Title Goes Here

Firewalls and Related Technologies

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Basic Definitions

- Firewall: A component or set of components that restricts services between two networks
 - often the two networks are the Internet and an "internal" network
- Bastion host: A computer system that must be highly secured because it is vulnerable to attack
 - usually is exposed to the Internet and is the main point of contact for remote users of the internal network
- Dual-homed host: A general-purpose computer with two or more network interfaces
- Network address translation (NAT): Procedure by which a router alters source or destination addresses in packets
 - not really a security technique, but can augment security and is often performed at a firewall

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Basic Definitions (cont.)

- Packet filtering: Selectively passing or blocking packets, usually while routing them from one network to another
 - Can occur in a router, bridge, or host
 - Also called "screening"
- Perimeter network: A network added between an external network and a protected (internal) network, in order to provide an additional level of security
 - Also called a "demilitarized zone" (DMZ)
- Proxy: A program that interacts with external servers on behalf of internal clients
- Virtual private network: Packets that are internal to a private network pass across a public network, without this being obvious to hosts on the internal network

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Packet Filtering ■ Packet filter selectively passes packets from one External network interface to another network Usually done within a router between external and internal networks screening ■ packet filter is called a router 'screening router" Internal network ■ Can be done by a dedicated network element ▼ then called a "packet filtering bridge" ■ harder to detect and attack than screening routers Copyright © 2020 by Michael Reiter

Data Available to a Packet Filter

- Header data
 - **▼** IP source and destination addresses
 - Transport protocol (TCP, UDP, or ICMP)
 - **▼** TCP/UDP source and destination ports
 - **■** ICMP message type
 - Packet size
- Packet filter can look further into the packet
 - e.g., the URL being requested
- Whether the packet is well-formed
 - ▼ is packet the size it claims to be?
 - **▼** is it formatted properly for its destination port?

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Data Available to Packet Filter (cont.)

- The interface the packet arrived on
- The interface the packet would leave on
- And if the filter keeps state ...
 - Whether this packet appears to be a response to another packet it has recently passed
 - How many packets have been seen recently to or from the same host
 - Whether this packet is identical to a recently sent packet
 - If this packet is part of a larger packet that was fragmented

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Actions Available to the Packet Filter

- Send the packet toward its intended destination
- Drop the packet, without notifying the sender
- Reject the packet, with notification to the sender
 - e.g., an ICMP "destination unreachable" packet
- Log information about the packet
- Set off an alarm
- Modify the packet (e.g., NAT)
- Send the packet to other than its intended destination
 - ▼ e.g., a proxy or to enforce load balancing
- Modify the filtering rules
 - e.g., accept replies to a UDP packet, or stop all traffic from a host that has sent malformed packets

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Examples of Packet Filtering

- Block all incoming connections from systems outside the internal network, except for SMTP connections
- Block all connections to or from systems you distrust
- Block or log all connections to specified domains
 - particularly common for pornographic sites
- Allow electronic mail and FTP, but disallow X11, rsh, rcp, ...

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Pros and Cons of Packet Filtering

Advantages:

- One screening router can protect an entire network
- Simple packet filtering can be extremely efficient

Disadvantages:

- Hard to configure and test
- Is susceptible to "failing open"
- Can be slow (even if simple)
 - **▼** filtering is incompatible with certain optimizations
- Cannot implement many useful policies
 - does not have access to user who initiated a packet
 - packets say what port they're for, but not what application will receive them

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Proxies Special servers that **External** accept client requests network to servers and perform server them on client's behalf ■ generally transparent to **Proxy** client user and server server ■ Effective only when Internal network direct client-server interactions prevented **■** otherwise, proxy will be bypassed client Copyright © 2020 by Michael Reiter All rights reserved. 10

Types of Proxies

- Usually used to control outbound connections, but can also be used to control inbound connections
 - **▼** controlling inbound connections often called "reverse proxying"
- Example proxy: ftp proxy that permits internal users to import files but prohibits them from exporting files
- Example reverse proxy: balancing incoming requests among multiple servers

