

New safety nets

Two new products aimed at stopping viruses, and one that keeps tabs on your email

eScan ★★★★★

Free trials available

Site: www.mwti.net

What sets eScan 2003 apart from other anti-virus products is its ability to also check Internet traffic (emails, Web pages, etc) in real time, looking for restricted content based on specified keywords, phrases and embedded objects like Java applets.

A key feature is the ability to block and allow access to specific sites or pages based on restricted words.

A pop-up filter (Ad Blocker) is included, along with Web Washer/Privacy Protection, which allows you to automatically or manually delete cache, cookies, history, Active X, etc.

This latest offering from Micro-World Technologies Inc. was easy to set up, with plenty of pre-configured options that could be turned on with just a tick in a box. For example, the spam filter had a ready assembled list of keywords to detect and block in emails.

eTrust Antivirus V7 - Enterprise antivirus solution ★★★★★

Trials available

Site: ca.com/offices/nz

Aimed mainly at the business sector, eTrust is a viable option for protecting your investment in information technology from virus threats.

Points of interest include its protection of more than 40 platforms (including Windows XP, Server 2003, Linux, Solaris, Lotus Notes, Microsoft Exchange, Pocket PC and the Palm OS), dual scanning engines to reduce the risk of single engine failure, and its integration into a full suite of Threat Management software.

If your computer system incorporates servers and multiple platforms, visit www3.ca.com/Solutions/Product.asp?ID=156

MSGTAG ★★★★★

Freeware

Site: www.messagesettag.com

Made in NZ, MSGTAG is short for Message Tag. It's the email equivalent of sending a parcel by registered post, allowing the sender to know when an email has been received and viewed.

How does this differ from the delivery and read receipt options included in some email programs? Well, a lot depends on the recipient's email program as to whether such receipt options will work. The mechanism behind MSGTAG is an embedded image placed inside

the tagged message. As a result some security products may block the tags.

The MSGTAG notification tells you four things about the message: That it has been opened, the time it was opened, the time it was sent, and the delay in between. It can be turned on or off at any time.

It's freeware, so the price is right, and it runs on Windows 2000, 95, 98, ME, and XP and interfaces with most common email clients (including Outlook, Outlook Express, Eudora and Pegasus Mail).

MSGTAG will be just the ticket for some people, but for others it may seem like an invasion of privacy - why should someone know what time you chose to read their email? Speaking of privacy, your email is not sent via the MSGTAG servers - it follows the usual route.

If this product sounds of interest then you should check it out online at www.messagesettag.com The FAQs are well written and should answer most of your questions.

Whatever your choice, keep in mind that email was never designed as a guaranteed delivery mechanism, so relying solely on email for critical business may not be such a great idea - I recommend following up those important emails with a phone call. **MAREE DEAN**