ufw Simple Linux firewall

Packet in direction + port → **built-in rules** → **ufw rules** top to bottom → **no match** → **Default policy** incoming: deny → **verdict** → **Allow / deny** optional log

Packet check: first matching rule wins, else the default policy

CONCEPTS

Do not lock yourself out
Over SSH, allow ssh (or your custom port) before 'ufw enable'. Enabling flushes the chains and may drop your session.

Defaults after install: incoming deny, outgoing allow, firewall disabled. Rules are added for IPv4 and IPv6 together.

Rule order matters. Put narrow exceptions (insert 1) above broad denies.

FIREWALL STATE

sudo ufw enable
Enable now and at boot

sudo ufw disable
Stop the firewall

sudo ufw status
Active or inactive, plus rules

sudo ufw status verbose
Also defaults and logging

sudo ufw status numbered
Rules with index numbers

sudo ufw reload
Reapply the rules

sudo ufw reset
Disable and wipe all rules

FIREWALL STATE (cont.)

sudo ufw --force enable
Enable without the SSH prompt

sudo ufw --dry-run *<command>*
Preview changes, apply nothing

DEFAULT POLICY

sudo ufw default deny incoming
Block unsolicited inbound

sudo ufw default allow outgoing
Allow all outbound

sudo ufw default deny outgoing
Whitelist outbound only

SIMPLE RULES

sudo ufw allow *<port>*
Allow a port, tcp and udp

sudo ufw allow *<port>*/**tcp**
Allow one protocol

sudo ufw allow *<service>*
Allow by name from /etc/services

sudo ufw deny *<port>*/**tcp**
Silently drop a port

SIMPLE RULES (cont.)

sudo ufw reject *<port>*/**tcp**
Refuse with a reply

sudo ufw limit ssh
Allow but throttle repeats

sudo ufw allow 6000:6007/tcp
Allow a port range

sudo ufw allow 22,80,443/tcp
Several ports in one rule

sudo ufw allow out *<port>*/**tcp**
Allow outbound only

sudo ufw allow *<port>*/**tcp comment '**<text>**'**
Annotate a rule

FULL SYNTAX

sudo ufw allow from *<ip>*
Allow all from one host

sudo ufw deny from *<ip>*
Block one host

sudo ufw allow from *<cidr>* **to any port** *<port>*
Allow a subnet to a port

sudo ufw allow from *<ip>* **to any port** *<port>* **proto tcp**
Host, port and protocol

FULL SYNTAX (cont.)

sudo ufw allow in on *<iface>* **to any port** *<port>*
Limit to an interface

sudo ufw allow from *<ip>* **to** *<dest-ip>* **port** *<port>*
Match destination address

sudo ufw allow from *<ip>* **to any app** *<profile>*
Host to an app profile

MANAGE RULES

sudo ufw delete *<num>*
Delete by rule number

sudo ufw delete allow *<port>*/**tcp**
Delete by repeating the rule

sudo ufw insert *<num>* **deny from** *<ip>*
Insert at a position

APPLICATION PROFILES

sudo ufw app list
Available profiles

sudo ufw app info '<profile>**'**
Ports a profile opens

sudo ufw allow '<profile>**'**
Allow by profile name

LOGGING AND REPORTS

sudo ufw logging on
Enable logging

sudo ufw logging off
Disable logging

sudo ufw logging medium
Set the log level

sudo ufw show added
Rules as you typed them

sudo ufw show raw
Full underlying ruleset

Blocked packets are logged as [UFW BLOCK] in the kernel log; search with journalctl -k or /var/log/ufw.log.

RECIPES

Lock down a new server

```
sudo ufw default deny incoming
sudo ufw default allow outgoing
sudo ufw limit ssh
sudo ufw allow 80,443/tcp
sudo ufw enable
```

Allow a service only from the LAN

```
sudo ufw allow from 192.168.1.0/24 to any port 5432 proto tcp
# nothing else can reach it
sudo ufw status numbered
```