

# PFSENSE & SNORT

## Installation Guide

PICO PC®

MNHO-043

MNHO-048

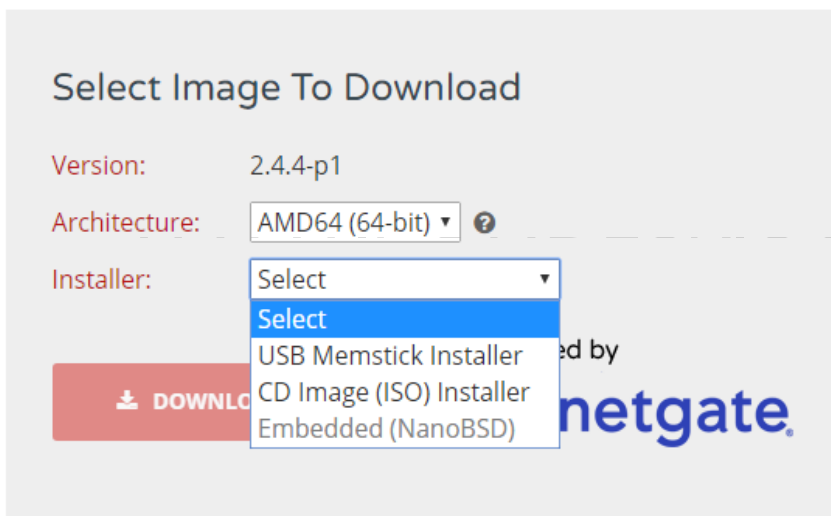
MNHO-073

# Installing pfSense

## 1. Pre-requisites

Before proceeding to the installation, the intended user should know that in order to install pfSense on mini PC the following steps should be followed:

- pfSense stable release version only
- USB flash drive 2.0 or 3.0
- Size 8 GB (minimum)
- pfSense memory stick image as shown below



- Utility that helps create boot-able USBs for example, PowerISO or Rufus etc.
- Architecture selected should be AMD64 (64-bit) as PICO PC® has a 64-bit architecture.
- The image file for USB flash drive installer should have a name like **“pfSense-CE-memstick-2.4.4-RELEASE-p1-amd64.img”**.
- Once you have downloaded the pfSense image make sure to verify the integrity of the downloaded file. Refer to the website <https://pfsense.org>

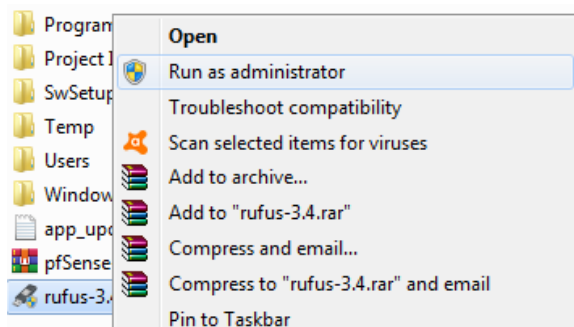
## 2. Preparing for installation

- The installation image file downloaded previously must be transferred to the USB flash drive. The usual copying of image directly to the drive is not the answer.
- Appropriate utility is required to make the flash drive bootable.
- We'll be using Rufus which is a free utility to make bootable USB flash drives. You can also use other utilities as well.

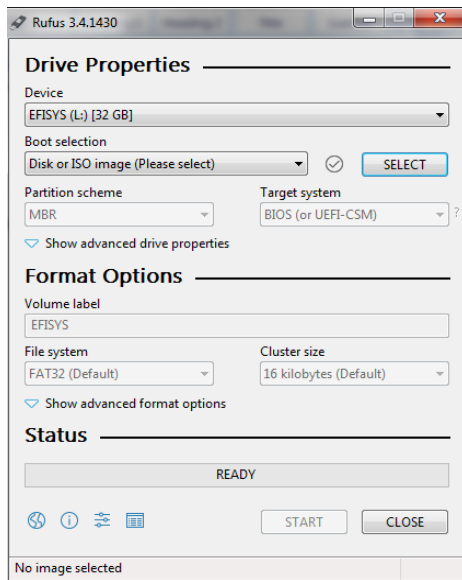
**Warning:** Please be very careful when writing disk images. Make sure to select the appropriate disk drive if you have more than one drive(s) in the client PC as it is possible to select the wrong drive. This will overwrite the portion of that drive with the installer disk hence rendering the disk completely unreadable except to certain disk recovery programs.

## 3. Writing the Image

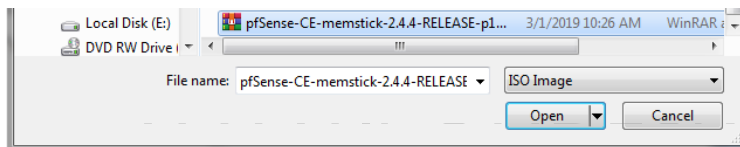
- If you haven't downloaded Rufus utility to make the USB flash drive bootable then you can download from <https://rufus.ie>
- Make sure the USB flash drive is blank and formatted as once the image is written all previous contents will be deleted.
- Run the program as administrator.



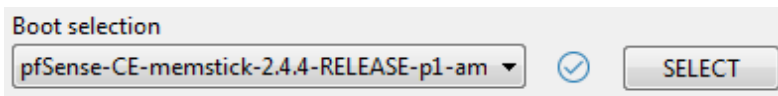
- Once you plug in the USB flash drive you will find that it has been detected by Rufus straightaway as shown:



- Now click on the “select” button and specify the pfSense image file on the client PC.



- Once done you will find the pfSense image file name in the “boot selection” section.



- Now simply go ahead and click on “start”.
- Once underway it will show the status of the process in the form of progress bar with percentage. It will only take a minute or two to complete the process.
- Once the process is completed you are now ready to go.

## 4. Installation

- Once you have plugged in the USB flash drive in one of the two ports in the back of the mini PC then simply power it up.
- Once you see the “Winston Marriot logo” then simply press **CTRL+S** and it will start the booting process.

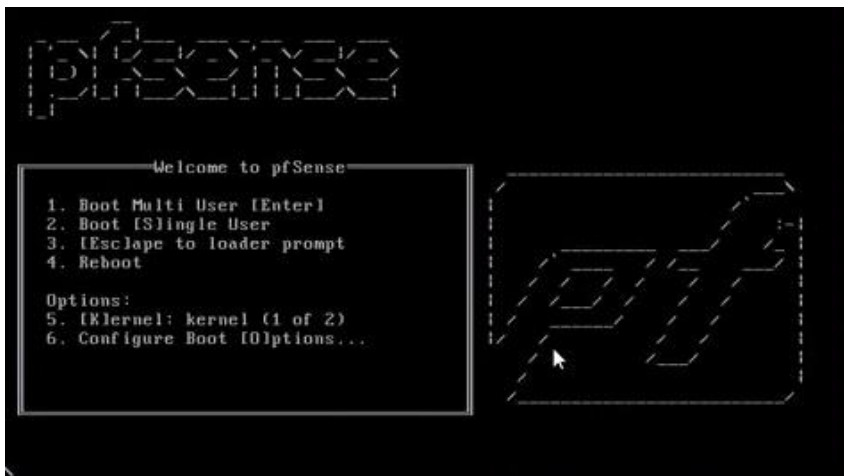
```
CD Loader 1.2

Building the boot loader arguments
Looking up /BOOT/LOADER... Found
Relocating the loader and the BTX
Starting the BTX loader

BTX loader 1.00 BTX version is 1.02
Consoles: internal video/keyboard
BIOS CD is cd0
BIOS drive C: is disk0
BIOS 639kB/1047488kB available memory

FreeBSD/x86 bootstrap loader, Revision 1.1
(Wed Jul 11 13:08:29 EDT 2018 root@buildbot3)
```

- You will be prompted to enter a choice on the pfSense boot screen. Let it run its course as this will start the installer.



