

An Updated Survey of Anti-Virus Software – from Published Test Results

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Note: As last year, this survey is intended for users of Microsoft Windows personal computers. It does not address the question of Anti-Virus protection for Apple computers. (But for starters, I would refer you to www.consumersearch.com for an article on Anti-Virus software for Apple Mac computers)

This Adobe Acrobat file consists of charts of Anti-virus test results from magazines and independent test laboratories.

An index and guide for these display slides is given in the accompanying file “Antivirus_Survey_2012.doc”

Here is an explanation of the Column Headings Consumer Reports uses in the next slide, for its test results:

Net threats: How well the product protected against live exploits on websites.

Ease of Use: Covers installation, changing settings, and interacting with the software.

Resources: Use of memory and tendency to slow the computer operation during a scan.

Virus Scan: Effectiveness scanning the PC for malware, both online and offline.

Scan Speed: How fast the product can scan a large group of files for threads (i.e. demand scan)

Updating: How quickly the product is able to protect against new malware.

Performance (firewall): How well the software stopped rogue connections to and from the Internet.

Overall score: Important attributes that might affect your buying decision.

Informative Help: clear, useful instructions on a particular setting or activity in the software.

best Antivirus for 2012 lab results chart

from The Best Antivirus for 2012, by Neil J. Rubenking, at www.PCMag.com

Static tests check detection on a very large collection of known viruses/malware.

Dynamic tests are automated to crawl the internet in search of real-world malicious websites, and report percentage blocked

Consumer Reports 2012 Test Results Score - out of 100 (previous slide)

Avast Free Antivirus scored 57 in C.R. tests (see previous slide)
 Avast Internet Security 2012 (\$50) ranked #6 in PC World tests

PC World Test Results Rank #1 = Best (slide #7)

Two columns here are the PC Mag Malware Blocking & Removal Test Rankings (from the same article), and shown in detail in the next two slides.

#1 = Best, on down

Consumer Reports Score	PC World Rank	Vendor	Static				Dynamic		Combined Rating	Blocking	Removal
			AV-Comparatives.org	Virus Bulletin	ICSA Labs	West Coast Labs	AV-Comparatives.org	AV-Test.org			
58	#9	AVG Anti-Virus Free 2012	2	+100%	Y	Y	2	14.2	GOOD	#10	#5
62	not tested	Avira Free Antivirus 2012	3	+100%	Y		2	13.2	GOOD	6	3
59	3	BitDefender	3	+90%	Y	Y	3	16.0	EXCELLENT	15	11
54	not tested	BullGuard		+80%	Y			12.3	GOOD	3	21
63	7	ESET	3	+100%	Y	Y	2	12.2	GOOD	20	4
55	8	F-Secure	3	+100%			3	15.7	EXCELLENT	7	9
65	1	G Data	3	+90%	Y		3	13.8	GOOD	2	17
63	4	Kaspersky	3	+80%	Y	Y	3	15.5	GOOD	12	14
- not tested -		MalwareBytes AntiMalware Free							n/a	n/a	7
48	not tested	McAfee	3	+80%	Y	Y	2	10.7	GOOD	13	19
		Norman		+60%	Y			8.0	FAIR	14	18
55	2	Norton / Symantec	2	+90%	Y	Y	3	14.3	GOOD	4	1
		Outpost / Agnitum		+90%					n/a	5	22
36	not tested	Panda Cloud Antivirus Free	2.5		Y	Y	2	14.5	GOOD	18	12
		PC Tools	0	+70%		Y	0	11.5	POOR	9	6
52	5	Trend Micro	3			Y	2	12.5	GOOD	19	23
		TrustPort	2	+100%		Y			GOOD	8	16
		VIPRE / GFI		+86%	Y	Y		12.3	GOOD	11	8
48	10	ZoneAlarm / Check Point		+80%					n/a	17	10
56	not tested	Free Microsoft Security Essentials 2		+100%						- not tested -	

