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# AlphaShield Internet Privacy Protection

Ok. So you're new to the net and have a cable, DSL, ADSL, T3, OC3, etc. connection but you feel uncomfortable surfing the web. The media has been feeding you all these stories about malicious 12-year old boys from around the world who have been hacking and stealing information from prominent websites. You think someone is watching your every move on the net, and you don't feel safe paying your bills online or shopping online.



Well brush your fears aside. With Alphashield's Internet Privacy Protection device, you will be ultimately protected. It is a plug and play Internet privacy protection device for always on broadband Internet connections.

Its one of the most unique devices around for Internet protection as it requires no set-up, no configuration, and no maintenance. It is a hassle free device!

Having a software firewall such as Zone Alarm, NeoWatch, etc. is not enough. It is true that there are many ways to bypass your software firewall without you knowing. With today's advances with the Internet, so many things are at risk. Your financial, personal and work-related data are at risk.

Every PC on the Internet has an address. It doesn't matter who or where you are, you have an address. This address is called an IP address and it uniquely identifies each PC. If you leave your PC on all day like lots of people, you are consistently at risk of being penetrated and violated!

So you're wondering, how this device works? How does it protect you? Well Alphashield utilizes IP Stealth technology, which hides your IP address on the Internet, allowing you to visit websites and do things without ever being seen unless you choose to. The Alphashield uses three different types of technology to protect you. They are the following:

## **AlphaGap Technology**

AlphaGap Technology ensures access to the connected computer system is disabled as it creates a virtual GAP (disconnection) following a pre-determined Internet idle

interval. Access to your connected computer system is managed through a Seamless Intelligent Infrastructure to monitor inbound and outbound data. Without any delay, each packet of information is inspected and is only allowed access to authorized addresses. Once Gap is activated, it can provide 100% bulletproof network security to the user.

### **Stealth IP Technology**

Stealth Internet Protocol Technology conceals or cloaks the user's computer identity from being seen across the Internet or network while it allows the user to freely surf the Internet or network safely. Since the user cannot be identified or located, the user's risks are greatly reduced from any threats of scans, probes or attack

### **RPA Technology**

Real-time Packet Authorization Technology utilizes Artificial Intelligence Infrastructure to monitor inbound and outbound data between the connected computer and the network or Internet as it inspects each packet of information and only allows access to addresses the Internet user has requested

So what does this all mean? The Alphashield incorporates all the above technologies not found in other products to protect your privacy and security. With the RPA, it makes your computer "invisible" to the Net, allowing only requested information to be passed through. The AlphaGap stops any and all attacks from any source by creating a physical and logical disconnection from the Net. So what it does is disconnect you from the Net completely. No buts, no ifs, just 100% complete disconnection!

Unlike other types of software and hardware out there, there isn't any maintenance needed for this hardware. It doesn't need upgrades or administration whatsoever. To be able to do this, the Alphashield is a standalone device that can't be affected by viruses and other problems and never depends on the computer's operating system. A virus will never infect it either, because it doesn't require firmware updates.

Another great feature about this product is that it doesn't care what operating system you use. As it is not OS- dependent, it can work with anything, whether it be Windows Me, Windows 95, Linux or a Mac. As it doesn't even depend on the PC, it won't affect system performance, and inside this little device, there's even a CPU to help coordinate the defence.

Another cool feature to this device is that it is expandable. It has Voice-Over-IP and other future communications solutions.

According to Alphashield, your PC is still vulnerable when it is turned off. After doing some thinking on this, it is possible. If your have an Ethernet NIC card that has WOL (Wake-on-LAN) someone with administrative power could remotely turn your PC on. The chances of this happening are very remote but it still a possibility.

### **Installation:**

To install the Alphashield was a breeze, with 3 Steps in total. If you've dealt with

routers and gateways, you've probably had to spend at least 20-30 minutes setting up everything. It is totally different with the Alphashield. It takes less than 1 minute to set up (if you have quick fingers). All I had to do was plug in the Cable modem into the device, and hook the device to the PC and plug in the power adapter! Finally, press the connect button and off you go. Bing Bam Boom, and you are set up! Easy eh?