- Once the installer starts you will be presented with the copyright and distribution notice. Press “enter” to accept and proceed.

```

pfSense Installer
-----
                                Copyright and distribution notice
pfSense is Copyright 2004-2017 Rubicon Communications, LLC (Netgate).

pfSense is a federally registered trademark of Electric Sheep Fencing,
LLC. Any unauthorized use of this trademark is prohibited by state and
federal law and international law. Refer to our Trademark Usage Guidelines
for how to properly use the marks. All rights reserved.

Absolutely No Commercial Distribution Is Allowed.

                                <Accept>

```

- On the next screen you will be prompted to install or rescue shell or recover the configuration file. Since we are installing pfSense proceed with install by pressing enter for OK.

```

pfSense Installer
-----
                                Welcome
Welcome to pfSense!

Install          Install pfSense
Rescue Shell    Launch a shell for rescue operations
Recover config.xml Recover config.xml from a previous install

                                <OK>      <Cancel>

```

- Next up is to select the keyboard layout. Default is “US Keyboard” layout. Select “Continue with default key map”.

```

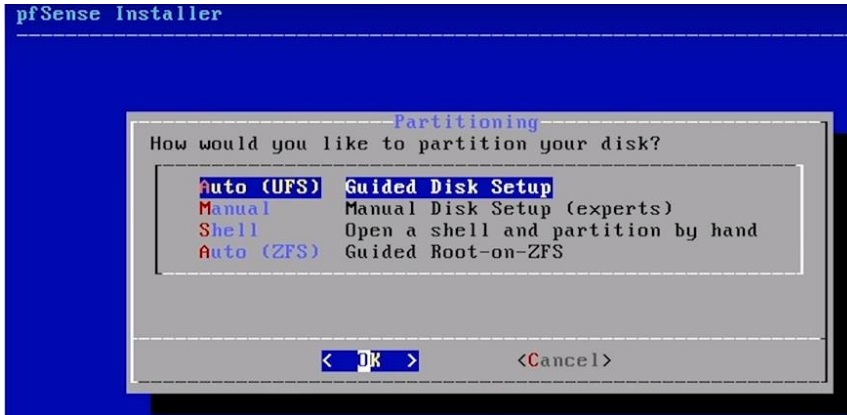
pfSense Installer
-----
                                Keymap Selection
The system console driver for pfSense defaults to standard "US"
keyboard map. Other keymaps can be chosen below.

>>> Continue with default keymap
->- Test default keymap
( ) Armenian phonetic layout
( ) Belarusian
( ) Belgian
( ) Belgian (accent keys)
( ) Brazilian (accent keys)
( ) Brazilian (without accent keys)
( ) Bulgarian (BDS)
( ) Bulgarian (Phonetic)
( ) Canadian Bilingual
( ) Central European
                                13%

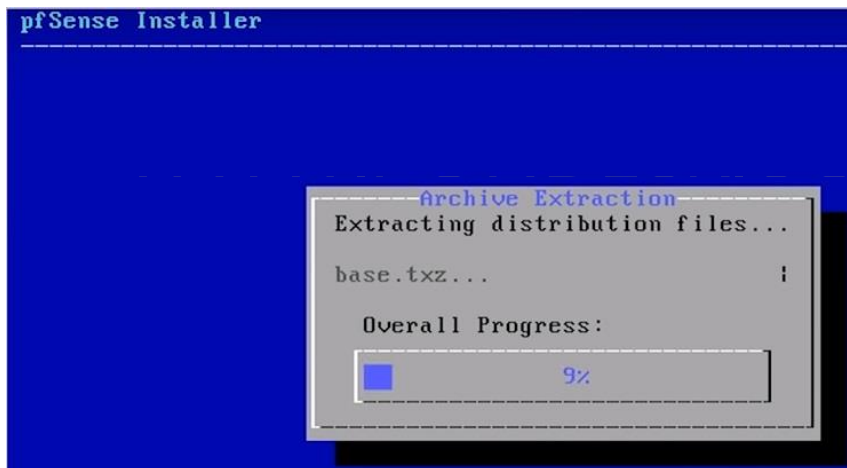
                                <Select>      <Cancel>
                                [Press arrows, TAB or ENTER]

```

- Select “Auto UFS” on the next screen to proceed with the partition as this is the classic disk setup



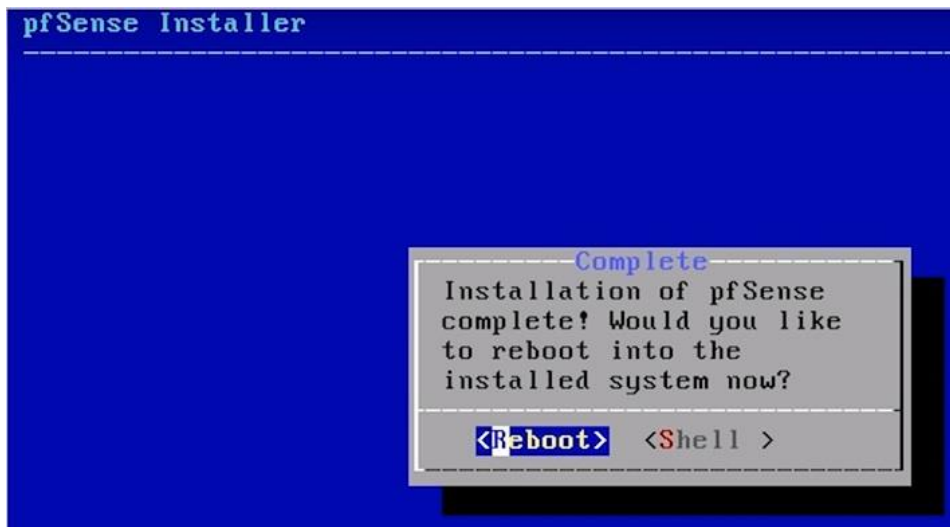
- Once this is completed then the actual installation will be done.



- At the end of the installation you will be prompted to make any final manual modifications via shell before proceeding. Select “No” and proceed.



- Finally, you will be prompted to “Reboot” or “Shell”. Select “Reboot”.



- Once rebooted you will land on the following page:

```
*** Welcome to pfSense 2.4.4-RELEASE-p1 (amd64) on pfSense ***  
  
WAN (wan)      -> igb0      -> v4/DHCP4: 192.168.0.106/24  
LAN (lan)      -> igb1      -> v4: 172.22.101.1/16  
  
0) Logout (SSH only)          9) pfTop  
1) Assign Interfaces          10) Filter Logs  
2) Set interface(s) IP address 11) Restart webConfigurator  
3) Reset webConfigurator password 12) PHP shell + pfSense tools  
4) Reset to factory defaults  13) Update from console  
5) Reboot system              14) Disable Secure Shell (sshd)  
6) Halt system                 15) Restore recent configuration  
7) Ping host                   16) Restart PHP-FPM  
8) Shell  
  
Enter an option: █
```

By default, the LAN interface is configured with IP 192.168.1.1 but this can cause an issue when working with VPNs as they also utilize a similar subnet so to avoid confusion change it to a different one (recommended).

