

how to make windows 10 stop downloading apps



Why do Windows programs stop responding?

When a Windows program stops responding or freezes, it can be caused by many different problems. For example, a conflict between the program and hardware in the computer, lack of system resources, or software bugs can cause Windows programs to stop responding.

To try and fix the program that is not responding, there are multiple steps you can take. Below we walk through each of the troubleshooting steps in the process to fix a non-responding program. We recommend reviewing and trying each troubleshooting step in order, as they build upon each other.

End Task the program

The first step to try and resolve the program not responding is to press the Ctrl + Alt + Del keys on your keyboard to open the Close Program or Task Manager window. Once open, highlight the program that is not responding and click the End Task button to terminate the program. If another window opens, click the End Task button again to confirm stopping that program.

If the computer doesn't respond to Ctrl + Alt + Del, it may be deadlocked, see: [What should I do when a computer freezes or locks up?](#)

Realize that when a program stops responding, any work not saved is lost when end tasking a program.

After the program task is ended and no longer shows up in the Task Manager, you can try opening the program again to see if it works properly. If the problem persists, continue to the next section below.

Restart the computer.

If the program stops responding after closing and re-opening it, the next step is to restart your computer. Restarting the computer may seem like a "cop-out" answer, but it often solves many software issues and is one of the easiest troubleshooting steps to perform for most computer-related issues.

After your computer is restarted, open the program again to see if the issue is now resolved. If the program stops responding again, continue to the next section below.

Check for and download program updates.

If, after restarting your computer, the program stops responding again, check for available updates or patches for the program on the developer's website. They may help to address the problem. If there are updates or patches for the program, download and install those updates and patches.

After installing the updates and patches, restart the computer again to make sure they are applied to the program successfully. Open the program again and verify if it works correctly. If it stops responding again, or there aren't any updates or patches, continue to the next section below.

Uninstall and reinstall the program

If you are only experiencing problems with one specific program, and all other programs work correctly, uninstall the program having the issue. After uninstallation is complete, restart the computer, and then install the program again. Test the program again to see if it works correctly now.

If the problem occurs with more than one program, you can try uninstalling and reinstalling each of the programs having the issue. However, the issue may not be the programs themselves, but something else wrong in Windows or with the computer hardware. We suggest reviewing our [general computer troubleshooting page](#) for steps with troubleshooting Windows or hardware issues which could be causing programs to stop responding.

If the problem persists, continue to the next section below.

Virus and malware scans.

Viruses or malware can cause problems with Windows programs, including causing them to stop responding. Make sure you have an antivirus program installed on your computer, and that it is fully updated. Then, run a virus and malware scan to check if your computer is infected.

We also suggest installing the free Malwarebytes program to do an additional scan and removal of malware on your computer.

If any viruses or malware were found and removed, restart your computer, then launch the program again to see if it works correctly now. If the program still stops responding, continue to the next section below.

Restore Windows to an earlier date.

If the program stopped responding recently, you can try restoring Windows to a previous date when the problem was not occurring. The restore process can get the program back to a working state and may even fix other issues you are experiencing on your computer.

If restoring Windows to an earlier date didn't fix the problem, or there weren't any restore points available, continue to the next section below.

Contact the developer for support.

If, after trying the steps above, the program continues to stop responding, contact the program developer to determine if there are any known program issues. The developer's support team can also help troubleshoot the program issues further and help fix the problem.

How to enable Windows 10 to sideload apps.

On Windows 10, Microsoft continues to push its new modern app platform, which the company wants you to get primarily from the Windows Store. However, similar to other platforms like Android, you're also allowed to sideload apps outside the Store.

If you're unfamiliar with the term "sideload", in Windows 10 it means the process of installing apps on your computer that hasn't gone through the certification process to appear in the Store and to run on a Windows device.

The operating system by default blocks you from sideloading apps. The main reason is to protect you and your computer, as getting certified apps from the Store ensures that you're getting a good app that won't harm your device and it'll do what the developer says it will do.

However, there is number of good reasons to install apps outside the Store. Perhaps you're a developer, or you have a friend who is a developer and wants you to test an app before submitting it to the Store. It could also happen that you come across an app that leaked onto the web, and you want to try, or the fact that there a lot of apps available outside of the Windows Store.

