

## Re: Firewall on XP Home Edition

**Source:**

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.configuration\\_manage/2004-02/0386.html](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.configuration_manage/2004-02/0386.html)

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**From:** Bruce Chambers (*bchambers\_at\_nospamcableone.net*)

**Date:** 02/11/04

Date: Tue, 10 Feb 2004 20:12:21 -0700

Greetings --

WinXP's built-in firewall is fine at stopping incoming attacks, and hiding your ports from probes. It doesn't give you any alarms to tell you that it is working, though. What WinXP also does not do, is protect you from any Trojans or spyware that you might download and install inadvertently. It doesn't monitor out-going traffic at all, much less block (or at least ask you about) the bad or the questionable out-going packets.

ZoneAlarm, Kerio, or Sygate are all much better, and are much more easily configured, and there are a free versions of each readily available. Even Symantec's Norton Personal Firewall is superior by far, although it does take a heavier toll of performance than do ZoneAlarm, Kerio, or Sygate. It's been several years since I've been tempted to try McAfee products. Their quality seemed to take a steep nose-dive after they were acquired by Network Associates.

Bruce Chambers

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<http://dts-l.org/goodpost.htm>

<http://www.catb.org/~esr/faqs/smart-questions.html>

You can have peace. Or you can have freedom. Don't ever count on having both at once. -- RAH

"John Gregory" <jaygreg90@hotmail.com> wrote in message news:04hDDmx7DHA.1948@TK2MSFTNGP12.phx.gbl...

> My machine came with McAfee's virus scan and firewall. I activated  
> only the

> virus scan software, however, because I was told XP has its own  
> firewall. I

> checked under network connections and found that whatever firewall  
> XP comes

> with, isn't active. This discovery lead to a second issue I'll  
> explain last.

>

> While seeking McAfee's advise on their virus scan we discussed the  
> advantages of installing his firewall. According to him, the XP  
> version is

> actually "a watered down version" of McAfee's... provided by

microsoft.public.windowsxp.configuration\_manage: Re: Firewall on XP Home Edition

> McAfee.  
>  
> Q1) Is this true; is the XP Home Edition firewall a mini version of  
> McAfee's firewall?  
> Q2) Would you recommend installing McAfee's firewall rather than  
> the one XP  
> already in the software?  
>  
> Now about that second issue; I found TWO icons in my Network  
> Connections  
> folder. One is named Local Area Connection, is enabled, and  
> identifies what  
> looks like the modem card (Intel(R) PRO/100 VE Network  
> ConnectionIntel(R)  
> PRO/100 VE Network Connection).  
>  
> The second, however, is labled "1394 Connection", is enabled, and  
> appears to  
> be some sort of adapter ("1394 net adapter"). Unlike the first, it  
> shows no  
> activity. I've seen it a few times overthe past three months I've  
> had this  
> machine and it always reports no activity. The firewall for this  
> thing is  
> also inactive (as is the first).  
>  
> Q3) What the heck is this?  
> Q4) Why is it displayed if there's no activity?  
> Q5) How'd it get here if it's not supposed to be here?  
> Q6) How do I get rid of it?  
> Q7) Is this some sort of "back door" to my comoputer that needs to  
> be  
> protected or closed?  
>  
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