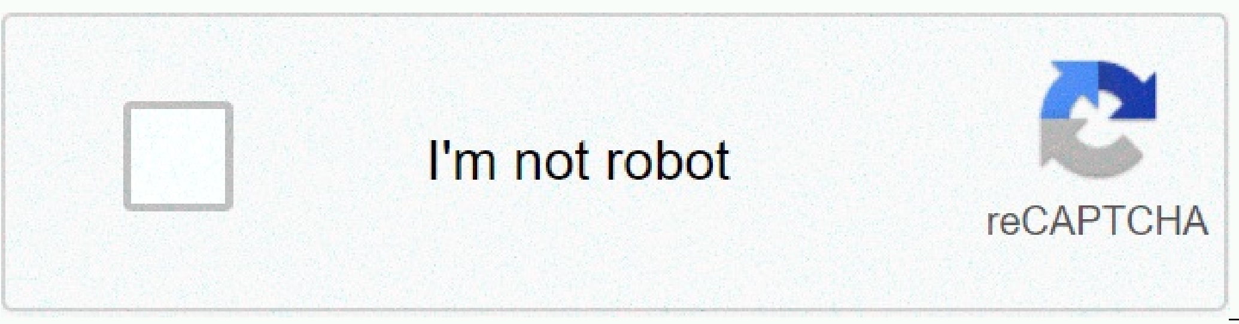

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Best antivirus for android 2018

If you've been watching tech news headlines over the past week, you've probably heard that Android malware is growing at an alarming rate, up about 472% from May this year. Should you be worried and drive away to buy and install an antivirus package for your Android phone? Not so fast, there is as much controversy over these tools as there is over malware itself. Yes, Malware for Android is real, and it growsThe one thing that can not be disproved is that the amount of malware for the Android platform has skyrocketed. After all, it's only natural for malware writers to target one of the most popular and fastest growing mobile platforms. Juniper's Global Threat Center, the group that created the report and this infographic that has raised eyebrows, points out that the flood of Android malware can be broken into two categories.SMS Trojans. SMS Trojans operate in the background of normal programs, sending SMS messages to premium numbers, or numbers that charge you every time an SMS is sent to them. In the same way that you can send a text message to vote for a result on a TV show (and conveniently pay show a fee to send that message), these Trojans send messages to numbers-often international-owned by the attacker. In fact, you don't even notice the unusual behavior until you review your cell phone bill, or check your account to see if it has recent sms activity. Of course, when you see it, the messages have already been sent, and your account has already been billed. SMS Trojans account for only less than half of all Android malware. Spyware. The lion's share of Android malware is actually spyware. Only more than half are applications that have deep access and permissions to your system, or that exploit android vulnerabilities to gain root access to the device, collect information about the device and user, and then send it back to the app's developer. Many of these apps masqueraded as legitimate ones, like a recent app that looked as much like the official Netflix app that it was hard to tell the difference. Juniper is not the only security research company that has highlighted the threat. A new report from McAfee, highlighted over at Neowin, says the same thing. Both research firms say that the bulk of malware is written by the same authors who were responsible for similar attacks on old Windows Mobile and Symbian devices years ago. In essence, it's not that Android has suddenly pulled in a new generation of malcontents, but that the older, more vulnerable platforms aren't as interesting anymore, and Android's lightning-snavicing rise and open architecture make it an attractive target. No, Mobile Anti-Malware Utilities for Android is not perfect, or even the same protection you get on your desktopTo combat the mobile malware threat, a number of security companies have released proprietary tools designed to keep you safe. Researchers will say that you need some kind of protection to keep your phone and data on it safe and secure. That may be true, but not everyone takes research companies like Symantec, McAfee and Juniper at their word. Google's Chief Evangelist, Chris DiBona, called out scientists for being charlatans and impostors and accused them of engaging in scareware. Admittedly, DiBona is not exactly an impartial observer, but there may be something to his concern. Unfortunately, although most mobile security tools offer valuable features such as data backup, remote wipe, remote lock and GPS tracking, DiBona notes that although there has been an increase in malware for the Android platform, there has not yet been an open and spreading infection among Android devices that we have seen on desktop computers. Part of the problem is that there is no simple transfer method between mobile devices in nature. Despite DiBona's concerns, security researchers say that mobile devices are essentially PDAs, and that they carry a lot of information about us that identity thieves would consider valuable. Despite this, security products available for Android do not offer the same level of protection as desktop security tools offer. There is no active scan of files or programs that enter memory, or regular checking of programs that are downloaded and installed. update: some of you have noted that some applications, like Lookout and ESET for Android, do offer real-time scanning, thanks! You can't just install a mobile security suite on your Android phone and assume you're safe no matter what you do. Until the security tools mature, the real weapon you have against Android malware is common sense. Don't install apps from unusual or suspicious sources and install only apps from the Android market or other trusted markets. Be sure to evaluate the permissions required by the apps you install before installing them or allow them to auto-update. Keep a close eye on your SMS and data activity even between billing cycles, and address any issues for your carrier as soon as you see them. Just like many smartphones added tethering support and good enough features that we wanted to use... Read moreIt VerdictWell, the question we started with was: Do Android antivirus