

# Antivirus update reaction times of major antivirus vendors

Based on independent data from [AV-Test.org](https://www.av-test.org)



# Speed of response is the key!

- Everyone can protect against old viruses and threats.
- Heuristic solutions do not catch 100% of viruses and they generate a very high number of false positives. In addition, virus writers test their malware against proactive solutions as long as they succeed in getting through the system.
- The difference comes in reacting to new threats with signature updates.
- It is the new threats that do most of the widely publicized damage.

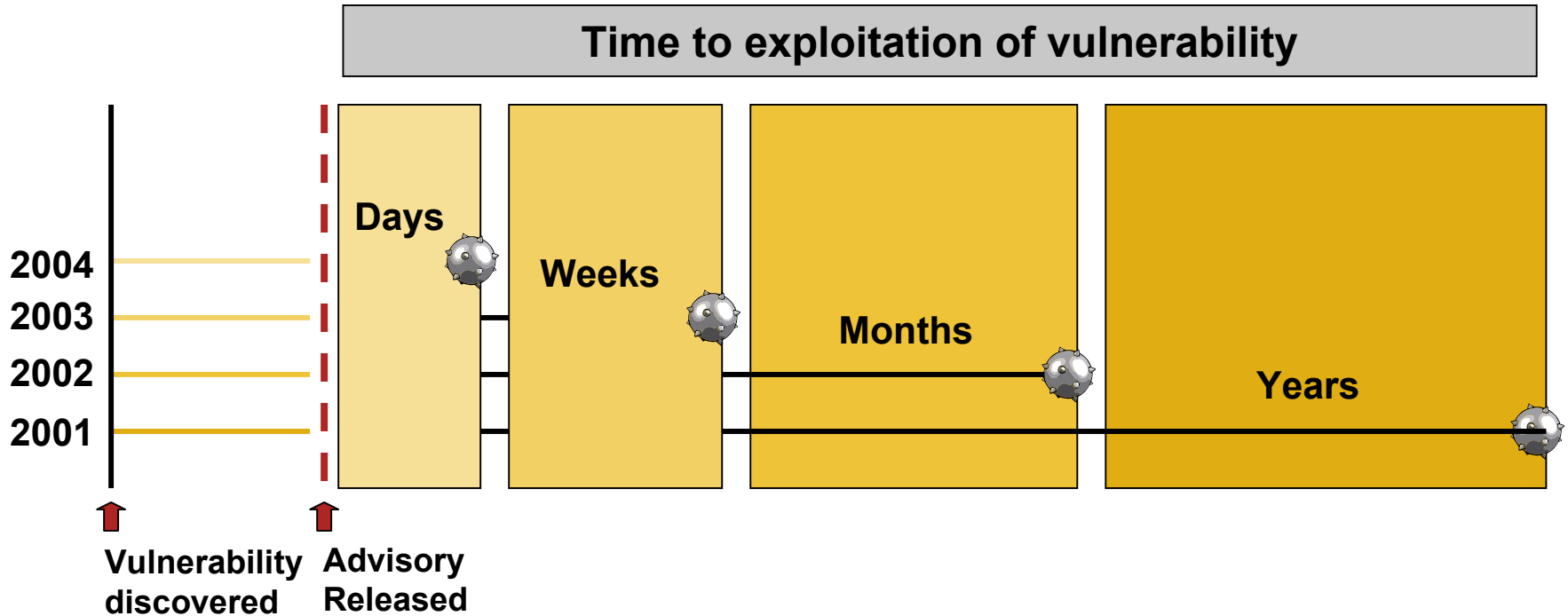


# Any antivirus solution is only as good as the latest update

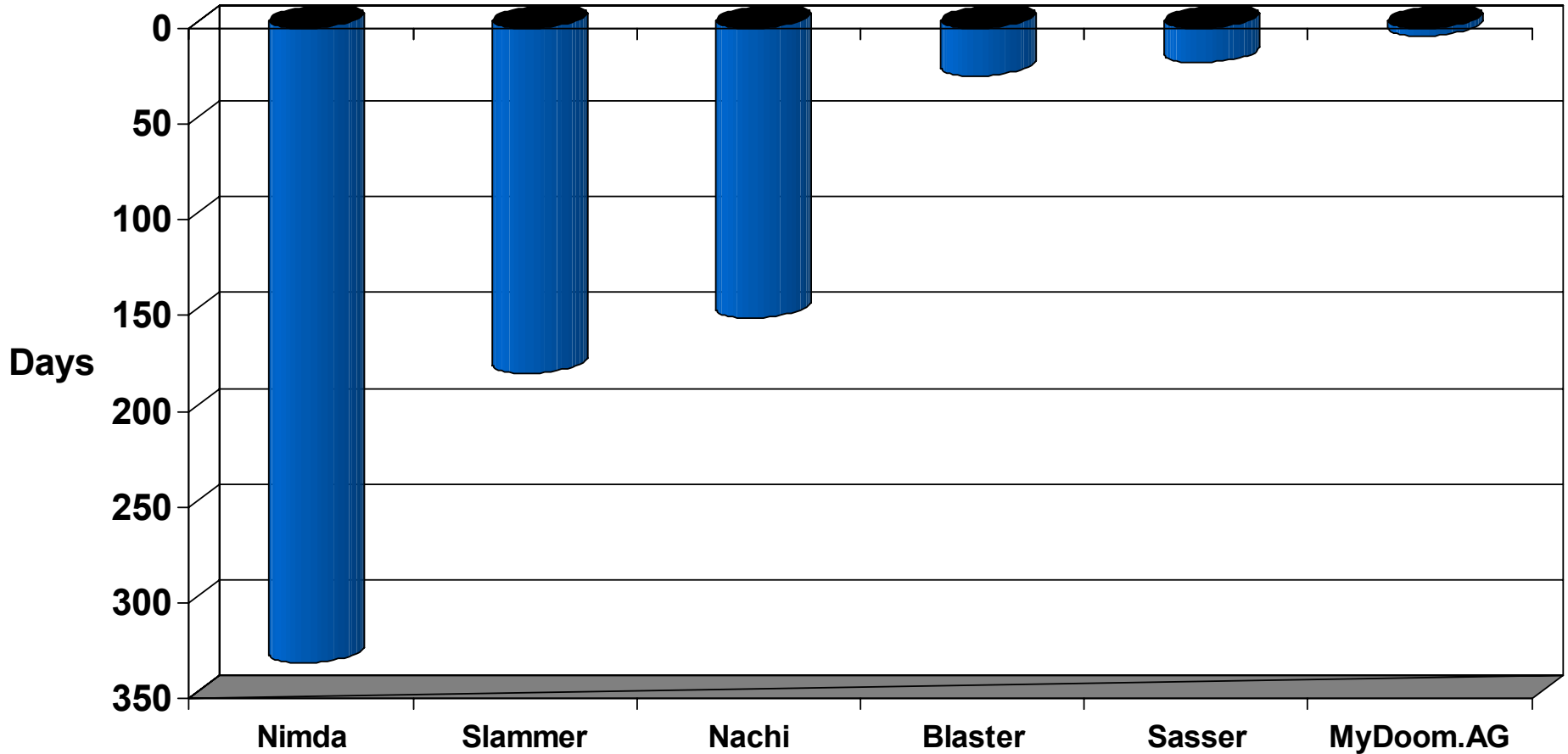
- Major differences in speed between antivirus companies
- F-Secure consistently ahead of the major competitors
- F-Secure updates several times each day, some major competitors only once per week



