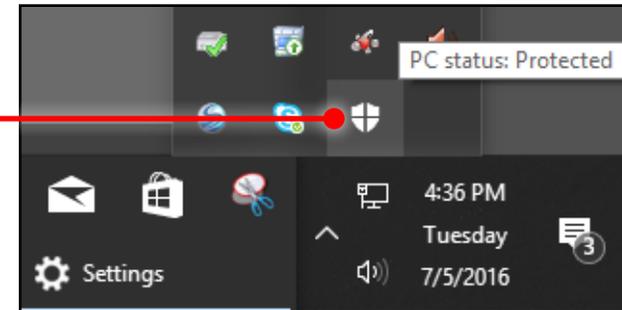


Windows Defender helps keep your device safe from malicious or unwanted software. It's always on, protecting you, and pretty much runs by itself. You could just stop reading now.

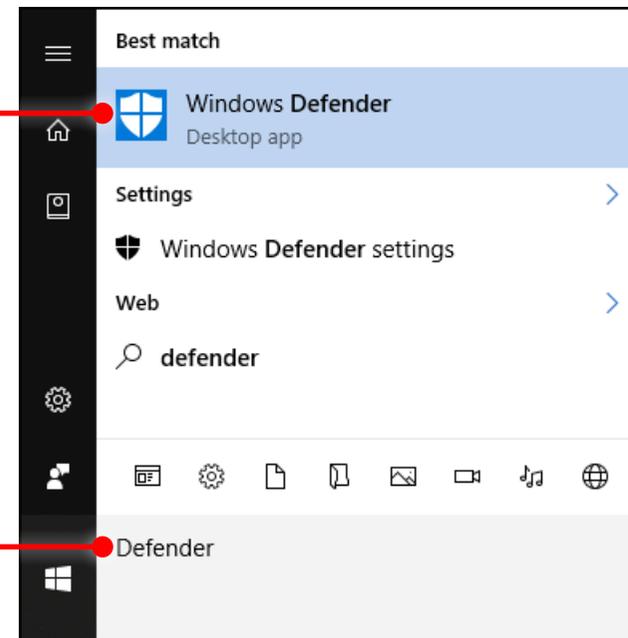
## How do you know it's running?

In the lower-right corner of the desktop, select the Show hidden icons , and then hover over the Windows Defender  icon. You'll see a message that says PC status: Protected.

