

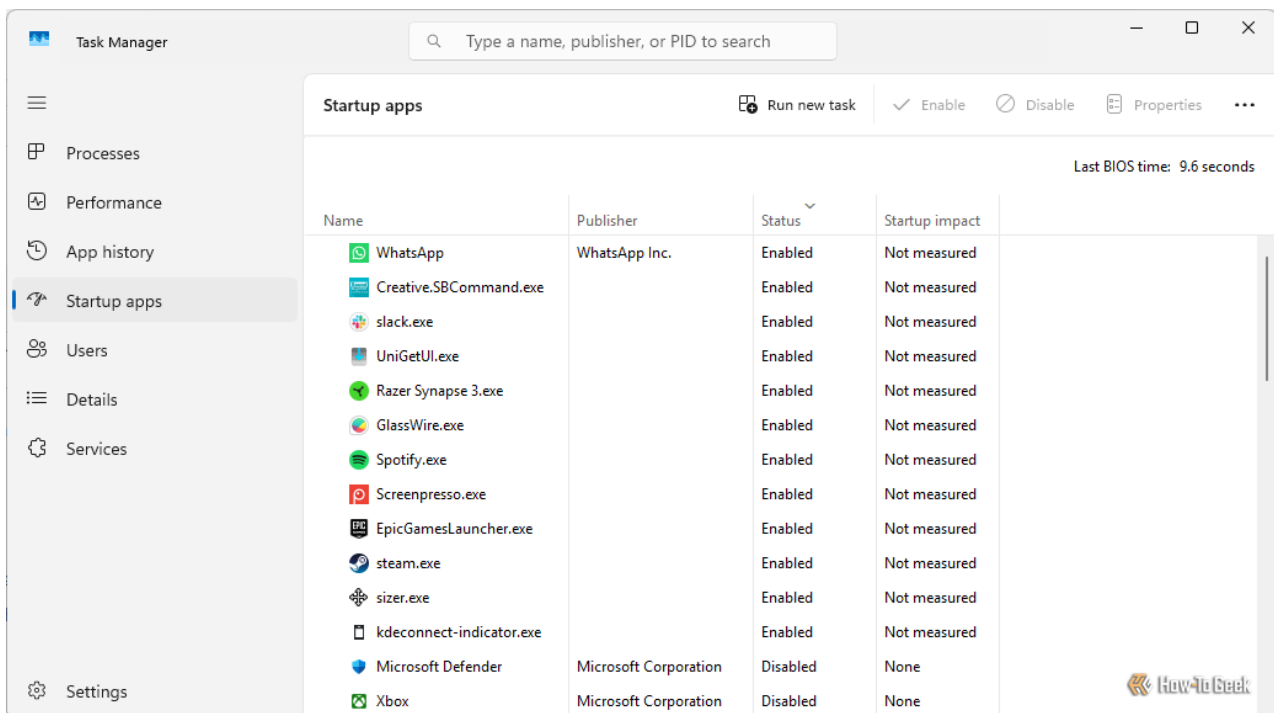
This 24-Year-Old Windows Tool Is Better Than Task Manager



Task Manager: Iconic and Versatile

Task Manager is practically synonymous with Windows now, largely due to the fact that it is one of the most commonly used utilities in the operating system

Need to end an unresponsive app? Open Task Manager to do so. Need to see what your resource utilization is like? Task Manager has your back. You can even control your startup apps from the Task Manager, which is extremely convenient compared to the older methods.



However, Task Manager only provides a tiny glimpse of what is actually going on with all of your applications on your PC. If you have a problem, you need something that can give you more information.



