Guardian
User Guide

How to check your PC, clean it safely and see exactly what changed. Version 4.5.0 for Windows 10 and 11.

1 Opening Guardian

2 The Guardian window

3 Check your PC

4 Review what was found

5 Clean all

6 Your results

7 How Guardian keeps you safe

8 Questions and help

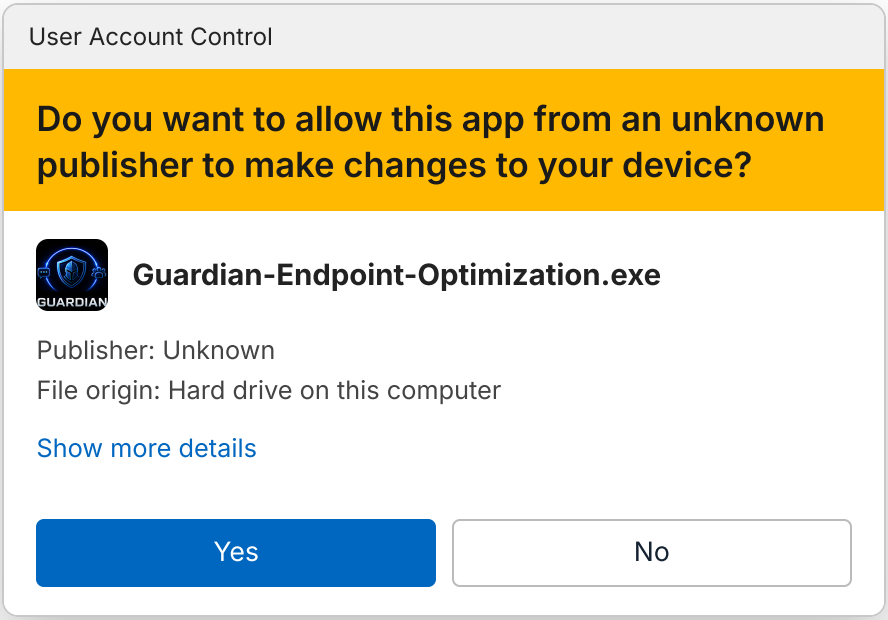
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STEP 1

1 Opening Guardian

Double-click the **Guardian Endpoint Optimization** icon on your desktop, or find it in the Start menu.

Guardian 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**.
2. Click **Yes**. Guardian opens a few seconds later.
3. If Windows asks for a password, enter an administrator account's password, or ask 10 Digits to run Guardian for you.

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

> **"Guardian is already open on this PC"**
> Only one copy of Guardian can run at a time, so two cleanups never overlap. If you see this message, click OK and switch to the Guardian window that is already open (check the taskbar).

STEP 2

2 The Guardian window

Everything happens from one screen. A single green button at the bottom always shows the next step.