In this Windows 10 guide, we'll walk you through the steps to allow the operating system to sideload Universal Windows Platform (UWP) apps on your computer.

How to allow Windows 10 to sideload apps on your computer.

Open Settings . Click on Update & security . Click on For developers .

Under "Use developer features," select the Sideload apps option.

Click Yes to confirm the risks involved running an app outside the Windows Store.

You may have noticed that there is a "Developer mode" option too, both the "Sideload apps" and "Developer mode" will allow you to sideload apps, with the difference that the "Developer mode" will also enable other developer specific features.

It's important to note that it's not recommended to sideload apps as there is danger involve that could expose and harm your device. If you must sideload apps, you should only install those from a trusted source.

While we're focusing this guide for the desktop version of Windows 10, you can also use these instructions to enable Windows 10 Mobile to sideload apps on your phone.

More Windows 10 resources.

For more help articles, coverage, and answers on Windows 10, you can visit the following resources:

Review: This AMD-powered ASUS PN51 PC shows that size doesn't matter.

When not making some of the best motherboards on the market, ASUS also dabbles in pre-built PCs. The company just released a mini PC with AMD mobile processors for work and play. We took one for a spin and it's surprisingly good.

64-bit version of Microsoft Office is now available for Windows 11 on ARM.

Microsoft's ARM-optimized Office apps are rolling out to Insiders now. The apps use a combination of native code and code that runs in emulation using a technology called ARM64EC.

Adobe Acrobat Reader DC drops onto the new Windows 11 Microsoft Store.

The new Microsoft Store for Windows 11 gets another feather in its cap with Adobe Acrobat Reader DC – the full Win32 app – now appearing for users to download.

These are the best PC sticks when you're on the move.

Instant computer — just add a screen. That's the general idea behind the ultra-portable PC, but it can be hard to know which one you want. Relax, we have you covered!

How to Uninstall Windows 10's Built-in Apps (and How to Reinstall Them)

Windows 10 includes a variety of universal apps, and there's no easy way to hide them from the "All Apps" view in the new Start menu. You can uninstall them, but Microsoft doesn't allow you to easily uninstall them in the usual way.

Before we get started, we should say that we don't really recommend uninstalling the built-in universal apps. These apps take up very little space on your device, so it's best to just ignore them if you don't want to use them. You should also be aware that it's likely that Windows updates (especially major ones like the Fall Creators Update) will reinstall those apps anyway. But, if you really want to uninstall them, you can. And, if

you've already uninstalled included apps, you can get them all back with a single command.

Uninstall the App Normally.

You can install some apps in the normal way. Just right-click an app on the Start menu—either in the All Apps list or the app's tile—and then select the “Uninstall” option. (On a touch screen, long-press the app instead of right-clicking.)

This trick appears to work for the included Get Office, Get Skype, Get Started, Microsoft Solitaire Collection, Money, News, Phone Companion, and Sports apps. You can also uninstall bloatware apps your PC manufacturer has installed using this method. It even works for apps that are “automatically downloaded” by Windows 10, such as Candy Crush, FarmVille, TripAdvisor, Netflix, and Pandora.

However, you can't remove most of Microsoft's other included Windows 10 apps this way.

Uninstall Built-in Apps the Easy Way with CleanMyPC.

If you keep reading, we've got the instructions on how to uninstall these built-in apps using the command line, but if that's not your style, you can always use the CleanMyPC uninstaller tool to remove them with a simple point-and-click interface.

CleanMyPC is a paid app and some of its features are not free, but there's a free trial, and it has a pretty solid uninstaller that removes extra stuff Windows won't find.

Just download and install the tool, flip over to the Uninstaller tab on the left, find the apps on the right, and click Uninstall. That's all there is to it.

Use PowerShell to Uninstall Built-in Apps.

You can uninstall most of the built-in apps—even ones that don't normally offer an “Uninstall” option—with a PowerShell cmdlet. Note, however, that this trick won't allow you to remove a few of the most important built-in apps, like Cortana and Microsoft Edge. If you try, you'll see an error message saying they can't be removed.

