Creating a Multihomed Host

By default, TCP/IP considers any machine with multiple network interfaces to be a router. However, you can change a router into a *multihomed host*—a machine with more than one network interface that does not run routing protocols or forward IP packets. You typically configure the following types of machines as multihomed hosts:

- **NFS servers**, particularly large data centers, can be attached to more than one network in order to share files among a large pool of users. These servers don't need to maintain routing tables.
- **Database servers** can have multiple network interfaces for the same reason as NFS servers—to provide resources to a large pool of users.
- **Firewall gateways** are machines that provide the connection between a company's network and public networks such as the Internet. Administrators set up firewalls as a security measure. When configured as a firewall, the host will not pass packets between the networks attached to it. On the other hand, it can still provide standard TCP/IP services, such as `ftp` or `rlogin`, to authorized users.

Since TCP/IP considers any machine with multiple network interfaces to be a router, you need to perform a few operations to turn it into a multihomed host.

▼ How to Create a Multihomed Host

Become superuser on the prospective multihomed host and do the following:

1. **Create an** `/etc/hostname.`*interface* **file for each additional network interface installed in the machine.**
2. **Type:**

```
% touch /etc/notrouter
```

   This creates an empty file called `/etc/notrouter`.

3. **Reboot the machine.**