

Hosts Files

First: Set a Restore point.

What? Hosts Files block ads, banners, 3rd party cookies, web bugs, and most hijackers.

Where? www.google.com

Search for “download hosts files”.



Left-click here

The top of the web page looks like this:

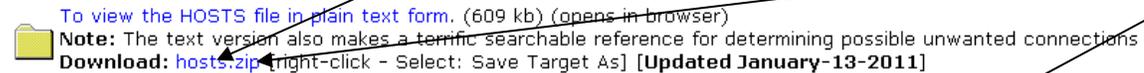


How? Part way down the web page you will see this information.

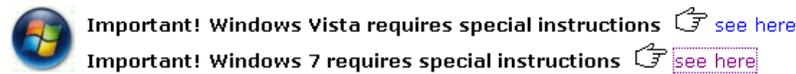
For Win XP, double-left-click here

For Win Vista or Win 7, read the special instructions,

then double-left-click.

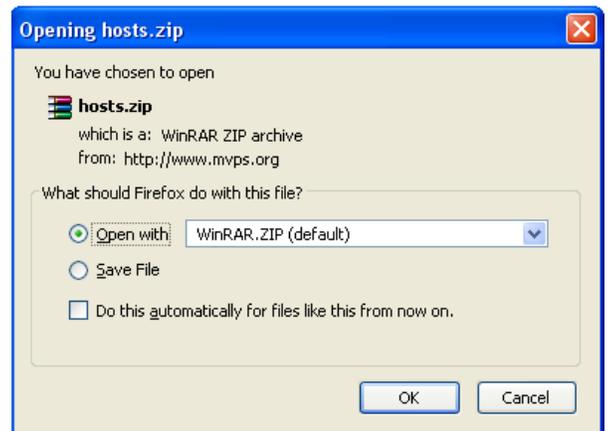


This download includes a simple batch file (mvps.bat) that will rename the existing HOSTS file to HOSTS.MVP then copy included in the download.



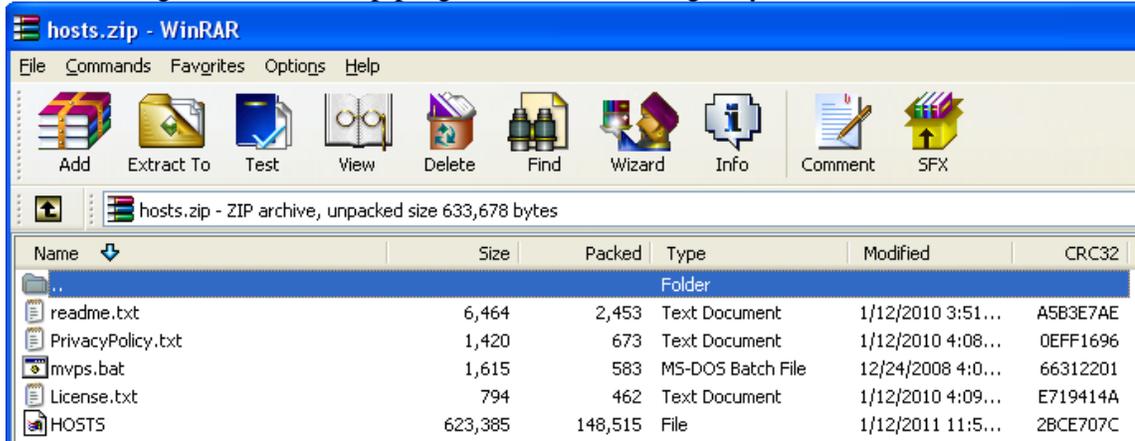
Left-click “open with”, then “OK”. If your computer doesn’t have a program for opening Zip files, then use google.com to search for, download, and install 7-Zip, a free program.