software actually do anything? The simple answer is yes. They can be helpful, even if they are not bulletproof or even as protective as their stationary counterparts are. There are lots of Android malware out there, but up to the whole deal is that it's not terribly easy to get, if you use your phone normally. Although malware threats to Android are a bit exaggerated right now, security companies that are eager to sell you an antivirus package or app for your mobile device are at least providing a partially usable service. about their their are not ready for prime time to fight malware in nature, they give you other useful tools, like remote tracking or data wipe if your phone has been lost or stolen, backup for all your files and data, and more. At the same time, some apps have the same features for free. If you have installed Norton Mobile Security or McAfee Wavesecure, there is no need to uninstall it and ask for a refund. The utilities will only get better over time. Still, keep in mind that no mobile security app is a substitute for common sense. You can reach Alan Henry, the author of this post, on alan@lifehacker.com, or better yet, follow him on Twitter or Google+. Source: Nicole Johnston/ Android Central Best Antivirus Apps for Android Android Central 2020 We tested several antivirus software on Android mobile phones and tablets to learn that offer excellent protection against malware without causing too much drag on your device. Bitdefender Mobile Security is the overall best. In fact, it's my top pick for Windows and Mac antivirus, too. Bitdefender ranks high for malware protection, doesn't use too many resources, and includes some extra tools. It is also an overall good value. Source: Nicole Johnston/Android Central Bitdefender seems to be doing almost everything you need. It stops malware attacks and has web protection that warns of dangerous websites before you visit them. This app uses power management to use a bit of your phone's battery to avoid slowing down. This app also allows you to remotely connect to your phone to clear data, lock it down, or send a message to your device. You can also find it with this feature and connect it to your Android smartwatch to remind you to grab your phone or find it when left behind. This is a great way to track your phone if it is ever lost or stolen while also securing personal information. Bitdefender Mobile Security also has a VPN and allows you to send and receive 200 MB of encrypted traffic every day. This isn't much, but you can buy more. Bitdefender Mobile Security is, for the most part, easy to figure out how to use. The dashboard is overwhelming with tasks and information when you first open the app, but I was able to wipe away the features I didn't need. However, the VPN tool is permanently pinned to the dashboard. Stops malware attacks Minimal resource usage Phone locator Connects with Android smartwatches Have a VPN Great value Extra VPN encryptions cost more Dashboard can be difficult to interpret first Best cell phone protection Bitdefender stops threats from infecting your mobile devices, contains a VPN and does not cause slowdown. Source: Nicole Johnston / Android Central The basic version of is a free mobile security program that blocks both malware and spam. However, Avast's Ultimate program includes a VPN to hide your online activity. It includes a password manager to keep track of login login and a data shield to protect photos, contact information, and other sensitive files from being swiped. Avast Mobile Security removes ads, locks apps with a PIN to secure sensitive information, and clears debris from your phone so it runs faster and keeps weak points closed so hackers can't sneak in. It's Wi-Fi security places an extra layer of protection over your phone and its sensitive data while connected to public hotspots. The dashboard is clean and it's easy to find the tools you need. However, Avast does not make it easy to activate all its features. Some tools prompt you with links and permission requests. For others, you'll need to find more details and enable features under the Privacy section. You may also need to perform multiple, and different types of malware scans, before Avast finally finds all the corrupted and malicious files on your phone. Containing VPN Password manager Data shield Basic version is free Helps your phone run faster Clunky interface Scans can take multiple attempts Expensive Guards sensitive information Avast not only stops malware but protects sensitive information from ransomware and hackers. Source: Nicole Johnston/Android Central This app blocks phishing systems in both emails and text messages. Kaspersky also locks down both your and your contacts' information, so if someone steals your phone, no one will have access to this. This antivirus solution locks apps, filters calls and texts, and blocks malware, including ransomware. Kaspersky Mobile Antivirus contains several anti-theft tools, too, including a phone locator and lock to ensure that no one can access sensitive information. Its App Lock feature locks down photos, messages, and other apps with a secret code that must be entered before you, or anyone else, can access them. While Kaspersky is easily one of my favorite