- In order to configure IP address on an interface select the option 2 from the screen and proceed.



- In order to configure IP address on an interface select the option 2 from the screen and proceed.

```
Available interfaces:
1 - WAN (em0 - dhcp, dhcp6)
2 - LAN (em1 - static)

Enter the number of the interface you wish to configure: 2

Enter the new LAN IPv4 address. Press <ENTER> for none:
> [REDACTED]

Subnet masks are entered as bit counts (as in CIDR notation) in pfSense.
e.g. 255.255.255.0 = 24
     255.255.0.0  = 16
     255.0.0.0    = 8

Enter the new LAN IPv4 subnet bit count (1 to 31):
> 24

For a WAN, enter the new LAN IPv4 upstream gateway address.
For a LAN, press <ENTER> for none:
>

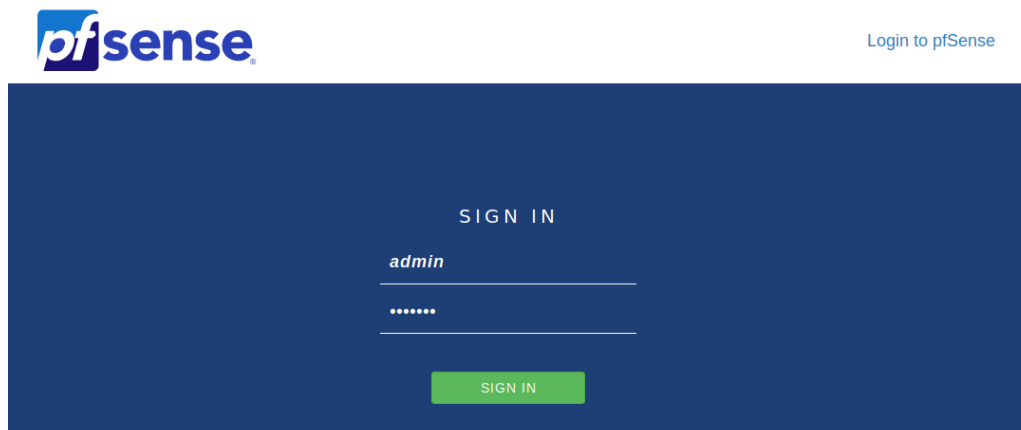
Enter the new LAN IPv6 address. Press <ENTER> for none:
> [REDACTED]
```

When configuring LAN interface make sure that it is set to static. Depending upon the internet connection type WAN interface can either be DHCP or static.

- Next you will be prompted to either set HTTP or HTTPS as the web configurator. It is highly recommended that you select “n” in this scenario as HTTPS is secure.

```
Do you want to revert to HTTP as the webConfigurator protocol? (y/n) n
```

- Now you are ready to access the web interface of pfSense. All you need to is to open a web browser and type `https://172.22.101.16`
- You will be prompted with a security warning for the HTTPS certificate, you simply need to mark it as an exception and proceed to the login screen.



- The default username and password are “admin” and “pfSense”. It is highly recommended you change it afterwards from the “user manager” section or change it when going through the initial setup wizard.
- Once you are logged in go through the initial configuration setup wizard. It’s a nine-step process.

The screenshot shows the 'General Information' step of the pfSense Setup Wizard. The breadcrumb trail is 'Wizard / pfSense Setup / General Information'. A progress bar indicates 'Step 2 of 9'. The page title is 'General Information'. Below the title, a message states: 'On this screen the general pfSense parameters will be set.' The form contains the following fields:

- Hostname:** A text input field containing 'pfSense'. Below it, the text 'EXAMPLE: myserver' is displayed.
- Domain:** A text input field containing 'localdomain'. Below it, the text 'EXAMPLE: mydomain.com' is displayed.
- Primary DNS Server:** An empty text input field.
- Secondary DNS Server:** An empty text input field.
- Override DNS:** A checked checkbox. Below it, the text 'Allow DNS servers to be overridden by DHCP/PPP on WAN' is displayed.

At the bottom of the form is a blue button labeled 'Next' with a right-pointing arrow.

- Set your time zone.

The screenshot shows the 'Time Server Information' step of the pfSense Setup Wizard. The breadcrumb trail is 'Wizard / pfSense Setup / Time Server Information'. A progress bar indicates 'Step 3 of 9'. The page title is 'Time Server Information'. Below the title, a message states: 'Please enter the time, date and time zone.' The form contains the following fields:

- Time server hostname:** A text input field containing '0.pfsense.pool.ntp.org'. Below it, the text 'Enter the hostname (FQDN) of the time server.' is displayed.
- Timezone:** A dropdown menu with 'Europe/Berlin' selected.

At the bottom of the form is a blue button labeled 'Next' with a right-pointing arrow.

- Changing your admin password

Wizard / pfSense Setup / Set Admin WebGUI Password

Step 6 of 9

### Set Admin WebGUI Password

On this screen the admin password will be set, which is used to access the WebGUI and also SSH services if enabled.

Admin Password

Admin Password AGAIN

[» Next](#)

- Reload pfSense with new changes.

Wizard / pfSense Setup / Reload configuration

Step 7 of 9

### Reload configuration

Click 'Reload' to reload pfSense with new changes.

[» Reload](#)

- Wizard completion.

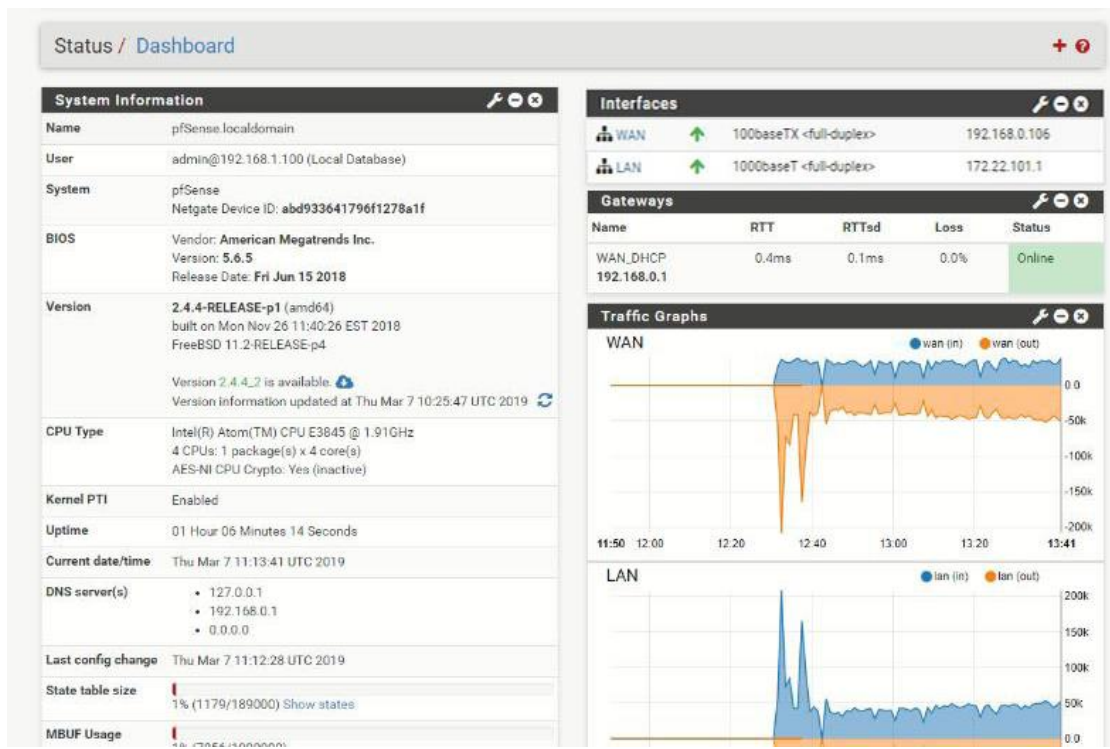
Wizard / pfSense Setup / Wizard completed.

