



Staying safe online

Protect yourself from viruses (the digital kind!)

Viruses can do a lot of damage to your computer, they can steal your personal information, delete or damage your files, slow down your computer, or stop it from working altogether. Therefore, they are definitely something you want to avoid getting on your device.

Cybercriminals are making it much more difficult to spot potential viruses. If you follow the tips below, you'll have a better idea of how to spot and prevent online viruses.

Follow these tips to help prevent viruses:

- Keep all of your software up to date.
- Use a Firewall to filter and block any unwanted content on your device.
- Use antivirus software to protect against malware and viruses.
- Use strong passwords and keep them protected.
- Be suspicious of any unknown emails and do not click on attachments or links.
- Avoid visiting unfamiliar sites. Unknown sites can install malware to your device. Browsers such as Microsoft Edge, help block malicious websites and malware.
- Block any pop-ups, a popup blocker is essential to prevent any unwanted pages from opening automatically.





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Detect the signs of a virus:

- Repeated error messages.
- Unexpected shutdowns.
- Computer performance is slow.
- Takes longer to shut down or restart.
- Rapidly draining battery.
- Continual pop-ups appear.

If you notice a few of these signs, the chances are you have a virus. Make sure all your software is up-to-date and carry out a virus scan.

