

Configuring Firewall on MAC system

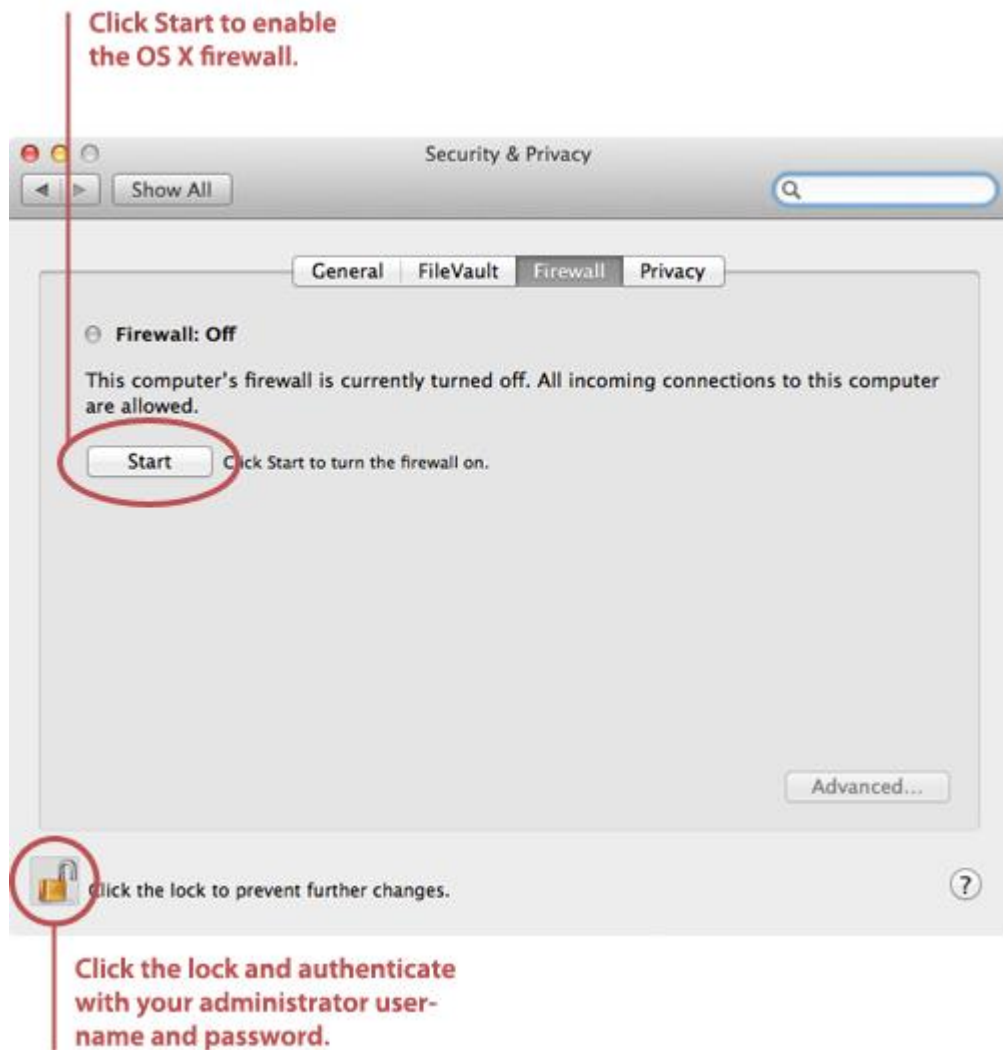
Turning on and Configuring the Mac OS X Firewall

Here's how to turn on and configure your Mac's built-in firewall:

1. From the Apple menu, select **System Preferences**. The window shown below appears.



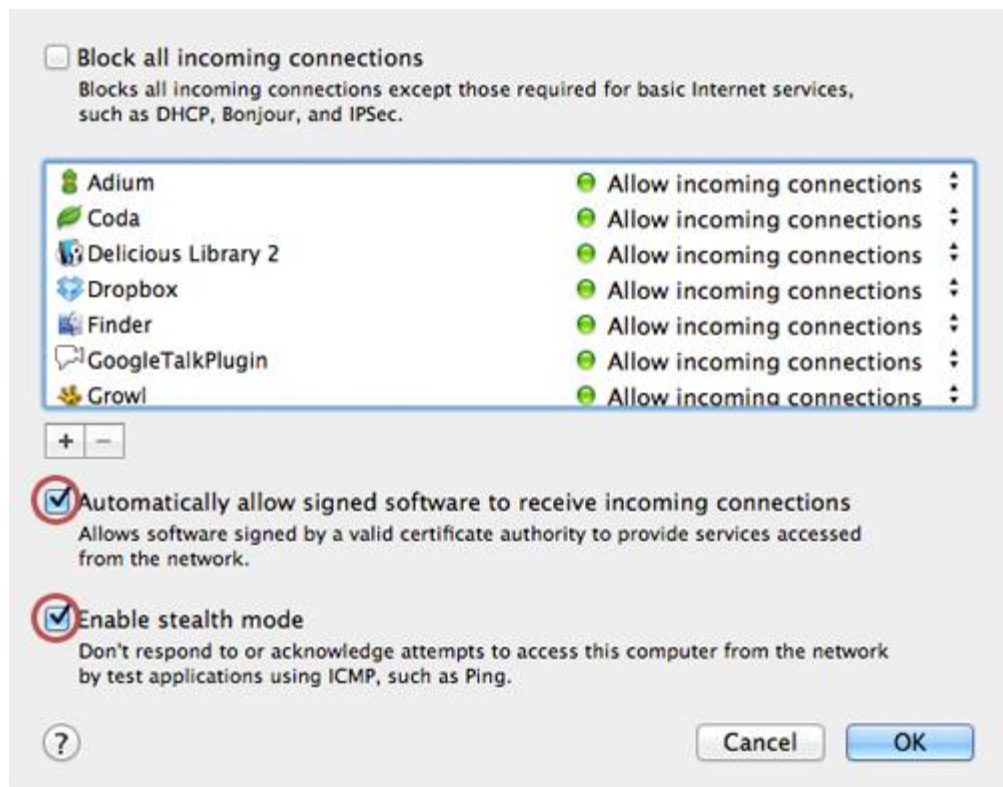
2. Select **Security & Privacy**.
3. Click the **Firewall** tab.
4. Click the lock icon and authenticate with your administrator username and password. The window shown below appears.



5. Click **Start**. The firewall turns on - you'll know it's enabled when you see the green light and the **Firewall: On** message, as shown below.

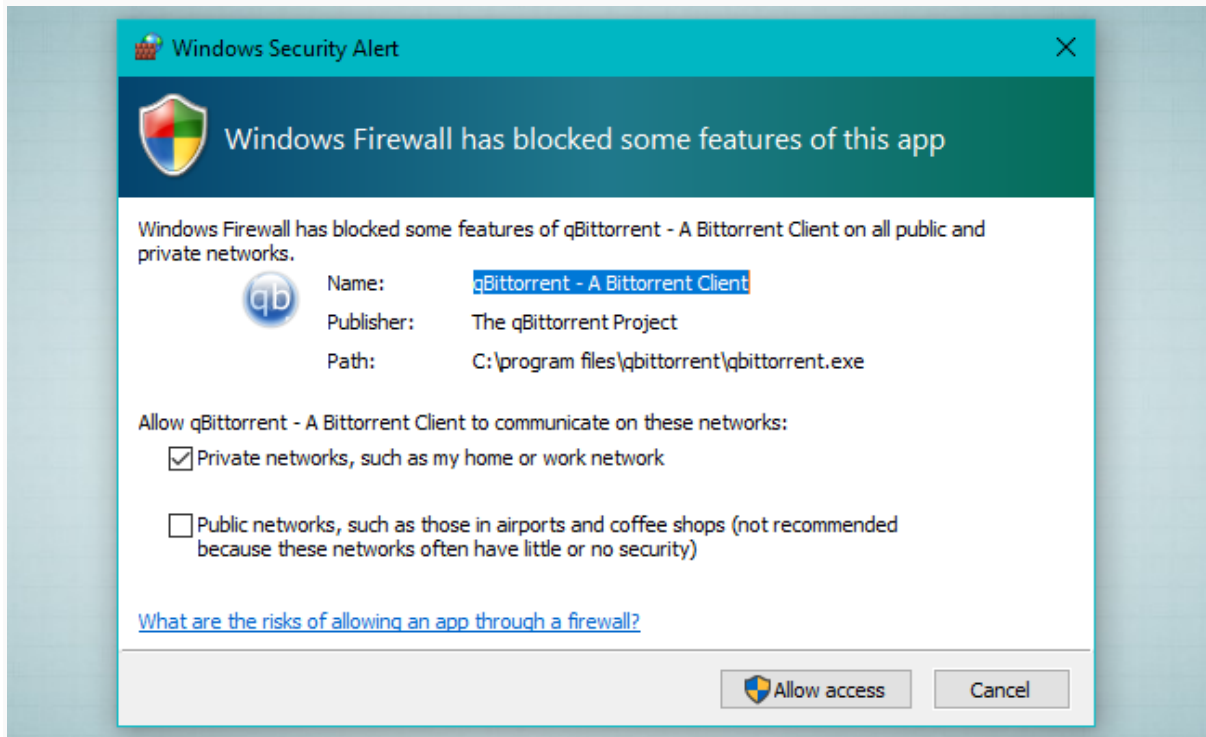


6. Click **Advanced**. The window shown below appears.



7. Select the **Automatically allow signed software to receive incoming connections** checkbox. This allows the applications on your Mac to communicate with the outside world.
 8. Select the **Enable stealth mode** checkbox. This prevents your Mac from responding to port scans and ping requests.
 9. Click **OK** to close the Advanced settings.
 10. Close System Preferences. Your Mac is now protected by the built-in firewall!
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Windows Firewall



By default, the Windows Firewall selects the checkbox that is appropriate for the network connection that you are using. You can select either of the options or both, depending on what you want to do. If you want to allow a program to connect to the network and the internet, click or tap **Allow Access**. If you want to block access, press **Cancel**.

