THE BADGE ON THE BOX proclaims that Panda Antivirus Platinum 7.0 is 'for businesses and professionals' but, with supreme ease of use and a competitive price tag, it's more than suitable for the rest of us as well. There's also more to this anti-virus software than first meets the eye, but more on that later.

Like its predecessors, Version 7 of Panda's anti-virus package is a breeze to install, set up and use. After a couple of minutes, you have complete protection and, with daily automatic updates available, you can be assured of keeping one step ahead of the game. Like most competing packages, the default level of protection offered by Panda is 'always active' so, if you have broadband or unmetered dial-up Internet access, you don't need to worry if your anti-virus checker is on or off while you're online.

The big extra in the box, is that Panda Antivirus Platinum 7.0 now includes a full firewall for safeguarding your data.

Most similar products only offer this as part of an 'Internet security suite' for additional cost, so it is rather refreshing and nice that Panda covers all the bases without making a big song and dance about it.

VERDICT

** PERFORMANCE **

** EASE OF USE **

** VALUE FOR MONEY **

** RATING **