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When deciding on having the most secure network it starts with a firewall for its first line of defense. Most firewalls are digital and available online while others include hardware along with the software, when looking for the right firewall program to use, you will need to research the companies track record and if it's a real program or virus. When looking for these firewalls ensure that your network department approves of the application. In this report I have done research on three different firewall companies in different levels of value. Also remember that your firewall is the first line of defense in protecting your network from cyber-attacks, your chose should be based of the size of your network and the day to day task.

To start we will be starting with the most valuable firewall company and the what they include when you use them. PfSense firewall comes with load balancing, traffic shaping, captive portal, and other security features. The cost is determined on the bundle that you select, they include more features for network protection as you increase in cost. Cost starts at $588 per year to $3,348 per year, these includes 24/7 customer support, software updates, and includes training for the software. The manageability will have to be done by a trained office. The installation will have to be done by the IT department of the company and is deployed on a netgate appliances. The configuration will also have to be done by someone trained and part of the IT department because of the hardware used. Ease of use will be more focused on the network department for installation and maintenance. The PfSense firewall can secure routing and vpn communication making this a top contender for the modern network. As a company it has very high ratings and great reviews on network protection.

The middle tier firewall to use is the Zonealarm: Pro firewall. It includes a two-way firewall, advance firewall, additional layers of protection, identity protection service, and service. They also have a firewall for mobile devices if needed. There is a free subscription that gives you basic protection and there is the pro protection subscription for $164.00 per year for up to 50 user devices. This firewall is easy to use for any user because it automatically updates the software and allows the user to schedule security scans. The installation is very easy because all is needed is to download the key and program then install to server. The only drawback when installing the program is that it only compatible with MS Windows defender. It is simple to use but can be overwhelming because of all the options that it has. The key features the Pro firewall has are protection from in/outbound attacks, cpu startup protection, true stealth mode, internet access control, anti-phishing, and threat extraction.

Microsoft Defender is a firewall that is included with any windows OS. It has the basic needs covered to keep your net work safe. For the most part this firewall free to use and the easiest to manage, with customer support. There is no need to install because it is already installed on windows devices. To use is very simple by selecting what programs that you want to computer to block. In usefulness it has the bare minimum for security protection.

My recommendation is the PfSense firewall because it gives you the most protection and comes with hardware to secure your network. The price is higher the others but I would rather be able to sleep at night without thinking if my network is safe from cyberattacks while I'm not on site .

Commented [MD1]: Is a network device that filters data from outside of your computer system.

Commented [MD2]: This explains the importance of security for computers and your personal information .

Commented [MD3]: Considered the top tier when choosing a firewall, it also comes with supporting features for security

Commented [MD4]: Mid-level firewall

Commented [MD5]: Free firewall that meets the basic needs for security.