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KillerTic



Debian Server Essentials: Setup, Configure, and Hardening Your System

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- You can disable the root user during installation, by leaving the root password blank. The installer explains this in the text at the top of the page. If you do this, root will be disabled and `sudo` will be installed automatically
- If you really want to control which users can SSH in, it's recommended to create a group and use `AllowGroups`, rather than allowing individual users via `AllowUsers`. Note that once you disable `PasswordAuthentication`, the only users that can SSH in are users that have keys in `authorized_keys`, so you don't *really* need to use `AllowUsers` or `AllowGroups`.
- Disabling IPv6 is unnecessary. If you don't want to use it, then just... don't use it? You should ideally always have IPv6 enabled for connections to the internet though. It's generally faster due to better routing (see Google's latency impact data: <https://www.google.com/intl/en/ipv6/statistics.html#tab=per-country-ipv6-adoption>), and more future-proof.
- You may want to consider CrowdSec instead of fail2ban. It's more efficient and they have a shared list of known bad IPs that you can use.

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Thanks for the feedback man! Save your comment and will go through it in a couple of days.

I know that setting the AllowUser and only allowing keys in combination is not really needed, but I thought "what's the harm"... But for the guide I might adjust that part.

On IPv6... My "research" was done quite a while ago... So not 100% sure anymore about the reasoning, but I what annoyed me most is the two rules in the firewall I had to delete when playing around. But I'll do some reading and update the guide accordingly.

Crowdsec is on my todo list! So much want to integrate it in quite a few areas, just haven't found the time to wrap my head around it yet.

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kindrudekid • 1y ago

Mozilla has some guidelines for SSH which I use: <https://infosec.mozilla.org/guidelines/openssh>

Only thing I do differently is I use ed25519 instead of RSA.

```
ssh-keygen -t ed25519 -a 100
```

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KillerTic OP • 1y ago

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Will look into it and the link!

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sowhatidoit • 1y ago

Another great article! I'm curious about the reasoning for using Debian on a Pi vs the Pi OS which is based off Debian?

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HelpImOutside • 1y ago

For Raspberry Pi's I prefer [DietPi](#) which is Debian based but not full of unnecessary stuff for servers like Pi OS is.

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ivansalloum • 1y ago

This is a [comprehensive linux server hardening guide](#). Check it out!

↑ 3 ↓ ○ Reply ...



New_d_pics • 1y ago

Damn, I was legit spinning up a new Ubuntu server VM and thought I'm gonna look up a guide about proper initial config/hardening while it loads up ... You convinced me to give debian a go.

⊖ ↑ 5 ↓ ○ Reply ...



KillerTic OP • 1y ago

Nice timing! Happy you found it exactly when you needed it

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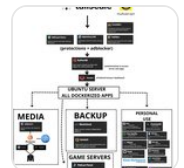
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