

# 3 ways to scan Windows 10 system-wide viruses with Microsoft Defender

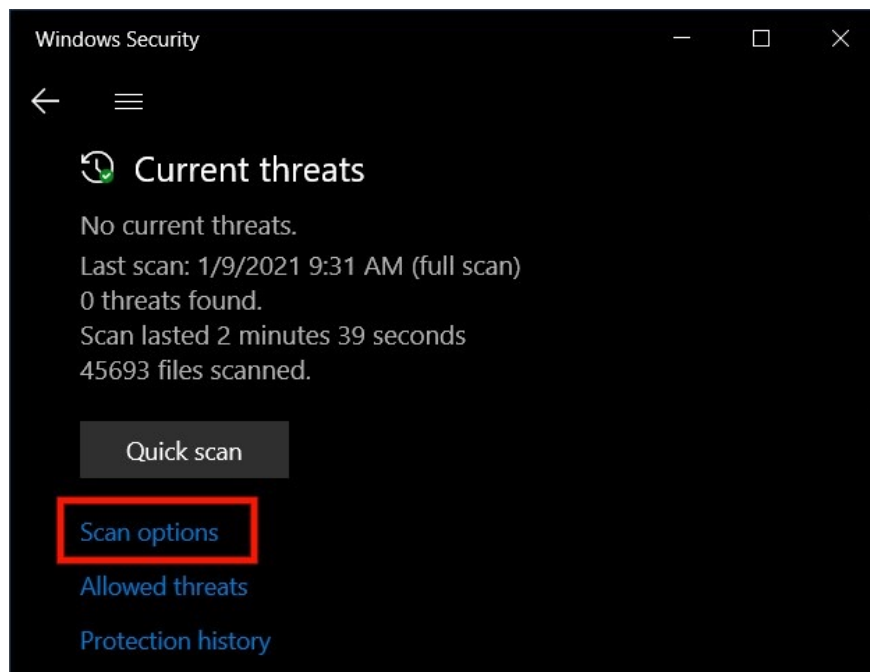
Windows 10 comes with Microsoft Defender security software built in. This software regularly checks and periodically scans to detect, prevent and destroy viruses, malware ... from entering your computer.

However, sometimes you still need to do a manual full system virus scan to make sure everything is safe. In this article, we will guide you on how to scan the entire Windows 10 system for viruses using Microsoft Defender.

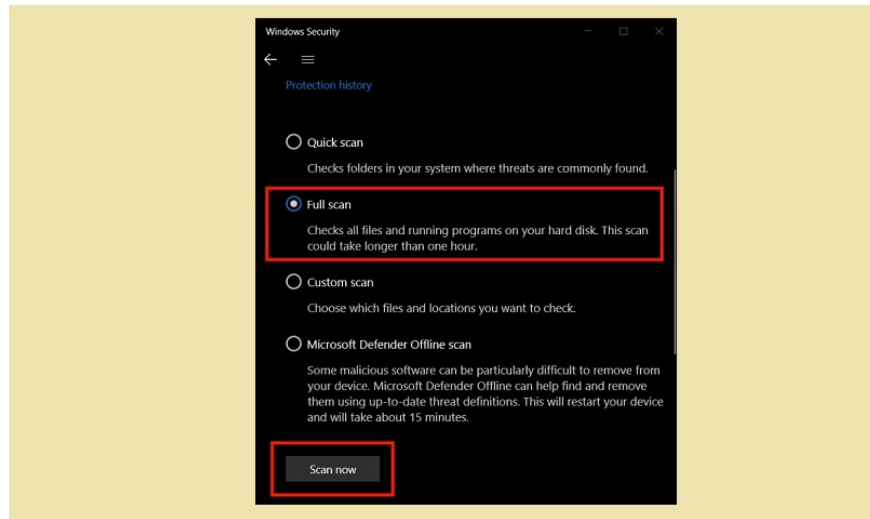
## 1. Use Windows Security

To perform a virus scan of the entire Windows 10 system with Microsoft Defender via Windows Security, follow these steps:

1. Press the **Windows** button to open the **Start menu**
2. Enter **Windows security** and click on the first search result
3. Click **Virus & threat protection**
4. Under **Current threats** , click **Scan Options**



1. Select **Full scan** to check the entire system
2. Click the **Scan now** button



After that, Microsoft Defender will scan your device for viruses or malware . If it detects these security software threats, it will automatically remove or put them in isolation.

