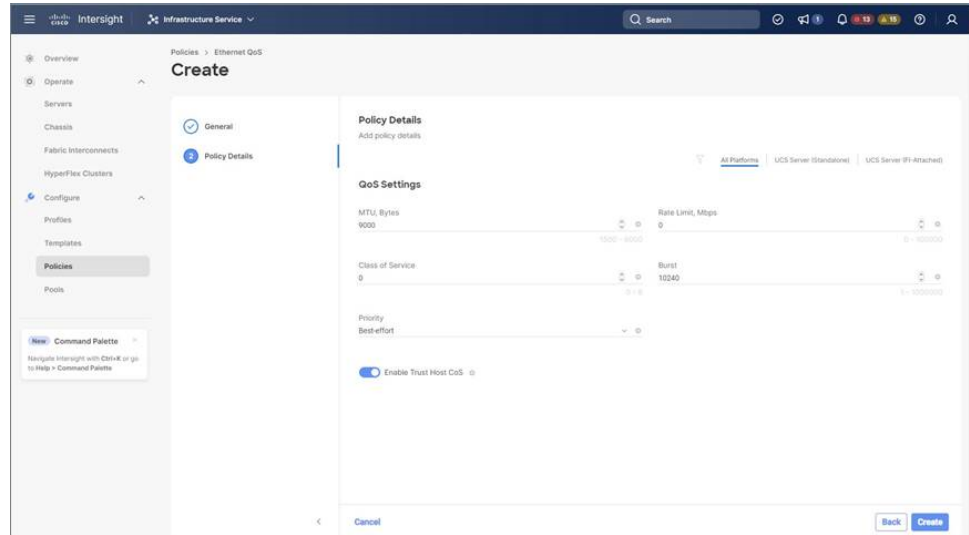
### Before you begin

Configure RoCE v2 Policies in Mode 1.

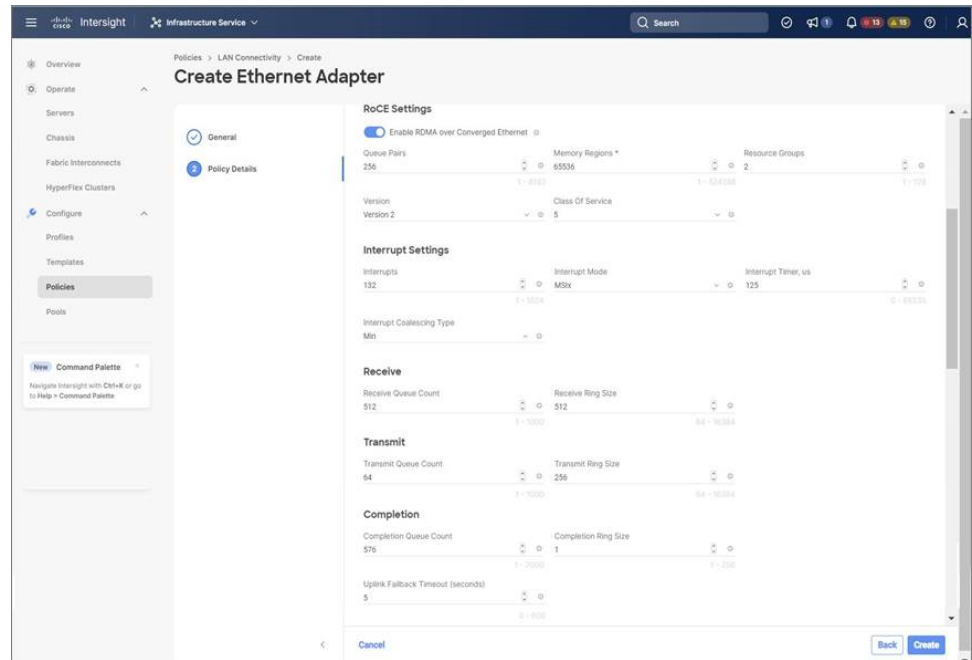
### Procedure

- Step 1** Navigate to **CONFIGURE > Policies**. Click **Create Policy**, select **UCS Server** platform type, search or choose **LAN Connectivity** policy, and click **Start**.
- Step 2** In the policy **General** page, enter the policy name, select the Target Platform as **UCS Server (Standalone)** or **UCS Server (FI-Attached)**, and click **Next**.
- Step 3** In the **Policy Details** page, click **Add vNIC** to create a new vNIC.
- Step 4** In the **Add vNIC** page, follow the configuration parameters to enable the RoCE vNIC settings:
  - a) In the **General** section, provide a name for virtual ethernet interface.
  - b) In the **Consistent Device Naming (CDN)** section of the Standalone server or the **Failover** section of FI-attached server, do the following:
    - Click **Select Policy** link below the **Ethernet QoS**. Use the **Create New** button to create a new Ethernet QoS policy with the following property settings:

