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What can I do to prevent this in the future?

If you are on a personal connection, like at home, you can run an anti-virus scan on your device to make sure it is not infected with malware.

If you are at an office or shared network, you can ask the network administrator to run a scan across the network looking for misconfigured or infected devices.

Another way to prevent getting this page in the future is to use Privacy Pass. You may need to download version 2.0 now from the Chrome Web Store.

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How to fix 'This app has been blocked for your protection' prompt on Windows 10 PC.

Yes, it is a good thing that Windows 10 has security features like Defender SmartScreen built in, but sometimes they get in the way. You really want to install this app — you know there's nothing wrong with it — but you're locked out.

Windows Defender SmartScreen acts as a sort of guard dog while you use Windows 10. It will block you from opening some apps if they come from an unknown place or are created by an unknown publisher. While these steps will get you around the Windows 10 block, you should use them with care. Some apps really are harmful and really will get you in a mess. Only go around the Windows 10 app block if you know for sure that the file is safe.

How to open a file blocked by Windows Defender SmartScreen.

If a file you know is safe is going to give you trouble when you attempt to launch it, you can quickly give it permission to open.

Navigate to the file or program that's being blocked by SmartScreen. Right-click the file .

Click Properties .

Click Apply .

The file should now be treated as safe by SmartScreen and you'll be allowed to open it. If you're running into further problems, try running the program as an Administrator in addition to the steps above.

How to disable Windows Defender SmartScreen.

Although not recommended, SmartScreen can be disabled through Windows Defender. If you must completely disable SmartScreen, we recommend re-enabling it soon after.

Launch Windows Defender Security Center from your Start menu, desktop, or taskbar. Click the App and browser control button on the left side of the window.

Click Off in the Check apps and files section.

Click Off in the SmartScreen for Windows Store apps section.

SmartScreen is now completely disabled. If you'd like to still receive a warning when a potentially malicious file or program is detected, you can choose Warn in each SmartScreen section.

How to enable Windows Defender SmartScreen.

Once you've done everything that SmartScreen was preventing you from doing, you should immediately go back and re-enable it. Even if the file or program you were working with was known not to be malicious, forgetting to enable SmartScreen could lead to big problems in the future.

Launch Windows Defender Security Center from your Start menu, desktop, or taskbar. Click the App and browser control button on the left side of the window.

Click Block in the Check apps and files section.

Click Warn in the SmartScreen for Windows Store apps section.

More resources.

When attempting to download a file through Microsoft Edge, you might sometimes run into a SmartScreen block. Use this guide to get around it and download the files you want.

Updated August 1, 2018: I've refreshed this guide to ensure you're still getting current information about SmartScreen and how to get around it.

Minecraft Earth has officially closed its doors down for good.

Right on schedule, Mojang Studios has offered one last farewell as Minecraft Earth closes down for good. The game will no longer be available or be functional.

Grounded's Shroom and Doom Update is now available to everyone.

The Shroom and Doom Update is one of the biggest releases yet for Grounded's early access, and it's now available to everyone. Highlights of the update include all-new building pieces and crafting recipes, the ability to tame pets, the terrifying Broodmother boss, Achievements, and more.

Yeah, the Lumia 950 XL can technically run Windows 11, because why not?

For no real good reason besides "Can it be done?" someone has put Windows 11 on a Microsoft Lumia 950 XL smartphone from six years ago.

These are the best PC sticks when you're on the move.

Instant computer — just add a screen. That's the general idea behind the ultra-portable PC, but it can be hard to know which one you want. Relax, we have you covered!

App and browser control.

The App and browser control section contains information and settings for Windows Defender SmartScreen. IT administrators and IT pros can get configuration guidance from the Windows Defender SmartScreen documentation library.

In Windows 10, version 1709 and later, the section also provides configuration options for Exploit protection. You can prevent users from modifying these specific options with Group Policy. IT administrators can get more information at Exploit protection.

You can also choose to hide the section from users of the machine. This can be useful if you don't want employees in your organization to see or have access to user-configured options for the features shown in the section.

Prevent users from making changes to the Exploit protection area in the App & browser control section.

You can prevent users from modifying settings in the Exploit protection area. The settings will be either greyed out or not appear if you enable this setting. Users will still have access to other settings in the App & browser control section, such as those for Windows Defender SmartScreen, unless those options have been configured separately.

You can only prevent users from modifying Exploit protection settings by using Group Policy.

Requirements.

You must have Windows 10, version 1709 or later. The ADMX/ADML template files for earlier versions of Windows do not include these Group Policy settings.

On your Group Policy management machine, open the Group Policy Management Console, right-click the Group Policy Object you want to configure and click Edit .

