GuardLink

UNDERSTAND. PROTECT. OPTIMIZE.

User Guide

How to check your PC, choose what to fix, review it, and see exactly what changed.

Version 4.6.0 for Windows 10 and 11 · formerly Guardian

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Guardian is now GuardLink

Same trusted tool, new name. GuardLink adds a review screen that shows every exact action before anything runs, clearer explanations of each finding, a Downloads tab, and more honest results. If you used Guardian, your PC was upgraded in place and your settings and logs were kept.

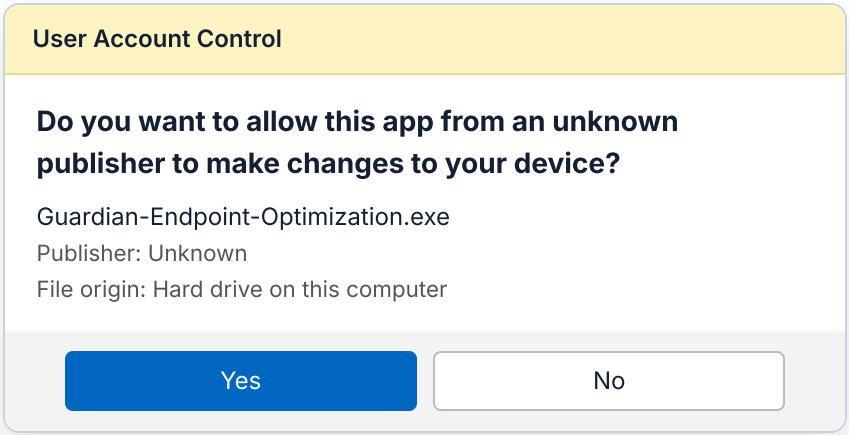
10 Digits, LLC · support@10digits.net

STEP 1

1 Opening GuardLink

Double-click **GuardLink** on your desktop, or open the Start menu and choose **10 Digits > GuardLink**.

GuardLink needs administrator permission to clean Windows files, so Windows asks before it opens. This is the message you will see:



The Windows permission prompt. The exact look varies slightly between Windows versions.

1. Check that the file name says **Guardian-Endpoint-Optimization.exe**. GuardLink keeps this file name on purpose, so PCs that had Guardian keep working.
2. Click **Yes**. GuardLink opens a few seconds later.
3. If Windows asks for a password, enter an administrator account's password, or ask 10 Digits to run GuardLink for you.

Why does it say "unknown publisher"?
GuardLink is made by 10 Digits and installed by your technician, but it does not carry a Microsoft-registered publisher signature yet, so Windows can't show a publisher name. It's safe to click Yes as long as the file name matches.

"GuardLink is already open on this PC"
Only one copy of GuardLink can run at a time, so two cleanups never overlap. Click OK and switch to the GuardLink window that is already open (check the taskbar).

STEP 2

2 The GuardLink window

Everything happens in one window. The blue button at the bottom always shows the next step.

