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Avast cnet free

Avast has one of the most popular antivirus apps around, partly because of offering a free version, and it's one that performs with respect. The company bought its rival AVG in September 2016, and now both use avast malware scanning engine, but their distinct personalities remain. Here are the highlights of Avast's latest release. Pros: Easy to use: Avast has four main protection components: File Shield, Behavior Shield, Web Shield and Mail Shield. For example, if you use webmail and/or find that Avast's Web Shield is interfering with your browsing, you can disable both relevant layers of protection while the others are active. Now, usually, an antivirus app will continue to warn you to turn these features back on. But if you really don't need them enabled, you can tell Avast that you will ignore these warnings and it won't bother you about these settings again. Solid protection: According to independent laboratories, such as AV-Test and AV-Comparatives, avast free is not quite as sharp as industry leaders like Trend Micro or Bitdefender, but it's arguably the best protection you'll find that comes without a price tag. Aggressively low prices: If you decide to order Avast Pro, you can do so from the app, and Avast offers a one-year subscription for a reasonable \$15, which is about half the street price. If you change your mind, Avast offers a 60-day trial of Avast Internet Security, which was priced at \$20 a year. Pro is pretending to add improvements to online banking security and a testing site for controlling suspicious apps. This latter feature appears to be a sandbox, where you can open an app and investigate the behavior without risking an infection. Relatively subdued sales pitch: Free antivirus apps have a reputation for being quite intrusive about paying for a subscription, but Avast is at the low-key end of the spectrum (and it's been for several years). There are a couple of upgrade buttons on the main console, and a number of features (a firewall, URL security verifier and Webcam Shield, among others) that redirect you to an order screen when you click on them, but nothing felt particularly difficult, and the sales path does not ironclad requirements on what the program can do. Data collection transparency: Avast tells you right off the bat that they want to collect anonymized usage data, some of which can be used to fund development, but you can disable this feature in your privacy settings. Although it would be nice if it explained what specific information it wanted to collect. Cons: Noe settings can use more explanation: Avast's settings menus have a number of icons marked with an exclamation mark that you can click for further details. But the description for CyberCapture doesn't sound significantly different from what a virus scanner already does: It analyzes unknown files, defends and warns you of new threats, and helps keep your system secure. And Hardened Mode there to further lock down security this computer. But in what way? Subscription offers can get confusing: the \$15 Avast Pro offer is available via the upgrade buttons on the main console, but it's not an option when you click on one of the features that has a padlock on it. There you get two different offers: \$20 a year for Avast Internet Security or \$30 a year for avast premiere. However, for example, if you click the padlocked Sensitive Data Shield icon, you only see the Avast Internet Security offer, and it has a different list of advertised features. Bottom line: While there are some quirks in the interface, Avast is a respectable and respectful antivirus app in general, and the paid version is particularly budget-friendly. Avast Software, the global leader in digital security products for consumers and businesses, protects over 400 million people online. Avast offers products under the Avast and AVG brands, which protect people from online threats with one of the most advanced threat detection networks in the world. Avast digital security products for Mobile, PC or Mac are top rated and certified by VB100, AV-Comparatives, AV-Test, OPSWAT, ICESA Labs, West Coast Labs and others. Avast is supported by leading global private equity firms CVC Capital Partners and Summit Partners. Filter: Avast says it has more than 400 million users worldwide. James Martin/CNET Avast, which makes free antivirus software used by millions of people worldwide, reportedly sells highly sensitive browsing data via a subsidiary called Jumpshot. The software appears to track users clicks and gestures over the web, collecting data about things like searches on Google and Google Maps, as well as visits to specific LinkedIn pages, YouTube videos and porn sites, according to a survey published Monday by Motherboard and PCMag. The collected data is then reportedly repacked and sold by Jumpshot, which says on its website that it is able to provide data about users' actions behind the Internet's most valuable walled gardens. Some past and present Jumpshot customers, as well as potential customers, include Google, Yelp, Microsoft, Pepsi, Home Depot, Intuit and others, according to the report, citing leaked user data, contracts, and other company documents. In an emailed statement Monday, a spokeswoman for Avast said Jumpshot did not obtain personal identification information, including name, email address or contact details, and that users have always had the option to opt out of sharing data with Jumpshot. As of July 2019, we had already begun implementing an explicit opt-in option for all new downloads of our AV, and we are now also asking our existing free users to make an opt-in or opt-out choice, a process that will be completed in February 2020, the spokeswoman said, adding that the company understands and takes seriously the responsibility of balancing user privacy with the necessary use of data for our core security products. Avast data collection via a pop-up message in your antivirus software. But several users told Motherboard that they were not aware that their browser data was being sold. The company's privacy policy states that personal data with consent is used to create a de-identified dataset provided to Jumpshot to build trend analysis products and services. Jumpshot did not respond to a request for comment. Now Playing: Watch This: Disabling Your Facebook Account Won't Stop Data... Originally published January 27, 8:27 a.m PT. Update, 9:28 .m.: Adds comment from Avast. Correction, Jan. 28: An earlier version of this story listed Sephora as a Jumpshot customer. The company said Tuesday: Sephora is not a client and has not worked with Avast/Jumpshot. Avast is closing its subsidiary Jumpshot over allegations that it sold user data. Graphic by Pixabay / Illustration by CNET Free antivirus software-maker Avast is shutting down subsidiary Jumpshot following reports from Motherboard and PCMag that it sold highly sensitive web browsing data. Avast's software, installed on millions of computers around the world, is said to have collected data about people's online activities and sent it to Jumpshot, which in turn tried to sell it to customers. Avast says personal information - such as names, email addresses or contact details - was never shared or sold. Avast CEO Ondrej Vlcek said in a blog post Wednesday that he and the board decided to end Jumpshot data collection and discontinue Jumpshot's business immediately. The subsidiary's customers are said to have included Google, Unilever, Revlon, McKinsey and others. Vlcek noted that both Avast and Jumpshot acted fully within legal boundaries and complied with Europe's General Data Protection Regulation, or GDPR. First published at 04:50.m PT. Update, 5:12 a.m PT: Adds more details. Correction, 7:15 a.m. PT: An earlier version of this story misspoke Avast's comments on Jumpshot. The company denies that personal information was ever shared or sold. Now Playing: See This: Avast Reportedly Selling User Data, DeLorean's Comeback? Comeback?