



Basic guidelines on RouterOS configuration and debugging

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What is the main idea of this?

“Little things matter and are very important”

RouterOS is the same everywhere



RouterOS management tools

RouterOS management

- CLI (Command Line Interface)

<https://wiki.mikrotik.com/wiki/Manual:Console>

- Webfig

<https://wiki.mikrotik.com/wiki/Manual:Webfig>

- TikApp

<https://forum.mikrotik.com/viewtopic.php?t=98407>

- Winbox

<https://wiki.mikrotik.com/wiki/Manual:Winbox>

The fastest way how to configure device

QuickSet

admin@192.168.88.1 (MikroTik) - WinBox v6.38.5 on hAP ac (mipsbe)

Session Settings Dashboard

Safe Mode Session: Quick Set

Quick Set CAP CPE Home AP Dual PTP Bridge WISP AP

Network Name: MikroTik-279BE1 MikroTik-279BE0

Frequency: auto auto MHz

Band: 2GHz-B/G/N 5GHz-A/N/AC

Country: no_country_set Use Access List (ACL)

WiFi Password:

- Guest Wireless Network
Guest Network:

- Wireless Clients

MAC Address	In ACL	Last IP	Uptime	Signal Strength

 Signal Strength:

- Internet
Port: Eth1
Address Acquisition: Static Automatic PPPoE
IP Address: 172.16.1.243
Netmask: 255.255.255.0 (/24)
Gateway: 172.16.1.1
MAC Address: 6C:3B:6B:27:9B:DA Firewall Router

- Local Network
IP Address: 192.168.88.1
Netmask: 255.255.255.0 (/24)
 DHCP Server
DHCP Server Range: 192.168.88.10-192.168.88.254
 NAT
 UPnP

- VPN
 VPN Access
VPN Address: 6f120665c726.sn.mynetname.net

- System

Password:
Confirm Password:

RouterOS WinBox

QuickSet

- Easy to use
- Contains the most commonly used features and should be enough for basic usage

Golden rule about QuickSet:

“If you use QuickSet, then use QuickSet, if you leave it, then forget about it...”

