

## pfSense - Bug #11748

### Automated corruption recovery from cached ``config.xml`` backup files should check multiple backups

03/28/2021 11:16 AM - Philippe Landsberg

|                             |                  |                          |            |
|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| <b>Status:</b>              | Resolved         | <b>Start date:</b>       | 03/28/2021 |
| <b>Priority:</b>            | Normal           | <b>Due date:</b>         |            |
| <b>Assignee:</b>            | Viktor Gurov     | <b>% Done:</b>           | 100%       |
| <b>Category:</b>            | Backup / Restore | <b>Estimated time:</b>   | 0.00 hour  |
| <b>Target version:</b>      | 2.5.2            | <b>Affected Version:</b> | 2.5.0      |
| <b>Plus Target Version:</b> | 21.05            | <b>Affected</b>          | amd64      |
| <b>Release Notes:</b>       | Default          | <b>Architecture:</b>     |            |

#### Description

Apparently something went wrong during the saving in the environment of traffic shaping. The system was no longer accessible via the network. After a reset (power disconnect) the machine (pcengines / apu2) could only be accessed via the console in safe mode. Autobackup was activated. The problem, the config.xml OKB and the last backup had a file size of 0B. This leads to an unbootable system.

Older backup was available though. I assume that during a restore in the boot process the validity or on the file size (0B) is not checked.

In this case there should be a check to make sure that the backup file is valid and not corrupt. Since older backups were available, this problem could definitely have been prevented.

The problem is the function /etc/inc/config.lib.inc:187 -> discover\_last\_backup() which looks for the last backup (timestamp) but does not check for a valid large, hash or xml validity.

The boot log is included in the attachment.

#### Associated revisions

##### Revision 40159e4f - 05/12/2021 07:11 AM - Viktor Gurov

Checking multiple backups when detecting invalid configuration. Fixes #11748

#### History

##### #1 - 03/29/2021 09:03 AM - Jim Pingle

- Subject changed from Automatic restore of last backup config.xml failed during startup to Automatic restore of previous backup config.xml when detecting invalid configuration files should check multiple backups

- Target version set to CE-Next

Updating subject.

tl;dr appears to be: config.xml corrupt/missing, and most recent historical backup is also corrupt. It should keep checking older configurations until it finds a valid one.

In the boot log it appeared to keep trying the same old config multiple times rather than looking back further.

##### #2 - 03/31/2021 06:16 AM - Viktor Gurov

[https://gitlab.netgate.com/pfSense/pfSense/-/merge\\_requests/213](https://gitlab.netgate.com/pfSense/pfSense/-/merge_requests/213)

##### #3 - 03/31/2021 08:06 AM - Jim Pingle

- Status changed from New to Pull Request Review

**#4 - 05/11/2021 03:06 PM - Jim Pingle**

- Plus Target Version set to 21.05

**#5 - 05/12/2021 07:11 AM - Steve Beaver**

- Status changed from Pull Request Review to Feedback

**#6 - 05/12/2021 07:20 AM - Viktor Gurov**

- % Done changed from 0 to 100

Applied in changeset [40159e4f9fc2db7ac8a6a28a5f757e51e7975886](#).

**#7 - 05/12/2021 01:58 PM - Jim Pingle**

- Subject changed from Automatic restore of previous backup config.xml when detecting invalid configuration files should check multiple backups to Automated corruption recovery from cached ``config.xml`` backup files should check multiple backups

Updating subject for release notes.

**#8 - 05/27/2021 07:56 AM - Jim Pingle**

- Target version changed from CE-Next to 2.5.2

**#9 - 05/28/2021 12:22 PM - Jim Pingle**

- Status changed from Feedback to Resolved

- Assignee set to Viktor Gurov

On a fresh VM I made a few changes, booted to single user mode and truncated the last few configs to 0 bytes, and then rebooted again. It successfully went back and found the most recent viable backup and restored that.

**Files**

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|                      |         |            |                    |
|----------------------|---------|------------|--------------------|
| pfsense_boot_log.txt | 3.62 KB | 03/28/2021 | Philippe Landsberg |
|----------------------|---------|------------|--------------------|