



# NEWS

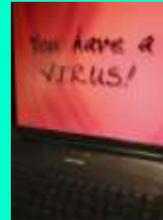
# JOURNAL

April 2006

Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts

Volume 23, Issue 1

## ANTI-VIRUS SOFTWARE!!!!



### LCACE Meeting Dates 2006

01 April - Anti-Virus Software

(LCACE ELECTIONS)

13 May - DSL

10 June - Digital Camera/Photo

### Inside this issue...

President's Notes .....	3
Norton Anti-Virus.....	4
McAfee Anti-Virus.....	5
AVG Anti-Virus.....	6



**“Members Helping Members”**  
(since 1983)

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### **Membership**

Membership for LCACE is open to all individuals and families interested in personal computing. Annual dues are \$20.00 per individual/family. Associate membership is only \$10.00 (out of state, unable to attend meetings). Membership includes a one year subscription to the L.C.A.C.E. News Journal and access to all club libraries and functions. Applications for membership may be obtained at the monthly meeting, by request on the club Hotline, and are now available on our WEB site at - <http://www.lcace.org>.

### **Meetings**

LCACE meetings are usually held on the second Saturday of each month at the Grayslake Area Public Library, 100 Library Lane, Grayslake, Illinois. The meeting room opens at noon and the formal meeting begins at 12:30 p.m. All meetings are open to the public. Bring a friend!

### **Advertising**

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# *President's* NOTES

## **Looking Back, Looking Forward 23 Years!**

That's how long it has been since LCACE made its debut in 1983. On a cold, rainy day in April, a group of hardcore Atarians met at the Great Lakes Community Center to share their knowledge and ideas. Well, twenty-three years later some of the faces have changed, but searching for knowledge and sharing ideas are still the club's goals.

During our history, LCACE has been "*the little club that could.*" After the failure of two of the mega Chicago Atari Computer clubs, LCACE was able to host three successful AtariFests. Seeing the faces of John Schultz and Steve Kostelnik (former presidents) at the March meeting reminded me of the hundreds of miles a few of us hardcore Atarians logged in just to attend AtariFests in Detroit, Michigan, Windsor, Canada and several trips to Indianapolis, Indiana for their annual Atari SwapFests. A few members had the opportunity to be on the cutting edge and work side-by-side with Atari Corporation executives and hardware and software developers by manning their booths at the Chicago Consumer Electronic Shows.

Back in the Atari's heydays, BBS's (Bulletin Board Systems) were the main link in the Atari community to keep us abreast of the latest Atari news and public domain software. Tri-City System, hosted by Richard Bollmeier, Steve Kostelnik and J.J. Johnson, were the three main BBS's supporting the Lake County Atari community. I bet many of you today couldn't imagine text messaging on a computer screen at 300 baud. Other than the baud rate, doesn't this sound familiar? "Text Messaging" is done on cellular phones today. We were doing it in 1983! The world has not evolved that far. If Atari were still in business, think how much further we could have advanced.

I've met all kinds of computer users from the new owner/beginner, all the way up to advanced programmers and geeks. ("Geek" is an endearing term for someone who lives, breathes and sleeps computers, and is generally a programmer and advanced user who can tell you how to do anything on your computer from turning it on to reconditioning the motherboard, to opening your boss's email account.) Some of the most helpful and knowledgeable computer experts I've found are in user groups. These are people (myself included) who enjoy sharing their experience and advice. It all boils down to "Members Helping Members."

It's April and we will be holding our annual elections. It's good to see we have a few new names on the ballot; it's not too late to add your own name or someone you think would make a great addition to the board of directors. I'm sure the new board will work even harder than the current one to ensure the future of the club. Don't forget to come out and **VOTE!**

To my surprise, our March presentation was changed from Virus Protection to "Build Your Own Computer". Due to some unforeseen problems, Julio was unable to finish building his new computer during our rather long demonstration. There were a few connections the gurus didn't know what to do with, so I hope Julio was able to complete building the computer at home. I understand that the Virus Protection presentation will be given at the April meeting. For the few who were able to gather around the table, I hope you learned what is involved in assembling/rebuilding a computer.