8 Task Manager Tips Every Windows User Should Know

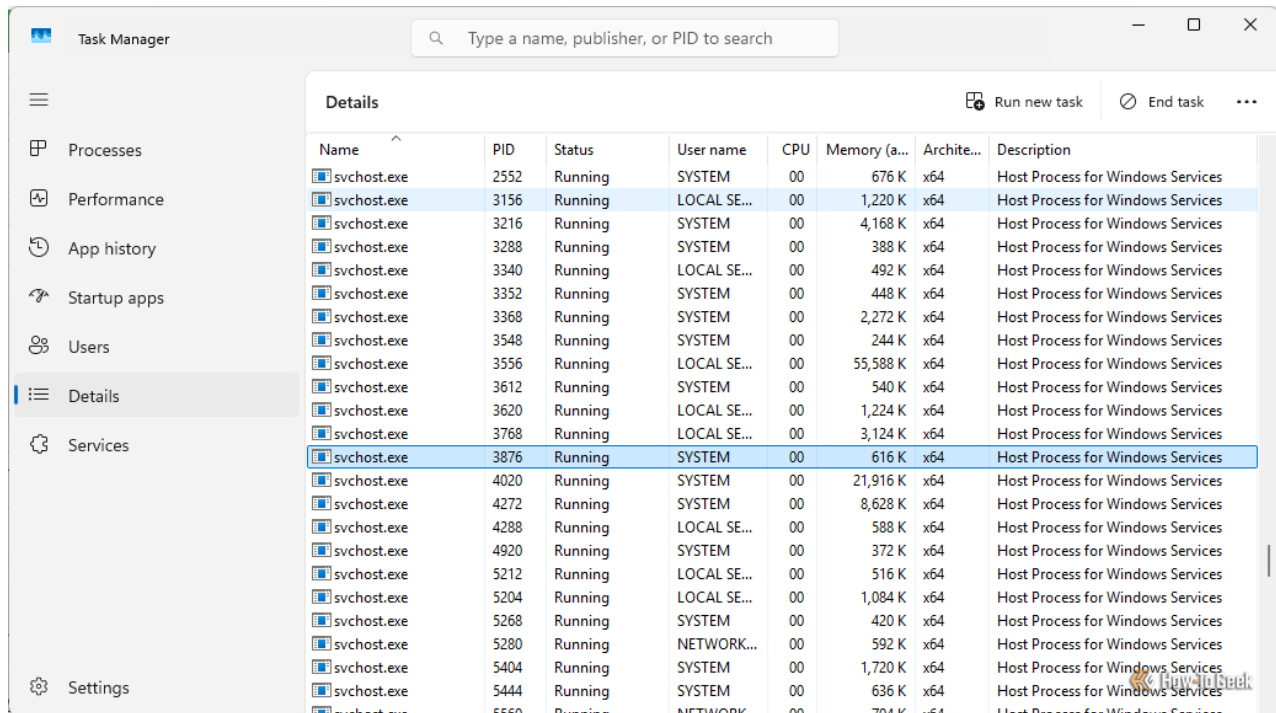
Simplify task management!

Task Manager Isn't Always Helpful

The most common reason that people launch the Task Manager is to terminate an app that is malfunctioning, lagging, or completely frozen. Unfortunately, Task Manager can't really tell you much about the problem. Really, the only thing it *can* tell you is how many system resources an application is using and where the executable is stored on your PC.

Name	Status	15% CPU	60% Memory	0% Disk	Ne
> Google Chrome (60)		7.5%	5,370.2 MB	0.1 MB/s	
> Task Manager		1.4%	93.4 MB	0 MB/s	
> NordVPN		0.9%	62.6 MB	0 MB/s	
Desktop Window Manager		0.7%	78.2 MB	0 MB/s	
NordVPN		0.5%	149.9 MB	0 MB/s	
> Sysinternals Process Explorer		0.5%	15.1 MB	0 MB/s	
System		0.4%	0.1 MB	0.7 MB/s	
> Service Host: Diagnostic Policy Service		0.3%	39.7 MB	0 MB/s	
> GlassWire (32 bit)		0.3%	44.7 MB	0 MB/s	
> Screenpresso (6)		0.2%	212.2 MB	0 MB/s	
> Creative Audio Service (32 bit)		0.2%	0.5 MB	0 MB/s	
> Antimalware Service Executable		0.2%	146.9 MB	0 MB/s	
> Local Security Authority Process (3)		0.2%	9.8 MB	0 MB/s	
>		0.2%	301.4 MB	0 MB/s	
Windows Explorer		0.2%	9.1 MB	0 MB/s	

It is also pretty opaque. If you've ever opened Task Manager and seen a long list of `svchost.exe` with zero context, you're not alone—Task Manager just can't display the relevant information.



