



Ethical Hacking

Microsoft made \$13.9 billion from search and news advertising. Not from selling Windows. From selling you. Your typing. Your apps. Your habits. 🤖

Windows 11 is how they collect it.

That meme with Windows versions turning into prison bars? There's real data behind it.

Security researchers tested a fresh Windows 11 install versus Windows XP using Wireshark. Windows XP contacted only Windows Update servers. Windows 11 contacted advertising networks, market research companies, Bing, MSN, and third-party services before the user even opened a browser.

Windows has two types of data collection. "Optional" and "Required." You can disable Optional in Settings. Required keeps sending. Always. On every version. Home, Pro, doesn't matter. No toggle exists to stop it.

What does Microsoft collect as "required" data?

- Your device and hardware info
- Which apps and drivers are installed
- Your network configuration
- Error reports including system state
- Info about connected devices like webcams and printers

You agreed to this when you installed Windows. You cannot opt out.

Why does Microsoft want this?

Their advertising business grew 21% this year. Microsoft's advertising uses "first-party data" from 1.4 billion Windows devices. Your usage patterns help them sell targeted ads. You paid for Windows but you're still the product.

The scary part?

Microsoft introduced Recall. An AI feature that takes screenshots of your entire screen every few seconds. Stores everything in a searchable database on your PC.

When security researchers first tested it, the database was completely unencrypted. Plain text SQLite file. Screenshots stored in a regular folder. Anyone with admin access could read everything. Microsoft only added encryption after the backlash.

Microsoft's own documentation says Recall "will not hide information such as passwords or financial account numbers."

Your banking login. Your private chats. Your medical searches. All captured. All stored.

Signal blocked Recall in May 2025. They used DRM protection. Same tech Netflix uses to stop you screenshotting movies. Against your own operating system. Their developers wrote: "Apps like Signal have essentially no control over what content Recall is able to capture."

When a privacy app treats Windows as a threat, your operating system is spyware.

Check it yourself:

→ Open Settings

→ Go to Privacy & Security

→ Click Diagnostics & feedback

You see a toggle for optional data. But required data? No button. No toggle. Nothing. It just sends.

This is why my course runs on Linux. Kali Linux and Parrot OS Security. Systems where you control what runs. Where settings actually work. Where no ad company gets your data.

Ethical Hacking Complete Course Zero to Expert:

→ <https://www.udemy.com/.../ethical-hacking-complete.../...>

(Link supports me directly as your instructor!)

Hacking is not a hobby but a way of life.

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