How to protect a Windows 8.1

Upon unpacking an old yet new windows 8.1 machine, first thing is to change the default administrator password and document this password in a safe place. Best practice is to never use the device as the administrator unless it is absolutely needed. I would create a new user account with only the access that I would need. I then would put the device in a safe group until all services are installed and it is ready to go.

Upon turning on the device and resetting the password, I would also enable the pre-installed windows firewall and windows defender. I would not connect my device to public wifi until setup is 100% complete and safeguards are in place. Once connected to a secure internet, download all available updates and ensure your device is 100% protected by windows updates.

Security always trumps installing other software that is needed. I like to install a malware bytes application and a anti-virus program. The firewall that comes preinstalled is just not enough. You need several barriers, not one fence. Once everything security wise is installed, you can begin installing all other applications, ensuring each one you install has been checked for recent versions or updates.

Turning on file history and set a schedule to backup the C: drive is also another step you need to take in case an event happens. While connecting to the internet also ensure that windows SmartScreen is enabled on the browser and your browsers are up to date.