

Practical Network Defense

ASSIGNMENT 1

Firewall Configuration

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1 Initial Brainstorming







Our first consideration is based on the network architecture, which consists of two firewalls: the main one and the internal one. These two routers are connected via a point-to-point link. Each router is also connected to two separate subnetworks, resulting in a total of four subnetworks. The main router has a WAN interface that connects to the Internet.

Our goal is to configure the two firewalls according to the assigned security policy. To manage firewall rules efficiently, we decided to create aliases to group IPv4 and IPv6 addresses and subnetworks, thereby avoiding an excessive number of individual rules. When determining where to apply a firewall rule, we always chose to apply them as close to the source as possible and for inbound traffic, following the guidelines in the OPNsense documentation. Given that the default policy for each firewall interface is to drop incoming traffic and allow outgoing traffic, we adhered to the procedure of explicitly allowing only the necessary inbound traffic each time.

When rules apply to both the subnets connected to the main firewall and those connected to the internal firewall, we describe the firewall rules and the testing process as follows: we provide an example using one interface for the main firewall, one interface for the internal firewall, and one host in the respective subnets. This approach ensures clarity in demonstrating how the firewall rules were implemented and tested for proper functionality.

Finally, to easily access the firewalls' web interfaces from our hosts' web browsers, we allowed traffic from the subnet 100.101.0.0/24, which includes our hosts' IP addresses, to the interfaces of both the main firewall and the internal firewall.

On the WAN interface of the main firewall:

			IPv4 TCP	100.101.0.0/24	*	100.100.6.1	80 (HTTP)	*	*	Allow access from our hosts to the main firewall
			IPv4 TCP	100.101.0.0/24	*	100.100.1.1	80 (HTTP)	*	*	Allow access from our hosts to the internal firewall

On the EXTERNAL interface of the internal firewall:

			IPv4 TCP	100.101.0.0/24	*	100.100.1.1	80 (HTTP)	*	*	Allow access from our host to the internal firewall
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2 Evaluation, implementation and tests of the security policies

2.1 All the ACME hosts must use the internal DNS Server as a DNS resolver

We need to insert two rules in all the interfaces of the main firewall (except WAN) and all the interfaces of the internal firewall (except SERVERS):

- one to allow IPv6-ICMP packets to travel from the respective subnet connected to the firewall interface towards any destination, to permit the packets required by the Neighbour Discovery Protocol (because the connection to the DNS server in our network uses its IPv6 address by default);

- another to allow the traffic from the respective subnet connected to the firewall interface towards the DNS server on port 53, of both TCP and UDP protocols.

IPv6 ICMP	2001:470:b5b8:b06::/64	*	*	*	*	*	
IPv4+6 TCP/UDP	DMZ	*	Dnsserver	53 (DNS)	*	*	Allow access from the DMZ to the internal DNS server, to use it as a DNS resolver

IPv6 ICMP	2001:470:b5b8:b82::/64	*	*	*	*	*	
IPv4+6 TCP/UDP	CLIENTS	*	Dnsserver	53 (DNS)	*	*	Allow access from the internal CLIENTS to the internal DNS server, to use it as a DNS resolver

In order to check that everything is working properly for both IPv4 and IPv6, we executed the `host` command, used for DNS lookup operations, from the Webserver and the kali machines.

```

root@webserver:/# host dnsserver 100.100.1.2
Using domain server:
Name: 100.100.1.2
Address: 100.100.1.2#53
Aliases:

dnsserver has address 100.100.1.2
dnsserver has IPv6 address 2001:470:b5b8:b81:797d:d560:719:26d1
^C
root@webserver:/# host dnsserver 2001:470:b5b8:b81:797d:d560:719:26d1
Using domain server:
Name: 2001:470:b5b8:b81:797d:d560:719:26d1
Address: 2001:470:b5b8:b81:797d:d560:719:26d1#53
Aliases:

dnsserver has address 100.100.1.2
dnsserver has IPv6 address 2001:470:b5b8:b81:797d:d560:719:26d1

