WGA Notification Software Disable
(Windows Genuine Advantage)

How to disable or uninstall the pilot version of Microsoft Windows Genuine Advantage Notifications

View products that this article applies to.

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On This Page
⇩SUMMARY
⇩MORE INFORMATION
⇩Disable WGA Notifications
⇩Manually uninstall WGA Notifications

Important This article contains information about how to modify the registry. Make sure to back up the registry before you modify it. Make sure that you know how to restore the registry if a problem occurs. For more information about how to back up, restore, and modify the registry, click the following article number to view the article in the Microsoft Knowledge Base:
256986 Description of the Microsoft Windows registry
ʹBack to the top

SUMMARY

This article applies to the version of Microsoft Windows Genuine Advantage (WGA) Notifications that is distributed during the pilot program. For example, this version is included in the pre-release version that accompanies the Microsoft Software License Terms. To safely and easily uninstall the pilot version, you must install the general release version of WGA Notifications. If you do not install this version, you can follow the steps in this article to disable or uninstall the pilot version.

Important These instructions have not been tested on the general release version of the WGA Notifications. Therefore, these instructions are not supported. Microsoft will offer the general release version of WGA Notifications to users who uninstall the pilot version at a later date. These users will obtain the general release version through the Microsoft Automatic Update service. WGA Notifications is part of the Windows Genuine Advantage program.

When you use a non-genuine version of Windows, you receive a message when you log on that states that the copy of Windows appears to be non-genuine. Then, you are directed to the WGA Web site to learn more. If you do not want to obtain a genuine copy of Windows, you receive periodic messages that notify you that the copy of Windows appears to be non-genuine.

Note If you are running a genuine copy of Windows and want to use WGA Notifications, you may receive messages to update Windows XP.

Regardless of genuine status, users are not denied access to critical updates. However, users who have not validated their computers as genuine are not able to install other updates such as those for Microsoft Internet Explorer 7.0 and Microsoft Windows Defender.

Warning: Modify registry at your own risk.

Disable WGA Notifications

1. Log on to the computer by using an account that has administrative permissions.
2. Make sure that the WGA Notifications version that exists on the computer is a pilot version. The version format for the pilot version is 1.5.0532.x. In this case, you can uninstall versions 527-532 only. For example, you can uninstall versions that range from 1.5.0527.0 to 1.5.0532.2. To find the WGA Notifications version, follow these steps:
   a. Click **Start**, and then click **Control Panel**.
   b. Double-click **Add or Remove Programs**, locate and then click **Windows XP - Software**, then click **Windows Genuine Advantage Notifications**, and then click **Click here for support information**.
   c. In the **Support Info** dialog box, verify the version number, and then click **Close**.
3. Rename the following files by changing the extension to .old:
   - Rename %Windir%\system32\WgaLogon.dll to %Windir%\system32\WgaLogon.old
   - Rename %Windir%\system32\WgaTray.exe to %Windir%\system32\WgaTray.old
4. Restart the computer.