This and the following graphics, and the following instructions, will be slightly different when changing a computer with Win Vista and Win 7. Use these instructions as a guide. **You may have to grant numerous approvals to perform actions and have Windows make changes.**

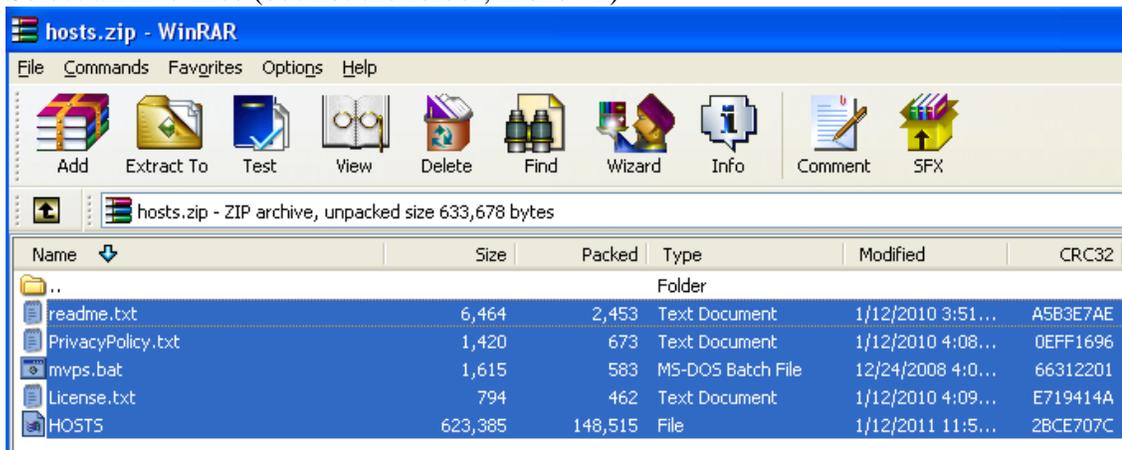


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Left-clicking “OK” in the Zip program window will give you this or a similar window.

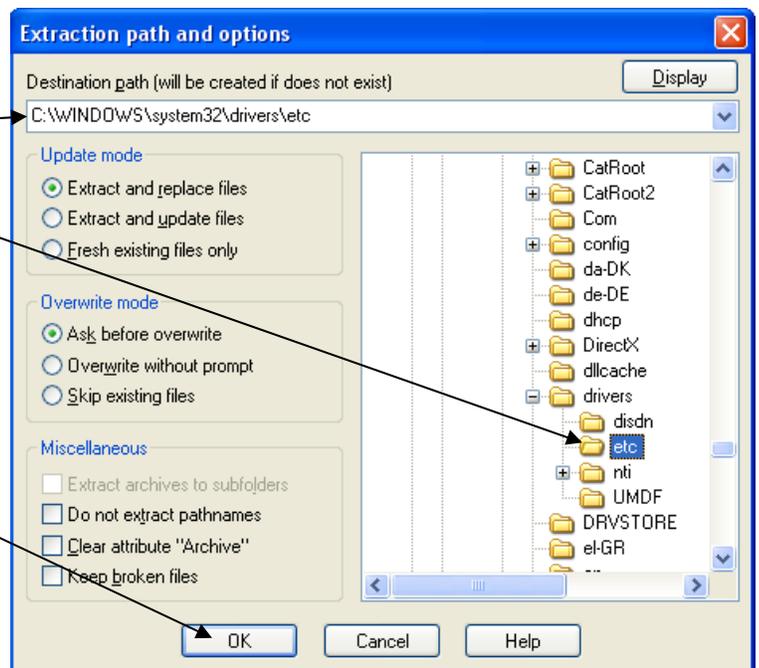


Select all five files (but not the folder, if shown)