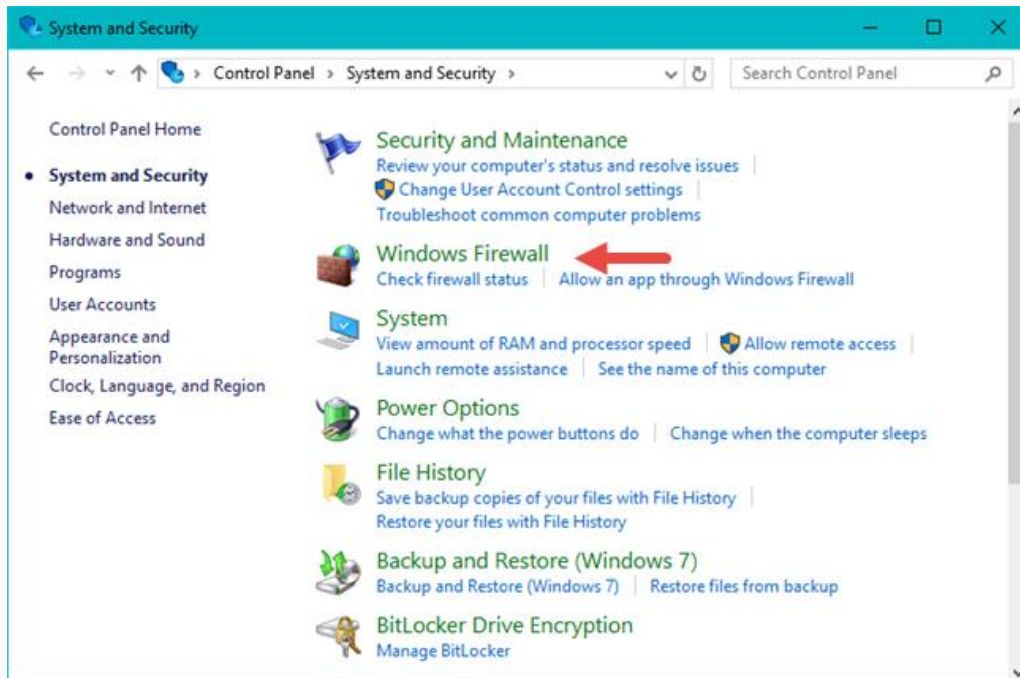
If you are using Windows with a user account that is not an administrator, you will not see such prompts. All programs and apps are filtered according to the rules that exist in the Windows Firewall. If an application doesn't comply with this regulation, it is automatically blocked, without any prompts being displayed. Windows Firewall is turned on by default in modern Windows versions such as Windows 10, Windows 7 and Windows 8.1, and it runs silently in the background as a service. It only prompts users when they need to make a decision. You won't have to open it unless you want to see its status or configure the way it works.

What doesn't the Windows Firewall do?

