

Not-a-virus - What it means, how to judge it, and what to do next

Gridinsoft Help Center

What it is

A not-a-virus alert means your security tool found software that isn't a classic virus but could be risky. These are often PUPs (potentially unwanted programs), adware, riskware, or dual-use tools like download managers, password tools, or IRC/FTP clients that can be abused.

Why it matters

Some not-a-virus items are legit apps from trusted sources. Others sneak in with bundles, change browser settings, or open doors for more annoying software. The alert is a heads-up to review before you trust it.

How to decide

- Source: was it installed from an official site or a random mirror?
- Behavior: did it add ads, toolbars, or change your homepage?
- Need: do you actually use it, or did it arrive with something else?
- Reputation: quick search or vendor site confirms it's expected?

What to do

- If unwanted: uninstall it, remove odd browser extensions, then run a full scan.
- If wanted and safe: keep it, but watch updates and limit permissions.
- Still unsure: quarantine first, create a restore point, and test without it.

Prevent it

- Choose Custom install and uncheck extras.
- Download only from official vendors.
- Keep OS, browsers, and security tools updated.