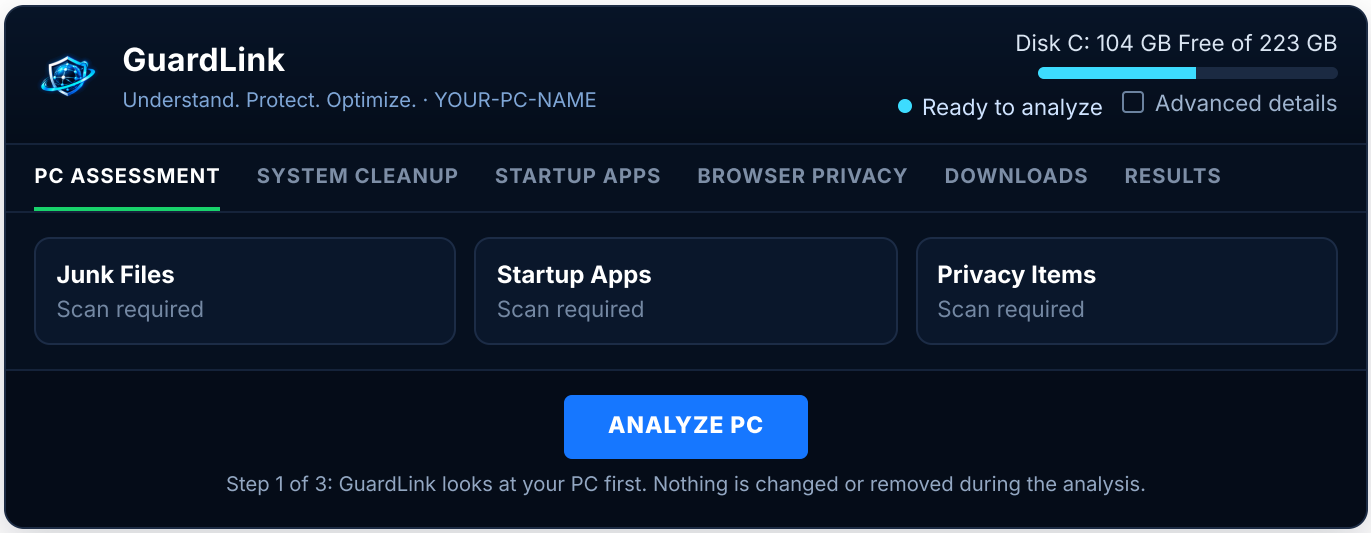


Illustration of the GuardLink window before the first analysis.

Top right How much free space your C: drive has, and what GuardLink is doing now.

Cards A quick summary of junk files, startup apps and privacy items after the analysis.

Advanced details Tick it to also see the technical side of each finding. It never changes what is selected.

Blue button The next step. It changes as you go: analyze, review, run, done.

The six tabs

- **PC Assessment** is a plain-English report on your PC's health, with the fixes GuardLink can make.
- **System Cleanup** lists the Windows temporary files, logs and caches that can be cleared, each with its own checkbox.
- **Startup Apps** shows the programs that start when you sign in, with an estimate of how much each slows sign-in.
- **Browser Privacy** covers cache, history and cookies for Edge, Chrome and Firefox.
- **Downloads** lets you review files in your Downloads folder one by one. It is off until you use it.
- **Results** is your before-and-after report.

STEPS 3 AND 4

3 Analyze your PC

Click **ANALYZE PC**. GuardLink looks over the whole PC, which usually takes less than a minute. **Nothing is changed or removed during the analysis.** You can click **CANCEL** at any time.

4 Read the findings

When the analysis finishes, the cards fill in and PC Assessment lists what GuardLink found. Safe items are already ticked; anything with a trade-off is left for you to decide.

