

Business Product Comparative

ESET Smart Security vs. Sophos Business Space 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	Sophos
Overall Rating	☆☆☆☆1/2	☆☆☆1/2
Installation & Configuration	☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆1/2
Migration	☆☆☆☆1/2	☆☆☆☆☆
Default Policies	☆☆☆☆1/2	☆☆☆1/2
Client Installation	☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆
Interface Design	☆☆☆☆	☆1/2
Client & Policy Management	☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆
Remote Management	☆☆☆☆1/2	☆☆☆☆
Updates	☆☆☆☆	☆1/2
Common Use Cases	☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆1/2
Effectiveness	☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆1/2
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	Sophos	ESET Advantage
Memory usage commit charge (MB)	102.46	208.62	Uses 51% less system resources to perform tasks
Word document launch time (ms)	7,488	8,698	Launches Word documents 14% faster
File copy time for small files (s)	25.35	41.00	Copies documents 38% faster
File copy time for large files (s)	83.70	85.97	Copies media files 3% faster
Client signature database size (MB)	28.62	55.50	48% smaller footprint on the local disk drive
Boot time (s)	27.72	28.18	Takes 2% less time to start your machine
Machine restart time (s)	78.20	82.60	Takes 5% less time to restart your machine

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 Sophos'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

Sophos's Disadvantages:

- Updating the server repository can be problematic, initial update took over an hour and 200MB of bandwidth
- Some default policies are visibly restrictive and may disrupt business functions if not changed
- A "complete" server installation of management components takes about 2-3 hours to install (1 hour for ESET)
- Default firewall policies are heavily restrictive
- Troubleshooting client install was problematic due to information split into nine technical guides
- Policy automation is not location based lacks the depth of other security products

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	Sophos
VB100 awards (#/success ratio)	62/ 97%	52/77%
# of Advanced+ awards in proactive/retrospective tests	13	0

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	Sophos
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	Simple