```

2.2 The HTTP/HTTPS service provided in the DMZ has to be accessible from the Internet

Our ACME network communicates with the “outside world” (the Internet) using the WAN interface of the main firewall, thus we need to create a new rule on such interface to allow in all the traffic that has as destination the web server in the DMZ on ports 80 (HTTP) and 443 (HTTPS) to go through.

```
(user@pc1)-[~]
$ host dnsserver 100.100.1.2
Using domain server:
Name: 100.100.1.2
Address: 100.100.1.2#53
Aliases:

dnsserver has address 100.100.1.2
dnsserver has IPv6 address 2001:470:b5b8:b81:797d:d560:719:26d1
^C

(user@pc1)-[~]
$ host dnsserver 2001:470:b5b8:b81:797d:d560:719:26d1
Using domain server:
Name: 2001:470:b5b8:b81:797d:d560:719:26d1
Address: 2001:470:b5b8:b81:797d:d560:719:26d1#53
Aliases:

dnsserver has address 100.100.1.2
dnsserver has IPv6 address 2001:470:b5b8:b81:797d:d560:719:26d1
```

IPv4+6 TCP Webservice WebservicePorts The HTTP/HTTPS service provided in the DMZ has to be accessible from the Internet

To test this we can use the terminal of our virtual machine to perform `wget` on the Webserver.

```
user@katha:~/Desktop/pnd-assignment$ wget 100.100.6.2
--2024-05-22 11:28:16-- http://100.100.6.2/
Connecting to 100.100.6.2:80... connected.
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 200 OK
Length: 10701 (10K) [text/html]
Saving to: 'index.html'

index.html      100%[=====>] 10,45K  --.-KB/s   in 0,02s
2024-05-22 11:28:17 (465 KB/s) - 'index.html' saved [10701/10701]
```

We cannot perform the same test with IPv6 since we don't know the IPv6 route to connect to the ACME network from our host.

2.3 The proxy service provided in the DMZ has to be accessible by the hosts of the ACME network and from the Internet

Making the proxy service provided in the DMZ accessible from the Internet is analogous to the previous policy.

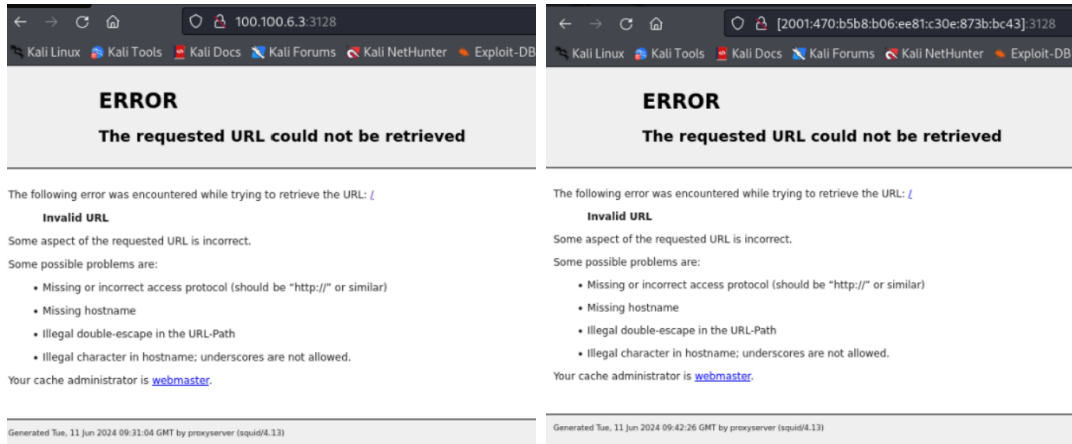
IPv4+6 TCP Proxyserver 3128 The proxy service provided in the DMZ has to be accessible from the Internet

For all the hosts of the ACME network we need to create a rule for all the interfaces

of the main firewall (except DMZ) and all the interfaces of the internal firewall (except INTERNAL) to allow traffic directed to the TCP port 3128 of the proxy server to go through.

IPv4+6 TCP CLIENTS Proxyserver 3128 The proxy service provided in the DMZ has to be accessible by the hosts in the ACME network

To test that everything is working correctly, we can try to reach the SQUID proxy from a web browser (e.g. Firefox) with the URL `http://100.100.6.3:3128`. We will see that the SQUID typical error is shown, but it is up and running and we can reach it. The same result is obtaining by using IPv6.



