

Firewall Updated

Zone Labs has released an update to its popular ZoneAlarm Pro, a software firewall that keeps hackers and data thieves out of your computer. Protect yourself from viruses, worms, Trojan horses, and spyware. The new ZoneAlarm Pro includes ad blocking and cookie control options to speed up your Internet surfing. Details at zonelabs.com.

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Faster Xeon Hits the Street

Intel announced a more powerful version of its Xeon processor for high-end applications. The chip, designed for two-way servers and workstations will be beefed up to 2.4GHz.

The processor will be made on 300 mm wafers, and have 512 kilobytes of L2 (level two) cache. The per-unit price point will be under \$1,000.

Dialup: Fine By Me

A recent survey by Jupiter Media Metrix reports that just 16 percent of U.S. households have high-speed broadband Internet access (such as cable or DSL). Almost 9 percent report being highly likely to switch to broadband service in the next year; Just over 15 percent are somewhat interested in switching within a year.

The majority of households, a whopping 76 percent are perfectly happy with their old-technology modem dialup service.

Web site designers have to keep this in mind when adding new features to their sites.

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InsightExpress reports that Americans would rather read their paper magazines that online equivalents.

Only 34 percent of the population reads any magazines online. Reasons cited include inconvenience, online ads cost of online magazines and eye strain.

Your Biggest Security Threat

The Information Security Breaches Survey 2002 found that in small companies 32 percent of the worst incidents were caused by insiders, in large companies this figure climbed to 48 percent.

The survey, sponsored by the U.K. Department of Trade and Industry, was prepared by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

A third of these worst security incidents were virus infections, but there were also high incidences deliberately targeted attacks.

Forty-one percent of companies reported virus infections in the past year—nearly triple the 16 percent reported in the same survey two years ago.

No More PGP

Network Associates has stopped selling PGP, the world's most popular encryption software. It turns out most users were using the freeware version and not buying the upgraded commercial product.

Tiny Technology

Microelectrical-mechanical systems (MEMS) and nanotechnology are big terms for extremely small technologies.

MEMS—tiny silicon chips—have been used in manufacturing, such as the car you drive to work, for more than a decade.

One MEMS product was featured on TV recently: an optical sensor, battery, transmitter, and LED (light-emitting diode) built into a capsule about the size of a vitamin. The device was recently approved by the FDA as a replacement for invasive diagnostic surgical procedures

Nanotechnology is even more interesting. Ultra-small optical switches that conduct electricity will be used to create tiny computers that will ultimately become part of the user's body, undetectable to both friends and family.