

Linux server

Home assignment

Timo Lehosvuo
M3426

Fall 2019
Information and Communication Technology
Cyber Security

1 Introduction

My home assignment was to create and host my own server for freely selective purpose. I decide to create a Minecraft server on my laptop in a virtual environment using VirtualBox.

2 Getting started

I downloaded CentOS 7 from <https://wiki.centos.org/Download> to run the server on.



After firing up the virtual machine I had to install packages “git” and “Development Tools” to be able to build “mcrcon tool” using the “yum install” command:

```

Installed:
  git.x86_64 0:1.8.3.1-20.el7

Dependency Installed:
  perl.x86_64 4:5.16.3-294.el7_6
  perl-Encode.x86_64 0:2.51-7.el7
  perl-Exporter.noarch 0:5.68-3.el7
  perl-File-Temp.noarch 0:0.23.01-3.el7
  perl-Getopt-Long.noarch 0:2.40-3.el7
  perl-HTTP-Tiny.noarch 0:0.033-3.el7
  perl-Pod-Escapes.noarch 1:1.04-294.el7_6
  perl-Pod-Simple.noarch 1:3.28-4.el7
  perl-Scalar-List-Utils.x86_64 0:1.27-248.el7
  perl-Storable.x86_64 0:2.45-3.el7
  perl-Text-ParseWords.noarch 0:3.29-4.el7
  perl-Time-Local.noarch 0:1.2300-2.el7
  perl-libs.x86_64 4:5.16.3-294.el7_6
  perl-parent.noarch 1:0.225-244.el7
  perl-threads.x86_64 0:1.87-4.el7
  rsync.x86_64 0:3.1.2-6.el7_6.1

Complete!
[root@localhost ~]#

```

```

mpir.x86_64 0:3.1.1-4.el7
nettle.x86_64 0:2.7.1-8.el7
perl-Data-Dumper.x86_64 0:2.145-3.el7
perl-Thread-Queue.noarch 0:3.02-2.el7
perl-srpm-macros.noarch 0:1-8.el7
subversion-libs.x86_64 0:1.7.14-14.el7
systemtap-devel.x86_64 0:4.0-10.el7_7
trousers.x86_64 0:0.3.14-2.el7
zip.x86_64 0:3.0-11.el7

```

```

Complete!
[root@localhost ~]#

```

Development Tools

In order to be able to run Minecraft I needed to download Java 8. There are newer Java versions (9, 10, 11), but these versions have known bugs that might crash or slow the server. I download the headless version because it uses less system resources and has fewer dependencies:

```

Installed:
  java-1.8.0-openjdk-headless.x86_64 1:1.8.0.232.b09-0.el7_7

Dependency Installed:
  copy-jdk-configs.noarch 0:3.3-10.el7_5          cups-libs.x86_64
  javapackages-tools.noarch 0:3.4.1-11.el7         libjpeg-turbo.x
  libxslt.x86_64 0:1.1.28-5.el7                   lksctp-tools.x8
  pscs-lite-libs.x86_64 0:1.8.8-8.el7              python-javapack
  python-lxml.x86_64 0:3.2.1-4.el7                 tzdata-java.noa

Complete!
[root@localhost ~]#

```

```

Complete!
[root@localhost ~]# java -version
openjdk version "1.8.0_232"
OpenJDK Runtime Environment (build 1.8.0_232-b09)
OpenJDK 64-Bit Server VM (build 25.232-b09, mixed mode)
[root@localhost ~]#

```

I also updated all my packages with “yum update” so there were no outdated ones:

```

[root@localhost ~]# yum update
Loaded plugins: fastestmirror
Loading mirror speeds from cached hostfile
* base: ftp.lysator.liu.se
* extras: ftp.lysator.liu.se
* updates: ftp.lysator.liu.se
No packages marked for update
[root@localhost ~]#

```

The service should not be run as “root” so I created a user “Minecraft” specifically to run the service:

```

[root@localhost ~]# useradd -r -m -U -d /opt/minecraft -s /bin/bash minecraft
[root@localhost ~]#

