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If you've watched news tech headlines over the past week, you've probably heard that Android malware is growing at an alarming rate, something like 472% since May this year. If you are worried and run to buy and install an antivirus package for your Android phone? Not as fast, there is just as much controversy about these utilities as there is about malware itself. Yes, malware for Android is real, and it's growing. The one thing that can't be disproved is that the amount of malware for the Android platform has skyrocketed. After all, it is only natural for malware authors to target one of the most popular and fastest growing mobile platforms. The Global Threat Center for Juniper, the group that created the report and this infographic that raised eyebrows, indicates that the flow of Android malware could be disrupted by two categories. SMS Trojans. SMS Trojans work against the background of conventional applications by sending SMS messages to premium numbers or numbers that charge a fee every time sms is sent to them. In fact, you won't even notice unusual behavior until you review your cell phone account, or check your account to see if there has been a recent SMS activity. Of course, by the time you see it, messages have already been sent and your account has already been billed. SMS Trojans make up just under half of all Android malware. Spyware. The lion's share of Android malware is actually spyware. Just over half of them are apps that have deep access and permission to your system, or that use vulnerabilities in Android to gain root access to the device, collect information about the device and the user, and then send it back to the app developer. Many of these apps masquerade as legitimate, like the recent app that was so similar to the official Netflix app that it was hard to distinguish. G/O Media can get a commission. Juniper not just a security research firm that has highlighted the threat. A new McAfee report from Neowin says the same thing. Both research firms say that the bulk of the malware is written by the same authors who were responsible for similar attacks on old Windows Mobile and Symbian devices many years ago. In fact, it's not that Android is suddenly drawn into a new generation of disproportionate, but that older, more vulnerable platforms are no longer so and the rapid rise of Android and open architecture make it an attractive target. No, mobile anti-malware utilities for Android are not perfect, or even the same protection you get on your desktop to combat the mobile malware threat, a number of series Firms have released their own utilities designed to keep you safe. Researchers will tell you that you need some kind of protection to keep your phone and data on it safe. This may be true, but not everyone takes research firms like Symantec, McAfee, and Juniper at their word. Google's chief evangelist, Chris DiBona, called out researchers for charlatans and scammers and accused them of trading scarecrows. True, DiBona is not exactly an impartial observer, but there may be something of his problem. Unfortunately, while most mobile security tools offer valuable features such as data backup, remote wipe, remote lock and GPS tracking, DiBona notes that while there has been a rise in malware for the Android platform, there has yet to be an open and spread infection among android devices, as we have seen on desktop computers. Part of the problem is that there is no easy way to transfer between mobile devices in the wild. Despite DiBona's concerns, security researchers say that mobile devices are essentially laptop computers, and that they carry a lot of information about us that the identity of thieves will be considered valuable. Even so, the security products available for Android don't offer the same level of protection that desktop security tools offer. There is no active scanning of files or apps that enter memory, or regular verification of applications that are downloaded and installed. Update: Some of you have noted that some apps, like Lookout and ESET for Android, offer real-time scanning, thank you! You can't just install a mobile security set on your Android phone and assume that you'll be safe no matter what you do. Until the security tools mature, the real weapon you have against Android malware is common sense. Don't install apps from unusual or suspicious sources and only install apps from the Android market or other reliable markets. Make sure to evaluate the permissions required by the applications you install before installing them, or allow them to automatically update. Keep an eye on SMS and data activity even in between billing cycles and raise any questions to your operator as soon as you see them. Just as many smartphones have added tethering support and quite a large feature that we would like to use... Read more. In the verdict Ofwell, the question we started with was: Do Android antivirus apps actually have anything to do? The answer is simple: yes. They can be useful even if they are not bulletproof or even protective, like their desktop counterparts. There's a ton of Android malware there but the upside is that it's not very easy to get if you use your phone normally. Also, even if the malware for Android is a little overstated right now, security companies that want to sell you an antivirus package or app for your mobile device at least provide partially partially Service. Even if their apps aren't ready for prime time to fight malware in the wild, they give you other useful tools such as remotely tracking or destroying data if your phone has been lost or stolen, backing up for all your files and data, and more. At the same time, some apps have the same features for free. If you have installed Norton Mobile Security or McAfee WaveSecure, there is no need to delete them and ask for a refund. Utilities will only get better over time. However, keep in mind that no mobile security app is a substitute for common sense. You can contact Alan Henry, the author of this post, on alan@lifehacker.com, or better yet, follow him on Twitter or Google+. With the rise of malicious threats on Android, it definitely makes sense to use an antivirus app, but unfortunately, a new study shows many security apps have pathetic detection rates, so you need to choose wisely. Here are the ones that perform best. If you watched the news tech headlines last week, you've probably heard that Android... More than 41 Android virus scanners were inspected against 618 types of malware. Nearly two-thirds of them identified less than 65% of these types of malware, making them unsuitable or unreliable for your mobile