Simple security

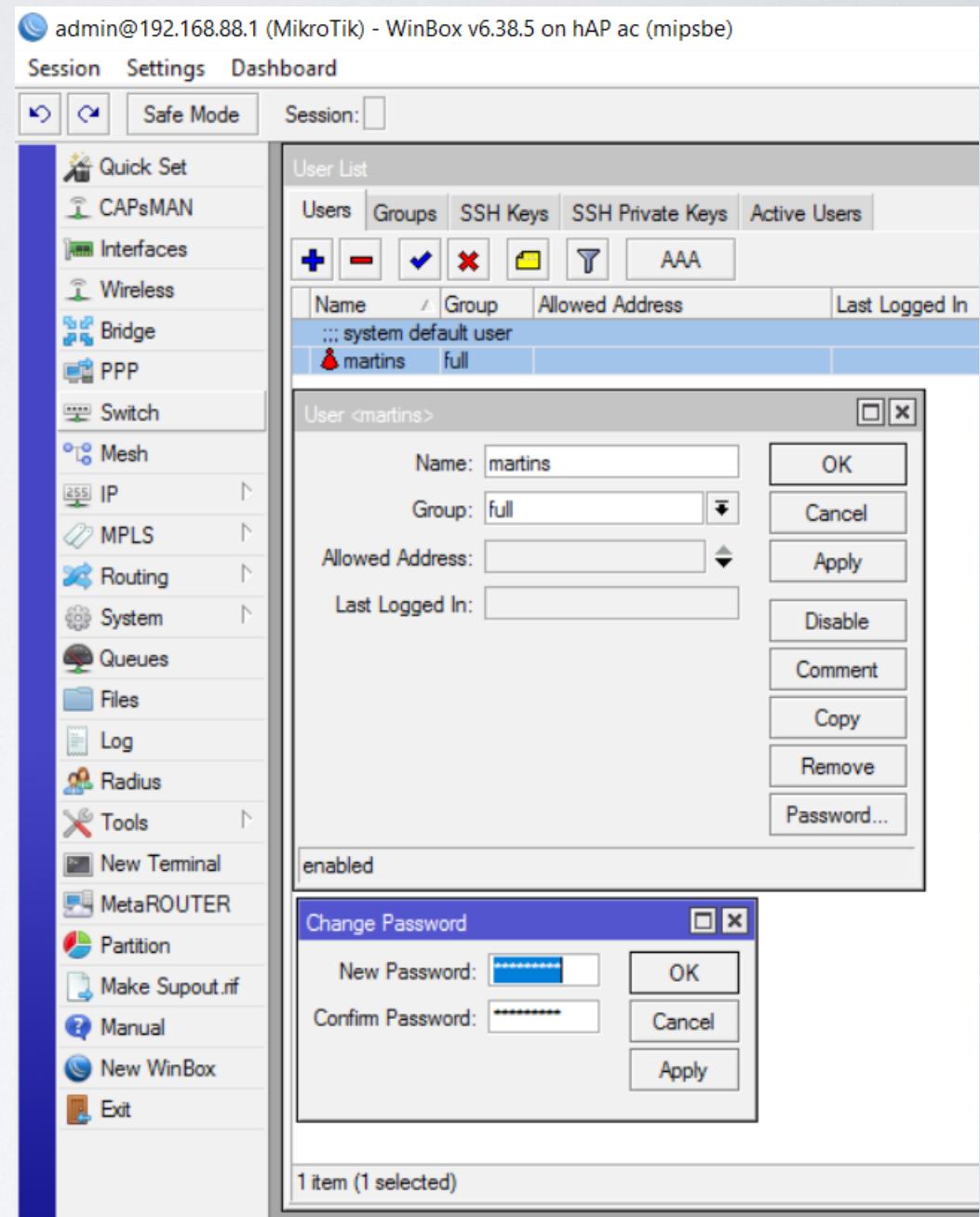
Simple security

- Specify user password

```
/user set admin password=***
```

- Use different username

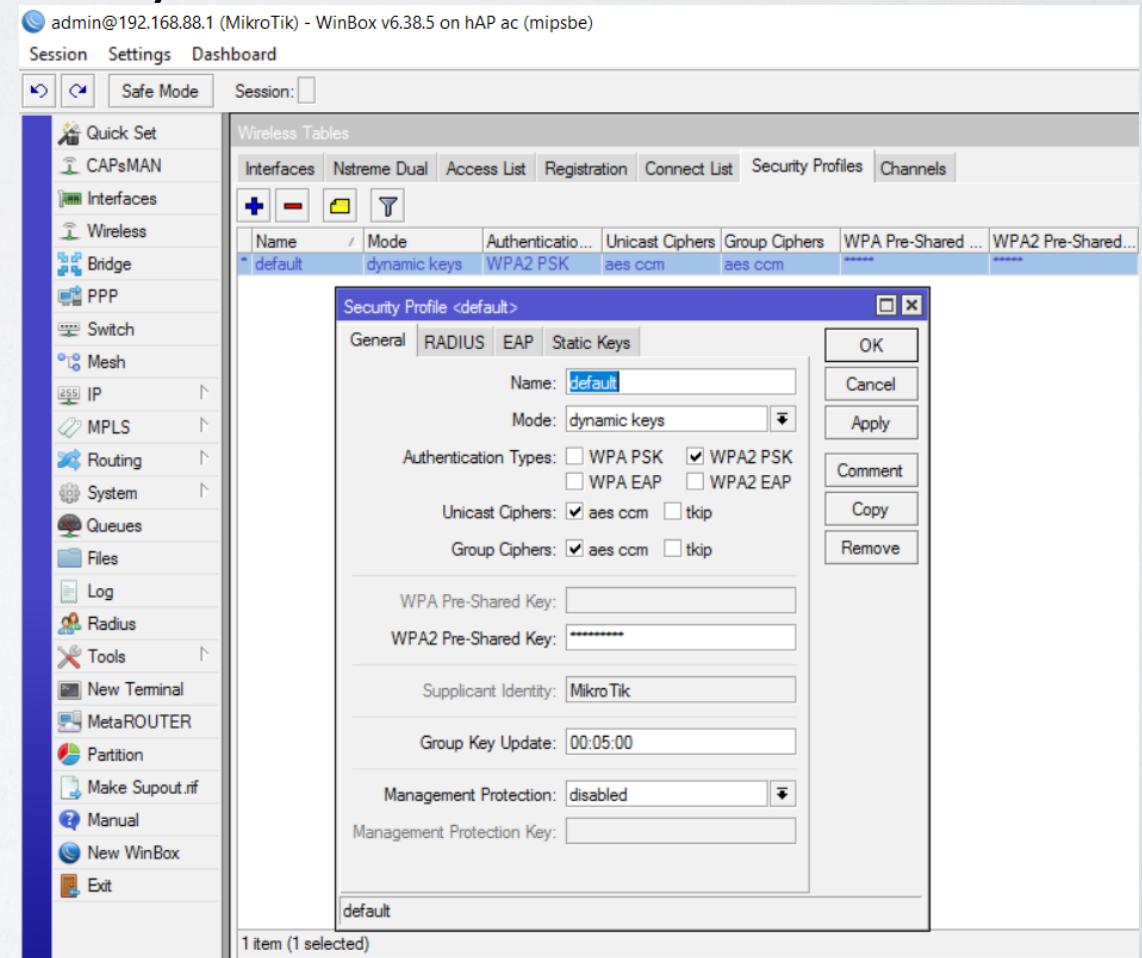
```
/user set admin name=martins
```



Simple security

- Specify password for wireless access

```
/interface wireless security-profiles set default authentication-types=wpa2-psk  
mode=dynamic-keys wpa2-pre-shared-key=*****
```



Simple security

- Disable unused interfaces

```
/interface ethernet disable ether3,ether5,sfp1
```

Interface List					
	Interface	Interface List	Ethernet	EoIP Tunnel	IP Tunnel
R	defconf				
R	bridge		Bridge		1500 159
R	ether1		Ethernet		1500 159
RS	ether2-master		Ethernet		1500 159
XS	ether3		Ethernet		1500 159
RS	ether4		Ethernet		1500 159
XS	ether5		Ethernet		1500 159
XS	sfp1		Ethernet		1500 160
S	wlan1		Wireless (Atheros AR9...)		1500 160
S	wlan2		Wireless (Atheros AR9...)		1500 160

- Disable unused packages (mainly IPv6)

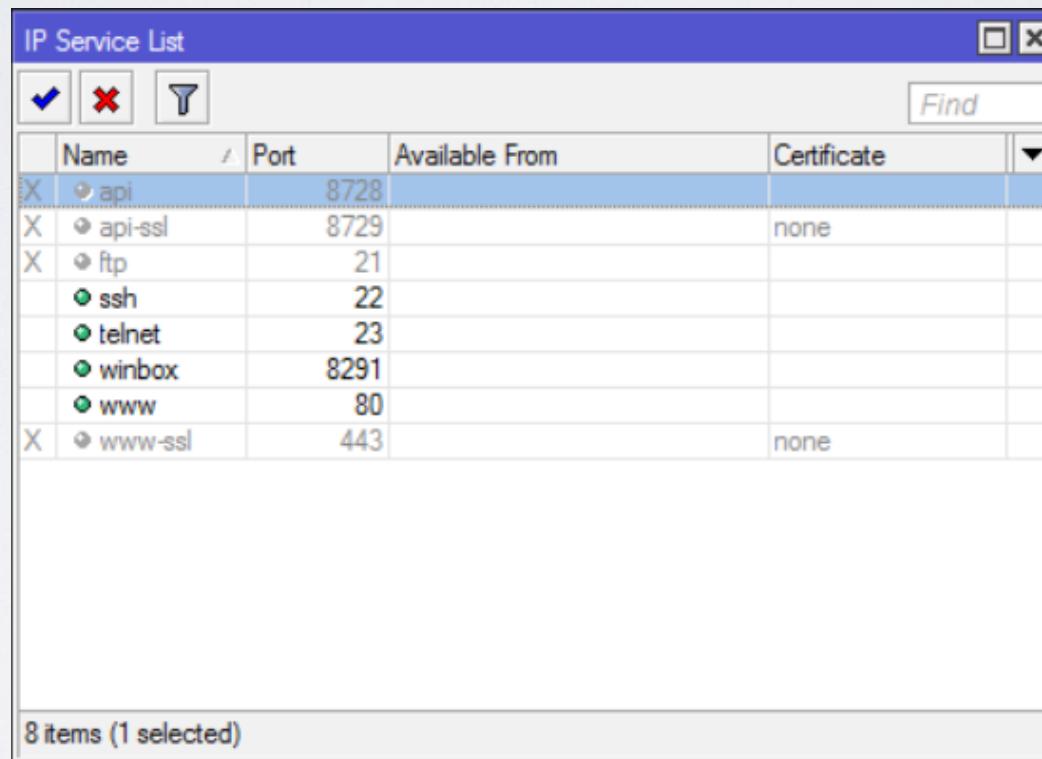
```
/system package disable hotspot,ipv6,mpls,ppp,routing
```

Package List					
	Name	Version	Build Time	Scheduled	
	routeros-mipsbe	6.38.5	Mar/09/2017 11:32:49		
	advancedt...	6.38.5	Mar/09/2017 11:32:49		
	dhcp	6.38.5	Mar/09/2017 11:32:49		
	hotspot	6.38.5	Mar/09/2017 11:32:49	scheduled for disable	
	ipv6	6.38.5	Mar/09/2017 11:32:49		
	mpls	6.38.5	Mar/09/2017 11:32:49	scheduled for disable	
	ppp	6.38.5	Mar/09/2017 11:32:49	scheduled for disable	
	routing	6.38.5	Mar/09/2017 11:32:49	scheduled for disable	
	security	6.38.5	Mar/09/2017 11:32:49		
	system	6.38.5	Mar/09/2017 11:32:49		
	wireless	6.38.5	Mar/09/2017 11:32:49		

Simple security

- Disable IP/Services

/ip service disable api,api-ssl,ftp,www-ssl



The screenshot shows a software interface titled "IP Service List". It displays a table of services with columns: Name, Port, Available From, and Certificate. The table contains the following data:

	Name	Port	Available From	Certificate
X	api	8728		
X	api-ssl	8729		none
X	ftp	21		
	ssh	22		
	telnet	23		
	winbox	8291		
	www	80		
X	www-ssl	443		none

At the bottom left of the window, it says "8 items (1 selected)".