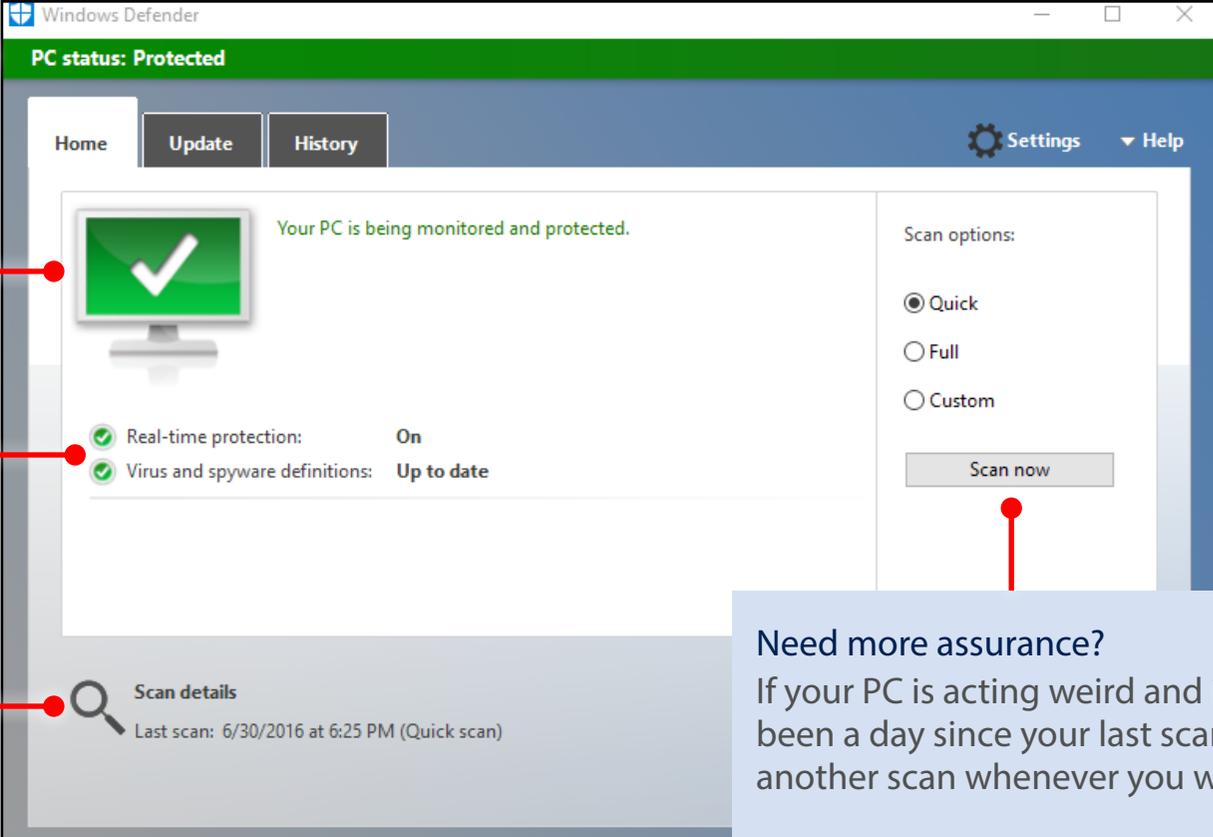


## Here's how to open it

In the search box on the taskbar, type Defender and then select Windows Defender from the list of results.



## Get oriented



The screenshot shows the Windows Defender application window. At the top, it says "PC status: Protected" in a green bar. Below that are tabs for "Home", "Update", and "History", along with "Settings" and "Help" icons. The main area features a green checkmark icon and the text "Your PC is being monitored and protected." Below this, two status items are listed: "Real-time protection: On" and "Virus and spyware definitions: Up to date". On the right, there are "Scan options" with radio buttons for "Quick", "Full", and "Custom", and a "Scan now" button. At the bottom left, a "Scan details" section shows "Last scan: 6/30/2016 at 6:25 PM (Quick scan)".

**Confidence at a glance**  
Green means all systems go!

**When was the last scan?**

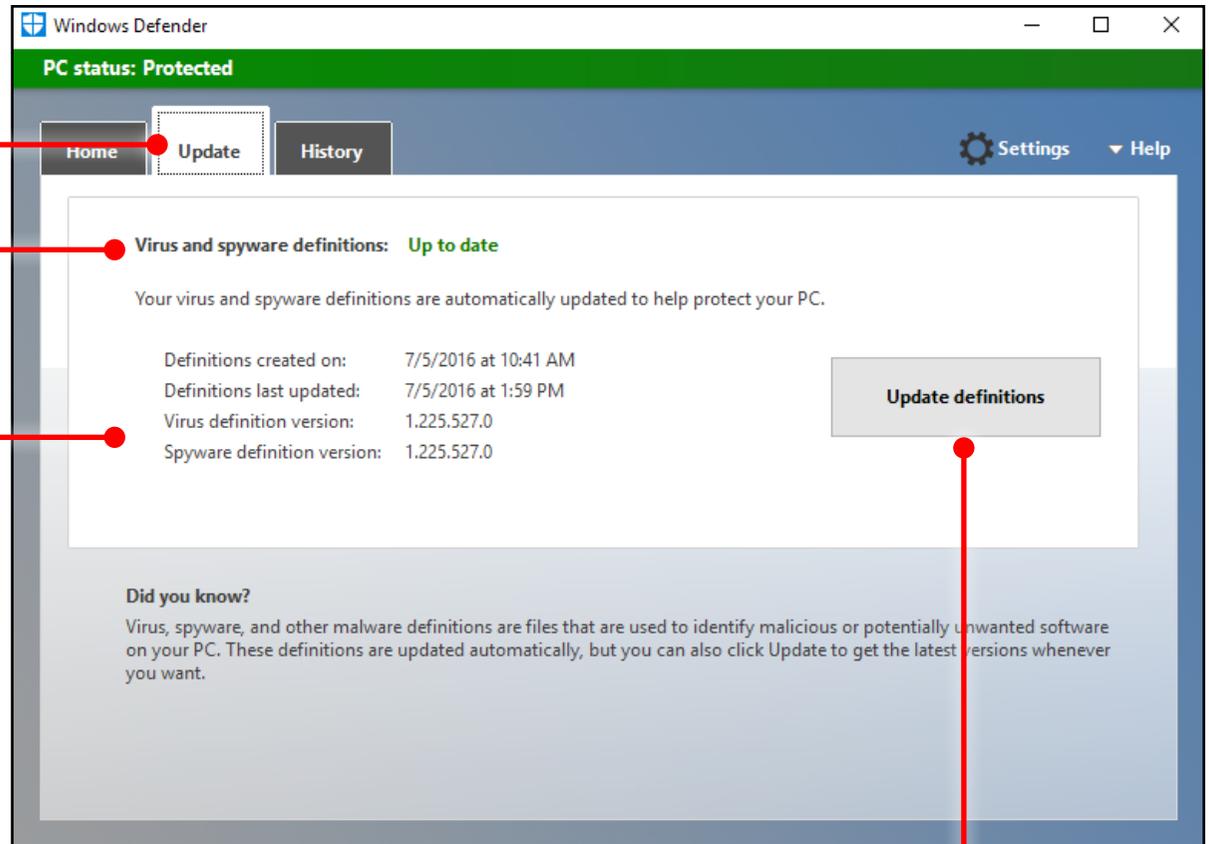
**Need more assurance?**  
If your PC is acting weird and it's been a day since your last scan, run another scan whenever you want.  
If you suspect a virus, try a full scan.

