

## THE FORTIGATE 60

## Think of it as your PC's burly gatekeeper

**I**f you think that your top-notch anti-virus software is good enough to protect your PC against Net attacks, you are sadly wrong.

In fact, relying on anti-virus alone is effectively making yourself a sitting duck for hackers.

Before the Internet explosion of the mid-1990s, the bad guys tried to hurt your PC's by sending viruses around in floppy disks.

The way to stop these attacks was simple — load an established anti-virus software into your computer and scan all floppy disks before you read them.

Also, make sure you update your anti-virus software regularly with the latest virus signatures, so that your system is always updated.

TECH GUY



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But the game has changed, totally.

In fact, while anti-virus software remains an important component of the overall defense of your PC, I would argue that it is actually the least important.

Most viruses today are spread through e-mail. Open an e-mail message with a virus-laden

attachment, and you're hit. Unfortunately, there are other ways of compromising your

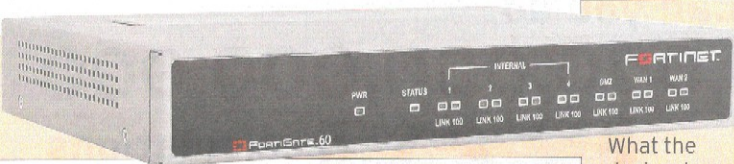
system without sending you an e-mail message.

#### FINDING WEAKNESSES

What is common these days is for the hackers and virus writers to look for vulnerabilities in your applications and operating system, and then take advantage of that vulnerability so they could access your system.

They can then plant invisible programs called Trojans, which remain hidden until the hacker decides to activate the program remotely via the Internet. Your anti-virus software will not stop these kinds of attacks.

You will need a software or hardware device called a firewall,



plus you need to update the patches in your operating system and applications to combat these attacks, which the security experts call blended threats.

So there are three things you should do — get a firewall and anti-virus, update all operating systems, and also update application patches.

Note, however, that these are only your basic defences. If you want to add more oomph to your defences, you can consider getting an Internet security appliance such as Fortinet's FortiGate 60.

#### IMPRESSIVE SECURITY

I tried the FortiGate 60 recently, and was quite impressed with it. You basically connect your broadband modem to this box, and then connect each of your PCs to

the FortiGate box via standard Ethernet cables.

The FortiGate then acts like a gateway to your PCs. It scans all incoming and outgoing data. What is unique about the FortiGate 60 is that it has all the basic and advanced Internet security functions in one box.

There is firewall, anti-virus, intrusion detection, Web filtering and other cool features. The firewall is the basic perimeter defence for your system.

An intrusion detection system is great, because it monitors all types of attacks on your system. Web filtering lets you create a list of websites that you don't want to allow specific users to visit.

This is great if you want to stop young kids from accessing pornographic websites. However, for this to work, you need to

actually list the URLs, which can be a particularly tedious affair.

That's where the content filtering feature comes in.

**You can configure the FortiGate to block all websites that contain a certain word or words (such as "sex" or "naked") and those websites won't show on the screen of the users.**

The FortiGate 60 is a great device, although it requires some tinkering and patience to learn how to use it. But it is not difficult to learn, as the configurations take place in a user-friendly graphical user interface.

The price, however, can be a little steep for consumers, at \$1,999. But if you are running a small business or home office, the investment could go a long way to making your IT more secure.

## What the device does

- FortiGate closes all the ports (doors leading to your PC), unless the specific port is required to run an application; and it only opens the port for as long as it is needed for the application to run.

- With anti-virus, the FortiGate automatically scans all your e-mail messages to make sure that they are not loaded with viruses. If it detects something bad, it removes it.

- But it won't detect a virus that is already in your system before you installed the FortiGate. To remove these viruses, you will need to get anti-virus software.