

Router installation

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Introduction

In this documentation, we will explain how to set a router serving two different networks.

The **router** will not only serve as **DHCP** server and **router**, but also as a **firewall** and a **logging facility** for the two subordinated networks.

We will then have three networks: the `WAN`, the `LAN1` and the `LAN2`.

We will install `Debian 12 bookworm` in it due to its reliability.

Requirements

- a computer with three network interfaces at least
- 20 GB of hard drive minimum
- 1 GB of RAM minimum
- an `iso image` of `Debian 12 bookworm`

Installation

Initial setup

1. **BOOT**: we begin the installation booting with the `Debian 12 bookworm` **iso image** (it can be the `netinstall` one if you prefer).

As the `router` will only be a server, we will not need any graphical interface, and it will be the same for the installer.

2. **INSTALL:** choose the `Install` option instead of the `Graphical install`.
3. **LANGUAGE:** choose the `English` language.
4. **TIMEZONE:** choose `other`, then `Europe`, and finally `France`.
5. **LOCALE:** choose the **locale** `United States en_US.UTF-8`
6. **KEYBOARD:** choose the keyboard you prefer (`French`, or any other).
7. **HOSTNAME:** type the **hostname** `router`.
8. **DOMAIN:** leave the domain name **blank**.
9. **ROOT:** enter a good `root` password (make sure to follow the conventions of your enterprise) and confirm it.
10. **USER:** create a new **user** and name it `router` or the name of your choice (according to your conventions).
11. Enter a good password respecting the conventions of your enterprise and confirm it.
12. **DISK PARTITIONING:** choose the `manual partitioning`.

Partitions

13. For the manual partitioning, first create the `boot` partition, and then create the **lvm** `volume group` **vg0**, in which you will create all the `lvm partitions`.

Partition name	Type	Mount point	Allocated space
boot	ext4	/boot	1GB
root	lvm	/	3GB
tmp	lvm	/tmp	1GB
var	lvm	/var	5GB
var_log	lvm	/var/log	1GB
usr	lvm	/usr	3GB
home	lvm	/home	1GB
swap	lvm	<i>swap type: no mount point</i>	1GB

14. Accept and apply the partitioning.

Last steps

15. **MIRROR:** to the `Continue without a network mirror?` question, answer **No**.
16. Choose the first mirror based in `France` if your server is located there (it should be the `deb.debian.org`).
17. **PROXY / PACKAGE SURVEY:** leave the `proxy` option blank and do not accept the **package survey**.
18. **SOFTWARE SELECTION:** as said beforehand, this server will **not** need any `graphical` environment, so only check the `SSH Server` and `standard system utilities`.

19. **GRUB**: accept to install `grub-loader`, it will let your computer boot without problem on `debian`.

WARNING: if you don't accept `grub`, you will not be able to turn your system on, so it's a crucial step.

20. Select the `sda` disk (it should be the one you used for the partitioning).

21. **FINISH**: click on continue when the installation is finished.

Configuration

In this section, we will be logged in with the `router` account.

Install packages

1. Update your system and install the necessary packages:

```
apt-get -y update
```

If you have an issue with this command about the `CDROM`, you need to edit the `/etc/apt/sources.list` with the editor of your choice and comment the line beginning with `deb cdrom`. Rerun the `update` command after modifying this file.

```
apt-get -y install curl sudo net-tools tcpdump rsync
```

You can also install other packages like `vim psmisc git`.

```
apt-get -y install dnsmasq rsyslog logrotate iptables iptables-persistent
```

2. The `iptables-persistent` installation should ask you if you want to save the `ipv4` and `ipv6` configurations. Choose **No**.

sudo configuration

3. To set `sudo` up for your `non-root User`, run the following command:

```
visudo
```

4. Then uncomment the line `##sudo[]ALL=(ALL:ALL) ALL` removing the `#` character at the beginning of the line, then press `Ctrl + X` to save, `Y` to confirm and `Enter` to overwrite the config file.
5. Now all users that are in the `sudo` group will be able to act as `root` using the command `sudo`, but your user may not be part of it yet.
6. To add a specific user to the `sudo` group, run the following command (replace `router` with the user you want):

```
usermod -aG sudo router
```

Network

Here we will configure the `network interfaces` of the `router`.