## Updates just happen

Select the Update tab to see what's up

Updates are automatic  
They arrive through Windows Update.

When was the last update?



If you're going to do a scan...  
Look for a newer update first.

Make sense of the present by understanding the past

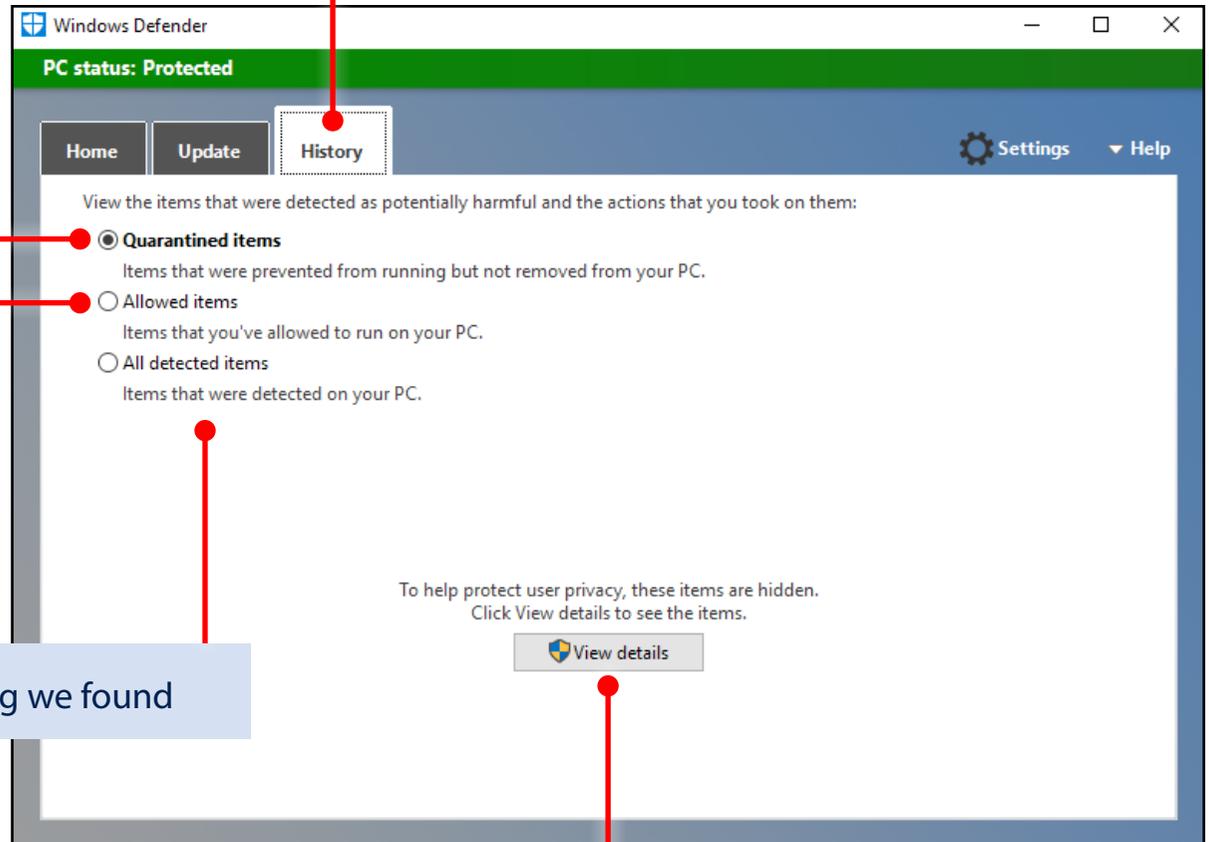
Why was something blocked?  
Select the History tab.

