Product comparison avast! vs. Kaspersky

Product information

avast! is translated into over **34 languages**, which makes it much simpler to use for a wider range of nationalities. Despite this, **the avast! download is half the size**, and it's installation and operation files average a **60% smaller hard-disc footprint** than Kaspersky.

According to the *AV-Comparatives* tests, **avast! offers** in several cases much faster throughput speeds, resulting in **far better performance** in terms of scanning speed, and **much less demand on system resources**. avast! users benefit not only themselves but also the whole environment – through greener computing.

	Kaspersky Internet Security	avast! Internet Security	Kapersky Anti-Virus	avast! Pro Antivirus
Number of program languages	6	**34**	6	**34**
Size of the installation package	98,9 MB	**54,8 MB**	98,9 MB	**50,5 MB**
Program size after installation	404 MB	**160 MB**	403 MB	**135 MB**
1-year price & number of licenses	$79.95 up to 3 PCs	**$59.95 up to 3 PCs**	$39.99	**$39.95**

Product features

To provide objective comparison, all listed product features are taken from the Kaspersky website and compared with avast! product features. Clearly, both avast! Internet Security and avast! Antivirus offer equivalent features compared to Kaspersky products. There are 3 notable differences marked in the table for easier orientation:

1. *Parental Control* Although avast! doesn't offer parental controls', a quick internet search reveals endless problems with such an endeavor. avast! prefers offering fully functional antivirus software to our users.

2. *PC Tune up* Rather than offering an inferior add-on, avast! offers a BART CD (Bootable Antivirus and Recovery Tool) as a separate product which is designed especially for administrative virus detection and removal. Note: Neil Rubenking, Lead Analyst for PC Magazine, writes: "Only avast!'s BART CD can remove malware traces in the "foreign" registry[...] The true virus warrior who's working hard to clean up other people's drives[...] should go with avast!'s BART CD."

3. *Safe Run Mode* The process virtualization – in avast! called Sandbox - is a useful feature not just for Internet Security suites. avast! is therefore offering both 32 and 64 bit virtualization in the Internet Security as well as in the avast! Pro Antivirus, while Kaspersky Antivirus does not.

Kaspersky Product feature (Comparable avast! feature shown in brackets)				
Anti-Virus Protection	✓	✓	✓	✓
Proactive Protection	✓	✓	✓	✓
Digital Identity Protection	✓	✓	✓	✓
Internet Security (avast! Web Shield)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Block Unwanted Content (avast! antispam)	✓	✓	✗	✗
Family Protection (Parental Control)	✓	*$_1$	✓	*$_1$
PC Security Tune-up (avast! Bart CD)	✓	*$_2$	✓	*$_2$
Home Network Security (avast! Firewall)	✓	✓	✗	✗
Automatic scheduled scans and updates	✓	✓	✓	✓
Heuristics-based analysis (avast! Behaviour shield)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Unique Safe Run mode (avast! Sandbox)	✓	✓	✗	✓*$_3$

Product performance - avast! outperforms Kaspersky

AV-Comparatives, an independent testing laboratory widely quoted by IT magazines, tested products from 14 vendors on different performance criteria. The tests simulated user behavior for seven performance categories such as file copying, archiving (file storage), and program installation/uninstallation. **avast! Internet Security got the highest 'very fast'** in these three categories.

In the recent tests, **avast!** Internet Security was **awarded** the **highest three-star**, **advanced+** certificate for its overall performance.

The graphs on the righ describe the different tests undertaken by *AV-Comparatives* and clearly demonstrates avast! performance in terms of speed. By rating the time taken to carry out everyday tasks, a rating of Slow, Mediocre, Fast and Very Fast was awarded. The results clearly demonstrate that **avast! was much faster** at these tasks **than Kaspersky**. Graph 1 shows the test performed on a Windows 7 operating system, whereby Graph 2, shows them performed on a Windows XP operating system.

