8: Computer Security, including choosing and setting up (Free) AntiVirus apps

- When a computer falls victim to malware, a virus or any other type of cyber attack, its performance will be hindered significantly.
- A virus can take up a lot of memory, perform malicious actions in the background, disrupt the way in which your computer operates, make it difficult to access the internet and cause legitimate applications to crash. Overall, you'll find your computer a lot slower and more difficult to use.
- But an antivirus solution will prevent these things from happening.
- Hackers are increasingly launching devastating attacks on unsuspecting victims.
    - From spying on people's social media accounts to sealing their personal information, cyber crooks are causing mayhem online. And if they manage to hack into your computer because it's insecure, they can do more damage.
    - By downloading one of the best antivirus programs, you'll always be safe from the threat of hacking.
- It's likely that you store a great deal of important data on your computing device, from family photos to business documents.
- If you've not backed up your hard drive and a hacker then breaches your computer, you could end up losing everything on it.
- Worse still, cyber crooks can even tamper with your personal data.
- A good antivirus application will keep hackers out of your device and ensure the contents of your computer can't be deleted, stolen or changed.

- **WARNING**: When you purchase AntiVirus Software you will often agree to a 'continuous payment authority' so that they will charge you the **FULL** price on each annual anniversary. So the <£20 price becomes >£80. Unless you switch it off !

- Windows defender is FREE and works well on Windows ☺

- If not already installed Open https://aka.ms/WindowsDefender to go to Microsoft Defender in the Microsoft Store and select **Install**.
-

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9: Computer Security, including choosing and setting up (Free) AntiVirus apps

- **Use a firewall**
  - Windows has a firewall already built in and automatically turned on.
- **Keep *all* software up to date**
  - Make sure to turn on automatic updates in Windows Update to keep Windows, Microsoft Office, and other Microsoft applications up to date.
  - Turn on automatic updates for non-Microsoft software as well, especially browsers, Adobe Acrobat Reader, and other apps you regularly use.
- **Use antivirus software and keep it current**
  - If you run Windows you have Windows Security or Windows Defender Security Centre already installed on your device.
  - It helps protect all your devices - Windows, Mac, Android, and iOS.
- **Make sure your passwords are well-chosen and protected**
- **Don't open suspicious attachments or click unusual links in messages.**
  - They can appear in email, tweets, posts, online ads, messages, or attachments, and sometimes disguise themselves as known and trusted sources.
- **Browse the web safely**
  - Avoid visiting sites that offer potentially illicit content. Many of these sites install malware on the fly or offer downloads that contain malware.
  - Use a modern browser like Microsoft Edge or Google Chrome, which can help block malicious websites and prevent malicious code from running on your computer.
- **Stay away from pirated material**
  - Avoid streaming or downloading movies, music, books, or applications that do not come from trusted sources. They may contain malware.
- **Don't use USBs or other external devices unless you own them**
  - To avoid infection by malware and viruses, ensure that all external devices either belong to you or come from a reliable source.
- **Protect your personal information on line**
  - Your privacy on the internet depends on your ability to control both the amount of personal information that you provide and who has access to that information.

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