

# Ultimate Checkpoint Firewall R81 Lab Tasks



R81



## About Author



*I have been in the IT & Security Industry for close to 19 years now. On Checkpoint Firewall, I have achieved CCSA, CCSE & CCSE+ - Alongside got certified expertise on McAfee SIEM, IBM -QRadar SIEM & BlueCoat Security Analytics (Solera).*

*Product knowledge include multi OEMs Firewall, IPS, SSL Visibility, SIEM, SOC Operations, EDR, Security Analytics & Investigations.*

*Delivered multiple Security Deployments across clients spread to BFSI, Government, IT-ITES verticals.*

*Currently, I am trying to share some of my knowledge by means of Online Teaching via Online Platforms and creating new, unique, simple & low-cost Content for New IT aspirants.*

*Currently I have a few online courses Published and have also started my YouTube Channel. You can check out all content here*

- <https://www.udemy.com/course/checkpoint-firewall-administration-r80/?referralCode=12398B1EEF83C8D00ECD>
- <https://www.udemy.com/course/isoiec-27001-security-guidelines-for-organizational-users/?referralCode=5E63E591F2B9A9EE8C22>
- <https://www.youtube.com/c/YourITBasicsOnline> (Subscribe & Share)
- Mail to – [amit@youritbasics.online](mailto:amit@youritbasics.online)

## About The Book

*This book (600+ pages) is comprised of 25 Lab Scenarios (Step-by-Step) for various configuration scenarios for the CheckPoint Firewall version R81. The Platform used for the Lab deployment is PNET environment which is similar to EVENG platform. It is presumed that you may have a starter level knowledge about PNET Labs as well.*

## Contents

<b>Lab Task-1 ~ Deployment of CheckPoint ISO in a PNET LAB.....</b>	<b>6</b>
Download CheckPoint R81 ISO image.....	6
Install CheckPoint R81 on PNET .....	7
Add CheckPoint Node to PNET LAB.....	11
<b>Lab Task-2 ~ Deployment of Standalone CheckPoint Firewall (2-Tier).....</b>	<b>13</b>
Internet Router Configuration.....	21
Gaia OS Installation .....	23
Standalone CheckPoint Deployment (2 Tier).....	29
Smart Console Installation .....	43
SmartConsole Login .....	52
<b>Lab Task-3 ~ Deploy Basic Internet Access Firewall Policy.....</b>	<b>54</b>
Internet Access Lab (Brief).....	54
Deploy Internet Access Rule.....	55
Deploy Firewall Access Rule .....	63
Install the Policy on Standalone Firewall.....	69
Verify Internet Access from GUI Client .....	73
Observe Logs in the Logs & Monitor .....	74
<b>Lab Task-4 ~ Deployment of Distributed CheckPoint Firewall (3-Tier).....</b>	<b>76</b>
CheckPoint Distributed Deployment Lab Setup in PNET LAB.....	76
CP-R81-SmartCenter / Management Server Installation .....	87
CP-R81-Firewall Module Installation.....	97
Secure Internal Communication(SIC) – Integration for Firewall and Management Server .....	106
<b>Lab Task-5 ~ Troubleshooting Issues with SIC.....</b>	<b>123</b>
SIC Reset on Firewall object in Smart Center Server .....	123
SIC Reset on Firewall Module.....	126
SIC Reconfigure .....	128
<b>Lab Task-6 ~ CheckPoint Firewall Topology Configuration.....</b>	<b>131</b>
Add a WAN Firewall and DMZ Segment .....	131
WAN-Firewall Installation & Routing Configuration .....	138
IP Addressing & Routing in CP-Office-FW .....	138
Topology Configuration (Manual) in CP-FW-R81.....	139
Topology Configuration (Automatic) in CP-FW-R81 .....	151
CP-Office-FW Distributed Firewall Module Installation .....	155
Secure Internal Communication(SIC) – Integration for WAN Firewall and Management Server	163

