

TURN OFF CORTANA BY SAFELY MODIFYING THE REGISTRY

Voice-activated Cortana is Microsoft's version of Siri, and like Siri was designed for use on Microsoft's smartphones and tablets. Many Windows 10 laptop and desktop computer users have found it to be a nuisance that consumes an inordinate amount of memory, thus slowing down other aspects of the operating system.

The only way to turn off Cortana is to modify the computer's registry. This practice brings with it an important warning: *Changes made to the Windows registry happen immediately, and no backup is automatically made. Do **not** edit the Windows registry unless you are confident about doing so.*

By following these steps, you will be able to safely turn off Cortana. It will remain disabled until you turn it on.

1. Click on this link: turn-off-cortana.reg
2. At the bottom of the screen, click *Save as* and send to Desktop.
3. Go to the Desktop (Windows + D).
4. Double-click on "turn off Cortana" icon.
5. At the Open File – Security Warning window, click Run.
6. At the User Account Control window, click Yes.
7. At the Registry Editor, click Yes.
8. At the Registry Editor, click OK.
9. Remove the Turn-off cortana icon from the desktop.
10. Reboot the computer.
11. Cortana is now turned off.

If you want to turn on Cortana, follow the eleven steps above, except in step 1 use turn-on-cortana.reg.

After you disable Cortana, you'll notice that the text in the search box has changed from "Ask me anything" to "Search Windows." In addition, there's no option to search the Web from the search box.

To reduce the width of the search box to give you more room on the Taskbar, right-click on the search box, click on *Search*, then *Show Search Icon*. The search box is replaced by a small icon that looks like a magnifying glass. (With Cortana active, the small icon looks like a small circle.)