

# 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.