

Dr. Solomon's Anti-Virus Toolkit

Network Associates, Inc.

Dr. Solomon's Anti-Virus Toolkit has consistently been recognized as one of the most rigorous tools for preventing viruses from infecting files and storage media. Incredible as it may seem, there are in excess of 15,000 viruses currently infecting electronically-stored information. Indeed, on a monthly basis, about 350-400 viruses — having such dastardly classifications or names as polymorphic, stealth, multipartite, and macro — are discovered. These viruses may invade computer systems via diskettes, CDs, E-mail, and downloads.

Recently merged with Network Associates, Dr. Solomon's, similar to the legal community, regards data protection as a serious matter. Besides regularly providing updates to assure that its users are protected from all currently known viruses, Dr. Solomon's scans for unknown viruses using proprietary heuristic analysis technology to maximize the probability of detection. Furthermore, Dr. Solomon's even scans within compressed file formats and scans recursively inside multiple nested layers of compressed and archived files to promote immediate virus detection. These proven techniques synergistically work together to effectively construct layers of defense that encompass every internal system and every external entry point. Once a virus is detected, the Anti-Virus Toolkit automatically triggers prerequisite disinfection.

Once installed on a network, the Anti-Virus Toolkit stands ready to prevent damage to the integrity of data stored on all available media. Background scanning is continuously performed via WinGuard; a cute icon of a soldier ready to shoot a cannon (to annihilate a virus of course) is parked on the Windows tray. Virus scanners may also be executed by invoking the Toolkit by double-clicking the desktop icon or via the Start menu. Whenever started, the Toolkit immediately checks memory for viruses. Virus checking of any storage medium may be scheduled via the Advanced menu; also on the Advanced menu is a Virus Encyclopedia that gives advice if the user thinks that a virus is present. The Disinfect menu provides the ability to disinfect a drive or to replace the Boot Sector. The user may trigger the find virus, check for changes, or check memory functions from the Scan menu. Alert messages and the like may be promptly sent across the network under the Network menu.

Consistent with Dr. Solomon's philosophy of achieving the ultimate in data protection, the File menu has a Shred feature. As this term implies, shredding a file thoroughly overwrites its contents so that it cannot be accidentally undeleted; a shredded file bears no humanly-intelligible relationship with the source file. While actually intended to provide a fail-safe for infected files that couldn't be disinfected, the Shred feature is useful for properly destroying law office electronic data.

Besides providing technical support 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, Dr. Solomon's has a Web site that advises users what to do if a virus threat becomes real (styled "Don't Panic") and that provides a news service including alerts, events, research, and new virus descriptions (styled "Virus Central"). A knowledge base is available for delving into virus issues and downloads are also available for keeping the software current. Dr. Solomon's Protection Plan delivers an outstanding service at modest cost. Why would a law office be without it?