Step 9 of 9

### Wizard completed.

Congratulations! pfSense is now configured.  
Remember, we're here to help.  
[Click here](#) to learn about Netgate 24/7/365 support.  
[Click here](#) to continue on to pfSense webConfigurator.

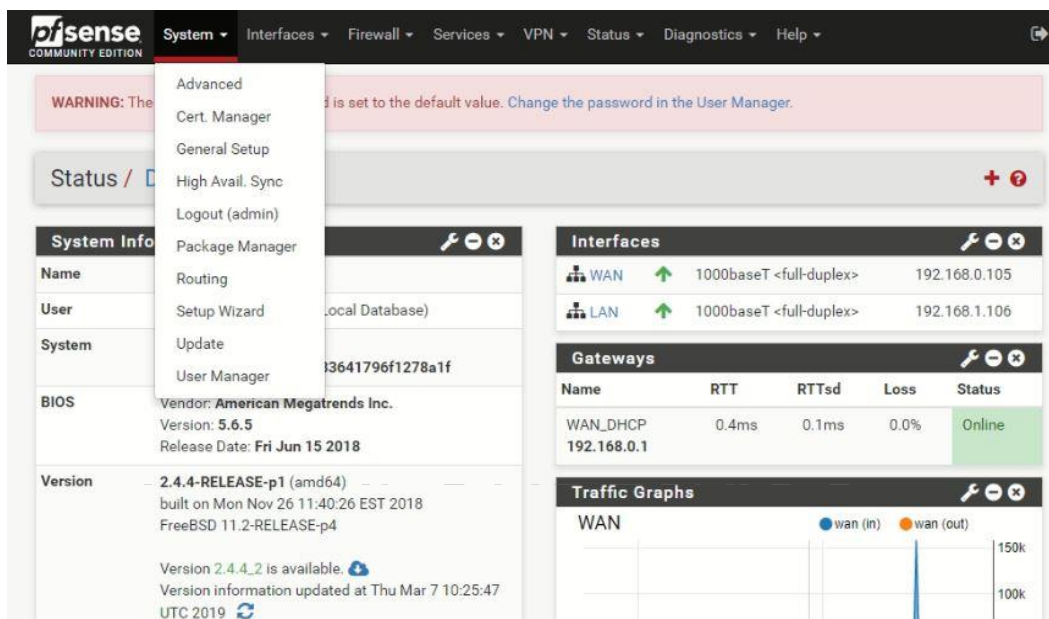
## Dashboard



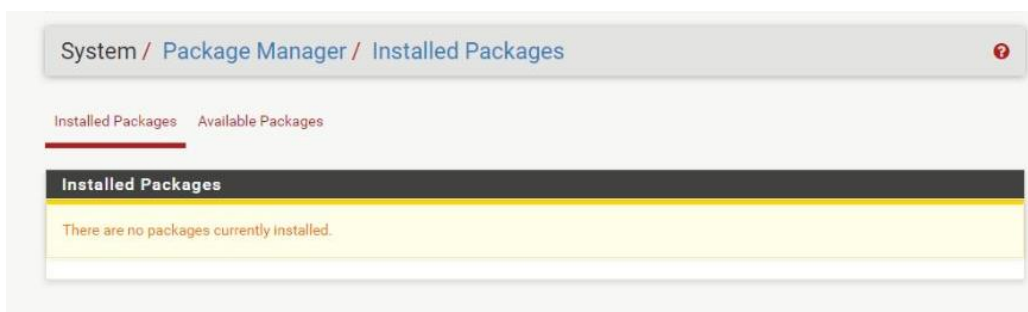
**Note:** By default, internet is accessible from LAN which is due to the “Default allow LAN to any rule”. You can make modifications to the rule set according to your requirement in which you can set which traffic to pass on to the internet and vice versa.

## Snort Package

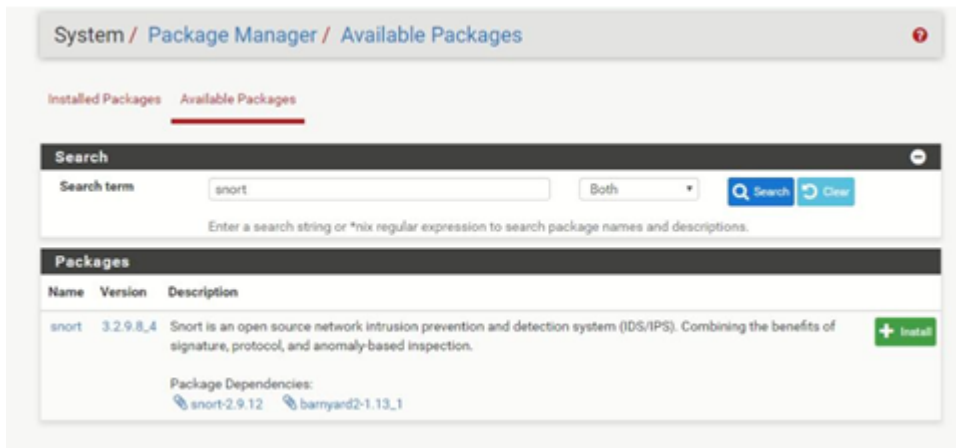
- Snort is an open source network intrusion prevention and detection system (IDS/IPS). Combining the benefits of signature, protocol, and anomaly-based inspection.
- Installing packages in pfSense is very to do. All you need to do is to go from “Systems” then select “Packages”.