2.4 Besides the DNS resolver, the other services in the Internal server network must be accessible only to hosts of the Client and DMZ networks

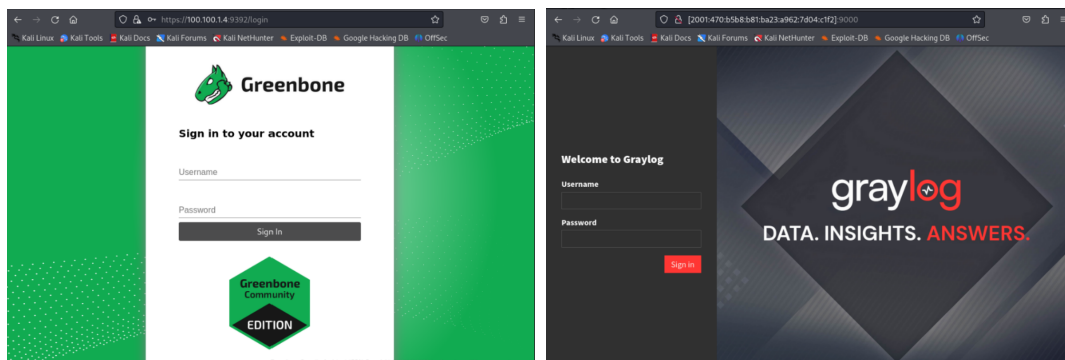
Since the default policy for the OPNsense firewall is to drop packets, we don't need to do anything to deny access from the EXTERNAL CLIENTS subnet and the Internet to the SERVERS subnet. We need to explicitly allow instead the traffic coming from the CLIENTS and the DMZ, so that they can reach the following services provided in the SERVERS subnet: Greenbone on TCP port 9392, Graylog on TCP port 9000, and Syslog on UDP port 514.

<input type="checkbox"/>		IPv4+6 UDP	DMZ	*	Logserver	514	*	*	Allow the hosts in the DMZ to send the logs to the Logserver
<input type="checkbox"/>		IPv4+6 TCP	DMZ	*	Greenbone	9392	*	*	Allow access from DMZ to Greenbone service
<input type="checkbox"/>		IPv4+6 TCP	DMZ	*	Graylog	9000	*	*	Allow access from the DMZ to the Graylog service

Since in 2.5 it is requested that the hosts in the CLIENTS network don't use the Syslog service, we didn't add this specific rule in the respective internal firewall interface.

<input type="checkbox"/>		IPv4+6 TCP	CLIENTS	*	Greenbone	9392	*	*	Allow access from the internal CLIENTS to Greenbone service
<input type="checkbox"/>		IPv4+6 TCP	CLIENTS	*	Graylog	9000	*	*	Allow access from the internal CLIENTS to the Graylog service

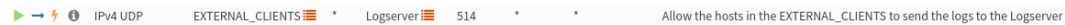
To test this, we can try using the Kali machine to access the services from their web interfaces, using both the IPv4 and IPv6 addresses. In 2.5 also Syslog will be tested.



2.5 All the hosts (but the Client network hosts) have to use the syslog and the log collector services on the Log server (syslog) and Graylog server

The desired outcome is that the hosts in all the subnets of the ACME network but the CLIENTS subnet send their logs to the Logserver (acting as a log collector) which is running the Syslog service, and then all the logs it receives are sent to the Graylog server for analysis.

In 2.4 we've implemented the rule in the DMZ interface of the main firewall to allow the UDP traffic towards the Logserver on port 514. The same can be done for the EXTERNAL CLIENTS interface.

A screenshot of a firewall rule configuration. The rule is named 'Allow the hosts in the EXTERNAL_CLIENTS to send the logs to the Logserver'. It is configured for the 'EXTERNAL_CLIENTS' interface, allowing 'IPv4 UDP' traffic to 'Logserver' on port '514'.

