

## Re: Firewall: router vs. software

**Source:** <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.security.firewalls/2004-02/0105.html>

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**From:** sponge (yosponge\_at\_yahoo.com)

**Date:** 02/02/04

Date: 1 Feb 2004 18:38:48 -0800

"E" <E2@anywhere.com> wrote in message news:<3icTb.73650\$Bj.58484@twister.tampabay.rr.com>...  
> *Okay team need to pick everyone's brains on this one. I have a router as*  
> *well as software firewall setup for my home network. The Linksys router*  
> *works great. The ZoneAlarm firewall works great as well. With the renewal*  
> *coming up for the software firewall, would one recommend renewing it or just*  
> *drop it and stay with the Linksys router and be done with it. Admin*  
> *passwords have been changed and I make sure the firmware is current for the*  
> *router.*  
>  
> *Thanks in advance for your feedback.*  
>  
> *E.*

Depends what you want. I use Kerio 2.1.5, because it's extremely light on resources, you can use freely-distributable rulesets, and it makes up for the lack of configurability of toys like the Linksys. And, of course, it provides outbound protection, which a router/hardware firewall does not.

If you are using ZA's ad-blocking and other stuff, you can do that for free with separate software, with even as little as a HOSTS file and eDexter. However, some people like having all that stuff rolled into one. Although I actually dislike "many-in-one" tools -- if that tool gets nuked, you lose a lot more protection than you do with separate utilities -- some people feel an "many-in-one" solution is right for them. If you feel like taking the time to get a HOSTS file, Proxomitron, DNSKong, etc. go for it. I and lots of other people can help with that. If you prefer the "many-in-one" approach is worth the money, renew ZA.

Just remember that a firewall is not a magic bullet; you still need anti-virus and anti-spyware software, a hardened operating system and browser, and a good dose of common sense on your travels about the net.

Sponge  
Sponge's Secure Solutions

comp.security.firewalls: Re: Firewall: router vs. software

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