

PROTECT YOUR DATA

First Defense for Your Company's Computer Systems

Recently the security industry has encountered an increasing need for secure and uncompromising computer systems, due to the proliferation of business-crippling viruses and computer hacking. What kind of technology is available to protect my monitoring center from encountering these attacks?

Hardware-based firewall and VPN appliances such as those made by SonicWALL (www.sonicwall.com) can be a great tool as your first line of defense against hacking attempts and viruses. Most of these devices include a firewall, VPN for remote access, and IP address management tools, and come in a variety of sizes and complexities to best suit your business.

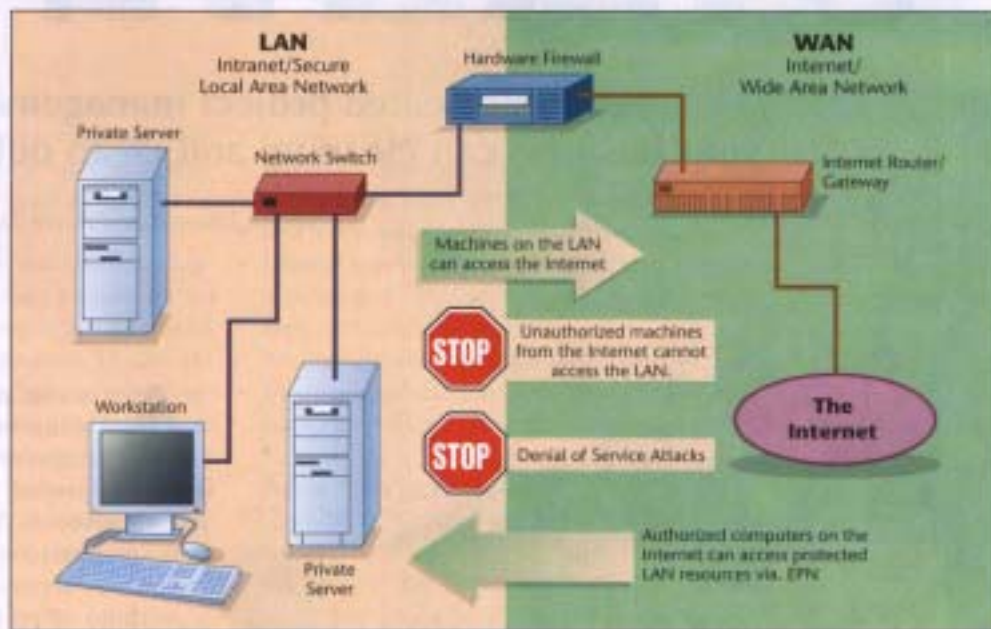
Hardware-based appliances such as these operate on the premise of denying all incoming server requests except those

which you specify as required, such as e-mail, Internet browsing, and those IP addresses that are able to access your network remotely. These tools also use encryption to verify all incoming and outgoing tasks, and the 1024-bit encryption key can be set up to automatically change as often as every server request, making it nearly impossible for inappropriate persons or applications to gain access.

Hardware-based firewalls also can work hand-in-hand with anti-virus software on each of your client PCs by checking that the software is always running

and always updated before allowing that computer to access the Internet or open an e-mail attachment. This helps ensure that all viruses that do enter your internal network can be immediately quarantined without any spread or harm to your company. Most hardware firewalls also will do content-filtering of your emails, allowing you to block spam and messages containing explicit content.

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www.sonicwall.com

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Do you have an idea or a time- or cost-saving tip to share with your peers in the field? Maybe you have a question that needs an expert answer. If so, please send your idea or question to SDM Magazine. We may publish it in a future edition of Kinks & Hints. Contact SDM Editor, Laura Stepanek, at 1050 IL Route 83, Suite 200, Bensenville, IL 60106; telephone (630)694-4027; FAX (630)227-0214; e-mail: stepanekl@bnpmmedia.com.