

# PC Security Options

## **Recommended Free Security Programs for Windows Users**

Microsoft's suite of free protection programs will protect most users. These include Windows Firewall, and Microsoft Security Essentials. (The latter replaces the basic Windows Defender). However if you want more robust protection you might consider some of the better free options like Avast, AVG or paid solutions like ESET NOD.

If you just use the above you should also have in your arsenal Spybot, SuperantiSpyware and MalwareBytes, Spybot is useful in picking up common spyware and cookies problems. The last two are more successful in getting rid of some nasty Trojans like Vundo and Virtumonde and their derivatives. However you generally will not need to run these programs regularly. For day to day use Security Essentials will handle most things. See the Lifehacker article (<http://lifehacker.com/5401453/stop-paying-for-windows-security-microsofts-security-tools-are-good-enough>) on Security Essentials and Windows Firewall

## **Alternatives**

**The best free Antivirus programs** are AVG2012 free and Avast Free Antivirus (Phil likes AVG as do many users. I prefer Avast as it runs easily and updates auto and it hardly slows you down. It's also a firewall). Also, Avira and Comodo are excellent free programs.

In a recent voting poll in Lifehacker, readers voted AVG best, with Security Essentials, second, NOD third, followed by Avast and Avira.

**Malware/Spyware:** Spybot, SuperantiSpyware and MalwareBytes. The last two are excellent for nasty things like Vundo/Virtumonde trojans. Only use when required.

**Free firewalls** Zone Alarm free is good and also Comodo's firewall. Avast also has a firewall built in. Microsoft's included fire wall is probably good enough for most users.

## **Microsoft Security Essentials (MSE)**

It's free but only works on legally licensed Microsoft computers. It's effectively an antivirus and an anti-malware/spyware program. It runs on Windows XP, Vista and Windows 7. There is an XP version, a Vista/Windows 7 32 bit version and a Vista/Windows 7 64 bit version. It will either disable or uninstall Windows Defender

<http://www.cnet.com.au/microsoft-security-essentials-339298827.htm>

[http://www.microsoft.com/security\\_essentials/default.aspx?mkt=en-au](http://www.microsoft.com/security_essentials/default.aspx?mkt=en-au)

## **[Download Microsoft Security Essentials](#)**

[http://www.microsoft.com/security\\_essentials/?mkt=en-us](http://www.microsoft.com/security_essentials/?mkt=en-us)

Microsoft Security Essentials provides real-time protection for your home PC that guards against viruses, spyware, and other malicious software.

Microsoft Security Essentials is a free download from Microsoft that is simple to install, easy to use, and always kept up to date so you can be assured your PC is protected by the latest technology. It's easy to tell if your PC is secure - when you're green, you're good. It's that simple.

Microsoft Security Essentials runs quietly and efficiently in the background so that you are free to use your Windows-based PC the way you want - without interruptions or long computer wait times.

With Vista/Windows 7 you already should have Windows Firewall and Windows Defender (spyware/popups) and the Malicious Software Removal Tool. Security Essential above is an antivirus/antimalware program.

**Windows Defender** This is Microsoft's original antivirus program. It will be uninstalled if you use MSE (<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/products/winfamily/defender/software.msp>)

**Malicious Software Removal Tool. (MSRT)** (<http://www.microsoft.com/security/pc-security/malware-removal.aspx>) This is still installed with Vista and Windows 7 and updated monthly. It will run with MSE fine.

**Windows Firewall.** This is Microsoft's built in Firewall and will work well in conjunction with MSE and the MSRT

## ***Free AntiVirus***

### **Avast! Free Antivirus 6**

[http://www.filehippo.com/download\\_avast\\_antivirus/](http://www.filehippo.com/download_avast_antivirus/)

Avast! Free Antivirus represents the best free antivirus protection currently available on the market. This edition is FREE OF CHARGE for non-commercial & home use. Its features include:

- Anti-spyware built-in
- Anti-rootkit built-in
- Automatic updates
- Virus Chest
- Integrated Virus Cleaner
- Resident protection

### **AVG Free Edition 2012**

[http://www.filehippo.com/download\\_avg\\_antivirus/](http://www.filehippo.com/download_avg_antivirus/)

AVG Anti-Virus Free Edition is trusted antivirus and antispyware protection for Windows available to download for free. In addition, the new included LinkScanner® Active Surf-Shield checks web pages for threats at the only time that matters - when you're about to click that link.

AVG Anti-Virus Free has these following features:

- Real-time safe internet surfing and searching
- Protection against viruses and spyware
- Compatible with Windows 7, Windows Vista and Windows XP

### **Avira AntiVir Personal 10**

[http://www.filehippo.com/download\\_antivir/](http://www.filehippo.com/download_antivir/)

Avira AntiVir Personal - FREE Antivirus is a reliable free antivirus solution, that constantly and rapidly scans your computer for malicious programs such as viruses, Trojans, backdoor programs, hoaxes, worms, dialers etc. Monitors every action executed by the user or the operating system and reacts promptly when a malicious program is detected.

- The resident Virus Guard serves to monitor file movements automatically, e.g. downloading of data from the internet
- Scanning and repair of macro viruses
- Protection against trojans, worms, backdoors, jokes and other harmful programs
- AntiVir protection against viruses, worms and Trojans
- AntiRootkit protection against hidden rootkits
- AntiPhishing protection against phishing
- AntiSpyware protection against spyware and adware

## ***Paid AntiVirus***

One of the best is ESET NOD32

### **NOD32 AntiVirus 4.2.**

[http://www.filehippo.com/download\\_nod32/](http://www.filehippo.com/download_nod32/)

ESET NOD32 Antivirus is the most effective protection you can find to combat today's huge volumes of Internet and email threats. It provides comprehensive antivirus and antispyware protection without affecting your computer's performance.