What's in quarantine?  
You'll find malicious software here.

What's been allowed?  
Each thing you decided was OK is listed here.

Everything we found

Get info about the stuff that was found



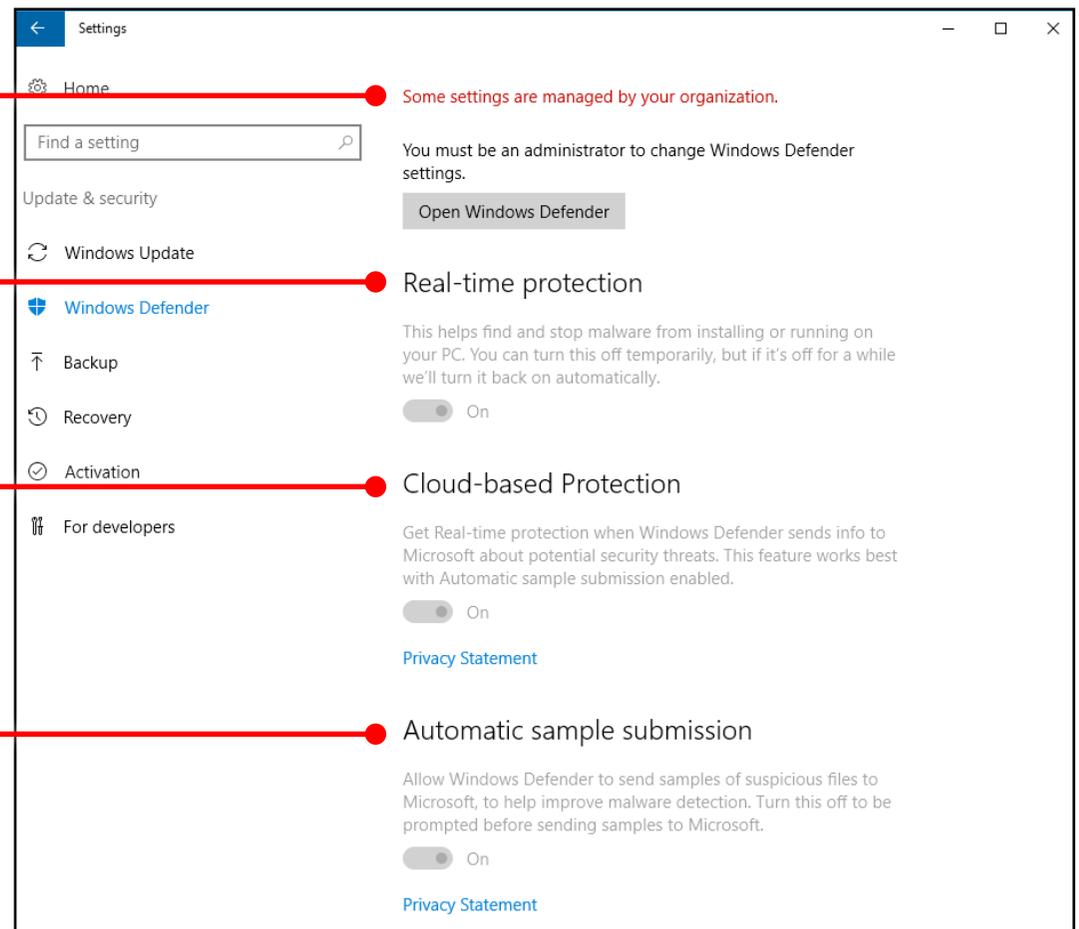
## Dig deep with Settings

If you like to get under the hood and customize, there are ways to improve the security of Windows Defender. (Or you can choose to make it less secure, but we don't recommend it.) All the knobs you can tweak are found in the Settings app.

