

# McAfee Internet Security Suite 2006

Price £49.98 Contact <http://uk.mcafee.com>



McAfee's Securitycenter replaces Windows XP SP2's Security Center entirely

Like other packages, McAfee Internet Security Suite 2006 uses a single, integrated front end to access all the components. However, going one step further than most, McAfee replaces Windows XP SP2's Windows Security Center.

The status of your anti-virus, firewall, privacy service and anti-spam can all be monitored from here as well as five security indices, which report on your current overall level of security as well as individual anti-virus, anti-hacker, anti-abuse and anti-spam

configurations. However, it's not made clear to the user what these terms mean.

Installation is quite straightforward, but once complete it's apparent the software has taken control of your PC. Once installed you're required to first log in to McAfee's Privacy Service to access the Internet. If you're using a shared computer, each user should have their own account. The privacy service login window appears on top with no minimise button and attempts to browse the Internet without logging in will fail.

After installation, our security index was less than optimal, although no pop-up warning alerted us to that fact – we had to go and look in the Security Center to find out. After setting up a McAfee security account online and enduring a total of seven reboots our system was finally fully up to date.

Parental controls come under the control of the Privacy Service and consist of URL and keyword blocking, but you'll have to build up your lists of banned and approved sites yourself. From here you can also block ads and cookies on a per-user basis.

There are many sophisticated configuration options available, as well as tutorials and easy setup wizards. But the main setup doesn't take you through these procedures, so you have to go and find them yourself. And in our opinion, running the firewall setup is a crucial step in securing your system and shouldn't be optional.

## Verdict

- Pros** Good set of features; automatic updates  
**Cons** Laborious login procedure and initial setup; incomplete initial setup with multiple reboots

**Features** ★★★★★  
**Ease of use** ★★★★★  
**Value for money** ★★★★★

**Overall** Far too many reboots and not enough hand-holding for novice users, but powerful and relatively easy to use once you get going

★★★★★