▶ → ⚙️ IPv4 UDP EXTERNAL_CLIENTS * Logserver 514 * * Allow the hosts in the EXTERNAL_CLIENTS to send the logs to the Logserver

Now we need to configure the hosts in these subnets to actually send all the logs to the Logserver, using both IPv4 and IPv6 addresses. To do so, we properly configured the syslog service by editing the `/etc/rsyslog.conf` file:

```
# Send all logs to the log server with syslog
*.* @100.100.1.3:514
*.* @[2001:470:b5b8:b81:e1a5:a714:afe7:44bf]:514
```

Finally, we have to configure the Logserver so that it sends all the collected logs to the Graylog server.

```
# Send all logs to graylog server
*.* @100.100.1.10:514
*.* @[2001:470:b5b8:b81:ba23:a962:7d04:c1f2]:514
```

In order to test if this process is working properly, we can check if the logs are effectively being collected on by the Logserver. As an example, we can see that the `/var/log/auth.log` file contains logs coming from the other ACME hosts.


```

Jun 11 08:39:01 webserver CRON[42010]: pam_unix(cron:session): session closed for user root
Jun 11 08:49:01 proxyserver CRON[16842]: pam_unix(cron:session): session opened for user root(uid=0) by (uid=0)
Jun 11 08:49:01 proxyserver CRON[16842]: pam_unix(cron:session): session closed for user root
Jun 11 08:49:01 dnsserver CRON[23888]: pam_unix(cron:session): session opened for user root(uid=0) by (uid=0)
Jun 11 08:49:01 dnsserver CRON[23888]: pam_unix(cron:session): session closed for user root
Jun 11 08:54:01 logserver CRON[14572]: pam_unix(cron:session): session opened for user root(uid=0) by (uid=0)
Jun 11 08:54:01 logserver CRON[14572]: pam_unix(cron:session): session closed for user root
Jun 11 08:54:01 webserver CRON[42028]: pam_unix(cron:session): session opened for user root(uid=0) by (uid=0)
Jun 11 08:54:01 webserver CRON[42028]: pam_unix(cron:session): session closed for user root
Jun 11 09:09:01 webserver CRON[42103]: pam_unix(cron:session): session opened for user root(uid=0) by (uid=0)
Jun 11 09:09:01 webserver CRON[42103]: pam_unix(cron:session): session closed for user root
Jun 11 09:39:01 webserver CRON[42122]: pam_unix(cron:session): session opened for user root(uid=0) by (uid=0)
Jun 11 09:39:01 webserver CRON[42122]: pam_unix(cron:session): session closed for user root
Jun 11 09:49:01 proxyserver CRON[16850]: pam_unix(cron:session): session opened for user root(uid=0) by (uid=0)
Jun 11 09:49:01 proxyserver CRON[16850]: pam_unix(cron:session): session closed for user root
Jun 11 09:49:01 dnsserver CRON[23892]: pam_unix(cron:session): session opened for user root(uid=0) by (uid=0)
Jun 11 09:49:01 dnsserver CRON[23892]: pam_unix(cron:session): session closed for user root
Jun 11 09:54:01 webserver CRON[42140]: pam_unix(cron:session): session opened for user root(uid=0) by (uid=0)
Jun 11 09:54:01 webserver CRON[42140]: pam_unix(cron:session): session closed for user root
Jun 11 09:54:01 logserver CRON[14576]: pam_unix(cron:session): session opened for user root(uid=0) by (uid=0)
Jun 11 09:54:01 logserver CRON[14576]: pam_unix(cron:session): session closed for user root
Jun 11 10:09:01 webserver CRON[42151]: pam_unix(cron:session): session opened for user root(uid=0) by (uid=0)
Jun 11 10:09:01 webserver CRON[42151]: pam_unix(cron:session): session closed for user root
root@logserver:/var/log#

```

2.6 The Greenbone server must be able to scan all the network hosts

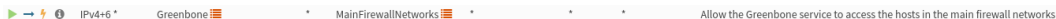
Firstly, we need to configure the Greenbone vulnerability scanner, which is in the SERVERS subnet (the configuration process will be detailed in the report of the third assignment). Secondly, we need to implement firewall rules in the SERVERS interface of the internal firewall and the INTERNAL interface of the main firewall to allow access from the Greenbone server to every host in the AMCE network (any protocol, any port).

