

Visual-aid Slide Set to Accompany  
An Updated Survey of Anti-Virus Software – from Published Test Results

compiled by Gary Patrick

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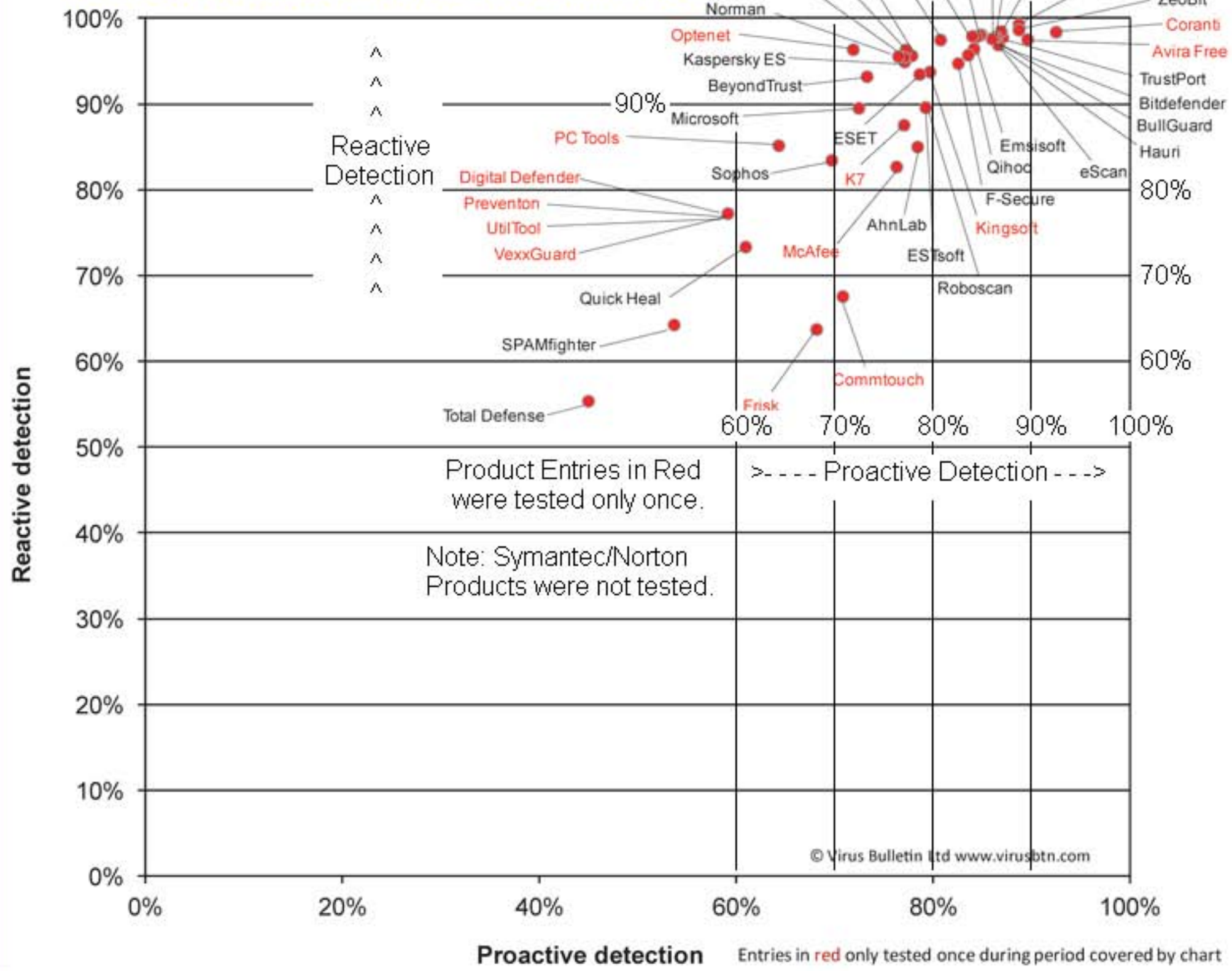
January 16, 2013

