



## Antivirus programs

A few years ago Avast and AVG were free and favoured antivirus programs. They were separate companies but they are now identical and part of the Norton group, renamed Gen Digital. They do have free versions but there are forever hassling people to upgrade and update. They are expensive. Look at the poor ratings. Cost in USA \$

## Avast vs. AVG at a Glance

Let's compare some basic pricing and features between Avast and AVG in a handy-dandy table before we look at them in more detail below:

		
<b>Lowest Annual Price*</b>	\$69.99 per year for the first year; \$99.99 per year for subsequent years	\$59.88 per year for the first year; \$99.99 per year for subsequent years
<b>Supported Operating Systems</b>	Windows, MacOS, and Android***	Windows, MacOS, and Android***
<b>Maximum Number of Devices Supported</b>	10	10
<b>Firewall</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Malware Detection Rates**</b>	100%	100%

*\*While Avast and AVG both have free versions, those are not being considered for this review. Instead, I am looking at Avast Premium Security, AVG Internet Security, and any higher-priced subscription tiers.*

## Avast Overview

Overall Rating: 2.5/5

- **Pricing:** 2/5
- **Core Features:** 5/5
- **Advanced Features & Integrations:** 3/5
- **Customer Support:** 2/5
- **Impact on Device Performance:** 4/5
- **Trustworthiness:** 0/5

## AVG Overview

Overall Rating: 2.5/5

- **Pricing:** 2/5
- **Core Features:** 5/5
- **Advanced Features & Integrations:** 3/5
- **Customer Support:** 2/5
- **Impact on Device Performance:** 4/5
- **Trustworthiness:** 0/5

These two have the same overall score because neither does anything that the other isn't also doing and have zero trustworthiness.

Two other big players are Norton and McAfee. They too have chequered history.

**Norton Antivirus** runs on Microsoft Windows, Linux, and MacOS. The protection is classed as good. The primary drawback of Norton is that it consumes a lot of energy because its processes need a lot of RAM to function effectively. It has way too many notifications, and misses the most recent security threats from its list of threats. Norton infiltrates everything, the Operating System, the file system, the web browser(s) and as a result everything runs slowly. Obtaining and managing the license is not simple, the user needs to be aware that if they lose this, and need to re-install the AV then the challenges are large. The biggest problem is that to completely uninstall any Norton Product you need to use a (hidden) tool from their website. (I have this tool)

Norton Subscriptions	Device Count	Storage Size	Annual Subscription <sup>1</sup>	Annual Add-on Subscription <sup>2</sup>
Home Title Protect	1		\$99.99	\$49.99
LifeLock Identity Advisor	1		\$49.99	
Norton 360 Deluxe	5	50GB	\$119.99	

**McAfee Antivirus.** Started by John McAfee who later had trouble with the law. In January 2019, McAfee announced that he was on the run from U.S. authorities. He was arrested by many countries and lived a life of litigation. On 23 June 2021, McAfee was found dead in his prison cell, hours after the Spanish National Court ordered his extradition to the United States on criminal charges.

McAfee antivirus has a slightly less status as Norton in detecting Viruses

Free Trial Terms: At the end of your trial period you will be charged \$39.99 for the first term. After the first term, you will be automatically renewed at the renewal price (currently \$109.99 per year). Again it takes a lot of resources and infiltrates your system. It takes a special removal tool to remove it. (I have this tool)

There are several antivirus programs- too many to discuss. Popular ones are Bitdefender; Kaspersky; Avira; ESET Nod 32- good reports; Emsisoft NZ (\$71.64 a year) which is highly recommended by CloudEight.

### However

For the ordinary Windows user why not use the free and built in Windows Defender already on your computer. I do! It runs in the background. Yes, Windows defender can remove viruses and malware from your computer. When it detects a threat during a scan or real-time protection, it will remove or quarantine the malicious files automatically. If you suspect an infection, you can perform a manual scan to let Windows defender clean your system.

Native software like Windows Defender is already on Windows devices by default and cannot be uninstalled. However, it turns off automatically if another antivirus is loaded.

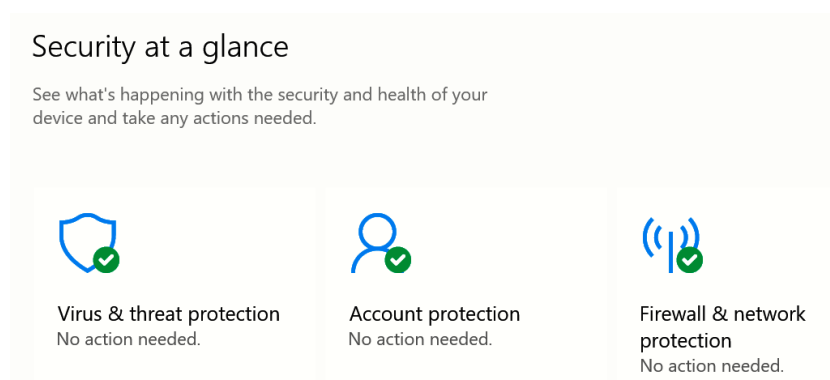
### **Warning**

It is not advised to run two antivirus programs at the same time since they can flag each other as malware or cause system performance issues. You end up with slower performance and duplicated effort at the very best. Usually you wind up with deadlocks, crashes, hang-ups, race conditions, (A race condition is an undesirable situation that occurs when a device or system attempts to perform two or more operations at the same time, but because of the nature of the device or system, the operations must be done in the proper sequence to be done correctly), and other undefined scenarios such as Computer freezing—sometimes referred to as a hang or stall—is when a computer becomes unresponsive. Because of some sort of issue, the computer system can no longer respond to inputs, which results in the machine not functioning normally. You will not be supported by either antivirus vendor.

### **Where is Windows defender? Switching Windows defender on**

Windows Defender is on by default in a new computer. If you have another antivirus program it will switch off. If you remove the alternative program check Windows Defender is switched on. This is where it is on your computer;'

Settings---Update and Security---Windows Security--- Open windows Security



Cheers

Norris