
Getting Started with VirusScan

The information in this chapter helps you get started with VirusScan for the Mac OS. This chapter lists the requirements for running VirusScan on your system. It also describes how to use VirusScan for the first time to check your system for viruses, remove any viruses that may be present, and protect your system against future infections. Finally, it provides recommendations for using VirusScan to make your system as safe as possible.

System Requirements

To run VirusScan for the Mac OS, you will need the following:


- Macintosh Plus or later model
- System 6.0.5 or higher
- 512 K of space on your hard drive (if you install VirusScan on your hard drive instead of running it from the diskette)
- 400 K of RAM.

Using VirusScan for the First Time

Before you start

Before you run VirusScan for the first time, it is important to make backups of necessary files. Which files you back up depend on what version of the Macintosh operating system you use.

No matter what version of the operating system you use, it is very important that you make and keep a backup copy of VirusScan. During normal operations, you will run VirusScan from your hard drive (or from the VirusScan diskette). However, if this version of VirusScan becomes damaged in any way or if it becomes infected by a virus, it will not run. In this case, you will need the backup copy.

 *It is impossible for a virus to infect a file on a locked diskette. Never unlock your backup VirusScan diskette.*

You'll also need to back up vital system files. For instructions, read the appropriate section below.

For System 7 users


If you are using System 7, first make a backup copy of VirusScan. Copy the files to a diskette, and label the diskette "VirusScan Backup." Then lock the diskette by sliding the plastic tab on the back of the diskette up so that you can see through the hole.

Next, locate your Apple "Disk Tools" diskette. This disk is part of the standard Apple System 7 release, and is included with every System 7 Macintosh sold by Apple. Make a copy of this disk. Always keep the original and the copy locked. You may need to start up from your copy of the Disk Tools disk to remove viruses from some kinds of files.

Store these diskettes in a safe place, and always keep them locked.

For System 6 users


If you are using System 6, create a “Virus Tools” diskette by completing the following procedure. The Virus Tools diskette is important because it contains a backup of VirusScan which you can use if the version on your hard drive becomes damaged or infected. In addition, you may need to start up from your Virus Tools diskette to remove viruses from some types of files.

 *After you have created the Virus Tools diskette, store it in a safe place, and always keep it locked.*

Step

Action

1. Copy VirusScan to a diskette.
2. Locate an original locked System 6 Apple “System Tools” disk, and copy the System file from this disk to the diskette containing VirusScan.

 *Do not use the System file from your hard drive or some other System file because it may be too big to fit on the floppy with VirusScan.*
3. After copying VirusScan and the System file to a diskette, click the VirusScan icon in the diskette window to select it. Then select **Special/ Set Startup** to set VirusScan as the startup program.
4. Eject this diskette and label it “Virus Tools.”
5. Lock the diskette by sliding the plastic tab on the back of the diskette up so that you can see through the hole.
6. To test your Virus Tools diskette, restart your Macintosh from the Virus Tools disk (shut down your Mac, insert your Virus Tools disk in the floppy drive, and then start up your Mac again).

Response: VirusScan should run automatically.

7. When the main VirusScan window appears, select **File/Quit** to quit the program.

Response: An alert appears telling you that the Finder is busy or damaged. This is normal. The alert appears because there is no Finder on the Virus Tools disk.

Action: Click the Restart button in this alert to restart your Mac.


Starting VirusScan

To start VirusScan, do one of the following:

- If your Macintosh has a hard drive, do the following to install VirusScan on your hard drive and start it:
 - Insert the VirusScan diskette.
 - Drag the VirusScan icon from the diskette to your hard drive.
 - Double-click the icon to start VirusScan.
- If you do **not** have a hard drive, start your Macintosh using your Virus Tools disk. VirusScan will run automatically. (If you have not already created the Virus Tools diskette, refer to “Before you start” on page 18 for instructions.)

Cleaning and protecting your system

The first time you run VirusScan, perform the following steps to clean and protect your system.

 *For more information about scanning and cleaning disks with VirusScan and installing the protection extension, see [Chapter 4, “Using VirusScan.”](#)*


- | Step | Action |
|------|---|
| 1. | Clean all of your hard disks. To do this, select Clean/All Disks . |

Response: VirusScan scans all of your hard disks and removes any viruses it finds.

2. Clean all your diskettes. To do this, select **Clean/Floppies**.

Response: VirusScan prompts you to insert diskettes one at a time to be scanned and repaired.

Action: Unlock each disk before inserting it. (VirusScan cannot repair a disk if it is locked.) You can lock the disk again after VirusScan has ejected it.

 *Clean all your disks at one time. If you clean some of them, run other programs, and then clean the rest of your disks, you run the risk of reinfecting your system.*

3. If you have a hard drive, install the protection extension on your hard drive. To do this, select **Protect/Install Protection Extension**.

Response: VirusScan places a copy of the protection extension inside the currently active System folder on your hard drive. (On System 7, the extension is placed inside the Extensions folder.) An alert asks if you want to restart your Macintosh to activate the extension.

Action: Click the Restart button. You should see the protection extension icon appear at the bottom of your screen during startup.

4. If you start your Macintosh from a diskette, install the protection extension on each of your startup diskettes. To do this, select **Protect/Save Protection Extension**.


Response: A standard file dialog appears.

Action: Use this dialog to save a copy of the protection extension. Then quit VirusScan and drag copies of the protection extension into the System folder on each of your startup diskettes.

Getting the Most out of VirusScan

To provide maximum protection against virus infections, follow the recommendations below:

- In most cases, you should run VirusScan from your hard drive. It is not necessary to run it from your locked backup diskette or the Virus Tools diskette. However, if you encounter problems running VirusScan from your hard drive, we suggest that you try restarting your Macintosh using either your Disk Tools disk (for System 7) or your Virus Tools disk (for System 6). After you have restarted, try running VirusScan again. This avoids extension conflicts and other possible causes of problems.

 *For information about creating a VirusScan backup diskette or the Virus Tools diskette, see “Before you start” on page 18.*

- When repairing (cleaning) files, VirusScan may be unable to repair a file or files because they are “busy.” In this case, an error message suggests a course of action. In many cases, the solution recommended by the error message is to restart using either your Disk Tools disk (for System 7) or your Virus Tools disk (for System 6).
- When VirusScan detects a virus in an application or a system file, you can use VirusScan to clean the file. However, for the highest level of protection, we recommend keeping locked original versions of applications and system files. Then, instead of cleaning the files, you can delete the infected files and reinstall uninfected copies from the original diskettes. After you have reinstalled the files, use VirusScan to scan the replaced files again to make sure your originals were not infected.