

**Four Season's Newsletter**  
**TECH CORNER**  
**Brian Marder**  
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**Do I Need a Third-Party Anti-Virus for Windows?**

In my opinion, all you need is Windows Defender – used to be Windows Security Essentials. Already included with Windows 10 and it is FREE! Very controversial.

No need for a third-party Anti-Virus. Some say you do need an anti-virus program such as Norton, McAfee, TotalAV, etc. I say that Windows Defender is as good as any of these – but that is not all that good! Some say that you must have a third-party A/V program because it is better than Windows Defender. These programs may have more features, but they are NOT better at defending your computer against viruses. The best A/V programs block up to 2/3 of all the incoming viruses – but not all. Most important – on Windows computers – install just one A/V program, not more than one.

Any third-party computer program can slow the computer down. Windows Defender is published by Microsoft and does a great job of sandboxing itself from other programs. It's already on the computer, so any other A/V program operating at the same time that Windows Defender is operating causes great conflict. Any computer program operating in the background is always vulnerable to holes in the system. Anti-Virus programs which operate deep inside Windows at the system level, are particularly vulnerable. It uses Windows System Resources to a varying degree throughout its operation, and they operate in the background all the time. There have been many reports in the past few years of the major A/V programs letting in viruses.

Most important is that having an A/V system on your computer gives one a false sense of security. You say that as long as I have an A/V program on my computer, I don't have to worry about viruses and can do anything I want. WRONG!

So, what can you do? First, keep your system up to date by running Windows Update. On the second Tuesday of each month, Microsoft publishes a new update for Windows 10. The default setting is that these updates are installed automatically – and that is what I recommend for most of you. Otherwise, if you're like me and like to check for updates manually you can do that too. On your Windows 10 computer enter "UPDATES" in the Search Screen at the lower left. Click "Check for updates". Then just follow the instructions. You might be told that your computer is up to date, so no need to check for updates.

The other thing you need to do is be VERY careful about Attachments in your email, and Links on the internet. Do NOT click any of these if there is any suspicion about their authenticity. Email attachments should be ignored, but if they are legitimate the party that sent it will contact you again and ask why you didn't respond to my email. Better yet is to call the

party yourself if possible, to check this out. NEVER post confidential information about yourself on the internet unless YOU contacted the other party first. Links are even easier. If you see one that pops up for a program upgrade, ignore it but go to the program website to see if in fact there an upgrade is necessary. Then just follow instructions form the website.

You don't need A/V programs on your phone at all. They're a waste of time to install, money to purchase, and a major waste of system resources on your phone.

Good luck!

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**Please come to our Computer & Technology Club meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM in the multi-purpose room in the Club House.**

**If you have any questions or if there are any topics you would like me to cover in the future, PLEASE send me a note by email to: [brianmarder@comcast.net](mailto:brianmarder@comcast.net)**