

Correct way to disable indexing in Windows 7

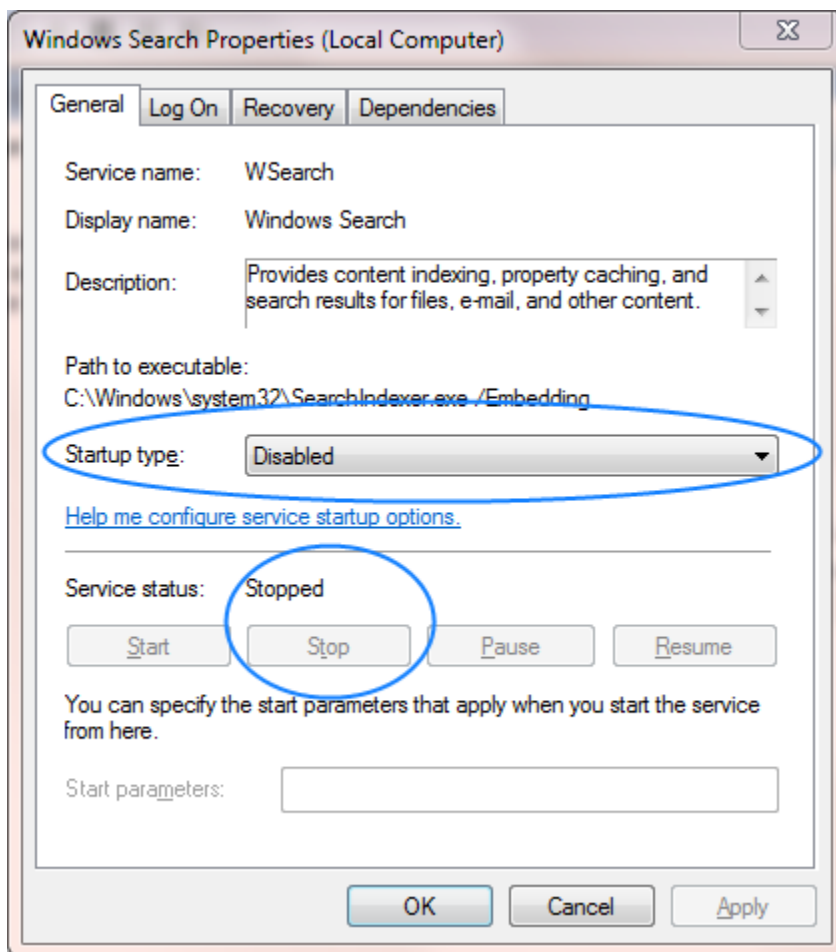
If your objective is to retain search functionality, but not to use indexes, you need to set up the following situation:

- Turn off the indexing (to prevent an index being produced).
- Delete the existing index (to prevent windows from using the index during searches).
- Avoid re-enabling indexing.
- Optional: enable the searching of file contents.

Turning off indexing

Start -> Run -> services.msc -> disable and stop Windows Search.

Ensure that the Startup type is set to *disabled* to prevent Windows from starting it again automatically.