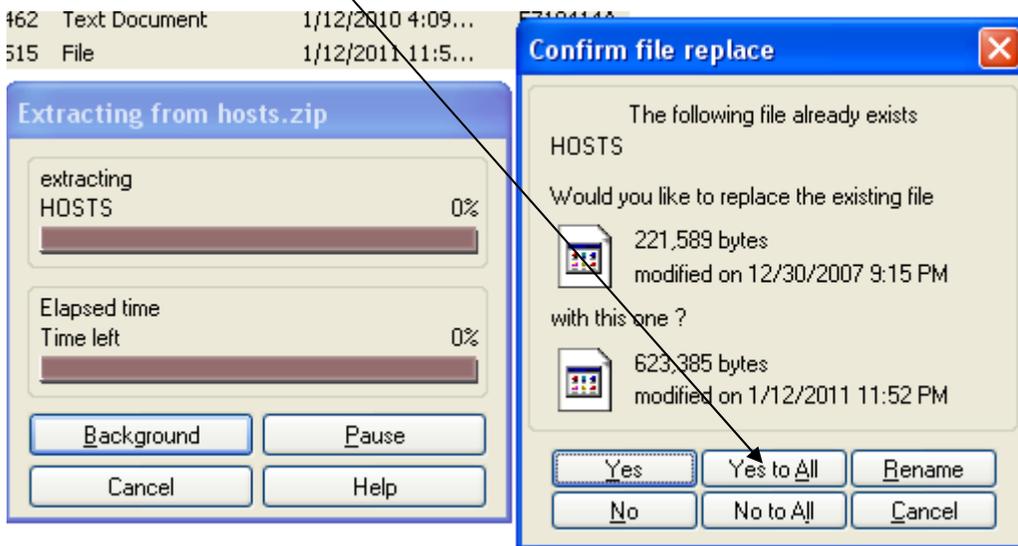
On the “Extraction path” window, navigate to the “C” drive, then to the “Windows” folder, then to the “System32” folder, then to the “Drivers” folder, then to the “etc” folder. In Win 7 you may have to extract to another folder, then move the files to the “etc” folder, while approving your computer’s request to use “administrator’s rights”

Left-click “OK”



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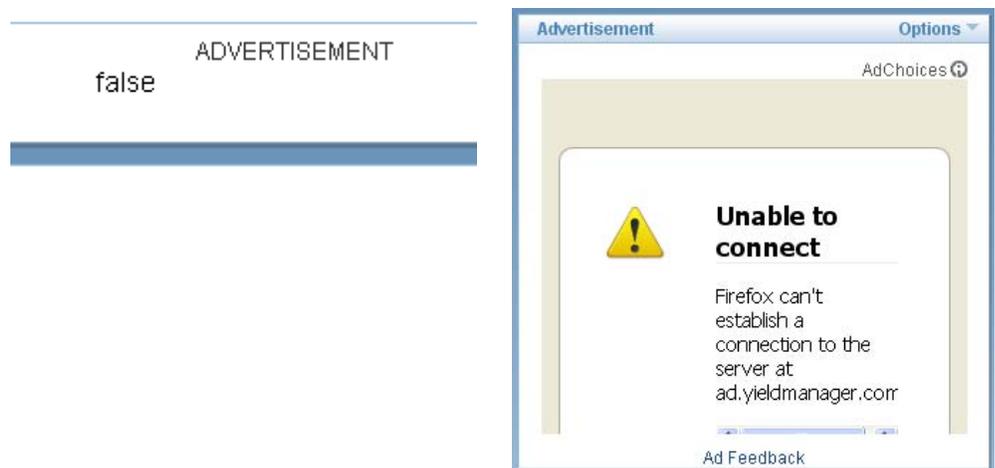
Left-click “Yes to All”.



With Win Vista and Win 7, use Windows Explorer to navigate to: C:\WINDOWS\system32\drivers\etc. Right-click on the Hosts.MVP file and select “Rename”. Delete “.MVP” and press “Enter”, so the new name becomes “Host”. Approve the warning by Windows that changing the suffix may render the file unusable.

Restart your computer, so it will look at the new Hosts file when restarting.

Open your web browser (For example, Internet Explorer or Firefox). Type www.msn.com on the address line near the top of the browser window, and press “Enter”. You will know the Hosts Files are preventing ads when you see the following examples, or there is a blank space where an ad typically appears.



