

## Re: disabling port 79

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**From:** Rodrigo Barbosa ([rodrigob@tisbrasil.com.br](mailto:rodrigob@tisbrasil.com.br))

**Date:** 02/22/02

Date: Fri, 22 Feb 2002 15:07:20 -0300  
From: Rodrigo Barbosa <[rodrigob@tisbrasil.com.br](mailto:rodrigob@tisbrasil.com.br)>  
To: "Dean Fox" <[dfox168@hotmail.com](mailto:dfox168@hotmail.com)>

On Wed, Feb 20, 2002 at 10:55:29AM -0500, Dean Fox wrote:

> *I am contemplating to remove/disable finger or port 79 from some  
> workstations and/or servers. Is there any negative impact for doing it?  
> Any advice is much appreciated.*

Actually, considering that your system probably have a standard finger daemon, the impact would be positive, not negative.

The finger service used to be very useful in the good old days. But in today's Internet environment, the information leakage it provides represents a security problem.

However, the finger protocol (which could not be simpler), still provides a wide range of possibilities. Specific finger-like daemons can be used to provide controlled information. Try:

finger @finger.kernel.org

There are also other services that can be implemented. I use finger to monitor the status of my network, and to provide GPG/PGP public keys. Of course, I don't use a standard finger daemon, but a little fingerd daemon I created, yafingerd (shameless plug). Available at sourceforge.

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Rodrigo Barbosa - [rodrigob@tisbrasil.com.br](mailto:rodrigob@tisbrasil.com.br)  
TIS - Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil  
"Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?" - <http://www.tisbrasil.com.br/>  
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