



Practical Network Defense

Master's degree in Cybersecurity 2024-25

IPv6 addressing lab

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Lab activity



Main tasks

- Properly configure the topology provided in the lab packages
- Manual configuration
 - Via ip and via interfaces file
- Automatic configuration
 - Via SLAAC
 - Via SLAAC + stateless DHCP



Reference links

- Linux ipv6 configuration: ipv6 sysctl
 - <https://www.kernel.org/doc/Documentation/networking/ip-sysctl.txt>
- Routing Advertisement deaemon: radvd
 - <https://manpages.debian.org/testing/radvd/radvd.conf.5.en.html>
 - https://www.linuxtopia.org/online_books/network_administration_guides/Linux+IPv6-HOWTO/hints-daemons-radvd.html
- dibbler DHCPv6 server/client
 - <https://github.com/tomaszmrugalski/dibbler/raw/master/doc/dibbler-user.pdf>
- dnsmasq network Swiss-knife:
 - <https://thekelleys.org.uk/dnsmasq/docs/dnsmasq-man.html#index>



To do the activities

- We will use Kathará (formerly known as netkit)
 - A container-based framework for experimenting computer networking:
<http://www.kathara.org/>
- A virtual machine is made ready for you
 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/12w2wwdFo7jmokVxDWLUdpVWDgf4g8sRe/view>
- For not-Cybersecurity students, please have a look at the Kathará official manuals
 - <https://github.com/KatharaFramework/Kathara-Labs/tree/main/tutorials>



The kathara VM

- It should work in both Virtualbox and VMware
- It should work in Linux, Windows and MacOS
- There are some alias (shortcuts) prepared for you
 - Check with **alias**
- All the exercises can be found in the git repository:
 - <https://github.com/vitome/pnd-labs.git>
- You can move in the directory and run lstart
 - **NOTE:** the first lstart attempt can (...will...) fail



Lab activity: ex1



Exercise 1: pnd-labs/lab2/ex1

- Manually configure pc1, pc2, pc3 and pc4 in order to be in two different subnetworks and r1 to be the default gateway for all of the hosts
 - See the README file for the addresses to assign
 - Configure pc1 and pc4 using the **interfaces** file
 - Configure pc2 using the **ip** command
 - Configure pc3 using the **ifconfig** command
- The DNS server can be the server used by the host machine
 - This should be used also in the **r1**
- The default gateway must be the r1 host
 - Remember: its link-local address
- Verify connectivity within the network with ping
 - See the difference when pinging a link-local address and a GUA



Lab activity: ex2



Exercise 2: pnd-labs/lab2/ex2

- Configure the four PC in order to receive their networking configuration using SLAAC
 - Hint: this is the default!
- See the README file for the different settings
 - Start with the interface file, then set the `sysctl` parameters accordingly to the specifications
 - You can refer to <https://docs.kernel.org/networking/ip-sysctl.html>
 - **IMPORTANT:** in Katharà to make modifications with `sysctl` you need to start the lab in **privileged mode** (→ you can use the `lstart.sh` script in the directory)
- Capture the router advertisements/solicitation sent in the network
 - The `radvd` has to be started manually, so that you can launch `tcpdump` before
- Verify connectivity within the network with ping



Understanding `addr_gen_mode` parameter

- Defines how link-local and autoconf addresses are generated.
 - 0: generate address based on EUI64 (default)
 - 1: do not generate a link-local address, use EUI64 for addresses generated from autoconf
 - 2: generate stable privacy addresses, using the secret from `stable_secret` (RFC7217, see `stable_secret` parameter)
 - This allows for a balance between privacy and stability
 - 3: generate stable privacy addresses, using a random secret if unset



Understanding use_tempaddr parameter

- Preference for Privacy Extensions (RFC3041).
 - ≤ 0 : disable Privacy Extensions
 - $= 1$: enable Privacy Extensions, but prefer publicaddresses over temporary addresses.
 - > 1 : enable Privacy Extensions and prefer temporary addresses over public addresses.
- See also:
 - temp_valid_lft - INTEGER
 - valid lifetime (in sec) for temporary addresses (default: 604800, 7 days)
 - temp_prefered_lft - INTEGER
 - preferred lifetime (in sec) for temporary addresses (default: 86400, 1 day)



Lab activity: ex3

Exercise 3: pnd-labs/lab2/ex3

- Configure the router and the PC
 - Router has to correctly advertise prefix, route and stateless directive (namely, via sysctl, dnsmasq)
 - Pcs have to receive their networking configuration using SLAAC and stateless DHCP
- See the README file for the different settings
- Capture the router advertisements/solicitation sent in the network
 - You should start the `dnsmasq` in foreground (-d option), so that you can launch `tcpdump` before
- Verify connectivity within the network with ping



Dnsmasq

- Very comfortable with dual stack hosts
- It handles both IPv4 and IPv6
- With DHCP it is very useful:
 - You can use DHCPv4 to get IPv4 configuration AND to send your hostname
 - You can use DHCPv6 to get IPv6 configuration
 - If the dnsmasq is also the DNS it knows ALL the hostnames in a quite automated way



That's all for today

- **Questions?**
- See you next lecture!!