

Computer Virus: What it is, how it spreads, and simple steps to remove and prevent it

Gridinsoft Help Center

What it is

How it spreads

- A game mod or "free" tool with a hidden payload
- An email attachment that looks like an invoice or homework
- A USB stick passed around school or the office
- Pirated software, cracks, and "keygens"

What you might notice

- PC suddenly slower, fans loud, apps crashing
- Files changing size or new files you don't recognize
- Browser home/search changed; extra ads or redirects
- Friends saying they got weird emails or DMs from you

Do this now if you're worried

- Disconnect from the internet (pause Wi-Fi) to stop spread.
- Run a full system scan with trusted anti-malware; remove what it finds.
- Reboot and scan again; then update Windows, drivers, and apps.
- From a clean device, change important passwords and turn on MFA.
- If school/work files are infected, tell IT so they can protect others.

Prevent the next one

- Install apps from official stores/sites only; skip cracks and keygens.
- Keep Windows, browsers, and security tools updated.
- Before opening attachments, check the sender and file type (.exe, .scr, .js are risky).
- Use a password manager + unique passwords; enable MFA.
- For USBs: scan first, don't auto-run files.

Quick myth-busting

- "I have a Mac/Chromebook-I'm immune." Nope. Fewer, different threats-but still threats.
- "I clicked once, so I'm doomed." Not always. Act fast, scan, and update-speed matters.

- "Antivirus slows my PC." A lightweight tool + scheduled scans beats dealing with malware.