

Bitdefender v. Avast | The Ultimate Comparison [2019 Updated]

Introduction

It's not your grandfather's internet anymore; instead, it's an ocean that's teeming with malware and spyware that's yearning to reach into your computer and disperse your sensitive data all over the web. Contrary to being safer, the internet is filled with more malware and viruses than ever before.

JavaScript malware, for instance, runs on the most common web-browsing language in the world. There were over 7 million new JavaScript malware viruses discovered in 2018 alone! That number is only climbing.

Add to that the fact that over 800 million – that's 800,000,000,000 – new malware bugs were made in 2018 across the entire world for all programming languages and you can see that there's a clear message: internet security is necessary now more than ever.

But just any internet security won't do the trick. You'll want to avoid the cheap or free stuff; while it looks tempting on the surface, free antivirus suites lack key features and security software that keep computers safe from the worst viruses.

Instead, you'll want something worth the money, something that gives you real bang for your buck. More premium antivirus software can secure your computer *and* perform a host of other helpful tasks: protect passwords, scan your computer for threats, optimize your rig's performance, and more.

When it comes to internet security, it's better to get what you pay for. Peace of mind doesn't really have a price, in our eyes, and we hope you'll feel the same. After all, you might end up spending much more replacing a computer infected with a bunch of viruses than you might have paid by getting a good antivirus package.

Therefore, we're going to get into some of the best antivirus software choices on the internet: Bitraider and Avast. Let's dig into their details and find out what makes them worthwhile, and which is better overall...

A Quick Rundown of the Winners in Each Category

Features

Winner: Both. Bitdefender and Avast have a great collection of features, each with unique focuses and specializations. Which is better depends on the user.

Protection

Winner: Both. Both Bitdefender and Avast protect computers equally-well against malware and spyware attacks.

Impact

Winner: Bitdefender. It's a close competition, but Bitdefender proves through testing that it runs just a little more smoothly than Avast.

User-Friendliness

Winner: Bitdefender. Thanks to its customizable user interface, Bitdefender works for both beginners and more experienced keyboard jockeys.

Price

Winner: Bitdefender. Bitdefender provides more bang for your buck in terms of quality and features, even if Avast's most basic package is free.

Popularity

Winner: Both. Customers consider both Bitdefender and Avast equally-well.

Overall

Winner: Bitdefender. It's a close competition, but Bitdefender provides higher quality than Avast, especially once you start paying for the higher packages and antivirus suites.

Features Included in Bitdefender Antivirus Suites

Bitdefender starts off with a small number of features, but its later plans have a wide variety of security functions that serve anyone's needs.

Bitdefender Antivirus Plus provides basic protection in the form of a firewall and a scanner, as well as a password manager. Antivirus Plus also comes with a secure Internet browser and a filter for ransomware obtained through your email.

The next Bitdefender package is much more robust. It includes the above features as well as file encryption for the transmission of sensitive data and parental controls to monitor or control what kids view on the Internet. This makes **Bitdefender Internet Security** a great pick for parents. Internet Security further includes a spam filter for your email inbox and an advanced firewall.

Bitdefender's last package comes with its full breadth of features. **Bitdefender Total Security** includes everything previously discussed as well as a computer Optimizer, which enhances your PCs speed and responsiveness by cleaning out junk files in organizing temporary files. Furthermore, Total Security is programmed with an excellent rescue mode.

Rescue mode is basically an advanced reset that protects your files while deeply rebooting your computer in the event of a hard virus infection. This could be instrumental in recovering your computer from some of the worst viruses on the internet.

Then, there are the other sweet perks too, like a Wi-Fi security advisor to alert you of an unsafe Wi-Fi network and a webcam protector. Bitdefender Photon checks your hardware and software and optimizes its future scans based on your computer's unique build; this speeds up the process the more you use Bitdefender, incentivizing long-term use.

Altogether, Bitdefender's greatest security perks are found in its higher tiers of service, while its most basic package is a little lacking.

Features Included in Avast Antivirus Suites

Avast's greatest feature is that its core antivirus software is free. This software, called **Avast Free Antivirus**, gives real-time shielding against malware or viruses. This package also includes a password manager, which is handy for keeping track of multiple passwords, and a Wi-Fi security advisor.

This security advisor alerts you if your Wi-Fi is not secure or if you connect your computer to a public or unsecured network. Overall, Free Antivirus provides a really basic coverage that is outshined by higher tiers. Its draw is due to its free cost.

