



I have been using Avast anti-virus software and some of their other products for a few years now with generally good results but there are some issues. This presentation contains some information you may find useful.

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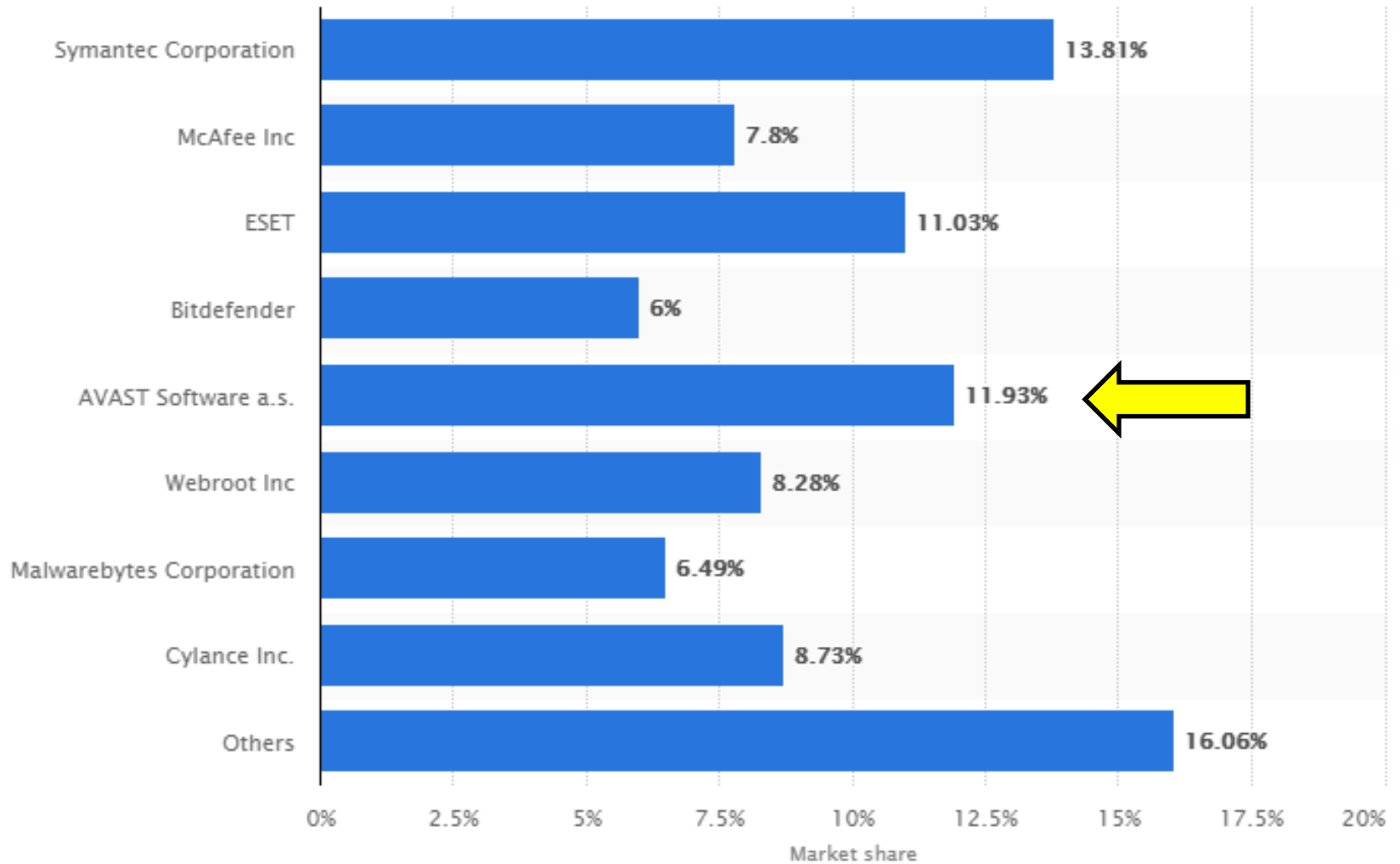


Avast Software is a Czech cybersecurity software company. They have more than 435 million monthly active users and the second largest market share among anti-malware application vendors worldwide as of April 2020.

In July 2016, Avast acquired competitor AVG Technologies. AVG products were originally marketed separately, but are now being merged into the Avast product line.

