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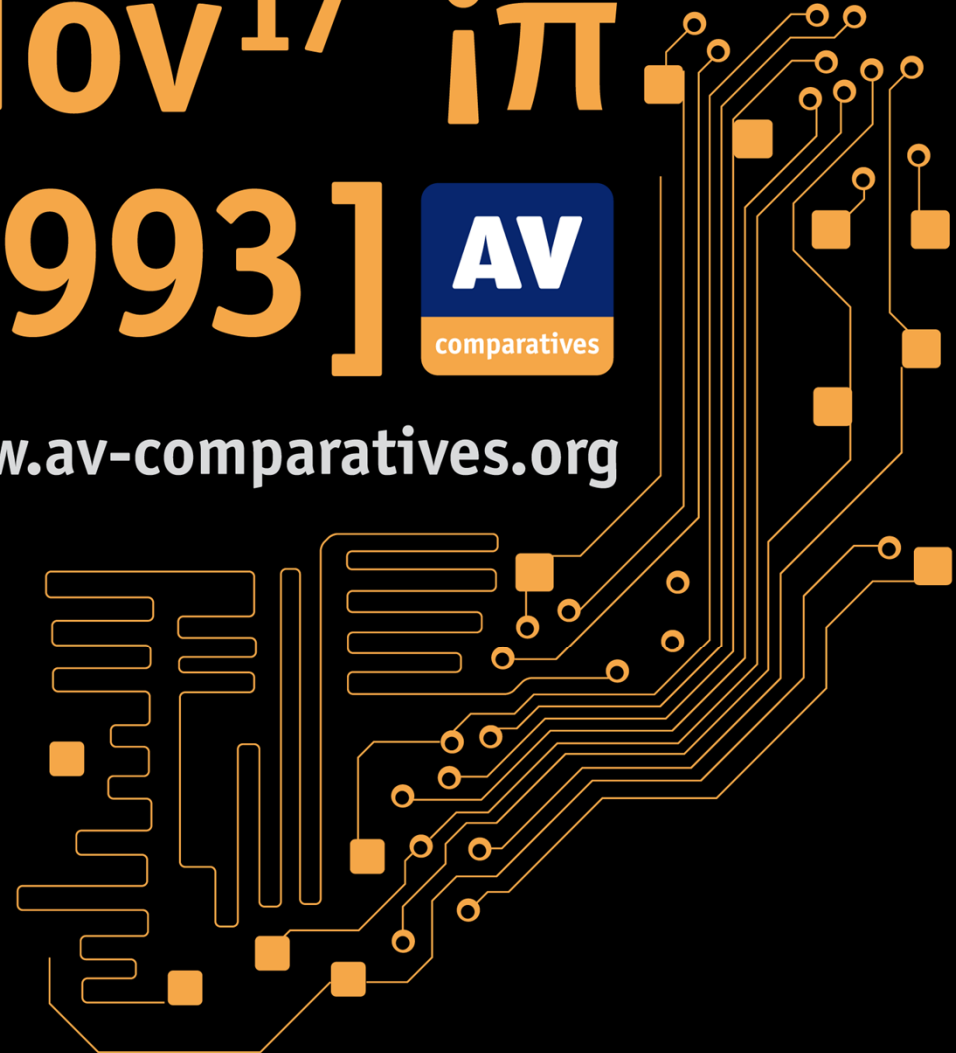
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www.av-comparatives.org



Independent Tests of Anti-Virus Software

Aims

- AV-Comparatives wants to continue providing security software tests at no cost to end users.
- New test methods are continuously being developed and improved in cooperation with academic institutes.
- New technicians and testers are constantly being trained, and more employees are being recruited internationally. The University of Innsbruck provides invaluable assistance by supporting Master's Degree projects relevant research fields.
- AV-Comparatives' aim is to provide the most relevant and informative data on security software in the world.

