

# RE: Binding Windows Services to Specific Addresses Only

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- *From:* "Wayne S. Anderson" <[wfrazee@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:wfrazee@xxxxxxxxxx)>
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Actually, it sort of is possible to do this.

You can use IPSec settings to restrict what is available to communicate where. Its kind of a poor-mans network firewall without actually using the firewall service. There have been a few instances where this has been necessary at places I have worked in the past. In windows Server 2008, with the firewall service you can actually do this explicitly now using the advanced firewall settings. An exception can be restricted to an interface or to a source network segment.

The original posting question is actually quite broad and the entire list of things you can do to harden a windows machine is frankly HUGE and possibly even interminable when you consider the possible architectures and permutations available at the overall system level. There are entire books and courses on just this subject alone.

That being said, on a per host basis, there are several key steps to take to begin securing your machine. This list is not exhaustive, this is just my informal list of key things that I look to do even in low security environments.

1) Document the server.

This is an oft-overlooked step. If this is a corporate environment, you should have several key pieces of information for every machine in the environment. The hardware on the machine. Who owns it. What applications it serves. The data classification level the machine is intended to support. Many IT shops simply don't do this but the frank truth of the matter is that any company should.

If something is compromised, whether you think you are a hacking target or not or you think you have high value data or not, you need to be able to quickly return information on what the machine is, what it has, and what was installed on it in the event of a compromise.

This does not have to be complex! It can be as simple as an excel workbook. If you have multiple server rooms or data centers, set up a tab for each and each row is one machine. Simple to use, easy to update. You can host the workbook on a share or on a SharePoint site. If you have a SharePoint site,

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it's even easier because then you can just build a custom list on a SharePoint site somewhere and you are set. If you are a Lotus Notes shop, there are options in domino to build such a list as well.

2) Install the minimums. If the server has been re-purposed, start with a fresh OS install.

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