

News & Tips

Sign into Windows Without Having to Type Your Password

Are you the only person who uses your PC? More specifically, is there only one user account set up on your PC? If so, you might find it a pain to have to type your password every time your computer starts.

Tired of typing your password?

By changing a simple setting, you can force Windows to skip the password prompt, sign you into your account automatically and take you straight to your desktop.

You can be signed in automatically

In Windows 7, Windows 8.1 and earlier versions of Windows 10, you can follow the steps below. In Windows 11 and recent versions of Windows 10 these steps may not work first time and you'll have to perform a quick Registry tweak (which I'll come to later) before trying again.

1. Press **Win+R** to open the Run dialog.
2. Type the command **netplwiz** and press **Enter**.



*Untick this box
(if you see it)*

3. You'll see the 'User Accounts' dialog pictured above, hopefully containing a checkbox at the top labelled **Users must enter a username and password to use this computer**. Assuming that checkbox is there, remove the tick from it. (If the checkbox isn't there, you need to perform the Registry tweak I'll cover below, so click **Cancel** and skip the rest of these steps for now.)
4. Click **OK** and a 'Sign in automatically' dialog will appear showing your username. Type your password into each of the two boxes below, then click **OK**.
5. You've finished: from now onwards, Windows will automatically sign you into your account and take you to the desktop when it starts.

*No checkbox?
Registry tweak
required*

As I mentioned, you might have arrived at step 3 and found no such checkbox in the 'User Accounts' dialog. Microsoft has recently made this a little more difficult, requiring a Registry tweak to display that checkbox. If you're comfortable with using the Registry, here's what to do:



*Go to this
Registry key*

1. Press **Win+R** to open the Run dialog
2. Type **regedit** and press **Enter** to open the Registry Editor, then click **Yes** at the security prompt from User Account Control.
3. In the left-hand panel of Registry Editor, we need to visit a particular 'key' (or folder) by expanding each of the following keys in turn:

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE

SOFTWARE

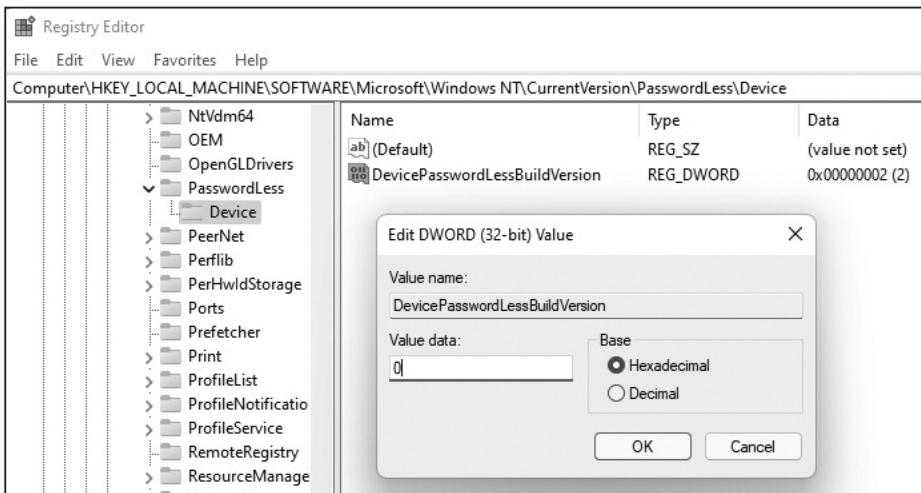
Microsoft

Windows NT

CurrentVersion

PasswordLess

4. Having expanded the **PasswordLess** key, click on the **Device** key it contains.
5. On the right, double-click the item named **DevicePasswordLessBuildVersion**.
6. In the little dialog that appears, you'll see the **Value** data box currently shows the number **2**. Replace this with **0** (zero) and click **OK**.
Change the 2 to a 0



7. Close the Registry Editor window and you've completed the tweak. You can now repeat the earlier steps and this time you'll find that missing checkbox does appear.

Beware: The Sheriffs Are Scamming

Have you seen the BBC television programme, 'The Sheriffs Are Coming'? It follows the work of sheriffs (or High Court Enforcement Officers – HCEOs – as they're now known) who are appointed to enforce court judgements and collect debts.

Otherwise known as High Court Enforcement Officers

In the programme, you see the sheriffs turn up on people's doorsteps and refuse to leave until they've either collected payment or secured enough of the debtor's possessions to cover the outstanding amount.

They do this with the full force of the law behind them, of course, but it's clearly not pleasant to be on the receiving end.

Scammers have begun copying their methods

Now the world's criminals have spotted the opportunities in this, and they've started using scams based on the same principle. They don't turn up on your doorstep, because that would be too slow and much too risky; instead, they use email and phone calls.

An email or phone call claiming you owe money

Their aim is to convince you that you owe money, and that unless you pay it immediately via a card payment or bank transfer, they'll visit your home and take your belongings. Unlike the HCEOs' approach of being polite-but-insistent, the scammers will tend towards aggressiveness and bullying.

Do you really have a court judgement against you?

If you've seen the TV programme, however, you already know that HCEOs and bailiffs don't work by phone or email. More importantly, they can only enforce an existing court judgement, and it's highly unlikely that a judgement could be entered against you without your knowing anything about it!

You'd expect to have all the details

The scammers will stress how urgent it is that you hand over your money, but they won't be able to supply any credible information about who you owe, when the matter went to court, the case number, or anything else you'd need to know about it.

Never feel rushed into making a decision!

So, if you do ever receive an email or phone call claiming to be about a debt you owe, don't be rushed into acting on it! It's almost certain to be a scam, particularly if it's come out of the blue, and without any verifiable information about the debt and the resulting court case, a scam is all it could be.