Computer Security

(NAPSA)—Security for your computer doesn't have to be confusing—consider these tips.
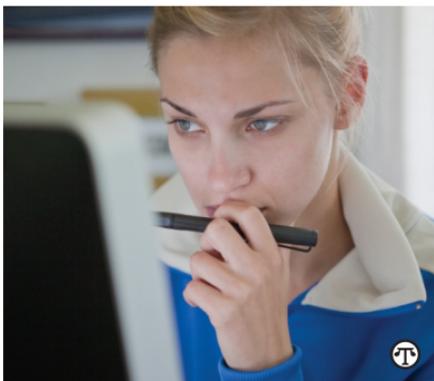
The Problem

With an increasing number of free and paid security software options available, many consumers are unable to differentiate one solution from the other. According to a recent Norton survey, 60 percent of consumers don't understand or only somewhat understand the difference between paid and free security software products.

Adding to the confusion, some software vendors give the impression that free or basic security will provide adequate protection against all types of online threats, thereby creating a false sense of security among those who use their products. However, free offerings can put consumers at risk and be more costly in the end.

An Answer

A comprehensive, up-to-date security suite can protect your computer from the latest viruses and other malicious programs that can cause it to perform slowly and your programs to crash.

Security software also protects important personal data on your computer from being stolen, exploited or used without your permission. That could lead to your losing irreplaceable data, such as photos and videos or credit card information. Most people understand the value of the information on their computer. When Norton, a leading provider of Internet security products, asked people if they would accept $1,000,000 in exchange for allowing strangers unlimited access to their computer, 71 percent said "No way!"

When it comes to online security, it can be wise to spend a little now to save a lot later.

Fortunately, a comprehensive Internet security suite will protect your personal information against the threats of today and tomorrow.

What You Need To Know

When picking out security software, keep these tips in mind:

• Identity protection features are critical for protecting against cybercriminals stealing your money and identity. Ensuring your security keeps your identity safe as you shop, bank and surf online.

• Look for products that provide proactive protection against known and unknown threats such as viruses, spyware and phishing attacks before they do damage to your computer. Key words to look for are "proactive protection."

• Choose a product from a trusted brand known for its expertise in security and buy from a trusted source. Hackers and cybercriminals are constantly evolving their methods and a well-known provider will have the resources and expertise to keep up. The security software from Norton offers comprehensive protection based on the way users actually behave online.