```

parameters:

-r = creates a system account

-m = creates a home directory

-U = creates a group with the same name as the user and adds the user to it

-d = user's home directory is used as login directory

-s = name of the user's login shell

Giving then user a password is a bad idea since it makes it possible to login via SSH so

I left that out. I switched over to user "Minecraft" and created three folders

(backups, tools, server) in the home directory:

```
[root@localhost ~]# su - minecraft
[minecraft@localhost ~]# mkdir -p ~/backups,tools,server
[minecraft@localhost ~]# cd
[minecraft@localhost ~]# ls
backups  server  tools
```

Navigated to the folder "tools" and copied the "mcrcon" source code from github:

```
[minecraft@localhost ~]# cd ~/tools && git clone https://github.com/Tiiffi/mcrcon.git
Cloning into 'mcrcon'...
remote: Enumerating objects: 92, done.
remote: Counting objects: 100% (92/92), done.
remote: Compressing objects: 100% (64/64), done.
remote: Total 391 (delta 52), reused 46 (delta 28), pack-reused 299
Receiving objects: 100% (391/391), 92.09 KiB | 0 bytes/s, done.
Resolving deltas: 100% (220/220), done.
[minecraft@localhost tools]#
```

then built the mcrcon:

```
[minecraft@localhost mcrcon]# gcc -std=gnu11 -pedantic -Wall -Wextra -O2 -s -o mcrcon mcrcon.c
```

and tested that it worked:

```

[minecraft@localhost mcrcon]$ ./mcrcon -h
Usage: mcrcon [OPTIONS]... [COMMANDS]...

Sends rcon commands to Minecraft server.

Option:
  -h          Print usage
  -H          Server address
  -P          Port (default is 25575)
  -p          Rcon password
  -t          Interactive terminal mode
  -s          Silent mode (do not print received packets)
  -c          Disable colors
  -r          Output raw packets (debugging and custom handling)
  -v          Output version information

Server address, port and password can be set using following environment variables:
  MCRCON_HOST
  MCRCON_PORT
  MCRCON_PASS

Command-line options will override environment variables.
Rcon commands with arguments must be enclosed in quotes.

Example:
  mcrcon -H my.minecraft.server -p password "say Server is restarting!" save-all stop

mcrcon 0.6.1 (built: Dec  5 2019 16:07:17)
Report bugs to tiiffi_at_gmail_dot_com or https://github.com/Tiiffi/mcrcon/issues/

[minecraft@localhost mcrcon]$

```

Now I can connect to the Minecraft server and execute commands.

Finally, I downloaded the actual Minecraft server from the Minecrafts official page:

```

[minecraft@localhost server]$ wget https://launcher.mojang.com/v1/objects/3dc3d84a581f14691199cf6831b71ed1296a9fdf/server.jar ~/server

```

3 Configuration

Starting the Minecraft server:

```

[minecraft@localhost server]$ java -Xmx1024M -Xms512M -jar server.jar

```

I needed to change the properties and agree on the EULA:

```

[minecraft@localhost server]$ nano eula.txt

```

```

#By changing the
#Sun Dec 08 19:0
eula=true_

```

Changed the value from false to true

```

enable-rcon=true
rcon.port=25575
server-port=25565
server-ip=
spawn-npcs=true
allow-flight=false
level-name=world
view-distance=10
resource-pack=
spawn-animals=true
white-list=false
rcon.password=kissa123
generate-structures=true
online-mode=true
max-build-height=256
level-seed=
prevent-proxy-connections=false
use-native-transport=true
motd=A Minecraft Server
enable-rcon=true

```

Changed "enable-rcon" from false to true and gave rcon a password (rcon.password=kissa123)

