WINDOWS 7

TURNING OFF AUTO-RUN FOR ALL DEVICES

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This manual was designed to show a Windows 7 user the proper methods of disabling Auto-Run to prevent severe threat to ones computer system.

What is Auto-Run you may ask?

-Well, there are two types of Auto-Run, also called Auto-Play in your Windows environment and they are both distinct from one another.

-Auto-Run, or Auto-Start, allows a program to start up when a computer is booted and a user is logged in.

-Auto-Play, on the other hand, automatically starts a program, opens documents, or displays a menu when you insert a disk or a USB drive into your computer.

Why is Auto-Run/Play (ARP) a problem?

ARP can pose as a severe problem to your pc. Since electronic devices with USB support are on the rise; virus replication from system to system is increasing ever so rapidly do to the ease of plug-n-play mixed with the ARP feature of Windows systems.

For example:

Jimmy took his IPod over to Tom’s house to share the music that he had onto Tom’s computer. When Jimmy plugged his IPod into Tom’s computer, he received a virus from Tom’s PC onto his IPod through the ARP feature of Tom’s Windows System. The virus hid itself as a duplicated song onto the IPod and Jimmy had no clue. When Jimmy took his IPod back home, he plugged it into his computer to charge it for the night, and that’s when the virus infected Jimmy’s computer. From this point on, Jimmy’s computer starting acting weird, thus resulting in hefty fees for computer diagnostics and repair.

Of course this story was used as an example, but this could happen if not have happened to someone, somewhere on this planet.
Prevention

To prevent something like this from happening, disabling the Windows ARP feature is a key factor in protecting your computer from threats that exploit the ARP vulnerability. This tutorial will guide you through the process of turning off ARP to properly secure Microsoft’s latest operating system, Windows 7.

Step 1.

Click the **Start Button** > type in the search bar **“gpedit.msc”** > hit enter on your keyboard.

![gpedit.msc console](image)

When the gpedit.msc console appears navigate your way into Windows 7 ARP settings using the pane on the left.

Click under **“Local Computer Policy” > Computer Configuration > Administrative Templates > Windows Components > click AutoPlay Policies** folder.
Under **AutoPlay Policies** double click **Turn off Autoplay** to enter Autoplay settings

Under **AutoPlay Settings**, click the “Enabled” button, and under options make sure you turn off Autoplay for “All Drives” as seen below. Then click “Apply” then “OK”.

After you have configured your Windows 7 system to turn off the Autoplay feature, restart your computer in order for Windows to fully apply your settings.