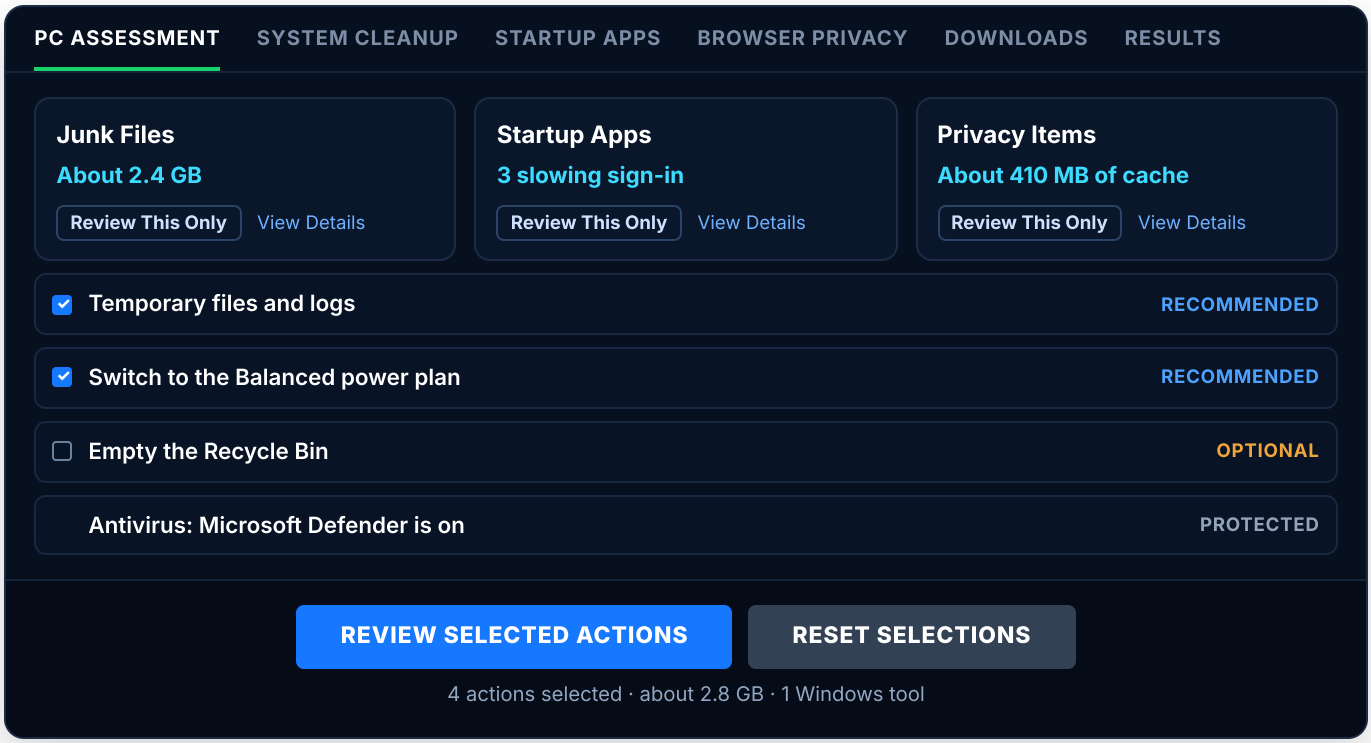


Illustration after an analysis. Your numbers will differ.

Every finding answers five questions

- ✔ **What was found** and **why it matters**, in plain English.
- ✔ **What GuardLink recommends**, and **what will happen** if you run it.
- ✔ **How you will know it worked**, which you can check on the Results tab afterwards.