It's always good to see old and new faces at the meetings, especially our friends Zee and Gerri from Chicago. I would like to welcome back Joe and Terry Kilroy. They have decided renew their membership after a few years' hiatus. We had another guest named Linda, but after she unintentionally told me her age, she quickly departed. I hope that she decides to rejoin us in the future.

See you at the April meeting!

J.J.

(Author has requested that this article not be edited.)

# Anti-Virus Reviews

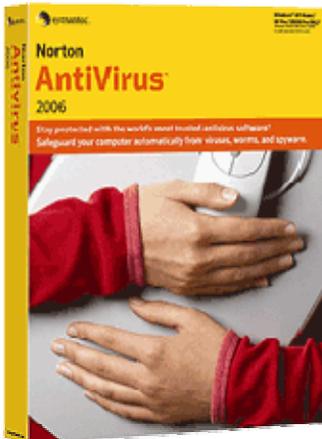
(Norton Anti-Virus)

Reviewed by: [Ken Feinstein](#)

Edited by: [Robert Vamosi](#)

Review date: 11/9/05

With Norton AntiVirus 2006, Symantec finally gets serious about [spyware](#) and adware, computer malware problems that are becoming as insidious and pervasive as viruses were in the late 1990s. Norton AntiVirus 2006's enhanced protection against these new threats offers a big improvement over [Norton AntiVirus 2005](#). That said, Norton is not as proactive as [McAfee VirusScan 2006](#), which warns you *before* downloading suspected adware and spyware, a feature we'd like to see added to all anti-spyware apps some day. And we wish Symantec had left well enough alone and not cluttered the clean and highly functional interface of the previous edition. Despite these two things, Norton AntiVirus 2006 is a solid upgrade for current users, but new users still might want to look for faster, lighter performance found in other antivirus apps instead.



Our installation of Norton AntiVirus 2006 went smoothly, thanks to the assistance of a helpful wizard. We've always appreciated Norton AntiVirus's clean and logical interface. Unfortunately, with this year's debut of the Norton Protection Center, Norton AntiVirus 2006 has lost that uncluttered usability. The Norton Protection Center appears both as a separate icon in the system tray as well as a separate window within the software's control console. Most of the Protection Center's functions are useful, such as the alerts it sends if you don't have the latest virus definitions or haven't run a system scan in a while and the bar graph in the Status window. However the Protection Center is focused on upselling Symantec's other products to

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you rather than providing any new, useful security information. For instance, if you ask to learn more about data recovery, you're taken directly to the Norton System-Works 2006 product page on Symantec's Web site. Norton AntiVirus 2006 does offer some important security feature enhancements, such as protecting your browser's home page against spyware hijacks. More important, Norton AntiVirus 2006 expands its detection and removal to spyware and adware programs, catching them both in real-time and full-system scans; plus, virus and spyware definition updates are now updated daily. But in our tests, Norton AntiVirus 2006 didn't perform as well as [McAfee VirusScan 2006](#) with regard to spyware. Norton AntiVirus 2006 allowed adware to install and run first, then alerted us to the problem. McAfee VirusScan 2006, on the other hand, alerted us before the offending software started to download. However, once a potential threat was discovered, Norton AntiVirus 2006 provided a detailed evaluation of the specific threat. On the other hand, McAfee failed to provide detailed information, making it more difficult to decide whether to keep the software installed or remove it. In terms of stopping traditional viruses, Norton AntiVirus 2006 provides a complete array of protection. Norton AntiVirus 2006 scans incoming and outgoing e-mail, and it monitors IM traffic through [AIM](#), [MSN](#), and [Yahoo](#)

# The Programs for the next months are:

01 Apr Anti-Virus

13 May DSL

10 Jun Camera/Photo

[Messenger](#). In addition, Norton AntiVirus 2006 monitors the network and notifies you of any wormlike behavior it detects. For more complete performance benchmarks for Norton AntiVirus 2006, see CNET's [2006 AntiVirus performance test results](#) page. Norton AntiVirus 2006 showed a definite performance hit during our "real-world" performance tests, but it was less severe than with McAfee. As for reliability, Norton AntiVirus has been independently tested against other antivirus products by [CheckVir](#) and [AV-Comparatives](#), and it generally compares favorably at stopping most if not all viruses in those tests.

