

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Do I need McAfee?](#)

The Pact - June 30, 2023, 9:07 pm

I have actually never paid for it and I had Malware Bytes but people have said I don't need that either with Windows Defender? But anyway McAfee on my Lenovo laptop is really invasive and bugging me all the time about buying it and I guess there should be some way I can disable it? But it keeps doing pop ups and telling me I need it and telling me to restart my laptop because it can't scan. Do I need it now I've cancelled Malware Bytes and can I disable all these pop ups demanding I buy it?

Pentatonix - June 30, 2023, 9:13 pm

Having an antivirus is a good idea for Windows users. The only reason you get McAfee popups is because that's who your OS/device manufacturer has partnered with.

This is a great thread for the proper section. [Computing Lounge](#)

source - June 30, 2023, 9:28 pm

The best security is cyber security knowledge

oRequiem - June 30, 2023, 11:20 pm

Whoever said you don't need Malwarebytes because you have Windows Defender isn't exactly correct.

Yes, Windows Defender has been upgraded since it released, but so has Malwarebytes. I've been using Malwarebytes for a very long time and never had any issues with them. Here's a video you can watch to that explains everything you need to know.

This video is still relevant to this day.

EDIT: Also, don't ever get McAfee, it's just terrible.

Pentatonix - June 30, 2023, 11:33 pm

(Jun 30, 2023 09:28 PM)source Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) The best security is cyber security knowledge Good luck with that, Imfao. The average HF user couldn't pass A+ if you gave them 2 weeks to study, let alone any real Cyber task.

DashPHP - June 30, 2023, 11:40 pm

Being on a Mac I don't have an AV, and when I was on Windows back in the day, i did start off using one, but it was so intensive that I deleted it and just started practicing better security opsec.

Try not to download things from unverified sources ect ect

StuffSneak - July 1, 2023, 12:32 am

I do have Bitdefender just in case but it is rarely needed because most importantly what is needed is just your common sense on what to click on, what to download.

But having one does strengthens your protection a bit because sometimes, threats can still come

even if we are very careful. We never know your trusted softwares might be backdoored. Prime example was Electrum Wallet. You would think official downloaded installer from the official site would be safe. But little do we know.

Undead - July 1, 2023, 2:02 am

McAfee is like the equivalent of giving your computer cancer

Airbourne - July 1, 2023, 2:29 am

Not really and especially not McAfee. I don't know if it's still the case but in the past with McAfee the most common question was asking how to remove it.

Usually Windows Defender is good enough but if you want to pay, go for something like ESET or other more "enterprise" solutions.

Sand Ferret - July 1, 2023, 3:12 am

Windows Defender and a small amount of common sense is all you need, in most cases.

DashPHP - July 1, 2023, 7:35 am

(Jul 1, 2023 07:34 AM)phantomman55 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) but what about Java drive bys or malware through browsers?

If you have a modern browser, then they do not exist.

You cannot force download and open, only download. Even even these days an alert would popup indicating a download is performing.

Java applets are no longer supported in modern browsers.

DashPHP - July 1, 2023, 8:10 am

(Jul 1, 2023 07:37 AM)phantomman55 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Also there's a larger number of malware written for Apple OS's. Compared to years before.

Not comparing Windows we know most malware runs on Windows.

I use Windows and Linux. I would love to ditch Windows but video games and most popular software runs on Windows. The other OS's you have to always check for any software or video game you want to play

or run to make sure they have their own version of the software or game that can run on your OS that is other than Windows.

Sometimes you're lucky and sometimes you're not.

As long as you download games from official libraries like Steam then you'll be fine haha.

honeyspoons - July 1, 2023, 8:14 am

Windows Defender works alright for real-time protection, Malwarebytes is good for thorough scans. I don't think you really need to pay for an antivirus.

DashPHP - July 1, 2023, 11:58 am

(Jul 1, 2023 10:01 AM)Dyne Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) EDIT: OP, you should be using ESET or WD. Couple that with a bit of common sense and the general user should be fine.

You can buy a yearly key from services like [AmazingLicense](#) for dirt cheap.

Are you one of those people that believes the "Mac computers/iOS can't get viruses" PR rumors? Not that it can't but relative to how many Windows gets hit, it's just very unlikely.

rshacker13 - July 1, 2023, 8:11 pm

(Jul 1, 2023 03:12 AM)Sand Ferret Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Windows Defender and a small amount of common sense is all you need, in most cases.

Same. Before, I was using Nod32, now, just windows defender.

CaptainSprinkles - July 1, 2023, 8:18 pm

McAfee IMO is shit. There are better antiviruses for the PC rather than McAfee. My suggestion is to deinstall it, disable Windows Defender (cause it can be annoying sometimes) and install some better alternatives.

Nord32

Avast

Malwarebytes

Bit Defender (just tried one, so I'm not sure)

Helpme - July 2, 2023, 11:06 am

When I used McAfee, the thing would just never uninstall. I almost think John McAfee used it for more malicious intent. Sketchy software in my eyes

GruntStyl - July 2, 2023, 1:10 pm

Windows Defender is fine if you have common sense. Malwarebytes Or Bitdefender if you don't. Or just want extra "Peace of mind"?.

Sentinel one if you are running a server or providing IT for a customer that has or is dealing with sensitive data. (EDR is almost a requirement now). This is pointless to run on a standard PC tho.

Blockonome - July 3, 2023, 3:31 am

Just uninstall McAfee completely from your device and you should be all good. I would not recommend the paid version.

ChronoBiff - August 5, 2023, 4:25 pm

Why pay for McAfee when the real virus is my temptation to click on 'You've won a million dollars' emails?" Just don't download shit if you are not sure what it is.

Blazin - October 15, 2023, 3:55 pm

No, McAfee is terrible uninstall it ASAP. It's just as bad as Norton.

