

Re: Linksys WRT54G and Firewall software

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- *From:* Leythos <Void@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
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On Mon, 26 Mar 2007 09:43:57 +0900, Gerald Vogt wrote:

Leythos wrote:

- 1) You don't need a personal firewall when you are behind a NAT device that provides a private network without anything port forwarded.
- 3) The windows non-firewall included in XP SP2 will be more than enough, but, if you take your laptop to other networks (school, work, friends) it won't be enough in most cases.

That is not conclusive: The NAT does block (most) incoming connections. The XP SP2 firewall does block all (most) incoming connections when configured with no exceptions.

It blocks intrusions, but what holes does it have that have not yet been exposed? What about the next one that's found and exposes the system?

Where is the difference which explains why something else then the XP SP2 FW is needed elsewhere?

The NAT router is the better first line of defense when it can be used, but, as the OP mentions wireless, well, you can't NAT a wireless connection – what I mean is that the wireless connection is from the router to the laptop, there is no intermediate NAT between the wireless and the laptop – so, anything that makes it to the wireless also makes it to the laptop unless it's got some form of localized firewall.

- 4) If you use your laptop on OTHER networks you really need to learn how to check the Windows TCP/IP Settings, disable File/Printer sharing when you are not home, and how to adjust/check the Windows XP SP2 non-firewall settings for "Exceptions".

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Again contradictory to 3): if you think you need something else than the XP SP2 firewall in other networks and you are running a other brand "non-firewall" software then the recommendation should be to check that the XP SP2 firewall is turned off and the 3rd party "non-firewall" is on. Two or more firewalls running on a computer result on average in less security then a single one as it is unpredicted what actually is blocked and what not and by whic