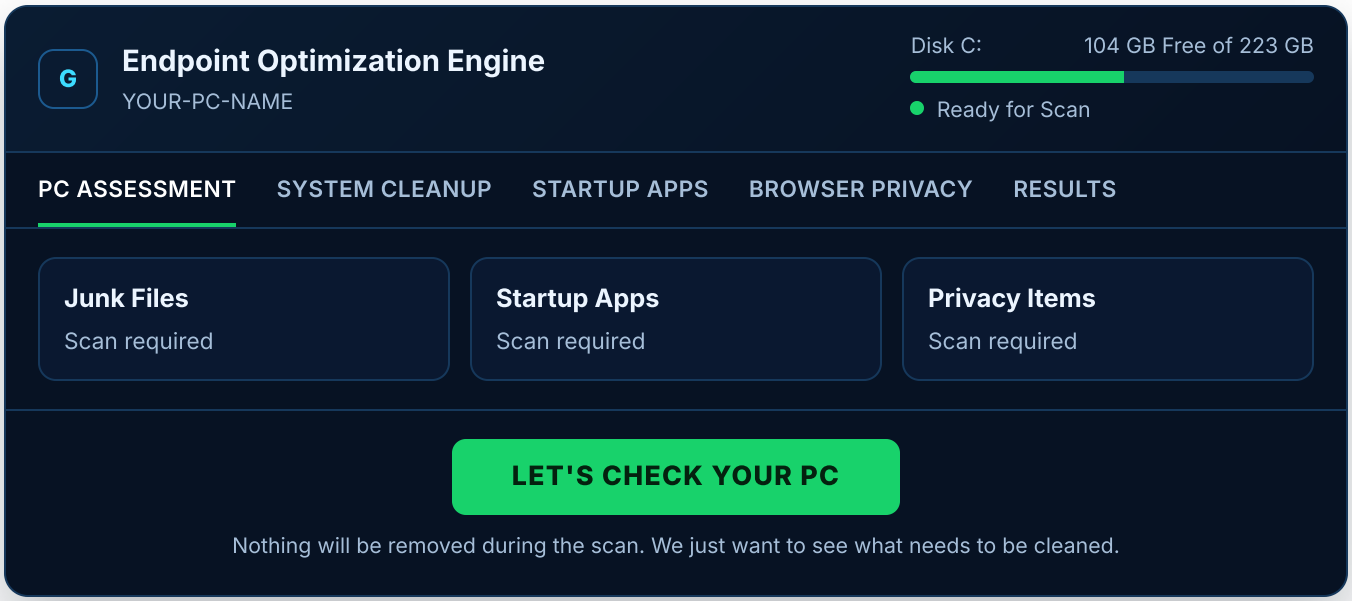


Illustration of the Guardian window before the first scan.

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

Cards A quick summary of junk files, startup apps and privacy items once the scan is done.

Tabs Each area Guardian looks at. Numbers on the tabs show how many items are ticked.

Green button The next step. Its label changes as you go: check, clean, done.

The five tabs

- **PC Assessment** is a plain-English report on your PC's health, with the fixes Guardian can make.
- **System Cleanup** lists the Windows temporary files, logs and caches that can be cleared.
- **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.
- **Results** is your before-and-after report.

STEPS 3 AND 4

3 Check your PC

Click **LET'S CHECK YOUR PC**. Guardian looks over the whole PC, which usually takes less than a minute. **Nothing is changed or removed during the check.** You can click **CANCEL** at any time.

4 Review what was found

When the check finishes, the cards fill in and the PC Assessment tab explains each finding: what was found, what it means, and what Guardian recommends.

