

The mobile antivirus is becoming one of the most important software available today, simply because the mobile phone has a number of uses. There are several mobile antivirus software that is available in the market, and one needs to look for the one that would suffice them the best. Here are three aspects that one should keep in mind, before they choose the mobile antivirus.

### **How current is the Version?**

New viruses make their way into the general public almost every day. So, it is very important that the best antivirus programs are current enough to combat the latest virus. There are some anti virus software that also offers immediate updating of the virus, so make sure that you choose the virus that can be updated immediately over GPRS or the traditional internet connection.

Many anti virus software comes with a lifetime update. Which means that you can update the anti virus for life. This works out cheaper, because then one does not have to buy the anti virus software on a repeated basis.

### **Spyware, Malware, Trojans?**

A traditional antivirus would just shield your mobile phone against virus, but a complete one would shield it against spyware, Trojans, and other issues that are currently being faced by the World Wide Web. So, try to make sure that the antivirus that you have combats spyware, malware, Trojans and other kinds of internet attacks. Some mobile antivirus also offers phishing security, so look if you can get such features for cheap.

Mobile phones generally get a virus via data cards and memory sticks. Some for-mobile sites may also cause the virus to settle into the mobile OS, so you need to be careful while choosing the anti virus for your mobile device. Also, while choosing the mobile anti virus, you should check which operating system your mobile phone runs on. If you have the Java, or the Symbian or the Windows Mobile OS or even the iPhone OS, there are different operating systems for different mobile phones.

### **What is the Price?**

Technology and software are becoming cheaper by every day. So it is quite possible to get cheap and economic antivirus software for your mobile phone, provided you know the right places to look for.

The first ever known cell phone virus called Cabir, first appeared in the year 2004. During the first few years, Cabir infected only a small number of Bluetooth enabled phones. Though the virus spread to some extent, it was found that it wasn't able to do much damage. However, recent cell phone viruses are now more complex and thus, are more capable of doing more damage to mobile phones. Phone viruses are now as devastative as computer viruses.

The way a cell phone virus works is basically the same as a computer virus. A computer virus, such as worms, can work its way through a computer through email attachments and internet downloads. The same with a cell phone; retrieving unsecure and unknown email attachments and MMS attachments, Bluetooth transfers and downloading applications from a distrusted website, may become gateways for viruses. The easiest way a phone can get infected is when a cell phone receives and opens infected files. Transferring and exchanging of files are the most common ways on how a cell phone can get infected. These are usually done by connecting the phone to a PC, however, as the Bluetooth application is now being widely used, viruses can now be transferred through phone to phone connections.

You know how smart phones have advantageously changed your life and how they managed to make your life a lot easier. Imagine the hassle if your smart phone suddenly went blank on you just because of a virus that hacked its way through your phone's operating system. Some viruses can do irreparable damage to your phone, they delete important files and harm your operating system causing applications to not run properly. These viruses come in the form of downloaded games, security patches, add on functionalities and most commonly these viruses go with pornography and free ads. The first known cell phone virus, Cabir, is entirely innocuous and discreet. Once downloaded, it just sits on the phone then rapidly spreads, causing damage to the cell phone. Such viruses could mess up your daily schedule, thus, the need for an antivirus software specifically created for cell phones.

### **What are the consequences of the virus attacks on the cell phones?**

A virus may access or delete all your contact information and calendar entries in your phone. It might send infected MMS messages to each and every contact in your phone book. Sometimes, it may also make unknowing calls to anyone in your contact list, creating huge amount of phone bills into your account. In some cases, it might delete or lock up certain phone applications or crash your phone completely.

Just like how you protect your computer from viruses, the best way to get protected from mobile phone viruses is to install an antivirus software. If you install the best antivirus software in your smart phone you are protected not only from Cabir but also from all types of cell phone viruses.

**Here are some instructions you need to follow while using your smart phone in order to avoid the virus attacks:**

- Never open any unknown or suspicious attachments or files.
- Always turn off your Bluetooth application and set your phone "hidden" from others so that others cannot detect your phone and send viruses to it.
- Always check the updates to learn about the filenames and always take note of them.
- Install some kind of security software in the form of an antivirus on your phone.
- Install some of the security sites that can send you e-mail updates and new virus information as it gets posted.

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