

August 2001 Test Center
Coming Clean
by Berni Dwan



Global Virus Insurance

Version: 2.12

Supplier: Panda Software

Price: on application

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FOR

Daily, automatic, intelligent updates of the virus signature database. The updates are also automatically sent out to all workstations on your network.

AGAINST

Nothing.

VERDICT

Covers all your anti-virus network needs, with wonderful central administration.

Features	★★★★★
Ease of use	★★★★★
Performance	★★★★★
Documentation	★★★★★
Support	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★

Overall Rating ★★★★★

Panda's Global Virus Insurance is an enterprise class anti-virus solution. Most large enterprise networks are probably a hotchpotch of operating systems and workstations, an unavoidable result of rapidly changing technologies, different needs of users and departments, tempered by available finances and resources. If you are stuck in this sprawling, hotchpotch network environment, Global Virus Insurance may be the solution that will address your diverse needs.

With its network management tool, the Panda Administrator, you can control anti-virus protection on NT, Windows 2000, Exchange and Novell servers, and all workstation platforms, such as Windows 3.1x, 95/98, 2000, NT, MS-DOS and even OS/2 from a single workstation. This means you can perform an install, uninstall, configure, scan and update on any workstations or servers from that workstation. New technology scans at the Winsock and TCP/IP level, covering all possible virus entry points, and one signature file fits all platforms. We look at the Exchange component.

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Panda Antivirus for Exchange Server is a 100 percent MAPI-compliant application-level anti-virus solution for Microsoft Exchange Servers 5.0 and 5.5, fully utilizing MAPI optimization to scan both the information store and the MTA connectors, only performing those operations on file attachments when a scanning or disinfection operation is needed. Somewhat similar to Antigen's in-memory scanning technology, a proprietary VirtualFile Scanning System (Vfile) means that only the file chunks that need to be analyzed will be treated in memory. With this technology files do not need to be extracted from the information store into the hard drive to be treated physically, and then re-inserted into the information store. Panda Antivirus for Exchange Servers offers three operational modes: real-time scanning, immediate on-demand scanning and scheduled on-demand scanning, which can be configured independently, with different scanning, disinfecting, quarantine and notification options.

The Intelligent Update system is sophisticated and impressive. Panda Antivirus for Exchange Servers can update and upgrade itself manually or automatically (scheduled), without stopping the real-time scanning or the scan engine itself. Furthermore, intelligent updates apply to both virus signature updates and scan engine updates, while an additional level of intelligent update technology allows Exchange administrators to deploy "Exchange AV update servers" throughout the LAN/WAN which in turn perform intelligent updates to the rest of the "Exchange AV update clients."

So, what does Panda Antivirus for Exchange Server actually scan and subsequently disinfect, and where is it done? Well, the list is impressive. It scans and disinfects at the Winsock or TCP/IP level, the ftp, NNTP (Usenet newsgroups), POP3, and SMTP Internet protocols. It offers scanning and disinfection for the more popular email clients, both MAPI and POP3. Finally, it scans and disinfects the body of email messages, both in rich text format and HTML. Panda also scans and disinfects OLE embedded objects and multi-level nested messages.