

Re: Linux firewall vs Windows and Hardware based firewalls

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Debian/2003-07/1519.html>

From: Ron Johnson (ron.l.johnson_at_cox.net)

Date: 07/31/03

To: Debian-User <debian-user@lists.debian.org>

Date: 31 Jul 2003 11:45:04 -0500

On Thu, 2003-07-31 at 11:29, Mark Ferlatte wrote:

- > *Andre Volmensky said on Thu, Jul 31, 2003 at 04:11:14PM +1000:*
- > > *What are the advantages of a linux firewall over something like Windows*
- > > *with WinRoute on it, or even a hardware based firewall. What are the*
- > > *disadvantages etc. I know I am asking on a linux users mailing list, but*
- > > *I would also like reply's not to be too bias.*
- >
- > *I would say that the largest advantage of the hardware firewalls is stability:*
- > *you don't have to worry about disk failure. Now, you can build a Linux*
- > *firewall that loads off of a flash, but why bother when companies have done it*
- > *for you (ImageStream's Rebel routers are an example of this, which I've*
- > *personally used and am reasonably happy with).*
- >
- > *The largest disadvantage is lack of flexibility: if you want to do something*
- > *that your hardware doesn't support, you're hosed. But, for firewalls, you*
- > *generally don't want to do too much, so this isn't as much of a problem.*
- >
- > *For any small (read: DS3 or less), a PC based firewall will perform just as*
- > *well as a hardware firewall. On the other hand, do you _want_ to be paged at*
- > *4am because your PC based firewall ate a disk?*

So burn the system onto a CD. Then, no HDD, and once the system boots and all is loaded into RAM, the CD-ROM drive won't spin much either.

Flexibility is slightly harder: you must burn a new CD-R every time you change the rules, but that can be made easy, if the ISO is on your HD, and mountable by loopback, or you can put /etc on a write-protected floppy.

--

```
+-----+
| Ron Johnson, Jr.           Home: ron.l.johnson@cox.net
| Jefferson, LA  USA
|
| "I'm not a vegetarian because I love animals, I'm a vegetarian
| because I hate vegetables!"
```

Debian-User: Re: Linux firewall vs Windows and Hardware based firewalls

```
|      unknown      |
+-----+
--
To UNSUBSCRIBE, email to debian-user-request@lists.debian.org
with a subject of "unsubscribe". Trouble? Contact listmaster@lists.debian.org
```