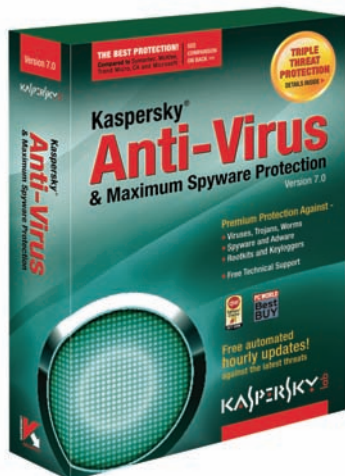


Kaspersky Anti-Virus 7



The good: Kaspersky Anti-Virus 7 sports an intuitive, fresh interface that is skinnable, offers excellent technical support, and easily vanquishes viruses, spyware, rootkits, phishing, and other malware.

The bad: Kaspersky Anti-Virus 7 can be slightly more expensive than the competition, and firewall protection is missing.

The bottom line: Kaspersky Anti-Virus 7 continues to outshine its competition with its ease of use combined with thorough antivirus protection.

Reviewed by: Robert Vamosi
 Reviewed on 9/5/07 Release date: 7/31/07

Editors' rating:
Excellent
8.0
 out of 10



Last year's CNET Editors' Choice award winner Kaspersky returns with another winner. Kaspersky Anti-Virus 7 features a new interface and new protection. But, unlike last year, the competition for Editors' Choice in this space was fierce with several worthy contenders all bunching toward the top of the scale. For example, BitDefender Antivirus 2008 is perhaps the most improved product of the year, nipping at the heels of Kaspersky. **What makes Kaspersky Anti-Virus continue to outshine its competition is its ease of use combined with thorough antivirus protection.** No firewall, no gimmicks, just straight AV protection. Kaspersky also makes an Internet security suite, yet Kaspersky Anti-Virus 7 feels complete as a standalone product and not, like Norton Antivirus 2008, a cog in larger family of products. That said, there is no firewall protection within Kaspersky Anti-Virus 2008, leaving you to choose your own firewall protection. Once again, Kaspersky requires considerably less disk space than Norton. The only real negative here is the list price, which can be \$10 to \$20 more than the competition, depending where you purchase it. Still, **Kaspersky Anti-Virus 7 provides the most complete antivirus protection on the market today and deserves our Editors' Choice for best antivirus product for 2008.**

Setup

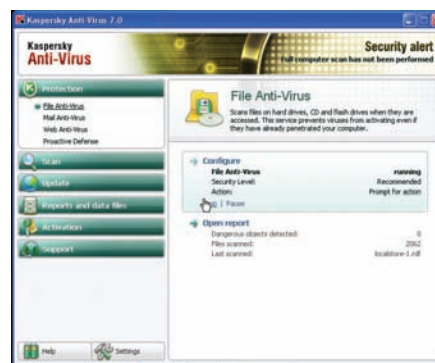
Kaspersky Anti-Virus 7 costs \$59.95 for a single license and \$69.95 for a three-user license. By comparison, Norton Antivirus 2008 costs \$39.95 for a single-user license (there are no three-user versions of NAV 2008). Kaspersky Anti-Virus 7 runs on Windows 2000, Windows XP, and Windows Vista, where Norton Antivirus runs only on Windows XP and Windows Vista. Kaspersky requires 512 RAM and at least 50MB of hard drive space (Norton requires 300 MB of hard drive space). A full-function 30-day trial version of Kaspersky Anti-Virus 7 is available.

We experienced no problems with several different installations during the month of August. After installation, the system requires a reboot for full protection.

Should you want to remove Kaspersky Anti-Virus 7, the product includes an uninstall option in the All Programs menu. Once we uninstalled the product and rebooted, we found no lingering evidence of Kaspersky remaining on our machine.

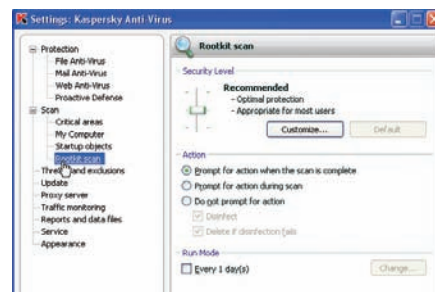
Interface

Kaspersky Anti-Virus 7 sports a cleaner, more sophisticated interface than last year's. We like it best among the 2008 antivirus applications we've seen. Immediately our eye was drawn to the red banner with text that told us our signature files were out of date. This is visually very effective and efficient, whereas a simple Fix It button to the side is not always informative. Also, unlike Norton's morbid, black border, we like the open, bright, and colorful interface of Kaspersky that is skinnable to suit your own tastes.



Interface

Kaspersky Anti-Virus 7 sports a cleaner, more sophisticated look. Of all the antivirus apps we've seen for 2008, this is our favorite. Both newbies and advanced users will be able to find the settings they need. Photo Credits: CNET Networks



Settings

Kaspersky uses top-of-the-line heuristics to identify newly created malware. The more traditional, signature-based antivirus protection is updated hourly. Few antivirus products cover you so well.



