

Enable exploit protection

Exploit protection helps protect against malware that uses exploits to infect devices and spread. Exploit protection consists of many mitigations that can be applied to either the operating system or individual apps.

Windows Security app

1. Open the Windows Security app by either selecting the shield icon in your task bar, or by searching the Start menu for **Security**.
2. Select the **App & browser control** tile (or the app icon on the left menu bar) and then select **Exploit protection settings**.
3. Go to **Program settings** and choose the app you want to apply mitigations to.
 - If the app you want to configure is already listed, select it, and then select **Edit**.
 - If the app is not listed, at the top of the list select **Add program to customize** and then choose how you want to add the app.
 - Use **Add by program name** to have the mitigation applied to any running process with that name. Specify a file with its extension. You can enter a full path to limit the mitigation to only the app with that name in that location.
 - Use **Choose exact file path** to use a standard Windows Explorer file picker window to find and select the file you want.
4. After selecting the app, you'll see a list of all the mitigations that can be applied. Choosing **Audit** will apply the mitigation in audit mode only. You are notified if you need to restart the process or app, or if you need to restart Windows.
5. Repeat steps 3-4 for all the apps and mitigations you want to configure.
6. Under the **System settings** section, find the mitigation you want to configure and then specify one of the following settings. Apps that aren't configured individually in the **Program settings** section use the settings that are configured here.
 - **On by default:** The mitigation is *enabled* for apps that don't have this mitigation set in the app-specific **Program settings** section
 - **Off by default:** The mitigation is *disabled* for apps that don't have this mitigation set in the app-specific **Program settings** section
 - **Use default:** The mitigation is either enabled or disabled, depending on the default configuration that is set up by Windows 10 or Windows 11 installation; the default value (**On** or **Off**) is always specified next to the **Use default** label for each mitigation

7. Repeat step 6 for all the system-level mitigations you want to configure.
Select **Apply** when you're done setting up your configuration.