# Packet filter firewall project report

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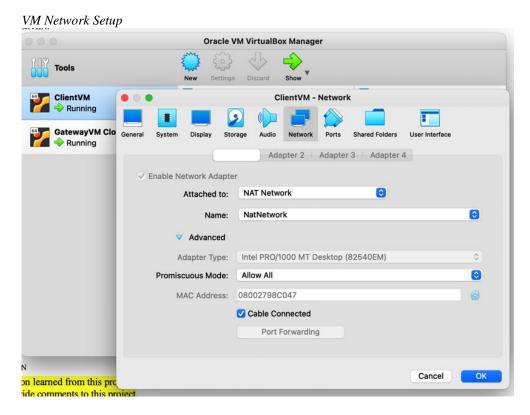
#### I. PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project implements a stateless packet filter firewall by setting up an environment based on two Linux virtual machines. One of the virtual machines fulfills its role as a gateway accessing external networks through one interface, the other one is a client VM accessing external networks through the gateway. The gateway VM also has an Apache web server running on it and the goal is to setup a whitelist policy firewall on it, that will allow the client VM only certain actions like:

- · Access web server from client vm through http and IP of gateway VM
- Not being able to ping gateway's IP
- Being able to ping Google's DNS 8.8.8.8
- Gateway should not be able to ping client VM, 8.8.8.8 nor localhost

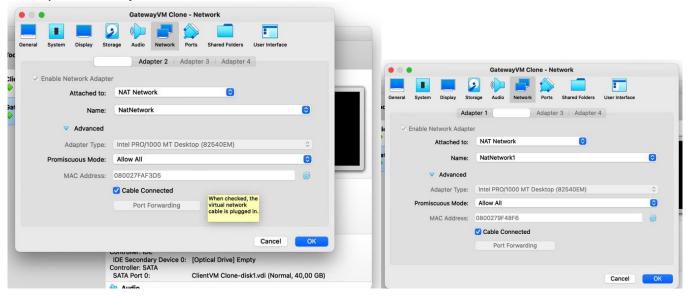
#### II. NETWORK SETUP

As described in the background labs, the following are the configurations for the two virtual machines. They were created using the provided *project1.vdi* image.



For this NatNetwork with CIDR 10.0.2.0/24 was created and assigned as Adaptor Network to the ClientVM.

## Gateway Network Setup



For the gateway VM 2 Nat Networks were assigned as network adapters, NatNetwork with CIDR 10.0.2.0/24 and NatNetwork1 with CIDR 10.0.1.0/24.

Gateway VM was created by cloning it from the ClientVM to clone the image they were both using (project1.vdi) and avoid issues with having both VMs running from the same image at the same time.

#### III. SOFTWARE

First VirtualBox was installed to Mac OS to be able to run the two virtual machines. After the two virtual machines were created, the following commands were issued on both of the machines to download some network management and diagnostic tools:

Sudo apt update
Sudo apt install net-tools
Sudo apt install traceroute
Sudo apt install wireshark
Sudo apt install ifmetric
Sudo apt install gnome-system-tools
Sudo apt install nmap

```
root@ubuntu:~# ifconfig
enp0s3: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
    inet 10.0.2.4 netmask 255.255.255.0 broadcast 10.0.2.255
    inet6 fe80::1ccc:d200:8753:cc93 prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x20<link>
    ether 08:00:27:98:c0:47 txqueuelen 1000 (Ethernet)
    RX packets 803 bytes 693021 (693.0 KB)
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 679 bytes 81284 (81.2 KB)
    TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0

lo: flags=73<UP,L00PBACK,RUNNING> mtu 65536
    inet 127.0.0.1 netmask 255.0.0.0
    inet6::1 prefixlen 128 scopeid 0x10<host>
    loop txqueuelen 1000 (Local Loopback)
    RX packets 260 bytes 22532 (22.5 KB)
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 260 bytes 22532 (22.5 KB)
    TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0
```

