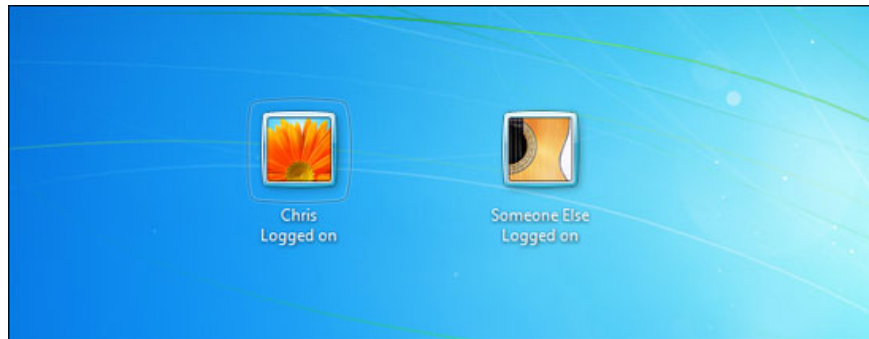


How to check your computer's history to see if someone has accessed and used your computer?

If you suspect someone is accessing and using your computer illegally, you can apply some of the tricks below to check the computer's on/off history, view recent activities on the computer to confirm. accept and reaffirm that.

Many users do not have the habit of setting a password for their computer, especially when working in the office. However, this also causes some problems because strangers can illegally access your computer to steal information or use your computer for other purposes.



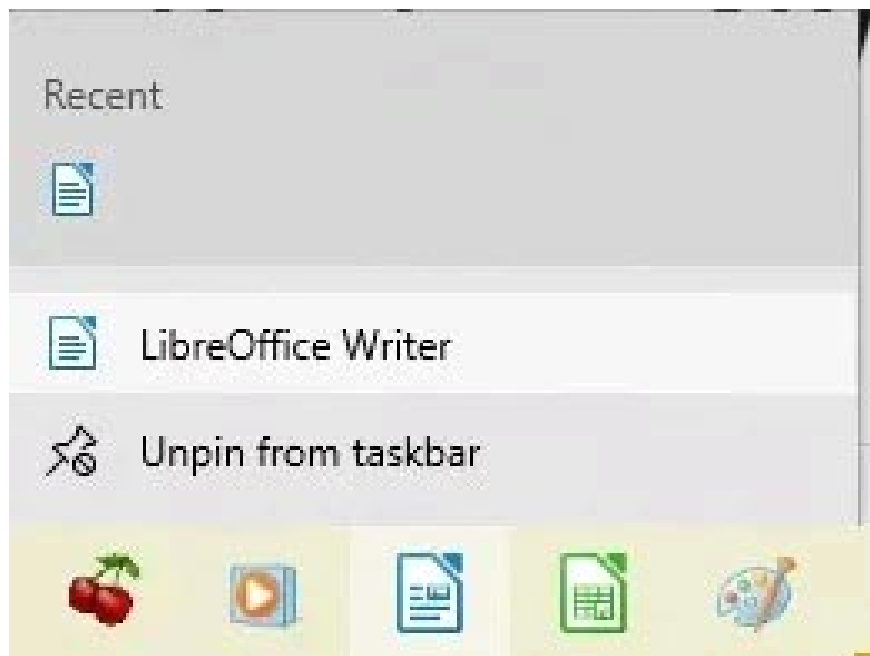
Part 1: Check history on Windows computer

1. Check recent activities in 'Jump Lists'

If you pay attention, you will see that current new versions of Windows 10 no longer display the list of recent activities on the system (except for newly installed applications) in the Start menu like before. (Skip to the next section below if you're running on an older release of Windows 10, or previous generation versions of Windows).

