

# Anti-Virus vs Firewalls

Features	Anti-Virus Software	Firewalls
Main Purpose	Detect, prevent, and remove malware from devices and systems, protecting against viruses, worms, ransomware, and other threats.	Control and monitor network traffic, filtering data packets to prevent unauthorized access and detect malicious activities.
Scope	Primarily focuses on endpoint security, targeting malware on individual devices and file systems.	Primarily focuses on network-level security, examining data packets moving in and out of the network.
Level of Protection	Complements firewalls by providing an additional layer of protection against malware and viruses on individual devices.	Acts as the first line of defense against unauthorized access and external threats entering the network.
Malware Detection	Uses signature-based detection, behavioral analysis, and heuristics to identify and eliminate malware on devices.	Uses deep packet inspection and intrusion prevention to detect malware signatures and unusual behaviors in network traffic.
Prevention Techniques	Quarantines or removes malware-infected files, prevents malicious code execution, and scans for malware during file downloads.	Blocks unauthorized traffic, prevents malicious connections, and filters specific ports and applications.
Typical Targets	Targets individual devices such as computers, laptops, smartphones, and tablets, protecting them from malware infections.	Protects network infrastructure, servers, and connected devices from external threats and unauthorized access.
Deployment	Installed on individual devices, either as standalone software or as part of a comprehensive security suite.	Installed at the network perimeter, gateway, and between different network segments.
Complementary Use	Anti-virus software is often used alongside firewalls and other security tools to provide multi-layered protection against various cyber threats.	Firewalls are often used in conjunction with anti-virus software and other security measures to create a comprehensive defense strategy.