

# Avira and Windows 8/Windows Server 2012

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## 1. What does Windows 8 compatibility mean?

Historically, Microsoft has always had a certification process with different levels for the software running on its operating system. These levels were “Compatible with ...” and “Designed for ...”. Starting with Windows 8, there is only “Windows 8 certified”.

In order to achieve these compatibility levels, there are many changes which need to be implemented by the software. After these changes have been implemented, the software has to be checked by Microsoft in order to confirm the results obtained by the ISV (Independent Software Vendor). All these steps require significant amount of time and effort.

The Windows 8 operating system, and its equivalent in the server area, called Windows Server 2012, have a completely new architecture. Their architecture forces the software, which runs on them, to make significant changes in the frameworks and the APIs (Application Programming Interface) used to write the software. Old frameworks (e.g.: Layered Service Providers, Transport Driver Interface, etc.) will no longer be supported on the long term.

However, Microsoft is not going to enforce these new fundamental changes from the very beginning (year 2012) in the frameworks used. But, in order to achieve the compatibility required for the certification, it is required to fulfill these requirements.

## 2. Why is Avira software not Windows 8/Windows Server 2012 certified?

Avira Free Antivirus is Windows 8 certified since April 3rd, 2013.

Avira Premium Antivirus is Windows 8 certified since May 7th, 2013.

Avira Server Security is Windows Server 2012 certified since May 16th, 2013.

Our goal is to offer our users the same excellent experience on Windows 8 as on Windows XP, Vista and Windows 7.

The Avira Internet Security will not be certified because it uses legacy technologies for which Microsoft does not give anymore a “Compatible with” certification. However, the product works as designed and there are no known problems.

### 3. Am I now protected on Windows 8?

Our software provides the protection it was designed for, it can update properly so that the latest virus signatures and engine are reliably delivered and inform the user about the issues encountered.

### 4. What about version 2012?

We do not plan currently to provide Windows 8 compatibility to this version of our products. However, all customers using 2012 may upgrade to version 2013 for free.

### 5. When are the customers affected?

The only problem, reported by only a few customers, is that after a migration from Windows 7 to Windows 8 the Firewall is not functioning. This can be easily fixed by performing a repair of the installation.

### 6. What is the solution?

In order to perform a repair of the installation go into “Program and Features”, find Avira Internet Security, right-click on it and select **Change**.

You will see the following dialog.



Click on **Next** until you see the list of all modules.



Make sure that the Avira Firewall is selected and click **Next**. Once all operations have been performed, you have to reboot your computer.

## 7. What is Avira doing to provide a solution and when?

Avira is working hard to solve the problems and receive the certification for Windows 8. We plan to deliver the fixes in three stages, each containing several smaller releases.

### Stage 1:

We fix the crashes, compatibility problems.

### When?

This was delivered in several steps in December 2012.

### Stage 2:

We integrate better with the Application Center and we allow the user to use the Windows UI to:

- to activate/deactivate the product
- perform an update
- prolong the license



### **When?**

This was delivered in in December 2012.

### **Stage 3:**

Achieve the certification level “compatible with Windows 8”.

### **When?**

As mentioned previously, the products can be certified are now certified.

#### **Note**

All products, including the localized versions, have been released in December 2012.

## **8. What about the localized versions of Free, Premium and Internet Security 2013 ?**

We released in November 2012 the kits of the localized versions. These products will have all fixes implemented which we pushed for the English and German versions. Therefore, they will be as compatible with Windows 8 as the English and German versions are.

## **9. What about the business products version 2013?**

### **9.1 Professional Security 2013**

We released on December 20th, 2012, the Professional Security version 2013 in all supported languages. It is as compatible with Windows 8 as the consumer products. The same applies to the localized versions of the Professional Security version 2013.



## 9.2 Server Security 2013

We added support for Windows Server 2012 in the same stages as we do for our consumer products. This product was released together with the Professional Security 2013 in December 2012. This product also achieved the “Windows Server 2012 certified” certification.

## 9.3 Endpoint Security

This is a bundle consisting of Professional Security, Server Security and Avira Management Console.

We released this product bundle in January 2013.

It is as compatible with Windows 8/Windows Server 2012 as the products that are included in it are.

## 9.4 Small Business Security Suite

This is a bundle consisting of Endpoint Security and Avira Exchange Security - Small Business Edition.

We cannot predict at this moment when the Avira Exchange Security - Small Business Edition will be compatible with Windows Server 2012.

## 9.5 Business Security Suite

This is a bundle consisting of Endpoint Security and Avira Exchange.

We cannot predict at this moment when the Avira Exchange Security will be compatible with Windows Server 2012.

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