

// DESKTOP HARDENING

WINDOWS HARDENING GUIDE

A step-by-step configuration reference for reducing your device's digital exposure. Each setting reflects best practices for principals, family members, and anyone in a high-visibility role.

Note: Settings locations may vary by Windows version. Use the Settings search bar if a setting isn't where indicated.

// WINDOWS SECURITY 01

SETTINGS › PRIVACY & SECURITY › WINDOWS SECURITY

Security overview	CONFIRM GREEN CHECKMARKS
Recommended actions	MITIGATE ALL

// PRIVACY SETTINGS 02

SETTINGS › PRIVACY & SECURITY

SPEECH

Online speech recognition	TURN OFF
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INKING & TYPING PERSONALIZATION

Custom inking and typing dictionary	TURN OFF
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DIAGNOSTICS & FEEDBACK

Send optional diagnostic data	TURN OFF
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Show search highlights	TURN OFF
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Search my accounts	TURN OFF
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Improve inking and typing	TURN OFF
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View diagnostic data	TURN OFF
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SEARCH

Search history	TURN OFF
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LOCATION

Location services	TURN OFF
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RECOMMENDATIONS & OFFERS

Personalized offers	TURN OFF
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Allow websites to access language list	TURN OFF
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Improve Start and search results	TURN OFF
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Recommendations and offers in settings	TURN OFF
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Advertising ID	TURN OFF
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// APP PERMISSIONS 03

SETTINGS › PRIVACY & SECURITY › APP PERMISSIONS

Camera	TURN OFF (OR RESTRICT APP ACCESS)
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Microphone	TURN OFF (OR RESTRICT APP ACCESS)
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Voice activation	TURN OFF
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Account info access	TURN OFF
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Notifications	ALLOW ONLY NECESSARY APPS
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// SYSTEM & ACCOUNTS 04

SETTINGS › WINDOWS UPDATE

Windows Update	CHECK FOR UPDATES
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SETTINGS › SYSTEM › TROUBLESHOOT

Recommended troubleshooter preferences	ASK ME BEFORE RUNNING
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SETTINGS › ACCOUNTS › OTHER USERS

Other users on device	CONFIRM ONLY KNOWN USERS
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