

# How to Enable Windows Defender's Limited Periodic Scanning

**Note:** This is necessary only if you have installed another antivirus program.

This option is named “limited periodic scanning,” to be activated after you have installed a third-party antivirus product. With this enabled, Windows Defender will occasionally perform a scan to check for any malware that your primary antivirus product may have missed. However, it's not enabled by default. You will want to enable it.

To access it:

1. Go to Settings (Windows key + I).
2. Click on Update & Security, then Windows Security.
3. Click on the Open Windows Security box. Also note that a white shield representing the Windows Defender Security Center is located on the Taskbar, just to the left of the time/calendar.
4. This action will take you to the Security Center where your computer's protection is being monitored.
5. Click on the Open Windows Security button to view the seven functions of Windows Security.

You can only enable this feature if you're using another antivirus program. If you haven't installed another antivirus program, Windows Defender is already enabled and is helping protect your computer with both real-time and scheduled system scans. Windows Defender will automatically be updated with the latest antivirus applications through regular Windows Update.