SERVERS interface of the internal firewall:



Figure 1: The alias `Greenbone_Scanned_Host` contains IPv4 and IPv6 addresses of the EXTERNAL CLIENTS, DMZ and CLIENTS subnets

INTERNAL interface of the main firewall:



In order to test this rule, we can see that in a vulnerability scan (as part of the third assignment), the Greenbone server can reach the hosts of the ACME network, as expected:

Greenbone

Security Assistant

Dashboards

Scans

Assets

Resilience

SecInfo

Configuration

Administration

Help

Information

Results

(75 of 593)

Hosts

(13 of 14)

Ports

(7 of 11)

Applications

(45 of 45)

Operating Systems

(5 of 5)

CVEs

(12 of 12)

Closed CVEs

(0 of 0)

TLS Certificates

(1 of 1)

Error Messages

(0 of 0)

User Tags

(0)

1 - 13 of 13

IP Address	Hostname	OS	Ports	Apps	Distance	Auth	Start	End	High	Medium	Low	Log	False Positive	Total	Seve
100.100.6.2	webserver.acme-11.test		3	12			Sat, Jun 8, 2024 2:25 PM UTC	Sat, Jun 8, 2024 4:30 PM UTC	2	6	3	0	0	11	
100.100.6.3	proxyserver.acme-11.test		2	11			Sat, Jun 8, 2024 2:25 PM UTC	Sat, Jun 8, 2024 4:27 PM UTC	1	5	2	0	0	8	
100.100.1.10	graylog.acme-11.test		3	36			Sat, Jun 8, 2024 2:25 PM UTC	Sat, Jun 8, 2024 4:29 PM UTC	1	10	3	0	0	14	

2.7 All network hosts must be managed via SSH only from hosts within the Client network

In order to allow SSH access to the hosts of the ACME network we need to add a line in the `/etc/ssh/sshd_config` file: `PermitRootLogin yes`.

We add a rule on the CLIENTS interface of the internal firewall to permit TCP traffic on port 22 to reach the all the other subnets of the ACME network.

IPv4+6 TCP CLIENTS * SSH_Subnets 22 (SSH) * Allow SSH access from the internal CLIENTS to the ACME network hosts

Figure 2: The alias `SSH_Subnets` contains IPv4 and IPv6 addresses of the EXTERNAL CLIENTS, DMZ and SERVERS subnets

We also need to allow the traffic on the INTERNAL interface of the main firewall.

IPv4+6 TCP CLIENTS * MainFirewallNetworks 22 (SSH) * Allow SSH access from the internal CLIENTS to the main firewall networks

To test this we can try to connect with SSH as the root user from the Kali machine to any other host, for instance, the Webserver, using both IPv4 and IPv6.

```
(user@pc1)-[~]
$ ssh root@100.100.6.2
root@100.100.6.2's password:
Linux webserver 5.15.143-1-pve #1 SMP PVE 5.15.143-1 (2024-02-08T18:12Z) x86_64

The programs included with the Debian GNU/Linux system are free software;
the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the
individual files in /usr/share/doc/*/copyright.

Debian GNU/Linux comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent
permitted by applicable law.
You have mail.
Last login: Sat Jun 8 16:22:48 2024 from 100.100.1.4
root@webserver:~# whoami
root
```

```
(user@pc1)-[~]
$ ssh root@webserver
root@webserver's password:
Linux webserver 5.15.143-1-pve #1 SMP PVE 5.15.143-1 (2024-02-08T18:12Z) x86_64

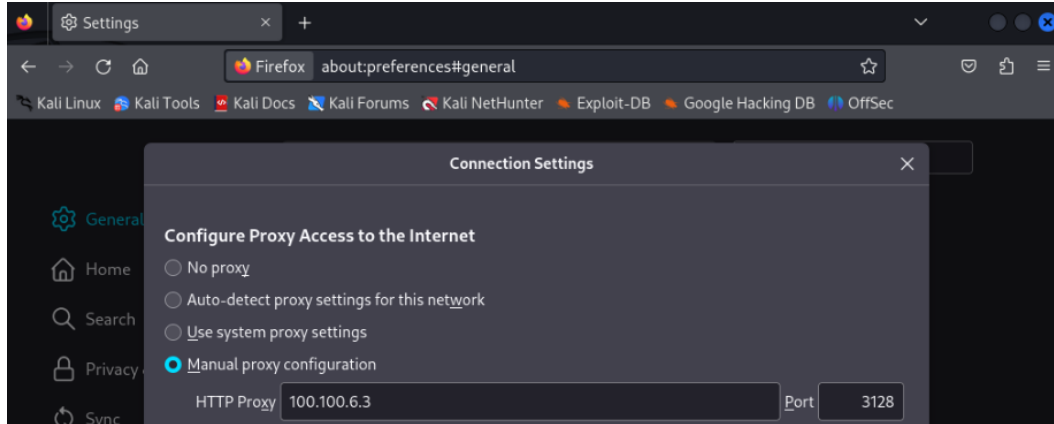
The programs included with the Debian GNU/Linux system are free software;
the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the
individual files in /usr/share/doc/*/copyright.

Debian GNU/Linux comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent
permitted by applicable law.
You have mail.
Last login: Tue Jun 11 11:14:08 2024 from 2001:470:b5b8:b82:2564:ed5e:bc49:5283
root@webserver:~# whoami
root
```