### **The Look:**

The device itself is not very big. It's about the size of a Super Nintendo game cartridge. The look of this device is really nice. I like the colour and the design of it very much. There are two buttons on the top of device that form an "S", signifying the word Shield. The two buttons at the top of the device turn the device on or off. "Connect" and "Disconnect" are these two buttons. There are 3 LED lights on the front as well. These show if there is outbound traffic, inbound traffic and if there is a connection or not. At the back you will find the ports to connect to the PC, Cable/DSL modem and the AUX. You will also find the power adapter port here too and a mode selector.

The mode slider switch has 3 user selectable functionality modes. The first slide position selects the manual mode with an inactivity disconnect timer value of 15 minutes. The second slide position selects the auto mode with an inactivity timer value that is infinite. The third slide position selects the lockout mode that physically disconnects and locks out any communication through the AlphaShield.

### **The Use:**

The use of this device is really simple. Setting it up took 2 minutes. After the set up, I quickly surfed the web. I tried using ICQ and MSN Messenger, and both worked for sending messages, as the device only lets you communicate with other PCs that you initiate data transfers with. What this means is that if you are idle in ICQ or MSN, friends will not be able to send you messages. Well, they can but it will not get to you as the AlphaShield is protecting you. So, to talk to your friends, you have to initiate the conversation. But if you are like me, you are usually hidden anyways so initiating the conversation is not a problem. If you want to send files, set up an FTP, etc... you should turn off the device, as it will block your data transfers. No one can upload any malicious files without you knowing with this device. I had several people try to ping me and they couldn't even connect to me! Talk about being well protected. I was able to surf the web in peace and was disconnected after a short while to ensure my connection was not live while I stepped away or was doing something.

If you do not talk on Messaging programs, IRC or anything like that, this device is perfect for you. It completely shuts out the outside world from discovering you while you are surfing the web. I found myself completely protected from any malicious

attacks and I was extremely happy that I didn't have to update the firewall against viruses and such. No update was needed!



### Conclusion:

Alphashield is the perfect device for all those out there who are worried about hackers and other malicious people out there. The cost of this device is about \$179 US or \$285 Canadian. It is a bit pricey but consider it an investment in your own privacy and security. If you are worried about your privacy on the Internet, this is a device you should be considering. I give this device 4 stars out of 5. The deduction of the one star is because of its price. Other than that, this device works great as advertised.



### AlphaShield™ Specifications

Warranty	1 Year Limited Warranty
Interface Speeds	Links speeds up to 10 Mbps
Power Supply	DC wall adapter 9 VDC 4.5 watts
ESD Line Protection	Each port up to 1500 VDC
Electrical Interfaces	3 x IEEE 802.3 10 Base T RJ-45 connectors
Network Interfaces	1x 10 Base T Ethernet client port protected
Network Interfaces	1x 10 Base T Ethernet port modem connection
Network Interfaces	1 AUX 10 Base T Auxiliary port unprotected
Software Setup	None, a true plug & play device
Operating System	Runs on all operating systems (Platform agnostic)
Terminal Interface	Push button Control (2 buttons)
Session Reconnect	Manual Intervention (Push button Reset)
Power Failure Retention	Retained Settings Non-volatile
Device IP Address	No IP address assignment for device
IP Address Translation	None (Device provides no address translation)
Security Connection	Time domain AlphaGap Technology
Packet Inspection	RPA Real-time Packet Authorization
Supported Protocols	TCP/IP, FTP, UDP, HTTP, TFTP, IMAP, DNS
Modes of operation	3 modes of Operation, Manual/Auto/Lockout
User Session Times	User Selectable from 2 values
Intrusion Alert	Visual LED Indicator illuminating Red/Amber
Instant Disconnect	Manual Intervention (Push Button)
Physical Connection	LED Link Status on 10 Base T ports
Power to Device	LED Indicator via Connect LED
Data Transmission	Inbound /Outbound LED Indicators
Operational Mode	Selectable via Multi-position switch
Connection Indicator	LED Indicator three colour, three states
Operating Temperature	50 to 110 degrees F
Weight	150 Grams

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