

Configuración y Análisis de Firewalls en Kali Linux: iptables vs. UFW

Robert Alberto Pertuz Palacio

Laboratorio de ciberseguridad Talentotech 6-7

Talento tech Universidad popular del cesar

06/05/2025

Introducción

La seguridad informática es un aspecto esencial en cualquier sistema de redes, y uno de los mecanismos más importantes de defensa es el firewall. Este actúa como una barrera entre una red confiable y otra no confiable, permitiendo o bloqueando el tráfico según reglas preestablecidas. En sistemas Linux, existen diversas herramientas para la gestión de firewalls. Entre las más conocidas se encuentran iptables y ufw (Uncomplicated Firewall).

iptables ofrece un control detallado sobre las reglas de tráfico, aunque su complejidad puede ser un obstáculo para usuarios novatos. Por otro lado, ufw proporciona una interfaz más sencilla, orientada a usuarios que requieren rapidez y simplicidad. Este informe presenta una comparación técnica entre ambas herramientas mediante su configuración en Kali Linux, una distribución orientada a pruebas de penetración y análisis forense.

Método

Herramientas Utilizadas:

- Sistema Operativo: Kali Linux (versión actual)
- Firewalls: iptables y ufw
- Terminal Bash

Comandos Ejecutados:

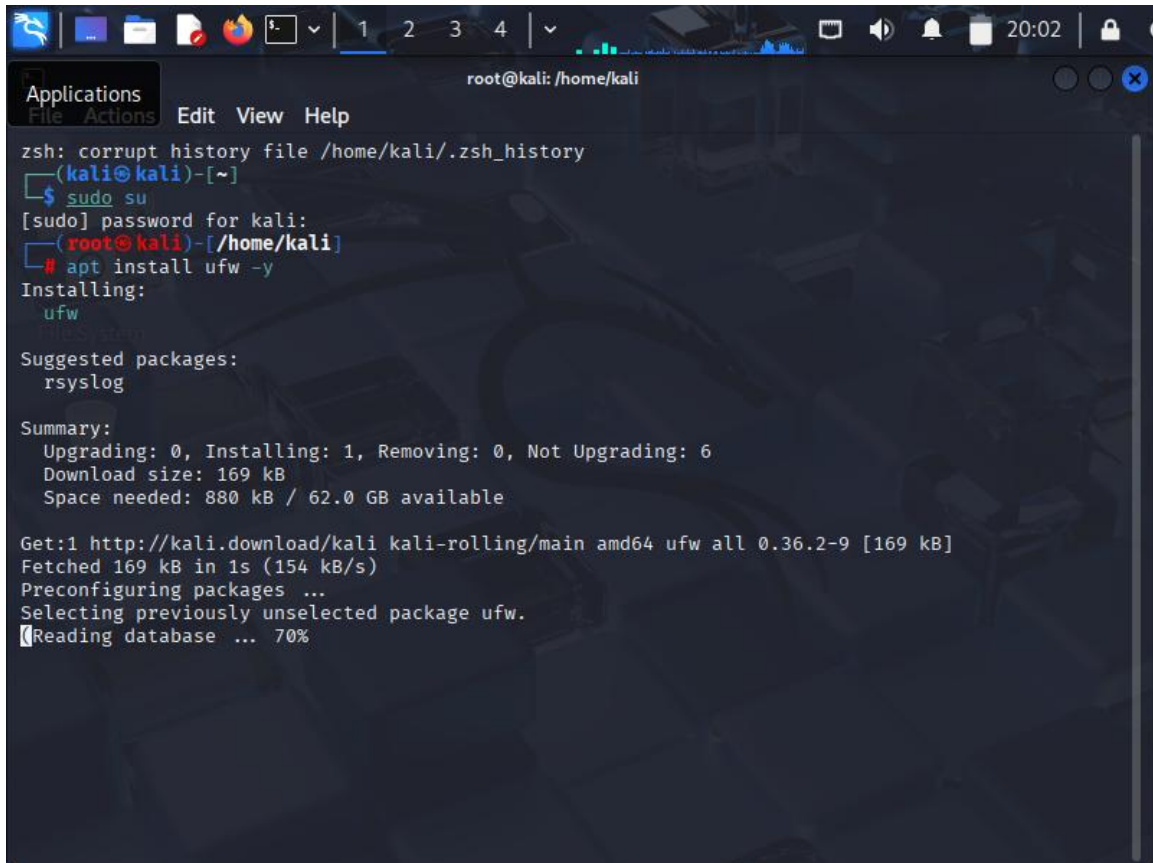
iptables:

```
sudo iptables -L
sudo iptables -A INPUT -p tcp --dport 22 -j DROP
sudo iptables -A INPUT -p tcp --dport 80 -j ACCEPT
sudo iptables -D INPUT 1
sudo iptables -F
```

