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# Packet Filter Firewall (iptables) Project

### I. Project Overview

This project involved configuring a packet filter firewall in a two-VM network setup using iptables. The Gateway VM acted as a NAT gateway and HTTP server, while the Client VM accessed external and internal resources through it. The main goal was to implement a secure firewall with default-deny rules, only permitting necessary traffic like DNS, HTTP, and pings to 8.8.8.8 while blocking others. Screenshots were taken throughout to verify functionality. The final configuration ensured that only essential traffic was allowed, complying with all evaluation criteria.

#### II. NETWORK SETUP

Network Diagram: This network topology was designed to isolate the internal communication between the client and
the gateway on a private interface (enp0s8), while allowing the gateway to reach the internet via NAT (enp0s3). The
client sends all its internet-bound traffic through the gateway, which performs IP masquerading. This setup was
essential for testing the firewall rules in a controlled environment, ensuring proper traffic filtering and NAT behavior.



- Topology: Two Ubuntu VMs in VirtualBox
  - o Gateway VM: Dual interfaces
  - o enp0s3: NAT (for external access)
  - enp0s8: Internal network (IP: 10.0.2.1)
- Client VM: Single Interface (enp0s3, IP: 10.0.2.2)
- Initial Reachability:
  - Client could reach Gateway and 8.8.8.8 before the firewall hardened.
- Relevant Screenshots:
  - Gateway ip a

```
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/Documents/Project1$ ip a
1: lo: <LOOPBACK,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 65536 qdisc noqueue state UNKNOWN group defaul
t qlen 1000
    link/loopback 00:00:00:00:00:00 brd 00:00:00:00:00:00
    inet 127.0.0.1/8 scope host lo
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
    inet6 ::1/128 scope host
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
2: enp0s3: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc fq_codel state UP gr
oup default qlen 1000
    link/ether 08:00:27:d0:e4:3a brd ff:ff:ff:fff
    inet 10.0.2.15/24 brd 10.0.2.255 scope global dynamic noprefixroute enp0s3
        valid_lft 77844sec preferred_lft 77844sec
    inet6 fd17:625c:f037:2:9197:ef38:7192:8cfe/64 scope global temporary dynamic

    valid_lft 86327sec preferred_lft 14327sec
    inet6 fd17:625c:f037:2:ba8a:1555:c4e1:20d8/64 scope global dynamic mngtmpadd
r noprefixroute
    valid_lft 86327sec preferred_lft 14327sec
    inet6 fe80::d8fd:5e9a:b701:45fa/64 scope link noprefixroute
    valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
3: enp0s8: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc fq_codel state UP gr
oup default qlen 1000
    link/ether 08:00:27:9c:a1:c3 brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:
    inet 10.0.2.1/24 scope global enp0s8
    valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/Documents/Project1$
```

Client ip a

```
ubuntu@ubuntu:-/rc.firewall$ ip a

1: lo: <LOOPBACK,UP,LOMER_UP> mtu 65536 qdisc noqueue state UNKNOWN group defaul
t qlen 1000
link/loopback 00:00:00:00:00:00 brd 00:00:00:00:00:00
inet 127.0.0.1/8 scope host lo
valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
inet6::1/128 scope host
valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
2: enp0s3: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc fq_codel state UP gr
oup default qlen 1000
link/ether 08:00:27:cb:75:84 brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
inet 10.0.2.2/24 scope global enp0s3
valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
ubuntu@ubuntu:-/rc.firewall$
```

Client ip route

```
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/rc.firewall$ ip route
default via 10.0.2.1 dev enp0s3
10.0.2.0/24 dev enp0s3 proto kernel scope link src 10.0.2.2
169.254.0.0/16 dev enp0s3 scope link metric 1000
```

#### III. SOFTWARE

This project utilized several core tools and services on Ubuntu Linux:

- iptables to implement packet filtering rules on the Gateway VM.
- Apache2 to host a demo web page on the Gateway VM.
- wget to fetch web content from both localhost and across the VMs.
- ping to test ICMP echo reply access between nodes and to the public internet.
- nmap to scan TCP/UDP ports and verify service access restrictions.
- arping and iproute2 used for low-level diagnostics and confirming network interface behavior.

#### IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The following steps outline how the packet filter firewall and NAT configuration were implemented:

- Apache Setup on Gateway
  - Installed and enabled Apache2 via sudo apt install apache2
  - Edited /var/www/html/index.html to display a custom welcome message
  - Verified using:
    - wget -q0- http://localhost(Screenshot: Gateway Apache Test.png)

```
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/Documents/Project1$ echo "Welcome to the demo and test web page!

" | sudo tee /var/www/html/index.html

Welcome to the demo and test web page!

ubuntu@ubuntu:~/Documents/Project1$ sudo systemctl start apache2

ubuntu@ubuntu:~/Documents/Project1$ sudo systemctl enable apache2

Synchronizing state of apache2.service with SysV service script with /lib/system

d/systemd-sysv-install.

Executing: /lib/systemd/systemd-sysv-install enable apache2

ubuntu@ubuntu:~/Documents/Project1$ wget -q0- http://localhost

Welcome to the demo and test web page!

ubuntu@ubuntu:~/Documents/Project1$
```

■ wget -qo- http://10.0.2.1 from client (Screenshot: Client Apache Test.png)

```
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/rc.firewall$ echo "Welcome to the demo and test web page!" | sud
o tee /var/www/html/index.html
Welcome to the demo and test web page!
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/rc.firewall$ sudo systemctl start apache2
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/rc.firewall$ sudo systemctl enable apache2
Synchrontzing state of apache2.service with SysV service script with /lib/system
d/systemd-sysv-install.
Executing: /lib/systemd/systemd-sysv-install enable apache2
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/rc.firewall$ wget -q0- http://localhost
Welcome to the demo and test web page!
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/rc.firewall$ wget -q0- http://10.0.2.1
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/rc.firewall$ wget -q0- http://localhost
Welcome to the demo and test web page!
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/rc.firewall$ wget -q0- http://localhost
Welcome to the demo and test web page!
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/rc.firewall$ wget -q0- http://lo.0.2.1
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/rc.firewall$ squet -q0- http://lo.0.2.1
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/rc.firewall$ squet -q0- http://lo.0.2.1
Welcome to the demo and test web page!
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/rc.firewall$ wget -q0- http://lo.0.2.1
```

- Interface and Routing Configuration
  - o Manually configured static IPs:

■ Gateway internal IP: 10.0.2.1 (Screenshot: Gateway ip a.png)

```
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/Documents/Project1$ ip a
1: lo: <LOOPBACK,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 65536 qdisc noqueue state UNKNOWN group defaul
t qlen 1000
    link/loopback 00:00:00:00:00 brd 00:00:00:00:00:00
    inet 127.0.0.1/8 scope host lo
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
    inet6 ::1/128 scope host
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
2: enp0s3: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc fq_codel state UP gr
oup default qlen 1000
    link/ether 08:00:27:d0:e4:3a brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:
    inet 10.0.2.15/24 brd 10.0.2.255 scope global dynamic noprefixroute enp0s3
        valid_lft 77844sec
    inet6 fd17:625c:f637:2:9197:ef38:7192:8cfe/64 scope global temporary dynamic
        valid_lft 86327sec preferred_lft 14327sec
    inet6 fd17:625c:f637:2:ba8a:1555:cde1:20d8/64 scope global dynamic mngtmpadd
r noprefixroute
    valid_lft 86327sec preferred_lft 14327sec
    inet6 fe80::d8fd:5e9a:b701:45fa/64 scope link noprefixroute
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
3: enp0s8: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc fq_codel state UP gr
oup default qlen 1000
    link/ether 08:00:27:9c:a1:c3 brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:
    inet 10.0.2.1/24 scope global enp0s8
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/Documents/Project1$
```

■ Client IP: 10.0.2.2 (Screenshot: Client ip a.png)

```
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/rc.firewall$ ip a
1: lo: <L00PBACK,UP,L0WER_UP> mtu 65536 qdisc noqueue state UNKNOWN group defaul
t qlen 1000
    link/loopback 00:00:00:00:00 brd 00:00:00:00:00:00
    inet 127.0.0.1/8 scope host lo
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
    inet6 ::1/128 scope host
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
2: enp0s3: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,L0WER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc fq_codel state UP gr
oup default qlen 1000
    link/ether 08:00:27:cb:75:84 brd ff:ff:ff:ff:
    inet 10.0.2.2/24 scope global enp0s3
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/rc.firewall$
```