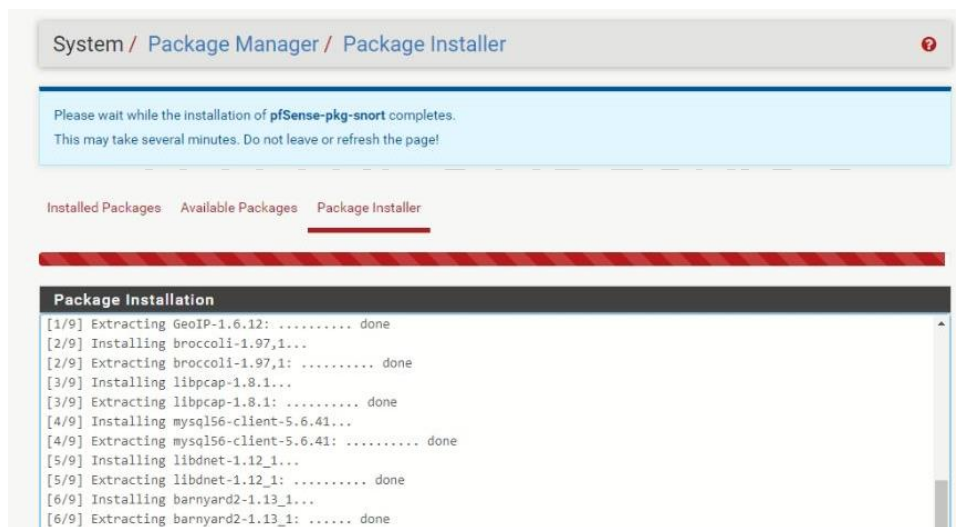
- You will be given two options “Installed Packages” and “Available Packages”. Select “Available Packages”.



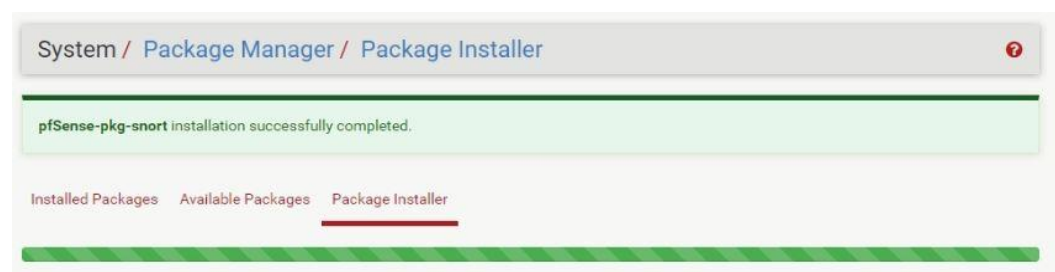
- Now you will be given a list of available packages which can be installed. Type in search and look for “Snort” and select “Install”.



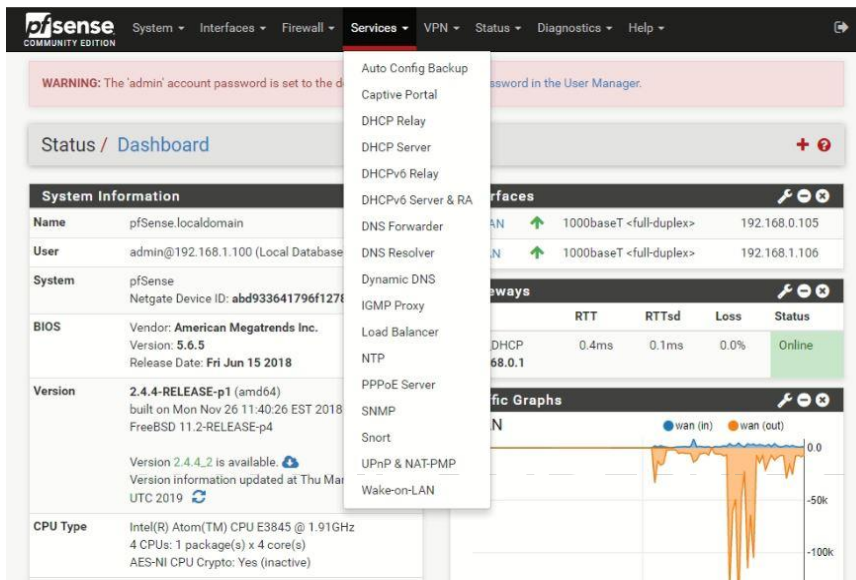
- Select “confirm” to proceed with the installation process.
- This will trigger the “package installer” and the installation will only take less than a minute.



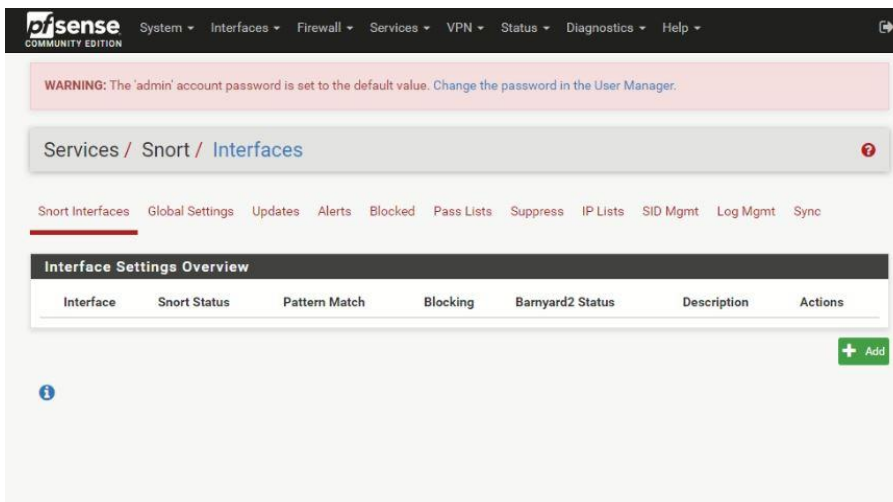
- You will be prompted once the installation is done.



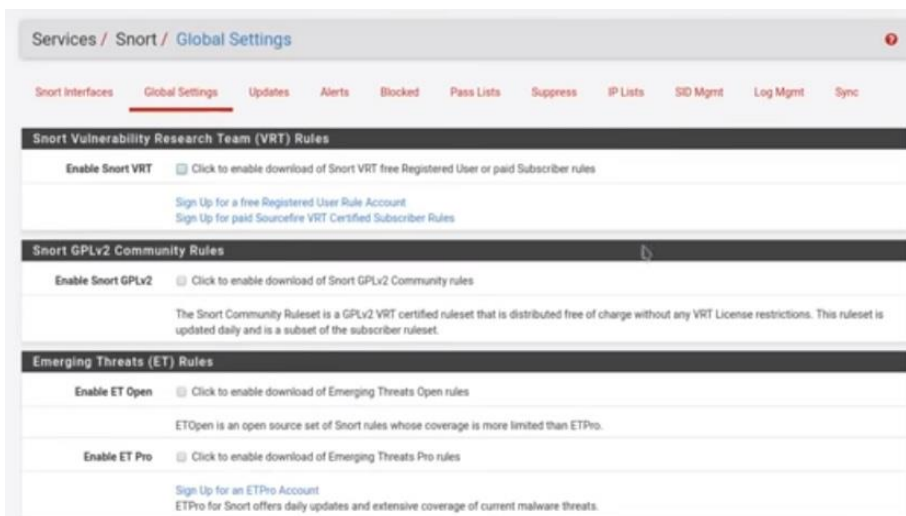
- Now the installation is complete. All we need to do is to configure snort as per our requirement.
- There are a lot of videos available which show how to configure snort but at the end of the day it all depends upon your requirements how you wish snort to operate.
- The minimum requirement for snort to run is **1 GB** but **2 GB** or more is recommended.
- Select “Snort” from “Services”.



- You will be taken to the snort dashboard. Select “Global Settings” to get started.



- Select global settings to start configuring snort.

