

Re: Is AVG anti-virus free edition or Avast Free Edition better?

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"xxx_" wrote in message news:C7B4B86F-9B8D-4D47-B8A5-629CCE74AD88@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

I have AVG Anti-virus free edition installed but I do not know if Avast is better. I do not want to pay for anti-virus as I feel that I can get real time protection for free. I will be willing to pay for anti-spyware programs as it seems that free anti-spyware solution do not provide real time protection – either AVG anti-spyware or Lavasoft Ad-aware Plus. Share you opinions here for options between AVG and Avast. I have almost made up my mind between AVG anti-spyware and Ad-aware Plus.

AVG free uses less resources (memory, CPU usage) than does Avast. Your host will be more responsive with AVG than with Avast, especially if you ever have to copy/move several hundred files at a time. There are features missing from both in the free versions that make them incomplete AV products, like script blocking. Don't bother with Avast's exclusion option (to exclude some files from scans) because they don't use a hash to ensure *that* file is what is excluded and not some malware that slid into that path under that filename. And don't use "smart" scanning in either as that relies on the extension of the file but any file regardless of extension can be executable if it has a header that says it is executable ("smart" is how they attempt to make themselves look faster and have less impact because they don't check all files).

AntiVir has better coverage, even in its free version, than does AVG or Avast, but AntiVir is nagware. They use a screen during updates to prod you to buy their commercial version. You can use an IPS (intrusion protection system) program, like DiamondCS ProcessGuard, System Safety Monitor, or AntiHook to regulate what loads into memory and have it prevent AntiVir from loading its avnotify.exe program to get rid of the nag popup – but then you are adding more security software to eliminate AntiVir being nagware (however, maybe you are already considering using or already use an IPS program). AntiVir and Avast has about the same impact to the responsiveness of your host, both of which are noticeably more impact than for AVG.

Go read <http://www.av-comparatives.org/> to check on scanning coverage of various AV products.

I've trialed Avast, Antivir, and AVG (free editions) and decided on AVG. If I were to reinstall an IPS product then I'd probably consider using Avira's AntiVir (and use the IPS to prevent loading their avnotify.exe program to eliminate the nagware popup) but knowing there would be a bit more impact to my host's responsiveness with AntiVir (so maybe I'll wait until I do a motherboard/CPU upgrade).