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Subject: Re: Microsoft has a backdoor into XP and Vista systems

Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Mon, 17 Sep 2007 04:20:34 GMT

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No, not quite... Norton is quite a bit worse than Windows Firewall. If you disable Norton's firewall, it gives you a popup every few minutes or so reminding you that it isn't turned on- even if you shut down the software completely (or, at least, as completely as it will let you- some Norton processes can't be terminated without asking Norton first). Norton requires you to log into their service and verify your user privileges before you can uninstall their crap off of your computer- and then it might not uninstall all the way, leaving components behind until you can root out and eliminate any leftovers. Norton, these days, is (IMHO) a bit tougher than even AOL is to clean off of a system.

Windows Firewall at least buggers the hell off if you tell it to, even if it is a crappy substandard excuse for a "firewall" built into the OS which couldn't find its own ass with both hands and a searchlight, much less any threat to your system. If you believe yourself well-protected and you use anything built into a Microsoft OS for protection, you are a sadly deluded individual.

Myself, I use ZoneAlarm these days. It works, it doesn't bork up the system every time I disable it, and- best of all- it only asks for my permission to do things, not its vendor's. That's what I want software to do; I don't like to have anything less than 100% control over everything that happens on my system. Software that alters my startup options, or denies me permission to access my own files, or downloads crap from its vendor without my say-so, is simply not acceptable.

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