In the Group Policy Management Editor go to Computer configuration and click Administrative templates .

Expand the tree to Windows components > Windows Security > App and browser protection .

Open the Prevent users from modifying settings setting and set it to Enabled . Click OK .

Hide the App & browser control section.

You can choose to hide the entire section by using Group Policy. The section will not appear on the home page of the Windows Security app, and its icon will not be shown on the navigation bar on the side of the app.

This can only be done in Group Policy.

Requirements.

You must have Windows 10, version 1709 (the Fall Creators Update). The ADMX/ADML template files for earlier versions of Windows do not include these Group Policy settings.

On your Group Policy management machine, open the Group Policy Management Console, right-click the Group Policy Object you want to configure and click Edit .

In the Group Policy Management Editor go to Computer configuration and click Administrative templates .

Expand the tree to Windows components > Windows Security > App and browser protection .

Open the Hide the App and browser protection area setting and set it to Enabled . Click OK .

If you hide all sections then the app will show a restricted interface, as in the following screenshot:

Set up and use Microsoft Defender SmartScreen on individual devices.

Microsoft Defender SmartScreen helps to protect users if they try to visit sites previously reported as phishing or malware websites, or if a user tries to download potentially malicious files.

How users can use Windows Security to set up Microsoft Defender SmartScreen.

Starting with Windows 10, version 1703, users can use Windows Security to set up Microsoft Defender SmartScreen for an individual device; unless an administrator has used Group Policy or Microsoft Intune to prevent it.

If any of the following settings are managed through Group Policy or mobile device management (MDM) settings, it appears as unavailable to the employee.

To use Windows Security to set up Microsoft Defender SmartScreen on a device.

Open the Windows Security app, and then select App & browser control > Reputation-based protection settings .

In the Reputation-based protection screen, choose from the following options:

In the Check apps and files area:

On. Warns users that the apps and files being downloaded from the web are potentially dangerous but allows the action to continue.

Off. Turns off Microsoft Defender SmartScreen, so a user isn't alerted or stopped from downloading potentially malicious apps and files.

In the Microsoft Defender SmartScreen for Microsoft Edge area:

On. Warns users that sites and downloads are potentially dangerous but allows the action to continue while running in Microsoft Edge.

Off. Turns off Microsoft Defender SmartScreen, so a user isn't alerted or stopped from downloading potentially malicious apps and files.

In the Potentially unwanted app blocking area:

On. Turns on both the 'Block apps' and 'Block downloads settings. To learn more, see How Microsoft identifies malware and potentially unwanted applications.

Block apps. This setting will prevent new apps from installing on the device and warn users of apps that are existing on the device.

Block downloads. This setting will alert users and stop the downloads of apps in the Microsoft Edge browser (based on Chromium).

Off. Turns off Potentially unwanted app blocking, so a user isn't alerted or stopped from downloading or installing potentially unwanted apps.

In the Microsoft Defender SmartScreen from Microsoft Store apps area:

On. Warns users that the sites and downloads used by Microsoft Store apps are potentially dangerous but allows the action to continue.

Off. Turns off Microsoft Defender SmartScreen, so a user isn't alerted or stopped from visiting sites or from downloading potentially malicious apps and files.

How Microsoft Defender SmartScreen works when a user tries to run an app.

Microsoft Defender SmartScreen checks the reputation of any web-based app the first time it's run from the Internet, checking digital signatures and other factors against a Microsoft-maintained service. If an app has no reputation or is known to be malicious, Microsoft Defender SmartScreen can warn the user or block the app from running entirely, depending on how you've configured the feature to run in your organization.

By default, users can bypass Microsoft Defender SmartScreen protection, letting them run legitimate apps after accepting a warning message prompt. You can also use Group Policy or Microsoft Intune to block your employees from using unrecognized apps, or to entirely turn off Microsoft Defender SmartScreen (not recommended).

How users can report websites as safe or unsafe.

Microsoft Defender SmartScreen can be configured to warn users from going to a potentially dangerous site. Users can then choose to report a website as safe from the warning message or as unsafe from within Microsoft Edge and Internet Explorer 11.

To report a website as safe from the warning message.

On the warning screen for the site, click More Information , and then click Report that this site does not contain threats . The site info is sent to the Microsoft feedback site, which provides further instructions.

To report a website as unsafe from Microsoft Edge.

If a site seems potentially dangerous, users can report it to Microsoft by clicking More (.) , clicking Send feedback , and then clicking Report unsafe site .

To report a website as unsafe from Internet Explorer 11.

If a site seems potentially dangerous, users can report it to Microsoft by clicking on the Tools menu, clicking Windows Defender SmartScreen , and then clicking Report unsafe website .

Related topics.

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