How to clean bloatware off your PC

It happens to the best of us. You've just purchased a new PC, and you're excited about all the blessed empty storage that's there for you to load with your favorite programs. But why is so much of the drive already full? What are all these notifications you're getting from apps you've never heard of? And why is some antivirus program trying to scan everything you download?

It sounds like your new device may have a bad case of bloatware. It's quite common for PCs (even fairly expensive ones) to come preloaded with a bunch of third-party software. Some will be free trials included with the hope that you will upgrade to paid services. There may be apps here and there that you actually want and find useful, but many will likely be garbage that you don't need. Not only will that take up storage space, but the constant scans, pop-ups, and other bells and whistles can slow your computer down and decrease your battery life.

Here's how to clear preinstalled programs off your PC so that you can truly start fresh.

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You can also uninstall directly from the Start Menu.

It should be as simple as that. Some programs don't make it

easy for you, though — you may end up needing to close other tabs and restart your device.

If you've uninstalled everything that looks like bloatware but you still feel like things are slowing your PC down, you may want to invest in a tool like , which can automatically scan your device to remove gunk. (But be warned that these clean-up programs can also generate very annoying pop-ups — ask me how I know.)

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