



AVG LinkScanner

User Manual

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1. Introduction

This user manual offers a general overview of the tasks and detection technologies provided by **AVG LinkScanner®**. We will briefly talk about the program installation, initial startup, configuration and use.

AVG LinkScanner® is provided free-of-charge. It is up and running immediately from the moment of installation. All basic settings have been pre-set by the manufacturer, so most of the time you will not have to worry about anything – just let **AVG LinkScanner®** work in the background and protect you without any effort on your part. However, there might be situations where you need to adjust the program settings, or decide what to do with a virus infected file; this manual is here to provide detailed information and assist you with any task.



2. Installation Requirements

2.1. Operation Systems Supported

AVG LinkScanner® is intended to protect computers with the following operating systems:

- Windows XP Home Edition SP2
- Windows XP Professional SP2
- Windows XP Professional x64 Edition SP1
- Windows Vista (x86 and x64, all editions)
- Windows 7 (all editions)
- Windows 8 (all editions)

(and possibly higher service packs for specific operating systems).

2.2. Web Browsers Supported

AVG LinkScanner® is fully compatible with the following Internet browsers:

- Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher
- Mozilla Firefox 3.0 or higher
- Google Chrome

2.3. Hardware Requirements

Minimum hardware requirements for **AVG LinkScanner®** are as follows:

- Intel Pentium CPU 1.0 GHz or faster
- 750 MB of free hard drive space, for installation purposes
- 256 MB (Windows XP) / 1024 MB (Windows Vista, Windows 7, Windows 8) of RAM memory

Recommended hardware requirements for **AVG LinkScanner®** are as follows:

- Intel Pentium CPU 1.5 GHz or faster
- 1,2 GB of free hard drive space, for installation purposes
- 512 MB (Windows XP) / 1024 MB (Windows Vista, Windows 7, Windows 8) of RAM memory

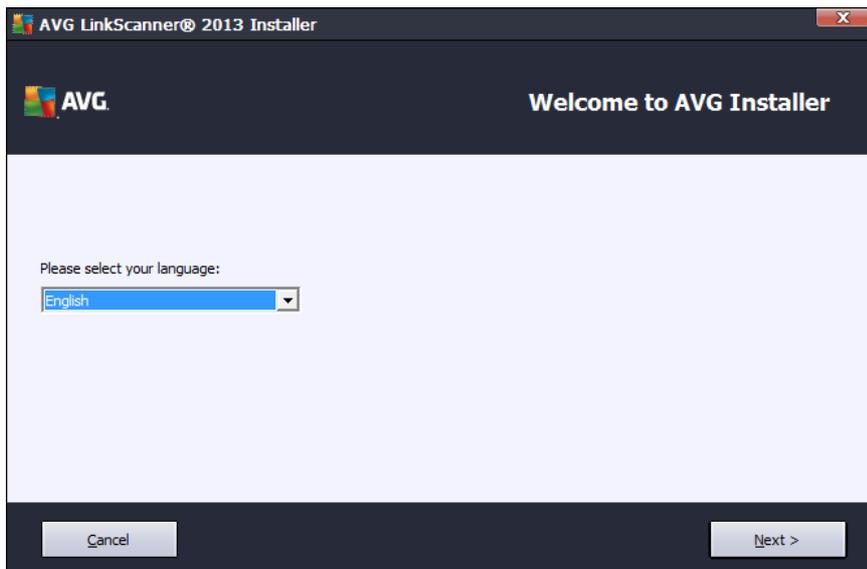


3. Installation Process

The installation is a sequence of dialog windows with a brief description of what do at each step. We offer a detailed explanation of each dialog window below:

3.1. Welcome: Language Selection

The installation process starts with the *Welcome to AVG LinkScanner® Installer* dialog:



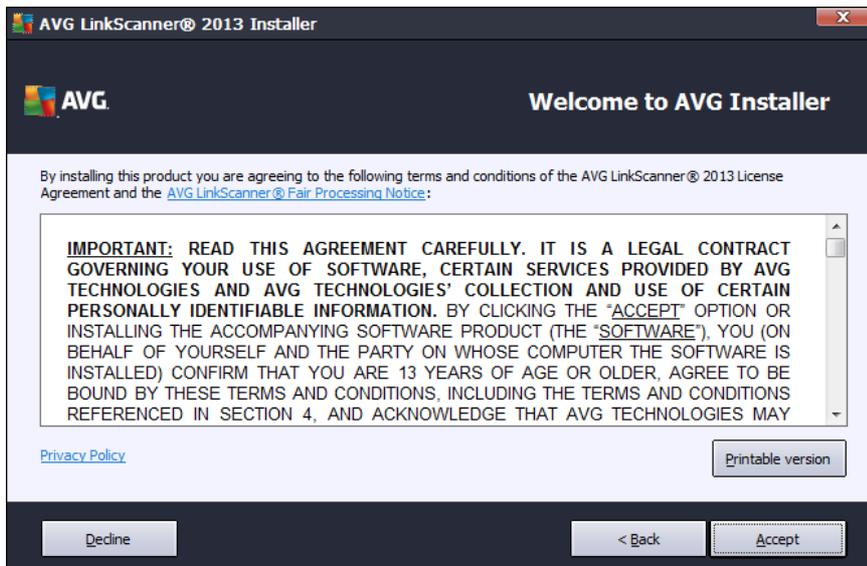
In this dialog you can select the language used for the installation process. Click the combo box to roll down the language menu. Select the desired language, and the installation process will proceed further in the language of your choice.

Attention: *At the moment you are only selecting the language of the installation process. The AVG LinkScanner® application will be installed in the selected language, and in English which is always installed automatically. However, it is possible to have more languages installed and to work with AVG LinkScanner® in any of these. You will be invited to confirm your full selection of alternative languages in one of following setup dialogs named [Custom Options](#).*



3.2. Welcome: License Agreement

The *Welcome to AVG LinkScanner® Installer* dialog provides then the full wording of the AVG license agreement:



Please read the entire text carefully. To confirm that you have read, understood, and accept the agreement press the **Accept** button. If you do not agree with the license agreement press the **Decline** button, and the installation process will be terminated immediately.

AVG LinkScanner® Fair Processing Notice

Besides the license agreement, this setup dialog also offers you the option to learn more about the **AVG LinkScanner® Fair Processing Notice**. Click the respective link to get redirected to AVG website (<http://www.avg.com>) where you can find the full wording of these statements.

Control buttons

From the dialog, the following control buttons are available:

- **Printable version** - Click the button to display the full wording of the AVG license agreement in a web interface, and well arranged for printing.
- **Decline** - click to refuse the license agreement. The setup process will quit immediately. **AVG LinkScanner®** will not be installed!
- **Back** - click to go one step back to the previous setup dialog.
- **Accept** - click to confirm you have read, understood, and accepted the license agreement. The installation will continue, and you will go on one step further to the following setup dialog.

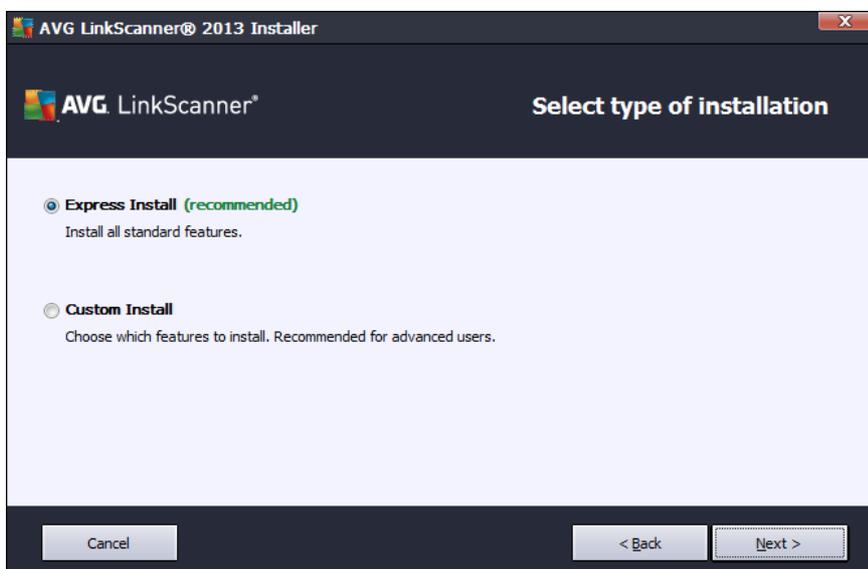


3.3. Select Type of Installation

The *Select type of installation* dialog offers the choice of two installation options: *Express Install* and *Custom Install*:

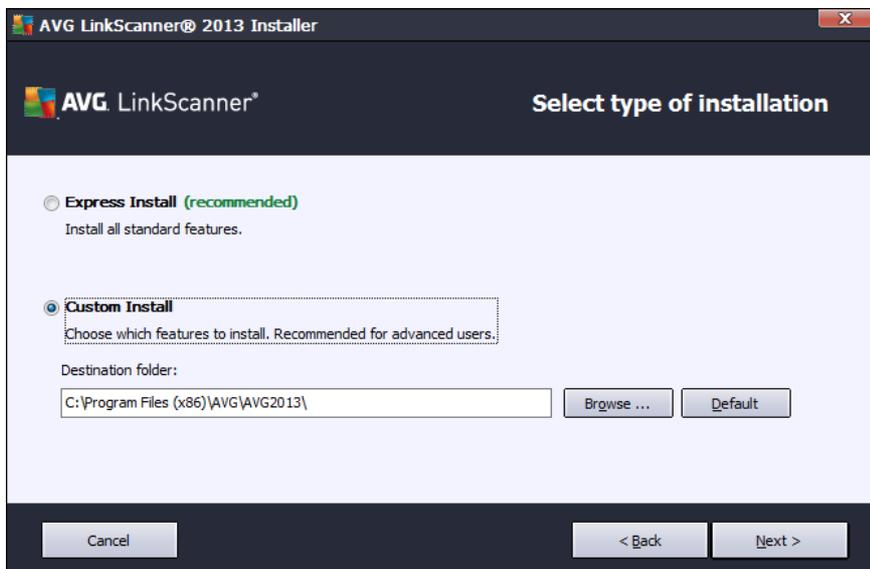
Express Install

For most users, it is highly recommended that you keep the *Express Install* option that installs **AVG LinkScanner®** in fully automatic mode with settings predefined by the program vendor. This configuration provides maximum security combined with the optimal use of resources. In the future, if the need arises to change the configuration, you will always have the option of doing so directly in the **AVG LinkScanner®** application. Press the *Next* button to continue.



Custom Install

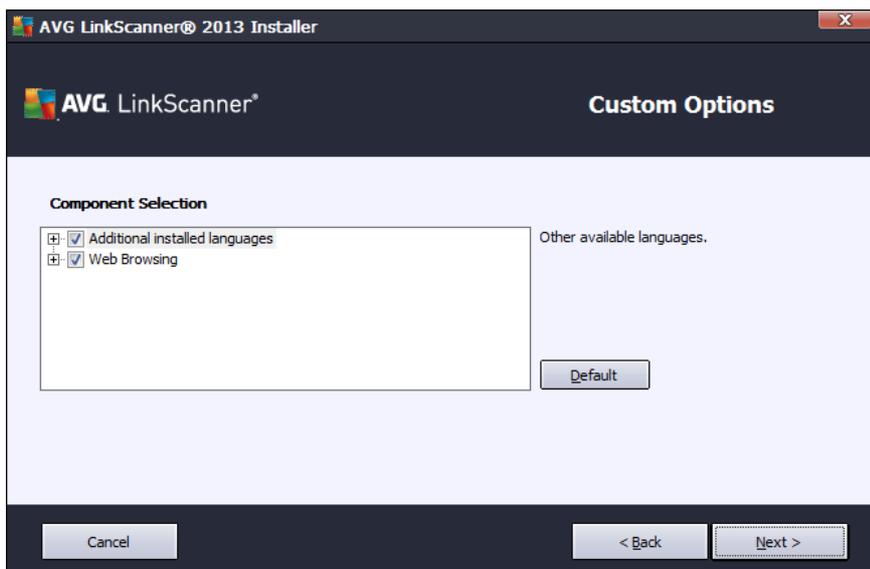
Custom Install should only be used by experienced users who have a valid reason to install **AVG LinkScanner®** with non-standard settings, e.g. to fit specific system requirements! Should you decide for the *Custom Install* option, mark the respective radio button to confirm. The dialog then appears with the following interface:



You are now invited to specify the destination folder, i.e. the location where **AVG LinkScanner®** should be installed. By default, **AVG LinkScanner®** will be installed to the program files folder located on drive C:. If you want to change this location, use the **Browse** button to display the drive structure, and select the respective folder. And, once you have changed the location and wish to revert to the default destination pre-set by the software vendor, you can do so by pressing the **Default** button. Press the **Next** button to continue to [Custom Options](#) dialog.

