

FreeBSD security exercises
=====

1. Figure out what is running on your machine

There are quite a few ways to approach this, but very quickly here are some useful commands:

```
ps                # processes
netstat           # network status
sockstat          # socket status
grep -i yes /etc/rc.conf
```

You should, as usual, read the man pages for "ps", "netstat", "sockstat". On other versions of Unix you may have the command "lsof" (List Open Files), and this can be installed as an optional extra package under FreeBSD too if you wish.

Now here are some good options:

```
$ ps -auxw | less
$ netstat -an -f inet
$ sockstat -4 -l
```

You should try all of these commands and analyse what is being shown. For example, the command "sockstat -4 -l" may produce:

```
$ sockstat -4 -l
USER  COMMAND  PID  FD  PROTO  LOCAL ADDRESS  FOREIGN ADDRESS
root  syslogd  19072  5  udp4   *:514          *:
root  sshd     19196  3  tcp4   *:22           *:
root  sendmail 19202  4  tcp4   127.0.0.1:25  *:
```

What you are seeing is that the syslog daemon is listening for UDP traffic on port 514; sshd is listening for TCP connections on port 22; and sendmail is listening for TCP connections on port 25, but is only listening on IP address 127.0.0.1. That's the loopback address, so will only accept mail generated within the same machine, not from outside.

An easy way to check what you've chosen to start at system boot is:

```
$ grep -i yes /etc/rc.conf
```

although some things may be started by default anyway. You can look through /etc/defaults/rc.conf for these, or try:

```
$ grep -i 'yes' /etc/defaults/rc.conf
```

Finally, in a perfect world you should be able to type:

```
$ ps -auxw | less
```

and know what each and every item in the process list means and does. You can look for unusual items, and use available resources like "man" to try to figure out what all the items in the list mean.

2. Turn off any unnecessary services

This exercise is very simple and short. You just finished looking at your system in much more detail. Did you see anything that should not be running, starting, etc? This is a *very* subjective question. If you did find something, then the likely place to turn the item off will be in the file

```
/etc/rc.conf
```

You usually do this by immediately shutting it down with:

```
# /etc/rc.d/service stop
```

(or just by 'kill _pid_'), and then adding an entry to /etc/rc.conf that reads:

```
service_enable="NO"
```

As you are using a fresh install of FreeBSD and it is a fairly minimal install there is probably nothing that needs to be turned off right now, but if you think there is, call an instructor over to discuss the item.

3. Understand your logs

On a daily basis your server will receive two emails that are generated from a script that is run via the crontab facility. This script reads your log files, checks your system state, etc. and then generates the summary reports for you. The reports can be very useful, particularly if you do not have additional logging facilities in place to warn you immediately of potential attacks.

First, have a look at the file:

```
$ less /etc/syslog.conf
```

to understand where logs are generated on your machine (full details of this file are in 'man syslog.conf', of course). Now go to the directory /var/log

```
$ cd /var/log
```

and look at all the log files available to you. These files can be invaluable when troubleshooting problems and checking for potential security issues.

The log you are probably going to look at the most is "messages".

To see what is happening on your system right at this moment you can try the command (as root):

```
# tail -f /var/log/messages
```

This will show you new items as they are written to your /var/log/messages file. To test this try switching to another virtual terminal (ALT-F2) and logging in (or logging out and in) to a session. Now switch back to your original virtual terminal where you issued the "tail" command (maybe ALT-F1), and see what is reported. This is a nice trick, but it's only useful as something to give you the general feel for what goes on in your system. You will need to take advantage of logging tools to be sure that unusual events are reported to you.

Feel free to look at some/all of the log files. Some of the files are not text files, so you won't want to type them to the screen. And, some are empty. A quick way to check what files are text, binary, data, or empty is to do the following:

```
# cd /var/log
# file *
```

The 'file' command tells you what type of file a file is, and the shell expands '*' to all the filenames in the current directory. The output from this command may look something like this:

```
Xorg.0.log:      ASCII English text
Xorg.0.log.old:  ASCII English text
aculog:          ASCII text
auth.log:        ASCII text
connect-errors: ASCII text
```

```

cron:          ASCII text
cron.0.bz2:   bzip2 compressed data, block size = 900k
cron.1.bz2:   bzip2 compressed data, block size = 900k
cron.2.bz2:   bzip2 compressed data, block size = 900k
debug.log:    ASCII text
debug.log.0.bz2: bzip2 compressed data, block size = 900k
exim:        directory
lastlog:     data
lpd-errs:    ASCII text
maillog:     ASCII text
maillog.0.bz2: bzip2 compressed data, block size = 900k
maillog.1.bz2: bzip2 compressed data, block size = 900k
maillog.2.bz2: bzip2 compressed data, block size = 900k
messages:    ASCII English text
messages.0.bz2: bzip2 compressed data, block size = 900k
messages.1.bz2: bzip2 compressed data, block size = 900k
messages.2.bz2: bzip2 compressed data, block size = 900k
ppp.log:     empty
security:    empty
sendmail.st: empty
sendmail.st.0: empty
sendmail.st.1: empty
sendmail.st.2: empty
slip.log:    empty
userlog:     ASCII text
wtmp:       data

```

Files that are gzip compressed or bzip2 compressed can be read using one of the following commands:

```

# gzip -dc filename.gz | less
# bzip2 -dc filename.bz2 | less

```

On a daily basis your server will receive two emails that are generated from a script that is run via the crontab facility. This script reads your log files, checks your system state, etc. and then generates the summary reports for you. The reports can be very useful, particularly if you do not have additional logging facilities in place to warn you immediately of potential attacks.

If you want to generate the daily summary of your server right now you can issue the following command:

```
# periodic daily
```

It might take a minute or so to complete. Now type:

```

# mail
Mail version 8.1 6/6/93.  Type ? for help.
"/var/mail/root": 2 messages 2 new
>N 1 root@localhost.local Sun Jan  9 11:02  37/1039  "localhost.localdomain"
N 2 root@localhost.local Sun Jan  9 11:02  72/2440  "localhost.localdomain"

```

Press "1" to see the first message. Press spacebar to scroll. Press "2" to see the next message. Type "quit" to exit from mail.

Normally you'd set up a mail alias so that these system messages go somewhere other than to "root".

You can look at your crontab file, /etc/crontab, to see how and at what time the daily cron items are done. For more information see

```

$ man cron
$ man -a crontab

```

If you want to see how the periodic script works you can look at the file /etc/defaults/periodic.conf. It runs various scripts which are under the

directory /etc/periodic:

```

$ cd /etc/periodic
$ ls
daily          monthly       security      weekly

```

Now look in one of the directories, like 'daily':

```

$ cd daily
$ ls
100.clean-disks      210.backup-aliases  430.status-rwho
110.clean-tmps       300.calendar        440.status-mailq
120.clean-preserve  310.accounting      450.status-security
130.clean-msgs      330.news            460.status-mail-rejects
140.clean-rwho      400.status-disks    470.status-named
150.clean-hoststat  405.status-ata-raid 500.queerun
200.backup-passwd   420.status-network  999.local

```

These are all the scripts that can be run (if enabled in /etc/defaults/periodic.conf) each time the crontab calls the 'periodic daily' command.

This is quite an advanced and complex topic, but it's important to begin to understand what is going on in the background on your machine.