



Which Free Antivirus Is Best? AVG Anti-Virus Free Edition leads the field in 2012.

ANTIVIRUS PROGRAM	Rating	Antivirus and antispysware detection			Infection cleanup		Scan speed		Design score	Bottom line
		Signature-based detection of malware	Real-world malware: fully blocked attacks	Real-world malware: partially blocked attacks	Percentage of active malware disabled ^{1,2}	Percentage of active and inactive malware completely removed ¹	Scan speed on demand ¹ in seconds ³	Scan speed on access ¹ in seconds ³		
1 AVG Anti-Virus Free Edition 2012 find.pcworld.com/72879	★★★★★ SUPERIOR	98.7%	85.7%	0.0%	100.0%	66.7%	95	295	Good	AVG Anti-Virus Free Edition is our all-around winner, thanks to its strong results in our malware protection tests and its perfect showing at disabling malware.
2 Avast Free Antivirus 7 find.pcworld.com/72880	★★★★★ SUPERIOR	99.1%	78.6%	0.0%	93.0%	66.7%	94	256	Very Good	A solid second-place finisher, Avast Free Antivirus does a good job of protecting a PC, and it won't slow you down much.
3 Panda Cloud Antivirus 1.5 find.pcworld.com/72881	★★★★★ VERY GOOD	99.9%	85.7%	0.0%	87.0%	60.0%	370	445	Very Good	Panda Cloud Antivirus capably keeps malware at bay, but its scan speeds are abysmally slow.
4 Avira Free Antivirus 2012 find.pcworld.com/72882	★★★★★ VERY GOOD	99.7%	70.4%	0.0%	80.0%	66.7%	91	294	Good	This tool is fast, but Avira's middling detection, blocking, and cleanup results consign it to the middle of the pack.
5 Microsoft Security Essentials 2.1 find.pcworld.com/72297	★★★★★ VERY GOOD	97.0%	71.4%	0.0%	93.0%	80.0%	236	403	Very Good	Microsoft Security Essentials is easy to use, but we weren't terribly impressed by its detection capabilities.
6 PC Tools AntiVirus Free 2012 find.pcworld.com/72883	★★★★★ VERY GOOD	100.0%	57.1%	6.7%	93.0%	73.3%	291	170	Very Good	PC Tools AntiVirus Free lagged the pack when it came to stopping new malware.
7 Comodo Internet Security Premium 5.9 find.pcworld.com/72884	★★★★★ VERY GOOD	98.2%	78.6%	21.4%	80.0%	33.3%	271	838	Very Good	Although Comodo's free suite gets bonus points for bundling a firewall, it falls behind most of its peers in stopping malware.

CHART NOTE: Percentages rounded to nearest tenth of a percent. FOOTNOTES: ¹Test conducted at default settings. ²Cleanup of active malware files. Does not include removal of Registry changes or inert files. ³Time to scan 4500MB of data; lower is better.

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