**avast! Mac Edition is an antivirus solution for Apple Macintosh machines running Mac OS X. It is based on a central virus-scanning daemon and includes a mail scanner, an on-demand scanner and an on-access scanner all controlled through a simple user interface. Although designed as a solution for individual desktops, and priced accordingly, the level of performance is closer to that normally delivered by server antivirus software.**

**avast! Mac Edition can be downloaded and used free of charge for a 60-day trial period.**

Owing to its flexible and modular architecture, avast! Mac Edition is a low-overhead, stable antivirus solution which can be used on nearly all Mac models. It is distributed as a universal binary and therefore delivers optimal performance on both PowerPC and Intel architectures.

Avast! Mac Edition offers on-demand antivirus scanning, as well as background on-access protection, with easy review of the results via a well designed graphic interface. An integrated virus chest (**figure 1**) is also built in for safe storage of infected or suspicious files.
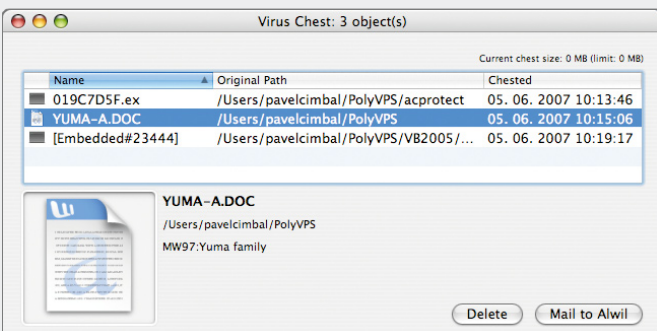
figure 1

## Scanning Service

The underlying central daemon can serve a number of scanning tasks in parallel. This feature is accessible via TCP or UNIX socket interfaces, and is used by default by the on-demand, on-access and mail scanning clients. The interface can also be used for remote scanning, background local scanning, or for integration with other products that require antivirus protection.

The central scanning daemon uses the same virus database format as other avast! products and benefits from the same high frequency of updates. As a result, avast! Mac Edition delivers performance and detection ability as high as can be found in other avast! products, including the ability to detect the full range of Windows/PC malware. You can expect 100% detection of In-the-Wild viruses (viruses already spreading between users) and excellent detection of Trojan horses.

The scanning engine itself is certified by ICSA Labs. It frequently takes part in Virus Bulletin tests and is a multiple recipient of the VB100 award.

avast! antivirus Mac Edition features outstanding archive support and can scan inside all of the following types of archive file: ARJ, MIME, EXEC, ZIP, RAR, TAR, GZ, BZIP2, ARC, ZOO, WINEXEC, LHARC, CHM, CPIO, RPM, ISO, TNEF, DBX, SIS, OLE and INSTALL. The archive unpackers that should be used during scanning can be specified in the Preferences pane, to ensure optimal scanning speed.

## User Interface

The user interface serves as a front-end for the user's on-demand requests, and is also used to control other parts of the program. The main

window (**figure 2**) can be used to set the scanning preferences (**figure 3**), to access the virus chest, and to check for the availability of updates.
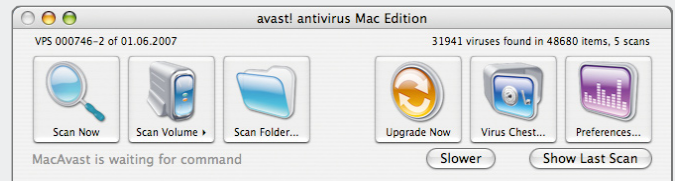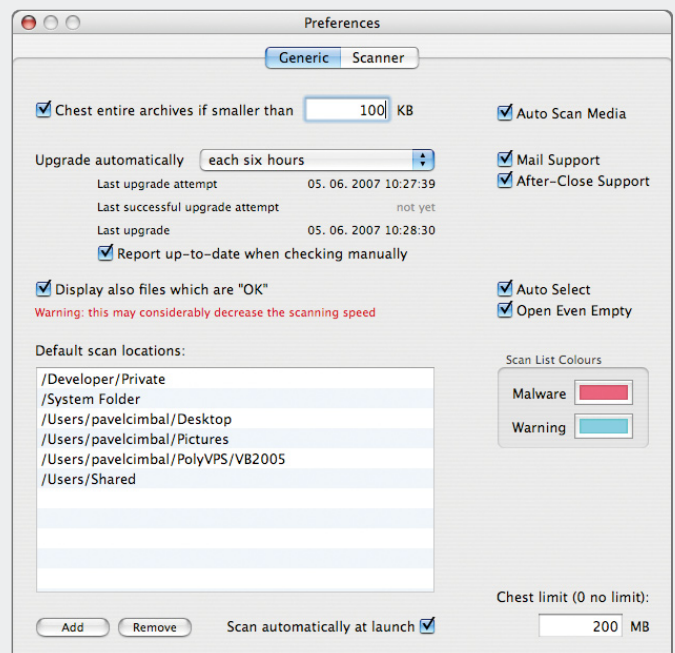
figure 2

