

How Anti-Virus Software Works

Anti-Virus software is a program to run on your computer, often in the background and keeps malicious spyware and background viruses from attacking your hard drive. There are different techniques that the software will use to keep viruses off of your computer. The software will start to scan all your files you have saved so that it can search for known viruses that will match definitions in a dictionary made only to detect a virus. Having antivirus software protects your computer from getting infected from different kinds of Mal ware that can be embedded in e-mails, downloads, and even programs that you install your computer. The software will identify suspicious behavior from any computer program that might show signs of infection. The analysis may also include data captures, port monitoring and other methods. Most commercial antivirus software starts off with the approach called the virus dictionary approach. Basically what happens is your antivirus software is constantly updated with a latest in the dictionary that it carries of viruses. The software scans your computer looking for anything that matches the different files that it has in its list of different viruses. Once the computer software comes up against any of these files that match in its list or dictionary of viruses, the first thing it does is try to remove it from the file. If you cannot remove it from the file, it will quarantine it. By putting the virus in quarantine, it prevents it from spreading further onto your computer. Because the virus dictionary approach relies on a file of viruses, you need to make sure that when you buy antivirus software it comes with unlimited virus updates. The world of spyware, viruses, and Mal ware is ever changing and evolving and it is up to a good software company to keep up to date with the different viruses that are out there. Most software will update itself with the latest viruses. But you need to make sure that you are updating frequently because once you stop, the odds are that a new virus out there can get on your computer. Most versions of antivirus software now continue to run in the background of your computer. Especially if you are constantly online, you can get a virus just by visiting a webpage. There are computer hackers out there that can install a virus into your computer from the webpage you are visiting. With the current antivirus software that is out there, if it's running in the background it will catch the attempt to install the virus, remove it, or quarantine it. You can buy antivirus software, or you can actually download free versions off of the Internet. Now this may sound funny because downloading something off of the Internet could have a virus on it, but there are websites that have high authority and are trusted to provide freeware that is constantly updated. If your computer is new, you may actually be ready have antivirus software preloaded in the operating system.

About the Author

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