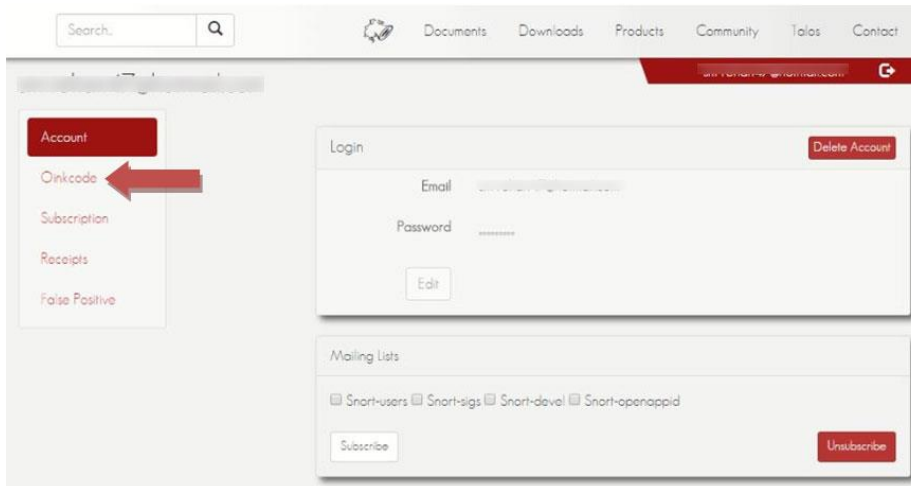


- Checkmark the “Enable Snort VRT” Rules to enable download of Snort VRT free Registered User or paid Subscriber rules.
- Snort VRT rules are free of charge but require one-time registration for you to actually be able to download the rules. Registered User free accounts only get rules as they age past 30 days.
- There is also a paid version of the Sourcefire VRT Certified Subscriber Rules. Prices start from \$29.99 for personal and \$399 if you wish to use for business use.
- Click on the “Sign up for a free Registered User Rule Account” to proceed.

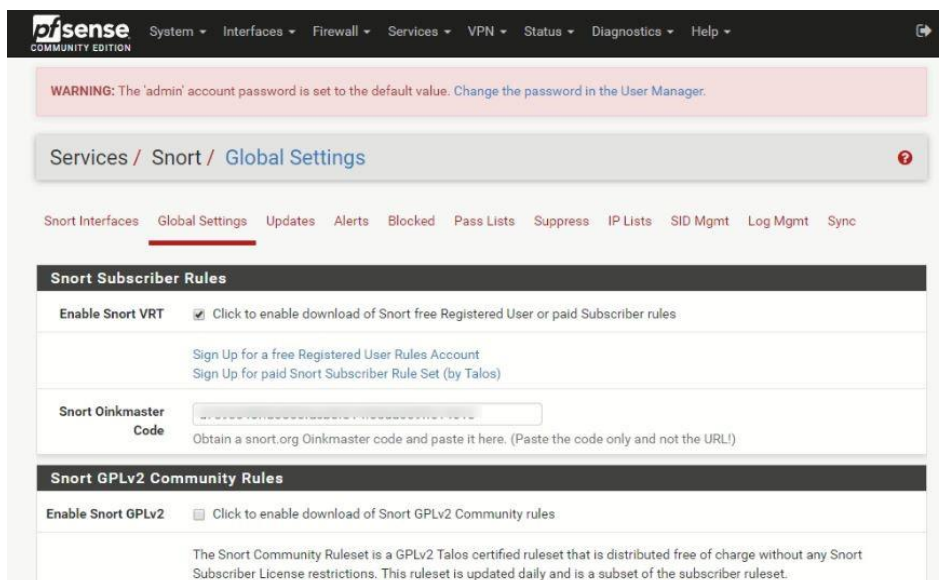




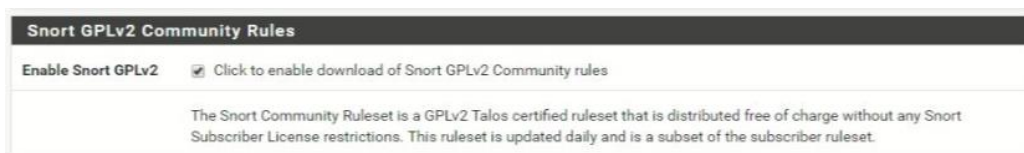
- Once you are logged in on the website you need to acquire an Oinkmaster code which serves as a pass in allowing you to download the rules.
- Select your email address on the top right-hand corner of the screen and on the left you will find a couple of options and “Oinkmaster code” will be one of them.



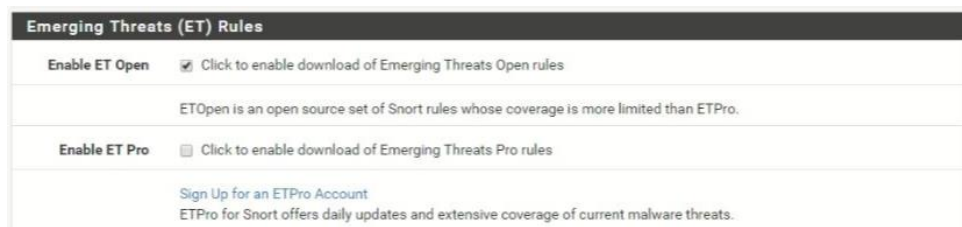
- Copy the code and paste it in the Oinkmaster code section in the global settings. Remember that Oinkmaster code is unique for everyone.



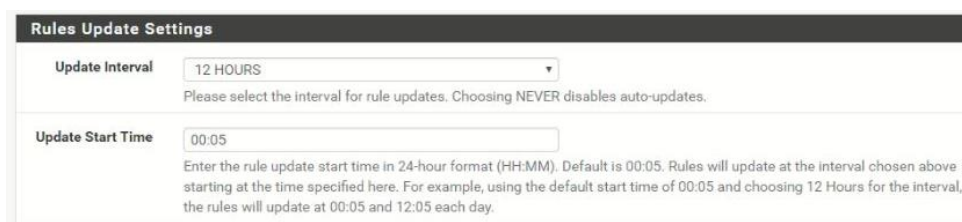
- Now put a checkmark in the Enable Snort GPLv2 Community Rules as well. These rules are also free.



- Next up is the Emerging threats (ET) Rules. Click on “Enable ET Open”. These are free rules which will be downloaded.



- In “Rule Update Settings” choose the timings when to check for updated rules that will be downloaded next time. If you are in a mission critical environment then set the timer according but it is recommended from experience to have it set either 12 or 24 hrs.



- Put a check mark on “Hide deprecated Rules Categories”. If you are a seasoned professional and have worked with “Snort” before then you can fiddle with the “Remove Blocked Hosts Interval” as this will start blocking users in the network which are violating snort rules. Select “Save” to proceed with the configuration.