Add a New Policy for CP-Office-FW.....	168
<b>Lab Task-7 ~ Configure Expert Mode &amp; Enable CheckPoint Blades.....</b>	<b>174</b>
Enable Expert Mode on Gaia Module .....	174
Enabling Blades on the Firewall Object.....	178
<b>Lab Task-8 ~ CheckPoint Implied Rules &amp; Global Properties.....</b>	<b>186</b>
Explicit Rules .....	186
Implied Rules & Global Properties .....	186
First, Last & Before Last Implied Rules.....	192
<b>Lab Task- 9 ~ Manage Security Administrators &amp; SmartConsole GUI Clients.....</b>	<b>201</b>
Adding Security Administrators from Smart Console.....	201
Adding Security Administrators from CLISH .....	208
Manage GUI clients via CLISH .....	210
Manage GUI clients via Gaia Web UI.....	213
<b>Lab Task-10 ~ CheckPoint Firewall Policy Objects.....</b>	<b>214</b>
Firewall Policy Objects.....	214
CheckPoint Host.....	214
Host Object.....	215
Network Object.....	217
Network Group Object .....	219
Address Range Object.....	220
Service Objects(Ports).....	222
Service Objects (Range of Ports) .....	227
Time Objects .....	228
<b>Lab Task-11 ~ CheckPoint Policy Layers.....</b>	<b>230</b>
Firewall Policy Layers.....	230
Ordered Layers.....	230
Inline Layers .....	230
Adding Ordered Layer.....	232
Shared Layers .....	239
Adding Inline Layers.....	244
<b>Lab Task-12 ~ Deploy an Optimized Firewall Policy.....</b>	<b>246</b>
Design Optimized Policy .....	246
Using Hit Count to Optimize Policy .....	248
<b>Lab Task-13 ~ Database Revision Control.....</b>	<b>249</b>
Database Revision Control .....	249

Lab for Database Revision Control .....	250
Change Report.....	258
Lab for Change Report .....	260
<b>Lab Task-14 ~ CheckPoint Logging Operations &amp; Log Files Management.....</b>	<b>262</b>
Logging Functionality in CheckPoint R81 .....	262
Log File Management .....	268
Log Switch Lab.....	271
<b>Lab Task-15 ~ Network Address Translation in CheckPoint Firewall .....</b>	<b>275</b>
Network Address Translation (NAT) Concepts .....	275
HIDE NAT .....	275
STATIC NAT.....	276
CheckPoint NAT LAB .....	278
HIDE NAT (Auto Configuration) .....	278
HIDE NAT (Manual Configuration) .....	288
STATIC NAT (Auto Configuration).....	294
STATIC NAT (Manual Configuration) .....	297
<b>Lab Task-16 ~ CheckPoint Firewall Clustering .....</b>	<b>309</b>
CheckPoint Clustering Lab .....	309
Cluster Members Firewall Installation .....	312
Adding Cluster Object & Cluster Members .....	314
Cluster Topology Configuration.....	320
High-Availability Cluster Configuration.....	325
High-Availability Cluster Testing .....	328
Observe High-Availability Cluster Logs .....	333
Active-Active Clustering Configuration .....	337
Observe Active-Active Cluster Logs.....	339
<b>Lab Task-17 ~ SSL Operation, CheckPoint HTTPS Inspection &amp; UTM Blades .....</b>	<b>340</b>
SSL (HTTPS) Operation & SSL (HTTPS) Inspection .....	340
HTTPS Inspection on CheckPoint (LAB) .....	343
Create Outbound CA Certificate on Firewall.....	343
Exporting the Certificate.....	344
Enable HTTPS Inspection on the Firewall.....	345
HTTPS Inspection Policy Configuration & Testing.....	345
Application Control & URL Filtering Blade .....	358
Content Awareness Blade .....	366

