

## Remote device cleanup checklist

Because "we'll tidy it later" turns into "why is Chrome using 12GB of RAM?" faster than you can say "VPN."

You don't need a weekend rebuild to fix remote machines — just a focused sweep and repeatable habits. Use this checklist to clean, harden, and keep devices humming from anywhere.

Os on a supported release with latest cumulative update   Auto-updates enabled; maintenance window defined   Startup items reviewed; only essentials enabled   No pending disk errors; SMART/battery healthy (avoid disruptive checks; schedule if needed)   EDR/AV installed and last scan succeeded   EDR/AV installed and last scan succeeded   Tip: "Remind me tomorrow" is not a patch strategy.  3. Software hygiene   Unused apps/bloatware uninstalled   Avoidance of conflicting agents; if EDR + Defender, enabled coexistence/passive mode per vendor guidance   Required runtimes updated (.NET/VC++/Java as needed)   Browser extensions allowlisted; junk removed   Licenses reclaimed from decommissioned apps   Tip: "Fewer agents, fewer headaches, faster boots.  4. Storage & browser cleanup   Temp, cache, Downloads trimmed; Recycle Bin emptied   Large files (ISOs/VMs) archived or deleted   Cloud sync conflicts resolved; known folders redirected   Saved passwords moved to company password manager; browser store cleared   Enforced tracking controls via managed browser policy with allowlisted auth/SaaS exceptions   Tip: Browsers are mini operating systems — treat them like one.  5. Network & remote access   Wi-Fi profiles pruned to approved networks   Always-on VPN or ZTNA client auto-connects   DNS filtering/secure resolver enforced   RDP disabled unless brokered/gatewayed; block 3389 on WAN   Tip: If it'll join "FreeAirportWiFi," it'll join an evil twin too.	1. Inventory & access
Default/guest accounts disabled   Bitt.ocker/File/ault on with escrowed recovery keys   Former users fully removed (local = cloud sessions revoked)	Device shows in your source of truth (user, OS, last check-in)
BitLocker/File/sult on with escrowed recovery keys   Former users fully removed (local + cloud sessions revoked)   Tip: If it isn't in inventory, it's a liability, not a laptop.	Local admin removed from standard users
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Departed user tokens/sessions revoked everywhere     Corporate devices wiped and reenrolled before reassignment	
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Tip: If you can't restore it, you don't have it — you have hope.	Corporate devices wiped and reenrolled before reassignment
	<b>Tip:</b> If you can't restore it, you don't have it — you have hope.
	How'd you do?

• 26–30 checks: Fleet is clean, locked down, and gloriously boring.

• 18–25 checks: Solid shape with a few dust bunnies — schedule monthly sweeps.

• Fewer than 18: Prioritize and automate — manual cleanup won't scale.

Strong remote hygiene starts with visibility, repeatable policy, and push-button remediation. Demo PDQ Connect and make remote cleanup a routine, not a rescue

mission.