Scanning time depends on the amount of data on your computer. If you have a lot of data, you should start scanning when you're done and let your computer do an overnight scan.

## 2. Use Command Prompt

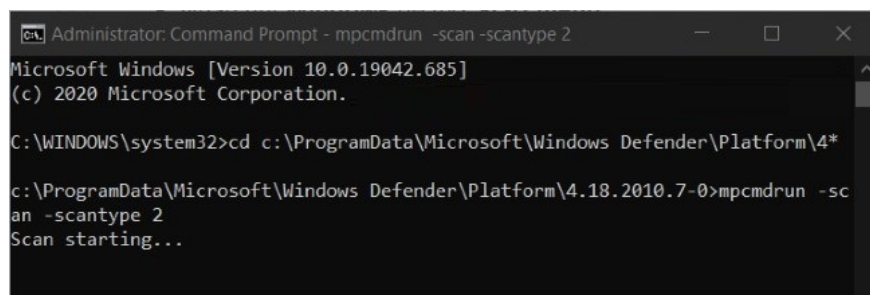
To scan the entire system for viruses with Command Prompt, follow these steps:

1. Press the **Windows** button to open the **Start menu**
2. Type **command prompt** , right-click on the first search result and select **Run as administrator**
3. Enter the following command line into the **Command Prompt** and press **Enter** to access the latest Microsoft Defender software:

```
cd c:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows Defender\Platform\4*
```

1. Enter the following command and press **Enter** to conduct the scan:

```
mpcmdrun -scan -scantype 2
```



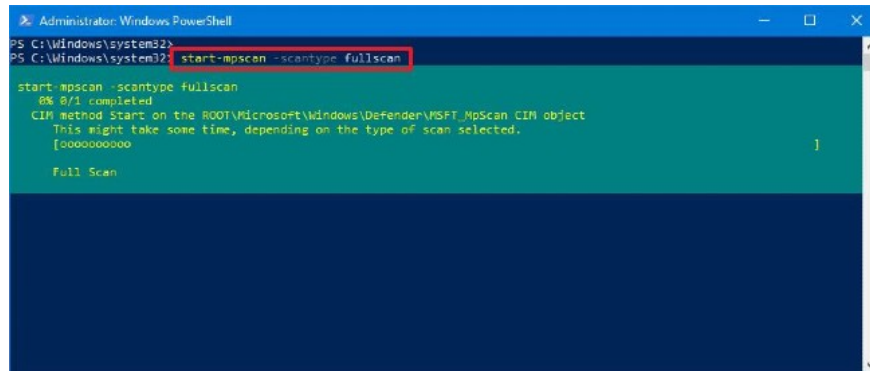
After you complete this step, the anti-virus software will start scanning for viruses. You should see **Start scanning** status in the command **prompt** and when the scan is finished you will receive the **Scan finished** message .

### 3. Use PowerShell

You can also use PowerShell to enable full virus scanning of Windows 10 system.

1. Press the **Windows** button to open the **Start menu**
2. Type **powershell** and right-click on the first search result, then select **Run as administrator**
3. Type the following command into **PowerShell** and press **Enter** :

```
start-mpscan -scantype fullscan
```



```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32
PS C:\Windows\system32 start-mpscan -scantype fullscan

start-mpscan -scantype fullscan
8% 8/1 completed
CIM method Start on the ROOT\Microsoft\Windows\DEFENDER\MSFT_MpScan CIM object
This might take some time, depending on the type of scan selected.
[oooooooooooo]
Full Scan
```

After you complete this step, Microsoft Defender will conduct a full virus scan of Windows 10 system to remove all viruses and malware it detects.

Good luck.

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