

## Re: Turning off Windows Firewall

**Source:**

[http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.windowsxp.security\\_admin/2004-11/0175.html](http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.windowsxp.security_admin/2004-11/0175.html)

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**From:** Bruce Sanderson (*Bruce.Sanderson\_at\_junk.junk*)

**Date:** 11/03/04

Date: Tue, 2 Nov 2004 15:35:45 -0800

By "server" I assume you mean the (a) Domain Controller.

Firewall settings in Group Policy Editor are in:

Computer Configuration\Administrative Templates\Network\Network Connections\Windows Firewall\Domain Profile  
or

Computer Configuration\Administrative Templates\Network\Network Connections\Windows Firewall\Standard Profile

If a GPO with any settings in the above applies to the computer account for an XP SP2 computer, the state of the firewall is determined by the value of "Windows Firewall: Protect all network connections":

"Enabled" – the firewall is On and can not be set to Off by local Administrator action.

"Disabled" – the firewall is Off and can not be set to On by local Administrator action.

"Not Configured" – a local administrator can turn the firewall On or Off, but may or may not be able to change any settings when it is on, depending on the values of other settings (e.g. if "Windows Firewall: Allow local program exceptions" is Disabled, a local administrator can not add local program exceptions)

You don't need to make any local policy changes on the XP SP2 computer for this to work (I tested this today for one computer in a large Windows 2000 domain).

There can be multiple applicable GPOs that have firewall settings, so use Resultant Set of Policies to see which GPO a particular setting is coming from ("Windows Firewall: Protect all network connections").

The Resultant Set of Policies feature in the Group Policy Management Console is very useful for this – it also reports the local policy settings that apply (as well as settings from GPOs). See

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=0a6d4c24-8cbd-4b35-9272-dd3cbfc81887&DisplayL>

Use the "gpupdate /force" command on the XP SP2 computer to get Group Policy related changes applied to the computer "immediately", rather than at the next automatic update (if there are multiple Domain Controllers, you have to wait for inter-DC replication to take place before running gpupdate will have any affect).

Another alternative is to move the XP SP2 computer's account into an OU that the GPO containing the Windows Firewall settings does not apply to; then the firewall is completely under local administrators control.

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Bruce Sanderson MVP

It's perfectly useless to know the right answer to the wrong question.

"Terry" <Terry@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in message

news:9710A5BF-6D7F-4D7F-87D8-2B3A24155BD4@microsoft.com...

> Bruce...can you be a little more specific regarding which group policy  
> settings need to be changed? I'm in a similar predicament, with an XP-SP2  
> workstation unable to turn off the firewall in either domain or standard  
> mode. I'm pretty sure I know where to look within Group Policy to effect  
> the  
> changes (Administrative Templates-Network-Network Connections-Windows  
> Firewall-Domain Profile), but I'm unsure where to proceed from there. I  
> haven't modified any of the current settings (they're all set to "Not  
> configured"), which I thought would've allowed me the freedom to turn  
> on/off  
> the firewall, but obviously it hasn't. I'd also like to know whether I  
> need  
> to make changes on the server only, or if I need to change any local  
> policy  
> settings as well.

>  
> Thanks,  
> Terry

>  
> "Bruce Sanderson" wrote:

>  
>> Ask your Domain Administrator to move the computer's account into an OU  
>> to  
>> which the Group Policy Object containing the Firewall settings does not  
>> apply.

>>  
>> --

>> Bruce Sanderson MVP

>>  
>> It's perfectly useless to know the right answer to the wrong question.  
>>  
>>

>> "Pierre" <me@internet.com> wrote in message  
>> news:uR0H9eFwEHA.2600@TK2MSFTNGP09.phx.gbl...

>> > WinXPPro SP2 machine connected to Windows 2003 server.  
>> >

>> > I don't have the option to turn of or off Windows Firewall.  
>> > It's on, but i can't turn it off - the options are grayed out.  
>> >

>> > It says the settings are managed by Group Policy.  
>> >

>> > What settings do i have to change on the server then,  
>> > in order to have the ability to turn off the firewall,

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>> > at least on this one machine?  
>> > (since there is a program running that seems to be incompatible with  
>> > the  
>> > firewall).  
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