3.4. Custom Options

The **Custom Options** dialog only appears if you have previously selected the custom installation:



The dialog provides an overview of all **AVG LinkScanner®** components that can be installed. If the default settings do not suit you, you can remove/add specific components.

However, you can only select from components that are included in your purchased AVG edition!

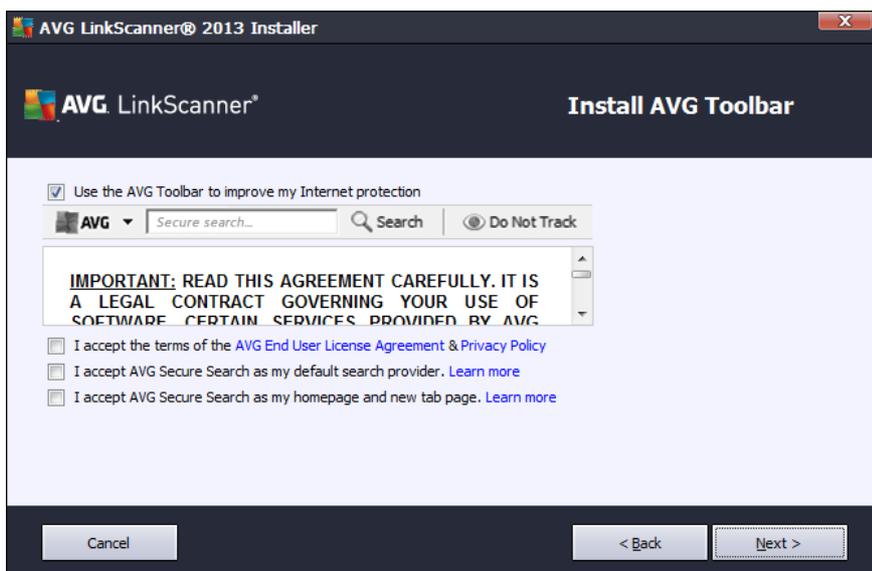


Highlight any item in the **Component Selection** list, and a brief description of the respective component will be displayed on the right side of this section. For detailed information on each component's functionality please consult the [Components Overview](#) chapter of this documentation. To revert to the default configuration pre-set by the software vendor use the **Default** button.

Press the **Next** button to continue.

3.5. Install AVG Toolbar

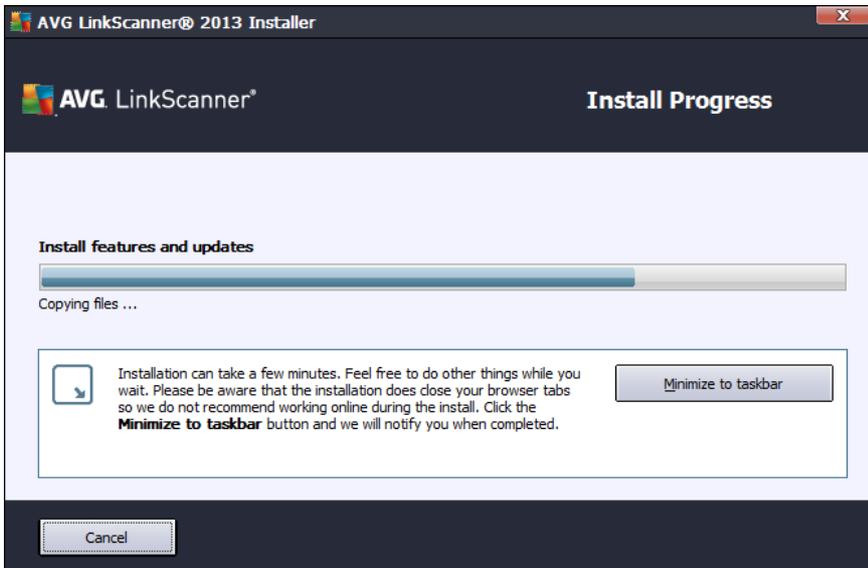
In the **Install AVG Security Toolbar** dialog, decide whether you want to install the [AVG Security Toolbar](#). If you do not change the default settings, this component will be installed automatically into your default Internet browser (*currently supported browsers are Microsoft Internet Explorer version 6.0 or higher, and Mozilla Firefox version 3.0 or higher*) and to provide you with comprehensive online protection while surfing the Internet. At the moment, the supported Internet browsers are Internet Explorer (*version 6.0 and higher*), and/or Mozilla Firefox (*version 3.0 and higher*). No other browsers are supported (*in case you are using some alternative Internet browser, e.g Avant Browser, you may encounter unexpected behavior*).



In the dialog you need to confirm you are aware of and agree with the license agreement and privacy policy. Also, you have the options to decide whether you want to set AVG Secure Search as your default search provider, and your home page.

3.6. Install Progress

The **Install Progress** dialog shows the progress of the installation process, and does not require any intervention. Please wait until the installation is complete, then you will be redirected to the [Installation was successful](#) dialog:

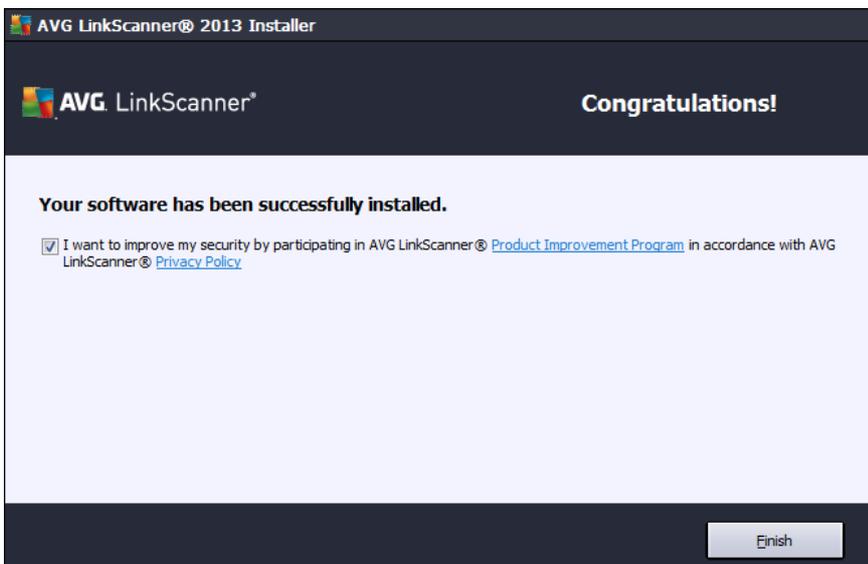


Control buttons

- **Minimize to taskbar** - click the button to minimize the dialog window into an icon visible on the system bar. The dialog appears again once the installation is completed.
- **Cancel** - this button should only be used if you want to stop the current installation process. Please mind that in such a case your **AVG LinkScanner®** will not be installed!

3.7. Congratulations!

The **Installation was successful** dialog is the last step of the **AVG LinkScanner®** installation process. **AVG LinkScanner®** is now installed on your computer and fully functional. The program is running in the background in fully automatic mode.





Product Improvement Program and Privacy Policy

Here you can decide whether you want to participate in the **Product Improvement Program** (for details see the chapter [AVG Advanced Settings / Product Improvement Program](#)) that collects anonymous information on detected threats in order to increase the overall Internet security level. All data are treated as confidential and in compliance with AVG Privacy Policy; click the **Privacy Policy** link to get redirected to AVG website (<http://www.avg.com>) where you can find the the full wording of AVG Privacy Policy. If you agree, please keep the option checked (*the option is confirmed, by default*).

In case you would like to keep informed, mark the **I would like to get news, special offers and security alerts** option. Please provide your email address so that you can receive all product related information and news, special offers, improvements and upgrades, etc.

Before you finish the installation process of **AVG LinkScanner®**, let us ask you a question that helps us improve our products and services: **What is the main reason you choose AVG?** Select the most fitting answer from the drop-down menu. Your participation in this survey is voluntary, of course.

Control buttons

In the dialog, the only control button reads **Finish**: click it to finalize the installation process, and enjoy the protection provided by **AVG LinkScanner®**.



4. After Installation

4.1. Access to User Interface

The **AVG LinkScanner®** [main dialog](#) is accessible in several ways:

- double-click the [AVG system tray icon](#)
- double-click the AVG icon on the desktop
- from the menu **Start / All Programs / AVG Standalone LinkScanner / AVG 2013**

4.2. Default Configuration

The default configuration (*i.e. how the application is set up right after installation*) of **AVG LinkScanner®** is set by the software vendor so that all functions are tuned up to achieve optimum performance.

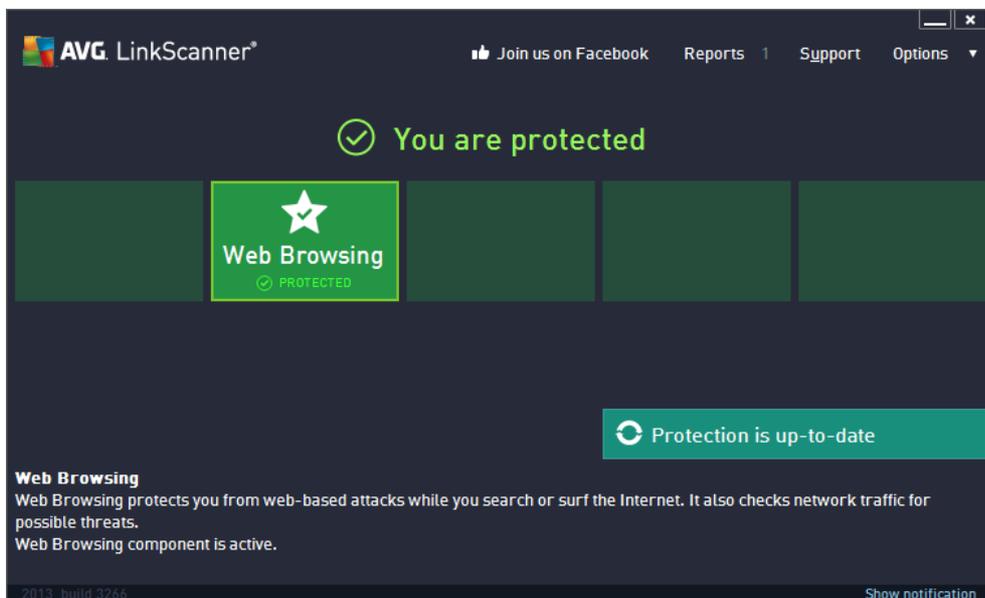
Unless you have a real reason to do so, do not change the AVG LinkScanner® configuration! Changes to settings should only be performed by an experienced user.

Some minor editing of the settings is accessible directly in the Web Browsing component dialog. If you want to change the **AVG LinkScanner®** configuration to better suit your needs, go to the [Advanced Settings](#): select the *Options/Advanced settings* item, and edit the configuration in the newly opened the [Advanced Settings](#) dialog.



