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An antivirus software is a computer program that is used to scan files that will locate and remove computer viruses and other potentially malicious software. Computer users can easily rely on the advantages offered by virus protection tools as it serves to ensure better user experience. With ease and complete cyber security, an antivirus software that does its job properly can ensure that you are able to go online with peace of mind.

A computer virus removal software essentially makes use of the following strategies mentioned below to ensure the health of your network and PC:

- Monitoring files to check for known viruses through its internal virus dictionary.
- Investigating suspicious activity from other computer programs to immediately eradicate infection.

Suspicious behavior approach

Suspicious behavior approach does not try to locate known viruses, but rather, investigates the behavior of all programs. The user is notified and asked to perform an action if one program attempts to write data to an executable program, should, for example, this is flagged as suspicious behavior.

Suspicious behavior approach for antivirus softwares thus lends security against brand-new viruses that have no presence in any virus dictionaries. Be wary of constantly clicking "accept" without considering the content of its request. More often, this system is dated and modern antiviruses can now offer more dynamic protection.

Virus dictionary approach

In this approach, the antivirus monitors files and refers to a dictionary of known viruses, which have been located earlier by the author of the software. In this case, there is a similarity between the piece of code in the file and any virus identified in the dictionary. The anti-virus either deletes the file or keeps it in complete isolation so that the file is not reachable by other programs. Features of the software disable the spread of infection of viruses and also attempt to clean the file by eliminating the virus from its source.

To receive its long term benefits, the virus dictionary approach should be updated periodically online through downloads of updated virus dictionary entries. Dictionary-based anti-virus software basically investigates files when the computer's OS creates, opens, and closes.

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