

# You Don't Need Anti-Virus Anymore



David Nield 3/17/17 12:22pm Filed to: APPLE 32911 (Edited excerpts from: <http://fieldguide.gizmodo.com/you-dont-really-need-an-anti-virus-app-anymore-1793366446>)

Ten years ago the first thing you needed to load on a brand new computer were anti-virus and malware applications. Yet things have changed dramatically. Windows has much more robust security options built in, browsers are smarter, and, hopefully, so are the users.

## Browser and OS updates

The good news for the security-conscious computer user in 2017 is that OS and browser developers take security very, very seriously, and a lot of the protection that once required third-party apps (like tools to detect phishing sites) now comes built into whatever platform you're currently using.

All of that extra, built-in protection isn't worth much if you don't keep your operating system and browser updated at all times though. It's so important to system security that Google updates Chrome automatically whether you like it or not, and Microsoft pushes out Windows updates.

You'll find many of the hacks that hit the news refer to security holes that have since been patched, or that get patched pretty rapidly. Keeping your system up to date is one of the best ways to protect your system, and also one of the easiest—so don't neglect it.

Don't install more browser add-ons and plug-ins than you need to, and keep the ones that you do have up to date (Chrome and Firefox should do this automatically). If you struggle with passwords or just want an added layer of protection, password managers like LastPass or 1Password are worth considering

## Antivirus and firewall packages

A few years ago, any computer security article would start off with antivirus and firewall recommendations, and while these tools can still be very useful, they're no longer the be-all and end-all that they used to be. If you're on Windows 10 you have more built-in security than ever before, including a full antivirus package that kicks in if you don't install your own (Windows Defender), website filters, and plenty of advanced cloud-based protection on top as well.

From: <http://fieldguide.gizmodo.com/you-dont-really-need-an-anti-virus-app-anymore-1793366446>

Software: <https://www.lastpass.com/> <https://1password.com/> <https://www.zonealarm.com/software/free-firewall/>  
Browser safe: <http://fieldguide.gizmodo.com/8-extensions-that-should-make-your-browser-a-little-mor-1793325559>  
Browser secure: <http://fieldguide.gizmodo.com/18-ways-to-make-your-online-accounts-more-secure-1793250264>