

How to start Outlook in safe mode

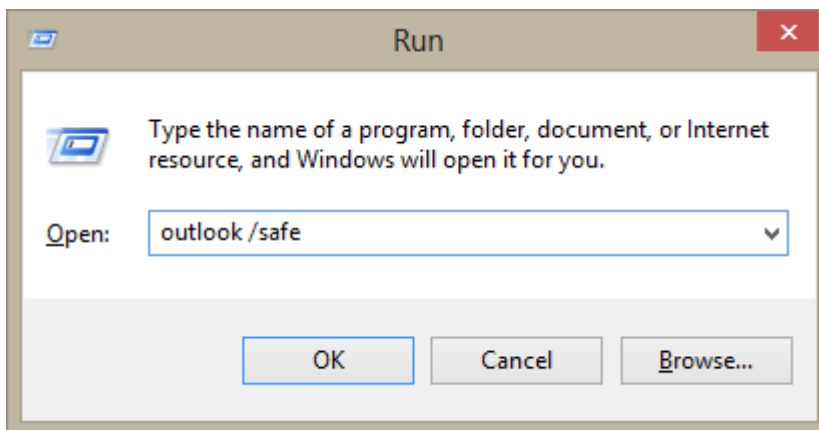
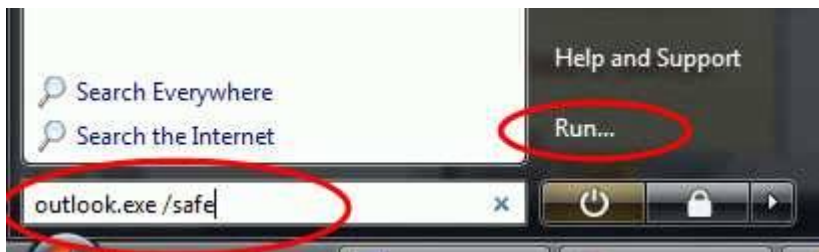
<https://www.outlook-tips.net/beginner-user/start-outlook-in-safe-mode/>

If you found this page because Outlook 2010 is opening in Safe mode since December 8 2015, see [Outlook 2010 runs in Safe Mode after Update](#) (below)

When something isn't working right with Outlook we often tell users to start Outlook in safe mode or using the /safe switch. This loads Outlook without many of the customization files and add-ins loaded. If Outlook works correctly in Safe mode, the problem is with one of your add-ins or customization files.

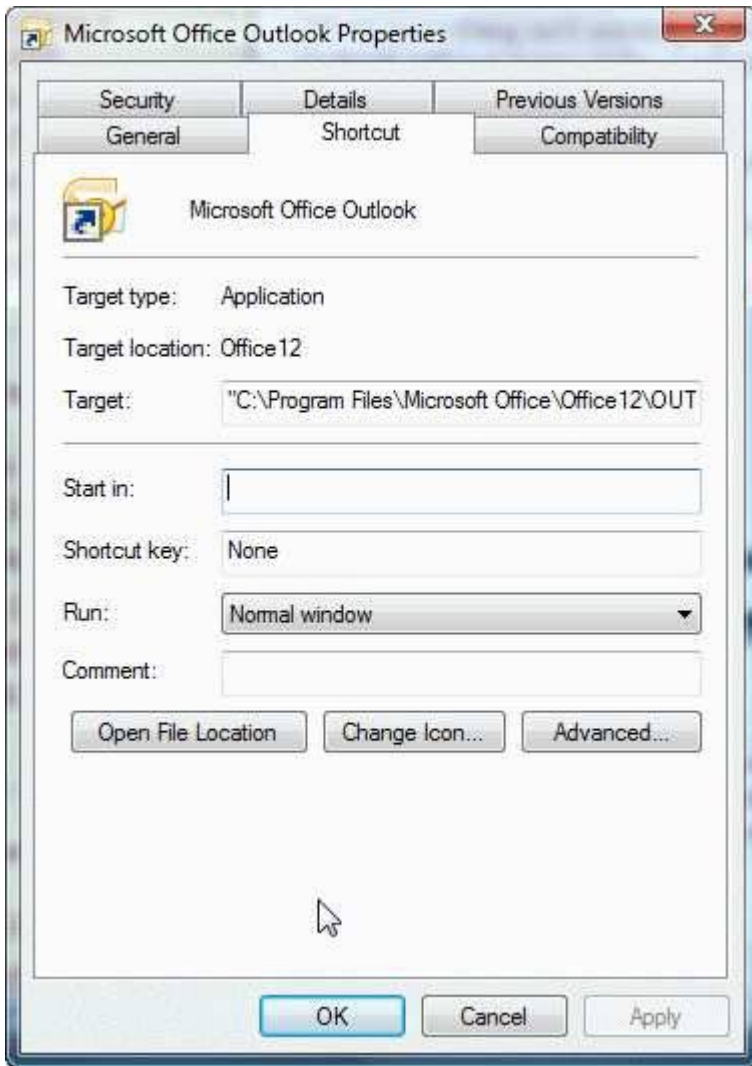
You can use one of these methods to start Outlook using a command line switch:

- Hold Ctrl key as you click the Outlook shortcut.
- If you use Vista or Windows 7, type **outlook.exe /safe** in the Start Search field on the Start menu then press Enter.
- In Windows 8, press Windows key to drop back to the Start screen, then type **outlook.exe /safe**.
- If Run.... is shown on your start menu (any version of Windows) click it and type **outlook.exe /safe** in the Open field and click OK.
- Hold the Windows key and press R, then type **outlook.exe /safe** in the Open field and click OK.