ufw:

```
sudo ufw status verbose
sudo ufw enable
sudo ufw allow 80/tcp
sudo ufw deny 22/tcp
sudo ufw delete allow 80/tcp
sudo ufw disable
```

Resultados



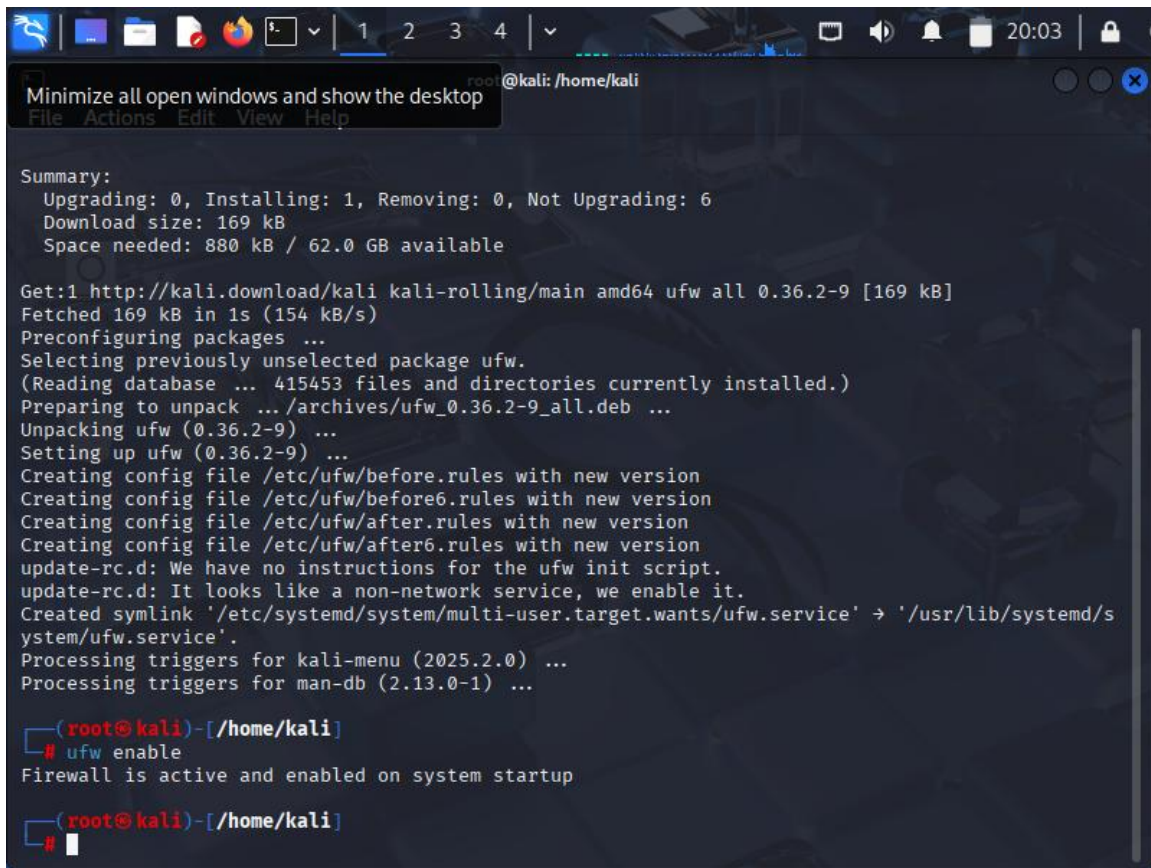
A terminal window titled 'Applications' with a menu bar containing 'File', 'Actions', 'Edit', 'View', and 'Help'. The window title bar also shows 'root@kali: /home/kali'. The terminal output shows a zsh error about a corrupt history file, followed by a user logging in as 'kali' and then as 'root' using 'sudo su'. The user then runs 'apt install ufw -y', which starts the installation of 'ufw'. It lists suggested packages ('rsyslog') and provides a summary of the installation: 1 package will be installed, requiring 169 kB of download and 880 kB of space. The terminal shows the package being fetched from the Kali rolling repository and the database being updated.

```
zsh: corrupt history file /home/kali/.zsh_history
(kali@kali)~]
$ sudo su
[sudo] password for kali:
(root@kali)~/home/kali]
# apt install ufw -y
Installing:
ufw
rsyslog

Suggested packages:
rsyslog

Summary:
Upgrading: 0, Installing: 1, Removing: 0, Not Upgrading: 6
Download size: 169 kB
Space needed: 880 kB / 62.0 GB available

Get:1 http://kali.download/kali kali-rolling/main amd64 ufw all 0.36.2-9 [169 kB]
Fetched 169 kB in 1s (154 kB/s)
Preconfiguring packages ...
Selecting previously unselected package ufw.
Reading database ... 70%
```