Verified routing via ip route (Screenshot: Client ip route.png)

```
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/rc.firewall$ ip route
default via 10.0.2.1 dev enp0s3
10.0.2.0/24 dev enp0s3 proto kernel scope link src 10.0.2.2
169.254.0.0/16 dev enp0s3 scope link metric 1000
```

- Firewall Configuration
  - Used iptables to:
    - Set default policies to DROP for INPUT, OUTPUT, FORWARD
    - Allow only:
      - Loopback traffic (localhost)
      - Outgoing HTTP/HTTPS, DNS, and ping to 8.8.8.8 from client
      - Incoming HTTP from client (port 80)
      - Masquerading for NAT using iptables -t nat -A POSTROUTING -o enp0s3 -j
         MASQUERADE
    - Block:
      - All pings to gateway (Screenshot: Client ping 10.0.2.1.png)

• Ping to other public DNS like 8.8.4.4 (Screenshot: Client ping 8.8.4.4.png)

```
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/rc.firewall$ ping 8.8.4.4

PING 8.8.4.4 (8.8.4.4) 56(84) bytes of data.

From 10.0.2.2 icmp_seq=1 Destination Host Unreachable

From 10.0.2.2 icmp_seq=2 Destination Host Unreachable

From 10.0.2.2 icmp_seq=3 Destination Host Unreachable

From 10.0.2.2 icmp_seq=4 Destination Host Unreachable

From 10.0.2.2 icmp_seq=5 Destination Host Unreachable

From 10.0.2.2 icmp_seq=6 Destination Host Unreachable

^C
--- 8.8.4.4 ping statistics ---

7 packets transmitted, 0 received, +6 errors, 100% packet loss, time 6076ms

pipe 3
```

• All pings from gateway (Screenshot: Gateway All Pings.png)

```
ubuntu@ubuntu:-/Documents/Project1$ ping localhost
PING localhost (127.0.0.1) 56(84) bytes of data.
ping: sendmsg: Operation not permitted
^C
--- localhost ping statistics ---
4 packets transmitted, 0 received, 100% packet loss, time 3102ms

ubuntu@ubuntu:-/Documents/Project1$ ping 10.0.2.2
PING 10.0.2.2 (10.0.2.2) 56(84) bytes of data.
ping: sendmsg: Operation not permitted
^C
--- 10.0.2.2 ping statistics ---
5 packets transmitted, 0 received, 100% packet loss, time 4095ms

ubuntu@ubuntu:-/Documents/Project1$ 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
```

