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Good browsing hygiene and common sense only get you so far on the internet. A good antivirus utility is worth keeping in your pocket in case either thing doesn't you (as they've known in the past) or someone less tech savvy asks you for a good tool. This week we're looking at five of the best antivirus tools, based on your nominations. Earlier in the week, we asked you which desktop antivirus tools you think are best. If you are going to stay safe on the internet, a good, reliable antivirus utility is a ... Read more We immediately nixed some contenders we knew would come up, namely nothing, OS X/Linux, and Microsoft Security Essentials, for a few reasons: First, nothing and OS X/Linux don't really help anyone and just serve to stoke a debate that nobody will-or is interested in trying to solve. We explained why you should use antivirus even if you browse the web carefully and explain that your security is not just related to your activities. Secondly, MSE, while it used to be a great tool, is no longer at the top of its game, and even Microsoft says it's not built to provide the same protection as third-party antivirus (instead, they want it to be a good enough tool instead.) The best way to avoid viruses is to use it normally, but that does not mean that you should avoid ... Read moreG/O Media can get a commissionSo with people out of the way, let's look at your top five nominees, no specific order: Avast! AntivirusAvast free! Free Antivirus is our current option to be the best antivirus for Windows, but it remains to be seen whether that will be your choice as well. It goes a long way in a few short updates, with the 2014 version offering a streamlined, easy-to-navigate interface and lots of scanning and protection tools over the counter (some of which you might not want, so be careful when installing). It remains one of the top choices available, according to AV Comparatives and AV-Test, and works well in antivirus tests. Avast provides an accessible antivirus scanner that checks for downloaded files, pages you visit, emails you receive, and any files downloaded, and also an on-demand scanner that you can run at any time. It updates quietly in the background without fuss, and has a silent mode where you can disable any and all notifications and alerts to keep performance thin and trim. The app itself is relatively mild - you may not even notice it there. Best of all, it's free. Windows has more antivirus programs than we can count and no one they're pretty perfect. On the right... Read more Within the nominations, many of you have praised Avast for its performance and light use of system resources, and others point out that you have been an Avast user for a long time and are happy to see avast updates. Others have highlighted specific features, such as scanning Avast's screen saver, which only kick in when you are away from the computer or the system is idle. A few of you even emphasize the fact that Avast is multi-platform and available for many operating systems. It's not perfect by any means, but it's a great tool. You can read more in its nomination thread here. ESET NOD32 AntivirusESET's NOD32 antivirus software set has been popular for many years and has earned a reputation for providing complete on-demand protection and access while being extremely lightweight when it comes to system resources. If you think you're going to have to balance performance with protection, NOD32 has always proved you're not. The most recent version of nod32 not only includes antivirus protection —you'll also get anti-malware scanning, phishing protection, antispam spyware protection, and even special tools to make sure you're not being scammed and hacked on social networks like Facebook and Twitter. AV Comparatives still likes it, and although it's not free (it will start at \$40 per year), it offers premium protection to match its price tag. If you are looking for more protection, you should step up to the more expensive but stronger ESET Smart Security, which has won its own praise in the nomination round. It also provides anti-theft protection for your devices, advanced tools and scanning options, multi-device management tools, a silent gaming mode that is somehow lighter in terms of resources, parental controls, and more. It'll pay you \$60 a year. The nominated topics for both products are full of praise, with most people emphasizing how well both of these tools work both in virus detection and removal tasks as well as daily use when you don't want to notice it. Honestly, it's the test of a great antivirus tool: When you're doing nothing, you don't want to notice it's running, and ESET's tools all provide a computing experience that lights up that resource. Those of you who nominated NOD32 highlight its fire and forgetful features without much tinkering, but those of you who stand out ESET Smart Security highlight advanced tools and its options give you incredible control over the tool. Read more in nod32's nomination topic here or Smart Security's nomination topic here. BitDefender AntivirusBitDefender is proud to provide a one-click antivirus and security tool for those who both need to be able to dirty their hands when they want as well as those who just need a simple tool to run and keep them protected from threats without tweaking. Whether you go for the paid or free version, BitDefender's minimal interface and lightweight settings earn praise from folks at AV Comparatives. BitDefender's Internet security kit (\$80) comes with a firewall, parental controls and other useful tools to keep your system and perhaps all its users safe. If you are looking for something to keep your computer