

eScan Anti-Virus v11 **VS** McAfee Anti-Virus 2011

Why do we need an Anti-Virus?

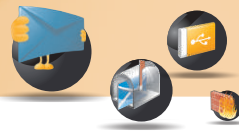
An Anti-Virus is considered to be one of the most important applications that your PC should have. It's a well known fact that the Internet is plagued with all kinds of malware; computer programs written to infect or even take control of unprotected PCs. An Anti-Virus on the other hand is designed to thwart such malicious programs from infecting your PC.

With the ever increasing number of security threats, organizations and individuals find the need to secure their personal details from identity thieves at far more alarming rate than it was a few years ago. In this day and age where broadband services have become a necessity, personal information can easily be hacked into in a matter of minutes. This can include anything from debit/credit card details, passwords for your personal accounts, bank details etc. That's the main reason why eScan Anti-Virus v11 also features a firewall. Apart from keeping potential hackers at bay the firewall also acts as a barrier between the user and the Web, where it only allows legitimate and known data packets to pass through to your computer.

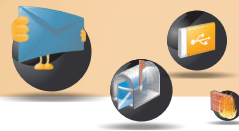
Spam is another major concern that has plagued the Internet. With a large number of unsolicited emails targeted towards mail servers, receiving emails using clients as Outlook, Thunderbird or even The Bat can be extremely time consuming. Moreover, unnecessary usage of bandwidth slows down other applications from accessing the Internet. To help prevent this, eScan Anti-Virus comes built with an Anti-Spam module. To enhance the overall functionality the module makes use of a feature called NILP (Non Intrusive Learning Pattern) that not only uses the Bayesian Filtering module but also works on the principles of Artificial Intelligence (AI) which is capable of categorizing emails as either spam or ham. Other advanced options include RBL (Real-time Blackhole List) and SURBL (Spam URL Realtime Blacklist). The RBL module basically checks the IP address of the senders against various RBL sites. So if the sender is found blacklisted on any of the RBL sites the mail will be automatically blocked from being downloaded. However the SURBLs main function is to check the URLs in the message body of an email. So if the URL is listed on the SURBL site the email is immediately blocked from being downloaded.

To help protect your digital identity eScan Anti-Virus provides a much needed secure environment in comparison to other Anti-Virus products. This would include the certification level reached by well known testing bodies such as AV-Comparatives, VirusBulletin and ICSA Labs. However another aspect that also needs to be taken into consideration is the number of false positives detected by the application. Therefore, just having a higher detection rate is never enough but being able to differentiate between malware (known/unknown) and genuine OS files is of utmost importance.

The first half of this document provides a brief explanation of the features that are overlooked by our competitor but are made available in eScan AV v11. The second half displays the effectiveness of the protection offered by both security companies – eScan and McAfee.



Product Name	eScan Anti-Virus v11	McAfee AntiVirus Plus 2011
Manufacturer/Developer	MicroWorld	McAfee
VB 100% Certified	✓	✓
Unique Technology	MicroWorld Winsock Layer	Active Protection™
Proactive Security	✓	✓
Real-Time AV Scanning	✓	✓
Spyware, KeyLogger, Rootkit Blocker	✓	✓
Real-Time File Monitor (Intelligent and Faster)	✓	✓
On-Demand Scan	✓	X
Anti-Spam (NILP, RBL, SURBL)	✓	✓ Not Documented
Firewall (Inbound & Outbound)	✓	✓
Malware URL Filter	✓	✓
History/ Reports	✓	✓
Web based Help	✓	✓
Vulnerability detection	X	X
Asset Management	✓	X
Network Monitoring tool	✓	✓
Update Rollback	✓	Not Documented
Hotfix Rollback	✓	Not Documented
Auto download / update software version	✓	X
Auto Backup / Restore	✓	X
Online Backup	X	X
Remote Support Application	✓	X
Virtual Keyboard	✓	X
Entertainment/Gaming /Silent mode	✓	X
Files and Folders Protection	✓	X
Creating/Burning Bootable Rescue CD	✓ Windows Based	X
Automatic Patching of Windows® Operating System Vulnerabilities	✓	X
Laptop/Battery /Power saving mode for schedule scan	✓	X
Advanced Self-Protection Feature	✓	✓
Real-Time email Scan	✓	X
Password protection	✓	✓
Heuristic Scanning	✓	✓
Registration/Activation: (via Web/SMS/eMail/FAX)	✓	✓ Not Documented
Real-Time web page scan	X	✓
Grid-based Web Access/Timing	X	X
Personalized Dash Board	X	X
Instant Messenger Encryption	X	X
Pulse/Push Updates	X	✓



On Demand Scan (with Cache-technology)

While both products support on demand scans what McAfee doesn't provide is file caching. eScan features cache technology that creates a record or Whitelist of all files that are scanned on the first run. This ensures faster scan speeds and lower usage of system resources every subsequent runs. Only new or modified files are examined by the scanner.