A terminal window on a Kali Linux desktop. The window title is "root@kali: /home/kali". The terminal output shows the installation of the ufw firewall. It starts with a summary of the installation, followed by the fetching of the package, preconfiguration, and the creation of configuration files. It also shows the creation of a symlink for the ufw service and the processing of triggers. Finally, it shows the user enabling ufw, which becomes active and enabled on system startup.

```
Minimize all open windows and show the desktop
File Actions Edit View Help

Summary:
  Upgrading: 0, Installing: 1, Removing: 0, Not Upgrading: 6
  Download size: 169 kB
  Space needed: 880 kB / 62.0 GB available

Get:1 http://kali.download/kali kali-rolling/main amd64 ufw all 0.36.2-9 [169 kB]
Fetched 169 kB in 1s (154 kB/s)
Preconfiguring packages ...
Selecting previously unselected package ufw.
(Reading database ... 415453 files and directories currently installed.)
Preparing to unpack .../archives/ufw_0.36.2-9_all.deb ...
Unpacking ufw (0.36.2-9) ...
Setting up ufw (0.36.2-9) ...
Creating config file /etc/ufw/before.rules with new version
Creating config file /etc/ufw/before6.rules with new version
Creating config file /etc/ufw/after.rules with new version
Creating config file /etc/ufw/after6.rules with new version
update-rc.d: We have no instructions for the ufw init script.
update-rc.d: It looks like a non-network service, we enable it.
Created symlink '/etc/systemd/system/multi-user.target.wants/ufw.service' -> '/usr/lib/systemd/s
ystem/ufw.service'.
Processing triggers for kali-menu (2025.2.0) ...
Processing triggers for man-db (2.13.0-1) ...

(root@kali)-[/home/kali]
# ufw enable
Firewall is active and enabled on system startup

(root@kali)-[/home/kali]
#
```

```
root@kali: /home/kali
File Actions Edit View Help
status show firewall status
status numbered show firewall status as numbered list of RULES
status verbose show verbose firewall status
show ARG show firewall report
version display version information

Application profile commands:
app list list application profiles
app info PROFILE show information on PROFILE
app update PROFILE update PROFILE
app default ARG set default application policy

(root@kali)-[/home/kali]
# ufw default deny incoming
Default incoming policy changed to 'deny'
(be sure to update your rules accordingly)

(root@kali)-[/home/kali]
# ufw default allow outgoing
Default outgoing policy changed to 'allow'
(be sure to update your rules accordingly)

(root@kali)-[/home/kali]
# iptables -P INPUT DROP

(root@kali)-[/home/kali]
# iptables -P OUTPUT ACCEPT

(root@kali)-[/home/kali]
#
```

```
root@kali: /home/kali
File Actions Edit View Help
(root@kali)-[/home/kali]
# iptables -L
Chain INPUT (policy DROP)
target    prot opt source                destination
ufw-before-logging-input all -- anywhere             anywhere
ufw-before-input all -- anywhere             anywhere
ufw-after-input all -- anywhere             anywhere
ufw-after-logging-input all -- anywhere             anywhere
ufw-reject-input all -- anywhere             anywhere
ufw-track-input all -- anywhere             anywhere

Chain FORWARD (policy DROP)
target    prot opt source                destination
ufw-before-logging-forward all -- anywhere             anywhere
ufw-before-forward all -- anywhere             anywhere
ufw-after-forward all -- anywhere             anywhere
ufw-after-logging-forward all -- anywhere             anywhere
ufw-reject-forward all -- anywhere             anywhere
ufw-track-forward all -- anywhere             anywhere

Chain OUTPUT (policy ACCEPT)
target    prot opt source                destination
ufw-before-logging-output all -- anywhere             anywhere
ufw-before-output all -- anywhere             anywhere
ufw-after-output all -- anywhere             anywhere
ufw-after-logging-output all -- anywhere             anywhere
ufw-reject-output all -- anywhere             anywhere
ufw-track-output all -- anywhere             anywhere

Chain ufw-after-forward (1 references)
target    prot opt source                destination
```