Running ifconfig on the client VM above reveals it's IP address 10.0.2.4 and the local network interface it's connected to enp0s3.

```
ubuntu@ubuntu: ~

File Edit View Search Terminal Help
ubuntu@ubuntu: -5 ifconfig
enp0s3: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
    inet 10.0.2.5 netmask 255.255.255.0 broadcast 10.0.2.255
    inet6 fe80::6467:e05a::5d9b::493b preftxlen 64 scopetd 0x20clink>
    ether 08:00:27:fa:f3:d5 txqueuelen 1000 (Ethernet)
    RX packets 1944 bytes 813581 (813.5 KB)
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 2122 bytes 222257 (222.2 KB)
    TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0

enp0s8: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
    inet 10.0.1.4 netmask 255.255.255.0 broadcast 10.0.1.255
    inet6 fe80::f5df:aafb:108a:964e preftxlen 64 scopetd 0x20<link>
    ether 08:00:27:9f:48:f6 txqueuelen 1000 (Ethernet)
    RX packets 208 bytes 33473 (33.4 KB)
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 331 bytes 36268 (36.2 KB)
    TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0

lo: flags=73<UP,LOOPBACK,RUNNING> mtu 65536
    inet 127.0.0.1 netmask 255.0.0.0
    inet6 ::1 preftxlen 128 scopeid 0x10</br>
    Ix errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 514 bytes 45958 (45.9 KB)
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 514 bytes 45958 (45.9 KB)
    TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0

ubuntu@ubuntu:-5 ping 10.0.2.4

PING 10.0.2.4 (10.0.2.4) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from 10.0.2.4: icmp_seq=1 ttl=64 time=0.354 ms
```

Running if config on the Gateway VM reveals the 2 network interfaces: local enp0s3 and global enp0s8. The gateway's IP is 10.0.2.5.

Apache 2 installation on gateway VM

Apache2 web server was installed on the gateway VM by using the following command: apt install apache2

The initial greeting was modified by going to /var/www/html/index.html and modifying the div containing the greeting. To be able to access the web service from the client VM the list of IP's and ports the web server listens to has been modified to include the gateway's IP. Localhost 127.0.0.1:80 remained in the list to access Apache from the gateway itself through localhost or 127.0.0.1.



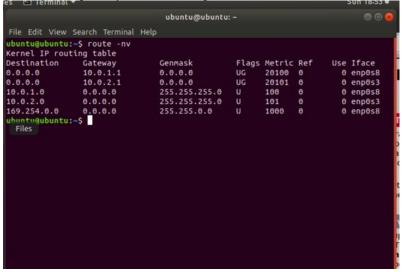
## IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

By using route - n command, the initial configuration of the client's routing tables can be seen below:

```
oot@ubuntu:~# route -n
ernel IP routing table
estination
                                                                          Flags Metric Ref
                                                                                                          Use Iface
                       Gateway
                                                 Genmask
.0.0.0
                       10.0.2.1
                                                 0.0.0.0
                                                                          UG
                                                                                    100
                                                                                                             0 enp0s3
0.0.2.0
                                                 255.255.255.0
                                                                                    100
                                                                                               0
                                                                                                              0 enp0s3
                       0.0.0.0
69.254.0.0
                       0.0.0.0
                                                 255.255.0.0
                                                                                               0
                                                                                                             0 enp0s3
                                                                                    1000
oot@ubuntu:~# ping 10.0.2.1
ING 10.0.2.1 (10.0.2.1) 56(84) bytes of data.
  bytes from 10.0.2.1: icmp_seq=1 ttl=255 time=0.166 ms
bytes from 10.0.2.1: icmp_seq=2 ttl=255 time=0.294 ms
bytes from 10.0.2.1: icmp_seq=3 ttl=255 time=0.284 ms
bytes from 10.0.2.1: icmp_seq=4 ttl=255 time=0.240 ms
  bytes from 10.0.2.1: icmp_seq=5 ttl=255 time=0.417 ms
bytes from 10.0.2.1: icmp_seq=6 ttl=255 time=0.303 ms
bytes from 10.0.2.1: icmp_seq=7 ttl=255 time=0.535 ms
  bytes from 10.0.2.1: icmp_seq=8 ttl=255 time=0.165 ms
       Stopped
                                              ping 10.0.2.1
```

It's visible the client VM was able to ping the local network and the gateway VM's ip 10.0.2.5 was not listed as a default

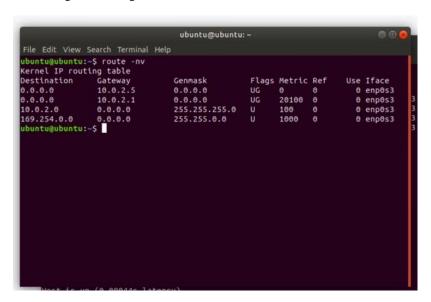
gateway. The gateway's initial routing table was:



After adding the gateway's IP to the client VM's routing table as a default gateway through command:

route add default gw 10.0.2.5 enp0s3

the routing table changed like this:



**Task 1.1**. network connectivity was solved, the client VM could successfully ping the gateway and external network and the gateway VM could successfully ping the client and the external network. Before that the gateway's firewall was checked with iptables -L to find out it had a blacklist policy.

```
root@ubuntu:~# ping 10.0.2.5

PING 10.0.2.5 (10.0.2.5) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from 10.0.2.5: icmp_seq=1 ttl=64 time=0.433 ms
64 bytes from 10.0.2.5: icmp_seq=2 ttl=64 time=0.352 ms
64 bytes from 10.0.2.5: icmp_seq=3 ttl=64 time=0.436 ms
64 bytes from 10.0.2.5: icmp_seq=4 ttl=64 time=0.600 ms
64 bytes from 10.0.2.5: icmp_seq=5 ttl=64 time=0.700 ms
64 bytes from 10.0.2.5: icmp_seq=6 ttl=64 time=0.419 ms
64 bytes from 10.0.2.5: icmp_seq=7 ttl=64 time=0.519 ms
64 bytes from 10.0.2.5: icmp_seq=8 ttl=64 time=0.519 ms
64 bytes from 10.0.2.5: icmp_seq=9 ttl=64 time=0.57 ms
64 bytes from 10.0.2.5: icmp_seq=10 ttl=64 time=0.477 ms
64 bytes from 10.0.2.5: icmp_seq=11 ttl=64 time=0.391 ms
64 bytes from 10.0.2.5: icmp_seq=11 ttl=64 time=0.391 ms
64 bytes from 10.0.2.5: icmp_seq=13 ttl=64 time=0.439 ms
64 bytes from 10.0.2.5: icmp_seq=13 ttl=64 time=0.406 ms
64 bytes from 10.0.2.5: icmp_seq=15 ttl=64 time=0.408 ms
64 bytes from 10.0.2.5: icmp_seq=15 ttl=64 time=0.728 ms
```

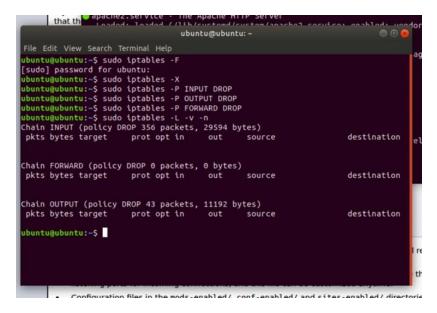
pinging the gateway worked

pinging the client vm worked

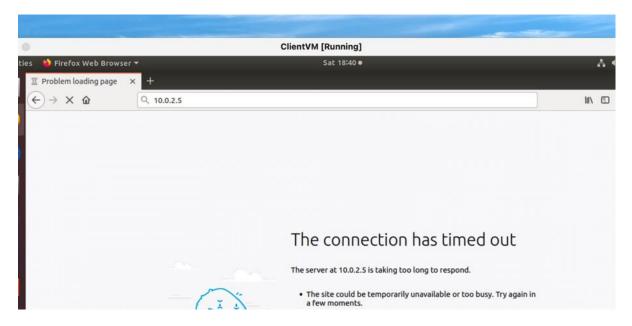
Task 1.2. Test installed software – apache2 and services

On the gateway VM, the web service was started: Service apache2 status

**Task 1.3.** Next the firewall policy on the gateway was changed from blacklist to whitelist by using the following commands. Later it was learned the rc.sh firewall script also did that every time it was run.



After changing the firewall policy, the web server was not accessible from the client VM anymore:



Next Step: Changing and running firewall script rc.sh on gateway VM

The provided rc.sh template script was changed with chmod + x rc.sh to make it an executable file and ran with ./rc.sh. It was modified to allow the following:

- Access web server from client vm through http and IP of gateway VM
- Not being able to ping gateway's IP from client VM
- Being able to ping Google's DNS 8.8.8.8
- Gateway should not be able to ping client VM, 8.8.8.8 nor localhost

The following describes a part of the firewall script, containing all the rules for the FORWARD, INPUT, OUTPUT and POSTROUTING chain rules that enforce the above:

