

Best Virtual Data Room Providers for Security 2026

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We analyzed **8 leading VDR platforms** across 12 evaluation criteria, combining technical documentation, compliance certifications, and **1,500+ verified user reviews** from Capterra, G2, and Trustpilot to create this 2026 comparison. Whether you are managing an M&A deal, raising a funding round, or running a compliance audit, this guide helps you find the right data room for your specific scenario and budget.

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Evaluation Methodology

Our analysis covers 12 criteria grouped into five evaluation pillars. We sourced objective data from official product documentation, compliance certificates, and independent security audits. Real-world performance insights come from verified user reviews across three independent platforms.

 Data Security Model  Compliance & Certifications  Audit & Monitoring  Features & AI Capabilities
 Pricing Transparency  User Experience & Support

User Experience Insights

To assess real-world user experience and identify the strengths and weaknesses of each platform, we used feedback from independent review platforms:

- [Capterra](#) — thousands of ratings from small and medium-sized businesses, focusing on functionality and ease of use.

- [G2](#) — expert and user feedback on enterprise-level solutions, with detailed case studies.
- [Trustpilot](#) — user reviews highlighting security-related concerns, support experiences, and overall satisfaction.

By combining technical specifications with user reviews from these platforms, we created a balanced and objective evaluation of each VDR. This methodology helps identify not only leaders in data protection but also which solutions truly work in real business conditions, which features are critical for users, and which platforms are worth considering for startups, small, and medium-sized businesses in 2026.

Quick Comparison: Top 8 VDR Providers in 2026

The virtual data room market in 2026 offers solutions ranging from budget-friendly platforms under \$300/month to enterprise systems costing six figures annually. The following comparison cards summarize the key parameters for each provider, including pricing, compliance certifications, AI capabilities, and independent review ratings.

Best for Startups & SMBs

Price Free trial, then from Business plan

Trial Yes — 1 month, full features

Compliance SOC 2, ISO 27001

AI AI Deal Assistant (LLM-powered)

Unique Secure Chat, Digital Signatures

Rating Promising newcomer

Best for All-around

Price ~\$460/mo

Trial 30 days

Compliance SOC 2, GDPR, HIPAA

AI Search, redaction

Rating ★ 4.8 Capterra · 4.7 G2

Best for Enterprise M&A

Price ~\$25K/yr+ (custom)

Trial Demo only

Compliance SOC 2 II, ISO 27001, FINRA

AI Classify, redact, summarize

Rating★ 4.5 Capterra · 4.3 G2

Best forInvestment banking

Price~\$900/mo (custom)

TrialDemo only

ComplianceISO 27001, 27701, GDPR

AIRedaction (Dealio)

Rating★ 4.4 Capterra · 4.1 G2

Best forAI-driven deals

Price€419/mo (250 MB)

TrialFree until live

ComplianceISO 27001, SOC 2

AIDeal prediction, Smart Sort

Rating★ 4.8 Capterra · 4.6 G2

Best forBudget / audits

Price~\$250/mo flat

Trial14 days

ComplianceSOC 2

AI—

Rating★ 4.7 Capterra · 4.5 G2

Best forBuyer-led M&A

Price\$625/mo (\$15K/yr)

TrialDemo only

ComplianceSOC 2, GDPR

AIDoc analysis, summaries

Rating★ 4.7 Capterra · 4.7 G2

Best forMid-market value

Price~\$500/mo

Trial14 days

ComplianceSOC 2, GDPR

AI Basic indexing

Rating★ 4.7 Capterra · 4.5 G2

Pricing estimates based on publicly available data and third-party reports as of March 2026. Contact each provider directly for a precise quote tailored to your project.

★ Editor's Pick for Startups

1. Boundeal VDR: A Comprehensive Platform for Secure Document Management

Zero-Trust security, AI Deal Assistant, and enterprise-grade features at startup-friendly pricing

Budget-Friendly

Boundeal VDR is a rapidly growing virtual data room platform designed specifically for startups, small-to-medium businesses, and deal teams that need reliable, secure document management without the complexity and high cost of enterprise solutions. Unlike legacy VDR providers that charge per-page or require lengthy sales negotiations, Boundeal offers transparent pricing with a generous free trial that includes full access to all platform features.