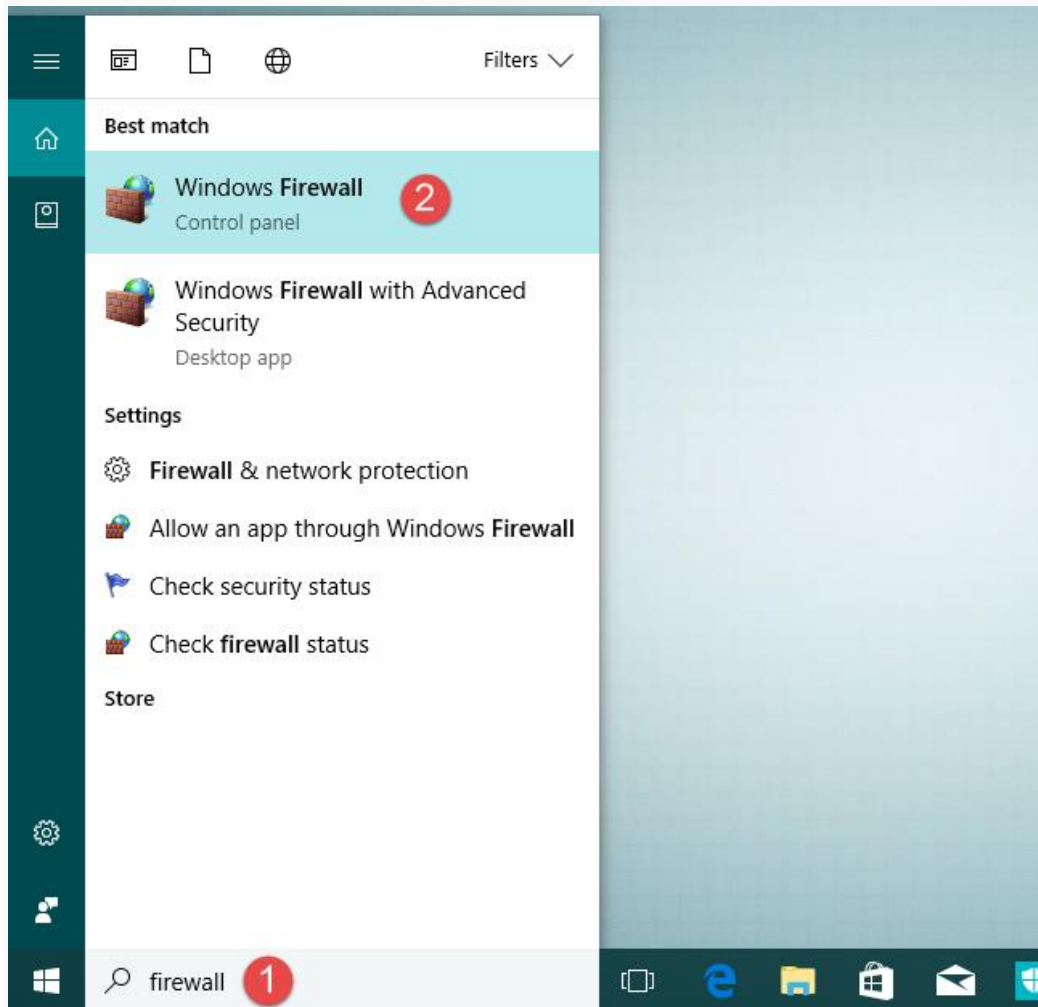
The Windows Firewall cannot protect you against any malicious attacks. It is a tool that should always be used in conjunction with a good antivirus program because it acts as a barrier between your computer and the outside world. It cannot protect your Windows computer from malware that's already present on it. If it happens that your computer is infected with spyware or a ransomware, then Windows Firewall is not going to be able to stop the communications between the malicious code and the remote hackers. You would need a third-party tool for this task, like Heimdal Pro.

Where to find the Windows Firewall

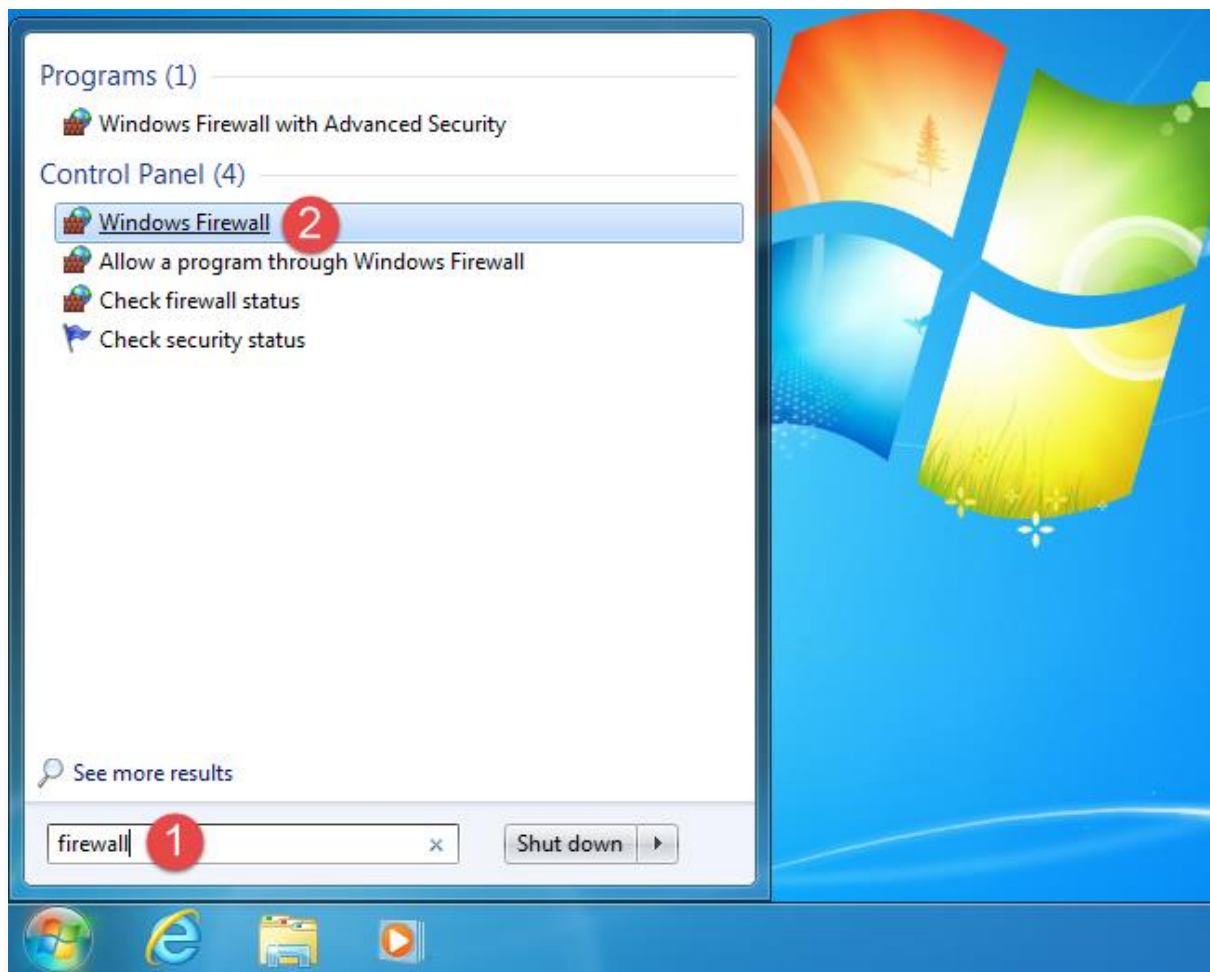
To open the Windows Firewall, you have several options. One of them is to go to "Control Panel -> System and Security -> Windows Firewall." This applies to both Windows 10, Windows 7, and Windows 8.1.



