

Fighting fire with Firewalls

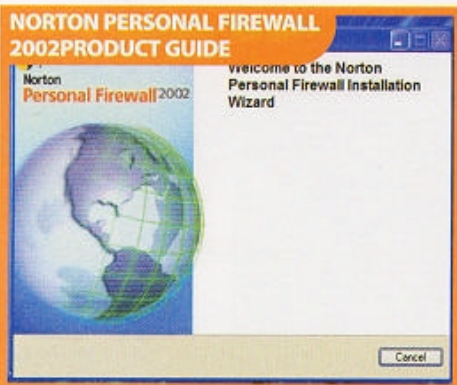


With the take-up of broadband and massive modem use, **protecting your PC from attack** should be a high priority!

It's easy to be complacent, but the World Wide Web can be a dangerous place for the uninitiated. While you may already have a virus checker installed on your PC, you are still vulnerable to attack until you install a good,

reliable Firewall, and that's where Norton Personal Firewall 2002 comes in.

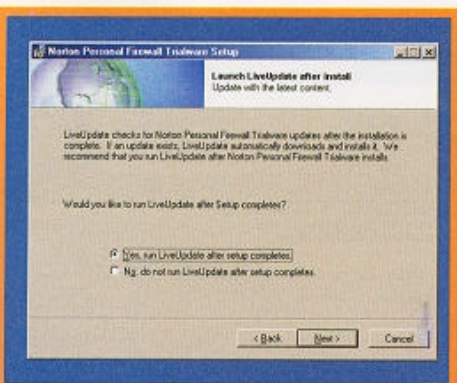
A Firewall is a piece of software that sits between your PC and the Internet, protecting you from being attacked remotely by malicious code.



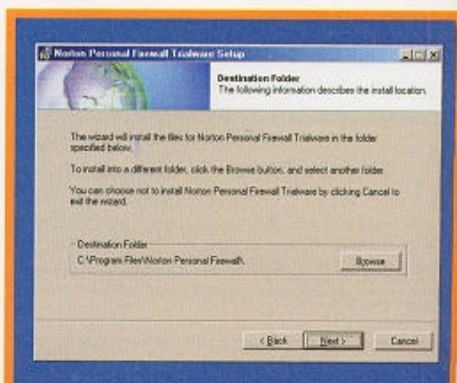
- 1 First you need to download Personal Firewall from the web at www.symantec.com. It is compatible with Win 98 and above, but not Win XP. The trialware version gives a month's protection.



- 2 Follow installation instructions to the letter; if it tells you to shut down other programs, do this to minimise problems. Press Next to move on to the Licence Agreement; accept the licence and continue with installation.



- 3 You'll be asked if you want to run LiveUpdate after the application is installed. Click Yes, as the LiveUpdate software connects to the Net ensuring that Norton Personal Firewall is up to date, downloading any updates or patches.



- 4 Note that the app installs its files in the folder Programs\Norton Personal Firewall. If you want to change the Save location, hit Browse and select the new drive or folder before clicking OK. When you're satisfied, press Next.

DOCTOR JARGON

FIREWALL

This is a digital barrier that stops unwanted data coming into your PC. Most new Firewalls also keep an eye on data leaving your PC too, in case you are infected by a virus.

NORTON FIREWALL

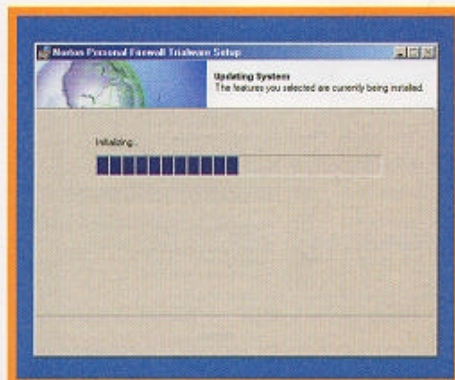
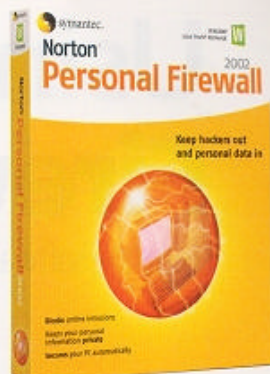
All computers using the Internet (or any network) rely on data pathways known as ports for the transfer of information. These ports are used primarily for one-way traffic but they announce your presence on the Internet, and if the ports aren't protected hackers or Trojan viruses can exploit them.

If you don't have a Firewall installed, you probably don't realise just how often you are 'scanned' by hackers, often using the SubSeven Trojan virus. If your ports are open and unprotected, it is quite possible for the unscrupulous to access your computer, obtain sensitive information about you (credit card information, bank details, address, etc) and even take control of your PC, damaging files. It sounds alarmist but this can happen, and if a virus has already infected your PC, someone might have already been snooping around.

