Anti-Virus

Anti-virus software is computer software that is designed to prevent, detect and remove malicious software from a computer. This is very important as in most cases it is the only line of defence against harmful files/programs. Most anti-virus software will attempt to quarantine and delete any file that it deems to be malicious/suspicious.

⚠ Anti-virus will help alert you to suspicious files - but not all of the time!

⬇ Only download files/programs from trusted sources

What is Anti-Virus defending against?

Anti-Virus is designed to defend against several types of malicious software/files. Some of these include viruses, malware and other suspicious files that can be downloaded by the users. These malicious programs employ a number of techniques to allow for them to execute on computers allowing for effects such as file theft, file deletion, downloading further malicious material and potentially destroying computer hardware.

What are you downloading?

Are you really aware of what you are downloading from the internet? Staying vigilant while using the internet is paramount when downloading files and programs as they may not be what they appear at first. Anti-virus may be able to help by alerting you to suspicious files but not all of the time. Downloading files/programs from reliable and trusted sources is the best step to staying safe on the internet.

Available Software

There are several different offerings available to users in terms of protection from harmful software. The most available is Windows own "Windows Defender". This is free to everyone who uses Windows 7, 8, and 10 in various different forms depending on the operating system, though be warned as Defender is a rather basic anti-virus that does not offer a complete set of tools to be able to protect against harmful software.

It is recommended that in conjunction with Windows Defender another 3rd party application should be used to offer the best coverage against harmful software. These 3rd party options come in both free and paid tiers with the same goal of protecting the user, free offerings include AVG and Avira Antivirus with paid offering such as Norton Anti-Virus and Kaspersky. Much like Windows Defender, these 3rd party offering are not perfect by any stretch and can sometimes let things through the cracks, so being more aware of what is happening on your computer will be the most crucial factor.

Other operating systems such as macOS do not have anti-virus built into them by default so are completely insecure if left alone, though there are 3rd party offerings from all of the popular vendors listed previously.
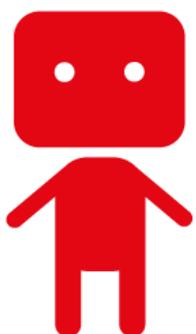
//curious
frank:

www.curious-frank.com

A division of the Scottish Business Resilience Centre