Best Antivirus for 2012 malware blocking chart

Malware Blocking Tests	Free	All Malware		Rootkits		Scareware	
		score	%	score	%	score	%
Webroot SecureAnywhere Antivirus		↑ 10.0	↑ 100%	↑ 10.0	↑ 100%	↑ 10.0	↑ 100%
G Data AntiVirus 2012		↑ 9.0	91%	9.1	↑ 100%	↑ 10.0	↑ 100%
BullGuard Antivirus 12		8.9	91%	9.9	↑ 100%	↑ 10.0	↑ 100%
Norton AntiVirus 2012		8.9	91%	↑ 10.0	↑ 100%	↑ 10.0	↑ 100%
Outpost Antivirus Pro 7.5		8.8	94%	9.0	↑ 100%	8.0	↓ 80%
Avira Free Antivirus 2012	Y	8.7	91%	8.7	↑ 100%	9.8	↑ 100%
F-Secure Anti-Virus 2012		8.6	94%	9.1	↑ 100%	9.0	↑ 100%
TrustPort Antivirus 2012		8.6	↑ 97%	9.1	↑ 100%	9.0	↑ 100%
PC Tools Spyware Doctor with AntiVirus 9.0		8.6	94%	9.3	↑ 100%	↑ 10.0	↑ 100%
AVG Anti-Virus Free 2012	Y	8.4	94%	8.3	↑ 100%	9.0	↑ 100%
GFI VIPRE Antivirus 2012		8.4	91%	9.0	↑ 100%	↑ 10.0	↑ 100%
Kaspersky Anti-Virus 2012		8.2	91%	8.9	↑ 100%	8.0	↓ 80%
McAfee AntiVirus Plus 2012		8.2	89%	8.6	↑ 100%	↑ 10.0	↑ 100%
Norman AntiVirus 9		8.0	91%	8.6	↑ 100%	9.8	↑ 100%
Bitdefender Antivirus Plus 2012		7.7	↓ 83%	8.4	↑ 100%	↓ 7.0	↓ 80%
Panda Antivirus Pro 2012		7.7	↓ 83%	6.4	↓ 71%	↑ 10.0	↑ 100%
ZoneAlarm Antivirus + Firewall 2012		7.5	86%	8.9	↑ 100%	8.6	↑ 100%
Panda Cloud Antivirus 1.5 Free Edition	Y	7.4	86%	8.3	↑ 100%	↓ 7.0	↓ 80%
Trend Micro Titanium Antivirus+ 2012		7.1	94%	6.3	↑ 100%	8.3	↑ 100%
ESET NOD32 Antivirus 5		↓ 6.9	86%	↓ 5.3	86%	↓ 6.8	↑ 100%
Malwarebytes' Anti-Malware PRO 1.51		↓ 6.5	↓ 69%	↓ 2.9	↓ 29%	↑ 10.0	↑ 100%

Malware blocking test results for 2012 products
Arrows indicate top two and bottom two scores for each column

Best Antivirus for 2012 malware removal chart

Malware Removal Tests	Free	All Malware		Rootkits		Scareware	
		score	%	score	%	score	%
Norton AntiVirus 2012		↑ 7.1	85%	↑ 8.9	↑ 100%	↑ 10.0	↑ 100%
Webroot SecureAnywhere Antivirus		↑ 6.9	↑ 94%	↑ 7.3	↑ 100%	8.8	↑ 100%
Avira Free Antivirus 2012	Y	6.7	88%	5.0	86%	9.5	↑ 100%
ESET NOD32 Antivirus 5		6.5	88%	5.3	86%	9.5	↑ 100%
AVG Anti-Virus Free 2012	Y	6.5	88%	6.7	↑ 100%	9.5	↑ 100%
PC Tools Spyware Doctor with AntiVirus 9.0		6.5	82%	6.9	↑ 100%	8.8	↑ 100%
Malwarebytes' Anti-Malware Free 1.51	Y	6.4	79%	3.6	↓ 57%	↑ 10.0	↑ 100%
GFI VIPRE Antivirus 2012		6.2	↑ 91%	3.3	↑ 100%	9.5	↑ 100%
F-Secure Anti-Virus 2012		6.2	85%	6.3	↑ 100%	9.5	↑ 100%
ZoneAlarm Antivirus + Firewall 2012		6.0	79%	6.7	↑ 100%	7.5	↓ 75%
Bitdefender Antivirus Plus 2012		6.0	82%	6.0	86%	9.5	↑ 100%
Panda Cloud Antivirus 1.5 Free Edition	Y	5.9	↑ 91%	4.1	↑ 100%	9.5	↑ 100%
Panda Antivirus Pro 2012		5.8	85%	4.7	↑ 100%	9.5	↑ 100%
Kaspersky Anti-Virus 2012		5.7	↓ 76%	3.9	71%	↓ 6.3	↓ 75%
avast! Rescue Disc		5.7	81%	5.3	86%	7.4	↑ 80%
TrustPort Antivirus 2012		5.4	88%	4.4	↑ 100%	9.5	↑ 100%
G Data AntiVirus 2012		5.4	83%	5.3	86%	8.4	↑ 100%
Norman Malware Cleaner 2.1	Y	5.3	85%	2.4	71%	9.5	↑ 100%
McAfee AntiVirus Plus 2012		5.3	79%	3.9	86%	9.8	↑ 100%
Norman AntiVirus 9		5.2	↓ 76%	↓ 2.1	71%	9.5	↑ 100%
BullGuard Antivirus 12		4.9	↓ 71%	↓ 2.0	↓ 57%	9.5	↑ 100%
Outpost Antivirus Pro 7.5		↓ 4.9	82%	2.9	86%	↓ 6.3	↓ 75%
Trend Micro Titanium Antivirus+ 2012		↓ 4.7	79%	3.6	86%	7.0	↑ 100%

