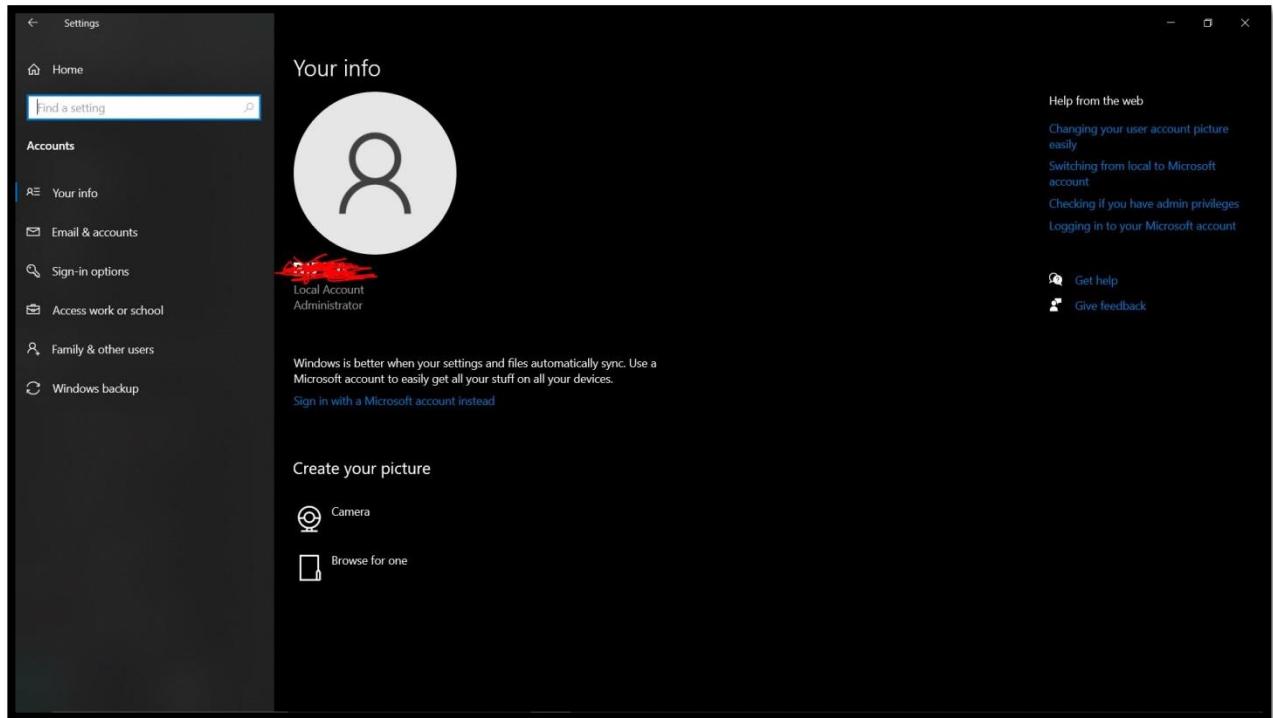


Operating System Security Checklist – Windows

1. User Accounts & Access Control

- Verified administrator and standard user accounts
- Administrator privileges restricted for daily usage
- Standard user recommended for normal activities

