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McAfee is one of the biggest names in the antivirus business and it's been around for so long that you may wonder if it can really still hold its own against new, more flexible anti-malware products. Independent lab tests show that McAfee is still a leader in terms of antivirus protection, and their Total Protection security packages have a lot of added value. We put this time-tested software under the microscope as it holds up in real-world conditions, focusing on things like performance, usability, and how well the extra features work, so keep reading to see how McAfee Total Protection stacks up against the current field of antivirus products. McAfee relies primarily on signature detection, which compares files to signatures based on known viruses. If it detects any signs of infection, it can isolate the infected file and either delete the malicious code, quarantine the file, or delete the file, depending on the details of the situation. Total Protection also includes a heuristic analysis that looks at the behavior of suspicious files to see if they may be malware. When a suspicious file is identified, it is sent back to McAfee for analysis and then included in the signature update if it turns out to be a new type of malware. McAfee allows you to run two main types of scanning: a quick scan that checks the most vulnerable areas on your computer, and a full scan that goes through everything on each disk, with a fine-toothed comb. Notably, there is no type of custom scan that McAfee no longer provides as an option. This means you can't specify the drive or drives to scan inside the application, and advanced options such as choosing to scan slower using the smaller resources the system has disappeared. You can still start a custom scan after fashion by clicking the right button of any disk, folder or file on your computer, and selecting the McAfee scanning option from the context menu. Our main complaint here is that McAfee supports outdated support content on its website that still shows a custom scan option, so we spent quite a bit of time tracking the fact that it was completely deleted rather than just shuffled to another location in the app. McAfee Total Protection specializes in traditional viruses, but it also includes protection against spyware, phishing, ransomware and other threats. It's not as good at detecting cutting edge malware as some antivirus kits because of its heavy reliance on signature-based detection, but it can pick up some unknown threats and then send back to McAfee for analysis. McAfee Total Protection is a highly skilled antivirus, but the user interface (UI) can use a lot of work. The main screen of the Total Protection app gives away most of its real estate series of messages about various software features, and displays nothing but a message that your computer is protected once you click through each message. Instead of providing a big scan button like McAfee's antivirus software provides two redundant ways to run scans. None of these options is that difficult, but users who are used to pressing a single scan button prominently on the home screen of their antivirus can be a little confused at first glance. Notably, there is no type of custom scan that McAfee no longer provides as an option. As we mentioned in the previous section, users looking for a custom scan option won't find it, and the instructions on the McAfee website provide outdated directions that apply to the old version of the software. Aside from that, the user interface is cluttered and somewhat difficult to navigate. Instead of downloading everything in one window, many menu options pop up extra windows, adding to the clutter. McAfee Total Protection checks updates every four hours, but updates to the virus's signature database typically stick out about once a day. Additional updates are available as needed, especially during new virus outbreaks, so leaving the update frequency in the default settings is a good idea, despite the typical release schedule. We didn't notice any impact on performance when McAfee was launched in the background, which is lined with independent test results. We were able to use word processing software, watch video content online, and even play games with Total Protection working and not experiencing any performance problems. It takes up more system resources during active scanning, but not enough to cause any problems. The independent antivirus testing organization AV-Comparatives gave McAfee top marks in categories such as copying files, archiving, and even installing McAfee-launched applications. They've noticed a slight slowdown when running apps, but McAfee is still in the top five antivirus applications in terms of low impact on system performance. We were able to use word processing software, watch video content online, and even play games with Total Protection working and not experiencing any performance problems. In addition to excellent virus protection, McAfee Total Protection comes with plenty of additional features such as their True Key password manager, file encryption utility, McAfee Safe Family license, personal data protection, and more. True Key is an excellent password manager, and Total Protection comes with five licenses that you can assign to your family members. This actually gives up to five people in your family a secure password manager that they don't have to share with anyone. McAfee Total Protection comes with a lot of extra features, including password manager, file encryption, McAfee Safe Family license, personal data protection and more. The McAfee File Lock encryption tool allows you to create encrypted storage where you can store the files you want to keep safe. Instead of encrypting individual files, this tool allows you to create storage, specify the amount of space it should occupy, and set to install Once you've copied the files into the vault, you can use the built-in file chopper to destroy the originals. This is a good system in general, although it is not able to lock the store remotely in case of theft that some security packages provide. McAfee Total Protection also includes the McAfee Safe Family license, which is a cross-platform product that can be used to add parental control to various devices. It works by installing it on one computer or mobile device and then installing it in child mode on laptops, phones and tablets belonging to your children. Then you have the ability to block websites and apps on any number of children's devices. McAfee offers a very high level of customer support, with an online chat system and a toll-free phone number that are available around the clock. This is a marked improvement over competitors who offer support only during normal opening hours. There is no online ticketing system, and customer support is not available by email, so there is no way to request help and then come back later for a response. Priced at just \$44.99, The 10-device McAfee Total Protection Plan is a huge deal. The catch is that you only enjoy that attractive price for one year. When your subscription ends, the price jumps to \$109.99. It's still worth it if you're able to take advantage of all the special features like a Safe Family license that would otherwise cost \$49.99 on your own, but it's a dramatic price increase. McAfee Total Protection is close to the top of its core anti-virus competency, but there are options that provide better malware protection, better interfaces and more attractive perennial prices. ESET is a close competitor that beats McAfee in terms of system impact, malware detection and false positives, but it's a pretty fine line. They both provide excellent protection, and McAfee has a stronger set of additional tools, with better password manager, more universal parental control, and a file shredder to destroy files after encryption. None of the suites offers the option of remote file locking, which is a feature you get from some competitors, such as Trend Micro. We found ESET to have a more user-friendly interface, with most options opening in the same window rather than generating clutter clutter from multiple windows. ESET also offers excellent scanning control, including a custom scan option. McAfee wins in terms of price, but only during the first year. After the first year, ESET has lower prices across the board. The final verdict is worthy of a multi-aphem antivirus set, but it's expensive last first year. McAfee Total Protection is powerful set, and the prices for the first year are very attractive. It's absolutely worth the first year price, but you can look elsewhere when your upgrade date rolls. However, if you can stomach a hike, McAfee offers a full set of protections, including antivirus, malware, ransomware, parental parenting password managers, file encryption and more. More.

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