The platform is built on a Zero-Trust security architecture, which means every access request is verified independently regardless of whether the user is inside or outside the organization. This approach, typically found in enterprise-grade solutions costing tens of thousands per year, ensures that no user is trusted by default and every action is authenticated and logged.

AI Deal Assistant — Powered by Large Language Models

One of Boundeal's most distinctive features is its **AI Deal Assistant**, powered by AWS infrastructure and tuned Large Language Models. Unlike basic search functions offered by other VDRs, Boundeal's AI can extract text from uploaded documents, answer specific questions about document contents, and generate summaries within the precise and isolated context of your project. This is especially effective when working with unstructured data such as lengthy legal agreements, financial reports, and due diligence documentation. The AI processes information only within your project's scope, ensuring that sensitive data never leaks between deals.

Deal Isolated Secure Chat

Boundeal has transformed the traditional Q&A feature found in most VDRs into a **Deal Isolated Secure Chat**. This real-time messaging system enables confidential discussions between deal parties while securely capturing all actions and interactions within the data room. Every message, file share, and response is logged with

timestamps and user attribution, creating a complete audit trail of all communications. This approach significantly improves collaboration speed compared to the email-based Q&A workflows still used by many competitors.

Secure Digital Document Signatures

The platform incorporates **secure digital signatures**, allowing users to sign documents directly within the data room without switching to third-party e-signature tools. This streamlines the signing process, accelerates deal closure, and maintains security by keeping all documents within a single controlled environment. This feature is particularly valuable for real estate transactions, finance agreements, and legal proceedings where document integrity is paramount.

Web-Based Preview of Heavyweight Files

Boudeal supports **web-based preview of complex file formats**, including 3D geospatial models commonly used in oil and gas, renewable energy, and infrastructure industries. Users can view these files directly in their browser without downloading specialized software, which speeds up decision-making and enables remote collaboration on technical documentation.

Key Security & Compliance

- ✓ AES 256-bit encryption at rest and in transit
- ✓ Zero-Trust access verification model
- ✓ SOC 2 compliance (security and confidentiality)
- ✓ ISO 27001 best practices implementation
- ✓ Secure Software Development Lifecycle (SDLC)
- ✓ Regular external penetration testing
- ✓ Independent security audits
- ✓ Dynamic watermarking
- ✓ AI Deal Assistant (LLM-powered)
- ✓ Deal Isolated Secure Chat
- ✓ Built-in digital signatures
- ✓ Heavyweight file web preview (3D, geospatial)

Pricing and Plans

Boudeal offers a **free trial plan** with a 1-month duration that includes one project, unlimited users, up to 50 GB of document storage, and full access to all platform features. The Business plan starts after the trial and includes

unlimited users, admins, and visitors with a 50 GB document limit. The Enterprise plan provides unlimited storage, unlimited deals, and personalized white-glove support. All major credit cards and bank transfers are accepted, and plan upgrades or downgrades can be made at any time with prorated adjustments.

✔ Strengths

- AI Deal Assistant with LLM-powered document analysis and summaries
- Deal Isolated Secure Chat replaces slow email-based Q&A
- Built-in digital signatures — no third-party tools needed
- Zero-Trust model typically found in \$25K+/year enterprise VDRs
- Generous free trial: 1 month, full features, 50 GB, unlimited users
- Clean, intuitive interface — no training required
- Web-based preview of 3D and geospatial files

⚠ Limitations

- Newer platform with limited review history on Capterra/G2
- Some advanced customization options still in development
- Customer support during business hours (Enterprise plan gets enhanced support)
- Smaller global brand recognition vs. legacy providers

Verdict

Boundeal VDR is an excellent choice for seed-to-Series A startups, SMBs, and deal teams that need enterprise-grade security and AI-powered document analysis at a fraction of the cost charged by legacy providers. The combination of Zero-Trust architecture, AI Deal Assistant, Secure Chat, and built-in digital signatures makes it one of the most feature-rich platforms in its price category. If you are managing a fundraising round, early-stage due diligence, or any confidential document exchange, Boundeal delivers exceptional value.

