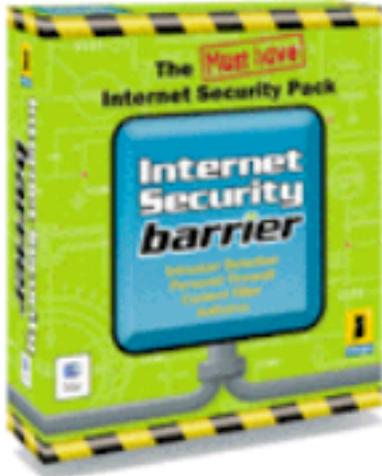


# KICKING the TIRES

by Frank Petrie, MaMUGs, Technology Specialist



Product:

Internet Security Barrier v1.3

Company:

Intego < [www.intego.com](http://www.intego.com) >

Requirements:

OSs 8 and 9, 10.1 or higher  
(Jaguar included); 128MB RAM;  
30 MB free disk space

Retail Price: US \$99.95

Test Rig: TiBook G4/500; 768MB RAM

Review Date: 30 September 2003

The internet is a scary place, as much as I hate to admit it. There's viruses, money scams and Dancing Hamsters. And if you have kids, then double your need to be ever so vigilant. So what can you do keep your family and computer safe?

The fine coders at Intego have a plethora of tools that you can purchase either separately or in various suites. We were fortunate enough to obtain the Internet Security Barrier Professional Edition for review. This security suite contains NetBarrier, VirusBarrier, ContentBarrier and Personal Backup (all these products are compatible Mac OS 8, 9 and X, BTW). OK, let's get personal.

## THE GOOD

Installation is a simple installer that is also accompanied with an uninstaller. There are eManuals that accompany each individual program that are very thorough. And the look and intuitive layout would make Apple proud. And what's more, you can pick whether you want the app in 'aqua' or 'brushed metal.' Already, I'm impressed. You can set up the programs to notify you at another

email address when your computer's security has been breached or Little Johnny has decided to study anatomy when you're not at home, if you know what I mean.

**NetBarrier** allows you to control and monitor any network activity you desire. The four main selections are: firewall, anti-vandal, privacy and monitoring. Each heading comes with several subheadings to setup the program to your exact needs. You can go so far as to "Deny Apple Remote Desktop Control." You can choose to not let any site know what brand of computer or browser you are using. It looks like the only thing you can't set 'monitoring' to keep track of is your blood sugar.

**VirusBarrier** is the suite's virus scanner. There's really not much you can add to a virus scanner. The best you can do is make sure it does its job and does it thoroughly. The one difference I found (other than the email notification function) was that it scanned my drive in a fraction of the time that other virus packages have taken. It scanned my 40 GB hard disk, which contains about 20 GB of files, in just under 30 minutes. Not too shabby, eh?

**ContentBarrier** is used to control who sees what and who can contact you. You can set up various profiles for each member of your family or whomever uses your computer. The most impressive feature is its 'AntiPredator' function. It blocks emails or chats based on various phrases such as "can we meet," "don't tell the parent" or "where's your school." And that's just incoming. As a second wall, you can set phrases for outgoing contacts, as well. So, your children can't inadvertently give somebody information that is nobody's business. Brilliant, simply brilliant.

**Personal Backup** can back up to all sorts of internal and external media. And for X.x users, it allows you to create a boot-able clone. Seeing as I have a Ti4/500 MHz, I like to have my entire system ready to go on one of my external FireWire drives, just in case. So that was the test I performed. You can choose to either drag-n-drop your 'source' and 'destination' media or select it from a menu. Your backup choices are: backup, restore, synchronization, clone and advanced. You can also run scripts that you can customize to meet your specific needs. Once your source, destination and operation is chosen, you click on the middle button and that's it.

I cloned internal drive to my external drive but found that I was unable to boot from it. This could most likely be that my external hard drive is one of the brands that Apple is having problems with. But all of my files and apps were copied and functional. And I'm running 10.2.8, so I doubt that the software is the culprit.

## THE BAD

There should be a separate installer for those who want to use the entire suite at once. Installing each piece of software separately is not difficult, but it is time consuming and annoying.

## THE UGLY

Nada.

## THE CLOSE

The power that these programs give you over your computing environment is incredible. Normally, I would suggest that programs of this magnitude should be used primarily by high-end users. But as our home machines become more and more powerful, and our computing environment gets more and more dangerous, I recommend these products whole-heartedly. Be safe.

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Providing camaraderie, cooperative programs, events, training and knowledge sharing for Apple/Macintosh User Groups **free of charge**.

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