

Re: Software Firewall (2003)

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Mike Smith wrote:

> *I suppose this is the right group for Windows 2003 questions....*

Well, MS is getting away from version-specific groups for server products, so you may find W2003 help in here but note there's also m.p.windows.server.general. Crossposting to both won't get you smacked upside the head, I think....

>

>

> *I have a question about the usage of software firewalls. Is it becoming common practice for organizations to use the Windows 2003 software firewall on their servers?*

By some, I suppose.

> *With XP SP 2, Microsoft is basically making a statement about network security with workstations. I would be willing to bet that most if not all installations of Windows 2003 have the firewalls turned off, citing the usage of a PIX or other hardware firewall for their gateways.*

Most networks I've seen/worked with don't use software firewalls on client computers. Some do.

> *I recently had an internal attack from a laptop running XP non SP2. The laptop attacked my router and took down all sites (main router was attacked) until the laptop was powered off. This eye-opening experience was enough to make me step up the XP SP2 rollout to workstations but I keep thinking, why not the servers too? It is a lot of work to configure the server firewalls but it is more work rebuilding after an incident.*

The larger issue is why this laptop was allowed to be connected to the network, and if it was a domain member, why it didn't have centralized AV software on it! Did someone just come in and plug it in, unauthorized? Does the company have a policy stating that this is not allowed? There are ways

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(not simple) to control whether a computer gets access to your network (gets an IP address via DHCP, etc) ...might be worth looking into. Also, all computers/servers need good antivirus, and need to be kept patched to the gills with all critical updates to mitigate disasters like this....

>

> *I would like to hear from people/admins who use the 2003 firewalls on their servers.*

I'm not one of them, but I'm sure other people will post their own techniques and experiences. You might also want to post in m.p.security and m.p.windows.server.networking – crosspost, not multipost. :)

>

> *MIKE*