Simple security

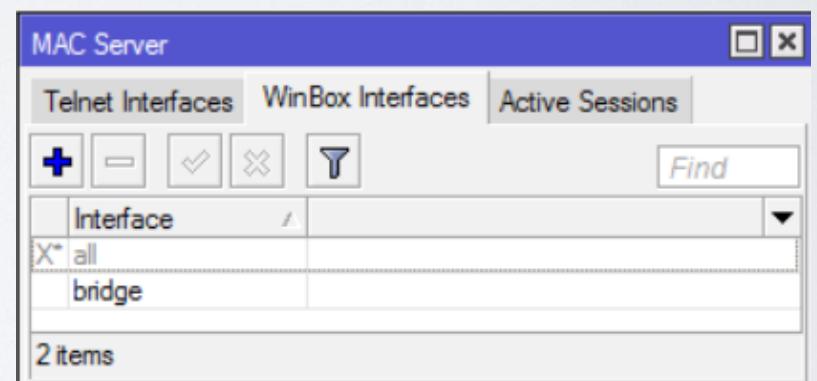
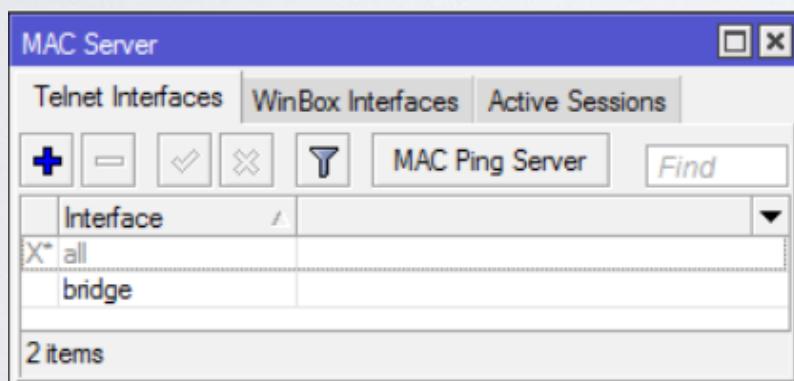
- Adjust MAC access

```
/tool mac-server set [ find default=yes ] disabled=yes
```

```
/tool mac-server add interface=bridge
```

```
/tool mac-server mac-winbox set [ find default=yes ] disabled=yes
```

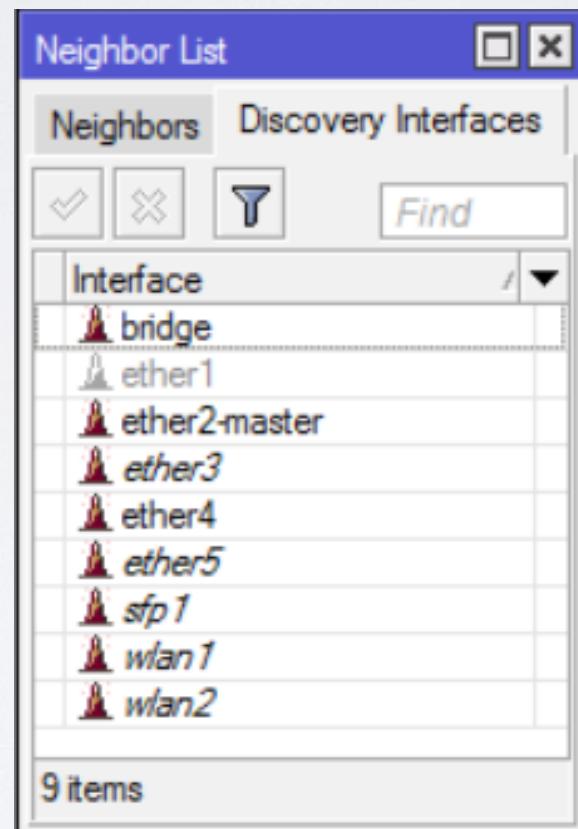
```
/tool mac-server mac-winbox add interface=bridge
```



Simple security

- Hide device in Neighbor Discovery

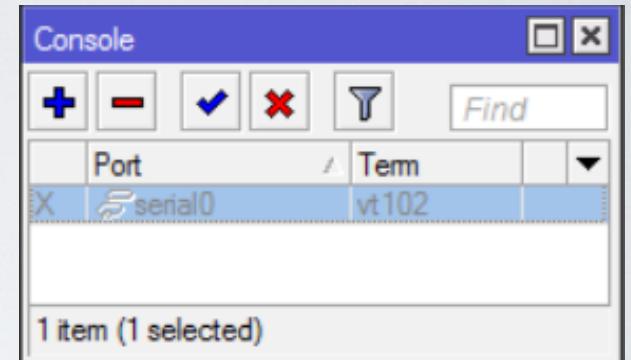
```
/ip neighbor discovery set ether1 discover=no
```



Simple security

- Disable serial port if not used (and if included)

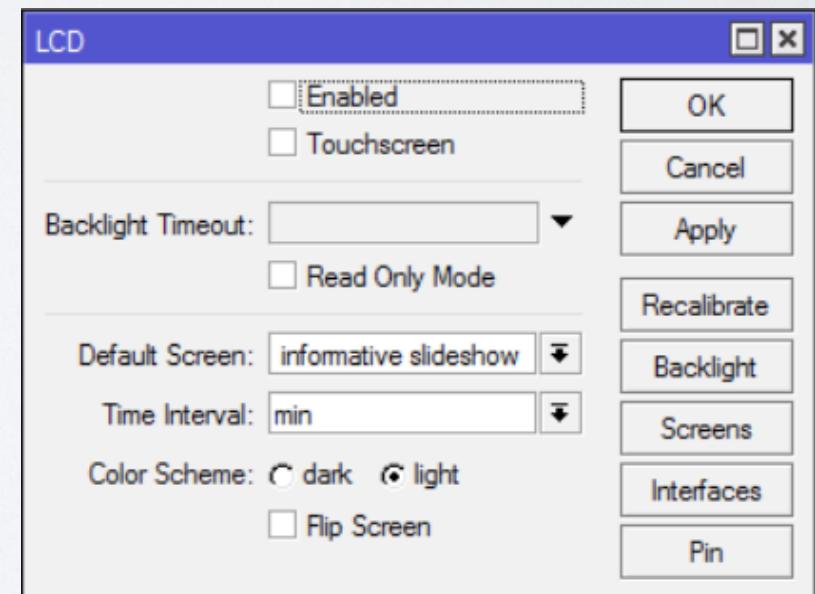
/system console disable [find where port=serial0]



