

Computer viruses have come a long way since the first prank-style bugs graced computer users in the early seventies. The first virus was not dangerous and merely displayed the message "I am the Creeper, catch me if you can!" Today, computer viruses cripple business and destroy lives. Virus creation is no longer the forte of bored teenagers in dark rooms; instead these malicious software creations are becoming increasingly sophisticated and resulting in big profits for its unscrupulous creators.

It seems like cyber criminals are advancing in their quest to create the best virus. Software can protect your computer, provided you choose the right brand and install it correctly. Easier said than done though with the wealth of choice available to the average user. Choosing the best anti virus software need not mean spending a fortune. With some know how you too can find your perfect antivirus software and ensure that your time online is safe, and that your valuable information is kept safe too.

If you are interested in finding the perfect *anti virus software* for your computer, read on for a simple summary of the most important criteria.

The best anti virus software:

With so many different antivirus programs available, it can be difficult to know where to begin on your quest for the best one. Whether you go for a free anti virus or a paid one, you need to look for a few key features.

- **Effectiveness:** The most important criteria for choosing an anti virus software program should be its overall effectiveness. Some of the best antivirus software programs claim up to 99% effectiveness in terms of finding viruses.

- **Affordability:** For most PC owners, the next most important consideration is how affordable the antivirus software is. Are you prepared to splurge a bit on the top of the range software, or are you looking for a free program? Keep in mind that when it comes to antivirus programs, more expensive is not necessarily better; it merely means access to a better support structure. Most free antivirus programs are as effective as their expensive counterparts, but are often

criticized for a lack of technical support should you find a virus that its updates have not covered yet.

- **Ease of use:** Having the best anti virus program is useless if you can't figure out how to use it. Some of the best antivirus software programs are notoriously difficult for beginners to use. Look for programs that are designed with the novice in mind. There's no need to hire an IT security expert to set up your internet security, today's anti virus programs are designed with the average PC user in mind and are exceptionally easy to use.

Choosing an anti virus program is a highly personal choice, with many different elements to take into account. Luckily, there are many great programs freely available that are sure to keep you safe. Be sure to read plenty of user-reviews and see which ones score tops with other PC users. Take the guesswork out of keeping safe online and enjoy the internet safely.

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