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Advantages of Proxies

- Can be good at logging
 - e.g., log only ftp commands, not all data transferred
- Can cache content
 - decreases response latency for client
- Can filter more intelligently than a packet filter
 - filter viruses, active content (Java, Javascript), etc.
- Can perform user-level authentication
 - take actions based on which user is issuing requests
- Can protect clients from malformed IP packets
 - **▼** generates new IP packets to clients

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Disadvantages of Proxies

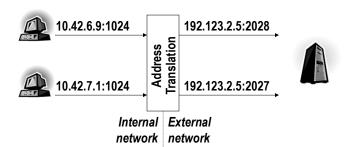
- Proxy availability lags behind introduction of new services
- Typically a new proxy is required for each service
 - though some can be run through generic proxies
- Usually require modifications to client applications

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Network Address Translation (NAT)



- Can dynamically allocate external address and port for each connection initiated by an internal host
- Not only (or even primarily) a security technology
 - mainly used to multiplex numerous IP addresses over a few

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Security Advantages of NAT

Enforces firewall's control over outbound connections

- if a connection bypasses the firewall, it won't work because its address is not valid on the external network
- Temporally restricts incoming traffic
 - dynamic translation allows only packets that are part of a current interaction initiated from the inside
 - once translation goes away, address that the attacker knows is no longer usable
- Helps to conceal internal network configuration
 - how many internal hosts there are, for example

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Disadvantages of NAT

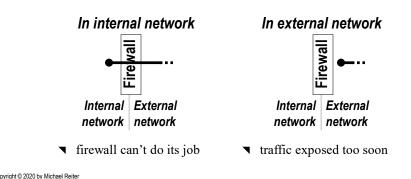
- Dynamic allocation requires state information that is not always available
 - How long should the translator keep a translation for the external address inserted into an outbound UDP packet?
- Embedded IP addresses are a problem for NAT
 - NAT systems normally translate the header, but some protocols bury IP addresses elsewhere
- NAT can break authentication
 - NAT is incompatible with IPSec transport mode
 - Integrity-protected, embedded IP addresses are hopeless
- Logging after translation yields confusing logs
 - "Reconstructing" log requires precise clock synchronization and time correlation

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Virtual Private Networks (VPNs)

- Cryptographic techniques applied to traffic between two distant networks or between end host and network
 - IPSec the most widely used cryptographic protection, most commonly in tunnel mode
- Where to end tunnel?



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Pros and Cons of VPNs

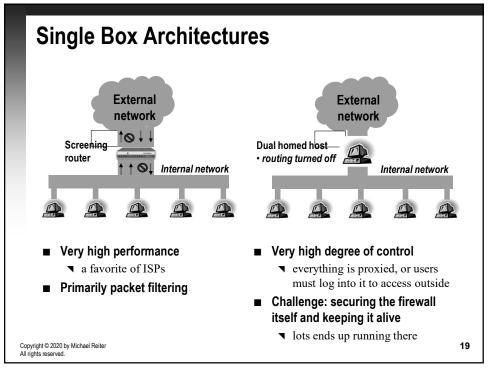
Advantages:

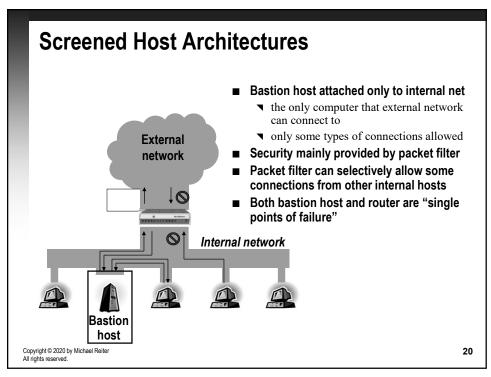
- Provide strong confidentiality and authenticity of traffic
 - **▼** channel authenticated only to granularity of tunnel endpoint
- Enables remote use of protocols that would be difficult to secure any other way