figure 3

When a scan is performed, the results are displayed in a list (**figure 4**), together with additional options for processing the results.
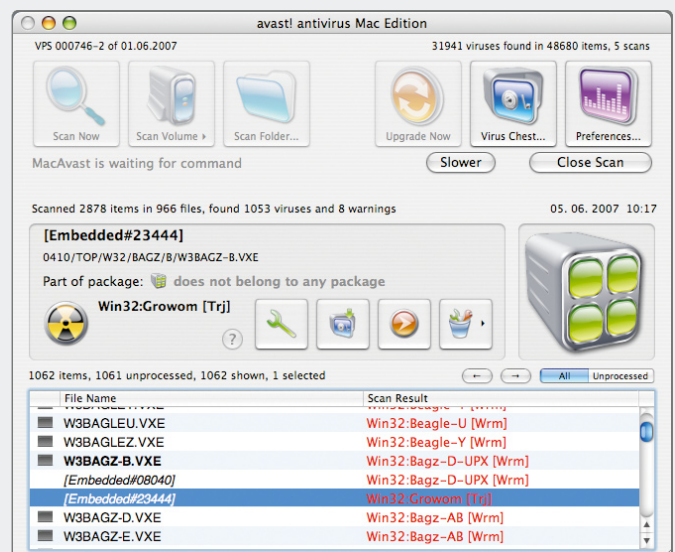
figure 4

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In some cases it may be possible to repair an infected file. Clicking on this icon will enable to file to be repaired if there is sufficient information about the file in the Virus Recovery Database. Note – only files that have been physically changed by a virus can be repaired. If new files have been created, these will remain on your computer unless other action is taken to remove them.

Clicking on this icon will result in the selected file being moved to the Virus Chest. Here, it will be in a protected quarantine area where it cannot cause damage to your other files and where it can possibly be repaired before moving it back to its original location

Clicking on this icon will simply result in the selected file being ignored and no immediate action will be taken. The file can be dealt with later using any of the other tools

Clicking this icon will result in a range of other options being presented, such as the option to delete, move or rename the selected file, to copy it to the Virus Chest or another location, or to reveal the location where the file can be found.

The mail and on-access scanner results are communicated to the user via specific alert-windows. These windows contain cumulative information (**figure 5**) to minimize the number of pop-ups.
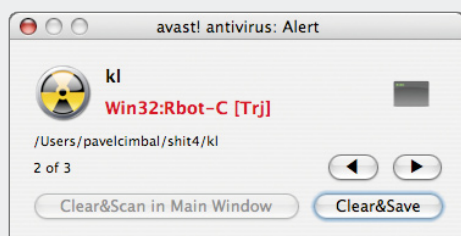


**figure 5**

The results can then be transferred to the main window for additional processing, or logged in a report. Mail scanning results are displayed in the Inbox using different colors for infected, clean or unscanned (e.g.password-protected) attachments (**figure 6**). Scanning is triggered automatically for each incoming mail, but can also be triggered manually for any other sets of messages.
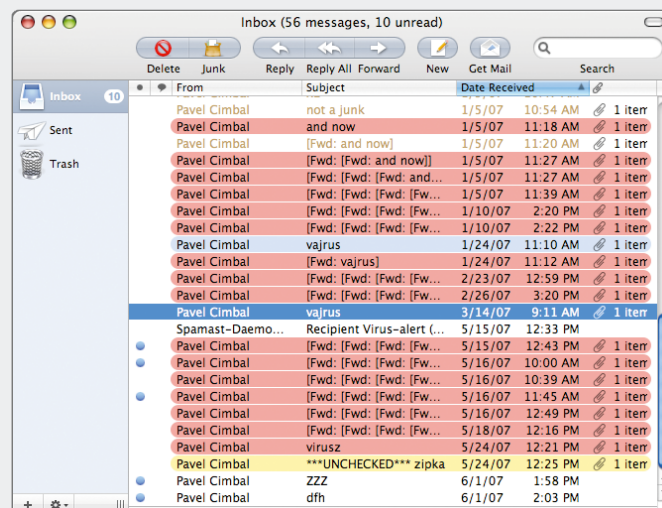


**figure 6**

## Main Features

- Universal binary (the same application works on both PowerPC and Intel architectures)
- Central scanning service, with adjustable priority and remote accessibility
- Access to the scanning service via TCP or UNIX sockets
- Modular architecture (can adopt features of newer daemons automatically)
- Auto-run after startup
- On-demand, on-access and mail antivirus protection
- Chesting/manipulating/repairing tools for dealing with infected/suspicious files
- Rich and extensible archiver support
- Engine with almost identical capabilities to the Linux/windows version
- Report generators for on-demand and on-access scans
- The same antivirus database as used in avast! for windows
- Automatic (scheduled) and manual updating
- User-friendly interface and one-click-to-install (with no need for restart)
- Standard  Install/Upgrade features

- Templated pre-setup for most wanted preferences after installation
- Drag'n'drop scanning, bindings between on-access and on-demand scans
- Infected/protected/clean mail are marked directly in the Inbox using different colors
- Mail messages can also be scanned on demand
- Attachments can be scanned upon request
- The scanning speed on PowerPC CPUs is the same as on Intel CPUs
- Automatic announcements when new critical updates are released
- Protection against downloading of forged/modified antivirus databases
- Uses license files or can run in a 60-day free trial-mode after first installation
- Known filetypes are shown with their corresponding icons
- Set of user-selected preferred paths for one-click or automatic scanning (incoming directories etc)
- All alert windows are cumulative, with summary results (thereby avoiding multiple pop-up windows)

## Minimum System Requirements

- At least 64MB RAM
- System Mac OS X 10.4.x or higher (for on demand and mail support only Mac OS X 10.3.x is sufficient)
- CPU PowerPC (G3 recommended) or any Intel x86

**alwil**
software