Business Product Comparative

ESET Smart Security vs. Microsoft Forefront Client Security

(Source: "Fast and Effective Endpoint Security for Business"; Comparative Analysis by PassMark Software; June 2010)

PassMark Grades ESET Smart Security **"Fastest, Best Overall Performance"**

Ratings and Summary

PassMark Software has given each security product a rating which reflects its overall performance, ease of use, design, features and level of excellence in that category. Categories represent major functions or feature sets common to the sphere of business security.

	ESET	Microsoft
Overall Rating	★★★★1/2	★★
Installation & Configuration	★★★☆	☆
Migration	★★★1/2	☆
Default Policies	★★★1/2	★★
Client Installation	★★★☆	☆
Interface Design	★★★☆	★☆1/2
Client & Policy Management	★★★★	★1/2
Remote Management	★★★1/2	--
Updates	★★★☆	★★
Common Use Cases	★★★★	★★
Effectiveness	★★★★	★★★
Performance	★★★1/2	★★

Performance

The following performance categories have been selected as 'real-life' metrics which may impact heavily on endpoint system performance and responsiveness. These benchmarks allow the comparison of the level of impact that business security software products may have on endpoint machines. Products with good performance will have less impact on business activities, workflow and productivity.

	ESET	Microsoft	ESET Advantage
Memory usage commit charge (MB)	102.46	267.11	Uses 61% less system resources to perform tasks
Word document launch time (ms)	7,488	8,513	Launches Word documents 12% faster
File copy time for small files (s)	25.35	44.44	Copies documents 43% faster
File copy time for large files (s)	83.70	89.23	Copies media files 6% faster
Client signature database size (MB)	28.62	49.18	42% smaller footprint on the local disk drive
Boot time (s)	27.72	59.30	Takes 53% less time to start your machine
Machine restart time (s)	78.20	85.40	Takes 8% less time to restart your machine
Daily network traffic (MB)	4.06	9.69	58% smaller impact on corporate network

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Features and Functions

Evaluation categories were determined prior to testing and were chosen as a set of expected features or functions which define business security products. Below is a list of ESET's advantages over Microsoft's solution.

ESET's Advantages:
- The Remote Administrator console is highly compatible with most variants and legacy versions of ESET security products, all of which can be managed simultaneously from a single platform
- Endpoints can be automatically sorted into extremely powerful parametric groups as they join the network
- Signature updates are transportable (feature advantageous for administrators managing machines on isolated networks)
- Fast and streamlined installation process
- Basic set up guide is extremely user focused
- Default policies provide a good balance for most deployments

Microsoft's Disadvantages:
- Relatively high system impact on endpoint machines, below average performance
- High amounts of traffic generated by server updates
- Convoluted installation, configuration and client deployment may challenge even experienced administrators (it takes more than a day to complete)
- The largest number of prerequisites necessary for installation, some of which require other prerequisites to be downloaded and installed
- Troubleshooting is time-consuming as a result of independent error logging by each component
- Limited ability to perform on-demand tasks from the Management Server
- The interface lacks many functions seen in other security solutions

Effectiveness

This category rates the anti-malware effectiveness of a security product based on information from recently published material at reputable, third party testing sites. The sources we have used for this category are VB100 and AV Comparatives.

	ESET	Microsoft
VB100 awards (#/success ratio)	62/ 97%	17/89%
# of Advanced+ awards in proactive/retrospective tests	13	3

Ease of Use

This category examines the relative ease of use and handling for three common management use cases. The scenarios are: conducting an 'on-demand' scan of selected endpoints; creating and viewing a malware report 'on-demand'; and creating, assigning and deploying a new policy.

Task	ESET	Microsoft
Conducting an 'on-demand' scan of selected endpoints	Simple	Moderate
Creating and viewing a malware report 'on-demand'	Simple	Simple
Creating, assigning and deploying a new policy	Simple	Complex

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