REFERENCE SHEET

ANTIVIRUS

Purpose of the document

Help companies protect their computer systems (computers and servers) against malware by using antivirus software. The document presents the main characteristics and features of antivirus software and the selection criteria to consider.

What is malware?

Malware is any threat that tries to exploit security vulnerabilities. It can be software that modifies or deletes files, whether they are documents that the user has saved on an infected computer or files that are necessary for the computer's operation (most often operating system files). There are different types of malware (e.g. computer viruses, worms, Trojan horses).

Malicious websites are the main source of infection, mostly through plug-ins (e.g. Flash, Java and Active X). Removable media and phishing emails are other sources of infection.

What is antivirus software?

Antivirus software is designed to detect, neutralize and eradicate malware. Antivirus software has three main features:

- A **resident or watch protection**that analyzes the suspicious behavior of a malicious code on system files, emails, boot files, the computer's RAM, and data that could be transmitted on networks (including the Internet)
- A **scanner** that can scan removable media (e.g. USB sticks, CDs, DVDs) for malware
- A **module** for (automatic) updating of virus signatures.

How to choose the best antivirus software?

When choosing antivirus software, consider the following criteria:

- **Automatic updates** To maximize the performance of antivirus software, it is essential to do frequent updates by downloading the latest versions.

- **Ability to perform accurate scans**, because a virus can get to your C:\Windows\System file without being detected by your software's resident protection.

- **Speed** because antivirus software uses up a lot of memory and speed across the processes and services used. Antivirus software should not significantly disrupt or slow down the computer's processing when performing a task.

- **Other security features available.** Aside from providing local protection for data saved on a computer, a good antivirus program should also be able to search everywhere: in movable media, the browser, and even the Internet.

Other features of antivirus software

Some antivirus programs have features to protect computers. These features are:

a) *Antispyware* filters which prevent spyware from being installed.

b) *Antimalware* which protects systems against malware.

c) *Antispam* filters that can block unwanted messages.

Types of antivirus software

There are **free** and **paid** antivirus programs on the market. Watch out though! Price isn't always indicative of quality. There are other criteria to consider when choosing antivirus software.

These are a few of the antivirus programs available on the market:

Free antivirus programs	Paid antivirus programs
Avast Antivirus	TotalAV
AVG Free Antivirus	Bullguard
TotalAV	Kaspersky
PCProtect	McAfee VirusScan
	Norton AntiVirus
	Trend Micro
	BitDefender
	Microsoft Security Essentials (included with Windows)

Using antivirus software

1. Choose an antivirus program that's compatible with your computer's operating system.

2. Install the antivirus program on the company's computer system.

3. Update the antivirus program by downloading the latest versions.

4. Do a thorough initial analysis.

5. Launch a scan at the user's request trigger it regularly to examine all files one by one and check for the presence of a virus.

6. If you suspect contamination by a computer virus, launch a full scan to examine all the equipment that could be compromised by the contamination.

Tips and pointers

http://top5logicielantivirus.fr/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwre_XBRDVARIsAPf7zZi_vfzMQXfa8OwGWM_ZqdKYGuH0A7KTCFUui_OTUD8fG7ySSqAD7WMaAn8REALw_wcB