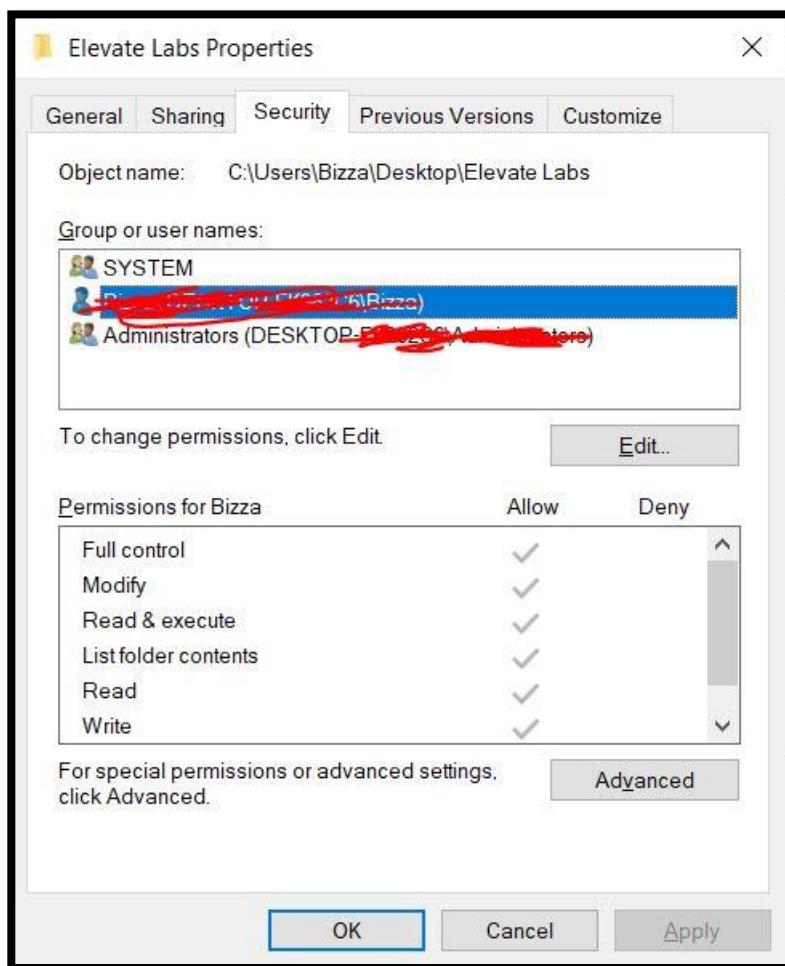


2. Administrator vs Standard User

- Administrator used only for system-level changes
- Standard user used for browsing, downloads, and regular work
- Reduced risk of accidental system damage or malware execution

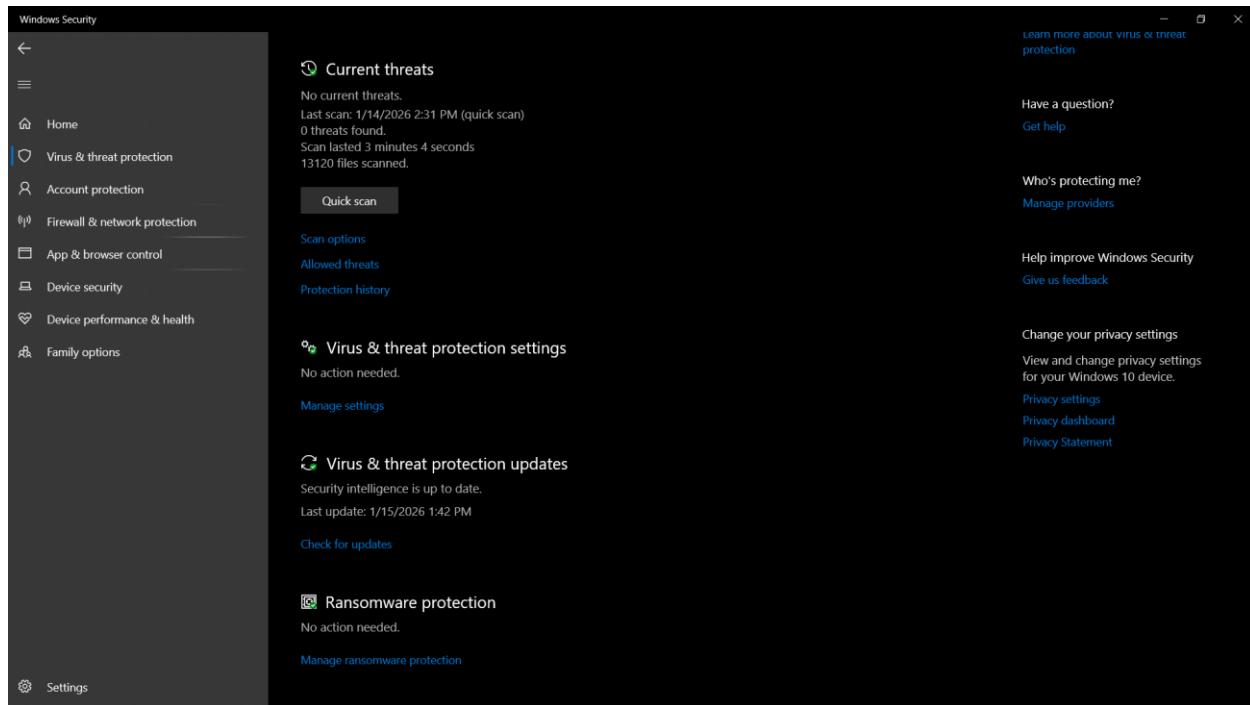
3. File & Folder Permissions

- File permissions reviewed using Security tab
- Access rights such as Read, Write, Modify, and Full Control understood
- Sensitive folders restricted to authorized users only