2. iDeals VDR: A Strong Competitor for Data Security

The most popular all-around VDR platform — trusted by over 1 million users globally

Mid-Range ★ 4.8 Capterra

iDeals VDR has established itself as one of the most widely used virtual data room platforms since its launch in 2008. With over 175,000 companies using the platform globally, iDeals offers a balanced combination of robust security, intuitive design, and scalable collaboration features suitable for businesses ranging from SMBs to large enterprises. The platform provides bank-level 256-bit AES encryption, dynamic watermarking, and customizable document permissions that add an extra layer of protection against unauthorized sharing.

iDeals allows seamless integration with popular software such as Microsoft Office, ensuring that users can continue working within familiar environments. The drag-and-drop functionality makes file uploads and management hassle-free, and the advanced Q&A module supports real-time collaboration during M&A deals, due diligence, and financial audits.

Pricing: Starts at approximately \$460/month with a tiered structure based on storage and features. A 30-day free trial with full functionality is available. According to GetApp reviews, 76% of users view pricing favorably, though costs can scale significantly with data volume — storage overage fees range from \$100 to \$300 per GB.

- ✓ AES 256-bit encryption
- ✓ 8 levels of granular permissions
- ✓ Dynamic watermarking
- ✓ SOC 2, GDPR, HIPAA compliance
- ✓ Fence view & IP restrictions
- ✓ MFA, detailed audit trails
- ✓ AI-powered search & redaction
- ✓ 24/7 in-app live chat support

✓ Strengths

- Highest-rated ease of use among enterprise VDRs
- 24/7 in-app live chat support with fast response
- Advanced Q&A workflows for due diligence
- MS Office integration, drag-and-drop uploads

⚠ Limitations

- Performance slows with very large document volumes
- Storage overage fees (\$100–300/GB) can add up
- Excel files require PDF conversion for full security
- Some users report difficulty removing old data rooms

Verdict

iDeals is the go-to choice for mid-market M&A, due diligence, and general-purpose secure document management. Its combination of strong user ratings across multiple review platforms, comprehensive security certifications, and intuitive interface makes it the safest all-around pick for most businesses that need a proven, reliable solution.

3. Datasite (formerly Merrill Datasite): Trusted by Global Enterprises

The enterprise standard for large-cap M&A and complex financial transactions

Enterprise★ 4.5 Capterra

Datasite is the default choice for investment banks and large law firms managing high-value transactions. Trusted by Goldman Sachs, Blackstone, and Johnson & Johnson, Datasite has invested heavily in AI capabilities in 2026, becoming the first VDR provider to earn ISO/IEC 42001 certification for AI governance. The platform offers AI-powered document classification, automated redaction across 100+ PII types, and generative AI tools for document summarization and explanation.

Pricing: Custom, quote-based only. Uses a per-page pricing model (approximately \$0.60 per page by third-party estimates). For a typical large deal room, expect \$25,000 to \$100,000+ per year. Smaller deals still typically start at five figures. No free trial is available, though demos can be arranged on request.

- ✓ AI document classification & redaction
- ✓ Generative AI summaries
- ✓ SOC 2 Type II, ISO 27001, FINRA, ISO 42001
- ✓ Real-time monitoring, DRM, version control

✓ Strengths

- Most advanced AI capabilities in the VDR market
- 24/7 support with dedicated project managers
- Handles thousands of files and concurrent users at scale
- Industry-leading compliance portfolio including AI governance

⚠ Limitations

- Expensive — not feasible for SMBs or small deals
- Per-page pricing model creates unpredictable cost overruns
- Steep learning curve for first-time users
- No transparent public pricing available

Verdict

Datasite is the right choice when the deal is large, complex, and governed by strict regulatory requirements. Its AI capabilities are unmatched in 2026, but the price tag and pricing model make it impractical for anything below mid-market M&A. If budget is secondary to capability, Datasite delivers.

4. SS&C Intralinks: The VDR Pioneer for Investment Banking

25+ years of service, 99% of Fortune 1000, 10,000+ M&A deals annually

Enterprise★ 4.4 Capterra

SS&C Intralinks pioneered the virtual data room concept over 25 years ago and continues to facilitate more than 10,000 M&A deals annually. Backed by SS&C Technologies, a \$6 billion+ revenue fintech company, Intralinks offers enterprise-grade security with comprehensive features including AI-powered redaction (branded as Dealio),

built-in video conferencing, structured Q&A workflows, and 16 distinct user permission roles supporting over 140 languages.

