Symantec Norton Antivirus 2.0 for Windows 95

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One of the negative aspects of using PCs today is the proliferation of computer viruses, many of which are designed to destroy the data and information on your hard disks and floppy drives. Fortunately there are programs which detect and eradicate viruses. Symantec's Antivirus, version 2.0 (NAV 2.0) is one of the latest and best in this area. Symantec has been known for its utility programs for the PCs over the years, mainly the Norton Utilities and Antivirus programs, and this new version adds both more protection and further ease of use to an already excellent product.

The program comes on four floppy disks, installs very easily and quickly, but takes about 12 MB of space. (As seems to be the case with all new PC software—better is bigger.) Why the software does not come on a CD-ROM is a mystery to me, but I guess they need to leave something for the next version. You can set the software to perform regular scans for viruses. (I set mine for a nightly scan at 8 pm.) The software also comes with a Repair Wizard which makes removing a virus very easy.

This version also has the ability to check for viruses coming in via Netscape over the Internet, via the addition of helper application to Netscape. In addition the Striker antivirus technology comes with this version. This allows the software to detect complex polymorphic viruses.

What makes this package, in my estimation, really great is the new LiveUpdate feature. In this past Symantec has had the very nice feature of providing free monthly updates (as opposed to some vendors of antivirus software providing one free update before requiring a maintenance contract) to its virus definition and detection system. This required remembering that it was time to look for an update, log into the Symantec ftp site to get the update, download the update, and run the update. Simple, but ... now with LiveUpdate, all you do is click on the icon, and the software automatically goes to the Symantec ftp site, looks to see if there is an update, and automatically performs the update installation. Clicking on one button is something I can live with.

In summary, this is an excellent antivirus program, and its LiveUpdate capability makes it as easy as possible to keep your system from becoming infected with new viruses.

NAV 2.0 has a retail price of $69.95 ($29.95 for an upgrade from version 1.0) and is available from Symantec Corporation, 10201 Torre Avenue, Cupertino, CA 95014. Phone: 800-441-7234; WWW:http://www.symantec.com.

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