

BOFH excuse generator

Mark Phillips, NI2O 10/2023

This is a simple script that will allow users to telnet to a port on your host and receive a random text string stored in a file of other random text strings. Eg "telnet 127.0.0.1 666"

First create a script that will pull a random line from your text file. I put mine in /usr/local/bofh/bofh.sh

```
#!/usr/bin/env bash
EXCUSES="/usr/local/bofh/excuses.txt"
awk 'NR=$((1 + $RANDOM % `nl $EXCUSES | tail -n 1 | awk '{print "\n" $1 "\n"}' `))'{print;exit}' $EXCUSES
```

Next, edit the /etc/services file adding the new service and port number

```
# Local services
excuses      666/tcp          # BOFH Excuse Generator
```

Now create the file /etc/xinetd.d/bofh containing

```
service excuses
{
    disable      = no
    socket_type  = stream
    server       = /usr/local/bofh/excuses.sh
    port        = 666
    user         = root
    wait        = no
}
```

Finally, restart xinetd then check it loaded correctly. Fix any errors introduced.

```
systemctl restart xinetd
systemctl status xinetd
```

Now we can telnet to our service

```
telnet ni2o.ampr.org 666
```

Ensure relevant firewall rules are adjusted to allow external connection to this new script.