



7 Clear-Cut Signs You've Been Hacked

Smart hackers don't get caught. They break into your device, steal everything they can, and finish without a trace. Sometimes they leave a trail of destruction in their wake - malware, weird ads, confused relatives, and even a drained bank account or stolen identity.

It's pretty easy for hackers to do their job. Most people are ambivalent, but you don't have to be. [Click here for 5 security mistakes you're probably making right now.](#)

Computers, phones, routers, and down to the innocent webcam are vulnerable to cybercriminals.

So what if they've already broken in, yet you don't even know they're there? Here are clear-cut signs that you've been hacked.

1. Your gadget suddenly slows down

One of the side-effects of malicious software is a slow gadget. Software gets sluggish, or constantly freezes, or even crashes. If you start noticing some of these symptoms, your gadget may very well be infected with viruses, trojans or worms.

Malicious software usually runs in the background, secretly eating up your gadget's resources while it's active.

Here are tools you can use to pinpoint those nasty applications. If an application that you don't recognize is hogging your computer resources, it's likely a virus.

Kim Komando, excerpt posted on [SouthFloridaReporter.com](https://www.southflorida-reporter.com), April 30, 2018