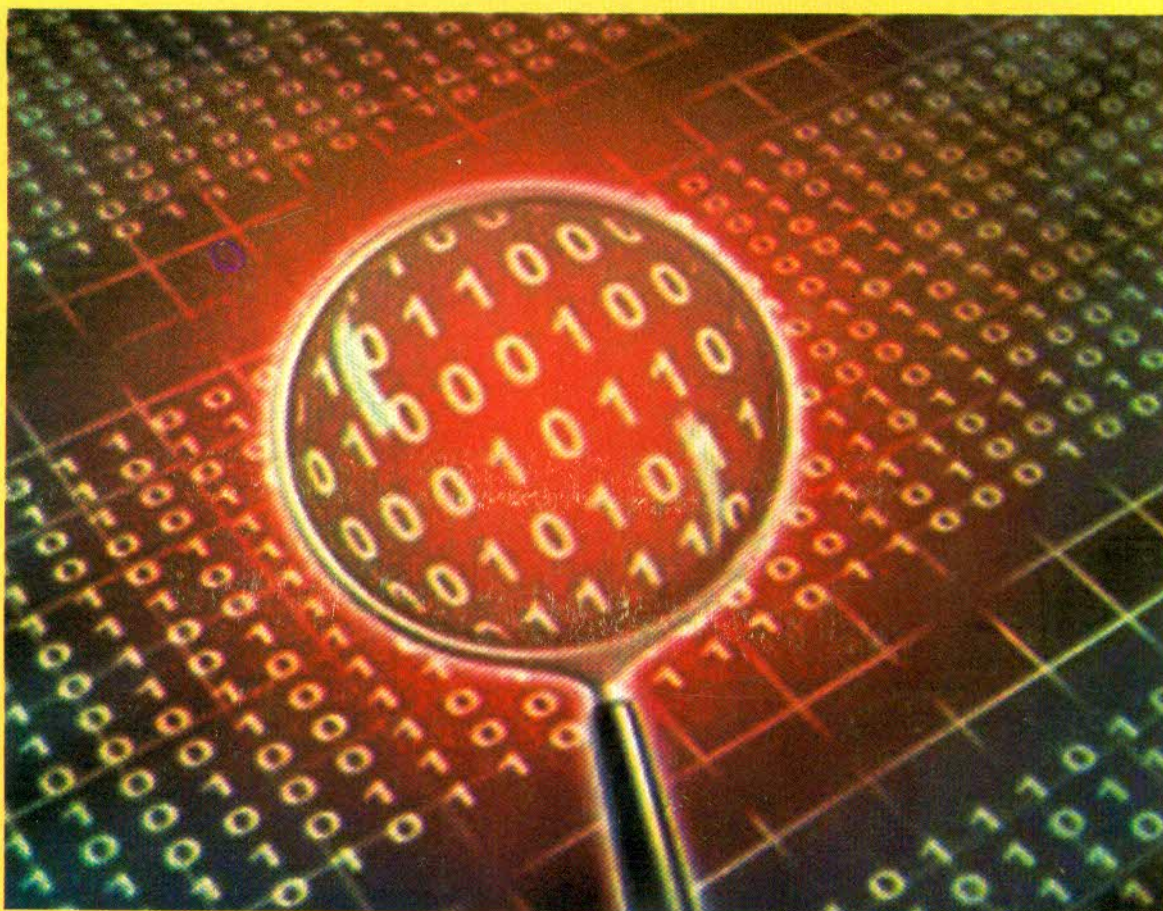




*Complimentary Copy***Block****2****WINDOWS SECURITY**

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UNIT 2 WINDOWS SYSTEM SECURITY

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

Most of us use computers in our workplace. Increasingly we have them at home as well. Whilst at work there's normally someone who looks after them for us - dealing with problems that occasionally arise, keeping them up-to-date, securing them against hackers - at home you're on your own. Unfortunately the threat to home machines is increasing as more of us go online for longer periods. Short duration, slow telephone connections are superseded by high-speed 'always-on' services (such as those provided by ADSL and cable modems) which make your computer a much easier target for those who get a kick out of breaking into other peoples' systems. Should you care? Well, yes you should. Do you want someone ferreting through your confidential documents? Looking at household bills, bank details, or private e-mail? Using your machine to attack someone else (your employer, perhaps, or a corporation with a legal team that feels strongly about liability)? Most of us don't.

The good news is that there are simple precautions you can take to protect your home computer. You don't need to be an expert to apply them. You won't achieve 100% security - no-one ever does - but you can make a would-be attacker's job sufficiently hard that in all likelihood they'll give up and go and bother someone else instead.