

Notes concerning the nasty little "Windows Genuine Advantage Notifications" update :

(See section below first if you already have it installed.)

[Follow these instructions to prevent the installation of the Windows Genuine Advantage Notifications update.](#)

If you already have the "Windows Genuine Advantage Notifications" update installed:

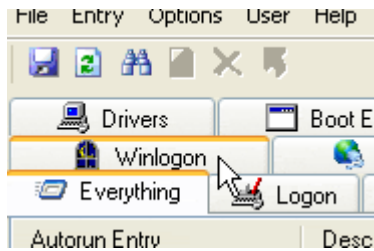
Important: (after removing the update with the procedure below, follow the directions in the link above immediately to avoid installing the update in the future)

Click [here](#) and save the "Autoruns.exe" utility from SysInternals to your desktop. Or directly from SysInternals in [zip](#) form. (must be extracted before running.)

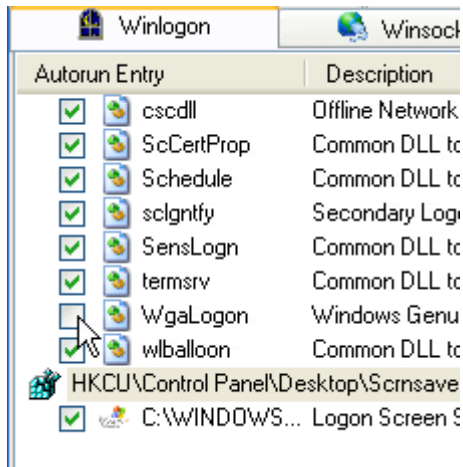
Next, run the utility by double clicking on it. (see instructions below)

(there are other methods but this utility, followed by the instructions in the link above have worked best for me so far)

When the utility opens click on the "WinLogon" tab (as shown below)



Then scroll down and "uncheck" the WgaLogon entry (as shown below)



Then simply close the utility (you can delete the utility from your desktop)

Then restart Windows. (the notification and tray icon should disappear)

You will still see the update listed in Add/Remove Programs (this is normal)

Remember, after following these instructions, see the link at the top of the page immediately to avoid installing the update in the future. (follow the directions in the link)

Note: The images below show the "Windows Genuine Advantage Notifications" update after it is installed. Notice the (star shaped) icon in the lower right hand corner of your screen. If you have this icon, you have the Notifications update installed.



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how to prevent

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Automatic Updates

Windows update

removing the update

star shaped

you may be a victim of software counterfeiting

How to AVOID INSTALLING the "Windows Genuine Advantage Notification" tool:

Click [here](#) if you already have the WGA Notifications update installed.

This document is primarily aimed at Novice users running a pirated copy of XP Pro.

Important: The following instructions assume you have Automatic Updates enabled ("Automatically Download and Install").

If you are using "Download but don't install" or "Notify me before download and install", you should still refer to these instructions when you are prompted to install new updates.

(These 2 settings actually prevent the unwanted updates from installing automatically. Please feel free to use these settings instead of "Automatic download and install". You will be prompted for all updates.)

If you have Automatic Updates turned off these instructions will not be necessary. (I don't recommend turning it off) (it is up to you if you want to use a different update method)

Check your Automatic Updates setting. Click Start -> Control Panel -> Automatic Updates

disclaimer: this info is for people who are using Windows Automatic Updates. this info is offered free of charge and author takes no responsibility for readers use of it. You are free to copy it.

How to AVOID INSTALLING the "Windows Genuine Advantage Notification" tool:

Microsoft has recently released an update called the "Windows Genuine Advantage Notification" tool.

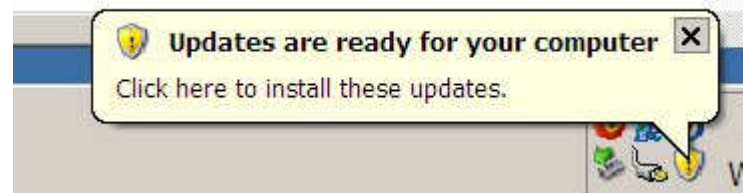
If you are running a pirated copy of Windows XP Pro this documentation can help you avoid it.

