

## Re: New User needs Freeware Firewall ...

**Source:** <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.security.firewalls/2001-12/1443.html>

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**From:** Dr. Bob ([rck@houston.rr.com](mailto:rck@houston.rr.com))

**Date:** 12/24/01

From: [rck@houston.rr.com](mailto:rck@houston.rr.com) (Dr. Bob)

Date: Mon, 24 Dec 2001 22:46:15 GMT

On Mon, 24 Dec 2001 15:13:40 -0500, "Harold" <[harold\\_deese@nnsu.org](mailto:harold_deese@nnsu.org)> wrote:

>> >Please explain why you call ZoneAlarm a virus.

>> Since it first came out it caused nothing but continual problems. At  
>> first it would not load at startup. This was an acknowledged problem  
>> that was documented on the Zone Labs web site. It never went away and  
>> here it is two years later. That tells me that it is caused by a major  
>> design flaw. In fact, when you delete the rule and config file it will  
>> load but it gets progressively worse as time goes along until finally  
>> it won't load.

>> Then there is the matter of recent versions (over the past 6-9 month)  
>> causing people's machines to crash. I have been running Win2K Pro/SP2  
>> for over a year and it has been very stable - until I updated to a  
>> newer version of ZA. Then my machine started locking up and crashing.  
>> With one version, acknowledged to be the worst ever at that time by  
>> many users on these forum, my machine was crashing every hour.

>> Someone on these forums mentioned that ZA was crashing his machine so  
>> I shut it off and my machine stopped crashing. Then a newer version  
>> came out that people claimed was more stable so I installed it and  
>> then my machine would only crash a couple of times a day. But what  
>> caused me to get rid of it - and the reason I call it a virus - is  
>> that the latest versions started writing ".tmp" files in the datafile  
>> directory C:\winnt\Internet Logs.

>> Someone on these forums said that those files kept track of your use  
>> applications and another said they became crosslinked with other files  
>> and destroyed his FAT table (I am running NTFS).

>> How much more would it take to convince you that ZA is a virus?

>Thank you for your opinion.

Those comments are not my opinion. They are hard cold facts that I and

many other posters to these forums have reported time and time again over the course of the last half year or more.

You, the Gentle Reader, are not being deceived when we try to warn you about the hazards of using ZA. I just cleaned out the Minilogs from my Win2K and there were 88. There is no way that anyone could possibly cause Win2K to crash 88 times in one lifetime. But ZA managed to do it.

The proof of all this is simple. Since I have completely removed ZA, my machine has not crashed but once and I know what caused that (I spawned far too many Netscape 4.78 windows at one time). I have had ZA out for over 2 weeks and not one crash. When ZA was installed I was crashing as much as every hour.

Those minilogs only record when there is a crash that the OS can detect prior to going out. IOW, they do not record when the machine locks up. It would lock up more than it would outright crash and reboot or Blue Screen. Therefore I have double or maybe even triple the number of overall system outages than the 88 minilogs.

That would place the number of outages caused by ZA at around 150 – 250 over the course of a half year. That's absurd.

Dr. Bob

"Our country's a place of limitless hopes and possibilities, and nowhere is that spirit more alive than in the great nation of Texas."

—G. W. Bush

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