

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

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- Anti-Virus for Apple Mac Computers
- (Anti-Virus for Mobile Devices, Apple & Android
in an accompanying slide set. (posted 2/07/2017))

Should you have anti-virus installed on a Mac?

Yes!

- The increasing market share of Apple Macs among all computers means online criminals will be increasingly attracted to attacking Macs.
- Complacency among Mac owners about not needing anti-virus adds to the appeal for hackers to try it.
- There continue to be malware programs that have a valid Apple certificate, in which case the protections built into Mac OS will not stop it.
- Phishing works equally well on any device with an integrated browser, regardless of whether this is Windows, Mac, or other online device. Anti-phishing protection is a feature of many of the Mac antivirus products.
- (Avast, Bitdefender, ESET, Kaspersky, Sophos, and Webroot have anti-phishing – ref. AV-comparatives Functions chart, below)

This year a well-supported recommendation for the best Antivirus Software for Apple Macintosh Computers comes from a test report article by AV-Test.org.

<https://www.av-test.org/en/news/news-single-view/strong-protection-for-macos-sierra-12-packages-put-to-the-test/>

In summary, there are four top-performing Antivirus Software products for Mac OS:

Sentinel One is the top recommendation by AV-Test:

“The security protection for Mac detected all malware without exception, and required almost no additional system resources.”

AVG Antivirus, Bitdefender Antivirus, and Sophos Home are solid runners-up, with Kaspersky and Norton next.

My recommendation is Sophos Home, for reasons on the next slide.

AVG Antivirus and Sophos Home are free to non-commercial users.

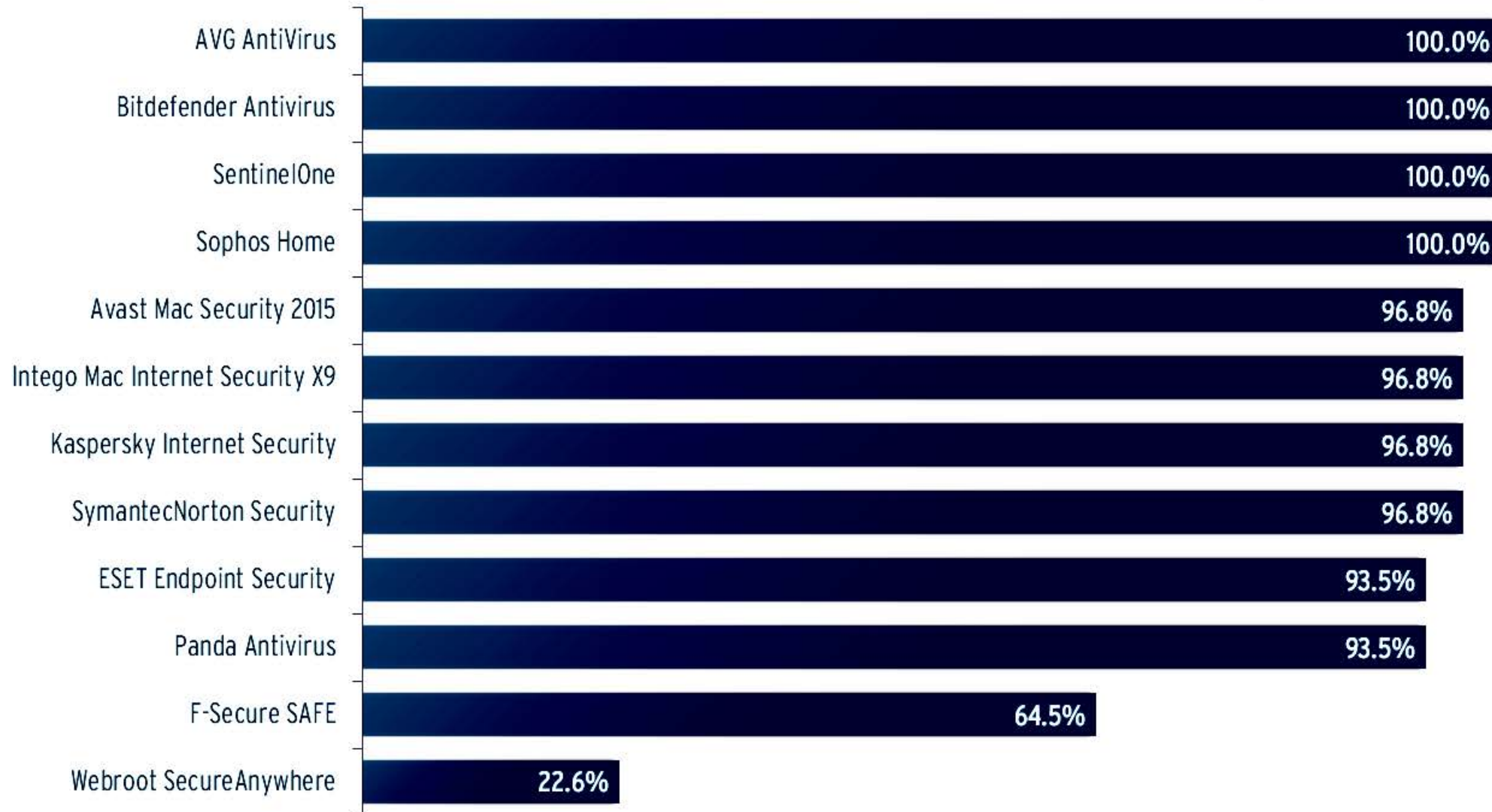
If you prefer a free program, Sophos is the better choice because:

- Malware detection and efficient use of resources is as good as Sentinel and AVG;
- Equals AVG at detection of Windows malware (98%)
- Surpasses AVG in the inclusion of extra features -
 - Anti-phishing and detection of malicious websites
 - Parental controls
 - Blocking of malware from removable media

The slides that follow show some of the comparative test results for these competing products.

Test: 12 security solutions for MacOS Sierra

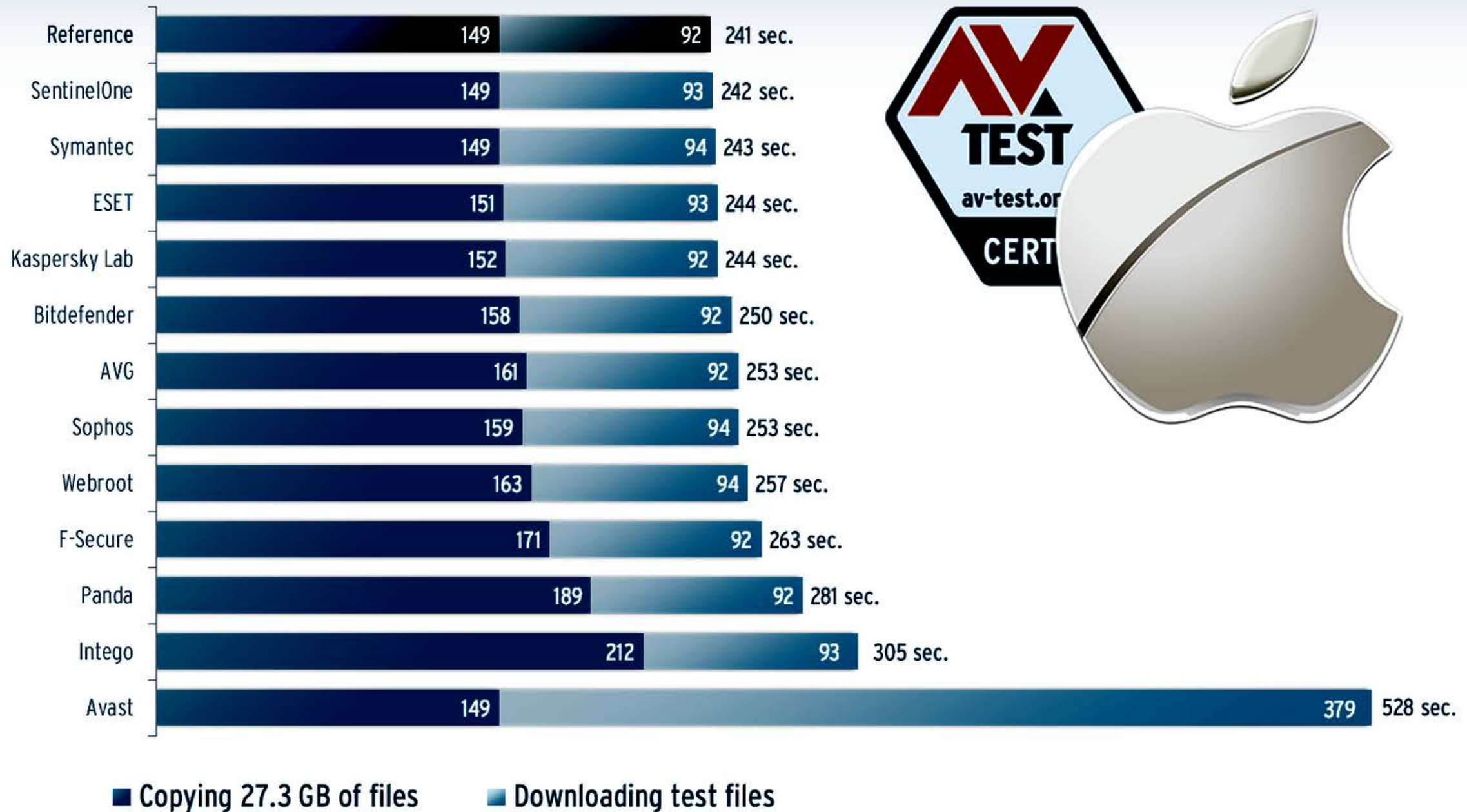
The detection rates



12 security packages for MacOS Sierra

Only minor loss in performance in everyday routines

MACOS SIERRA



This test shows the degree of protection provided against Windows malware being passed through a Mac OS computer to other connected devices – note the scores in the right-hand column:

AV-Comparatives' Apple Macintosh Anti-virus Product Test Score Summary

The table below shows protection results for the products in the review. The figures for Mac malware protection indicate the number of samples blocked at any stage of the testing procedure, i.e. regardless of whether the malware was detected/blocked in one of the on-demand scans, by real-time protection, or on-execution.

July 2016

Product	Mac Malware Protection 50 most-recent Mac samples	Windows Malware Detection ² 250 most-prevalent Windows samples
Avast Free Mac Security	100%	100%
AVG AntiVirus for Mac	100%	97%
Avira Free Antivirus for Mac	100%	100%
Bitdefender Antivirus for Mac	100%	100%
ESET Cyber Security Pro	100%	100%
Intego Mac Premium Bundle X9	100%	28%
Kaspersky Internet Security for Mac	100%	100%
McAfee LiveSafe Internet Security for Mac	100%	94%
Sophos Home for Mac	100%	98%
Webroot SecureAnywhere for Mac	100%	92%

(2) "Detection of Windows threats on Macs can be seen as discretionary. Some products do not include detection for non-Mac threats, or have limited detection capabilities due to technical constraints."

In the previous slide, documenting detection of Windows malware on a Mac, Sentinel One was not tested, nor was Norton (Symantec).

Therefore, if Windows malware hiding in your Mac is a concern, then consider installing Bitdefender or Sophos instead- next best of the runner up programs.

This is a chart of the operating features of the various Anti-virus programs for Mac OS – unfortunately the resolution is too poor to be readable, placed in one of these slides – display it from the website:

https://www.av-comparatives.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/avc_mac_2016_en.pdf

After the .pdf report has downloaded to your display, go to the next to the last page (page 57) for “Product Functions”