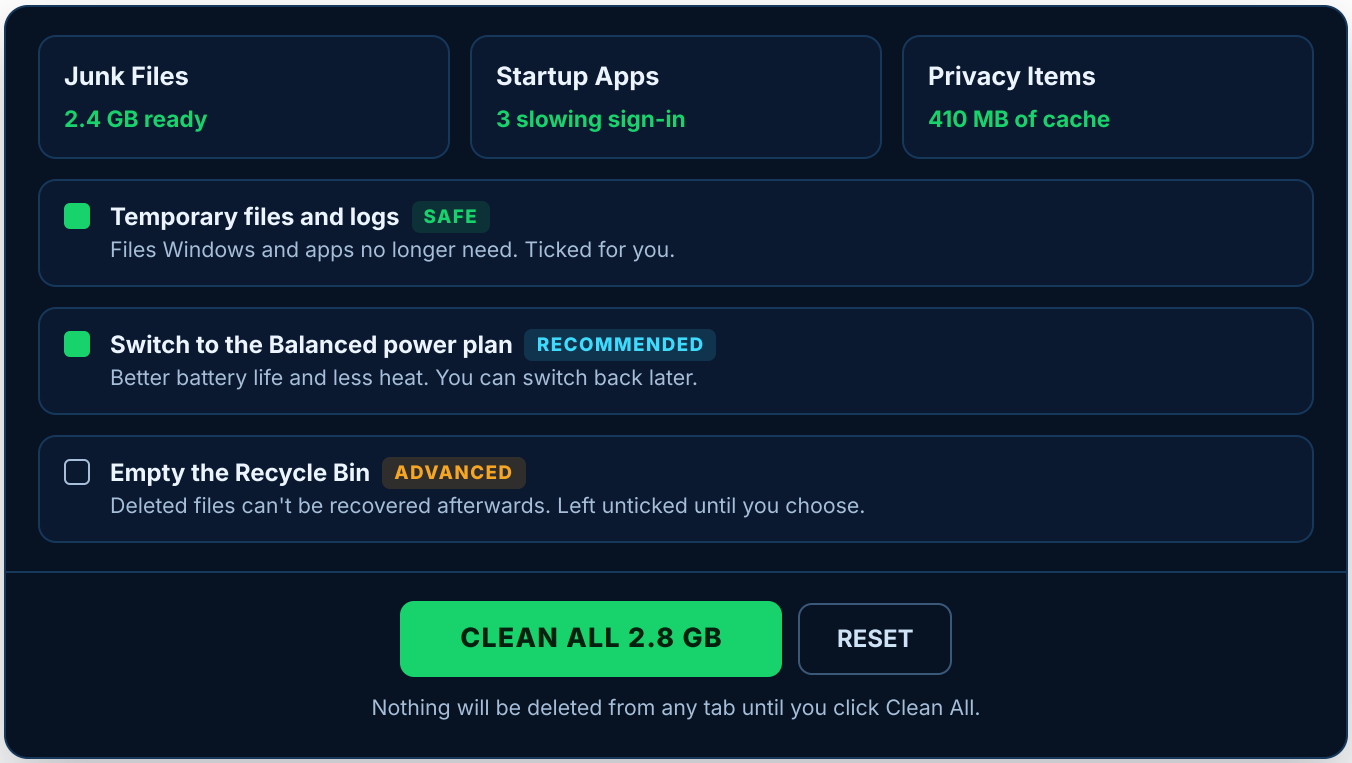


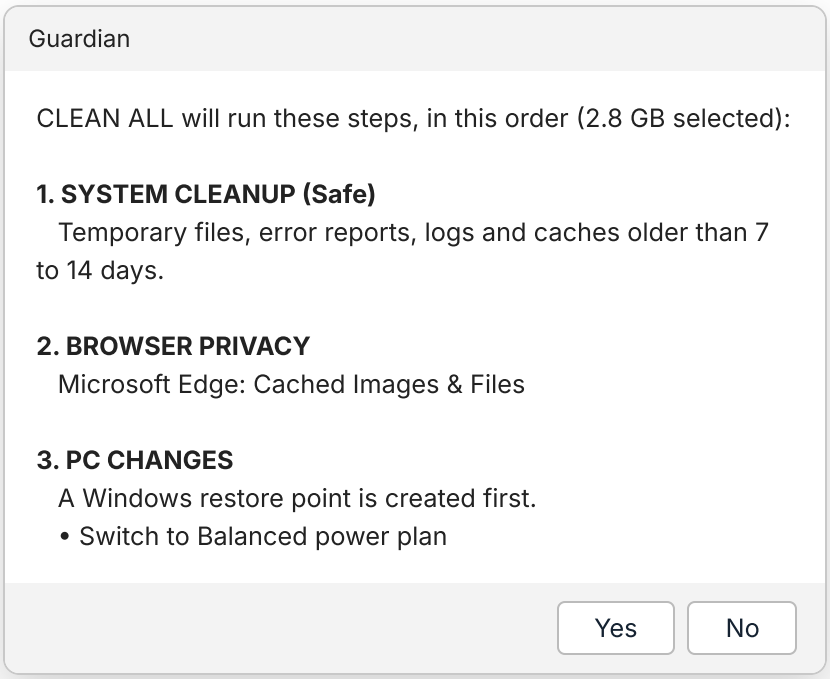
Illustration after a scan. Your numbers will differ.

- **Ticked items** are safe or recommended. Untick anything you want to keep.
- **Unticked items** have a trade-off, such as signing you out of websites. Tick them only if you're sure.
- Look through the other tabs too. The green button always shows the total of everything ticked on every tab.
- **RESET** clears the scan so you can start over.

STEP 5

5 Clean all

Click **CLEAN ALL**. Guardian shows exactly what it is about to do and asks you to confirm once.



Example confirmation. It lists only what you ticked.

While Guardian cleans

- **A restore point comes first.** Before changing any Windows setting, Guardian asks Windows to save a restore point, so the PC can be rolled back.
- **Open browsers.** If a browser you ticked is open, Guardian asks you to close it or skip it. 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, Guardian leaves it alone and counts it as skipped. That's normal.
- **Let it finish.** The button shows **CLEANING...**, and Guardian won't close halfway through. Most cleanups take a minute or two.

> **Clean one area only**
> The System Cleanup and Browser Privacy tabs each have their own button, **CLEAN SYSTEM ONLY** or **CLEAN BROWSERS ONLY**, if you want to clean just that tab.

STEP 6

6 Your results

When cleaning finishes, Guardian measures the PC again and opens the Results tab, so you can see exactly what changed.

