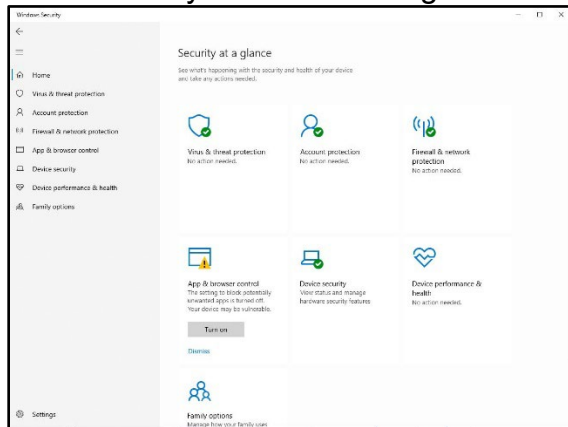


## Part 1

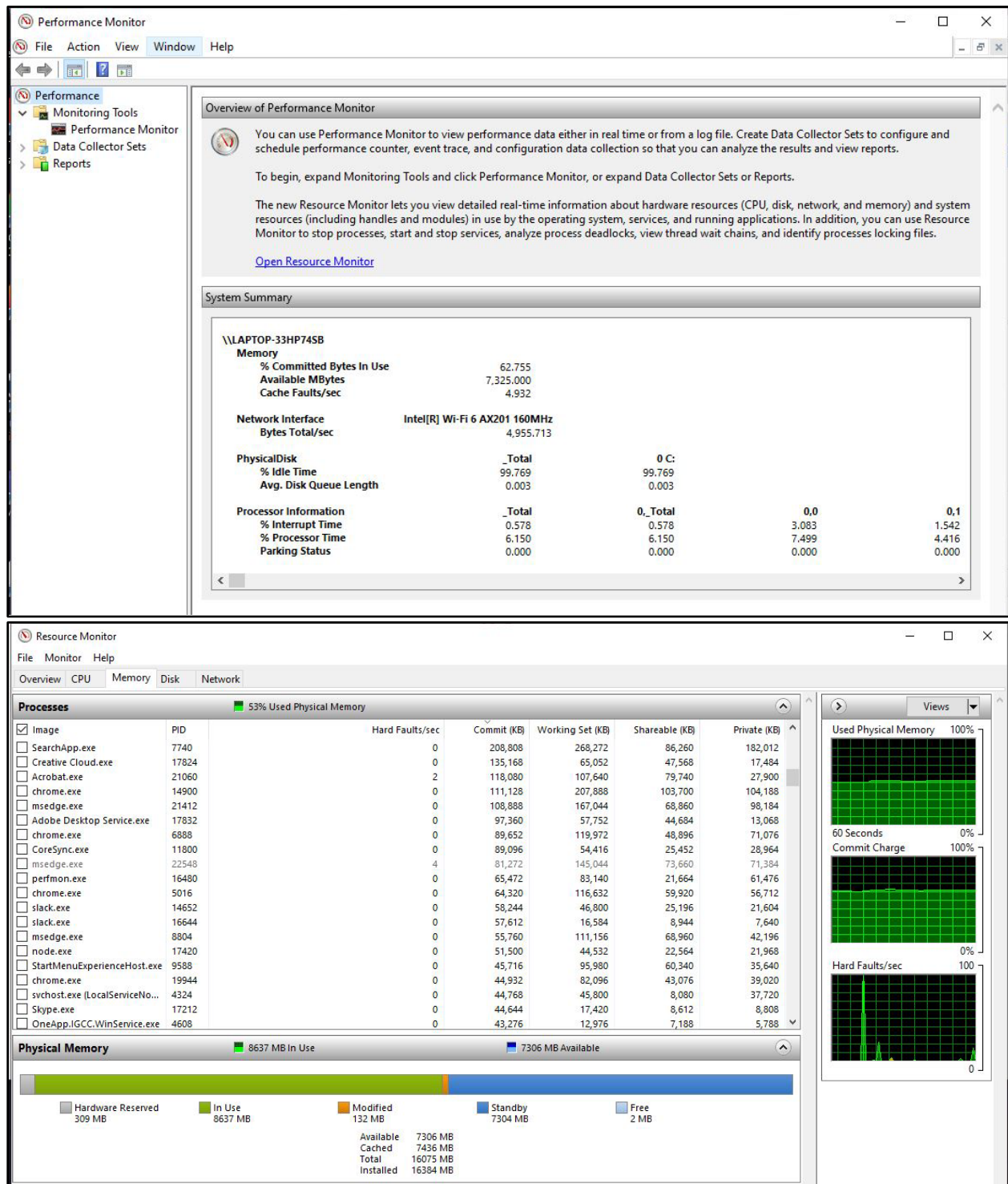
At first, I wasn't sure what type of anti-virus/malware I had so I did some research via *Microsoft.com* and found out I had Windows Defender. I know I have it because when I visited <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/comprehensive-security> it depicted the same image as the screenshot I took of the Windows Security Center. I know this product came with my PC when I bought it back in 2020 for school.



**Microsoft Defender:** antivirus product developed by Microsoft to protect computers running windows. Scans, Detects, and removes viruses, spyware, and malware, helping to protect the operating system form infection.

Additionally, I remember I had installed and paid for McAfee Total Protection about a year and half ago. I really did not like the product because it took up a lot of memory and it made general web-browsing very inconvenient with the regular scans it would perform on routine sites that I would visit. Further, no matter how many times I adjusted the settings it would cause issues—sometimes with Blackboard—so I uninstalled it and canceled the service. I'm considering some of the Kaspersky products, however, I am frugal and don't want to pay for it. I will rely—and trust—the Windows Defender product for now.

## Part 2



I did notice that MsMpEng.exe was running and using a lot of the of physical memory. I did not want to permanently disable it so researched how to restrict/control usage of it by disabling real-time protection and scheduling Windows Defender scans from <https://www.freecodecamp.org/news/what-is-msmpeng-exe-why-is-it-of-high-cpu-disk-usage/> it went

from approximately 809MB down to about 346MB. And my overall Used Physical Memory dropped from nearly 50% to 34%. Further, I also End Process the following programs/applications via Resource Monitor because I don't use or haven't used them for a long time on this computer.

Creative Cloud.exe - Adobe product that I never use

Creative Cloud Helper.exe - component to previous line item

Cortana.exe - never once used this virtual assistant, I like Siri on Mac better

Slack.exe - I never open my Slack on my PC, only my Mac so I decided to End Process

Skype.exe - I only use Skype on my Mac products because the camera is a lot better so no need to run it on my PC

Overall Used Physical Memory dropped below 30% after I End Process the above .exe.