Auto Download/update of Product

There are a few security companies such as McAfee that don't include product patches or fixes within their updates. Therefore as a user you will need to manually download and install the required patch or fix. Having said that, what McAfee does provide are update notifications that only directs users to the page from where the files need to be downloaded. This sort of method is actually a concern as most users have the tendency to overlook or even disable such notifications – thereby leaving your security product unpatched and vulnerable to security threats.

We at MicroWorld understand the importance of product patches. We therefore include them in the hourly updates that we provided. So if there is a patch available on our server, the built-in updater for eScan downloads and installs the required patch/fix without the need of user interactivity.

Update/Hotfix Rollback

At the start of every update eScan v11 makes a backup of the current database. In the event the application downloads an update/hotfix that's corrupt it automatically rolls back to its previous stable database. However to keep user interactivity at its bare minimum the roll back process has been automated and doesn't require the user to intervene.

Auto-backup/restore

The auto backup/restore feature of eScan is probably the most striking feature that our product has. The basic functionality of this is to create backups of critical files that correspond to the Windows OS. So in the event of an infection the auto backup and restore kicks in and restores critical OS related files that cannot be disinfected. This whole process is automated and requires no user intervention.

eScan Remote Support

Unlike our competitors eScan comes bundled with a special feature called eScan Remote Support. This module basically allows our support team to remotely connect and troubleshoot eScan related issues. The USP of this feature is that it allows most problems to be resolved remotely without having any support technician sent across. So as a user, you save a lot on time as the waiting period is almost negligible.

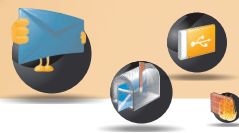
However, do keep in mind that this feature doesn't allow you – the user – to connect to our support department but will require you to call our support department and provide the Unique ID and Password that is generated. For security reasons the password is designed to change each time the eScan Remote Support is invoked.

Virtual Keyboard

User privacy is of our highest concern – reason why eScan 11 features a virtual keyboard. The implementation of a virtual keyboard allows users to enter confidential information such as banking passwords, credit/debit card details without any fear of your online identity being stolen. So even if your system is compromised by an unknown keylogger/spyware, the username and password that is entered during login remains protected.

Gaming Mode

With the inclusion of the gaming mode users can now enjoy uninterrupted gameplay. Having said that, eScan v11 can now automatically switch to gaming mode once an application is run in full screen. For instance – this mode gets enabled the moment movies, games, PowerPoint presentations are run in full screen. In addition to this, as a user you also have the ability to enable this mode manually. This generally helps when you are in the midst of work that is of importance.



Automatic Installation of Windows Critical Security Patches

A salient feature that our product implements is the vulnerability patching of the Windows Operating System. OS Vulnerabilities are the first cause of concern as most hackers scan for loopholes that allow them to bypass already implemented security settings. The implementation of OS patching in eScan v11 allows the application to directly connect to Microsoft's website and download only critical security patches for the Windows OS. This whole process is automated and doesn't require user intervention. So as a user you can be rest assured that your OS stays patched and secured from critical Windows related security vulnerabilities.

File and Folder Protection

We are all are paranoid about losing important data. However there are a number of ways in which data can be lost – the first would include corruption of files in the event of a virus attack, the second would be the deletion of a particular file or folder which could happen knowingly or unknowingly. To prevent data loss, eScan comes with a special feature called 'Folder Protection'. Once a folder is specified the module prevents any further modifications from being made. This safeguards important data from corruption in the event of an infection. In addition the module also prevents deletion and creation of files within specified folders.

Bootable Rescue Cd

A salient feature that our product implements is the vulnerability patching of the Windows Operating System. OS Vulnerabilities are the first cause of concern as most hackers scan for loopholes that allow them to bypass already implemented security settings. The implementation of OS patching in eScan v11 allows the application to directly connect to Microsoft's website and download only critical security patches for the Windows OS. This whole process is automated and doesn't require user intervention. So as a user you can be rest assured that your OS stays patched and secured from critical Windows related security vulnerabilities.

