

Independent Tests of Anti-Virus Software



Anti-Phishing Certification **Avast Free Antivirus**

TEST PERIOD: JULY 2020
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH
LAST REVISION: 17TH JULY 2020

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Introduction

What is Phishing?

Taken from Wikipedia¹:

“Phishing is a way of attempting to acquire sensitive information such as usernames, passwords and credit card details by masquerading as a trustworthy entity in an electronic communication. This is similar to Fishing, where the fisherman puts a bait at the hook, thus, pretending to be a genuine food for fish. But the hook inside it takes the complete fish out of the lake. Communications purporting to be from popular social web sites, auction sites, online payment processors or IT administrators are commonly used to lure the unsuspecting public. Phishing is typically carried out by e-mail spoofing or instant messaging and it often directs users to enter details at a fake website whose look and feel are almost identical to the legitimate one. Phishing is an example of social engineering techniques used to deceive users, and exploits the poor usability of current web security technologies.”

For more information about how not to get hooked by a phishing scam, please have a look at e.g. <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-recognize-and-avoid-phishing-scams>

Tested product

The most recent product version of **Avast Free Antivirus** available at time of testing has been used in this test.

Test procedure

In our test scenario, we simulate the common situation where users rely on the anti-phishing protection provided by their security products while browsing the web (and/or checking their webmail accounts; anti-spam features are not considered, as they are not within the scope of this test).

Test set

The test took place between the 23rd June and 9th July 2020. **505** Phishing URLs were tested as soon as we discovered them. All phishing URLs had to be active/online at time of testing and attempt to get personal information. The phishing campaigns targeted various types of personal data, including login credentials etc. for PayPal, online banking & credit cards, e-mail accounts, Dropbox, eBay, social networks, online games and other online services. The set of legitimate online banking websites for the false alarm test consisted of **500** clean URLs (all of them using HTTPS and showing a login form) from all over the world.

¹ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phishing>

AV-Comparatives Approved Anti-Phishing Product

To be approved by AV-Comparatives for Anti-Phishing Protection, at least 85% of the phishing URLs used must be detected and blocked, without causing any false alarms with legitimate online banking sites.

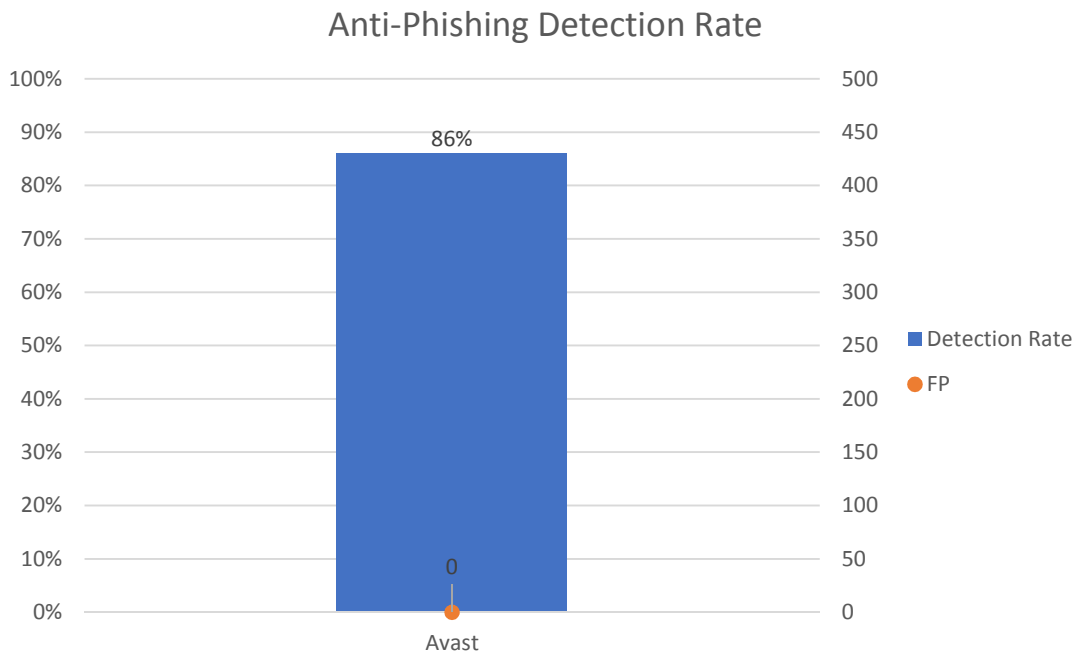
Only products which were submitted for the Anti-Phishing Test, and which passed the test, are published. Eight vendors submitted their products for certification in 2020, of which only six reached the requirements (incl. Avast Free Antivirus). Vendors can reapply for approval in 2021.



Test results

Below you can see the percentages of blocked phishing websites (size of test set: 505 phishing URLs). **No false alarms** were encountered on the tested 500 legitimate online banking sites.

	Detection Rate	FPs
Avast	86%	0



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