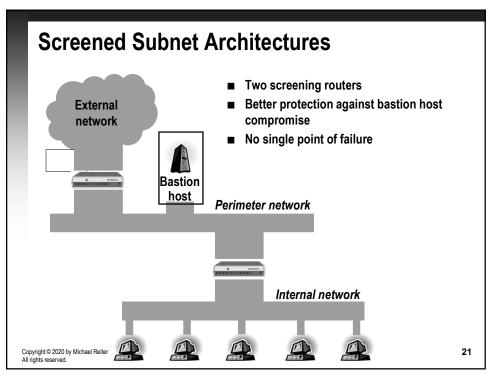
Disadvantages:

- VPNs involve dangerous network connections
 - particularly from mobile devices, which may come under attack
 - ideally, client VPN software disables other uses of client network interface while VPN is in use
- VPNs extend the perimeter that must be secured

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Motivation for Perimeter Network

- Many networking technologies permit any machine on the network to see all traffic on the network
 - Ethernet, Token ring, FDDI
- All traffic on the perimeter network should be
 - **▼** to/from External network
 - **▼** to/from bastion host
- Thus, no entirely internal traffic should be exposed to an attacker who compromises the bastion host

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Bastion Host

- Main point of contact for incoming connections from external network
 - For incoming email (SMTP) sessions to deliver electronic mail to the site
 - For incoming FTP connections to site's anonymous FTP server
 - For incoming DNS queries about the site
- Outbound services handled one of two ways
 - Routers set up to allow direct internal-to-external connections
 - **▼** Proxy runs on bastion host
 - Internal filter permits internal clients to connect to proxy server on bastion host

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Interior Router

- Sometimes called the "choke router"
- Performs most of the packet filtering for your firewall
 - **▼** Permits some internal hosts to connect to external servers
 - **▼** Possible examples are HTTP and telnet
 - For other services, internal hosts forced connect to proxies on bastion host
- Should permit connections only to selected internal hosts
 - And usually only from the bastion host

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Exterior Router

- Sometimes called the "access router"
- Filtering rules
 - Duplicate many of the filtering rules on the internal router
 - Permit outbound connections from bastion host proxies

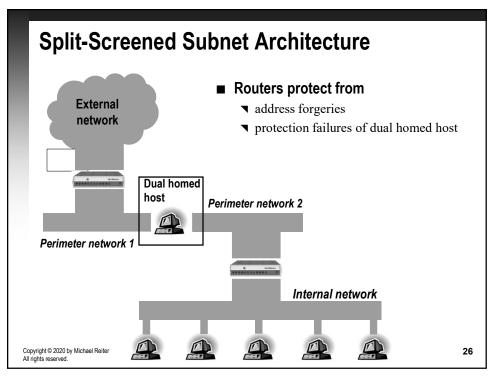
Two main jobs

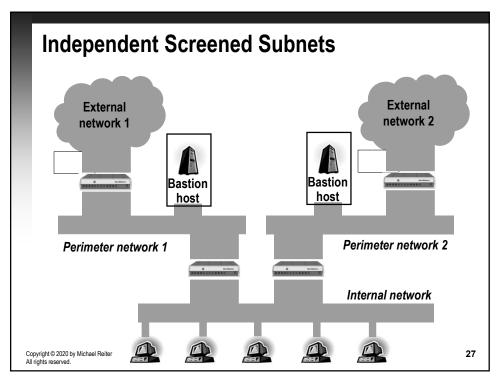
- Filters incoming packets with forged source addresses
 - Prevents outsiders from forging packets that
 - **¬** appear to be from hosts on the perimeter network
 - appear to be from hosts on the internal network
- Filters outgoing packets with forged source addresses
 - An important part of being a good "network citizen"

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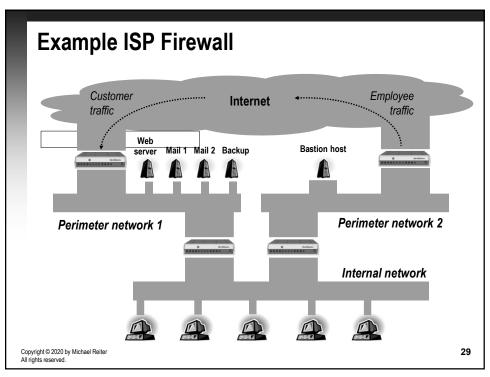