Once you upgrade from Avast free antivirus, the next option is **Avast Internet Security**. Internet Security comes with all of the features of free antivirus, as well as an advanced firewall and a junk filter for your email inbox. Additionally, Internet Security comes with a "sandbox" feature that allows you to partition and safely run any suspicious app.

The uses for this are only limited by your imagination. For instance, you can run programs that you downloaded from the Internet in sandbox mode first to make sure that they will not harm the rest of your computer. You can also open suspicious files in sandbox mode to satisfy your curiosity without risking the health of your computer.

Avast Premium is the third tier of Avast internet security. It's very similar to the previous tier, although it includes webcam shielding software to stop people from remotely watching you through your webcam. It can also permanently delete sensitive files that you don't want to risk ever getting out.

Finally, Avast offers another upgrade called **Avast Ultimate** which is functionally identical to Avast Premium, but which has a few extra features, such as a secure VPN generator, and advanced cleanup tool for speeding up your computer, and a password protector. It's worth noting that a password protector is included in Bitdefender's most basic antivirus product.

Overall, Avast wins when it comes to early or cheap protection, but if you spend only a little more money, you get much better results and security features from Bitdefender. Bitdefender has better tricks up its sleeve, such as Bitdefender Photon and the rescue mode, although Avast's sandbox mode is difficult to pass up. In addition, Avast has certain features offered with its top software suites that are included in Bitdefender's cheaper packages, such as password protector. This is a tie.

Winner: Both.

Bitdefender v. Avast: Which Offers Better Malware Protection?

The primary purpose of antivirus software is to protect your computer or device from malware. Malware, used in the sense, means any harmful file or virus that might damage your computer or steal sensitive information from your files.

When it comes to measuring how well an antivirus software protects the computer, you can't rely on user reviews or the word of the company. Instead, you need to look at independent tests from unbiased organizations who run the software through a viral gauntlet designed to put them through their paces. That's why we checked the test results from two different companies who specialize in antivirus software comparisons.

AV-Test.org, an independent antivirus testing website, measures its test software on a scale of 1 to 6 in three categories: protection, performance, and usability. For the Protection category, Bitdefender scored 6 out of 6, a perfect score. Avast did the exact same, indicating that both antivirus software companies are comparable in this regard.

The close competition continues with another testing agency, AV Comparatives. This organization uses their Real World Protection Test to measure an antivirus' protective capabilities. Both Bitdefender and Avast won the Advanced+ Award, the highest that AV Comparatives bestows. This indicates that they're equally capable of protecting a standard computer from malware attacks.

Winner: Both.

[Bitdefender v. Avast: Which Antivirus Has Less Impact on a System?](#)

One important consideration when choosing between antivirus software is how much it will impact the day-to-day performance of your computer. Antivirus software that takes too much of a toll can slow down your computers normal processes and become an annoyance.

That's why tests for performance are so important. Once again, both Bitdefender and Avast are very close in this regard. Let's look at some test results to discern which is better.

AV-test.org ran a Performance test for both antivirus software companies and found that Bitdefender scored a perfect 6 out of 6 while Avast, while close behind, scored 5.5 out of 6. This indicates that Bitdefender is just a little bit better at running in the background of a normal computer, while Avast causes more slowdown for normal processes.

AV-Comparatives, meanwhile, ran their Performance Test and found that, once again, both companies received the highest award that their give out: Advanced+, or the equivalent of a 3-star rating.

As Bitdefender won one test and the other was a tie, they barely win in this category, although it is quite close.

Winner: Bitdefender.

[Bitdefender v. Avast: Which Antivirus is More User-Friendly?](#)

Using your antivirus software should be easy and intuitive. Of course, this means more user-friendly software is going to be a better pick for most people.

Let's look at another test from AV-test.org. Out of 6, both Bitdefender and Avast scored 6. This indicates high user-friendliness when tested by unbiased users.

But what do their control panels actually look like? Bitdefender offers a nice innovation called quick actions. These actions are made of five different tiles that you can stick your preferred features or operations on for easy use and daily access. Furthermore, Bitdefender has an autopilot setting which recommends actions for you to take based on its scans of your system.

You can further customize your Bitdefender experience with profiles by grouping actions or quick access tiles into preset combinations that are ideal for strings of tasks or specific objectives. Altogether, Bitdefender has a customizable user interface that gives you more value as you learn it.