The graphs on the right show the results of the latest independent Comparative Review performed by *Virus Buletin (VB100)* and demonstrate that **avast! Free Antivirus (free of charge)** is comparable and in some cases **outperforms Kaspersky's** Internet Security **paid product**.
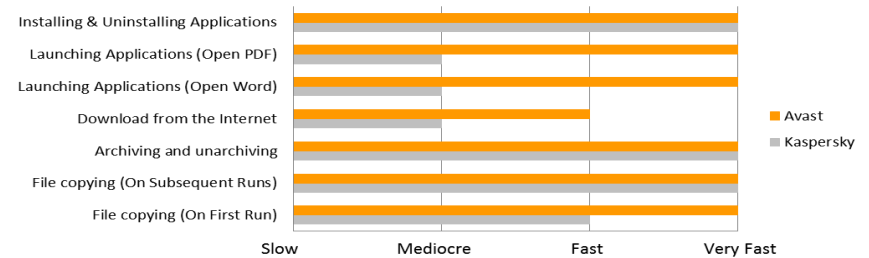
A true test of antivirus software comes not only from the **detection ability**, which **avast! excels** at (regularly receiving top grade VB100 recognition), but also from it's ease and speed of use. The judgement of the customer, and how they interpret the impact on their system, stems mainly from whether their computer maintains similar processing speed to before the software was installed.

The graphs, and tables show that with **avast!** installed **system resources** were still **very fast**, and indeed similar to the bench-mark speed before the antivirus was installed; whereby with Kaspersky installed, which is resource-hungry, processing slowed considerably.
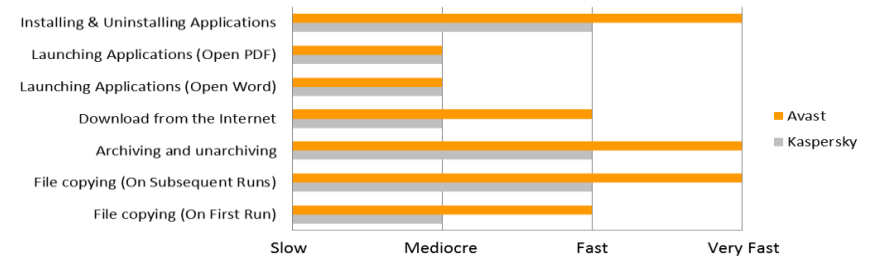
The **strength of avast!** antivirus software goes far beyond its ability to process at **high speeds**, in addition to typical virus-gathering methods, avast! is **supported** by **over 130 million users**, of which a large majority participate in the **avast! Community IQ**, a unique source of data whereby customers contribute samples directly to the **avast! virus lab**.

You can see that avast! surpasses Kaspersky's products by excelling in speed performance, download and installation size, languages offered, and in price.
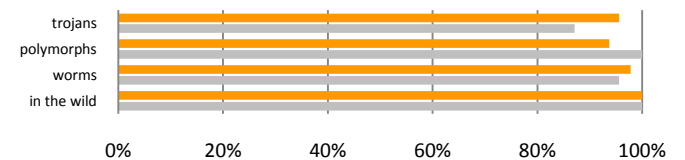
Test undertaken on Windows 7

■ Avast	■ Kaspersky

Categories: Installing & Uninstalling Applications, Launching Applications (Open PDF), Launching Applications (Open Word), Download from the Internet, Archiving and unarchiving, File copying (On Subsequent Runs), File copying (On First Run). Scale: Slow, Mediocre, Fast, Very Fast.

Test undertaken on Windows XP

■ Avast	■ Kaspersky

Categories: Installing & Uninstalling Applications, Launching Applications (Open PDF), Launching Applications (Open Word), Download from the Internet, Archiving and unarchiving, File copying (On Subsequent Runs), File copying (On First Run). Scale: Slow, Mediocre, Fast, Very Fast.

VB100 On-Demand Test Results

Categories: trojans, polymorphs, worms, in the wild. Scale: 0%, 20%, 40%, 60%, 80%, 100%.

VB100 On Access Test Results

Categories: trojans, polymorphs, worms, in the wild. Scale: 0%, 20%, 40%, 60%, 80%, 100%.

■ avast Free Antivirus	■ Kaspersky Internet Security