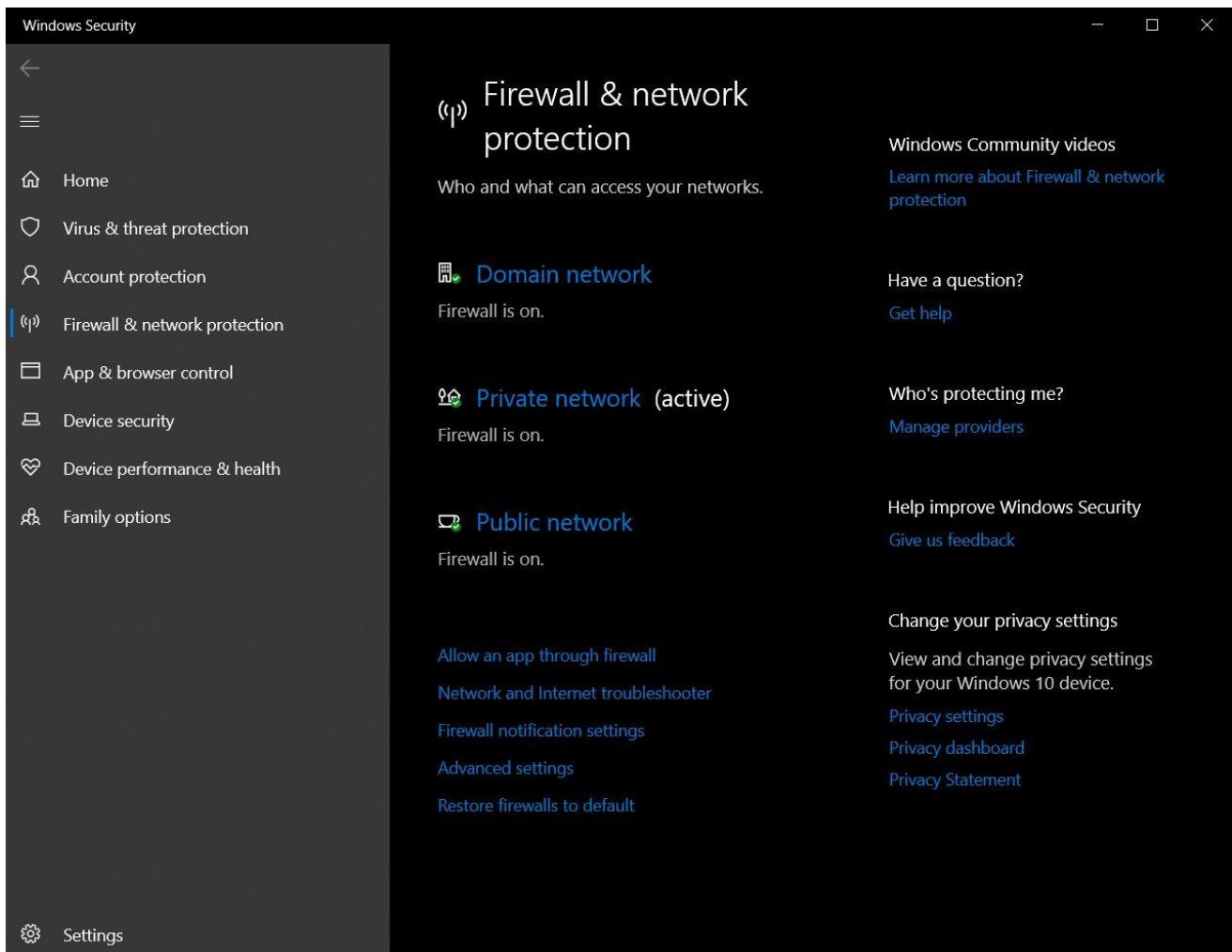
4. Windows Defender Security

- Real-time protection enabled
- Virus & threat protection active
- System protected against malware and ransomware
- Cloud-delivered protection enabled for faster threat detection
- Automatic security updates ensured through Windows Update
- Periodic system scans available to detect hidden threats



