

Re: ADSL connection dropping randomly

Source: <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.security.ssh/2005-04/0234.html>

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> *Richard, I'll have to back up other posters that say a router is safer and
> more secure than using a personal firewall...*

As I already said in a followup, I agree with the idea that a separate, special-purpose device may be less likely for a naive users to inadvertently screw up. I disagree with the OP's original statement, which was that "hardware firewalls" are somehow **inherently** better -- as if the fact that it doesn't **look** like a computer makes it some other, and superior, species of security device. That is nonsense.

> *Routers are appliances, not computers,*

This is simply false. They are appliances, **and** they are computers. A Linksys router is no more and no less than Linux box with multiple network interfaces and a web GUI for configuring certain networking features. Period. As I said, I agree that its form and separation from a user's workstation can make certain mistakes less likely -- but in competent hands, a "regular" Unix box (bigger, noisier, with a disk drive, etc.) is equally effective.

> *I don't know of ANY router (NAT) users that have been compromised because
> of using a router, but I know many that have been compromised because they
> were using a Personal Firewall Application and thought it completely
> protected them.*

This is a specious comparison. A more meaningful one would be with people compromised because they thought their router "completely protected them."

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