

Anti-Malware Options for Home Computers

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

A list of those solutions is shown below. **NOTE: The free malware applications listed below are not supported by Sinclair Information Technology:**

Microsoft – Windows Defender (Windows 8)

Windows Defender in Windows 8 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 8 is robust enough that no additional antivirus application needs to be installed. More info:

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-8/windows-defender#1TC=t1>

Microsoft – Windows Defender (Windows 7)

Windows Defender in Windows 7 is primarily an anti-spyware application. It is installed by default, so no download is required. An anti-virus application should be used in conjunction with Windows Defender for Windows 7 for more robust protection. To open Windows Defender, click the Start button and type “defender” in the search box, then click “Windows Defender” from the results. More info: <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows7/products/features/windows-defender>

Microsoft – Security Essentials (Windows 7, Vista, XP)

Security Essentials is a free antivirus application for Windows XP, Vista, and Windows 7. It is free for home users and available for small businesses with up to 10 PCs. It is not installed by default, so must be downloaded and installed. More info and download from: <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/security-essentials-download>

NOTE: After April 8, 2014, technical assistance for PCs with Windows XP will no longer be available, including automatic updates that help protect your PC. Microsoft will also stop providing Microsoft Security Essentials for download on Windows XP on this date. (If you already have Microsoft Security Essentials installed, you will continue to receive anti-malware signature updates for a limited time, but this does not mean that your PC will be secure because Microsoft will no longer be providing security updates to protect your Windows XP PC.)

Ad-Aware Free Internet Security (Windows 8, 7, Vista, XP)

Lavasoft's Ad-Aware began as a trusted spyware tool and now offers a complete anti-malware solution. The free version provides anti-spyware and anti-virus real-time and download protection, and also includes a 'game mode' designed to protect without interrupting the user. More information and download from:

http://www.lavasoft.com/products/ad_aware_free.php

AVG AntiVirus Free (Windows 8, 7, Vista, XP – Mobile Android)

AVG is a complete antivirus/antimalware solution. It also offers a free version for mobile devices running the Android OS. The free version also provides 24-hour phone support (rare for even paid antimalware solutions) and 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: <http://free.avg.com/us-en/homepage>

Avast Free Antivirus (Windows 8, 7, Vista, XP – Mac 10.5 or higher – Mobile Android)

Avast Free Antivirus works well with default setting, and technically-savvy users appreciate the customization features. There are versions available for Windows, Mac, and Android. More information and download here: <http://www.avast.com/index>

Avira Free Antivirus (Windows 8, 7, Vista, XP – Mac 10.6 or higher - Mobile Android)

Independent tests from AV-Comparatives.org consistently place Avira near the top of the list for detection and blocking rates. It is highly effective, but is not considered as 'pretty' or intuitive any many other applications, and its robust antimalware capability comes at a higher systems resource trade-off than others.

More information and download here: <http://www.avira.com/en/avira-free-antivirus>

Comodo Antivirus Free (Windows 8, 7, Vista, XP – Mac 10.4 or higher - Mobile Android – Linux multiple distributions)

Comodo Antivirus Free provides solid line defense, but some users find it to be a little 'noisy' with the number of alerts that require user intervention. Tech-savvy users may

appreciate the greater visibility this offers. It is one of the few commercial solutions that offer a Linux version.

More information and download here: <http://antivirus.comodo.com/>

Sophos Anti-Virus for Mac Home Edition (Mac 10.4 or higher) – Sophos Mobile Security for Android

Sophos offers free antimalware solutions for Mac and Android, but currently not for Windows. However, they do offer a free “Universal Threat Management” firewall solution that can be installed on a stand-alone PC and serves as a secure Internet gateway. More information and download here: <http://www.sophos.com/en-us/products/free-tools.aspx>

ClamXav, the free Anti-Virus Solution for Mac OS X (Mac)

A basic antivirus solution for Mac OS X. It is essentially a graphical user interface for the open-source ClamAV solution. More information and download here: <http://www.clamxav.com/>

Malwarebytes Anti-Malware (Windows 8, 7, Vista, XP)

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 (\$25) offers real-time protection. More information and download here: <http://www.malwarebytes.org>

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