

WINDOWS DEFENDER SECURITY CENTER

Microsoft has introduced Windows Defender Security Center to make it easier for us to view and control our chosen security protections and better understand the security features already protecting us on our Windows 10 computers.

The Security Center appears as an icon that looks like a shield on the far-right side of the Taskbar. It installed quietly with the 1703 build of April 2017. To access it, right-click on the shield and then click *open*. If you can't find the shield, look for Windows Defender Security Center under the Apps list in the Start Menu.

The Windows Defender Security Center includes five pillars that give you control and visibility of your computer's security, health and online safety experiences. A green check mark will appear for four of the critical areas that we should be monitoring if no actions are needed. In addition, a green check mark will appear on the taskbar shield itself if everything about your computer's security, health, and safety is normal.

Virus & threat protection provides a new view of your antivirus protection whether it's Windows Defender Antivirus that comes free with Windows 10 or AV software from a third party. If you've chosen Windows Defender Antivirus, your scan results and threat history will be displayed here, or you will be able to launch your 3rd party AV protection app directly from this screen.

Device performance & health provides a single view of your latest Windows updates, drivers, battery life and storage capacity. Additionally, you have the option to start fresh with a clean install of Windows using the *Refresh Windows* feature. This option will keep your personal files and some Windows settings, and remove most of your apps for a fresh start that can help with performance improvements should your device need them.

Firewall & network protection provides information on the network connections and active Windows Firewall settings, as well as links to network troubleshooting information.

App & browser control allows you to adjust settings for SmartScreen for apps and browsers helping you be more informed and stay safer online by warning you of potential malicious sites, downloads and unrecognized apps and files from the Internet.

Family options gives you an easy way to connect to the family options available online.