

Re: Do I need a software firewall?

Source: <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.security.firewalls/2006-07/msg00208.html>

- *From:* FERRANTE <ferrante276-ng@xxxxxxxxxx>
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You don't give us enough to know if you need additional help with security.

What type of Internet access do you use?

High-speed cable.

Do you have a Router that provides NAT for your internet barrier device?

I don't know. This is the one I have:

<http://support.dlink.com/products/view.asp?productid=DI%2D524>

Keep scrolling...

Do you take your computer to other networks – like a laptop being moved around between your home and clients network?

No, I have a desktop. Btw, the wireless router I have has had the antenna removed and the wireless ability has been disengaged within the software.

Do you want a firewall that can give you a chance to see what is inbound and outbound or do you only care to block inbound and not really care about what you MIGHT be able to detect outbound?

Again, I am not sure how to answer that. Obviously, I want to block hackers and things like that, but I imagine knowing what is also going out would be beneficial. Your thoughts?

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Do you have a good quality AV product?

I just deleted Trend Micro PC Cillin Internet Suite as the folder size was almost 6 gigs, not megs, but gigs! Everyone said that was way too much and for some reason when it was downloading the latest updates, the old ones were staying there. I always thought that a latest update would include everything up to that moment. I downloaded the trial version of NOD32 and my computer is much faster, I have noticed that.

Do you share files with others?

Sometimes I use Limewire and because of the old music I like, seldom, if ever, does anyone download my music.

Do you visit questionable websites/servers and download things without clearly understanding what you are doing?

No. I really don't understand about the server thing, but I never download anything without it being from a reputable site, such as download.com or a major company offering a trial of some sort (Pogo or some good game site). I NEVER go to online casinos, porn sites, or anything that either requires or asks you to download a file. Also, I run Adaware, Spybot, and Evidence Eliminator on a regular basis, especially after having done on-line banking. I just feel safer that way.

If a software firewall would be a added benefit, or in order, what do most consider to be the among the best. free or paid, or based on the above information, is the router and XP firewall sufficient?

Lastly, on the link above for the firewall I have, to the left of that page is a link to the .pdf manual. Could you take a look at it and see if it a good router or just basic and let me know if there are things that should or should not be checked, or should be setup in a certain way to maximize its protection? If it is not a good router, I may buy a better one. If that is the case, what things should I make sure the new one has or can do?

Thanks to everyone for your help.

Mark

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