

## USING AVG 8.0

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### INITIAL STEPS

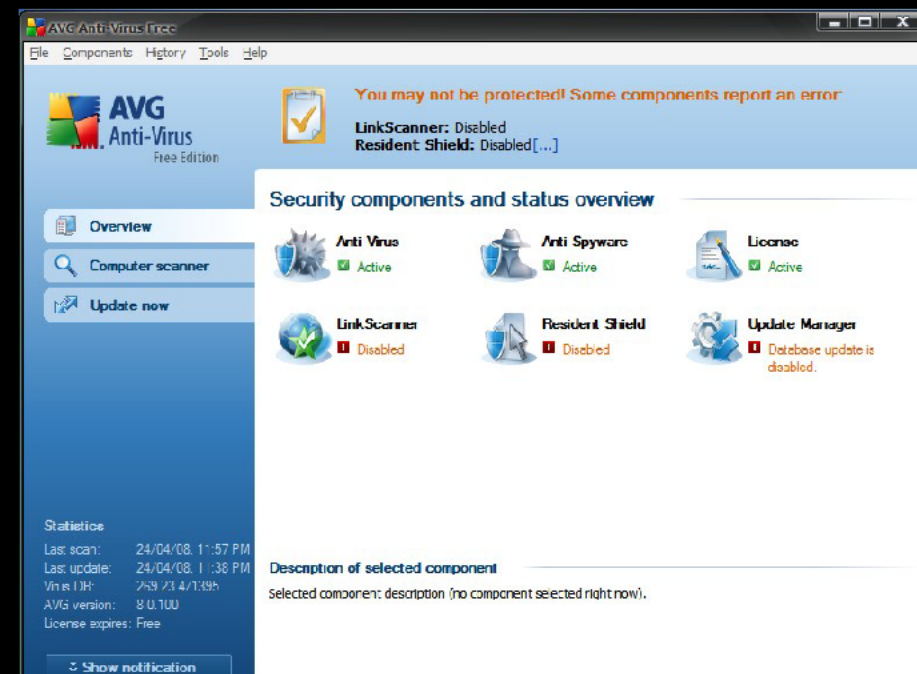
- **download AVG 8.0** and save to your desktop
- disconnect from the Internet
- uninstall AVG 7.5 or any antivirus installed on your PC
- restart your PC

### CONFIGURE AVG BEFORE INSTALLING

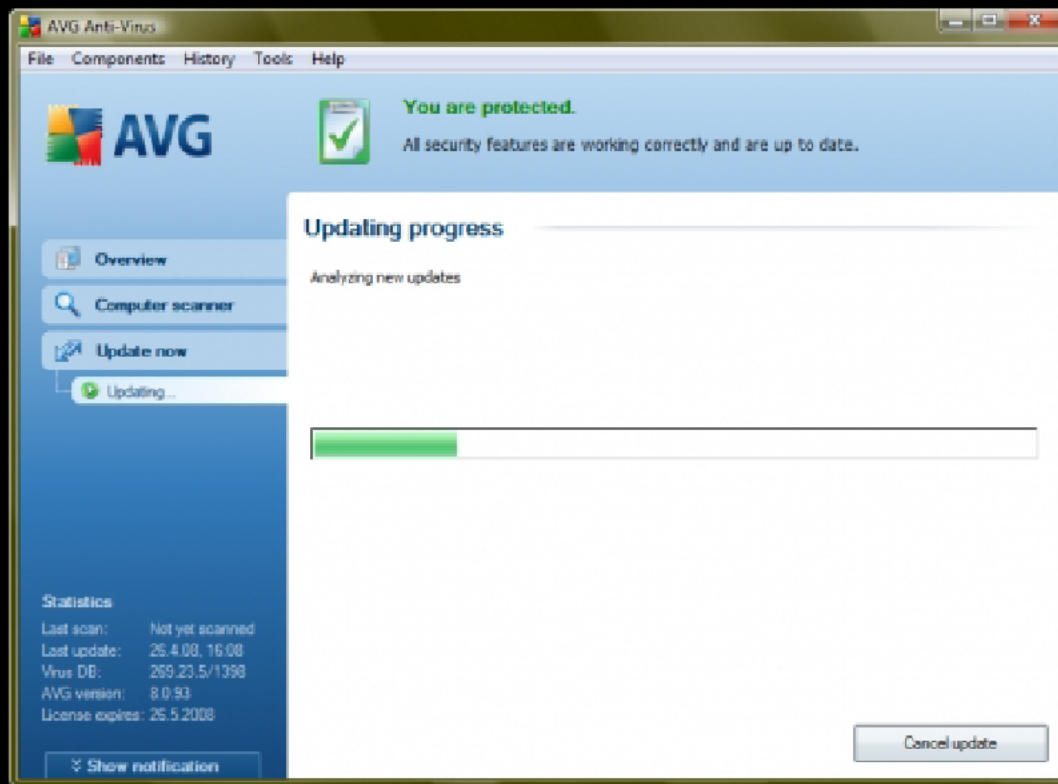
**Step 1.** After downloading the AVG setup file, right-click on it and select 'Create shortcut'. Now right-click on this newly created shortcut and select Properties. In the Target field, one blank space after the last character, (the last character being ") paste the text. Select the text below, then COPY (Ctrl+C) and PASTE (Ctrl+V) as instructed above.

```
/NOAVGTOOLBAR /REMOVE_FEATURE fea_AVG_SafeSurf /REMOVE_FEATURE fea_AVG_SafeSearch
```

