***The system must have Windows Search/Cortana shut down.***

Description:

Unneeded services that are kept running can lead to exploitable backdoors waiting to get hacked, and Cortana/Windows Search are no exception. Shut the service/s down to prevent them from being used as an entryway to the system.

Fix Text:

1. Configure the service to be disabled with Start Menu>>Services>>Windows Search. Set the service to be disabled, stop the service, and apply.
2. Disable Cortana on a registry level by launching Start menu>>Regedit and navigating to HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Policies\Microsoft\Windows\Windows Search. Create a DWORD (32 Bit) Value in this registry directory called AllowCortana and set the value to be zero.
3. Configure the firewall to block the Search/Cortana services on the Inbound. Launch Start Menu>>Windows Defender Firewall with Advanced Security>>Inbound Rules and set the following rules to Block Connection:
   1. Cortana
   2. Windows Shell Experience