With updates, March 20, 2013;  
more updates pending

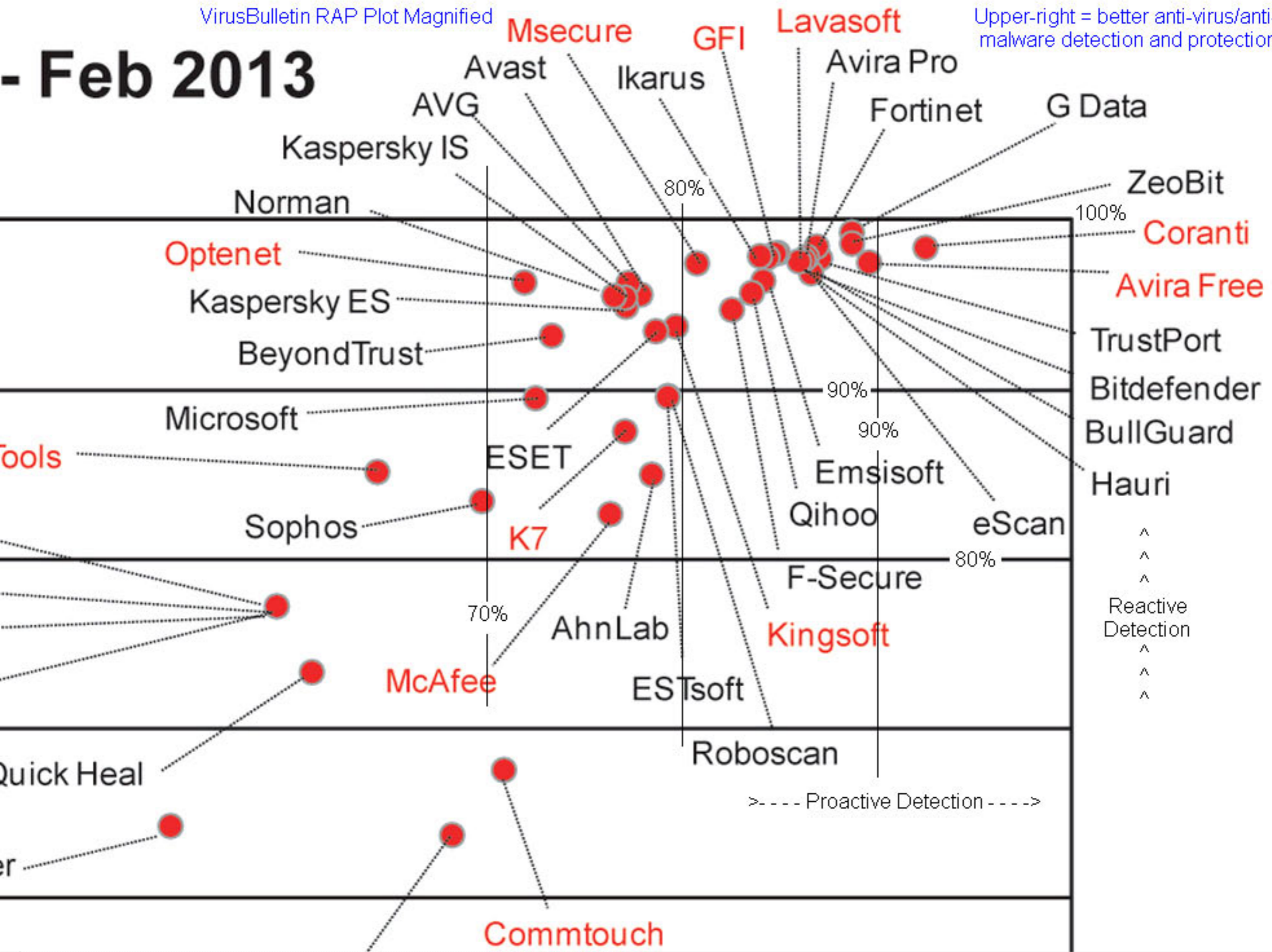
Note: As last year, this survey is intended for users of Microsoft Windows personal computers. It does not address the question of Anti-Virus protection for Apple computers.

# RAP averages quadrant Jul 2012 - Feb 2013

Virus Bulletin Reactive & Proactive Scores Plotted Y vs. X



# - Feb 2013



Virus Bulletin Anti-virus Certification by Product and Operating System:

	Windows XP April 2012	Windows Server 2008 R2 June 2012	Windows 7 Professional August 2012	Windows Server 2003 R2 October 2012	Windows 8 Professional December 2012
<b>Agnitum (Outpost)</b>	VIRUS 100	VIRUS 100	X	☐	☐
<b>AhnLab</b>	☐	☐	VIRUS 100	☐	VIRUS 100
<b>Auslogics Antivirus</b>	☐	☐	VIRUS 100	☐	☐
<b>avast!</b>	VIRUS 100	VIRUS 100	VIRUS 100	VIRUS 100	VIRUS 100
<b>Avertive</b>	VIRUS 100	☐	☐	☐	☐
<b>AVG</b>	VIRUS 100	X	VIRUS 100	VIRUS 100	VIRUS 100
<b>Avira</b>	VIRUS 100	VIRUS 100	VIRUS 100	VIRUS 100	☐
<b>Avira Personal</b>	VIRUS 100	☐	VIRUS 100	☐	☐
<b>BeyondTrust</b>	VIRUS 100	VIRUS 100	X	VIRUS 100	X
<b>Bitdefender</b>	VIRUS 100	VIRUS 100	VIRUS 100	VIRUS 100	VIRUS 100
<b>Bkis BKAV Home</b>	☐	X	☐	☐	☐
<b>BullGuard</b>	VIRUS 100	VIRUS 100	VIRUS 100	VIRUS 100	VIRUS 100
<b>Central Command (Vexira)</b>	VIRUS 100	VIRUS 100	X	☐	☐
<b>Check Point (ZoneAlarm)</b>	VIRUS 100	☐	☐	☐	☐

