Click Here to Install Silverlight	United States Change All Microsoft Sites
🖉 Windows ^{xp}	Search Microsoft.com
Windows XP Home	Security At Home Microsoft At Home Microsoft At Work
Windows XP Editions	Line Windows VD & Lines and Creell Duringes Naturation
Home Edition	Using windows XP > Home and Small Business Networking
Professional	Using Windows Firewall
Media Center Edition	
Tablet PC Edition	Published: August 15, 2006
Professional x64 Edition	
Information For	Microsoft regularly releases improvements to Windows to help keep you protected from constantly
Home Users	changing Internet threats. Windows Firewall is one such improvement, first released as part of Microsoft
Students	Windows XP Service Pack 2. If you have Automatic Updates enabled, Windows Firewall is already
Small Businesses	protecting you.
IT Professionals	Windows Firewall protects your computer by blocking communications that might actually be dangerous
Developers	software trying to find a way to connect to your computer, rather than communications from a person or
Resources	program you want to interact with. Windows Firewall is smart enough to allow connections from computers
Using Windows XP	in your home and to block those connections from computers on the Internet. For example, Windows

Using Windows XPin your home and to block those connections from computers on the Internet. For example, WindowsDownloadsFirewall will allow you to share files or a printer between two computers in your home, but it will block any
attempts from people on the Internet to connect to your computer.SupportYou only need to configure Windows Firewall if you are having a problem with a program connecting to the
Internet. If you're not having a problem, simply verify that Windows Firewall is enabled on your computer,
and enjoy using the Internet knowing that Windows Firewall is helping to protect you. If you are
experiencing a problem, you can add a firewall exception for that program to ensure Windows Firewall isn't
causing the problem.

Windows Family



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What Windows Firewall does-and does not-do

Windows Firewall does offer some protection from network attacks from malicious software known as worms. However, Windows Firewall does not protect you from viruses or spyware. For more information about antivirus and antispyware software, read <u>Protect your network from viruses and malicious software</u>.

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Verify that Windows Firewall is enabled

To verify that Windows Firewall is protecting your computer

1. Click Start, and then click Control Panel.



2. From the Control Panel, click Security Center.



• If Windows Firewall shows **On**, you are protected.



If Windows Firewall shows OFF, it has been disabled. If you have another firewall installed, this
is probably OK. If you don't have another firewall installed, you will need to re-enable Windows
Firewall from within Security Center.

To re-enable Windows Firewall

1. Click Recommendations.

🙂 Se	curity Center
	Help protect your PC
Security essentials Security Center helps you manage your Windows security settings. To make sure the three security essentials are marked ON. If the settings recommendations. To return to the Security Center later, open Contro What's new in Windows to help protect my computer?	help protect your computer, s are not ON, follow the ol Panel.
😂 Firewall	© OFF ∣ ⊗
Windows detects that your computer is not currently protected by a Recommendations to learn how to fix this problem. <u>How does a firey computer?</u>	a firewall. Click wall help protect my
Note: Windows does not detect all firewalls.	Recommendations
🍪 Automatic Updates	© ON ⊗

2. Click Enable Now.

۲	Recommendation
	🔶 Security Center
	A firewall helps protect your computer against viruses and other security threats.
	Recommendation
	Turn on Windows Firewall for all network Enable now connections
	☐ I have a firewall solution that I'll monitor myself. Note: Windows won't monitor your firewall status and won't send you alerts if it is off.
	How does a firewall help protect OK Cancel

3. Click Close.

🕏 Security Center	
	\vartheta Security Center
Windows Firewall was successfully tur	ned on.
	Close

4. Click **OK**.

۲	Recommendation
	😌 Security Center
	A firewall helps protect your computer against viruses and other security threats.
	Recommendation
	Turn on Windows Firewall for all network Enable now connections
	I have a firewall solution that I'll monitor myself. Note: Windows won't monitor your firewall status and won't send you alerts if it is off.
	How does a firewall help protect OK Cancel

Now Windows Firewall will protect you from many unwanted communications.

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Add a Windows Firewall exception

Sometimes Windows Firewall might block a program that you use from connecting to the Internet. If you are experiencing a problem with a program that can't connect to the Internet, but you are still able to browse the Web (demonstrating that it's not a general problem with your Internet connection), you can add a Windows Firewall exception for the program that's having problems. This will allow you to use that program without Windows Firewall blocking it.

To add a Windows Firewall exception

1. Click **Start**. Click **All Programs** and find the program that you want to add an exception for. Then right-click the program and click **Properties**.

