

## THE COMPUTER CORNER

### No. 230: Patches and Updates

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This month we have a guest editor. He is none other than Todd Fast, N9DRY, one of our ORC members. Todd came across the following information that applies to Windows 7 and 8, and passed it on to me at our last post-meeting pizza klatch. Thanks, Todd! We have added occasional words in brackets to increase clarity.

Microsoft pushed patches to devices running Windows 7 and 8.1 in recent time that collect information and transfer data to Microsoft regularly.

One of the main issues that Windows users may have with [this] telemetry is that Microsoft does not reveal what it is collecting, and what is included when telemetry data is transferred to the company.

The following tutorial provides suggestions on limiting Windows data collecting and transferring. There is no guarantee that nothing is collected and/or submitted after making privacy related changes to the operating system, but a guarantee [is made] that data collecting [by Microsoft] is severely limited at the very least.

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The following Windows updates are related to telemetry and diagnostic data.

KB971033	Description of the update for Windows Activation Technologies.
KB2952664	Compatibility update for keeping Windows up-to-date in Windows 7.
KB2976978	Compatibility update for keeping Windows up-to-date in Windows 8.1 and 8.
KB2990214	Update that enables you to upgrade from Windows 7 to a later version of Windows.
KB3021917	Update to Windows 7 SP1 for performance improvements.
KB3022345	Update for customer experience and diagnostic telemetry.
KB3044374	Update that enables you to upgrade from Windows 8.1 to Windows 10.
KB3068708	Update for customer experience and diagnostic telemetry.
KB3075249	Update that adds telemetry points to consent.exe in Windows 8.1 and Windows 7.
KB3080149	Update for customer experience and diagnostic telemetry.
KB3123862	Updated capabilities to upgrade Windows 8.1 and Windows 7.

You can remove any of the patches [by using the following two steps]:

1. Tap on the Windows key, type Windows Update, and hit the Enter key.
2. Select Installed Updates on the window that opens. Right-click on the updates [that you wish to remove] and select uninstall to remove them from the system.

My source for the Windows telemetry information was several threads in the Microsoft forum on dslreports.com (or broadbandreports.com, same site). I also subscribe to a number of IT and communications trade journals; their weekly emails provide more info yet.

<https://www.dslreports.com>

<https://www.dslreports.com/forum/microsoft~days=180~start=20>

I have been registered on this site since 2001 and have never received spam or other unwanted crap traceable to the site. I monitor about 20 forums on a variety of subjects and rarely do I not at least see what new items are in each of those forums daily. They even have forums on electronics and on ham radio.

Happy computing!