- Computer viruses

HOW DOES ANTI-VIRUS SOFTWARE WORK?

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Anti-virus programs typically employ two methods to detect and eradicate their digital nemesis. The first is to check known virus signatures against a database, engineering a fix that directly matches the bug. Most anti-viral software relies on this method, drawing on the internet for its effectiveness by constantly updating the 'wild list' of known viruses, allowing patches to be developed and downloaded into your anti-virus database to keep it up to date.

The second method is simply to think like the virus coders, looking out for weaknesses in existing programs and then staking them out. Working closely with software manufacturers, anti-virus software coders can detect when a known program is behaving strangely, alerting everyone to a potential threat before developing an antidote.