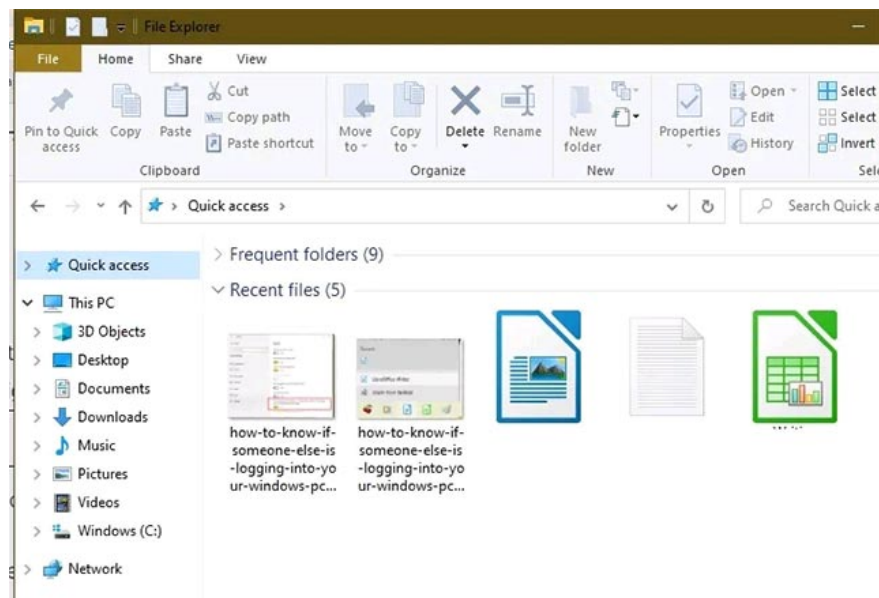
However, you can still easily check the list of recently accessed files on the system just by right-clicking on applications in the Start menu as well as the taskbar.

For example, do you want to check if someone has secretly opened your Word document? Launch the Microsoft Word application, open any document, then right-click on its icon on the taskbar and look at the '**Recent**' section in the context menu that appears. Here, you will see a complete list of recently opened document files on Microsoft Word, thereby easily detecting any abnormalities if someone secretly peeks at your documents.



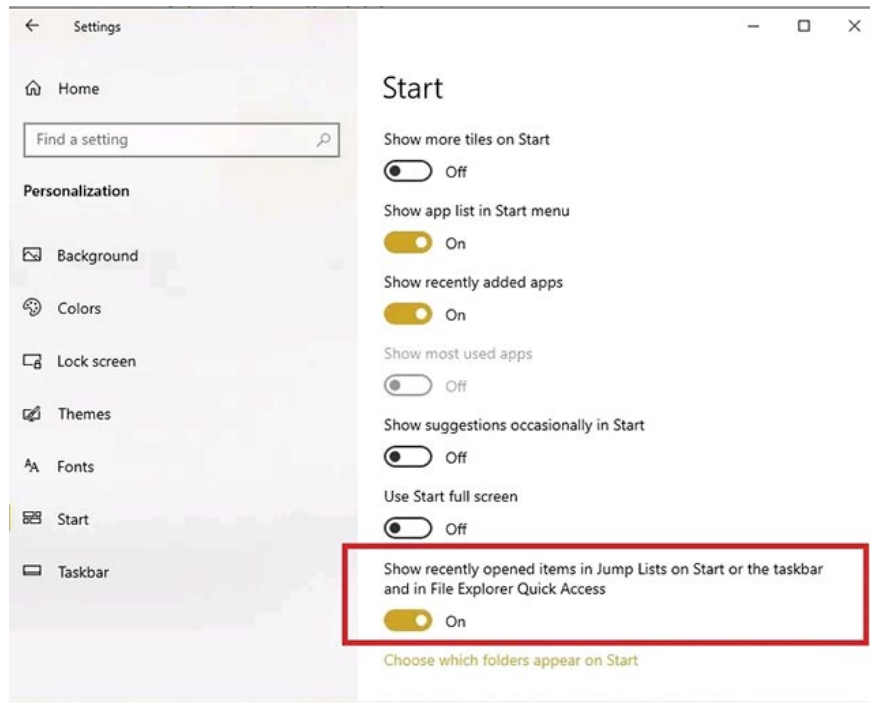
You can do the same thing in the Start menu. Right-click any application that you think someone may have recently accessed, including web browsers. However, if you have set your browser to automatically delete your browsing history, nothing will show up.

Alternatively, you can also open File Explorer and see the list of recently accessed files in the ' **Quick Access** ' section.



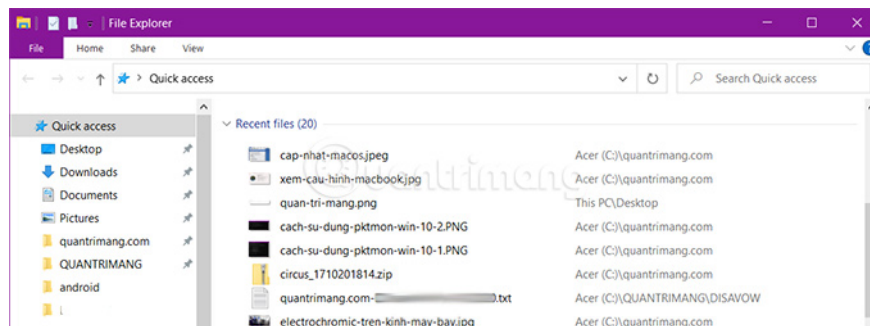
However, if this setting is not enabled by default, you will have to enable it manually by navigating to ' **Start -> Settings -> Personalization -> Start** '.

