

THE COMPUTER CORNER

No. 303: Don't Feel Pressed to Purchase Antivirus Software

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This article (first partially addressed in #245, July 2018) was suggested by recent conversations with Tom Trethewey, KC9ONY. Thanks, Tom!

At the current writing, we are in mid-2023. As long as 5 years ago, it became pretty clear to many of the gurus who keep tabs on the trends of virus attacks and antivirus software, that the antivirus software that comes with Windows 10 and 11 is adequate protection for most users of Windows. Elegantly said by Majorgeeks, "While we wouldn't recommend Windows Security just a few years ago, it is an excellent choice, and you already have it included with Windows 10 [and also 11, ed.]. So with Win10 or 11, you are already protected with the built-in *Windows Security* (it used to be called Windows Defender).

So, what if some other antivirus package, or several, were previously installed? They might be using up needed resources and slowing your machine down. Whatever might be there, all you need do is to uninstall them (properly), and Windows security should automatically take over after a reboot. You don't want to just leave running pieces of unused programs there, because antivirus programs have a propensity for interfering with each other and may cause you grief if they run at the same time. Stick with Windows Security and uninstall everything else. If you want a little extra "oomph" in your protection, you can safely install the free version of Malwarebytes (downloaded over 16 million times from <https://www.majorgeeks.com/>). Run this once a month or more often as you wish. If it finds bad stuff, it will disable it at no charge, just for the asking. Or, if you wish to pay a yearly fee (about \$45), it will watch your back full time and prevent all kinds of attacks from ever taking hold, such as ransomware. And it will work quite happily at the same time Windows Security is running. It is known that you can install Malwarebytes and have Windows Security also running in the background and simultaneously protecting your machine, without interfering with each other or the normal operation of your computer.

By the way, to properly uninstall any program (including heavy duty antiviral programs like Avast, Avira, McAfee, Bitdefender, Norton, etc.), go to Majorgeeks (hyperlink in the previous paragraph). In the left column under **Files**, select **System Tools**, then **Uninstallers** and download **HiBit Uninstaller** (either the .exe or the portable version – your choice). Run that, including the **Advanced Scan with Automatic Cleanup**, and whatever you selected will be gone for good. The Uninstaller program by HiBit is probably the best uninstaller available anywhere, and it is free. Happy Computing!