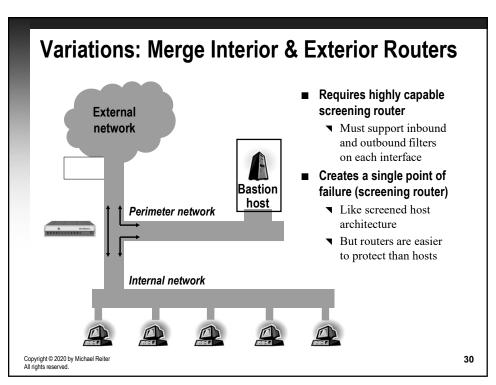
Independent Screened Subnets (cont.)

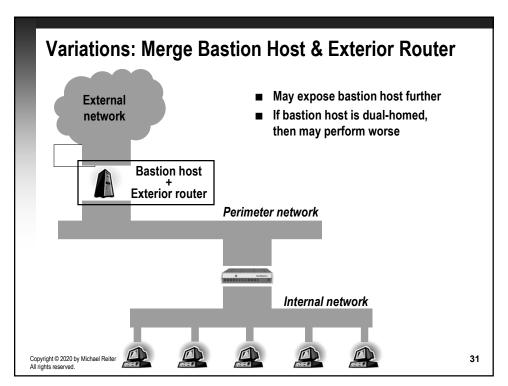
- Provides redundancy
 - No single point of failure for Internet connectivity
- Greater privacy, e.g.,
 - **▼** External network 1 = Internet
 - External network 2 = Supplier network
- Run inbound services across one, outbound across the other
 - Both are easier to secure if separated

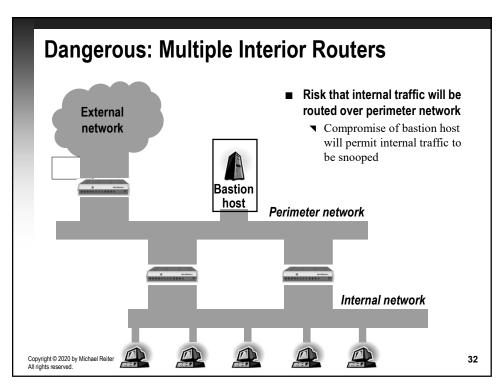
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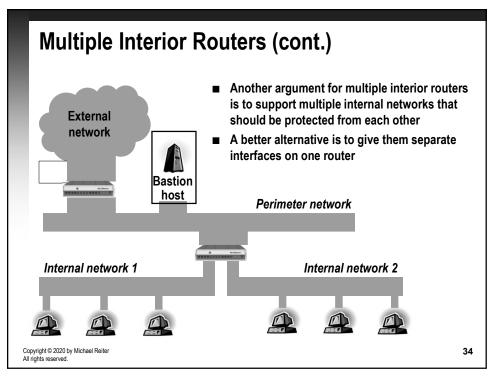
Multiple Interior Routers (cont.)

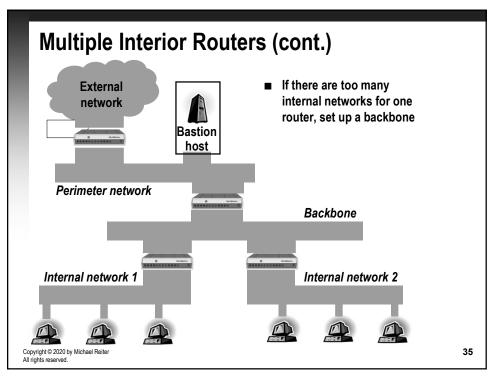
- Though dangerous, it provides redundancy and increased performance ... but ...
- If redundancy is motivating factor, then independent screened subnets are better
- If performance is motivating factor, then either
 - A lot of traffic going to perimeter network is not then going to external network
 - **▼** This probably means a misconfiguration
 - The exterior router is much faster than your interior router
 - Better to upgrade your interior router than buy another

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Types of Packet Filtering: By Address

