

Re: BlackIce Vs ZoneAlarm

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Date: 01/15/02

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On Mon, 14 Jan 2002 09:37:33 -0500, "Ken Endeley"

<kenendeley@lycos.com> wrote:

>At my firm, we are currently evaluating zonealarm and Blackice for
>installation on all our laptops. Has anyone used the two products before and
>which one should I go for in a WAN/LAN/VPN environment.

Depends what you want to achieve.

We started out with about 5 laptops for Tech Support users, and so we were happy using BlackICE (coupled with McAfee AV) as we could control which remote IPs could talk to the box and the alerting/reporting is good.

We then got a requirement to have a dozen or so "normal" users who would be accessing our network remotely, and given their habit of installing software, running executable email attachments, etc. we needed a little more application & outbound security.

So we installed Zone Alarm Pro on all the laptops, configured them for just the apps they need and put a password on so they can't add their own programs.

As has been pointed out numerous times, BlackICE is chiefly an IDS which can filter inbound connections (based on IP and/or port) and ban remote IPs from connecting to your machine, whereas Zone Alarm is an inbound/outbound application filter which monitors the PROGRAMS which are allowed to make/receive connections (not HOW they connect).

If you have one department responsible for installing & configuring software on laptops, then Zone Alarm Pro will work fine.

Neither system is perfect, it just depends what you want to achieve, how much admin overhead you want and how often your laptop configurations alter.

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