

microsoft.public.windowsxp.network_web: WinXP firewall on which ICS computer(s)?

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I am building a new computer with Windows XP Home Edition, which I am going to use as the gateway machine for my DSL service when I set up Internet Connection Sharing. Two or three other computers (WinXP and WinME) will occasionally use the Internet through this gateway computer.

I bought a copy of "Windows XP Home Edition: The Missing Manual," which seems like a worthwhile book though it has at least a couple of errors, I think. But here's something that has me stumped:

On the subject of WinXP's Internet firewall, on p. 299 it says "if you've set up several PCs to share one Internet connection, turn on the XP firewall option only for the **first** computer—the one that's connected directly to the Internet. Otherwise, the firewall software will prevent your **own** computers from talking to each other."

But on p. 492 it says "the Personal Firewall feature should be turned on for all computers **except** the gateway computer."

Which of these contradictory instructions (if either) is correct? Any clarification will be much appreciated.