5. User Interface

AVG LinkScanner® opens with the main window:



The main window is divided into several sections:

- **Upper line navigation** consists of four active links lined up in the upper section of the main window (*Like AVG, Reports, Support, Options*). [Details >>](#)
- **Security Status Info** provides basic information on the current status of your **AVG LinkScanner®**. [Details >>](#)
- **Installed components overview** can be found in a horizontal strip of blocks in the central section of the main window. The components are displayed as light green blocks labeled by the respective component icon, and provided with the information on the component status. [Details >>](#)
- **Update quick link** is placed in the lower line of blocks in the main window, and allows an immediate access to the latest update file. [Details >>](#)

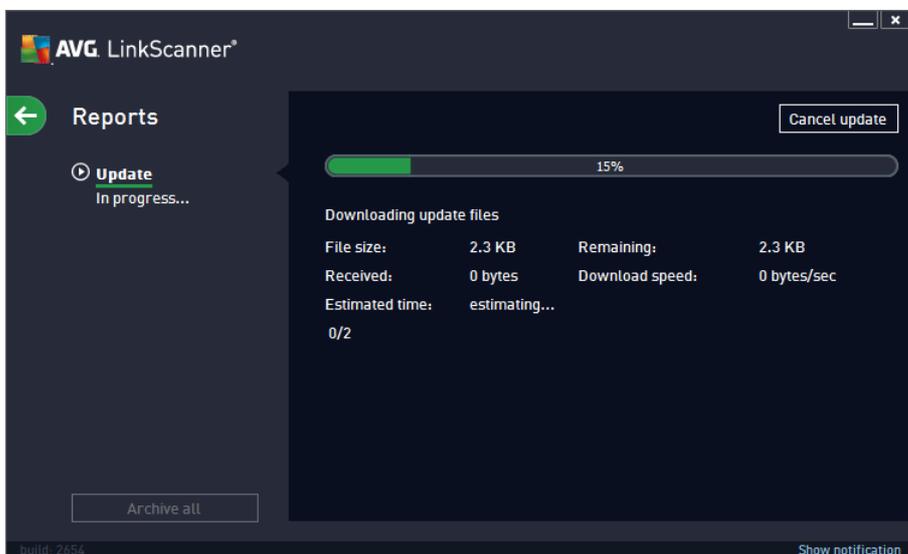
Outside the main window of **AVG LinkScanner®**, you may also access the application using the **System tray icon** located in the bottom right-hand corner of the monitor (*on the system tray*). **System tray icon** indicates the current status of **AVG LinkScanner®**. [Details >>](#)

5.1. Upper Line Navigation

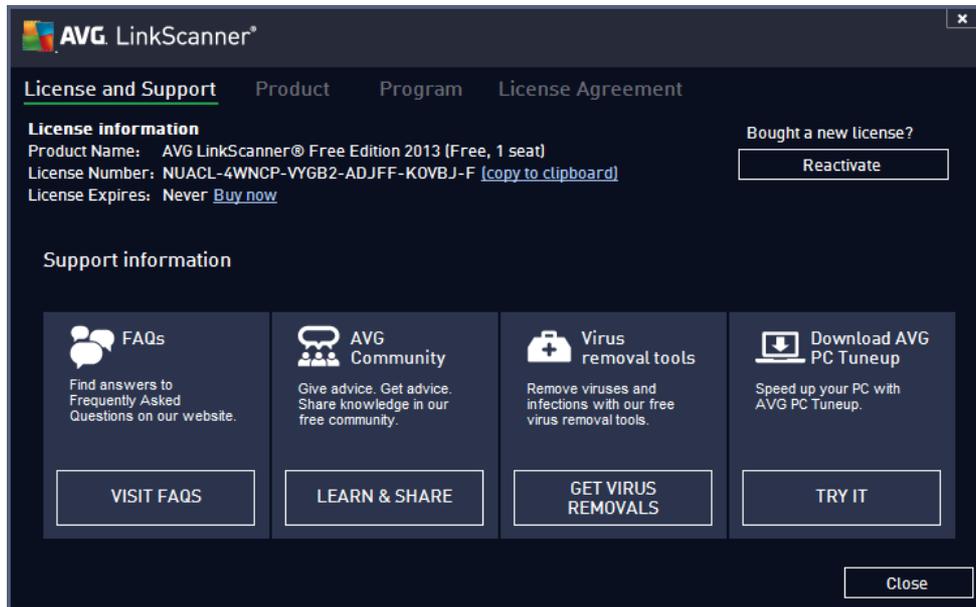
The **Upper line navigation** consists of several active links lined up in the upper section of the main window. The navigation includes the following buttons:

- **Join us on Facebook** - Single click the link to get connected to the [AVG Facebook community](#) and to share the latest AVG information, news, tips and tricks for your maximum internet security.
- **Reports** - Opens a new **Reports** dialog with an overview of all relevant reports on previously launched update processes. If the update is currently running, a rotating circle will be displayed next to the

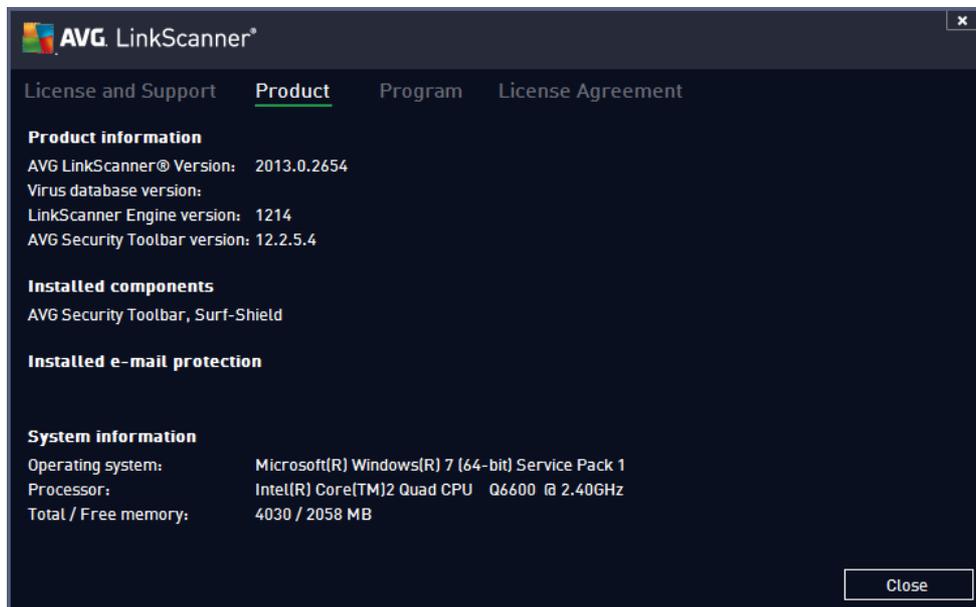
Reports text in the upper navigation of the [main user interface](#). Click this circle to get to the dialog depicting the progress of the running process:



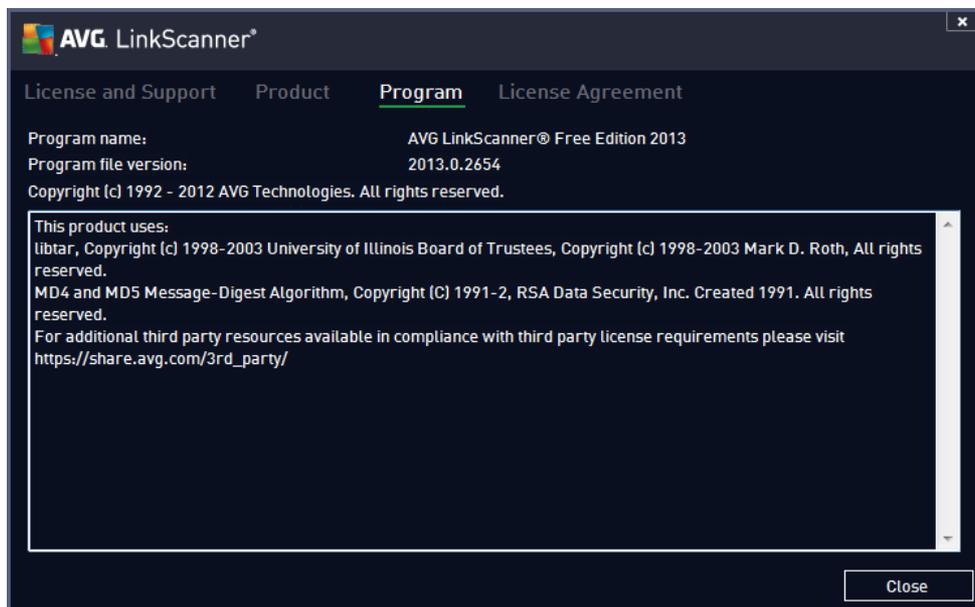
- **Support** - Opens a new dialog structured into four tabs where you can find all relevant information about **AVG LinkScanner®**:
 - **License and Support** - The tab provides information on the product name, the license number, and the expiration date (*for AVG LinkScanner®, this information is not provided since there is no time limit for free products use*). In the bottom section of the dialog you can also find a clearly arranged overview of all available contacts to customer support. The following active links and buttons are available in the tab:
 - **(Re)Activate** - Click to open the new **AVG Activate Software** dialog. Fill in your license number into the respective field to change your current license number for another (*e.g. when upgrading to a paid AVG product*).
 - **Copy to clipboard** - Use this link to copy the license number, and paste it where needed. This way you can be sure the license number is entered correctly.
 - **Buy now** - **AVG LinkScanner®** is provided free-of-charge, and its functionality is limited. While using **AVG LinkScanner®** you might discover you would like to have access to further and extended functionality of AVG paid products. Then please click this link to visit AVG website (<http://www.avg.com>) for AVG purchase information.



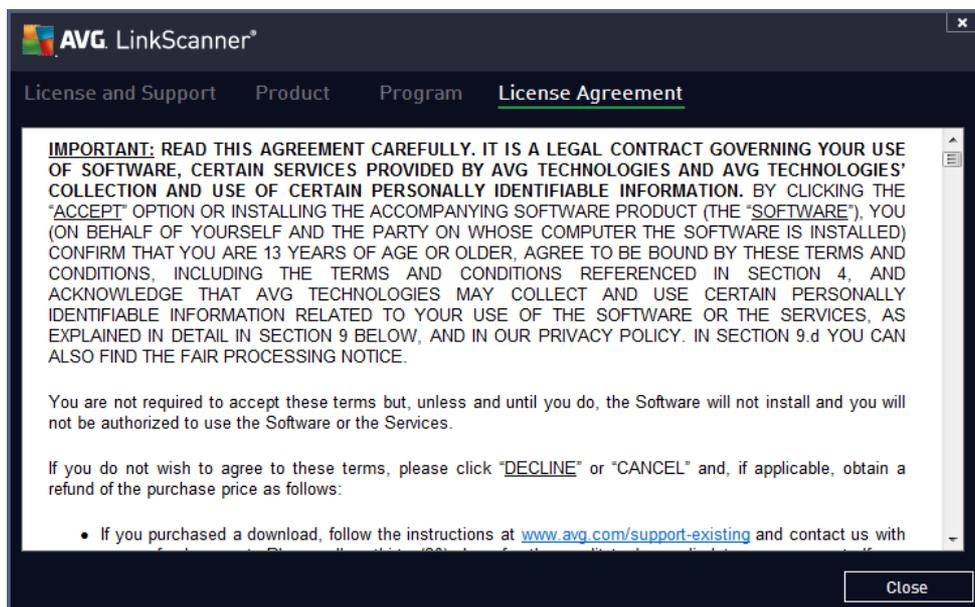
- **Product** - The tab provides an overview of the **AVG LinkScanner®** most important technical data referring to product information, installed components, installed email protection, and system information:



- **Program** - On this tab you can find information on the program file version, and on the third parties code used in the product:



- o **License Agreement** - The tab offers the full wording of the license agreement between you and AVG Technologies:



- **Options** - The maintenance of AVG LinkScanner® is accessible via the Options item. This item contains quite a few sub items, therefore we describe them in the [following separate chapter](#).