If you're doing any kind of troubleshooting, or if you just want more information, you'll need to look elsewhere.

Process Explorer should be your first stop, since it solves all of those problems and more.

Process Explorer Is Task Manager Dialed To 11

Process Explorer—originally a third-party app Microsoft acquired in the early 2000s—takes the best parts of Task Manager and gives you so much more.

Unlike Task Manager, Process Explorer is designed with troubleshooting and power-users in mind.

Take `svchost.exe`, a native Windows process that hosts various Windows services, as an example. In Task Manager, all you'll see is a long list of Service Host or `svchost.exe` with no explanation. In Process Explorer, on the other hand, you get all of the detail you could ever want.

Process Explorer - Sysinternals: www.sysinternals.com [DESKTOP-AN70H0S\Equinox]

File Options View Process Find Users Help

<Filter by name>

Process	CPU	Private Bytes	Working Set	PID	Description	Company Name
RzChromaStreamServer...	< 0.01	2,272 K	8,756 K	14392	Razer Chroma Stream Server	Razer Inc.
svchost.exe		3,848 K	16,944 K	15024	Host Process for Windows Services	Microsoft Corporation
svchost.exe		3,484 K	12,956 K	2072	Host Process for Windows Services	Microsoft Corporation
svchost.exe		7,520 K	28,512 K	1648	Host Process for Windows Services	Microsoft Corporation
svchost.exe		5,440 K	22,972 K	3912	Host Process for Windows Services	Microsoft Corporation
svchost.exe		7,576 K	11,956 K	13812	Host Process for Windows Services	Microsoft Corporation
svchost.exe		31,184 K	24,096 K	13504	Host Process for Windows Services	Microsoft Corporation
svchost.exe		8,716 K	30,028 K	8896	Host Process for Windows Services	Microsoft Corporation
svchost.exe				76	Host Process for Windows Services	Microsoft Corporation
svchost.exe				88	Host Process for Windows Services	Microsoft Corporation
svchost.exe				20	Host Process for Windows Services	Microsoft Corporation
svchost.exe				28	Host Process for Windows Services	Microsoft Corporation
svchost.exe				20	Host Process for Windows Services	Microsoft Corporation
svchost.exe		4,184 K	24,996 K	19852	Host Process for Windows Services	Microsoft Corporation
svchost.exe		3,188 K	15,504 K	22416	Host Process for Windows Services	Microsoft Corporation
svchost.exe		6,700 K	27,788 K	27688	Host Process for Windows Services	Microsoft Corporation
svchost.exe		1,436 K	7,368 K	3840	Host Process for Windows Services	Microsoft Corporation
svchost.exe		2,872 K	14,132 K	12508	Host Process for Windows Services	Microsoft Corporation
svchost.exe		1,864 K	14,012 K	18588	Host Process for Windows Services	Microsoft Corporation
svchost.exe		2,464 K	12,516 K	3536	Host Process for Windows Services	Microsoft Corporation
svchost.exe		7,060 K	13,044 K	20564	Host Process for Windows Services	Microsoft Corporation
svchost.exe		2,792 K	8,544 K	12896	Host Process for Windows Services	Microsoft Corporation
svchost.exe		3,768 K	9,180 K	1944	Host Process for Windows Services	Microsoft Corporation
svchost.exe		2,340 K	9,704 K	48244	Host Process for Windows Services	Microsoft Corporation
svchost.exe		2,172 K	10,128 K	53660	Host Process for Windows Services	Microsoft Corporation
MpDefenderCoreService...		17,568 K	33,812 K	41500	Antimalware Core Service	Microsoft Corporation
MsMpEng.exe	0.09	352,300 K	296,076 K	43504	Antimalware Service Executable	Microsoft Corporation
NisSrv.exe		5,180 K	14,208 K	5744	Microsoft Network Realtime Inspection Service	Microsoft Corporation
svchost.exe		2,768 K	17,560 K	42024	Host Process for Windows Services	Microsoft Corporation

CPU Usage: 1.31% Commit Charge: 61.79% Processes: 353 Physical Usage: 50.60%

If you hover over the process you can instantly see which executable it is associated with and which command line arguments the process was launched with. If you want even more detail, just right-click the process and go to “Properties.” There you can get a wealth of information, including performance history, the executable location and security details, and a bit about what the application is doing in real time.

