
Using VirusScan


Overview

VirusScan for the Mac OS helps you protect your system against viruses in two ways. First, you run the VirusScan application to scan disks and files for existing virus infections. Then you install the VirusScan protection extension to guard your system against future infections.

When you run the VirusScan application, you can use it to simply detect and report the viruses, or you can use it to “clean” your files and disks by automatically removing any viruses it finds. The VirusScan application is flexible and easy to use. You can quickly scan entire drives, or you can use the menu options to select only the files or folders you want to scan. When the scan is complete, VirusScan displays a report to let you know the results of the scan.

 *For more information about scanning for existing virus infections, see [“Finding and Removing Existing Virus Infections” on page 24.](#)*

After you have removed any existing virus infections, you can install the protection extension to avoid virus infections in the future. If a virus is introduced to your system, the protection extension detects it when it begins its attack and neutralizes the virus before it can damage your system. The protection extension then alerts you to the presence of the virus so that you can use VirusScan to remove it.

 *For more information about using the protection extension, see [“Avoiding Future Virus Infections” on page 29.](#)*

Finding and Removing Existing Virus Infections

When you run VirusScan, you can simply scan for virus infections and display a list of infected files. Or you can tell VirusScan to scan for viruses and then “clean” the files by automatically removing any viruses that it finds. You can use the buttons on the VirusScan window to initiate scanning, or you can use the VirusScan menus to select a variety of scanning options.

Using the Scan and Clean buttons

The buttons on the VirusScan main window give you a fast, easy way to initiate scanning. To use these buttons, do the following:

- | Step | Action |
|------|---|
| 1. | Select the drive you want to scan from the pop-up menu at the top of the window. |
| 2. | Do one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Click Clean if you want VirusScan to scan drives and automatically remove any viruses it finds.or■ Click Scan if you want VirusScan to detect viruses without removing them. |

Response: At the top of the window, VirusScan displays the folder and file currently being scanned. When the scan is complete, a report is displayed at the bottom of the window.




See “[Viewing Scan Results](#)” on page 27 for more information about viewing, saving, and printing VirusScan reports.

Using the menu options

The VirusScan menu options give you a great deal of flexibility by allowing you to select exactly which files you want to scan. To initiate scanning using menu options, do one of the following:

- If you want VirusScan to scan drives and automatically remove any viruses it finds, select the **Clean** menu. Then choose one of the options described below.
- If you want VirusScan to detect viruses *without* removing them, select the **Scan** menu. Then choose one of the options described below.

Selecting this option...	Does this...
File	Scans a single file. Choose the file you want to scan from the Open file dialog.
Folder	Scans a single folder. Choose the folder you want to scan from the Open file dialog.
Floppies	Lets you quickly scan a series of diskettes or any other type of removable media (such as CD ROM disks). You are prompted to insert each diskette, and VirusScan ejects it when it has been scanned.
All Disks	Scans all mounted volumes. Use this option if you have more than one hard disk or multiple partitions and you want to clean them all.
Some Disks	Lets you select which mounted volumes you want to scan. Use this option if you want to scan more than on disk without scanning all of them.
System File	Scans the currently active System file.
System Folder	Scans the currently active System folder.

Selecting this option...	Does this...
Desktop Files	<p>Scans only the invisible System 6 Finder Desktop files. It scans all Desktop files on all currently mounted volumes. You can use this command to quickly find (if you're using the Scan menu) and remove (if you're using the Clean menu) the WDEF and CDEF viruses.</p> <p> <i>You must be using Finder under System 6, not MultiFinder or System 7, to remove the WDEF and CDEF viruses. For more information, refer to the description of currently known viruses in the online Help.</i></p>

Running VirusScan in the background

You can run VirusScan in the background under System 7 or under System 6 with MultiFinder. When VirusScan is running in the background and a virus is detected or VirusScan requires attention, it notifies you by flashing the VirusScan icon in the menu bar and displaying a diamond next to the VirusScan item in the Application menu (System 7) or in the Apple menu (System 6).


If you want to make the notification more visible, you can choose to display an alert whenever VirusScan detects a virus while running in the background. To do this, complete the following steps:

- | Step | Action |
|------|---|
| 1. | Choose File/Preferences to display the Preferences window. |
| 2. | Select the 'Display alert' checkbox. |

Response: In addition to the default notification methods, VirusScan displays an alert when it detects a virus while running in the background.

Viewing Scan Results

Whenever you scan for viruses or clean files, a detailed report of the scan is displayed at the bottom of the window. When the scan is complete, you can view the report online, save it to a file, or print it.

 *The report is displayed when you scan the first file or disk. If you perform other scans, VirusScan adds information to the original report. It does not delete the information gathered during the first scan.*

Viewing the report online


When the scan is complete, you can use the scroll bar to move through the scan report. You can also use any of the following navigation options to move through the report:

If you want to...	Press...
Move up one line at a time	UPARROW
Move down one line at a time	DOWNARROW
Move up one screen at a time	COMMAND+UPARROW or PAGEUP
Move down one screen at a time	COMMAND+DOWNARROW or PAGEDOWN
Move to the beginning	COMMAND+SHIFT+UPARROW or HOME
Move to the end	COMMAND+SHIFT+DOWNARROW or END

Saving the report as a text file


After you have generated a report, you can save it to a text file. The information is saved in Simple Text format. Saving the report as a text file allows you to retrieve the information later. You can also import the text to a word processing file for additional formatting.


