

PC Tools Spyware Doctor 6 with Anti-Virus By Bart Koslow

Spyware Doctor 6 with Anti-Virus now includes BehaviorGuard which is an augmented version of the free PC Tools ThreatFire. I had been running ThreatFire for some time and was anxious to see what PC Tools had done when they added it to Spyware Doctor.

I originally installed the program on my first computer. Unfortunately, my computer kept freezing up until I removed it. However, I was able to install it on my second computer without having a similar problem. In the second case, I uninstalled ThreatFire after I saw a very brief announcement flash on my screen indicating that Behavior Guard could not be installed, until I uninstalled ThreatFire. After that, the program downloaded and installed the Behavior Guard files. My first computer had ThreatFire installed and I did not see that message flash by. That is probably why I had a problem. This is a defect in the installation process. The vendor should make it part of the installation to either uninstall any components that may interfere with a new installation or tell you to do it before installation can proceed, not let you find out the hard way.

The actual program is fairly simple and intuitive. The opening screen shows a few selections in the center like Scan Now. Below that is a System Status screen showing various information like when the last scan was performed, version number, etc. At the top, is Smart Update and Help. On the left side, there are five selections: Status (the opening screen), Start Scan, IntelliGuard, Tools and Settings. When you run a scan, allow plenty of time for it to complete. I noticed that my computer was running very slowly, so I decided to run an Intelli-Scan, which is faster than a full, deep scan. The program scan ran in the background, took about 16 minutes and found 89 infections, which it removed. To my delight, my computer immediately ran at full speed again. One of the infections must have been slowing my computer.

After running the program for a short time, I received a pop-up screen telling me I had to reboot to let the automatically downloaded update files take effect. Automatic updating is OK, but I do not like to have intrusions or the computer slowing down by doing another task at the same time I am doing something else. I was able to go to Settings and change to "Notify Me About Available Updates" and eliminate this problem since I now decide when to download updates. You can change a number of functions in Settings like turning on or off Anti-Virus and IntelliGuard. When I selected Tools, the only item was "Malware Detective", which you are warned not to run unless you have a problem or instructed to run by tech support, so I skipped that one.

In the past, ThreatFire was given top ratings as being able to detect new spyware not in any database. When I selected IntelliGuard I was amazed at the numerous functions available. Behavior Guard powered by ThreatFire protects your PC against zero-day viruses, worms, spyware, Trojans and other malware. One of the strengths of this program is its ability to detect brand new types of spyware that is not yet in a database. The list goes on with Browser Guard, Cookie Guard, Email Guard, File Guard, Immunizer Guard (which immunizes your computer against known threats), Network Guard, Process Guard (protections against malicious Active-X scripts) and Site Guard. Most of these programs have selections to Disable this Guard, Manage Exclusions, View History and more. When you have a problem, a warning screen pops up and occasionally you will see a pop up screen that summarizes past performance.

I did notice that SpyDoctor tends to add some overhead in terms of speed to the boot process and in running other programs, as a few of its functions will run at the same time as your other programs. There is no way to prevent this that I see.

Spyware Doctor is an intuitive, easy to use program that will protect your computer against many threats. I like the program and recommend it.

Street Price: Online- Spyware Doctor 6 \$24.95, Spyware Doctor 6 with Anti-Virus \$34.95.

PC Tools, Inc.

150 Spear St, Suite 500

San Francisco, CA 94105-1541

USA Phone: +1-800-764-5783

www.pctools.com

Current Version: 6.0.0.386

File Size: 13,278 KB

Operating System: Designed for Windows® Vista™ 32-bit, XP and 2000..

Release Date: October 13, 2008

Protection Against: Spyware, Adware, Spyware Trojans, Keyloggers, Identity Theft, Hijackers, Tracking Threats, Rogue Anti-Spyware, Unwanted Software, Phishing, Popups and Bad Websites.

Add-ons: Optional plug-ins are available for Spyware Doctor including [Site Guard](#), [Email Guard](#) and [Behavior Guard](#)

Trial Limitations: The trial offers time unlimited real-time protection (free spyware blocking), but does not remove threats detected during on-demand scans, updates may also differ to those supplied to registered users.

Starter Edition: The Starter Edition offers full scan and removal of threats, and basic real-time protection, is available for free as part of the [Google Pack](#).

Support is free. Online database and email technical support. www.pctools.com