<b>Data Loss Prevention Blade .....</b>	373
<b>Lab Task-18 ~ CheckPoint IPS (Notes).....</b>	<b>393</b>
<b>Intrusion Prevention System(IPS) .....</b>	<b>393</b>
<b>CheckPoint IPS Blade .....</b>	<b>397</b>
<b>Infinity Threat Prevention .....</b>	<b>404</b>
<b>Lab Task-19 ~ CheckPoint Threat Prevention (Notes).....</b>	<b>406</b>
<b>Zero Day Threats.....</b>	<b>406</b>
<b>Zero-Day Threat Prevention .....</b>	<b>407</b>
<b>CheckPoint Threat Emulation.....</b>	<b>408</b>
<b>CheckPoint Threat Extraction.....</b>	<b>411</b>
<b>CheckPoint Anti-BoT .....</b>	<b>413</b>
<b>CheckPoint Anti-Virus.....</b>	<b>414</b>
<b>CheckPoint Anti-Spam &amp; Email Security .....</b>	<b>416</b>
<b>Lab Task-20 ~ CheckPoint User &amp; Client Authentication – Legacy Authentication .....</b>	<b>418</b>
<b>User Authentication.....</b>	<b>418</b>
<b>User Authentication Configuration .....</b>	<b>418</b>
<b>Creating User Groups.....</b>	<b>420</b>
<b>Creating User Template .....</b>	<b>421</b>
<b>Create Users .....</b>	<b>425</b>
<b>User Authentication Policy .....</b>	<b>428</b>
<b>Client Authentication.....</b>	<b>433</b>
<b>Client Authentication Policy Configuration .....</b>	<b>433</b>
<b>Client Authentication Properties.....</b>	<b>438</b>
<b>External TACACS Server Authentication .....</b>	<b>440</b>
<b>External RADIUS Server Authentication .....</b>	<b>444</b>
<b>Lab Task-21 ~ CheckPoint Identity Awareness Blade Configuration.....</b>	<b>447</b>
<b>CheckPoint Identity Awareness.....</b>	<b>447</b>
<b>AD server Installation .....</b>	<b>448</b>
<b>Creating Users &amp; Groups in Active Directory Server .....</b>	<b>469</b>
<b>Migration of LAN Node to Domain.....</b>	<b>483</b>
<b>CheckPoint Identity Awareness Configuration .....</b>	<b>487</b>
<b>Active Directory User Access Configuration .....</b>	<b>491</b>
<b>Guest User Access Configuration .....</b>	<b>498</b>
<b>Lab Task-22 ~ CheckPoint Backup -Restore -Snapshot .....</b>	<b>505</b>
<b>CheckPoint Backup .....</b>	<b>505</b>

<b>Backup using the Web UI.....</b>	507
<b>Restore using Web UI .....</b>	510
<b>Backup using CLISH .....</b>	514
<b>Restore using CLISH .....</b>	515
<b>Snapshot Management .....</b>	515
<b>Snapshot using Web UI.....</b>	515
<b>Snapshot Revert using Web UI.....</b>	516
<b>Snapshot using CLISH.....</b>	517
<b>Snapshot Revert using CLISH .....</b>	518
<b>Lab Task-23 ~ CheckPoint Firewall Site-to-Site VPN configuration.....</b>	519
<b>VPN Fundamentals .....</b>	519
<b>CheckPoint VPN Lab Setup .....</b>	521
<b>Site-to-Site VPN Configuration Steps .....</b>	522
<b>VPN Configuration at Site-A .....</b>	522
<b>VPN Configuration at Site-B .....</b>	542
<b>VPN Testing &amp; Troubleshooting .....</b>	560
<b>Lab Task-24 ~ CheckPoint Remote Access VPN Configuration .....</b>	566
<b>Remote Access VPN Configuration.....</b>	566
<b>Remote Access VPN Domain .....</b>	568
<b>Create VPN User Group &amp; User .....</b>	573
<b>Remote Access VPN Rule .....</b>	579
<b>VPN Client Download and Install .....</b>	583
<b>Connecting to VPN Site .....</b>	588
<b>Lab Task-25 ~ CheckPoint SSL VPN Configuration .....</b>	598
<b>SSL VPN Configuration .....</b>	598

## Lab Task-1 ~ Deployment of CheckPoint ISO in a PNET LAB

### Download CheckPoint R81 ISO image

Search for checkpoint R81 iso image download on Google as shown – and Click the support center link.

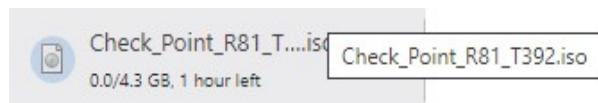
A screenshot of a Google search results page. The search query "checkpoint R81 iso image download" is entered in the search bar. Below the search bar, there are filters for "All", "Images", "News", "Maps", "Videos", and "More". The search results indicate "About 4,730 results (0.52 seconds)". A specific result is highlighted with a red box, showing the URL "https://supportcenter.checkpoint.com > portal > fileid=1..." and the title "R81 Gaia Fresh Install - Check Point Support Center". Below the title, it says "22-Oct-2020 — Download Details. R81 Gaia Fresh Install. Download ... File Name, Check\_Point\_R81\_T392.iso. Product, CloudGuard Controller, Quantum Security ...".