Consumer Reports online  
Ratings of Internet Security Software  
(as of 3/15/2013)

**Free anti-malware security software**

- Avast!** Free Antivirus \*
- Avira** Free Antivirus \*
- AVG** AntiVirus Free 2013 \*
- Microsoft** Security Essentials \*

Price (\$/3 PCs)	Ratings and Test Results									
	Overall score	Threat blocking	Ease of use	Malware scan	Resource drain	Firewall	Updating	Anti-phishing	Response to threats	
---	58									
---	55									
---	49									
---	43									

**Pay security suites**

- G Data** Internet Security 2013
- ESET** Smart Security 6
- F-Secure** Internet Security 2013
- Avira** Internet Security 2013
- Avast!** Internet Security 7
- BitDefender** Internet Security 2013
- Trend Micro** Titanium Internet Security 2013
- BullGuard** Internet Security 2013
- McAfee** Internet Security 2013
- AVG** Internet Security 2013
- Norton** Internet Security 2013
- Check Point** ZoneAlarm Internet Security Suite 2013
- Panda** Internet Security 2013

Price (\$/3 PCs)	Ratings and Test Results									
	Overall score	Threat blocking	Ease of use	Malware scan	Resource drain	Firewall	Updating	Anti-phishing	Response to threats	
\$45	67									
\$80	66									
\$60	64									
\$90	62									
\$70	57									
\$70	56									
\$80	54									
\$60	53									
\$80	53									
\$70	51									
\$80	50									
\$80	45									
\$70	43									



Unfortunately, Microsoft Security Essentials 4.0 & 4.1 failed this certification test.

## Home User Products

tested by AV-Test Labs, Magdeburg, Germany

- ▶ Home User
  - ▶ Windows 8
  - ▶ Windows 7
    - ▶ Sep/Oct 2012
    - ▶ May/Jun 2012
    - ▶ Mar/Apr 2012
    - ▶ Nov/Dec 2011
    - ▶ Jul/Aug 2011
    - ▶ Quarter 1/2011
    - ▶ Quarter 2/2010
  - ▶ Windows Vista
  - ▶ Windows XP
- ▶ Corporate User
  - ▶ Windows 8
  - ▶ Windows 7
  - ▶ Windows XP
- ▶ Mobile Devices
  - ▶ Android

Testreport	Producer: Product	Certified	Protection	Repair	Usability	Platform	Date
123638	<b>AhnLab: V3 Internet Security 8.0</b>		PROTECTION REPAIR USABILITY	  	3.0/6.0 4.5/6.0 3.5/6.0	Windows 7	10-2012
123615	<b>Avast: Free AntiVirus 7.0</b>		PROTECTION REPAIR USABILITY	  	5.0/6.0 4.0/6.0 5.0/6.0	Windows 7	10-2012
123652	<b>AVG: Anti-Virus Free Edition 2012 &amp; 2013</b>		PROTECTION REPAIR USABILITY	  	4.5/6.0 3.5/6.0 4.5/6.0	Windows 7	10-2012
123684	<b>AVG: Internet Security 2012 &amp; 2013</b>		PROTECTION REPAIR USABILITY	  	4.5/6.0 4.5/6.0 4.5/6.0	Windows 7	10-2012
123617	<b>Avira: Internet Security 2012 &amp; 2013</b>		PROTECTION REPAIR USABILITY	  	4.0/6.0 4.0/6.0 4.0/6.0	Windows 7	10-2012
123671	<b>Bitdefender: Internet Security 2013</b>		PROTECTION REPAIR USABILITY	  	6.0/6.0 6.0/6.0 5.0/6.0	Windows 7	10-2012
123661	<b>BullGuard: Internet Security 12.0 &amp; 13.0</b>		PROTECTION REPAIR USABILITY	  	5.0/6.0 3.5/6.0 4.5/6.0	Windows 7	10-2012
			PROTECTION		5.5/6.0		

AV-Comparatives' Test Results Summary, 2012 Report.

