

# Kill Bing

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# What is Bing?

- ▶ Bing is Microsoft's search engine.
- ▶ As I use Google for my searches Bing is not important to me.

# Why remove most of it?

- ▶ In Windows 8.1 there can be several hundred MB of Bing apps. I have never used them and I am not likely to use them in the future. Although a few hundred MB these days does not seem much with large GB or TB drives but when using Acronis to perform full backups why waste time and disk space in backing up junk? Also if you have a 64 GB SSD as drive C then you don't need any extra unwanted apps.
- ▶ Some examples of these unwanted apps are:
  - Microsoft.BingHealthAndFitness,
  - Microsoft.BingFoodAndDrink,
  - Microsoft.BingTravel and more...

Is this easy to do?

No

# Why not?

- ▶ Using Windows Explorer you cannot delete these files, not even as Administrator.
- ▶ Even from DOS trying to reset System and Hidden attributes also fails even with elevated privileges.
- ▶ The operating system is ensuring that Bing stays.
- ▶ **I want it to go.  
It is MY computer!**

# So how do you do it?

- ▶ After some searching I found a way to do this by using PowerShell which is a command shell for running a scripting language. It is often used by administrators to run repetitive tasks.
- ▶ I managed to find a couple of a scripts that will do what I wanted that someone else has written. The one I used will be shown in a later slide.

# The actual steps are not THAT hard

- ▶ Copy the script below starting with <# and ending with the } and save it as a text file ending in .ps1 e.g. NoBingApps.ps1.  
If you are using Notepad then you must enclose the name in quotes otherwise Notepad will save it as NoBingApps.ps1.txt and this will not work. Remove any of the apps listed if you think that you may need in the future.
- ▶ Click on Start and enter PowerShell in the Search box then right-click on PowerShell and select Run as Administrator.
- ▶ When PowerShell starts enter  
`Set-ExecutionPolicy Unrestricted`



Administrator: Windows PowerShell



Windows PowerShell

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```
PS C:\WINDOWS\system32> Set-ExecutionPolicy Unrestricted
```

**Execution Policy Change**

The execution policy helps protect you from scripts that you do not trust. Changing the execution policy might expose you to the security risks described in the `about_Execution_Policies` help topic at <http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkID=135170>. Do you want to change the execution policy?

[Y] Yes [N] No [S] Suspend [?] Help (default is "Y"): y

```
PS C:\WINDOWS\system32>
```



# The final steps...

- ▶ Navigate to where you saved your file in PowerShell. Assuming that you put it into the root directory of drive D just type  
`. \NoBingApps.ps1`  
and all unwanted apps that are listed in the script will be deleted.
- ▶ Type Exit to quit.

# The PowerShell script

```
<#
*****
Author:   Frank Trout
Purpose:  Removes Windows 8.1 RTM provisioned apps.
*****
#>
$AppList = "Microsoft.BingFinance",
           "Microsoft.BingFoodAndDrink",
           "Microsoft.BingHealthAndFitness",
           "Microsoft.BingMaps",
           "Microsoft.BingNews",
           "Microsoft.BingSports",
           "Microsoft.BingTravel",
           "Microsoft.BingWeather",
           "Microsoft.HelpAndTips",
           "Microsoft.Reader",
           "Microsoft.WindowsAlarms",
           "microsoft.windowscommunicationsapps",
           "Microsoft.WindowsReadingList",
           "Microsoft.WindowsScan",
           "Microsoft.WindowsSoundRecorder",
           "Microsoft.XboxLIVEGames",
           "Microsoft.ZuneMusic",
           "Microsoft.ZuneVideo"

ForEach ($App in $AppList) {
    $AppxPackage = Get-AppxProvisionedPackage -online | Where {$_.DisplayName -eq $App}
    Remove-AppxProvisionedPackage -online -packagename ($AppxPackage.PackageName)
    Remove-AppxPackage ($AppxPackage.PackageName)
}
```

Try it live?