- Simplest form of filtering
- Restricts flow based on source and/or destination addresses
 - Does not consider the protocol involved
- Mainly used to prevent insertion of packets with forged source addresses

Rule	Direction	Source address	Destination address	Action
Α	Inbound	Internal	Any	Deny

■ Notation

- **▼** "Inbound" is relative to internal network
- "Internal" and "Any" are abbreviations for IP address ranges
- Rules applied in sequential order until match is found

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Types of Packet Filtering: By Service

- Filtering by service is more common, but also more complex
- As an example, consider filtering telnet
- Outbound telnet
 - **▼** Characteristics of outgoing packets
 - Telnet is a TCP-based service, so the IP packet type is TCP
 - **■** The TCP destination port is 23
 - **■** The TCP source port number is a number y > 1023
 - First outgoing packet will not have the ACK bit set; others will
 - Characteristics of incoming packets
 - **▼** TCP source port is 23
 - \blacksquare TCP destination port is y
 - Has the ACK bit set

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Packet Filtering by Service (cont.)

■ Example filtering rules

Rule	Direction	Source address	Destination address	Protocol	Source port	Destination port	ACK set	Action
Α	Out	Internal	Any	ТСР	>1023	23	Either	Permit
В	In	Any	Internal	ТСР	23	>1023	Yes	Permit
С	Either	Any	Any	Any	Any	Any	Either	Deny

- Does *not* enforce telnet characteristics exactly
- In fact, permits some seemingly dangerous communication
 - Example: Inbound packets with source port 23 to any port > 1023 will be accepted, if the ACK bit is set
 - Only way to fix this is by keeping some state, or using a proxy

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Effect of Order on Filtering

- **■** Consider the following example
 - You're in a corporation working on a project with a university
 - **▼** Corporate network is 172.16 (i.e., 172.16.0.0 to 172.16.255.255)
 - **■** University owns network 10 (i.e., 10.0.0.0 to 10.255.255.255)
 - You're going to link these networks together using a packet filter
 - You want to disallow all Internet access over this link
 - Project uses the 172.16.6 subnet
 - University's 10.1.99 subnet has lots of hostile activity
- Suppose we try the following filtering rules

Rule	Source address	Destination address	Action
Α	10.*.*.*	172.16.6.*	Permit
В	10.1.99.*	172.16.*.*	Deny
С	Any	Any	Deny

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Effect of Order on Filtering (cont.)

■ Consider several example packets, assuming rules are applied in order ABC

Packet	Source address	Destination address	Desired action	Actual action
1	10.1.99.1	172.16.1.1	Deny	Deny (B)
2	10.1.99.1	172.16.6.1	Permit	Permit (A)
3	10.1.1.1	172.16.6.1	Permit	Permit (A)
4	10.1.1.1	172.16.1.1	Deny	Deny (C)
5	192.168.3.4	172.16.1.1	Deny	Deny (C)
6	192.168.3.4	172.16.6.1	Deny	Deny (C)

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Effect of Order on Filtering (cont.)

- Now suppose the firewall reorders the rules by the number of significant bits in the source address field, resulting in BAC
 - More specific rules are applied first

Packet	Source address	Destination address	Desired action	Actual action
1	10.1.99.1	172.16.1.1	Deny	Deny (B)
2	10.1.99.1	172.16.6.1	Permit	Deny (B)
3	10.1.1.1	172.16.6.1	Permit	Permit (A)
4	10.1.1.1	172.16.1.1	Deny	Deny (C)
5	192.168.3.4	172.16.1.1	Deny	Deny (C)
6	192.168.3.4	172.16.6.1	Deny	Deny (C)

■ Turns out that B is redundant, anyway

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Proxying Proxy server User's illusion Real server Redirection of client request to proxy server usually happens by one of the following four approaches Proxy-aware client application software Proxy-aware client operating system Proxy-aware user procedures (and so the illusion diminishes) Proxy-aware router redirects client request Copyright © 2020 by Michael Reiter All rights reserved.

