

There is no need to go into detail as to why your computer needs protection from viruses especially online. Fortunately, effective and free antivirus software can be downloaded on the Web. Some of the most popular ones are listed below.

### **Norton Security Scan**

This free antivirus software has several features that new or busy computer users will like. The first is that it is very easy to use. There is only one button, labeled start. Clicking this will initiate the virus scanning process, during which the program will remove any threats that are detected in your computer.

With only a single button, users do not have to worry about configuring various settings. Another advantage of this application is that it can perform updates regularly. Also, you can set up another antivirus program if you like and there will be no incompatibility issues whatsoever.

### **AVG Antivirus**

For those users that want to have total control over their free antivirus software, the AVG Antivirus Free Edition will be ideal. Besides scanning for viruses, the program also has a Rescue Disk which you can use to create important configuration files so in the event you are unable to boot from the hard disk, the Rescue Disk will be able to perform that function instead.

In addition, this free antivirus software provides a scanner for spotting viruses in email attachments, and a scheduler. The website updates the virus list regularly, and can quarantine a file that has a virus (you may want to do this in case you want to try and remove the virus instead of deleting it). This software can run in Windows versions from 95 up to XP, and the latest Windows 8.

### **Avira Antivir Personal**

The Avira Antivir Personal is a quick and efficient free antivirus software that runs on Windows and Unix. Apart from being able to remove Trojan horses, rootkits, phishing and other malicious software, the application is also noted for its speed, up to 15 to 20% quicker than most other applications.

### **Avast! Antivirus Home Edition**

The Avast! Antivirus Home Edition is the free version of the Avast antivirus software, and comes with several features. The program regularly updates both the antivirus and software so you can be sure that any new viruses will be detected easily.

The program is also capable of removing spyware, malware, and other applications that can affect your software. Unlike other applications, these can be used with different web browsers without causing any system crashes. The software also has the Network Shield that shelters your files from any viruses and worms that may infect your computer. The appearance can also be changed with its skin selectors.

This free antivirus software can run in several types of Windows operating systems, from Windows 2000 to XP and Vista. For those with older systems, the program is also compatible with Windows ME, NT, 98 and even 95.

Sheltering your files and personal information from online hackers is a must, and with the plethora of free antivirus software on the Web, you can get the ones you need at no cost and surf at ease.

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