

7 signs slowness is hardware, not a virus

Demand specs before you assume malware. Defender can stay on.

Buy nothing is a valid outcome.

1. Disk clicks or Task Manager shows 100% disk on an HDD
2. 4 GB RAM, or memory always full with one browser
3. Startup takes many minutes after a normal restart
4. Safe Mode is still slow (disk, heat, or RAM)
5. Task Manager points at hardware wait, not a mystery process
6. Storage Sense frees little; the drive is just full of photos
7. Two antivirus programs are fighting (shop leftover / expired trial)

Uninstall the extra scanner you are not paying for; confirm Defender is on.

A paid cleanup suite does not replace a dying disk.

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