# STIG: How to Harden Windows 10

## Enable Windows Defender

## **Open Windows Security center. If Virus & Threat protections is turned off, turn it on. If the Firewall & Network protection is turned off, turn that on as well.** A screenshot of a cell phone Description automatically generated

Allow the app to make changes to your system. Once both AV and Firewall are back on, run a quick scan. Complete the rest of this STIG to harden the system while the scan is completing.

Once this is complete, the GUI should display that no action is needed.  
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## Check for Updates & Install

Open Windows update center. Check for updates

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Allow the updates to install while completing the rest of this guide. Restart the machine when prompted once completed. Once completed, the “up to date” screen will appear.A screenshot of a cell phone

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## Enable Ransomware Protection

In Windows security, enable ransomware protection. This protects folders designated in the “protected folders” section. This changes permissions for the folders so they cannot be accessed and changed by malware. You can add protected folders as shown in the third screenshot below.

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