

Microsoft Security Essentials and MALT5

Overview

Around the 11th January 2019 the Microsoft Security Essentials virus definitions were updated causing a false-positive match on the MALT5 executable. This resulted in the executable being quarantined.

Symptoms

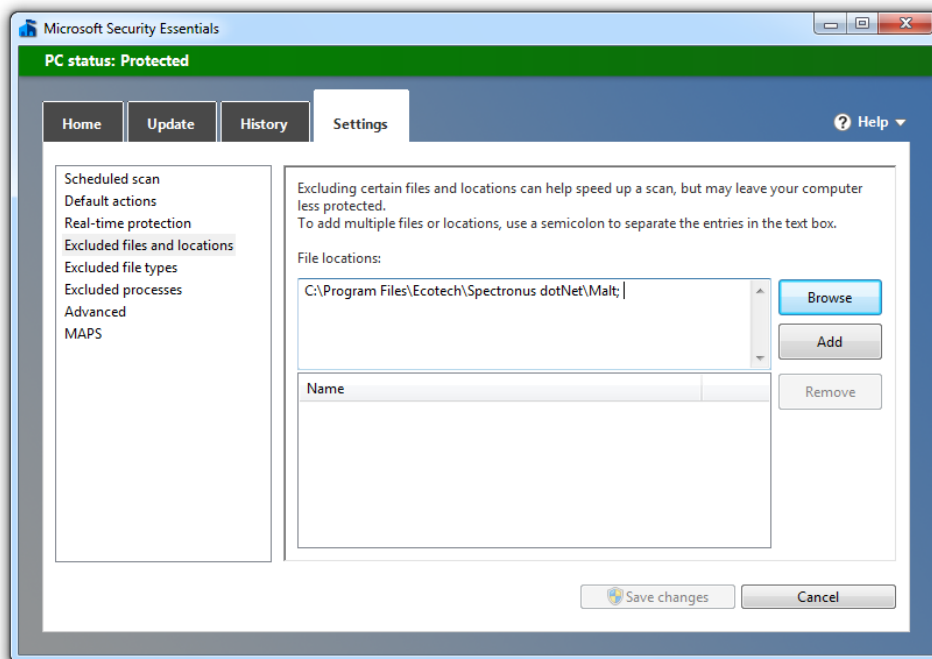
The most visible symptom of this action is a failure of the analysis of the spectra files in the Spectronus software. Spectronus will report: *"SpectrumAnalyser : Call to batch file failed with exit code 1"*, which effectively means that the executable is missing.

Additionally, if viewing the *About* dialog in Spectronus, the MALT5 version details will be unavailable.

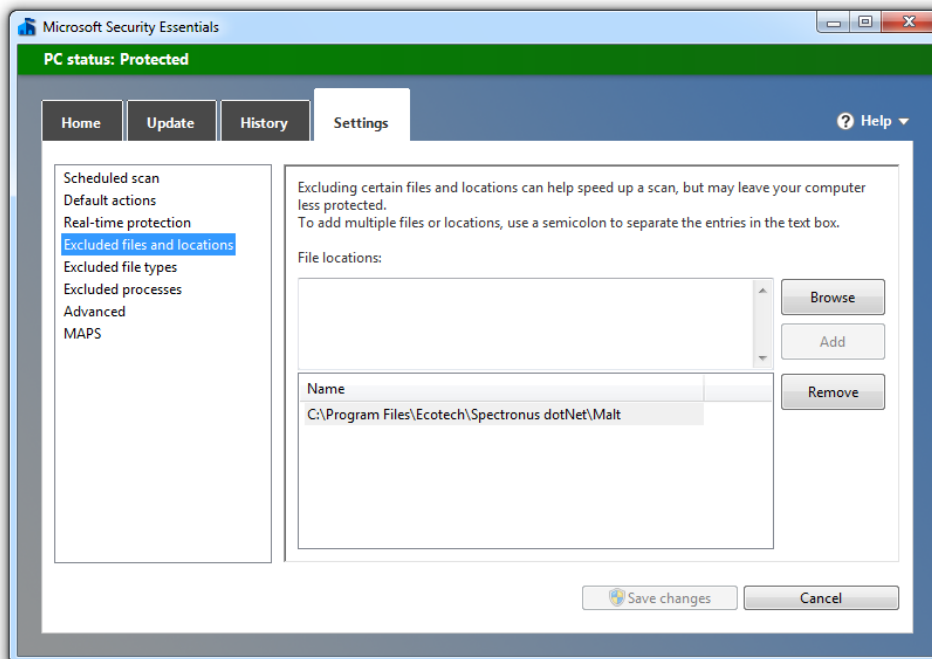
Resolution

While the missing MALT5 executable can be "un-quarantined" it is safer to download and install a new MALT5 executable. In order for the new file not to be quarantined the following steps should be performed:

1. Open the Microsoft Security Essentials (or Windows Defender) application by clicking on the MSE symbol, this looks like a house with a flag (or castle in the case of Windows Defender)
2. On the *Settings* tab select the *Exclude Files and Locations* menu item in the left-hand-side.
3. Click *Browse* and navigate to the Malt installation directory, which should be *C:\Program Files\Ecotech\Spectronus dotNet\Malt*



- Click **Add** to include the folder to the exclusion list



- Click **Save Changes**, you will need to do this with Administrator elevated permissions
- Download the new MALT5 file from the .zip file, or the ECOTECH website and extract it into the Malt installation directory.
- Restart the Spectronus application and check the Malt version details in the *About* dialog.