

Independent Tests of Anti-Virus Software



Factsheet Real-World Protection Test Consumer Products

TEST PERIOD: FEBRUARY-MARCH 2021

LAST REVISION: 12TH APRIL 2021

WWW.AV-COMPARATIVES.ORG

Introduction

This fact sheet is a short overview of the Real-World Protection Test results of February and March 2021. The detailed overall result consumer product reports (covering four months each) are released in June and December. Each of the overall result reports will also contain a false-alarm test and will contain the awards the products reached based on their overall scores during the respective four-month period. For more information about this Real-World Protection Test, please read the details and previous test reports available on <https://www.av-comparatives.org>

Testcases

Our Real-World Protection Test is currently one of the most comprehensive and complex tests available, using a relatively large number of test cases. Currently, we are running this test under updated Microsoft Windows 10 Pro 64 Bit with up-to-date third-party software (such as Adobe Flash, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Java, etc.). Due to this, finding in-the-field working exploits and running malware is much more challenging than e.g. under a non-up-to-date system with unpatched/vulnerable third-party applications.

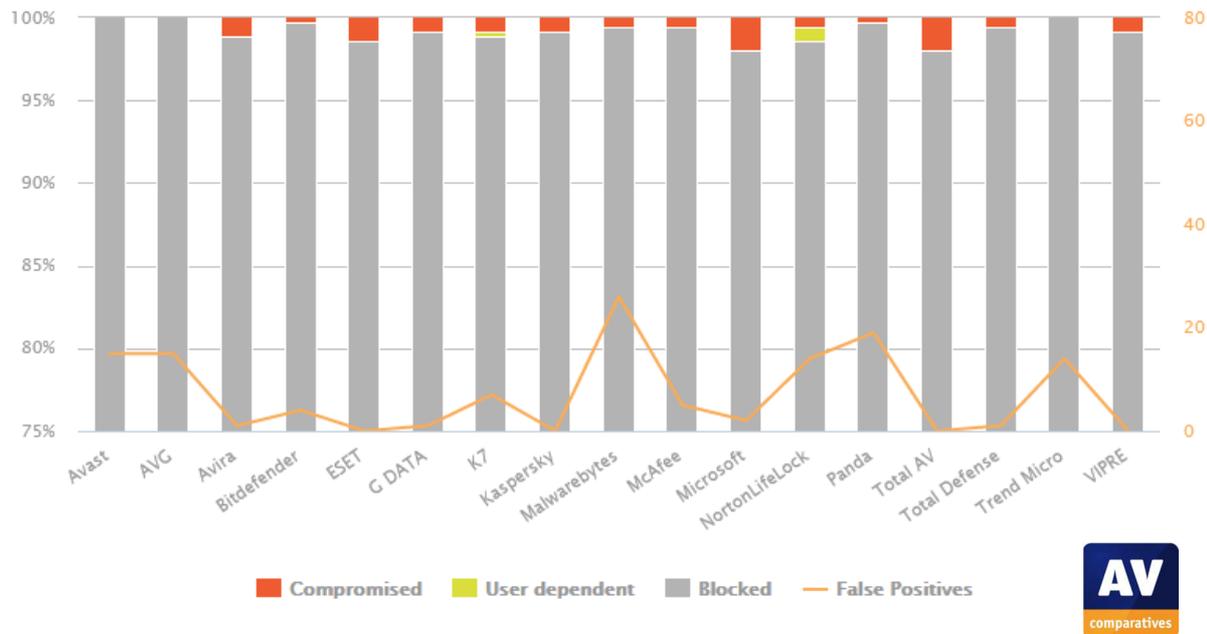
Over the year we evaluate several tens of thousands malicious URLs. Unfortunately, many of these have to be discarded for various reasons. We remove duplicates such as the same malware hosted on different domains or IP addresses, sites already tested, "grey" or non-malicious sites/files, and malware/sites disappearing during the test. Many malicious URLs carrying exploits were not able to compromise the chosen system/applications because of the patch level. This means that the vulnerabilities in the third-party applications on the system were already patched and the exploits could therefore not deliver their malicious payload. Users should be aware that by always keeping their system and third-party applications up-to-date/patched, they can dramatically decrease the risk posed by exploits.

The results are based on the test set of **354** live test cases (malicious URLs found in the field), consisting of working exploits (i.e. drive-by downloads) and URLs pointing directly to malware. Thus, exactly the same infection vectors are used as a typical user would experience in everyday life. The test-cases used cover a wide range of current malicious sites and provide insights into the protection given by the various products (using **all** their protection features) while surfing the web.

The following products (latest version available at time of testing) were tested: Avast Free Antivirus, AVG Free Antivirus, Avira Antivirus Pro, Bitdefender Internet Security, ESET Internet Security, G Data Total Security, K7 Total Security, Kaspersky Internet Security, Malwarebytes Premium, McAfee Total Security, Microsoft Defender, Panda Free Antivirus, NortonLifeLock Norton 360, TotalAV Total Security, Total Defense Essential Anti-Virus, Trend Micro Internet Security and Vipre Advanced Security.

Graph of protection

Every few months we update the charts on our website showing the protection rates of the various tested products over the various months. The interactive charts can be found on our website¹. The chart below shows only the protection scores for the months of FEBRUARY and MARCH 2021 (354 test cases). The results of the false-positives test are also shown in the graph below.



We would like to point out that while some products may sometimes be able to reach 100% protection rates in a test, it does not mean that these products will always protect against all threats on the web. It just means that they were able to block 100% of the widespread malicious samples used in a test.

¹ <https://www.av-comparatives.org/comparison/>

Copyright and Disclaimer

This publication is Copyright © 2021 by AV-Comparatives®. Any use of the results, etc. in whole or in part, is ONLY permitted after the explicit written agreement of the management board of AV-Comparatives prior to any publication. AV-Comparatives and its testers cannot be held liable for any damage or loss, which might occur as result of, or in connection with, the use of the information provided in this paper. We take every possible care to ensure the correctness of the basic data, but a liability for the correctness of the test results cannot be taken by any representative of AV-Comparatives. We do not give any guarantee of the correctness, completeness, or suitability for a specific purpose of any of the information/content provided at any given time. No one else involved in creating, producing or delivering test results shall be liable for any indirect, special or consequential damage, or loss of profits, arising out of, or related to, the use or inability to use, the services provided by the website, test documents or any related data.

For more information about AV-Comparatives and the testing methodologies, please visit our website.

AV-Comparatives
(April 2021)