If you're at work...  
You might not be able to change everything.

If you're asked to turn off your antivirus software...  
You need to be 100% confident you know and trust who is asking.

You're better protected...  
When you choose to share info with us.  
  
Read the Privacy Statement to understand how we use the info.



## Dig even deeper with Settings

Keep scrolling the Settings page and you'll find even more to tailor.

### Be careful with this

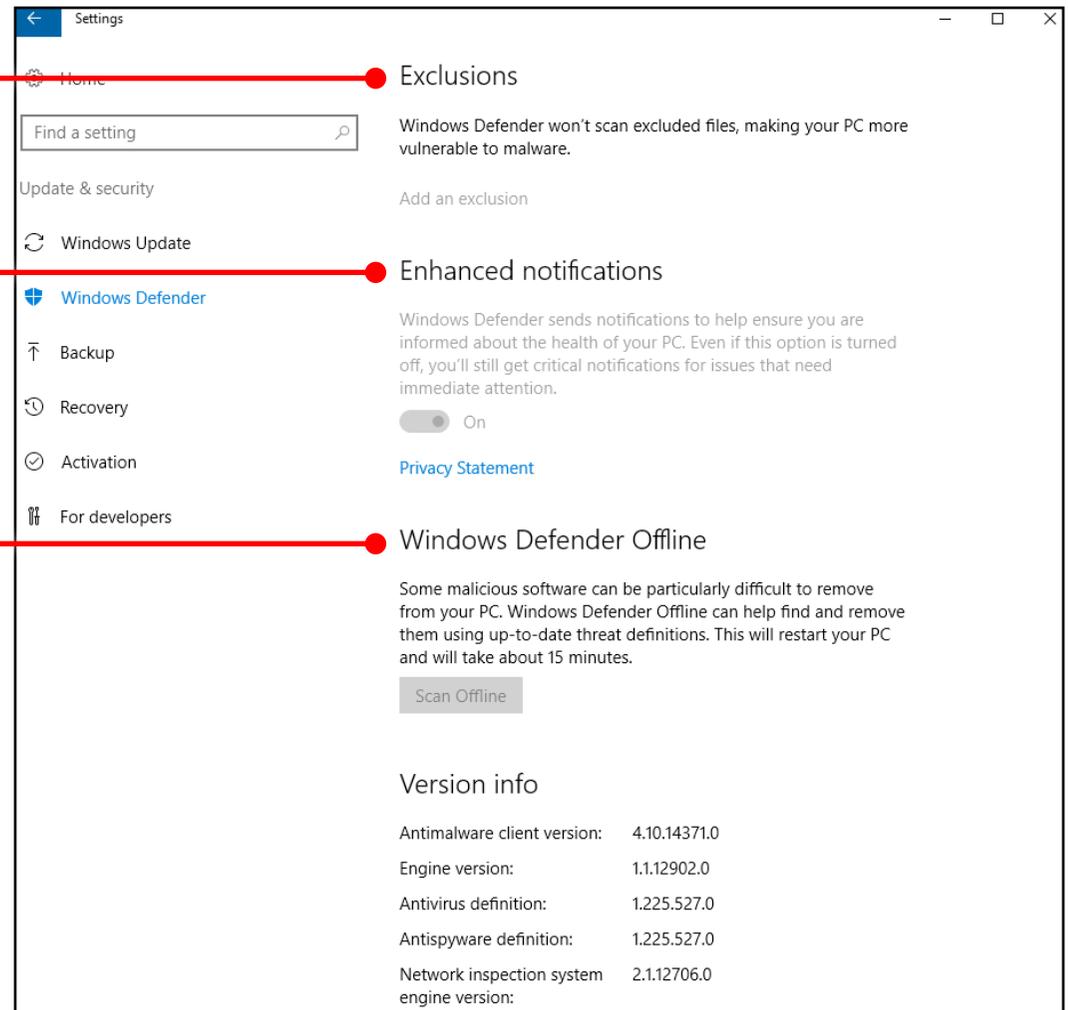
You might have good reasons to exclude specific files from a scan, so we give you the power (just be careful, please).

### Want fewer notices?

We get it. But we'll still notify you when it's crucial.

### If a regular scan isn't possible or is risky...

Try running a scan offline.