<b>Update Interval</b>	12 HOURS
Please select the interval for rule updates. Choosing NEVER disables auto-updates.	
<b>Update Start Time</b>	00:05
Enter the rule update start time in 24-hour format (HH.MM). Default is 00:05. Rules will update at the interval chosen above starting at the time specified here. For example, using the default start time of 00:05 and choosing 12 Hours for the interval, the rules will update at 00:05 and 12:05 each day.	
<b>Hide Deprecated Rules Categories</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Click to hide deprecated rules categories in the GUI and remove them from the configuration. Default is not checked.
<b>Disable SSL Peer Verification</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Click to disable verification of SSL peers during rules updates. This is commonly needed only for self-signed certificates. Default is not checked.
<b>General Settings</b>	
<b>Remove Blocked Hosts Interval</b>	NEVER
Please select the amount of time you would like hosts to be blocked. In most cases, one hour is a good choice.	
<b>Remove Blocked Hosts After Deinstall</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Click to clear all blocked hosts added by Snort when removing the package.
<b>Keep Snort Settings After Deinstall</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Click to retain Snort settings after package removal.
<b>Startup/Shutdown Logging</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Click to output detailed messages to the system log when Snort is starting and stopping. Default is not checked.
<a href="#">Save</a>	

- Now we need to download the snort rule set. Select “updates” to get start. Select “Update Rules” to start downloading the rule set.

Snort Interfaces Global Settings **Updates** Alerts Blocked Pass Lists Suppress IP Lists SID Mgmt Log Mgmt Sync

### Installed Rule Set MD5 Signature

Rule Set Name/Publisher	MD5 Signature Hash	MD5 Signature Date
Snort Subscriber Ruleset	Not Downloaded	Not Downloaded
Snort GPLv2 Community Rules	Not Downloaded	Not Downloaded
Emerging Threats Open Rules	Not Downloaded	Not Downloaded
Snort OpenAppID Detectors	Not Downloaded	Not Downloaded
Snort OpenAppID RULES Detectors	Not Downloaded	Not Downloaded

### Update Your Rule Set

Last Update: Unknown    Result: **Unknown**

Update Rules: [Update Rules](#)    [Force Update](#)

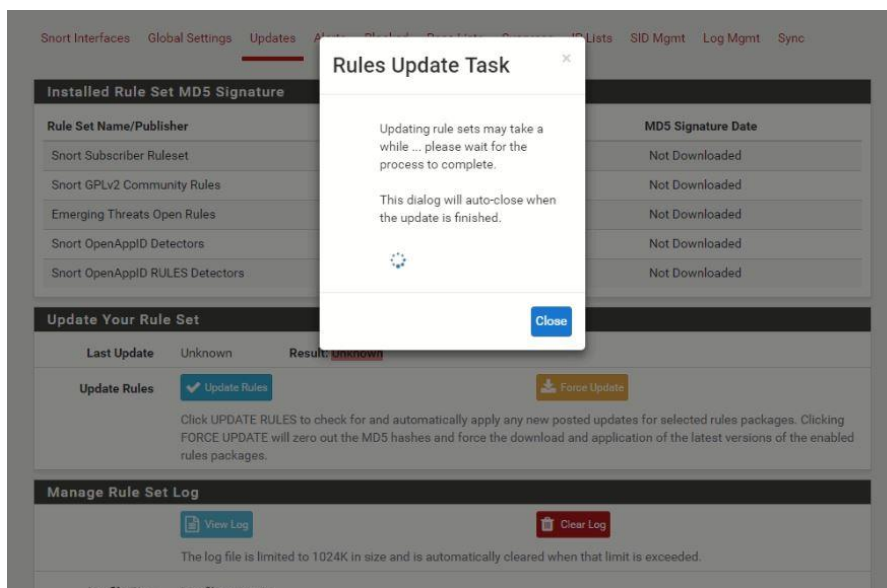
Click UPDATE RULES to check for and automatically apply any new posted updates for selected rules packages. Clicking FORCE UPDATE will zero out the MD5 hashes and force the download and application of the latest versions of the enabled rules packages.

### Manage Rule Set Log

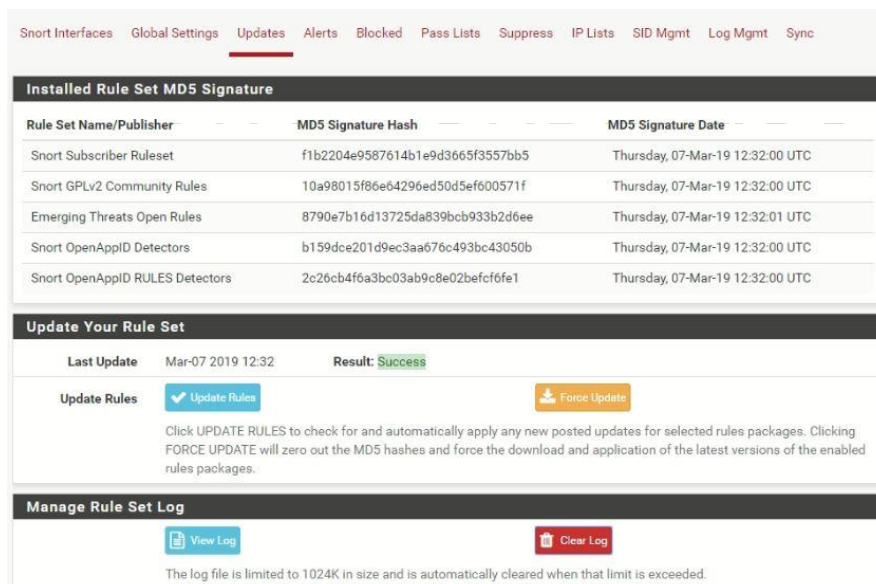
[View Log](#)    [Clear Log](#)

The log file is limited to 1024K in size and is automatically cleared when that limit is exceeded.

- Once the rules start download it will be indicated in the “Installed Rule Set MD5 Signature” in the form of “date and time”. Downloading rules can take a couple of minutes depending upon the internet connection.



- Successful downloading of rules.



- Now we need to define the interface for which we wish to setup Snort. Select “Add”.



- You can set this up for either WAN or LAN depending upon your requirement.

- In the alert settings you need to select “Send alerts to system logs” so that you have a firsthand idea of snort working or not.

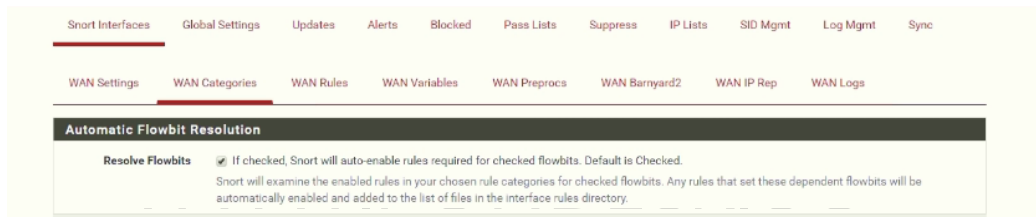
- In the alert settings there is an option to “block offenders that generate a snort alert”. By default, its disabled but if you are experienced with snort then enable this option else leave it be.

- In the “Detection Performance Settings” the default search method is “AC-BNFA” but you can choose another method as per your requirement and leave the other options to default. These methods are processor and memory intensive so choose one which suits your device configuration.

- “Choose the networks snort should inspect and whitelist” leave this option to default.
- “Choose a suppression or filtering list (optional)” should be set to default.



