

Anti-virus: Personal Devices

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This article reviews **anti-virus** and **malware scanners** for **personal devices**. For College-provided devices, see [CrowdStrike Falcon Antivirus: Overview](#).

See also:

- [Malware and spam: Ransomware](#)
- [Password managers: Overview](#)

Anti-virus: Overview

Updated **anti-virus** is **essential** to protecting your device from malware and attackers, and is **required** per the [College's Acceptable Use policy](#). This differs from **malware scanners** in a few notable ways.

- **Anti-virus:** real-time, active defense against threats
- **Malware scanners:** on-demand scan of files, software, and processes

Attention: Real-time threats

An **malware scanner** will NOT actively detect and defend against malware, as a **scan must be initiated by you**.

Paid options

LITS recommends one of the following **paid anti-virus solutions** for personal devices of students, faculty, and staff. Each offering boasts the following features:

- Real-time protection
- Phishing and ransomware protection
- Disk cleanup
- System assessments

Windows



Bitdefender Internet Security [□](#)

1 device (\$60/yr)

macOS



Bitdefender Total Security [□](#)

5 devices (\$100/yr)



TotalAV Antivirus Pro [□](#)

3 devices (\$120/yr [□](#))

Free options

Warning: Mac users

There are currently **no FREE anti-virus solutions for macOS**. All options below are **malware scanners** and do not provide real-time defense.

LITS recommends the following **free security tools** to supplement responsible computer use and [security habits](#) [□](#).

Windows



Windows Security [□](#)

(Pre-installed with Windows 10 and 11)

macOS



MalwareBytes for Mac [□](#)
(Includes a trial for MalwareBytes Premium)



TotalAV Free [□](#)

Questions?

If you have any additional questions or problems, don't hesitate to reach out to the **Help Desk!**

Phone: 610-526-7440 | [Library and Help Desk hours](#) [□](#)

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