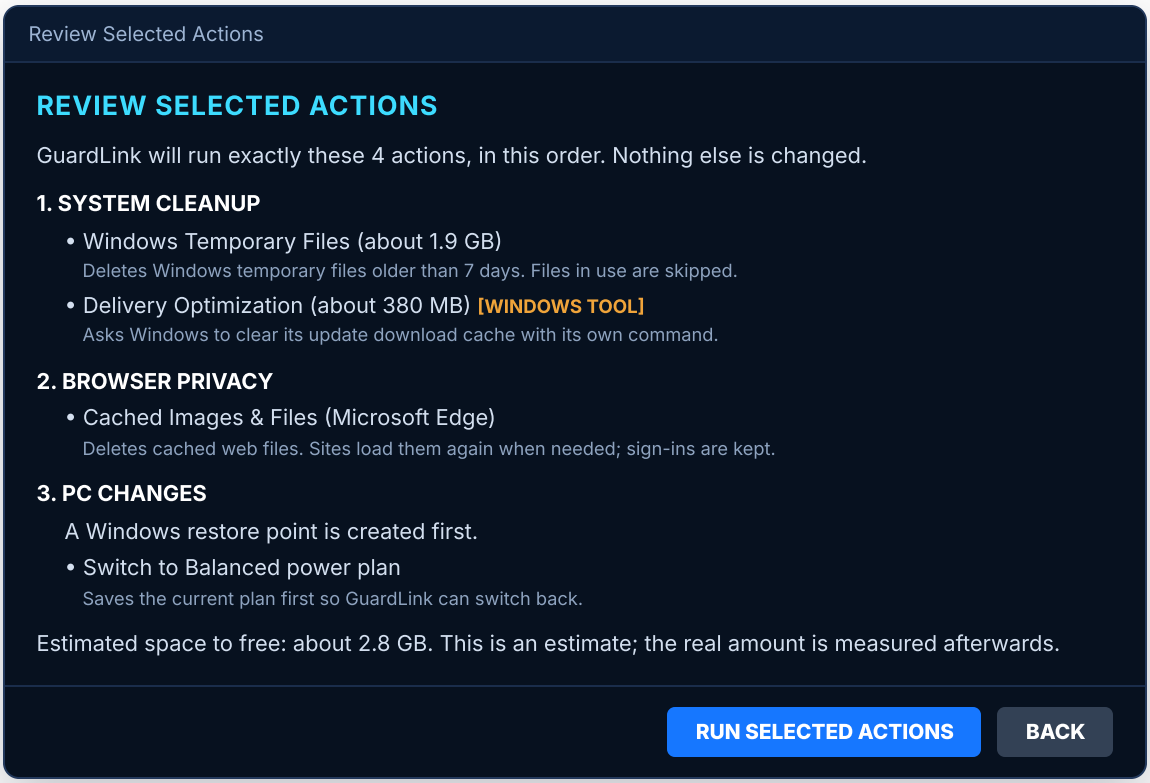
Tick **Advanced details** to also see how each item is measured, its risks, the permissions it needs, and file paths. It only changes what is shown, never what is selected.

> **Ticked, unticked and protected**
> Ticked items are safe or recommended. Unticked items have a trade-off; tick them only if you're sure. Protected items, like your antivirus, are never changed.

STEP 5

5 Review and run

Look through the other tabs if you like, then click **REVIEW SELECTED ACTIONS**. GuardLink shows every exact action before anything changes.



Example review screen. It lists only what you ticked.

1. Read the list. Each action says what it will do.
2. Items marked **NEEDS YOUR APPROVAL** or **CANNOT BE UNDONE** are explained at the bottom of the list. When any are selected, the button reads **APPROVE & RUN**.
3. Click **RUN SELECTED ACTIONS** to go ahead, or **BACK** to change your ticks. Back changes nothing.

Just one area?

The System Cleanup and Browser Privacy tabs have **REVIEW SYSTEM ONLY** and **REVIEW BROWSERS ONLY**, and each card has **Review This Only**. They open the same review screen for just that area.

Changed your mind?

RESET SELECTIONS puts the default ticks back without analyzing again.

STEP 6

6 While GuardLink works

The button shows **RUNNING...** and GuardLink works through the list in order. Most runs take a minute or two.

- **A restore point comes first.** Before changing any Windows setting, GuardLink asks Windows to save a restore point, so the PC can be rolled back.
- **Open browsers.** If a browser you ticked is open, GuardLink asks you to **Close Browser**, **Retry** or **Skip**. It never closes a browser without asking. Save anything you're working on first.
- **Files in use are skipped.** If a program is using a file, GuardLink leaves it alone and counts it as skipped. That's normal.
- **Windows tools.** Some items, like the update download cache and Disk Cleanup, are handled by Windows itself. GuardLink says so on the review screen and reports them separately.
- **Let it finish.** GuardLink won't close halfway through a cleanup or a PC change.

Every browser profile on the PC

Browser cleanup covers the browser profiles of every Windows account on the PC. In the log, a profile that belongs to another account names that account, for example "Edge Default, user Chris".

Startup apps

Turning a startup app off stops it from starting when you sign in, the same way Task Manager does. The app is not uninstalled. To turn it back on, open Task Manager, go to Startup apps, right-click it and choose Enable.

Security tools stay on

GuardLink never turns off antivirus, backup, VPN, remote-support or password tools, and it never closes Windows processes to "free memory".

STEP 7

7 Your results

When the run finishes, GuardLink measures the PC again and opens the Results tab, so you can see what changed, and what didn't.

