

What is a Virus Scan?

If your computer is running poorly, or not running at all, a ReliaTech technician may tell you that you need a virus scan.

Viruses are just one of many types of bad programs that can attack your computer. There are many names for these programs, depending on what they do, including, but limited to:

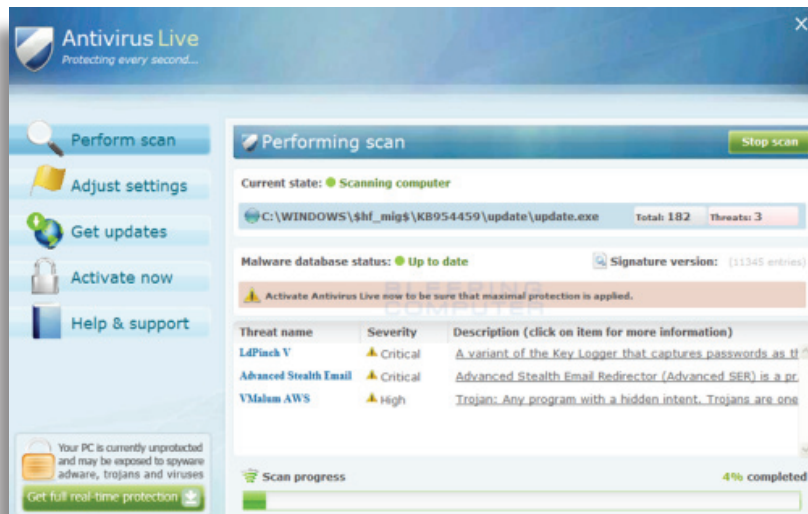
- Virus
- Trojan
- Malware
- Spyware
- Root Kit
- Adware
- Bot Net
- Worm

The bottom line is that any of these can damage your computer and data, and none are good.

When your ReliaTech technician does a virus scan, he or she is actually testing your system for all of these types of bad programs, and removing them. We use an “industrial strength” version of the same sort of software you have to prevent virus infections. Unfortunately, the virus builders (bad guys) and the virus hunters (good guys) are playing leap frog – every better viruses leads to a better protection, which leads to better viruses, and so on.

The best way to keep your system healthy is to avoid viruses and other bad programs completely. Here are some tips on avoiding viruses:

- Never open email from an unknown sender.
- Do not open email marked as “SPAM”
- Avoid porn and free download websites.
- Avoid free apps on Facebook and Twitter.
- Avoid Limewire, Bearshare, BitTorrent and other peer-to-peer download programs.
- Never click on an unexpected warning box telling you that you may have a virus – this really bad malware offers a solution, but in fact makes your computer sick.
- And be sure to keep your antivirus software up to date by setting it to update daily, and letting it do its thing.



This is a fake: NEVER click on a warning like this!

Unfortunately, sometimes the bad guys take the lead, and your computer can become infected despite your best efforts.

There is no way to 100% guarantee that you will never get a virus.

And depending on your surfing and email habits, you could get a virus the day after you have your system scanned. The only way to avoid viruses and other malware is to practice safe email and web surfing habits.