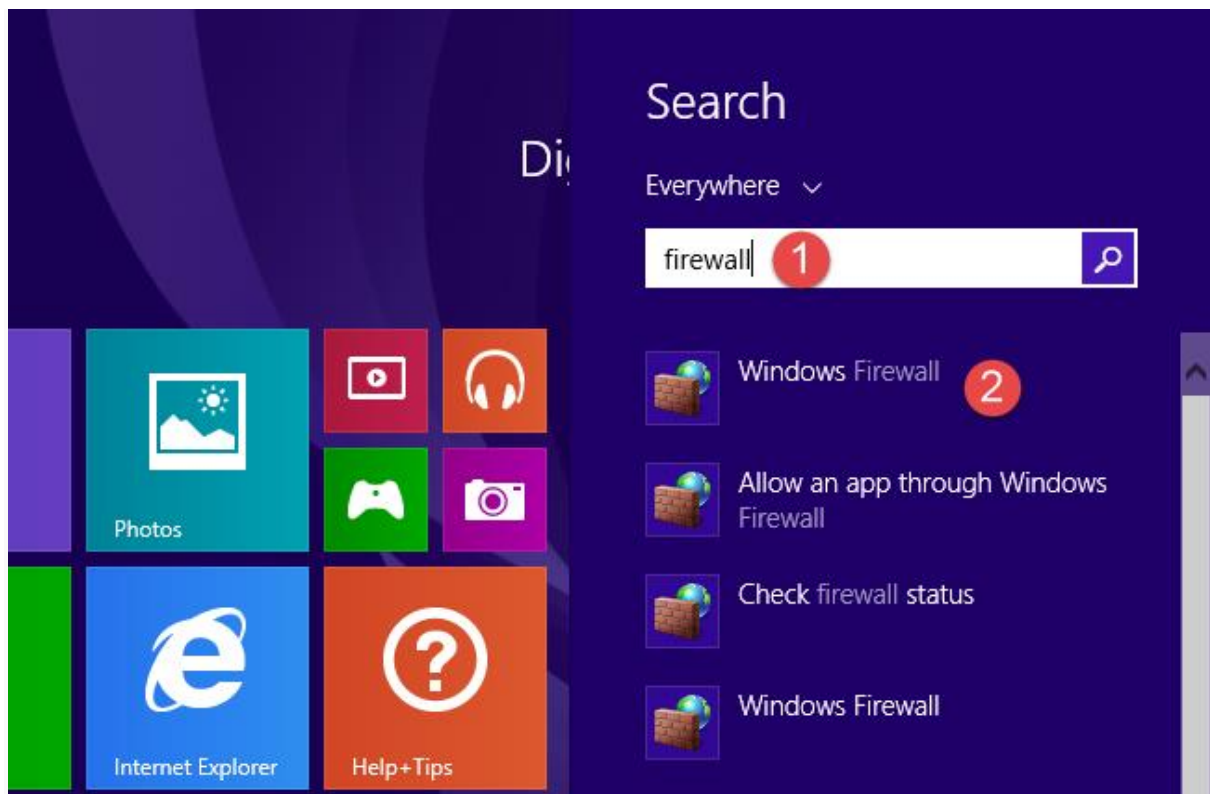
In Windows 10, you can use Cortana by asking her to search for "firewall." Once she has the answer, you can click or tap on the Windows Firewall search result.



