

## Re: Hardware, software or both?

**Source:** <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.security.firewalls/2003-05/1698.html>

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**From:** Stephko ([stephko12nospam\\_at\\_attbi.com](mailto:stephko12nospam_at_attbi.com))

**Date:** 05/23/03

Date: Fri, 23 May 2003 15:33:53 GMT

Thank you so much everyone for being so kind and informative If I may ask one more question please regarding routers. Sometimes I use messenger to talk with family overseas, how could I configure the router to allow Messenger to access the Internet or this will not be possible anymore once I have installed a router?

"Leythos" <[void@nowhere.com](mailto:void@nowhere.com)> wrote in message  
news:MPG.1937e12e13aa05ed989aae@news-server.columbus.rr.com...  
> In article <[Xns9383DB64AA1C6donut@216.102.43.227](mailto:Xns9383DB64AA1C6donut@216.102.43.227)>, [none@none.com](mailto:none@none.com) says...  
>> "Stephko" <[stephko12nospam@attbi.com](mailto:stephko12nospam@attbi.com)> wrote in  
>> news:vmdza.700654\$Zo.149802@sccrnsc03:  
>>  
>>> Good afternoon, I am new at this and trying to decide which "route"  
>>> to follow. This is for a home computer, I am the only user and right  
>>> now I am checking the Sygate Personal firewall and like it a lot.  
>>> Shall I invest on a hardware firewall or the software will do just  
>>> fine. I not sure I understand what the difference is ... Shall I use  
>>> both and if so will this be overkill or even screw up my system?  
>>>  
>>> I am following the directions of <http://www.geocities.com/yosponge/>  
>>> (thanks to other posts) in the meantime.  
>>>  
>>> Thanks so much for any feedback  
>>  
>> The other posts so far are right on, and I wouldn't worry too much about  
a  
>> router unless you are connected 24/7 or plan to network.  
>>  
>> I'm a Kerio fan myself, but I am thinking about giving Sygate another  
>> whirl, based on what I have been reading about it lately.  
>  
> I think that EVERYONE needs to understand the skill / experience level  
> of the user above, and the type of user (like the above) that asks about  
> these firewall questions. Here are my thoughts concerning software  
> firewalls and routers:  
>  
> 1) Software firewalls are great when you know how to configure them and  
> when an experienced security person is managing them.

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- >
- > 2) *Software firewalls are easy for the non-technical computer user to*
- > *open holes through – they don't understand the warning messages and*
- > *"may" create an opening.*
- >
- > 3) *Routers are very cheap – often cheaper than the registered copy price*
- > *of the personal firewall applications.*
- >
- > 4) *Routers are not easy for the home user to misconfigure and don't*
- > *prompt them for something every time a new attempt is made.*
- >
- > 5) *Routers block all inbound traffic by default – nothing gets in unless*
- > *their machine is already hacked.*
- >
- > 6) *Routers allow you to run an internal network with file/printer*
- > *sharing without the fear of sharing it with everyone on the internet.*
- >
- > 7) *Routers isolate your run unsolicited inbound traffic, so your machine*
- > *is not exposed to the extra CPU processing power / Memory needed to*
- > *defend itself. Think about how many people are running XP with 128MB*
- > *ram!*
- >
- > 8) *Software firewalls can mess with the operating system on some users*
- > *machines – I've not had this problem, but many people do.*
- >
- > 9) *Software firewalls are needed for dial-up connections and for people*
- > *that move their system from one network to another network (laptops).*
- > *You can be hacked just as easily on a dial-up connection as you can on a*
- > *DSL/Cable connection. When on another network, Company / Private, your*
- > *computer is fully exposed unless you have a software firewall on it.*
- >
- > 10) *No matter how much you explain it to a firewall novice or non-*
- > *technical person, they will eventually misconfigure their software*
- > *firewall.*
- >
- > *I ALWAYS install a NAT/Router for clients, and then a software firewall*
- > *for the ones that need the extra security. The NAT/Router is first, then*
- > *the personal firewall.*
- >
- > *Don't get any of this wrong, I love CheckPoint FW1 and others, but these*
- > *personal firewall apps, while great applications, are extremely easy to*
- > *misconfigure – the difference being the level of expertise of the person*
- > *doing the configuration.*
- >
- > *Get a router if you have cable/dsl, get a personal firewall if you have*
- > *anything that is not always-on.*
- >
- >
- > --
- > --
- > *spamfree999@rrohio.com*

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> *(Remove 999 to reply to me)*