Process Explorer - Sysinternals: www.sysinternals.com [DESKTOP-AN70H0S\Equinox]

File Options View Process Find Users Help

<Filter by name>

svchost.exe:13504 (WebThreatDefense -p) Properties

Image Performance Performance Graph GPU Graph Services Threads TCP/IP

Image File

Host Process for Windows Services

Version: 10.0.26100.4343

Build Time:

Path: C:\Windows\System32\svchost.exe [Explore](#)

Command line: C:\WINDOWS\system32\svchost.exe -k WebThreatDefense -p

Current directory:

Autostart Location: HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\WpnUserService_137bc48 [Explore](#)

Parent: services.exe(1692)

User: <access denied> [Verify](#)

Started: 10:41:13 AM 6/12/2025 Image: n/a [Bring to Front](#)

Comment: [Kill Process](#)

VirusTotal: [Submit](#)

Data Execution Prevention (DEP) Status: n/a

Address Space Load Randomization: Enabled

Control Flow Guard: Enabled

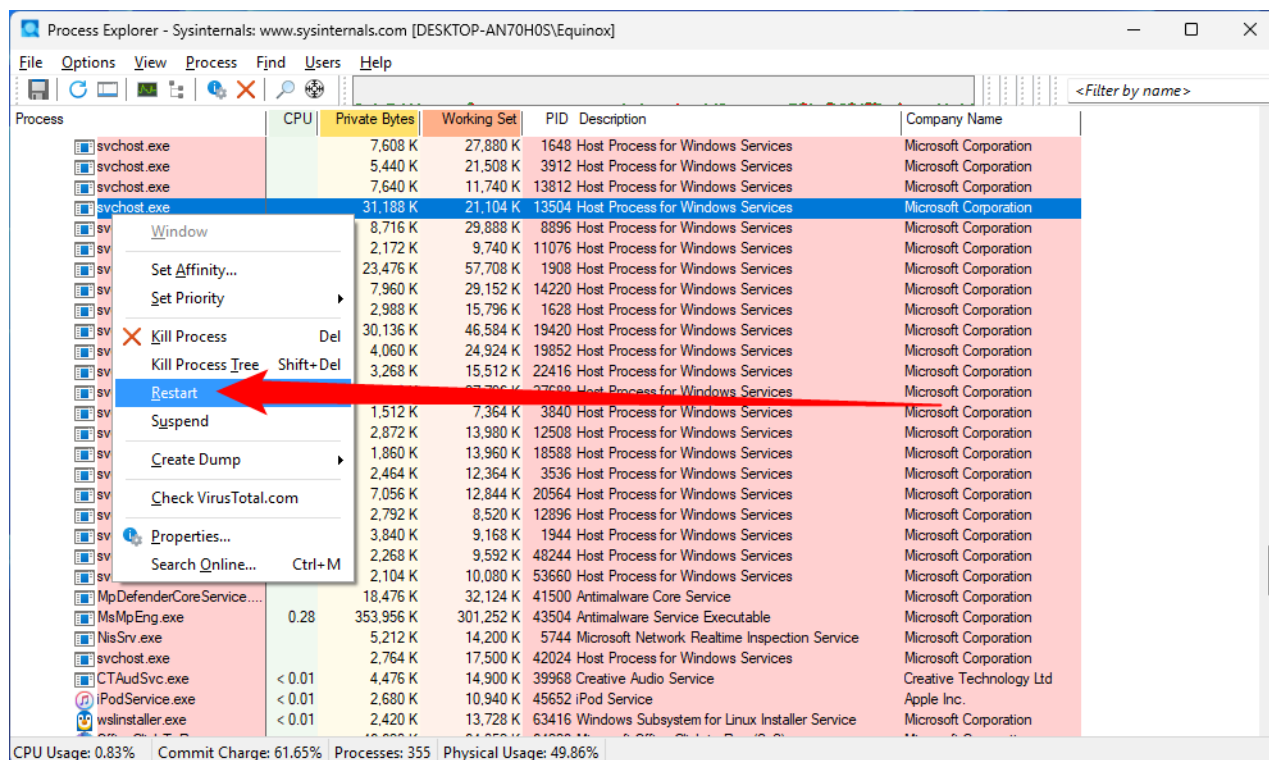
Enterprise Context: N/A

Stack Protection: n/a

CPU Usage: 16.40% Commit Charge: 61.79% Processes: 353 Physical Usage: 50.60%

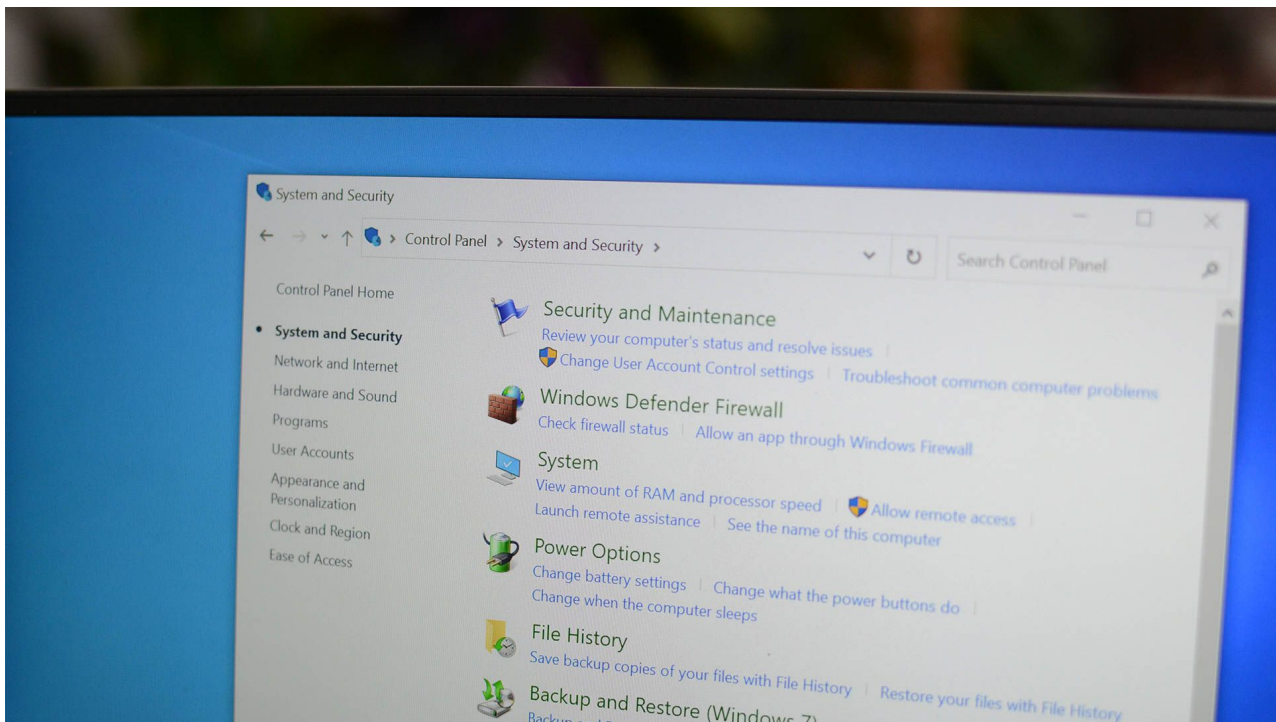
If you're having a problem with a Windows service malfunctioning—a problem that is still relatively common—this is a great place to start your investigation.

