



Windows XP Services

A list of all the standard services [update: SP 2 defaults are shown in **Green**]

Name	Service (Key)	Process	Description	Default Status & notes
Alert	Alert	Services.exe [HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\Alert\Parameters] [HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\SysmonLog\Log Queries\<alertname>]	Distribute administrative alerts to specific users or machines. e.g. Performance Monitor thresholds are distributed as alerts. Requires the Messenger and Workstation services to be started.	Manual. May be disabled if the alerts are not needed.
Application Layer Gateway Service	ALG	alg.exe	Support for <i>Internet Connection Sharing</i> and the <i>Internet Connection Firewall</i>	Manual
Application Management	appmgmt	Services.exe or svchost.exe	Installation services (Add/Remove Programs) - Assign, Publish, and Remove.	Manual
Automatic Updates	wuaUser	svchost.exe -k wugroup	Enable the download and installation of critical Windows updates.	Automatic. If the service is stopped, the operating system can be manually updated at the Windows Update Web site.
Background Intelligent Transfer Service	BITS	svchost.exe -k BITSgroup	Transfer files using idle network bandwidth, maintain file transfers through network disconnections and computer restarts.	Automatic switch to manual if you have problems - Q314862
Clipboard Server	Clipsrv	Clipsrv.exe	Provides support for the Clipboard Viewer, which allows the clipboard of the source machine to be accessed remotely.	Disabled
COM+ Event System	Event System	svchost.exe -k netsvcs	Automatic distribution of events to subscribing COM components.	Manual
Computer Browser	Browser	Services.exe	Collects the names of NetBIOS resources on the network, creating a list so that it can	Automatic. If the machine is

			<p>participate as a master browser or basic browser (one that takes part in browser elections).</p> <p>This maintained list of resources (computers) is displayed in Network Neighborhood and Server Manager. If disabled you can still map drives, but can't browse the whole network.</p>	<p>not connected to a LAN (stand-alone) or will not participate as a master browser or take part in elections, then feel free to change the status to manual (or disabled)</p> <p>This does not equate to disabling TCP/IP so internet browsing is still possible.</p>
Cryptographic Services	CryptSvc	svchost.exe	Management of Certification Authority certificates. Driver Catalog Database, Protected Root and Key certificate Services.	Automatic
DCOM Server Process Launcher	DcomLaunch	svchost.exe	Launch DCOM services	Automatic
DHCP Client	Dhcp	Services.exe or svchost.exe	Manage network configuration by registering and updating IP addresses and DNS names.	Automatic On a stand-alone machine: Disable
Distributed Link Tracking Client	TrkWks	Services.exe or svchost.exe	Send notification of files moving between NTFS volumes in a network domain.	Automatic Can be set to manual if you don't need this function.
Distributed Transaction Coordinator	msdtc	MSDTC.exe	Coordinate transactions that are distributed across two or more databases, message queues, file systems, or other transaction protected resource managers.	Manual Can be set to Disabled if you don't need this function.
DNS Client	Dnscache	Services.exe	Resolves and caches Domain Name System (DNS) names.	Automatic On a home machine: Disable
Directory Replicator (Server only)	Replicator	Lmrepl.exe	Replicate specified files & folders between computers. The host is the export server, and the target machines are called	Automatic Domain Controllers need this to replicate the

			import computers. Replication is configured under Server in the Control Panel.	Netlogon share.
Error Reporting Service	Ersvc	svchost.exe	Report errors back to Microsoft in Redmond.	Automatic If you never want to report system crash info. to Microsoft set this to disabled.
EventLog	EventLog	Services.exe	Record System, Security, and Application Events. Viewed with the MMC Event Viewer (eventvwr.exe in NT).	Automatic
Fast User Switching Compatibility	FastUserSwitchingCompatibility	svchost.exe	Enable multiple users to login to the same PC simultaneously.	Manual
Fax Service	Fax	faxsvc.exe	Send and receive faxes	Automatic or Manual
Help and Support	helpsvc	svchost.exe	Help and Support Center	Automatic. If stopped the help system will stop working.
Human Interface Device Access	HidServ	svchost.exe	Support for extra keyboard 'hot buttons' and other multimedia input devices.	Disabled
HTTP SSL	HTTPFilter	svchost.exe	Support for HTTPS (Secure Socket Layer) websites such as banking and e-commerce.	Manual
IMAPI CD-Burning COM Service	ImapiService	imapi.exe	CD-Rom Burning	Manual If you have problems changing to Automatic may help.
Indexing Service	cisvc	cisvc.exe	Index the contents and properties of files on local and remote computers. [RESOURCE HOG]	Manual For improved performance Disable or Uninstall thru C.Panel add/remove
IPSEC Policy Agent	PolicyAgent	lsass.exe	Manage IP security policy and starts the ISAKMP/Oakley (IKE) and the IP security driver.	Automatic May be changed to Manual if IPSec is not needed.
License Logging Service (Server)	LicenseService	Llssrv.exe	License tracking on a server or DC (Domain Controller).	If disabled then licensing status alerts