How Proxying Works

Proxy-aware client application software

- Not available for all applications and platforms
- Generally requires user configuration, and so may not be transparent

■ Proxy-aware client operating system

- When the application tries to make a connection, the O/S invokes the proxy server instead
- Easiest to do this using a dynamically linked library that handles networking calls; otherwise, network drivers need to be modified
- Is fairly fragile; problems arise with
 - Statically linked software
 - Software that provides its own dynamically linked libraries for networking functions
 - **▼** Protocols that use embedded port numbers or IP addresses
 - Software that manipulates connections at a low level

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How Proxying Works (cont.)

Proxy-aware user procedures

- User tells (unmodified) client to connect to proxy server, and then tells proxy server which host to connect to
- Example: To retrieve a file from anonymous ftp server ftp.foo.com:
 - User, using any ftp client, connects to proxy server, instead of ftp.foo.com
 - At username prompt, user specifies both account name and real server she wants to connect to: anonymous@ftp.foo.com
- Of course, this is no longer transparent to user

■ Proxy-aware router

- Also called "hybrid proxying" or "transparent proxying"
- Most transparent of the options: client is unchanged
- Also difficult to administer, since it inherits disadvantages of both packet filtering and proxying

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Types of Proxy Servers

- "Dedicated" or "Application-level"
 - Understands and interprets the commands in the protocol it proxies
 - Can do intelligent processing
 - Selectively filter or log application-specific commands
 - **¬** Caching, e.g., in an HTTP proxy
- "Generic" or "Circuit-level"
 - Roughly equivalent to a packet filter; does not interpret protocolspecific commands or data
 - Does not work for protocols that embed ports or IP addresses in application payload (e.g., FTP)
 - Automatically protect against malformed packet headers and packet fragmentation problems

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An Example Firewall

Assumptions

- Screened subnet architecture
- There are hosts on the internal network that fulfill roles of
 - **■** Mail server
 - **■** Usenet news server
 - **■** DNS server
 - **▼** Clients for various Internet services
- Internal users are assumed trustworthy
- All hosts use properly assigned and routed IP addresses
- Separate network numbers for perimeter and internal nets

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An Example Firewall: HTTP and HTTPS

- Incoming HTTP(S): Web server on bastion host
- Outgoing HTTP(S): Two options
 - **▼** Packet filtering
 - Allow internal hosts to create connections to external hosts' port 80, port 443, and any port above 1023
 - Internal hosts can access any port above 1023 with no help from the firewall ⊗
 - **▼** Proxy server
 - Standard web browsers have built-in support for proxy access ©
 - Supports HTTP(S) access to any port ©
 - **▼** Can provide caching ③
 - Let's assume a proxy server here

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An Example Firewall: SMTP

- Underlying thinking
 - **▼** Connection from bastion host to arbitrary internal host is dangerous
 - Connection from arbitrary external hosts to internal host is dangerous
- Incoming SMTP
 - All incoming mail goes to SMTP server on bastion host
 - Achieved using DNS MX records
 - Bastion host passes all incoming mail to single secured internal SMTP server
- Outgoing SMTP

■ All internal hosts direct mail to internal SMTP server

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An Example Firewall: Telnet

- Incoming telnet: Disallow
- Outgoing telnet: Two options
 - ▼ Proxy server
 - Would be needed if users were untrusted
 - proxy authenticates and monitors them
 - not the case here
 - **▼** Proxy server imposes modified clients or user procedures ⊗
 - **▼** Packet filtering
 - Easier alternative; let's choose this

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An Example Firewall: SSH

- Permit remote access via SSH (safer than telnet)
- Inbound SSH: Two options
 - SSH to bastion host, and then login to internal target
 - Bastion host can verify that SSH is coming in ©
 - Bastion host SSH server can be carefully configured ©
 - Requires user accounts on bastion host ⊗⊗
 - **▼** SSH to internal hosts

 - Hopefully this risk will be small, since internal users are trusted
 - **▼** We'll assume SSH to internal hosts
- Outbound SSH: permit, but warn users of port forwarding
 - Outgoing SSH can enable incoming attacks if port forwarding is on

