Linux iptables delete prerouting rule command

Step 1 – List the pretrouting rules

The syntax is as follows:
`sudo iptables -t nat -v -L PREROUTING -n --line-number`
OR
`sudo iptables -t nat -v -L -n --line-number`
Iptables list the pretrouting rules on Linux
Where,

- **`-t nat`** : Select nat table.
- **`-v`** : Verbose output.
- **`-L`** : List all rules in the selected chain. In other words, show all rules in nat table.
- **`-L PREROUTING`** – Display rules in PREROUTING chain only.
- **`-n`** : Numeric output. IP addresses and port numbers will be printed in numeric format.
- **`--line-number`** : When listing rules, add line numbers to the beginning of each rule, corresponding to that rule's position in the chain. You need to use line numbers to delete nat rules.

Step 2 – Iptables delete prerouting nat rule

The syntax is:
`sudo iptables -t nat -D PREROUTING {rule-number-here}`
To delete rule # 1 i.e. the following rule:

```
1    15547  809K DNAT       tcp  --  eth0   *       0.0.0.0/0            0.0.0.0/0
tcp dpt:80 to:10.147.164.8:80
```

Type the following command:

```
sudo iptables -t nat -D PREROUTING 1
```

OR

```
sudo iptables -t nat --delete PREROUTING 1
```

Verify that rule has been deleted from the PREROUTING chain , enter:

```
sudo iptables -t nat -v -L PREROUTING -n --line-number
```

Linux iptables remove prerouting command

Here is another DMZ rule:

```
sudo iptables -t nat -A PREROUTING -i eth0 -p tcp --dport 443 -j DNAT --to-destination 10.147.164.8:443
```

To remove prerouting command, run:

```
sudo iptables -t nat -D PREROUTING -i eth0 -p tcp --dport 443 -j DNAT --to-destination 10.147.164.8:443
```

Make sure you save updated firewall rules, either modifying your shell scripts or by running iptables-save command as described here.

Alternate syntax to remove specific PREROUTING rules from iptables

Say, you execute the following iptables PREROUTING command for port redirection:

```
sudo iptables -t nat -A PREROUTING -i eth0 -p tcp -m tcp --dport 443 -j DNAT --to-destination 10.147.164.8:443
```

To delete, run the same above command but replace the "`-A`" with "`-D`":

```
sudo iptables -t nat -D PREROUTING -i eth0 -p tcp -m tcp --dport 443 -j DNAT --to-destination 10.147.164.8:443
```

Another example, run the same command but replace the "`-I" with "-D". For example, say you have the following rule that redirect SSH (TCP 22) from port 2222 to port 22:`

```
sudo iptables -t nat -I PREROUTING -p tcp --dport 2222 -j REDIRECT --to-ports 22
```

`Becomes:`

```
sudo iptables -t nat -D PREROUTING -p tcp --dport 2222 -j REDIRECT --to-ports 22
```

OR

```
sudo iptables -t nat --delete PREROUTING -p tcp --dport 2222 -j REDIRECT --to-ports 22
```

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