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BSD PF Firewall Block FTP Bruteforce Attacks

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I see lots of failed FTP login attempts in my log file. How do I stop FTP bruteforce attack? What should I do to solve this problem under FreeBSD 7.x server operating systems?

You can easily stop bruteforce attacks by limiting connections per IP using pf firewall under FreeBSD or OpenBSD.

Open /etc/pf.conf

```
# vi /etc/pf.conf
```

Update it as follows:

```
# the lists of known FTPD attackers
table <ftp-attacks> persist file "/etc/pf.ftp.block.list"

# block all incoming connections from attackers on FTPD
block in quick on $ext_if from <ftp-attacks>

# Let us allow FTP with bruteforce protection
pass in quick on $ext_if inet proto tcp from any to ($ext_if) port 21 keep state (max-src-c
```

Above will block FTP connections more than 5 times in 40 seconds. Also append the following line to /etc/rc.shutdown to keep changes after the reboot:

```
# echo '/sbin/pfctl -t ftp-attacks -T show > /etc/pf.ftp.block.list' >> /etc/rc.shutdown
```

Finally, reload pf firewall:

```
# /etc/rc.d/pf reload
```

To list currently blocked IP (attackers IP), enter:

```
# pfctl -t ftp-attacks -T show
```

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