

Howto: Adding a firewall service on ESX

December 31st, 2007 | 4 Comments |

Lane Leverett pointed me out to the fact that it's possible to add a firewall service instead of opening up a huge range or multiple ranges for one service by hand. This way a junior system engineer can easily open up a port range via VirtualCenter instead of the console. I tried this in our testlab with ESX 3.5 and VirtualCenter 2.5 and it works like a charm.

I created a new file "yellowbricks.xml" in the directory /etc/vmware/firewall/ which contains the following:

```
// <!-- Firewall configuration information for Yellow-Bricks -->
<ConfigRoot>
  <service>
    <id>yellowbricks</id>
    <rule id='0000'>
      <direction>outbound</direction>
      <protocol>tcp</protocol>
      <port type='dst'>
        <begin>3050</begin>
        <end>3250</end>
      </port>
      <flags>-m state --state NEW</flags>
    </rule>
    <rule id='0001'>
      <direction>outbound</direction>
      <protocol>udp</protocol>
      <port type='dst'>
        <begin>3050</begin>
        <end>3250</end>
      </port>
      <flags>-m state --state NEW</flags>
    </rule>
    <rule id='0002'>
      <direction>outbound</direction>
      <protocol>tcp</protocol>
      <port type='dst'>
        <begin>9000</begin>
        <end>9005</end>
      </port>
      <flags>-m state --state NEW</flags>
    </rule>
    <rule id='0003'>
      <direction>outbound</direction>
      <protocol>udp</protocol>
      <port type='dst'>
        <begin>9000</begin>
        <end>9005</end>
      </port>
      <flags>-m state --state NEW</flags>
    </rule>
  </service>
</ConfigRoot>
```

Then I restarted the mgmt-vmware service (service mgmt-vmware restart), and the extra service appeared in VirtualCenter. This specific service opens up destination ports 3050-3250 tcp/udp and destination ports 9000-9005 tcp/udp. This is what it looks like in VirtualCenter:



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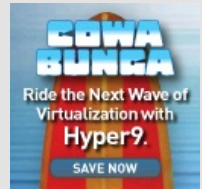
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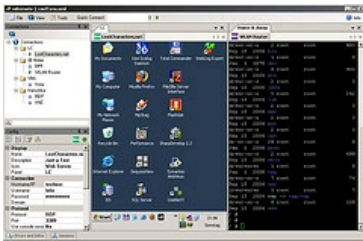
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It's also possible to edit `/etc/vmware/firewall/services.xml` and add a service, but I'd rather not touch that file because of upgrades and updates to the system. You'll never know what you tip over or get's tipped over in the future.


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
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
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Arne Fokkema says:
Monday, December 31, 2007 at 15:00

Zeker toevallig hahaha.
- 

wayne says:
Thursday, March 6, 2008 at 23:47

DANGER WILL ROBINSON! mgmt-vmware will turn your VMs off!
Use esxcfg-firewall in the shell!
- 

Duncan Epping says:
Friday, March 7, 2008 at 06:47

mgmt-vmware will not shut it off perse, it depends on the patchlevel and the isolation response you defined etc.
- 

IT-John says:
Monday, February 11, 2009 at 12:35

ESX Configuration Files says:
[...] same format as services.xml) to provide custom port definitions. You can read all about it at <http://www.yellow-bricks.com/2007/12/31/howto-adding-a-firewall-service-on-esx/>. Just make sure you use ids in the file that are different than the ones in [...]

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