- Disable LCD

/lcd set enabled=no

/lcd set touch-screen=disabled



Simple security

- Protect reset button

```
/system routerboard settings set protected-routerboot=enabled reformat-hold-button=30s
```

https://wiki.mikrotik.com/wiki/Manual:RouterBOARD_settings#Protected_bootloader

Firewall

Firewall

Two approaches

- Drop not trusted and allow trusted
- Allow trusted and drop untrusted

```
/ip firewall filter add chain=forward action=accept src-address=192.168.88.2 out-interface=ether1
```

```
/ip firewall filter add chain=forward action=drop src-address=192.168.88.0/24 out-interface=ether1
```

Firewall

- Secure input

/ip firewall filter

```
add chain=input action=accept protocol=icmp
```

```
add chain=input action=accept connection-state=established,related
```

```
add chain=input action=drop in-interface=ether1
```

#	Action	Chain	Src. Address	Dst. Address	Proto...	Src. Port	Dst. Port	In. Inter...	Out. Int...	Bytes	Packets
1	✓ acc...	input		1 (ic...						0 B	0
2	✓ acc...	input								159.7 KB	1 693
3	✗ drop	input						ether1		81.8 KB	1 090

Firewall

- Secure forward

/ip firewall filter

add chain=forward action=accept connection-state=established,related

add chain=forward action=drop connection-state=invalid

add chain=forward action=drop connection-state=new connection-nat-state!=dstnat in-interface=ether1

The screenshot shows a software interface for managing network firewalls. The title bar says "Firewall". Below it is a menu bar with tabs: Filter Rules (selected), NAT, Mangle, Raw, Service Ports, Connections, Address Lists, and Layer7 Protocols. There are several toolbar icons: a plus sign (+), minus (-), checkmark (✓), X, a folder, a search icon, and buttons for "Reset Counters" and "Reset All Counters". To the right of the toolbar are buttons for "Find" and "forward". A dropdown arrow is also present. The main area is a table with columns: #, Action, Chain, Src. Address, Dst. Address, Proto..., Src. Port, Dst. Port, In. Inter..., Out. Int..., Bytes, and Packets. The table contains the following data:

#	Action	Chain	Src. Address	Dst. Address	Proto...	Src. Port	Dst. Port	In. Inter...	Out. Int...	Bytes	Packets
::: defconf: accept established,related											
3	✓ acc...	forward								157.3 kB	575
::: defconf: drop invalid											
4	✗ drop	forward								40 B	1
::: defconf: drop all from WAN not DSTNATED											
5	✗ drop	forward						ether1		0 B	0

3 items out of 6

Firewall

- NAT to outside (if you can, use src-nat instead of masquerade)

```
/ip firewall nat add chain=srcnat out-interface=ether1 action=masquerade
```

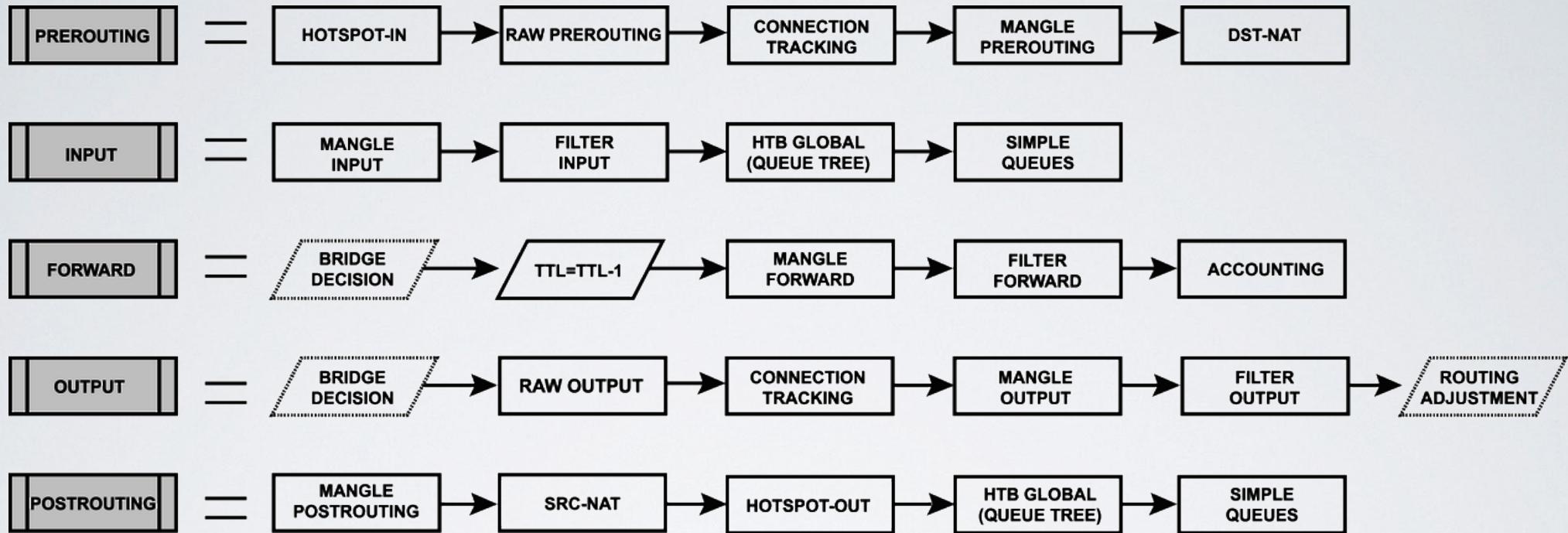
The screenshot shows the Winbox Firewall interface with the NAT tab selected. The table displays a single rule:

#	Action	Chain	Src. Address	Dst. Address	Proto...	Src. Port	Dst. Port	In. Inter...	Out. Int...	Bytes	Packets
0	mas...	srcnat							ether1	21.0 kB	186

1 item

<https://wiki.mikrotik.com/wiki/Manual:IP/Firewall/NAT#Masquerade>

Firewall



https://wiki.mikrotik.com/wiki/Manual:Packet_Flow_v6

Firewall

- NAT to LAN

```
/ip firewall nat add chain=dstnat in-interface=ether1 protocol=tcp dst-port=22  
action=dst-nat dst-address=172.16.1.243 to-address=192.168.88.23
```

Note: In order to make port forwarding work you have to:

Have dst-nat

Have src-nat

Accept traffic in forward chain (example in previous slides)

Firewall										
Filter Rules NAT Mangle Raw Service Ports Connections Address Lists Layer7 Protocols										
#	Action	Chain	Dst. Address	Proto...	Dst. Port	In. Inter...	Out. Int...	To Addresses	Bytes	Packets
0	mas...	srcnat				ether1		192.168.88.23	46.1 kB	279
1	dst...	dstnat	172.16.1.243	6 (tcp)	22	ether1			0 B	0

