

What is antivirus?



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Computer viruses are malicious programs that are designed to damage your computer or compromise your security. Before using the internet, it's important to make sure that your computer is protected by antivirus software. Without it, it's quite easy to download a virus unintentionally.

Antivirus software will protect your computer by preventing an attack by or detecting and removing any viruses. Some antivirus software can be downloaded for free from the internet – for instance, [AVG](#) and [Windows Security Essentials](#) . Other types, such as [Norton](#) or [McAfee](#) antivirus software, have to be paid for with an annual subscription.

All antivirus programs have to be regularly updated, as new viruses appear on the scene.

Some antivirus also protects against [spyware](#) – software that collects information about the user, such as which websites they've visited.

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