

# PC WORLD

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## REVIEWS & RANKINGS

# Kaspersky's Best-of-Breed Security Suite

## SECURITY

WHEN IT COMES to detecting any kind of malware, **Kaspersky Internet Security 6.0**—a suite of antivirus, antispyware, firewall, antispam, and Web protection tools—is top-shelf. But at \$80 it is expensive, and its unique interface may be initially confusing.

The prerelease build we looked at (a shipping version is now available) scored 100 percent in nearly all of the malware detection tests conducted for us by German security research company AV-Test.org, with which *PC World* regularly partners to evaluate security products.

Kaspersky's suite caught all boot, file, macro, and script malware on a subset of the January 2006 WildList, a public list of widespread threats. It also found AV-Test's entire collection of back doors, bots, and Trojan horses. When deprived of signature updates from January 2006 and later, the suite nabbed 76 percent of malware, which suggests that it is very good at detecting undiscovered threats.

The suite spotted nearly 100 percent of AV-Test's samples of adware, missing only 2 out of 713 files. It also detected all malware samples packed with-

in file archives (such as .zip). It detected an excellent 83 percent of the malware hidden within compressed program files—bad news for malware writers looking to stuff old worms into new packaging. The firewall was solid as well, blocking all attacks from inside and outside our test PC.

The app was good—but not as good as other products—at disinfecting ten worms already active on our test computer. Though the package cleaned up worm files, it left remnants of Hosts-file and Registry changes made by six worms. In addition, Kaspersky's suite incorrectly flagged as malware 8 out of 20,000 clean files; this false-positive rate, though low, suggests that you can't blindly trust its recommendation for action.

During our timed tests the suite proved relatively slow at performing the first system scan, but it should get faster with each subsequent scan, as it caches data from previous passes. However, the package also caused two of our World-Bench 5 application tests to take 15 percent more time, so you will likely notice a drag on system performance.

Another drawback: Rather than using the standard anti-



KASPERSKY INTERNET SECURITY'S naming and organizing conventions are unique and can take some getting used to.

virus, antispyware, and firewall naming conventions common to other security software products, Kaspersky has its own detailed naming scheme. For example, it breaks down antivirus settings into File Anti-Virus, Mail Anti-Virus, and Web Anti-Virus; firewall settings are labeled Anti-Hacker. This made finding certain common settings more difficult.

The application also leaves out a few tools that come standard on competing products from vendors like McAfee and Symantec, such as parental controls and support for individual instant-messaging clients. It does, however, provide important security features such as rootkit detection and

protection against downloading dangerous scripts while Web surfing.

Kaspersky's Internet Security suite is powerful. If PC security is your primary concern, you will be able to rest easy with this product.

—Narasu Rebbapragada

## Kaspersky Internet Security 6.0

Kaspersky Lab

PCW Rating **86** Very Good

This expensive suite is excellent at detecting all kinds of malware, but it lacks some extras.

Street: \$80 retail, \$70 download; \$60 second-year subscription  
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**KASPERSKY** Lab