2 items

Firewall

- Hairpin NAT (access local resource through public IP)

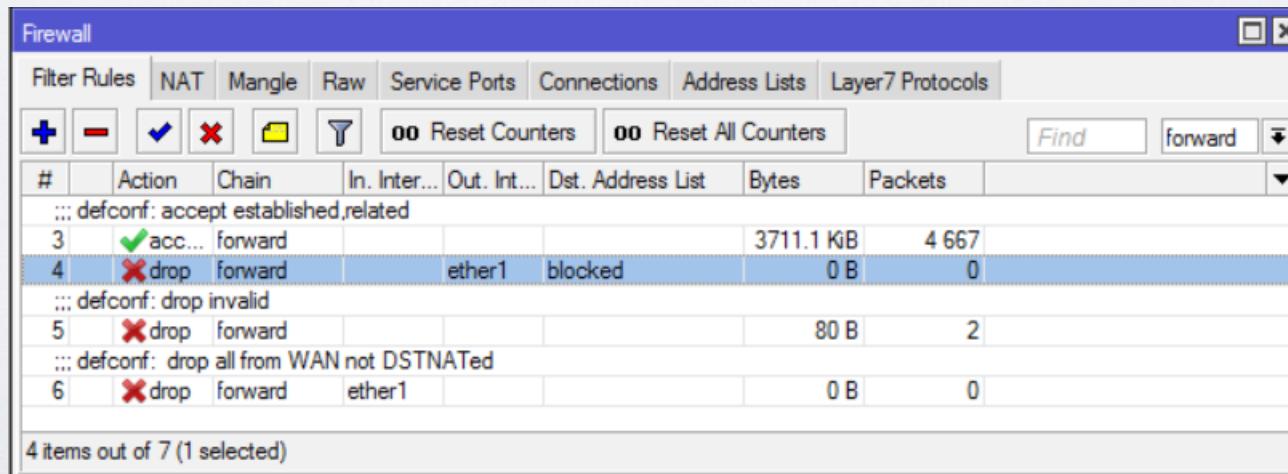
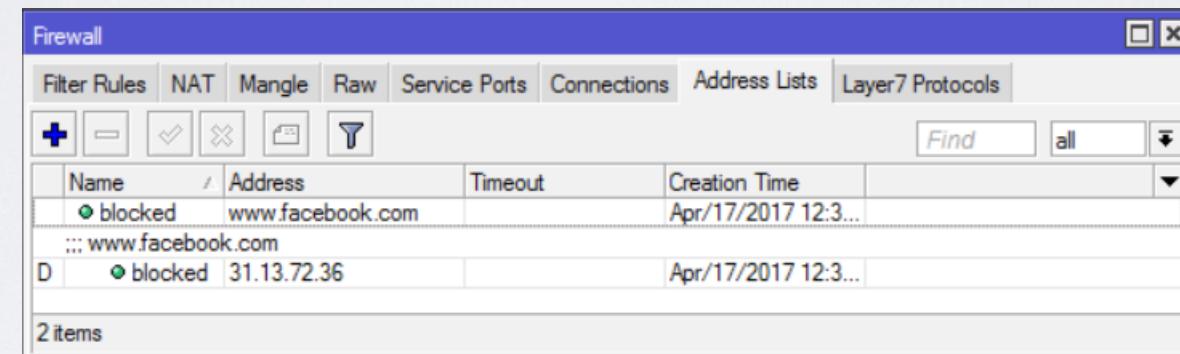
https://wiki.mikrotik.com/wiki/Hairpin_NAT

Firewall

- Block specific traffic

```
/ip firewall address-list add list=blocked address=www.facebook.com
```

```
/ip firewall filter add chain=forward action=drop dst-address-list=blocked out-  
interface=ether1
```



Firewall

- Protect device against attacks, if you allow particular access

```
/ip firewall filter
```

```
add chain=input protocol=tcp dst-port=23 src-address-list=ssh_blacklist
```

```
action=drop
```

```
add chain=input protocol=tcp dst-port=23 connection-state=new src-address-
```

```
list=ssh_stage2 action=add-src-to-address-list address-list=ssh_blacklist address-
```

```
list-timeout=10d
```

```
add chain=input protocol=tcp dst-port=23 connection-state=new src-address-
```

```
list=ssh_stage1 action=add-src-to-address-list address-list=ssh_stage2 address-list-
```

```
timeout=1m
```

```
add chain=input protocol=tcp dst-port=23 connection-state=new action=add-src-
```

```
to-address-list address-list=ssh_stage1 address-list-timeout=1m
```

Firewall

Firewall											
Filter Rules NAT Mangle Raw Service Ports Connections Address Lists Layer7 Protocols											
#	Action	Chain	Proto...	Dst. Port	In. Inter...	Connection State	Src. Address List	Address List	Timeout	Bytes	Packets
...	defconf: accept ICMP										
0	✓ acc...	input	1 (ic...							616 B	11 0
...	defconf: accept established,related										
1	✓ acc...	input				established related				573.1 kB	6 724 2
6	✗ drop	input	6 (tcp)	23			ssh_blacklist			180 B	3 0
7	✗ add...	input	6 (tcp)	23		new	ssh_stage2	ssh_blacklist	10d 00:00:00	60 B	1 0
8	✗ add...	input	6 (tcp)	23		new	ssh_stage1	ssh_stage2	00:01:00	120 B	2 0
9	✗ add...	input	6 (tcp)	23		new		ssh_stage1	00:01:00	180 B	3 0
...	defconf: drop all from WAN										
10	✗ drop	input			ether1					68.7 kB	867 2
7 items out of 11											

https://wiki.mikrotik.com/wiki/Bruteforce_login_prevention

Handle bandwidth

FastTrack

- Remember this rule?

```
/ip firewall filter
```

```
add chain=forward action=accept connection-state=established,related
```

- Add FastTrack rule before previous one

```
/ip firewall filter
```

- add chain=forward action=fasttrack-connection connection-state=established,related

FastTrack

Firewall											
Filter Rules		NAT	Mangle	Raw	Service Ports	Connections	Address Lists	Layer7 Protocols			
#	Action	Chain	Proto...	Dst. Port	In. Inter...	Connection State	Src. Address List	Address List	Timeout	Bytes	Packets
::: special dummy rule to show fasttrack counters											
0	D	pas...	forward							1570 B	3
::: defconf: accept established,related											
3	DP	fast...	forward			established related				675 B	6
::: defconf: accept established,related											
4	✓ acc...	forward				established related				675 B	6
::: defconf: drop invalid											
5	✗ drop	forward				invalid				0 B	0
::: defconf: drop all from WAN not DSTNATED											
6	✗ drop	forward		ether1	new					0 B	0
5 items out of 8 (1 selected)											

<https://wiki.mikrotik.com/index.php?title=Manual:IP/Fasttrack&redirect=no>

Queues

- Add queues to limit traffic for specific resources

```
/queue simple add name=private target=192.168.88.243 max-limit=5M/5M
```