In most cases you only need to type outlook or outlook.exe, but occasionally Windows complains that it can't find the file. When this happens you need to use the full path to Outlook.

The default location is usually **C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\OfficeXX**, where XX is your version number. You can browse to it or look on the Quick Launch shortcut for the file path. Do this by right click on the Outlook shortcut on Quick Launch toolbar and choosing Properties. The default switch is /recycle, you can replace this with /safe, press Apply then double-click on the shortcut to run it (leave the dialog open). After Outlook opens, replace safe with recycle and click OK.



If Outlook is not closing properly, look in Task Manager, Processes tab and verify it's not running. You can open Task Manager by right clicking on the Windows task bar and choosing Task Manager.

The following safe switches are available:

/safe

Starts Outlook without extensions, Reading Pane, or toolbar customization. Works with all versions.

/safe:1

Starts Outlook with the Reading Pane off. Outlook 2003/2007 only.

/safe:2

Starts Outlook without checking mail at startup. Outlook 2003/2007 only.

/safe:3

Starts Outlook with extensions turned off, but listed in the Add-In Manager. Outlook 2003/2007.

/safe:4

Starts Outlook without loading Outcmd.dat (customized toolbars) and *.fav file. Outlook 2003/2007.

Outlook 2010 runs in Safe Mode after Update

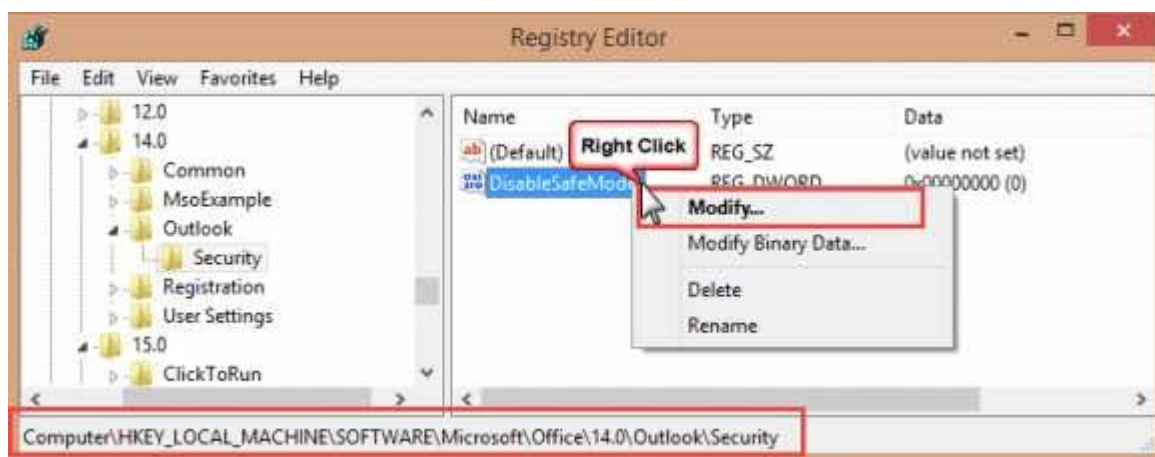
In Outlook 2010, all of my options were reset to their defaults and when I change them, the changes don't stick. As soon as I close Outlook and restart it, everything is back to its default.

This is caused by installing [KB3114409](#) – it causes Outlook to run in Safe mode, which uses the default settings. Your customizations aren't lost, they just aren't being used when Outlook is in Safe mode.

Microsoft removed the update, so users who haven't installed the December updates yet won't be affected. Users who are affected have two choices to fix this: uninstall KB3114409 or set a registry key to disable Safe mode.

To set the registry key:

1. Open the Registry editor by pressing Windows key + R
2. Type **regedit** in the Open: field. Then click Ok.
3. Browse to HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Office\14.0\Outlook\Security\ key on the left side of the Registry Editor
4. If any key in the path is missing, you'll need to create it. Right click on the last key, choose **New > Key** and type the missing key name.
5. Right click on Security key and choose **New**, and then **DWORD** Value.
6. Type **DisableSafeMode**, and then press **Enter**.
7. Right-click on **DisableSafeMode**, and then click **Modify**.



8. In the **Value** data box, type 1, and then click OK.
9. If you have 64bit Windows and 32bit Office, also add **DisableSafeMode, Value: 1** to this key:
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Office\14.0\Outlook\Security\
10. Restart Outlook or reboot the computer.

If you don't want to edit the registry, you can use this reg file: [DisableSafeMode.reg](#) [DisableSafeMode.reg for Outlook 32 bit on Windows 64-bit](#)

Uninstall KB3114409

To uninstall updates, open **Control Panel**, then find **Programs & Features**. Click on **View Installed Updates** on the left. Type **KB3114409** in the **Search Updates** field. Select it and click **Uninstall**.