

Re: Router/Firewall Recommendation

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To: General Red Hat Linux discussion list <redhat-list@redhat.com>

On Mon, 21 Jun 2004, Jason Dixon wrote:

> *On Jun 21, 2004, at 10:51 PM, Alejandro Calbazana wrote:*
>
>> *I was looking for some recommendations on using a standalone RH*
>> *machine as a*
>> *firewall. Right now, I have an older Linksys router which I use as a*
>> *standalone router for my broadband connection. I was considering*
>> *placing a*
>> *firewall behind my router. Other than being overly paranoid, I'd like*
>> *to do*
>> *this b/c i like the logging capability of iptables and iptables has*
>> *much*
>> *more flexibility as far as rules go. The Linksys router simply routes,*
>> *forwards, and does rudimentary logging. My questions are:*
>>
>> *1. Is the overkill from a home network?*
>
> *Not if the Linksys only performs basic NAT/routing. You'd be smart to*
> *add an advanced filtering device.*

The Linksys' NAT/firewalling can probably be turned off, making it just a router...definitely not overkill, but possibly not necessary.

>> *2. Should I just use my linux box as a router AND a firewall and ditch*
>> *the*
>> *Linksys appliance all together?*
>
> *If you're going to use the Linux firewall, the Linksys really is*
> *unnecessary. All it adds is an extra layer of*
> *complexity/routing/failure.*

This really does depend on the nature of the broadband connection, though. What is connected to the other side of the router? Is it a Cable/DSL modem, or is it the actual broadband linke?

What I've done with my Netopia Cayman router is turned it into just a

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router...I turned off the firewalling on that unit, completely, and am letting my FC1/iptables firewall handle all firewall/NAT/Masq duties.

- > > 3. *If there is room for both, how might the router allow traffic to*
- > > *flow to*
- > > *the machine I designate as my firewall?*
- >
- > *You'd end up with 2 layers of NAT translation. Way unnecessary.*

Not necessarily true. Again, this depends on the nature of the Linksys router, how its connected, etc.

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