



# Maestro Computing Services Windows 10 Privacy, Protection, Performance





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## Windows 10

### Privacy, Protection, Performance



**Windows 10 is generally a good operating system**

Certainly an improvement over Windows 8 and 8.1

- Unfortunately, with Windows 10, Microsoft has taken privacy down to a whole new level.
- This new level brings about more invasion of privacy than an attempt for protection of your private information.
- All in the name of convenience?
- Check out Microsoft's Statement on Privacy for more information
- <https://privacy.microsoft.com/en-us/privacystatement>
- The internet and now Internet of Things (IOT) have reduced our overall privacy.
- Convenience, communication, improved life style, more security?
- Time to manage Windows 10 and take back some control of your computer.



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#### Start by determining the version of Windows 10 you are using

- Even in one year since it's initial public release, Windows 10 has gone through 3 versions.
  - Version 1507                      July 2015
  - Version 1511                      November 2015
  - Version 1607                      July 2016
- Version 1607 is often called the Anniversary Edition since it corresponds to the 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the initial release in 2015.

#### Happy Anniversary!

- Not everyone may have installed or updated to version 1607 but it's coming fast to all systems.
- A major new release like the Anniversary Edition is probably best described like the Service Packs we received in Windows XP, Windows Vista and Windows 7.
- There are major changes and the upgrade takes a considerable amount of time.
- Installation mimics a new install and does reset some of your personal preferences.



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#### Determine your version of Windows 10

- Click the Start menu (4 white windows pane in lower left corner)
- Click Settings
- Click System
- Click About
  
- Don't confuse the Windows 10 Edition with the version.
- There are seven "editions" of Windows 10
- Editions might be Home, Professional, Ultimate, Mobile, Education, Mobile Enterprise, IOT Core
- Some of the features and issues explained in this presentation apply to Windows version 1607 and some to version 1511.



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**There are a number of things you should do when starting Windows 10 after an upgrade or even from a new computer installation:**

- Avoid the Express settings
- Take back privacy control by managing privacy settings
- Manage computer performance by turning off default apps that run in the background
- Show the Hidden features that Microsoft hides by default
- Take control and disable some of these hidden apps to improve computer performance



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## Start controlling Windows 10 by accessing the new “settings” feature

Click on the white window pane, normally in the lower left corner of most systems (formerly start menu) and click Settings

Once in Settings, begin to control the various issues:

- Privacy
- Network and Internet-Wi-Fi Sense (only available if Wi-Fi is enabled)
- Update and Security

## Notification Area

- Show all notifications to see what is really controlling your system
- Manage your virus /spyware protection

## Disable auto start apps in system tray

- Control how the taskbar looks
- Hide Cortana search bar (optional)
- Never combine taskbar buttons (show what’s running)



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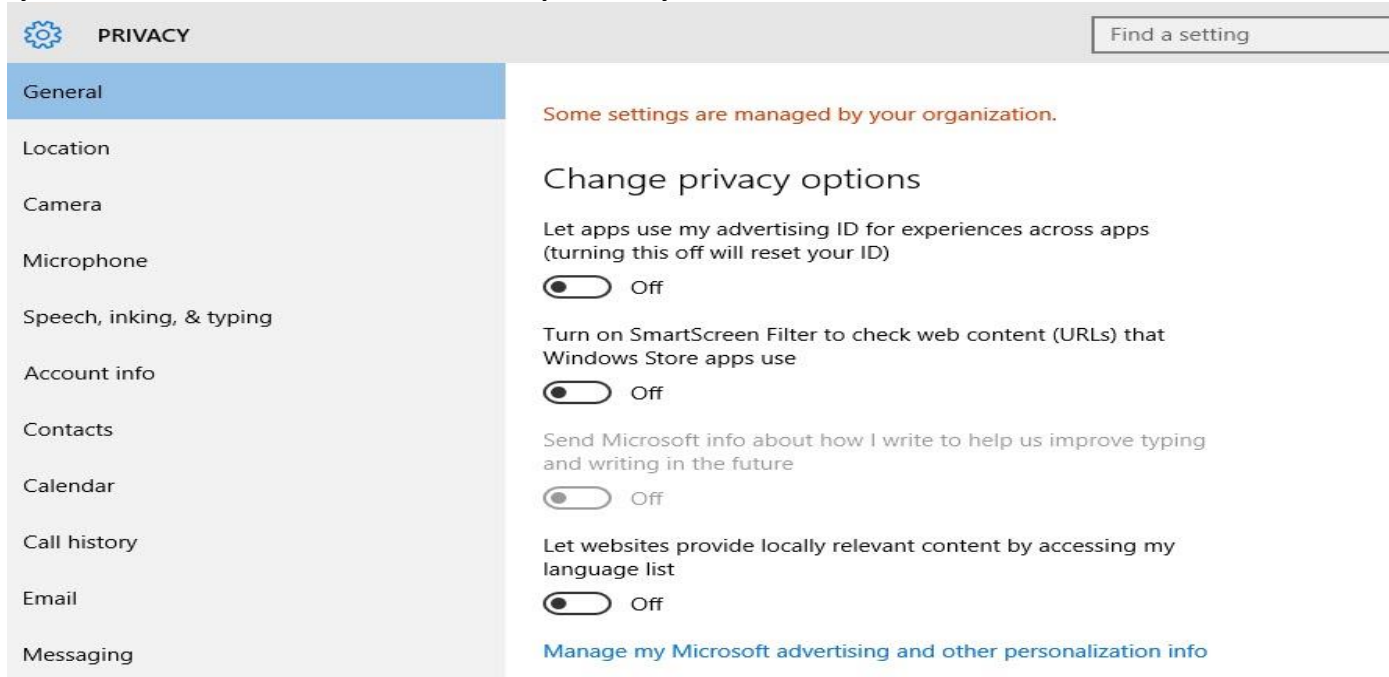
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## Privacy or invasion of privacy

