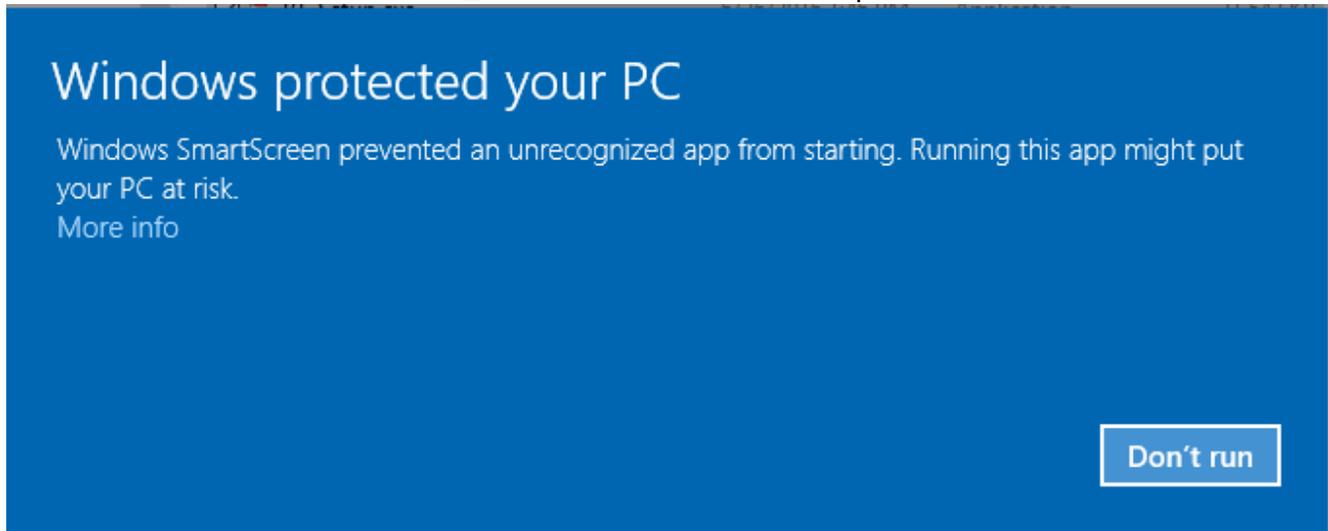


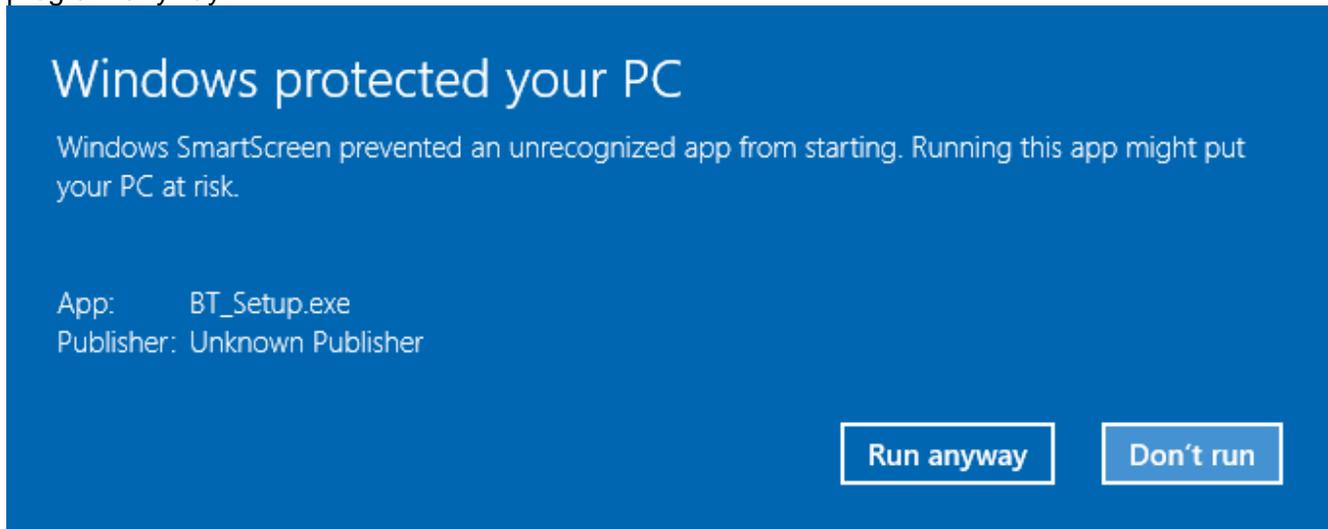
Why do I need to Temporarily Disable Windows Defender SmartScreen to Install *Barreltime*?

