I.T. can be easy – November 2018 by Steven Dunwell

Free antivirus protection, three of the best for PC and Mac

You've heard it a thousand times: you need antivirus protection for your computer! Modern antivirus programs have gotten so easy to download and some of the best ones are free. So, to keep your computer secure, here are my top three recommendations that cover both Windows and Mac's.

What is a computer Virus?

Simply put, a virus is a small program made to harm a computer system. It spreads by duplicating and attaching itself to other programs, emails and infected files that can be found on the internet. Sometimes the damage is minor but often it can be disastrous, so a good antivirus program is essential.

Free software?

All these companies are trying to make money and supplying free antivirus software isn't going to do that for them. So, these companies will try to get you to upgrade to the paid version. You might receive emails or get the occasional pop up asking you to upgrade. Unfortunately, that's one of the costs of free software.

Bitdefender

For Windows 10, 8, 7 & Mac OSX 10.9.5 and above

Bitdefender offers a reported 99.9% protection rate; the free version of Bitdefender will keep you safe from almost every piece of malware or virus in circulation. The simple interface won't overwhelm you with options, and once it's installed you just sit back and relax knowing your computer is protected. It is also designed to not use very little of your computer's resources, so it won't slow it down. A good choice and it's the one I personally use.

Download here: https://www.bitdefender.co.uk/

Avast

For Windows 10, 8, 7, Vista, XP & Mac OSX 10.9 and above

Avast has a slightly lower protection rating of 99.6%, but it's still a very reliable. Along with low resource usage, it's unlikely to noticeably slow down your computer. A simple, easy-to-use interface means you don't need an instruction manual to get it set up. Avast is a solid choice for anyone looking for a free antivirus.

Mac download: https://www.avast.com/free-mac-security

Windows download: https://www.avast.com/free-antivirus-download

AVG

For Windows 10, 8, 7, Vista, XP & Mac OSX 10.8 and above

Popular for a long time, AVG ranks well in both protection rating of 99.6% and low system resource usage. And while they now offer added extras like system clean-up and antivirus for your mobile phone, their main product is still one of the best. AVG does have a bit of a reputation for prompting you to upgrade, but many people find the occasional request an easy price to pay for such a good, free antivirus product.

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