First I recommend using the link below to prevent Windows from installing updates silently when you shutdown your computer:

Recommended: First click [here](#) to configure Windows to not display the "Install updates and shut down" option. (this will help prevent updates from installing silently)

Then continue below...

Occasionally, Microsoft will prompt you to install an update. You may see a "yellow shield" icon in the lower right corner of your screen.



Note: Don't confuse this icon with the "Symantec Antivirus" icon

You may, however, also find that you never see the Automatic Updates "yellow shield". (updates can

simply install silently without prompting you)

(setting Automatic Updates to "Notify before download and install" would prevent this.)

I recommend using the instructions in [this link](#) (mentioned above) to help prevent silent update installations. If you choose not to implement this change, **please make sure to refer to the section at the bottom of this document to familiarize yourself with how the update installs silently when you shutdown your computer.** (apparently Microsoft is removing the opt-out capability) Permanently switching Automatic Updates to "Notify me before download" will also eliminate this possibility.

Next...

If the "yellow shield" is not currently showing on your screen, you should force Automatic Updates to run:

If there are any updates to apply you will see the "yellow shield" appear. Then you can "hide" the Windows Genuine Advantage Notification, from future installs.

To force "Automatic Updates" to run:

Click Start -> Control Panel -> Automatic Updates (*** make note of you current Automatic Updates setting so you can set it back later**)

Select "Turn off" then click OK

Click Start -> Control Panel -> Automatic Updates

Select "Notify me but don't automatically download or install" then click OK. (this allows us to control the update installations temporarily)

Wait a few minutes. If there is an update ready, you will see the "yellow shield" as shown above.

Important: if the shield does not eventually appear after forcing Automatic Updates to run:

Restore your Automatic Update settings:

Click Start -> Control Panel -> Automatic Updates

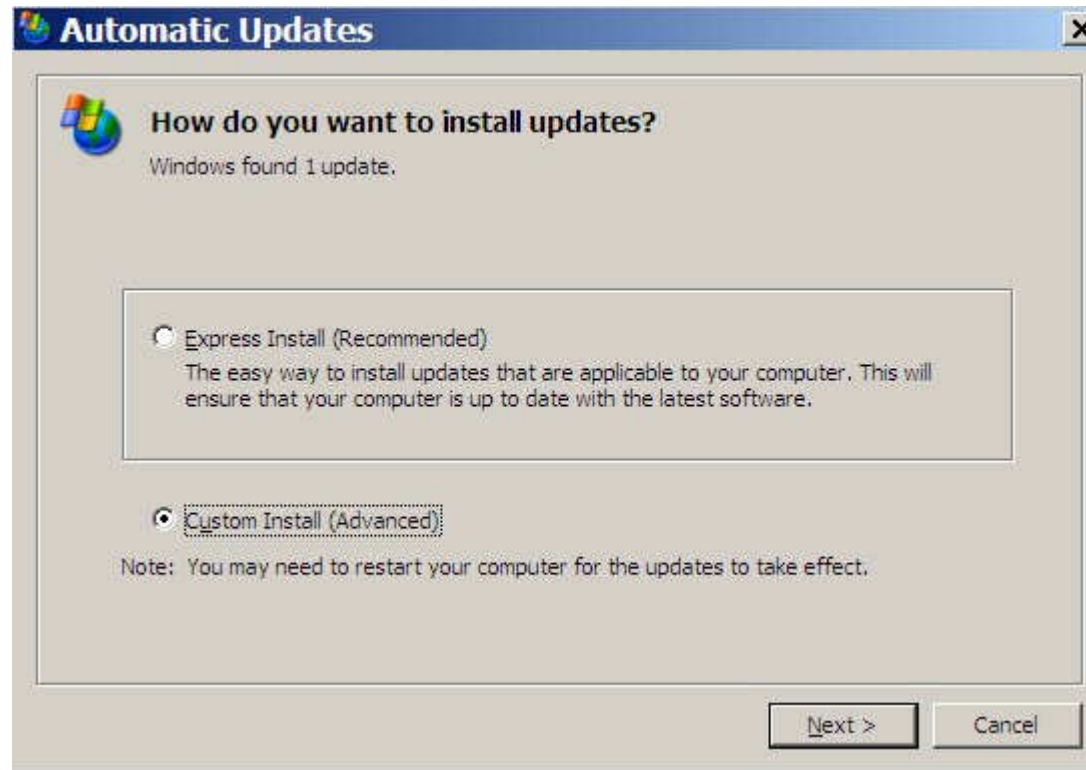
Select "Automatic (recommended)" (or whatever you had originally) then click OK. (to restore your original automatic updates setting)

Then follow the instructions below, if the "yellow shield" ever appears in the future.