Then I created a system unit file minecraft.service in the /etc/systemd/system directory (needed to switch to root for this):

```
[root@localhost server]# nano /etc/systemd/system/minecraft.service
```

```

[Unit]
Description=Minecraft Server
After=network.target

[Service]
User=mincraft
Nice=1
KillMode=none
SuccessExitStatus=0 1
ProtectHome=true
ProtectSystem=full
PrivateDevices=true
NoNewPrivileges=true
WorkingDirectory=/opt/minecraft/server
ExecStart=/usr/bin/java -Xmx1024M -Xms512M -jar server.jar nogui
ExecStop=/opt/minecraft/tools/mcrcon/mcrcon -H 127.0.0.1 -P 25575 -p kissa123 stop

[Install]
WantedBy=multi-user.target

```

The "user=mincraft" parameter means that the user mincraft runs the service instead of root, which is good for security

Restarted the daemon so to changes would come to an effect:

```

[root@localhost server]# systemctl daemon-reload
[root@localhost server]#

```

Then started the Minecraft service and enabled it to start on boot:

```
[root@localhost server]# systemctl start minecraft
[root@localhost server]# systemctl enable minecraft
[root@localhost server]# systemctl status minecraft
■ minecraft.service - Minecraft Server
   Loaded: loaded (/etc/systemd/system/minecraft.service; enabled; vendor preset: disabled)
   Active: active (running) since Sun 2019-12-08 18:49:27 EET; 47min ago
 Main PID: 1063 (java)
   CGroup: /system.slice/minecraft.service
           └─1063 /usr/bin/java -Xmx1024M -Xms512M -jar server.jar nogui
```

I wanted to be able to connect to the server from outside of my local network so I needed to open a port for the server:

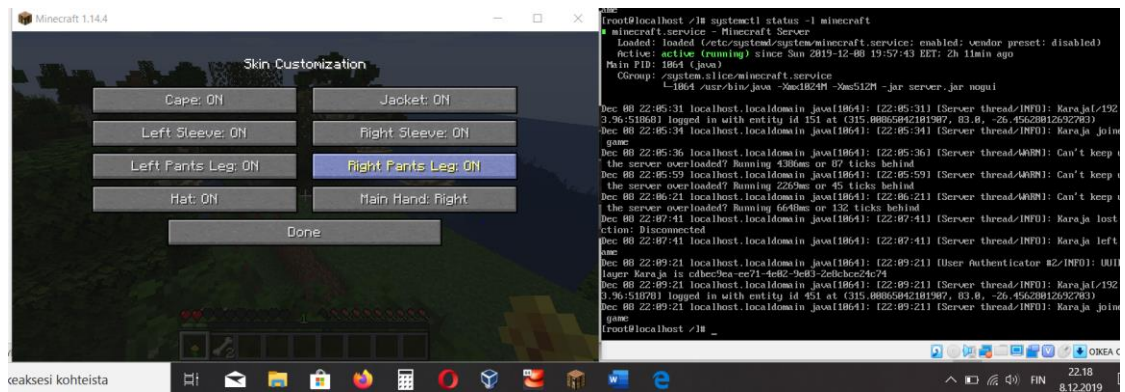
```
[root@localhost server]# firewall-cmd --permanent --zone=public --add-port=25565/tcp
success
[root@localhost server]# firewall-cmd --reload
success
[root@localhost server]#
```

Tested if I could access the terminal and play the actual game (I could):

```
[minecraft@localhost ~]$ /opt/minecraft/tools/mcrcon/mcrcon -H 127.0.0.1 -P 30010 -p kissa123 -t
Logged in. Type "Q" to quit!
>
```

```
inet 192.168.43.223/24
   valid_lft 2879sec preferred_lft 0
inet6 fe80::6d5c:2cb5:9
   valid_lft forever preferred_lft 0
[minecraft@localhost ~]$ _
```





I also wanted to backup the server everyday and to do this I used a script and crontab.