The platform's unique UNshare® feature allows administrators to retract access to documents even after they have been downloaded — a capability no other VDR provider currently offers. It was also the first VDR to earn ISO 27701 certification, the highest standard in data privacy.

Pricing: Starts at approximately \$900/month with custom, quote-based pricing. Includes unlimited users, administrators, and data rooms. However, users report hidden storage overage fees and some providers insert 10% annual contract uplift clauses. No free trial is available.

✔ Strengths

- Strongest brand recognition in investment banking
- UNshare® — retract documents even after download
- 24/7 multilingual support with dedicated deal managers
- Pre-configured deal templates for common transaction types

⚠ Limitations

- User interface feels dated compared to modern platforms
- Pricing opacity with hidden overage fees reported by users
- Security plugins create access friction for external parties
- No free trial available

Verdict

Intralinks is ideal for investment banks and PE firms managing multiple concurrent deals that require institutional-grade security and a proven 25-year track record. Its UNshare® feature is genuinely unique. However, smaller teams may find the pricing model opaque and the interface unnecessarily complex.

5. Ansarada: The AI-Native VDR with the Best Freemium Model

AI deal prediction, bidder engagement scoring, and free preparation phase

Mid-Range ★ 4.8 Capterra

Ansarada stands out in 2026 as the most AI-forward VDR platform with a unique freemium pricing model. Founded in Australia and serving businesses in over 180 countries, the platform was acquired by Datasite in August 2024 for approximately AUD \$240 million, though it continues operating independently under its own brand. Ansarada's AI deal prediction scores an organization's readiness for a transaction, while bidder engagement scoring uses viewing patterns to predict which reviewers are most interested — giving sell-side advisors actionable intelligence throughout the deal lifecycle.

Pricing: Starts at €419/month for 250 MB storage, scaling to €2,499/month for 4 GB. Unique free preparation phase — you only pay when the first external user is invited or 90 days after creation, whichever comes first. All

plans include unlimited users with no per-seat charges.

✔ Strengths

- Best AI features in market (deal prediction, engagement scoring)
- Free preparation phase — organize before committing financially
- Highest Capterra rating (4.8) tied with iDeals
- Transparent, published pricing with no sales call required

⚠ Limitations

- Storage limits are punishing — 250 MB at €419/month
- Uncertain long-term product roadmap after Datasite acquisition
- Mobile app performance reported as slow by some users
- Reporting and customization features could be stronger

Verdict

Ansarada is the best pick for sell-side advisors who want AI-powered intelligence during M&A transactions. Its freemium model is ideal for teams that need time to prepare documents before committing. Just watch storage limits carefully — they can make the per-megabyte cost feel steep for document-heavy deals.

6. SecureDocs: A Simplified Solution for Smaller Businesses

No-frills VDR with flat-rate pricing and unlimited users

Budget★ 4.7 Capterra

SecureDocs offers one of the most straightforward and affordable VDR solutions on the market. With flat-rate pricing that includes unlimited users, it eliminates the overage anxiety that plagues larger VDR platforms. The platform provides strong 256-bit encryption, user permissions, secure document sharing, audit trails, and watermarking to track document access and prevent unauthorized distribution. Setup takes less than 30 minutes, making it one of the fastest VDRs to deploy.

Pricing: Flat-rate starting at approximately \$250/month with unlimited users. No per-page or per-user fees. 14-day free trial available. One of the most predictable cost structures in the VDR market.

✔ Strengths

- Most predictable pricing — no overage surprises
- Fast setup, minimal training needed
- Unlimited users included in every plan
- Good for straightforward document sharing

⚠ Limitations

- No real-time collaboration tools

- No AI features
- Interface feels dated compared to modern VDRs
- Limited advanced reporting and analytics

Verdict

SecureDocs is the right choice when you need a dependable, affordable VDR without advanced deal-management features. Ideal for business valuations, audits, and basic due diligence where cost predictability matters more than AI or collaboration bells and whistles.

7. DealRoom: Purpose-Built for Buyer-Led M&A

The only platform integrating pipeline, diligence, and post-merger into one

Mid-Range ★ 4.7 Capterra

DealRoom is the only software platform purpose-built for buyer-led M&A. It integrates pipeline management, diligence tracking, and post-merger integration into a single platform, combining VDR capabilities with Kanban-style project management boards and AI-powered document analysis. The AI can generate summaries across multiple documents with a single click, accelerating due diligence and reducing manual review work.