				will not be generated.
Logical Disk Manager	Dmserver	services.exe or svchost.exe	Required by the MMC Disk Management plug-in.	Automatic
Logical Disk Manager Administrative Service	Dmadmin	dmadmin.exe /com	Administrative service for disk management requests	Manual
Message Queuing		mqsvc.exe	Message Queuing	
Message Queuing Triggers		mqtgsvc.exe	Message Queuing	
MS Software Shadow Copy Provider Service	swprv	dllhost.exe	Microsoft Backup Utility	Manual Disable if you never use Shadow Copy features.
Messenger	Messenger	Services.exe	Process the receipt or delivery of pop-up messages sent via NET SEND. Not related to Windows Messenger	Disabled vulnerability once used to send pop-up spam.
Network Connections	Netman	svchost.exe -k netsvcs	Manage objects in the Network and Dial-Up Connections folder (LAN and remote connections.)	Manual
Net Logon	Netlogon	Lsass.exe (Local Security Authority Subsystem)	Network Authentication: maintains a synced domain directory database between the PDC and BDC(s), handles authentication of respective accounts on the DCs, and authenticates domain accounts on networked machines.	Automatic For stand-alone machines never connected to a domain set to Manual.
NetMeeting Remote Desktop Sharing	Nmnsrvc	mnmsrvc.exe	Allows authorized people to remotely access your Windows desktop using NetMeeting.	Manual. A good idea to Disable unless you plan to allow remote connections.
Network DDE	NetDDE	Netdde.exe	Support the network transport of DDE (Dynamic Data Exchange) connections. Requires Network DDE DSDM to be started. See Clipbook service	Disabled
Network DDE DSDM	NetDDEdsdm	Netdde.exe	Manage shared DDE conversations (from shares like:	Disabled

			\\computername\ndde\$).	
			See Clipbook service	
NLA - Network Location Awareness	nla	svchost.exe	Part of Internet Connection Sharing (ICS) and the Internet Connection Firewall (ICF)	Manual
Network Provisioning Service	xmlprov	svchost.exe	Manage XML configuration files on a domain basis	Manual
NT LM Security Support Provider	NtLmSsp	Services.exe	Extends NT security to Remote Procedure Call (RPC) programs using various transports other than named pipes. RPC activity is quite common, and most RPC apps don't use named pipes.	Manual
Performance Logs and Alerts (XP) Alerts and Performance Logs (Win 2K)	sysmonLog	smlogsvc.exe	Configure performance logs and alerts.	Manual. May be disabled if the alerts are not needed.
Plug and Play	PlugPlay	Services.exe	Plug and Play. Do not disable this service.	Automatic
Universal Plug and Play Host	UPNPhost	svchost.exe	Device Host detect and configure external UPnP devices. UPnP<>PnP	Manual
Portable Media Serial Number Service	WmdmPmSN	svchost.exe	Retrieves the serial number of any portable media player connected to this computer.	Manual Disable if you never use DRM music devices.
Print Spooler or Spooler	Spooler	Spoolsv.exe (Spoolss.exe in NT4)	The NT printing subsystem.	Automatic - I you print documents. If no printing is ever done set to manua (or disabled) Restarting this service will cancel all pending print jobs.
Protected Storage	ProtectedStorage	Pstores.exe	Encrypt and store secure info: SSL certificates, passwords for Outlook, Outlook Express, Profile Assistant, MS Wallet, and digitally signed S/MIME keys.	Automatic.

