

## HELP PROTECT MY PC WITH MICROSOFT DEFENDER OFFLINE

Microsoft Defender Offline is a powerful offline scanning tool that runs from a trusted environment without starting your operating system.

Run Microsoft Defender Offline if:

- Windows Security detects rootkits or other highly persistent malware on your PC and alerts you to use Microsoft Defender Offline. You might see a message stating that malware was found on your device or receive a message in Windows Security notifying you that additional cleaning is required.
- You suspect your PC might have malware that's hiding on it, but your security software doesn't detect anything. In this situation, you can start a Microsoft Defender Offline scan from Windows Security settings. Here's how:
  1. Select **Settings (Windows key + I) > Update & Security > Windows Security > Virus & threat protection**.
    - On the Virus & threat protection screen under **Current threats**, select **Scan options**.
  2. Select **Microsoft Defender Offline scan**, and then select **Scan now**.

☐ Quick scan  
Checks folders in your system where threats are commonly found.

☐ Full scan  
Checks all files and running programs on your hard disk. This scan could take longer than one hour.

☐ Custom scan  
Choose which files and locations you want to check.

☒ Microsoft Defender Offline scan  
Some malicious software can be particularly difficult to remove from your device. Microsoft Defender Offline can help find and remove them using up-to-date threat definitions. This will restart your device and will take about 15 minutes.

Scan now

You'll be prompted that you're about to be signed out of Windows. After you are, your PC should restart. Microsoft Defender Offline will load and perform a quick scan of your PC in the recovery environment. When the scan has finished (usually takes about 15 minutes), your PC will automatically restart.

**Notes:**

- Before you use Microsoft Defender Offline, make sure you save any open files and close all apps and programs.
- You typically need administrator rights on the PC on which you plan to run Microsoft Defender Offline.
- If you experience a Stop error on a blue screen when you run the offline scan, force a restart and try running a Microsoft Defender Offline scan again. If the blue-screen error happens again, contact [Microsoft Support](#).

Where can I find scan results?

To see the Microsoft Defender Offline scan results:

1. Select **Settings (Windows key + I) > Update & Security > Windows Security > Virus & threat protection**.
2. On the Virus & threat protection screen, under **Current threats**, select **Scan options**, and then select **Protection history**.