

microsoft.public.security: Re: Using a Linksys router, should I also use Zonealarm?

## Re: Using a Linksys router, should I also use Zonealarm?

*Source:* <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.security/2003-07/2104.html>

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*From:* Miha Pihler (*miha.pihler\_at\_Atlantis-NOspam.si*)

*Date:* 07/28/03

Date: Mon, 28 Jul 2003 09:55:52 +0200

Hi Mary,

yes VPN is sort of a breach in the firewall. The problem is you are using public internet to access corporate network. If your PC is unprotected in the internet someone might notice this and try and use your PC over the internet to access corporate network.

In the "old days" when people used to use Dial-In instead of VPN you were protected by corporate Firewall — since there was no public Internet network involved to act as a connection to Corporate network..

NAT is Network Address Translation. It translates private IPs (e.g. .10.10.0.0, 172.16.0.0 or 192.168.0.0) to public internet addresses. Private IP is special range of IPs that is not routed on the internet.

Large companies and even at home we use private IPs to access internet. The reason is at home we usually only get one IP from our ISP. In the company where we have thousands of computers it would be a waste of IP numbers that are already in shortage.

But we can only use private IPs on our private networks. We can't access internet with this IPs. So here is where NAT comes in to play. It allows us to access internet from our private network by translating our private IP e.g. 10.10.1.15 to e.g 193.2.1.66.

NAT devices (e.g. your Linksys router) can also help a bit with security since it hides our PCs. We can have e.g. 100 PCs on internal network that are protected by Linksys router that has one public IP address assigned to it. Even though it protects our network this protection is limited and should not be used or mistaken as firewall functionality.

I don't like ZoneAlarm very much either. It is "too" difficult to set it up compared to some other software personal firewalls. BlackIce is OK regarding protection and setting up.

I hope I didn't complicate too much :-)

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Mike

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MCSA 2K, MCSE 2K, MCT, ...

"Mary" <leckavrea-nospam@yahoo.com> wrote in message

news:%23ApusUNVDHA.3972@tk2msftngpl3.phx.gbl...

> Thanks Miha and Lanwench:

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> I'm very clueless about this stuff. I just presumed that since the corporate

> network is protected by a firewall, that once I was logged into it, I was

> behind the firewall too. But I think from what you say, my VPN connection

> acts as a kind of breach of their firewall making it easier for hackers to

> piggyback me as I connect to the corporate network.

>

> I searched through some old messages on these newsgroups and some posters

> implied that the Linksys router I'm using acts as a firewa