Run this new shortcut and it will start the AVG setup file with the parameters specified above. This will prevent AVG from installing the Linkscanner feature, AVG Security Toolbar and related web-browsing protection, all of which can result in decreased system performance and a slower web browsing experience. These features cannot be properly disabled from within AVG, so they need to be removed using this method. If you've already installed AVG 8.0 you can remove these components by following the instructions in Step 1. When choosing "custom install" some features may still appear to be available depending on preinstalled applications, such as Microsoft Office.



**NOTE: screenshots do not illustrate the instructions in this article and are for ornamental purposes only**



## INSTALLING AVG

**Step 2.** During the installation of AVG, make sure to select the Custom option. If they are checked, I recommend unticking the 'Email Scanner' and 'Plugin for Microsoft Office' components. You can always perform a right-click on-demand scan.

## CONFIGURING AVG

**Step 3.** Once AVG has installed, start it and go to the Tools menu, then select 'Advanced Settings'. I recommend the following settings:

- Under the Appearance menu untick the 'Display system tray notifications' box to remove the unnecessary AVG icon in the System Tray/Notification Area.
- Under the Scans menu you should tick all boxes except 'Automatically heal/remove infections' in each case - this ensures that should AVG detect a false positive, it won't automatically delete it from your system.
- (Optional) Under the Schedules menu untick every available option - instead recommend updating prior to doing a manual scan at a time of your choosing.
- (Optional) Under the Resident Shield menu untick the 'Enable Resident Shield' box to disable this background functionality, as it can and will interfere with other programs and may reduce overall performance and stability.

**Step 4.** (Optional) While the changes above will reign in most of AVG's intrusive and problematic behavior, in addition to these changes, it is also recommended that you take some additional steps to disable unnecessary/intrusive components. To start with, AVG installs an active Windows Service called 'AVG8 Watchdog'. While this service needs to be left at Automatic for AVG 8 to work, it actually runs two separate files in the background: `avgwdsvc.exe` (for the Watchdog Service) and `avgrsx.exe` (for the Resident Shield service). If you've disabled the Resident Shield feature of AVG, then it is also recommended that you go to your `\Program Files\AVG\AVG8` directory and rename the `avgrsx.exe` file to `avgrsx.old.exe`; this will prevent it from starting up in the background without affecting AVG scanning capabilities.

**WARNING:** Performing Step 4 will disable the ability to right-click and perform on-demand scans on files and folders. However, using my Intel Pentium 4 - 2.4Ghz having this feature "on" did cause a noticeable DECREASE in system performance.



## USE AUTORUNS TO DISABLE AVG COMPONENTS

**Step 5.** Download, install and run **Autoruns** and under the Everything tab, untick the following AVG startup components which are unnecessary if AVG is configured as above. Press Ctrl+F to search and find items easily. Press F3 to repeat the search.

- AVG8\_Tray - this item just relates to a tray icon which has no real benefit.
- Linkscanner - this item shouldn't be shown if AVG was installed as above.
- AVG Safe Search - this item shouldn't be shown if AVG was installed as above.
- AVGMfx86.dll - this item is related to the Resident Shield functionality. Leave alone if you plan to skip Step 4.
- Avgrssth.dll - this item is related to the Resident Shield functionality. Leave alone if you plan to skip Step 4.
- All incidences of AVG8 Shell Extension - this removes the 'Scan with AVG Free' context menu entries. Leave alone if you want right-click on-demand scanning. If you want this feature, skip Step 4.

Remember, you can always go back and redo/undo features you want/don't want.

## ALMOST DONE

**Step 6.** Reconnect to the Internet, reboot your system and start AVG. If you see any red warning prompts from AVG, you can safely ignore them. Click the 'Update Now' tab to run the web updater to ensure that AVG is up to date. If there are any problems, recheck the procedures above, or if necessary, uninstall AVG and reinstall.

## SCANNING YOUR PC

**Step 7.** To start a manual scan of your system with AVG click the 'Computer Scanner' tab and then select 'Scan whole computer' to scan everything, or 'Scan specific files and folders' and then specify the particular folder(s) you wish to scan. I strongly recommend running the AVG Updater prior to doing any scans, to make sure the virus definitions are always up to date.

## GENERAL ADVICE

Manually scan your entire system once a week, and always scan files that you have downloaded before you open or launch them. Good anti-malware habits and common sense will ensure your system steers clear of major malware. When surfing the Internet using a web browser, be careful what you click on. Any time something pops up that you did not invoke, this is usually bogus. When screens other than AVG appear telling you that you're infected with malware, simply close them. Do not click OK or cancel. When in doubt, power-down your PC - at least you won't get infected. —HappyHarryNET