\*=Standard level performance results; \*\*=Advanced performance; \*\*\*=Advanced+ performance

	File Detection Test March 2012	Proactive Test March 2012	Performance Test (Suite) May 2012	Real-World Test (March-June 2012)	Anti-Phishing Test July 2012	File Detection Test September 2012	Performance Test (AV) October 2012	Malware Removal Test October 2012	Real-World Test (August-November 2012)
Product of the yr	***	***	***	***	***	***	**	***	***
Top-rated - -	Kaspersky	***	***	***	***	***	**	***	***
	F-Secure	***	***	***	***	***	**	**	**
	AVIRA	***	***	***	**	**	***	**	**
	BullGuard	***	***	**	**	***	*	**	***
	ESET	***	***	***	**	*	**	***	**
	G DATA	***	***	**	***	**	**	*	**
	avast!	***	***	***	*	**	***	***	*
	Panda	***	***	***	**	**	**	**	***
	eScan	***	***	**	**	*	***	**	*
	Sophos	***		***	*	***	**	**	*
	Qihoo 360	*	*	***	***	*	tested	**	***
	PC Tools	*	*	*	**	***	*	*	**
	McAfee	**		**	*	***	***	**	tested
	AVG	*	**	***	**	*	*	**	*
	Trend Micro	*		**	*	***	***	*	**
Tencent QQ	**	**	***	*		***		**	
Fortinet	**	*	*	tested	*	***	*	**	
GFI Vipre	*	*	**	*	*	**	*	**	
Webroot	*		***	tested	***	tested	***	tested	
Microsoft	*	***				*	***		
AhnLab	tested	tested	**	tested		tested		tested	

Although STANDARD is already a good score, tests in which a STANDARD award (or lower) was reached indicates areas which need further improvement compared to other products. ADVANCED indicates areas which may need some improvement, but are already very competent.

AV-Comparatives' Summary Report, 2012 [ December, 2012, last revised January 5, 2013 ]  
www.av-comparatives.org/images/docs/avc\_sum\_201212\_en.pdf

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## Sources of samples (dated 2008)

AV-Comparatives have various sources from which it obtains samples. Like anti-virus vendors, we also use various **traps** and **honeypots** from all over the world, as well as samples downloaded from **malware downloaders** and **infected websites**. Furthermore, we get samples from the field which were collected by us or our partner companies (e.g. computer repair/cleaning services) on infected PC's belonging to home users and/or small/medium business companies. We also get samples from various **online scanning services** and (single and large) submissions from visitors<sup>2</sup> to our website, as well as **various organizations** that collect malware (internal and public security forums, honeypot projects, anti-malware initiatives, and so on). In order to have a test-set that is statistically valid and as large and representative as possible, AV-Comparatives also accepts samples from (security) **vendors**. Currently, samples submissions from about a dozen vendors are included in our tests and nearly dozen more vendors which are not included in our tests also contribute.

Any vendor is encouraged to send us samples they get from their customers, but no vendor is obliged to. While we are not going to disclose the names of the vendors which submit or do not submit their samples (partly because Non-Disclosure Agreements may apply), we can assure you that submitting samples to AV-Comparatives does not help a vendor to get a better score. As the test-set consists of samples from many various sources and vendors, a single vendor's contributions just make the test set more representative – in fact, there are some vendors who do not submit anything and score very highly, and some other vendors who submit a lot are at the bottom regarding detection rates. The reason for this may be that samples are usually shared between vendors anyway and most of the samples we get are usually already in some other collections, so it is impossible to tell how much is coming from which individual source and so on.

We also prefer not to disclose this information because of the possibility that some vendors may use it to mislead the public for PR reasons (this has happened several times in the past, for example when a vendor was unhappy with some test results or wanted to put pressure on a tester) or focus on specific sources. As we've said, any vendor is welcome to submit us their samples if they wish to. Last-minute submissions (especially "extraordinary" collections) from vendors are not accepted; this source of samples is usually frozen 2-3 weeks before the test starts, in order to avoid possible bias.

AV-Comparatives does not create, modify or repack any malware (for testing purposes or for any other purpose).



Currently (August 2008) the rules for the awards are as follow (as test-sets and methods change, also the award systems need to be updated from time to time):

Test report of February and August (overall detection rate tests):

To get ADVANCED+, over 97% of the whole test-set have to be detected during an on-demand scan with best possible settings.

over 97%	ADVANCED+
93-97%	ADVANCED
87-93%	STANDARD
under 87%	NO AWARD

An updated award system which will also consider the false alarm rate will be introduced and applied in the tests of 2009.

