

Re: Avast or Zone Alarm using proxy server?

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In article <420fe194\$0\$975\$44c9b20d@news2.asahi-net.or.jp>, vogt@spamcop.net says...

> *Lars-Erik Østerud wrote:*

> > *Uhu. ZA protects outgoing traffic from programs as well (you get a notice about all new programs trying to talk to the net and can block them). Windows FW only blocks incoming and server (listen) programs.*

>

> *What else do you need? Do you rely on the outgoing filtering? It is extremely easy to circumvent the outgoing "filter" and there are many examples how to do it. If you catch some Spyware on your computer it may send data out and your PFW won't notice. (e.g. your browser is probably enabled to send data out and any software running locally can use IE to send data out...) I would not call this "protection": most of the software you use that wants to send data out you will enable anyway, because it needs the internet (e-mail, browser, etc.) while that software that you really want to block out (spyware etc.) can easily circumvent it. There is no real benefit in that.*

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> *And if you rely on it, i.e. you say "I've installed that PFW thus nobody can spy me out. I can install any program on my computer I want. I am safe anyway." There are many examples posted in various newsgroups with people that installed virus scanner, PFW, spyware scanner and more to be safe and still "caught" something because they thought with all that security software nothing would happen. They just don't get it that the biggest security problem they have is themselves.*

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> *So there is group A that downloads the craziest stuff from the weirdest places. Those people live dangerous and no PFW or other security software can help them in the end. Just think about all those pop-ups of the PFW that ask you whether you want to allow this or that. Do you always know the correct answer?*

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> *And group B does not download things. They just want browse their local newspaper, send some e-mails, use some word processor. They are careful and they don't open spam and in particular don't open documents promising anything with strange attachments. Someone told them and they know that and they are careful. For them, a PFW may be nice as it tells them when Word tries to connect to the microsoft server. But then, you*

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> *wanted Word and you want the clip art, so you allow it anyway. You don't
> need a difficult pop-up question for that. No need here for an outgoing
> filter, either.*

>

> *So the outgoing filter does not work 100%. Either you rely on it and
> play it dangerous and loose eventually (all those other things blocked
> like the automatic update from some legal software giving you the false
> impressions it that it works perfectly) or you don't rely on it and be
> careful. But then, you don't rely on it anyway so why do you need it?
> The SP2 FW is perfect as incoming filter and cannot be as easily turned
> off as a PFW from some software running on your system. (Whatever you
> can do on your system any software that you run can do as well, it just
> "simulates" a couple of mouse clicks and before you can see it your PFW
> is turned off from its tray icon). You don't even need the SP2 firewall*

Many firewalls have component control which would notify of a programme trying to use or piggyback another programme to connect out, and also loopback (localhost) that can be enabled or disabled (apart from sygate i believe) I don't believe xps firewalls can offer the extra protection.

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