Press the switch to the left of the ' Show recently opened items in Jump Lists on Start or the taskbar and in File Explorer Quick Access ' option to turn it on.

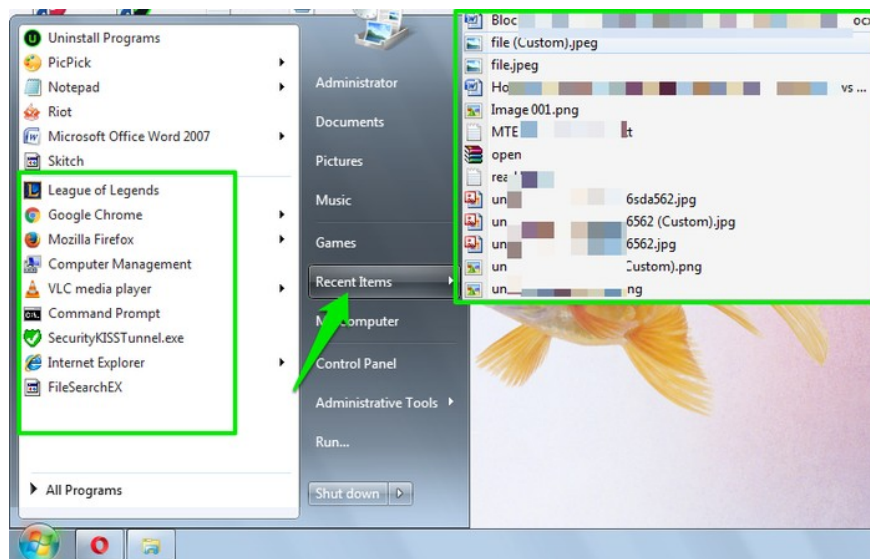


2. Check the Recent Activity list (old versions of Windows 10 and previous generation Windows)

On Windows 10, press **Windows + E** to open File Explorer, where you will view newly opened image files, compressed files, txt files, Word, Excel, and PowerPoint files.



On Windows 7, you click **Start Menu** , and you will see a list of all recently opened programs, and if a strange program or one you haven't used before appears in this list, it's likely there. the person who opens your computer. Hover over the **Recent Items** section on the right side of the Start Menu and you will see a list of recently opened files.



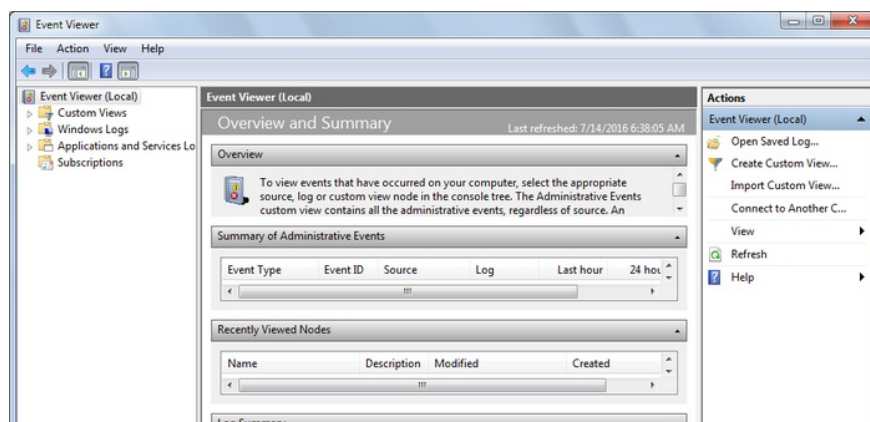
However, the limitation of this solution is that if an unauthorized person accessing your computer is smart enough, they can delete recent activities and recently opened files, so it is difficult for you to Detect whether your computer is being accessed and used by someone?

3. Check Windows Event Viewer

Windows will store a complete record of successful logon attempts as well as failed logon attempts. You can take advantage of this point to check if someone has accessed your computer?

