

Windows Command Line

A-Z Windows Commands, Batch files, Dos and PowerShell

Stop Windows Update service

by SRINI

This post explains how to stop Windows update service from command line(CMD). Make sure that you open [elevated administrator command prompt](#) to execute this command.

How to stop Windows update service

Do the following

1. Open elevated command prompt
2. Run the below command.

```
net stop wuauserv
```

Example:

```
C:\Users\Administrator>net stop wuauserv
The Windows Update service is stopping.
The Windows Update service was stopped successfully.
```

Update service restarts automatically

It's observed that just stopping the service does not work in some cases and it restarts automatically. In such cases one can disable the service completely by running below command.

```
C:\>sc config wuauserv start= disabled
[SC] ChangeServiceConfig SUCCESS
```

Note that these commands to stop or disable service should be run from elevated administrator command prompt. Other wise you will get the following error.

```
C:\Users\administrator>net stop wuauserv
System error 5 has occurred.
Access is denied.
```

How to start windows update

```
net start wuauserv
```

Example:

```
C:\Users\Administrator>net start wuauserv
The Windows Update service is starting.
The Windows Update service was started successfully.
```



30 comments... [add one](#)

Carl, Sweden

Neat tip. However, it seems W7 is automatically restarting the Windows Update service every now and then. I've changed status to "Manual" under services.msc but the behavior remains. No fun at all.

[REPLY](#) [LINK](#)

Per Hansen
Hi Carl
FYI everytime you go into windows update it will start the service even though it is set to manual so if you need to look in windows update then stop the service again afterwards.

[LINK](#)

Jim in Dallas
Run CMD as Admin and "sc config wuauserv start= disabled" will work on Win7Ulti

[LINK](#)

Edmond

Please help me to stop the windows update, it is a disaster every time after windows update, totally stupid program, may be next time I should go for apple.

[REPLY](#) [LINK](#)

winhelp
you gott the error because you have'nt run cmd as administrator

[LINK](#)

Safal
Apple is more stupid than the windows.

[LINK](#)

Linda

I cannot get windows update to stop, finish, or go away! How do I get this to stop so I can get back on the computer? It's a brand new computer, and useless at this point!

[REPLY](#) [LINK](#)

Justin Goldberg, MCSE
Set to disabled and reboot!

[LINK](#)

Josh

Wow thank you for putting this line up here. I needed to restart my windows update and this did the trick

[REPLY](#) [LINK](#)

Precis
Yes - agreed thanks much appreciated! On a very slow connection so bandwidth is at a premium. This made things much more pleasant.

[LINK](#)

Bob Sundquist

AutoHotkey script:

```
#Persistent
interval = 600 ; execution interval in seconds
Menu, Tray, Add ; divider line
Menu, Tray, Add, Execute Now, StopService
Menu, Tray, Default, Execute Now
timer_param := -1000 * interval

StopService:
Run %comspec% /c "sc query wuauserv | find "1 STOPPED" & if errorlevel 1 sc stop wuauserv", , Hide
time = %A_Now%
time += %interval%, seconds
FormatTime, time_string, %time%, Time
Menu, Tray, Tip, Stop Windows Update Service`nNext Execution at %time_string%
SetTimer, StopService, %timer_param%
return
```

[REPLY](#) [LINK](#)

Nico

Hi! even thou i star cmd as admin i still get the "error 5 access denied. can someone help me?

[REPLY](#) [LINK](#)

mrfreezzzz
go to start menu -> type "cmd" in the search box, wait till cmd shows in the results list, right click on "cmd" and select "run as administrator"

[LINK](#)

Srini
You need to run it from elevated command prompt.

[LINK](#)

mrfreezzzz

otherwise, check your UAC and if it's off, turn it on in your account settings.

[REPLY](#) [LINK](#)

Embee

This information is for those who wish to completely disable Windows 10 automatic updates. It is very simple and requires no real expertise.

