

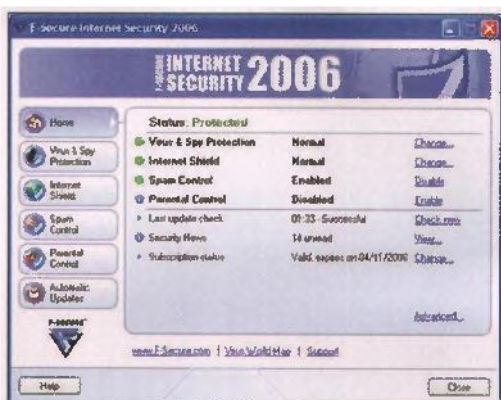


SECURITY SUITE

Tesco Internet Security



The supermarket giant's budget security package helps to protect against a wide range of online threats



Hot on the heels of Tesco Complete Office (see www.pcw.co.uk/2167729), Tesco Internet Security is a low-price alternative to the likes of Norton Internet Security (<http://www.symantec.com>) comprising virus protection, a firewall, spam blocking and spyware protection.

Web content control is an additional feature that enables parents to monitor and restrict their children's online access and block unsuitable content. A phishing filter also helps to avoid unscrupulous websites, while

an additional component enables you to specify private data, which should be prevented from being broadcast.

Things start well right from the point of installation, with both a memory scan and optional complete file scan, ensuring the system is clean before the setup is complete. Once up and running, automatic updates ensure protection against the latest viruses and spyware threats, and heuristic detection in the form of Truprevent monitors suspicious activity.

The configurable firewall can take over from Windows XP's built-in offering, and it's easy to specify which programs should be allowed internet access. Spam filtering works well, but can produce a large number of false positives unless time is spent creating an exhaustive white list of email addresses.

When it comes to filtering web content for individual users, there are a number of preset profiles from which to choose, but these can be customised and added to as required. It is also possible to password-protect program configuration so that only authorised users can access the necessary screens.

As with other Tesco software, Internet Security is a rebranded package – Panda software in this case. In practice, this results in a lower price and therefore better value for money.

Mark Wilson

Details

Price £19.97
Best price www.pcw.co.uk/bestprices
Contact www.tescosoftware.com
System requirements Pentium processor • 64MB Ram • 100MB hard disk space • Windows 98 SE/ME/2000/XP/2003

Verdict

Pros Excellent price for a year's protection; rapid scanning
Cons Confusing references to Panda software during registration; very busy settings screen
Features ★★★★★
Ease of use ★★★★★
Value for money ★★★★★
Overall A solid protection suite that is slightly marred by an unIntuitive interface
 ★★★★★