

Microsoft SmartScreen

SmartScreen is a cloud-based anti-phishing and anti-malware component included in several Microsoft products, including Windows 10, Microsoft Edge and Outlook.com. It is designed to help protect users against attacks that utilize social engineering and drive-by downloads to infect a system by scanning URLs accessed by a user against a blacklist of websites containing known threats. Microsoft placed the SmartScreen settings into the Windows Defender Security Center.

Microsoft Defender SmartScreen helps you identify reported phishing and malware websites and also helps you make informed decisions about downloads.

SmartScreen helps protect you in three ways:

- As you browse the web, it analyzes pages and determines if they might be suspicious. If it finds suspicious pages, SmartScreen will display a warning page, giving you an opportunity to provide feedback and advising you to continue with caution.
- SmartScreen checks the sites you visit against a dynamic list of reported phishing sites and malicious software sites. If it finds a match, SmartScreen will show you a warning letting you know that the site has been blocked for your safety.
- SmartScreen checks files that you download from the web against a list of reported malicious software sites and programs known to be unsafe. If it finds a match, SmartScreen will warn you that the download has been blocked for your safety. SmartScreen also checks the files that you download against a list of files that are well known and downloaded by many people who use Edge. If the file that you are downloading isn't on that list, SmartScreen will warn you.

What can I do if SmartScreen warns me about a site I visit, but it's safe?

From the warning page, you can choose to report this site as a safe site. Select *More information*, and then select the *Report that this site does not contain threats* link to go to the Microsoft feedback site. Follow the instructions.

If you visit a site that you think SmartScreen should warn you about in the future, you can report it to Microsoft by clicking the *Tools* button, pointing to *Safety*, and then choosing *Report unsafe website*.

To turn SmartScreen on or off in Microsoft Edge:

1. Open Microsoft Edge (click the Edge icon on the Taskbar)
2. Select **Settings and more** (three dots in upper right corner)
3. Click on **Settings**, then **Privacy search & services**.
4. In the right column, Scroll down to **Services** (it will appear near the end of the long list)
5. Turn **Microsoft Defender SmartScreen** on or off.

Is SmartScreen different from Pop-up Blocker?

Yes. SmartScreen checks the sites you visit and the files you download for threats to your security. A Pop-up Blocker just blocks most pop-ups, which are usually advertisements and aren't necessarily malicious.