Feature/Item (as of July 2016)	FREE	FREE	FREE	COMMERCIAL	COMMERCIAL	COMMERCIAL	COMMERCIAL	COMMERCIAL	FREE	COMMERCIAL
Product name:	Avast Free Mac Security	AVG AntiVirus for Mac	AVIRA Free Antivirus for Mac	BitDefender Antivirus for Mac	ESET Cyber Security Pro	Intego Mac Premium Bundle	Kaspersky Internet Security for Mac	McAfee LiveSafe for Mac	Sophos Anti-Virus for Mac	Webroot SecureAnywhere Internet Security Complete for Mac
Supported OS X versions:	10.6.8 and up	10.8 and up	10.10 and up	10.8.5 and up	10.6 and up	10.8 and up	10.9 and up	10.8 and up	10.8 and up	10.7.3 and up
Supported Program languages:	English, German, Czech, Spanish, Finnish, French, Italian, Dutch, Polish, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Swedish, Norwegian	English	English, German	English, German, French, Italian, Spanish	English, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Hungarian, Chinese, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Slovak, Spanish, Swedish, Thai, Turkish	English, French, German, Japanese, Spanish	English, Chinese, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish	Chinese, Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish	English, French, German, Japanese, Spanish	English, Chinese, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish
Protection										
Real-Time protection	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
On-demand scanner	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Detects also threats for other platforms (e.g. Windows malware)	•	•	•	•	•	limited detection of windows threats	•	•	•	•
Detects also PUA on Mac	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Prevents access to malicious and phishing web sites	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Quarantine	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Whitelisting for specific files/folders	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cloud Scanning (requires internet connection)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Scheduled Update	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Scheduled On Demand Scan	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Statistics	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Additional features										
Parental Control					•	•	•		•	
Mail Protection	•			•		•				•
Firewall					•			•		•
Removable media blocking					•				•	
Other features	Home network security, VPN				Game/Presentation mode		Webcam protection, Private browsing, Network attack protection, Secured browser for online banking	Backup		Backup, System optimizer, Identity protection, Password manager
Support										
Online Help and/or User Forum	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Email and/or Phone Support	•		•	•	•	•	•	•		•
User manual		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Online Chat			•	•		•	•			
Supported languages (of support)	English, German, Chinese, Spanish, French, Italian, Korean, Portuguese	English, Czech	English, German, French, Italian, Dutch, Russian, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Japanese, Malay	English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Romanian, Turkish	All	English, French, Japanese	English, Arabic, Chinese, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish	Chinese, Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish	English, French, German, Spanish, Japanese, Italian, Chinese	All
Price (may vary)										
Price 1 Mac / 1 year (USD/EUR)	FREE	FREE	FREE	USD 40 / 40 EUR	USD 45 / 35 EUR	USD 90 / 75 EUR	USD 40 / 40 EUR	USD 90 / 90 EUR	FREE	USD 60 / 75 EUR

Use the “zoom” feature in your browser to be able to read the entries in this Product Functions chart.

AV-Comparatives' Summary Comments about Apple Mac Anti-Virus Products

Avast Free Mac Security has all the important features of an antivirus program and is largely very simple to use. We particularly liked the informative and persistent malware alerts.

AVG AntiVirus for Mac is a free program with a very clear and straightforward interface, making it suitable for experts and non-experts alike. The help feature is simple but useful.

Avira Free Antivirus for Mac is very simple to install and use, and makes all important functions easy to find. We particularly liked the expandable tool tips in the main program window.

Bitdefender Antivirus for Mac has a new design for the program window, similar to its Windows counterpart, and we had no difficulty finding any important features. There is a well-produced and comprehensive user's manual.

ESET Cyber Security Pro retains its clear, well-designed interface and exemplary help facilities in version 6, making it easy to use for both experts and non-experts.

Intego Mac Premium Bundle X9 has a very clear status display in the new version, showing a warning if protection is disabled. The overlay showing the functions available in the window is a clever means of introducing the program quickly to new users.

Kaspersky Internet Security for Mac has a clear, modern design that makes important features and information easy to find. Users of its Windows counterpart will easily find their way around the program, and help features are good.

McAfee LiveSafe for Mac is very easy to install and use. Important features and information are largely easy to find.

Sophos Home for Mac is an easy-to-use free program, managed by cloud console. The consistency of design between the Mac and Windows versions will be appreciated by anyone who uses or manages both platforms.

Webroot SecureAnywhere Internet Security for Mac The program's interface is easy to navigate and makes important functions easy to find. Anyone who uses or manages both Windows and Mac platforms will find the consistency of design between the two versions helpful.