antivirus software, even for desktop computers, it has been accused of swiping sensitive information from federal employees and department devices and providing this information to the Russian government. While Kaspersky has vehemently denied these allegations, the U.S. government has ordered Kaspersky not to be used on its devices and recommend its employees do the same, even on their own, personal devices. Phishing Blockers Remote Phone Lockdown Ransomware Protection App Lock Protects Your Files Good Price Not Recommended for Government Employees Text and Email Protection Kaspersky keeps an eye on emails and text messages, including attachments, for dangerous links or files. Source: Nicole Johnston/Android Central One of McAfee Mobile Security's main features is the Theft Cam tool, which snaps a picture of anyone trying to access the phone without permission. The app then sends the image, along with the location of the phone, to to help track down the thief. If someone tries to access your phone, McAfee locks it after try to enter a password. The potential thief can't uninstall the McAfee app if they gain access, making the device less valuable if a thief wants to try to resell it. Otherwise, this app will help in other ways. It monitors Wi-Fi connections for potential hackers and locks your apps from unauthorized users. This is especially useful when connected to a public hotspot. McAfee has a VPN Proxy feature that encrypts your online activity with bank class encryption so you can't be tracked. I noticed a slight slowdown of my phone while testing McAfee. But the bigger issue I had was the number of popup notifications I received. Every time McAfee started a scan, completed a scan, opened or moved a file the app would give me a pop-up message, even when I was physically in the app watching scans. This can be fixed by changing the app settings, but I'd rather have a more simple plug-and-play type of application. Theft Cam feature Monitors Wi-Fi connections Phone locator Cheap VPN proxy feature For many system messages Some system slowdown Helps locate missing devices McAfee snaps pictures of anyone who steals your phone, allows you to remotely access and lock it, and locate it. Source: Nicole Johnston/Android Central Malwarebytes doesn't stop viral infections, but it does a really good job at rounding up malware that's already on your phone. It recognizes adware, or malicious files used to track your app's usage and online movements then create targeted ads based on that activity. Malwarebytes then remove them so you have more free space on your phone and a little more privacy. The malware scanner of this program recognizes ransomware and phishing systems and will alert you if anyone is on your device. If you upgrade to the Malwarebytes Premium program, you will get real-time protection that stops these and other threats before they do it on your phone in the first place. This antivirus app is completely free, and ad free. This means that you will never be bothered by pop-up requests to upgrade your subscription to the paid Malwarebytes version. It works with almost all Android phones and tablets, but unfortunately it's not compatible with Chromebooks. Removing adware Rounds up current infections Completely add free No real-time protection Not compatible with Chromebooks Adware removal with deep virus scans Malwarebytes removes adware, warns you of ransomware, and blocks phishing systems. Source: Nicole Johnston/Android Central Norton app did cause some lag on my phones during testing, but it does a great job stopping malware from downloading to devices. It also has tools that monitor your Wi-Fi connection to make sure hackers don't get through. This app also a system advisor who gives you tips on how to further protect your devices, such as setting up a fingerprint lock. As part of this program, you you use Norton's VPN. This feature protects your location and device IP while online. This makes it difficult for adware to track your online movements and create targeted ads. Since Norton now owns LifeLock, you have the option to add this tool to your antivirus subscription, but it costs extra. This app did cause some lag on my phones during testing. It was so obvious that the phones had become slower and it was frustrating to wait for the program to stop so my cell phone could catch up. Shields device IP and location Stops targeted ads Helps secure the entire phone System advisor gives you tips Access to Norton VPN Causes noticeable slowdown LifeLock costs extra scans your phone for vulnerabilities Norton looking for any way your phone is vulnerable and helps you secure it against malware, snoops, and hackers. Source: Nicole Johnston/Android Central This app scans for malicious downloads and applications running in the background that can slow down your phone, use up too much battery or cause the device to overheat. PSafe also includes fake news and spam blockers, and malicious link alerts in messaging apps, including WhatsApp. DFNDR monitors your digital identity to keep it safe and warns you if this information has ever been leaked. It also locks down the phone against hackers trying to access over public Wi-Fi connections. If your phone is stolen, dfndr lets an