

Re: sharing a firewall?

Source: <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.security/2004-08/1494.html>

From: N. Miller (*anonymous_at_discussions.microsoft.com*)

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In article <FF94B027-055B-41A8-A8CA-35D2DDB0147C@microsoft.com>, =?Utf-8?B?TGl6IE11cnBoeQ==?= says...

In your follow up post you apologized for getting this sent to the wrong group. I have, hopefully, fixed that by a cross post with follow up to set. There were three networking groups to choose from; but I selected the Windows XP group because that is the computer you are considering running ICS on.

> *I have an xp pro that I want to network with two 98s and a 95 computer at home, so we can all share one dial-up connection. (so the kids can access the internet without tying up my work computer)*
> *the xp has an ethernet card, and we use dial-up*
> *I am new to networking and have some basic questions:*
> *(I don't even know the terminology for networking, so please be patient.)*

> *If I use the xp pro as the host computer, can I configure the other computers to access the internet through it's firewall, or does each computer have to run it's own firewall app?*

Use a firewall application on each computer. If you use the XP as a host, you will wire an Ethernet adapter on the XP to a hub, or a switch. The prices are about the same, and the switch should provide better performance. You will have to set up ICS, sharing the modem adapter with the LAN.

Also, if you enable "File and printer sharing for Microsoft Networks" on the XP, only bind it to the Ethernet adapter; do not bind "Client for Microsoft Networks" or "File and printer sharing for Microsoft Networks" to the modem! If you need more detail, just ask.

> *or do I have to buy a router with it's own firewall?*
> *do they even work on dial-up connections?*

There are a few out there; I think D-Link has one. One of the pricier Netgear wireless firewall/routers appears to have one (FWG114P; would that they had done that on the FR114P!). And the SMC Barricade 7004ABR. It is the successor to the SMC Barricade 7004BR, which I used for two years; the difference seems to be that the BR has to be manually switched to dial-up

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mode while the ABR can be set to automatically switch in a 'fail-over' mode. Only a factor for people with HSI connections. You could just configure it to use a modem in your circumstance.

> *if I do that, do I have to disable my xp's onboard trend firewall?*

If you are going to run a third party software firewall application, disabling ICF might be a good idea; or not. I haven't played with such a combination, so I don't know what kind of conflicts that might cause.

> *Does anyone know a link to a site which could help me determine what hardware (cords, adapters, switches—whatever) I will need to buy to create a network?*

<http://www.broadbandreports.com/>
<http://www.practicallynetworked.com/>

> *I'm hoping for maybe a vendor site where I can input what I want to do and it will try to sell me the required hardware.*

For the SMC Barricade 7004BR:
<http://www.smc.com/> {First time visit should let you pick a region.}

For the D-Link DI-707:
<http://www.dlink.com/products/?pid=64> {DI-707; has an RS-232 port.}

For the Netgear FWG114P:
http://www.netgear.com/products/prod_details.php?prodID=220&view=

The SMC link will let you pick the region of the world where you are; I didn't take you directly to the Barricade 7004ABR because I don't know if it would jump there after asking for your region. Navigating to that product shouldn't be hard. The other two products have a DB-9 RS-232 port, according to the product descriptions; but the 7 port switch (D-Link) and wireless router (Netgear) probably make them a bit higher in price than the SMC Barricade 7004ABR. You will have to visit each site and make your own comparison. Maybe a Google search on "dial-up router" might turn up others. Or try "Asante"; they are an OEM source for the 7004BR, and maybe the 7004ABR as well.

I've used the SMC Barricade 7004BR (not the ABR; which is newer, and a replacement), and the Netgear FR114P (which is not wireless, and does not have the RS-232 port, alas; but is otherwise identical, and a very nice unit with Stateful Packet Inspection (SPI) filters); both were easy to configure, and afford better than average options of most routers.

> *does each of the non-host computers have to have a network card?*
> *or can they be networked through their modems with a phone line to the xp's ethernet card?*

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Phoneline networking exists, but I don't know what equipment is required for PN-to-Ethernet conversion. Ethernet network adapters are cheap enough, and it would be easier to add them and a switch. If you actually decide to spring for one of those routers I mentioned, they have the RJ-45 ports to link up at least four computers (the D-Link will link up at least seven computers). If you need more ports than those devices have, you just add a switch; use a CAT 5 patch cord from one of the router ports to the uplink port of the switch.

> *when we convert to cable or dsl will I have to buy a whole new set of
> networking cords and adapters to upgrade the dial-up sharing to cable/dsl?*

Not for the Ethernet adapters in each computer; those are the same regardless of the means of connecting to the Internet. If you obtain one of the routers I listed, the ones with the RS-232 port for a modem connection, the switch to HSI is just a switch from a serial cable between the router and the dial-up modem to a CAT 5 patch cord from the router to the cable/dsl modem. No new equipment at all.

If you used ICS on the XP, you would disable ICS, and add a router; wiring all computers to the new router. If you used a switch with ICS first, the switch becomes an excess piece of equipment; unless you exceed the port capacity of the router. If you find one of the three routers with dial-up support worth the cost, it would be smart to pick one of those. In that way, you get to share your dial-up connection right now; and have nothing extra, but the cable/DSL modem, when you switch to HSI. The Netgear has the advantage of wireless connections, if you don't want to pull CAT 5 throughout your house.

> *from what I've read, I assume I have to create the entire network before
> enabling internet connection sharing, is this the only way to do it, or can
> I add one or two computers initially, then add the others later without too
> many glitches/reconfigurations?*

You would only need to set up ICS once, and only if you don't want to spring for one of those dial-up supporting routers. You should be able to add additional computers without doing anything to the ICS computer; it should pick up the new computers without a hitch. Configuring the new computer properly can always be an adventure, though; even with a router instead of ICS.

> *any comments, suggestions or links would be appreciated*

I hope that you can find something useful in my comments. Personally, I would go with a router that has dial-up modem support if I were at the point that you are. Especially if you plan to upgrade to HSI any time soon. You will have the equipment, except for the cable/DSL modem, already at hand.

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Norman

~Win dain a lotica, En vai tu ri, Si lo ta

~Fin dein a loluca, En dragu a sei lain

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~Vi fa-ru les shutai am, En riga-lint