Using advanced Threat Sense technology, ESET NOD32 Antivirus proactively protects you from new attacks, even during the critical first hours when other vendors' products aren't aware the attack even exists. ESET NOD32 Antivirus detects and disables both known and unknown viruses, trojans, worms, adware, spyware, rootkits and other Internet threats.

ESET NOD32 Antivirus is also one of the fastest antivirus solutions, so fast you won't even notice it running. And it's both incredibly easy to use yet simple to tailor for your specific needs.

#### **Key Benefits:**

- Protection from the Unknown
- Finds Malware Other AV Companies Missed
- Built for Speed
- Easy on Your System

## ***Free Spyware Removers***

### **Spybot Search & Destroy 2.0**

[http://www.filehippo.com/download\\_spybot\\_search\\_destroy/](http://www.filehippo.com/download_spybot_search_destroy/)

Spybot - Search & Destroy detects and removes spyware, a relatively new kind of threat not yet covered by common anti-virus applications. Spyware silently tracks your surfing behaviour to create a marketing profile for you that is transmitted without your knowledge to the compilers and sold to advertising companies.

### **Ad-Aware 9**

[http://www.filehippo.com/download\\_ad-aware/](http://www.filehippo.com/download_ad-aware/)

Ad-Aware gives you comprehensive malware protection. With real-time monitoring, threat alerts, and automatic updates you can rest easy knowing that you are protected.

- **Shop, bank, and make travel arrangements online** - We keep you safe from password stealers, keyloggers, spyware, trojans, online fraudsters, identity thieves and other potential cyber criminals.
- **Control your privacy** - Erase tracks left behind while surfing the Web - on browsers such as Internet Explorer, Opera, and Firefox - in one easy click.

### **SuperAntiSpyware 5**

[http://www.filehippo.com/download\\_superantispyware/](http://www.filehippo.com/download_superantispyware/)

SUPERAntiSpyware Professional features advanced Real-Time Protection to ensure protection from installation or re-installation of potential threats as you surf the Internet.

## **Advanced Detection and Removal**

- Detect and Remove Spyware, Adware, Malware, Trojans, Dialers, Worms, KeyLoggers, HiJackers, Parasites, Rootkits, Rogue Security Products and many other types of threats.
- Light on System Resources and won't slow down your computer like many other anti-spyware products. Won't conflict with your existing anti-spyware or anti-virus solution!

### **Real-Time Protection**

- Real-Time Blocking of threats! Prevent potentially harmful software from installing or re-installing!

### **Malwarebytes Anti-Malware 1.5**

[http://www.filehippo.com/download\\_malwarebytes\\_anti\\_malware/](http://www.filehippo.com/download_malwarebytes_anti_malware/)

Malwarebytes' Anti-Malware can detect and remove malware that even the most well known anti-virus and anti-malware applications fail to detect. Malwarebytes' Anti-Malware monitors every process and stops malicious processes before they even start.

Key Features:

- Ignore list for both the scanner and Protection Module.
- Works together with other anti-malware utilities.

***Free Firewall Programs (you don't need these if you use MSE or Avast)***

### **ZoneAlarm Free 9.2**

[http://www.filehippo.com/download\\_zonealarm\\_free/](http://www.filehippo.com/download_zonealarm_free/)

ZoneAlarm Free Firewall blocks hackers from infiltrating your home PC by hiding your computer from unsolicited network traffic. By detecting and preventing intrusions, ZoneAlarm Free Firewall keeps your PC free from viruses that slow down performance, and spyware that steals your personal information, passwords, and financial data.

- Essential firewall protection

### **Comodo Internet Security 5.5**

[http://www.filehippo.com/download\\_comodo/](http://www.filehippo.com/download_comodo/)

Comodo claim that their firewall is unique in that it passes all known leak tests to ensure the integrity of data entering and exiting your system. Comodo has put firewall through all kinds of sophisticated tests to ensure its firewall powerful enough to ward off these attacks with default settings. It also offers an antivirus option which you can optionally instal

- Secures against internal and external attacks
- Blocks internet access to malicious Trojan programs

### **Online Armor Free Firewall 5.0**

<http://www.online-armor.com/products-online-armor-free.php>

[Online Armor](#) is a powerful personal firewall, with HIPS and a host of other security features to keep your PC clear of infections and running smoothly. Online Armor Firewall is designed to be easy to use for beginners and offers powerful performance. Online Armor now provides 64 bit protection.

## ***Special Protection Programs***

### **PeerBlock 1.1**

[http://www.filehippo.com/download\\_peerblock/](http://www.filehippo.com/download_peerblock/)

PeerBlock lets you control who your computer "talks to" on the Internet. By selecting appropriate lists of "known bad" computers, you can block communication with advertising or spyware oriented servers, computers monitoring your p2p activities, computers which have been "hacked", even entire countries! Its Free

They can't get in to your computer, and your computer won't try to send them anything either.

PeerBlock is a continuation of PeerGuardian.

### **AxCrypt 1.7**

[http://www.filehippo.com/download\\_axcrypt/](http://www.filehippo.com/download_axcrypt/)

AxCrypt is used to share and work with stored documents, and e-mail attachments, in a secure manner.

If your documents reside on a document sharing service, intranet or file server AxCrypt is especially well suited and will usually seamlessly integrate, and make sharing and storing sensitive data as easy as not protecting it.

If you use a Key-File on a diskette or USB thumb drive, your files will be encrypted to the highest level of protection as long the Key-File is kept secret.

## ***Excellent Software and Security Sites***

<http://www.filehippo.com/>

<http://www.cnet.com.au/downloads/>

[Microsoft's Security page](#)