

# How to use a firewall in Windows 10

Windows Firewall, always a part of Windows and available in XP, 7, 8, 8.1 and most recently Windows 10.

All Windows computers have operating system protection features from hackers, viruses and other types of malware. There are also 'on-site' safeguards to prevent user-caused accidents, such as accidentally installing unwanted software or changing important system settings. Most of these features have existed in many forms for many years. One of them is Windows Firewall, which is always a part of Windows and is available in XP, 7, 8, 8.1 and most recently Windows 10.

It is enabled by default. Its mission is to protect your computer, your data and even your identity.

But what exactly is a firewall and why is it necessary? To understand this, consider the actual example. In the field of physics, firewalls are a wall designed specifically to block or prevent the spread of existing or approaching fire. When a fire approaches, the wall still stands on the ground and protects what is behind it.

Windows Firewall also performs the same function, except here is the data (or more specifically, data packets). One of its jobs is to look at what is trying to get into your computer from websites and emails, then decide whether the data is dangerous or not. If the data is secure, it will allow excess data. If you feel that data can threaten the stability of your computer, the information on it will be rejected. It is a defensive layer, like a physical firewall.

However, this is a very simple explanation of a very technical topic. If you want to dig deeper, see what is the Firewall article? General knowledge about Firewall.

## How to access the firewall

Windows Firewall provides a number of settings that you can configure.

You can configure how the firewall performs and what data, firewall applications to block and give. You can block a program by default, such as Microsoft Tips or Get Office. When blocking these programs, it essentially means disabling them. If you don't like reminders when buying Microsoft Office or if these tips are bothering, you can make them "disappear".

You can also choose to have applications transfer data through your computer that by default it is not passed. This usually happens with third-party applications that you install like iTunes because Windows requires your permission to install and approve. However, features can also be related to Windows such as the option to use Hyper-V to create virtual machines or Remote Desktop to access your computer remotely.

You also have the option to turn off the firewall completely when you want to use third-party security software, such as antivirus programs provided by McAfee or Norton. This is usually a free trial service on new personal computers and registered users. You can also disable Windows firewall if you have installed a free software.

**Note:**It is important to maintain a single firewall, so don't turn off the Windows firewall unless you have an alternative application and don't run multiple firewalls at once.

When you are ready to change the Windows firewall, visit the firewall options:

1. Click on the search area of the **Taskbar**.
2. Type **Windows Firewall**.
3. In the result, **click Windows Firewall Control Panel**.

From the Windows firewall area, you can perform some operations. Option to have Windows firewall in On or Off mode.

The firewall will block some malware you don't know. You can click to verify and then use the back arrow to return to the main firewall screen. You can also restore the defaults if you have changed them with the **Restore Defaults** option in the left pane.

1. How to turn on / off Windows Firewall in Windows 7, 8 / 8.1 and Windows 10

## How to enable applications through Windows firewall

Windows Firewall allows applications to rely on confirming that you connect to a private network (public network) or public network (public network) or both. If you only select **Private**, you can only use the application or feature when connecting to a private network, such as a home or office network. If you select **Public**, you can access the application when connecting to a public network, such as a network in a cafe or hotel. As you can see here, you can also choose both.

To allow an application through Windows Firewall:

1. Open **Windows Firewall**. You can search it from the **Taskbar** as shown above.
2. Select **Allow an App or Feature Through Windows Firewall** (Allow applications or features through Windows firewall)
3. Click **Change Settings** and type an administrator password if required.
4. Identify allowed applications through firewalls. It will not have a trace next to it.
5. Check the box (s) to allow access from private or public networks with two **Private** and **Public options**. First, you should select Private first and then select Public later if you don't get the desired results.
6. Finally select **OK**.

## How to block the application through the Windows 10 firewall

Windows Firewall allows a number of Windows 10 applications and features to transfer data in and out of the computer without any user impact. Applications include Microsoft Edge and Microsoft Photos, essential features such as Core Networking (core network) and Windows Defender Security Center. Other Microsoft applications like Cortana may require your permission for the first time. However in the future Cortana may not need your permission to still be enabled by default. That means other applications and features can be activated whether you want it or not. For example, Remote Assistance is enabled by default. This program allows a technician to access your computer remotely to help you solve the problem if you grant access. Although this application is locked and quite secure, some users consider it an open security hole. If you want to close this option, you can block

access.

Also you need to consider third-party applications. It is important to block (or possibly uninstall) applications that you do not expect if you do not use them. You can check related items like file sharing, music sharing, photo editing, etc., and block items that do not allow access. And when using this application, you will be prompted to allow the application through the firewall. This will help you use the application when needed and also prevent you from accidentally uninstalling the application the system needs to function properly.

To block a program on a Windows 10 computer:

1. Take steps 1-3 like the part that allows the application through the firewall
2. Define blocking applications through firewalls. It will have traces next to it.
3. Check the box (s) to prevent access from private or public networks with two **Private** and **Public** options. Select both
4. Then select **OK**.

When you are finished, the applications you have selected will be blocked based on the network types you have selected.

## Free third-party firewall

If you want to use a firewall from a third-party provider, you can use them. Remember, Windows firewall protects your computer pretty well, so you don't need to explore other options if you don't want to. That's your choice and if you want to try it, here are a few free options:

1. **ZoneAlarm Free Firewall**- ZoneAlarm has been around for a very long time and is a trusted name. It protects your computer at multiple levels from hidden ports to real-time security updates. It's easy to download and install it.
2. **TinyWall**- Simple and efficient to use and non-intrusive, this firewall is a good choice for users with little experience.
3. **Comodo Firewall**- This firewall comes with a complete and best security suite for professional users. It includes automatic updates but not many built-in help.

Regardless of what you decide to do or do not do with Windows Firewall, remember that you need to turn on the firewall to protect your computer from malware, viruses and other threats. You should also regularly check it, perhaps once a month. Pay attention to any messages you see about the firewall and resolve immediately. They appear in the notification area of the Taskbar on the right.

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