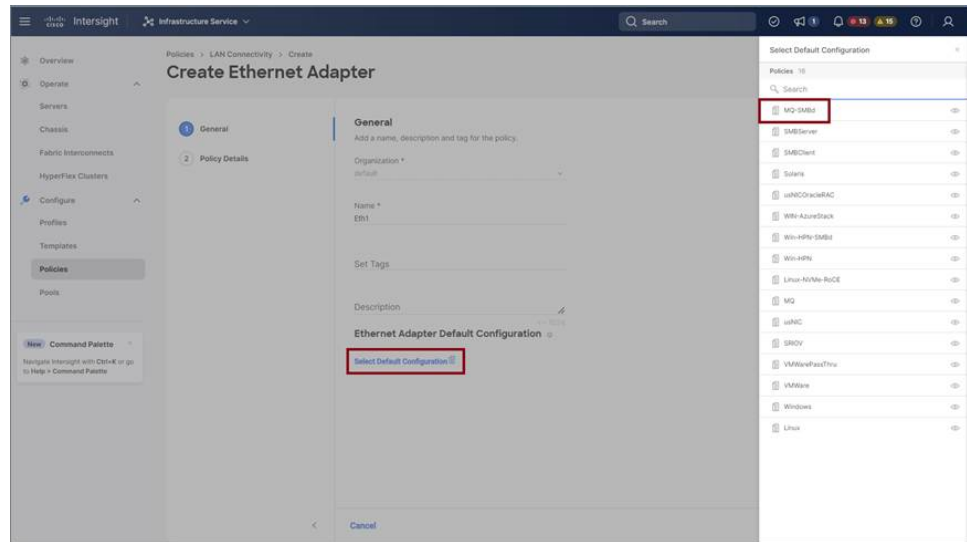
- For **MTU**, choose or enter **1500, 4096, or 9000**
- For **Priority**, choose or enter **Best-effort**
- **Enable Trust Host CoS**, slide to enable



- Click **Select Policy** link below the **Ethernet Adapter**. Use **Create New** button to create a new Ethernet Adapter policy with the following property settings:
  - For **Enable RDMA over Converged Ethernet**, slide to enable.
  - For **Queue Pairs**, select or enter **256**
  - For **Memory Regions**, select or enter **65536**
  - For **Resource Groups**, select or enter **2**
  - For **Version**, choose **Version 2**
  - For **Class of Service**, choose or enter **5**



- In the **Connection** section, use the following property setting for VMQ Connection and to create VMMQ Adapter policy:
  - For connection, select **VMQ**.
  - **Enable Virtual Machine Multi-Queue** using slider button.
  - For **Number of Sub vNICs**, select or enter **4**
  - For **VMMQ Adapter Policy**, click **Select Policy** link below the VMMQ Adapter Policy and do the following:
    - Click **Create New** to create a new policy. In the **General** page, enter the name of the policy and click **Select Default Configuration** to search and select **MQ-SMBd**, the pre-defined VMMQ Adapter default configuration.
    - Attention** Do not modify the pre-defined parameters under Policy Details page, retain the default settings.
  - Click **Next** and then **Create**.



- Click **Add** to add and save the new vNIC settings.

**Note** All the fields with \* are mandatory and ensure it is filled out or selected with appropriate policies.

**Step 5** Click **Create** to complete the LAN Connectivity policy with RoCE v2 property settings.

**Step 6** Associate the LAN Connectivity policy to the server profile.

**Note** For more information on *Creating an Ethernet QoS, Ethernet Adapter Policy, and VMMQ Adapter Policy*, see [Configuring UCS Server Policies](#) and [Configuring UCS Server Profiles](#).

The LAN Connectivity Policy with Ethernet QoS Policy, Ethernet Adapter Policy, and VMMQ Adapter Policy are successfully created and deployed to enable RoCE v2 configuration.