Every one of the sub-menus of privacy deserve some attention



The screenshot shows the Windows 10 Privacy settings application. The left sidebar contains a list of categories: General, Location, Camera, Microphone, Speech, inking, & typing, Account info, Contacts, Calendar, Call history, Email, and Messaging. The 'General' category is selected and highlighted in blue. The main content area displays a message: 'Some settings are managed by your organization.' Below this, the heading 'Change privacy options' is followed by three toggle switches, all of which are currently turned off. The first toggle is for 'Let apps use my advertising ID for experiences across apps (turning this off will reset your ID)'. The second toggle is for 'Turn on SmartScreen Filter to check web content (URLs) that Windows Store apps use'. The third toggle is for 'Send Microsoft info about how I write to help us improve typing and writing in the future'. At the bottom of the main content area, there is a link: 'Manage my Microsoft advertising and other personalization info'. A search bar with the text 'Find a setting' is located in the top right corner of the settings window.

PRIVACY Find a setting

General

Location

Camera

Microphone

Speech, inking, & typing

Account info

Contacts

Calendar

Call history

Email

Messaging

Some settings are managed by your organization.

### Change privacy options

Let apps use my advertising ID for experiences across apps (turning this off will reset your ID)

Off

Turn on SmartScreen Filter to check web content (URLs) that Windows Store apps use

Off

Send Microsoft info about how I write to help us improve typing and writing in the future

Off

Let websites provide locally relevant content by accessing my language list

Off

[Manage my Microsoft advertising and other personalization info](#)

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### Background Apps - a drain on performance

Microsoft leaves quite a number of apps running in the background

- Most should be disabled, unless you use a specific app all the time
- Even Microsoft indicates turning these off can conserve power, especially when running on a battery
  - Settings
  - Privacy
  - Background Apps (the last one on the list)

Let apps run in the background

Choose which apps can receive info, send notifications, and stay up-to-date, even when you're not using them. Turning background apps off can help conserve power.

#### Privacy Statement

	Acer Explorer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Off
	Alarms & Clock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Off
	Calendar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Off
	Groove Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	Off
	Insider Hub	<input type="checkbox"/>	Off
	Maps	<input type="checkbox"/>	Off



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## Network and Internet

- Wi-Fi (if Wi-Fi features are available and not disabled)
- Only applicable if you are actually connected to a Wi-Fi network)
- Desktops may not have Wi-Fi adapters
- Most laptops , tablets and all-in-one computers have Wi-Fi network capability
  - Wi-Fi
  - Manage Wi-Fi Settings
  - Wi-Fi Sense

### Wi-Fi Sense

[Sign in with your Microsoft account to use Wi-Fi Sense](#)

Wi-Fi Sense connects you to suggested Wi-Fi hotspots and to Wi-Fi networks that your contacts share with you. By using Wi-Fi Sense, you agree that it can use your location.