Laura Poll	У		
Sinternet	🤌 My Document:	5	
E-mail Outlook Express	🍖 Set Program Access and D 🕸 Windows Catalog	Defaults 🕨	
Windows Media Playe	Sindows Update	Open	
Xindows Messenger	Games	Pin to Start menu	
Tour Windows XP	im Startup	Cut	
Files and Settings Tra Wizard	Outlook Express Remote Assistance	Create Shortcut	
Windows Defender	 Windows Defender Windows Media Connect 	Rename	
WordPad	 Windows Media Player Windows Messenger 	Sort by Name Properties	
All Programs 👂	🎕 Windows Movie Maker		
	Log Off 🚺 Turn (Off Computer	
🥼 start			

2. On **Shortcut** tab in the **Properties** dialog box, right-click the **Target** box, and then click **Copy**. This copies the program's location to your clipboard.

Windows Mess	enger Propertie	. ? 🛛				
General Shorto	ut Compatibility S	ecurity				
<u>}</u> **	Windows Messenger					
Target type:	Application					
Target location:	Messenger					
Target:	"C:\Program Files\	Messenger\msmsqs.exe" Undo				
Start in:		Cut				
Shortcut key:	None	Paste				
Run:	Normal window	Select All				
Comment:	Shows whether yo	ur friends are online and lets yo				
Find	Target Chang	ge Icon Advanced				
	ОК	Cancel Apply				

3. Click **Cancel** to close the **Properties** dialog box.

Windows Messe	enger Properties	?×
General Shortc	ut Compatibility Security	
🔏 w	indows Messenger	
Target type: Target location:	Application Messenger	
Target:	"C:\Program Files\Messenger\msmsgs.exe"	
Start in:		
Shortcut key:	None	
Run:	Normal window	~
Comment:	Shows whether your friends are online and le	ets yo
Find	Target Change Icon Advance	d
		pply

4. Click **Start**, and then click **Control Panel**.



5. From the Control Panel, click Security Center.



6. From the Security Center, click Windows Firewall.



7. On the Exceptions tab, click Add Program.

😻 Windows Firewall	X			
General Exceptions Advanced				
Windows Firewall is blocking incoming network connections, except for the programs and services selected below. Adding exceptions allows some programs to work better but might increase your security risk.				
Programs and Services:				
Name	~			
✓ File and Printer Sharing				
✓ Files and Settings Transfer Wizard				
✓ Files and Settings Transfer Wizard				
Microsoft Fax Console	=			
MSN Messenger 7.5				
Remote Assistance				
Remote Desktop	-			
UPnP Framework				
☑ Windows Media Connect				
☑ Windows Media Connect				
Windows Media Connect				
Add Program Add Port Edit Delete				
Display a nouncation when windows Pirewall blocks a program				
What are the risks of allowing exceptions?				
OK Can	cel			

8. In the Add a Program dialog box, click Browse.

Add a Program	×
To allow communications with a program by adding it to the Exceptions list, select the program, or click Browse to search for one that is not listed.	
Programs:	
🞩 FreeCell	~
Mearts 1	
🝘 Internet Backgammon	
Internet Checkers	=
e Internet Explorer	
W Internet Hearts	
	-
Minesweener	
🖄 Outlook Express	
Pinball	
Path: C:\WINNT\system32\freecell.exe Browse	
	J.
Change scope OK Cancel	

9. In the **Browse** dialog box, right-click the **File** name box, and then click **Paste**.

Browse						? 🛛
Look in:	📋 My Documen	ts	*	G 🦻	• 🔝 🏷	
My Recent Documents Desktop	My Music					
My Documents		Undo	_			
My Computer		Copy Paste Delete	R			
S	File name:	Select	All		*	Open
My Network	Files of type:	Applications (*.exe;*.com;*.	icd)		*	Cancel

10. Click Open.



11. Click OK.

Add a Program	X
To allow communications with a program by adding it to the Exceptions li select the program, or click Browse to search for one that is not listed.	st,
Programs:	
 Internet Hearts Internet Reversi Internet Spades 	^
Winesweeper	
Collock Express One of the second s	
i Solitaire	=
🕙 Spider Solitaire	-
Windows Defender	
🔌 Windows Media Connect	
💥 Windows Messenger	~
Path: C:\Program Files\Messenger\msmsgs.exe Browse	
Change scope OK Cance	

12. Windows Firewall adds an exception for your program. Click **OK** again.

Windows Firewall	×
General Exceptions Advanced	
Windows Firewall is blocking incoming network connections, except for the programs and services selected below. Adding exceptions allows some programs to work better but might increase your security risk.	
Programs and Services:	
Name	<u>^</u>
✓ File and Printer Sharing	
Files and Settings Transfer Wizard	
✓ Files and Settings Transfer Wizard	
Microsoft Fax Console	
MSN Messenger 7.5	
✓ Remote Assistance	
✓ OFREFTamework ✓ Windows Media Connect	
Windows Media Connect	
Windows Media Connect	×
Add Program Add Port Edit Delete	
Display a notification when Windows Firewall blocks a program	
What are the risks of allowing exceptions?	
OK Can	cel

Now, Windows Firewall will allow your program to communicate with other computers on the Internet.

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