A web bug is an object that is embedded in a web page or e-mail and is usually invisible to the user but allows checking that a user has viewed the page or e-mail. One common use is in e-mail tracking. Alternative names are web beacon, tracking bug, tracking pixel, pixel tag, 1×1 gif, and clear gif. A web bug is any one of a number of techniques used to track who is reading a web page or e-mail, when, and from what computer. They can also

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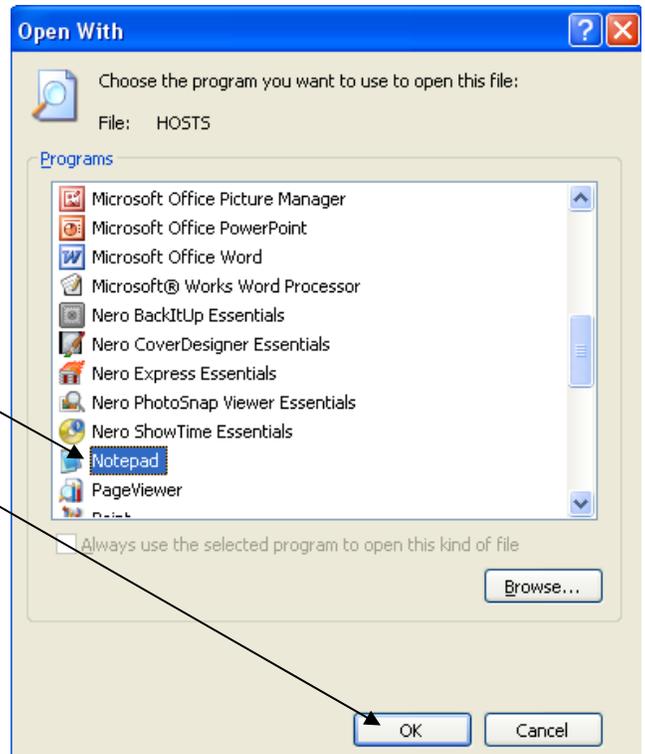
be used to see if an e-mail was read or forwarded to someone else, or if a web page was copied to another website. The first web bugs were small images. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_bugs
Some of the information for this “Hosts Files” document was obtained in Saul Reine’s “Windows Management” computer class at the University of Delaware’s Osher Academy Of Lifelong Learning.
<http://www.lifelonglearning.udel.edu/wilmington/index.html>
<http://www.lifelonglearning.udel.edu/wilmington/courses/index.html>

If you want to see what is blocked, use Windows Explorer to navigate to: “C:\WINDOWS\system32\drivers\etc”.

Double-left-click the “Hosts” file.

Select “Notepad”.

Left-click “OK”.



You will see a Notepad window that shows all of the blocked websites. The beginning of the list is shown to the right.

The “127.0.0.1 localhost” means that all of the blocked websites are being referred to your computer (the “local host”). Therefore the blocked websites cannot reach their intended website on the internet. The intended website can’t see information about your computer, so it can’t put an ad on your computer monitor or a cookie on your hard drive. The “127.0.0.1” is the I.P., or Internet Protocol” address of your computer.

```
127.0.0.1 localhost
#start of lines added by winhelp2002
# [Misc A - Z]
127.0.0.1 fr.a2dfp.net
127.0.0.1 m.fr.a2dfp.net
127.0.0.1 ad.a8.net
127.0.0.1 asy.a8ww.net
127.0.0.1 abcstats.com
127.0.0.1 a.abv.bg
127.0.0.1 adserver.abv.bg
127.0.0.1 adv.abv.bg
127.0.0.1 bimg.abv.bg
127.0.0.1 ca.abv.bg
```

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If you have a website where you need to permit the browser to download files, and the Hosts file is blocking that website, then you will need to:

1. Select and copy the URL for the needed website, such as `www.msn.com`.
2. Open the Hosts file in Notepad.
3. Use the keyboard shortcut “ctrl+f” to open the “find” search window.
4. Use the keyboard shortcut “ctrl+v” to enter the website URL and press the “enter” key, to search for the desired website.
5. Assuming the URL for the website is found, add REM in front of the URL.
6. Save the Hosts file (File, Save).
7. Restart the computer.
8. The desired website should now be available.

If you don't like the results of the “Hosts Files” change, you can use System Restore to go back to the point you set at the beginning of these instructions.