Here is a **fully detailed, sentence-by-sentence breakdown** of the document titled **“124. Best Practices for macOS.docx”**, written as high-clarity **study notes**. This aligns directly with **CompTIA A+ 220-1102 (Objective 1.8)**, which covers **macOS tools, management, and security practices**.

**🧠 Study Notes – Best Practices for macOS**

**🛡️ Antivirus on macOS**

* Regardless of the operating system, **antivirus or anti-malware** should always be installed.
* **Myth busted**: Macs are **not immune** to viruses.
* Reason for fewer Mac viruses:
  + **Windows has 80–90% market share**, so most malware is targeted at Windows.
  + Attackers focus where the **largest user base exists**.
* Still, **macOS malware exists** and can cause serious damage.
* **Conclusion**: Always run antivirus on Macs.

**🧭 How to Stay Protected**

* Only **download apps from trusted sources**.
* Preferably, use the **App Store**:
  + Apple scans apps before release.
  + Reduces risk of malware-infected apps.
* If downloading outside the App Store:
  + Use **official websites** only.
    - Example: GIMP from gimp.org, Chrome from Google’s official site.
* Avoid downloading files (apps, images, music, movies, games) from:
  + **Pirate or shady websites** where malware may be embedded.

**🧰 Recommended Free Antivirus for macOS**

* Examples include:
  + **Avast**
  + **Sophos**
  + **Trend Micro’s Antivirus One**
* Choose one that suits your needs and use it consistently.

**🚨 Macs Can Spread Malware Too**

* A Mac might receive a **malicious Windows file**:
  + It won’t run on macOS…
  + …but forwarding it to a Windows user **could infect their system**.
* Therefore, antivirus helps:
  + **Protect your Mac**
  + **Prevent you from spreading malware to others**

**💾 Backups with Time Machine**

* Time Machine = **macOS built-in backup tool**
* Features:
  + **Local snapshots** (as space allows)
  + **Hourly backups** for last 24 hours
  + **Daily backups** for the past month
  + **Weekly backups** until disk fills up
* When the disk is full:
  + **Oldest backups are deleted** first

**💡 Best Practice:**

* Use a backup disk that is **at least 4x the size** of your main drive.
  + Example: If your Mac SSD is 1 TB → use a 4–8 TB backup drive.

**🧳 Time Machine Benefits:**

* Restore **files or folders** easily if something breaks.
* When buying a new Mac:
  + Easily **transfer data from old Mac** using Time Machine.

**🔄 Updates & Patches**

* macOS, like Windows, needs **regular patching** for security.
* Apps from the **App Store**:
  + Updated via **App Store > Updates tab**
* macOS system updates:
  + Access through **System Preferences > Software Update**

**🧭 Example of System Update Settings**

* Update check shows **last check time** (e.g., 12:34 PM)
* Set to **automatically keep Mac up to date**

**⚙️ Advanced Update Options**

Accessible via **Advanced button** in Software Update panel:

Options include:

* ✅ Check for updates
* ✅ Download new updates when available
* ✅ Install macOS updates automatically
* ✅ Install app updates from App Store
* ✅ Install **system data files** and **security updates**

You can:

* Enable automatic updates (recommended)
* OR disable for **manual control**

✅ Recommended: **Keep automatic updates ON** for:

* Better security
* Reduced risk of missing critical patches

**🛑 Force Quit Applications (When Crashed)**

* Sometimes apps stop responding.
* macOS **does not have Task Manager** like Windows.

**🔧 How to Force Quit**

1. Click Apple icon (top left)
2. Choose **Force Quit**
3. A window lists all **open apps**
4. Select app > Click **Force Quit**
5. Confirm action

⚠️ Warning:

* You will **lose unsaved work** in the app when force quitting.
* Use only when app is **frozen/unresponsive**

**🏢 Corporate Best Practices for macOS**

**🧩 Use Mobile Device Management (MDM)**

* Corporations should enroll Macs in **Apple Business Manager**.
* Allows:
  + **Supervision** of device usage
  + **Restricting app installation/removal**
  + **Remote location tracking**
  + **Enforcing updates & patch policies**

✅ Prevents unauthorized software

✅ Maintains **centralized control**

✅ Ensures all corporate devices are **secure & compliant**

**✅ Summary Table – Best Practices Overview**

| **Category** | **Best Practice** |
| --- | --- |
| **Antivirus** | Always install & use antivirus software (e.g., Sophos, Avast) |
| **Safe Downloads** | Use App Store or official developer sites |
| **Backups** | Use Time Machine + disk ≥ 4x Mac’s internal drive |
| **Updates** | Keep automatic OS and app updates turned ON |
| **Crash Recovery** | Use Force Quit to close frozen apps |
| **Enterprise Use** | Use Apple Business Manager for MDM and control |

**🎯 CompTIA A+ 220-1102 Relevance (Objective 1.8)**

This lesson teaches:

* Real-world **macOS system maintenance**
* Use of **Time Machine**, **Force Quit**, **Software Update**
* Importance of **antivirus**, even on Macs
* Knowledge of **Apple Business Manager** for IT environments

You are expected to:

* Recognize macOS-specific **tools** and **methods**
* Compare macOS practices with **Windows equivalents**
* Understand **corporate management solutions** for macOS