safe without all the bells and whistles, Free BitDefender won't cost you a penny, and gets the job done. In fact, if you are a fan of simple mse installation and silent protection, BitDefender Free is very close to that experience without a ton of options, tweaks, or conversions. Just simple security for your computer. Friends of those who praised BitDefender in the nomination theme praised the fulminity of the Internet Security department, but specifically emphasized its free version and set-it-and-forget-it protection. It's simple—as in some advanced users who prefer features like silent mode or additional on-demand malware protection may be missing, but for those who just want to make sure nothing crosses their eyes without being properly tested, it's a simple option that you download, install, turn on, and forget about. It's even multi-platform. Read more in its nomination topic here. Kaspersky AntivirusKaspersky Antivirus is a bit of a controversial item. It earned very high praise in some quarters, and revulsion in others. For its part, AV Comparatives has awarded it product of the year award, which is counted for a lot in our book. Kaspersky boasts quick updates, powerful heuristics, and the ability to quickly adapt to new threats without updating the entire product to keep you protected. It's a full-features antivirus tool that provides both scans of files, emails, downloads, and apps that are enforced on demand. Kaspersky promises that their smaller, more frequent updates will help protect your PC from known threats, but also keep you safe from operating system exploits and vulnerabilities in software that you may not yet be able to update or patch. The tool also comes with a light-light resource gaming mode, allowing you to play in peace, anti-phishing protection and more. It's a premium product, and starts at \$40 per year. Kaspersky's nomination theme is full of back-and-forths we mentioned earlier. Some of you praised it for being completed and well rounded, and taking a proactive approach to internet security. Others note that it's one of the heavier products in the roundup and feels bulky and slow on your computer. Unlike many other candidates, Kaspersky does not make a noble statement about the use of resources or light installation. However, it provides complete protection from threats, and depending on what you use your PC, it may be more important. Read more in its nomination topic here. AviraAvira is another tool ranked in AV Comparatives' excellent list of antivirus tools as well as AV-Test rankings and offers a set of calculations in addition to on-demand scanning and traditional access, it's free. It also provides anti-malware protection, antisyware protection, and browser protection. It's not brimming with features, but important features are there, and they perform Avira also prides itself on its cloud-based scanning, which means that instead of waiting for updates to the app, the program can upload suspicious files to Avira for scanning against more recent threats. Avira has won some solid praise in the nomination theme, with a few noting that they've used it for ages (back when it was called Avira AntiVir) without problems, and the general note is that if you want something a little more complicated than BitDefender but don't care about Avast! for some reason, this is a big bet. Like many others on the list, it's also platform-based, and if you upgrade to the paid version, you'll get more features. Read more in its nomination topic here. Now that you've seen the top five, it's time to put them on a vote all out to determine the lifehacker community's favorite: The honorable mention this week goes out to Comodo Internet Security. Comodo Internet Security has earned high praise in the nomination round from friends familiar with Comodo's powerful firewall product, and you point out that Comodo Internet Security is the full package of their products - an excellent access scanner and antivirus utility, along with on-demand malware scanners and firewalls if you need to. It's fast, flexible and completely free — you don't have to spend a ton of money on regular access or updates, and Comodo even offers a guarantee that you won't get infected while running their product or they owe you \$500.We should also highlight AVG Free , appeared in the late nomination round, but still earned some significant support. It's free, multi-platform and offers complete on-demand scanning and access, as well as special tools for fast scanning and unobtrusive scanning (such as app speed scanners, game modes, and smart scanners). It even comes with protection against spyware and secure file deletion tools. We should note that AVG is the only item in the roundup that has been tested by AV Comparatives but does not make its top product list. However, there is still clear love for it, and it earns high praise in other stores, as at PCMag and at CNET. Want to make the case for your personal favorite, even if it is not included in the list? Remember, the top five nominees are based on your most popular nominations from the topic call for contenders earlier in the week. Don't just complain about the top 5, let us know what your preferred alternatives are - and make your case for it - in the discussions below. The Hive Five is based on readers' nominations. As with most Hive Five articles, if your favorite is left out, it has not received the necessary nominations in Call for post candidates to make the top five. We understand it's a bit of a popular contest. Is there a suggestion for Hive Five? Email us at tips+hivefive@lifehacker.comTitle image made using Maksim Kabakou (Shutterstock). 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