

How to select an Anti Virus Solution for your business

Not all Anti Virus solutions are equal. This is a highly debateable issue often coming down to preference; however intelligent decisions can be made when investigating the various solutions.

What you should consider:

Protection Options

While most security solutions advertise multi-faceted protection and all round defence, some are simply more thorough than others. Traditional antivirus will offer protection from viruses, worms, Trojans and spyware, but better antivirus solutions should also include defence from keyloggers, phishing scams, email-borne threats and rootkits. Anti Virus applications should protect from as many threats on as many fronts as they can.

Track Record

Antivirus is specifically designed to protect your computer / business. Whilst many antivirus solutions vary from product to product they too vary from year to year. A healthy track record is an important element when considering antivirus solutions.

Installation and Setup

Security software should not be difficult to install and should have you protected as quickly as possible. Most corporate Antivirus solutions will include a central management application tool that incorporates the various technologies such as active directory, push installs and so on. Tests should be conducted to determine which products will suite the environment as closely as technically possible.

Ease of Use

Antivirus software is highly involved, but should not require a pilot's license. The best security programs have all the features security experts want, but must be easy for beginners to use and navigate. Computer users want a security solution that works on the "fire and forget" principle. Constant maintenance or have annoying interruptions will impact on the success of the product.

Features

A well-rounded antivirus product takes a security solution from good to brilliant. More than bells and whistles, additional features will add value however should not negatively impact the performance of the computer or server.

Updates

Security software is as good as its latest update. Viruses are being identified and added to signature databases consistently. Automatic updates should be consistent, seamless to implement, well tested, capable of retaining optimum performance and designed to consume as little bandwidth as possible. The best security providers push updates to you as soon as they're available. In corporate environments, this should be collected by the management solution and distributed to all clients automatically, saving bandwidth and avoiding the need to reboot machines once implemented.

Intensity

Retaining performance is critical to the success of the product. A well designed, dare I say "smart" Antivirus solution will balance protection with system performance.

In conclusion:

Focus on a well rounded solution incorporating the above listed considerations

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