Creating the backup file and the script:

```
[minecraft@localhost ~]$ nano /opt/minecraft/tools/backup.sh
```

```
#!/bin/bash

function rcon {
    /opt/minecraft/tools/mcrcon/mcrcon -H 127.0.0.1 -P 25575 -p kissa123 "$1"
}

rcon "save-off"
rcon "save-all"
tar -cvpzf /opt/minecraft/backups/server-$(date +%F_%R).tar.gz /opt/minecraft/server
rcon "save-on"

## Delete older backups
find /opt/minecraft/backups/ -type f -mtime +7 -name '*.gz' -delete
```

In order for the script to be executable I needed to change the permissions:

```
[minecraft@localhost ~]$ chmod +x /opt/minecraft/tools/backup.sh
```

finally the crontab and checked that it works:

```
"/tmp/crontab.1drvHL" 1L, 42C written
crontab: installing new crontab
[minecraft@localhost tools]$ crontab -l
0 23 * * * /opt/minecraft/tools/backup.sh
[minecraft@localhost tools]$ _
```

cronjob runs once a day at 23.00

```
[minecraft@localhost backups]$ ls
server-2019-12-06_23:00.tar.gz
```


4 Configuration for security

The first thing I did was to make sure SELinux was enable and enforcing:

```
[root@localhost ssh]# sestatus
SELinux status:                enabled
SELinuxfs mount:              /sys/fs/selinux
SELinux root directory:       /etc/selinux
Loaded policy name:            targeted
Current mode:                  enforcing
Mode from config file:        enforcing
Policy MLS status:             enabled
Policy deny_unknown status:    allowed
Max kernel policy version:     31
[root@localhost ssh]#
```

Changed root password and made sure user “minecraft” does not have a password:

```
[root@localhost minecraft]# passwd
Changing password for user root.
New password:
Retype new password:
passwd: all authentication tokens updated successfully.
[root@localhost minecraft]#
```

```
[root@localhost ssh]# passwd -d minecraft
Removing password for user minecraft.
passwd: Success
```

Removed remote root login via SSH, password authentication and changed SSH port.

These are located in the file /etc/ssh/sshd_config:

```
# Authentication:
#LoginGraceTime 2m
#PermitRootLogin yes
PermitRootLogin no_
#StrictModes yes
#MaxAuthTries 6
#MaxSessions 10
```

```
#PermitEmptyPasswords no
PasswordAuthentication no
```

```
#
Port 967
#AddressFamily any
#ListenAddress 0.0.0.0
#ListenAddress ::
```

Changed the port in the SELinux system:

```
[root@localhost minecraft]# semanage port -a -t ssh_port_t -p tcp 967
```

```
[root@localhost sysconfig]# semanage port -l | grep ssh
ssh_port_t          tcp          967, 22
[root@localhost sysconfig]#
```

```
■ sshd.service - OpenSSH server daemon
   Loaded: loaded (/usr/lib/systemd/system/sshd.service; enabled; vendor preset: enabled)
   Active: active (running) since Sun 2019-12-08 14:58:34 EET; 7s ago
     Docs: man:sshd(8)
           man:sshd_config(5)
  Main PID: 1971 (sshd)
    CGroup: /system.slice/sshd.service
            └─1971 /usr/sbin/sshd -D

Dec 08 14:58:34 localhost.localdomain systemd[1]: Stopped OpenSSH server daemon.
Dec 08 14:58:34 localhost.localdomain systemd[1]: Starting OpenSSH server daemon...
Dec 08 14:58:34 localhost.localdomain sshd[1971]: Server listening on 0.0.0.0 port 967.
Dec 08 14:58:34 localhost.localdomain sshd[1971]: Server listening on :: port 967.
Dec 08 14:58:34 localhost.localdomain systemd[1]: Started OpenSSH server daemon.
[root@localhost sysconfig]#
```

Did the same thing for the server and rcon-ports:

```
max-tick-time=60000
query.port=30000
generator-settings=
force-gamemode=false
allow-nether=true
enforce-whitelist=false
gamemode=survival
broadcast-console-to-ops=true
enable-query=false
player-idle-timeout=0
difficulty=easy
spawn-monsters=true
broadcast-rcon-to-ops=true
op-permission-level=4
pvp=true
snooper-enabled=true
level-type=default
hardcore=false
enable-command-block=false
max-players=20
network-compression-threshold=256
resource-pack-sha1=
max-world-size=29999984
function-permission-level=2
rcon.port=30010
server-port=30000
```

```
[Unit]
Description=Minecraft Server
After=network.target

[Service]
User=mincraft
Nice=1
Killmode=none
SuccessExitStatus=0 1
ProtectHome=true
ProtectSystem=full
PrivateDevices=true
NoNewPrivileges=true
WorkingDirectory=/opt/minecraft/server
ExecStart=/usr/bin/java -Xmx1024M -Xms512M -jar server.jar nogui
ExecStop=/opt/minecraft/tools/mcrcon/mcrcon -H 127.0.0.1 -P 30010 -p kissa123 stop

[Install]
WantedBy=multi-user.target
```

