

## Re: Best Firewall / Anti Virus combo on XP

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2005-09/msg07238.html>

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- *From:* -rwxrw-r-- <[nostop@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:nostop@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sun, 18 Sep 2005 05:25:56 GMT
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On Saturday 17 September 2005 05:50 pm, Richard Urban [MVP] had this to say in microsoft.public.windowsxp.general:

>  
> "Plato" <|@|.|> wrote in message  
> [news:432ca0dc\\$1\\$206\\$bb4e3ad8@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:432ca0dc$1$206$bb4e3ad8@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)  
>> Richard Urban [MVP] wrote:  
>>>  
>>> If you ever got a key logger on your computer Mike, you would be very  
>>> happy  
>>> if you had ZoneAlarm installed first. All it takes is a visit to one  
>>> site,  
>>> and who knows when that may happen. I am darn careful yet I have had one  
>>> or  
>>> two installed on my systems in the past 3 years.  
>>  
>> Are you saying that if you visit certain websites that a keylogger may  
>> be installed without your knowledge? How does that happen?  
>>  
>  
>  
> I wish I knew. Then I could try to avoid it. How about white text on a  
> white background. When you click on a blank area in a window, so as to  
> bring the window into focus (make active), you may click on a "hidden  
> something: Bang! A downloaded activex control you didn't plan on or want.  
> Or, it may come in as part of a "free" utility, screen saver, ringtone,  
> desktop background etc. that you initiate the download for.  
>  
> Anyway, ZoneAlarm Professional, and now ZA Security Suite, caught both  
> instances when they tried to connect to pass on the gathered information.  
> I then knew they were there and was able to eliminate them.  
>  
> I have an remote acquaintance that had a dialer installed on his computer  
> without his consent or knowledge. It would disconnect him from the  
> internet (he used dialup services) and silently dial a new number. He was  
> merrily surfing the web for over a month when he got his first phone bill  
> with the added charges. He almost went into cardiac arrest. The bill was  
> for over \$35,000 (\$9.95 per minute for every minute he was connected).

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> That was \$597 for every hour his connection was hijacked. After much  
> arbitration, the phone company forgave 1/2 of the phone bill. He was still  
> responsible for the remainder.

>

Wow Richard, that's some story! I know that the insecurity of Windows can lead to lost data and trashed systems and many hours wasted repairing same, but I didn't know that it could actually cost someone that much money! Too bad the EULA protects Microsoft from any liability in this matter. That was the company that put out such an insecure operating system to start with. I can really empathize with your remote acquaintance. I hope he's learned his lesson and looked elsewhere for an operating system to run on his computer. After reading your post, I'm more happier than ever that only my Linux boxes are allowed to connect to the Net. My one XP box doesn't look outside of my firewall.

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