5.2. Options

The maintenance of **AVG LinkScanner®** is accessible via the **Options** item. Click the arrow to open the roll-down menu:

- **Update** - Automatically launches the update process of **AVG LinkScanner®**.



- **Update from folder ...** - Runs the update process from the update files located in a specified folder on your local disk. However, this option is only recommended as an emergency, e.g. insituations where there is no connection to the Internet (*for example, your computer is infected and disconnected from the Internet; your computer is connected to a network with no access to the Internet, etc.*). In the newly opened window select the folder where you have previously placed the update file, and launch the update process.
- **History** is further divided into the following sub items:
 - **Blocked Websites** - Displays the list of all potentially dangerous websites previously blocked by **AVG LinkScanner®**. You can update this list by clicking **Refresh list** button.
 - **Prevented Exploits** - Displays the list of all dangerous exploits prevented by **AVG LinkScanner®**. You can update this list by clicking **Refresh list** button.
- **Advanced Settings ...** - [Advanced settings](#) - opens the [AVG advanced settings](#) dialog where you can edit the **AVG LinkScanner®** configuration. Generally, it is recommended that you keep the default settings of the application as defined by the software vendor.
- **Remove AVG Security Toolbar** - Switches off the [AVG Security Toolbar](#) service that is currently active in your web browser.
- **Help contents** - Opens the AVG help files.
- **Get support** - Opens the [AVG Free web](#) at the customer support center page.
- **About Web-based Threats** - Opens the [AVG Free web](#) on the page referring to web-technologies based threats, and describing details of the [AVG LinkScanner®](#) functionality.
- **My Account** - Opens the MyAccount homepage where you can manage your subscription products, purchase additional protection, download installation files, check your past orders and invoices, and manage your personal information.
- **Get Comprehensive Protection** - Opens the [AVG website](#) offering a comparative overview of the protection level provided by free version versus full professional AVG application, and inviting you to buy the required commercial AVG product.
- **Premium Support** - Opens you browser and takes you to [AVG Support Center page](#), where you can select your product type to view all support options available for you.
- **About AVG LinkScanner®** - Opens the **AVG Information** dialog with four tabs providing data on your purchased license and accessible support, product and program information, and the full wording of the license agreement.

5.3. Security Status Info

The **Security Status Info** section is located in the upper part of the main window. Within this section you will always find information on the current security status of your **AVG LinkScanner®**. Please see an overview of icons possibly depicted in this section, and their meaning:



The green icon indicates that your **AVG LinkScanner®** is fully functional. Your computer is completely protected, up-to-date and all installed components are working properly.



The yellow icon warns that one or more components are incorrectly configured and you should pay attention to their properties/settings. There is no critical problem in **AVG LinkScanner®** and you have probably decided to switch some component off for some reason. You are still protected by **AVG LinkScanner®**. However, please pay attention to the problem component's settings! The incorrectly configured component will be displayed with a warning orange strip in the [main user interface](#).



The orange icon indicates that **AVG LinkScanner® is in a critical status!** One or more components do not work properly and **AVG LinkScanner®** cannot protect your computer. Please pay immediate attention to fixing the reported problem!

It is strongly recommended that you pay attention to **Security Status Info** and in case the report indicates any problem, go ahead and try to solve it immediately. Otherwise your computer is at risk!

Note: *AVG LinkScanner® status information can also be obtained at any moment from the [system tray icon](#).*

5.4. Components Overview

Installed components overview can be found in a horizontal strip of blocks in the central section of the [main window](#). The components are displayed as light green blocks labeled by the respective component icon. Each block provides information on the current status of protection. If the component is configured correctly and fully functional, the information is stated in green letters. If the component is stopped, its functionality is limited, or the component is in error state, you will be notified by a warning text displayed in an orange text field. **It is strictly recommended that you pay attention to the respective component's settings!**

Move the mouse over the component to display a short text at the bottom of the [main window](#). The text provides an elementary introduction to the component's functionality. Also, it informs on the component's current status, and specifies which of the component's services is not configured correctly.

Installed components' list

Within the **AVG LinkScanner®** the **Components Overview** section contains information on the following components:

- **Web Browsing** - Protects you from web-based attacks while you search and surf the Internet. [Details](#)
[>>](#)

Actions accessible

- **Move mouse over any component's icon** to highlight it within the components overview. At the same time, the component's basic functionality description appears in the bottom part of the [user interface](#).
- **Single-click component's icon** to open the component's own interface with the information on the component's current status, and access to its configuration and statistical data.

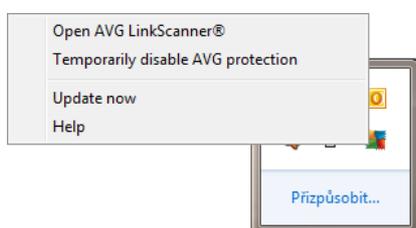


5.5. Update Quick Links

Update now quick link is located in the lower line of buttons in the **AVG LinkScanner®** [user interface](#). Press the button to launch the product update immediately. You can follow the update progress, and results, in the automatically opened **Reports** window. (For details see chapter [AVG Updates](#)).

5.6. System Tray Icon

AVG System Tray Icon (on your Windows taskbar, right-hand bottom corner of your monitor) indicates the current status of your **AVG LinkScanner®**. It is visible at all times on your system tray, no matter whether the [user interface](#) of your **AVG LinkScanner®** is opened or closed.



AVG System Tray Icon display

-  In full color with no added elements the icon indicates that all **AVG LinkScanner®** components are active and fully functional. However, the icon can also be displayed this way in a situation when one of the components is not fully functional but the user has decided to [ignore the component state](#). (Having confirmed the ignore the component state option you express you are aware of the [component's error state](#) but for some reason you wish to keep it so, and you do not want to be warned about the situation.)
-  The icon with an exclamation mark indicates that a component (or even more components) are in [error state](#). Always pay attention to such a warning and try to remove the configuration issue of a component that is not set up properly. In order to be able to perform the changes in component's configuration, double-click the system tray icon to open the [application user interface](#). For detailed information on which components is in [error state](#) please consult the [security status info](#) section.

Actions accessible from AVG System Tray Icon

AVG System Tray Icon can also be used as a quick link to access the [user interface](#) of **AVG LinkScanner®**, just double-click on the icon. By right-click on the icon you open a brief context menu with the following options:

- **Open AVG LinkScanner®** - Click to open the [user interface](#) of **AVG LinkScanner®**.
- **Temporarily disable AVG protection** - The option allows you to switch off the entire protection secured by your **AVG LinkScanner®** at once. Please remember that you should not use this option unless it is absolutely necessary! In most cases, it is not necessary to disable **AVG LinkScanner®** before installing new software or drivers, not even if the installer or software wizard suggests that running programs and applications be shut down first to make sure there are no unwanted interruptions during the installation process. If you do have to temporarily disable **AVG**



LinkScanner®, you should re-enable it as soon as you're done.

- **Update now** - Launches an immediate [update](#).
- **Help** - Opens the help file on the start page.

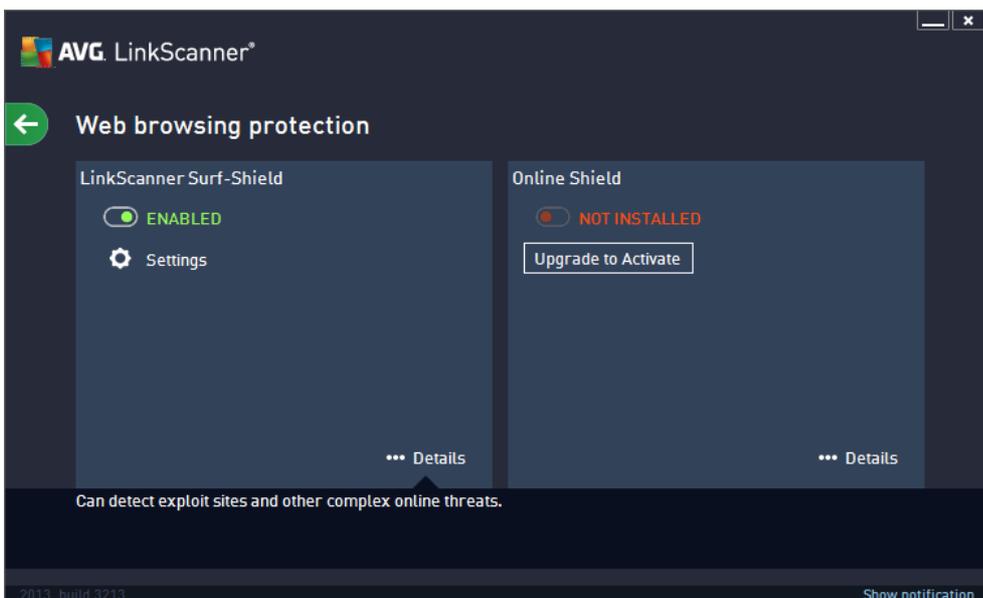


6. Components

6.1. Web Browsing

In the **AVG LinkScanner®**, the **Web browsing protection** component offers just the **LinkScanner Surf-Shield** service. The **Online Shield** is not activated in this edition, and is only accessible in a full professional version. Should you like to have access to further and extended functionality of AVG paid products; then please visit AVG website (<http://www.avg.com>) for AVG purchase information.

- **LinkScanner Surf-Shield** protects you from the increasing number of ‘here today, gone tomorrow’ threats on the web. These threats can be hidden on any type of website, from governments to big, well-known brands to small businesses, and they rarely stick around on those sites for more than 24 hours. LinkScanner protects you by analyzing the web pages behind all the links on any web page you’re viewing and making sure they’re safe at the only time that matters – when you’re about to click that link. **LinkScanner Surf-Shield is not intended for server platforms protection!**
- **Online Shield** (not activated within AVG LinkScanner®) is a type of a real time resident protection; it scans the content of visited web pages (and possible files included in them) even before these are displayed in your web browser or downloaded to your computer. Online Shield detects that the page you are about to visit includes some dangerous javascript, and prevents the page from being displayed. Also, it recognizes malware contained in a page and stops its downloading immediately so that it never gets to your computer. This powerful protection will block malicious content of any web page you try to open, and prevent it from being downloaded to your computer. With this feature enabled, clicking a link or typing in a URL to a dangerous site will automatically block you from opening the web page thus protecting you from inadvertently being infected. It is important to remember that exploited web pages can infect your computer simply by visiting the affected site. **Online Shield is not intended for server platforms protection!**



Dialog controls

To switch between both sections of the dialog, you can simply click anywhere in the respective service panel.



The panel then gets highlighted in a lighter shade of blue. In both sections of the dialog you can find the following controls. Their functionality is the same whether they belong to one security service or another (however, only *LinkScanner Surf-Shield* service is activated):

 **Enabled / Disabled** - The button may remind you of a traffic light, both in appearance and in functionality. Single click to switch between two positions. The green color stands for **Enabled**, which means that the LinkScanner Surf-Shield / Online Shield security service is active and fully functional. The red color represents the **Disabled** status, i.e. the service is deactivated. If you do not have a good reason to deactivate the service, we strictly recommend that you keep the default settings for all security configuration. The default settings guarantees the optimum performance of the application, and your maximum security. If for some reason you wish to deactivate the service, you will be warned about the possible risk immediately by the red **Warning** sign and the information that you are not fully protected at the moment. **Please mind, that you should activate the service again as soon as possible!**

 **Settings** - Click the button to get redirected to [advanced settings](#) interface. Precisely, the respective dialog opens and you will be able to configure the selected service, i.e. LinkScanner Surf-Shield. In the advanced settings interface you can edit all configuration of each security service within **AVG LinkScanner®** but any configuration can be recommended to experienced users only!

