



Windows 10/8 install instructions  [see here](#)


Windows 7 requires special instructions  [see here](#)

When you run the (mvps.bat) batch file - right-click and select: **Run as Administrator**. Once updated you should see [another prompt](#) that the task was completed. Some users may see a pop-up from certain Security programs about changes to the HOSTS file. Allow the change ... however if you see this pop-up (changes to the HOSTS file) at any other time ... investigate.

Download Information: (checksum info is on the HOSTS file itself **not** the "hosts.zip")

MD5: 450D4998EC295735617555B3DDA38B4D SHA-1: 1E7BEE8C1BC6677F0F7E680DDF85911D24540C86

Manual Install Method - Unzip in a "temp" folder and place in the appropriate installed location:

- If you are having trouble downloading or extracting the HOSTS file  [\[click here\]](#)
Note: the below locations are for the typical default paths, edit as needed.

Windows 10/8/7 = C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM32\DRIVERS\ETC

The actual location is defined by the following Registry key:

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\Tcpip\Parameters\DataBasePath



Windows DNS Client Service

Microsoft has done it again ... making changes to the Operating System, without any kind of explanation. If you upgraded recently to Windows 10 version 1709, most likely you will be unable to make any changes to the DNS Client, as it is grayed out. However if you had previously Disabled or set to Manual, the DNS Client Service you can still do so. Then to make things even worse ... the work-around Registry entries (see below) no longer apply in Windows 10/1709 ... they are simply ignored. To check your Windows version ... right-click the Start Menu and select > Run (type) winver (click OK)

Thankfully Keith M sends along the following workaround ...

- From sysinternals.com download the latest version of AUTORUNS ... it doesn't require any installation.
- Run autoruns64.exe as **ADMINISTRATOR** and wait until it finishes it's scan.
- In the program menu under OPTIONS, uncheck the "**Hide Windows Entries**" option
- Go to the Services tab, scroll down to the Dnscache entry and clear (uncheck) the checkmark.
- You can FILE / SAVE, to save a copy of the new configuration settings.
- Close autoruns64, reboot and check the services manager -- DNS Client is disabled. [\[screenshot\]](#)

If you decide that you want the DNS Client service running ... You can make a little batch file that will flush the DNS whenever you desire. Open Notepad and enter the following:

ipconfig /flushdns

Then File > Save As > change the file type to All files, and name the batch file to flushdns.bat and place it in your Windows folder.

Locate flushdns.bat right-click and select Send To > Desktop as shortcut.

Windows 10 (early versions) /8/7

In most cases the DNS Client Service is not needed, it is recommended to turn it off. These instructions are intended for a **single (home-user) PC**. If your machine is part of a "Domain", check with your IT Dept. **before** applying this work-around. This especially applies to Laptop users who travel or bring their work machines home. Make sure to reset the Service (if needed) prior to connecting (reboot required) to your work Domain ...

To resolve this issue (manually) open the "**Services Editor**"

- Start | Run (type) "**services.msc**" (no quotes)
Win8 users - Control Panel > Administrative Tools > Services
- Scroll down to "**DNS Client**", Right-click and select: **Properties** - click **Stop**
- Click the drop-down arrow for "**Startup type**"
- Select: **Manual** (recommended) or **Disabled** click Apply/Ok and restart.



Hostsman or **Hosts File Editor** includes an option to turn off the DNS Service [\[screenshot\]](#)

When set to Manual you can see that the above "Service" is **not** needed (after a little browsing - when set to Manual) by opening the Services Editor again, scroll down to DNS Client and check the "Status" column. It should be blank, if it was needed it would show "Started" in that column. There are several Utilities that can reset the DNS Client for you ... [[more info](#)]

Important! If you are using **Network Discovery** then the DNS Client service is required and should **not** be set to either Manual or Disabled.

Workaround for using the MVPS HOSTS file and leaving the DNS Client service enabled (set to: Automatic)

- If you find after a period of time that your browser seems sluggish with the DNS Client service enabled you can manually flush the DNS cache
- Close all browser windows ... open a "Command Prompt" from the Start Menu > All Programs > Accessories > Command Prompt
Win8 users - Charms Bar > Search > (type) command prompt > Select: Command Promt (left pane) Ok the UAC prompt
- (type) **ipconfig /flushdns** (press Enter) Then close the Command Prompt ...

A better Win10/8/7 workaround would be to add two Registry entries to control the amount of time the DNS cache is saved. ([KB318803](#))

- Flush the existing DNS cache (see above)
- Start > Run (type) regedit
Win8 users - from the Charms Bar, select: Search (type) run and select Run (left pane) and (type) "regedit" (no quotes)
- Navigate to the following location:
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\Dnscache\Parameters
- Click Edit > New > DWORD Value (type) **MaxCacheTtl**
- Click Edit > New > DWORD Value (type) **MaxNegativeCacheTtl**
- Next right-click on the **MaxCacheTtl** entry (right pane) and select: Modify and change the value to **1**
- The **MaxNegativeCacheTtl** entry should already have a value of **0** (leave it that way - see [screenshot](#))
- Close Regedit and reboot ...
- As usual you should always backup your Registry before editing ... see Regedit Help under "Exporting Registry files"

For all other Questions, Issues and Solutions - see: [The HOSTS File FAQ](#)

For detailed Download and Extract Instructions - see: [Download Help](#)



Related Utilities



[Hosts File Editor](#) ... great little freeware program with all the features of Hostsman ...



HostsMan is a freeware application that lets you manage, Edit and Enable/Disable your Hosts file.

Includes an option to turn off the [unnneeded DNS Client Service](#). [[screenshot](#)]

This also has an option to [update the existing HOSTS file](#) when needed.

Important! - make sure you select: Default action - [Overwrite](#)

Once installed locate the Hostsman location, right-click on "hm.exe" and select: Properties

Click the Compatibility tab and select: "Run as Administrator" [[screenshot](#)]

Note: seems [abelhadigital.com](#) no longer exists. I have saved a copy of [Hostsman, the installer version](#), since several other sites still offer Hostsman.



[Rename the HOSTS file on the fly](#) ... a simple one click batch file.



[PowerShell script](#) to automatically download, unzip and update the local host file.
Another [PowerShell](#) version ...

Other Programs using the MVPS HOSTS file

- [NOAD](#)
- [Virusface](#)
- [HOW TO DEPLOY MVPS HOSTS FILE ON AN ANDROID PHONE](#) (requires rooted device)

Linux and Mac Users

Although I do not use either Linux or a Mac, I often get requests for "How To" on that system, so here are a few resources:

- [Block unwanted advertisements with /etc/hosts file on Linux](#)
- [Mac OS X 10.2 or later](#)
- [Gas Mask is simple HOSTS File Manager for Mac OS](#)
- [Google Search](#)

Various Troubleshooting Articles

- [Hosts file is detected as malware in Windows Defender \(Win8\)](#)
- [How do I reset the hosts file back to the default? \(Win8/7/Vista/XP\)](#)
- [You cannot modify the Hosts file in Windows \(Win8/7/Vista\)](#)

To contribute a listing for our resources, or any other comments: [Contact](#)

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If you find the MVPS HOSTS file useful ... please consider a donation ...



Thanks to everyone involved for providing the online update notices for the HOSTS file. These updates are posted to most major security related sites, Newsgroups, and mailing lists, blogs etc. [Get notified of MVPS HOSTS updates.](#)

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