

## Do you need to pay to ensure adequate Anti-Virus protection?

This is a common question and we would like to share some information with regard to current Internet and Anti-Virus protection for computers.

There are several different ways to acquire protection and there is nothing wrong with any one. Choosing the right path should be determined by the users comfort level with computer security and how powerful the computer currently is.

**Free** - Free Anti-virus software such as AVG Free, Avast, and Avira are great programs if you are a cautious surfer on the internet and want something that has a low impact on your computer's performance. The companies mentioned also offer paid versions of these products with enhanced protection features.

**Subsidized** - A few internet service providers include a protection package as part of their monthly service. Currently AT&T is providing a full McAfee Internet Security Suite for qualifying Customers. It's a great solution but be aware if you're computer is lacking in resources, especially RAM, as it can slow down your computer. If you computer is current and has the resource then McAfee is a reasonable offering. Comcast Xfinity provides Norton Security Suite free of charge. This should provide a good level of protection without too much load on your computer.



## Should I Pay?

**Paid** - Paid applications such as Trend Micro, Norton, and Kaspersky usually have many extra protection points and because it's a paid program you will always have access to updates and features as long as your subscription is current. We tend to like Trend Micro, as experience has shown it to have a low impact on the performance of your computer while providing top notch protection.

If you want to add protection for your Mac against Malware and Phishing scams Trend Micro also has a product called "Smart Surfing for Mac".