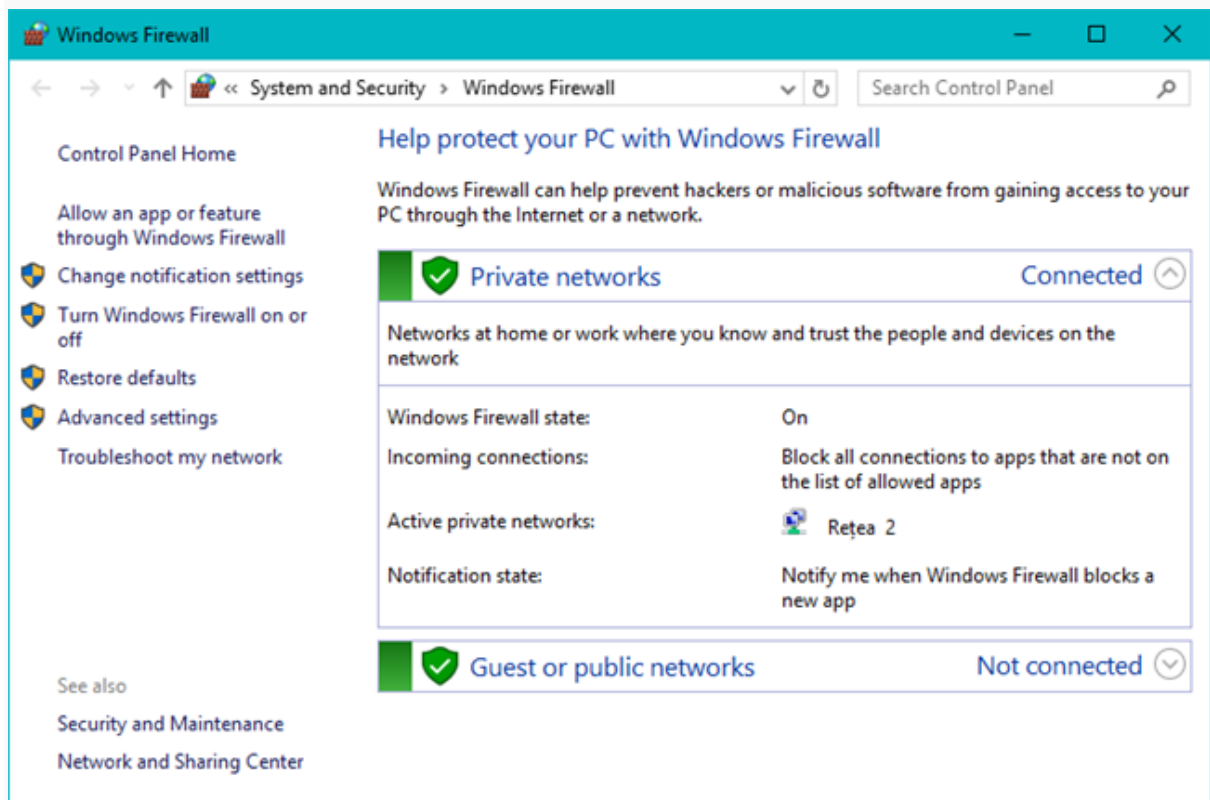
In Windows 7, you can use the Start Menu search box and type the word firewall. Click on the Windows Firewall search result shown below.



In Windows 8.1, go to the Start screen and type the word firewall. Then, click or tap the Windows Firewall search result.