Laptop battery power saving mode

eScan AV v11 now features a built-in Battery mode wherein it prevents its own system intensive processes such as scheduled scan from running whenever the laptops power saver mode is detected – thereby increasing the overall runtime of the laptop. This feature is totally automated and requires no user intervention.

Restore Windows Default Settings

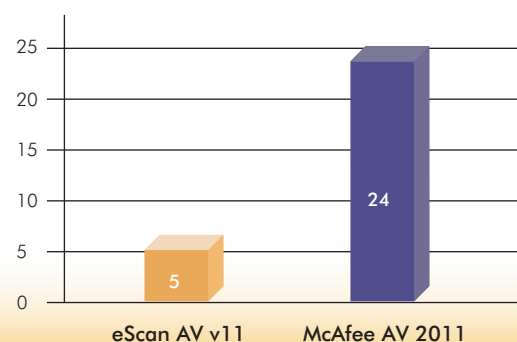
Users can eliminate modifications made to their desktop and background settings in the event of a virus attack. This is made possible by accessing the Restore Windows Default Settings via the Tools menu. Once activated, eScan automatically performs a virus check and then sets the system variables to their default values.

False Positive measurement of AV product (On-Demand Scan)

AV-Comparatives is an Austrian Non-Profit-Organization, who provide independent Anti-Virus software tests free to the public. It is not only important to measure the products detection capabilities but the overall reliability of the product is of utmost importance. The goal of conducting a False Positive test is to help users differentiate between a good product from a far more superior product.

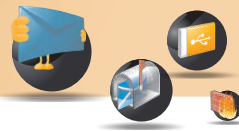
Before proceeding with the tests both programs were updated with the latest signatures. The test conducted shows the total number of FP's detected by McAfee with respect to eScan. A total of 24 FP's were detected in comparison to 5 FP's by eScan..

The following chart displays the number of false positives reported by both programs.



Source: AV-Comparatives.org (August 2010)

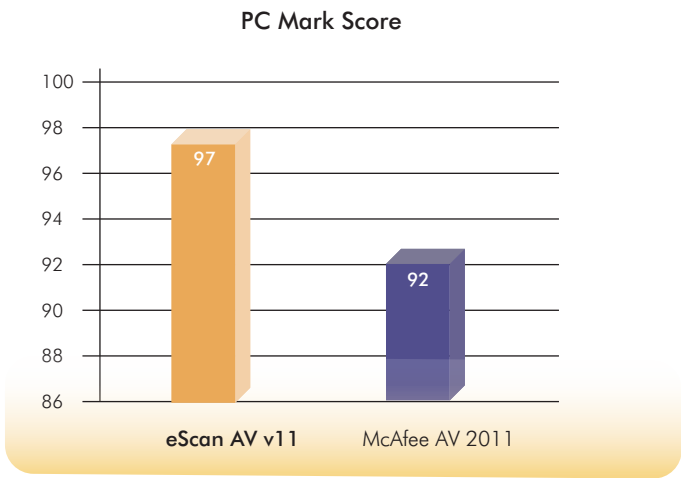
eScan McAfee



Performance Test

The tests were conducted by AV-Comparatives on an Intel Core 2 Duo E8300 PC with 2GB of RAM and SATAII hard disks. The performance tests were first carried on a clean Microsoft Windows 7 Professional (32-bit) system and then with the installed Anti-Virus software.

The chart shown below is a summarized score of various tests conducted by AV-Comparatives. Tests include file copying, archiving/unarchiving, encoding/transcoding, installing/uninstalling. In addition to this, tests that were also taken into consideration were file download speed and application launch speed. These tests basically give a brief overview of the affects on system performance by individual Anti-Virus products.