Now, let's look at Avast's user interface.

Avast has you control everything from one central panel with the different categories of options and operations on a sidebar for easy switching to and from. All of the buttons and selections are large and simplistic, making it an ideal choice for beginners or for those who are not very computer literate.

One downside faced by the Avast interface is that if you are using the free version, you will be solicited for an upgrade very frequently. This can become annoying after only a short while. However, once you upgrade these advertisements virtually disappear.

The Avast control panel is not as customizable as the Bitdefender interface, but it is arguably better for those seeking a simpler antivirus protection experience. Bitdefender will be a better choice for those who are experienced in modifying their user interfaces and offers more optimal control for your antivirus needs. It's a close one, but we've got to give it to Bitdefender.

Winner: Bitdefender.

[Bitdefender v. Avast: Which Antivirus is Better Priced?](#)

When it comes to pricing, these two software companies could not be more different. For one, Bitdefender costs money no matter which software. Avast, on the other hand, starts with its most basic version be free. Every upgrade after the Avast's basic package does cost money, but this initial low barrier to entry is a great perk for Avast users.

Let's continue discussing Avast's pricing model. The next tier of Avast protection is Avast Internet security. This comes with a 30-day free trial but after costs \$59.99 per year. There are options to save if you subscribe for two or three years. Internet security contains 10 licenses.

Avast's next year is Avast premier. This subscription model also protects up to 10 PCs, and it includes webcam protection. The price for Avast premier is \$69.99 per year, with similar discounts for subscriptions for two or three years.

Avast does have one final subscription called Avast ultimate. This is just like Avast premier, except it includes protection or one mobile device such as a tablet or smartphone. The cost for Avast ultimate is quite high at \$119.99 per year. For such a high price hike, Ultimate does not seem worthwhile for protecting only one device.

Now, let's look at Bitdefender's business model. While their most basic plan is not free like Avast's, their overall scale as the tier of protection increases is much more reasonable.

Let's start with Bitdefender antivirus plus. This costs only \$34.99 per year and contains licenses for 10 devices. If you are trying to save money, Bitdefender offers cheaper promotional pricing or three license deals.

Bitdefender's next tier of subscription is only five dollars more expensive: \$39.98 per year. Bitdefender Internet security is a 10-license package comes with parental controls and network threat prevention software, along with everything antivirus plus offers.

Finally, Bitdefender total security is priced at \$44.99 per year. It contains licenses for a minimum of five devices up to 10, along with better parental controls and performance optimizers. Furthermore, total security can work for Mac or PC, whereas the other two options are PC only. Avast does not have any subscription options available for Mac operating systems.

Overall, Bitdefender offers better pricing for its advanced tiers of security coverage, while Avast is slightly better for budget shoppers in that its basic package is free. However, we have to give Bitdefender to win here due to its overall better value for money. You get more protection, and a better selection of features, per dollar spent with Bitdefender than you get per dollar spent at Avast.

Winner: Bitdefender

Bitdefender v. Avast: Which Antivirus is More Popular?

One final element of antivirus evaluation is the reaction of each option's current customers. Let's take a look at how popular each company currently is.

The Better Business Bureau is an independent rating company that averages customers reviews of a company into a final score to measure customer satisfaction. This scale is A to F. Avast gets an amazing A+ from the BBB, while Bitdefender falls short with a C.

However, it's not so simple as one rating. Consumeraffairs.org takes an average of customer complaints and gives companies a star rating out of five. When each company is examined, they flip places: Bitdefender has four out of five stars while Avast only has two!

What this indicates, overall, is that both companies are generally held in high regard but neither has more customer complaints than the other. Therefore, this section is another tie.

Winner: Both.

Final Verdict

It's a close competition. Avast brings a lot of great things to the table, including a decent free service that will be ideal for those who need internet protection now but don't have the cash to pay for more premium service.

However, if you've got the money and need all-around, great protection, **Bitdefender** is a better choice. In particular, choosing some of their higher tiers of service is a good call, especially when compared to Avast's more expensive options. Bitdefender is also a little better at running on normal computers, too.

Bitdefender provides exceptional security features and great malware protection against any and all internet threats. They're the only option with coverage for Mac users, too. Bitdefender provides a lot more bang for your buck, and when it comes to internet security, you definitely want the best quality you can get.