

CUSTOM CHAINS - 1

- By default, the *iptables* **filter** table consists of three built-in chains: **INPUT**, **OUTPUT** and **FORWARD**
- You can add as many custom (user-defined) chains as you like to help simplify managing large rule sets.
- User-defined chains are useful in optimizing the ruleset. They allow the rules to be organized in categories.
- From a built-in chain using **-j CUSTOM-CHAIN**, you can jump into a custom chain.
- After the user-defined chain is traversed, control returns to the calling built-in chain, and matching continues from the next rule in the calling chain, unless the user-defined chain matched and took a terminating action on the packet.

CUSTOM CHAINS - 2

- The **RETURN** target in a rule of a custom-chain makes processing resume back in the chain that called the custom chain.
 - j **RETURN** can also be used inside a built-in chain. In this case no other rule will be inspected and packet executes the default POLICY
- If you want to stop using your custom chain temporarily, you can simply **delete the jump from the INPUT chain** (rather than flushing or deleting the entire custom chain)

Options:

- N NEW_CHAIN creates a new user-defined chain
- L NEW_CHAIN lists the content of the chain
- X NEW_CHAIN deletes the custom-chain (it must be emptied before using -F)
- F NEW-CHAIN flushes all rules from the chain