When you see the Automatic Updates "yellow shield", begin by double clicking on it:

Note: The following screens may appear differently to you depending on what procedure was used to start this process. In any case, **always deselect the "Windows Genuine Advantage Notification" update if it is listed, then make sure to hide it from future installs.** (see below)

Next, you will see the following screen: (select Custom Install)

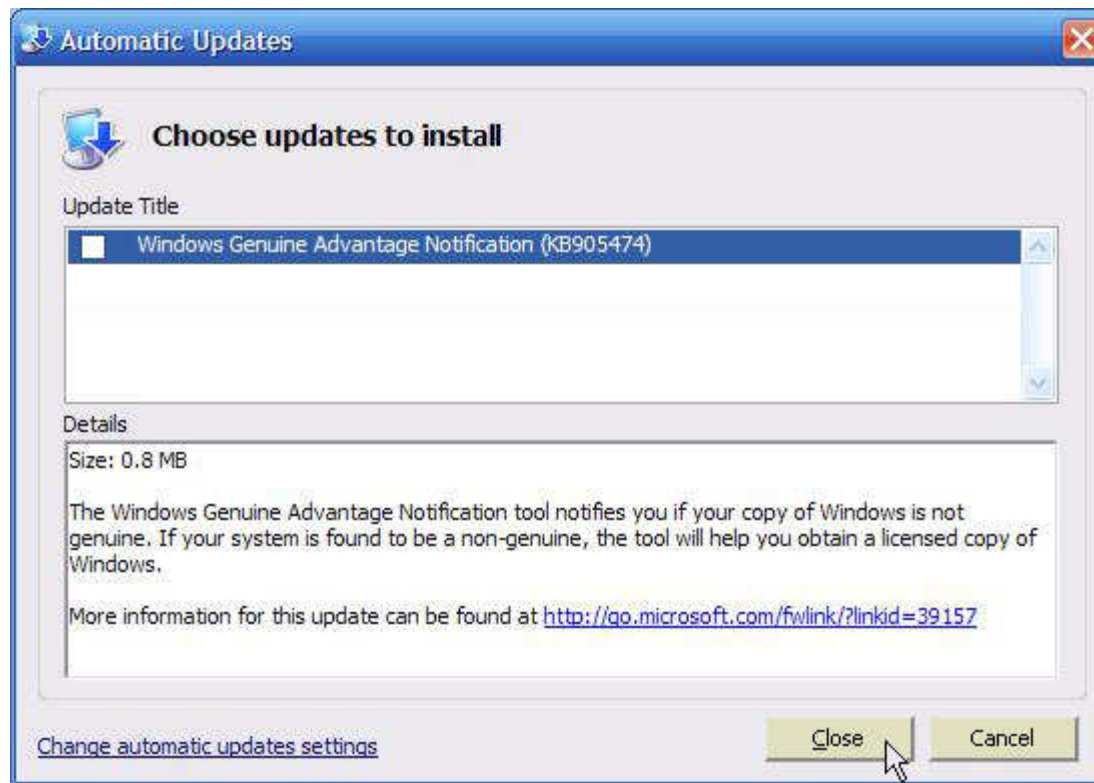


Click Next.

You will see a list of updates ready to be installed.

(This is where we need to avoid installing the "Windows Genuine Advantage Notification" update.)

Look through the list for an update titled "Windows Genuine Advantage Notification"



If you find it:

Uncheck its checkbox.

