

# IoT Mobile Security Solutions tested by AV-Comparatives - Can they protect your Android Smartphone? - 2018

*his report provides test results and reviews of security products for smartphones running Google's Android operating system.*

INNSBRUCK, TYROL, AUSTRIA, August 30, 2018 /EINPresswire.com/ -- This Android Mobile Security Review and Test performed by AV-Comparatives provides test results and reviews of security products for smartphones running Google's Android operating system. Amongst other things, this report aims to help readers decide whether they would benefit from the more comprehensive and sophisticated security features provided by a third-party security app.

[Please find the report here: https://www.av-comparatives.org/tests/mobile-security-review-2018/#avc-undroid-analyzer](https://www.av-comparatives.org/tests/mobile-security-review-2018/#avc-undroid-analyzer)

Besides the reviews, which cover the user experience of the apps, the results of comprehensive tests on malware protection rates and battery consumption are provided as well. Additionally, a short table at the end of each product report gives an overview of any anti-theft functions included in that product. Many of the reviewed and tested apps have components which are not security-related, such as power and memory optimizers and data backup tools.

The review mainly focuses on the security features – anti-malware, anti-theft, and privacy – and only mentions further functionalities briefly. The structure of each product report is identical, allowing readers to compare products easily.

## Tested Products

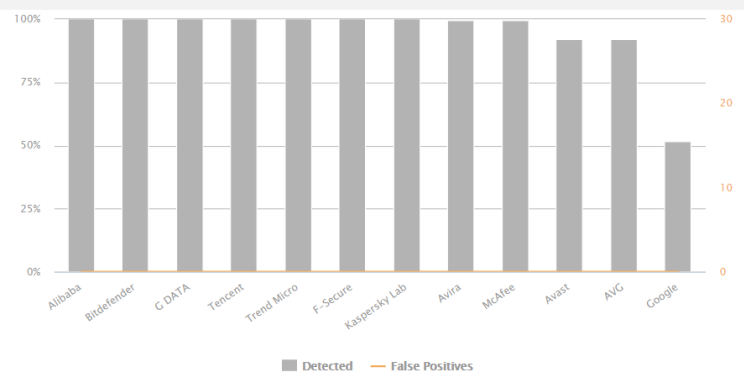
The products included in this year's test and review are listed below. The latest products were taken from major app stores like Google Play at the time of the test (July 2018). After the product review, manufacturers had the opportunity to fix any flaws we found. Any problems that have already been solved are noted in the report.

 Alibaba Security 5.8	 G DATA Internet Security 26.4
 Avast Mobile Security & Antivirus 6.11	 Google Play Protect 10.7
 AVG Anti-Virus 6.10	 Kaspersky Internet Security 11.17
 Avira Antivirus Security 5.2	 McAfee Mobile Security 5.0
 Bitdefender Mobile Security & Antivirus 3.3	 Tencent WeSecure 1.5
 F-Secure SAFE 17.4	 Trend Micro Mobile Security & Antivirus 9.5

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### Test Results

The results can be seen below (sorted by Malware Protection and number of False Alarms).



### Mobile Protection Rates

	Protection Rate	False Positives
Alibaba, Bitdefender, G DATA, Tencent, Trend Micro	100%	0
Kaspersky Lab, F-Secure	99.9%	0
Avira	99.8%	0
McAfee	99.6%	0
Avast, AVG	92.3%*	0
Google	51.8%	0

\*Note: Unfortunately, Avast and AVG had a bug in their apps, which resulted in lower detection rates. The bug meant that on Android 7.0 or later, the apps did not query their respective cloud services under certain circumstances. We reported the observations to Avast and AVG, who have since found and corrected the bug.

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The main purpose of a mobile security product is to protect users and their devices from potential harm inflicted by malicious apps, fraudulent mails, or phishing URLs. Readers should note that recent Android versions incorporate some basic anti-malware features. For example, Google's built-in malware scanner Play Protect checks apps during installation from the Google Play store or a third-party source and scans the device continuously for any threats. Google's Safe Browsing API protects against malware and phishing links when the user is surfing the Internet using the Chrome browser.

Furthermore, an anti-theft component in a security app could be used to find a lost or stolen phone, and/or prevent access to any personal data stored on the device. Basic anti-theft features (lock, locate, alarm, and wipe) are already provided by recent versions of Android via Google's Find My Device function.

On the following pages, we provide a brief overview of the risks facing smartphone users from malware and the loss or theft of their device, and discuss the benefits of security apps. We start by recapping Android Oreo's new features and security behaviour changes. Furthermore, we will argue why it is not advisable to rely only on built-in malware protection features (all latest and newer Android devices are already equipped with such functions), but instead install a third-party anti-virus app to be better protected against security threats. After that, we give a short summary of security features and their main sub-components commonly implemented in typical security apps for Android.

At the end of the introduction, we list the participating security products, and present the results of the malware and battery drain tests. Detailed reviews of the individual products follow, in which we will shed light on the layout and usage of the features. In the table representing a product's anti-theft features, we comment on each function briefly and use the following symbols to indicate how well it worked in our tests.

## Google Play Protect

In May 2017, Google announced its new built-in malware protection for Android, Play Protect, which checks apps and APK files when they are downloaded using the Google Play store app or third-party sources. Since August 2017, it has been available on all Android devices with Google Play Services 11 or later, and is preinstalled on devices with Android 8.0 and later. Play Protect constantly monitors the device and all the user's data, and notifies the user of any security risks found. It also scans the Google Play store and all installed apps for any signs of malware, and includes the three functions malware scanner, device loss (Find My Device), and safe browsing.

One might think that third-party anti-virus apps are no longer necessary for Android devices, due to Google's built-in malware and protection features. This might be true for Android devices with Play Protect integrated into the preinstalled Google Play store app. However, some Android devices (e.g., Amazon's Fire line) do not benefit from the built-in malware protection of Play Protect as they do not run Google apps by default.



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Free Security Service Available:

At this point, we would like to recommend AVC UnDroid, our Android app analysis tool, which is available free to all users. It is a static analysis system for detecting suspected Android malware and adware and providing statistics about it. Users can upload APK files and see the results in various analysis mechanisms.

We invite readers to try it out: <https://undroid.av-comparatives.org>

Mediacontact  
AV-Comparatives  
+43720115542  
[email us here](#)

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