 **Statistics** - Click the button to get redirected to the dedicated page on the AVG website (<http://www.avg.com>). On this page you can find a detailed statistical overview of all **AVG LinkScanner®** activities performed on your computer within a specified period of time and in total.

 **Details** - Click the button, and a brief description of the LinkScanner Surf-Shield service appears in the bottom part of the dialog.

 - Use the green arrow in the upper left section of the dialog to get back to the [main user interface](#) with the components' overview.

Unfortunately, in **AVG LinkScanner®** the Online Shield service is not included. If you like to use this type of protection, follow the **Upgrade to Activate** button to get redirected to the dedicated AVG website (<http://www.avg.com>) for AVG purchase information.



7. AVG Security Toolbar

AVG Security Toolbar is a tool that closely cooperates with the LinkScanner Surf-Shield service, and guards your maximum security while browsing the Internet. Within **AVG LinkScanner®**, the installation of **AVG Security Toolbar** is optional; during the installation process you were invited to decide whether the component should be installed. **AVG Security Toolbar** is available directly in your Internet browser. At the moment, the supported Internet browsers are Internet Explorer (*version 6.0 and higher*), and/or Mozilla Firefox (*version 3.0 and higher*). No other browsers are supported (*in case you are using some alternative Internet browser, e.g Avant Browser, you may encounter unexpected behavior*).



AVG Security Toolbar consists of the following items:

- **AVG logo** with the drop-down menu:
 - **Current Threat Level** - opens the virus lab web page with a graphical display of the current threat level on the web.
 - **AVG Threat Labs** - opens the specific **AVG Threat Lab** website (at <http://www.avgthreatlabs.com>) where you can find information on various websites security and the current threat level online.
 - **Toolbar Help** - opens the online help covering all **AVG Security Toolbar** functionality.
 - **Submit Product feedback** - opens a web page with a form that you can fill in and tell us how you feel about the **AVG Security Toolbar**.
 - **End User License Agreement** - opens the AVG website at page providing the full wording of the license agreement related to use of your **AVG LinkScanner®**.
 - **Privacy Policy** - opens the AVG website at page where you can find the the full wording of AVG Privacy Policy.
 - **Uninstall AVG Security Toolbar** - opens a web page providing a detailed description of how to deactivate the **AVG Security Toolbar** in each of the supported web browsers.
 - **About...** - opens a new window with the information on the currently installed **AVG Security Toolbar** version.
- **Search field** - search the Internet using the **AVG Security Toolbar** to be absolutely secure and comfortable since all displayed search results are hundred percent safe. Fill in the keyword or a phrase into the search field, and press the **Search** button (*or Enter*).
- **Site Safety** - this button opens a new dialog providing information on the current threat level (*Currently safe*) of the page you are just visiting. This brief overview can be expanded, and displayed with full details of all security activities related to the page right within the browser window (*View complete report*):



The screenshot shows the AVG Site Safety interface. At the top, it displays 'AVG Site Safety' and a large green shield icon with the word 'Safe'. A 'Full Website Report' button is visible, along with the text 'Last updated: 11 Mar 2013'. Below this, the page URL is 'http://www.google.cz/' and the page title is 'Google'. A vertical bar on the left indicates the safety level, with 'Safe' at the top (green), 'Risky' in the middle (orange), and 'Dangerous' at the bottom (red). The 'Safe' section states: 'This page contains no active threats and can be browsed safely.' To the right, a table lists various website details: Website (google.cz), Page last updated (Mar 12, 2013), IP Address (173.194.35.88), Speed (Fast), Size (105.97 KB), Cookies (Yes), Site popularity (Top Site), Server location (US), SSL Secured (Disabled), and Similar websites (http://seznam.cz/, http://centrum.cz/, http://www.atlas.cz/, http://zive.cz/).

- **Do Not Track** - the DNT service helps you identify websites that are collecting data about your online activities, and gives you the choice to allow or disallow it. [Details >>](#)
- **Delete** - the 'trash bin' button offers a roll down the menu where you can select whether you want to delete information on your browsing, downloads, online forms, or delete all of your search history at once.
- **Weather** - the button opens a new dialog providing information on the current weather in your location, and the weather forecast for the next two days. This information is updated regularly, every 3-6 hours. In the dialog, you can change the desired location manually, and to decide whether you want to see the temperature info in Celsius or Fahrenheit.

The screenshot shows a weather forecast window for 'Brno, Czech Republic'. It includes the 'The Weather Channel' logo and 'weather.com'. The current temperature is 17°C. The forecast for the next two days is as follows:

Day	Hi	Lo
Tonight	N/A	7°C
Thursday	13°C	4°C
Friday	18°C	5°C

Additional information includes: Updated: 4/11/12 5:30 PM Local Time, Sunrise: 06:10 AM, and Sunset: 07:41 PM.

- **Facebook** - This buttons allows you connect to the [Facebook](#) social network directly from within the



AVG Security Toolbar.

- Shortcut buttons for quick access to these applications: ***Calculator, Notepad, Windows Explorer.***



8. AVG Do Not Track

AVG Do Not Track helps you identify websites that are collecting data about your online activities. The **AVG Do Not Track** that is a part a [AVG Security Toolbar](#) shows the websites or advertisers collecting data about your activity and gives you the choice to allow or disallow it.

- **AVG Do Not Track** provides you with additional information about privacy policy of each respective service as well as a direct link to Opt-out from the service, if that is available.
- In addition, **AVG Do Not Track** supports the [W3C DNT protocol](#) to automatically notify sites that you don't want to be tracked. This notification is enabled by default, but can be changed at any time.
- **AVG Do Not Track** is provided under these [terms and conditions](#).
- **AVG Do Not Track** is enabled by default, but can be easily disabled at any time. Instructions can be found in the FAQ article [Disabling the AVG Do Not Track feature](#).
- For more information on **AVG Do Not Track**, please visit our [website](#).

Currently, the **AVG Do Not Track** functionality is supported in Mozilla Firefox, Chrome, and Internet Explorer browsers.

8.1. AVG Do Not Track interface

While online, **AVG Do Not Track** warns you as soon as any kind of data collection activity is detected. In such a case, the **AVG Do Not Track** icon located at the [AVG Security Toolbar](#) changes its look; a small number appears by the icon providing information on a number of detected data collection services:  Click the icon to see the following dialog:



All detected data collection services are listed in the **Trackers on this page** overview. There are three types of data collection activities recognized by **AVG Do Not Track**:

- **Web Analytics** (*allowed by default*): Services used to improve the performance and experience of the respective website. In this category you can find services as Google Analytics, Omniture, or Yahoo Analytics. We recommend not to block web analytics services, as the website might not work as intended.
- **Ad Networks** (*some blocked by default*): Services that collect or share data about your online activity on multiple sites, either directly or indirectly, to offer you personalized Ads unlike of content-based Ads. This is determined based on the privacy policy of each Ad network as available on their website. Some ad networks are blocked by default.
- **Social Buttons** (*allowed by default*): Elements designed for improving the social-networking experience. Social buttons are served from the social networks to the site you are visiting. They can collect data about your online activity while you are logged-in. Examples of Social buttons include: Facebook Social Plugins, Twitter Button, Google +1.

Note: Depending on what services are running in the background of the website, some of the three above described sections might not appear in the AVG Do Not Track dialog.

Dialog controls

- **What is tracking?** - Click this link in the upper section of the dialog to get redirected to the dedicated webpage providing detailed explanation on the tracking principles, and description of specific tracking types.



- **Block All** - Click the button located in the bottom section of the dialog to to say you do not wish any data collection activity at all (for details see chapter [Blocking tracking processes](#)).
- **Do Not Track settings** - Click this button in the bottom section of the dialog to get redirected to the dedicated webpage where you can set the specific configuration of various **AVG Do Not Track** parameters (see the [AVG Do Not Track settings](#) chapter for detailed information)

8.2. Information on tracking processes

The list of detected data collection services provides just the name of the specific service. To make a conversant decision about whether the respective service should be blocked or allowed, you may need to know more. Move your mouse over the respective list item. An information bubble appears providing detailed data on the service. You will learn whether the service collects personal data, or other data available; whether the data are being shared with other third party subjects, and whether the collected data are being filed for possible further use:



In the lower section of the information bubble you can see the **Privacy Policy** hyperlink that redirects you to the website dedicated to privacy policy of the respective detected service.

8.3. Blocking tracking processes

With the lists of all Ad Networks / Social Buttons / Web Analytics you have now the option to control which services should be blocked. You can go two ways:

- **Block All** - Click this button located in the bottom section of the dialog to to say you do not wish any data collection activity at all. (However, please keep in mind that this action may break functionality in the respective webpage where the service is running!)



-  - If you do not want to block all the detected services at once, you can specify whether the service should be allowed or blocked individually. You may allow running of some of the detected systems (e.g. *Web Analytics*): these systems use the collected data for their own website optimization, and this way they help to improve the common Internet environment for all users. However, at the same time you may block the data collection activities of all processes classified as Ad Networks. Just click the  icon next to the respective service to block the data collection (*the process name will appear as crossed out*), or to allow the data collection again.

8.4. AVG Do Not Track settings

The **Do Not Track Options** dialog offers the following configuration options:



- **Do Not Track is enabled** - By default, the DNT service is active (*switch ON*). To disable the service, move the switch to the OFF position.
- In the central section of the dialog you can see a box with a list of known data collection services that can be classified as Ad Networks. By default, **Do Not Track** blocks some of Ad Networks automatically and it remains up to your decision whether the rest should be blocked as well, or left allowed. To do so, just click the **Block All** button under the list. Or, you may use the **Default** button to cancel all performed settings changes, and to return to the original configuration.
- **Notify web sites ...** - In this section you can switch on/off the **Notify web sites that I do not want to be tracked** option (*on by default*). Keep this option marked to confirm that you want **Do Not Track** to inform the provider of a detected data collection service that you do not want to be tracked.

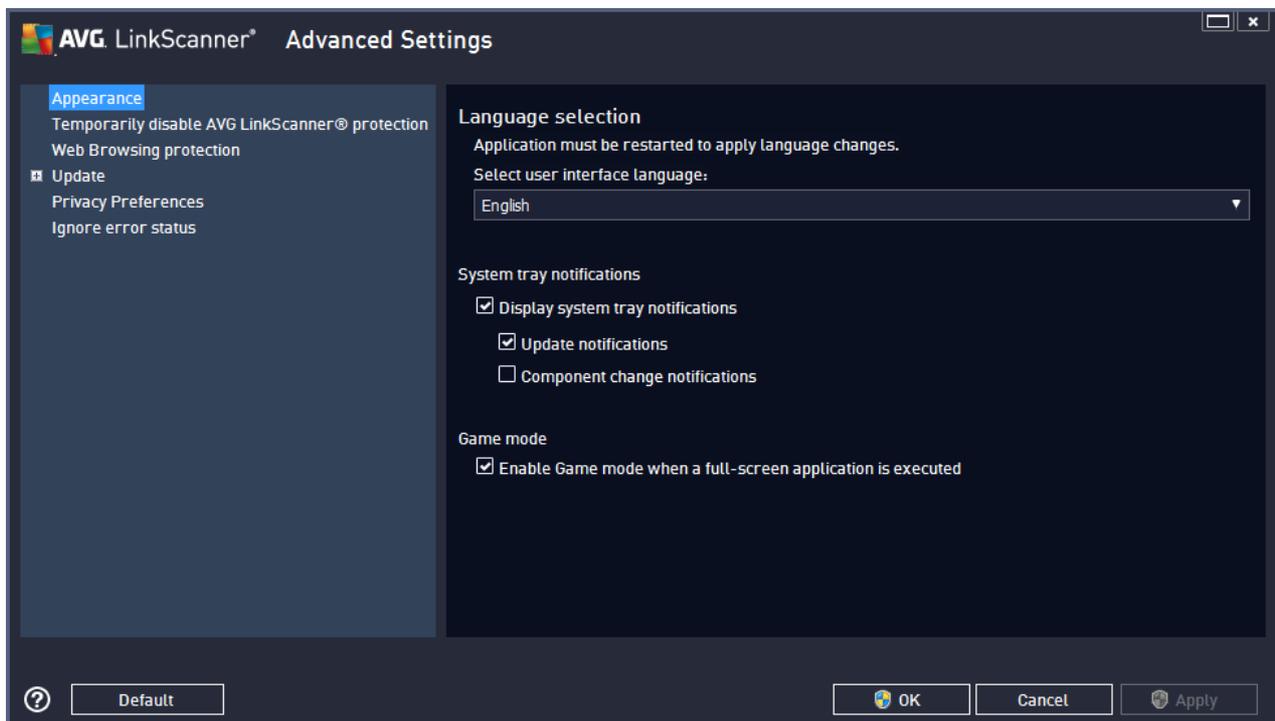


9. Advanced Settings

The advanced configuration dialog of **AVG LinkScanner®** opens in a new window named **Advanced AVG LinkScanner® Settings**. The window is divided into two sections: the left part offers a tree-arranged navigation to the program configuration options. Select the component you want to change the configuration of (or its *specific part*) to open the editing dialog in the right-hand section of the window.

