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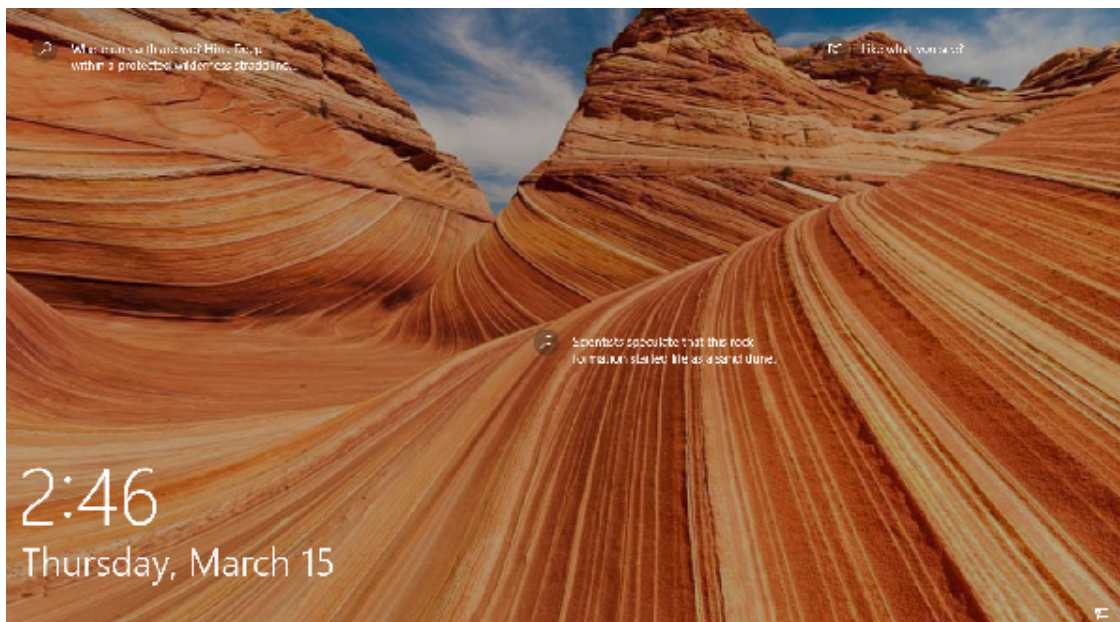
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Windows 10 computer goes to Sleep too early

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Windows PCs have a Lockout feature which makes sure that your PC is locked or goes to Sleep when left unattended. If you have set up a Password or Pin or any other form of lock, you will be asked to re-authenticate yourself. It's a security feature that every Windows user should be using.

What happens many a time is that the lockout happens too often and based on your work environment, you might want to change this. Some users face a situation that sometimes the computer stops responding after the lockout, and they had to reboot their PC. It's annoying, and I totally get it. In this post, I am going to guide you through a series of tips, and troubleshooting techniques to make sure you control when your PC locks, and not otherwise.



Why does Windows get into Sleep Mode

The basics of Windows PC going to into Sleep Mode (<https://www.thewindowsclub.com/system-sleep-states-windows-8>) is based on Power Management. It's not just about your security, but also about saving power. If the PC doesn't go to sleep when not used for long, it will consume the same amount of power. In case of laptops, it's even more crucial as they run on battery. For desktops connected to power all time, it's about energy saving.