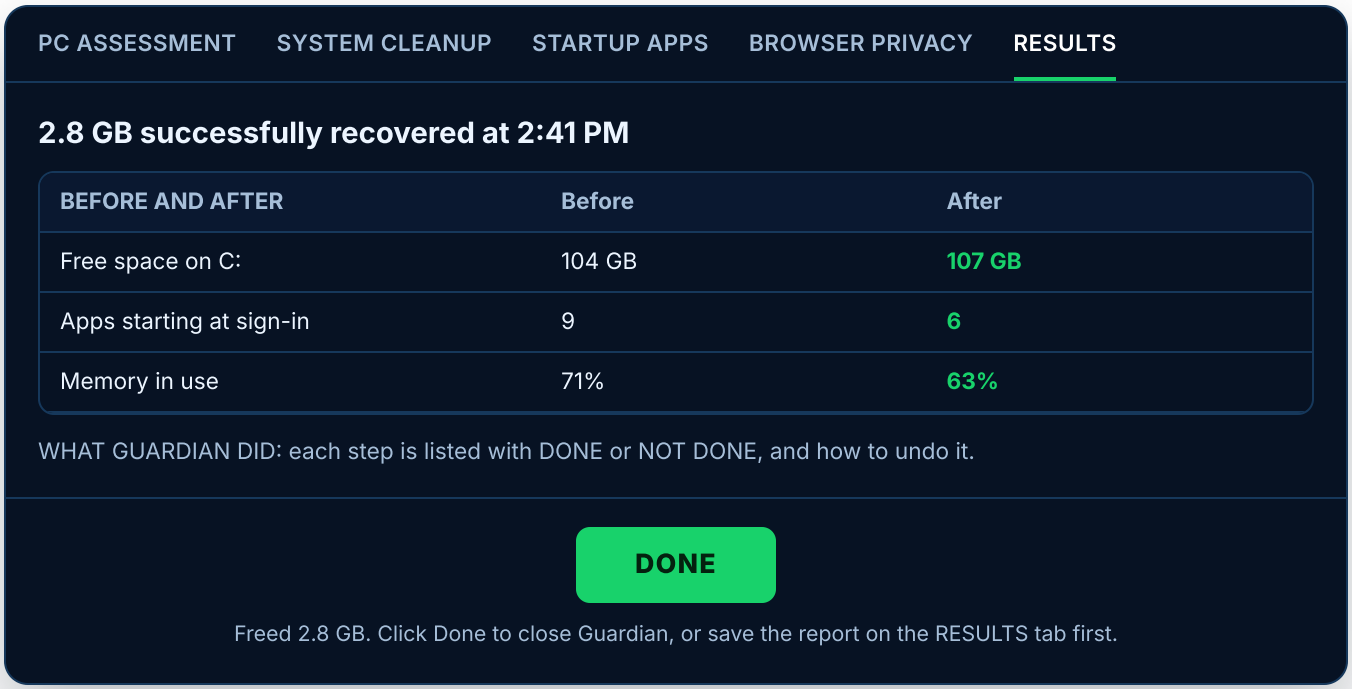


Illustration. Your numbers will differ.

1. Check the before-and-after figures and the list of what Guardian did.
2. To keep a copy, click **SAVE REPORT** on the Results tab. It saves a web page you can open, print or email.
3. Click **DONE** to close Guardian.

> **Restart when it's convenient**
> If Guardian found a restart waiting to finish updates, or your PC hasn't restarted in a long time, restarting after cleaning gives you the full benefit.

STEP 7

7 How Guardian keeps you safe

Every action in Guardian 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.

- Old crash dumps
- Balanced power plan
- Windows Disk Cleanup

ADVANCED

Only if you tick it

Starts unticked. Guardian explains the consequence first.

- Empty the Recycle Bin
- Turn off startup apps
- Cookies and browsing history (signs you out of websites)
- Restore your previous power plan

PROTECTED

Never touched

Guardian may measure these but never changes them.

- Font and icon caches
- Thumbnail cache
- Windows Prefetch

Guardian always

- ✔ 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

Guardian never

- ✕ Touches your documents, photos or Downloads
- ✕ Touches saved passwords or bookmarks
- ✕ Runs risky "registry cleaning"
- ✕ Kills running programs to fake a "RAM boost"

STEP 8

8 Questions and help

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 Guardian can run.

I clicked No on the permission prompt by mistake.

Nothing happened. Open Guardian again and click **Yes**.

Will Guardian 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 Guardian again, or leave it. Nothing is harmed.

Can I undo a change?

Each step on the Results tab explains how to undo it. Startup apps can be turned back on in Task Manager, and the next scan offers to switch back to your previous power plan. For anything else, System Restore can roll the PC back to the restore point Guardian requested.

How often should I run Guardian?

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

Something went wrong.

Guardian 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 Guardian window.