9.1. Appearance

The first item of the navigation tree, **Appearance**, refers to the general settings of the **AVG LinkScanner® main dialog** and a few elementary options of the application's behavior:



Language selection

In the **Language selection** section you can choose your desired language from the drop-down menu; the language will then be used for the entire user interface. The drop-down menu only offers those languages you have previously selected to be installed during the installation process. However, to finish switching the application to another language you have to restart the user interface; follow these steps:

- Select the desired language of the application and confirm your selection by pressing the **Apply** button.
- Press the **OK** button confirm.
- New dialog window pops-up informing you the language change of user interface requires the application restart.



System tray notifications

Within this section you can allow/suppress display of system tray notifications on the status of the application. The system tray notifications typically inform on some **AVG LinkScanner®** component's status change, and you should pay attention to them!

However, if for some reason you decide you do not wish these notifications to be displayed, or you would like only certain notifications (related to a specific **AVG LinkScanner®** component) to be displayed, you can define and specify your preferences by checking/unchecking the following options:

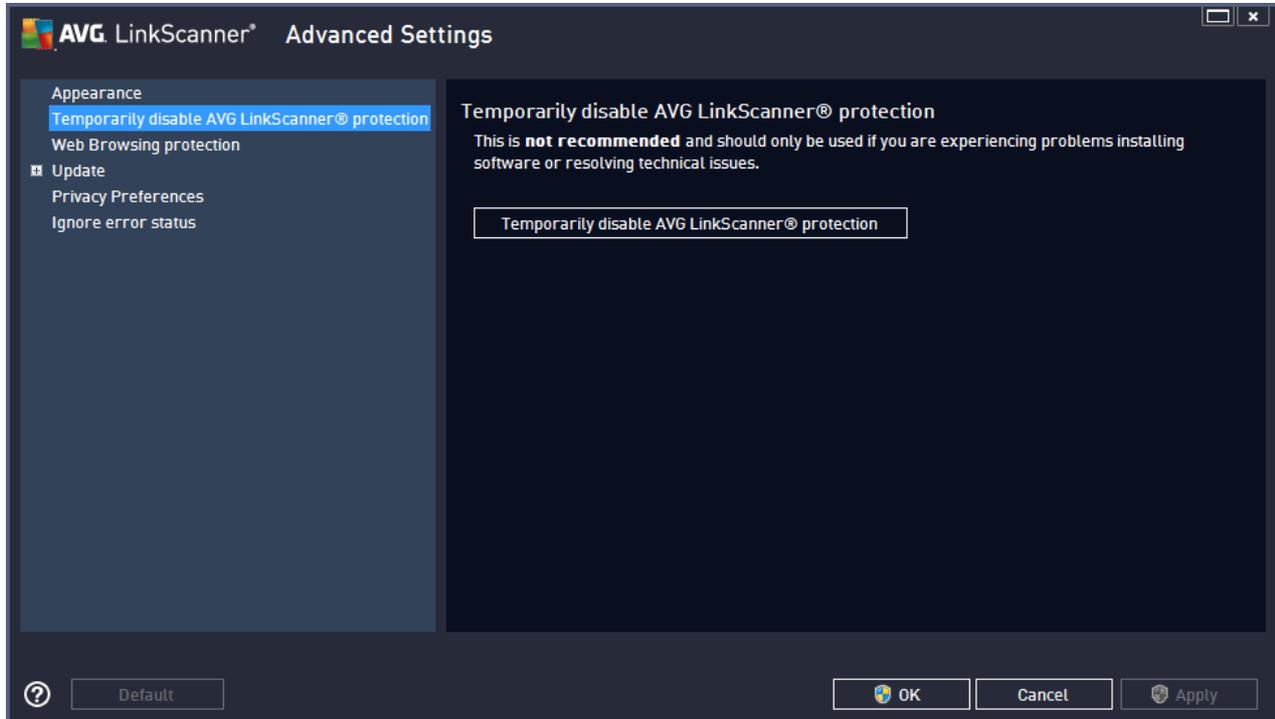
- **Display system tray notifications** - by default, this item is checked, and notifications are displayed. Uncheck this item to completely turn off the display of all balloon notifications. When turned on, you can further select what specific notifications should be displayed:
 - **Update notifications** - decide whether information regarding **AVG LinkScanner®** update process launch, progress, and finalization should be displayed;
 - **Component change notifications** - decide whether information regarding component's activity/inactivity or its possible problem should be displayed. When reporting a component's fault status, this option equals to the informative function of the [system tray icon](#) (*color changing*) reporting a problem in any **AVG LinkScanner®** component.

Gaming mode

This AVG function is designed for full-screen applications where possible AVG information balloons (*displayed e.g. when a scheduled scan is started*) would be disturbing (*they could minimize the application or corrupt its graphics*). To avoid this situation, keep the checkbox for the **Enable gaming mode when a full-screen application is executed** option marked (*default setting*).



9.2. Temporarily disable AVG LinkScanner® protection



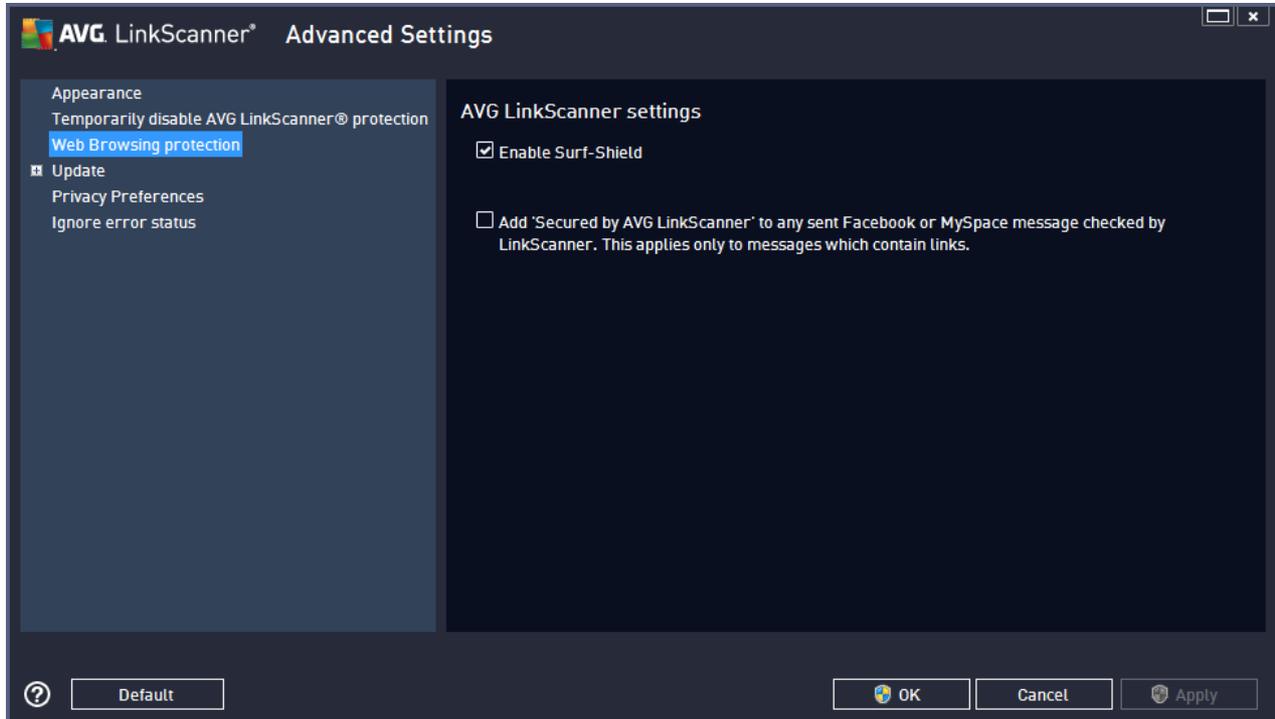
In the **Temporarily disable AVG LinkScanner® protection** dialog you have the option of switching off the entire protection secured by your **AVG LinkScanner®** at once.

Please remember that you should not use this option unless it is absolutely necessary!

In most cases, it is **not necessary** to disable **AVG LinkScanner®** before installing new software or drivers, not even if the installer or software wizard suggests that running programs and applications be shut down first to make sure there are no unwanted interruptions during the installation process. If you do have to temporarily disable **AVG LinkScanner®**, you should re-enable it as soon as you're done. If you are connected to the Internet or a network during the time your antivirus software is disabled, your computer is vulnerable to attacks.



9.3. Web Browsing protection



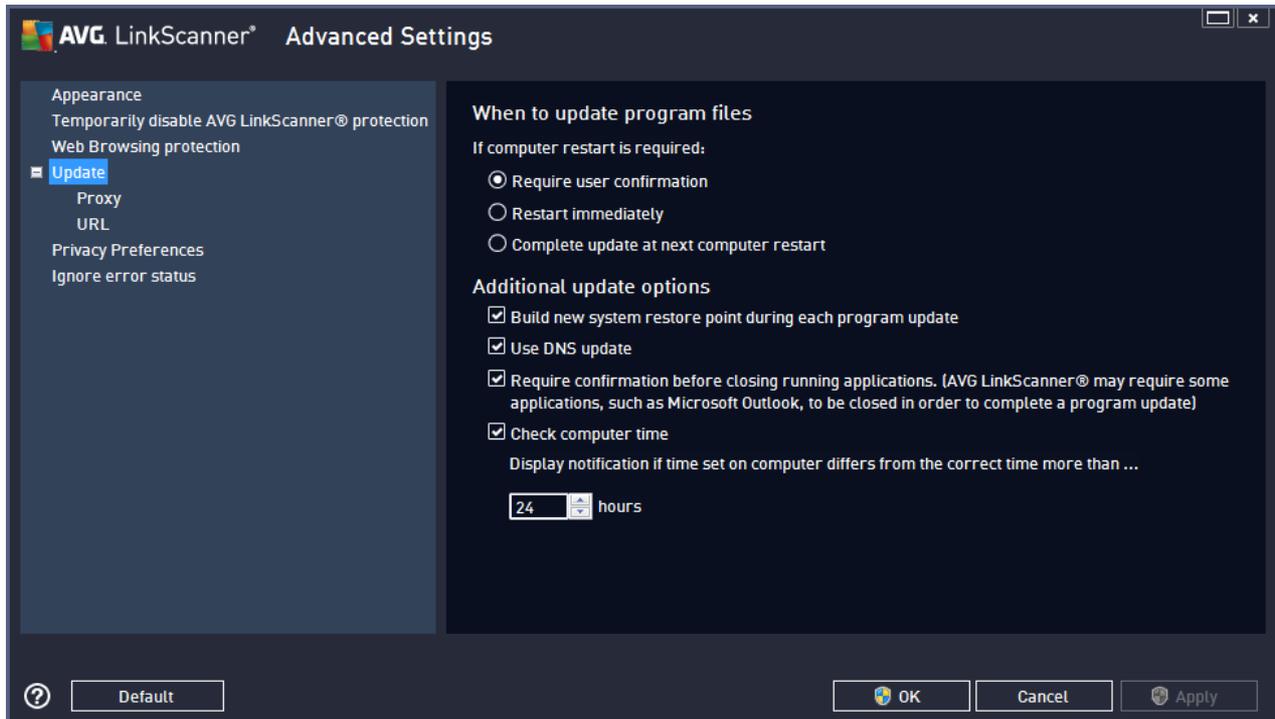
The **AVG LinkScanner® settings** dialog allows you to switch on/off the two elementary features of the **AVG LinkScanner®**:

- **Enable Surf-Shield** - (*on by default*): prevents you from accidentally becoming infected by drive-by downloads and other exploits, ensuring the web pages you visit are safe at the only time that really matters - when you are about to click the link. The browsers supported are again Internet Explorer and Firefox.
- **Add 'Secured by AVG LinkScanner' ...** - (*off by default*): to all messages that include active hyperlinks and were sent from the Facebook/MySpace social networks, you can add the information that the respective links were checked by AVG LinkScanner® component, and are safe. If you want to do so, tick this item.



