

Re: Antivirus

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Bart Silverstrim wrote:

I can set my AV to update every half hour. Doesn't mean the signatures are all that up-to-date, though. But if it gives you the warm fuzzies...

I've been burned by a lot of other AV programs, either they stop giving away free virus definition updates and make you pay for them, or they don't update often enough and you get caught off guard by some new infection, or etc. etc. I've recommended Avast to a lot of people who use Windows and they've all been very happy with it. I configured it for a person who is completely blind and has to rely on JAWS (proprietary text to speech software) to use their computer. To have it automatically take care of tests like doing scheduled scans, virus definition updates and application updates really simplified things for that person.

You should reword that "If you run Vista and install another program..."

LOL!!!! Ain't that the frackin truth. Well, on my Vista based laptop (wish this thing came with Vista) I've had to jump through hoops to get some programs to run without UAC throwing a major hissy fit. To run Rocket Dock, a Mac OS X style Dock for Windows, at startup I had to create a Task in Task Scheduler and set it so the program ran with maximum privileges but didn't set a time for when it was to run. I then created a shortcut which initiates the task and changed it icon. I had to do that for Final Fantasy XI: Online (MMORPG for the PC, PS2/3 and Xbox 360) so UAC didn't get hyper when I tried to start the game.

Ubuntu asks for your password for some takes and to unlock certain configuration screen, but my Gods it doesn't bug you nearly half as much as UAC on Vista. I only ever see it when I'm start up Synaptic or mounting my second hard drive.

It's still there, though.

Any AV program has some impact on system resources. Its just knowing

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which ones have the least impact.

I'm not a gamer user, I'm not a performance nut, but I do find it irritating in principal (principle? Too lazy to look it up at the moment) to be coerced into running something that impacts my system's memory and CPU usage just because the OS is crap.

I am a Gamer but I'm not really a Performance Nut though. I do like my games to run well and most of my games are older ones. The latest won't run on this desktop and the laptop I have which was a gift can BARELY run Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion. If I want to play something like Crysis I'd have to sell my soul for a computer powerful enough to get 30 fps at 800x600 resolution. I wouldn't say Windows users are "coerced" into using AV software, more often than not its the novice who hears about computer viruses on the news, sees warning ads on TV and the Web, or gets those bogus virus warning emails we all get from time to time, then freaks out and over reacts. That's when they run out and buy a copy of Norton AV or McAfee which more often than not causes more problems rather than fixing any that weren't there to begin with. McAfee's incompatibility with certain types of software, primarily some CD and DVD burning software is legendary, and Norton is know to have all sorts of incompatibility issues too.

That said I still run an AV on my one Windows system that is used solely for supporting my iPod via iTunes.

Apple so needs to port iTunes to Linux. I have a 2GB Sandisk Sansa Clip and Aramark is all I need. I use iTunes on the Windows side for playing music when I need to be in Windows for some awful reason.

The whole AV reactive model is a POS. :-)

True, but until some new technology is developed to combat royal jerks who like to write malicious software (Script Kiddies, not Hackers, get it right) we're stuck with this crapfest.

If I weren't working on supporting about a thousand systems in seven buildings, or had a couple years working support for an ISP, I could probably say I didn't have problems either, or a DOA part from a vendor. It's an odds game. As it is, in the trenches admins are on the front line to exposure to these issues. AVG I've had no trouble with, but I run it on family systems, not in a corporate rollout. McAfee I got reports of secondhand enough that I avoid it. It's a travesty I heard the number of reports I did for a paid-for subscription service. AVG for home use is free...haven't had bad reports, and if I did, as long as there weren't many I'd chalk it up to "pay a vendor for support, it works for me".

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I feel your pain, I worked in IT Support for over 10+ years. I began as a tech answering support calls for HP Pavilion PCs running Windows 3.1 and DOS!!! I'm looking for work in the DC area now and I support my family's computers. Most of my friends are all geeks like me (and Anime fans).

Yeah, there's an anti-malware tool from grisoft too.

I stopped using AVG a long time ago so I never saw that feature in it. It was inevitable that they'd add it though since everyone else and their brother's second cousin is doing it too.

I'm not speaking from recently googles myself but I'm sure there are examples of "tests" from different sites that would rank Avast in differently depending on the competition, time of year, test environment, phase of the moon, etc. regarding effectiveness.

In other words "you're mileage may vary" is what you're trying to say here. :)

I still stand by my point that the entire AV/Anti-spyware/Anti-malware industry is profiting from the broken architecture of Windows.

I totally 100% agree with you there. I've never seen an OS with so many security vulnerability in my life and I've seen a lot of OSes (Unix, Sun Solaris, Linux, BSD, FreeBSD, Mac OS X, BeOS, NextStep, OS/2 Warp, all of the iterations of DOS, Netware, MVS and C/PM). A multi-billion dollar industry sprang up literally overnight to fix a problem which Microsoft should have fixed a long time ago. Remember the firestorm that Microsoft caused when they were going to make the API protocols which AV and system utility software would have to use Closed Protocols? They had the AV software industry hoping mad, it would have been the end of their honey pot, an end to their endless stream of revenue as more and more brainwashed Windows users keep buying their crap. The ONLY reason I keep XP and Vista around is because many of my games don't work in Wine (Final Fantasy XI is one of them which I play often).

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