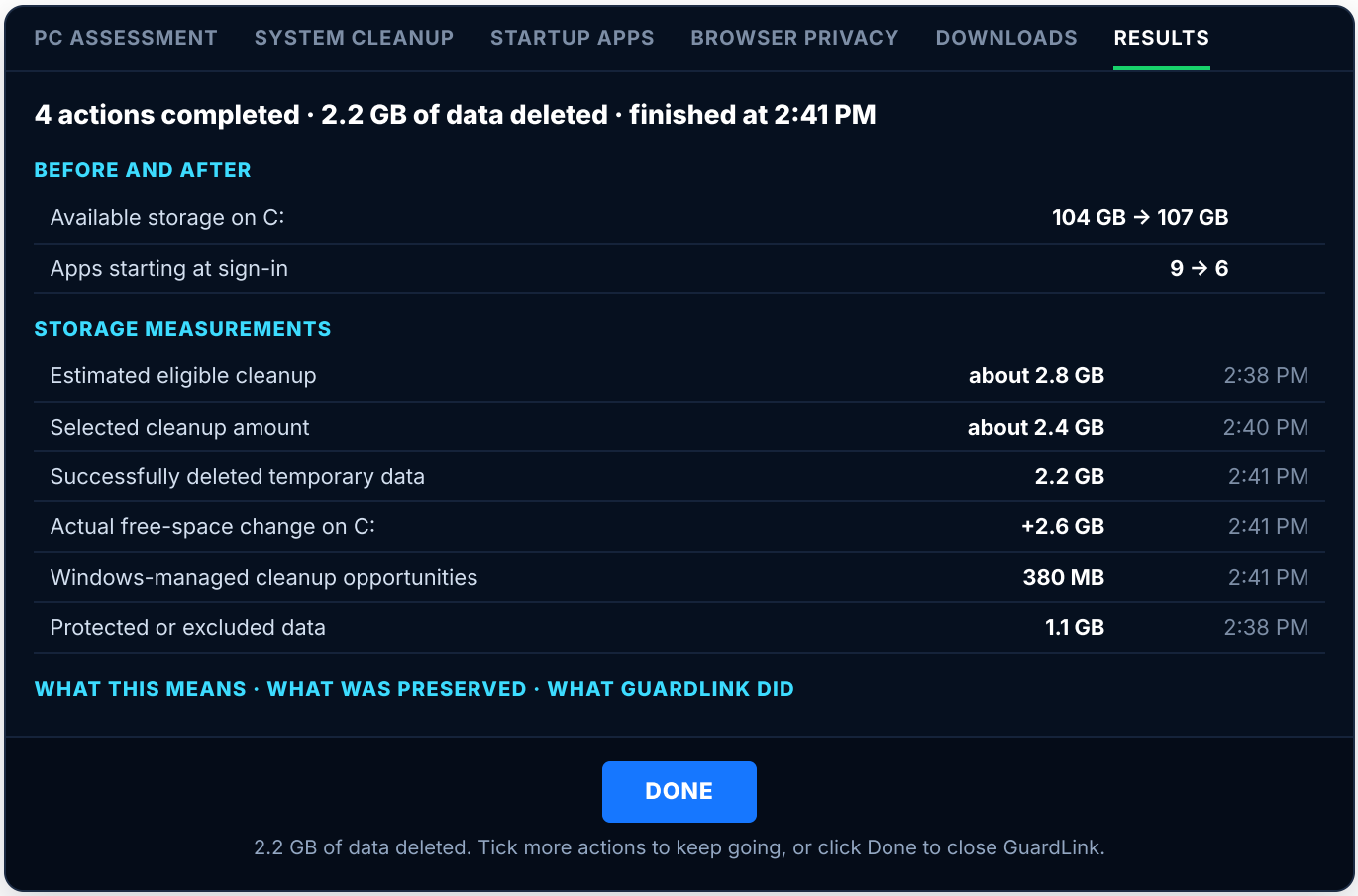


Illustration. Your numbers will differ.