### What to do next

Once the policy configuration for RoCE v2 is complete, reboot the server and proceed with the RoCE v2 Mode 2 configuration on the host operating system.

## Configuring Mode 2 on the Host System

This task uses Hyper-V virtualization software that is compatible with Windows Server 2019 and Windows Server 2022.

Follow the below procedure for the host operating system configuration for RoCEv2 Mode 2.

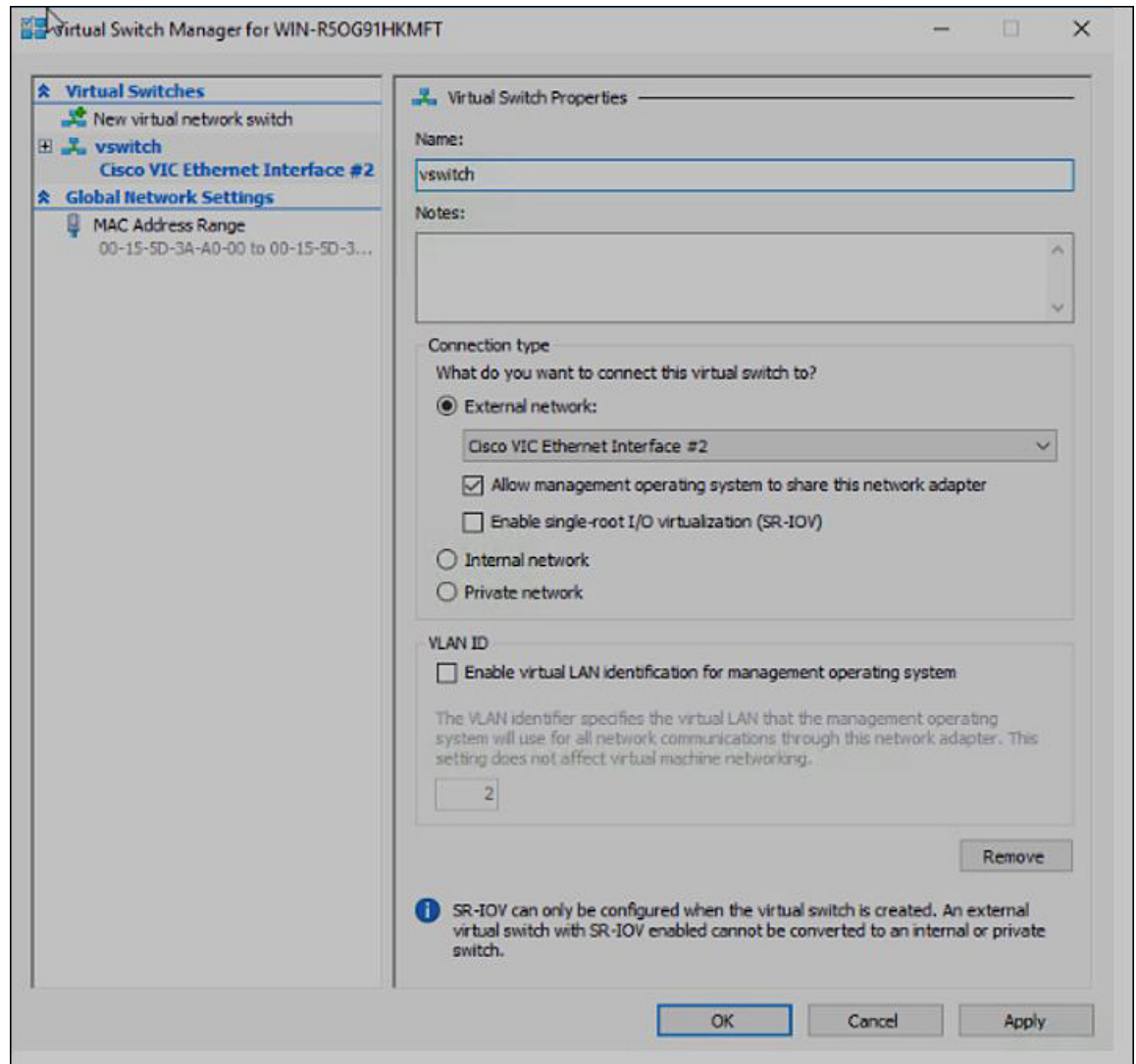
### Before you begin

- Configure and confirm the connection for Mode 1 for both Cisco Intersight and Host.
- Configure Mode 2 in Cisco Intersight.