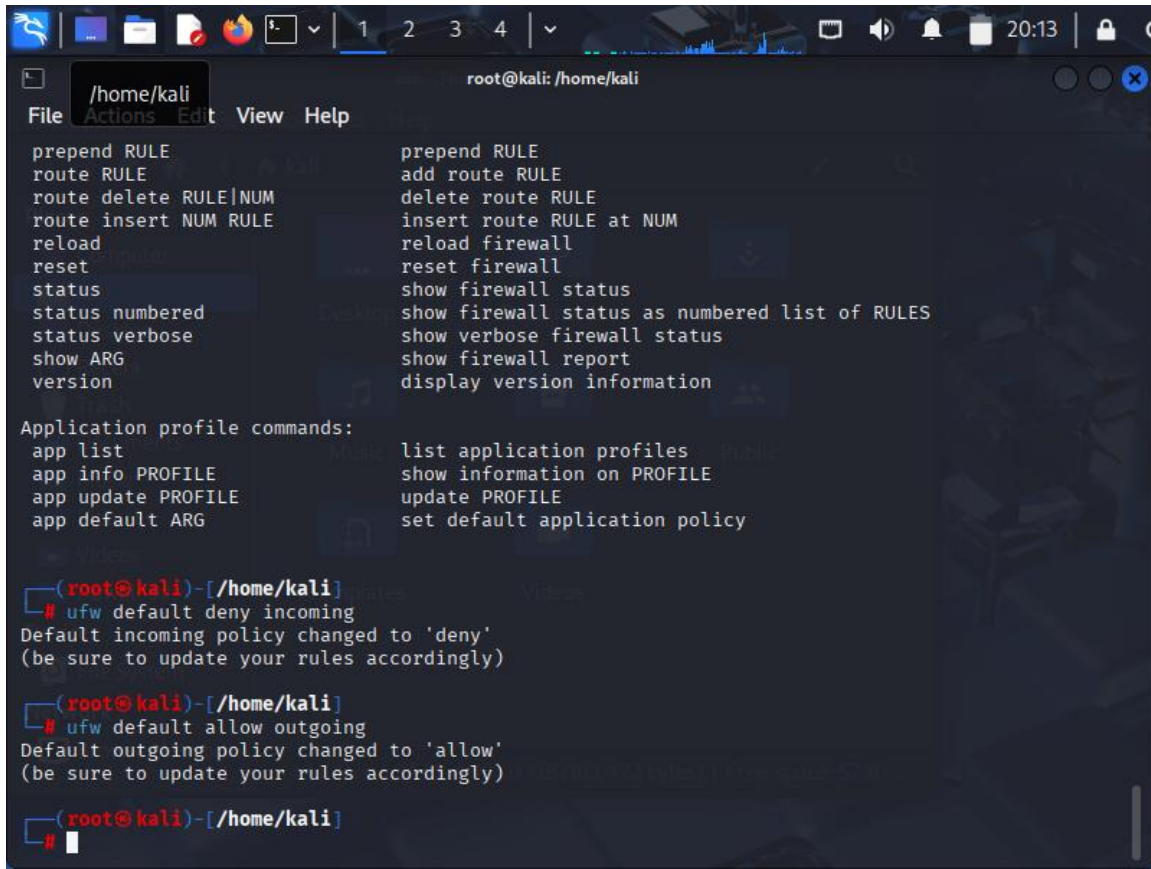


```
root@kali: /home/kali
File Actions Edit View Help
(root@kali)-[/home/kali]
# iptables -A INPUT -s 192.168.120.1 -j ACCEPT

(root@kali)-[/home/kali]
# iptables -L
Chain INPUT (policy DROP)
target    prot opt source                destination
ufw-before-logging-input all -- anywhere             anywhere
ufw-before-input all -- anywhere             anywhere
ufw-after-input all -- anywhere             anywhere
ufw-after-logging-input all -- anywhere             anywhere
ufw-reject-input all -- anywhere             anywhere
ufw-track-input all -- anywhere             anywhere
ACCEPT    tcp -- anywhere             anywhere            tcp dpt:ssh
ACCEPT    tcp -- anywhere             anywhere            tcp dpt:http
ACCEPT    all -- 192.168.120.1        anywhere

Chain FORWARD (policy DROP)
target    prot opt source                destination
ufw-before-logging-forward all -- anywhere             anywhere
ufw-before-forward all -- anywhere             anywhere
ufw-after-forward all -- anywhere             anywhere
ufw-after-logging-forward all -- anywhere             anywhere
ufw-reject-forward all -- anywhere             anywhere
ufw-track-forward all -- anywhere             anywhere

Chain OUTPUT (policy ACCEPT)
target    prot opt source                destination
ufw-before-logging-output all -- anywhere             anywhere
ufw-before-output all -- anywhere             anywhere
ufw-after-output all -- anywhere             anywhere
```



```
root@kali: /home/kali
File Actions Edit View Help

prepend RULE
route RULE
route delete RULE|NUM
route insert NUM RULE
reload
reset
status
status numbered
status verbose
show ARG
version

prepend RULE
add route RULE
delete route RULE
insert route RULE at NUM
reload firewall
reset firewall
show firewall status
show firewall status as numbered list of RULES
show verbose firewall status
show firewall report
display version information

Application profile commands:
app list
app info PROFILE
app update PROFILE
app default ARG

list application profiles
show information on PROFILE
update PROFILE
set default application policy

(root@kali)~/home/kali
# ufw default deny incoming
Default incoming policy changed to 'deny'
(be sure to update your rules accordingly)

(root@kali)~/home/kali
# ufw default allow outgoing
Default outgoing policy changed to 'allow'
(be sure to update your rules accordingly)

(root@kali)~/home/kali
#
```

