

Re: PAT is really secure?

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Date: 03/07/03

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On Fri, 07 Mar 2003 16:22:29 +0000, Antonio.P wrote:

- > *Hi to all in group.*
- > *I have installed a new flat adsl line with a router configured in PAT (port*
- > *address traslation). I have several private IP address in my internal lan*
- > *and only an address on the Internet.*
- > *I can see the Internet from my lan pcs but nobody can connect to my lan pc*
- > *from Internet.*
- >
- > *So I don't need a firewall because the PAT configuration protect my lan or I*
- > *also need a firewall??*
- >
- > *Thank you.*

PAT (port address translation) allows more than 1 computer to share a single address by substituting the port and address of the original device with that of the PAT device. It can also be used for port redirection, as in a proxy server. It is a different subject from a firewall which permits or denies traffic. The two are often found together but don't think that means they are the same thing. You will gain some security for the computers behind the router by hiding their true address but this does little for the router and only "by chance" shields the pc. In other words, if you needed a firewall before, you probably still do. PAT increased your security, but only a little bit.