

Re: Hardware vs Software

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Greetings --

You've been very lucky, to date.

Like WinXP's built-in firewall, NAT-capable routers do nothing to protect the uninformed user from him/herself. Again -- and I cannot emphasize this enough -- almost all spyware and many Trojans and worms are downloaded and installed deliberately (albeit unknowingly) by the user. So a software firewall, such as Sygate or ZoneAlarm, that can detect and warn the user of unauthorized out-going traffic is an important element of protecting one's privacy and security. Most antivirus applications do not scan for or protect you from adware/spyware, because, after all, you've installed them yourself, so you must want them there, right?

Secondly, if you're operating on a large network, and don't have a software firewall in place, your only intrusion protection is the LAN's perimeter firewall. What is there to safeguard your workstation from being compromised by a worm or Trojan installed upon another workstation on the LAN by a user who inadvertently downloaded and installed something malicious? An awful lot of LANs were compromised by Blaster and Welchia because some users connected their laptops to their unprotected home networks, or to compromised public networks -- like those in hotels and airports, and then returned to the office and plugged into the company LAN.

Bruce Chambers

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Help us help you:

<http://dts-l.org/goodpost.htm>

<http://www.catb.org/~esr/fags/smart-questions.html>

You can have peace. Or you can have freedom. Don't ever count on having both at once. -- RAH

"Linda B" <anonymous@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in message news:1a3c01c426fa\$cdf12930\$a601280a@phx.gbl...

>

> Why is it whenever people on this NG ask about what they
> should do to protect themselves from the evils rampant on
> the Internet, everyone always responds with "install NIS"
> or "install ZoneAlarm"? Always install, install, install!

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microsoft.public.security.virus: Re: Hardware vs Software

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> Personally, I have always been an advocate of the "less
> software = more stable system" school of thought, and
> would *much* rather have a router hooked up between me and
> my cable modem to protect me than any software installed
> on my machine. I don't have any firewall software -- not
> even any anti-virus software -- and I've never had any
> problems whatsoever as long as I'm plugged into my
> precious router.
>
> Considering you can pick up a four-port router for about
> the same amount of money as NIS, why do more people not
> consider this an option? (Admittedly, ZoneAlarm is free,
> but then you have ZoneAlarm on your computer, always
> asking you if Site A is safe or if Popup B should be
> allowed.)
>
> Just my two cents.
> :) LB