alarm, snaps and sends a picture of the thief to you, gives you the location of the phone and allows you to remotely access your phone to further secure or clear sensitive information from it. PSafe's antivirus mobile app is the messiest and most confusing to figure out on this list. There's so much on the dashboard that you have to scroll down several times before you see them all. Although there is some cool information here, DFNDR adds statistics and other generic tidbits that don't need to be front and center every time you open the app. Blocking fake news Stops malware files Digital identity protection Anti-theft Can find rogue background apps Messy dashboard Expensive Blocks fake news and fake links DFNDR keeps hackers from accessing the phone by monitoring internet connections and blocking fake news, links and websites. Source: Nicole Johnston/Android Central Sophos has a neat QR scanner that checks links for malware before connecting to scanned data. It filters text messages and quarantines those with malware URLs. With this app, you can remotely access stolen phones to clear data or reset passwords, send text commands to thieves, and track where your phone is. This isn't the most intuitive app to use. It took me a little while to figure out how to find the list of tools and activate the ones I wanted to use, and disable the ones I wanted to skip. Also, some of the directions on how to use some of the tools are not the clearest. Although Sophos Intercept X X compatible with multiple devices, I do not recommend Sophos for computer users because it is a difficult program to figure out, takes up a lot of resources, and is not very effective with overall protection. It's also not compatible with chromebooks at all. However, it's a great application to secure mobile devices, including Androids, and it's not nearly as resource-heavy as other apps are on the phone. QR scanner Remote Access Lost or Stolen Devices Protects against Malicious Apps Not Resource Heavy Free to Use Not recommended for use of home computer Not intuitive to use When you need a secure QR scanner Using its QR scanner, Sophos provides you with extra protection against malicious links, websites and files. Source: Nicole Johnston/Android Central Malware attacks, including ransomware, and phishing systems, stopped by Trend Micro's mobile antivirus app. It's designed to secure all your personal information so thieves or apps can't pull it. This app optimizes your phone by helping you identify apps that use up too much of your data. Trend Micro uses web recognition technology to ensure when you visit a web page it is a legitimate one and not a phishing system or a redirect to a malicious page disguised as a real one. This app also includes parental controls so you can manage what your child is watching on their smartphones, turn off apps, filter web content, or even restrict internet access during times when they're supposed to be lying in bed or doing homework. I did notice that using Trend Micro caused my battery life to decrease faster compared to other mobile antivirus software. Other users have reported the same problem with their phones. It doesn't seem to be a universal issue, but enough feedback about the problem warrants a mention. Parental Control Excellent protection against malware Web reputation technology Can help optimize your phone Guzzles resources Expensive Lockdown apps, block parental control websites, you can choose the apps your child can use, websites they can visit and if they can access the internet at all. Be careful when choosing a mobile security app for your Android because several apps, especially free ones, don't actually stop viral infections, but rather collect malware after they've made it to your device. Trojans and ransomware are manufactured for mobile devices at an alarming rate, so malware blocking on top of virus scans is important. Phishing filters are also needed because the most common malware is systems that trick you into providing personal information, including credit card numbers, account passwords, and Social Security numbers. Also, keep in mind that several antivirus apps offer a free version as the first download with an in-app purchase for the ad-free version. My top pick for Android antivirus is Mobile Security because of the quality of protection it gives you on top of being a good good During my tests, Bitdefender did an excellent job of stopping both malware files trying to download to our phones and phishing systems. It didn't use up much of my device resources, so I didn't notice any delay, even during virus scans. I opened and still used apps, texted and chatted on my phones without interruption or delay. Credits — The team that worked on this guide Nicole Johnston writes for several Future Publishing brands, including Android Central, which covers primarily internet security and privacy software. She has over 13 years of research and writing experience in both the public and private sectors, including seven years of testing and reviewing consumer products and five evaluating antivirus software, parental control, VPN and identity theft services. Nicole is the mother of 10 children. We can earn a commission for purchases using our links. Learn more. More.