In early November, 2020, a Windows 10 upgrade included a security “enhancement” to its Windows Defender SmartScreen, which is an anti-phishing and anti-malware component of Defender. In part, this enhancement tightened its scrutiny of digital signatures and its dependency on reputation checks for apps being downloaded.

Prior to this change, SmartScreen would *sometimes* warn that certain downloads – such as the *BarrelTime* installer “`BarrelTime_Installer.exe`” – had the potential to be or contain a virus:



However, when you clicked on the [More info](#) link, you were given the option to run the installation program anyway:

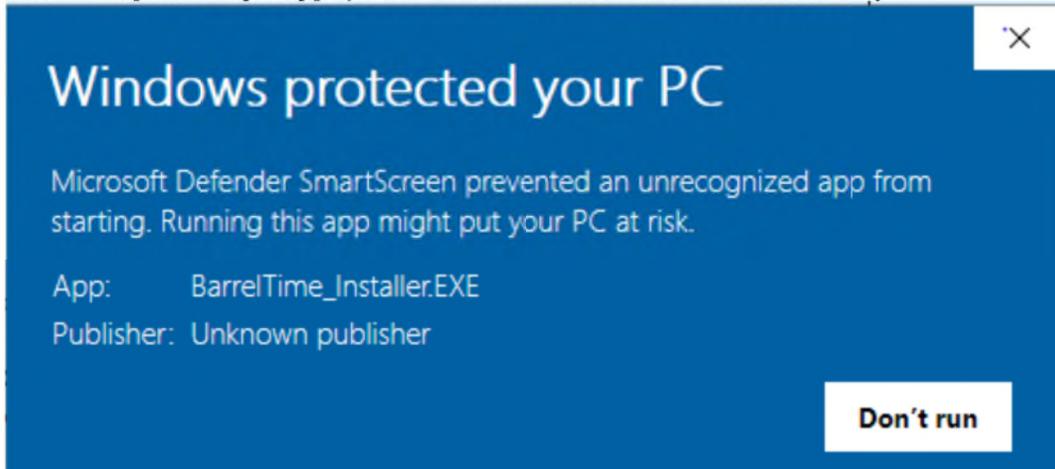


This did not occur with every download/installation. Whatever triggered it is hidden deep in the bowels of Windows Defender. One of those triggers is that Defender looks to see if the application has a digital signature to tell *you* and Defender who published the software. (***BarrelTime* does have a registered digital signature.**) Another one of those triggers became more obvious and important with the November upgrade – “*reputation checks*.”

SmartScreen Reputation Checks – Whenever you run Windows, Microsoft is collecting information about your computer use, what applications you are using on that computer and when you are on-line, what sites you are visiting. (Not to mention that your browser is *also* collecting information about your web use.) You have some options in the computer and browser settings that can limit some of the information that is collected – but you can't turn it off!

Whenever you download an application, that download is captured to a database that tracks and records that download along with the other millions of downloads that occur.

Since the November “enhancement” when you click on the More info link, you get only a **[Don't Run]** option – there is no **[Run Anyway]** option. The download/install is defeated by SmartScreen.



The reason is that when the “**Reputation Check**” database is checked, there are too few downloads of the **BarrelTime** Installer to trigger the **[Run Anyway]** option *despite BarrelTime* having a registered digital signature on record!

How many downloads are needed to create an acceptable reputation? Microsoft won't release that information for “security reasons” but sources say it is probably in the hundreds.

Hundreds of Barrel Racers looking for Barrel Racing software? Yeah... Right!

How can *BarrelTime* get out of this *Catch 22*?

Working on it! What is needed is an “**Extended Validation SSL Certificate**” which is both *time consuming* and *expensive*. **Sandune Data Systems** (the company that produces **BarrelTime**) is in the process of submitting numerous validation documents to the Certificate Authority (CA) to prove that it is a valid company, not some fly-by-night malware source.

The first requested document on the list is a **Dunn & Bradstreet** report! Hopefully the CA will accept a “**Done Graveled Street**” report and move on to the other documents that *can be* produced...

This process may take a month or more.

In the meantime – it will be necessary to temporarily disable Windows Defender SmartScreen while downloading/installing **BarrelTime**.