- ✔ **Separate, honest numbers.** The estimate, what you selected, what GuardLink actually deleted and the real change in free space are shown apart. Estimates always say "about".
- ✔ **Differences are explained.** If free space changed more or less than what was deleted (for example because Windows removed its own update files, or files went to the Recycle Bin), Results says why.
- ✔ **What this means** gives a short explanation for each kind of action that ran. **What was preserved** lists what GuardLink kept, such as your passwords, bookmarks and documents.
- ✔ **What GuardLink did** lists every action as done, skipped or failed, with how to undo it.

1. To keep a copy, click **SAVE REPORT** on the Results tab. It saves a web page you can open, print or email.
2. Click **DONE** to close GuardLink, or tick more actions to keep going.

STEP 8 (OPTIONAL)

8 Tidy your Downloads

Old installers and archives often pile up in Downloads, but only you know which files you still need. GuardLink selects nothing for you.

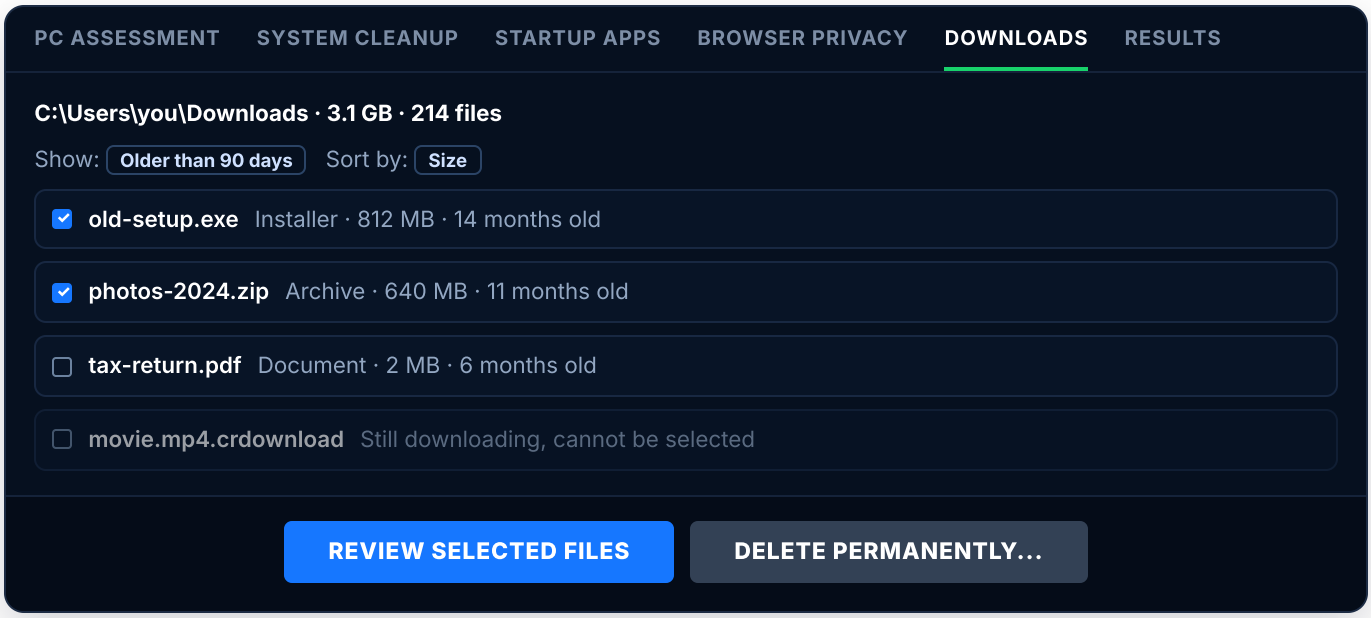


Illustration of the Downloads tab.