Malware removal results for 2012 products

Arrows indicate top two and bottom two scores for each column

Summing up [free] antivirus-software resource use, for six free anti-virus programs tested:

(written by Fred Langa; posted on www.windowssecrets.com/topstory/, February 16, 2012)

“A reader’s complaint about Microsoft Security Essentials (MSE) spurred head-to-head comparison tests of AV-software resource usage. I put six popular, free antivirus tools through their paces and measured their impact on startup and shutdown times, disk space, and RAM use. They are: Microsoft Security Essentials, AVG Anti-Virus Free, Comodo Antivirus, Avast Free Antivirus, Avira Free Antivirus, and ClamWin Free Antivirus.

The immediate conclusion — at least in these controlled-environment tests — is that MSE is not the “resource pig” some PC users think it is. In fact, it offers respectable, near-best numbers in every category. Whatever was going on with Bill’s system is not likely to be intrinsic to MSE.

Here are all the results, for easy side-by-side comparison. The best results are shown in green, the worst in red.

	Startup seconds	Shutdown seconds	RAM footprint (MB)	Disk footprint (GB)
MSE	36	11	–	–
AVG	53	12	+2	+0.2
Comodo	43	14	+76	-0.6
Avast	40	11	-13	0
Avira	83	13	+139	0
ClamWin	35	8	-1	-0.3

Note that for RAM and Disk footprint, Microsoft Security Essentials is taken as the baseline, and the other product’s numbers are + or - relative to MSE.

If there’s one app that consumes more PC resources than its competitors, it’s Avira — with the heaviest RAM use and significantly slower startup time.

ClamWin is a pleasant surprise; it performed well in every category and earned two “best of breeds.” However, I’m reluctant to recommend it because it’s a relatively new product, is used by a relatively small number of people, and is still in Version **0.9x** release as of this writing.

The bottom line: My conclusions — and yours

For me — for now — nothing in these numbers would alter my recommendation — and personal use — of Microsoft Security Essentials. It’s free, it’s in widespread use, and it has proven itself in the real world. And on **most** systems, it has little effect on system resources. That said, no software is ideally suited for every configuration. If one anti-malware tool doesn’t work well on your specific setup, then it makes perfect sense to try some other AV app. You have **lots** of options.

I hope the performance numbers I’ve reported may help steer you to the tool that offers what you seek — faster boot and shutdown, lower RAM use, and smaller footprint.”

About the author: [Fred Langa](http://www.windowssecrets.com/) is a senior editor of the Windows Secrets Newsletter. He was formerly editor of Byte Magazine (1987-91), and editorial director of CMP Media (1991 to 1997), overseeing Windows Magazine and others. He was editor of the LangaList e-mail newsletter from its origin in 1997 until its merger with Windows Secrets on November 16, 2006.

Below is an overview of levels/awards reached by the various anti-virus products in AV-Comparatives' tests of 2011. Vendors, who did not want to see some features of the product evaluated, renounced being considered for the summary awards.