First, open PowerShell as administrator. Hit Windows+X, and then choose the “Windows PowerShell (Admin)” option from the Power User menu.

Note : If you haven't installed the Windows 10 Creators Update from Spring, 2017 yet, you might see the Command Prompt featured on the Power User menu instead of PowerShell. In this case, hit Start, type “PowerShell” into the search box, right-click the PowerShell result, and then select the “Run as administrator” option.

At the PowerShell prompt, copy and paste one or more of the following commands—pressing Enter after each command—to remove the apps you don't want on your Windows 10 system:

Uninstall 3D Builder:

Uninstall Alarms and Clock:

Uninstall Calendar and Mail:

Uninstall Contact Support:

Uninstall Get Office:

Uninstall Get Skype:

Uninstall Get Started:

Uninstall Groove Music:

Uninstall Microsoft Edge:

Uninstall Microsoft Solitaire Collection:

Uninstall Movies & TV:

Uninstall Phone Companion:

Uninstall Voice Recorder:

Uninstall Windows Feedback:

How to Reinstall All Built-in Apps.

If you decide you want the preinstalled apps back, you can reinstall them with a single line of PowerShell code. Again, open a PowerShell window as Administrator. Copy and paste the following line at the PowerShell prompt, and then press Enter:

This command tells Windows to install those default apps again. Give it some time and allow it to finish, even if nothing appears to happen at first. Even if you see an error message, restart your PC, and then examine your Start menu—you may just have all those default apps back again, anyway.

Again, the only real advantage to doing this is some mild decluttering of your Start menu. It's also likely that future updates (especially major updates) could reinstall those apps.

How to Disable Blocking of Downloading Files in Windows 10.

When you download any file from the internet and save it to NTFS drive, the Windows operating system adds specific metadata to these downloaded files. These metadata are considered to be attachments. This is the default operation carried out by the Windows OS. While trying to open or execute the downloaded files you are bombarded with security warnings from the system that states that "the file has its origin in unknown sources and can be a security threat". This is an annoying default setting of Windows 10 OS that prevents you from opening or executing the downloaded files directly.

Metadata is known as data that describes other data. Meta is a prefix that is used in information technology and usually means "an underlying definition or description. The metadata added as attachment to the downloaded file is known as Zone Information. The Zone information is an invisible file stored along with the downloaded file in form of an alternate data stream. Both the downloaded file and metadata is stored in the same location.

Hence, when the File Explorer opens the file it comes across the attached Zone information stored in the same location and checks to see if it came from outside. Soon the Windows Smart screen warning appears as "Windows smart screen prevented an unrecognized app from starting. Running this app might put your PC at risk."

As you disable the smart screen message another dialogue box shows up with the option to run or cancel.

Now the user has to manually unblock the downloaded files. This can be done with a Right click on the file and selecting the properties option on the menu. Then select the General tab and select the checkbox named "Unblock". But the process is tiresome and time taking. To unblock every file in this method is a painfully slow process.

Let us instead focus on the preventive measure and stop the Windows from adding additional Zone information.

No zone information means no smart screen security warning and no need for unblocking the download files.

Method to disable blocking files being downloaded.

In case your Windows 10 editor does not come with the Group Policy apps, you can go for a simple Registry optimization.

Step 1 – Press the Windows keys +R on your keyboard simultaneously.

The Run dialogue box will appear.

Step 2 – Type in regedit without quotes and press Enter key from Keyboard.

This will in turn open the registry Editor.

Step 3 – When the UAC (User account Control) box appears select yes.

Note: – Once the registry editor opens up, Before proceeding with registry editor, just click on File > Export to create a backup first.

Step 4 – Now, Navigate to the following Registry path.

Step 5 – Right click on Policies and Create a New Key Attachments if it does not exist.

Step 6 – Right Click on Attachments and Choose New > DWORD (32-bit) Value. Name this SaveZoneInformation .

Step 7 – Right click on Newly created SaveZoneInformation and choose Modify .

Step 8 – Change its value data to 1 .

Step 9 – Similarly Go to the path given below.

Step 10 – Right click on Policies and Create a New Key Attachments if it does not exist.

