

UNION STREET'S SUPER TECH ADVICE



If you're using a Mac, avoid falling into the trap of believing that Apple PCs are, as many would have you believe, immune to viruses. According to Andreas Marx, CEO of AV-Test ^[1], this is simply not the case:

Although the number of malware specimens for Mac OS X is only increasing slowly – it is growing continuously. The reports of detected security gaps in Mac OS X are also steadily growing [...] Already in 2014, OS X and iOS exhibited considerably more gaps than Linux or Windows systems. A brief look into the National Vulnerability Database (NVD) indicates a long list of entered CVEs – Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures. The search for CVEs under "Apple" indicates more CVEs in the three months of September to November 2015 than for the search term "Windows" [...] The use of security software for Mac OS X should not fail due to false vanity. ^[2]

This means that, unfortunately, Apple systems can no longer be considered to be more secure than Windows systems. These three antivirus packages are a great place to start to keep your system safe online:

- ▶ BitDefender Antivirus - £39.95 per year <http://www.bitdefender.co.uk/solutions/antivirus-for-mac.html>
- ▶ Symantec Norton Security - £24.99 per year <http://uk.norton.com/norton-security-for-one-device>
- ▶ Sophos Home - Free <https://www.sophos.com/en-us/lp/sophos-home.aspx>

Although free, the Sophos antivirus scored slightly lower in the usability category than the other two products, perhaps because of the increased workload it places on the system during a scan.

(All the Apple-based antivirus packages should be acquired from the official websites as the App Store versions can often be missing features otherwise included in the price)

^[1] <https://www.av-test.org/en/about-the-institute/>

^[2] <https://www.av-test.org/en/news/news-single-view/more-security-for-mac-os-x-13-security-packages-put-to-the-test/>

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Top Antivirus Suites for Windows and Apple OS X

If you've just spent three months' wages on a brand new pc, its security should probably be one of the first things to address. One thing that often gets overlooked by new users is that the software supplied with your new system is more often than not out-of-date by the time it hits the store shelves. This means that your pc might not be equipped with the necessary security to handle online threats. Solving this first part is easy - simply check for system updates using Windows system settings or the App Store if using a Mac.

The next step is to install a suitable anti-virus software package. Luckily, there are some guidelines to help. The industry uses three criteria to rate the quality of antivirus software:

- ▶ Protection (or its ability to detect viruses, malware and other threats)
- ▶ Performance (the time it takes to run a full scan)
- ▶ Usability (its ability to work effectively whilst causing minimal interference to the user)

With those criteria in mind, here are my top three recommendations for Windows PCs:

- ▶ Avira Antivirus Pro, £29.99 per year <https://www.avira.com/en/avira-antivirus-pro>
- ▶ Bitdefender Antivirus - £25.97 per year <http://www.bitdefender.co.uk/solutions/antivirus.html>
- ▶ Kaspersky Antivirus- £29.99 per year <http://www.kaspersky.co.uk/anti-virus>

PTO for MAC Advice



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