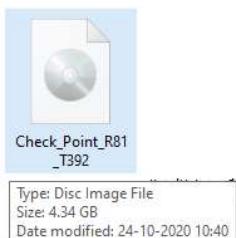
You will be redirected to the Download Page. The file name is Check\_Point\_R81\_T392.iso. Click the Download button.

A screenshot of the Check Point Support Center website. The top navigation bar includes links for "Free Demo", "Contact Us", "Support Center", "Blog", and "Resources". Below the navigation, a search bar shows the path "Support Center > Search Results > Download Details". The main content area is titled "Download Details" and shows a search bar with "R81 Gaia Fresh Install". On the right, there is a large red "Download" button. Under the title, there is a section for "Brief Description" which states "Gaia Fresh Install For Security Gateway, Security Management and Standalone". Below this is a "Details" table:

File Name	Check_Point_R81_T392.iso
Product	Quantum Security Gateways, CloudGuard Controller, Mobile Access / SSL VPN, SmartReporter / Eventia Reporter, Multi-Domain Management, SecureXL, VSX, Quantum Security Management, Endpoint Security Server, Quantum Smart-1, IPS, Data Loss Prevention, SmartEvent, Application Control, Identity Awareness, Anti-Virus, Anti-Bot, Threat Prevention, Threat Emulation, Compliance, Threat Extraction, Anti-Spam, ClusterXL
Model	TE2000X, TE1000X, TE250X, TE100X, Smart-1 625, Smart-1 525, Smart-1 5150, Smart-1 5050, Smart-1 410, Smart-1 405, Smart-1 3150, Smart-1 3050, Smart-1 225, 28600HS, 26000T, 26000, 23900, 23800, 23500, 16600HS, 16200, 16000T, 16000, 15600, 15400, 7000, 6900, 6700, 6600, 6500, 6400, 6200, 5900, 5800, 5600, 5400, 5200, 5100, 3800, 3600, 3200, 3100
Version	R81

The Download begins as shown – Roughly 4GB file. Let the Download complete.