Once you know what you're dealing with, you can use Process Explorer to terminate or restart any problem processes.



You can also get a DMP, or dump, file from a process. They're not always easy to work through, but they can provide a lot of information about what has gone wrong.

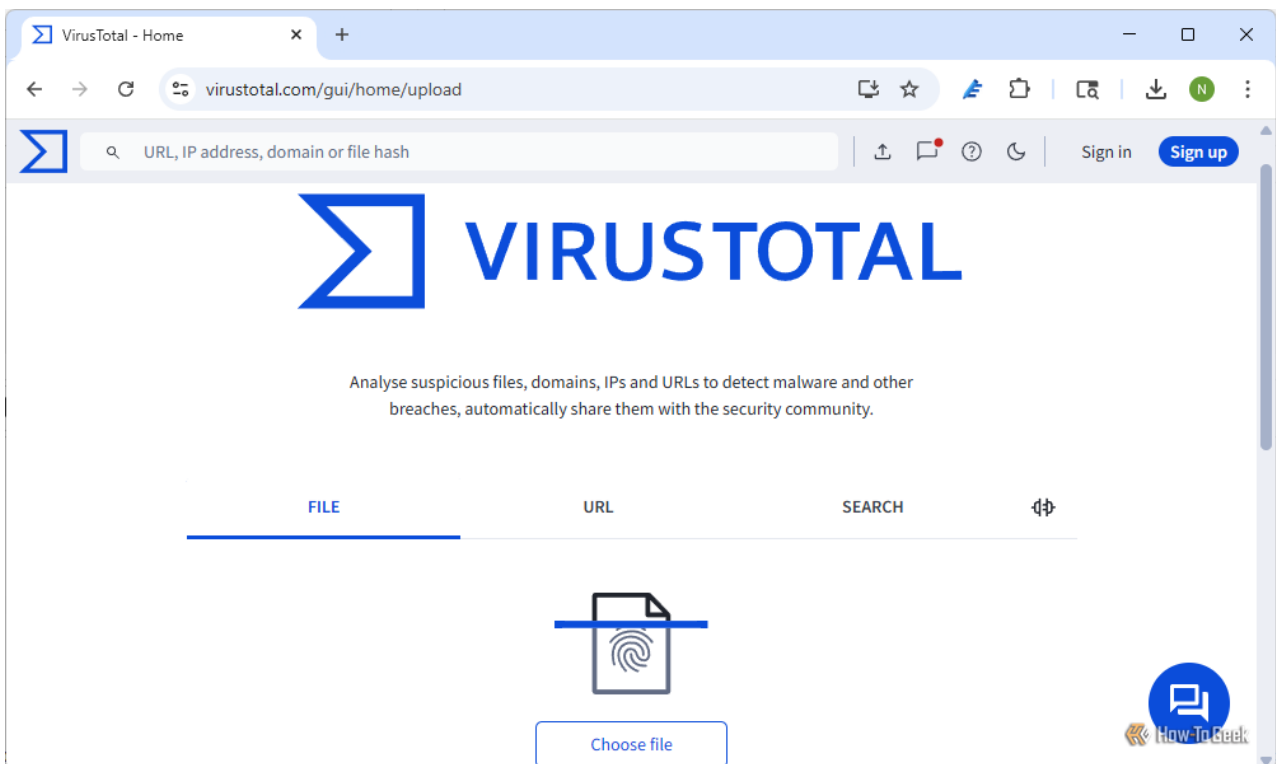
Process Explorer Makes It Easy to Spot a Virus



