

ANTIVIRUS

Antivirus or anti-virus [software](#) is used to prevent, detect, and remove [malware](#), including but not limited to [computer viruses](#), [computer worm](#), [trojan horses](#), [spyware](#) and [adware](#). This page talks about the software used for the prevention and removal of such [threats](#), rather than [computer security](#) implemented by software methods.

A variety of strategies are typically employed. Signature-based detection involves searching for known patterns of data within [executable code](#). However, it is possible for a computer to be infected with new malware for which no signature is yet known. To [counter](#) such so-called [zero-day threats](#), [heuristics](#) can be used. One type of heuristic approach, generic signatures, can identify new viruses or variants of existing viruses by looking for known malicious code, or slight variations of such code, in files. Some antivirus software can also predict what a file will do by running it in a [sandbox](#) and analyzing what it does to see if it performs any malicious actions.

No matter how useful antivirus software can be, it can sometimes have drawbacks. Antivirus software can impair a [computer's performance](#). Inexperienced users may also have trouble understanding the prompts and decisions that antivirus software presents them with. An incorrect decision may lead to a security breach. If the antivirus software employs heuristic detection, success depends on achieving the right balance between [false positives](#) and [false negatives](#). False positives can be as destructive as false negatives[[citation needed](#)]. Finally, antivirus software generally runs at the highly trusted [kernel](#) level of the [operating system](#), creating a potential

Most of the computer viruses written in the early and mid 1980s were limited to self-reproduction and had no specific damage routine built into the code. That changed when more and more programmers became acquainted with virus programming and created viruses that manipulated or even destroyed data on infected computers.

There are competing claims for the innovator of the first antivirus product. Possibly the first publicly documented removal of a computer virus in the wild was performed by [Bernd Fix](#) in 1987.

[Fred Cohen](#), who published one of the first academic papers on computer viruses in 1984, began to develop strategies for antivirus software in 1988 that were picked up and continued by later antivirus software developers.

Also in 1988 a mailing list named VIRUS-L was started on the [BITNET/EARN](#) network where new viruses and the possibilities of detecting and eliminating viruses were discussed. Some members of this mailing list like [John McAfee](#) or [Eugene Kaspersky](#) later founded software companies that developed and sold commercial antivirus software.

Before internet connectivity was widespread, viruses were typically spread by infected floppy disks. Antivirus software came into use, but was updated relatively infrequently. During this time, virus checkers essentially had to check executable files and the boot sectors of floppy disks and hard disks. However, as internet usage became common, viruses began to spread online.

Over the years it has become necessary for antivirus software to check an increasing variety of files, rather than just executables, for several reasons:

- Powerful macros used in word processor applications, such as Microsoft Word, presented a risk. Virus writers could use the macros to write viruses embedded within documents. This meant that computers could now also be at risk from infection by opening documents with hidden attached macros.
- Later email programs, in particular Microsoft's Outlook Express and Outlook, were vulnerable to viruses embedded in the email body itself. A user's computer could be infected by just opening or previewing a message.

As always-on broadband connections became the norm, and more and more viruses were released, it became essential to update virus checkers more and more frequently. Even then, a new zero-day virus could become widespread before antivirus companies released an update to protect against it.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antivirus_software

McAfee VirusScan is an antivirus program created and maintained by McAfee Inc. (formerly known as Network Associates). McAfee markets VirusScan to home and home-office users; McAfee also develops VirusScan Enterprise for use in corporate environments. The product is not available as a standalone package, but is included in the McAfee VirusScan Plus package or as part of McAfee Internet Security Suite. McAfee also produces a similar product for Mac OS X under the name of VirusScan for Mac. Additionally, BSkyB and McAfee have produced a "Sky Broadband" branded version of VirusScan, offered free to Sky Digital customers upon broadband modem installation.



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McAfee_VirusScan

Places were is us the anti virus	The class of anti virus
USA	<i>McAfee</i>
Europe	<i>Avast</i>
South America	<i>AVG</i>
	<i>Computer Shopper</i>

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McAfee <http://home.mcafee.com/advicecenter/>

Avast <http://www.avast.com/free-antivirus-download>

AVG <http://free.avg.com/ww-en/homepage>

Computer Shopper <http://computershopper.com/downloads/security-spyware/trend-micro-32-bit?serve=no&source=Google&kw=antivirus&gclid=CITh8b-tq6kCFUfu7QodAG1kLw>