Queue List					
Simple Queues		Interface Queues	Queue Tree	Queue Types	
#	Name	Target	Upload Max Limit	Download Max Limit	
0	queue1	192.168.88.243	5M	5M	
1 item		0 B queued		0 packets queued	

Queues

- Add queues to limit traffic equally (PCQ)

```
/queue simple add target-addresses=192.168.88.0/24 queue=pcq-upload-default/pcq-download-default
```

The screenshot shows the 'Queue List' window with the 'Simple Queues' tab selected. The window has a toolbar with icons for adding (+), deleting (-), and modifying (checkmark, X, folder, magnifying glass). It also includes buttons for 'Reset Counters' and 'Reset All Counters'. A 'Find' input field is on the right. The main table lists one queue entry:

#	Name	Target	Upload Max Limit	Download Max Limit	Upload Queue Type	Download Queue ...
0	queue1	192.168.88.0/24	unlimited	unlimited	pcq-upload-default	pcq-download-def...

At the bottom, it shows '1 item (1 selected)', '0 B queued', and '0 packets queued'.

Few advices about queues

[https://wiki.mikrotik.com/wiki/Tips_and_Tricks_for_Beginners_and_Experience
d_Users_of_RouterOS#Queues](https://wiki.mikrotik.com/wiki/Tips_and_Tricks_for_Beginners_and_Experience_d_Users_of_RouterOS#Queues)

What to do when problem appears?

Logging

- Use logging for firewall

```
/ip firewall filter set [find where src-address-list=ssh_blacklist] log=yes log-prefix=BLACKLISTED:
```

- Use logging for debug topics

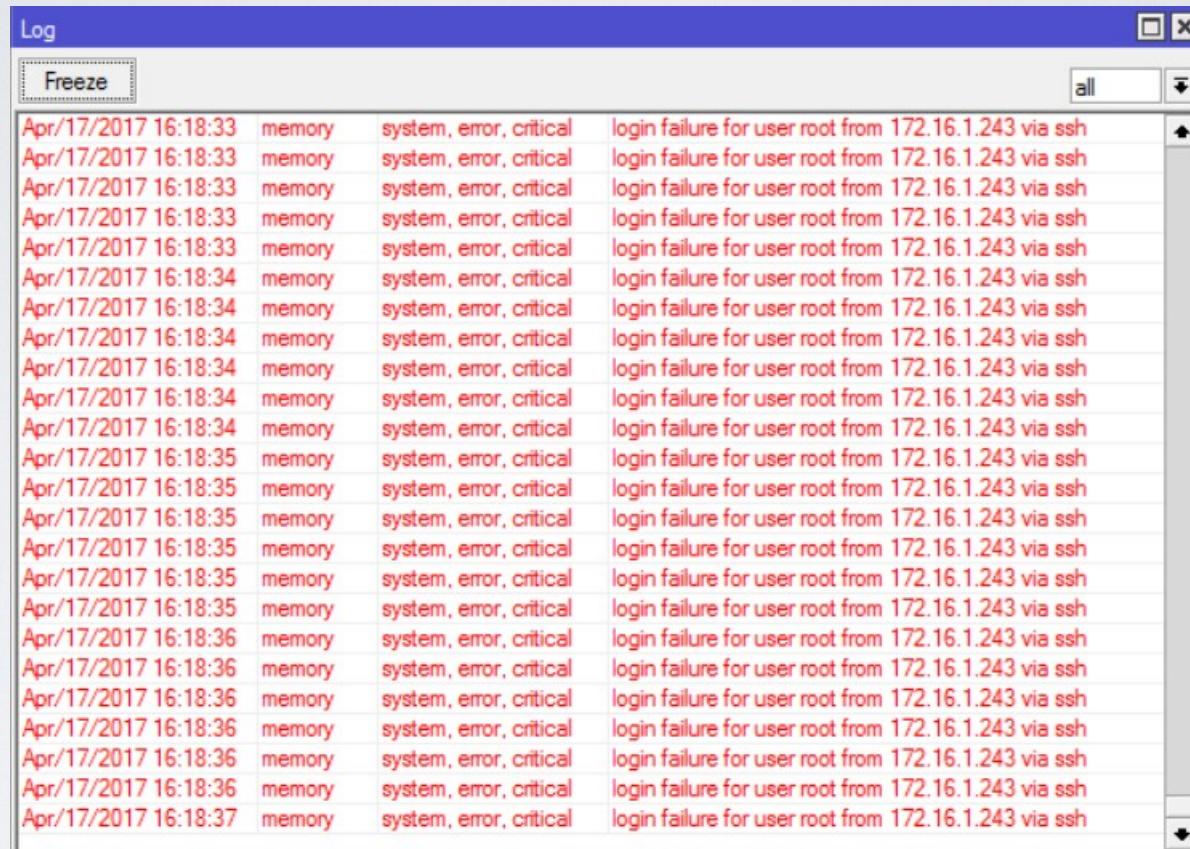
```
/system logging add topics=l2pt,debug action=memory
```

- Logging to disk or remote server

```
/system logging action set disk disk-file-name=l2tp_logs disk-file-count=5 disk-lines-per-file=1000
```

```
/system logging action set remote remote=192.168.88.3
```

Logging



<https://wiki.mikrotik.com/wiki/Manual:System/Log>

Debugging tools

- Torch

Analyse processed traffic

https://wiki.mikrotik.com/wiki/Manual:Troubleshooting_tools#Torch_.28.2Ftool_to_rch.29

The screenshot shows the MikroTik Torch traffic analysis tool window. The interface is divided into several sections:

- Basic:** Includes "Interface: bridge-local", "Entry Timeout: 00:00:03", and a "Collect" section with checkboxes for Src. Address, Dst. Address, MAC Protocol, Protocol, and DSCP.
- Filters:** Provides fields for Src. Address, Dst. Address, Src. Address6, Dst. Address6, MAC Protocol, Protocol, Port, VLAN Id, and DSCP, each with dropdown arrows.
- Buttons:** On the right side, there are "Start", "Stop", "Close", and "New Window" buttons.
- Table:** A table below displays network traffic statistics. The columns are: Et... / Prot..., Src., Dst., VLAN Id, DSCP, Tx Rate, Rx Rate, Tx Pack..., Rx Pack..., and a dropdown arrow. The table contains 8 items of traffic data.
- Summary:** At the bottom, it shows "8 items", "Total Tx: 190.6 kbps", "Total Rx: 2.1 Mbps", "Total Tx Packet: 82", and "Total Rx Packet: 186".

