

# Introduction to Netfilter and Iptables

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- **Netfilter** is a software firewall, a packet filtering framework inside the **Linux Kernel**.
- It enables **packet filtering, NAT, PAT, Port Forwarding** and **packet mangling**.
- Netfilter framework is controlled by the **iptables** command.
- Iptables is a tool that belongs to the **user-space** used to configure netfilter.
- Netfilter and Iptables are often combined into a single expression **netfilter/iptables**.
- Every Linux distribution uses netfilter/iptables, there is nothing extra that should be installed.
- **Only root** user can use or configure the netfilter framework.