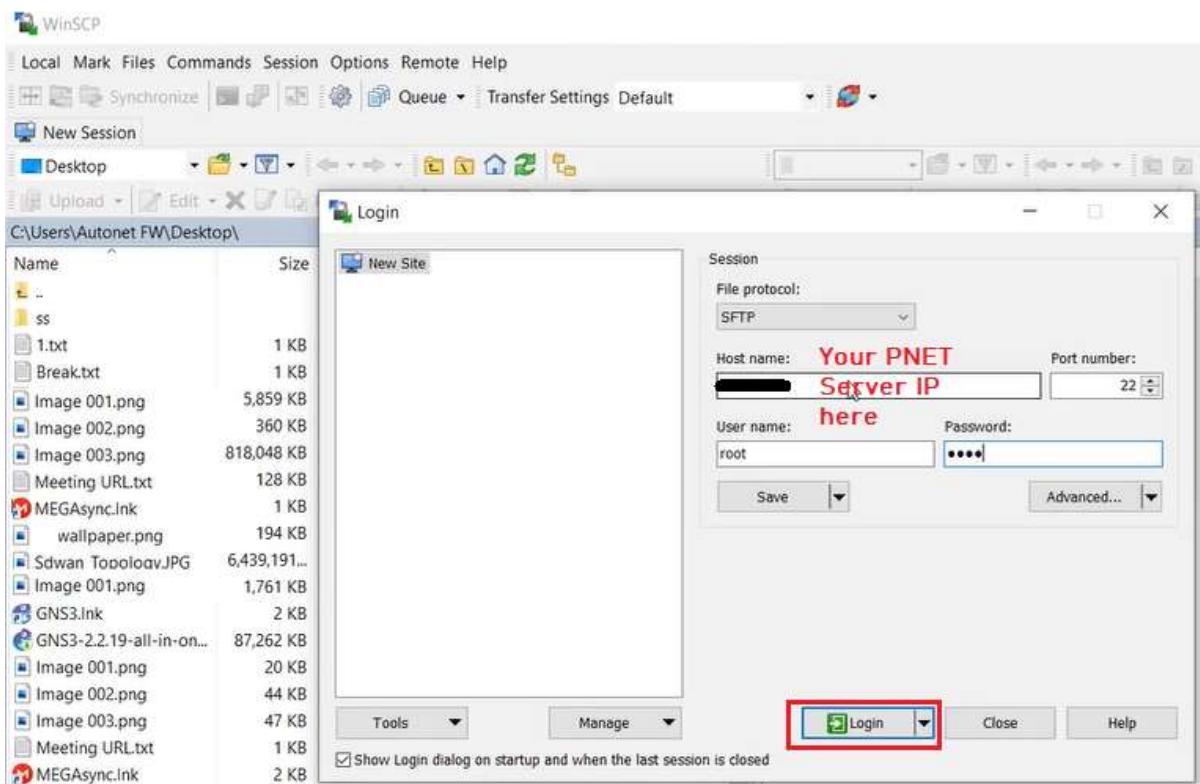




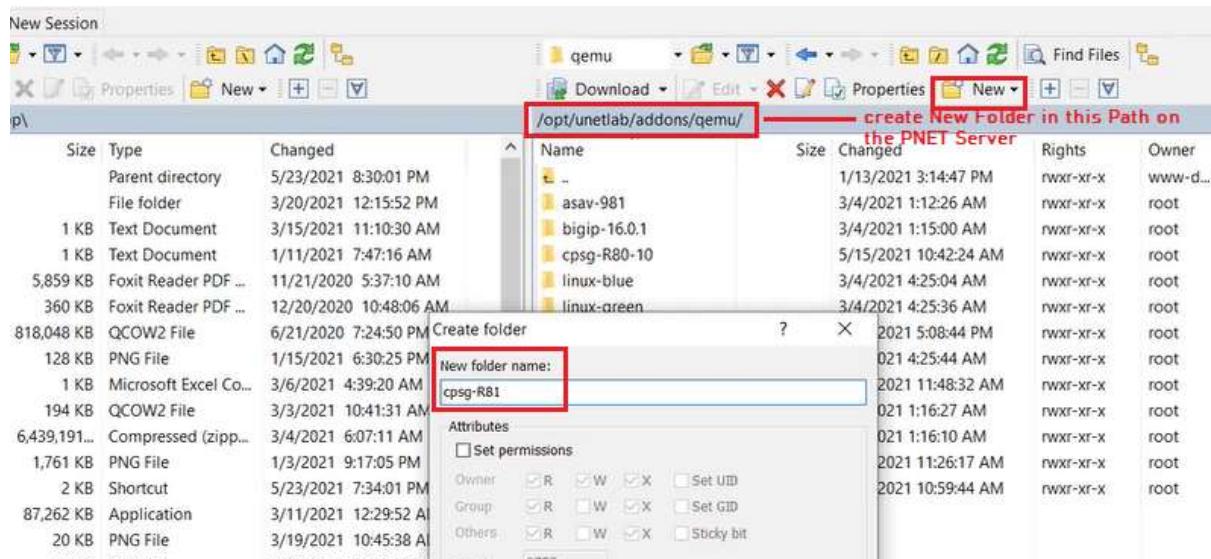
## Install CheckPoint R81 on PNET

Through a Winscp client or any other File transfer client – connect to your PNET LAB server. We will now upload the CheckPoint ISO file in the PNET server

Provide the IP / Port details and credentials of your PNET LAB server and click on Login.



Once connected to the PNET server, Create a New Folder named “cpsg-R81” in the path /opt/unetlab/addons/qemu/ . You can use the New > Folder option as shown.