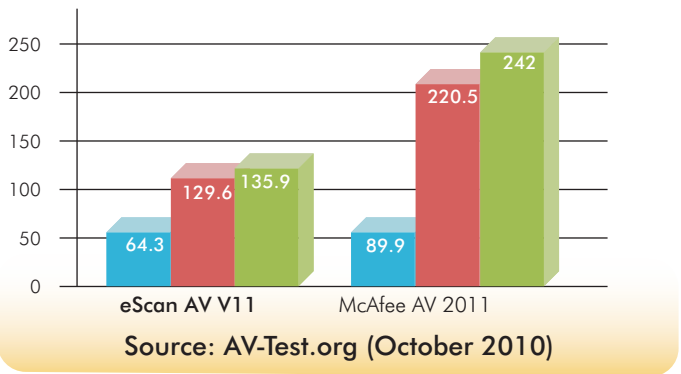
Source: AV-Comparatives.org (December 2010)

eScan McAfee

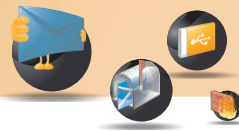
Memory usage (In MB)

The following tests were conducted by AV-Test GmbH that came into existence in the year 2004. With a test team consisting of 18 members and with each individual possessing over 15 years of experience in Anti-Virus research and Data Security, AV-Test is one of the leading test bodies that test the overall effectiveness, behavior and speed of security solutions.

The chart below displays the amount of memory consumed by both eScan as well as McAfee. The Working Set displays the amount of memory (RAM) consumed under normal usage whereas the Private virtual memory is the amount of system cache consumed.

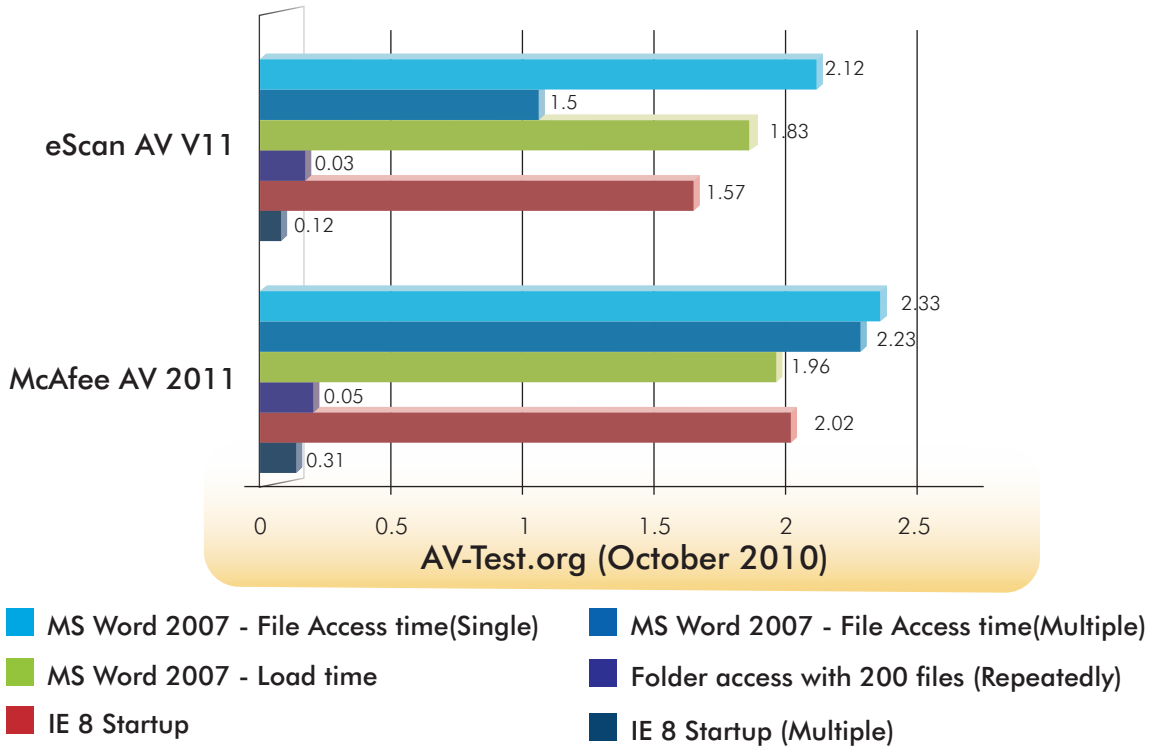


Private virtual memory Working Set
Private virtual memory 2 (Peak)



File access time (In seconds)

Installing an antivirus solution shouldn't slow down the overall performance of a system. In other words, it shouldn't be such that the response period of applications double or even triple with their installation. The chart below is a visual description of the overall time taken for applications such as MS Word and IE to respond. The tests were conducted on MS Word and Internet Explorer as they are the most commonly used applications. In addition, folder access time has also been calculated.



File compression/decompression, creation and copy (In seconds)

The following tests were carried out to calculate the time taken to compress/decompress, create as well as copy a set of files locally. As displayed, eScan surpasses McAfee by a fair margin.