Discusión

El análisis comparativo mostró que iptables es una herramienta poderosa, ideal para administradores de sistemas avanzados que requieren reglas personalizadas y detalladas. Sin embargo, su complejidad implica una mayor posibilidad de errores en la configuración, especialmente en ambientes dinámicos.

Por el contrario, ufw está diseñada para facilitar la gestión de reglas en entornos donde se requiere una configuración rápida y segura, sin necesidad de profundos conocimientos técnicos. Esto lo hace apropiado para estaciones de trabajo personales o servidores con necesidades básicas de filtrado.

Un aspecto relevante fue la persistencia: iptables no guarda las reglas tras reiniciar el sistema sin herramientas adicionales como iptables-persistent, mientras que ufw mantiene su configuración sin intervención adicional.

Conclusión

En entornos donde se prioriza el control granular y se cuenta con personal capacitado, iptables es la opción preferible. Para configuraciones más simples o cuando el tiempo es un factor crítico, ufw ofrece una alternativa eficaz y sencilla. En ambos casos, es fundamental probar las reglas cuidadosamente para evitar bloqueos no deseados.

Recomendación: Para usuarios principiantes o entornos de desarrollo, usar ufw. Para servidores en producción con políticas estrictas, preferir iptables acompañado de documentación adecuada.

Referencias

Netfilter Project. (s.f.). iptables - administration tool for IPv4 packet filtering and NAT.

Recuperado de <https://linux.die.net/man/8/iptables>

Ubuntu Documentation. (s.f.). Uncomplicated Firewall (UFW). Recuperado de

<https://help.ubuntu.com/community/UFW>

Nemeth, E., Snyder, G., Hein, T. R., Whaley, B., & Mackin, D. (2017). Unix and Linux System Administration Handbook (5th ed.). Pearson Education.

Criterio	iptables	UFW		
Complejidad	Alta	Baja		
Flexibilidad	Muy alta	Moderada		
Persistencia	No persistente por defecto	Persistente automáticamente		
Nivel de control	Avanzado	Básico a intermedio		
Curva de aprendizaje	Pronunciada	Suave		