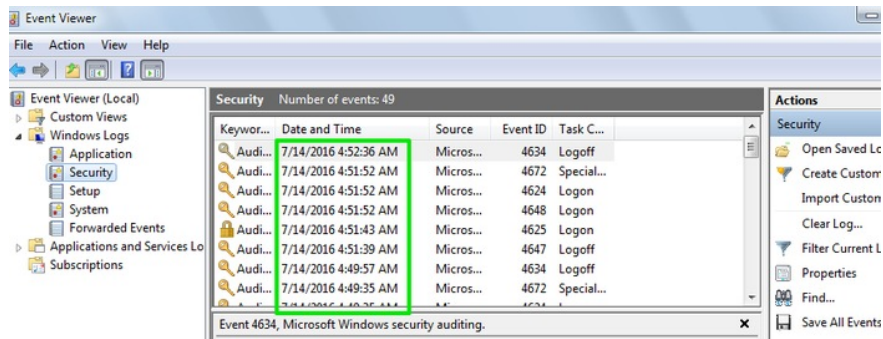
To view successful or failed login attempts, access Windows Event Viewer.

To access Windows Event Viewer, first press the Windows + R key combination to open the Run command window, then enter `eventvwr.msc` there and press **Enter or click **OK** to open the Event Viewer window.**

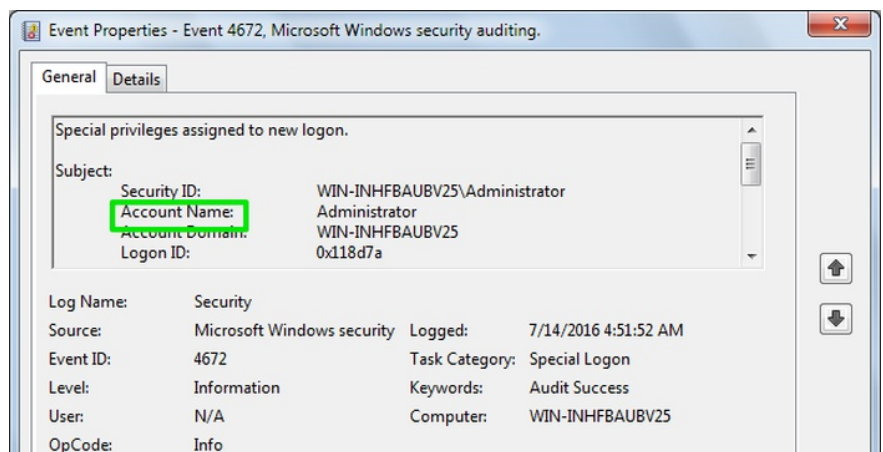
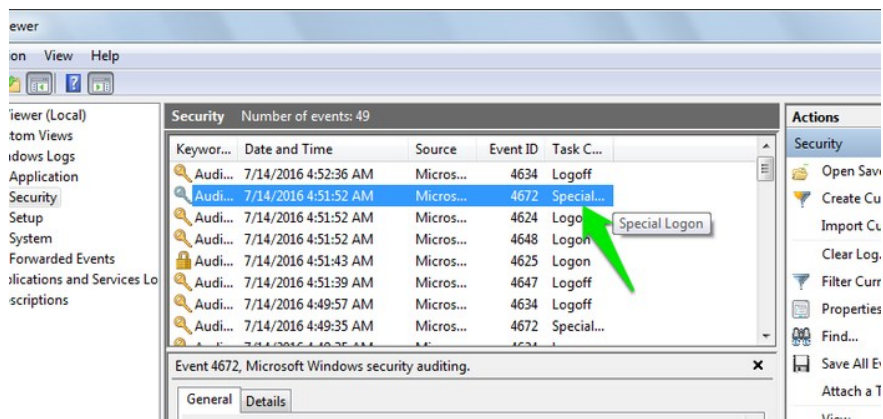


Monitor your computer when you are away

Here, double-click the **Windows Logs** button , then click **Security** . In the middle of the list you will see login attempts with login date and time. Each time you log in, Windows records logon attempts for the past approximately 2 to 4 minutes.



Additionally, you can check the specific account that has accessed your computer before (in case there are multiple accounts). To check, double click on the specific login, at this time the Event Properties window will appear on the screen. And you will see the account name next to **Account Name**.



4. Display last login details

The last solution you can think of is to set up the display of login information details when the computer starts. This will display the account you used the last time you logged in, whether successful or failed.