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An Example Firewall: FTP

- Outbound normal-mode FTP requires incoming connection to an arbitrary port over 1023
 - Allowing this without doing anything else is too permissive
- Outbound FTP: Two (realistic) choices
 - Passive mode via packet filtering, or normal mode via proxies
 - Here, let's do both
 - **▼** Permit passive mode where we can impose clients that support it
 - Note: internal hosts must be able to access any port over 1023, since that may be the data channel ⁽³⁾
 - **▼** Proxy ftp where we can't, imposing new user procedures
 - Recall that if we wanted to monitor ftp usage, we'd have to proxy exclusively (but we don't)
- Inbound FTP: Disallow except for anonymous on bastion host

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An Example Firewall: NNTP

- Need to have a news server on internal network
 - To support internal newsgroups
 - To support older Unix-based (non-NNTP) news clients, which read news from local files
- News server an administrative pain for bastion host
 - **▼** Fail often
 - If anything, put it on a different bastion host, but that's expensive ③
- Here, let's assume we permit direct NNTP transfers from selected external news feeds to our internal news server
 - A somewhat dangerous posture ③
 - Should use NNTP authentication in this case

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An Example Firewall: DNS

- DNS network activities include lookups and zone transfers
 - Zone transfer copies zone from a *primary* server to a *secondary* one
 - Zone transfers happen among servers who serve queries for the same zone
- Here, let's assume we put
 - a secondary server on the bastion host, to serve external queries
 - a primary server on an internal host, to serve internal ones
- Note: no information hiding in secondary server

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An Example Firewall: Interior Router

Rule	Dir	Source address	Dest. Address	Protocol	Source port	Dest. port	ACK set	Action
Spoof-1	In	Internal	Any	Any	Any	Any	Any	Deny
Spoof-2	Out	External	Any	Any	Any	Any	Any	Deny

■ Blocks packets with forged IP source addresses

Rule	Dir	Source address	Dest. Address	Protocol	Source port	Dest. port	ACK set	Action
HTTP-1	Out	Internal	Bastion	ТСР	>1023	80	Any	Permit
HTTP-2	In	Bastion	Internal	TCP	80	>1023	Yes	Permit

Permit internal client to connect to HTTP server on proxy

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Rule	Dir	Source address	Dest. Address	Protocol	Source port	Dest. port	ACK set	Action
Telnet-1	Out	Internal	Any	ТСР	>1023	23	Any	Permit
Telnet-2	In	Any	Internal	ТСР	23	>1023	Yes	Permit

■ Permits outbound telnet connections

Rule	Dir	Source address	Dest. Address	Protocol	Source port	Dest. port	ACK set	Action
SSH-1	Out	Internal	Any	ТСР	Any	22	Any	Permit
SSH-2	In	Any	Internal	ТСР	22	Any	Yes	Permit

■ Permits outbound ssh connections

■ "Any" instead of ">1023" since some forms of authentication require SSH clients to use ports at or below 1023

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An Example Firewall: Internal Router (cont.)

Rule	Dir	Source address	Dest. Address	Protocol	Source port	Dest. port	ACK set	Action
SSH-3	In	Any	Internal	ТСР	Any	22	Any	Permit
SSH-4	Out	Internal	Any	ТСР	22	Any	Yes	Permit

■ Permit incoming SSH connections

Rule	Dir	Source address	Dest. Address	Protocol	Source port	Dest. port	ACK set	Action
FTP-1	Out	Internal	Any	ТСР	>1023	21	Any	Permit
FTP-2	In	Any	Internal	ТСР	21	>1023	Yes	Permit

 Allow outgoing command-channel connections to FTP servers, for use by passive-mode internal clients

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Rule	Dir	Source address	Dest. Address	Protocol	Source port	Dest. port	ACK set	Action
FTP-3	Out	Internal	Any	ТСР	>1023	>1023	Any	Permit
FTP-4	In	Any	Internal	TCP	>1023	>1023	Yes	Permit

- Allow outgoing data-channel connections to FTP servers, for use by passive-mode internal clients
 - A very permissive rule, but required to support passive-mode FTP

Rule	Dir	Source address	Dest. Address	Protocol	Source port	Dest. port	ACK set	Action
FTP-5	Out	Internal	Bastion	ТСР	>1023	21	Any	Permit
FTP-6	In	Bastion	Internal	ТСР	21	>1023	Yes	Permit

■ Allow internal, normal-mode FTP clients to make commandchannel connection to FTP proxy on bastion host

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An Example Firewall: Internal Router (cont.)