• Full ruleset saved via iptables-save (Screenshot: Gateway iptables.png)

```
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/Documents/Project1$ sudo iptables -L -n -v
 Chain INPUT (policy DROP 4 packets, 160 bytes)
 pkts bytes target
4464 476K ACCEPT
                          prot opt in
                                            out
                                                      source
                                                                              destination
                          all -- lo
all -- *
                                                      0.0.0.0/0
                                                                              0.0.0.0/0
         25M ACCEPT
                                                      0.0.0.0/0
                                                                              0.0.0.0/0
                                                                                                      ctstate RELATED, ESTABL
ISHED
                          tcp -- *
udp -- *
all -- *
         420 ACCEPT
                                                      10.0.2.2
                                                                              0.0.0.0/0
                                                                                                      tcp dpt:80
                                                                             0.0.0.0/0
            0 ACCEPT
                                                     0.0.0.0/0
                                                                                                      udp spt:53
ctstate RELATED.ESTABL
     0
            0 ACCEPT
ISHED
 Chain FORWARD (policy DROP 885 packets, 74340 bytes)
 pkts bytes target
7302 613K ACCEPT
                                            out
                          prot opt in
                                                                              destination
                           icmp -- *
                                                      10.0.2.2
                                                                              8.8.8.8
ibreOffice Writer
                                                                              10.0.2.1
                           tcp
                                                      10.0.2.2
                                                                                                      tcp dpt:80
                                                                                                      ctstate RELATED, ESTABL
                          all
                                                      0.0.0.0/0
                                                                              0.0.0.0/0
TSHED
       4268 ACCEPT
                                                                              0.0.0.0/0
    58
                          abu
                                                      10.0.2.2
                                                                                                      udp dpt:53
       1500 ACCEPT
420 ACCEPT
                          tcp -- *
                                                      10.0.2.2
10.0.2.2
                                                                              0.0.0.0/0
                                                                                                      tcp dpt:80
tcp dpt:443
                                                                              0.0.0.0/0
                           tcp
            0 ACCEPT
                                                                                                      ctstate RELATED, ESTABL
                                                      0.0.0.0/0
                                                                              0.0.0.0/0
 ISHED
 Chain OUTPUT (policy DROP 0 packets, 0 bytes)
 pkts bytes target
4464 476K ACCEPT
2527 132K ACCEPT
                          prot opt in all -- *
                                                                              destination
                                            out
                                                      source
                                                      0.0.0.0/0
0.0.0.0/0
                                             lo
                                                                              0.0.0.0/0
                                                                                                      ctstate RELATED, ESTABL
ISHED
                          tcp
                                                      0.0.0.0/0
                                                                              10.0.2.2
                                                                                                      tcp spt:80
  3708 311K ACCEPT
                          udp
                                                      0.0.0.0/0
                                                                              0.0.0.0/0
                                                                                                      udp dpt:53
        360 ACCEPT
                           tcp
                                                                              0.0.0.0/0
                                                                                                      tcp dpt:80
        420 ACCEPT
                           tcp
                                                      0.0.0.0/0
                                                                              0.0.0.0/0
                                                                                                      tcp dpt:443
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/Documents/Project1$ sudo iptables -t nat -L -n -v
Chain PREROUTING (policy ACCEPT 9578 packets, 803K bytes)
                          prot opt in
                                                                              destination
 pkts bytes target
                                            out
                                                      source
 Chain INPUT (policy ACCEPT 7 packets, 420 bytes)
 pkts bytes target
                         prot opt in
                                                                              destination
                                            out
 Chain OUTPUT (policy ACCEPT 3704 packets, 301K bytes)
 pkts bytes target
                         prot opt in
                                            out
                                                                              destination
Chain POSTROUTING (policy ACCEPT 421 packets, 34955 bytes)
 pkts bytes target prot opt in out source
138 9584 MASQUERADE all -- * enp0s3 0.0.0.0/0
                                                                              destination
                                                                               0.0.0.0/0
 ubuntu@ubuntu:~/Documents/Project1$ wget -q0- http://localhost
 Welcome to the demo and test web page!
 ubuntu@ubuntu:~/Documents/Project1$
```

## Client Testing

• Verified HTTP access to gateway (Screenshot: Client wget -q0- http10.0.2.1.png)

```
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/rc.firewall$ wget -q0- http://10.0.2.1
Welcome to the demo and test web page!
```