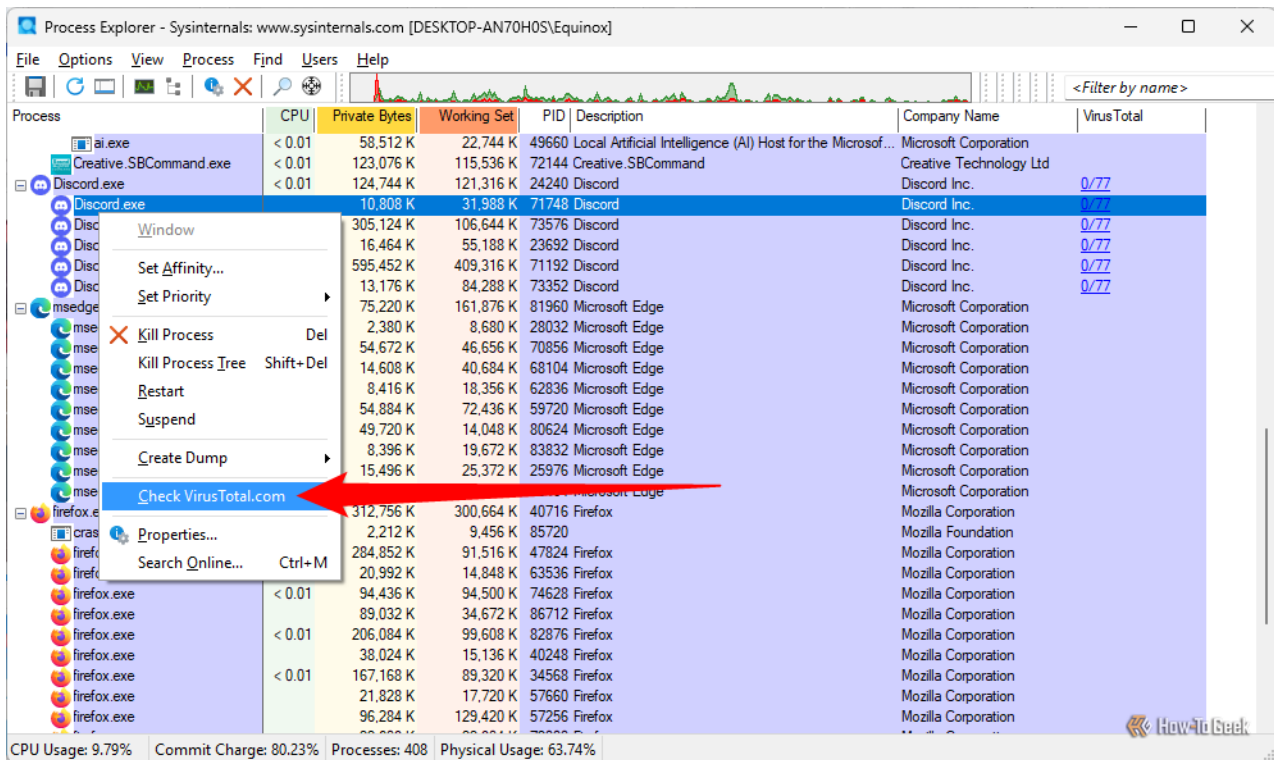
Is Third-Party Windows Antivirus Still Worth It in 2025?

Has Windows Defender rendered competing antivirus obsolete?