9.4. Update

The **Update** navigation item opens a new dialog where you can specify general parameters regarding the [update](#) of AVG LinkScanner®:



When to update program files

If the update process requires your PC restart, you can specify the circumstances under which a possible required restart should be performed:

- **Require user confirmation** - You will be asked to approve a PC restart needed to finalize the [update process](#).
- **Restart immediately** - The computer will be restarted automatically immediately after the [update process](#) has finished, and your approval will not be required.
- **Complete update at next computer restart** - The [update process](#) finalization will be postponed until the next computer restart - again, please keep in mind that this option is only recommended if you can be sure the computer gets restarted regularly, at least daily.

Additional update options

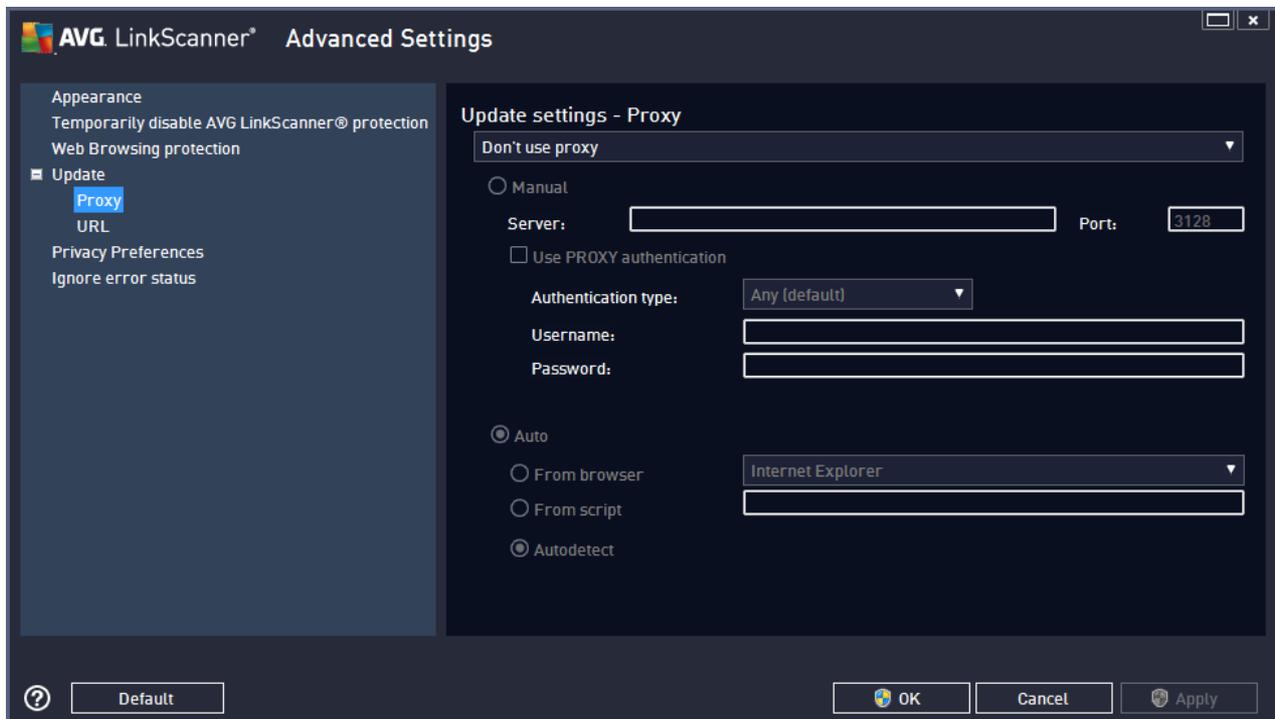
- **Build new system restore point during each program update** - before each AVG program update launch, a system restore point is created. In case the update process fails and your operating system crashes you can always restore your OS in its original configuration from this point. This option is accessible via **Start / All Programs / Accessories / System tools / System Restore**, but



any changes can be recommended to experienced users only! Keep this check-box ticked if you want to make use of this functionality.

- **Use DNS update** - mark this checkbox to confirm you want to use the update files detection method that eliminates data amount transferred between the update server and AVG client;
- **Require confirmation before closing running applications** (*switched on by default*) will help you make sure no currently running applications will be closed without your permission - if required for the update process to be finalized.
- **Check computer time** - check this box to enable displaying notification of the time set on your computer being incorrect. The notification will be displayed if the time differs from the correct time in more hours than set in the box below (the default value is 24 hours).

9.4.1. Proxy



The proxy server is a stand-alone server or a service running on a PC that guarantees safer connection to the Internet. According to the specified network rules you can then access the Internet either directly or via the proxy server; both possibilities can also be allowed at the same time. Then, in the first item of the **Update settings - Proxy** dialog you have to select from the combo box menu whether you want to:

- **Don't use proxy** - default settings
- **Use proxy**
- **Try connection using proxy and if it fails, connect directly**

If you select any option using proxy server, you will have to specify some further data. The server settings can be configured either manually or automatically.



Manual configuration

If you select manual configuration (check the **Manual** option to activate the respective dialog section) you have to specify the following items:

- **Server** – specify the server's IP address or the name of the server
- **Port** – specify the number of the port that enables Internet access (*by default, this number is set to 3128 but can be set differently – if you are not sure, contact your network administrator*)

The proxy server can also have configured specific rules for each user. If your proxy server is set up this way, check the **Use PROXY authentication** option to verify that your user name and password are valid for connecting to the Internet via the proxy server.

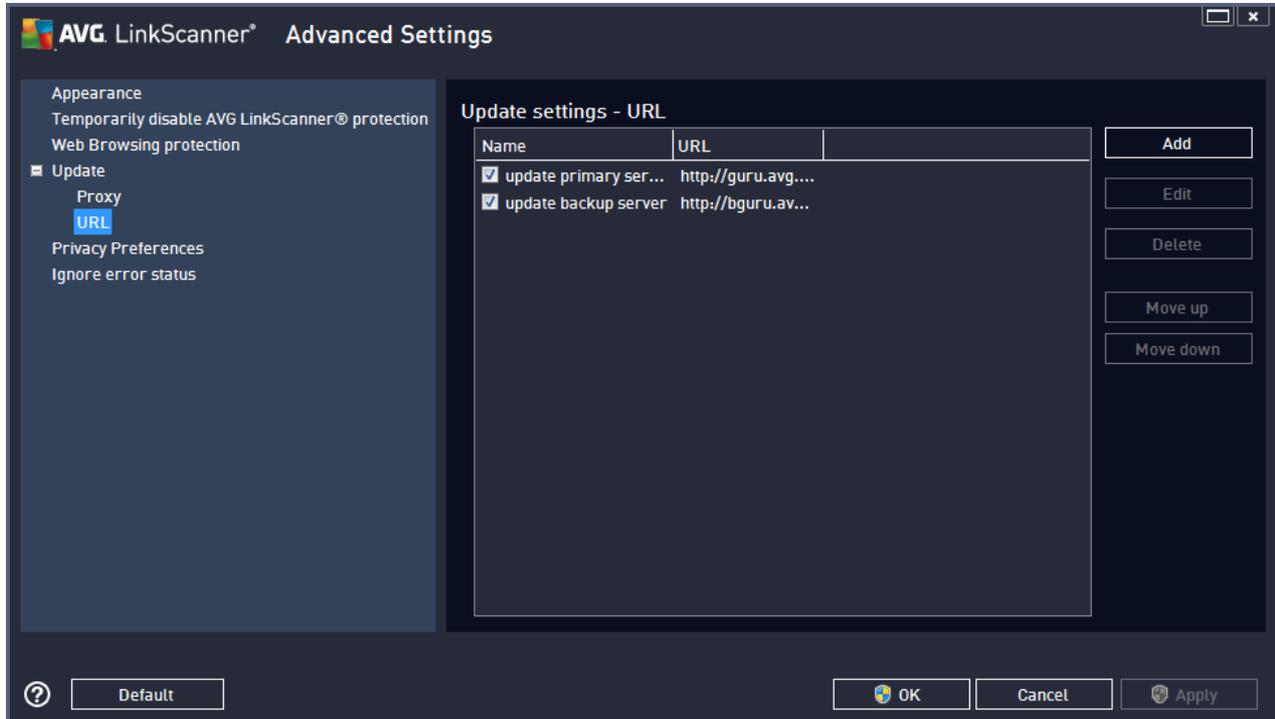
Automatic configuration

If you select automatic configuration (mark the **Auto** option to activate the respective dialog section) then please select where the proxy configuration should be taken from:

- **From browser** - the configuration will be read from your default Internet browser (*supported browsers being Internet Explorer, Firefox, Mozilla, and Opera*)
- **From script** - the configuration will be read from a downloaded script with the function returning the proxy address
- **Autodetect** - the configuration will be detected automatically directly from the proxy server