## Procedure

- Step 1** Go to the Hyper-V switch manager.
- Step 2** Create a new Virtual Network Switch (vswitch) for the RoCE v2-enabled Ethernet interface.
- Choose **External Network** and select **VIC Ethernet Interface 2** and **Allow management operating system to share this network adapter**.
  - Click **OK** to create the virtual switch.



Bring up the Powershell interface.

- Step 3** Configure the non-default vport and enable RDMA with the following Powershell commands:

```
add-vmNetworkAdapter -switchname vswitch -name vp1 -managementOS
enable-netAdapterRdma -name "vEthernet (vp1)"
```

```
PS C:\Users\Administrator>
PS C:\Users\Administrator> add-vmNetworkAdapter -switchName vswitch -name vport1 -managementOS
PS C:\Users\Administrator> enable-netAdapterRdma -name "vEthernet (vport1)"
PS C:\Users\Administrator>
```

- a) Configure set-switch using the following Powershell command.

```
new-vmSwitch -name setswitch -netAdapterName "Ethernet x" -enableEmbeddedTeam $true
```

This creates the switch. Use the following to display the interfaces:

```
get-netadapterrdma
```

```
add-vmNetworkAdapter -switchname setswtch -name svp1
```

You will see the new vport when you again enter

```
get-netadapterrdma
```

- b) Add a vport.

```
add-vmNetworkAdapter -switchname setswtch -name svp1
```

You will see the new vport when you again enter

```
get-netadapterrdma
```

- c) Enable the RDMA on the vport:

```
enable-netAdapterRdma -name "vEthernet (svp1)"
```

**Step 4** Configure the IPV4 addresses on the RDMA enabled vport in both servers.

**Step 5** Create a share in smb-server and map the share in the smb-client.

- For smb-client and smb-server in the host system, configure the RoCE v2-enabled vNIC as described above.
- Configure the IPV4 addresses of the primary fabric and sub-vNICs in both servers, using the same IP subnet and same unique vlan for both.
- Create a share in smb-server and map the share in the smb-client.

**Step 6** Verify the Mode 2 configuration.

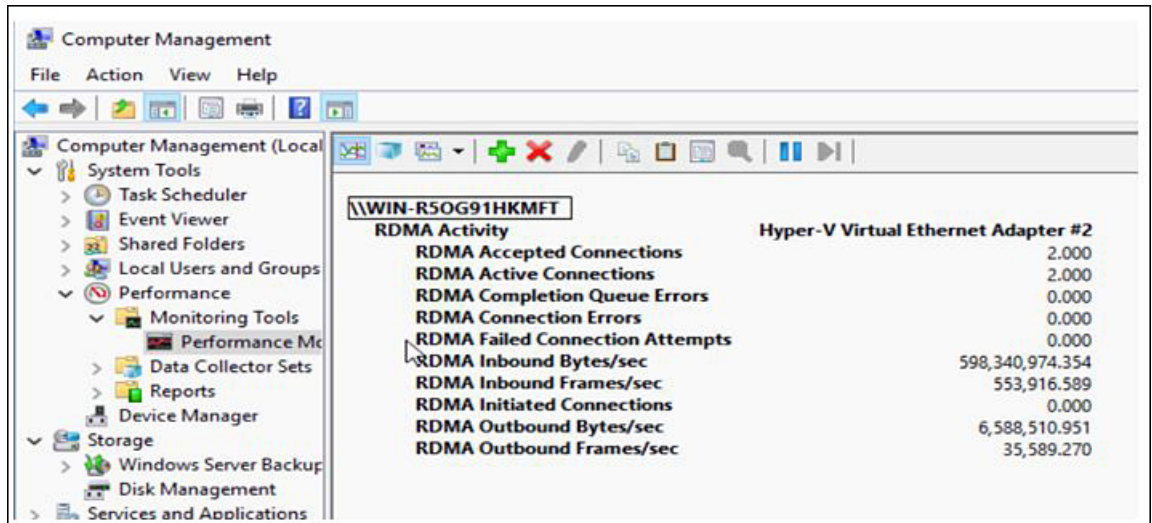
- Use the Powershell command *netstat -xan* to display listeners and their associated IP addresses.

```
PS C:\Users\Administrator>
PS C:\Users\Administrator> netstat -xan

Active NetworkDirect Connections, Listeners, SharedEndpoints
Mode    IfIndex Type                Local Address           Foreign Address         PID
-----
Kernel   9 Listener           50.37.61.23:445        NA                       0
Kernel  26 Listener           10.37.60.158:445       NA                       0
PS C:\Users\Administrator>
```