Remember, not all Wi-Fi networks are secure.

[Learn more](#)

Connect to suggested open hotspots

Off

Connect to networks shared by my contacts

Off

Give and get Internet access without telling each other your shared passwords. You'll get connected to Wi-Fi networks your contacts share, and they'll get connected to networks you share.

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### Update and Security

- Microsoft Windows 10 Update settings have changed.
- Updates have always been a hot topic (they work or don't work, there are too many updates, etc.)
- Prior to Windows 10 you could control roughly the day of week and time when updates would be scheduled.
- Now, you have no control of time and worse - the computer could run the update and restart the computer with little warning, even if you had other apps open with information unsaved.
- Oops - what were you thinking Microsoft.
- Fortunately, the one saving feature is that you can modify the auto-restart without warning by setting updates to

notify you before restarting

- Click Settings
- Updates and Security
- Advanced Options

Choose how updates are installed

Notify to schedule restart ▾

You'll be asked to schedule a restart to finish installing updates. Updates won't download (where charges may apply).



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#### **Some changes after installing Windows 10 Anniversary Release version 1607:**

- Wi-Fi Sense options have changed
- Windows Updates options have changed.
  - Active Hours and Restart Options have replaced the Notify before restart.
- The Start menu (White four windows pane) is still there but the overall look and feel is slightly different:
  - No more text description of options, replaced by icons only
  - Other overall changes to main start menu
- User Access Control (UAC) options have been reset to default settings
- UAC is a security setting that attempts to warn users about possible changes to the system while software is being installed.



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### Other background app abuse

- While not unique to Microsoft Windows 10, there are a number of apps that run in the background that should be disabled
- Google Chrome Browser's default setting is to keep Chrome running even when closed. Google has reasons for keeping background apps running. I've always been a big fan of close and exit when the app is not being used.
- If you are done with your toys, put them away
- The only things that should remain running in the background are apps for protection and security monitoring:
  - Antivirus Protection
  - Spyware/Malware Protection
  - Power Protection if using a battery backup with power management
  - Backup schedulers and apps that manage computer backup
  - Other scheduled tasks needed to maintain computer security



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### Disable Google Chrome background apps

While in Chrome, click on the hamburger icon (the 3 horizontal bars in the upper right corner of the Chrome Screen)



- Click on settings
- Scroll down to Show Advanced Settings
- Click on System
- Uncheck “Continue running background apps when Google Chrome is closed”



Settings

About

HTTPS/SSL

Manage certificates...

Google Cloud Print

Set up or manage printers in Google Cloud Print. [Learn more](#)

Manage

Show notifications when new printers are detected on the network

Accessibility

[Add additional accessibility features](#)

System

Continue running background apps when Google Chrome is closed

Use hardware acceleration when available



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## Show all notifications in the windows notification center

- Don't play Microsoft's game of Hide and Geek
- The game has no rules.
- Microsoft cheats
- The game can expose your system to increased security risk.
  
- Microsoft has taken the attitude of hiding important warnings, hiding running apps and hiding a collection of files and folders.
- It's time to take back control of your computer and to get to know what's really happening.
  - System Notification Tray
  - Task Manager
  - File Explorer Options



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## System Notification Tray **Privacy, Protection, Performance**

What used to be called the system tray (systray) may now be called the system notification area or notification area.

Standard icons have been:

- The date/time clock
- Sound volume control
- Network Connection (wired and wireless)
- Antivirus and Spyware Protection
- Backup services
- Printer and scanner management tools (depends on printer)
- Skype, DropBox and other cloud-based backup services
- Battery and Power Management information
- Other utilities (some good and some bad)

The latest routine is to hide many of these icons unless the individual app required some action (low ink, paper jam, battery power low, windows updates missing, no antivirus protection enabled, etc.) An alternative is to show some icons then group all the other ones that could be individually or as a group



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#### System Notification Tray

- Personal Experience has shown that most computer users are unaware of the features and importance of this notification area.
- Covert apps may be installed, possibly consuming computer resources and memory and possibly putting the computer at risk of unwanted applications.
- By showing all apps that are running, the computer user (or computer repair tech) should be able to identify and control every app that is running in the background.
- Any app that is unknown is a potential threat to the performance and integrity of the computer. These should be managed, disabled, stopped from running or uninstalled.