2.8 The Client network hosts have only access to external web services (HTTP/HTTPS) through the proxy server in the DMZ

Firstly, we need to configure a forward proxy on the Proxyserver. The details about how we configured the SQUID forward proxy can be found in the report for the third assignment.

Secondly, we need to set the proxy configuration in the kali and arpwatch machines so that they use the Proxyserver as a proxy for HTTP and HTTPS traffic:



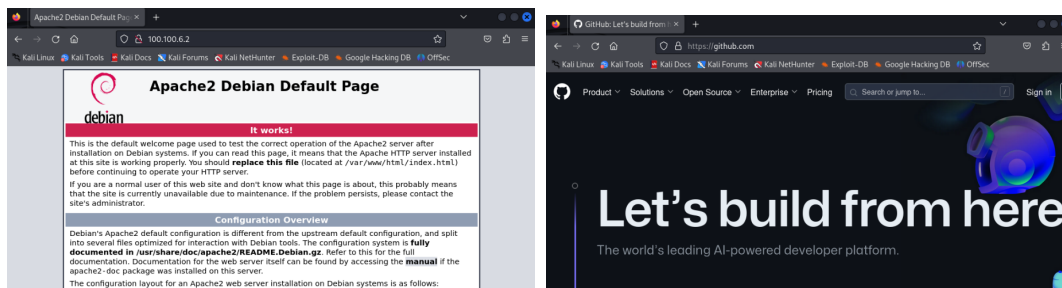
```
root@arpwatch-clients:~# echo $http_proxy
100.100.6.3:3128
root@arpwatch-clients:~# echo $https_proxy
100.100.6.3:3128
```

In 2.3 we already allowed access from all the hosts in the ACME network to the Proxyserver, and that includes also the CLIENTS subnet.

Finally, we need to add a rule in the DMZ interface of the main firewall, to allow the Proxyserver to send HTTP and HTTPS (and obviously DNS) traffic towards the Internet.

▶ 🔌 ⚡	IPv4+6 TCP	Proxyserver	*	*	WebserverPorts	*	*	Allow the HTTP/HTTPS traffic from the Proxyserver towards the Internet
▶ 🔌 ⚡	IPv4+6 TCP/UDP	Proxyserver	*	*	53 (DNS)	*	*	Allow DNS traffic from the Proxyserver towards the Internet

In order to test this rule we can try to reach the HTTP server on the Webserver and [Github](#) (using HTTPS).



2.9 Any packet the Main Firewall receives on port 65432 should be redirected to port 80 of the proxy host

To do so we need to perform port forwarding, which can be done by accessing NAT on the main firewall.



To check if this is working properly, we set the proxy to listen on port 80 using **netcat** and, from our virtual machine, we send a packet to the main firewall on port 65432.

```
root@proxyserver:/etc/squid# nc -nlvp 80
listening on [any] 80 ...
connect to [100.100.6.3] from (UNKNOWN) [100.101.0.3] 45978
hello world
[]
```

```
user@katha: ~/Desktop/pnd-assignment
File Edit Tabs Help
* user... * user@... *
```

```
user@katha:~/Desktop/pnd-assignment$ telnet 100.100.0.2 65432
Trying 100.100.0.2...
Connected to 100.100.0.2.
Escape character is '^]'.
hello world
[]
```

2.10 All the internal hosts should use the public IP address of the Main Firewall to exit towards the Internet

In order to do so, we need an Outbound NAT rule on the main firewall. We have interpreted “internal hosts” as all the hosts located in the subnets connected to the internal firewall, namely CLIENTS and SERVERS.