The company's main product is Avast Antivirus along with tools such as the Avast Secure Browser, Avast Cleanup and Avast SecureLine VPN.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avast>



Market share held by the leading Windows anti-malware application vendors worldwide, as of April 2020

(<https://www.statista.com/statistics/271048/market-share-held-by-antivirus-vendors-for-windows-systems/>)

Avast Free Antivirus

- **Blocks viruses and other malware**
 - Detect viruses, ransomware, and other threats in real-time.
- **Scans for Wi-Fi security weaknesses**
 - Find intruders and security weaknesses in your network.
- **Secure your passwords**
 - Lock your passwords in a vault and log in to sites with one click. The Avast free password manager is pretty mediocre, there are better password managers around if this is a priority for you, including Avast Passwords in the paid for version of Avast Antivirus.
- Supported by advertising
- Also available in iPhone and Android versions for your smartphone.

Avast Premium (Paid) Antivirus

(CDN\$79.99/year for 1 device, CDN\$99.99/year for 10 devices)

Premium adds the following to the capabilities of Avast Free Antivirus:

- **Avoid fake sites for safer shopping**
 - Stop criminals from stealing your passwords and banking info.
- **Safely run suspicious apps**
 - Sandbox any app to test if it's safe before running it on your computer.
- **Lock out hackers with an advanced firewall**
 - Keep hackers from sneaking onto your PC and stealing your data.
- **Block annoying spam and phishing emails***
 - Stop annoying junk mail for a safer, cleaner inbox.
- **Get an extra layer of ransomware security**
 - Protect personal photos and files from being encrypted by hackers.
- **Stop webcam spying**
 - Prevent strangers from watching you via your webcam.
- **Permanently shred sensitive files**
 - Securely delete files to ensure that no one recovers them.
- **Automatically update apps**
 - Reduce security risks by keeping your other apps up-to-date.

Avast is among the top rated anti-virus software products, but it is important to read recent reviews and see the strong and weak points of the various products and compare them to your own needs.

BEST FOR EXCELLENT LAB TEST SCORES



Kaspersky Security Cloud Free

Kaspersky Security Cloud Free offers full-scale malware protection and even some suite-level features. It gets superb scores from the independent labs, and it won't cost you a penny.

BEST FOR WEALTH OF BONUS FEATURES



Avast Free Antivirus

Avast Free Antivirus combines an antivirus engine that scores very well in testing with a surprisingly extensive collection of bonus features.

BEST FOR FEW-FRILLS PROTECTION



AVG AntiVirus Free

AVG AntiVirus Free offers precisely the same antivirus protection engine as Avast Free Antivirus, but lacks the impressive collection of bonus features that you get with Avast.

BEST FOR SET-AND-FORGET PROTECTION



Bitdefender Antivirus Free Edition

Bitdefender Antivirus Free Edition includes the same core antivirus technology found in the commercial Bitdefender Antivirus, focusing on the essential task of antivirus protection with minimal add-ons.

PC Mag comparison of top recommended products and the strengths of each

<https://www.pcmag.com/picks/the-best-free-antivirus-protection>

Other Avast Products

Avast is known primarily for its anti-virus products, especially Avast Free, but it has several other products that may be of interest.

Avast Privacy Products

Avast has the following privacy products:

- **SecureLine Virtual Private Network (VPN)**
 - Encrypts your connection to maintain privacy, especially on public networks (e.g. Tim Hortons, Starbucks) and/or when doing online banking. In my opinion better than NordVPN but more expensive. Note that a VPN can also 'put' you in another country to bypass access restrictions, but sites like Netflix can detect you using a VPN and may block access anyway.
- **Avast AntiTrack**
 - Blocks some tracking of your browsing activity by third parties. Feeds fake data to trackers, so they don't see your true digital fingerprint. It also deletes tracking cookies and other tracking data. It says it does all this without breaking sites, which can happen when blocking trackers. Good but expensive (CDN\$64.99/year for one PC), there are some good free anti-trackers (<https://defendingdigital.com/best-anti-tracking-software/>).
- **Avast Secure Browser**
 - A web browser that focuses on Internet security and privacy. It is based on the Chrome browser engine.
- **Avast Passwords**
 - A more capable password manager than the one that comes with Avast Free Antivirus.

Avast Performance Products

Avast has the following products to improve your computers performance:

- **Cleanup Premium**
 - Boosts your computers speed and performance. **Use with caution, especially the Registry Repair functions (this warning applies to ALL brands of performance enhancing software).**
- **Avast Driver Updater**
 - Automatically updates your drivers. **I do NOT recommend third-party driver updaters like this. Windows Updates does a good job of this already, and driver updaters sometimes use non-standard versions of drivers that can cause problems.**
- **Avast Battery Saver**
 - Helps extend battery life.



Avast Family Space

Parental Control App for iPhone & Android

Keep your kids safe both online and off with Avast Family Space's advanced parental controls and location features for Android and iPhone.

Being a parent in a connected world

Nearly half of kids have their own smartphone by the time they're 10 to 12. For parents, that means worrying about who your kids are chatting with, how much time they spend browsing, or if they're being exposed to inappropriate content. Avast Family Space gives you peace of mind by letting you know where your child is at all times, and by letting you control how they use the internet.