Step 11 – Right Click on Attachments and Choose New > DWORD (32-bit) Value. Name this SaveZoneInformation .

Step 12 – Right click on Newly created SaveZoneInformation and choose Modify .

Step 13 – Change its value data to 1 .

How to disable Downloaded files from being blocked in Windows 10 By editing gpedit.

Step 1 Type gpedit.msc in to the start menu.

Click on Local group policy editor icon on the search result. This will open the Group Policy Editor.

Step 2 – Under User configuration , double click on Administrative Templates to expand it.

Step 3 – Double Click on Windows Components and then choose Attachment Manager.

Step 4 – In the right side ,Double click on the policy setting “Do not preserve zone information in file attachments”

Step 5 – Choose enabled .

This method is effective in removing the unnecessary security block imposed by the windows on files downloaded from the internet. As the zone information is not being saved as file attachments, the file explorer won't have an attachment to check.

Saurav is associated with IT industry and computers for more than a decade and is writing on The Geek Page on topics revolving on windows 10 and softwares.

Prevent users from installing software in Windows 10, 7.

Learning how to prevent users from installing software on Windows 10, Windows 8.1 or Windows 10 is easy enough and it will take only a few minutes of your time. So, read this tutorial all the way to the end, and you will become an expert in adding Windows restrictions in no time. So, for example, if you want to prevent your son or your daughter from installing a third party application by mistake on Windows 8.1 or Windows 10, you can do this by using the AppLocker application. This tool helps you prevent others from modifying your operating system in such a way that it will not allow any apps to be installed without the right permissions.

How can I prevent other users from installing programs on PC?

1. Use AppLocker.

Press and hold the “Windows” button and the “R” button in order to open the “Run” window. In the run window you will need to write the following: “secpol.msc”. Note: If “secpol.msc” does not work you can try with “gpedit.msc”, as the second solution shows. Press the “Enter” button on the keyboard. You should have the “Local Security Policy” window in front of you. On the left side in the window, you will need to double click or tap on the “Security Settings” feature. In the “Security settings” feature you need to double click or tap on the “Application Control policies” folder. In the “Application Control Policies” folder you need to double click or tap on the “AppLocker” file. Now you should have there a few categories and depending on what you want to restrict you should choose accordingly but in our case we will need to right click on the “Package app Rules”. Left click or tap on the “Create New Rule” feature. Now you should have in front of you the “Create Executable Rules” window. Left click or tap on the “Next” button in that window. Now you should get to the “Permissions” page. From this “Permissions” page you will have to choose the “Deny” feature in order to prevent users from installing software and also select the User or the group that will have this restriction. Left click or tap on the “Next” button. You should now have the “Conditions” window in front of you. You can choose your restrictions according to three conditions: Publisher: This will restrict the software installation for a certain amount of apps that are signed by the publisher. Path: Create this rule of restriction only for a specific folder path, everything outside the specified folder will not be affected by this rule. File hash: You can create a rule for an application that is not signed. Note : In this tutorial we have selected the “Publisher” restriction feature. Left click or tap on the “Next” button. From the next window you will need to left click or tap on the “Browser..” button under the “Reference file:” topic and select the type of app that you would wish to block.(this restriction will block all apps that are similar with the reference one you selected). Note: Go to a folder with an app that you wish to block and select it from there. You can either select the app installer or select the installed app as a reference point. Now left click or tap on the “Next” button. Left click or tap on the “Create” button in order to create the rule that prevents users from installing software in Windows 8.1 and Windows 10 Close all the windows you have opened, log in with the user you set the restriction for and try installing an app to see if it worked. RELATED: Block other Wi-Fi users with these 5 software solutions.

2. Use gpedit.msc (Group Policy Editor)

Here are the steps to follow:

Type gpedit.msc in the Search Windows box > open the Group Policy Editor Go to Computer Configurations > Administrative templates > navigate to Windows Components > Windows Installer > select Edit Now, select Enabled > customize your settings and choose from For non-managed applications only/ Always/ Never > select OK.

3. Use standard user accounts.

Another quick way to prevent other users from installing software on your PC is by using standard user accounts. In this manner, only the Administrator account can install and remove apps and programs on the PC.