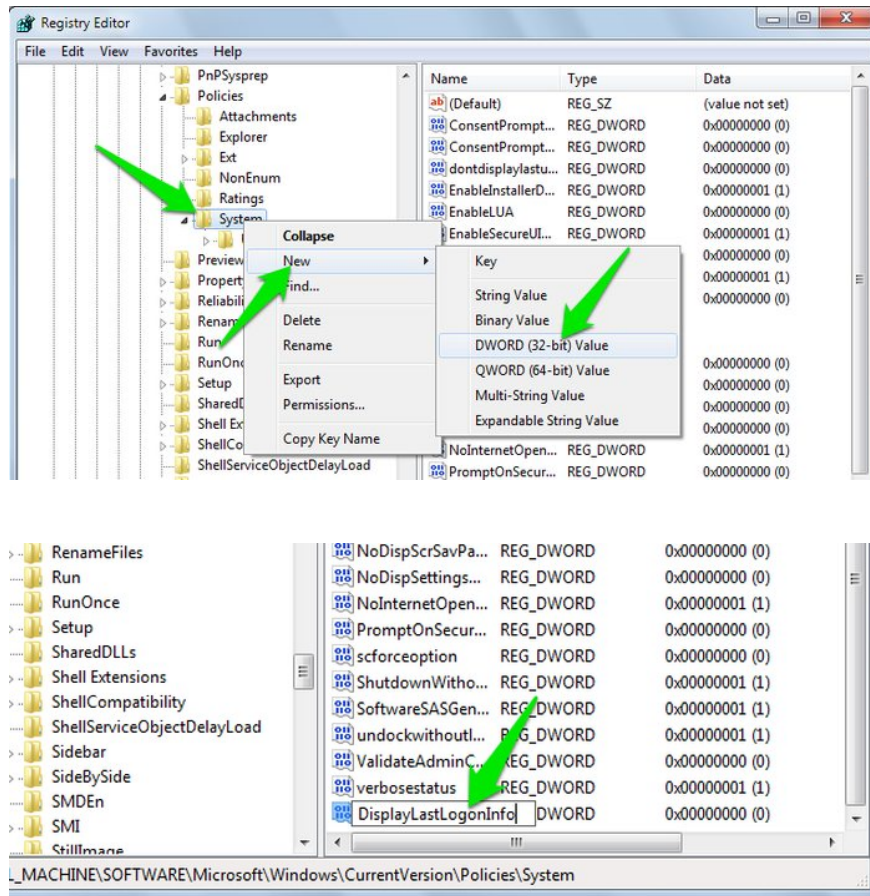
You will have to edit the Windows Registry, so before doing so you should create a backup first.

Press the Windows + R key combination to open the Run command window, then enter **regedit** in the Run command window and press **Enter** or click **OK** to open the Windows Registry.

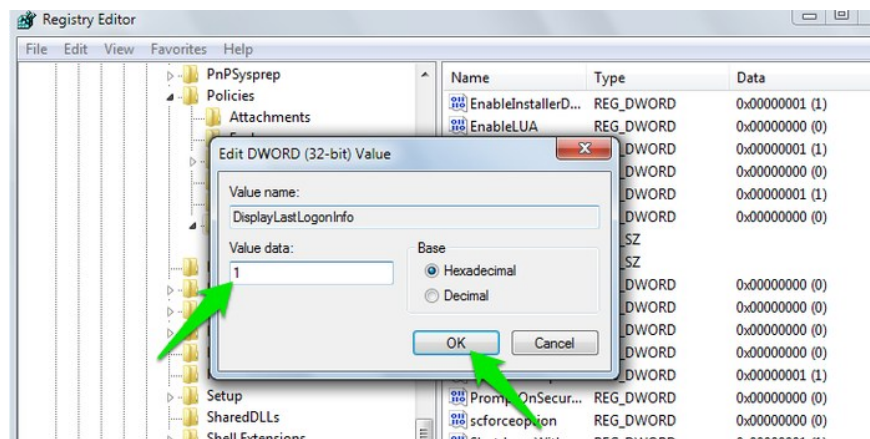
On the Registry Editor window, navigate by key:

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Policies\System

Next right-click on the System folder and select **New => DWORD value** to create a new DWORD and name this DWORD **DisplayLastLogonInfo** .



Double click on **DisplayLastLogonInfo** and set the value in the **Value Data** frame to **1** .



From now on whenever you log in to your computer, you will see details of your last login attempt and any failed login attempts.

