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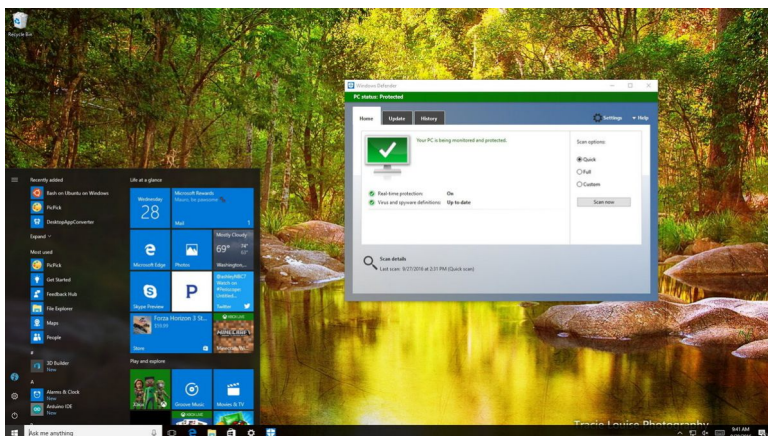
WINDOWS 10 TIP

How to permanently disable Windows Defender on Windows 10

BY MAURO HUCULAK   🕐 Thursday, Sep 29, 2016 at 3:00 pm EDT

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If you're looking for a permanent solution to disable Windows Defender, in this guide we show you how to turn it off using Group Policy and the Registry.

Windows Defender is the free antivirus software that Microsoft includes on every installation of Windows 10 (and Windows 8.1). The security software is meant to offer the first line of defense to protect your computer against viruses, rootkits, spyware, and other types of malicious code.

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software is installed on your device. The only caveat is that
unlike the Windows Defender integration with Windows 8.1,
you can't permanently disable the antivirus anymore.

Perhaps the reason is obvious, Microsoft doesn't want you to
use Windows 10 with zero protection — which it's a good
reason. However, there are still those cases where users
may prefer not to run an antivirus on particular scenarios. For
example, on a kiosk computer that won't be joining a network
and no one will be allowed to connect peripherals.

Windows 10 offers an option to disable Windows Defender,
but it's a temporary option when you probably are looking for
a more permanent solution.

In this Windows 10 guide, we'll walk you through the steps to
permanently disable Windows Defender from your device
using the Group Policy Editor and Registry.

> How to disable Windows Defender using Local Group Policy
>
> How to disable Windows Defender using the Registry
>
> Bonus: How to disable Windows Defender using the Settings app

# How to disable Windows Defender using Local Group Policy

If you're using Windows 10 Pro or any other enterprise
variant, such as Windows 10 Enterprise or Windows 10
Education, you can use the Local Group Policy Editor to
disable Windows Defender from your computer
permanently.

1. Use the **Windows key + R** keyboard shortcut to open the **Run**
   command.

2. Type **gpedit.msc** and click **OK** to open the Local Group
   Policy Editor.

3. Browse the following path:

   ```
   Computer Configuration > Administrative
   Templates > Windows Components > Windows
   Defender
   ```

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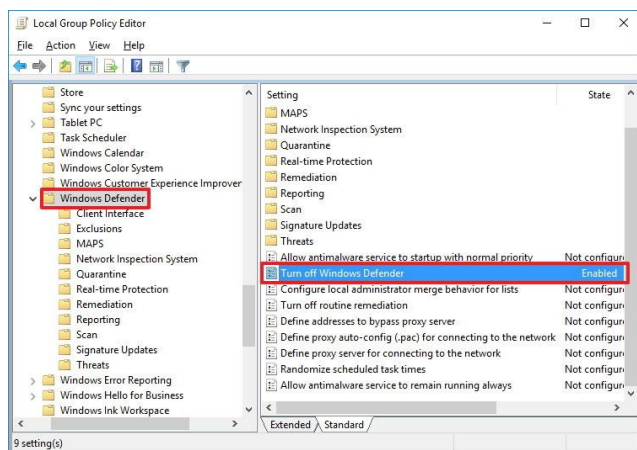
Defender.

5. Select **Enabled** to disable Windows Defender.

6. Click **Apply**.

7. Click **OK**.
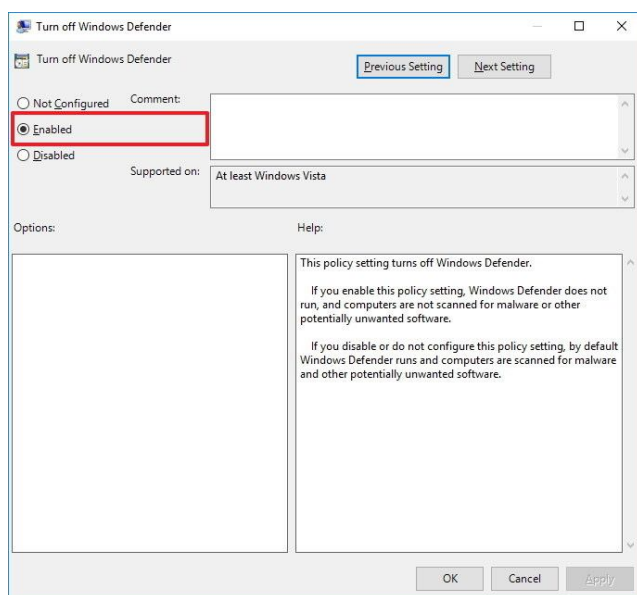
Once you complete the above steps, you will notice the Windows Defender shield icon will continue to run in the system tray. To get rid of the icon, simply restart your computer.

At any time, if you want to re-enable Windows Defender, you only need to follow the same steps, but this time, on **step 5** select the option **Not configured**. Then restart your computer to complete reverting the changes.

using the Registry

If you're running Windows 10 Home, you won't have access to the Local Group Policy Editor, as it's only available for enterprise versions of the operating system. However, you can modify the registry to accomplish the same result.

Important: Before diving into this guide, it's worth noting that editing the registry can be dangerous, and it can cause irreversible damage to your system if you don't do it correctly. It's highly recommended to make a full backup of your system before proceeding. You've been warned!

1. Use the **Windows key + R** keyboard shortcut to open the Run command, type **regedit**, and click **OK** to open the registry.

2. Browse the following path:

    HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Policies\Microsoft\Windows
    Defender

3. If you don't see DWORD **DisableAntiSpyware**, right-click on an empty space, select **New**, and click on **DWORD (32-bit) Value**.

4. Name the key **DisableAntiSpyware**.

5. Double-click the newly created key, and set the value from **0** to **1**.
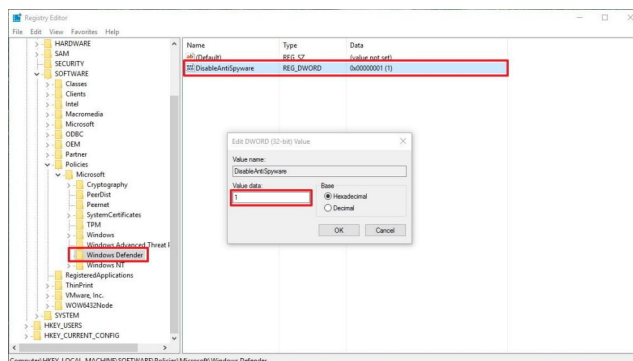
6. Restart your computer to complete the task.

At any time, if you want to re-enable Windows Defender, you only need to follow the same steps, but this time, change the value on **step 5** from **1** to **0**. Then restart your computer to complete reverting the changes.

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