

## RE: [fw-wiz] Firewalls Compared

**Source:** <http://www.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Firewall-Wizards/2004-06/0190.html>

---

**From:** Laura Taylor ([ltaylor\\_at\\_relevanttechnologies.com](mailto:ltaylor_at_relevanttechnologies.com))

**Date:** 06/27/04

To: <[ark@eltex.net](mailto:ark@eltex.net)>

Date: Sun, 27 Jun 2004 10:57:01 -0400

NuqneH,

Thanks for the feedback...it's something I'll keep in mind for future articles and I really value your constructive comments.

One thing to know is that each of the ZDNet articles were supposed to be no longer than 600 words. It's hard to get very much in depth in such a short piece so I really could only touch on things at a high level. I agree that logging was mentioned too briefly...which is why at a later point in time I wrote a column called "Read Your Firewall Logs!" which you can find via Google. The content length for the Jupiter Media article is 1500 words which is why it is longer. It's often a requirement that you keep your article within a certain number of words so you may have only a limited amount of space to get to the point. Maybe at some point I can write an article on the advantages and disadvantages of "order independent rule checking."

Laura

-----Original Message-----

From: Arkanoid [mailto:[ark@eltex.net](mailto:ark@eltex.net)]

Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2004 4:31 AM

To: Laura Taylor

Cc: [firewall-wizards@honor.icsalabs.com](mailto:firewall-wizards@honor.icsalabs.com)

Subject: Re: [fw-wiz] Firewalls Compared

nuqneH,

I've found that articles are written from "packet filter" point of view, paying almost no attention to application protocol support and advanced features besides virus scanning, thus it appears like it does not matter if firewall can enforce application security policy with proper granularity. And – again – no difference for protecting servers vs protecting workstations.

"order-independent rule checking" is more than questionable feature, there are "first match" and "last match" rulesets and i think it's much

Firewall-Wizards: RE: [fw-wiz] Firewalls Compared

better to keep it clear witch method is used rather than utilize some wicked AI to decide ;-)

Logging/reporting capabilities are mentioned too briefly, though it is most important thing to know what happens on the firewall (you cannot just read whole daily syslog every morning ;-)

On Sat, Jun 26, 2004 at 09:06:17AM -0400, Laura Taylor wrote:

- >
- > *I would have responded sooner but I was under some tight deadlines to get*
- > *some work done....*
- >
- > *I wrote some articles on how to buy a firewall a few years ago. They are a*
- > *little dated in that there are some new features and functionality that*
- > *exists on leading products today, that did not exist when I wrote these*
- > *articles. However, many of the basic principles still exist, and some of*
- > *the*
- > *tips might at least help you get going in selecting a firewall.*
- >
- > *Firewall Shopping 101*
- > [http://www.intranetjournal.com/articles/200202/se\\_02\\_13\\_02a.html](http://www.intranetjournal.com/articles/200202/se_02_13_02a.html)
- > *February 13, 2002*
- >
- > *Select the Right Firweall: Part 1*
- >
- > <http://techupdate.zdnet.com/techupdate/stories/main/0,14179,2694089,00.html>
- > *March 8, 2001*
- >
- > *Select the Right Firewall: Part 2*
- >
- > <http://techupdate.zdnet.com/techupdate/stories/main/0,14179,2700852,00.html>
- > *March 25, 2001*
- >
- > *If you decide to read these articles, let me know if you find any*
- > *mistakes.*
- > *I might not have had enough cups of coffee when I wrote them and if I*
- > *write*
- > *any new articles on this topic, I am always open to suggestions for*
- > *improvements.*
- >
- > *In my not so copious freetime, I am working on a dynamic spreadsheet that*
- > *mathematically tabulates firewall decision-making and selection by*
- > *components. However, being a single Mom with a full-time job doesn't leave*
- > *me much time to do the fun stuff so it will be awhile before this is*
- > *anywhere near finished....*
- >
- > *Laura Taylor*
- > *Relevant Technologies, Inc.*
- > [www.relevanttechnologies.com](http://www.relevanttechnologies.com)
- >
- > \_\_\_\_\_

RE: [fw-wiz] Firewalls Compared

Firewall-Wizards: RE: [fw-wiz] Firewalls Compared

- > *firewall-wizards mailing list*
- > *firewall-wizards@honor.icsalabs.com*
- > <http://honor.icsalabs.com/mailman/listinfo/firewall-wizards>
- >
- > *email protected and scanned by AdvascanTM – keeping email useful –*
- www.advascan.com
- >
- >
- >

---

firewall-wizards mailing list  
firewall-wizards@honor.icsalabs.com  
<http://honor.icsalabs.com/mailman/listinfo/firewall-wizards>