5. Enable Logon Auditing

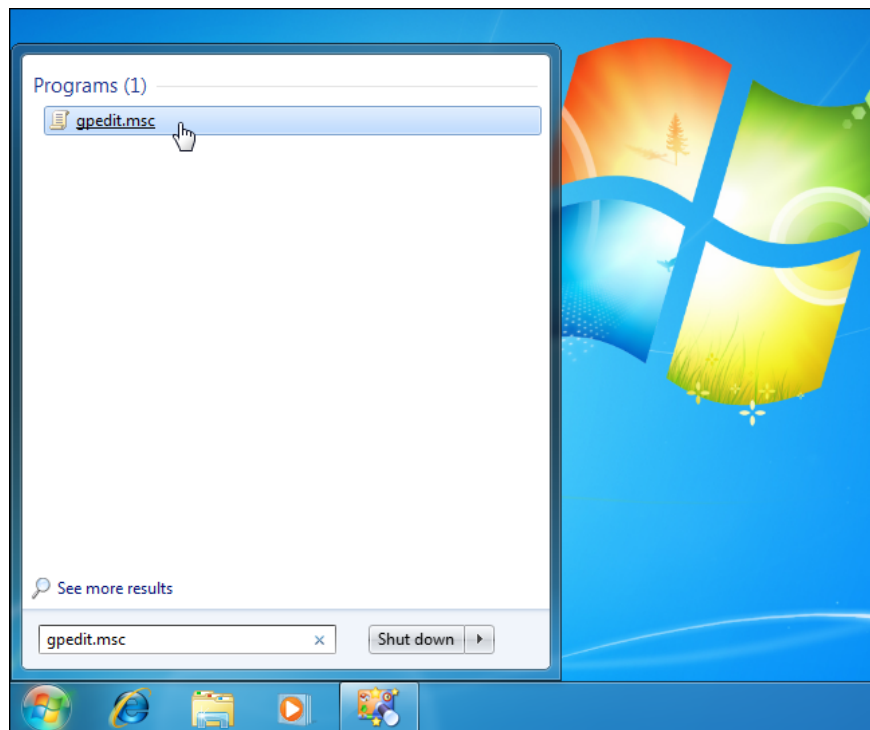
Note: Logon Auditing only works on Professional editions of Windows 7, 8 and Windows 10 and does NOT work on Home editions.

To enable Logon Auditing, first open Local Group Policy Editor. Press the **Windows + R** key combination to open the Run command window, then enter **gpedit.msc** there and press **Enter** to open Local Group Policy Editor.

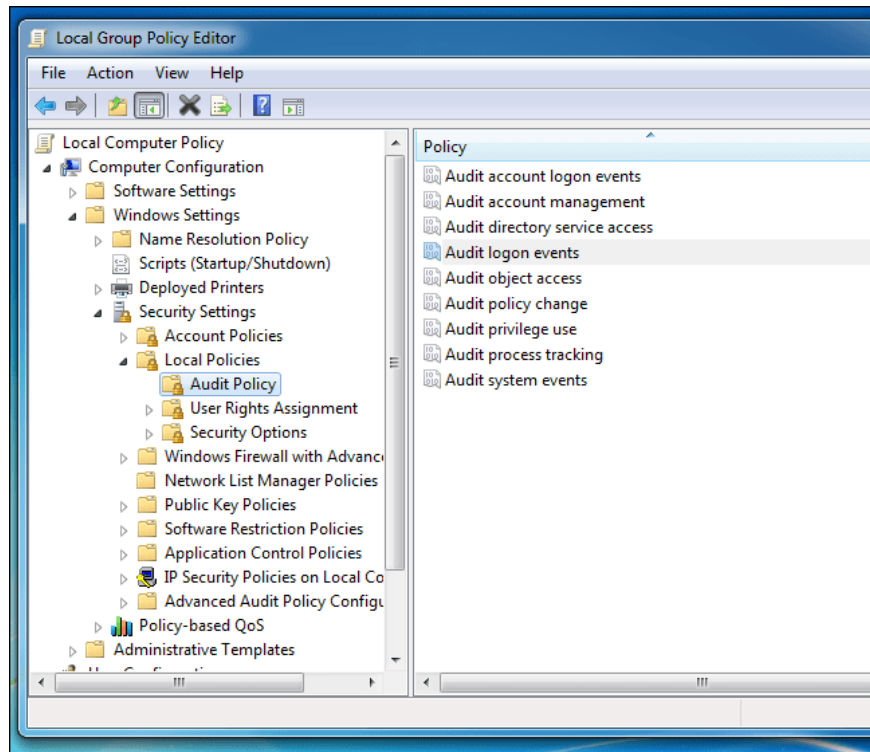
Or another way is to enter **gpedit.msc** into the Search box on the Start Menu and press **Enter** .