Pricing: Diligence plan at \$15,000/year (\$1,250/month) with 2 GB storage. Full M&A Platform at \$25,000/year (\$2,083/month) with 3 GB. All plans include unlimited users and 24/7 support, and can be prorated for shorter project durations.

✓ Strengths

- Only VDR built specifically for serial acquirers
- Combines VDR + project management in one tool
- AI-powered cross-document summary generation
- Transparent pricing with unlimited users

⚠ Limitations

- Pricing is high for single, small deals
- Advanced features only available in higher-tier plans
- Less established brand vs. Datasite or Intralinks
- Storage limits relatively tight for the price

Verdict

DealRoom is ideal for corporate development teams managing concurrent acquisitions and roll-up strategies. Its integrated pipeline-to-integration workflow is unique in the market. For one-off deals, other providers may offer better value.

8. Firmex: Best Value-for-Money in the Mid-Market Segment

Highest “cost vs. value” score — loved by teams switching from legacy VDRs

Mid-Range ★ 4.7 Capterra

Firmex is a Canadian VDR provider that has carved out a strong position in the mid-market segment. It offers subscription or per-project pricing with unlimited users on all plans, and consistently scores highest among VDR providers for value relative to cost in independent reviews. Multiple deal teams have reported switching from Intralinks and Datasite to Firmex specifically for its lower cost and better user experience, citing improved collaboration and fewer pricing surprises.

Pricing: Starts at approximately \$500/month. Average annual cost reported around \$7,800 (based on Vendr buyer data). Unlimited users on all plans with no per-seat charges. Custom branding is an add-on at \$500–\$1,500. 14-day free trial available.

✔ Strengths

- Highest “cost is fair relative to value” score among VDRs
- Unlimited users — no per-seat surprises
- Clean UX praised by teams switching from legacy platforms
- Flexible per-project pricing for short-term deals

⚠ Limitations

- AI features limited compared to Ansarada and Datasite
- Custom branding is a paid add-on
- Smaller global presence vs. iDeals or Intralinks
- Setup fees (\$500–\$1,500) for custom configuration

Verdict

Firmex is the best value proposition for mid-market deals, especially for teams frustrated with the pricing opacity of enterprise VDRs. If you are switching from Intralinks or Datasite and need similar functionality at a lower cost, Firmex should be your first consideration.

Best VDR by Use Case

Different transactions have different demands. The right VDR depends on your deal type, team size, budget, and whether you need AI-powered tools. Here is which provider fits each scenario best, based on our analysis:

🚀 Startup Fundraising (Seed–Series A)

Recommended: [Boundeal](#)

At early stages, you need security that impresses investors without enterprise costs. Boundeal’s Zero-Trust model, AI Deal Assistant, and generous free trial make it ideal. For the absolute lowest cost, consider SecureDocs.

Mid-Market M&A (\$10M–\$500M)

Recommended: iDeals or Firmex

Both offer robust security, advanced Q&A, and scalable pricing. iDeals has a larger global user base; Firmex offers better value and is a proven alternative for teams switching from enterprise VDRs.

Large-Cap M&A & Investment Banking

Recommended: Datasite or SS&C Intralinks

When deals involve billions, multiple buyer groups, and strict regulatory requirements, only enterprise VDRs have the scale, AI tools, and compliance portfolio to handle the complexity.

AI-Powered Due Diligence

Recommended: Ansarada, Datasite, or [Boundeal](#)

Ansarada leads with deal prediction and engagement scoring. Datasite has the most advanced AI redaction. Boundeal offers LLM-powered document analysis at a fraction of the cost.

Serial Acquisitions & Roll-Ups

Recommended: DealRoom

DealRoom's integrated pipeline-diligence-integration workflow is purpose-built for corporate development teams managing multiple concurrent deals.

Budget-Conscious / Audits & Compliance

Recommended: SecureDocs or [Boundeal](#)

For straightforward document sharing, audits, and business valuations where advanced collaboration is not needed, flat-rate pricing and simple interfaces deliver the best ROI.

