

THE COMPUTER CORNER

No. 245: The Best Antivirus Program is ...

Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR 715 N. Dries Street Saukville, WI 53080-1664
(262) 268-1949 wb9rqr@att.net

...probably the one you already have!

According to Majorgeeks.com, they would not have recommended Windows Defender a couple of years ago, but in 2018, they consider it an excellent choice. If you have Windows 10, you already have it. It is free and comes with the operating system. How about that?

Another thing to consider. You cannot safely run two antivirus programs at the same time. They likely will interfere with one another and cause you all kinds of grief, as well as not working to reveal malware properly. So, don't try running Panda Antivirus until you completely uninstall Windows Defender. On the other hand, you can run an antivirus program and some antimalware programs at the same time. That is, you install both and both are running in the background simultaneously. For a specific example, Windows Defender and Malwarebytes (the best current antimalware program) work together quite happily.

Moreover, Malwarebytes really does everything an antivirus program does, and you can certainly substitute it for Windows Defender (or, better, since it runs happily with Windows Defender, run it concurrently). On top of that, you can get a copy of Malwarebytes (at <http://www.majorgeeks.com>, 15 million downloads there!) that is completely identical to the pay-for version. It will do a nightly (wee hours) scan of your system automatically as well as watching your system the rest of the time, even as you surf the web. After 14 days, it will pop up and ask you if you want to buy it. If not, it will still be there and will still work, but you need to run manual scans by yourself. I really like it and purchased a two-computer copy (Stan's and Nancy's) when they had a sale, about a year ago. And, when that ran out, I popped for another year. But you don't need to pay for it. Between free Windows Defender and the free version of Malwarebytes, you are well protected. On the other hand, I personally really like the sense of security the pay-for version of Malwarebytes gives me, especially for protection from that bad actor, ransomware. (In case you don't already know, ransomware is a viral infection that locks your personal files until you pay their fee – so it holds your files at ransom).

So, there you have it. Nose around the majorgeeks website if you want more information. But you are reasonably safe with Windows 10 as it comes, out of the box. Want to be a little more compulsive? Download Malwarebytes and install and try it for half a month. See what you think.

Happy Computing!