

A Brief Discussion of Linux Security

By Bob Avery-Babel

Linux is customizable and can be run with many network services. An in-depth discussion of Linux Security is beyond the scope of this presentation. However, here are a few things to keep in mind when securing your Linux System:

Turn off unused Services

In Red Hat, logged in as root, type `setup` at the command line prompt. This will launch a menu based program. Select System services from the menu, then Run Tool. Listed here are all of the services that are started up when your server is first launched. You can select and deselect the services. If you are not using it, turn it off.

Learn how to configure xinet.d services

Xinet.d services need to be enabled and disabled individually. All of these settings for these programs can be found in the `/etc/xinetd.d` directory. Each individual settings file can be modified (root level access needed) with the line that says `disable (= yes or no)`. A more complex way of limiting services in the xinet.d settings is limiting services with all sorts of options such as limiting by port numbers, or by IP numbers.

Set up a Firewall

IPCHAINS or IPTABLES are commonly used to control traffic going in and out of a network.

Subscribe to Security Lists

There are security update discussion lists that are available to subscribe to for the various Linux distributions. Check those out to stay updated on the latest threats and patches to your system.