# Introducing VirusScan

What Is VirusScan for the Mac OS?

Because viruses can be introduced to your computer from so many different sources, it is important to find a reliable, effective, and easy-to-use method for protecting your data. VirusScan for the Mac OS is produced by McAfee, the leader in anti-virus software. It gives you a fast and easy way to protect your Macintosh against virus infections—infections that can damage files, destroy data, and cost you time and money.
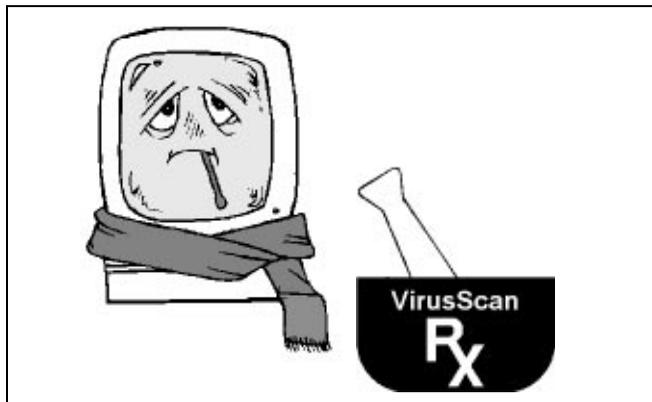
VirusScan lets you scan your drives and diskettes to find existing virus infections. It both detects and removes the viruses and, when possible, repairs files that have been infected by the viruses. After you have removed any existing infections, you can install the VirusScan protection extension, which guards your system against future virus attacks.

What Is a Virus?

A virus is a program that attaches itself to other programs or files. Viruses quickly move to other files and disks as you use your computer. Viruses spread from one Macintosh to another when users share infected disks or download files containing viruses.

Types of viruses

Viruses can be either malicious or non-malicious. Non-malicious viruses replicate, but they do not intentionally damage your system. For example, they may beep or display messages on the screen. Malicious viruses also replicate and spread quickly. However, these viruses can cause extensive damage to your system by damaging or deleting files, or destroying the contents of your hard drive.

The only good virus is a dead virus

The damage that malicious viruses can cause is obvious. However, even non-malicious viruses can unintentionally damage your system and therefore should be detected and removed. Viruses occupy memory and disk space, and this alone is enough to cause problems. They also live at very low levels in the operating system and can interfere with other parts of the system in unexpected ways. Errors in these viruses can also cause unexplained crashes and unexpected system behavior.

Which viruses does VirusScan recognize?

VirusScan recognizes all known non-HyperCard viruses that attack the Macintosh. It also recognizes all the known variations and clones of these viruses. In addition, VirusScan recognizes many possible unknown variations and clones of existing viruses.

VirusScan will *not* recognize all possible viruses: only the ones it has been configured and programmed to recognize. We at McAfee are continually working to update our products to protect your system against new viruses. For this reason, it is important to run the latest version of our anti-virus products.

✍ *For more information about the McAfee product line, see* "McAfee at a Glance" on page 13.

Please note that VirusScan does **not** protect your system against viruses that propagate between HyperCard stacks, such as the Dukakis, Three Tunes, or Merry X-mas viruses. In addition, it does not guard against other types of destructive software such as "worms" or "Trojan horses," because these programs are not viruses.

✍ *A worm is a program that replicates and spreads, but does not attach itself to other programs. Unlike a virus, worms do not require a host and are not spread through infected files or disks. A Trojan horse is a program that appears to do something useful, yet also does something destructive in the background. For example, a Trojan horse could be a game that quietly erases your hard drive as you're playing it. Trojan horses do not replicate.*

VirusScan Components

VirusScan is made up of two components:

- The VirusScan application, which you'll use to find and remove existing virus infections

- The VirusScan protection extension, which protects your system against future infections.

About the application

Use the VirusScan application to scan disks and files for existing virus infections. You can also tell VirusScan to automatically remove any viruses it finds and, if possible, repair the damaged files.

The VirusScan interface is flexible and easy to use. You can quickly scan entire disks, or you can use the menu options to select only certain files or folders for scanning. VirusScan also makes it easy to scan a series of diskettes.

About the protection extension

After you've scanned your entire system for viruses and removed any existing infections, you can install the protection extension to protect your system against other virus infections. The protection extension is activated each time you start your Macintosh, and it continuously watches for virus activity. Whenever a virus begins to attack your system, the extension reacts. It neutralizes the virus before it can begin damaging your files. Then it displays a message to tell you where the virus is.

The protection extension only detects and neutralizes viruses; it does not destroy them. When the protection extension detects a virus, you can use VirusScan to remove it from your system.

Key Features and Benefits

VirusScan is flexible, easy-to-use, and highly effective against known Macintosh viruses.The key features and benefits are described in the following table.