The Folder is created as shown

Name	Size	Changed	Rights	Owner
..		1/13/2021 3:14:47 PM	rwxr-xr-x	www-d...
asav-981		3/4/2021 1:12:26 AM	rwxr-xr-x	root
bigip-16.0.1		3/4/2021 1:15:00 AM	rwxr-xr-x	root
cpsz-R80-10		5/15/2021 10:42:24 AM	rwxr-xr-x	root
cpsz-R81		5/28/2021 6:46:13 PM	rwxr-xr-x	root
linux-blue		3/4/2021 4:25:04 AM	rwxr-xr-x	root
linux-green		3/4/2021 4:25:36 AM	rwxr-xr-x	root
linux-host		4/14/2021 5:08:44 PM	rwxr-xr-x	root
linux-red		3/4/2021 4:25:44 AM	rwxr-xr-x	root
paloalto-9.0.4		3/15/2021 11:48:32 AM	rwxr-xr-x	root
vios-adventerprisek9...		3/4/2021 1:16:27 AM	rwxr-xr-x	root
viosl2-adventerprisek9		3/4/2021 1:16:10 AM	rwxr-xr-x	root
win-10		5/15/2021 11:26:17 AM	rwxr-xr-x	root
winserver-2008R2w		5/15/2021 10:59:44 AM	rwxr-xr-x	root

On the Left side of the window, browse to the CheckPoint ISO file path, and drag Drop the Check\_Point\_R81\_T392.iso file to the folder cpsz-R81 as shown.

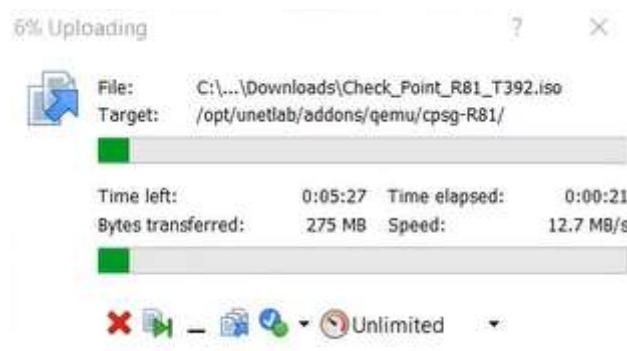
C:\Users\...\Downloads

Name	Type	Changed
..	Parent directory	5/28/2021 6:39:21 PM
SolarWinds-FT-Solar...	File folder	3/13/2021 7:50:10 PM
_Exports_pnetlab_exp...	Compressed (zipp...	3/20/2021 12:02:17 PM
Check_Point_R80.10.T...	Remote Desktop C...	5/15/2021 11:49:21 AM
Check_Point_R81_T392.iso	Remote Desktop C...	5/15/2021 11:49:21 AM
EVE-NG-Win-Client-Pa...	Remote Desktop C...	5/15/2021 11:49:22 AM
GNS3-2.2.21-all-in-on...	Remote Desktop C...	5/15/2021 11:49:21 AM
MEGAsyncSetup64.exe	Remote Desktop C...	3/5/2021 6:42:37 PM

/opt/unetlab addons/qemu/

Name	Size	Changed	Rights	Owner
..		1/13/2021 3:14:47 PM	rwxr-xr-x	www-d...
asav-981		3/4/2021 1:12:26 AM	rwxr-xr-x	root
bigip-16.0.1		3/4/2021 1:15:00 AM	rwxr-xr-x	root
cpsz-R80-10		5/15/2021 10:42:24 AM	rwxr-xr-x	root
cpsz-R81		5/28/2021 6:46:13 PM	rwxr-xr-x	root
linux-blue		3/4/2021 4:25:04 AM	rwxr-xr-x	root
linux-green		3/4/2021 4:25:36 AM	rwxr-xr-x	root
linux-host		4/14/2021 5:08:44 PM	rwxr-xr-x	root
linux-red		3/4/2021 4:25:44 AM	rwxr-xr-x	root

The file transfer will begin as shown



Once the File is uploaded, Login to the PNET server via Putty and browse to the Path

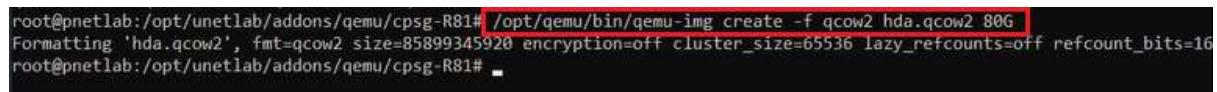
/opt/unetlab addons/qemu/cpsg-R81 and type ls command to view the files and verify that the file upload is successful.



```
OpenSSH SSH client
root@pnetlab:~#
root@pnetlab:~#
root@pnetlab:~#
root@pnetlab:~#
root@pnetlab:~#
root@pnetlab:~# cd /opt/unetlab addons/qemu/cpsg-R81
root@pnetlab:/opt/unetlab addons/qemu/cpsg-R81# ls
Check_Point_R81_T392.iso
root@pnetlab:/opt/unetlab addons/qemu/cpsg-R81# -
```