# Patching window gets smaller

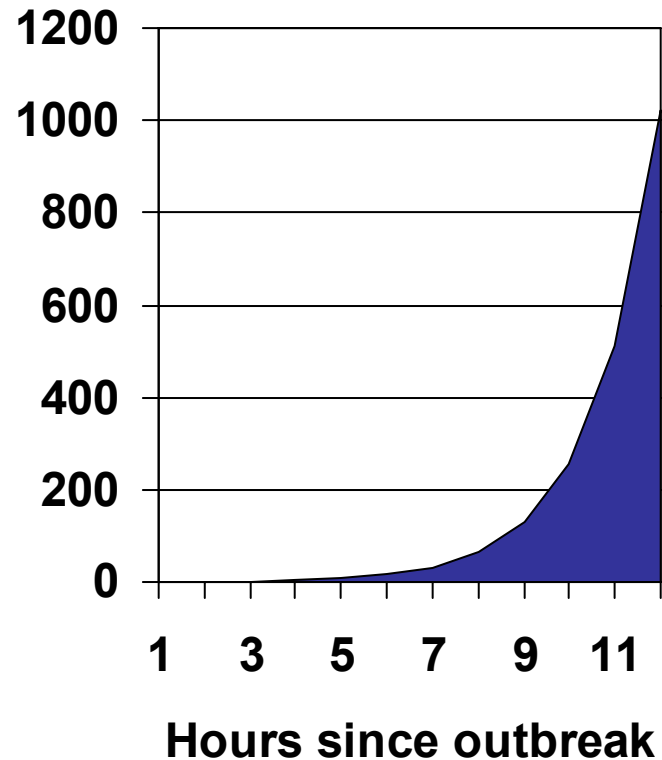


# Recent viruses emerge only days after vulnerability is discovered

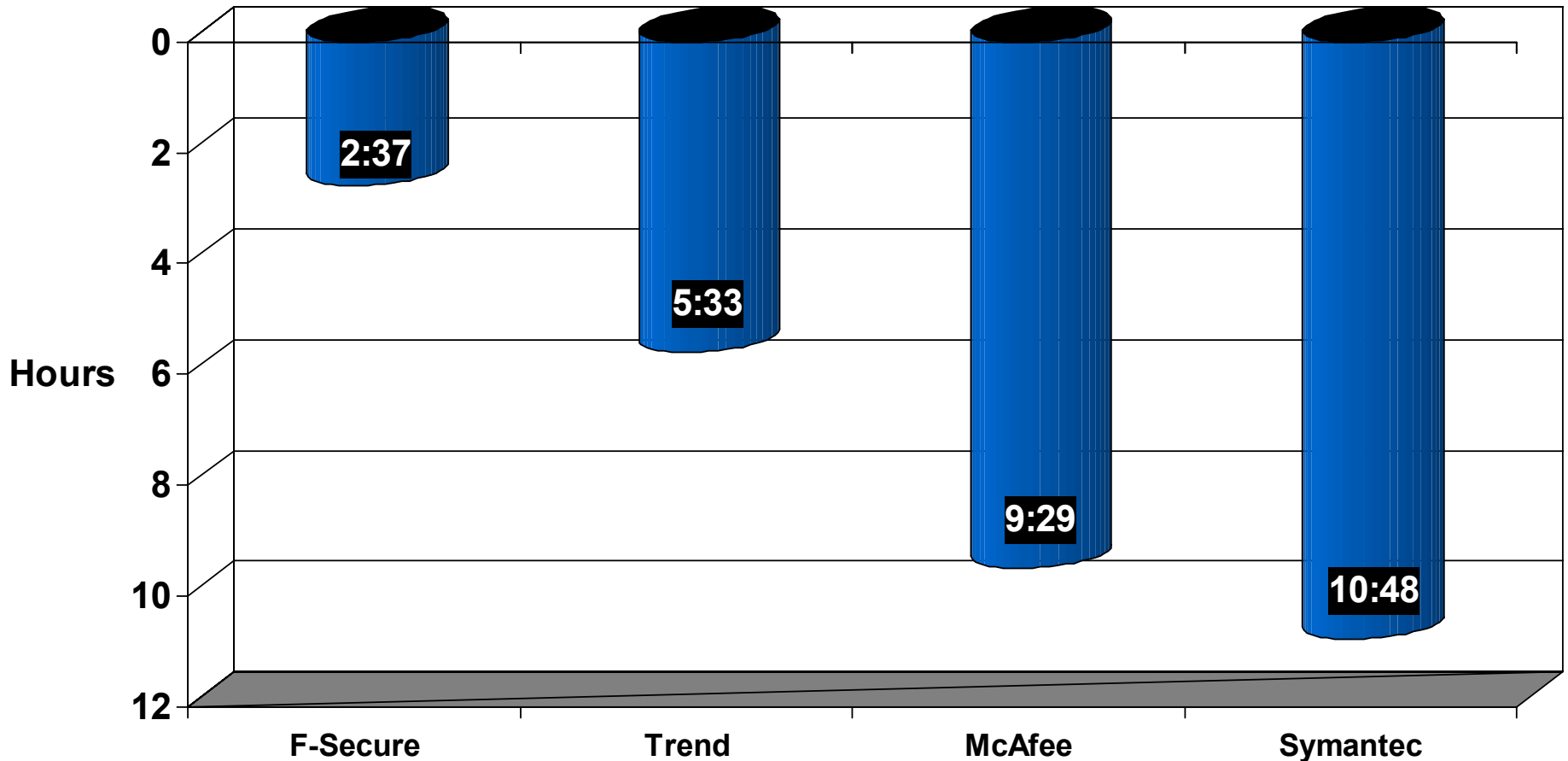


# Response delays of just hours have a big impact

- In major outbreaks the amount of infected messages or machines typically follows a roughly exponential curve
- The time from outbreak until the antivirus update is received is critical
- Antivirus response delays of just a few hours can have a major impact on the amount of damage the outbreak can do in an organization