security, the firm writes. The top 7 apps, those with green boxes on the chart above, are: Avast, Dr. Web, F-Secure, Ikarus, Kaspersky, Zonor, and Lookout. Using one of these apps, the report says, means you don't have to worry about malware protection. If you have a favorite app that has done badly on the AV-Test report (full PDF test here) it may not mean that it is completely useless if it has features such as remote lock and wipe or backup data, and there are problems in testing for active malware threats (AV-Test is used only by the most well-known malware families detected between August and December 2011). G/O Media can get a commission. Still if you're wondering what antivirus app to use on Android, this independent test offers some recommendations. Test: Android Malware Protection - March 2012 AV-Test via CNET Android has grown to become the largest computing platform on the planet, and this makes it a target. You can't spend a lot of time online without hearing about some new piece of Android malware that is going to definitely destroy your phone. These reports are always based in fact, but they may exaggerate the real risks of picking up a piece of malware, and identifying programs can be quite vague. Security firms tend to push a virus scanning app of some kind. However, Android is inherently more secure than a desktop computer, so maybe you don't need these security applications. You've probably already got what you need. Scare tactics. In the latest report av-Comparatives we learned that most antivirus

apps on Android do not even do to check applications for malicious behavior. They just use white/black lists to tag apps that is ineffective and makes them little more than a promotional platform with some fake buttons. Shocking and frustrating, isn't it? They can get away with it because the true Android viruses that take over your device are not as common as you expect. Malware can include softer threats, such as apps that collect personal information or cause pop-up ads. Android and other mobile platforms are rooted in the modern era, when programmers understood the dangers of the Internet. We have all been programmed what to expect from pc malware that can infiltrate your system simply because you visited the wrong website with a vulnerable browser. These downloads on the drive are not feasible on Android without an existing infection. On Android, you have to physically click on the notification to install the APK downloaded from a source outside the Play Store. Even so, there are security settings that need to be circumvented manually. So, what about malware in the Play Store? Again, it depends on what you mean by malware. The most serious security risks will never come to the store. Google's platform has the ability to scan known malware when it is downloaded. There's also a human review process in place for anything that looks even a little dubious. Sometimes you can hear about some malicious applications in the Play Store, usually associated with information collection or advertising fraud. Google is dealing with this quickly, but anti-malware apps won't catch this kind of thing. The solution pushed by AV companies is to install a security package that manually scans each app, tracks your web traffic, and so on. These apps tend to drain resources and are usually annoying with copious notifications and pop-ups. You probably don't need to install Lookout, AVG, Norton, or any of the other av apps on Android. Instead, there are some perfectly reasonable steps you can take that won't pull down your phone. For example, your phone already has built-in antivirus protection. What you should do to stay SafeYour's first line of defense is to just not mess around with the default Android security settings. To get Google certification, each phone and tablet comes with Unknown sources disabled in security settings. If you want to download ANK downloaded from outside Google Play, your phone will tell you to turn on this feature for the original app. Leaving this disabled keeps you safe from almost all malware Android because there is almost no it in the Play Store. There are legitimate reasons to unknown sources, however. For example, an Amazon Appstore client overloads the apps and games you buy, and many reputable sites re-post official app updates that roll out in multiple stages, so you don't have to wait Turn. Along with the Play Store, you also have Google Play Protect, which scans your apps for malicious activity. Play Protect updates are rolled out through Play Services, so you don't need system updates to stay secure. In most cases, installing a third-party AV app simply duplicates the work of Play Protect. Users have been rooting their Android phones ever since the first phones hit the market, but it's less common these days. The platform offers many of the features that people have used to take root in order to acquire. Using rooted Android is basically how the computer works in admin mode. While you can run your root phone safely, it's definitely a security risk. Some exploits and malware need root access to the function and are otherwise harmless even if you somehow install them. If you don't have a good reason to eradicate your phone or tablet, just don't open yourself up to this possibility. Android apps also exist, which may not be malware per se, but you may not want them on your phone because they snoop through your data. Most people don't read the permissions for the apps they install, but the Play Store makes all this information available. According to Android 6.0 and later, apps need to request access to sensitive permissions such as access to your contacts, local storage, microphone, camera, and location tracking. If your app has a reason to access these modules (such as a social media app), you're probably fine. If, however, the flashlight app asks for your contact list, you might want to think again. System settings include tools to manually revoke permissions for any application. It really just takes a bit of common sense to avoid Android malware. If you do nothing, keeping your downloads limited to the Play Store and other 100 percent reliable sources will keep you safe from almost all the threats out there. Antivirus applications are redundant at best and at worst harmful to your system's performance. Now read: read: best antivirus app for android free download. best free mobile antivirus app for android. best free antivirus app for android tablet. best free antivirus app for android 2019. best free antivirus app for android no ads. best free mobile security and antivirus app for android

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