- Start any RDMA I/O in the file share in smb-client.





c) Issue the `netstat -xan` command again and check for the connection entries to verify they are displayed.

```
PS C:\Users\Administrator> netstat -xan
Active NetworkDirect Connections, Listeners, SharedEndpoints
Mode    IfIndex Type           Local Address      Foreign Address    PID
-----
Kernel  9 Connection    50.37.61.23:192    50.37.61.184:445  0
Kernel  9 Connection    50.37.61.23:448    50.37.61.184:445  0
Kernel  9 Connection    50.37.61.23:704    50.37.61.214:445  0
Kernel  9 Connection    50.37.61.23:960    50.37.61.214:445  0
Kernel  9 Connection    50.37.61.23:1216   50.37.61.224:445  0
Kernel  9 Connection    50.37.61.23:1472   50.37.61.224:445  0
Kernel  9 Connection    50.37.61.23:1728   50.37.61.234:445  0
Kernel  9 Connection    50.37.61.23:1984   50.37.61.234:445  0
Kernel  9 Listener     50.37.61.23:445    NA                 0
Kernel  26 Listener    10.37.60.158:445   NA                 0
```

**What to do next**

Troubleshoot any items if necessary.

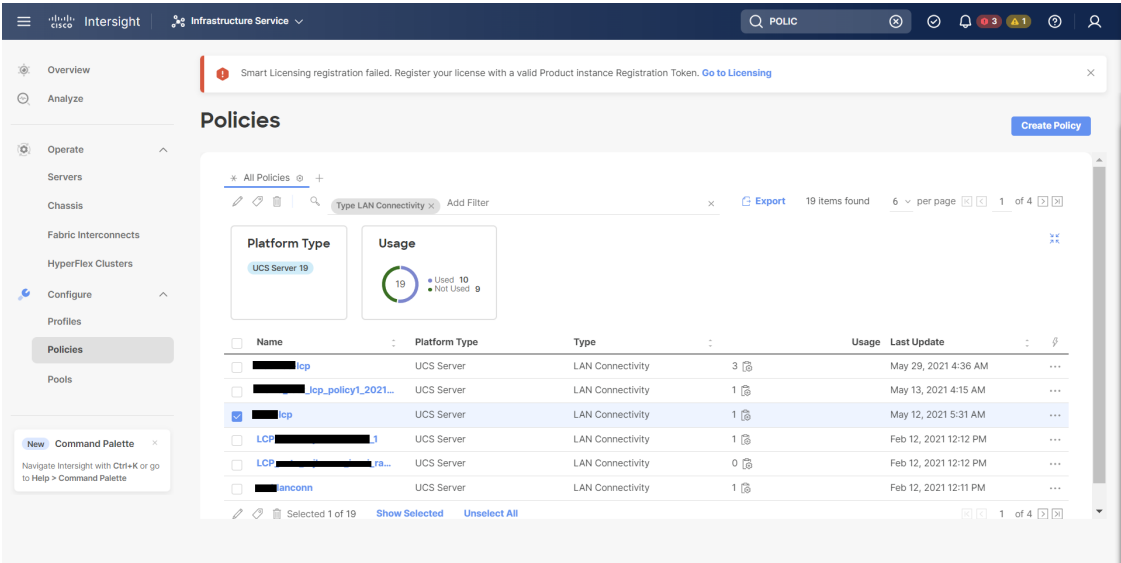
## Deleting the RoCE v2 Interface Using Cisco Intersight

Use these steps to remove the RoCE v2 interface.

**Procedure**

- Step 1** Navigate to **CONFIGURE > Policies**. In the **Add Filter** field, select **Type: LAN Connectivity**.
- Step 2** Select the appropriate LAN Connectivity policy created for RoCE V2 configuration and use the delete icon on the top or bottom of the policy list.
- Step 3** Click **Delete** to delete the policy.

Deleting the RoCE v2 Interface Using Cisco Intersight



**Step 4** Upon deleting the RoCE v2 configuration, re-deploy the server profile and reboot the server.