Next on the Local Group Policy Editor window, navigate to the key:

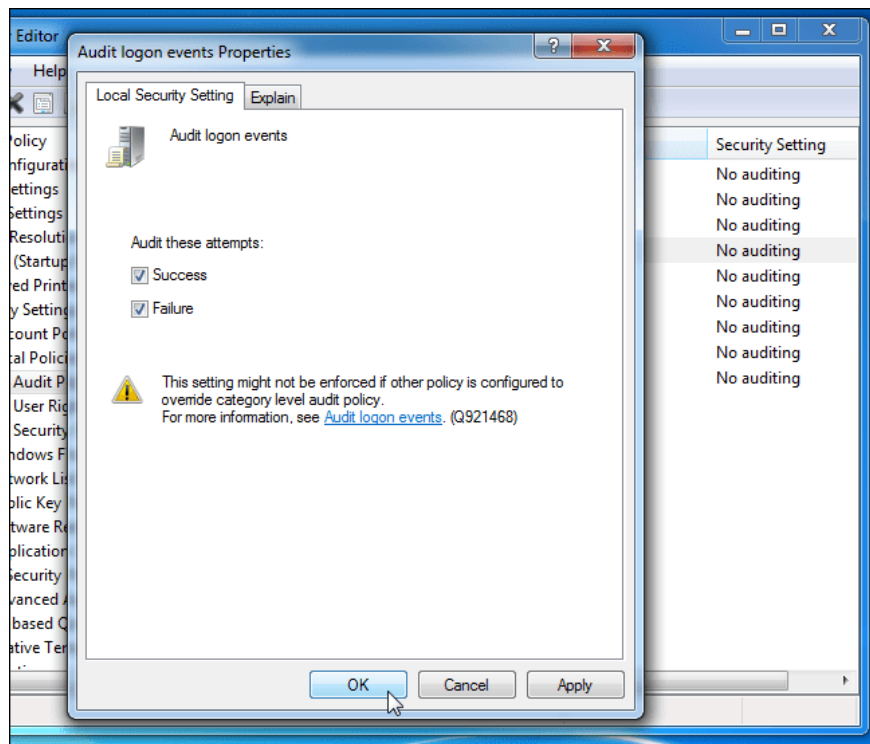
Local Computer Policy => Computer Configuration => Windows Settings => Security Settings => Local Policies => Audit Policy



Double click on the **Audit logon events** policy setting in the right pane to adjust the options.



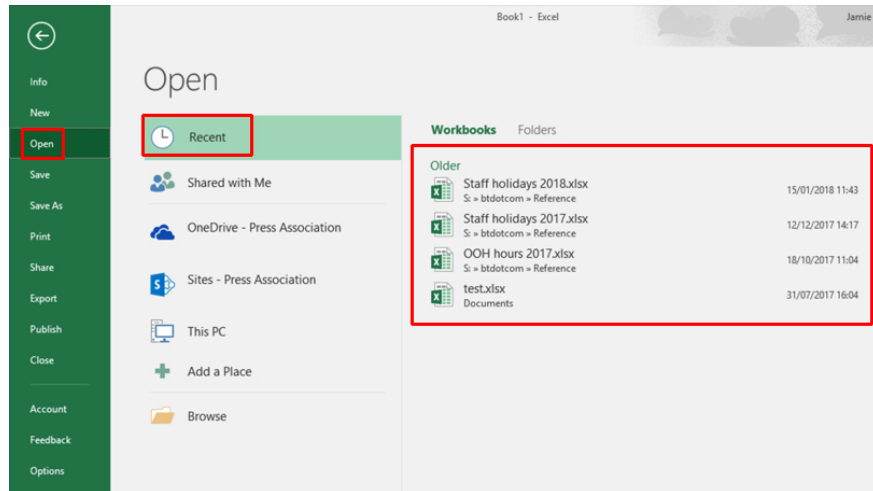
Next on the Properties window, check the **Success** box to display successful login. Additionally, you can check **Failure** to display failed login attempts.