Test report of May and November (retrospective tests):

To get the Advanced+ award, a product must be able to detect at least 50% of new malware proactively and at the same time have only few false alarms.

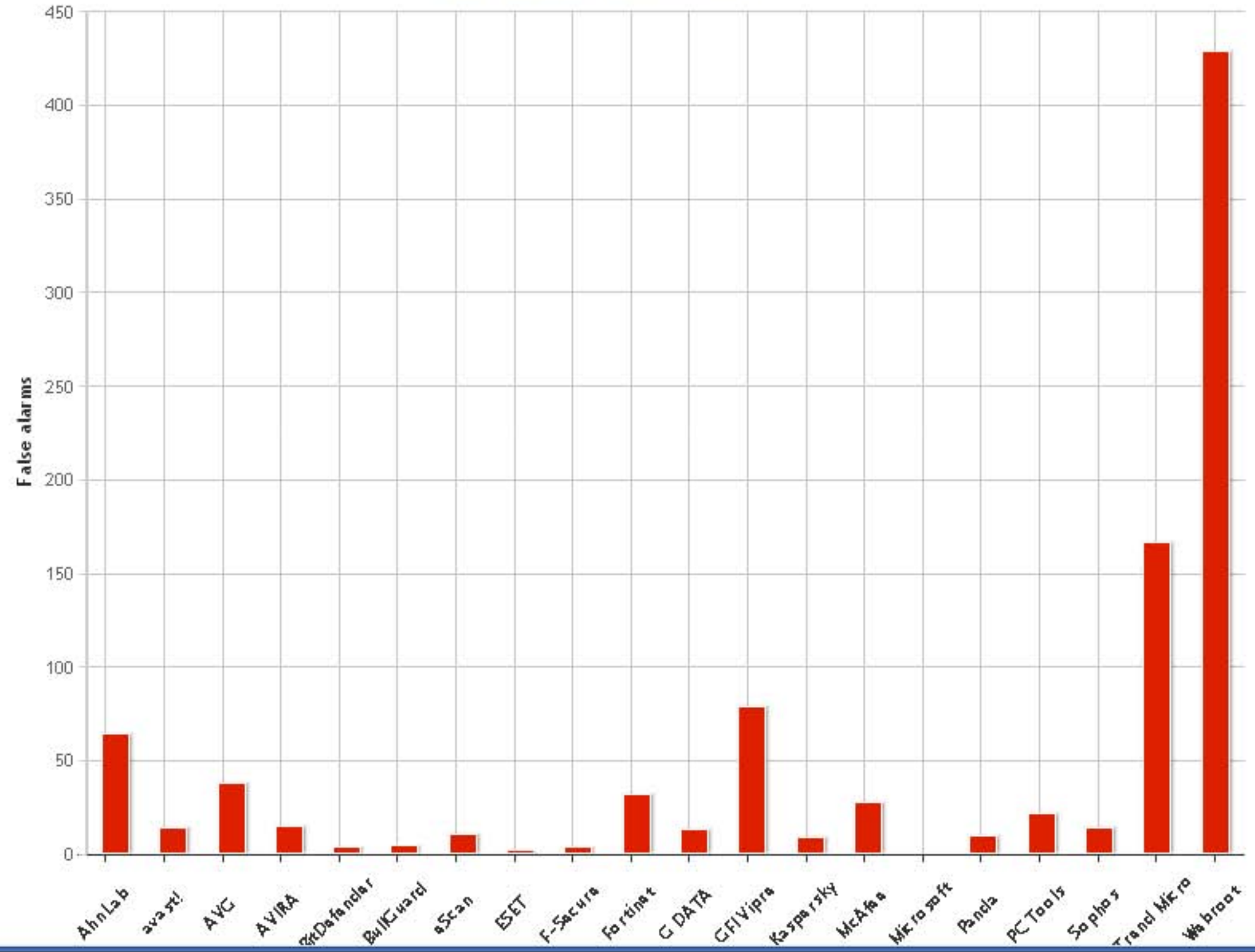
	0-10%	10-25%	25-50%	50-100%
none - few	NO AWARD	STANDARD	ADVANCED	ADVANCED+
many	NO AWARD	NO AWARD	STANDARD	ADVANCED
very many	NO AWARD	NO AWARD	NO AWARD	NO AWARD

\* proactive detection rate vs. amount of false alarms

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.av-comparatives.org/seiten/overview.html>

Test: False Alarm Test Year: 2012 Month: Mar Sort: by vendor Zoom: 40 - 100%

### AV Comparatives False Alarm Test - March 2012 - the most recent test date available



*Other test reports (e.g. performance tests, etc.) may also be awarded.*

False alarms are an important issue and need to be taken into account when looking at detection rates. That's why e.g. in the retrospective tests false alarms lead to lower awards.

