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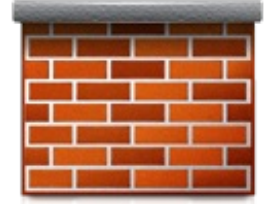
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DenyHosts: Remove / Delete an IP address

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

I've followed your guide and installed [denyhosts to protect](#) ^[2] on my RedHat 5.3 OpenSSH based server. However, I've been accidentally blocked out from my home ADSL IP address. I tried removing my blocked IP from /etc/hosts.deny, but it did blocked it again quickly. It appears that DenyHosts keeps track of the attempts somewhere on disk or memory. How do I remove my own home IP address from DenyHosts?



[1]

Simply removing your IP from /etc/hosts.deny does not work since DenyHosts keeps track of the attempts in the /usr/share/denyhosts/data directory. In order to remove your IP address you will need to do the following.

Step # 1: Stop DenyHosts

```
# /etc/init.d/denyhosts stop
```

Step # 2: Remove Your IP From /etc/hosts.deny

```
# vi /etc/hosts.deny
```

Delete your IP address. Save and close the file.

Step # 3: Remove Your IP From /usr/share/denyhosts/data Directory

Cd to /usr/share/denyhosts/data

```
# cd /usr/share/denyhosts/data
```

You need to edit the following files using vi and remove the lines containing the IP address. Save the file.

1. hosts
2. hosts-restricted
3. hosts-root
4. hosts-valid
5. users-hosts

If you've static IP address add to allowed-hosts file. Any IP address that appears in this file will not be blocked by default (consider this as a whitelist):

```
# echo '1.2.3.4' >> allowed-hosts
```

Step # 4: Start DenyHosts

```
# /etc/init.d/denyhosts start
```

Recommend Readings:

1. [Debian Linux Stop SSH User Hacking / Cracking Attacks with DenyHosts Software](#) ^[3]
2. [Top 20 OpenSSH Server Best Security Practices](#) ^[4]
3. [Denyhosts project](#) ^[5]

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URLs in this post:

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

[2] denyhosts to protect: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/rhel-linux-block-ssh-dictionary-brute-force-attacks/>

[3] Debian Linux Stop SSH User Hacking / Cracking Attacks with DenyHosts Software: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/block-ssh-attacks-with-denyhosts/>

[4] Top 20 OpenSSH Server Best Security Practices: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/linux-unix-bsd-openssh-server-best-practices.html>

[5] Denyhosts project: <http://denyhosts.sourceforge.net/>

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