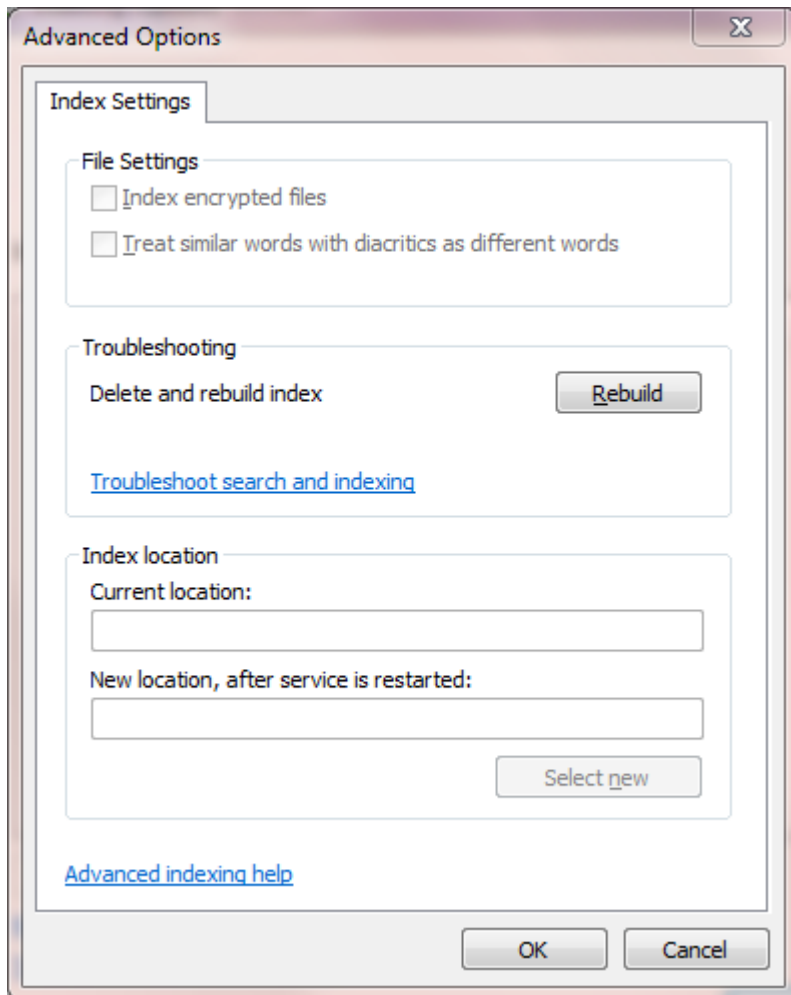


Deleting the existing index

You can get the path to the search index from the following dialog box:

Control Panel -> Indexing Options -> Advanced

However since we have disabled indexing, it will be empty:



But we can still look up the value in the registry:

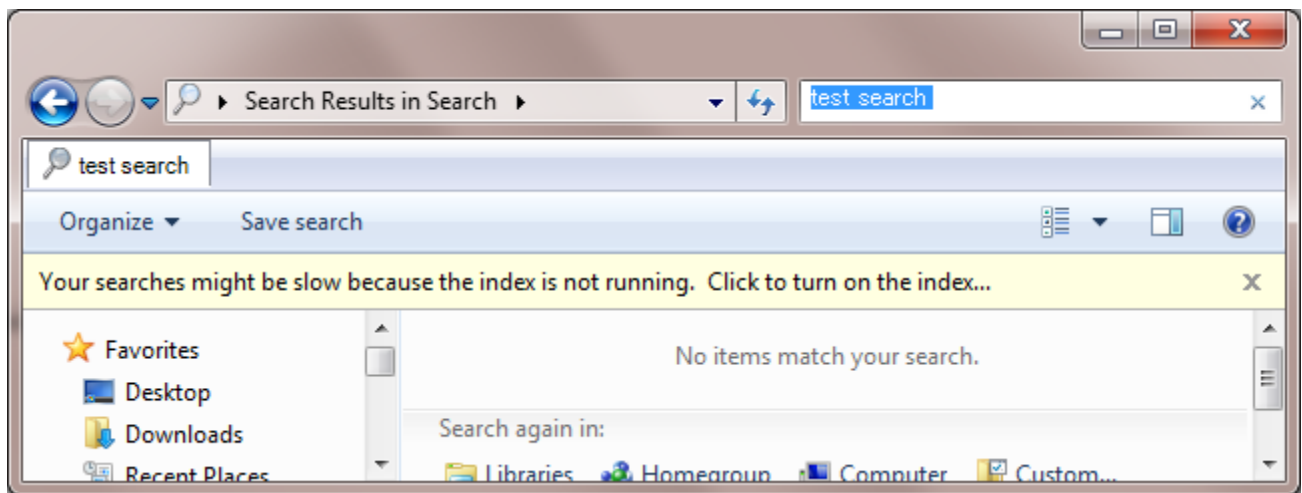
- Start -> Run -> regedit.exe
- Browse to HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows Search
- We need the value of the DataDirectory key:

(Default)	REG_SZ	(value not set)
CurrentVersion	REG_SZ	6.1.7601.17610
DataDirectory	REG_EXPAND_SZ	%ProgramData%\Microsoft\Search\Data\
DefaultDataDirectory	REG_EXPAND_SZ	%ProgramData%\Microsoft\Search\Data\
indexer:ci:MaxRestrictionNodes	REG_DWORD	0x0007ef40 (520000)
IndexerCatalogVersion	REG_SZ	4.60101.60101
InstallDirectory	REG_EXPAND_SZ	%systemroot%\system32\
SetupCompletedSuccessfully	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
SystemIndexNormalization	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
UseLowPriorityConfiguration	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)

Delete the `Search` folder specified by that path.

Avoid re-enabling indexing

Beware that when you run a search, you will frequently see this popup:

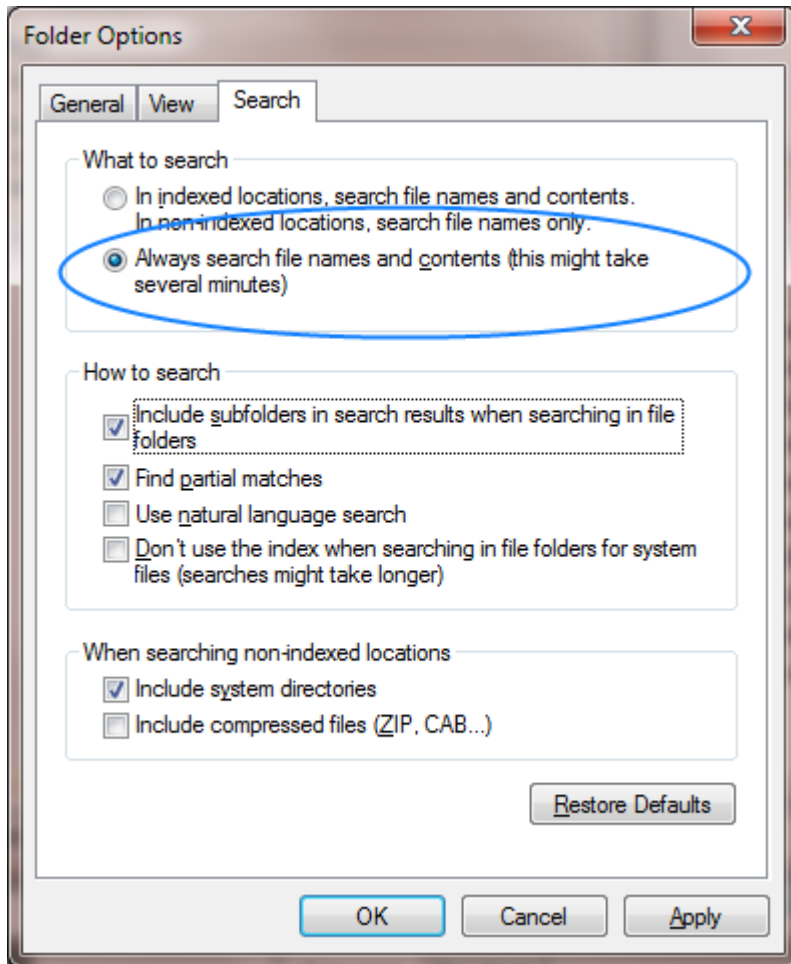


If you enable this, the indexing service will be restarted, and Windows will start using the index for indexed locations. So don't do that if you don't want it to use the index.

Search file contents

You may want to turn on searching file contents:

Control Panel -> Folder Options -> Search Tab



<https://superuser.com/questions/73204/correct-way-to-disable-indexing-in-windows-7>