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## REVIEWS

## eScan 2003 Internet Security Suite

Although there are numerous anti-virus software packages currently available on the market, consumers usually opt for the manufacturer that is most familiar to them, such as Symantec or McAfee. In all fairness, these manufacturers have great products, but I recently stumbled across the latest version of MicroWorld Technologies' eScan, eScan 2003 Internet Security Suite, and I was very impressed – don't let the 2003 in its name fool you.



At first glance eScan 2003 Internet Security Suite is not as visually stunning as some of the other packages I have recently reviewed but it offers a lot more functionality and is very easy to set up and maintain. The installation is simple and once it is completed it will download the latest software updates and virus signatures. One of the most important aspects of the software is the way in which it scans and prevents virus attacks. It does so by scanning through the WinSock (Windows Socket) layer. For the technically challenged, the WinSock layer can best be explained as an interface between your computer and the Internet. All the data, such as emails and web pages, passes through the WinSock layer. Sadly, the WinSock layer is unable to distinguish between a clean or infected file and, thus, is passed directly to the operating system where traditional anti-virus scanners will only detect an infected file once the operating system acknowledges it. MicroWorld has, thus, developed its own technology called MWL (MicroWorld WinSock Layer), which sits on the WinSock layer and scans data, in real time, before the operating system even gets a chance to look at it.

The application, itself, provides the usual features that one would expect, such

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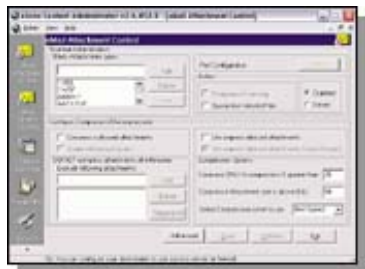
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as scheduling scans and viewing the log files. You are also able to scan the system memory for any malicious activity and you can enable heuristics, which is a scanning method that looks for virus-like activity and is a great feature to have as it is able to spot strange activity that may, potentially, be a new virus that is not yet recognised by the virus updates. Because this is an Internet security suite it is able to protect your computer from web-based intrusions as well as email and local-network threats.



Customising the software to your needs is achieved via the eScan Content Administrator. This administrator focuses on emails, pop-ups, and your web browser. For emails you are able to set many features, including the ability to send a warning email to both you and the sender of an email informing both parties of an infected email or attachment. You can also block any attachments with the

extensions of your choice, such as .exe, .pif, and .vbs. The software can also scan the content of your email messages for terms and phrases, which can be predetermined, and it can either quarantine or delete an email that contains the term or phrase that you want blocked. A nice touch is the ability for the software to add a disclaimer to all your outgoing emails. Admittedly, so can most email clients, but it is a great inclusion, nonetheless. With regards to web site filtering, this program will allow you to select a range of words for which it should search (either in META tags or HTML code) when opening a web page and, if those words are present, it will block that particular web page.

Other features include Parental Control, Privacy Control, Anti Spamming, and, one of my favourites, Remote Access File Rights, which allows you to secure any files, or folders, on your computer so that remote users will not be able to change them or, if you choose, even access them.

All in all, I was very impressed with eScan 2003 Internet Security Suite and its MWL scanning method. I look forward to seeing what MicroWorld's next anti-virus package will deliver.

 [Regardt van den Berg](#)

### eScan 2003 Internet Security Suite

at a Glance:

<b>Supplier:</b>	Camssoft
<b>Tel:</b>	(021) 797-4804
<b>WWW:</b>	<a href="http://www.mwti.com/">http://www.mwti.com/</a>
<b>Price:</b>	R499

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