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FreeBSD Set a Default Route / Gateway

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Q. How do I modify or set a default route for my FreeBSD server? How do I make default route configuration persistent?

FreeBSD [1]

A. The route command is used under FreeBSD to manually manipulate the network routing tables. It provides six commands:
=> **add** : Add a route.

=> **flush** :Remove all routes.

=> **delete** : Delete a specific route.

=> **change** : Change aspects of a route (such as its gateway).

=> **get** : Lookup and display the route for a destination.

=> **monitor** : Continuously report any changes to the routing information base, routing lookup misses, or suspected network partitionings.

Task: View / Display FreeBSD Routing Table

Use netstat command with -r option:

```
$ netstat -r
$ netstat -rn
```

Output:

```
Routing tables

Internet:
Destination        Gateway            Flags     Refs      Use   Netif Expire
default            61.221.xx.yy       UGS          0      247     em1
10                 10.10.110.5        UGS          0       50     em0
10.10.110/26       link#1             UC           0        0     em0
10.10.110.5        00:1b:0d:e6:58:40  UHLW         2        0     em0   1145
61.221.xx.yy/29    link#2             UC           0        0     em1
61.221.xx.yy       00:1b:0d:e6:57:c0  UHLW         2        0     em1   1055
61.221.xx/24       link#2             UC           0        0     em1
127.0.0.1          127.0.0.1          UH           0        0     lo0
```

The first two line displays default routes.

Task: FreeBSD Set a default route

All network packets that cannot be sent according to the previous entries of the routing table are sent through the following default gateway:

```
# route add default 192.168.1.254
```

How do I save routing information to a configuration file?

If you reboot FreeBSD box, the routing configuration will be lost i.e. the routing information will not persist. You need to edit /etc/rc.conf file to set defaultroute:

```
# vi /etc/rc.conf
```

Set default route by editing defaultrouter variable:

```
defaultrouter="192.168.1.254"
```

Save and close the file.

Task: Start and Stop FreeBSD Configured Interfaces

To apply changes to a configuration file, you need to stop and restart the corresponding FreeBSD networking interface [2]. The following command will also update routing information:

```
# /etc/rc.d/netif restart
# /etc/rc.d/routing stop
# /etc/rc.d/routing start
```

Further readings:

- Read man pages netstat, route, rc.conf

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URLs in this post:

[1] Image: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/faq/category/freebsd/**
[2] you need to stop and restart the corresponding FreeBSD networking interface: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/freebsd-how-to-start-restart-stop-network-service.html**