

Table Of Contents

Table Of Contents	1
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[Home](#) > [Faq](#) > [FreeBSD](#)

Reset PF Firewall Automatically While Testing Configuration With Remote Server Over SSH Session

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I'd like to tell my BSD PF firewall to flush out the current configuration every 2 minutes. This will help when I'm testing a new rules and configuration options. Some time I find myself locked out of my own remote server. How do I reset PF firewall automatically without issuing hard reboot?

There is no need to write a [shell script](#) ^[2] and call it from cron. You can load the rules from the /etc/pf.conf and sleep for 120 seconds then disable pf:

```
#/sbin/pfctl -f /etc/pf.conf && sleep 120 && /sbin/pfctl -d
```

Where,

- **-f /etc/pf.conf** - Load the rules contained in /etc/pf.conf.
- **-d** - Disable the packet filter.
- **sleep 200**: The sleep command suspends execution for a minimum of 200 seconds before calling the next command.

You can also test pf.conf for syntax errors:

```
# /sbin/pfctl -nf /etc/pf.conf
```

Finally, && (AND list) shell control operator is to be used to run next command only if, first command returns an [exit status of zero](#) ^[3]. So each command in list must be successful in order to run next command.

```
# /sbin/pfctl -nf /etc/pf.conf && /sbin/pfctl -f /etc/pf.conf && sleep 120 &&  
/sbin/pfctl -d
```

See - [How To Reset Linux Firewall Automatically While Testing Configuration With Remote Server Over SSH Session](#) ^[2]

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URLs in this post:

[1] Image: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/category/freebsd/>

[2] shell script: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/linux-iptables-firewall-flushout-configuration-every-5minutes/>

[3] exit status of zero: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/shell-displaying-error-messages.html>