QoS RSVP	rsvp	rsvp.exe -s	Provide network signaling and local traffic control setup functionality for QoS -aware programs and control applets.	Manual
Remote Access Auto Connection Manager or Remote Access AutoDial Manager	Rasauto	svchost.exe -k netsvcs	Activates automatic dial-up when a URL link is clicked. Required for some but not all RAS, ADSL or Cable connections.	Manual May be disabled if the machine has no internet access.
Remote Access Connection Manager	Rasman	svchost.exe -k netsvcs	Required for most but not all RAS, ADSL or Cable connections.	Manual May be disabled if the machine has no internet access.
Remote Desktop Help Session Manager	RDSessMgr	sessmgr.exe	Remote Desktop Help Session Manager.	Manual May be disabled if RDP is never used.
Remote Procedure Call (RPC) Service or Remote Procedure Call (RPC)	RpcSs	svchost -k rpcss	This RPC subsystem is crucial to the operations of any RPC activities taking place on a system (e.g. DCOM)	Automatic Do not disable Many essential services are dependent on RPC.
Remote Procedure Call (RPC) Locator	RpcLocator	Locator.exe	Maintain the RPC name server database, requires the RPC service (below) to be started. Database of available server applications.	Manual.
Remote Registry Service (XP Pro only)	RemoteRegistry	regsvc.exe	Allow remote registry manipulation.	Automatic A good idea to disable this, unless you have some reason to allow remote registry editing.
Removable Storage	Ntmsvc	svchost.exe -k netsvcs	Manage removable media, drives, and libraries.	Manual.
RIP Listener (XP - option)			Listen for RIP announcements from routers and modify the routing table accordingly.	To use the RIP Listener service, your adjacent routers must support the

				RIP v1 protocol. You'll find the RIP Listener service under Add/Remove Windows Components Networking Services.
Routing and Remote Access	RemoteAccess	svchost.exe -k netsvcs	Allow incoming connections via dial in or VPN. (WAN Routing)	Disabled
Secondary Logon (Win XP) RunAs (Win 2K)	secLogon	services.exe or svchost.exe	Enables starting processes under alternate credentials.	Automatic You may want to stop this service if you never use RunAs
Security Accounts Manager (Win 2K)	SamSs	lsass.exe	Stores security information for local user accounts.	Automatic
Security Center	wscsvc	svchost.exe	Monitor system security settings and configurations.	Automatic You may want to disable this if firewall and virus updates are controlled via other means.
Server	LanmanServer	Services.exe	Support for peer-to-peer file sharing, print sharing, and named pipe sharing via SMB services.	Automatic May be disabled if you don't host file or print shares. (Admin\$ shares)
Shell Hardware Detection	ShellHWDetection	svchost.exe	CD Autoplay	Automatic.
Smart Card	ScardSrv	SCardSvr.exe	Manages and controls access to a smart card inserted into a smart card reader attached to the computer.	Manual If you never use smart cards, Disable
Smart Card Helper	ScardDrv	SCardSvr.exe	legacy smart card readers	Removed in XP SP2
SNMP Service	Snmp	snmp.exe	Agents that monitor the activity in network devices and report to the network console workstation.	Automatic (if installed)
SSDP Discovery Service	SSDPSRV	svchost.exe	Simple Service Discovery Protocol. Enables discovery of UPnP devices on your home network	Manual May be disabled if as is likely you don't have an

				UPnP devices
System Event Notification	SENS	svchost.exe -k netsvcs	Track system events such as Windows logon, network, and power events. Notify COM+ Event System subscribers of these events.	Automatic.
System Restore Service	srservice	svchost.exe	Creates system snapshots. [RESOURCE HOG]	Automatic If the machine's configuration has been cloned/backed up - turn off System Restore in Control Panel System.
Task Scheduler or Schedule	Schedule	atsvc.exe or mtask.exe	This service is required to schedule background tasks (run at a specific date & time) Under NT it's a Resource Hog. Under XP it's used by some auto-tuning operations.	Automatic
TCP/IP NetBIOS Helper or TCP/IP NetBIOS Helper Service	lmhosts	Services.exe	Support for name resolution in a Windows 2000 domain. (Netbios/Wins) An alternative to DNS lookup.	Automatic If not required may be set to manual.
Telephony	TapiSrv	Tapisrv.exe	Telephony API (TAPI) support for programs that control telephony devices and IP based voice connections. e.g unimodem modems.	Manual
Telnet (Win 2K)	TlntSvr	tlntsvr.exe	Allows a remote user to log on to the system and run console programs using the command line.	Disabled Very insecure presents a security risk when running
Terminal Services	TermService	svchost.exe	Required for Fast User Switching, Remote Desktop and Remote Assistance	Manual If not required may be Disabled
Themes	Themes	svchost.exe	XP Active Desktop Themes, and quick launch toolbars [RESOURCE HOG]	Automatic Set to Manual or Disabled if you don't like themes.
UPS or Uninterruptible Power Supply	UPS	Ups.exe	Support for an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) physically	Manual Not every UPS will need

