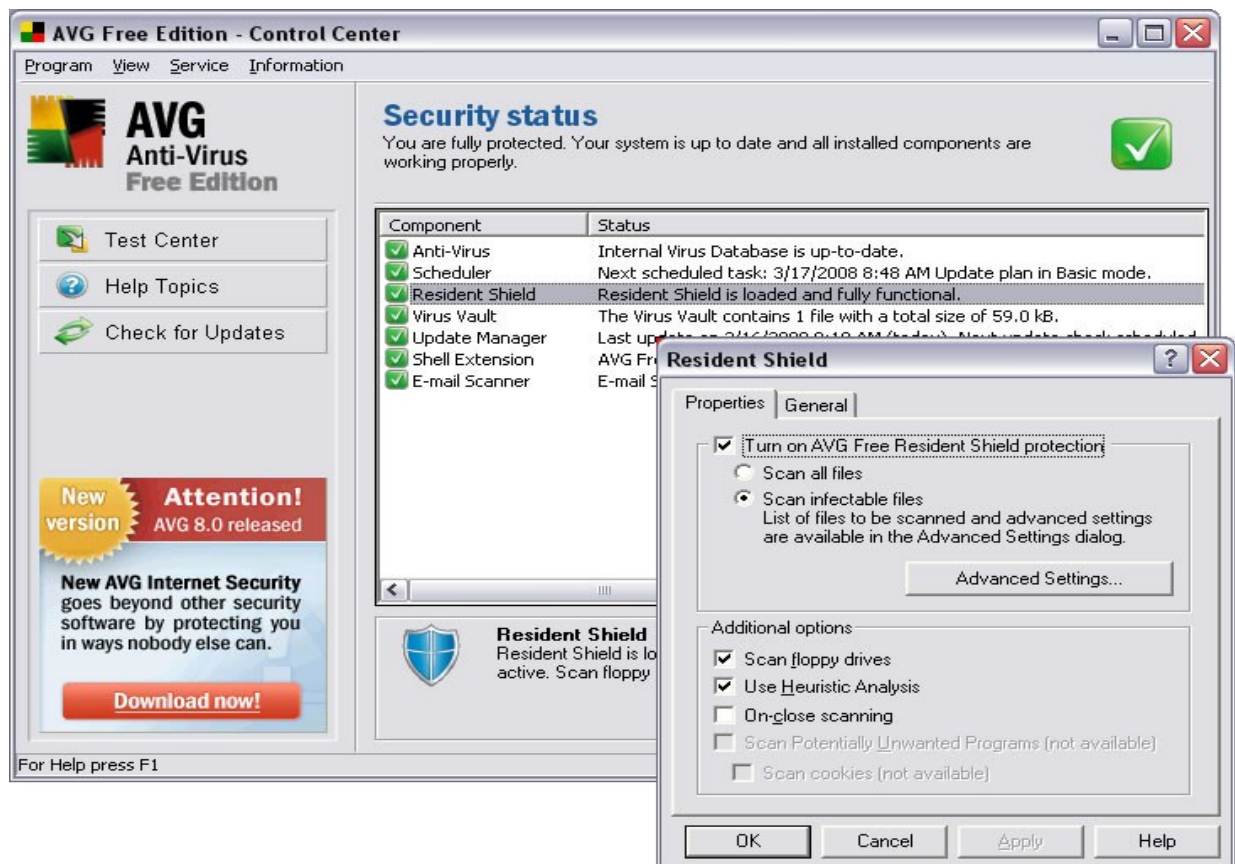


Anti-Virus Software

Anti-virus software is something you should never be without. While this seems obvious, there are some settings that you need to focus on to be sure your AV software is checking the right files and is up-to-date. Anti-virus software works by inspecting a file or running software application and checking it against a list of know suspicious and bad programs, so we'll focus on *what* your software is inspecting and *how often* it can update its list of known bad programs.

Although we'll focus on AV software from GRIsoft, all AV software has similar functionality and settings.

What it's Inspecting



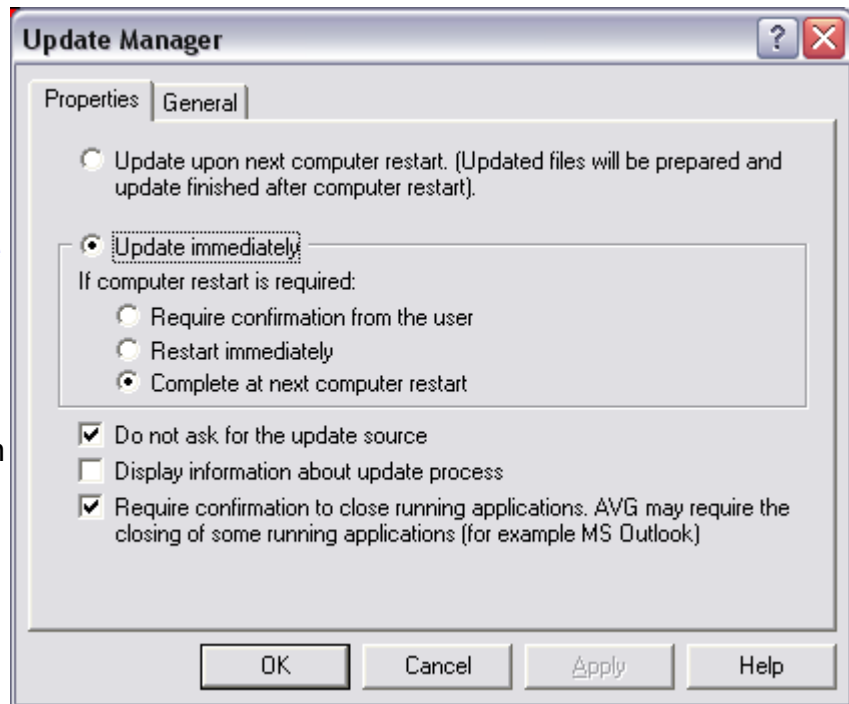
This particular product uses what's called a Resident Shield to remain in memory and check files as they're accessed. Use its configuration settings to make sure it's on and scanning all infectable files.

When it's Updating

An update manager allows the AV software to contact servers on the Internet to update its list of known viruses and malicious software. [If this list is more than a few days old, your AV software loses much of its value.](#)

Why? People that use viruses and malicious software are constantly updating their abilities, and you need to keep in step with them so you're protected from the newest threats on a constant basis. Old virus list files can't stop the newest bad software from harming your PC.

Make sure your software is configured to update on a *daily* basis, and that your firewall software isn't blocking its access to the Internet.



Most commercial AV software vendors, like McAfee, Symantec, ESET, and Kaspersky do a very good job at detecting and removing threats, but often require annual licensing fees for their services. If cost is keeping you from protecting your data, consider a free AV software package – they work just as well, but can be used for personal protection without charge!

Free AV Software Packages

Avast! 4 Home Edition – www.avast.com

AVG Anti-Virus Free Edition – free.grisoft.com

Avira AntiVir Personal Edition – www.free-av.com

ThreatFire AntiVirus – www.threatfire.com

For more information on how AV software can help secure your network and computing resources, and for more information on Linux and Mac-based security, contact VeriSpect Security Services and Consulting – we're experts on securing your data and can create a custom security plan to fit your needs and your budget. More information at www.Verispect.net or through email at [info @ verispect.net](mailto:info@verispect.net).