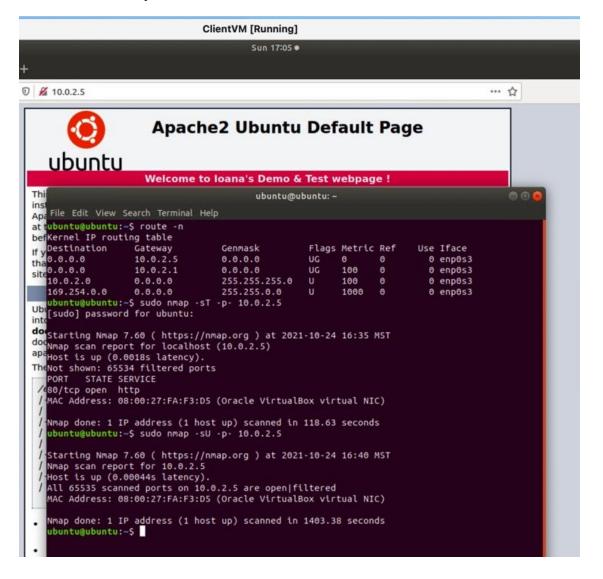
```
ESTABLISHED, RELATED - j ACCEPT
$IPTABLES -A FORWARD -p TCP -i $Client NET IFACE -o $Internet IFACE --dport 80 -j
SIPTABLES -A FORWARD -p TCP -i $Client NET IFACE -o $Internet IFACE --dport 443 -j
ACCEPT
SIPTABLES -A INPUT -p TCP -i lo -s 127.0.0.1 -j ACCEPT
SIPTABLES -A INPUT -p TCP --syn -j ACCEPT
SIPTABLES -A INPUT -p TCP -m state --state ESTABLISHED, RELATED -j ACCEPT
SIPTABLES -A INPUT -p TCP --dport 80 -i $LO IFACE -d $WEB IP ADDRESS -j ACCEPT
```

```
SIPTABLES -A INPUT -p icmp -s 10.0.2.4 -d 8.8.8.8 -j ACCEPT
$IPTABLES -A OUTPUT -p icmp -s 8.8.8.8 -j ACCEPT
SIPTABLES -A OUTPUT -o $LO IFACE -s 127.0.0.1 -j ACCEPT
SIPTABLES -A OUTPUT -p TCP -m state --state ESTABLISHED, RELATED -j ACCEPT
 PTABLES -t nat -A PREROUTING -p tcp -d $NAT WEB IP ADDRESS --dport 80 -j DNAT --to
$WEB IP ADDRESS
```

```
#####
# 5.2 POSTROUTING chain.
#
# Provide your NAT PREROUTING rules (packets go to the internet domain)
# Add your own rule below to only allow ping from client to 8.8.8.8 on internet
# Only allow client node to ping google DNS using masquerade
$IPTABLES -t nat -A POSTROUTING -p icmp -o $Internet_IFACE -d 8.8.8.8 -j MASQUERADE
#Allow Internet Traffic to HTTP/HTTPS for client to be able to update OS
$IPTABLES -t nat -A POSTROUTING -p tcp -o $Internet_IFACE --dport 80 -j MASQUERADE
$IPTABLES -t nat -A POSTROUTING -p tcp -o $Internet_IFACE --dport 443 -j MASQUERADE
```

After the firewall script is run with ./rc.sh the following are enforced:

The client vm can access the demo webpage by accessing gateway's IP and stats for sudo nmap for gateway IP through TCP and UDP are also provided:



The client cannot ping the gateway IP or any other IP, except for 8.8.8.8:

```
ClientVM [Running]
                                                 Sun 19:45 •
                                              ubuntu@ubuntu: ~
 File Edit View Search Terminal Help
ubuntu@ubuntu:-$ ping 10.0.2.5
PING 10.0.2.5 (10.0.2.5) 56(84) bytes of data.
[1]+ Stopped
                                    ping 10.0.2.5
ubuntu@ubuntu:~$ ping 8.8.8.8
PING 8.8.8.8 (8.8.8.8) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=1 ttl=116 time=34.7 ms
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=2 ttl=116 time=32.0 ms
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=3 ttl=116 time=30.6 ms
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=4 ttl=116 time=28.9 ms
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=5 ttl=116 time=27.5 ms
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=6 ttl=116 time=12.9 ms
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=7 ttl=116 time=23.8 ms
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=8 ttl=116 time=21.7 ms
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=9 ttl=116 time=19.5 ms
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=10 ttl=116 time=19.7 ms
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=11 ttl=116 time=20.2 ms
^[z64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=12 ttl=116 time=20.3 ms
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=13 ttl=116 time=12.8 ms
                                    ping 8.8.8.8
[2]+ Stopped
ubuntu@ubuntu:~$ ping 8.8.4.4
PING 8.8.4.4 (8.8.4.4) 56(84) bytes of data.
[3]+ Stopped
                                    ping 8.8.4.4
ubuntu@ubuntu: $
```

