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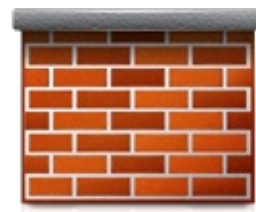
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How To Reset Linux Firewall Automatically While Testing Configuration With Remote Server Over SSH Session

Posted by [Vivek Gite](#) <vivek@nixcraft.com>

Q. I'd like to tell my Linux iptables firewall to flush out the current configuration every 5 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 Linux firewall automatically without issuing hard reboot?

A. You can easily flush out current configuration using iptables command and shell script combo. There is no built in option for this kind of settings. So you need to write a small shell script and call it from crontab file.



[1]

Create a firewall reset shell script

Create a /root/reset.fw script:

```
#!/bin/bash
# reset.fw - Reset firewall
# set x to 0 - No reset
# set x to 1 - Reset firewall
# -----
# Added support for IPV6 Firewall
# -----
# Written by Vivek Gite <vivek@nixcraft.com>
# -----
# You can copy / paste / redistribute this script under GPL version 2.0 or above
# =====
x=1

# set to true if it is CentOS / RHEL / Fedora box
RHEL=false

### no need to edit below ###
IPT=/sbin/iptables
IPT6=/sbin/ip6tables

if [ "$x" == "1" ];
then
    if [ "$RHEL" == "true" ];
    then
        # reset firewall using redhat script
        /etc/init.d/iptables stop
        /etc/init.d/ip6tables stop
    else
        # for all other Linux distro use following rules to reset firewall
        ### reset ipv4 iptables ###
        $IPT -F
        $IPT -X
        $IPT -Z
        for table in $(</proc/net/ip_tables_names)
        do
            $IPT -t $table -F
            $IPT -t $table -X
            $IPT -t $table -Z
        done
        $IPT -P INPUT ACCEPT
        $IPT -P OUTPUT ACCEPT
        $IPT -P FORWARD ACCEPT
```

```
### reset ipv6 iptables ###
$IPT6 -F
$IPT6 -X
$IPT6 -Z
for table in $(</proc/net/ip6_tables_names)
do
    $IPT6 -t $table -F
    $IPT6 -t $table -X
    $IPT6 -t $table -Z
done
$IPT6 -P INPUT ACCEPT
$IPT6 -P OUTPUT ACCEPT
$IPT6 -P FORWARD ACCEPT
fi
else
    :
fi
```

Set permissions:

```
# chmod +x /root/reset.fw
```

Create [cronjob to reset](#) ^[2] current configuration every 5 minutes, enter

```
# crontab -e
```

OR

```
# vi /etc/crontab
```

Append following settings:

```
*/5 * * * * root /root/reset.fw >/dev/null 2>&1
```

Please remember to **set x to 0** once a working configuration has been created for your Linux system.

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URLs in this post:

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

[2] cronjob to reset: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/how-do-i-add-jobs-to-cron-under-linux-or-unix-oses/>