

## How to turn off Windows Messenger Service

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Should a pop up box appear on your screen with the words “Messenger Service” in the title bar such as the one below, chances are that you have Windows Messenger Services enabled.



In their initial state, Microsoft Windows operating systems allow anyone on the internet to pop up Windows on your screen. There is no need for them to know anything about your computer and your computer does not care who does it.

Even less savoury individuals may pop up messages on your screen that try to fool you into taking actions that may not be in your best interest.

The important thing to remember is that anyone, anywhere in the world can pop up one of these messages on your computer. At this time it looks as though all these messages will have "Messenger Service" in the Window title.

It would be wise to verify with support staff any such message that appears on your computer that instructs you to take actions that may divulge sensitive information, change your password, leads you to a web site, or take other, unusual actions on your computer.

Also know that spam senders are using the Windows Message Service as another way to distribute their advertisements.

To resolve this issue, install or turn on a firewall that blocks inbound NetBIOS and UDP broadcast traffic. The method that you use to resolve this issue depends on your operating system and how you connect to the Internet. The following sections provide examples of several different configurations and possible methods of resolution.

### **You Connect to the Internet Directly**

If you use a single computer that is connected to the Internet directly (by using a cable modem, a DSL modem, or a dial-up modem, for example), install a firewall and block inbound NetBIOS and UDP broadcast traffic on your computer.

### **You Are Running Windows XP**

If you are running Windows XP and connect to the Internet directly (by using a cable modem, a DSL modem, or a dial-up modem, for example), install Windows XP Service Pack 1 (SP1) and turn on Internet Connection Firewall (ICF). By default, the installation of Windows XP SP1 allows Internet Connection Firewall (ICF) to block all incoming traffic (unicast, multicast, and broadcast).

For additional information about this change in ICF blocking behaviour in Windows XP SP1, click the following article number to view the article in the Microsoft Knowledge Base:

[329928](#) ICF Now Blocks Unsolicited Inbound Unicast, Multicast, and Broadcast Traffic

For additional information about how to obtain Windows XP SP1, click the following article number to view the article in the Microsoft Knowledge Base:

[322389](#) How to Obtain the Latest Windows XP Service Pack

For additional information about how to turn on ICF, click the following article number to view the article in the Microsoft Knowledge Base:

[283673](#) HOW TO: Enable or Disable Internet Connection Firewall in Windows XP

## Disabling the Messenger Service

To remove the ability for anyone in the world to pop up messages on your computer, you can disable the Messenger service. It's easy to reverse at a later time if you wish to do so.

### Windows 2000

Click Start-> Settings-> Control Panel-> Administrative Tools->Services  
Scroll down and highlight "Messenger"  
Right-click the highlighted line and choose Properties.  
Click the STOP button.  
Select Disable or Manual in the Startup Type scroll bar  
Click OK

### Windows XP Home

Click Start->Settings ->Control Panel  
Click Performance and Maintenance  
Click Administrative Tools  
Double click Services Scroll  
down and highlight "Messenger"  
Right-click the highlighted line and choose Properties.  
Click the STOP button.  
Select Disable or Manual in the Startup Type scroll bar  
Click OK

### Windows XP Professional

Click Start->Settings ->Control Panel  
Click Administrative Tools  
Click Services  
Double click Services Scroll  
down and highlight "Messenger"  
Right-click the highlighted line and choose Properties.  
Click the STOP button.  
Select Disable or Manual in the Startup Type scroll bar  
Click OK

### Windows NT

Click Start ->Control Panel  
Double Click Administrative Tools  
Select Services-> Double-click on Messenger  
In the Messenger Properties window, select Stop,  
Then choose Disable as the Startup Type  
Click OK

### Windows 98 & ME

Windows Messenger Service cannot be disabled.