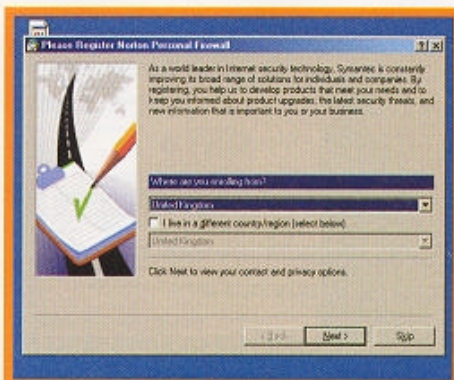
You can check just how secure your PC is by

visiting the excellent Gibson Research Corporation (<http://www.grc.com>), home of Shields Up. This is a free port-scanning service that runs a check on your machine to see just how viable your Internet defences are. We also recommend running the LeakTest application that can be downloaded from the site, which tests just how vulnerable you are to an attack from Trojan viruses.

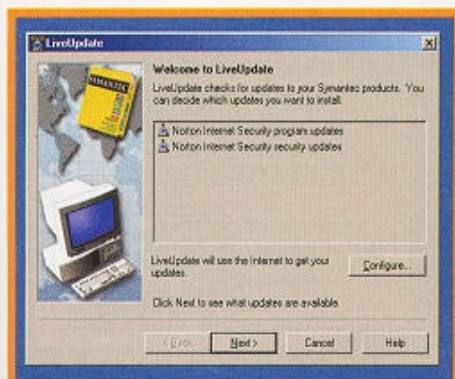
While there are many shareware Firewall applications out in the public domain, Norton Personal Firewall 2002 is worth considering; it offers solid protection, is easy to set up and works very well on a small home network (an area where most freeware Firewalls fall down). The software can control and protect all connections between your PC and the Internet, prevent any personal information being sent over the Web unencrypted or without your consent, stop Web sites from tracking your movements and block Java applets and ActiveX codes from being downloaded and run.



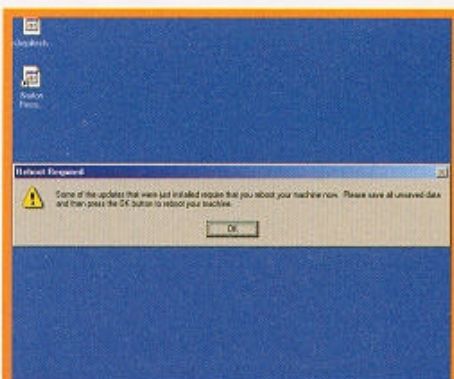
- 5** Now sit back and wait while the Norton installer gets to work on your machine. The installation should only take a couple of minutes, even on a relatively slow PC.



- 6** When installation is complete, you will be asked to register your trial version of Norton Personal Firewall. It's a good idea to do this, as you'll be sent the latest email newsletters and kept up to date with developments.



- 7** The LiveUpdate application will now begin to check for any software updates to keep your PC safe from the hackers. These updates can be quite large, so be prepared for a wait while they are downloaded and installed.



- 8** When all the updates are downloaded and Norton Personal Firewall 2002 has finished installing, you need to press OK to reboot your machine. So make sure you've saved any important data and reboot your PC.

FIRST AID ADVICE

- Always make sure that your Firewall software is up to date. In the case of Norton Personal Firewall, make sure that LiveUpdate is activated and you won't need to worry about updates.

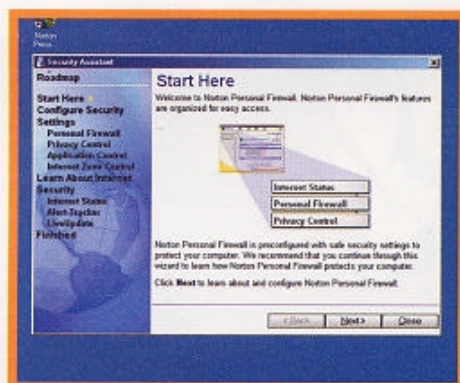
Using Norton Personal Firewall 2002

Using the software is easy, and will give you **peace of mind** as you surf the Net

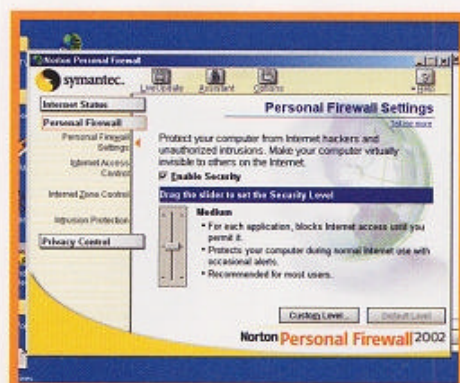
Once you've installed Norton Personal Firewall 2002, your PC will be protected from the ravages of an Internet hacker attack. Even though it is unlikely that your computer will be taken over by a malicious programmer, nobody wants their personal details such as credit card or bank details falling into the wrong hands.