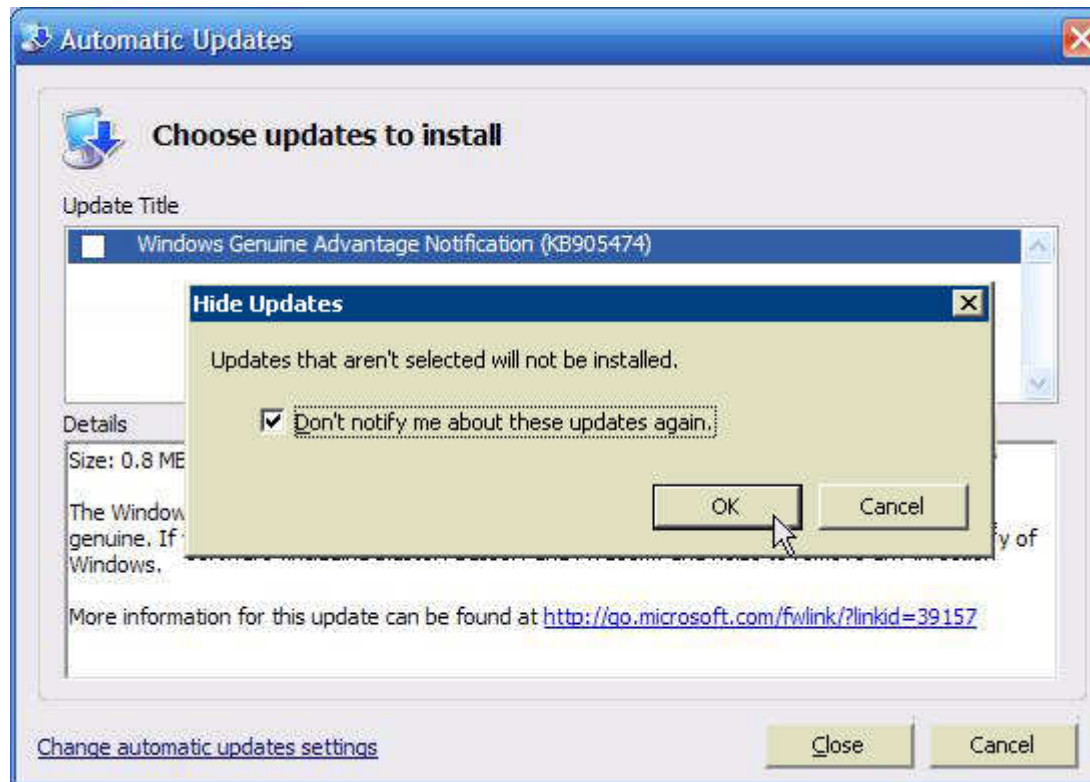
(If there are other updates, you can leave them checked, to have them installed.)

Then click "Close"

(Note: if there are multiple updates other than the "Windows Genuine Advantage Notification" update you will click on the "Install" or "Download" button (instead of "close") to install the other updates.)

After deselecting the "Windows Genuine Advantage Notification" you will be prompted to prevent it from coming back up in the future.

To "hide" the update, make sure to check the "Don't notify me...." checkbox and click "OK"



(This allows us to prevent the update from popping back up. But, really it is just hiding it for the immediate future until the next version of the update comes out. So you may have to go through this more than once.)

Automatic Updates should now close or minimize to install other updates.

Important: make sure to restore your Automatic Updates setting back to Automatic (if you changed them in the above steps)

Click Start -> Control Panel -> Automatic Updates

Select "Automatic (recommended)" or whatever you had originally then click OK. (to restore your automatic updates setting)

Hopefully these instructions will help prevent the installation of the "Windows Genuine Advantage Notification Tool".

Also, I recommend that you do not run "Windows Update". (If you are not familiar with "Windows Update", you can continue to ignore it.)

If you do run "Windows Update" manually, the same basic procedures apply
Never install the "Windows Genuine Advantage Notification" update. (always hide it)

Silent Installation: Shutting Down the PC (when the Notifications update is queued to install) can result in the Notifications update being installed without your knowledge or approval:

Recommended: Click [here](#) to configure Windows to not display the "Install updates and shut down" option.

(Note: the following scenario can occur without Automatic Updates ever prompting with the "yellow shield".)

(Of course setting Automatic Updates to "notify before install" would eliminate this problem.)

