

THE COMPUTER CORNER

No. 261: MALWAREBYTES UPDATE

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If you paid for a copy or two of Malwarebytes (as have I, for 2 of my 5 computers), chances are you are running Malwarebytes 3.x. It would be a good move, and it is free, for you to upgrade to the new version 4. Version 4 sports a new detection engine that is improved over the old model. The new version also has a redesigned interface that seems cleaner and simpler than the old one. And they claim improved performance and efficiency. Here is how to do a really clean install of the new version.

Before you do anything else, find your license key. That is a 20 character key that you got when you ordered and paid for your old version. It looks something like this: AB5CD-EF7GH-I8J9K-L2MNP. If you can't find it in your records, double-click the icon for your old version and look for Account or Account Details; it will be there. Print or record that key carefully. Do not proceed without a copy of that key or you will have to pay for a new version. With the key, it is free.

Next, go to MajorGeeks (<https://www.majorgeeks.com/>). On the first screen you see will be FEATURED SOFTWARE, and below it will be NEW VERSION 4-Malwarebytes; click the latter. That will get you to a choice of download sites:

Download@Authors Site or
Download@MajorGeeks.

Choose one or the other and download the installation program, MBSetup.exe, about 1.8 MB in size. (By the way, I always have all my downloads saved to my desktop so that I do not loose them in the bowels of Windows.) Now, with your license key in hand and a copy of the installation program on your desktop or in another known site, you can delete the old version. Deleting the old version first will give you a much cleaner, trouble-free installation.

You can use Control Panel, Add or Remove Programs, to delete the old version. A much better choice is to use HiBitUninstaller, which you can get (free) at MajorGeeks. You can get a regular installable version or a portable version. The latter needs no installation. You just download a zip file, shuck out the .exe file and click to use it. It will scan your Registry and other sites for bits and pieces, something the Control Panel uninstaller will do poorly, if at all.

Now run the MBSetup.exe installer program. Tell it you want private use, and when it gives you the option to register the license key, take it. Type in that 20-character key that you have from your search; make sure your typing is accurate. Type in the dashes, too. You are now home free. If you purchased a two-computer license for Version 3.x, repeat the process with the second computer. Use the same license key.

Malwarebytes is regarded by all the experts as the best antivirus protection available at present (except for those experts who want to sell you some other brand). I purchased a two-computer license, one for my main machine and one for Nancy's, for super protection, some time ago. My other machines are protected with Microsoft's antivirus package, Windows Defender. That is really quite good and sufficient; Malwarebytes is just my compulsive need for extra protection. Happy computing!