

pfSense

Company / developer	BSD Perimeter LLC / Chris Buechler, Scott Ullrich
OS family	BSD
Working state	Current
Source model	Free software
Latest stable release	1.2.3 / December 10, 2009
Kernel type	Monolithic kernel
License	BSD License
Official website	http://www.pfsense.org/

pfSense is a firewall/router distribution based on a fork from the m0n0wall project. Based on the FreeBSD Operating System pfSense is meant to be installed on a personal computer and offers advanced features often only found in expensive commercial firewalls.

Common Deployments

Perimeter Firewall, Router, Wireless access point, DHCP server, DNS server, VPN and special purpose appliance

Features

pfSense includes almost all the features of expensive commercial firewalls, and more in many cases. Here is a list of features taken from the pfSense Features page ^[1].

- Firewall
- State Table
- NAT
- Redundancy
 - CARP - CARP from OpenBSD allows for hardware failover. Two or more firewalls can be configured as a failover group. If one interface fails on the primary or the primary goes offline entirely, the secondary becomes active. pfSense also includes configuration synchronization capabilities, so you make your configuration changes on the primary and they automatically synchronize to the secondary firewall.
 - pfsync - pfsync ensures the firewall's state table is replicated to all failover configured firewalls. This means your existing connections will be maintained in the case of failure, which is important to prevent network disruptions.
- Outbound and Inbound Load Balancing
- VPN - IPsec, OpenVPN, PPTP
- PPPoE Server
- RRD Graphs Reporting
- Real Time Information - Using AJAX
- Dynamic DNS
- Captive portal
- DHCP Server and Relay
- Live CD Version Available
- Proxy server
- Highly expandable. Software extensions can easily be downloaded and installed.

- Notable expansions are : Squid proxy server and Snort intrusion prevention/detection system.

Release history

- October 4, 2006 pfSense version 1.0 was released^[2] .
- October 20, 2006 pfSense version 1.0.1 was released^[3] .
- February 25, 2008 pfSense version 1.2 was released^[4] .
- December 26, 2008 pfSense version 1.2.1 was released^[5] .
- January 7, 2009 pfSense version 1.2.2 was released^[6] .
- December 10, 2009 pfSense version 1.2.3 was released^[7] .

See also

- m0n0wall
- PF

External links

- pfSense home page ^[8]
- pfSense Features ^[1]
- pfSense Screenshots ^[9]
- PF: The OpenBSD Packet Filter ^[10]
- Review & configuration tutorial ^[11] at Free Software Magazine
- DIY pfSense firewall system beats others for features, reliability, and security ^[12] at TechRepublic

References

- [1] http://www.pfsense.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=40&Itemid=43
- [2] pfSense Digest: pfSense 1.0 RELEASED! (<http://blog.pfsense.org/?p=97>)
- [3] pfSense Digest: pfSense 1.0.1 RELEASED! (<http://blog.pfsense.org/?p=98>)
- [4] pfSense Digest: 1.2 Release Available! (<http://blog.pfsense.org/?p=170>)
- [5] pfSense Digest: 1.2.1 Release Available! (<http://blog.pfsense.org/?p=340>)
- [6] pfSense Digest: 1.2.2 Release Available! (<http://blog.pfsense.org/?p=351>)
- [7] pfSense Digest: 1.2.3 Release Available! (<http://blog.pfsense.org/?p=531>)
- [8] <http://www.pfsense.com/>
- [9] <http://www.pfsense.org/screenshots/>
- [10] <http://www.openbsd.org/faq/pf/>
- [11] http://www.freesoftwaremagazine.com/articles/configure_professional_firewall_using_pfsense
- [12] <http://blogs.techrepublic.com.com/opensource/?p=1110>
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