Another interface feature we like is the left navigation. Within seconds, we were able to find the configuration settings we wanted to tweak.

In addition to antivirus and antispyware protection, Kaspersky offers antirootkit protection as well. We like the built-in System Restore, so that should your computer ever become infected, Kaspersky will roll back any registry changes to a time prior to the infection. This is effective against spyware and rootkits.

Features

Not only is the malware protection within Kaspersky proactive, with top-of-the-line heuristics to identify newly created malware, and, like BitDefender Antivirus 2008, Kaspersky's traditional signature-based protection is updated hourly, along with any available program updates. We like this approach, as Kaspersky seems to have figured out what Norton has not: how to deliver small file updates. Plus, Kaspersky has consistently demonstrated the shortest response time to breaking new malware threats.

Kaspersky still provides users with the process of creating a rescue disk, something that many antivirus products no longer offer. And, Kaspersky Anti-Virus 7 includes a process so that the operating system can revert back to a time just before an infection. Like Norton, Kaspersky can also throttle back on system resources, depending on user activity. Unlike Norton, Kaspersky can, by default, scan only recently changed files, greatly shortening the overall scan time considerably.

Performance

Kaspersky Anti-Virus 7 scored well in CNET Labs' performance tests and in third-party, independent antivirus testing using live viruses, although not always the top position. On the CNET iTunes test, Kaspersky Anti-Virus 7 came in just 4 seconds above the test system at 272 seconds. On the CNET Microsoft Office test, Kaspersky Anti-Virus 7 finished in 1,518 seconds. In a test scanning a single folder with compressed and media files, Kaspersky Anti-Virus 7 completed it in 521 seconds. And in boot speed, Kaspersky came in second, with a fast 29.77 seconds. To find out how we test antivirus software, see CNET Labs' How we test: Antivirus software page.

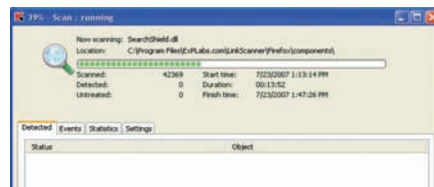
In terms of whether or not Kaspersky Anti-Virus 7 will protect your PC, we cite results from two leading independent antivirus testing organizations. In the latest test results from AV-Comparatives.org, for on-demand scans Kaspersky Anti-Virus 7 earned an Advanced + (highest) rating, catching 98 percent of all malware tested and tying with Norton Antivirus 2007. However, for the Retrospective/Proactive test, Kaspersky Anti-Virus 7 earned an Advanced (second-highest) rating, although Kaspersky produced very few false positives compared with other antivirus apps in the same test. From CheckVir.com, there is no data. Kaspersky Anti-Virus 7 was not included in recent tests, however, when it was last tested, Kaspersky Anti-Virus 6 earned a Standard rating when only the ability to search is tested, not antivirus removal.

Support

Kaspersky Anti-Virus 7 provides an excellent context-sensitive, in-program help file. For example, if you are on the Data Files page and you click Help, you're taken to the entry for Data Files within the Help file. It's a small touch, but one we don't see often enough. Kaspersky offers a robust 321-page PDF manual (the most complete of any antivirus application we've seen); it includes just about everything—except for an index, although the table of contents is richly detailed. Kaspersky also delivers excellent online FAQ and knowledge base. There are also active user forums. Finally, you can e-mail or call a toll-free number for live technical support.

Conclusion

If you're looking for an antivirus application that's good, fast, and light on system resources, Kaspersky is the one. We found this antivirus application easy enough for beginners, with customization features that will please more-advanced users, as well. But, with the competition gaining, by no means was this a knockout; this year's Editors' Choice race was tighter than ever.



Antivirus scans

Kaspersky Anti-Virus 7 scored well in CNET Labs' performance tests and in third-party, independent antivirus testing using live viruses. Kaspersky is one of the few antivirus apps to thoroughly scan your system by default—others skip compressed files or Microsoft Office files, leading to faster scan times but horrible protection.



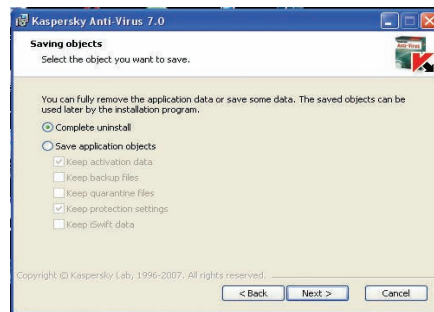
Help

The fact that Kaspersky is a Russian antivirus company doesn't mean you can't get top-quality technical support from within the United States or elsewhere. There are active user forums and FAQs available online. And you can use e-mail or call a toll-free number for live technical support.



Help

We also like the thorough help file. Kaspersky also offers a robust 321-page PDF manual (the most complete of any antivirus application we've seen); it includes just about everything—except an index, although the table of contents is richly detailed.



Uninstall

Unlike some applications, Kaspersky makes it easy to modify, repair, or remove the program. If you chose the last option, they even allow you to keep parts of it if you want to. A nice touch, we think.