

PC Malware Removal

This playbook outlines the steps necessary to detect and remove malware from a personal computer, to restore system health and security.

Step 1: **Update Software**

Ensure that all your software, especially your operating system and antivirus software, is updated to the latest versions.

Step 2: **Disconnect Internet**

Disconnect your computer from the Internet to prevent the malware from communicating with a remote server or causing further damage.

Step 3: **Boot in Safe Mode**

Restart your PC and enter Safe Mode. This will start the computer with only the essential programs, which can help in preventing the malware from starting.

Step 4: **Run Antivirus**

Perform a full system scan using your updated antivirus software to detect and isolate any malware.

Step 5: **Review Results**

Once the scan is complete, review the results to identify any detected malware and related files.

Step 6: **Delete or Quarantine**

Delete or quarantine the identified malware and any potentially unwanted programs (PUPs) as recommended by the antivirus software.

Step 7: **Manual Removal**

For any malware not removed by the antivirus software, you can attempt manual removal. This step involves deleting any suspicious files or registry entries related to the malware.

Step 8: **Reboot and Rescan**

After deletion or quarantine, restart your computer normally and perform another full system scan to ensure all malware has been removed.

Step 9: **Update Passwords**

Change passwords for your accounts and services, as malware can compromise your login details.

Step 10: **Create Backup**

If your PC is now clean, create a backup of your essential files to prevent loss of important data in the future.

General Notes

Backup Regularly

Regularly back up your system to ensure you can restore important files in case of data loss.

Preventive Measures

Take preventive measures like using a reputable antivirus program, avoiding suspicious downloads, and maintaining good digital hygiene to reduce the risk of malware infection.

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