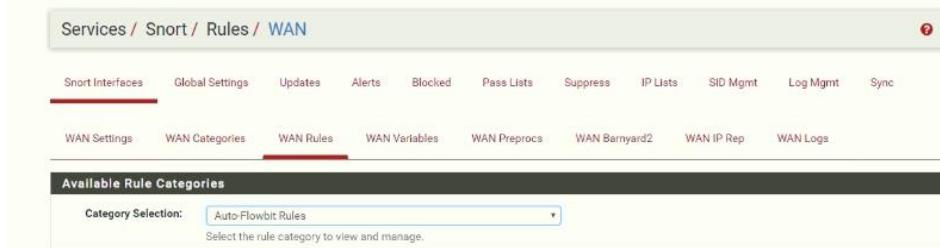
- Now select “Save”.
- Now select “WAN Categories” and put a check mark on “Resolve flowbits”.



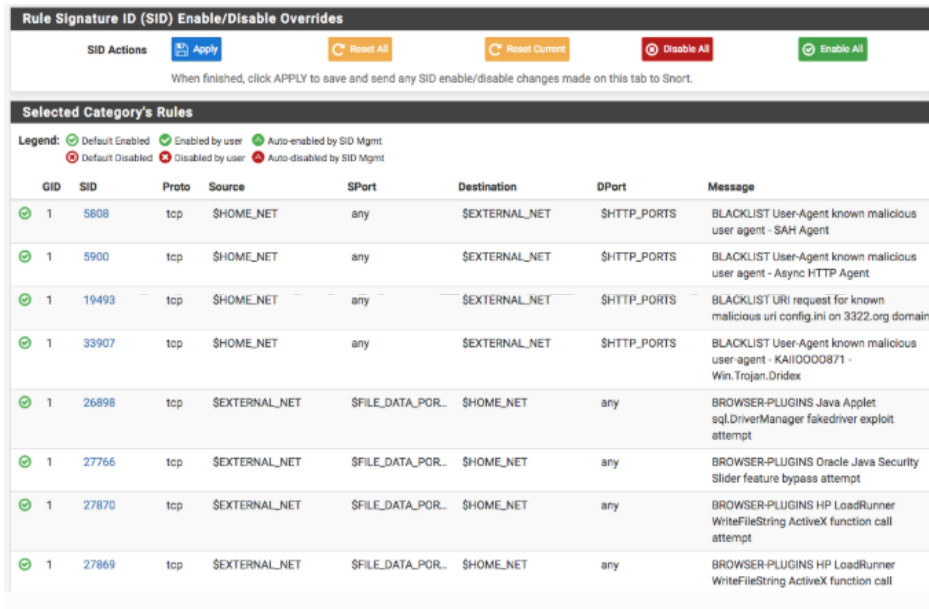
- In the “Snort Subscriber IPS Policy Selection” put a check mark on “Use IPS Policy”. Enabling this option will allow you to bypass the downloaded rules and set snort’s built-in IPS policy to kick in. There are three policies to choose from “Connectivity”, “Balanced”, “Security” and “Max-Detect”. It is best to go for either connectivity or balanced as it’s recommended. If you are an experienced snort user then go for security.
- Now you need to enable the downloaded rules for snort which will be loaded at startup. It depends upon your requirement which rules you wish to enable. You can put a check mark on the ones you wish to enable and select “save”.



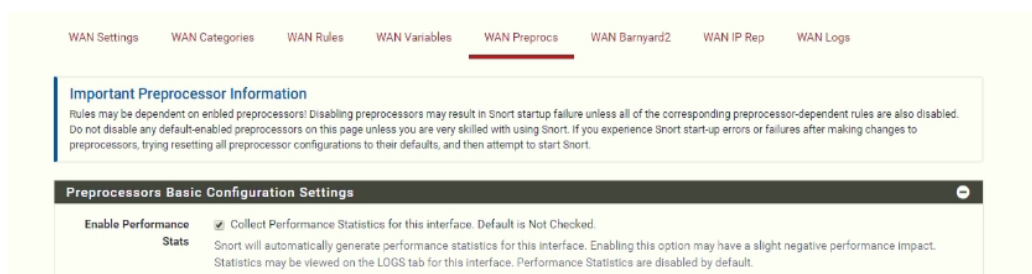
- Now select “WAN Rules” and here select “Auto Flowbit rules” or any of the three preconfigured policies “Connectivity or Balanced or Security”.



- In the selected rules category, you can enable or disable the rules depending upon your requirement and select “apply” afterwards.



- Select “WAN Preprocs” and put a check mark on “Enable performance Stats”. Performance stats are disabled by default as it creates a negative impact as it consumes disk space. If you have a big enough disk then its fine else leave it unchecked. Leave the other options in “Preprocessors Basic Configuration Settings” to default.





- Now depending upon your requirement, you can enable other options as well. Detecting SSH attempts is a good option.

**SSH Detection**

**Enable SSH Detection**  The SSH preprocessor detects various Secure Shell exploit attempts. Default is Checked.

**Server Ports**   
Specifies which ports the SSH preprocessor should inspect traffic to. For multiple ports, separate values with commas. A configured Port Alias may also be specified. Default port is 22.

**Max Encrypted Packets**   
Specifies the number of stream reassembled encrypted packets that Snort will inspect before ignoring a given SSH session. Once

- “HTTP” traffic is enabled by default and should be left enabled.

**HTTP Inspect**

**Enable**  Use HTTP Inspect to Normalize/Decode and detect HTTP traffic and protocol anomalies. Default is Checked.

**Proxy Alert**  Enable global alerting on HTTP server proxy usage. Default is Not Checked.  
By adding Server Configurations below and enabling the `allow_proxy.use` parameter within them, alerts will be generated for web users that are not using the configured proxies or are using a rogue proxy server. If users are not required to configure web proxy use, you may get a lot of proxy alerts.

- Leave the other options to default settings and select “save”.

**SCADA Preprocessors**

**Enable Modbus Detection**  Modbus is a protocol used in SCADA networks. The default port is TCP 502. Default is Not Checked.  
**Note:** if your network does not contain Modbus-enabled devices, you can leave this preprocessor disabled.

**Enable DNP3 Detection**  DNP3 is a protocol used in SCADA networks. The default port is TCP 20000. Default is Not Checked.  
**Note:** if your network does not contain DNP3-enabled devices, you can leave this preprocessor disabled.

**NOTE:**  
Remember to save your changes before you exit this page. Preprocessor changes will rebuild the rules file. This may take several seconds to complete. Snort must also be restarted on the interface to activate any changes made on this screen.

- Once this is done you are all set to start snort for the selected interface. Click on the play button to start the service.

**Snort Interfaces** Global Settings Updates Alerts Blocked Pass Lists Suppress IP Lists SID Mgmt Log Mgmt Sync

**Interface Settings Overview**

Interface	Snort Status	Pattern Match	Blocking	Barnyard2 Status	Description	Actions
WAN	DISABLED	AC-BNFA	DISABLED	DISABLED	WAN	<input type="button" value="Play"/> <input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Delete"/>

- Service has now successfully started.

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**Interface Settings Overview**

Interface	Snort Status	Pattern Match	Blocking	Barnyard2 Status	Description	Actions
WAN	ON	AC-BNFA	DISABLED	DISABLED	WAN	<input type="button" value="Play"/> <input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Delete"/>



**NOTE:** This is the basic setup for snort. Depending upon the free rules that are downloaded may or may not have any bugs. This happens from time to time and the netgate forum (<https://forum.netgate.com>) is the best place to report them and appropriate support if you have dedicated support then contact the support team.

**THANK YOU**

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