

Cryptojacking (Crypto Malware): What it is, signs to spot, and how to remove it

Gridinsoft Help Center

What it is

Cryptojacking is sneaky malware that hijacks your CPU/GPU to mine cryptocurrency for someone else. You pay the price-slowdowns, heat, battery drain-while the attacker collects the coins.

What you may notice

- Fans roaring and the device runs hot even when idle
- Apps lag; games stutter; battery drains fast
- Task Manager/Activity Monitor shows high CPU/GPU from unknown processes
- One browser tab pins your CPU at 80-100%

How it gets in

- "Free" cracked software and fake updates
- Booby-trapped email attachments or installers
- Rogue browser extensions or websites that run hidden miners

Remove it now: quick steps

- Disconnect from the internet.
- Run a full anti-malware scan and reboot.
- In startup/scheduled tasks, remove unknown entries; delete shady extensions.
- Update OS, browser, and drivers; clear browser data (cache/site data).

Prevent it

- Install apps and extensions only from official sources; avoid cracks.
- Keep OS, browsers, and security tools updated.
- Use real-time protection and consider blocking known mining scripts.
- Check Task Manager: if idle usage isn't idle, investigate.