This product is apparently free.

Upselling

When you run scans using Avast Antivirus and/or Avast Cleanup Premium they will tell you about a problem, and when you click on “Resolve” they will try to upsell you to other Avast products to fix the problem.

Bundles

- Most Avast paid products are available in one or ten device licenses. The additional cost of the ten device license is usually 20% to 40% over the single license price.
- Avast Ultimate bundles Avast Premium Antivirus, Avast Cleanup Premium, Avast Secureline VPN and Avast Premium Passwords for about 40% more than Avast Premium Antivirus by itself. The Ultimate bundle does **NOT** include Avast AntiTrack.
- Currently Avast AntiTrack is only available in Canada in stand-alone single license packages.

Features and CDN Pricing

for Avast Antivirus and Avast Ultimate

	Free Antivirus	Premium Security	Premium Multi (10 Devices)	Ultimate	Ultimate Multi (10 Devices)
	Free	CDN\$79.99/year	CDN\$99.99/year	CDN\$119.99/year	CDN\$139.99/year
Block viruses and other malware Detect viruses, ransomware, and other threats in real-time.	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Scan for Wi-Fi security weaknesses Find intruders and security weaknesses in your network.	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Secure your passwords Lock your passwords in our vault and login to sites with one click.	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Avoid fake sites for safer shopping Stop criminals from stealing your passwords and banking info.		yes	yes	yes	yes
Safely run suspicious apps Sandbox any app to test if it's safe before running it on your computer.		yes	yes	yes	yes
Lock out hackers with an advanced firewall Keep hackers from sneaking onto your PC and stealing your data.		yes	yes	yes	yes
Block annoying spam and phishing emails* Stop annoying junk mail for a safer, cleaner inbox.		yes	yes	yes	yes
Get an extra layer of ransomware security Protect personal photos and files from being encrypted by hackers.		yes	yes	yes	yes
Stop webcam spying Prevent strangers from watching you via your webcam.		yes	yes	yes	yes
Permanently shred sensitive files Securely delete files to ensure that no one recovers them.		yes	yes	yes	yes
Automatically update apps Reduce security risks by keeping your other apps up-to-date.		yes	yes	yes	yes
Install on all your devices Advanced protection for up to 10 devices (PC, Mac, Android, and iOS)			yes		yes
Includes Avast Cleanup Premium Remove hidden junk, free up disk space, and speed up your computer.				yes	yes
Includes Avast SecureLine VPN Encrypt your internet connection for safe and private browsing.				yes	yes
Includes Avast Passwords Premium Get alerted if your passwords are leaked and log in to websites with one click.				yes	yes

Summary of Features and CDN Pricing

Free Antivirus	Premium Security	Premium Multi (10) Devices	Ultimate	Ultimate Multi (10) Devices
Free	CDN\$79.99/year	CDN\$99.99/year	CDN\$119.99/year	CDN\$139.99/year

Controversy

- On 27 January 2020 Motherboard reported *"An Avast antivirus subsidiary sells 'Every search. Every click. Every buy. On every site.'* Its clients have included Home Depot, Google, Microsoft, Pepsi, and McKinsey."
- The investigation showed that the Avast Antivirus and AVG AntiVirus programs collected data from the users' computers and that the Avast subsidiary Jumpshot repackaged and sold them.
- In response Avast announced on 30 January 2020 that Jumpshot would cease operations over the data privacy backlash.
- On the basis of the information revealed, on 11 February 2020 the Czech Office for Personal Data Protection announced that it has initiated a preliminary investigation.

Choices

- There are free, freemium and/or paid for versions of any of the Avast products available from other companies. It is up to you to do the research and study the reviews to determine what products from what companies best meet your needs.
- Windows 10 has some of the functionalities built-in, including Windows Defender.

Choices

If your internet activity is pretty vanilla then Windows Defender might meet your anti-virus / anti-phishing / anti-malware requirements all by itself. But if you:

- Use Facebook or other social media a lot
- Are involved in any human rights or protest activities, especially freedom for Tibet or Hong Kong (China related)
- Download pirated music, movies, etc.
- Go to adult websites
- Etc., etc., etc.

Then you should use some sort of additional anti-virus / anti-phishing / anti-malware products.

Choices

- No single anti-virus product will catch ALL of the threats. Some are better than others at catching threat signatures while others do better at identifying threat behavior.
- The capabilities of any given anti-virus product will wax and wane compared to other products over time, so last year's reviews may no longer be valid.

Choices

- Two or more products doing real-time scans on the same computer will generally conflict with each other. However, using a second product like Malwarebytes to do a stand-alone scan from time to time can be useful.
- Windows Defender is designed to play nice with other anti-virus products.



That's all Folks!