

## Re: Do I really need firewall? A newbie's question

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Hi,

The ip address scheme that you selected with the 19.168.x.x will make it so your internal machines (depending on how you've set them up) can communicate between themselves, do they have firewalls on them?

Or are you just asking if you have the individual computers set up with their own firewalls and you have the major ports blocked for the IPs you have assigned to your computers why would there be a reason to put another potential issue/problem in getting data in and out of your home network.

I think that if you have ports open and non-firewalled computers then it probably wouldnt hurt to terribly much to have the routers added security on your home network. I personally try to stay away from most router firewalls (on routers that I can afford lol) because it can lead to problems with blocking programs randomly... not to mention having to log into your router every time you want to change something or to see if something has been blocked, instead of being alerted by a little popbox (which gets REALLY annoying when your playing a game and it pulls you out of it).

I think this leads back to the age-old debate of which is better – having a software firewall vs blocking all your unneeded ports and controlling access to your computer.

I like a mix of both, balance is good... especially when it leads to increased protection...

Hope this was of some assistance.

Demon