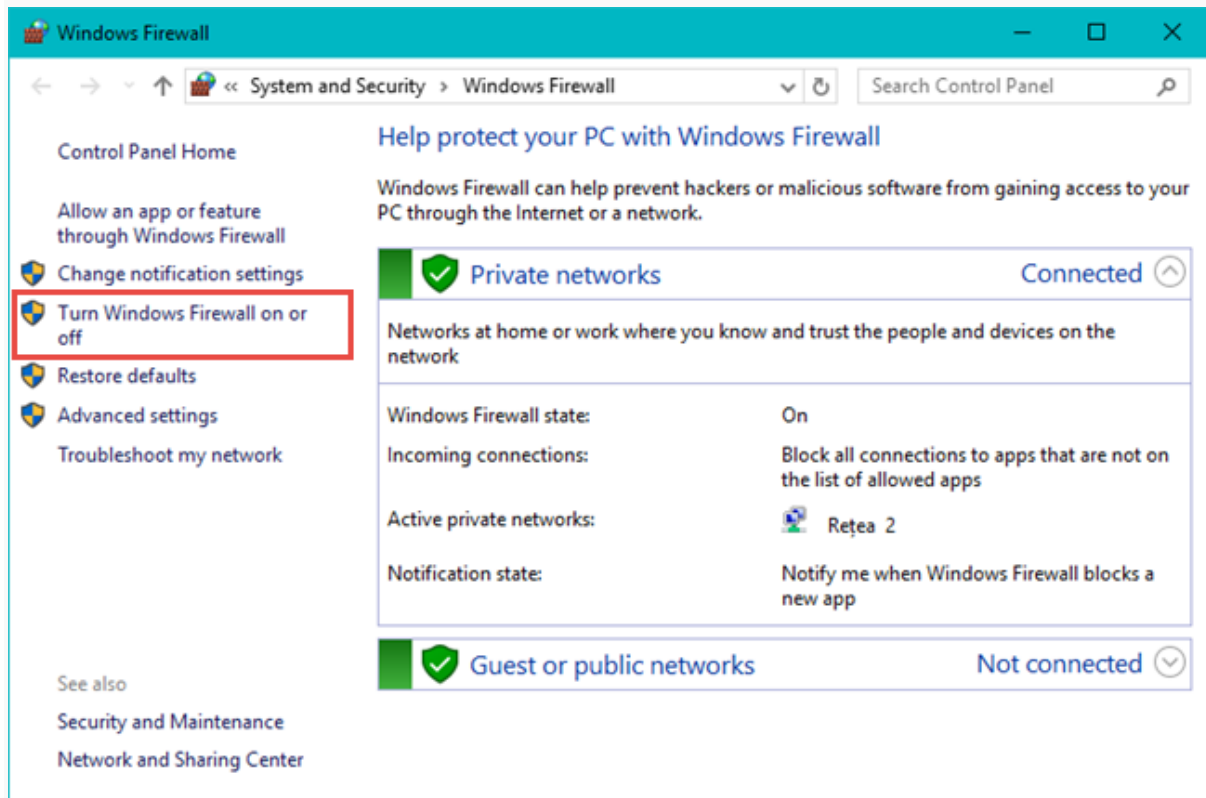


When you open it, you will see a window similar to the one below: showing the type of network you are connected to and whether the firewall is turned on or off.

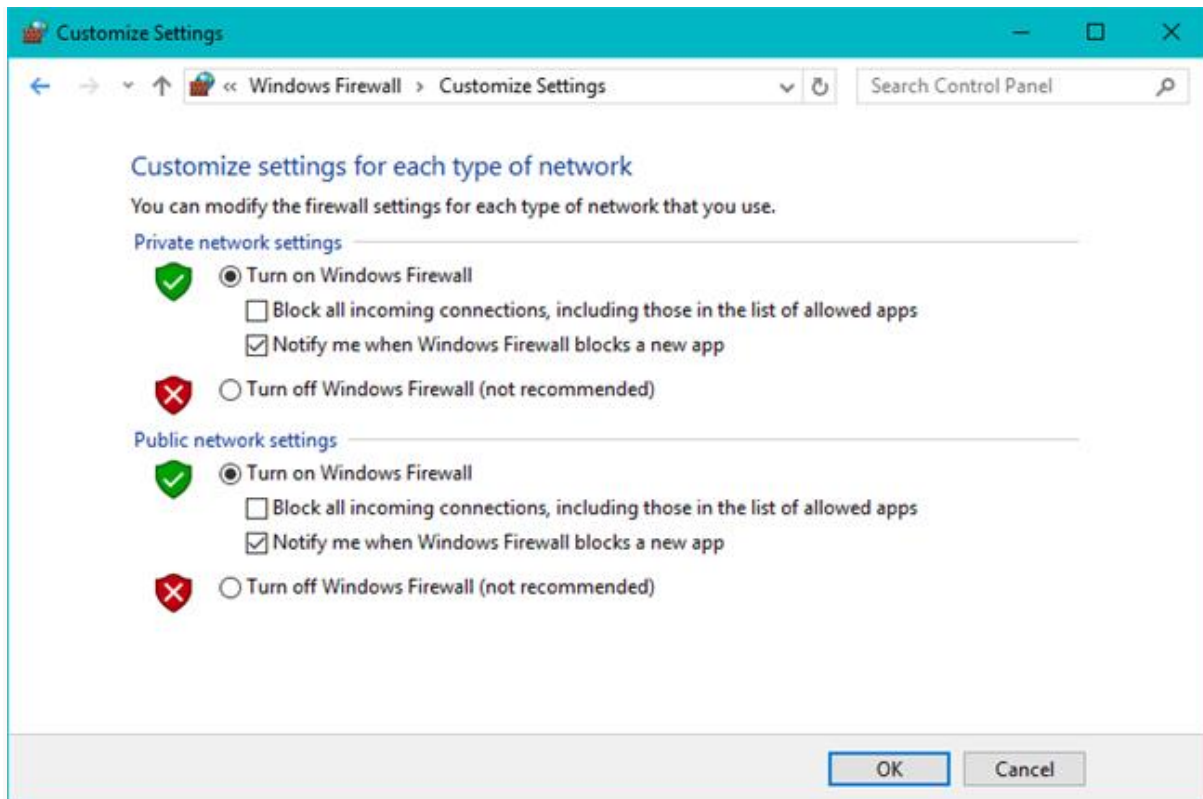


How to turn the Windows Firewall on

To activate or deactivate the Windows Firewall, click or tap the "Turn Windows Firewall on or off" link, found on the left side of the Windows Firewall window.