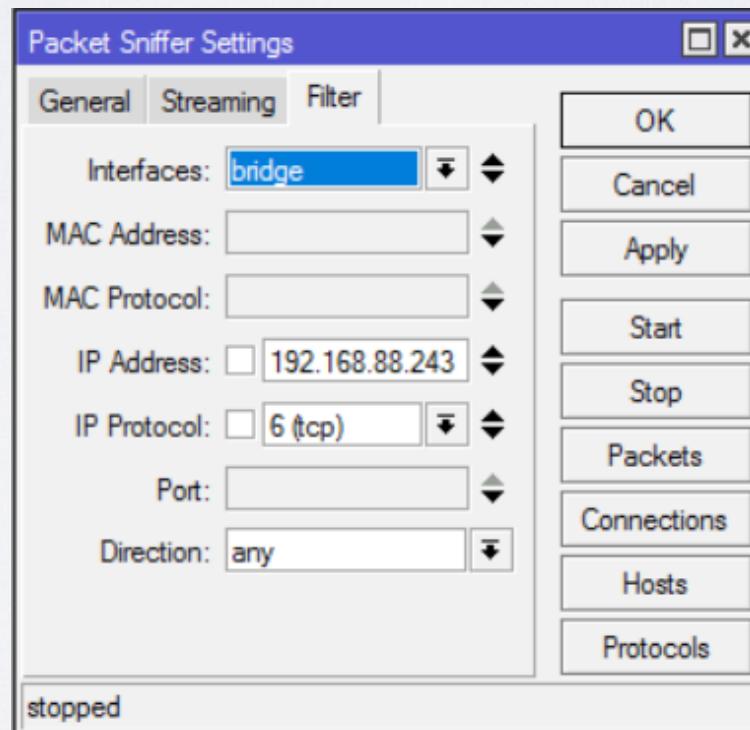
Et... / Prot...	Src.	Dst.	VLAN Id	DSCP	Tx Rate	Rx Rate	Tx Pack...	Rx Pack...
800 (ip) 6 (tcp)	172.16.1.243:55392	172.16.1.1:8291 (winbox)			156.3 k...	4.9 kbps	14	7
800 (ip) 17 (...)	172.16.1.251:20148	85.234.190.33:17943			34.3 kbps	2.0 Mbps	68	178
800 (ip) 17 (...)	172.16.1.251:137 (netbios...)	172.16.1.255:137 (netbios...)			0 bps	0 bps	0	0
800 (ip) 17 (...)	172.16.1.251:20148	78.84.230.93:59480			0 bps	11.8 kbps	0	1
800 (ip) 17 (...)	255.255.255.255:5246	172.16.1.1:57768			0 bps	0 bps	0	0
800 (ip) 17 (...)	255.255.255.255:5678 (di...)	172.16.1.1:55572			0 bps	0 bps	0	0
800 (ip) 17 (...)	172.16.1.251:49541	239.255.255.250:1900			0 bps	0 bps	0	0
800 (ip) 17 (...)	172.16.1.251:49541	172.16.1.1:1900			0 bps	0 bps	0	0

Debugging tools

- Sniffer

Analyse processed packets

https://wiki.mikrotik.com/wiki/Manual:Troubleshooting_tools#Packet_Sniffer_.28.2F_tool_sniffer.29

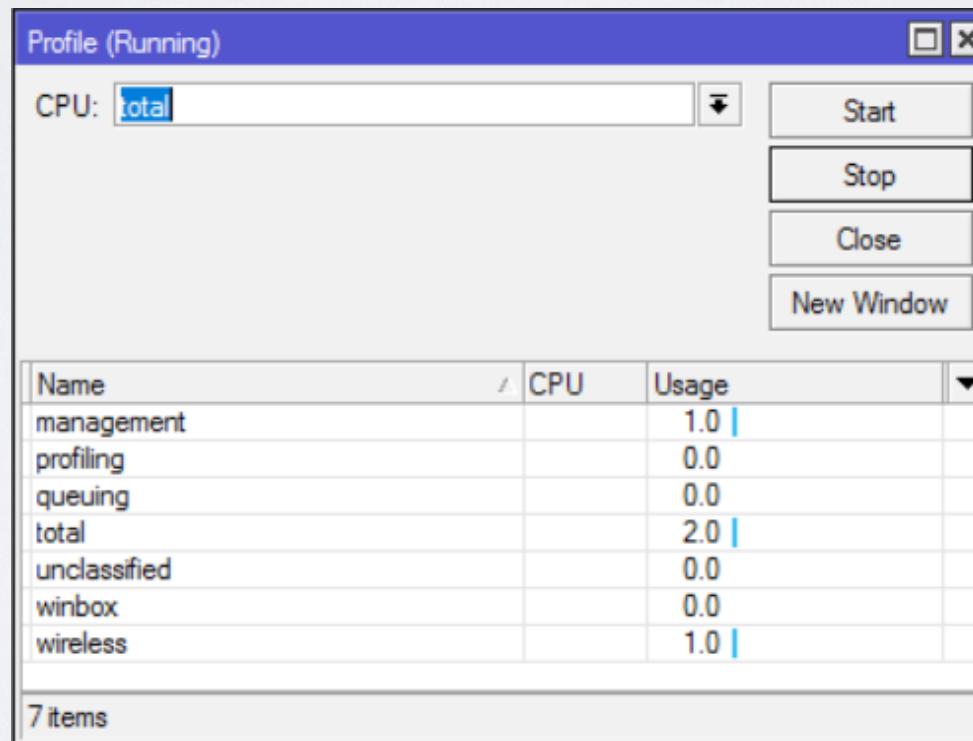


Debugging tools

- Profiler

Find out current CPU usage

<https://wiki.mikrotik.com/wiki/Manual:Tools/Profiler>



The screenshot shows a Windows-style application window titled "Profile (Running)". On the left, there is a dropdown menu labeled "CPU:" with "total" selected. To the right of the menu are four buttons: "Start", "Stop", "Close", and "New Window". Below these controls is a table displaying CPU usage data. The table has three columns: "Name", "CPU", and "Usage". The data is as follows:

Name	CPU	Usage
management		1.0
profiling		0.0
queuing		0.0
total		2.0
unclassified		0.0
winbox		0.0
wireless		1.0

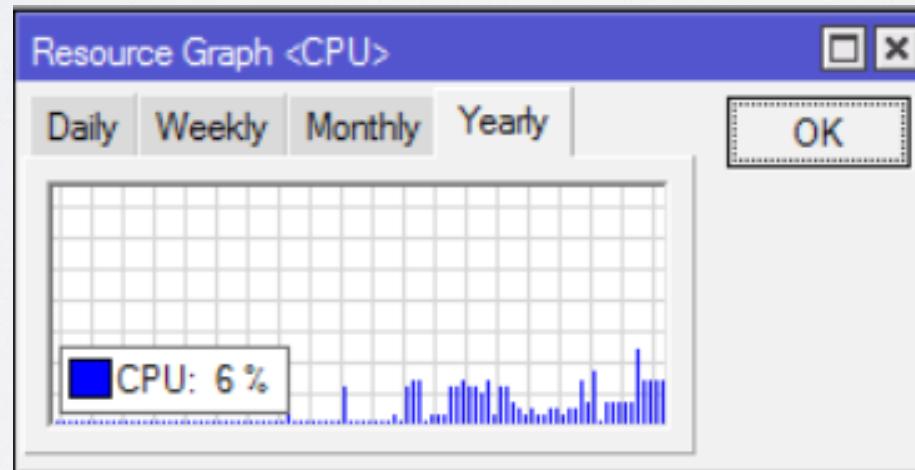
At the bottom of the table, a message indicates "7 items".