7. Get the names of the `network interfaces` using the `ip a` command (there should be at least four, including the `loopback`).
8. Open the `/etc/network/interfaces` file with your favorite text editor (`vim`, `vi`, `nvim`, `nano` or any other).
9. Configure your three interfaces like the following (replace the **INTERFACES** and **ADDRESSES** with the corresponding ones):

```
# This file describes the network interfaces available on your system
# and how to activate them. For more information, see interfaces(5).
```

```
source /etc/network/interfaces.d/*
```

```
# The loopback network interface
auto lo
iface lo inet loopback
```

```
# Other network interfaces
allow-hotplug <WAN-INTERFACE>
iface <WAN-INTERFACE> inet dhcp
```

```
auto <LAN1-INTERFACE>
```

```
iface <LAN1-INTERFACE> inet static
    address <LAN1-ADDRESS>

auto <LAN2-INTERFACE>
iface <LAN2-INTERFACE> inet static
    address <LAN2-ADDRESS>
```

The `WAN` interface will then be set to `dhcp` and the two `LAN` interfaces will be `static`.

10. **DNS Entries**: to add specific `DNS` entries in your `router`, you can edit the `/etc/hosts` file like in the example below:

```
127.0.0.1 localhost

# The following lines are desirable for IPv6 capable hosts
::1 localhost ip6-localhost ip6-loopback
ff02::1 ip6-allnodes
ff02::2 ip6-allrouters

# WWW network
192.168.56.10 router
192.168.56.80 www

# SQL network
172.16.13.10 router
172.16.13.54 sql
```

You just need to add a pair of `IP address` - `hostname` on a blank line, separated by spaces.

DHCP

11. **Static DHCP leases**: to set static `DHCP` leases, you need to create a new file named `/etc/ethers`. Here is an example:

```
## Static DHCP leases

# SQL server
bc:24:11:cf:34:b2 172.16.13.54

# WWW server
bc:24:11:2c:a7:2d 192.168.56.80
```

This file takes `MAC address` - `IP address` pairs, so that a specific `MAC address` will take the specified `IP address` from `dnsmasq`.

12. Enable the `read-ethers` option in `/etc/dnsmasq.conf`: open the file with your text editor and uncomment the `#read-ethers` line removing the leading `#` character:

```
read-ethers
```

13. Set the `DHCP ranges` you want to use in the same `/etc/dnsmasq.conf` file. Example with networks `192.168.56.0/24` and `172.16.13.0/24`:

```
# Uncomment this to enable the integrated DHCP server, you need
# to supply the range of addresses available for lease and optionally
# a lease time. If you have more than one network, you will need to
# repeat this for each network on which you want to supply DHCP
# service.
dhcp-range=192.168.56.50,192.168.56.100,6h
dhcp-range=172.16.13.50,172.16.13.100,6h
```

14. Restart the `dnsmasq` service with that command:

```
service dnsmasq restart
```

Routing

15. Enable the `forwarding` from `sysctl`: open `/etc/sysctl.conf` with your text editor and uncomment the following line (removing the leading `#` character):

```
net.ipv4.ip_forward=1
```

Setting the iptables rules

16. To set the iptables rules, you need to have clear which connections you want to allow, depending on the services present in your networks. Here is an example using a WebServer and a PostgreSQL Server in two different LAN networks.

"\$WAN", "\$LAN1" and "\$LAN2" correspond to the network interfaces of router.