Local Celeb - October 15, 2023, 4:37 pm

(Jun 30, 2023 11:20 PM)oRequiem Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Whoever said you don't need Malwarebytes because you have Windows Defender isn't exactly correct.

Yes, Windows Defender has been upgraded since it released, but so has Malwarebytes. I've been using Malwarebytes for a very long time and never had any issues with them. Here's a video you can watch to that explains everything you need to know.

This video is still relevant to this day.

EDIT: Also, don't ever get McAfee, it's just terrible.

Thanks for posting this ?

Alien8ed - October 15, 2023, 5:01 pm

(Jul 1, 2023 02:02 AM)Undead Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) McAfee is like the equivalent of giving your computer cancer

LOL, you couldn't have said it better.

McAfee comes preinstalled in every PC, which can be frustrating for users when it starts asking for money. The program's protection is sh1t, its user interface is sh1t, and it's expensive.

Endorphins - October 15, 2023, 5:05 pm

I only have my default Windows Defender on our family computer. Try to watch ThePCSecurityChannel in youtube if you want to check other Antimalware performances.

oRequiem - October 15, 2023, 6:57 pm

(Oct 15, 2023 04:37 PM)Asydix Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Thanks for posting this ?

No problem, I'm sure that list is a bit different nowadays, but still relevant :)

LeetSpeed - October 15, 2023, 7:23 pm

Check out trend micro, It doesn't do all that pop up BS. It saved me from a ransomware attack a few years ago.

4N0NY - October 15, 2023, 7:51 pm

I find no reason to say not to have a good Antivirus in today's world.

Alien8ed - October 15, 2023, 8:27 pm

(Oct 15, 2023 07:51 PM)4N0NY Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I find no reason to say not to have a good Antivirus in today's world.

Nowadays the native Windows antivirus works quite well, I also have MalwareBytes AntiMalware installed (Paid version OC).

Local Celeb - October 15, 2023, 10:17 pm

(Oct 15, 2023 06:57 PM)oRequiem Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) No problem, I'm sure that list is a bit different nowadays, but still relevant :)

Yeah, only takes a little digging to solve lol

Dorrance - October 15, 2023, 10:19 pm

Personally I wouldn't use McAfee?

Grandmaster - October 15, 2023, 10:22 pm

You can pass on McAfee. There exist superior, no-cost substitutions.

Jinu - October 15, 2023, 10:51 pm

It's bloatware, you can uninstall it. Windows Defender, along with Malwarebytes and some security knowledge, provides ample protection. Some of the larger antivirus programs can actually cause your laptop or computer to slow down.

WebArt - October 15, 2023, 11:04 pm

if you ask me i like windows defender always . just follow one rule don't download from unknown site or dont trust on links

Nate - October 15, 2023, 11:14 pm

I'm still using malware bytes, but i rarely download anything from the interent./

Grandmaster - October 15, 2023, 11:17 pm

(Oct 15, 2023 11:14 PM)Nate Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I'm still using malware bytes, but i rarely download anything from the interent./

This is probably the best way to go about it. Less you download, if anything, the better.

My only real concerns are what the "trusted" game devs use inside their clients/games.

Night Storm - October 16, 2023, 12:02 am

You do not need any antivirus. They eventually slow down your PC.

So how to protect ?

1. Use Comodo Firewall (A Simple program that lets you configure what you want to allow and what you do not want to be able to connect to internet)
2. Keep a separate PC (No VMWARE) for testing random software before you take it on your main PC.

Simple!

Night Storm - October 16, 2023, 12:45 am

(Oct 16, 2023 12:32 AM)Focus Broken Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I had Malwarebytes and AVG flag my real software as false positives, so I have little faith in their detection systems.

Even I do not believe on AV. I would rather take preventive actions instead of going for AV.

Comodo Firewall has worked wonders for me. (Best part about this is, It does not affect the performance of my PC)

nextmark - October 16, 2023, 3:39 am

Don't use McAfee like everyone already said :D Common sense is good to have, if you want antivirus software my go to would be Malware bytes or F-Secure.

Alpha Geek - October 16, 2023, 3:47 am

Personally any device I've ever owned that came with McAfee I instantly removed it and replaced it with AVG and Malwarebytes. Today I just do MWB and Windows Defender.

Money- - October 16, 2023, 4:03 am

What type of AVs you guys use around here btw?

Tor - October 16, 2023, 11:31 am

(Jun 30, 2023 09:07 PM)The Pact Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I have actually never paid for it and I had Malware Bytes but people have said I don't need that either with Wiindows Defender? But anyway McAfee on my Lenovo laptop is really invasive and bugging me all the time about buying it and I guess there should be some way I can disable it? But it keeps doing pop ups and telling me I need it and telling me to restart my laptop because it can't scan. Do I need it now I've cancelled Malware Bytes and can I disable all these pop ups demanding I buy it?

I think Malwarebytes always does a pretty good job for me so I wouldn't change that.

Disease - October 16, 2023, 2:24 pm

MalwareBytes- even just free- should probably be on everyone's computer. It's a great piece of software in general. As for an AV- you should definitely have something. But it doesn't have to be McAfee, that's for sure. Truthfully, Windows Defender itself has come a long, long ways. To the point where it goes pretty toe-to-toe with paid competitors in realtime detection. Team it up with MWB and it's a formidable defense.

I think if I was going to go with an AV solution beyond Windows Defender, it'd be BitDefender.

The Pact - February 7, 2025, 12:21 am

(Oct 15, 2023 10:22 PM)Grandmaster Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You can pass on McAfee. There exist superior, no-cost substitutions.

What would be some examples. McAfee is so annoying. I've never paid for it. I guess I should uninstall it. Just been a bit unsure about doing it.