Key Features	Benefits
Ease of use	VirusScan's "point-and-click" interface is intuitive and easy to use.
Flexibility	VirusScan lets you quickly scan entire drives, or use the menus to select a specific file, folder, or disk to scan.
Options	You can use VirusScan to search for and report virus infections without removing them. Or you can "clean" your disks by having VirusScan automatically remove any virus infections that it finds.
Reporting capabilities	VirusScan automatically displays the results of each scan each time it runs. You can view this report online, print it, or save it as a text file.
Background scanning	Under System 7 (or System 6 with Multi-Finder), you can use VirusScan to scan for viruses in the background while you perform other tasks.
Protection against future virus infections	The protection extension constantly watches for new virus activity. When a virus begins to attack your system, the extension neutralizes the virus before it can damage your data, and then alerts you to its presence.

Where to Go from Here

This manual gives you the instructions you need to install and use VirusScan. It also describes other McAfee products that may be useful to you at home or at work. The table below shows where you can find the instructions for the task you want to perform.

If you want to. . .	See. . .
Install VirusScan	Chapter 3, "Getting Started with VirusScan"
Learn about the VirusScan scanning options	"Finding and Removing Existing Virus Infections" on page 24
Learn about the VirusScan protection extension	"Avoiding Future Virus Infections" on page 29
Learn more about other McAfee products	"McAfee at a Glance" on page 13

McAfee at a Glance

McAfee's mission

McAfee's mission is to help our customers operate their computers and networks more efficiently and economically. We do this by offering a variety of tools—from our family of anti-virus products to our network management tools. Our electronic distribution system lets you evaluate our software before purchasing it, and our products are supported by an award-winning technical support staff.

McAfee is committed to developing products that are compatible with enterprise-wide network tools and industry-standard databases. Read on to discover how our products can help you work smarter.

Preview of McAfee's product line

The McAfee family of anti-virus products is a collection of workstation and server-based software packages. We provide the most comprehensive suite of network security management tools available today—not only in terms of the extensive functionality these products put at your fingertips, but also the wide range of operating systems, workstations, and network systems they support.

McAfee provides a single source for the most extensive and best integrated line of network management tools on the market. Using these tools allows you as the LAN administrator to automate tasks required to manage assets and protect the integrity of your network, both now and in the future.

We continually update our product line to include the tools you need to be effective in this fast-paced and changing computing environment. Use the table below to find the McAfee product that best suits your needs.

To automate. . .	McAfee offers. . .
Security management	*VirusScan*—World's #1 selling anti-virus product for PC desktops (DOS, Windows 3.1, Macintosh, and OS/2). *NetShield*—server-based anti-virus product that protects against virus infections. *ROMShield*—ROM-based anti-virus technology that protects against boot virus infections. *Scan95*—Windows 95-based anti-virus product for PC desktops. *WebScan*—virus protection from files downloaded from the Internet or copied from E-mail messages. Also, provides instant access to the Internet.
Network management	*Saber LAN Workstation*—integrated LAN management tool that incorporates the best of McAfee's asset, desktop and configuration, support, and storage management products.
Asset management	*BrightWorks*—integrated software metering, asset management, software distribution, and help desk components. *LAN Inventory*—complete hardware and software asset management for NetWare. *SiteMeter*—best-selling software license metering product that helps companies maintain license compliance and minimize software costs. *SiteExpress*—enterprise-wide electronic software distribution product for automating the process of distributing applications and operating systems, including Windows 95.
Desktop configuration management	*NetTools*—centralized management of Windows desktops (Windows 3.1, Windows NT, Windows 95) in NetWare and Microsoft NT environments.

To automate. . .	McAfee offers. . .
Support management	**LAN Support Center**—centralized help desk for problem tracking and resolution. **NetRemote**—lets you control remote workstation processes without leaving your desk.
Storage management	**ServerStor**— file server backup, restoration, and data management solution for the NetWare and Windows environments

How to contact us

To order or for more information about our products, we invite you to contact our Customer Service department at (408) 988-3832. Or you can contact us at the following address:

McAfee, Inc.
2710 Walsh Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95051-0963
U.S.A

McAfee's customer and technical support

McAfee is famous for its dedication to customer satisfaction. McAfee's customer support, technical support, and product development departments provide real-time technical support and problem resolutions.

Use the following information to contact McAfee Technical Support.

Phone	(408) 988-3832
FAX	(408) 970-9727
Hours	6 a.m. to 5 p.m. PST Monday through Friday
McAfee BBS	(408) 988-4004 1200 bps to 28,800 bps 8 bits, no parity, 1 stop bit 24 hours, 365 days a year
CompuServe	GO MCAFEE
Internet	support@mcafee.com
America On-line	keyword MCAFEE
Microsoft Network (MSN)	GO MCAFEE
World Wide Web	http://www.mcafee.com

To speed the process of helping you use our products, please make note of the following before you call:

- Product name and version
- Computer name and model, and the name of any additional hardware
- DOS type and version
- Network name, operating system, and version
- Contents of your AUTOEXEC.BAT, CONFIG.SYS, and system LOGIN script
- Specific steps to reproduce the problem, if applicable.

McAfee training

For more information about scheduling onsite training for any McAfee product, call Customer Service at 800/338-8754.