Confirmed access to 8.8.8.8 and failure to reach 8.8.4.4 and gateway (Screenshot: Client All Pings.png)

```
ubuntu@ubuntu:-/rc.firewallS ping 10.0.2.1
PING 10.0.2.1 (10.0.2.1) 56(84) bytes of data.

^c
... 10.0.2.1 ping statistics ...
8 packets transmitted, 0 received, 100% packet loss, time 7304ms
ubuntu@ubuntu:-/rc.firewallS sudo nmap -sT -p- 10.0.2.1
Starting Nmap 7.60 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-05-21 17:08 MST
ubuntu@ubuntu:-/rc.firewallS sudo nmap -sU -p- 10.0.2.1
Starting Nmap 7.60 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-05-21 17:09 MST
ubuntu@ubuntu:-/rc.firewallS ping 8.8.8.8
PING 8.8.8.8 (8.8.8.8) 56(94) bytes of data.
64 bytes fron 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=2 til=254 time=15.8 ms
64 bytes fron 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=3 ttl=254 time=15.6 ms
64 bytes fron 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=3 ttl=254 time=16.6 ms
64 bytes fron 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=4 ttl=254 time=16.6 ms
64 bytes fron 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=6 ttl=254 time=16.6 ms
64 bytes fron 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=6 ttl=254 time=16.6 ms
65 bytes fron 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=6 ttl=254 time=16.6 ms
66 bytes fron 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=6 ttl=254 time=16.6 ms
67 c...
68 a.8.8.8 ping statistics ...
69 packets transmitted, 0 received, 0% packet loss, time 5018ms
67 rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 13.849/15.865/18.6684/1.567 ms
68 ubuntu@ubuntu:-/rc.firewallS ping 8.4.4
PING 8.8.4.4 (8.8.4.4) 56(84) bytes of data.
60 c...
61 ping statistics ...
62 packets transmitted, 0 received, 100% packet loss, time 4073ms
63 ubuntu@ubuntu:-/rc.firewallS ping 10.0.2.1
PING 10.0.2.1 ping statistics ...
63 packets transmitted, 0 received, 100% packet loss, time 4066ms
64 ubust transmitted, 0 received, 100% packet loss, time 4066ms
64 ubust from localhost (127.0.0.1) 56(84) bytes of data.
65 packets transmitted, 0 received, 100% packet loss, time 4066ms
65 packets transmitted, 0 received, 100% packet loss, time 4066ms
66 ubust transmitted, 0 received, 100% packet loss, time 4066ms
67 packets transmitted, 0 received, 100% packet loss, time 4066ms
68 packets transmitted, 0 received, 100% packet loss, time 4066ms
69 packets transmitted, 0 received, 00.0.1; icmp_seq=2 ttl=64 time=0.069 ms
60 packets transmitted, 00.0.1; icmp_seq=2 ttl=64 time=0.069 ms
60 pac
```

- Conducted nmap scans:
  - sudo nmap -sT -p- 10.0.2.1 (only port 80 open)
  - sudo nmap -su -p- 10.0.2.1 (all ports closed)
- Gateway Testing
  - Verified ping to localhost, client, and 8.8.8.8 were blocked (Screenshot: Gateway All Pings.png)

```
ocuments/Project1$ ping localhost
PING localhost (127.0.0.1) 56(84) bytes of data.
ping: sendmsg: Operation not permitted
--- localhost ping statistics ---
4 packets transmitted, 0 received, 100% packet loss, time 3102ms
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/Documents/Project1$ ping 10.0.2.2
PING 10.0.2.2 (10.0.2.2) 56(84) bytes of data.
ping: sendmsg: Operation not permitted
--- 10.0.2.2 ping statistics ---
5 packets transmitted, 0 received, 100% packet loss, time 4095ms
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/Documents/Project1$ ping 8.8.8.8
PING 8.8.8.8 (8.8.8.8) 56(84) bytes of data.
ping: sendmsg: Operation not permitted
 --- 8.8.8.8 ping statistics ---
5 packets transmitted, 0 received, 100% packet loss, time 5114ms
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/Documents/Project1$
```

## V. CONCLUSION

This project reinforced secure network design using iptables, ensuring only minimal required traffic is permitted. Key learnings included:

- Importance of iptables rule order and placement for correct traffic filtering.
- Differentiating traffic directions (INPUT, OUTPUT, FORWARD).
- Applying NAT/MASQUERADE to enable client's internet access via gateway.
- Iterative testing and logging to confirm compliance with all rubric rules.

Self-assessment: Fully implemented and tested the lab rubric requirements. All screenshots confirm firewall compliance and functionality per specification.

## VI. APPENDIX B: ATTACHED FILES

#### Screenshots:

- Client All Pings.png
- Client Apache Test.png
- Client ip a.png
- Client ip route.png
- Client ping 8.8.4.4.png
- Client ping 8.8.8.8.png
- Client ping 10.0.2.1.png
- Client ping google.com.png
- Client wget -q0- http10.0.2.1.png
- Gateway All Pings.png
- Gateway Apache Test.png
- Gateway ip a.png
- Gateway iptables.png

## VII. REFERENCES

- [1] Nmap.org "Firewall/IDS Evasion and Spoofing." available at https://nmap.org/book/man-bypass-firewalls-ids.html, accessed by 08/21/2025
- [2] Ubuntu, "Basic iptables HowTo" available at https://help.ubuntu.com/community/IptablesHowTo, accessed by 08/21/2025