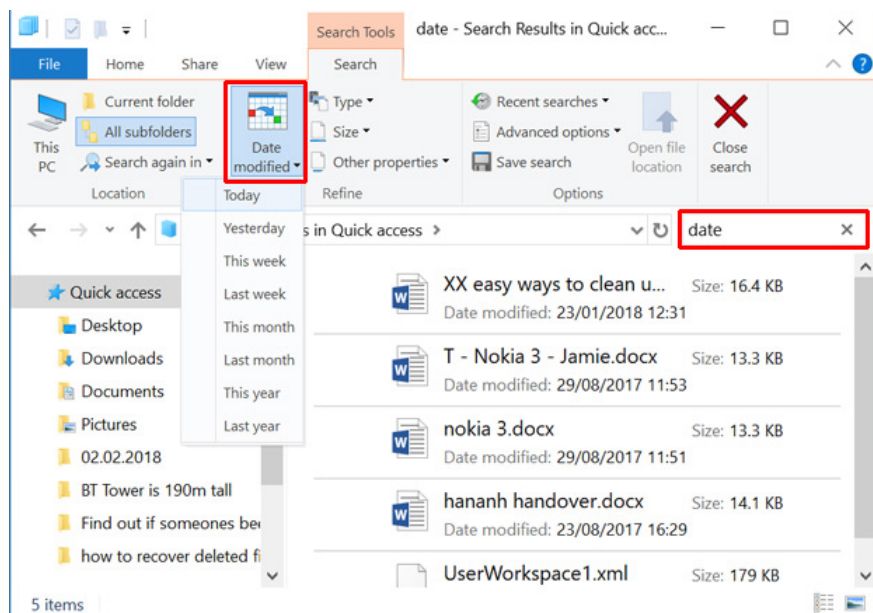
6. Check recently used files

To check recently used files, open any application you use regularly and check the **Open recent** (or similar) option in the **File** menu. Not all applications have this option, but it will show users recently opened files,

looking for files you don't recognize.

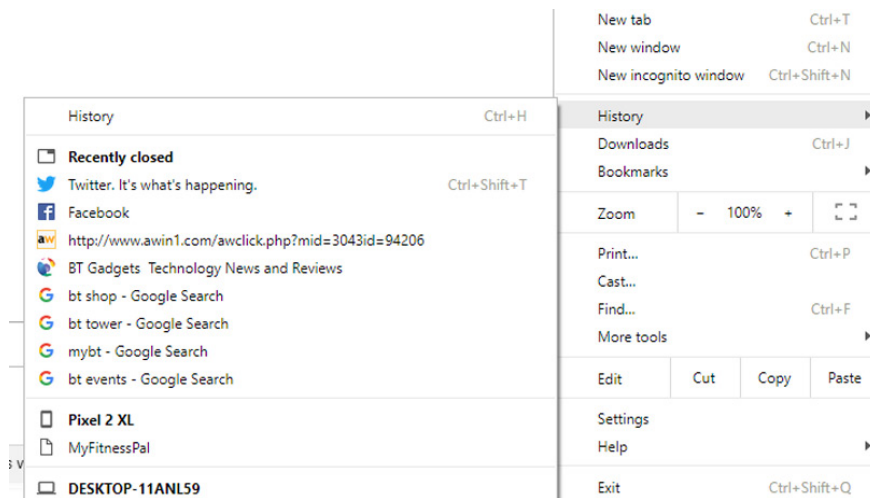


You can also search for files that were modified on specified dates. Open the window and enter a relevant word on the left side of the window, then select **the Date modified** option and select a date on the calendar that appears.



Windows will then search for all files in the Library folder that changed during that day. You can do the same in the C: drive, but Windows changes many files for general use, so doing this may not get the same results.

7. Check web browser history



Finally, don't forget to check your web browser history. It will display a list of all recently opened and browsed websites by date. But one thing you need to keep in mind is that browsing history can be easily deleted, but you can completely trace deleted browsing history.

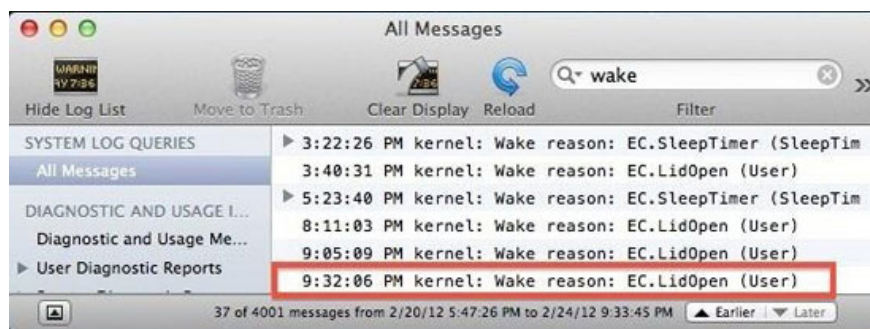


The best way to prevent someone from using your computer is to set a Windows user account password. Then whenever you leave your computer but don't want to turn it off, press **Windows + L** to lock the screen.

Part 2: Check activity history on Mac

On a Mac OS computer, you can only check if anyone is using your computer when you leave it and it is in **Sleep** mode, meaning it only saves wake-up activities. computer from **Sleep** mode. You can follow these steps:

Open the **Console** dialog box by pressing **Command + Spacebar**, or **click on the Spotlight** icon and search for it. Type the word "**wake**" into the search bar, then scroll down to the bottom of the list and you'll find the most recent logins.



A few simple, yet effective tips to help you check on people using your computer when you're not there. This is quite useful for controlling your children's or young children's computer usage, but in other cases you should set a password for your computer to ensure safety.

Refer to some more articles below:

Good luck!

You finished reading the article "**How to check your computer's history to see if someone has accessed and used your computer?**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.