

# Re: OT: firewall program

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- *From:* Robert Baer <[robertbaer@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:robertbaer@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 27 Mar 2008 00:54:44 -0800
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Michael A. Terrell wrote:

Martin Brown wrote:

In message <13ufm8u17jtl803@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, Michael A. Terrell <[mike.terrell@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:mike.terrell@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)> writes

Robert Baer wrote:

Is there a relatively inexpensive firewall that is *\*simple\** to use and undeerstand? Suggestions?

Zone alarm. Free for personal use, and it works. If it was any easier they would have to send someone to download and install it for you. I install it on every personal computer that I repair.

<<http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid.7228--order.1--page.1--c.firewalls/description.html>>

Install it and it will load and run when you boot the computer. ANything without permission to access the internet will open a small window in the bottom right hand corner, requesting permission. There is a box to check, so that program doesn't ask again. If you aren't sure, click the info button, or OK to let it run once. After a little while

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online you will rarely see the request window. Usually only after you update a program, and have to update the permission.

I am inclined to agree that of the software solutions that Zone Alarm free version probably best fits the OPs stated requirements for an idiot proof cheap firewall.

A dedicated hardware firewall would be better but also more expensive. But using one on a dialup line would be severe overkill.

Given his demented rant against digital TV I suspect that even ZA will not be simple enough for him to get it to work. ZA also tends to chew up resources a bit on prehistoric PCs. Not that a dialup modem can ever use sufficient bandwidth to cause much trouble (although overruns could be an issue if he really does have an external modem and a relatively slow PC).

I have the earlier version which works well with 98 SE. The newer versions won't even install on 98 SE. He might need a little bit more RAM, but surplus RAM for those machines isn't hard to find. I could probably dig up a 64 or 128 MB stick for him, for free. I have to scrap a lot of older computers, because they need too many parts. I also get older RAM from a computer store that destroys really old computers

I could use a spare MB for a P2 computer (do not remember speed) with a compatible video board and at least one ISA slot.

That is for replacement for Mister Justin Case my persent oldie goes south.

It is used exclusively as a programmable test station using an A/D + DIO card that was cheap due to the older ISA interface.

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