# AntiVirus for MDaemon

Malicious software programs threaten your computers, networks, data and other electronic resources in multiple ways.

For example, they *infect and destroy* software, *duplicate themselves* to consume disk space, *steal data, display unwanted advertisements, dial up fee-based facilities* such as 900 numbers and *open backdoors* for hackers to use your network. Sometimes, they just deliver jokes.

In all cases, viruses cost billions annually through downtime, lost productivity, theft and recovery efforts.
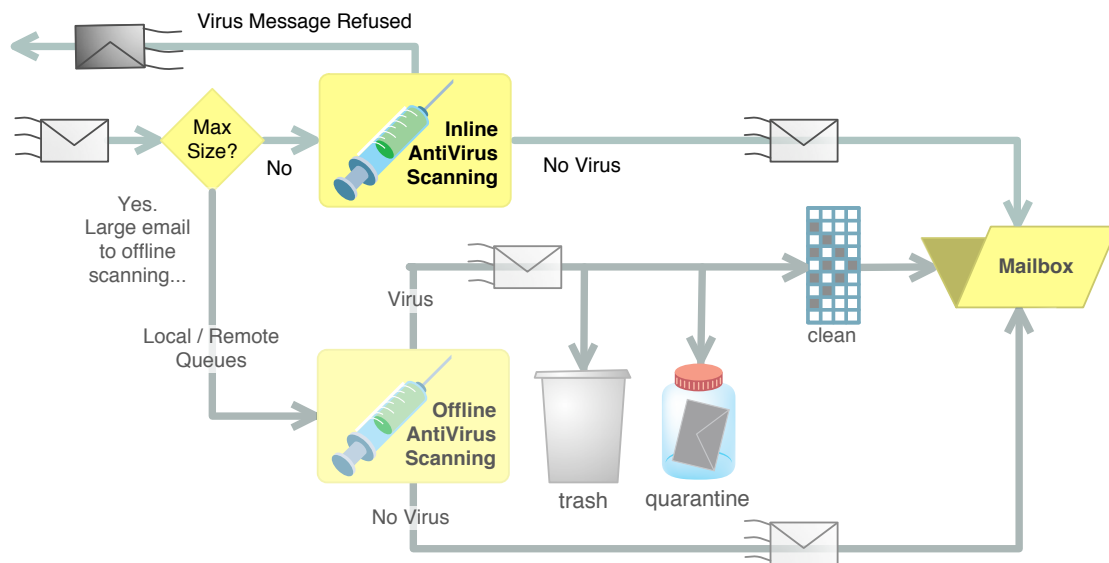
Stopping Viruses Before They Reach Your Network and Computers

Guarding Your Email with AntiVirus

Because email is accessible and convenient, harmful software uses it to sneak into your network and computers. Since your email server is a primary point of entry for viruses[1], it is also the sensible place to stop the uninvited trespassers.

AntiVirus for MDaemon is an email virus checker designed to work with MDaemon by Alt-N Technologies. AntiVirus for MDaemon scans for infected messages as they arrive at the email server.

AntiVirus scans the messages and attachments for both known and new threats. When AntiVirus finds a problem, MDaemon usually refuses to accept the message. In some cases, MDaemon can accept the

message, then quarantine, attempt to clean or just delete it. After containing the problem, AntiVirus can optionally notify the sender, receiver, both or neither.

Offline and Inline Scanning

MDaemon can use AntiVirus for both inline or offline scanning.

Originally, MDaemon worked with AntiVirus by using it only as an offline application. After messages were received, they were routed from the local and remote queues into AntiVirus, which ran as a separate process.

After the security software scanned the messages, they were returned to their queues to continue pro-

---

[1]This article uses the term *virus* for all types of malicious software. Technically, there are many types of software threats, including viruses, worms trojan horses, adware, spyware, remote access programs and dialers. AntiVirus for MDaemon fights them all at the email server.

cessing. Some messages were marked as security offenders. Typically, infected messages were cleaned, quarantined, deleted or delivered. Optionally, the sender, recipients and server postmaster could receive email messages concerning the virus transactions.