To test this, we can use a host located in the specified subnets to connect to our virtual machine and we can then check the IP that appears as source of the connection.

2.12 Only hosts in the DMZ should be reachable using the ping and traceroute tools from the Internet

In order to implement this, we can add a rule on the WAN interface of the main firewall, allowing ICMP packets from the Internet towards the DMZ subnet.

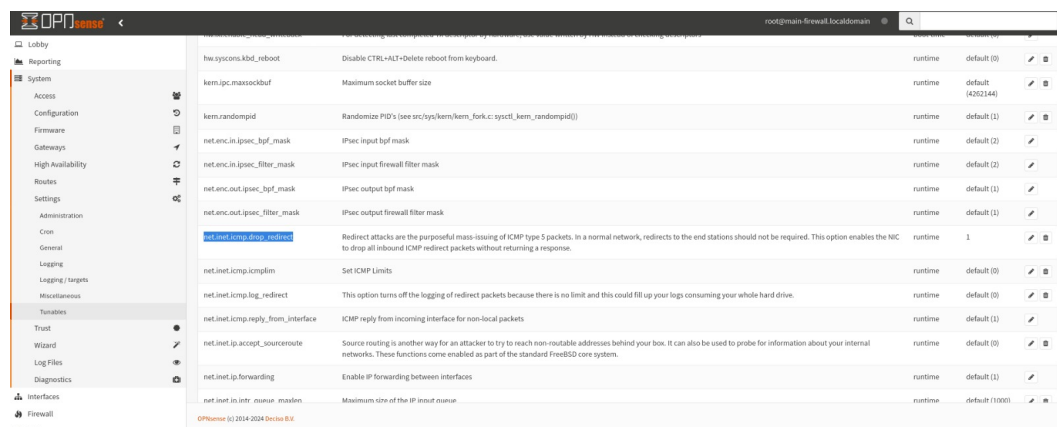


To test this we can use our host to ping the Webserver. Again, we cannot perform the same test with IPv6 since we don't know the IPv6 route to connect to the ACME network from our host.

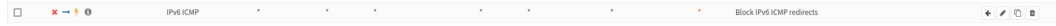
```
user@katha:~/Desktop/pnd-assignment$ ping 100.100.6.2
PING 100.100.6.2 (100.100.6.2) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from 100.100.6.2: icmp_seq=1 ttl=62 time=23.9 ms
64 bytes from 100.100.6.2: icmp_seq=2 ttl=62 time=9.08 ms
64 bytes from 100.100.6.2: icmp_seq=3 ttl=62 time=9.42 ms
64 bytes from 100.100.6.2: icmp_seq=4 ttl=62 time=8.14 ms
^C
--- 100.100.6.2 ping statistics ---
4 packets transmitted, 4 received, 0% packet loss, time 3006ms
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 8.135/12.637/23.912/6.526 ms
```

2.13 ICMP redirect packets should not cross any network

In OPNsense firewalls, IPv4 ICMP redirects are not allowed by default, as we can see from the configuration of **System > Tunables** for the `net.inet.icmp.drop_redirect` of the main firewall (it's the same for the internal firewall):



Since IPv6 ICMP redirects are not blocked by default, we need to add a rule in the floating table (because it needs to be applied to all interfaces) of both the main firewall and the internal firewall. We need to explicitly block ICMP redirects because we allowed all ICMP types in sections 2.11 and 2.12.



In order to test this rule, we created a Python script that generates ICMP redirect packets, and it waits for a response. As we can see, we don't receive any response, so the ICMP redirects are successfully blocked in our ACME network.

```
user@katha:~/Desktop/assignments$ sudo python3 icmp_redirect_2.py
.
Sent 1 packets.
Waiting for a response...
No response received.
```

2.14 Anything that is not explicitly allowed has to be denied.

Since the default policy for OPNsense firewalls is to deny incoming traffic, we explicitly allowed only the traffic specified in the policies. Consequently, no other traffic not explicitly stated in the assigned policies is allowed by our firewalls.

3 Final Remarks

Overall, this assignment was challenging, requiring significant time to understand and apply the concepts learned during lectures. One of the most difficult aspects was finding suitable guides and resources online to troubleshoot the problems we encountered during the process. Despite these challenges, it was rewarding to see everything working properly in the end.