

Re: How to Establish NetMeeting Connections Through a Firewall

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Internet/microsoft.public.internet.netmeeting/2004-03/0164.html>

From: Brian Sullivan MVP (*brians_at_WORMTIREDmeetingbywire.com*)

Date: 03/30/04

Date: Tue, 30 Mar 2004 10:25:55 -0500

anonymous@discussions.microsoft.com wrote:

- > *Hello Brian,*
- > *I have read your answer on my question, also the answer on*
- > *the question on "Port?".*
- > *The first answer you say the article I refer to is*
- > *misleading.*
- > *The second answer on "Port?" You refer to pretty the same*
- > *article, which puzzles me.*
- > *– So, does the article state how you should configure your*
- > *firewall or not, and what ports you should pass through*
- > *communication?*

It does provide information on port usage in NetMeeting but from I can tell provides no practical instructions are configuring a NAT firewall for NetMeeting usage. Some users have been successful in providing port triggered NAT configured port management but the success tends to be spotty, router dependent and difficult to set up.

- >
- > *Further, I have spoken to DLink about enabling the dmz*
- > *feature. That means no firewall protection at all they*
- > *say. You said you strongly recommend a software firewall,*
- > *and configure it "properly". But, configuering the*
- > *firewall "properly" means that you pass through*
- > *communication on all the ports described in the article.*

Most software firewalls have egress control so that proper configuring would allow all port access as you say but only for the one NetMeeting program.

- > *This means a false security, because of the wide range of*
- > *open ports (your computer is wide open for attacks). DLink*
- > *states allowing open ports on a router/firewall or with*
- > *the use of a software firewall does not change the*
- > *security issue.*

microsoft.public.internet.netmeeting: Re: How to Establish NetMeeting Connections Through a Firewall

As I said most software firewalls have controls allowing you to minimize the exposure to one program, but you are correct there is a gap in security.

Router based firewalls have their own set of deficiencies though so the Dlink statements may be a bit of the pot calling the kettle black.

> - *Please, describe the security issue on configuring*
> *your software firewall "properly" in order to run*
> *Netmeeting. Then, of course the question appears should*
> *you use Neetmeting if it is such a security risk?*

The configuration of the firewall depends on what firewall you are using --- since you haven't provided any specifics the best I can do is talk in general terms.

Most software firewalls allow egress control --- that is they allow specification of a program that is allowed access and may allow you to specify to the port/protocol level what access is allowed (both incoming and outgoing). Generally NetMeeting needs to listen on ports 1720 and 1503 and needs access to udp 1024-65535 incoming and outgoing. The usual strategy is to configure the software firewall to allow NetMeeting full access on all ports in and out. Trying to narrow the port usage for NetMeeting is probably not useful from a security pov.

The current built in XP firewall has an h.323 proxy(but no program egress control) so what can be specified there is to pass just tcp 1503 and tcp 1720 --- the proxy manages the rest of the ports needed.

--

Brian Sullivan
Meeting by Wire (<http://www.meetingsbywire.com>)

Is your PC protected? --
<http://www.microsoft.com/security/protect/default.asp>