

HOW TO DISABLE CORTANA

In early editions of Windows 10, it was easy to disable Cortana with just a couple clicks. However, Microsoft is so committed to having its Win10 users use Cortana that it is impossible to disable Cortana in the Anniversary Edition (1607) without venturing into the Registry.

Standard warning: Registry Editor is a powerful tool and misusing it can render your system unstable or even inoperable. This is a pretty straight-forward hack and as long as you stick to the steps, you shouldn't have any problem.

Follow these steps to open the Registry Editor:

1. Press Windows+R on your keyboard.
2. Type *regedit* in the search box and press Enter.
3. Click *yes* at User Account Control.

Navigate to the following key in the left column:

Expand **HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE**

Go down the list to find and Expand **SOFTWARE**

Go down the list to find and Expand **Policies**

Go down the list to find and Expand **Microsoft**

Go down the list to find and Expand **Windows**

Go down the list to find and Expand **Windows Search**.

If you don't see a "Windows Search" folder below the Windows folder, right-click the Windows folder and select New > Key. Name it "Windows Search".

Right-click the "Windows Search" folder in the left pane and select New > DWORD (32-bit) Value.

Name the value **AllowCortana**. Double-click it and set the value to "0".

You can now close the registry editor. You'll have to restart your computer before the change takes effect.

To undo your change and restore Cortana in the future, you can just return here, locate the "AllowCortana" value, and delete it or set it to "1".