

Tech Tips for Seniors

Virus and Malware Protection

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Safety and security are two issues that every computer owner thinks about and possibly worries about.

A recent article in The New York Times addresses those concerns beneath the headline: “You Don’t Need Antivirus Software”. (Scroll down to see a Web link to the article).

The newspaper’s subsidiary, Wirecutter, based its article on research conducted by independent testing labs and institutions.

The conclusions:

- Windows Defender, which is a free built-in tool installed on all computers running Microsoft's Windows 10, is "good enough for most people."
- Apple Macintosh computers have been less vulnerable to viruses and malware for decades.

The recommended precautions include installing new apps, or programs, only from Apple's App Store and from the Microsoft's App Store.

Both companies conduct thorough tests of the apps they sell in order to protect their customers.

Beyond that, Wirecutter said, "You should avoid downloading and opening E-mail attachments unless you know what they are."

Those who download a lot of E-mail attachments or software should consider installing Malwearbytes, which works in tandem with Windows Defender and Macintosh computers. The paid version isn't necessary for most people.

If you have a computer supplied by a company or school, you should consult with the appropriate IT department before installing anything.

The Wirecutter article concludes with a link to its guide to setting up security on a computer and “good habits” for all computer users.

For those who still want to purchase computer protection software, numerous lists and ratings can be found by searching the Web with the phrase, “virus protection services”.

Here is the Web link to the Wirecutter article:

<https://www.nytimes.com/wirecutter/blog/best-antivirus/amp/>

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