

WINDOWS 10: PRIVACY ISSUES

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An International
Association of Technology
& Computer User Groups

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<http://aztcs.org>

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Notes**”

SUMMARY

Even before its release on July 29, 2015, there was a lot of controversy about privacy issues for "Windows 10". You can use free software programs to adjust Windows 10's settings to defend yourself against Microsoft's privacy-invading defaults.

TOPICS

- Synopsis of Privacy Issues Surrounding "Windows 10"
- Privacy Issues From A Wider Perspective
- Log in with a Local Account
Increase Your Privacy

TOPICS (continued)

- Manually Tweaking Privacy Settings in "Windows 10"
- Free Software Programs for Tweaking Privacy-Related Settings in "Windows 10"

TOPICS (continued)

- Wi-Fi Sense sharing of Wi-Fi networking passwords is gone in the Anniversary Update
- A Super Rigorous Test For Each Setting Inside Any Operating System
- Articles About Privacy Issues in "Windows 10"

SYNOPSIS OF PRIVACY ISSUES SURROUNDING "WINDOWS 10"

The privacy issues surrounding
"Windows 10" are summarized
at

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_10#Privacy_and_data_collection

SYNOPSIS OF PRIVACY ISSUES SURROUNDING "WINDOWS 10"

In 2014 and 2015, the original free, time-limited Windows 10 Home/Pro Insider Previews had explicit and mandatory key logging.

When Windows 10 was released for retail sale in July 29, 2016, the full-version copies of "Windows 10.." had and still has user-configurable key logging that is subtly disclosed at Microsoft's Web site.

EXPLICIT MANDATORY KEYLOGGING AND DATA COLLECTION BY THE "INSIDER PREVIEWS" OF "WINDOWS 10"

- During the installation of the free, time-limited "Insider Previews" of "Windows 10" in 2014 and 2015, the "License Terms" (that you are asked to accept) told you to see the "Privacy Statement" at <http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?linkid=506737>

Windows Setup

License terms

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This is a license agreement between you and Microsoft Corporation (or, based on where you live, or if a business, where your principal place of business is located, one of its affiliates) that describes your rights to use the pre-release software named above. If you are entering into this agreement on behalf of an entity, such as your employer, you represent that you have the legal authority to bind that entity. License terms, which may come with the software, may replace or modify any on-screen license terms.

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Next



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The software may:

- **automatically collect and transmit data to Microsoft and its partners regarding activities on your device, including personal information (see Privacy Statement for details go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?linkId=506737);**
- not be stable or tested to the same level as commercially-released software;
- stop working, be updated, or removed from your device automatically without notice. For example, some features may be removed or may stop working after a predetermined time period or at the end of an evaluation cycle once enough data has been collected. Some third party applications installed on the device may also not work.

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This is a license agreement between you and Microsoft Corporation (or, based on where you live, or if a business, where your principal place of business is located, one of its affiliates) that describes your rights to use the pre-release software named above. If you are entering into this agreement on behalf of an entity, such as your employer, you represent that you have the legal authority to bind that entity. License terms, which may come with the software, may replace or modify any on-screen license terms.

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evaluation cycle c

evaluation cycle c

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Privacy Statements for Windows Technical Preview

Last update: October 2014

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Data We Collect

Microsoft collects many kinds of information in a variety of ways in order to operate effectively and provide you the best products, services and experiences we can. We may combine this data with information that is linked to your user ID, such as information contained in your **Microsoft account**.

When you acquire, install and use the Program, Microsoft collects information about you, your devices, applications and networks, and your use of those devices, applications and networks. Examples of data we collect include your name, email address, preferences and interests; browsing, search and file history; phone call and SMS data; device configuration and sensor data; and application usage. For example, when you:

- install the Program, we may collect information about your device and applications and use it for purposes such as determining or improving compatibility,
- use voice input features like speech-to-text, we may collect voice information and use it for purposes such as improving speech processing,
- open a file, we may collect information about the file, the application used to open the file, and how long it takes and use it for purposes such as improving performance, or
- enter text, we may collect typed characters and use them for purposes such as improving autocomplete and spellcheck features.

The Program contains internet-enabled features and social functionality. When these features are used, they transmit certain standard computer information ("Standard Computer Data") to Microsoft. Standard Computer Data may include information about the Program computing environment such as IP address, network status, operating conditions and information about devices and software used with the Program.

The Program contains internet-enabled features that transmit performance or usage information to Microsoft

EXPLICIT MANDATORY KEYLOGGING AND DATA COLLECTION BY THE ORIGINAL "INSIDER PREVIEWS" OF "WINDOWS 10"

<start of quote>

For example, when you:

...

enter text, we may collect typed characters and use them for purposes such as improving auto-complete and spell check features.

<end of quote>

THE "FULL RETAIL VERSION" OF "WINDOWS 10.." IS MORE SUBTLE ABOUT KEY LOGGING

EULA refers you to the "Microsoft Privacy Statement" at <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/privacystatement/> which does not mention key logging.