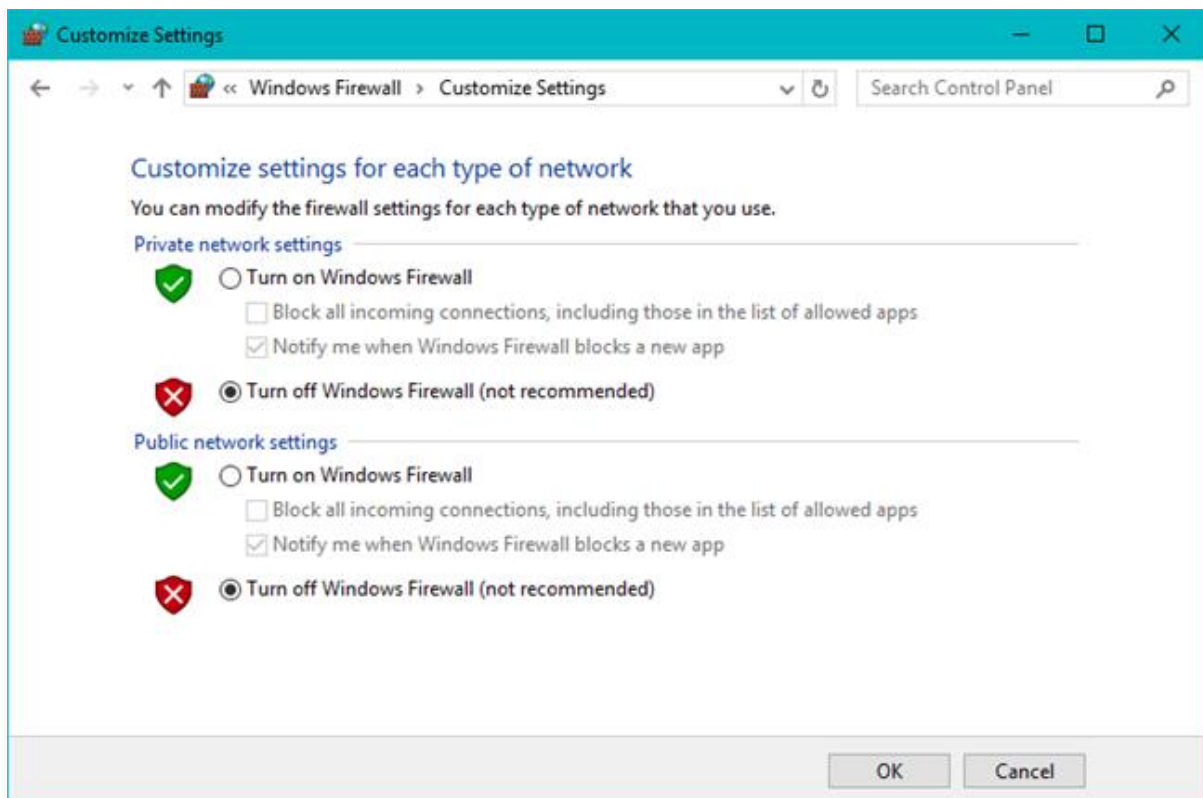


By default, the Windows Firewall is turned on for both types of network locations: private (home or work in Windows 7) and public. If you want to turn it on or off for any of these network locations, check the appropriate "Turn on/off Windows Firewall" box and press OK.



How to turn the Windows Firewall off

To disable Windows Firewall, you need to select "Turn off Windows Firewall" for both types of networks and press OK.



On a final note, please keep in mind that you can turn the Windows Firewall on or off only if you are an administrator. Your setting applies to all the user accounts that exist on your Windows device. Also, if you choose to disable the Windows Firewall make sure that you have a reliable alternative installed, like a third-party firewall or internet security suite.

Conclusion

As you can see from this article, the basics about the Windows Firewall and how it works are not that complicated. However, if you want to [get your hands dirty and configure the more advanced rules that govern how it works, you will need to educate yourself a bit before doing so](#). That's why we recommend you to read the guides shared below. And before you go, satisfy our curiosity: are you using the Windows Firewall, or do you prefer another firewall from a third-party? Use the comments form below to share your opinions.