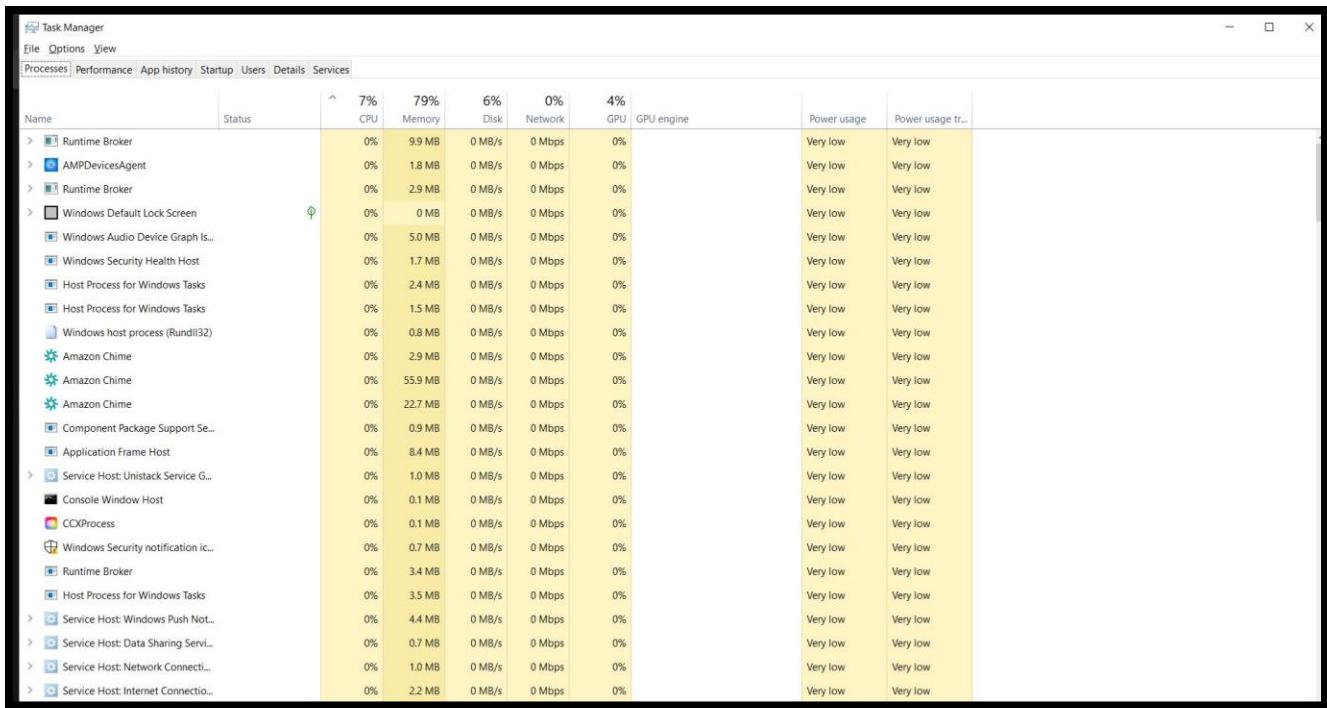
5. Firewall Configuration

- Windows Firewall enabled for:
 - Domain Network
 - Private Network
 - Public Network
- Unauthorized network access blocked



6. Running Processes Monitoring

- Active processes viewed using Task Manager
- Unknown or suspicious processes identified
- Resource usage monitored
- High CPU or memory usage processes checked regularly
- Background applications reviewed to avoid unnecessary load
- Unwanted startup programs identified and managed

