

# Removing Windows Messenger

**Source:** <http://www.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/NT-Bugtraq/2004-08/0022.html>

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To: NTBUGTRAQ@LISTSERV.NTBUGTRAQ.COM

Hi All,

I dropped a note to Russ to let him know about my XP SP2 experiences (which have been positive thus far) and mentioned that XP SP2 automatically installed Windows Messenger 4.7.x – without asking, and even though I had removed it.

In my experience, I have found that removing it with Add/Remove programs, doesn't actually work – not under XP SP1 or SP2, for me anyway.

As such, I always remove the program using the following command:

```
"RunDll32 advpack.dll,LaunchINFSection  
%windir%\INF\msmsgs.inf,BLC.Remove"
```

The command should all be on a single line and I just paste it in to the Start, Run box.

This command should work for XP SP1 and SP2 – I have not tried it on anything else. I also make sure I close all applications, especially Outlook and similar apps that link in to Messenger – that way I usually get away without being prompted to reboot. (A reboot is probably still a good idea though).

BTW, if you find you have installed MSN Messenger (I think the latest is 6.2) and upgrade to XP SP2, you will probably find you have two Messenger icons in the task tray – one is Windows Messenger 4.7.x and the other will likely be your MSN Messenger. The command above will only remove Windows Messenger 4.7.x and will leave your MSN Messenger intact.

I cannot take credit for this – I found several references to it via Google a while back. Russ felt that it would be worth posting here for anyone who wasn't aware of this option and wanted to get rid of / uninstall Windows Messenger 4.7.x.

## NT-Bugtraq: Removing Windows Messenger

Hope this helps some people.

Kind regards

Byrne Ghavalas

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