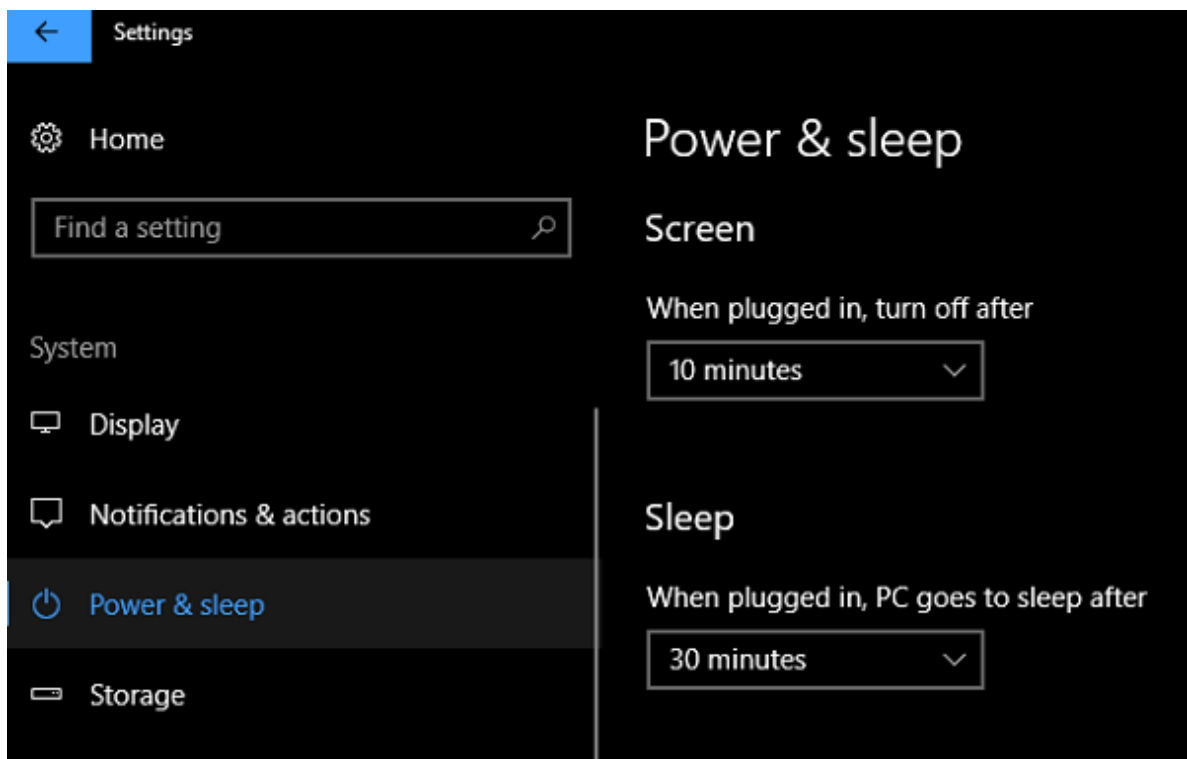
Instead of going to sleep mode directly, Windows first turns off the monitor. It saves a lot of energy, and helps because it has been designed thinking that you are still around, but working on something else. When you leave the computer idle for too long, then it logically thinks that you must have forgotten, and takes into sleep mode.

This works even if you don't have a password set for your PC. To get back it into wakeup mode, just press a key on your keyboard or move your mouse, and it kicks back the PC into normal mode.

How to control Sleep Mode or Lockout Mode

1] Customize Timeout settings:

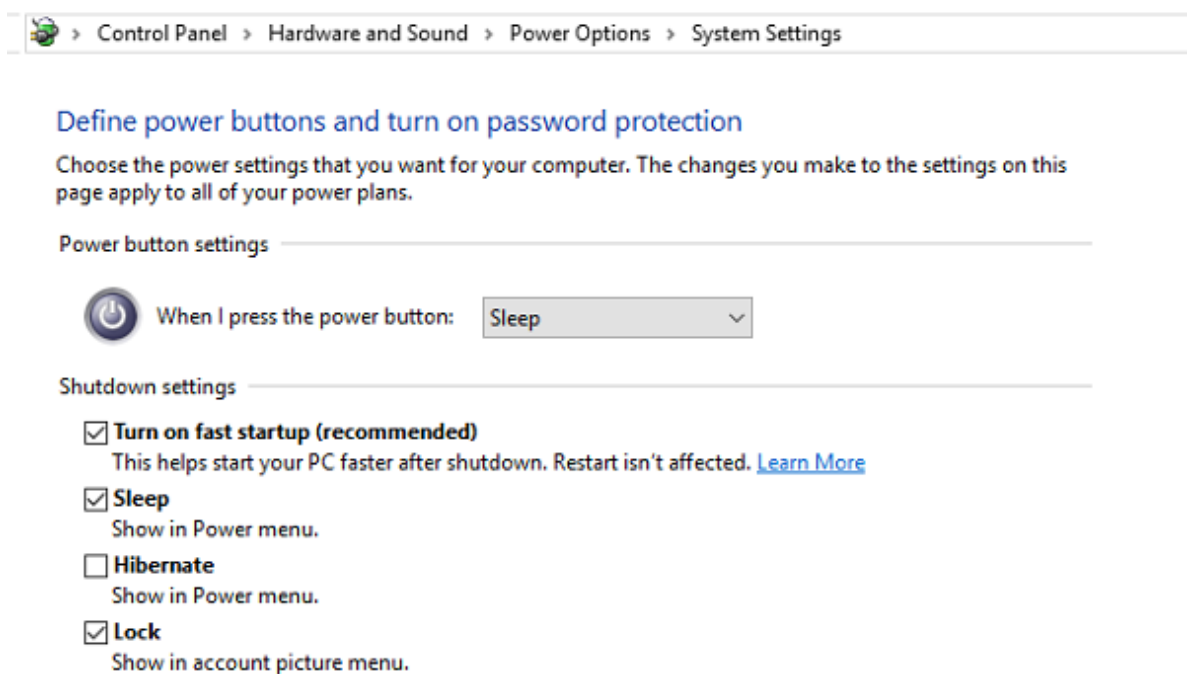
Go to Settings > System > Power & Sleep. Here you can configure time-out for your screen, and sleep timing. The default is set to 10 minutes for screen timeout, and 30 minutes for sleep mode.



2] Use Power Button to put to Instant Sleep:

When I use a Windows Laptop, this is what I use to put PC to sleep. The shutdown buttons are easily accessible and can be put into sleep mode instantly when you plan to take a break.

Go to Settings > System > Power & Sleep > Related Settings > Additional Power Settings > Choose What the Power Button does (<https://www.thewindowsclub.com/change-what-the-power-button-does-windows-computer>). Choose Sleep instead of Shutdown.



The primary reason I use it is to save even more power. Otherwise, the PC will wait for 10 minutes to turn off screen, and 30 minutes to put to sleep. So instead of using WIN + L to lock the PC, I can not put it to sleep. In case you like to hibernate PCs before leaving, you can always use Cortana for this. (<https://www.thewindowsclub.com/cortana-restart-log-off-shutdown-windows-10>)

Compared to Hibernate (<https://www.thewindowsclub.com/difference-between-sleep-hybrid-sleep-and-hibernation-in-windows-7>), and Shutdown, Sleep mode uses very little power, and PC starts up faster, instantly resume your work from you left off. In case you get low on battery, Windows will save all your work, and turn off the PC.