How it started



- It began the way it does with so many computer users, namely with a virus infection.
- In 1993, Andreas Clementi was hit by a computer virus: the “November 17 virus – NOV_17.855”. This awakened his interest. Andreas was not satisfied with the sometimes very contradictory tests of antivirus programs in computer magazines, and so began the intensive investigation of malware and antivirus software, which continues to this day.
- In 1999, he founded AV-Comparatives as a student project at the University of Innsbruck. This was done purely out of technical interest, to see how good the products of different manufacturers actually are. Here Andreas met Peter Stelzhammer, who was also working at the University of Innsbruck. They started publishing the results at www.av-comparatives.org, and continue to do so today.
- The response was enormous, as the manufacturers of antivirus software became aware of the duo in Innsbruck and wanted to take part in the tests. Today there are so many applications from major manufacturers that only the best products can be accepted. The test results are still freely accessible on the website, and form the basis for further reports in computer magazines.

unique features

- Non-profit organisation
- Freely accessible results for everyone
- Journalists and magazines can publish the results free of charge
- Completely independent
- First test laboratory with fully automated Whole Product “Real World” Dynamic Test
- Comprehensive detection-rate tests
- One of the largest sample collections worldwide
- Unbiased test results
- Reputable tests
- Established scientific methodology
- Experience beginning with the first computer viruses
- Oriented towards end user
- Multilingual (English, Chinese, other languages will follow soon)

collaboration



- AV-Comparatives works with academic technical institutes, in particular the Institute of Computer Science at the University of Innsbruck. Cooperation with the Quality Engineering group ensures the highest quality of test methodology and results.
- AV-Comparatives works with the Information Technology group of “Standortagentur Tirol”, a regional government agency that promotes business in Tirol , to exchange ideas and experience.
- Work is done with the “Berufsschule für EDV-Technik am Lohbachufer – [eke]“ (technical college for IT) in Innsbruck.
- Another partner is the “kompetenzzentrum IT” which supports AV-Comparatives with know-how and applies the results of the tests to commercial consultancy with businesses.





- Together with the University of Innsbruck, AV-Comparatives has developed a procedure for the systematic testing of antivirus software, which automatically simulates the actions of a computer user surfing the Internet, without any human intervention being required. Considering the huge number of malicious programs that appear every day, performing these tests manually with a statistically valid number of samples would not be possible .
- The contact with the Tirol Information Technology Group led to a joint project with the Institute of Informatics at the University of Innsbruck, to develop new test procedures. As part of a Master's Degree, sponsored by the FFG (Society for the Furthering of Research), an automated test process was developed. The project was led by AV-Comparatives and automates the procedure of opening infected web pages and checking whether the PC's antivirus software can protect it against the threat. This process is logged in minute detail.
- “It would be impossible to conduct this test manually on the required scale”

curserary glance



Staff – the most important part

- 7 permanent fulltime employees (located in Innsbruck, Graz and Oxford)
- around 20 volunteers and part time workers (located all over the world)

Data Centre

- 75 m²
- fully air conditioned
- fire protection
- entry system
- 24 hour CCTV coverage

- In General ~ 300 TB storage, 600 GB Ram, 12 km CAT7 cable, 300 computers,

Technological Resources

- 60 Honeypots worldwide, including China and Taiwan, in cooperation with academic centers and authorities
- ~ 60 PCs for the Whole Product Dynamic Test
- ~ 40 PCs for the Detection Tests (On-Demand / Retrospective)
- 4 Workstations for the Performance Test
- 3 NAS devices, each with 40 TB; geographically distributed and mirrored
- 2 IBM Blade Servers, total with 28 blades, for validating and sorting incoming samples
- ~ 80 Servers for the Corporate and other tests
- over 20 desktop and laptop PCs for our staff and volunteers

Communications

- 3 Internet connections, including one with fibre optic cable direct to Backbone
- 72 dynamic IP addresses, 16 static IP addresses
- In total 100 Mbps synchronous bandwidth



Questions?

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