

To Speed Up StartUp, Disable Unnecessary Startup Applications

Many applications are designed to start automatically when Windows starts. Software manufacturers often set their applications to open in the background, so you don't see them running, but so they'll open quickly when you go to use them. This is helpful for applications you use frequently, but not for apps you don't use often because it slows down the time it takes Windows to start.

Find the applications that start automatically. Sometimes you can determine which applications start automatically by looking at the program icons in the notification area that's on the far right of the taskbar. Check there first to see if there are any applications running that you don't want to start automatically. To try to find out the name of the program, point to the icon with your mouse pointer. Make sure you select Show hidden icons (an inverted V), so you don't miss any applications.

Even after you check the notification area, you might still miss some applications that run automatically at startup. Here's how you can find all the applications that start automatically and stop the ones that you don't want to start when Windows starts.

To stop an application from starting automatically

1. Right-click on the Taskbar, then select Task Manager.
2. In Task Manager, select More details in the lower-left corner, then select the Startup tab.
3. To stop a program from starting automatically, select the program, then select Disable. (If you have questions about a specific app or program, right-click on the program and then click search online.)
4. Restart your computer. Do what you were doing before to see if you're still seeing the same performance problems.

Note: If you disable a program and it continues to start automatically when Windows starts, you should scan for viruses and malware.