

# Multipartite Virus - What it is, why cleanup is hard, and how to prevent it

Gridinsoft Help Center

## What it is

A multipartite virus is malware that attacks more than one place at once - for example the boot sector and your files. That dual foothold helps it spread faster and makes cleanups tricky, since removing one part can leave the other hiding.

## How it works - quick tour

- Two-in-one infection: latches onto startup code and regular files.
- Multiple entry points: arrives via downloads, infected USBs, or email attachments.
- Ping-pong spread: the boot part reinfects files and infected files reinfect the boot.
- Persistence: survives reboots and can dodge basic cleanups.

## What you may notice

- Files won't open or show unexpected changes.
- System slows, crashes, or behaves oddly after startup.
- Security tools flag infections that keep coming back after removal.

## Prevent it

- Keep OS and security tools updated and scan USBs automatically.
- Disable auto-run for removable media.
- Download software from official sources only.
- Maintain offline backups so you can restore clean copies if needed.