

# How to hide other Wi-Fi networks when connecting to Wi-Fi on your computer.

If there are multiple Wi-Fi networks in your area, you'll see them all when trying to connect your device to your Wi-Fi network. An unnecessary list of networks, especially those that are secure and that you never connect to, can become cluttered and annoying. Fortunately, you can hide these Wi-Fi networks except the one you're currently connected to, so you don't have to see that long list anymore. To learn how, please read the following article.



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When you click on the Wi-Fi icon in the notification area on your computer, you'll see a list of wireless networks within your connection range. With modern routers available on the market, the Wi-Fi signal is very strong and covers a considerable area. Therefore, you'll have a list of Wi-Fi networks that you can see but not use. The good news is you can hide them. However, hiding other Wi-Fi networks is only temporary. You may have to repeat these steps every time you use your computer.

## Table of Contents:

- 1. Why hide Wi-Fi networks? 2. How to hide Wi-Fi networks .**
- 3. How to undo and display hidden commands .**
- 4. What about hiding your own Wi-Fi network ?**

### *1. Why hide your Wi-Fi network?*

Without further explanation, hiding other Wi-Fi networks means you won't see them when you click the Wi-Fi icon on your computer anymore. When you select a Wi-Fi network to connect to, any network names that match the one you've blocked will no longer appear in the list of available networks. Hiding Wi-Fi networks only

works on your computer. In other words, what you do when following the steps below is prevent them from being listed with your Wi-Fi network. Others can still see and connect to them.

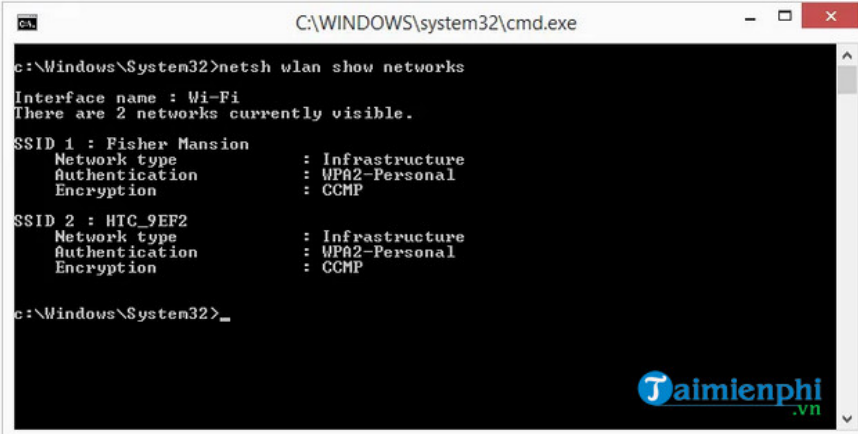
Blocking a Wi-Fi network won't alert the owner, and it's neither illegal nor unethical. Hiding a Wi-Fi network doesn't actually prevent wireless signals from reaching your area. If you want to block nearby Wi-Fi networks because you're trying to boost a weak signal due to interference on your own network, it's better to switch to a different Wi-Fi channel.

## ***2. How to hide other Wi-Fi networks except the one you are currently connected to.***

It would be great if you could just right-click on a network you want to hide and click the hide or block button, but Windows doesn't allow you to hide Wi-Fi networks through a convenient user interface. Instead, you have to run a few Command Prompt commands . This is a fairly simple process if you carefully follow these steps:

- Open **Command Prompt** as an administrator by typing **cmd** in the Start Menu search bar. Right-click on **Command Prompt** from the search results and select **Run as administrator**. If you are using Windows XP, you can open Command Prompt directly from the Start Menu without needing administrator privileges.

- Enter the following command: **netsh wlan show networks**



```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe
c:\Windows\System32>netsh wlan show networks
Interface name : Wi-Fi
There are 2 networks currently visible.

SSID 1 : Fisher Mansion
Network type      : Infrastructure
Authentication    : WPA2-Personal
Encryption        : CCMP

SSID 2 : HTC_9EF2
Network type      : Infrastructure
Authentication    : WPA2-Personal
Encryption        : CCMP

c:\Windows\System32>_
```

- As you can see, all wireless networks that the computer can connect to will be listed.

- Identify the Wifi network you want to hide and note its SSID. In the example below, the name of the Wifi network that thuthuat.taimienphi.vn wants to hide is **HTC\_9EF2** .

Note: Windows is sometimes very bad at identifying all nearby networks. If you are looking for the SSID of a network that you used to see, but now don't, then use a Wifi network scanner tool like WifiInfo View to get a more complete list.

- Open Notepad or other text fields, paste the following command into it and replace HTC\_9EF2 with the name of the Wifi network you want to hide.

**netsh wlan add filter permission=block ssid="HTC\_9EF2" networktype=infrastructure**

- Go back to **Command Prompt** and enter the modified command. You can do this by right-clicking on an empty space and selecting **Paste** . **The filter is added on the system successfully** will appear in Command Prompt.

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.3.9600]
(c) 2013 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\WINDOWS\system32>netsh wlan add filter permission=block ssid="HTC_9EF2" networktype=infrastructure
The filter is added on the system successfully.

C:\WINDOWS\system32>_
```

That's it, the specific Wi-Fi network will be hidden.

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe

C:\WINDOWS\system32>netsh wlan show networks

Interface name : Wi-Fi
There are 2 networks currently visible.

SSID 1 : Fisher Mansion
Network type      : Infrastructure
Authentication    : WPA2-Personal
Encryption        : CCMP

C:\WINDOWS\system32>_
```

- You need to perform similar steps to hide each Wi-Fi network as desired.

If there are too many Wi-Fi networks to hide, you can run another command to add more networks and block them all at once. This saves a lot of time, but note that if you continue with these steps, you will have to undo the command if you want to show those networks again.

- Add the Wi-Fi network you want to see/allow with the command: Replace NETWORKNAME with the name of that Wi-Fi network.

**netsh wlan add filter permission=allow ssid="NETWORKNAME" networktype=infrastructure**

- Block all other networks:

**netsh wlan add filter permission=denyall networktype=infrastructure**

### 3. How to undo commands and display hidden commands.

The steps are similar to the **netsh** command used to hide Wi-Fi networks.

- To identify which SSID has been blocked if you've forgotten: **netsh wlan show filters**

- To unblock a specific Wi-Fi network: **netsh wlan delete filter permission=block ssid="NETWORKNAME" networktype=infrastructure"** (replace NETWORKNAME with the Wi-Fi network name).

- To unblock all **Wi-Fi networks**: **netsh wlan delete filter permission=denyall networktype=infrastructure"**

### 4. So how about hiding your own Wi-Fi network?

If you're trying to hide your own Wi-Fi network, blocking your router's SSID from yourself isn't the answer. Instead, disable broadcast SSID on your router and protect it with a strong password. These are just two of the best ways to secure your Wi-Fi and prevent unwanted access. Additionally, you can also enhance security by regularly changing your Wi-Fi password .

Unless the people secretly using your WiFi live next door and are really tech-savvy and able to spoof their MAC addresses, you can also enable MAC address filtering to add an extra layer of security to your WiFi network.

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