Beginning with MDaemon 8, the email server can use AntiVirus for inline scanning. Scanning inline checks email messages during SMTP sessions. If AntiVirus finds a message carrying a security threat, MDaemon refuses to accept the email or its attachments. This stops the trouble before it can go any further.

While inline AntiVirus scanning can potentially cause significant slow downs in email server performance, it has a low impact on MDaemon. The effect on performance is limited enough for Alt-N to enable inline scanning as the default AntiVirus scanning process for MDaemon.

Offline scanning is still available optionally. It is also used for messages exceeding a user-specified size.

Using Signatures and Heuristic Detection

AntiVirus recognizes would-be invaders by looking for *digital signatures* of known viruses.

To help detect newly released hazards, AntiVirus for MDaemon also uses heuristic technology. Heuristic methods analyze messages and attachments for threat-like behaviors and then control them.

Eliminating Threats

AntiVirus for MDaemon is designed to handle the high-traffic volume of an email server. When coupled with other MDaemon security measures, AntiVirus for MDaemon can largely eliminate email-borne threats aimed at your computers and network.

Consider this real-world example: AntiVirus for MDaemon detected and stopped the *MyDoom* worm within hours of its first appearance. In other environments, MyDoom ran wild for months, often shutting down email servers on the Internet.

AntiVirus for MDaemon complements desktop virus scanners.

Virus scanners on personal computers can be useful for detecting threats spread through means other than email. For emailed viruses, using AntiVirus to stop the intruders before they reach your personal computers is usually more consistent and reliable than using individual virus scanners.

Installing and Configuring

AntiVirus for MDaemon is easy to install, configure and maintain. Once you install and configure it, you can almost forget about it. AntiVirus handles its signature file maintenance automatically.

The default configuration for AntiVirus for MDaemon works well for most users.

Configuration options allow you to decide what to do with messages infected by harmful software. You can refuse to accept them, delete them, quarantine them, attempt to fix them or attach a warning and send them through to the recipients. You can also specify email addresses to exclude from virus checking.

Maintaining and Updating

Keeping your signature file current is the most important part of AntiVirus maintenance. AntiVirus for MDaemon uses the signature file to identify known software threats. By default, AntiVirus checks daily for updates. You can alter this to match your needs.

Also, with a licensed copy of AntiVirus, you can sign up for free *urgent update* notifications. When a new serious threat appears, Alt-N sends an emergency update notice to your AntiVirus, which then automatically updates itself with the new information.

Using other MDaemon Features

AntiVirus for MDaemon is specially designed to integrate with the MDaemon email server. MDaemon is an email-industry leader in security, offering innovations to fight spam, viruses and unauthorized use of your email server.

Its security features include blacklisting, whitelisting, spam filtering, domain and address blocking, encrypting, deploying security certificates and blocking relaying from unauthorized users.

MDaemon also has a feature to block email attachments known to carry viruses, worms, trojan horses and similar security problems.

Additionally, because the main purpose of email is to make communication easier, any of MDaemon's security functions, including AntiVirus, can be disabled for trusted domains and addresses.

AntiVirus for MDaemon Features Digest

Scanner Configuration

- Enable antivirus scanning
- Exclude gateways from antivirus scanning
- Refuse to accept infected messages (enables in-line scanning)
- Set up trusted addresses

Scanner Actions

- Delete infected attachments
- Quarantine infected attachments
- Clean infected attachments
- Delete infected messages, plus attachments

- Quarantine infected messages, plus attachments
- Do nothing with infected messages
- Quarantine un-scannable messages
- Add warning to infected messages

Signature Update Configuration

- Subscribe to urgent update notifications
- Update signature file now
- View update report
- Configure updater connectivity
- Configure updater schedule

Alt-N Technologies, Ltd.
2201 East Lamar Blvd, Suite 270
Arlington, Texas 76006
Phone: (817) 525-2005
Fax: (817) 525-2019
http://www.altn.com