1. Click **LIST FILES**. Listing changes nothing.
2. Use **Show** (older than 30 or 90 days, large files, installers, archives, documents) and **Sort by** (size, name, type, age) to find files. Filters only narrow the list; they never tick anything.
3. Tick the files you no longer need, then click **REVIEW SELECTED FILES**. Check the list and confirm.

- ✔ **Recycle Bin first.** Files go to the Recycle Bin, so you can restore them. Because they are still on the disk, Results does not count them as space recovered until the Recycle Bin is emptied.
- ✔ **Permanent delete is separate.** **DELETE PERMANENTLY...** is a darker button and asks twice.
- ✔ **Checked again before it moves.** A file that is still downloading, open in another app, changed since the list was made, or reached through a link is skipped, with the reason.

STEP 9

9 How GuardLink keeps you safe

Every action in GuardLink has a safety level. Safe items are ticked for you. Anything with a trade-off waits for your approval.

SAFE

Ticked for you

Disposable files that Windows and browsers rebuild by themselves.

- Temporary files and old logs
- Shader and update caches
- Browser cache

RECOMMENDED

Explained and ticked

Worth doing on most PCs. You can still untick them.

- Balanced power plan
- Windows Disk Cleanup

ADVANCED

Only if you tick it

Starts unticked. GuardLink explains the consequence first.

- Empty the Recycle Bin
- Turn off startup apps
- Cookies and browsing history (signs you out of websites)
- Old crash dumps (a technician may need them)
- Restore your previous power plan

PROTECTED

Never touched

GuardLink may measure these but never changes them.

- Font, icon and thumbnail caches
- Windows Prefetch
- Antivirus, backup, VPN and remote-support tools

GuardLink always

- ✔ Shows every exact action for review before anything runs
- ✔ Asks Windows for a restore point before changing settings
- ✔ Turns startup apps off the normal Windows way. Nothing is uninstalled.
- ✔ Remembers your old power plan so it can switch back
- ✔ Keeps a log of every check and change for your technician

GuardLink never

- ✕ Touches your documents or photos
- ✕ Removes downloaded files you did not pick
- ✕ Touches saved passwords, bookmarks or autofill
- ✕ Runs risky "registry cleaning"
- ✕ Kills running programs to fake a "RAM boost"

STEP 10

10 Questions and help

What happened to Guardian?

Guardian is now called GuardLink. Your PC was upgraded in place: the old shortcuts were replaced, and your logs and saved power plan were kept.

Windows says "Smart App Control blocked an app that may be unsafe".

Some new Windows 11 PCs have a setting called Smart App Control that blocks apps without a registered publisher signature. Click Okay and email support@10digits.net. We'll adjust the PC so GuardLink can run.

I clicked No on the permission prompt by mistake.

Nothing happened. Open GuardLink again and click Yes.

Will GuardLink sign me out of websites?

Not unless you tick Cookies & Other Site Data, which starts unticked. Cleaning the browser cache keeps you signed in.

Something was skipped or says not done.

Usually a program had the file open, or a browser was left open and you chose to skip it. Close your programs and run GuardLink again, or leave it. Nothing is harmed.

Why is the space freed different from the estimate?

Estimates are made before anything runs. Files in use are skipped, Windows may remove or write its own files at the same time, and files moved to the Recycle Bin still take space. Results shows each number separately and explains the difference.

Can I undo a change?

Each action on the Results tab explains how to undo it. Startup apps can be turned back on in Task Manager, files from Downloads can be restored from the Recycle Bin, and the next analysis offers to switch back to your previous power plan. For anything else, System Restore can roll the PC back to the restore point GuardLink requested.

How often should I run GuardLink?

Once a month is plenty for most PCs, or whenever the PC feels slow or low on space.

Something went wrong.

GuardLink shows a message instead of closing, and records the details in its log. Email support@10digits.net and we can read the log to see what happened.

Need help?

Email 10 Digits at support@10digits.net or visit 10digits.net. Tell us the PC's name, which is shown under the title in the GuardLink window.