

IPtables, netfilter, confusion...

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Debian/2004-09/3867.html>

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Date: 09/30/04

Date: Thu, 30 Sep 2004 22:50:15 +0200

To: debian-user@lists.debian.org

After posting some info about portknocking security (see thread SSH cracking attempts) I looked a bit at iptables at my system.

Result from 'iptables -L':

FATAL: Module ip_tables not found.

iptables v1.2.11: can't initialize iptables table `filter': iptables who? (do you need to insmod?)

Perhaps iptables or your kernel needs to be upgraded.

I've found a lot of links with google, but nothing really useful. It seems that my kernel (self compiled 2.6.8) doesn't support iptables.

I looked through the kernel config and found something under networking options: "network packet filtering (replaces ipchains)". But the help states that you should specify 'Y' for routers, 'N' for regular hosts – and 'N' if you're unsure. Well, I'm unsure right now...

The system to protect is a Debian web/mail/ssh server, not a router. I'm not sure if I need a firewall but it won't hurt – plus, if I can run iptables, I can try the portknocking system.

Can anyone explain firewalls & kernel 2.6? Can I still run iptables (and if yes, what should I change in my config or which module to load?) or is this network packet filtering 'the new thing'?

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