

As the world becomes more and more connected, picking the best Anti-Virus software program becomes increasingly important. Hackers are on the prowl, looking for opportunities to steal your personal information. Don't let it happen to you! But with so many anti-virus options out there, which one should you pick? This article will help make the process easier for you.

1. Independent Reviews

One surefire way to pick the best program is to look at what others are saying. Browsing forums with independent reviews can provide a lot of insight that the company itself will not tell you about. There are a number of online forums on computing where you can find users talking about their experience with different anti-virus programs.

Another option: Ask your friends! Just about everyone you know *should* be using some kind of anti-virus program for their PC. Ask them about their experience!

2. 3rd Party Verification

Related to this is 3rd party verification. Look for seals of approval on the product from reputable companies like CNET and Tucows. These companies review hundreds of software programs and only recommend those that actually deliver something of value to the end-user.

3. Type of Virus Protection

Some anti-virus software programs do nothing more than scan your computer once per day. Try to avoid these programs. In today's world, real-time virus protection is essential. Moreover, the best anti-virus programs will also offer protection against spyware, scan incoming emails, and constantly monitor for other types of malware. Look for products that offer "complete protection" to ensure your PC is safe from all potential threats.

4. Customer Support

No matter how well your computer is protected, there is always a chance that something can go wrong. Or, maybe the program you purchased doesn't seem to be working like it did when you first installed it. These types of issues can be addressed by companies that offer live customer support. In fact, if the software company you are looking at doesn't offer online chat help, you may want to look elsewhere. Don't expect online help to be available 24/7, but the best companies will make sure to provide it as much as possible during business hours.

5. Money-back Guarantee

Sometimes when we buy things, they don't work as advertised, or maybe you expected to get something that really wasn't there. If this happens, you want to make sure that your anti-virus program offers a full money back guarantee. Most companies will offer a 30 day guarantee, which should be sufficient for anti-virus software programs, as you'll have a good feel for how the program works within a couple of days of use.

This is also something you'll want to look for when seeking out independent reviews as well. Customers who were dissatisfied with their purchase will often speak highly of a company that promptly refunds their money to dissatisfied customers.

6. Price

The cost of your anti-virus software program is of course an important consideration. However, this does not always mean that the cheapest is the best. Most quality anti-virus programs that offer complete protection will cost less than \$50. This is a small price to pay to ensure your personal information will not be stolen. If you find a standard anti-virus program that is more than \$50 for a single license, it's probably best to look else where.

Conclusion

To summarize, all PC users should have an anti-virus software program that protects against a variety of threats. Look for independent user reviews as well as 3rd party verification to ensure the product does what it is supposed to. You will want real-time virus protection and easily accessible customer support in case you have any questions. Before you buy, make sure the program offers a full money back guarantee. Finally, look for a a virus protection program under \$50, but the cheapest is not always the best.

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