

The end of the work week :)

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One more week passed without serious server problems. Yesterday after upgrade to debian 4.0rc2 with **apt-get dist-upgrade** and *reboot the pc-freak box became unbootable.*

I wasn't able to fix it until today because *the machine's box seemed not to read cds well.* The problem was consisted of this that after the *boot process of the linux kernel has started the machine the boot up was interrupted* with a message saying **/sbin/init is missing**

and I was dropped to a busybox without being able to read nothing from my filesystem. Thankfully *nomen* came to Dobrich for the weekend and today he bring me his cdrom-drive I booted with the debian.

Using *Debian's linux rescue* I mounted the partition to check what's wrong. I suspected something is terribly wrong with the **lilo's conf.**

Looking closely to it I saw it's the lilo conf file *it was setupped to load a initrd for the older kernel.* changing the line to thenew initrd in /etc/lilo.conf and rereading the lilo; **/sbin/lilo -C; /sbin/lilo;**

fixed the mess and *pc-freak booted succesfully! :)*

Yesterday I had to do something kinky. It was requested from a client to have access to a mysql service of one of the company servers, the problem was that the client didn't have static IP so I didn't have a good way to put into the current firewall.

Everytime the adsl they use got restarted a new absolutely random IP from all the BTC IP ranges was assigned.

The *solution was to make a port redirect to a non-standard mysql port (XXXXX) which pointed to the standard 3306 service.* I had to tell the firewall not to check the coming IPs on the non-standard port (XXXXX) against the 3306 service fwall rules.

Thanks to the help of a guy **inirc.freenode.net #iptables** jengelh I figured out the solution.

To complete the requested task it was **needed to mark all packages coming into port (XXXXX) using the iptables mangle option** and to add a rule to ACCEPT all marked packages.

The rules looked like this

```
/sbin/iptables -t mangle -A PREROUTING -p tcp --dport XXXXX -j MARK --set-mark  
123456/sbin/iptables -t nat -A PREROUTING -d EXTERNAL_IP -i eth0 -p tcp --dport XXXXX -j  
DNAT --to-destination EXTERNAL_IP:3306
```

```
/sbin/iptables -t filter -A INPUT -p tcp --dport 3306 -m mark --mark 123456 -j ACCEPT .
```

Something I wondered a bit was should **/proc/sys/net/ipv4/ip_forward** in order for the above redirect to be working, in case you're wondering too well it doesn't :) The working week was a sort of quiteful no serious problems with servers and work no serious problems at school (although I see me and my colleagues become more and more unserious) at studying. My grand parentsdecided to make me a gift and give me money to buy a laptop and I'm pretty happy for this :) All that is left is *to choose a good machine with hardware supported both by FreeBSD and Linux.*

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