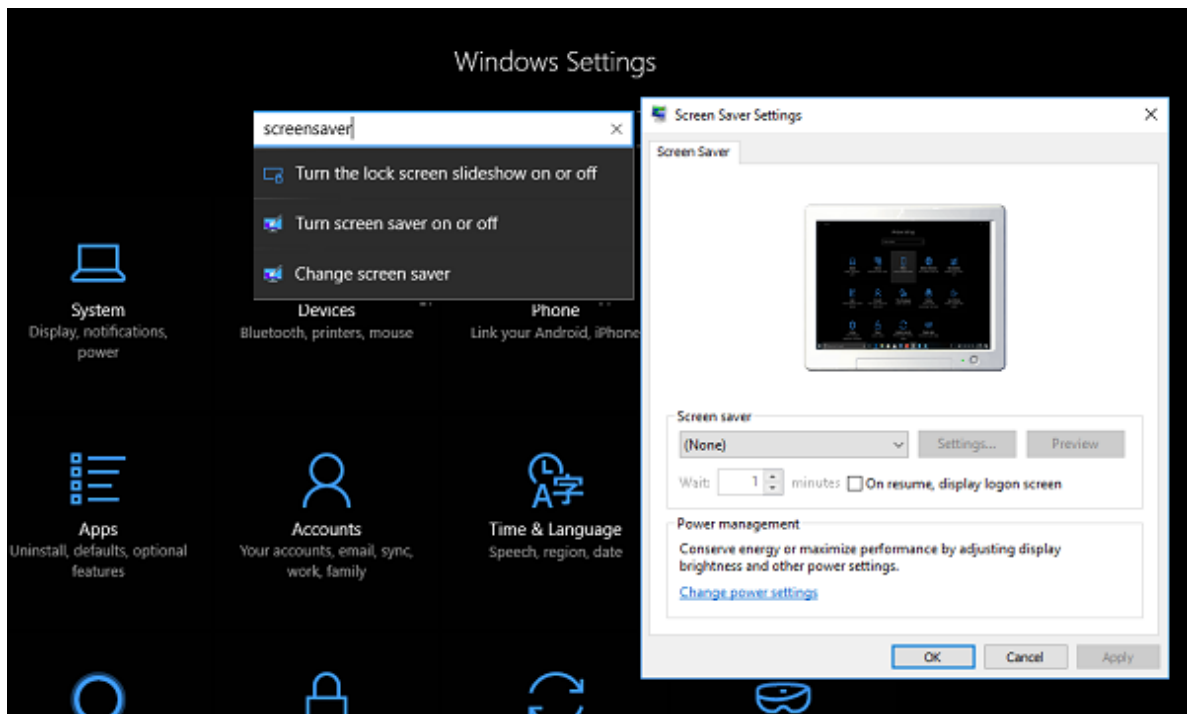
Windows 10 goes to Sleep too early or quickly

I have seen some people complaining that their PC gets into sleep mode too quickly, even though the power settings are set for a higher timeout. This becomes annoying because it gets into lockout mode while you are watching a video or maybe reading a lengthy mode. This can be resolved by looking at two places.

1] Screensaver Settings:

Open Settings & search “**screensaver**”. Look for search result which says **Turn screen saver on or off**.

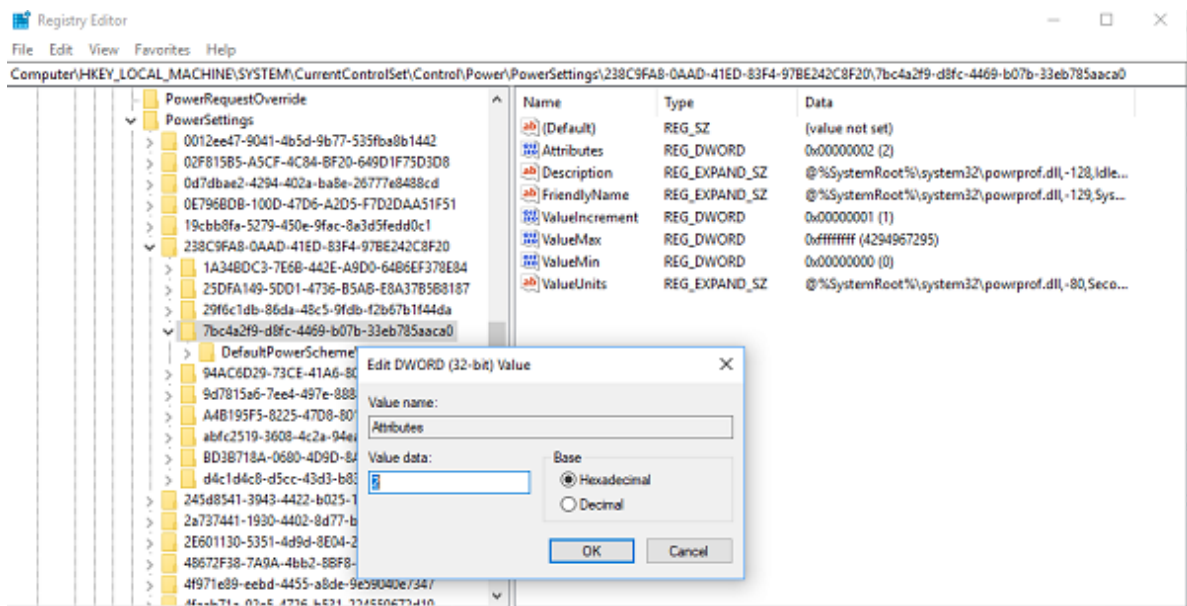
What is interesting to note here that even if you don’t use a screensaver, the time value is used to lock the screen. You need to set this to **None** and make sure the checkbox is off so that it **doesn’t require a password**.



