

Newsletter - August 2017 Backup Your Smartphone [and] Is Anti-Virus Obsolete?

This month I have two hopefully useful topics to help you keep your technology and data safe.

Backup Your Smartphone

Many folks recognize they need to keep their computers backed up, but some don't always realize that their smartphone is in fact a computer, and as such, also needs to be backed up. Those of you who read my February 2017 article got the lowdown on what happens when you don't backup everything. I thought I had all the bases covered (I did have 95% coverage), [but I missed one setting and paid the price](#).

Here are two articles, one for Android devices, and one for iPhone...

Android Backup: this works best if you have a gmail account, or can create a gmail account just for that purpose:
How to Backup Android Phones: ComptuerWorld.com

iPhone Backup: You have two options to backup your iPhone: via iCloud or via iTunes to your computer. Beware that the iCloud method uses up storage space on iCloud, and you may need to purchase additional space on iCloud to handle it. The iTunes method backs up to your local computer, and generally works best because the iCloud method requires a fast WiFi connection. [Apple Backup Options](#)

Handy Gadget of the Month: Inland USB3 Hub

Newer computers and laptops often come with a minimum number of USB ports, and if you're like me, you need more than 2 or 3 ports for all your gadgets. Enter the Inland USB3 Hub, which gives you 4 extra ports so you can get all your stuff plugged in. Only \$10.99 at Microcenter.com

Is Anti-Virus Obsolete?

The short answer is "No". But it is losing effectiveness due to new types of threats and speed at which those threats travel across the internet. The new threats are those that involve encrypting your data for ransom – once the data is encrypted, the game is over. The speed at which viruses travel across the internet is the Achilles' Heel of Anti-Virus: someone must be infected first before the virus can be analyzed, deconstructed, and a fix or "signature" created. If you are among the unfortunate first 1,000 or so people to be infected on "Day Zero" of a new virus, you are out of luck.

However, despite the media glare and focus on encryption hacking, the traditional type of "regular" viruses still exist, and there are significantly more "regular viruses" than encryption hacking. So the traditional anti-virus program is still a necessary tool for the protection of your computer and data. Anti-Virus vendors are racing to improve and evolve their products by adding features to prevent encryption hacking, so the situation will improve over the near term. But until then and always thereafter, the best defense is to be careful especially when surfing or using email with attachments. [Anti-Virus Effectiveness Article](#)

-John Becker