1. Bring up your task manager.
2. Select the "Services" tab.
3. Scroll down the lefthand side until you see "wuauserv". (In the description column to the right, you'll see "Windows Update".)
4. Right click on "wuauserv".
5. In the dropdown box that appears, click on "stop".

This stops all automatic updates from taking over your computer. In order to get future updates, you will have to follow the same steps, but click on "start" to restart it. I prefer simply to go to Microsoft's website to find the updates, if I want them at all, which I don't. I've struggled with Microsoft's updates for years, from Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 8.1, and now Windows 10. All of them have rendered my computer(s) less functional than they were prior to the updates.

I use a separate security program in conjunction with Windows firewall and find that there is absolutely no need to upload their security updates.

[REPLY](#) [LINK](#)

medevalgor***
hi, I am having endless problems with my surface pro3, running win10pro. the overwhelming majority of my time spent on this device is occupied by trying to update and keep in functioning without sending me endless notifications. I am an aspiring Linux user, which so far as I can tell, is superior in every way, however, I am concerned if the security is dependable...? I was wondering what the security program is that you referenced? and would be eager to hear any other suggestions/tips/opinions?

[LINK](#)

Molly
I tried this and got a message that access is denied.

[LINK](#)

Piet

Same problem on my PC. Svchost.exe takes continuously almost 100% processor time.

Stopped wuauserv in the way described above and the processor is free!!! However after a restart it is running again. Same after stopping it via the command: net stop wuauserv.

Anybody knows how I can stop this wuauserv forever????

[REPLY](#) [LINK](#)

Srini
You need to disable the service using sc command. Added these commands in the post.

[LINK](#)

Banshee

Hi all, a tip for all of those having issues with Windows update, if you go to services.msc and stop the service in the second tab you can select a user to run the service with afterwards.

So you only need to put a valid user and then change the password of that user and voila! it wont ever be able to run again since it will be trying to run with an invalid user... :)

[REPLY](#) [LINK](#)

David Bethke
I wind up disabling and disabling this service every day or two, yet somehow Windows keeps turning it back to Automatic and running it! (on an older laptop which has to stay at XP)

[LINK](#)

Marlene

Just want to say Thank YOU! I got nearly crazy (even more than normal) because my laptop was making so much noise while windows was checking updates for hours. Tried to close it through task manager to no avail but this tip worked as a charm.

I had no problems at all that was until windows installed updates and I could not get into windows anymore. Thanks no thanks. So now I am going to try to see if I can download the updates one by one or so. Thanks again. Love the sound of silence

[REPLY](#) [LINK](#)

Robert Henlien

Surely it would be much easier to use computer management services scroll down to windows update and apply the above directly with the advantage that you can see what you are actually doing.

[REPLY](#) [LINK](#)

Rick

Thanks for the tip. CPU had been running crazy trying to keep up with the update service. The CPU temp has dropped from 43 degrees Celcius to 35 degrees.

[REPLY](#) [LINK](#)

Lynda

Omg! Thanks you! I was stuck in windows update hell!

[REPLY](#) [LINK](#)

plutow

Thanks for the info. I made a .bat file to stop, and one to start with this info. Just run as administrator and it works :)

[REPLY](#) [LINK](#)

Richard Kunz

I hope the above stop up dates work as my computer is all bet useless

[REPLY](#) [LINK](#)

ofer

```
from cmd run
sc queryex wuauserv
take pidnum from result and replace xxx in
taskkill /PID xxx/F and run
```

[REPLY](#) [LINK](#)

nate8971

This is a good short term (few days) fix but on Windows 10 home edition, update restarts itself after a few days. There is a regedit out there but it doesn't work for Home edition. The WUSH tool also only works for a few days.

Would be great if there were a way to program this "sc config wuauserv start= disabled" command to re-run itself every 2 days. Does anyone know how to do this?

[REPLY](#) [LINK](#)

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