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## **Which Anti-Virus Program Is Best For You?**

In order for your employees to operate at their highest capacity they must have a fast and reliable workstation. One way that a workstation can slow down and become unreliable is being infected by a virus. Viruses can range from being very destructive to just annoying by displaying a multitude of “pop-ups”. Either way your computer performance will suffer and your employees will become less efficient in their work because they will find themselves waiting on their workstation.

One way to protect your company and employees from contracting a virus is to have anti-virus protection software. These programs use real-time scanning to detect if a file that an employee is trying to download contains a virus. If the file contains a virus a message will alert the employee notifying them that they are about to download a virus. If a virus does get installed on a machine then you will want to use the hard drive scanning feature. This feature will scan every file on a hard drive and notify the employee if a virus has been found and the program will recommend a course of action.

In short it is critical for your data to be protected and your employees time is used to the best of their ability. The best way to protect your business from malicious programs is the use of an anti-virus utility. Below is a list of the top three anti-virus utilities on the market, along with the price and features. EDSD is happy to further explain or help in the purchase of any anti-virus software.

## Here is what they had to say of the three main Anti-Virus Suites



### PCMAG.com Reviews:

#### Trend Micro PC-cillin 2006<sup>1</sup>

##### EDITOR RATING



##### BOTTOM LINE

PC-cillin's antivirus is excellent and its privacy/fraud protection elements do their job well, but problems with the firewall, spyware, and antispam modules prevent us from recommending this suite.

##### PROS

Powerful, simple antivirus. Content protection blocks access to dangerous sites; option to block inappropriate sites. Flexible privacy protection limits transmission of private data.

##### CONS

Firewall fails to stealth significant ports. Firewall program control is difficult to manage. Failed to remove many spyware samples. Deleting spyware is awkward. No log of spyware traces

#### Norton Internet Security 2006<sup>2</sup>

##### EDITOR RATING



##### BOTTOM LINE

A powerful antivirus and tough firewall are just the start of this package's many features. But this heaping load of features does come at a price—it's slow to install and scan, and it's occasionally unresponsive.

##### PROS

Norton Protection Center monitors status. Firewall blocks hackers and leak tests, resists direct attack, handles multiple networks. Parental Control can link to Windows accounts or not. Blocked installation of all test spyware; removed most test spyware.

##### CONS

Installation and scan are slow; product unresponsive at times. Problems installing on infested systems. May require manual spyware removal. Antispam accuracy has declined. Parental Control can erroneously lock out all users

#### McAfee VirusScan 2006<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,1759,1891748,00.asp?kc=PCRSS02129TX1K0000530>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,1759,1883042,00.asp?kc=PCRSS02129TX1K0000530>

#### EDITOR RATING



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#### BOTTOM LINE

VirusScan 2006's antivirus protection goes beyond simple signature-based scanning, and it also offers excellent protection against spyware. Its repetitive notifications can be annoying on an infested system, but after the initial cleanup, the program handily keeps out new spyware.

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#### PROS

Easy-to-use virus and spyware protection. WormStopper blocks suspicious mail behavior; ScriptStopper blocks suspicious scripts.

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#### CONS

No anti-hijack or behavioral spyware blocking. Annoying repetitive warnings on spyware-infested system, even during scan. No log of removed threats.



## Cnet.com Reviews:

### Norton Internet Security 2006<sup>4</sup>



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#### BOTTOM LINE

Norton AntiVirus 2006 improves its detection and removal of spyware and adware but lags behind the more proactive McAfee VirusScan 2006.

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#### PROS

Norton AntiVirus 2006 offers improved detection and removal of spyware and adware.

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#### CONS

New Norton Protection Center introduces more clutter than useful features; Norton AntiVirus 2006 waits until spyware installs before catching and removing it.

### McAfee VirusScan 2006<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,1759,1845898,00.asp>

<sup>4</sup> [http://reviews.cnet.com/Norton\\_AntiVirus\\_2006/4505-3681\\_7-31473733.html](http://reviews.cnet.com/Norton_AntiVirus_2006/4505-3681_7-31473733.html)

<sup>5</sup> [http://reviews.cnet.com/McAfee\\_VirusScan\\_2006/4505-3681\\_7-31473526.html?tag=fr](http://reviews.cnet.com/McAfee_VirusScan_2006/4505-3681_7-31473526.html?tag=fr)



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**BOTTOM LINE**

With VirusScan 2006, McAfee greatly enhances user protection against spyware and adware threats but slows your system down in the process.

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**PROS**

McAfee VirusScan 2006 provides aggressive scanning to catch spyware before it installs; improved subscription model entitles you to feature upgrades through the life of your subscription.

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**CONS**

McAfee VirusScan 2006's user interface overemphasizes the company's other products; provides relatively slow full system scans.

## Trend Micro PC-cillin 2005<sup>6</sup>



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**BOTTOM LINE**

PC-cillin Internet Security 2005 delivers speedy virus scanning and a host of other Internet protection tools--all for the price of most antivirus-only programs alone.

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**PROS**

Speedy scanning; includes a full-fledged firewall as well as spyware- and spam-blocking tools; free phone support.

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**CONS**

No automated scan after installation.

## Computer Associates eTrust EZ Antivirus 2005<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> [http://reviews.cnet.com/Trend\\_Micro\\_PcCillin\\_Internet\\_Security\\_2005/4505-3667\\_7-31162897.html](http://reviews.cnet.com/Trend_Micro_PcCillin_Internet_Security_2005/4505-3667_7-31162897.html)

<sup>7</sup> [http://reviews.cnet.com/eTrust\\_EZ\\_Antivirus\\_2005\\_6\\_2/4505-3681\\_7-30990989.html?tag=pdtl-list](http://reviews.cnet.com/eTrust_EZ_Antivirus_2005_6_2/4505-3681_7-30990989.html?tag=pdtl-list)



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#### **BOTTOM LINE**

EZ Antivirus 2005 isn't the most feature-packed virus scanner on the market, but it's certainly one of the fastest. Home and small-business users looking for speed should give it a try, but current users need not upgrade.

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#### **PROS**

Speedy scanning; creates minimal drag on system performance; scans inbound e-mail; support provides fast, free response to e-mail queries.

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#### **CONS**

Firewall and spyware detection not included; bare-bones interface; doesn't scan outbound e-mail; not much new for upgraders.

## **Other Anti-Virus Programs**

For the cost conscious users there are free anti-virus programs that will offer a certain level of protection. Since these programs are free, the backing company doesn't have the resources the other companies have, as their budget is much smaller. This could cause a delay in virus definitions being sent out to client computers, potentiality allowing the user to become infected where as a user utilizing a fee based subscription service may not have been. These programs also do not come with anti-spyware, personal firewall and many other features that come standard with the Internet Suites listed above. With that being said the top two free anti-virus programs are listed below.

- Antivir (<http://www.antivir.de/en/>)
- CalmWin (<http://www.clamwin.com/index.php>)