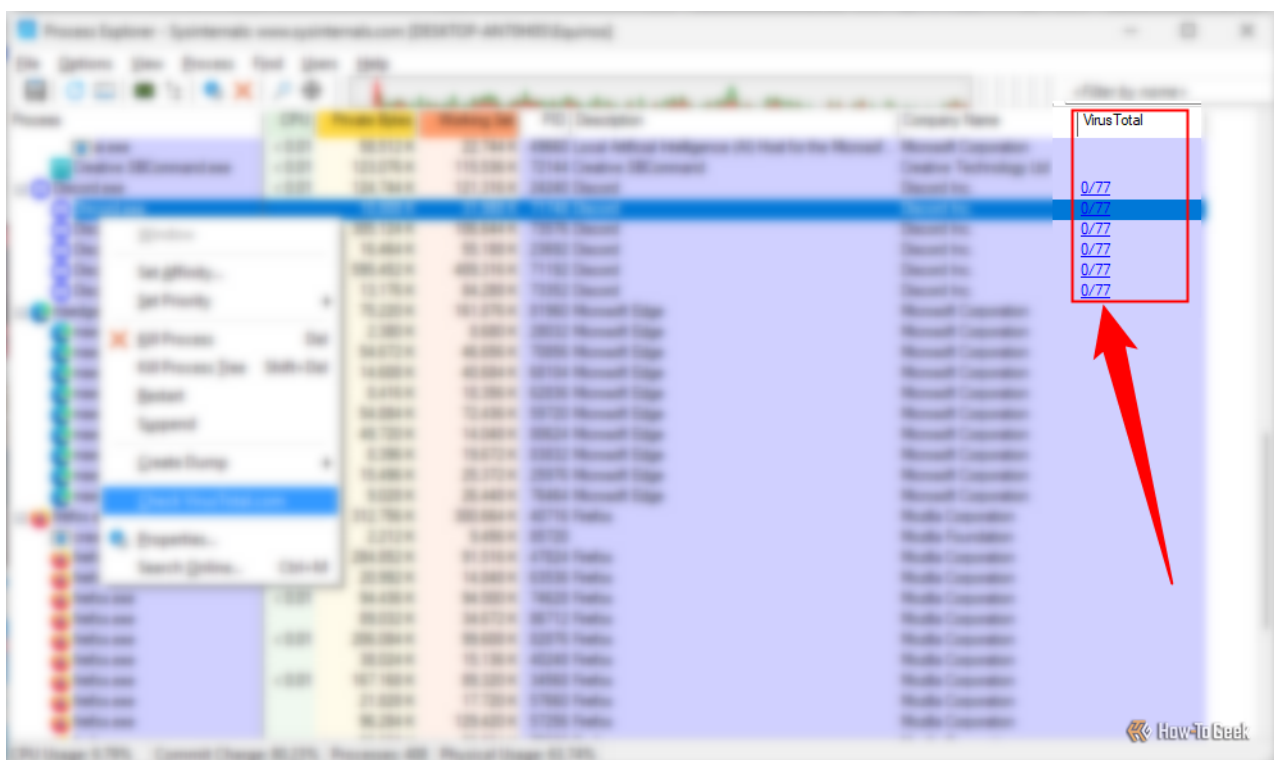
Unfortunately, spotting malware isn't always easy. You see a strange executable in Task Manager (or Process Explorer) and you're left wondering where it came from and whether it may be a virus. Luckily for all of us, services like [VirusTotal](#) exist, which let you compare files and executables you find to known malware and run a file through dozens of antivirus scanners simultaneously. All you need to do is upload the file in question.



Process Explorer automates the entire thing. All you need to do is right-click your unknown process in Process Explorer and select "Check VirusTotal.com."



The executable's hash is then compared to the VirusTotal database and the results are displayed in a column on the right. In the case of Discord.exe, which I knew to be a safe, reputable application, VirusTotal shows that none of the 77 anti-malware programs detected Discord as malware.



If you want a detailed breakdown, you can always just click on the result in question to go to the VirusTotal page instead.

VirusTotal - File - b5acc105a0166bd2e427aa47d027858d7b9a6263c9e8b32b59e3a6b111fdec25

virustotal.com/gui/file/b5acc105a0166bd2e427aa47d027858d7b9a6263c9e8b32b59e3a6b111fdec25

b5acc105a0166bd2e427aa47d027858d7b9a6263c9e8b32b59e3a6b111fdec25

0 / 71
Community Score

No security vendors flagged this file as malicious

Reanalyze Similar More

b5acc105a0166bd2e427aa47d027858d7b9a62...
Discord.exe

Size: 180.62 MB
Last Analysis Date: 3 days ago

EXE

peexe signed overlay 64bits

DETECTION DETAILS RELATIONS COMMUNITY

Join our Community and enjoy additional community insights and crowdsourced detections, plus an API key to automate checks.

Security vendors' analysis

Do you want to automate checks?

Acronis (Static ML)	Undetected	AhnLab-V3	Undetected
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This feature has been around for years but few know about it, which is a shame—it is incredible.