Debugging tools

- Graphing

Find out information about Interfaces/Queues/Resources per interval:

<https://wiki.mikrotik.com/wiki/Manual:Tools/Graphing>



Debugging tools

- The Dude

Powerful network monitoring tool:

https://wiki.mikrotik.com/wiki/Manual:The_Dude

Keep features and fixes up-to-date

Upgrade device

- Release candidate

The most up-to-date version (hardly tested) with all possible features (also half-implemented) and fixes

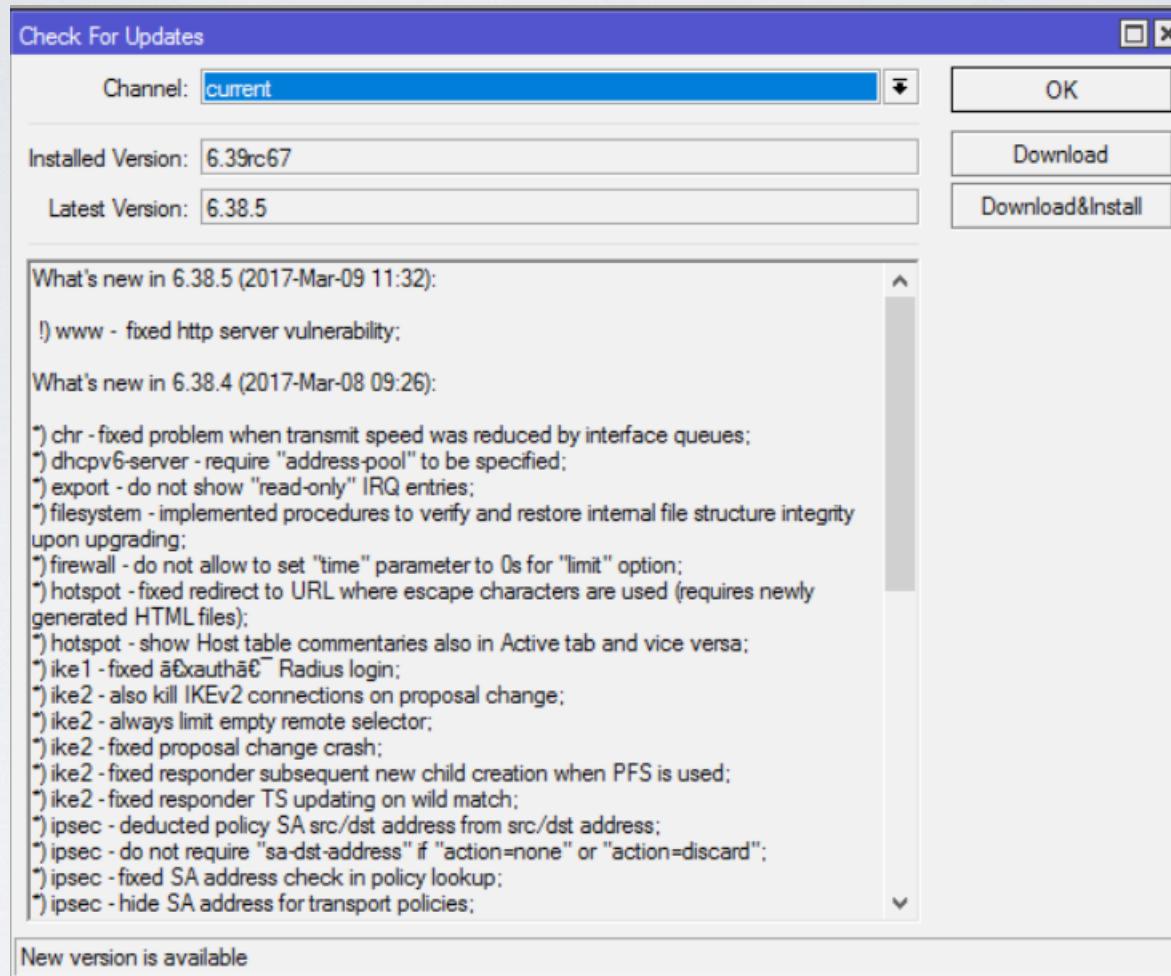
- Current

Latest full release (tested on many different scenarios for long time) with all fully implemented features

- Bugfix

Latest full release (tested on many different scenarios for long time and admitted as trustworthy) with all safe fixes

Upgrade device



https://wiki.mikrotik.com/wiki/Manual:Upgrading_RouterOS

What to do when software stops working?

Resolve problems

- Backup RouterBOOT

- 1) Power device off, press and hold the reset button
- 2) Power device on and after 1-2 seconds release the button

- Netinstall

- 1) Test Netinstall

<https://wiki.mikrotik.com/wiki/Manual:Netinstall>

- 2) Try to re-install any other router

- Reset device

<https://wiki.mikrotik.com/wiki/Manual:Reset>

Resolve problems

- Serial port
 - 1) Shows all available information (also booting)
 - 2) Will work if problem is related to Layer2/Layer3 connectivity and/or interfaces themselves
- Exchange device
- Choose more powerful device (or multiple devices)

I can not figure it out by myself

Configuration issues

- Consultants/Distributors:
 - <https://mikrotik.com/consultants>
 - <https://mikrotik.com/buy>
- Ask for help in forum:
 - <https://forum.mikrotik.com/>
- Look for an answer in manual
 - https://wiki.mikrotik.com/wiki/Main_Page

What to do when hardware stops working?

Hardware issues

- Replace involved accessories
 - Power adapter
 - PoE
 - Cables
 - Interfaces (SFP modules, wireless cards, etc.)
 - Power source

Support

Software issues

- Configuration is not working properly

Logs and supout file

https://wiki.mikrotik.com/wiki/Manual:Support_Output_File

- Out of memory
 - 1) Upgrade device (mandatory)
 - 2) Reboot device and generate supout file (normal situation)
 - 3) When RAM is almost full generate another supout file (problematic situation)

Software issues

- Device freeze
 - 1) Upgrade device (mandatory)
 - 2) Connect serial console and monitor device
 - 3) Generate supout file (problematic situation)
 - 4) Copy serial output to text file
- Any other kind of issue (for example reboot)
 - 1) Upgrade device (mandatory)
 - 2) Reproduce problem or wait for it to appear
 - 3) Generate supout file (problematic situation)

Support

- Briefly explain what has happened
- When it happens
- What did you do to make it happen
- Send all files (mentioned in previous slides depending on problem)
- Do everything what is asked, if it is possible
- Make notes and document results (even if problem persists)
- Make new files after configuration changes
- Reply within same ticket and provide new information

Enjoy the MUM!