

Anti-Malware Options for Home Computers

NOTE: The free malware applications listed below are not supported by Sinclair Information Technology, and information is provided as a courtesy only.

Protecting your home computers from malware is an important security strategy. There are free anti-malware solutions available for home use. Some of the free solutions are listed below.

Important: Microsoft deprecated and ended all support/updates for Windows 7 in January 2020. Users are strongly advised to switch to Windows 10.

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Microsoft – Windows Defender (Windows 10)

Windows Defender in Windows 10 is a complete antivirus/antimalware feature that is built-in to the operating system. It is installed by default, so no download is required. For the majority of users, Windows Defender for Windows 10 is robust enough that no additional antivirus application needs to be installed. More info:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/comprehensive-security>

adaware antivirus free (Windows 10, 8.1, 8, 7)

Lavasoft's Ad-Aware began as a trusted spyware tool and now offers a complete antimalware solution. The free version provides anti-spyware and anti-virus real-time and download protection. More information and download from:

<https://www.adaware.com/free-antivirus-download>

AVG AntiVirus Free (Windows 10, 8, 7, OS X 10.10 Yosemite or above, Android 5.0 or above, iOS 10.3 or later)

AVG is a complete antivirus/antimalware solution. It also offers a free version for mobile devices running Android or iOS . The free version also adds a simple PC performance analyzer and one-time tune-up designed to make the most of your machine's speed and efficiency. More information and download here:

<https://www.avg.com/en-us/free-antivirus-download>

Avast Free Antivirus (Windows 10, 8.1, 8, 7)

Avast Free Antivirus works well with default setting, and technically-savvy users appreciate the customization features. It has more comprehensive features in its free version than most. Gamers and video streamers appreciate the "Do Not Disturb" mode. More information and download here:

<https://www.avast.com/en-us/free-antivirus-download>

Avira Free Antivirus (Windows 7 and later, Mac 10.4 or higher, iOS, Android)

Independent tests consistently place Avira near the top of the list for detection and blocking rates. Similar to the other free solutions, it's offers on-demand and on-access protection. More information and download here:

<https://www.avira.com/en/free-security>

Sophos Home Free (Windows 10, 8, 7, OS X 10.12 or above)

Sophos offers free antimalware solutions for Windows and Mac. Like some other free solutions, the initial download and install will install their premium solution for a trial period, then revert to a less-robust solution when the trial ends. More information and download here:

<https://home.sophos.com/en-us/download-antivirus-pc.aspx>

ClamAV

Favored by many 'techie's, ClamAV® is an open source (GPL) anti-virus engine used in a variety of situations including email scanning, web scanning, and end point security. It provides a number of utilities including a flexible and scalable multi-threaded daemon, a command line scanner and an advanced tool for automatic database updates. More information and download here:

<https://www.clamav.net/>

Malwarebytes Anti-Malware (Windows 10, 8, 7)

Already infected? Your antivirus application fail to protect? One of the best malware removal tools is Malwarebytes Anti-Malware. The free version is primarily an excellent malware removal tool but does not provide ongoing protection. The paid version offers real-time protection. More information and download here:

<https://www.malwarebytes.com/>

Trend Micro Free Security tools (Windows 10, 8, 7)

While it does not offer a free version of its anti-malware software, Trend Micro offers many useful security tools for assessing, detecting, and many varieties of malware. Tools offered include anti-ransomware, mobile security, password management, and multiple cleanup and threat prevention tools. A unique and useful free tool is HouseCall for Home Networks, which can be used to scan a home network for vulnerabilities and mis-configurations. More information here:

https://www.trendmicro.com/en_us/forHome/products/free-tools.html

For questions or additional information, contact the IT Help Desk at 937-512-4357 or at helpdesk@sinclair.edu