Currently (as of August 2008) the labels for the amount of false alarms are given as follows:

none or very few	0 - 3
few	4 - 15
many	16 - 100
very many	101 - 500
crazy many	over 500

At the end of each year, products are allocated an award in a summary test report, where products are nominated in various tested aspects (overall detection rate, proactive detection rate, false alarm rate, scanning speed, etc.<sup>4</sup>). To be designated product of the year, a product needs to get better scores than other products in most of the various tests done during the year. The label "Best product of the year" indicates only that the product was better than other products in most tests provided during the year<sup>5</sup>. More details about the summary awards will be given in the December report.

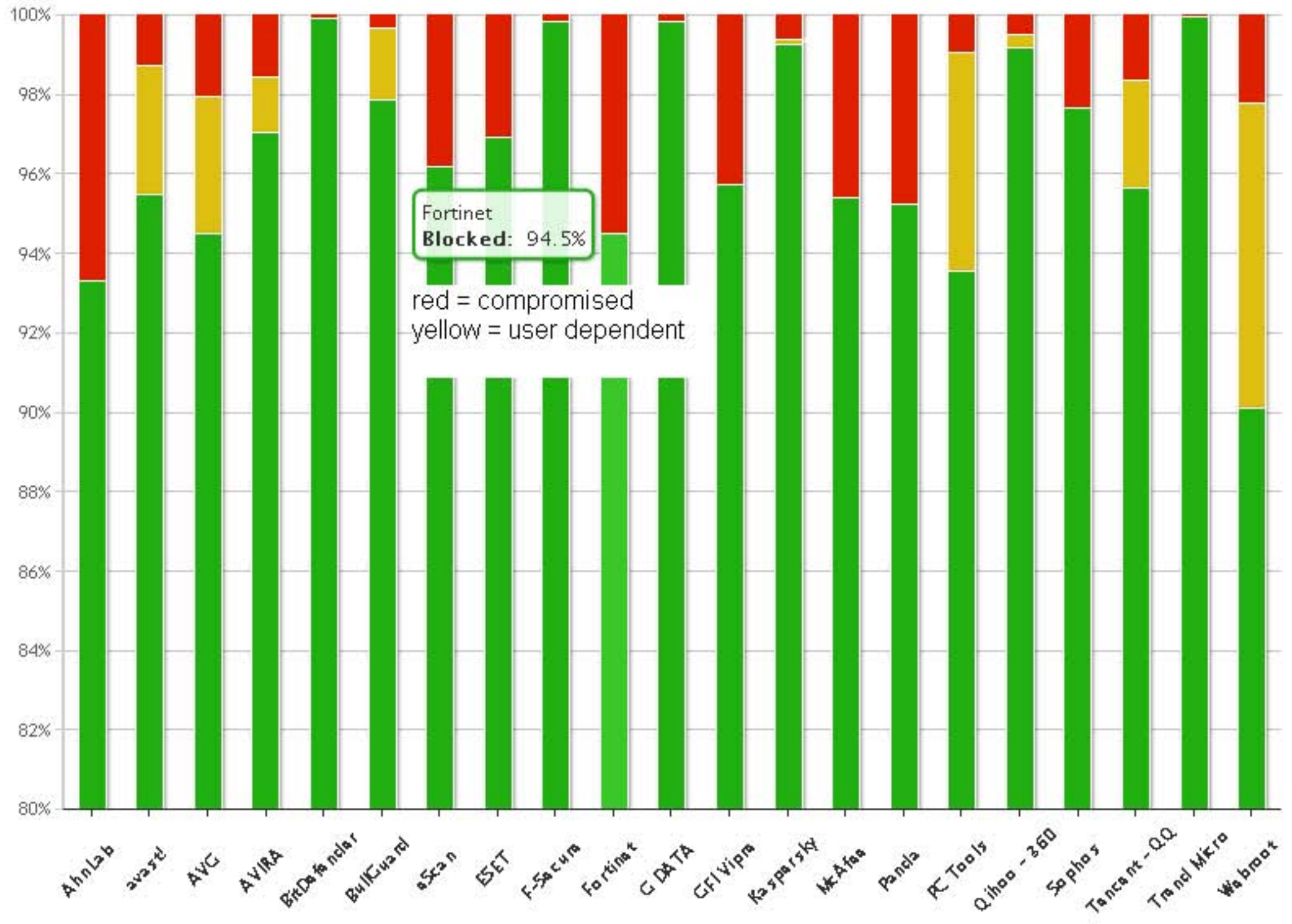
Since this year (2008), vendors of products receiving awards in the summary reports will get a certification plaque to display, for example, in corporate offices.

footnote (4): We plan to add performance tests, dynamic tests and some other tests in the future.

footnote (5) To know which product is best for you, try out the software on your own system. . . We [can only] tell you which products scored better than others in regard to some aspects of the software.

