

Barricade Your Computer from Strangers: Turn Off Remote Assistance

It seems that we all tend to think that just because we are using our computer at home and no one can access it unless they are given permission, our private documents and files are safe. However, that's not always the case. Trojan horses and other malware programs can compromise our privacy and security. We also know how to set up and manage anti-virus and anti-spyware programs to protect ourselves from these nasties.

Even after setting up all these privacy and security barriers, however, there is still a possibility, as remote as it may be, that a stranger could access your personal information on your computer from anywhere in the world. A stranger could use your computer remotely, without your permission or knowledge. They can track every move you make (including your keystrokes) and could even have access to your credit card numbers, social security number and other valuable personal information that you may have stored on your computer.

In order to help protect you from identity theft and snooping in general, you may wish to establish one more protective layer around your computer. Just follow these simple steps.

1. From the Windows Search bar/circle, type *Advanced*.
2. Click on *View Advanced System Settings* near the top of the column.
3. At the User Account Control, click yes.
4. Click on the Remote tab.
5. Under the Remote tab, make sure the *remote assistance* box is unchecked.
6. Click the OK button at the bottom of the box.