2] Change System Unattended Sleep Timeout:

If the above solution doesn’t work, and your PC still gets to sleep early, its time check on the System unattended sleep timeout. You need administrator permission for this, and you will be editing registry settings here. While its safe, its always a good idea to take backup of the registry. (<https://www.thewindowsclub.com/backup-and-restore-registry-windows>)

Type WIN + R and then type *regedit* and hit Enter.



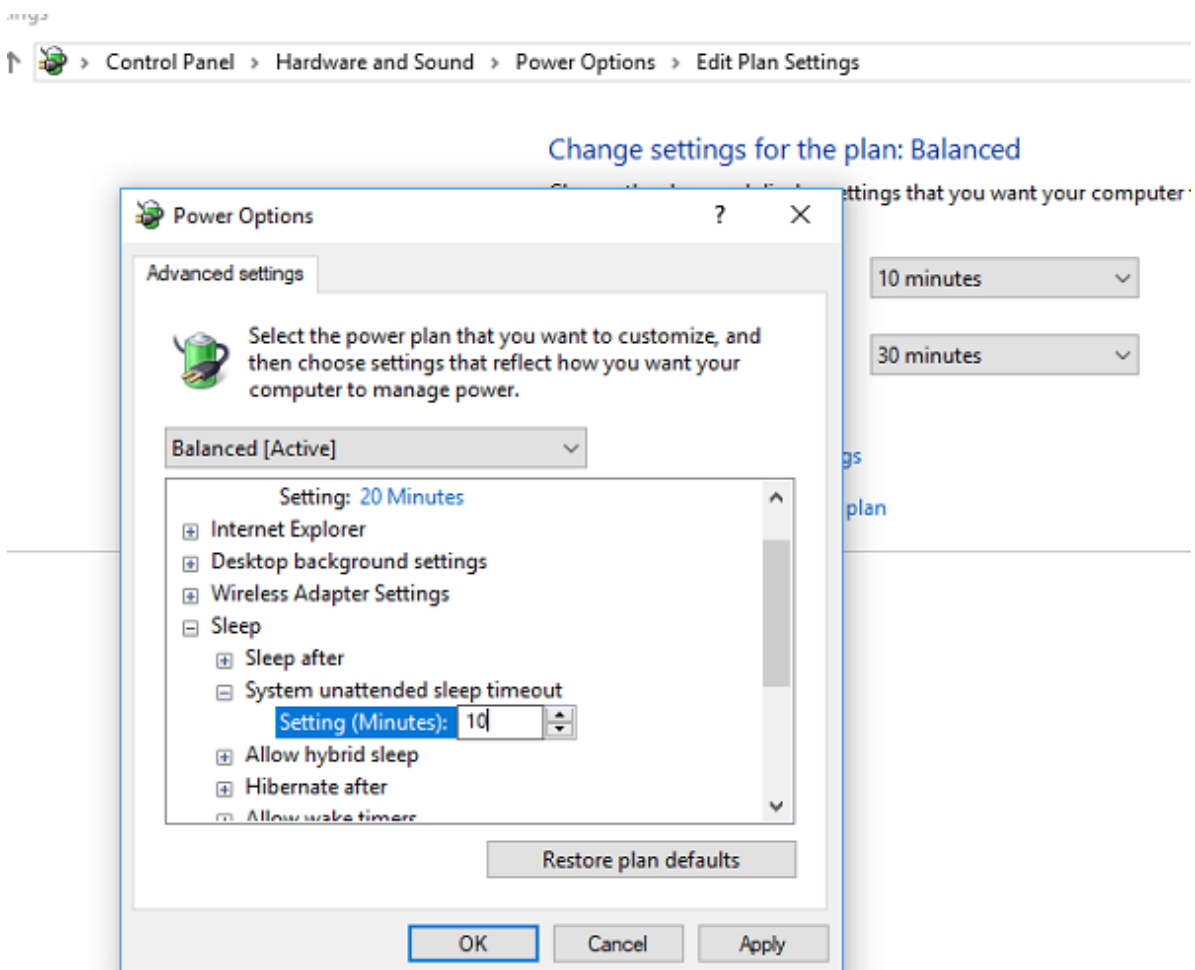
Now navigate to the following registry key:

