10 Unnecessary Vista Features You Can Disable

Just to be on the safe side, make sure to create a **restore point** before you turn any of the items off. That way you can quickly return your machine to its present state should you decide that you don't like the change. To make a restore point, click Start, type **sysdm.cpl** and press Enter. Choose System Protection, Create, and then follow the prompts.

1) You turn off ReadyBoost in Services: Click Start, type **services** and press Enter. Find and double-click ReadyBoost. In the 'Startup type' drop-down menu, select Disabled, and then click OK.

2) Turning off Vista's tablet features is a 2-step process: Start in the **Windows Features dialog box**. Open the 'Programs and Features' control panel and click the Turn Windows features on or off link on the left; you'll get the **Windows Features dialog box.** Once there, simply uncheck Tablet PC Optional Components. Complete the job in the Services window, which you open by clicking Start, typing **services** and pressing Enter. Find and double-click Tablet PC Input Services. In the 'Startup type' drop-down menu, select Disabled, and then click OK.

3) Sidebar: To remove the Sidebar, right-click anywhere on the Sidebar and select Close Sidebar. Uncheck Start Sidebar when Windows starts, and then click OK

OR

A better Way: Launch REGEDIT and navigate to the key HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE \ Software \ Microsoft \ Windows \ CurrentVersion \ Policies \ Sidebar. Probably you will get as far as the key named Policies and find it does not have a subkey named Sidebar, so right-click Policies, choose New | Key, and name the key Sidebar. Select the Sidebar key, right-click in the right-hand pane, and choose New | DWORD Value. Name the value TurnOffSidebar. Double-click it and set its data to 1. If you want this change to affect only you and not other users of the computer, use the exact same key but starting in HKEY_CURRENT_USER rather than HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE. On reboot the sidebar should be gone.

4) Internet Printing Client.
Do you ever print documents over the Internet? Neither do I. Chances are, you won't miss out on anything by disabling Vista's Internet Printing Client. Open the 'Programs and Features' control panel and click the Turn Windows features on or off link on the left; you'll get the **Windows Features dialog box**. Expand the Print Services section and uncheck Internet Printing Client.
**Click OK at this point, and wait a few minutes for the system to ask to reboot.
**Or you can move to the next item on this page, which also use this dialog box.

5) Windows Meeting Space
Most people don't have any use for it. So I shut Windows Meeting Space off.
Simply uncheck Windows Meeting Space while you're in the Windows Features dialog box. If you're not in the **Windows Features dialog box**, previous tip.

6) Search Indexing
This one is a real trade-off. Turning off Vista's indexing will slow searches to a crawl--I'm talking minutes, not seconds. But ditching this convenient feature could very likely **speed up your general PC use significantly**. Turning off indexing will help your PC's performance only if you seldom search by file content, or if you use a third -party search tool such as Copernic Desktop or Google Desktop (in which case you probably have two indexing routines running at the same time, which is an even bigger waste).
If you match either of those descriptions, turn off indexing by clicking Start, typing **services** and pressing Enter. Find and double- click Windows Search. In the 'Startup type' drop-down menu, select Disabled, and then click OK.

7) Windows Error Reporting Service
Every time Windows experiences an error--either with its own processes or with a third-party program--it offers to report the problem to Microsoft. In theory, doing so can help the company locate problems with its OS. But more than likely, your report will either go unresolved. You're wasting your system's precious resources on a feature that isn't doing you any good.
To disable this unhelpful service, open the Services window: Click Start, type **services** and press Enter. Find and double-click Windows Error Reporting Service. In the 'Startup type' drop-down menu, select Disabled, and then click OK.

8) Offline Files
If you work on files stored on a server somewhere, and you can't depend on that server always being available, Vista Business and Ultimate's Offline Files feature makes your life easier by copying the files to your hard drive and keeping them synced. That's not for everybody, which is probably why **Microsoft didn't include Offline Files in the Home editions of Vista**. But if you have Business or Ultimate and still don't need Offline Files, turn it off by clicking Start, typing **services** and pressing Enter. Find and double-click Offline Files. In the 'Startup type' drop-down menu, select Disabled, and then click OK.

9) Windows Ultimate Extras
If you do own Ultimate, go to Windows Update (Start, All Programs, Windows Update), click View available updates, and check out all the worthless stuff Microsoft has.
The extras include a poker game, some BitLocker and EFS enhancements that hardly anyone uses, several sound schemes, and an odd tool called Windows DreamScene that lets you waste your precious system resources by using video as your wallpaper.
You can turn Windows Ultimate Extras off in the Windows Features control panel by clicking Turn Windows features on or off to open the **Windows Features dialog box,** and then unchecking Windows Ultimate Extras

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