I used nmap to scan my own server to see any open ports and gets some hints for possible services I do not need:

```
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 4.75 seconds
root@kali:~# nmap 192.168.43.222
Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2019-12-08 09:21 EST
Nmap scan report for 192.168.43.222
Host is up (0.0065s latency).
Not shown: 990 filtered ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE
25/tcp    open  smtp
110/tcp   open  pop3
119/tcp   open  nntp
143/tcp   open  imap
465/tcp   open  smtps
563/tcp   open  snews
587/tcp   open  submission
993/tcp   open  imaps
995/tcp   open  pop3s
30000/tcp open  ndmps

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 5.90 seconds
root@kali:~#
```

A lot of mail services and ports. Disabled a postfix service:

```
[root@localhost sysconfig]# systemctl stop -l postfix
[root@localhost sysconfig]# systemctl disable -l postfix
Removed symlink /etc/systemd/system/multi-user.target.wants/postfix.service.
[root@localhost sysconfig]# systemctl status -l postfix
■ postfix.service - Postfix Mail Transport Agent
   Loaded: loaded (/usr/lib/systemd/system/postfix.service; disabled; vendor preset: disabled)
   Active: inactive (dead)

Dec 08 13:36:22 localhost.localdomain systemd[1]: Starting Postfix Mail Transport Agent...
Dec 08 13:36:23 localhost.localdomain postfix/master[1300]: daemon started -- version 2.10.1, config
uration /etc/postfix
Dec 08 13:36:23 localhost.localdomain systemd[1]: Started Postfix Mail Transport Agent.
Dec 08 15:16:14 localhost.localdomain systemd[1]: Stopping Postfix Mail Transport Agent...
Dec 08 15:16:14 localhost.localdomain postfix/postfix-script[2091]: stopping the Postfix mail system
Dec 08 15:16:14 localhost.localdomain postfix/postfix-script[2094]: waiting for the Postfix mail sys
tem to terminate
Dec 08 15:16:15 localhost.localdomain systemd[1]: Stopped Postfix Mail Transport Agent.
[root@localhost sysconfig]#
```

Reset my iptables rules and made some new ones:

```
[root@localhost ~]# iptables -F
```

```
[root@localhost ~]# iptables -A INPUT -p tcp --tcp-flags ALL NONE -j DROP
[root@localhost ~]# iptables -A INPUT -p tcp ! --syn -m state --state NEW -j DROP
[root@localhost ~]# iptables -A INPUT -p tcp --tcp-flags ALL ALL -j DROP
[root@localhost ~]# iptables -A INPUT -i lo -j ACCEPT
[root@localhost ~]# iptables -A INPUT -p tcp -m tcp --dport 967 -j ACCEPT
[root@localhost ~]# iptables -I INPUT -m state --state ESTABLISHED,RELATED -j ACCEPT
[root@localhost ~]# iptables -P OUTPUT ACCEPT
[root@localhost ~]# iptables -P INPUT DROP
[root@localhost ~]#
```

I also opened the necessary ports for my minecraft server (30000, 30010)

