



## Windows 10 Security: Getting started

The first point to make is that there has been a lot of initial criticism of Microsoft's configuration of Windows 10 to enable it to 'harvest' personal information from users so that it can sell-on this data to third parties. This can even extend to contents of your e-mails!

It is, therefore, vital that you do not accept initial offers to automatically configure your machine once Windows 10's initial installation is complete, but go through a manual configuration. For a step-by-step work through of this see TechRepublic's website at ...

<http://www.techrepublic.com/article/windows-10-violates-your-privacy-by-default-heres-how-you-can-protect-yourself/>

If your machine is already up-and-running and you'd like to customise it yourself, the key place to start is Settings from the Start menu.

1. Choose **Privacy** from the **Settings** screen. A menu of sections appears down the left-hand side of the Privacy section. Make sure you start with **General** highlighted and then make sure all four options on that screen are **turned off**.
2. Next, in **Location**, **turn all options off**.
3. Similarly, turn everything off in both **Camera** and **Microphone** sections.
4. **Speech, inking & typing** is a little different, but do check that the **Get to know me** button **is turned off** – a click on it should show its status.
5. Account info should, one again, have **Let apps access my name, picture, and other account info** turned off.
6. **Contacts** should, yet again, have **all three options turned off**.
7. **Messaging** – turn **Let apps read or send messages off**.
8. **Radios** – turn the single button **off**.
9. **Other devices** has a range of options, as a starting point, **turn all of these off**.
10. **Feedback & diagnostics** has two separate categories under Feedback frequency, **Windows should ask for my feedback** and **Send your device data to Microsoft**. We strongly suggest that in both cases you disable these options by clicking on the appropriate box and choosing **Never** for the first and **Basic** from the second. This latter is an interesting example of Microsoft's approach – Never is not an option!
11. **Background apps** should also have all of its options turned off. This will initially save power.

At the time of writing, the jury is still out on whether Microsoft has been too intrusive or may even have been guilty of personal security violations in the way that it has, by default, set up Windows 10 to harvest our personal data and information. The 11 points above are a starting point to protecting yourself while the industry and various legislators decide whether Microsoft must change things.

**The settings suggested above are a first line of defence but may be reversed if they prevent any of your chosen applications working effectively. We would, however, suggest you switch them off again if they are not in regular use.**

The TechRepublic link at the head of these notes explores the issues and options summarised above in much greater detail. Watch this space!

Continued...

## Some further tweaks:

1. Many laptops seem to come with annoying touchpad behaviour – it's just too sensitive for its own (and it's users) good!  
Try changing the touchpad's sensitivity. Simply tap the Windows key and type 'mouse' into the search box. The resulting list should have ***Mouse and touchpad settings*** at the top – click on this.  
Scroll down the window to ***Touchpad*** and below that to the box between ***Reverse scrolling direction*** and ***Change cursor speed*** – it's probably showing ***Medium delay***. Change this to ***Long delay***. Life should now be more peaceful!

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