

# Protecting Your PC

By **Alexander Baron** - Jun 20, 2015

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On June 29, Windows 10 will be released. You can check out reviews of the new interface on YouTube including by the people who came up with it. You will quite likely have also received an invitation for a free upgrade. I am currently using Windows 7, and received one recently. The current version is Windows 8 (there will be no Windows 9), and has its own anti-virus software, Windows Defender. This will be included with the new release, but will it be enough, or should you use another anti-virus program as well?

Sadly, in this day and age you need to both install anti-virus related software and take all the precautions you can, because the crooks and the vandals are never likely to be more than one step behind.

A good anti-virus program is *de rigueur*, and they don't come any better than **AVG**, which is still offering a free service. Check it out, and upgrade to the paid version which offers live on-line help as well as a forum and lots more.

The other AVG product I would recommend for your PC is its Tune-Up; this has a one-click setting which you can run while you are multitasking, although you will need to close your browser briefly at some point. The only criticism I would make of this program is the interface is virtually unintelligible, something it didn't use to be.

Another program worth investing in is **SpyHunter**, which detects and cleans malware. At one time this did not have a great reputation, but the company behind it appears to have cleaned up its act. SpyHunter is now in version 4; I've been using it for a few weeks, and it is a useful utility, one that is worth paying a relatively modest sum to supplement Windows Defender and AVG. As with AVG Tune-Up, you will need to close your browser at some point when running it. Talking of browsers, Internet Explorer is being replaced by Edge with Windows 10, and will shortly be phased out.

There are other utilities you can use either for free, free trial or for similarly modest subscriptions, but do check out the on-line reviews first. One pitfall to avoid is utilities that come with extras; always be careful when you install that you are installing only the software you want and not something that will interfere with especially your browsing. It is a good idea to download only from **Download Dot Com** or an official site.

Eusing Free Registry Cleaner is just what its name suggest, a freeware program, although when you visit the **official website** you will be invited to make a modest donation. AVG Tune-Up includes a registry cleaner, but there is no harm in running both programs.

Protecting your PC does not stop with anti-virus and anti-malware software though. Make sure your machine is always password protected, and back up your data daily (at least). If for some reason you don't have a memory stick to hand, you can back up to Google Drive.

Finally, check out the various forums and anti-scam sites every so often, including government sites, and if you receive an e-mail that is even slightly suspicious, don't click

any link.

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