1st line blocks null packets

2nd line blocks syn-flood attacks

3rd line blocks XMAS packets

4th adds localhost interface

and here is what I am left with:

```
[root@localhost sysconfig]# netstat -tulnp
Active Internet connections (only servers)
Proto Recv-Q Send-Q Local Address           Foreign Address         State       PID/Program name
tcp        0      0 0.0.0.0:967             0.0.0.0:*               LISTEN      1971/sshd
tcp6       0      0 :::30010                :::*                    LISTEN      1057/java
tcp6       0      0 :::967                  :::*                    LISTEN      1971/sshd
tcp6       0      0 :::30000                :::*                    LISTEN      1057/java
udp        0      0 0.0.0.0:68              0.0.0.0:*               *          863/dhclient
udp        0      0 127.0.0.1:323           0.0.0.0:*               *          688/chronyd
udp6       0      0 :::1:323                :::*                    *          688/chronyd
[root@localhost sysconfig]#
```

Minecraft, ssh, dhcp and chronyd (time and date) services

Installed yum-cron which automatically updates my packages (not necessarily a security enchantment but updating packages might fix some exploits):

```

Installed:
  yum-cron.noarch 0:3.4.3-163.el7.centos

Complete!
[root@localhost ~]#

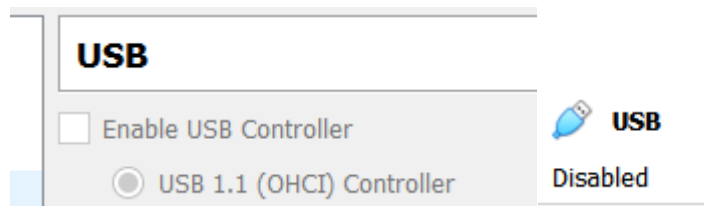
```

```

[root@localhost ~]# service yum-cron status -l
Redirecting to /bin/systemctl status -l yum-cron.service
yum-cron.service - Run automatic yum updates as a cron job
Loaded: loaded (/usr/lib/systemd/system/yum-cron.service; enabled; vendor preset: disabled)
Active: active (exited) since Sun 2019-12-08 15:38:47 EET; 12s ago
Process: 1359 ExecStart=/bin/touch /var/lock/subsys/yum-cron (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
Main PID: 1359 (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)

```

Disabled USB ports and just in case USB detection:



Created “no-usb” file:

```

[root@localhost minecraft]# nano /etc/modprobe.d/no-usb

```

and added the following:

```

install usb-storage /bin/true

```

Last thing I did was to check if the user “minecraft” had the right permissions:

```

[minecraft@localhost root]$ id
uid=997(minecraft) gid=995(minecraft) groups=995(minecraft)
[minecraft@localhost root]$ groups
minecraft
[minecraft@localhost root]$ ls
ls: cannot open directory .: Permission denied
[minecraft@localhost root]$ sudo touch
We trust you have received the usual lecture from the local
Administrator. It usually boils down to these three things:

    #1) Respect the privacy of others.
    #2) Think before you type.
    #3) With great power comes great responsibility.

minecraft is not in the sudoers file. This incident will be
[minecraft@localhost root]$ _

```

```

[minecraft@localhost ~]$ iptables -A INPUT
iptables v1.4.21: can't initialize iptables table 'filter': Permission denied (you must be root)
Perhaps iptables or your kernel needs to be upgraded.
[minecraft@localhost ~]$ _

```

```
[minecraft@localhost root]$ yum update
Loaded plugins: fastestmirror
You need to be root to perform this command.
[minecraft@localhost root]$ _
```

```
[ Error writing /etc/systemd/system/minecraft.service: Permission denied ]
```

```
drwxrwxr-x. 2 minecraft minecraft 44 Dec 6 23:00 backups
drwxrwxr-x. 4 minecraft minecraft 200 Dec 5 16:42 server
drwxrwxr-x. 3 minecraft minecraft 49 Dec 6 22:00 tools
[minecraft@localhost ~]$
```

Obviously, the user “minecraft” can make changes in its home directory (server properties etc.).

5 Preferences

- <https://www.spigotmc.org/threads/guide-securing-a-linux-server.20096/>
- <https://www.spigotmc.org/threads/securing-our-minecraft-server-against-hackers-and-griefers.372174/>
- <https://linuxize.com/post/how-to-install-minecraft-server-on-centos-7/>
- <https://www.thegeekdiary.com/centos-rhel-how-to-find-if-a-network-port-is-open-or-not/>
- Course material from optima