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Mac Antivirus Software Review

Mac Antivirus Software Review

Rank

- 1 Intego VirusBarrier
- 2 Norton AntiVirus for Mac
- 3 BitDefender Antivirus for Mac

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Mac Antivirus Software Review

Malware Monitoring for Macs

Mac OS X isn't nearly as susceptible to viruses as Windows, but it isn't immune. All it takes is one virus to compromise a whole system, so if you're going to get antivirus software for Mac, make sure you get the best.

[Do I Need Mac Antivirus Software?](#)

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2011 Best Mac Antivirus Software Comparisons and Reviews

Rank	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8
	Intego VirusBarrier	Norton AntiVirus for Mac	BitDefender Antivirus for Mac	Kaspersky AntiVirus for Mac	McAfee VirusScan for Mac	avast! Mac Edition	ProtectMac AntiVirus	PC Tools iAntiVirus
Reviewer Comments	READ REVIEW	READ REVIEW	READ REVIEW	READ REVIEW	READ REVIEW	READ REVIEW	READ REVIEW	READ REVIEW
Lowest Price	BUY \$59.95	BUY \$49.99	BUY \$39.95	BUY \$39.95	BUY \$109.65	BUY \$39.95	BUY \$44.99	BUY \$29.99
Overall Rating	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★
Ratings								
Scope of Protection	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★
Effectiveness	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★
Features	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★
Ease of Use	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★
Help & Support	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★
View Specifications	Go!	Go!	Go!	Go!	Go!	Go!	Go!	Go!
View Screenshots								
Threat Detection								
Viruses	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Worms	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Trojan Horses	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spyware	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Malware	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rootkits	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Additional Protection								
Detect Windows Viruses	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Email	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Web Antivirus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Anti-Phishing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Identity Theft Protection	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Network Monitoring	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Anti-Spam	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Protection Technology								
Virus Signatures	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Realtime Background Scanning	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Quarantine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Heuristics	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Firewall	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scanning Capabilities								
Quick Scan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Full Scan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Custom Scan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scan Individual Files	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scan USB and External Media	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scan Archives	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Set Exclusions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Skip Files During Scan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pause/Resume Scan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Optimized Scanning	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Features								
Alerts / Notifications	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scheduler	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
History Logging	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Auto Scan USB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Set Action for Infections	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Password Protected	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Adjustable Security Levels	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Security Widget	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Status Menu Icon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dock Icon Controls	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Updates								
Automatic Updates	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Manual Updates	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Update with Proxy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rollback Update	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Help & Support								
Knowledgebase / FAQs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
User Manual	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Email / Support Ticket	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Phone	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Live Chat	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Forum	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Supported Mac Operating Systems								
Mac OS X Snow Leopard (10.6)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mac OS X Leopard (10.5)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mac OS X Tiger (10.4)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Supported Mac Processors								
Intel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PowerPC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dual Protection for Mac + PC								
Dual Protection Product Available	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reviewer Comments	READ REVIEW	READ REVIEW	READ REVIEW	READ REVIEW	READ REVIEW	READ REVIEW	READ REVIEW	READ REVIEW
Lowest Price	BUY \$59.95	BUY \$49.99	BUY \$39.95	BUY \$39.95	BUY \$109.65	BUY \$39.95	BUY \$44.99	BUY \$29.99

Do I Need Mac Antivirus Software?

Unlike traditional antivirus software for Windows, Mac antivirus software isn't essential. With only a few known viruses or other malware that currently pose any danger for Apple computers, most choose to go without. Still, there are some very compelling reasons for investing in Mac antivirus software.

The most convincing reason to install Mac security software on your Apple computer isn't even to protect yourself, but for the sake of Windows users. While PC-based malware won't infect Macs, they can still be stored and passed on. This is the main reason most businesses use Mac antivirus; to protect viruses spreading through the network. Even being immune (to some extent), Mac users often use antivirus software to avoid spreading anything to their family, friends and coworkers. The best Mac security antivirus software also includes protection for Windows.

Another reason you might consider an antivirus program for your Mac is if you run Windows on your Mac. Several Mac users access Windows with dual-boot or virtualization methods. If you utilize Boot Camp, Parallels Desktop or other software to run Windows on a Mac, there are specific security software bundles that include protection for both operating systems.

One final reason to utilize Mac security software is simply for peace of mind. With malware and security threats being spread through email, jump drives, file sharing and the internet, no computer runs in a vacuum. Even if the threats aren't as prevalent or serious as Windows malware, some Mac users would rather be safe than sorry.

For more information, refer to our [articles about Mac antivirus software](#) and comprehensive reviews of the best antivirus software for Mac, including [Intego VirusBarrier](#), [BitDefender Antivirus for Mac](#) and [Norton AntiVirus for Mac](#).

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Antivirus Software for Macs: Unique Features and Benefits

While specific features and tools of Mac antivirus software differ slightly from their Windows counterparts, the things to consider before buying are the same. Before deciding on the best antivirus software for your Mac, you should consider your intended use and desired level of protection. To compare OS X antivirus software and help you weigh the benefits, we use the following criteria to evaluate the software:

- Scope of Protection**
There's more to malware protection than just avoiding risky sites and only downloading known applications. Computers are constantly opening, accessing and sharing files using a number of methods, so it's important your antivirus application can protect you from all angles. Malware comes in many forms, including viruses, Trojan horses, spyware, rootkits and more. Some threats come from spam or online phishing scams. For comprehensive protection, look for Mac security software that covers ALL the bases with antivirus, email scanning, web protection, anti-rootkit, anti-phishing and maybe even a firewall and network protection.
- Effectiveness**
When it comes to antivirus software, the level of protection is the most important aspect to consider. A sleek, user-friendly interface simply won't compensate for a product that doesn't do what it's supposed to. For optimum protection the software should defend you from viruses in real time and proactively prevent threats. Updates should be timely and automatic. And while you want the software to locate anything risky, you don't want annoying false positives (where safe files are inaccurately flagged as dangerous). The best antivirus for Mac is both thorough and accurate.
- Features**
The main component and function of the application should be security, but the program may also have additional features that improve usability, performance and overall protection. Some of the more common features include a secure quarantine, scan scheduler and history logs.
- Ease of Use**
Most antivirus software is designed to run automatically and unobtrusively in the background, but that doesn't mean you won't need to interact with the program periodically. With intuitive features and a familiar Mac-like interface you should be able to effortlessly get the most from the application. In short, the best Mac antivirus software should be just like your Mac: powerful, secure, flexible, and well designed.
- Help & Support**
Apple computers are known for their expert customer support, and the software should be no different. Professional and appropriate help should be personal, versatile, accessible and free.

A well-balanced Mac antivirus program should be understandable, usable and useful. Combining professional protection with Mac-specific features, the best Mac antivirus software will keep you protected without slowing you down so you can enjoy all the unique benefits of your Mac.

Related Review Sites

- [Mac Internet Filter Software Review](#)
- [Mac Backup Software Review](#)
- [Mac Data Recovery Software Review](#)

Related Videos

- [Review of BitDefender Total Security 2011](#) 2010-10-11
- [Review of BullGuard Internet Security 9.0](#) 2010-07-16
- [Review of Norman Antivirus & Antispyware](#) 2010-04-28