

## Re: How to login user automatically? (for IP Filter firewall)

**Source:** <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.unix.bsd.freebsd.misc/2004-09/0316.html>

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**Date:** 09/08/04

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> *I'm too inexperienced to know more than that I should wonder if I run  
> IP Filter (see <http://www.obfuscation.org/ipf/ipf-howto.html> ) via rc.local  
> then is it running with root permissions? Basically, I worry about some way  
> to hack IP Filter (via internet), some unsuspected weakness, with the result  
> being root privileges; and while I realize that's not at all likely it is  
> still prudent to to guard against a remote unlikelyhood anyway. So maybe I'd  
> want to run it from a less priviledged account, can I do that without having  
> to login to that account (this sounds a little dumb even to me, since I  
> assume IP Filter file and directory permissions can address that question  
> and so rc.local really doesn't expose root to a possible hack unless those  
> IP Filter file permissions are set wrong). I'm still ignorant and confused  
> in this regard.  
>*

You can certainly run programs without having to "log in" to the account. There are a bunch of services which get started at boot time (man rc will give you the lowdown). There is also cron.

As for someone hacking IP Filter (or IPF) I do not think there is much you can do to prevent that except to stay up to date and follow the announce or security lists. You may want to look at intrusion detection if it is very important system.

I do not believe there is any way to run IP Filter as an unprivileged user.

> *But I might have made a mistake going with FreeBSD. Maybe I have to go with  
> OpenBSD. One of the cool things about IP Filter is that it can bridge  
> interfaces and not even use IP addresses on the 2 ethernet cards at all.*

A few years ago, I selected OpenBSD over FreeBSD for one particular setup for just this reason. I believe it is now supported in 5.x but I read some cautionary tales on the -current list a few weeks ago.

It looks like there are some patches available for 4.x also:

comp.unix.bsd.freebsd.misc: Re: How to login user automatically? (for IP Filter firewall)

<http://ezine.daemonnews.org/200211/ipfilter-bridge.html>

Start reading and trying stuff out on a practice system. It is a really great way to learn.