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A Ray of Hope in the Darkest Hour by Neha

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As businesses or individuals are getting crazy for their online presence, Internet attackers have found a new medium to afflict privacy and get hold of crucial data in a cheaper way. They are consistently developing new techniques to misuse the Internet, and spread or facilitate cyber-attacks. The fundamental theorem is to exploit the HTTP or HTTPS and other protocols and components related to email or IM, or malware attachments. However, practices are on to secure the online community through the latest techniques using secured website coding, robust firewall between client and WWW server, updated Windows operating system, advanced security software, etc. to ensure safe and secure communication, sharing and transactions. Nowadays, you are surrounded with security brands and products, but selecting the best can be a puzzling task.

AVG, Kaspersky, Panda, Symantec, etc. are some of the noted security players in the market which are soaked in research and development work to come out with better security solutions. Whether you need protection for your home PC or business PCs or network or mobiles, you can choose a suitable antivirus or Internet security software understanding requirement and system compatibility. However, reading antivirus reviews is recommended. Collect knowledge from tech media and tech support portals, like PC World, PC Mag, C-net, etc. and go through consumer reviews or interact with users through forum and blogs. Also give heed what software testing agencies like ICSA, AV-test, AV-Comparatives, etc. have their opinion regarding available software. They keep monitoring the effectiveness of different security software against the known and unknown Internet threats. Hence, itâ€™s helping those to come with better technologies, and you to translate online activities in a secure way. Factors-level of protection, potential vulnerabilities, product features and their effectiveness, support options and prices- put substantial influence on the decision making process.

Two swords canâ€™t lie in a same sheath, so go through the Control Panel (Windows) or Applications Folder (Mac) to locate and remove any obsolete or incompatible security products. If not comfortable with manual removal then relying on some third-party tools can help you. But never get a software or utility downloaded from any untrusted site, or take help from antivirus support portals. Nowadays, there are different tech support portals available on the Internet, which may come into your rescue on-demand. Experts can remotely unravel the facts hidden with Event Viewer, Registry Settings and Action Center in Windows or Utilities Folder and plists in Mac, and can troubleshoot your machine effectively to remove culprit software and install antivirus, with matching compatibility and features. Mere installation can be futile in absence of compatible browser or email clients. You should get the updated version, and try to have the latest compatibility or service packs for operating system and applications whenever required.

Apart from investing in software, you can make use of the various security features associated with the Windows versions. For example Windows Vista, Windows 7 and Windows 8 (yet to be released) hold BitLocker and BitLocker To Go features (available with Ultimate and Enterprise editions) that can help you to encrypt disk drives and USB drives to make your data inaccessible to outsiders. Action Center, User Account Control, Biometric Security, and AppLocker are other features to deter unauthorized users to make changes to your system. Windows Security Essentials is to clear off viruses and malware. Hence, you are a chooser; decide which path to follow, and which to un-follow.

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