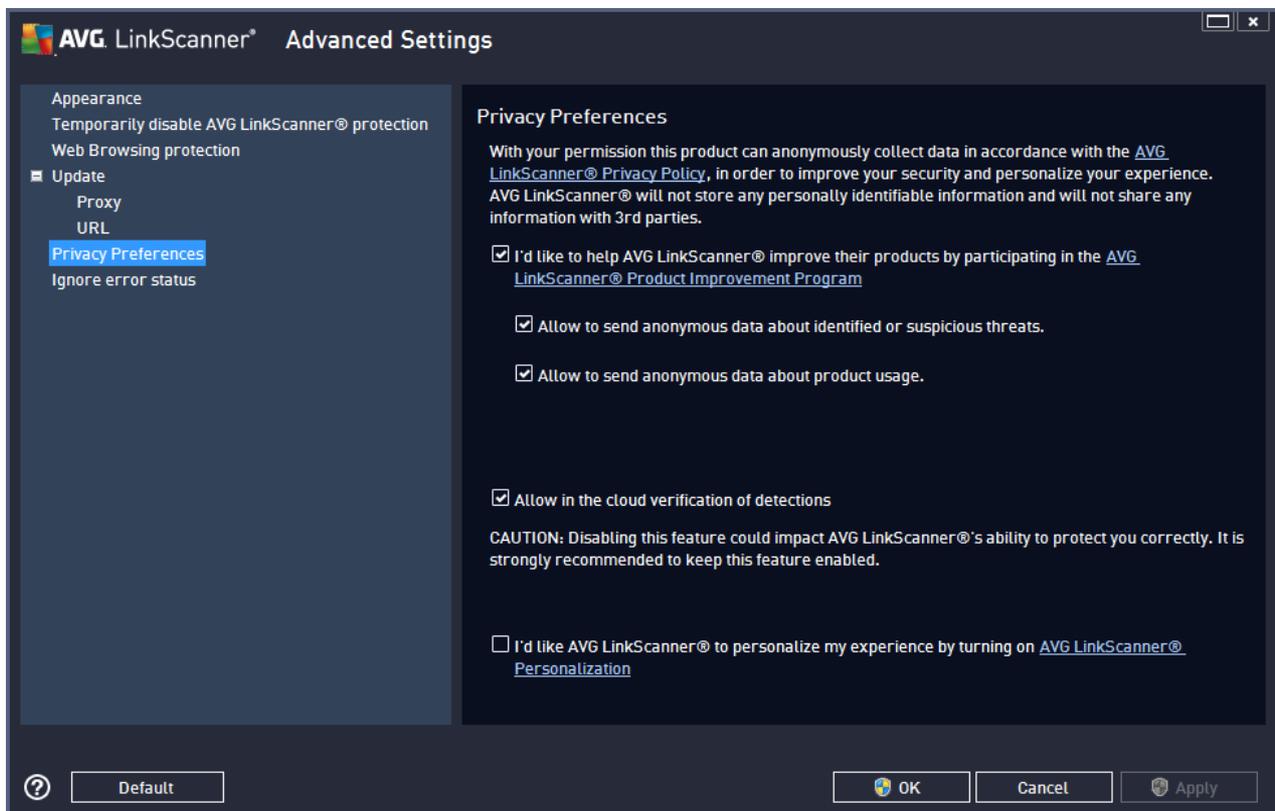
9.4.2. URL



The **URL** dialog offers a list of Internet addresses from which the update files can be downloaded.

9.5. Privacy Preferences

The **Privacy Preferences** dialog invites you to participate in AVG product improvement, and to help us increase the overall Internet security level. If you agree to enable reporting of detected threats to AVG, you help us to collect up-to-date information on the latest threats from all participants worldwide, and in return we can improve protection for everyone. The reporting is taken care of automatically, therefore does not cause you any inconvenience, and no personal data is included in the reports. Reporting of detected threats is optional, however, we do ask you to keep this feature on, too, as it helps us improve protection for both you and other AVG users.



Within the dialog, the following setting options are available:

- ***I'd like to help AVG LinkScanner® improve their products by participating in the AVG LinkScanner® Product Improvement Program*** (on by default) - If you want to help us further improve **AVG LinkScanner®**, keep the checkbox marked. This will enable all encountered threats to be reported to AVG, so we will be able to collect up-to-date information on malware from all participants worldwide, and in return improve protection for everyone. The report is made automatically, and therefore does not cause you any inconvenience, and no personal data is included in the reports.
 - ***Allow to send anonymous data about identified or suspicious threats*** (on by default) – send information about any suspicious or positively dangerous code or behaviour pattern (can be a virus, spyware, or malicious webpage you are trying to access) detected on your computer.
 - ***Allow to send anonymous data about product usage*** (on by default) – send basic statistics about the application usage, such as number of detections, scans launched, successful or unsuccessful updates etc.
- ***Allow in the cloud verification of detections*** (on by default) – detected threats will be checked if really infected, to sort out false positives.
- ***I'd like AVG to personalize my experience by turning on AVG Personalization*** - this feature anonymously analyzes behavior of programs and applications installed on your PC. Based on this analysis AVG can offer you services targeted directly to your needs, to secure your maximum safety.



Most common threats

Nowadays, there are far more threats out there than plain viruses. Authors of malicious codes and dangerous websites are very innovative, and new kinds of threats emerge quite often, the vast majority of which are on the Internet. Here are some of the most common:

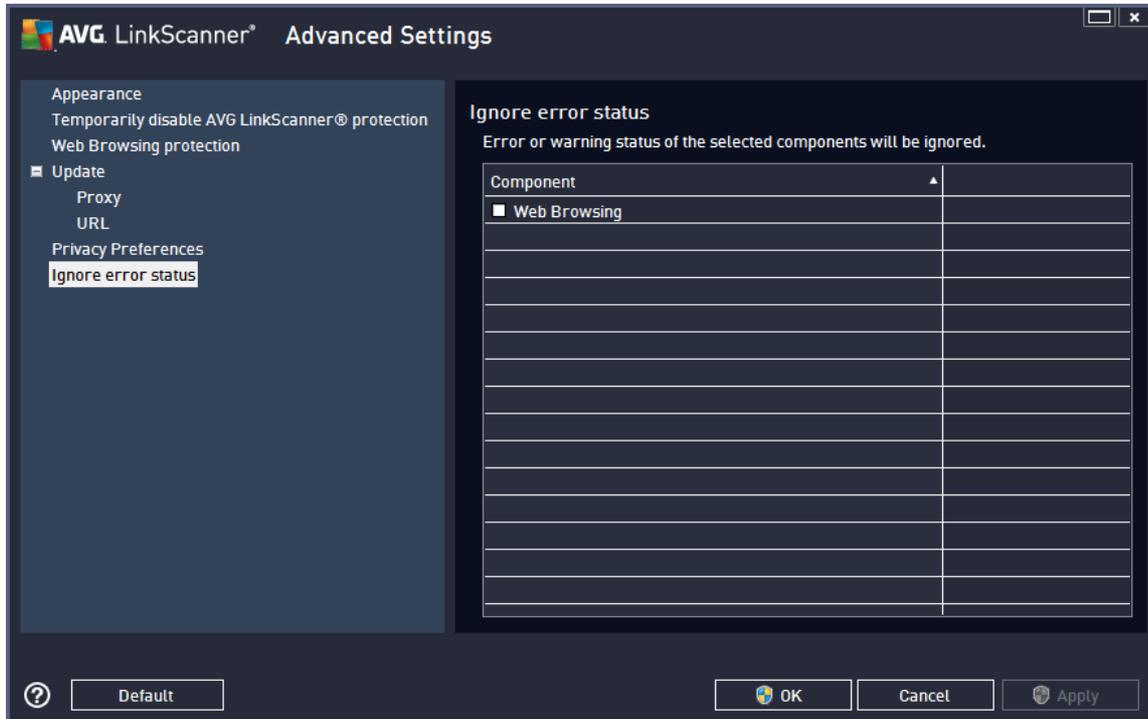
- **Virus** is a malicious code that copies and spreads itself, often unnoticed until the damage is done. Some viruses are a serious threat, deleting or deliberately changing files on their way, while some viruses can do something seemingly harmless, like playing a piece of music. However, all viruses are dangerous due to the basic ability of multiplying – even a simple virus can take up all the computer memory in an instant, and cause a breakdown.
- **Worm** is a subcategory of virus which, unlike a normal virus, does not need a "carrier" object to attach to; it sends itself to other computers self-contained, usually via email, and as a result often overloads email servers and network systems.
- **Spyware** is usually defined as a malware category (*malware = any malicious software, including viruses*) encompassing programs – typically Trojan horses – aimed at stealing personal information, passwords, credit card numbers, or infiltrating a computer and allowing the attacker to control it remotely; of course, all without the computer owner's knowledge or consent.
- **Potentially unwanted programs** are a type of spyware that can but not necessarily be dangerous to your computer. A specific example of a PUP is adware, software designed to distribute advertisements, usually by displaying ad pop-ups; annoying, but not really harmful.
- **Tracking cookies** can also be considered a kind of spyware, as these small files, stored in the web browser and sent automatically to the "parent" website when you visit it again, can contain data such as your browsing history and other similar information.
- **Exploit** is a malicious code that takes advantage of a flaw or vulnerability in an operating system, Internet browser, or other essential program.
- **Phishing** is an attempt to acquire sensitive personal data by shamming a trustworthy and well-known organization. Usually, the potential victims are contacted by a bulk email asking them to e.g. update their bank account details. In order to do that, they are invited to follow the link provided which then leads to a fake website of the bank.
- **Hoax** is a bulk email containing dangerous, alarming or just bothering and useless information. Many of the above threats use hoax email messages to spread.
- **Malicious websites** are ones that deliberately install malicious software on your computer, and hacked sites do just the same, only these are legitimate websites that have been compromised into infecting visitors.

Unfortunately, using AVG LinkScanner® your protection is only limited. For complete professional protection you may want to consider buying the full version of AVG, then please visit the AVG website (<http://www.avg.com>) for information on AVG paid products purchase options.



9.6. Ignore error status

In the *ignore error status* dialog you can tick those components that you do not want to get informed about:



By default, no component is selected in this list. It means that if any component get to an error status, you will be informed about it immediately via:

- [system tray icon](#) - while all parts of **AVG LinkScanner®** are working properly, the icon is displayed in four AVG colors; however, if an error occurs, the icon appears with a warning yellow triangle with a red exclamation mark
- text description of the existing problem in the [Security Status Info](#) section of the **AVG LinkScanner®** main window

There might be a situation that for some reason you need to switch a component off temporarily. **This is not recommended, you should try to keep all components permanently on and in default configuration**, but it may happen. In this case the system tray icon automatically reports the component's error status. However, in this very case we cannot talk about an actual error since you have deliberately induced it yourself, and you are aware of the potential risk. At the same time, once being displayed in grey color, the icon cannot actually report any possible further error that might appear.



10. Updates

No security software can guarantee true protection from various types of threats unless it is regularly updated! Virus writers are always looking for new flaws that they can exploit in both software and operating systems. New viruses, new malware, new hacking attacks appear daily. For this reason, software vendors are continually issuing updates and security patches, to fix any security holes that are discovered.

Considering all the newly-emerged computer threats, and the speed they spread, it is absolutely crucial to update your AVG LinkScanner® regularly. Best solution is to stick to the program default settings where the automatic update is configured.

Update Process

The update process can be launched immediately as the need arises by the **Update now** [quick link](#). This link is available from the **AVG LinkScanner®** [main dialog](#).

Once you start the update, **AVG LinkScanner®** will first verify whether there are new update files available. If so, **AVG LinkScanner®** starts their downloading and launches the update process itself. During the update process you will get redirected to the **Update** interface where you can view the process progressing in its graphical representation as well as in an overview of relevant statistic parameters (*update file size, received data, download speed, elapsed time, ...*).



11. FAQ and Technical Support

Should you have any sales or technical trouble with your **AVG LinkScanner®** application, there are several ways to look for help. Please choose from the following options:

- **Troubleshooting in help file:** The help file included in **AVG LinkScanner®** provides a list of most frequently occurring situations when a user desires to look up professional help to a technical issue. Please select the situation that best describes your problem, and click it to open detailed instructions leading to the problem solution.
- **AVG website Support Center:** Alternatively, you can look up the solution to your problem on AVG website (<http://www.avg.com>). In the **Support Center** section you can find a structured overview of thematic groups dealing with both sales and technical issues.
- **Frequently asked questions:** On the AVG website (<http://www.avg.com>) you can also find a separate and elaborately structured section of frequently asked questions. This section is accessible via **Support Center / FAQ** menu option. Again, all questions are divided in a well organized way into sales, technical, and virus categories.
- **About viruses & threats:** A specific chapter of the AVG website (<http://www.avg.com>) is dedicated to virus issues. In the menu, select **Support Center / About viruses & threats** to enter a page providing structured overview of information related to online threats. You can also find instructions on removing viruses, spyware, and advice on how to stay protected.
- **Discussion forum:** You can also use the AVG Free users discussion forum at <http://forums.avg.com>.

Unfortunately, using AVG LinkScanner® you are not entitled to technical support provided to full versions of AVG products. You may want to consider buying the full version of AVG, then please visit the AVG website (<http://www.avg.com>) for information on AVG paid products purchase options.