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r/laptops • 3 yr. ago

TiredAudioEngineer



Can I trust the camera turn off button on my laptop?

General question

My laptop has a camera turn off button on F10, it turns off the webcam through software. It does work with skype, discord, zoom and so on, but any means of turning off a webcam through software (and not gool ol' tape) makes me a bit suspicious. Couldn't a virus easily bypass that? and if so, could a good anti-virus that also turns off the webcam through software solve the problem?

PS: If this post is off topic for this sub, I will delete it upon request, but if someone could point me towards the right sub for this post before asking me to delete the it, it would be nice. Have a good day, y'all.



4



9



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Gambling-Assasin • 3y ago

(Not an answer) This is an amazing questuon, and you are absolutely right to be suspicious of using software to do this!



3



Reply

TiredAudioEngineer **OP** • 3y ago

Oh, thanks mate. I've always been suspicious of things like that, but since a person close to me started working with cyber security, the horror stories have been really "scaring me straight".



3



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some kind of malware to interfere with it.

It would be difficult, but it's a possibility.

I'd probably be more concerned about the mics though, webcams just don't provide that much useful information to be worth snooping on.

Even if you had a wall full of secret CIA plans on the wall behind you while you were working, chances are your webcam has such shit resolution that they won't be readable anyway.

And of course if your camera has an activity LED on it that shows when it's turned on, that is impossible to disable via software since it's part of the camera's power circuitry. As long as the camera is on, the LED is on.

It'd be really obvious to the user that the camera was on.

So to snoop on you effectively, they'd need to find a way to mess with the webcam disabling software, then install their own snooping software, then disassemble the laptop to physically remove the LED on the webcam and put it back together again.

And all that trouble just to see a 720p grainy image of your face, which is probably plastered all over social media already?

I guess if you were Joe Biden it'd be worth doing, but for the rest of us it's really not worth anything.

So yeah if you're incredibly paranoid, don't trust it. But really for the 99.99% of us, there's no valuable info that can be obtained from a webcam image of us that will make that worth doing.

4 [Reply](#) ...



TiredAudioEngineer OP • 3y ago

That is a fair point you make. I just worry because I tend to walk around naked, so I'm a bit paranoid over pics of my schlong going around.

6 [Reply](#) ...



Gambling-Assasin • 3y ago

Didn't Dell (or someone) create a laptop that had a huge security flaw in its webcam that allowed people to 'hack' into it pretty easily? There was a website (on clear net, surprisingly) that was a roulette, allowing you to stream from some random persons webcam from that line of laptops.

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[deleted] • 3y ago

I put a paper over it and taped my laptop camera.

1 [Reply](#) ...

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r/privacy • 5 yr. ago

Do you remove/disable the cameras on your laptops?

9 upvotes · 33 comments



r/ios • 2 mo. ago

Did you know you can turn off the camera control button?

22 comments



r/iphone • 5 mo. ago

How do I turn off this camera feature?

3 comments



r/framework • 1 yr. ago

how do you turn off your laptops?

14 upvotes · 47 comments



r/USAA • 3 yr. ago

Safepilot - is there a way to turn it off without turning my phone off?

8 upvotes · 13 comments



r/AcousticGuitar • 1 yr. ago

Web camera or laptop?

2 upvotes · 2 comments

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9K upvotes · 299 comments



r/Lenovo • 3 yr. ago

my laptop's (which is a lenovo laptop) camera will not work! ive had it for about a month, and it wont work even when i have allowed it to in the settings app. is there anything i can...



40 upvotes · 78 comments



r/HowToHack • 10 yr. ago

Does anybody know how to disable a laptop's built in webcam light?

9 upvotes · 15 comments



r/mac • 5 yr. ago

Lid won't close properly due to webcam cover

3 upvotes · 7 comments



r/gtaonline • 2 yr. ago

PC camera lock

6 comments



r/privacy • 1 yr. ago

Webcam for a Desktop Computer with a Physical Kill Switch?

3 comments



r/Twitch • 11 yr. ago

Can you use the built in webcam from a laptop on another PC?

2 upvotes · 18 comments



r/laptops • 2 mo. ago

Is it safe to remove this tape covering half of the laptop vents?

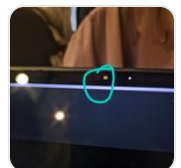


188 upvotes · 79 comments



r/laptops • 1 yr. ago

Does anyone know why my HP Spectre x360 2 in 1 laptop has this camera ?



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Benefits of external webcam over laptop?

7 comments



r/laptops • 5 mo. ago

What is this sensor near the webcam?

116 upvotes · 50 comments



r/mac • 1 mo. ago

A note on handling your laptop (it's not that difficult)

50 upvotes · 22 comments



r/laptops • 1 mo. ago

What cord do i need for this charging port?

49 upvotes · 34 comments



r/debian • 3 yr. ago

How to disable the automatic turn on of bluetooth?

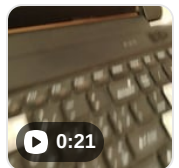
2 upvotes · 6 comments



r/laptops • 21 days ago

Meme and a real situation. Charging port isn't working. Its charging like this somehow.

1.1K upvotes · 72 comments



r/apple • 5 yr. ago

What Laptop Has the Best Webcam? (Spoiler: They're All Bad) | WSJ

229 upvotes · 81 comments



r/techsupport • 11 yr. ago

Turning off the webcam light

1 upvote · 3 comments



r/privacy • 3 yr. ago



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r/LenovoLegion • 3 yr. ago

How does the webcam e shutter work?

9 upvotes · 8 comments

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