

Re: The Stunning Failure of OpenBSD

Source: <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.os.linux.security/2002-10/2831.html>

From: DO NOT SPAM Me (Please.NOSPAM@NOSPAM.dynDNS.biz)

Date: 07/18/02

From: DO NOT SPAM Me <Please.NOSPAM@NOSPAM.dynDNS.biz>

Date: Thu, 18 Jul 2002 14:57:54 GMT

To make the long story short, request your boss to spend about US\$100 from his petty account to get any router + Firewall + NAT + QoS, i.e Linksys BEFSR81, to replace your Linux router. That way, you not only saving your time to manage the Linux/OpenBSD router, but your company also saves some bucks in electricity (even though your boss may not be of a concern about the electrical bill).

Egg Troll wrote:

> Hello,
>
> *Recently I had an experience to use OpenBSD. I had heard many great
> things about it, and was excited to replace a dead Linux firewall with
> this OS. Unfortunately as things turned out, OpenBSD proved to be more
> nightmare than solution.*
>
> *When not attending classes at my community college to get my
> humanities degree, I work part-time at a printshop. Our Linux box
> there finally gave up the ghost. I'd heard that OpenBSD was incredibly
> secure so I talked my boss into putting that on as a replacement.*
>
> *Part of the appeal of OpenBSD was its history. A fork of the Linux
> kernel, it was originally intended for Steve Job's failed NeXT cube.
> Recently, its found a home amongst the ignorant and easily-fooled as a
> firewall OS (later on, we'll see how Job's reached back to use OpenBSD
> in OSX. This will be important later!) BSD was also famous for an
> incident in the early 80s, where they were sued by Microsoft when the
> BSD developers stole the TCP/IP stack from Microsoft's PC-DOS.*
>
> *Once my boss gave approval, I quickly headed over to opensbd.com and
> downloaded the ISOs from the web site. Our box was pretty
> state-of-the-art, a two-CPU'ed Pentium III. Installing it went pretty
> flawless and I had high hopes for our new firewall.*
>
> *Almost immediately however I began to have concerns. I noticed no
> where did OpenBSD display the terms of the GPL. Since its based on
> Linux, this should be a requirement. Apparently the history of theft*

comp.os.linux.security: Re: The Stunning Failure of OpenBSD

> amongst the BSD developers still continues!
>
> I was even more shocked to learn that the ipchains rules we'd
> carefully setup on our Linux box would not work on OpenBSD! Perhaps
> OpenBSD is still using a SHARE-based networking security from the DOS
> TCP/IP stack! Or more likely they just haven't caught up to Linux and
> are still using iptables.
>
> Whatever the case, almost immediately our box was rooted. OpenBSD
> proved to be aptly named as the box was "open" to the entire world.
> Later on I would find out that despite its claims of being secure,
> OpenBSD's default configuration appears to start up every service
> known to man! I find it shocking that an OS commonly used for
> firewalls would have BIND running by default.
>
> Then there was the OpenSSH holes. I would later learn that OpenBSD has
> a history of remote exploits. Perhaps they should work with the team
> at RedHat, as RH knows how to secure their distros.
>
> After spending a week trying to patch a leaky firewall, I gave up. I
> found an Mac SE/30 and put OSX on it. I then installed Norton Personal
> Firewall. That became our firewall and I'm proud to say that its been
> happily running for two weeks without a single incident. I find it
> funny that despite OpenBSD users arrogant claims of superiority, a
> humble SE/30, running an OS that's loosely based on OpenBSD, performed
> much better. Perhaps its another failing of open source versus
> commercial software. Whatever the case, its clear that OpenBSD has a
> long ways to go before it can be taken seriously.
>
> Thank you for your time,
>
> Egg Troll

-
- **Next message:** [Julian T. J. Midgley: "Re: Monitoring for breakins"](#)
 - **Previous message:** [James Riden: "Re: Monitoring for breakins"](#)
 - **In reply to:** [Egg Troll: "The Stunning Failure of OpenBSD"](#)
 - **Next in thread:** [Christopher Browne: "Re: The Stunning Failure of OpenBSD"](#)
 - **Reply:** [Christopher Browne: "Re: The Stunning Failure of OpenBSD"](#)
 - **Messages sorted by:** [\[date \]](#) [\[thread \]](#) [\[subject \]](#) [\[author \]](#) [\[attachment \]](#)