

QUICK REFERENCE

ANTIVIRUS

Document purpose

To help businesses protect their IT equipment (computers and servers) from malware by installing antivirus software. The document presents the key features and capabilities of an antivirus software and the criteria to consider when choosing one.

Document intended for: Business manager or person in charge of IT

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What is malware?

Malware is intended to take advantage of security vulnerabilities. This kind of software changes or deletes files, whether that's the user's documents stored on the infected computer or files needed for the computer to run properly (usually the operating system's files). There are various types of malware, such as computer viruses, worms and Trojan horses.

Malicious websites are the main source of infection, usually through plug-ins (e.g., Flash, Java and Active X). Other sources of infection include removable media and phishing emails.

What is antivirus software?

Antivirus software is designed to detect, neutralize and remove malicious software. It has three key features:

- **Resident protection** or scanning that analyzes the suspicious behaviour of malicious code on the system's files, emails, start-up files, the computer's RAM and data that travels across potential networks (including the Internet)
- A **scanner** that can analyze removable media (e.g., USB keys, CDs and DVDs) and look for malware
- A **module** for automatically updating antivirus signatures

How to choose the best antivirus software?

Here are the criteria to consider when choosing antivirus software:

- **Automatic updates** to maximize performance. It's essential to do frequent updates by downloading the most recent versions.
- **Option to do precise analyses**, because a virus could be installed on your C:\Windows\System drive without your antivirus software's resident protection detecting it.
- **Speed**, because the antivirus software takes up a lot of memory and can cause delays through the processes and services used. The antivirus program shouldn't significantly affect the computer's processing power or the performance of other applications.
- **Other security features available**. Besides antivirus software that offers local protection of data stored on the computer, a good antivirus should also be able to search everywhere—on removable media, the browser and even the Internet.

Other antivirus features

Some antivirus programs have other features to protect computers:

- a) Anti-spyware filters that detect spyware and prevent it from being installed on your computer
- b) Anti-malware that protects the system against malicious programs
- c) Anti-spam filters that block unwanted messages

Types of antivirus software

You can find both **free** and **paid** antivirus programs on the market. Beware: price isn't always an indication of quality! Other criteria should be considered when choosing an antivirus program.

Here are some examples of antivirus programs available on the market:

Free antivirus	Paid antivirus
Avast Antivirus AVG Free Antivirus TotalAV PCProtect	Total AV Bullguardian Kaspersky McAfee Virus Scan Norton by Symantec Trend micro Bitdefender Microsoft Security Essentials (included with Windows)

How to use antivirus software?

1. Choose antivirus software that's compatible with your computer's operating system.
2. Install the antivirus program on the computer or the company's IT equipment.
3. Update the antivirus software by downloading the most recent versions.
4. Do a full initial analysis.
5. Launch at the user's request or run a scan to analyze all files one by one and check if there are any viruses.
6. If you suspect the computer has been infected by a virus, you should run a full scan to analyze all of the equipment that could be compromised.

Tips and advice

<https://www.protegez-vous.ca/Technologie/securite-internet/Comment-choisir-un-bon-antivirus>

http://top5logicielantivirus.fr/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwre_XBRDVARIsAPf7zZi_vfzMQXfa8OwGWM_ZqdKYGuH0A7KTCFUui_OTUD8fG7ySSqAD7WMaAn8REALw_wcB