To save the report, make sure the VirusScan main window is active and then select **File/Save As**. Then enter the name and location, and click Save. The file is saved in Simple Text format.

 If the Help window is active, you can use this option to save the online Help as a text file. To display the Help window, select **VirusScan Help** from the Apple menu.

Printing a report

VirusScan gives you the following options for printing reports:


This menu option...	Does this...
File/Page Setup	Displays an expanded Page Setup dialog which lets you change the way the report prints. Select the options you want and click OK to save your preferences. These selections will be used each time you print a report until you change them. Then select one of the print commands below to print the file.  <i>The maximum font size is 24 points. If you select large font sizes or large margins, the report may not print properly.</i>
File/Print	Displays the standard Print dialog. Select the options you want and click Print to print the file.
File/Print One	Prints one copy of all pages in the report without displaying the standard Print dialog.

 If the Help window is active, you can use these options to print the online Help. To display the Help window, select **VirusScan Help** from the Apple menu.

Avoiding Future Virus Infections

Scanning and cleaning files and disks to remove existing virus infections is the first step in protecting your system against viruses. Once you have eradicated any existing infections, you can install the protection extension to avoid virus infections in the future. Installing the extension can save you time, money, and frustration by locating and warning you about viruses **before** they have a chance to damage your files.

The protection extension guards your system against all known non-Hyper-Card Macintosh viruses. It is small, efficient, and easy to install, and it should not affect the performance of your Macintosh. The extension does not interfere with the normal operation of VirusScan or other anti-viral applications, or with programming environments, installer applications, or other system software.

 *The protection extension cannot protect your system against unknown viruses.*

How does the protection extension work?

Unlike some other virus protection extensions, the VirusScan extension does not scan floppies each time they are inserted into a disk drive, and it does not scan files each time they are opened. Instead, it detects and blocks viruses when they begin their attack. This strategy is what makes the VirusScan protection extension so small and efficient.

If you run an application that is infected by one of the known Mac viruses, the protection extension beeps to alert you, quits the application, and displays an alert. The protection extension only detects and blocks viruses; it does not remove them. To remove a virus, you must use the VirusScan application.


 *For more information about scanning and cleaning files, see “Finding and Removing Existing Virus Infections” on page 24.*

Because the protection extension only detects viruses when they begin their attack, it will *not* flag files that are partially infected but not contagious. That's because these kinds of infections never attack the system. These non-contagious infections are harmless, so this does not put your system at risk. However, you can use VirusScan to detect and remove these kinds of infections.

Installing the protection extension

Installing the extension on your hard drive

To install the protection extension on your hard drive, choose **Protect/Install Protection Extension**. The extension is installed in your currently active Extensions folder (under System 7) or in your currently active System folder (under System 6). You must restart your Macintosh to activate the extension.


 *With System 7, be sure to leave the extension in the Extensions folder. Do **not** move it to the System folder or to the Control Panels folder.*

Installing the extension in a different location

You can also save the protection extension to a location other than the currently active Extensions or System folder. For example, if you use a startup diskette, you can save the extension on your startup diskette. To do this, choose **Protect/Save Protection Extension**, and then select the location.

After installation

After you've installed the protection extension, the icon should appear at the bottom of your screen every time you start your Macintosh. If an error occurs and the extension cannot be loaded properly, the extension will beep to alert you and then draw a special error version of the icon (the normal icon with a large X superimposed).

 *The protection extension icon normally appears first in the row of extension icons. One exception to this is under System 6 with Apple's Communications Toolbox installed. The Communications Toolbox icon may appear first, in which case the VirusScan extension icon appears second.*

Considerations for using the protection extension

Can I rename the extension?

We do **not** recommend renaming the protection extension. The name of the extension begins with a special character that ensures that it is the first extension loaded when you start your Macintosh. (This character is not visible in Finder windows. In other places, such as standard file dialogs, it appears as a box.)

The protection extension **must** be loaded first so that it can detect and block the INIT 1984 virus, which spreads from extension to extension at startup time. If the protection extension is not loaded first, and if some earlier extension is infected by the INIT 1984 virus, then the protection extension will not be able to detect or block the virus when it attacks during startup.

If you do rename the extension, make sure that the new name comes first in alphabetical order in your Extensions folder or your System folder. Again, to avoid problems we recommend that you do not rename the extension.

What if another extension also needs to be loaded first?

A number of other popular extensions also require that they be loaded first. Before installing such an extension, scan it with VirusScan to make sure it is not infected by the INIT 1984 virus or any other virus. Then install it. Depending on how the extension is named, it may be loaded before or after the VirusScan extension. Don't worry if the other extension is loaded first. You have already made sure that it is not infected, so it shouldn't cause any problems.

What if I need to remove the extension?

Contrary to the instructions found in many software manuals, it is not necessary to remove the protection extension when installing software. There are no known cases where the protection extension interferes in any way with installers.

If do you want to remove the extension for some reason, open your Extensions folder (under System 7) or your System folder (under System 6) and drag the extension icon to the trash (or anywhere else outside of the System folder). Then restart your Macintosh.

