

# How many dialup users know that their computer is a sitting duck without a firewall?

*Source:* <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.security.virus/2004-05/0199.html>

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Almost all computer users out there know that virus scanners are necessary, but most feel that if they do not open email with attachments they are safe... think again.

About half of computer users out there are still on dialup, so have no hope of having a hardware firewall installed...How many of them know that even without email, or even browsing the web, that their computer can and will be taken over in a matter of minutes if they don't have a software firewall? And that once that worm has started it will likely disable their virus protection so that they can go for months without realizing that they have been comprimised?

Install all the system updates you say – sure – and just how long do you think it takes to download 60 Mbytes of stuff from microsoft at 28K? And besides – microsoft has not even provided the latest ms04-11 patch for win98se yet, so all those system are as open as a bard door to the lastest wave of worms....

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There are three solutions...

- 1) Mobilize all the police, firemen, and IT professionals in the country to make house calls on all the grandmothers & grandfathers and ordinary moms & dads of america to install a copy of software firewall and turn it on.
- 2) Shutdown all internet access to corporate america tommorrow until further notice, or suffer billions of dollars worth of lost productivity.
- 3) Provide protection further upstream... so that on Monday morning there are not 10 million virus laden computers all baraging corporate america – as well as 1 million laptops brought back from home with virus infections.