



Firebird security alert – classification & instructions

Don't panic – and always know who can help

Before you rush to disconnect all Firebird servers from the power supply and run to the server room, remain calm.

The current Firebird security alert sounds more dramatic than it is for the majority of users. The good news is that if your Firebird server is **not directly accessible via the Internet**, you can breathe a sigh of relief for the time being.

For those who are actually using an open port, there are quick and easy workarounds (no galactic quantum computers required). You will find the most important information on the following pages.

So: read the following instructions, contact the IBExpert Firebird support hotline if necessary, and act promptly – without hyperventilating.



1. Brief information for management

Firebird versions prior to 3.0.13, 4.0.6 or 5.0.3 contain a vulnerability that is only dangerous if the Firebird server port (default 3050, may differ in `firebird.conf`) is directly accessible from the Internet.

There is no immediate risk for internal servers.

If your Firebird server is publicly accessible: Close the port immediately or secure it with a firewall, then update to the latest version at your convenience.

2. Technical instructions for administrators

Vulnerability: DoS attack possible without login if the configured Firebird server port is accessible from outside.

Secure versions:

- 3.0.13 or newer
- 4.0.6 or newer
- 5.0.3 or newer

A) Verify version

Windows:

1. Open command prompt
2. Run: `gstat -z`



→ First line, e.g.: gstat version LI-V3.0.12 (only V3.0.12 is relevant)

3. If gstat is not found: Right-click on firebird.exe → Details → Check version number.

Linux:

1. Open terminal

2. Run: `gstat -z oder /opt/firebird/bin/gstat -z`

→ Check the version number as above.

B) Actions depending on the situation

Server port (default 3050 or other) open on the Internet:

1. Quick workaround:

- Stop the Firebird service.

- In `firebird.conf`, set the `RemoteBindAddress` parameter to active and restrict it to non-public IP addresses, e.g.:

```
RemoteBindAddress = 127.0.0.1 192.168.0.123
```

(Multiple addresses can be separated by spaces.)

- Restart the Firebird service.

2. Clients requiring external access:

- If possible, update to the latest Firebird version.

- Alternatively: Secure access via VPN (e.g. with inexpensive routers such as ASUS from approx. EUR 20, which establish a secure tunnel via OpenVPN).

Servers only in an internal network:

- No urgent action required

- Schedule update during regular maintenance slots

Firebird 2.5:

- No fix available – plan upgrade to a supported version

C) The easiest way to perform an update

Windows (versions ≥ 3.0):

1. Stop the server service using the Task Manager.
2. Back up all `*.conf` and `security*.fdb` files to a separate path.
3. Download the latest version of Firebird from firebirdsql.org as a 64-bit ZIP file and unpack it (i.e. do not simply replace 3.0 with 5.0 files).
4. With administrator rights copy all files from the ZIP file to the previous Firebird path (i.e. the `firebird.exe` must afterwards be located where `firebird.exe` is).
5. Copy the files backed up in step 2 over the newly copied files.
6. Restart the service.

Important: This procedure is much faster, easier and more error-free than performing the setup again, because all settings, users and passwords are retained.



Linux:

1. Stop the server service using `Services firebird* stop` or similar, depending on the version.
2. Back up all `*.conf` and `security*.fdb` files in `/opt/firebird/` or similar, depending on the version, to a separate path.
3. Download Firebird in the latest version of the version number currently in use from firebirdsql.org as a 64-bit `tar.gz` file and unpack it (i.e. do not simply replace 3.0 with 5.0 files).
4. Start the installer from the `tar.gz` with root privileges, confirm all queries if applicable, enter the SYSDBA password of your choice (it will be replaced by the old one in the next step).
5. Stop the service again as described above.
6. Copy the files saved in step 2 over the newly copied files again.
7. Restart the service. Again, it is difficult to make a mistake here.

And for all younger readers who cannot immediately make the connection to the Don't Panic logo, here is a recommended read:

Here is a **brief synopsis** of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, published more than **42** years ago:

Arthur Dent, an ordinary Briton, wakes up one morning to discover two unpleasant things:

1. His house is going to be demolished.
2. So is the Earth — to make way for a hyperspace bypass.

Shortly before our planet is destroyed, he is saved by his friend Ford Prefect, who turns out to be an alien journalist for the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. The two hitchhike through space in a spaceship and embark on a series of absurd adventures:

- Meeting Zaphod Beeblebrox, the two-headed, chaotic president of the galaxy
- Trilli(an), the only other surviving Earthling
- Marvin, the chronically depressed robot
- A planet where luxury goods are made to order
- And the revelation that Earth itself was a giant supercomputer designed to calculate the ultimate question about life, the universe and everything else (answer: **42**).

The entire work is a blend of science fiction, British humour, and philosophical nonsense, with the central message being: “**Don't Panic**”.