We will now create a QCOW2 image from the iso image with the following 2 command

```
mv Check_Point_R81_T392.iso cdrom.iso
/opt/qemu/bin/qemu-img create -f qcow2 hda.qcow2 80G
```

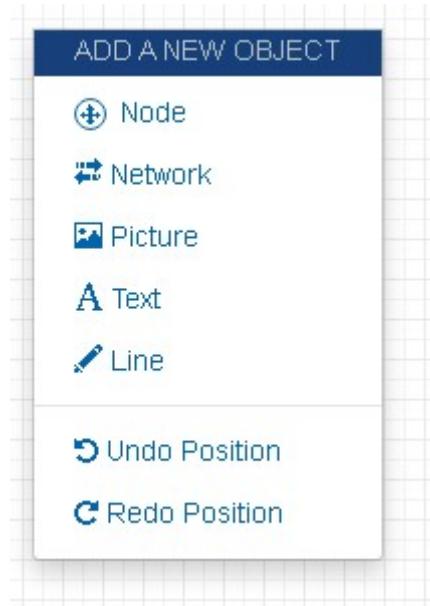


```
root@pnetlab:/opt/unetlab addons/qemu/cpsg-R81# /opt/qemu/bin/qemu-img create -f qcow2 hda.qcow2 80G
Formatting 'hda.qcow2', fmt=qcow2 size=85899345920 encryption=off cluster_size=65536 lazy_refcounts=off refcount_bits=16
root@pnetlab:/opt/unetlab addons/qemu/cpsg-R81# -
```

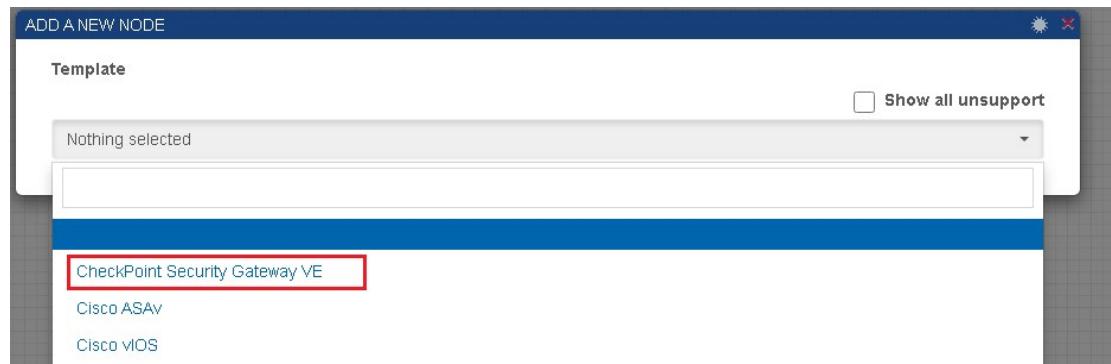
Now the CheckPoint R81 Node is ready to be added to the PNET Lab as shown below. You can create a new Lab on the PNET Console and Add the CheckPoint R81 Node as shown below

## Add CheckPoint Node to PNET LAB

Once you get access to PNET Lab Right click on Lab Area and Select "Node"



Select " CheckPoint Security Gateway VE" option



Change the Name to "CP-standalone-R81"

ADD A NEW NODE

Template  Show all unsupported

CheckPoint Security Gateway VE

Number of nodes to add: 1 Image: cpsg-R80-10

Name: CP-Standalone-R81

Description: CheckPoint Security Gateway VE

Icon: Checkpoint.png

Check the following settings on the CheckPoint Node

CPU Limit

CPU: 4	RAM (MB): 6144
--------	----------------

Primary Console: Telnet

Secondary Console: Empty

User Name:

Ethernet: 4

Qemu Arch: x86\_64

Qemu NIC: e1000

Qemu Version: 2.4.0(Default)

The CheckPoint Nodes gets added to the Lab area.