Personal experience from the Maestro:

- I've caught and managed many infections and performance hogging apps simply by showing all items in the system tray.



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### System Notification Tray

- Enable showing all notifications
- Settings
- Personalization
- Taskbar
- Notifications Area
- Select which icons appear on the taskbar
- Always show all icons in the notification area



### Quick actions

Choose your quick actions



Select which icons appear on the taskbar



## **Never Combine Taskbar Buttons**

- Enable showing all notifications
- Settings
- Personalization
- Taskbar
- Combine Taskbar Buttons - Never

Taskbar location on screen

Combine taskbar buttons



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#### **A comment on Microsoft Windows Defender**

- Windows Defender under Windows 10 brings the latest antivirus protection to the computer. At least that's the marketing spin.
- It's pre-loaded by default unless the computer has other (and probably better) antivirus protection from other providers.
- Antivirus and Spyware Protection modules have usually shown up as icons in the system tray. They are there to provide quick access as well as notification that the protection shields are up and running. From a user standpoint, its nice to know my protection status.

#### **Enter Windows Defender in Windows 10**

- Hidden from view, no notice that it's working (or not) no user interface (unless you start it manually).
- It's disabled if you have alternate protection software.
- Another hidden feature that could lead to virus infection if the app becomes disabled or non functional for any reason. Of course, these types of malfunctions rarely happen?



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### A comment on Microsoft Windows Defender

Windows Defender is accessed as a Windows System app

All Programs

Windows System

Windows Defender

Locate the actual program at:

`C:\ProgramFiles\Windows Defender\MSASCui.exe`



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## System Notification Tray - Real life examples

### McAfee Security

- A free add on that comes with other software installations despite the fact that the computer may have other antivirus protection enabled

### AOL Desktop Control

- A feature of the AOL desktop that runs at computer startup to enable further use of the AOL Desktop. Many computer users no longer use the AOL Desktop, may no longer have @aol.com email or they can access @aol.com email from aol.com or by using normal email client software.

### Printer control

- Old printers never die and their software continues to run in the background even if the printer is no longer connected to the computer



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## System Notification Tray - Real life examples

### Skype

- Runs at startup if you have a Skype account waiting for other Skype users to connect.
- If you rarely use Skype, why have it auto-start and remain open

### DropBox

- A reliable cloud-based file sync service
- Many computer users use it once and forget it's there but the utility remains behind

### Microsoft One Drive

- A cloud-based backup service that comes pre-installed in Windows 10.
- Always in the background even if the computer user does not even have a One Drive account.



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### System Notification Tray - Real life examples

#### Computer Hardware Specific Care centers

- Unique to many name-brand computers designed to download and install updates unique for the individual computer.

#### Weather apps

- If you live in a cave or bomb shelter, you might want to know what the weather is like.
- Otherwise, turn off the apps and go outside for the weather.
- Or login to [weather.com](http://weather.com) to see weather forecasts for various locations and time zones.

#### Chat and Messenger Apps

- Yahoo, AOL Messenger and others that keep you in constant ready-to-chat mode with these apps.



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**Like everything else in technology, Windows 10 is constantly changing.**

- For many users, change does not always mean “improvement”
- The privacy settings (or lack of privacy) initiated by Microsoft are just one example where the user does have a choice to enable or disable certain features and options.
- Background apps and Windows Update settings are another area that the computer user should manage.
- Once you are aware of the settings and where/how to control them, you can enable /disable the features that affect your personal computing experience.
- Take back control of your computer by examining the features, options and settings and learning where these options can be turned off (or on)





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**Additional Resource Information about Windows 10**

Everything you need to disable in Windows 10

<http://windows.wonderhowto.com/how-to/everything-you-need-disable-windows-10-0163552/>

How to get windows free upgrade after the July 2016 upgrade deadline

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/accessibility/windows10upgrade>

Windows 10 Privacy Issues

<https://fix10.isleaked.com/>



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#### Contact me with your questions about:

- Windows 10
- Idrive Backup and other backup resources
- CCleaner and other junk file cleaning options
- CyberSecurity
- Antivirus and Spyware Protection

#### The Maestro is available to speak to your computer club or organization about:

- Perfecting Your Computer Backup - The Art of Backup
- Cyber Security
- Email Etiquette and email etiquette resources
- Windows 10 – Managing Privacy Protection and Performance



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I look forward to seeing you at the APCUG

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