

Re: Can we run a qemu instance as a dedicated home network firewall?

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*Source:* <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Debian/2008-03/msg02514.html>

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- *From:* Mitchell Laks <[mlaks@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:mlaks@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Mon, 31 Mar 2008 00:07:03 -0400
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On 14:04 Sun 30 Mar , Douglas A. Tutty wrote:

On Sun, Mar 30, 2008 at 11:20:26AM -0400, Mitchell Laks wrote:

Can we use a virtual qemu linux machine as a firewall for a real home network?

Well, on normal i386 hardware (unlike e.g. Zseries with LPARs), virtualization doesn't gain you any security really. Think of it this way: the only way an attacker can break the firewall if its running natively on the one box, is a bug in the kernel. With virtualizaiton, you're relying on both no bugs in the kernel and no bugs in the quemu.

A very good point. Thank you.

This comes up a lot on [misc@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:misc@xxxxxxxxxxxxx) Their analysis shoes that it decreases security to use software virtualization.

Those old 486s didn't themselves take much power. If the problem is noise, you could replace the drives with industrial CF cards for the firewall.

Also a great idea. I see cf-hard drive adapters and drives are very cheap. Thank you very much,

Mitchell

doug.

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