Luckily, Norton Personal Firewall 2002 is more than up to the job and you will soon be surfing the World

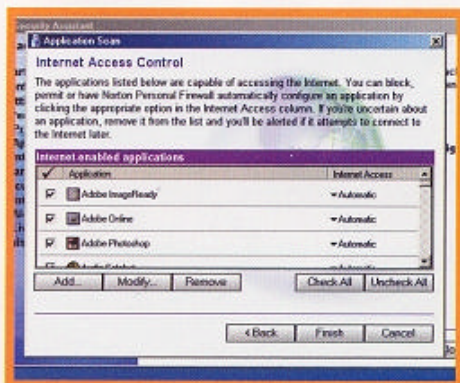
Wide Web cloaked by the protection given by this software. The really good thing about Norton is that it requires fairly little user maintenance and is more than happy running in the background, keeping a log of all the surreptitious probes being made on your machine. If you want to use the trialware software for more than the time on offer, you can register the application over the Internet or order a boxed product straight from Symantec.



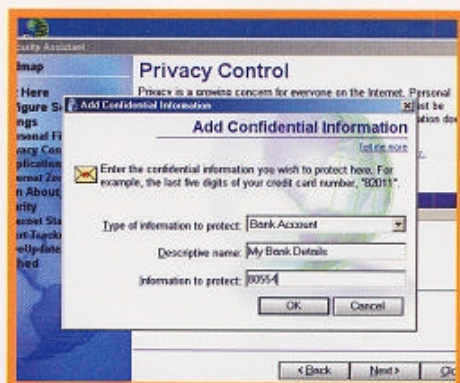
1 When you run it for the first time, Norton's Security Assistant acts as a guide. Norton is preconfigured with settings to protect your PC, but running through the wizard teaches you how the Firewall software works.



2 Under Settings you can alter the level of protection. The default is Medium, which blocks Net access for each app until you permit it and protects the PC during normal use. You can tailor the Firewall; click Custom.



3 You can scan for any Net-enabled software on your hard drive and give it permission to access the Net. Check the list to make sure no illicit programs are on your PC. If you are suspicious, block access to see what occurs.



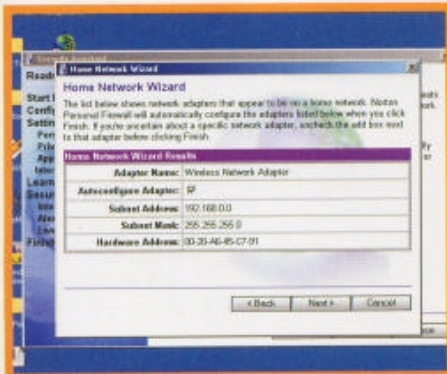
4 The Security Assistant also allows you to protect sensitive info on your PC. The Privacy Control Centre lets you mark certain info as protected and then it will never be able to leave your PC without you knowing about it.

DOCTOR JARGON

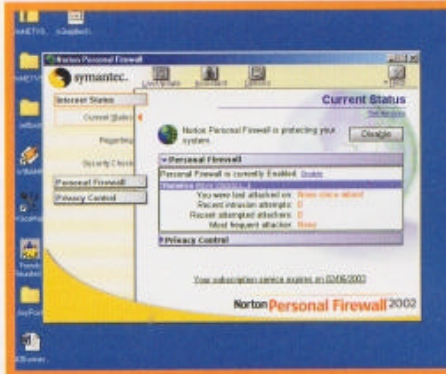
SUBSEVEN

This is a particularly common virus that is used by hackers. Once it has infected your PC, it announces your presence on the Internet and gives hackers a back-door entry into your PC.

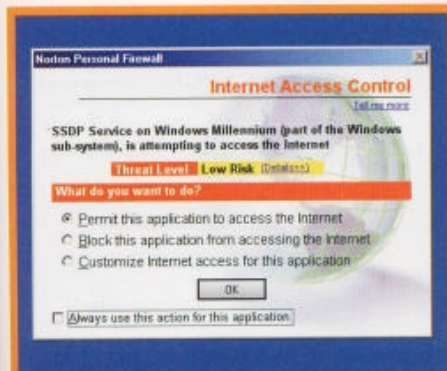
NORTON FIREWALL >>>



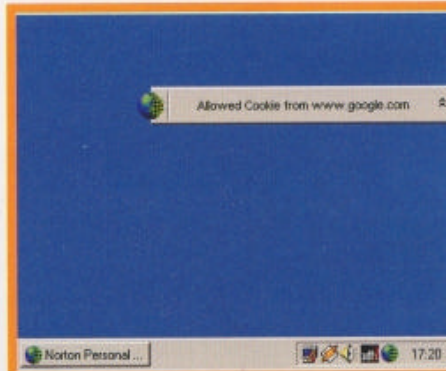
5 If you're sharing your Net connection over a local network, Norton Personal Firewall 2002 can configure itself to work with other PCs. Many freeware Firewalls don't have this kind of connectivity, so bear that in mind.



6 The main status window of the Firewall keeps a log of every intrusion to your computer and even keeps a statistical log of attacks, if you like that kind of thing.



7 If an application installed on your PC does try to connect to the Internet without your permission, a warning banner will pop up asking you whether or not to allow the program to access the Net.



8 The Alert Tracker displays events based on the reporting level you choose on the Internet Status screen. You can double click it to hide it or keep one eye on it while you surf.

FIRST AID ADVICE

● If you are running a PC with Windows XP installed, you are already protected by Firewall software as WinXP comes with it built in.