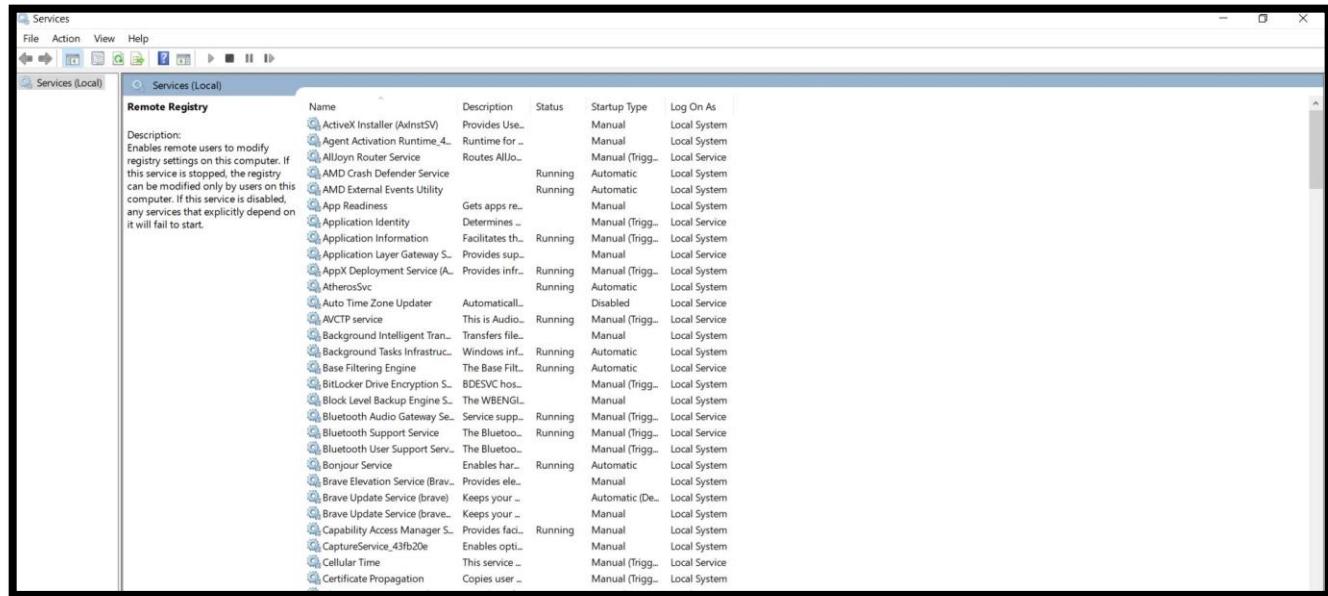


The screenshot shows the Windows Task Manager interface. The main window displays a list of running processes. The columns are labeled: Name, Status, 7% CPU, 79% Memory, 6% Disk, 0% Network, 4% GPU, GPU engine, Power usage, and Power usage tr... (truncated). Most processes listed have minimal resource usage, indicated by low percentages in all columns except for Memory, which shows values ranging from 0.7 MB to 9.9 MB. The processes include Runtime Broker, AMPDevicesAgent, Windows Default Lock Screen, Windows Audio Device Graph Is..., Windows Security Health Host, Host Process for Windows Tasks, Windows host process (Rundll32), Amazon Chime, Component Package Support Se..., Application Frame Host, Service Host: Unistack Service G..., Console Window Host, CCXPProcess, Windows Security notification ic..., Runtime Broker, Host Process for Windows Tasks, Service Host: Windows Push Not..., Service Host: Data Sharing Serv..., Service Host: Network Connecti..., and Service Host: Internet Connectio... .

Name	Status	7% CPU	79% Memory	6% Disk	0% Network	4% GPU	GPU engine	Power usage	Power usage tr...
> Runtime Broker		0%	9.9 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
> AMPDevicesAgent		0%	1.8 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
> Runtime Broker		0%	2.9 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
> Windows Default Lock Screen		0%	0 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
Windows Audio Device Graph Is...		0%	5.0 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
Windows Security Health Host		0%	1.7 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
Host Process for Windows Tasks		0%	2.4 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
Host Process for Windows Tasks		0%	1.5 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
Windows host process (Rundll32)		0%	0.8 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
Amazon Chime		0%	2.9 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
Amazon Chime		0%	55.9 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
Amazon Chime		0%	22.7 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
Component Package Support Se...		0%	0.9 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
Application Frame Host		0%	8.4 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
> Service Host: Unistack Service G...		0%	1.0 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
Console Window Host		0%	0.1 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
CCXPProcess		0%	0.1 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
Windows Security notification ic...		0%	0.7 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
Runtime Broker		0%	3.4 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
Host Process for Windows Tasks		0%	3.5 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
> Service Host: Windows Push Not...		0%	4.4 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
> Service Host: Data Sharing Serv...		0%	0.7 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
> Service Host: Network Connecti...		0%	1.0 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
> Service Host: Internet Connectio...		0%	2.2 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low

7. Services Management

- Services reviewed using services.msc
- Unnecessary services identified (e.g., Fax, Remote Registry)
- Reduced attack surface by limiting unused services



8. OS Hardening Practices

- System updates applied regularly
- Strong passwords used
- Least privilege principle followed
- Built-in security tools enabled

Final Outcome

This task helped in understanding how operating system-level security works in Windows and how system hardening reduces security risks.