How to Choose a VDR: Buyer's Guide

VDR vs. Cloud Storage — Why Google Drive Is Not Enough

General-purpose cloud storage solutions like Google Drive, Dropbox, and OneDrive lack critical features required for secure business transactions. They do not provide granular role-based permissions, dynamic watermarking, detailed audit trails, document access revocation, or compliance certifications like SOC 2 and ISO 27001. Using consumer file-sharing tools for due diligence signals a lack of professionalism to investors and counterparties, and exposes your organization to significant data breach risk. A purpose-built virtual data room is designed for deals, not just storage.

Evaluation Checklist

Use this checklist when evaluating any VDR platform for your next transaction:

- AES-256 encryption at rest and in transit
- SOC 2 Type II and/or ISO 27001 certification
- Granular role-based access controls (5+ permission levels)
- Dynamic watermarking on viewed and downloaded documents
- Comprehensive audit trail with exportable logs
- Multi-factor authentication (MFA / 2FA)
- Structured Q&A module for due diligence
- Transparent pricing — no hidden overage fees
- Free trial or free preparation phase available
- 24/7 customer support with dedicated account manager
- Drag-and-drop bulk upload with auto-indexing
- Mobile access (iOS & Android)
- Integration with existing tools (MS Office, CRM)
- Data residency options (EU, US, APAC)



Red Flags When Evaluating VDR Providers

Walk away or negotiate harder if you encounter any of these warning signs:

- **No public pricing:** Providers that require a sales call to reveal pricing use the opacity to their advantage. Transparent providers publish rates on their websites.
- **Per-page pricing:** This model creates unpredictable costs. Research by SRS Acquiom across 3,800+ M&A deals found that deals starting at \$3,800 can end at \$38,000+ with overages.
- **Automatic contract uplift:** Some providers insert 10–20% annual price increases into contracts. Read renewal terms carefully before signing.
- **No free trial:** If a provider will not let you test the platform before committing, they may be betting you will not like the experience once locked in.
- **Missing compliance certificates:** If a provider claims “bank-grade security” but cannot show SOC 2 or ISO 27001 certificates, that claim is marketing, not fact.
- **Storage-based pricing with low limits:** 250 MB for €400+/month means you are paying a steep per-megabyte premium. Calculate your expected document volume before committing.

Looking for a Secure VDR Without Enterprise Complexity?

Boundeal VDR offers Zero-Trust security, AI Deal Assistant, SOC 2 compliance, built-in digital signatures, and an intuitive interface — purpose-built for startups and SMBs managing fundraising, due diligence, and confidential document sharing.

[Try Boundeal VDR Free →](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

- ▶ What is a virtual data room (VDR)?
- ▶ How much does a virtual data room cost in 2026?
- ▶ Can I use Google Drive instead of a VDR?
- ▶ What is a Zero-Trust VDR?
- ▶ Which VDR is best for startup fundraising?
- ▶ SOC 2 vs ISO 27001 — what is the difference for VDRs?
- ▶ How long does VDR setup take?
- ▶ What AI features do VDRs offer in 2026?
- ▶ Can I switch VDR providers mid-deal?
- ▶ What criteria were used in this comparison?

Final Thoughts

The landscape of Virtual Data Rooms continues to evolve in 2026, with increasing demands for advanced security measures, AI-powered automation, seamless functionality, and compliance with global standards. VDRs are no longer just a tool for secure document sharing; they have become a critical component of data protection strategies for businesses of all sizes.

For startups and SMBs, **Boundeal** and **SecureDocs** deliver reliable security at predictable prices, with Boundeal offering the additional advantage of AI-powered document analysis and built-in digital signatures. For mid-market transactions, **iDeals** and **Firmex** offer the best balance of features and value. For enterprise deals where AI capabilities and regulatory compliance are non-negotiable, **Datasite** and **Intralinks** remain the industry standard. And for teams that want AI-driven deal intelligence, **Ansarada** leads the way with its unique prediction and scoring tools.

Whatever your scenario, avoid the trap of choosing based on brand alone. Use the evaluation checklist in our buyer's guide, take advantage of free trials, and always calculate total cost of ownership — not just the monthly rate on the pricing page.

Source: <https://atlas-cybersecurity.com/cyber-threats/threat-actors-use-search-engine-optimization-tactics-to-redirect-traffic-and-install-malware/>