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r/NixOS • 1 yr. ago

ImperialAuditor



[Help] Configuring Headscale server and Tailscale clients

Hi!

I'm trying to set up Headscale (as a self-hosted Tailnet control server) on my desktop and Tailscale clients on all my computers (including my desktop) so that I can SSH to any of my machines regardless of what network I'm on.

I've configured the Headscale server on my desktop but I'm not sure if I've done it right because I can't successfully run the Tailscale client (also on my desktop).

Apologies in advance: I have very shallow understanding of networking: I vaguely know about IP addresses, domain names, DNS, VPNs, etc. but I have no clue about how things work under the hood, so I'll provide as many details though they might be irrelevant.

I have a domain name (anonymized to `example.com`) purchased at Namecheap and I've set up dynamic DNS

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[Take another look at the docs](#), maybe try the auth-key method if you haven't already. If that doesn't work...

2. You may need a reverse proxy to point specifically from the subdomain you wish to host your Headscale server on, to the IP address and port of the Headscale server. Mine, as a Caddyfile (for, of course, Caddy), it's really just the most basic reverse proxy setup:

```
head.example.com { reverse_proxy * 127.0.0.1:8080 }
```

(My listen address in headscale/config.yaml is 0.0.0.0:8080, and it is hosted on the same server as the reverse proxy)

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Nice_Witness3525 • 1y ago

Seems like you're spot-on here. It's really necessary to put a reverse proxy in front of it. Also generating pre-auth keys is really the only solid way to make this declarative. Bonus points for using Sops or Age to encrypt the token

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ImperialAuditor **OP** • 1y ago

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... keeps hanging, regardless of whether I try it with a preauthenticated key).

I've configured Caddy as you suggested, but things still aren't working.

```
let
  domain = "example.com";
  port = 8080;
in {
  services.headscale = {
    enable = true;
    address = "0.0.0.0";
    port = port;
    settings = {
      server_url = "https://headscale.${domain}:${toString port}";
      dns_config = {
        # override_local_dns = true;
        base_domain = domain;
        magic_dns = true;
        domains = ["headscale.${domain}"];
        nameservers = [
          "1.1.1.1"
          "9.9.9.9"
        ];
      };
      ip_prefixes = [
        "100.64.0.0/10"
      ];
      logtail.enabled = false;
    };
  };

  # set up reverse proxy (https://www.reddit.com/r/NixOS/comments/1c3mwmk/help_configuring_headscale_server_and_tailscale/?rdt=58662)
  services.caddy = {
    enable = true;
    virtualHosts."headscale.${domain}".extraConfig = ''
      reverse_proxy * 127.0.0.1:${toString port}
    '';
  };
}
```

My hunch is that the warning I get when I run `headscale users list` is relevant: `WRN Warning: dns_config.domains is set, but no nameservers are configured. Ignoring domains.`

I don't know why I'm getting it: the generated `config.yaml` shows the following:

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```
domains:
- headscale.example.com
magic_dns: true
nameservers:
- 1.1.1.1
- 9.9.9.9
override_local_dns: false
```

If you have any other suggestions I'm happy to hear them!

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```
[root@nixos:~]# echo $USER
root
[root@nixos:~]# echo $HOME
/root
[root@nixos:~]# echo $HOSTNAME
nixos
[root@nixos:~]# nix repl
Welcome to Nix 2.18.3. Type :? for help.
nix-repl> builtins.getEnv "USER"
"root"
nix-repl> builtins.getEnv "HOME"
"/root"
nix-repl> builtins.getEnv "HOSTNAME"
"nixos"
nix-repl>
```

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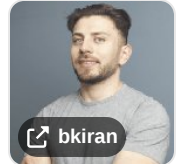
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