

SiteApproved™ Hardware Security Testing Report

Testing Of Hardware Security : AlphaShield™

Testing Team: SiteApproved™
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Abstract

Internet security is and has been at the forefront of worldwide topic and debate with increasing concern for safety. Due to the nature of the current structure and foundation of the Internet, it is imperative for new means of security to be implemented. In recent years new technology has been emerging with promising results, although, the main reason we are addressing this issue is due to the fact that the attitude of the common household computer user only wants to have or use a program that is simple to apply or configure. With the advent of "high Speed Internet" (128 Kbps or more), providing US customers at a rate of 12.8 percent of all connected personal computers, the US is placing as the 12th ranked nation under the Netherlands(#2) 19.0 percent and Korea(#1) 24.9 percent for people converting to super fast connections as of Dec 2004 (source: OECD). Since January 2006, there are now over one billion (1,000,000,000) people worldwide using the Internet (source: Internet World Stats). Personal home computer users make up a large portion of this connectivity to the Internet.

Software vs. Hardware

In the online world today, software rains supreme. Unfortunately, this is the weakest link. With tens of thousands of "security software companies" available to sport their wares, one has to ask: "what makes them so different"? Basically, they ALL operate the same. Software has to rely on code. Code can, and will, always be broken. Recently, some high profile "software security companies" have been shut down and their operators arrested and heavily fined for deceptive or corrupt practices:

- (http://www.atg.wa.gov/releases/2006/rel_Spyware_Lawsuit_012506.html)
- (<http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2006/01/maxtrust.htm>)
- (<http://siteapproved.com/securityhackpop.htm>)

---The list goes on and on.

SiteApproved™ has access to over eight thousand (8,000) corrupt or deceitful software security companies and manufacturers! When you download or install a "security software" program, you are placing your trust in that company or service to provide a viable product. For the average personal home computer user, they know very little, or nothing about the process or steps needed to be taken to verify and or check a piece of software before acquiring it. Regular updates of security software is fundamental in staying ahead of the attacking curve, but this is seldom achieved. In turn, this is creating a sizeable portion of the problems we see today.

Hardware Security

Recent studies of different companies and manufacturers of hardware security products are proving to be very exciting. Organizations such as the Trusted Computing Platform Alliance and VIA Technologies are trying to build on a "trusted" security consortium with a hardware base. While the ideology behind these concepts are good, SiteApproved™ believes that the security hardware component must remain independent of any other systems software or hardware configurations. One of the companies we are addressing in this report: AlphaShield™, is just that, a stand alone hardware security device that has passed extensive testing and will be supported in its efforts to help high speed Internet users protect their systems. There are yet other hardware devices being readied for users who are still using dial up connections. Since computer security is highly technical in nature, our report here will be geared toward the beginner or novice user.

The Alpha Shield™ Hardware Security Component

This security device is a true stand alone protection unit. Being completely independent of any other hardware, software, or configured systems. The unit runs and operates off its own power supply. The AlphaShield™ is a true "Plug n' Play" device needing no special instructions, manuals, or complicated setup information. Once removed from the packaging, the timeframe to set the unit in place and have it operating is less than five minutes. The unit has two (2) large buttons on top for manual "On" and "Off" settings. The unit has three modes of operation: Manual, Auto, and Lock Mode. For those who are constantly working in an FTP environment or use other programs like VPN, Instant Messengers, or VOIP, there is a Dynamic Configuration Mode and an auxiliary plug you can use to set parameters. The unit will handle four (4) networked computers, but you can stack the units for more computers if you need them. The operating systems tested were Microsoft products, Apple products, Unix products, and Linux products. All were protected. The unit was tested between two computers running different operating systems and hardware configurations, and multiple computer systems in a networked environment. Some of the viruses, worms, and Trojans used are listed below:

- Trojan.Win32.Cryzip.a [Kaspersky], TROJ_CRYZIP.A [Trend Micro],
- Cryzip.A [Panda Software]
- SymbOS/Mabtal.A [McAfee], Mabtal [F-Secure]
- SoBig.F
- SirCam
- MyDoom

Other RootKit Hook attacks and viruses were used and all failed. All ports were blocked.

The only attack successful was initiated by a deceptive email phishing attempt, but it needs to be known that this unit WILL NOT protect against email malfeasance. The AlphaShield™ is a super hardened Internet Firewall component that through our testing has proved to stop all outside attacks. Other protections will still need to be in place for internal email or other program executables.

SiteApproved™ Conclusion Testing -

- Is a true stand alone hardware security device
- Uses no software
- Stopped all attacks
- Had no conflicts with other devices
- Set up in under 5 minutes
- Turns on and off with 2 buttons
- Can be set to turn off automatically
- Protects up to 4 computers
- Comes in 2 different models*
- Company offers a 100% money back guarantee**

*The model tested was the Professional.

**This company offers a 100% money back guarantee against any viruses, worms, or Trojans, although if you use the unit in the Auxiliary Mode or have the settings without the AlphaGAP™ technology on, it will void your 100% Guarantee. The AlphaShield™ can be purchased directly from the company and is also located at other major retail outlet stores. SiteApproved™ has given this unit an endorsement and will be making it available at discounts to all SiteApproved™ Members. If you would like to inquire for more information, please contact SiteApproved™.

