

WINDOWS DEFENDER AND FIREWALL

Windows Defender is included with Windows 10 and helps keep malware from infecting your PC in two ways:

- ✓ Providing real-time protection. Windows Defender notifies you when malware tries to install itself or run on your PC. It also notifies you when apps try to change important settings.
- ✓ Providing anytime scanning options. Windows Defender automatically scans your PC for installed malware on a regular basis, but you can also start a scan whenever you want. Windows Defender automatically removes (or temporarily quarantines) anything that's detected during a scan. A Quick scan is usually adequate. However, if you suspect trouble that's causing your computer to hiccup, do a manual Full scan. Just remember that a Full scan can take a couple hours to complete.

To access Windows Defender, type *defender* in the search box to the right of the Start menu, then click on the *Windows Defender* that appears at the top of the list.

Please note: If you install a 3rd party antivirus (AV) program, Microsoft will automatically turn off Windows Defender. In this case you will not be able to turn on Windows Defender again until the 3rd party AV program has been completely uninstalled. As an excellent complement to Windows Defender, many gurus advise that you download and install **MALWAREBYTES' ANTI-MALWARE FREE**. The third-party application is a perpetual favorite among security experts. It's not uncommon to find another company's tech support agents calling on Malwarebytes to clean up a stubborn infestation. It's a tiny download, it installs quickly, and it gets right to business. What it won't do is protect your system from attack. The product's paid edition offers malware blocking, but it's not very effective. Unless you purchase the commercial edition, you will need to run it manually. Neither the free version nor the commercial version will conflict with Windows Defender.

ACCESS THE WINDOWS FIREWALL

Type *firewall* while you are on the *Ask me anything* box. Click on Windows Firewall at the top of the column. Here you will find tools to turn the firewall on or off as well as configure behaviors for public and private networks. Advanced settings for the Windows Firewall are also accessed here.