The screenshot shows the Windows Settings application with the Windows Defender settings page open. Three red lines with circular endpoints point from text boxes on the left to specific settings on the right:

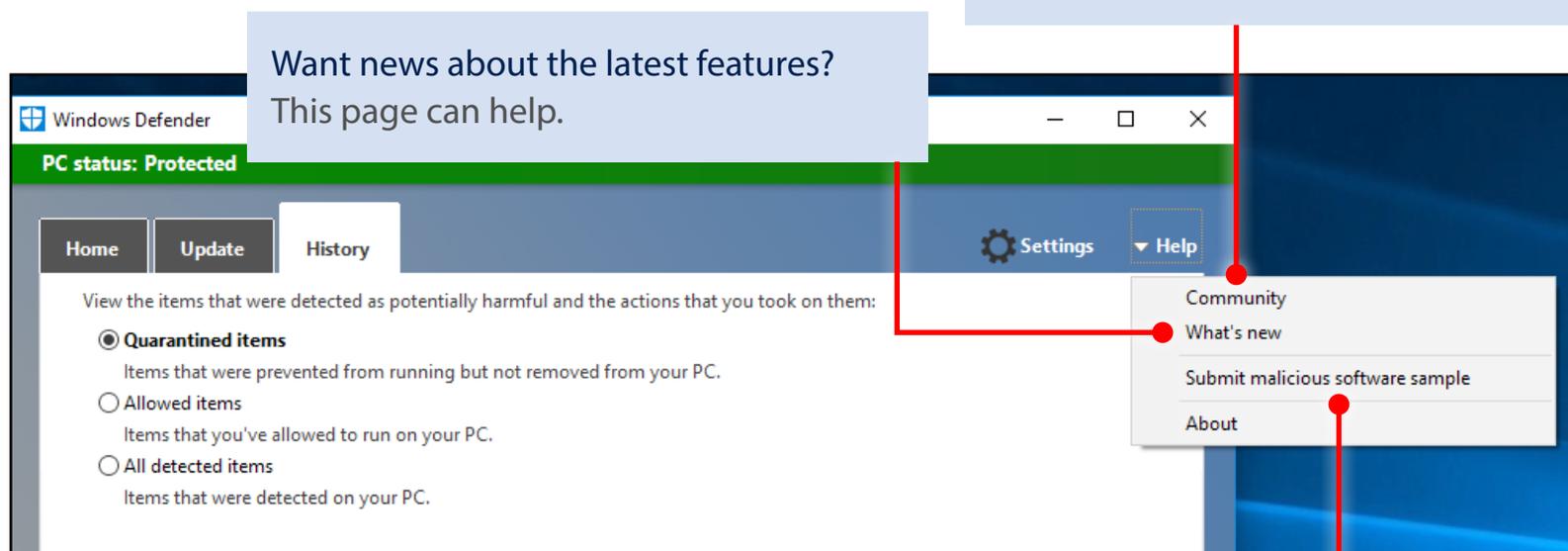
- The top line points from the "Be careful with this" text box to the "Exclusions" section.
- The middle line points from the "Want fewer notices?" text box to the "Enhanced notifications" section.
- The bottom line points from the "If a regular scan isn't possible or is risky..." text box to the "Windows Defender Offline" section.

The settings page includes a search bar, a list of categories (Update & security, Windows Update, Windows Defender, Backup, Recovery, Activation, For developers), and the following sections:

- Exclusions:** Windows Defender won't scan excluded files, making your PC more vulnerable to malware. Includes an "Add an exclusion" button.
- Enhanced notifications:** Windows Defender sends notifications to help ensure you are informed about the health of your PC. Even if this option is turned off, you'll still get critical notifications for issues that need immediate attention. Includes a toggle switch set to "On" and a "Privacy Statement" link.
- Windows Defender Offline:** Some malicious software can be particularly difficult to remove from your PC. Windows Defender Offline can help find and remove them using up-to-date threat definitions. This will restart your PC and will take about 15 minutes. Includes a "Scan Offline" button.
- Version info:**

Antimalware client version:	4.10.14371.0
Engine version:	1.1.12902.0
Antivirus definition:	1.225.527.0
Antispyware definition:	1.225.527.0
Network inspection system engine version:	2.1.12706.0

Got a problem you can't fix yourself? Find help.



Want news about the latest features?  
This page can help.

Ask the community

Other people have probably had the same problem, and there are folks in our online community willing to give you a hand.

You might be asked to send a sample  
This can help us identify and fix the problem.