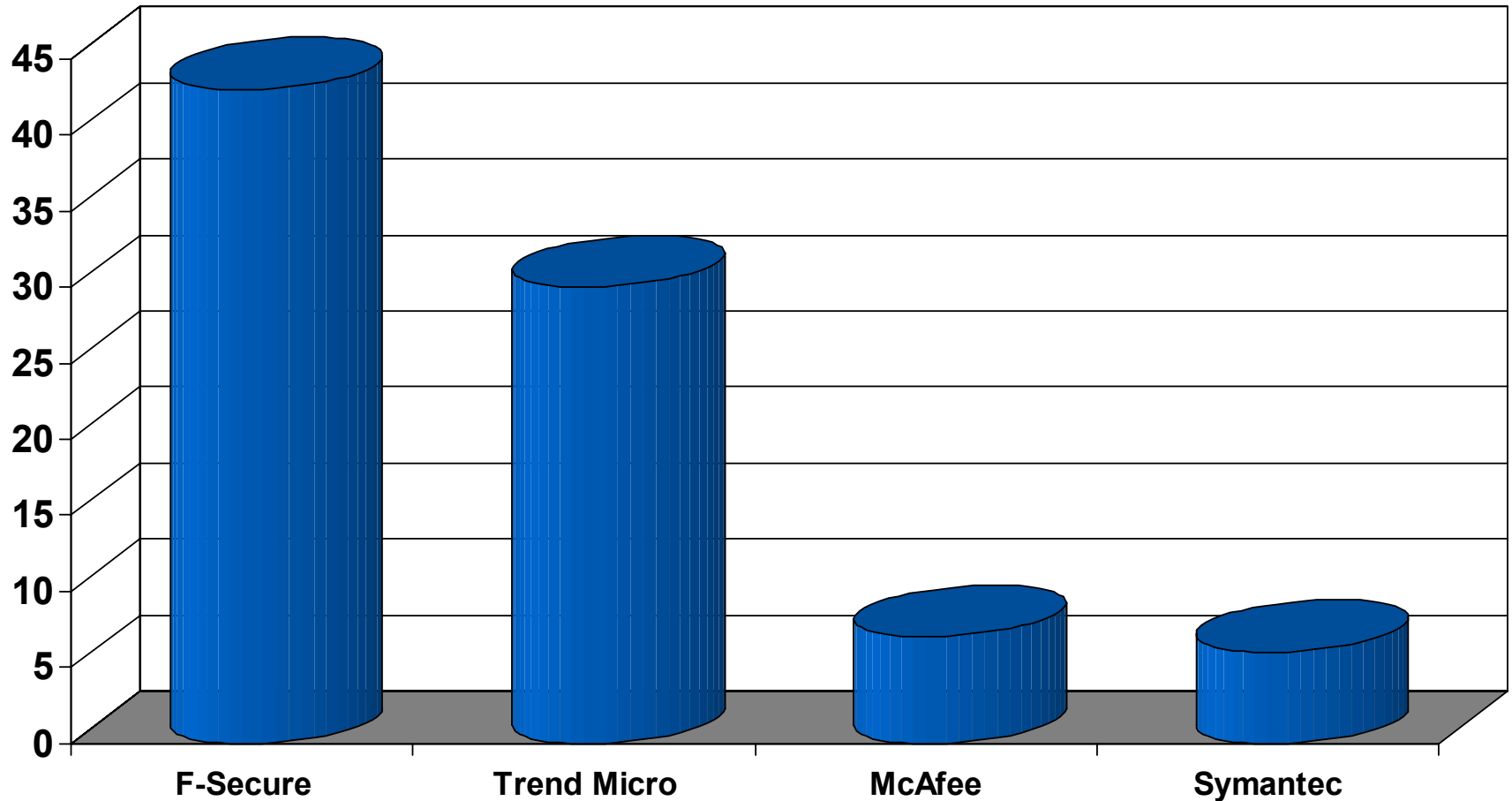


# Average response times for the 12 major outbreaks in the first half of 2005



Source: AV-Test.org

# Number of updates / month January 2005



Source: AV-Test.org

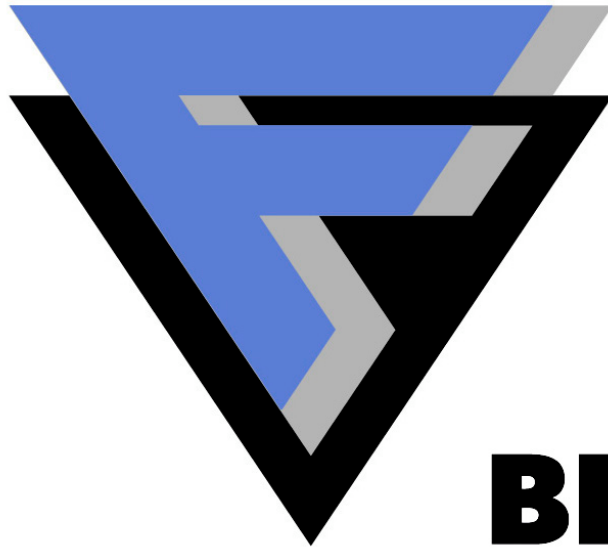


## A note on the data source

AV-Test.org, an independent antivirus testing lab, provides response time testing during virus outbreaks in addition to their detection testing for a wide range of antivirus products. AV-Test.org testing and results are used in major publications and IT security magazines worldwide such as PC-World, PC-WELT, Virus Bulletin, ComputerBild, CHIP and c't. ([www.av-test.org](http://www.av-test.org))



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