

Recommendations for Antivirus Software

A few years ago, at Ben Schorr's recommendation, I installed ESET NOD32 as my antivirus software. I've been generally happy with its performance, but a recent customer service (or lack thereof) experience in trying to renew has me considering other options--especially cheaper ones.

Anybody got any recommendations for a Window PC running Windows10?

I use Windows Defender, which is built into Windows 10.

Mike Phillips, North Carolina

We also use Windows Defender. We've had a couple of instances when it found something but could not remove it. We then download the free version of Malwarebytes, scan, remove the bad stuff, then uninstall the trial version and go back to relying on Windows Defender.

David Masters, Colorado

Microsoft also has a "power" tool if you have stubborn malware on your computer. It's call Microsoft Safety Scanner. It's a one-time tool that works very well. It found a rootkit on a friend's computer that none of the other tools at the time could find.

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/wdsi/products/scanner>

Mike Phillips

I use Kaspersky online. I manage multiple office and home computers using the Kaspersky online control panel - which allows me to trigger virus scans and updates remotely. Makes antivirus maintenance of multiple computers a snap.

Eugene Lee, California

You're not concerned about the Kaspersky hack that was revealed last fall?

Kevin W. Grierson, Virginia

Yes, I read about that. I also saw there was no evidentiary substantiation of the allegations. To quote PC Magazine:

" *Editors' Note: We are aware of the allegations of Kaspersky Labs'

inappropriate ties to the Russian government. Until we see some actual proof of these allegations, we will treat them as unproven

<<https://www.pcmag.com/commentary/356214/should-you-believe-the-rumors-about-kaspersky-lab>>,

and continue to recommend Kaspersky's security products as long as their performance continues to merit our endorsement."*

Eugene Lee

I guess if you have been using software for a while it makes sense to stick with it. But this isn't a court of law, it's a question of risk aversion.

If nothing else, if Kaspersky's software *does* have a backdoor in it, and someone is able to use that to get at client files, it seems to me that the fact the US and UK governments have banned its use would make defending a negligence claim a lot more difficult.

Kevin W. Grierson

If you don't like my suggestion, not a problem.

If you are risk averse, you should probably stop using your cellphone, your internet connection, storing electronic data on any laptop, and so forth. I think it just a question of degrees of tolerance and tradeoffs.

Eugene Lee

I had been using Windows defender and Malwarebytes. I recently switched from Malwarebytes to the Norton Internet sweet plus windows defender on windows 10 pro system. I have been averse to Norton because many years ago are used it and I had gotten to be low where but now it's very much improved and I'm barely aware of its existence. It just sits there and works.

Miriam Jacobson, Pennsylvania

If you install a different antivirus program on Windows 10, it's supposed to automatically disable Windows Defender. In any case, never run two real time antivirus programs at the same time. They can bring your computer to a crawl.

Mike Phillips

No, Windows defender in the Wharton are playing well together.

Miriam Jacobson

I used ESET NOD 32 for a number of years, but about five years ago I switched to Bitdefender when I saw ESET's ranking decline and Bitdefender's rise. At the time, Bitdefender was also appealing because it offered robust parental controls. We don't need the controls any longer, but I continue to use the product. I find that it stays

more in the background than ESET did. The Total Security suite, which I use, includes a firewall, anti-spam, and file encryption. Bitdefender Total Security 2018 has a sale going on right now that is a much better deal than the one I entered into a few years ago.

https://www.bitdefender.com/media/html/2018/cl50off-opt/?pid=50off&cid=ppc%7cc%7cGoogle%7c50off&gclid=Cj0KCQiA2Y_UBRCGARIsALglqQ0wI8k5l2w3mO5gf6QX2nTu-_ZJyjwgt7k_gRrg7h-vulYq4QmRGIIaAhj1EALw_wcB

Avram L. Sacks, Illinois
