

Which Anti Virus Program is Right for You?

We have four Anti-Virus Programs on the club's website, and on the club's memory stick: AVG Anti-Virus, Microsoft Security Essentials, Panda Cloud Anti-Virus, Avast Anti-Virus. Note: Only Install one of these AV programs, because Real-Time AV Programs can interact, can bring down your computer with lockups, poor performance and crashes.

A Comparison of AV Real-Time Programs:

Registration Required after install.

Avast requires it and the others do not.

First Up-Date after Install

Avast	2MB
AVG	8MB
MSE	60MB (a large update if you are on dial service)
Panda	0MB (Pandas updates are done on their servers, not on your computer)

Automatic Up-Dates

	<i>Virus Def.</i>	<i>Program</i>
Avast	Yes	No
AVG	Yes	No
MSE	Yes	Yes
Panda	NA	Yes

RAM Memory Usage

	<i>Idle (Min)</i>	<i>Scan (Max)</i>
Avast	7MB	36MB
AVG	17MB	35MB
MSE	37MB	50MB (Runs best on 2GB of RAM)
Panda	7MB	26MB

If you have Vista or Windows 7, Windows Defender is stopped from running as the features are included in MSE. This saves 10MB of RAM.

AV programs use two techniques to detect viruses.

On demand technique:

- Looks for known viruses by reading data in a file and matching it with known virus signature data. AV programs do this on a right click scan, a forced quick or full scan and while you work on the computer opening files, email, and downloading.
- Needs daily updating.

Proactive technique:

- Identifying suspicious behaviour from a program. For example...If one program writes data to another program it is suspicious.
- Good for detecting new viruses.
- Finds false positives sometimes. (Identifies a good program as being a virus.)

Detection Rates for Malware (from sources on the Internet)

	<i>Proactive (Behavior)</i>	<i>On Demand (Signature)</i>
Avast	43%	99%
AVG	34%	98%
MSE	59%	98%
Panda	63%	99%

NOTE: You need to do a full scan once a week because the 99% detection occurs only when scanned by doing a full scan. The results change as the testing viruses change.

Removal of Viruses

Avast	Average
AVG	Average
MSE	Good
Panda	Good

A virus maybe detected but they need to be deleted or quarantined to remove their threat. The results change as the testing viruses change. If the virus is not removed you can write down the location and delete manually or get help to do it. Running CCleaner will remove it if it is in the temporary internet files.

Considerations

Detection rates for on demand scan are 98% to 99%.

Proactive detection rates are 34% to 63%.

These rankings change from test to test depending on the test viruses used.

Of the four AV programs we feature all perform well.

There are some differences to consider...

- If you have a slow PC, try Panda Cloud or Avast as they use only 7MB of RAM.
- If you have a new Windows 7 PC, try MSE.
- If you are on dial the MSE 1st update is 60MB. The next issue of the club memory stick may have the 1st update on it.
- If your Internet is turned off, MSE may ask for Windows validation. After an MSE install check Windows Auto Update. MS may have turned it on.
- Update performance of MSE is good. No ads. No paid version, so no nagging to buy.
- AVG & Avast are about 20 years old. Long-time good AV performance.

Conclusions

- We hope you know the pros and cons of the four AV programs.
- If you are happy with what you have installed no need to change.

-It is very important to do a full scan with your AV program and one other program such as Malware Bytes Antimalware, Adaware or Super Antispyware once a week.
-If you get a virus, even if it is removed, run a full scan with several programs.

Question: I have Bell Anti Virus protection, can I install one of these AV programs?
Not if it is a real time AV program. If you are paying \$6 per month for it then it is a real time AV program. We will find out what a Bell AV program is and report back.

Question: How do these programs differ from malware programs? *These are real time Anti-Virus programs – they are actively looking for viruses while you are working on the computer. The other anti malware programs run when you start them. They are Super Anti spyware, Malware Bytes Antimalware and AdAware. Charlie mentioned that as an experiment, he tried to send out a virus on his G-mail and the AV program wouldn't let him do that. That was an AV program working in Real Time.*

Question: What about attachments? *If you are worried about attachments carrying viruses Janice suggested saving it in a location, then doing a right click and having the attachment scanned for viruses.*

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