2nd-half 2011 tests were done on 2012 Internet Security Suite products, except Microsoft Security Essentials 2.1 deals with malware only.

	On-Demand Test February 2011	Retrospective Test February 2011	Performance Test (Suite) July 2011	Whole-Product-Dynamic Test Part 1 (March-June 2011)	On-Demand Test August 2011	Retrospective Test August 2011	Performance Test (AV) November 2011	Renewal Test November 2011	Whole-Product-Dynamic Test Part 2 (August-November 2011)
avast!	ADV	II/A	ADV+	ADV+	ADV+	ADV	ADV+	STD	STD
AVG	STD	II/A	ADV+	STD	ADV	II/A	ADV+	STD	ADV
AVIRA	ADV+	ADV+	ADV+	ADV	ADV+	ADV+	ADV+	ADV	ADV
Bitdefender	ADV+	ADV	ADV	ADV+	ADV+	ADV+	ADV	ADV+	ADV+
eScan	ADV+	ADV	N/A	N/A	ADV	ADV	ADV	N/A	N/A
ESET NOD32	ADV	ADV	ADV+	ADV+	ADV+	ADV+	ADV+	STD	ADV
F-Secure	ADV+	ADV	ADV+	ADV+	ADV+	ADV+	ADV+	STD	ADV+
G DATA	ADV	ADV	ADV	ADV+	ADV+	ADV+	ADV	STD	ADV+
K7		II/A	ADV+			II/A	ADV+	STD	STD
Kaspersky	ADV+	ADV+	ADV+	ADV+	ADV+	ADV+	ADV+	ADV+	ADV+
McAfee	ADV+	II/A	ADV		ADV+	II/A	ADV	STD	ADV
Microsoft	ADV	ADV	N/A	N/A	ADV	ADV	ADV+	ADV	N/A
Panda	ADV	ADV	ADV+	ADV+	ADV+	ADV	ADV+	STD	ADV
PC Tools	STD	II/A	STD			II/A	STD	ADV+	
Qihoo 360	STD		ADV	ADV	ADV	ADV	STD	STD	ADV+
Sophos	ADV	STD	ADV+	STD	n/a	II/A	ADV+	STD	STD
Symantec	ADV	II/A	ADV+	ADV	ADV	II/A	ADV+	ADV+	ADV+
Trend Micro	STD	II/A	ADV	ADV+	ADV+	II/A	ADV	ADV	ADV
TrustPort	ADV+	ADV	N/A	N/A	ADV	ADV	STD	N/A	N/A
Webroot		II/A	STD		n/a	II/A	ADV+	ADV	

Key:

ADV+: ADVANCED+

ADV: ADVANCED

STD: STANDARD

Grey: TESTED

Grey+N/A: vendor refused to get evaluated

Black+N/A: vendor did not take part

VB100 Compare Vendors:

BitDefender vs ESET vs G Data vs
 Kaspersky AV vs Kaspersky IS vs Microsoft Security ... Go >

Product	Pass	Fail	12 Most Recent Results
B BitDefender	11	1	✓✓X✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
E ESET	12	0	✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
G G Data	8	2	✓✓X✓✓✓✓X✓✓✓
K Kaspersky AV	7	4	X✓✓✓✓X✓✓X✓X
K Kaspersky IS	9	2	✓✓✓✓✓X✓✓✓✓X
M Microsoft Security Essentials	4	1	X✓✓✓✓

Test	Product	Result	Action
February 2012 Red Hat Enterprise Linux	BitDefender		Subscribe for full access Buy this test now >>
	Eset		Subscribe for full access Buy this test now >>
	G Data		
	Kaspersky ES	X 1 False Positive	Subscribe for full access Buy this test now >>
	Kaspersky WS	X 1 False Positive	Subscribe for full access Buy this test now >>
	Microsoft Security Essentials		

Column is Windows XP Pro tests
 Column is Windows 7 Pro tests
 Windows Vista SP2 x64 Bus. Edition

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Do you think the security industry exaggerates the threat of mobile malware?

Yes, it isn't as bad as it's made out to be
 No, it is a serious problem
 I don't know

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VB100 certification

This month's