Microsoft Privacy Statement

Your privacy is important to us. This privacy statement explains what personal data we collect from you and how we use it. It applies to Bing, Cortana, MSN, Office, OneDrive, Outlook.com, Skype, Windows, Xbox and other Microsoft services that display this statement. References to Microsoft services in this statement include Microsoft websites, apps, software and devices.

We encourage you to read the summaries below and to click on "Learn More" if you'd like more information on a particular topic. The Service-Specific Details below provide additional information relevant to particular Microsoft services.

Personal Data We Collect

How We Use Personal Data

Reasons We Share Personal Data

Access & Control Your Personal Data

Cookies & Similar Technologies

Microsoft account

Other Important Privacy Information



Personal Data We Collect

Microsoft collects data to operate effectively and provide you the best experiences with our services. You provide some of this data directly, such as when you create a Microsoft account, submit a search query to Bing, speak a voice command to Cortana, upload a document to OneDrive, or contact us for support. We get some of it by recording how you interact with our services by, for example, using technologies like [cookies](#), and receiving error reports or usage data from software running on your device. We also obtain data from third parties (including other companies).

[Learn More](#)

How We Use Personal Data

Microsoft uses the data we collect to provide you the services we offer, which includes using data to improve and personalize your experiences. We also may use the data to communicate with you, for example, informing you about your account, security updates and product information. And we use data to help make the ads we show you more relevant to you. However, we do not use what you say in email, chat, video calls or voice mail, or your documents, photos or other personal files to target ads to you.

**THE "FULL RETAIL VERSION" OF "WINDOWS 10.."
IS MORE SUBTLE ABOUT KEY LOGGING
(continued)**

However, Microsoft discloses user-configurable key logging at their Web page at

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-10/speech-inking-typing-privacy-faq>

(This Web page is not mentioned directly or indirectly in the EULA!!)

Windows 10 speech, inking, typing, and privacy: FAQ

Applies to Windows 10

Show all

✓ What are speech, inking, and typing services?

When you interact with your Windows device by speaking, writing (handwriting), or typing, Microsoft collects speech, inking, and typing information—including information about your Calendar and People (also known as contacts)—that helps personalize your experience. This information improves your device's ability to correctly recognize your input, such as your pronunciation and handwriting. You can turn the Speech, inking, and typing setting (which is called **Getting to know you**) on or off in Settings.

Note


If you want to use Cortana, you must have **Getting to know you** turned on.

We also collect your typed and handwritten words to improve character recognition and provide you with a personalized user dictionary and text completion suggestions. Some of this data is stored on your device and some is sent to Microsoft to help improve these services. You can turn the **Send Microsoft info about how I write** setting on or off in Settings.

✓ How do I manage Speech, inking, and typing settings?

There are two settings you can turn on or off to manage speech, inking, and, typing settings.

- **Getting to know you**

Go to **Start** , then select **Settings > Privacy > Speech, inking, & typing**, and then select **Get to know me** to turn the services on, or select **Stop getting to know me** to turn the services off.

THE "FULL RETAIL VERSION" OF "WINDOWS 10.." IS MORE SUBTLE ABOUT KEY LOGGING

(continued)

<http://www.pcworld.com/article/2974057/windows/how-to-turn-off-windows-10s-keylogger-yes-it-still-has-one.html>

<http://www.express.co.uk/lifestyle/science-technology/603524/Windows-10-Microsoft-Key-Logger-Record-Privacy>

THE "FULL RETAIL VERSION" OF "WINDOWS 10.." IS MORE SUBTLE ABOUT KEYLOGGING (continued)

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/windows-10-keylogger-can-track-everything-you-type-you-can-turn-it-off-1519677>

<http://www.winbeta.org/news/relax-windows-10-doesnt-have-a-malicious-keylogger>

THE "FULL RETAIL VERSION" OF "WINDOWS 10.." IS MORE SUBTLE ABOUT KEYLOGGING (continued)

<http://boingboing.net/2015/08/03/windows-10-defaults-to-keylogg.html>

PRIVACY ISSUES FROM A WIDER PERSPECTIVE

The issue of privacy is best viewed from a larger perspective such as the analysis at

<http://www.gnu.org/proprietary/proprietary-surveillance.en.html>

PRIVACY ISSUES FROM A WIDER PERSPECTIVE (continued)

It is up to you to determine
how much information
Microsoft and other companies
can store about you.

LOG WITH A "LOCAL ACCOUNT" TO INCREASE YOUR PRIVACY

Log into "Windows 10" with a "local account" instead of a "Microsoft Account" to decrease the amount of information about you that Microsoft gathers.

