

Firewalls

- What is a Firewall?
 - A Firewall is application on a computer, or device connected to a network¹ that is designed to block unauthorized access while permitting users to retrieve/send information through the internet.
- How do I determine if my computer has a Firewall?
 - Most recent computers have a software firewall built into the operating system. Please see the examples below to help you determine if it is enabled,
 - Microsoft Windows:
 - Access the Control Panel through the Start Menu.
 - Scroll down until you locate the Windows Firewall folder.
 - This will contain information regarding your Firewall.
 - Mac:
 - Access System Preferences.
 - Locate the Sharing option
 - Scroll until you find the Firewall folder
 - Other operating systems, please consult the software vendors documentation and/or other resources available online.
- What kind of Firewall do I need?
 - Individual Use
 - Most internet services have a modem or router that contains a basic firewall. Turning this feature on along with properly securing your router/modem provides a layer of protection to your home network. The software firewall provided by your anti-virus software or operating system provides another valuable layer of protection.
 - Business Use
 - Most businesses that have multiple computers accessing the internet utilize a Hardware Firewall. This is an actual device that connects directly to the network.
- What happens if I don't have a Firewall?
 - Firewalls are an important part of keeping your computer and other systems secure. While it does not guarantee that your information will remain safe it is a valuable layer in securing your computer from

¹ A network is a group or system of interconnected computers or devices. Examples of a network can be seen at work or home with one or more computers using the same internet access or sharing access to printers and other devices.

unauthorized access or malicious attacks. Without his layer of defense someone could hack into your network, with intent to harm and disrupt your internet service, and/or infect your computer with malicious viruses that allow them to obtain passwords, access IDs, etc. which could be used later to commit fraud.

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