The gateway has setup the webpage to its own IP as it is visible from the screenshots taken that access it through 10.0.2.5 on Client VM and as it was described in ports.conf. The gateway can access its own web service through localhost or 127.0.0.1 thanks to the firewall rules that allow loopback traffic (view above in firewall rules):



**POSTROUTING has also been enabled as is visible here in the firewall script**, this allows client vm to ping 8.8.8.8 and changes their source IP address to that of the gateway.

```
#####
# 5.2 POSTROUTING chain.
#
# Provide your NAT PREROUTING rules (packets go to the internet domain)
# Add your own rule below to only allow ping from client to 8.8.8.8 on internet
# Tiriac: Only allow client node to ping google DNS using masquerade

$IPTABLES -t nat -A POSTROUTING -p icmp -o $Internet_IFACE -d 8.8.8.8 -j MASQUERADE
# Tiriac: Allow Internet Traffic to HTTP/HTTPS for client to be able to update OS
$IPTABLES -t nat -A POSTROUTING -p tcp -o $Internet_IFACE --dport 80 -j MASQUERADE
$IPTABLES -t nat -A POSTROUTING -p tcp -o $Internet_IFACE --dport 443 -j MASQUERADE
```

Further, the following are not possible on the gateway VM:

• Ping localhost and ping client VM (it's IP is 10.0.2.4)

```
root@ubuntu:/home/ubuntu# ./rc.sh
root@ubuntu:/home/ubuntu# ./rc.sh
root@ubuntu:/home/ubuntu# ./rc.sh
root@ubuntu:/home/ubuntu# ping localhost
PING localhost (127.0.0.1) 56(84) bytes of data.
ping: sendmsg: Operation not permitted
```

• Ping 8.8.8.8 is also not possible

```
root@ubuntu: /home/ubuntu
oing: sendmsg: Operation not permitted
       sendmsg:
                     Operation not
                                          permitted
      sendmsg:
                     Operation not
                                          permitted
ing: sendmsg: Operation not permitted
       sendmsg:
                     Operation not permitted
                     Operation not permitted
       sendmsg:
       sendmsg: Operation not permitted
oing: sendmsg: Operation not permitted
       sendmsg: Operation not permitted
                                            ping localhost
 oot@ubuntu:/home/ubuntu# ping 10.0.2.4
ING 10.0.2.4 (10.0.2.4) 56(84) bytes of data.
ping: sendmsg: Operation not permitted
ping: sendmsg: Operation not permitted
ping: sendmsg: Operation not permitted
       sendmsg:
                     Operation not permitted
                     Operation not permitted
[2]+ Stopped ping 10.0.2.4 root@ubuntu:/home/ubuntu# ping 8.8.8.8 PING 8.8.8.8 (8.8.8.8) 56(84) bytes of data. ping: sendmsg: Operation not permitted ping: sendmsg: Operation not permitted ping: sendmsg: Operation not
        sendmsg: Operation not permitted
        sendmsg: Operation not permitted
                                            ping 8.8.8.8
```

## V. CONCLUSION

- This project has helped me recap basic linux commands and helped me learn use networking tools like netstat, ifconfig
  and route.
- It has helped me understand how to configure a firewall script on a gateway and how to debug it in case of need.
- I've understood how to use iptables and chain rules to setup a firewall policy.

## VI. APPENDIX B: ATTACHED FILES

The modified firewall script rc.sh has been attached to the .zip archive and contains all the added rules that enforce this lab's assessments and their corresponding comments.

Screenshots have been taken for the web server's configuration files: ports.conf and index.html.

## VII. REFERENCES

- [1] https://linux.die.net/man/8/iptables
- [2] https://www.redhat.com/sysadmin/netstat
- [3] https://goinbigdata.com/demystifying-ifconfig-and-network-interfaces-in-linux/