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Power\PowerSettings\238C9FA8-0AAD-41ED-83F4-97BE242C8F20\7bc4a2f9-d8fc-4469-b07b-33eb785aaca0

Double click on **Attributes** and enter **2** as value.

Exit.

Now, Open Settings and search for “**power plan**”. Select **Edit Power Settings** from the result. Open the link which says **change advanced power settings**. In the next window, navigate to Sleep > System unattended sleep timeout > change it to 10 minutes. This should resolve your issue.



Using the above hack, you can keep using the screensaver if its one of your favorite things to do. I usually end up using the slideshow on my lock screen (<https://www.thewindowsclub.com/change-theme-lock-screen-wallpaper-windows-10>) which is much better compared to screen saver.

This should give you enough control on your computer getting into sleep mode. However, always make sure to use a pin or password you remember.



A Windows computer can face several other Sleep-related issues. Maybe some of these posts will help you someday.

1. Prevent Computer from waking up from Sleep (<https://www.thewindowsclub.com/prevent-computer-waking-sleep-unexpectedly>)
2. Windows 10 goes to sleep automatically (<https://www.thewindowsclub.com/windows-10-goes-to-sleep-automatically-randomly>)
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Posted by AshishMohta@TWC (<https://www.thewindowsclub.com/author/ash5moh8twc>) on April 3, 2018, in Category Windows (<https://www.thewindowsclub.com/category/windows>) with Tags Sleep (<https://www.thewindowsclub.com/tag/sleep>), Troubleshoot (<https://www.thewindowsclub.com/tag/troubleshoot>)

Ashish is a veteran Windows, and Xbox user who excels in writing tips, tricks, and features on it to improve your day to day experience with your devices.

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ST • 8 months ago

WORKED, thank you! Was driving me NUTS

1 ^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›

Sam Lee • 7 months ago

omg. can't believe i had to change the registry to adjust the unattended sleep setting. thanks so much!

2 ^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›

Nate K • 7 months ago

The registry edit to show the "Change System Unattended Sleep Timeout" setting in power options did the trick for me. Thanks!

2 ^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›

Ben Reiner • 3 months ago

Thrilling!! Seriously, good job guys.

1 ^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›

Perry Gogas • 3 months ago

This is the ONLY solution that works!!! Thanks!!!

1 ^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›

Jax Burnett • 2 months ago

Thank you!!!!

^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›



Zac • 2 months ago

Thanks! Does anyone know how this can be pushed out via GPO? Changing the value to 2 is



easy, but how do I then change the subsequent settings for deployment?

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Laura • a month ago

Thanks!

Finally a Windows document that the proposed solution works!!

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Akachi • 23 days ago

Thanks for the "Change System Unattended Sleep Timeout:" hint. My ultrabook with an m7 chip takes so little power I think this was the problem. If something was playing in the background it would not go to sleep, but when idling it would always do it, regardless of other settings. It drove me crazy.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

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