Manually uninstall WGA Notifications

1. Log on to the computer by using an account that has administrative permissions.
2. Make sure that the WGA Notifications version that exists on the computer is a pilot version. The version format for the pilot version is 1.5.0532.x. In this case, you can uninstall versions 527-532 only. For example, you can uninstall versions that range from 1.5.0527.0 to 1.5.0532.2. To find the WGA Notifications version, follow these steps:
   a. Click **Start**, and then click **Control Panel**.
   b. Double-click **Add or Remove Programs**, locate and then click **Windows XP - Software**, then click **Windows Genuine Advantage Notifications**, and then click **Click here for support information**.
   c. In the **Support Info** dialog box, verify the version number, and then click **Close**.
3. Rename the following files by changing the extension to .old:
   - Rename %Windir%\system32\WgaLogon.dll to %Windir%\system32\WgaLogon.old
   - Rename %Windir%\system32\WgaTray.exe to %Windir%\system32\WgaTray.old
4. Restart the computer.
5. Unregister LegitCheckControl.dll by using Regsvr32. To do this, follow these steps:
   a. Click **Start**, click **Run**, type **cmd**, and then click **OK**.
   b. At the command prompt, type the following, and then press ENTER:
      Regsvr32 %Windir%\system32\LegitCheckControl.dll /u
6. Restart the computer.
7. Click **Start**, click **Run**, type **cmd**, and then click **OK**.
8. At the command prompt, delete the following files by typing the **Del** command. Press ENTER after you type each command.
   - **Del %Windir%\system32\wgalogon.old**
   - **Del %Windir%\system32\WgaTray.old**
   - **Del %Windir%\system32\LegitCheckControl.dll**
9. At the command prompt, type **regedit**.
10. Locate and then right-click the following registry subkeys. Click **Delete** after you locate each subkey.
    - **HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\WindowsNT\ CurrentVersion\Winlogon\Notify\WgaLogon**
    - **HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows \CurrentVersion\Uninstall\WgaNotify**

Description of the Windows Genuine Advantage Notifications application

[View products that this article applies to.](#)

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On This Page
⇓INTRODUCTION
⇓MORE INFORMATION
⇓Notification messages
⇓How to uninstall Windows Genuine Advantage Notifications

INTRODUCTION

This article describes the Microsoft Windows Genuine Advantage Notifications application. This program notifies you if a copy of Windows is not genuine.
ˊBack to the top

MORE INFORMATION

Windows Genuine Advantage Notifications notifies you if a copy of Microsoft Windows XP is not genuine. The notification messages only appear on computers that have failed the Windows Genuine Advantage validation process and that are running a copy of Windows XP that is not genuine. If you are running a validated, genuine copy of Windows XP, you will not receive notification messages.
ˊBack to the top

Notification messages

The following notification messages will appear on computers that are running a copy of Windows that has failed the Windows Genuine Advantage validation process:

- **Logon notification**
  When you log on to a non-genuine copy of Windows XP, you receive the following logon notification error message:
  You may be a victim of software counterfeiting. This copy of Windows is not genuine and is not eligible to receive all updates and product support from Microsoft.

  Click Get Genuine now to get more information and resolve this issue.
  When you receive this message, you have the following two options:
  - You can click **Get Genuine** to start the **Get genuine Windows** process.
  - You can click **Resolve Later**. If you use this option, an icon will be available in the notification area that you can double-click to start the **Get genuine Windows** process.

- **Balloon notification**
  After you log on to a non-genuine copy of Windows XP, you receive a balloon notification message in the notification area that is specific to the validation failure. You can click the balloon notification or the notification area icon to open the Windows Genuine Advantage Validation Failure Web page. This Web page gives you the specifics of the validation failure and the steps that you can take to make the operating system genuine.

- **Desktop banner text**
  If you use the **Resolve Later** option, the following banner text appears on the locked desktop:
  This copy of Windows is not genuine.
  You may be the victim of software counterfeiting

Every time that a notification appears, you receive detailed information about the specific validation failure. The information includes steps that you can take to resolve the problem.

Notes
- The frequency of the notification messages is determined at installation time. The notification messages continue to appear until the non-genuine copy of Windows has been validated as genuine.
- Windows Genuine Advantage Notifications will be deployed by using Automatic Updates.

ʹBack to the top

How to uninstall Windows Genuine Advantage Notifications

You can use **Add or Remove Programs** to view Windows Genuine Advantage Notifications, but you cannot use **Add or Remove Programs** to remove the notifications.

You can temporarily disable Windows Genuine Advantage Notifications. To do this, right-click the **Notifier** icon in the notification area and select Change Notifications Settings. Then, follow the prompts. This will disable the Notification Prompts until a new release of the Notification Update is released.

For more information about Windows Genuine Advantage Notifications, visit the following Microsoft Web site:
http://www.microsoft.com/genuine

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