

it

Channel Leadership/Trusted Advisor Series

security

CONSULTANT BRIEFS

Focus On: **Antivirus Software**

Who's got the best Antivirus Software?

Antivirus software has done an impressive job of taming much of the malware that threatens any organization linked to that wild, unbounded network called the Internet.

It's tempting to relax a little, to get complacent. But you do so at your peril, for the nature of malware is changing and new kinds of risks are proliferating fast:

- Computer crime is going professional and getting organized.
- The effectiveness of antivirus solutions that only defend against the 'signatures' of already-known threats is limited.
- IT networks are becoming ever more complex, making their defense that much more challenging.

To counter today's ever-evolving threats, you need a constant stream of effective new countermeasures—this means the industry's most advanced heuristics, not just signature updates for the detection of already-known malware. And you need to know that sometimes the best-known brands in antivirus software don't deliver the best protection.

Fortunately, several independent testers of antivirus software regularly publish their findings,

making it easy for you to pick the product that meets your needs and the needs of your customers:

Virusbulletin.com focuses on virus detection rates and scanning speed. Tests also look at how each product fares when scanning a set of files that are known to be clean. Virusbulletin.com's VB100 Awards—and the right to display the VB100 logo—indicates that an antivirus product has detected all in-the-wild viruses during both on-demand and on-access scanning and has generated no false positives when scanning a set of clean files. ESET's NOD32 antivirus solution has won 47 VB Awards, more than any other antivirus solution provider.

AV-Comparatives.org conducts both single-product tests and a variety of comparative tests. Its 2007 Summary Report (at <http://www.av-comparatives.org/seiten/ergebnisse/summary2007.pdf>) compares and ranks 16 antivirus products. The overall winner in both 2006 and 2007—ESET's NOD32—garnered the top ranking of "Best Antivirus Product" because of its high detection rates, very few false positives, fast performance with low system impact, not causing crashes or hangs, and lack of annoying bugs.

Virustotal.com will run any file you submit through more than 30 antivirus engines, which means that every file it scans also functions as a comparative test of all those engines. ▼



Antivirus solution checklist

Top 10 considerations:

- ✓ The solution includes a heuristic scanning engine providing proactive protection that significantly increases detection rates.
- ✓ Detection rates and scanning speed, as reported by reliable third-party testers, compare favorably with competitive solutions.
- ✓ Support is available for multiple platforms (e.g., BSD, Exchange, Domino, Linux, NetWare, Windows) as well as for Microsoft Outlook, Microsoft Outlook Express, and Microsoft Mail.
- ✓ Customer support is available 24x7.
- ✓ The solution offers a 'zero-desktop' central management option.
- ✓ The solution's enterprise version is truly scalable and able to support even the largest enterprises.
- ✓ Different products from the same solution provider can be supported by the provider's enterprise server solution.
- ✓ The solution's memory requirements and overall use of host system resources (including CPU cycles) are modest.
- ✓ The solution fares well against competitors.
- ✓ The solution provider is committed to innovating new and effective solutions so as to address evolving malware threats.

Sponsored By:

