

Run Malwarebytes Scan

If you want to follow along with this screencast, you will need to visit <https://www.malwarebytes.org/mwb-intercept/> to download and install the FREE version of Malwarebytes. Software frequently changes. **You may notice some minor differences in the latest version compared to the version captured in this screencast.**

Malware severely degrades the performance of your computer. Many people have malware on their computers and do not even realize it. Malware can cause unexplained issues with sites such as Blackboard.

Malwarebytes is an excellent free scanning tool. You installed it with the Ninite installer. This video will show you how to run a scan and remove a potentially unwanted program. The free version of Malwarebytes does not provide real-time protection. Therefore you need to manually run Malwarebytes once per week. Always update it before running a scan.

Antivirus software is also necessary for basic security on your computer. If you already have antivirus software, make sure you keep it up to date, and ensure that it is running real time to protect you. Most virus scans update themselves automatically and begin running as soon as the operating system loads, but it is still wise for you to manually open the antivirus program occasionally to ensure everything is up to date and working properly. If you don't already have antivirus software on your computer, you need to install some. Some decent free antivirus programs include Avast, AVG, and Microsoft Security Essentials. Perform a Google search for one of these programs, and follow the on screen instructions to download and install it.

Run a Malwarebytes Scan

- (1) Click Start. Type in **malwarebytes**. Click on the icon for it.
- (2) If the User Account Control box appears, click Yes (or Run on some systems).
- (3) Update the database by clicking Update in the "Database Version" bar. Wait for it to finish. If it won't update, you may have too much malware on the system for it to run. You may need to take it to a technician. A computer free of malware and viruses is required for you to be a successful online learner.
- (4) Click on Settings at the top.
- (5) Click Detection and Protection on the left.
- (6) Check the box for "Scan for rootkits" if it's not already checked.
- (7) Click Scan at the top.
- (8) Click on Threat Scan.
- (9) Click Scan Now (or Start Scan) at the bottom. This process can take anywhere from 30 minutes to several hours. It depends on how many files you have on your computer. I recommend running the scan at a time when you won't be using the computer.
- (10) When the scan finishes, detected threats (if any) will be displayed. Even if the list only shows potentially unwanted programs (PUPs), I recommend removing everything found. Ensure that all items are selected. Click Quarantine All (or Remove Selected in newer versions of the program). Click Apply Actions (if you have this option).
- (11) Click Yes on the resulting dialog box to restart your computer to finish the removal process.
- (12) Run another Malwarebytes scan after restarting to ensure that it cleaned everything successfully.

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Free Antivirus Programs

- (1) Ignore this part of the video if you already have virus scan software installed and up to date on your computer.
- (2) Avast → <https://www.avast.com/> Look for the free download option. Follow on screen instructions to install it.
- (3) AVG → <http://www.avg.com/> Look for the free download option. Follow on screen instructions to install it.
- (4) Microsoft Security Essentials → <http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=5201> Look for the download option. This one is also free.
 - a. After clicking Download, you'll need to select a version.
 - i. AMD64 means you are running a 64-bit operating system (most newer computers have this).
 - ii. X86 indicates that you are running 32-bit operating system.
 - iii. Open the System window in Control Panel to see if you have a 32 or 64-bit operating system.
 - b. Click to check the box on one of the versions. Click Next. Proceed with downloading and installing. Follow the on screen instructions.