

Cybersecurity: Security software

Installing the right software can protect your devices.

What is it?

Installing trusted security software on your devices is a quick and easy way to protect them. A variety of solutions are available and provide you with different kinds of protection.



For optimal security, consider applying security software to all of your devices, such as your computer, tablet, and cellphone. Even mobile devices can be infected.

Antivirus and antimalware

Antivirus software prevents viruses, Trojans, worms and some other forms of malicious software, also known as malware, from infecting your devices. Antivirus generally prevents infection of more established risks to your device and is better at preventing infections from traditional sources, like a compromised email attachment.

Antimalware focuses more on emerging threats, including spyware and ransomware. It is more effective at preventing different kinds of infections that you might pick up online, including through malicious ads. Generally, antimalware updates its databases more regularly than antivirus.

When choosing a product, look for one that regularly updates its database to keep up with new threats. This will help ensure that your investment continues to protect your devices from emerging threats.

Encryption

Most devices will allow you to encrypt your information. This effectively scrambles your data so it cannot be read or used without the key if your device is compromised.

Check your device settings to enable encryption. If your device does not provide this option, you can also purchase encryption software from a number of trusted organizations.

Firewalls

Firewalls manage inbound and outbound data to prevent unauthorized users from accessing your network without

limiting your activity. Some devices and operating systems may already have a firewall integrated into their default security settings.

How do I enable security software?

There are many reliable security software options that you can purchase and install on your computer. Once downloaded, the application should walk you through installation and set-up.

When selecting a security software:

- Do your research. Look at different options and compare services before you buy.
- Look for an antivirus or antimalware software that regularly and automatically updates its databases to keep up with new viruses and malware.
- Look for software that removes malware, in addition to detecting and blocking it.
- Read reviews to get an understanding of user satisfaction and product reputation.
- Read the privacy policy, particularly for any services that may be free for use.

Why should I use security software?

Cybercriminals grow more inventive all the time, creating increasingly sophisticated attacks that can be hard to spot. Installing reliable security software adds an extra layer of protection that prevents unauthorized users from accessing your device and the personal information it holds.

For example, malware can be installed without your knowledge through a phishing email that is designed to appear as though it is coming from a reliable source. Security software can detect and prevent the malware from installing.

CYBERSECURITY TIPS

Visit [Alberta.ca/cybersecurity-in-alberta](https://alberta.ca/cybersecurity-in-alberta) for more information.

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