"\$WEB_SERVER" and "\$PSQL_SERVER" correspond to IP addresses belonging to a WebServer and a PostgreSQL Server.

```
# INPUT policy
# accept all related or already established connections
iptables -A INPUT -m state --state RELATED,ESTABLISHED -j ACCEPT

# accept HTTP requests from the WAN interface
iptables -A INPUT -i "$WAN" -p tcp -m tcp --dport 80 -j ACCEPT

# accept SSH connections from any interface
iptables -A INPUT -p tcp -m tcp --dport 22 -j ACCEPT

# accept rsyslog tcp connections from LAN1 & LAN2 interfaces
iptables -A INPUT -i "$LAN1" -p tcp -m tcp --dport 514 -j ACCEPT
iptables -A INPUT -i "$LAN2" -p tcp -m tcp --dport 514 -j ACCEPT

# accept DNS requests from LAN1 & LAN2 interfaces
iptables -A INPUT -i "$LAN1" -p udp -m udp --dport 53 -j ACCEPT
iptables -A INPUT -i "$LAN2" -p udp -m udp --dport 53 -j ACCEPT

# accept DHCP requests from LAN1 & LAN2 interfaces
iptables -A INPUT -i "$LAN1" -p udp -m udp --dport 67 -j ACCEPT
iptables -A INPUT -i "$LAN2" -p udp -m udp --dport 67 -j ACCEPT

# FORWARD policy
# Forward policy set to DROP
iptables --policy FORWARD DROP

# allow related or already established connections
iptables -A FORWARD -m state --state RELATED,ESTABLISHED -j ACCEPT
```

```
# allow forwarding from WAN to LAN1 (if LAN1 needs connections from outside, like a webserver)
iptables -A FORWARD -i "$WAN" -o "$LAN1" -j ACCEPT

# allow forwarding from LAN1 & LAN2 to WAN (to have access to internet from the LANs networks)
iptables -A FORWARD -i "$LAN1" -o "$WAN" -j ACCEPT
iptables -A FORWARD -i "$LAN2" -o "$WAN" -j ACCEPT

# allow all ICMP requests from any interface
iptables -A FORWARD -p icmp -j ACCEPT

# allow a specific connection to an IP address in a particular port (example with a PSQL Server)
iptables -A FORWARD -d "$PSQL_SERVER"/32 -p tcp -m tcp --dport 5432 -j ACCEPT

# NAT policy
# enable HTTP DNAT from WAN to a specific IP address (example with a WebServer)
iptables -t nat -A PREROUTING -i "$WAN" -p tcp -m tcp --dport 80 -j DNAT --to-destination "$WEB_SERVER"

# enable NAT from the LANs networks to the WAN network
# necessary to have internet connection working in the LANs networks
iptables -t nat -A POSTROUTING -o "$WAN" -j MASQUERADE
```

Making the rules persistent

17. Save the configuration to make it persistent with the following command:

```
iptables-save > /etc/iptables/rules.v4
```

Logging

18. Enable the `rsyslog` `tcp reception` in the `/etc/rsyslog.conf` file. Open the file in your text editor and uncomment the following lines removing the leading `#` character:

```
module(load="imtcp")
input(type="imtcp" port="514")
```

19. Disable the default `rsyslog` output file to use a template in the same `/etc/rsyslog.conf` file:

- Comment the last line of the following part

```
#
# Log anything besides private authentication messages to a single log file
#
#*. *;auth,authpriv.none - /var/log/syslog
```

- Add the following lines at the end of the file:

```
#
# Remote logs
#
template(name="RemoteLogs" type="string" string="/var/log/remote/%HOSTNAME%.log")
*. * ?RemoteLogs
```

20. Configure `logrotate`:

- Modify the `/etc/logrotate.conf` to enable the `dateext` option (to use the date in the names of the log files) and uncomment the following line:

```
dateext
```

- Create a new file `/etc/logrotate.d/remote` with the following content:

```
/var/log/remote/*.log {
    weekly
    rotate 52
    compress
    delaycompress
    missingok
    dateext
    dateformat .%Y-%m-%d
    sharedscripts
    postrotate
        /usr/lib/rsyslog/rsyslog-rotate
    endscrip
}
```

- Then restart the two services:

```
service rsyslog restart
service logrotate restart
```

End

21. To be sure to have all configurations taken into account, `reboot` the `router` using that command:

```
reboot
```

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