Rule	Dir	Source address	Dest. Address	Protocol	Source port	Dest. port	ACK set	Action
FTP-7	In	Bastion	Internal	ТСР	Any	6000- 6020	Any	Deny
FTP-8	In	Bastion	Internal	ТСР	20	>1023	Any	Permit
FTP-9	Out	Internal	Bastion	TCP	>1023	20	Yes	Permit

- Permits FTP data connections from proxy server on bastion host to normal-mode internal FTP clients
- FTP-7 prevents attacker on bastion host from attacking internal X11 servers via hole created by FTP-8 and FTP-9
 - If other servers are listening on internal ports above 1023, similar rules should be added for them
 - Trying to list things to deny (ala FTP-7) is a losing battle, but the best that can be done in this case

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Rule	Dir	Source address	Dest. Address	Protocol	Source port	Dest. port	ACK set	Action
SMTP-1	Out	Internal SMTP server	Bastion	ТСР	>1023	25	Any	Permit
SMTP-2	In	Bastion	Internal SMTP server	ТСР	25	>1023	Yes	Permit

■ Permit outgoing mail from internal mail server to bastion host

Rule	Dir	Source address	Dest. Address	Protocol	Source port	Dest. port	ACK set	Action
SMTP-3	In	Bastion	Internal SMTP server	TCP	>1023	25	Any	Permit
SMTP-4	Out	Internal SMTP server	Bastion	TCP	25	>1023	Yes	Permit

■ Permit incoming mail from bastion host to internal mail server

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An Example Firewall: Internal Router (cont.)

Rule	Dir	Source address	Dest. Address	Protocol	Source port	Dest. port	ACK set	Action
NNTP-1	Out	Internal NNTP server	NNTP feed server	ТСР	>1023	119	Any	Permit
NNTP-2	In	NNTP feed server	Internal NNTP server	ТСР	119	>1023	Yes	Permit

■ Allow outgoing news from internal server to service provider

Rule	Dir	Source address	Dest. Address	Protocol	Source port	Dest. port	ACK set	Action
NNTP-3	In	NNTP feed server	Internal NNTP server	TCP	>1023	119	Any	Permit
NNTP-4	Out	Internal NNTP server	NNTP feed server	ТСР	119	>1023	Yes	Permit

Allow incoming news from service provider to internal server

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Rule	Dir	Source address	Dest. Address	Protocol	Source port	Dest. port	ACK set	Action
DNS-1	Out	Internal DNS server	Bastion	UDP	53	53		Permit
DNS-2	In	Bastion	Internal DNS server	UDP	53	53		Permit

 Allow UDP-based queries & answers between internal DNS server & bastion DNS server

Rule	Dir	Source address	Dest. Address	Protocol	Source port	Dest. port	ACK set	Action
DNS-3	Out	Internal DNS server	Bastion	ТСР	>1023	53	Any	Permit
DNS-4	In	Bastion	Internal DNS server	ТСР	53	>1023	Yes	Permit

■ Allow TCP-based queries from internal DNS server to bastion DNS server, and their responses

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An Example Firewall: Internal Router (cont.)

Rule	Dir	Source address	Dest. Address	Protocol	Source port	Dest. port	ACK set	Action
DNS-5	In	Bastion	Internal DNS server	TCP	>1023	53	Any	Permit
DNS-6	Out	Internal DNS server	Bastion	ТСР	53	>1023	Yes	Permit

■ Allow TCP-based queries from bastion DNS server to internal DNS server, and their responses

Rule	Dir	Source address	Dest. Address	Protocol	Source port	Dest. port	ACK set	Action
Default-1	Out	Any	Any	Any	Any	Any	Any	Deny
Default-2	In	Any	Any	Any	Any	Any	Any	Deny

■ Deny anything not explicitly allowed by the preceding rules

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