With Norton AntiVirus 2006, users receive product upgrades as well as signature definition updates through the life of the subscription. Previously, you had to upgrade to the latest version of the software to take advantage of new features.

Norton AntiVirus 2006 users have a choice between free online chat and paid telephone support. Both are offered 24/7. Symantec's support site, however, needs a redesign, because the link to the free online chat was extremely hard to find. We discovered the free chat link only after clicking the "Continue to phone support" link. Phone support costs \$29.95 per incident or \$2.95 per minute.

McAfee Antivirus

**Reviewed by: Jeff Bertolucci**

**Edited by: Robert Vamosi**

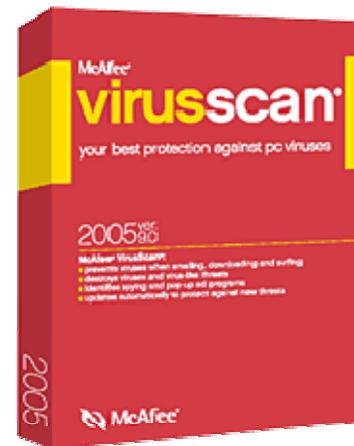
**Review date: 10/5/04**

In [CNET Labs tests](#), McAfee VirusScan produced the same amount of a drag on system performance as Symantec Norton AntiVirus and Trend Micro PC-cillin did. The lightest hit on system resources came from [Computer Associates eTrust EZ Antivirus](#). VirusScan took longer to scan our 1.3GB hard drive than both PC-cillin and eTrust EZ Antivirus.

To measure VirusScan's impact on system performance,

CNET Labs uses BAPCo's SysMark 2002, an industry-standard benchmark. The Internet-content-creation portion of SysMark measures a desktop's performance running off-the-shelf applications, such as Adobe Photoshop, Microsoft Windows Media Encoder, and Macromedia Dreamweaver. (We did not run the office-productivity portion of the benchmark because it incorporates McAfee VirusScan 5.13.)

Our test system was a Dell Dimension 8200 running Windows XP Professional, with an Intel Pentium 4 1.9GHz processor and 256MB of RDRAM. With VirusScan running, our test system scored a 94--meaning there was a 6 percent reduction in overall system speed. By comparison, Norton AntiVirus 2005 also scored a 94, a 6 percent reduction. (An Internet-content-creation score of 100 represents the performance of our test system without any extraneous software running.) In a test of scanning speed, McAfee took an average of 6.68 minutes to scan a 1.3GB directory--nowhere near as fast as speed-demon PC-cillin, which averaged 2.4 minutes.



In past VirusBulletin tests, McAfee's VirusScan has been tested only once, back in [June of 2002](#), and it passed. By comparison, Norton AntiVirus has been [tested 10 times](#) and earned the coveted VB 100 Percent title each time. Norton AntiVirus is one of the few products tested to consistently win the VB 100 Percent award. Previous versions of VirusScan have also been certified by the independent antivirus-testing laboratories at [West Coast Checkmark](#), [ICSA Labs](#), and [Check-vir.com](#).



# AVG Anti-Virus

## AARP Testimony

### An AVG Anti-Virus Solution for AARP Tax-Aide

As the charity affiliated with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), the AARP Foundation oversees a variety of programs for older people and those in need.

Chief among these programs is AARP Tax-Aide, a nationwide network of trained volunteers who provide free tax return completion and filing assistance. "As a charitable organization with limited funding, we rely on good word of mouth for most of our publicity," says David Inman, a member of the Tax-Aide National Technology Committee. "And with computers playing such a huge role in the services we provide, we can't afford to have the process — and in turn, the experience of our volunteers and clients — disrupted by a virus."

### The Challenge to AARP Tax-Aide

AARP Tax-Aide ([www.aarp.org/money/taxaide](http://www.aarp.org/money/taxaide)) was established in 1968 with four volunteers who served 100 people that first tax season. During the 2003 tax season, AARP Tax-Aide had nearly 32,000 volunteers who staffed 8,500 sites and assisted 1.85 million people throughout the United States. AARP Tax-Aide works in cooperation with the IRS, which provides training and yearly certification to the program and its volunteers. During the busiest time — February 1 through April 15 — Tax-Aide volunteers in every state help people maximize their legal deductions and credits, for tangible economic benefits.