			connected to the machine.	or use this service.
Universal Plug and Play Host	UPNPhost	svchost.exe	Device Host detect and configure external UPnP devices. UPnP<>PnP	Manual
Upload Manager	uploadmgr	svchost.exe	Upload Manager.	Removed in XP SP2
Volume Shadow Copy	VSS	vssvc.exe	MS Backup - A volume shadow copy is a picture of the volume at a particular moment in time. That means a computer can be backed up while files are open and applications running.	Manual If not required may be disabled see MS Software Shadow Copy Provider Service
WebClient	WebClient	svchost.exe	Allow access to web-resident disk storage from an ISP. WebDAV "internet disks" such as Apple's iDisk.	Automatic If not required may be disabled
Windows Audio	AudioSrv	svchost.exe	Sound Driver Note that disabling the sound driver won't stop sounds from playing - you just won't hear them.	Automatic If no sound card fitted then disable.
Windows Firewall (XP SP2) Internet Connection Firewall (XP) Internet Connection Sharing (Win 2K)	SharedAccess	svchost.exe -k netsvcs	Network address translation, addressing, and name resolution services for all computers on your home network through a dial-up connection.	Automatic. For better protection consider adding a third party firewall
Windows Image Acquisition	stisvc	svchost.exe	Required for some but not all cameras, scanners, and digital video cameras.	Manual
Windows Installer	MSIServer	MsiExec.exe /V	Install, repair and remove software according to instructions contained in .MSI files.	Manual
Windows Management Instrumentation	WinMgmt	C:\WINNT\System32\WBEM\WinMgmt.exe	WMI provides system management information.	Automatic
Windows Management Instrumentation Driver Extensions	Wmi	svchost.exe	Provides systems management information to and from drivers.	Manual
Windows Time	W32time	services.exe	Update the computer clock by reference to an internet time source or a	Automatic

			time server.	
Wireless Zero Configuration	WZCSVC	svchost.exe	Configure wireless network devices (802.11a/b/g).	Automatic disable if you don't have any wireless devices.
WMI Performance Adapter	WmiApSrv	wmiapsrv.exe	Collect performance library information.	Manual
Workstation	lanmanworkstation	Services.exe	Communications and network connections. Services dependent on this being started: Alerter, Messenger, and Net Logon.	Automatic

Before changing any of the defaults - use the links above to find what exactly the service does. [The Elder Geek](#) also has some good advice about services.

It is inadvisable to *disable* a service without being aware of the consequences, always start by setting the service to *manual*, reboot and test for any problems.

A service set to *manual* may be automatically restarted if another service is dependent on it.
A service set to *disabled* will not restart even if it's required to boot the machine!

Stopping or disabling a service will generally save a small amount of memory and will reduce the number of software interrupts (cpu message queue.) The main reason for tinkering with services is to harden the system against security vulnerabilities. Disable everything that you don't need or use - then any future problems with those services cannot affect the machine.

To document all the services currently installed:

```
SC QUERY state= all |findstr "DISPLAY_NAME STATE" >svc_installed.csv
```

Some XP services [communicate](#) and [send data](#) directly to Microsoft, this is not generally something to lose sleep over. Managing the running of these services may be a consideration if confidentiality/anonymity is highly important to you.

Enable or Disable Ports

Many services and applications rely on the use of a specific [PORT](#) - to determine if a particular port is enabled for use, review the list of Service names and port numbers held in the "services" file ('windows\system32\drivers\etc\services')

Installing a good firewall is the easiest way to manage this.

Related commands:

DRIVERQUERY - display device drivers and properties (Resource Kit)

DComCnfg - Disable/configure DCOM

[SC](#) - Service Control

[TASKLIST](#) - List running Tasks and Services

[WinMSD](#) - List running services

Safe Mode - Press **F8** during bootup to start with minimal services running.

[Recovery](#) - The Recovery Console

[WMIC SERVICE](#) - WMI access to services.

Links

<http://www.ss64.com/ntsyntax/services.html>

10/4/2006

[Microsoft.com - WinXP](#) - Default settings for Services
[Microsoft.com - Win2003](#) - Services (138 page Word Doc)
[Microsoft.com - Win2000](#) - List of all Services
SecurityFocus - [Securing Windows Services](#)
[Managing System Services.doc](#) - Microsoft, 2003
The Register - [Part 1 & 2](#) - Review of Win XP Services
[The Elder Geek](#) - Services Guide
[Sysinternals blog](#) - how to disable every service
[Q288129](#) - Grant users the right to manage services
[Q263201](#) - Default Processes
[Q244905](#) - How to disable a service at boot
[Q314056](#) - What is SvcHost

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