

Ping an IP address with and without a firewall

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Hello everyone

A friend and I each have XP Pro and connect to ADSL. He connects with a cable and I connect wirelessly. I have a firewall in the router as well as ZoneAlarm on my laptop. He uses the built-in firewall.

We tried pinging each other's IP address and the response that he got was that it was timed out and all of the packets were lost. That is what I expected but, when I looked at the router's and ZoneAlarm's logs, they didn't report anything unusual. Should anything have been reported?

When I pinged his IP address, the none of the packets were lost. I contacted him and he told me that his firewall was off (!). He turned it on and I tried again – with the same result.

I was under the impression that the firewall would reject such things. Is this correct? What am I missing? Is my understanding of IP addresses and firewalls flawed? Should he be pleased that my ping attempts got through or should I be pleased that none of his got through? Does either of us have a problem with the firewall?

Thanks for your time and patience.