

NORTON 360™ Version 2.0

By Peter Lazarov

Symantec's NORTON 360™ Version 2.0 provides protection for almost everything. Running in the background, it stops viruses, spyware and other online threats. It also protects you from identity theft and phishing scams by verifying trusted Web sites and blocking fake ones. Furthermore, the program's "Identity Safe" manages logins, passwords, and other sensitive information such as credit card numbers etc. NORTON 360™ also helps keep your PC tuned and protects important files by automatically backing them up and letting you restore them at any time

There are three similar "NORTON" products on the market: NORTON 360™, NORTON INTERNET SECURITY™ and NORTON ANTIVIRUS™. At first, I was curious. What does NORTON 360™ Version 2.0 do in comparison with NORTON INTERNET SECURITY and NORTON ANTIVIRUS?

Four functions are included in all three programs:

- Remove viruses from e-mail and instant messages.
- Block Internet worms.
- Stop spyware from tracking online and block from hijacking the PC.
- Remove threats from downloaded files.

Seven additional functions are in NORTON 360 and NORTON INTERNET SECURITY:

- Block hackers from accessing the computer.
- Prevent unknown threats from entering the PC.
- Guard against online identity theft.
- Inspect Web Sites to make sure they're not fakes.
- Protect private data from spyware with automatic form filling.
- Block suspicious programs.
- Allow only authorized programs to connect to the Internet.

You can find the following four functions only in NORTON 360:

- Protect valuable files from computer disasters
- Restore damaged or deleted files and folders.
- Secured 2 GB of online storage with option to purchase more.
- Fix problems that slow the computer.
- Remove unwanted Internet clutter and temporary files

I hope this list will be help you to decide which program best suits your needs. Before installing the program, I uninstalled the existing NORTON ANTIVIRUS 2006 from my computer. To do this, I typed in the Google's search line "uninstall

Norton". From the plethora of web sites I chose "Download and run the Norton Removal Tool from Symantec". It did the job without problems.

The Installation also went smoothly, after inserting the CD into the CD-ROM drive and following the instructions on the screen. During the installation, NORTON 360 downloaded some updated files and ran a full scan to check all files in the computer for viruses. At the end, the program asked me to create a Norton Account, which I did. I also activated NORTON 360. If I did not activate NORTON 360 during the installation, I would regularly receive activation alerts, until I activated the product. I also instructed the program to automatically scan my computer for viruses etc., and do this in the background when the computer is idle.

Once the program was installed, a NORTON 360 icon appeared on the desktop. Clicking on this icon caused the NORTON 360 main window to pop up. This main window provides access to all program features and presents its status at a glance. Each status (PC security, Identity Protection, backup and PC Tuneup) is presented in the form of a button. When I moved the cursor over the button a description what I can do with this button appeared.

Using the PC Security Button I could view details, run scans, check for updates, manage the firewall and run the Security Inspector. The Identity Protection Button offered status and details about phishing protection, web site authentication and information on how to protect against internet threats, phishing attacks, etc.

The Backup Button provides up to 2 GB free of charge online backup of my important files. When I used this feature the program did the backup automatically, while the computer was idle. Using this feature, I can restore files from the stored online backup files.

The PC Tuneup Button runs file cleanup, disc optimization and registry cleanup. I did all those cleanups and the program removed 87 bad registry entries, 26,000 temporary internet files and 6,800 temporary windows files from my computer.

Another way to use the program is to take advantage of the links on the top of the Main Window. They provide access to several areas:

- Tasks Page (perform manual scans, backups, view statistics, run diagnostic report, etc.)
- Settings Page (manage Virus and Spyware Protection, Firewall Protection, Eavesdropping Protection, log in to Identity Save, etc.)
- Product Feedback (allows me to send feedback about my experience with this program)
- Help and Support which opens the NORTON 360 online Help.

I liked the opportunity to use the Buttons for some tasks and the links for others.

Between the links and Buttons is the Status Summary Bar, which indicates the current state of my computer. If the color is green – the PC is protected; yellow means one or more issues require my attention; red indicates the presence of some risk to the PC. When my intervention was needed, the Norton screen appeared, and I was reminded to do what was necessary.

Once the installation was completed, each time I got to a web site, or to my e-mail a Norton Bar appeared with three buttons:

- Phishing Protection
- Identity Save
- Log-ins.

When I clicked on the Phishing Protection Button and no phishing was discovered, the program told me that Phishing Protection has scanned this Web page. It determined that the web site does not use an encrypted transmission protocol, does not contain a password form field, and there is no indication of fraud. Furthermore, the program informed me that the Web Page Address and content have been analyzed and found authentic.

A click on the Identity Save Button, caused the program ask me to enter my Norton Account Password. Having done this, I could manage my Identity Save Settings – view, edit and delete log-ins, cards, and notes.

When I clicked on the Log-ins Button, I could see my account on the www.mynortonaccount.com web site, manage log-ins, or log-out of Identity Save.

I must admit, the installation and starting NORTON 360™ was easy, went smoothly and was better then expected. Using the program is also easy. When there is a problem, the program may fix it in the background, or may require my intervention. I am delighted that this program periodically cleans temporary and unnecessary registry files. The online backup feature is very useful, but two GB free of charge storage may not be sufficient. However, you can buy additional online storage. The program package also included a small, but well understandable printed manual. Online, in the Help link, there is a sizable manual.

I like and recommend this program.

Street Price: \$41.80 (Buy.com) You can find prices at 146 online stores using Google.

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Norton 360 Version 2.0 - System Requirements:

Operating systems: Windows XP Home/Professional/Media Center Service Pack 2 or later edition, Windows Vista† Home Basic/Home Premium/Ultimate/Business/Starter Edition.

Phishing Protection feature requires Microsoft Internet Explorer® 6.0 or later or Firefox® 2.0 or later.

Email scanning supported for POP3-compatible email clients.

Online backup feature requires high-speed Internet connection.

Hardware requirements:

300 MHz or faster processor.

256 MB of RAM.

300 MB of available hard disk space.

Required for all installations:

Standard Web browser.

DVD or CD-ROM drive may be required.

Internet connection.

Additional Windows Vista requirements:

Must meet minimum Windows Vista operating system requirements.

Phishing Protection feature available only on 32-bit Microsoft Internet Explorer.

Other requirements:

Norton toolbar feature requires Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.0 or later.

Email scanning supported for POP3-compatible email clients.

Supported instant messaging clients:

AOL® Instant Messenger 4.7 or later

Yahoo!® Instant Messenger 5.x or 6.x

MSN® Messenger 6.0 or later

Support:

Instant online chat and e-mail support are free. The phone support costs \$9.95 per incident when requested through the web site – you send a message with your phone number and the representative will call you back. Symantec has also the 24/7 Norton Priority support for \$69.99 per incident. The phone number is: 1 866 200 0794. To find online support see:

<http://www.symantec.com/support/index.jsp> On this website you can find solutions for your problem, chat online with a technical person, or e-mail your question and get free answers.