See

http://aztcs.org/meeting_notes/winhardsig/win10/Win10-setup-local.pdf

LOG WITH A "LOCAL ACCOUNT" TO INCREASE YOUR PRIVACY (continued)

To set up a "Local Account" instead of a "Microsoft Account" during the installation of or upgrade to "Windows 10", see

http://aztcs.org/meeting_notes/winhardsig/win10/Win10-setup-local.pdf

LOG WITH A "LOCAL ACCOUNT" TO INCREASE YOUR PRIVACY (continued)

To convert your account from logging in with a "Microsoft Account" TO logging in with a "local account", see <http://www.howtogeek.com/230543/how-to-revert-your-windows-10-account-to-a-local-one-after-the-windows-store-hijacks-it/>

MANUALLY TWEAKING PRIVACY-RELATED SETTINGS IN "WINDOWS 10"

See

<http://www.networkworld.com/article/2957205/microsoft-subnet/tweaks-to-windows-10-settings-for-privacy.html>

and

<https://heimdalsecurity.com/en/windows-10-security-guide/privacy#call-privacy-settings>

FREE SOFTWARE PROGRAMS FOR TWEAKING PRIVACY-RELATED SETTINGS IN "WINDOWS 10"

Many free software programs are available to help you control what information Microsoft can gather from your use of "Windows 10".

FREE SOFTWARE PROGRAMS FOR TWEAKING PRIVACY-RELATED SETTINGS IN "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

The best free software utility
for configuring privacy settings
in "Windows 10" is

O&O's "ShutUp10"

which you can download at

<http://www.oos->

[software.com/en/shutup10](http://www.oos-software.com/en/shutup10)

FREE SOFTWARE PROGRAMS FOR
TWEAKING PRIVACY-RELATED
SETTINGS IN "WINDOWS 10" (continued)
If O&O ShutUp10 does not work
well for you, Kim Komando
recommends the free Ashampoo
"AntiSpy for Windows 10" which
you can download at
<https://www.ashampoo.com/en/usd/pde/1004/security-software/Antispy-for-Windows-10>

FREE SOFTWARE PROGRAMS FOR TWEAKING PRIVACY-RELATED SETTINGS IN "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- [http://www.ghacks.net/2015/08/14/
/comparison-of-windows-10-
privacy-tools/](http://www.ghacks.net/2015/08/14/comparison-of-windows-10-privacy-tools/)

FREE SOFTWARE PROGRAMS FOR TWEAKING PRIVACY-RELATED SETTINGS IN "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- At the present time, we do not recommend the free "DoNotSpy10" program. See <http://winsupersite.com/windows-10/word-warning-donotspy10-windows-10-privacy-tool>

A SUPER-RIGOROUS TEST FOR EACH SETTING INSIDE ANY OPERATING SYSTEM

- Turn off the setting if it uses up CPU cycles, RAM, and/or any of your Internet bandwidth
- Reserve as much of the above resources for your own use instead of sending more information about you to advertisers

ARTICLES ABOUT PRIVACY ISSUES IN "WINDOWS 10"

- <https://www.rt.com/usa/311304-new-windows-privacy-issues/>
- <http://www.expertreviews.co.uk/software/operating-systems/1403732/windows-10-privacy-issues-solved>

ARTICLES ABOUT PRIVACY ISSUES IN "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- [http://lifehacker.com/what-windows-10s-privacy-nightmare-settings-actually-1722267229?inset alt=on&utm_expid=66866090-55.VeucWPObSOiOW4XRx2RJD](http://lifehacker.com/what-windows-10s-privacy-nightmare-settings-actually-1722267229?inset_alt=on&utm_expid=66866090-55.VeucWPObSOiOW4XRx2RJD)
A.2

ARTICLES ABOUT PRIVACY ISSUES IN "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- http://www.slate.com/articles/technology/bitwise/2015/08/windows_10_privacy_problems_here_show_bad_they_are_and_how_to_plug_them.html

ARTICLES ABOUT PRIVACY ISSUES IN "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- <http://www.computerworld.com/article/2975004/microsoft-windows/4-overblown-windows-10-worries.html>

ARTICLES ABOUT PRIVACY ISSUES IN "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- <http://www.rockpapershotgun.com/2015/07/30/windows-10-privacy-settings/>

ARTICLES ABOUT PRIVACY ISSUES IN "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- <http://bgr.com/2015/07/31/windows-10-upgrade-spying-how-to-opt-out/>

ARTICLES ABOUT PRIVACY ISSUES IN "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- <http://www.theguardian.com/technology/2015/jul/31/windows-10-microsoft-faces-criticism-over-privacy-default-settings>

ARTICLES ABOUT PRIVACY ISSUES IN "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- <http://www.techrepublic.com/article/windows-10-violates-your-privacy-by-default-heres-how-you-can-protect-yourself/>

ARTICLES ABOUT PRIVACY ISSUES IN "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- <http://www.informationweek.com/software/operating-systems/windows-10-wi-fi-sense-raises-security-concerns/d/d-id/1321548>

ARTICLES ABOUT PRIVACY ISSUES IN "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- <https://www.thurrott.com/windows/windows-10/5337/windows-10-tip-understand-and-configure-privacy-settings>