The installation occurs when you decide to shutdown the computer.

You will see the following box with the "Install updates and shut down" option selected.



In this case, there is at least 1 update ready to be installed. (although we don't know which ones)

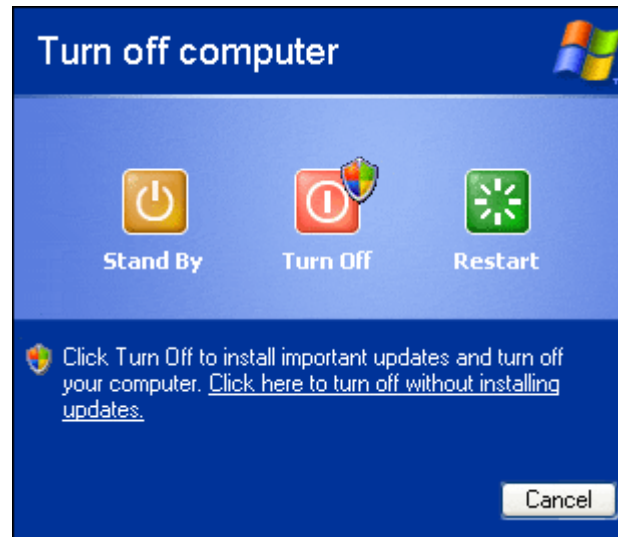
Do not click on "OK". If the Notifications update is queued to install, the update will install with no "Accept" or "Decline" option being given to the end user and upon rebooting the PC, the notify update is installed and running.... and annoyingly prompting you about your "counterfeit" copy of Windows.

If you see the above options when shutting down your PC, cancel the shutdown.

Then follow these instructions (from the top of this page) to check for and attempt to "hide" the notifications update if it is found.

Note that the installation can occur without Automatic Updates ever prompting with the "yellow shield".
(this effectively eliminates the ability to opt-out.)

Important: The same procedures apply if your shutdown box looks like the following:



If you click on the "Turn off" button to shutdown the computer (with the Notifications update queued to install) , the update will install as mentioned above.

If you see the above options when "turning off" your PC, cancel the shutdown.

Then follow these instructions (from the top of this page) to check for and attempt to “hide” the notifications update if it is found.

The End

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To prevent Windows from installing updates when you shutdown your computer:

Note: This procedure will only work with Windows XP Professional.

Click Start -> Run

Type "gpedit.msc" (no quotes) and hit Enter
(this opens the "Group Policy" editor.)

Under "User Configuration" double click "Administrative Templates"

After a few seconds you will see a list of items on the right.

Double click on "Windows Components"

Double click on "Windows Update"

Double click on "Do not display 'Install Updates and Shutdown' option in Shut Down Windows dialog box"

Select "Enabled" and click OK

Then close the Group Policy window.

Yer done.



Remarks :

1.) Page 1

Follow [these instructions to prevent the installation of the Windows Genuine Advantage Notifications update.](#)
[these instructions](#) = **How to AVOID INSTALLING the "Windows Genuine Advantage Notification" tool:** page.

2.) Page 1

Click [here](#) and save the "Autoruns.exe" utility from SysInternals to your desktop. Or directly from SysInternals in [zip](#) form.
[here](#) = <http://spacebag.googlepages.com/autoruns.exe>
[zip](#) = <http://www.sysinternals.com/Files/Autoruns.zip>

3.) Page 5

Click [here](#) if you already have the WGA Notifications update installed.
[here](#) = **Notes concerning the nasty little "Windows Genuine Advantage Notifications" update:** page.

4.) Page 6

Recommended: First click [here](#) to configure Windows to not display the "Install updates and shut down" option.
[here](#) = **To prevent Windows from installing updates when you shutdown your computer:** page.

5.) Page 7

I recommend using the instructions in [this link](#) (mentioned above) to help prevent silent update installations.
[this link](#) = **To prevent Windows from installing updates when you shutdown your computer:** page.

6.) Page 13

Recommended: Click [here](#) to configure Windows to not display the "Install updates and shut down" option.
[here](#) = **To prevent Windows from installing updates when you shutdown your computer:** page.

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