"With a paid staff of only 10 people, Tax-Aide depends on the volunteers," says Inman. "They give of their time freely and willingly, working at the state level to manage the program and provide tax services to those who need them." He himself is a volunteer and the Technology Specialist for the state of Oregon.

For the Tax-Aide National Technology Committee, the need for virus protection became clear as both the program and electronic tax filing grew in popularity and demand. "It was obvious that as an organization, we needed to protect our computers from crashes and the danger of losing data," says Inman. "Despite regular system backups, a timed virus can strike at any time, wiping out a hard drive and spreading to other computers," he continues. "Particularly for our larger sites where we do a lot of electronic filing, the cost in time and productivity if we had to recover all of the data would be devastating."



### Finding the Solution

About three years ago, Grisoft began providing AVG Anti-Virus software to protect the computers that AARP Tax-Aide uses to deliver its services. Building on that



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commitment to the organization, today Grisoft has provided AVG Anti-Virus version 7.0 to Tax-Aide volunteers throughout the U.S.

Inman had previously used Norton and McAfee anti-virus products on his computer for personal use and decided to give AVG a try. The results, he says, were gratifying — and now he has upgraded to the latest version of AVG Anti-Virus with impressive results. “I get a lot of infected e-mail, but this software has caught it all. No viruses have gotten through since I’ve been using AVG Anti-Virus. I really like it.”

Inman has had no technical problems or difficulties using it. “AVG Anti-Virus has been so painless to use, it’s truly remarkable. The downloads work every time, without system crashes or interference with other programs.”

### Benefits of AVG Anti-Virus

Inman is quick to point out several other advantages of AVG Anti-Virus, including:

- E-mail notifications that alert you to software updates — “The e-mails show me that Grisoft is staying on top of the virus threats and taking action as soon as new ones are detected.”
- Fast updates with small files — so there are no delays, system crashes, or interruption to other work when you update the virus definitions
- No interference with other applications — allowing users to install and use other software without disabling AVG
- The Virus Vault — a capability that automatically isolates suspicious files for evaluation and action (delete/heal/restore)

“AVG Anti-Virus is so simple to use, I forget that it’s there doing its job 24 hours a day,” says Inman. “But when I check the Virus Vault, I can actually see the infected files that AVG has captured — for me, usually seven or eight each week.”

With Grisoft and AVG Anti-Virus at work for AARP Tax-Aide, Inman is confident that the organization’s computers are protected from viruses for the long term. And that, in turn, will help the program volunteers continue to serve a large and growing segment of the U.S. population.

### Find Out More!

To learn more about AVG Anti-Virus software and what

it can do for your organization, visit [www.grisoft.com](http://www.grisoft.com) or contact your local Authorized Grisoft Reseller.  
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#### General

Compatibility  
PC:

Package type  
Retail

Feature 1  
Provides scheduling options, automatic healing and scanning engine

Feature 2  
Provides scheduling of updates and advanced configuration options

Feature 3  
Provides protection to users at multiple levels

Feature 4  
Provides multiple language support

#### Software

Architecture  
Standalone (1-tier)

License Pricing  
Standard:

License type  
Complete package

#### System Requirements

Additional hardware/software required  
Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.01 or later

System requirements details  
Microsoft Windows 2000, Microsoft Windows 98, Microsoft Windows Millennium Edition, Microsoft Windows NT, Microsoft Windows 95



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## TIME TO RENEW

**All** memberships will now be renewable annually on April 1st, which means all dues are payable at this month's meeting. This change in the paying of annual dues will allow the Treasurer to budget our money more closely. See Dorothy or Winnie to find out what your pro-rated amount will be.

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April 1, 2006

Grayslake Public Library  
Grayslake, IL

12:30—3:00pm

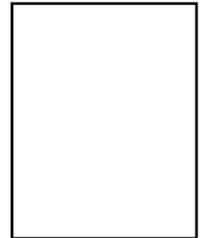
**This month:**  
Anti-Virus Software

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## LCACE

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