Test: Real-World Protection Test Year: 2012 Month: Dec Sort: by vendor Zoom: 80 - 100%

### AV Comparatives Real-World Protection Test - December 2012

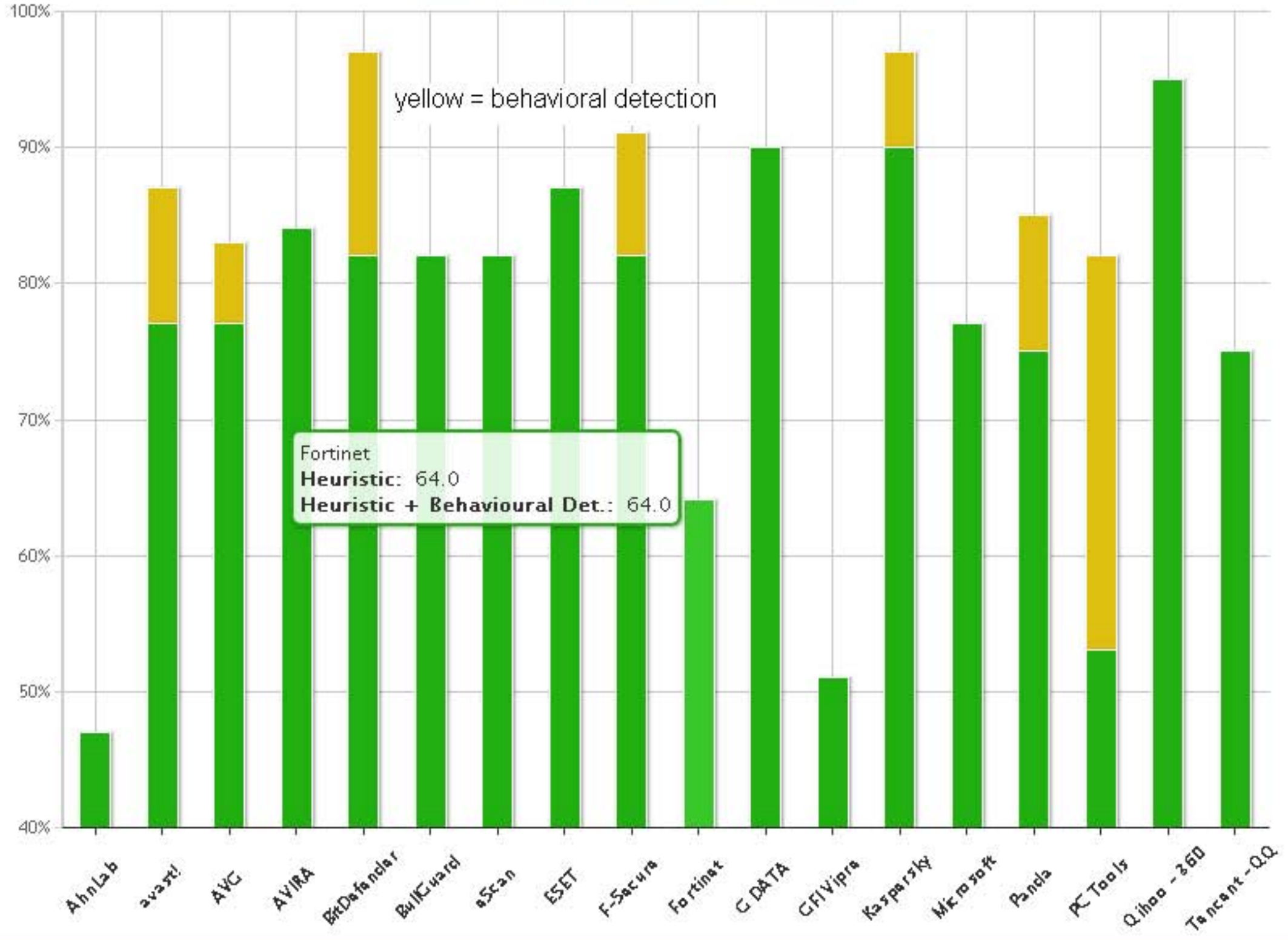


Fortinet  
Blocked: 94.5%

red = compromised  
yellow = user dependent

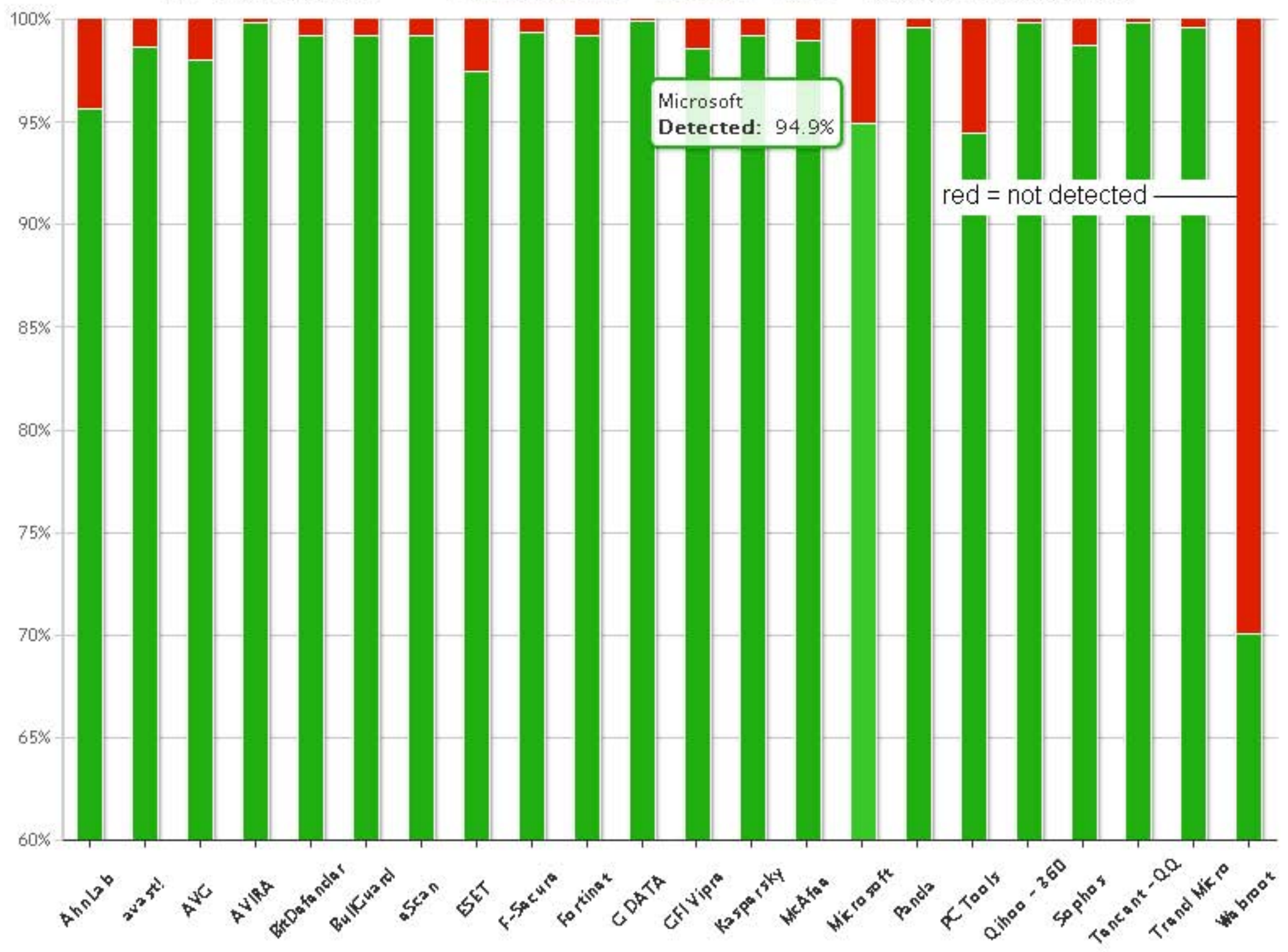
Test: **Heuristic Behavioural Test** Year: **2012** Month: **Jul** Sort: **by vendor** Zoom: **40 - 100%**

### AV Comparatives Heuristic Behavioural Test - July 2012



Test: FileDetection Year: 2012 Month: Oct Sort: by vendor Zoom: 60 - 100%

### AV Comparatives FileDetection - October 2012 - Malware Detection Test



Test: Performance Test Year: 2012 Month: Oct Sort: by vendor Zoom: 0 - 100%

### AV Comparatives Performance Test - October 2012 - Burden on computer system

