

## Tip 3

### Install a firewall to block unauthorised access to your computer

---

Firewalls work like a security guard to protect a computer.

A firewall blocks unauthorised access to your computer from the Internet, and the downloading of information from your computer.

Firewall access rules are set by the firewall's user to determine whether to allow or disallow a connection.

A computer without a firewall is like a building without a security guard—nothing controls who and what can enter or leave. For increased security, any computer or computer networks connected to the Internet should have firewall protection.

#### What you can do

To obtain and use an appropriate firewall effectively:

##### 1. Purchase firewall software

Firewall software often comes with a computer's operating system. It may be downloaded via the Internet from reputable websites or purchased anywhere you buy your computer software. Hardware firewalls can also be purchased from the place where you buy your computer network equipment. Internet service providers are also a good source of firewall hardware and software.

##### 2. Install and activate your firewall

Having an active firewall is very important for security, so install and activate your chosen firewall as soon as possible. Depending on how complex your needs are, you may require help from the vendor or from an Internet security consultant. Internet service providers may be able to help with installation.

##### 3. Maintain your firewall

Firewalls must be updated regularly to protect your computer effectively. Ideally your firewall software will have an automatic update feature. Be sure this option is turned on, and check regularly to make sure you are using the latest version of the firewall.

#### Further information

You will find detailed information on the security website developed by the Internet Industry Association at: [www.security.iaa.net.au](http://www.security.iaa.net.au)

#### What is a firewall?

A firewall is a system designed to prevent unauthorised users from accessing your computer or network connected to the Internet.