

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Microsoft Confirms Unique ID to Windows Computers used to Track](#)

Tha Sneak - July 24, 2026, 6:49 am

<https://www.pcmag.com/news/a-hackers-arrest-reveals-microsoft-can-track-users-via-a-windows-device>

Quote: "According to a Microsoft representative, a Global Device Identifier in the Windows ecosystem is a persistent, device-level identifier designed to uniquely identify an installation of a Windows operating system on a device, either a physical device (e.g., a mobile phone or laptop) or virtual machine, across certain Microsoft services and scenarios," the complaint explains.

The global device ID isn't exactly surprising, given that it's standard practice to assign a unique ID to each account or device so a tech provider can recognize and distinguish between them. But the complaint reveals Microsoft can associate the GDID with third-party services and the timing as well, giving Redmond a way to theoretically track a user's online activity. In other words, Redmond might be able to track the online activity of your Windows PC without third-party browser cookies.

? loading encrypted image...

For those in the blackhat world it sounds like staying the hell away from Windows would be a good idea from this point forward and utilizing Linux Distributions. Also, Microsoft has a tool named COFEE or Computer Online Forensic Evidence Extractor.

Microsoft fully assists for free with Law Enforcement regarding Windows Computer Forensic Evidence extraction and the tools have likely gotten far more advanced since 2009. I believe I may have a copy of the 2009 leak of the tool in my database of shit on my computer for those interested.

Hope this tidbit of information I came across is helpful.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_Online_Forensic_Evidence_Extractor

Here's a little more information on different law enforcement forensic tools:

<https://www.forensicscolleges.com/blog/resources/guide-digital-forensics-tools>

Pr0m3th3us - July 24, 2026, 7:10 am

Yea i only use mine for gaming, web browsing, and plex. Still waiting for steam to make an OS for gamers over here.....

Nice list of tools you found, didn't realize there were so many.

ShadowPacket_ - July 24, 2026, 8:55 am

(Jul 24, 2026 07:10 AM)Pr0m3th3us Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Yea i only use mine for gaming, web browsing, and plex. Still waiting for steam to make an OS for gamers over here.....

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What's the steam machine all about? Does that not have their own os?

Tha Sneak - July 24, 2026, 10:11 am

(Jul 24, 2026 08:55 AM)VxPrpl Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) What's the steam machine all about? Does that not have their own os?

Steam Machine OS is a Linux-based gaming operating system designed to deliver a console-like experience for PC gaming while preserving the openness, flexibility, and performance of the PC ecosystem. Built around Steam and optimized for controller-first interaction, it boots directly into a streamlined gaming interface, allowing users to access their game library, download titles, join multiplayer sessions, stream content, and manage their system without requiring a traditional desktop workflow.

The operating system emphasizes low-overhead performance, fast boot times, efficient hardware utilization, and broad compatibility across modern gaming hardware. It leverages technologies such as Proton to run thousands of Windows games on Linux while supporting native Linux titles, cloud saves, achievements, workshop content, and Steam's social ecosystem.

Core design principles include:

Linux-based operating system optimized for gaming.

Console-style user experience with desktop-class capabilities.

Fast boot times and low system overhead.

Controller-first navigation with full keyboard and mouse support.

Support for modern AMD, NVIDIA, and Intel graphics hardware.

Automatic operating system and game updates.

Steam Cloud synchronization.

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Desktop Mode for productivity, development, and customization.

Support for gaming handhelds, desktops, HTPCs, and living-room gaming systems.

Steam Machine OS was originally envisioned as the software foundation for Valve's Steam Machines—living-room gaming PCs designed to compete with traditional consoles. Although the original Steam Machines were discontinued, the concept evolved into SteamOS, which now powers devices such as the Steam Deck and continues to serve as Valve's primary Linux gaming platform.

The operating system represents a hybrid between a dedicated gaming console and a fully capable

Linux desktop, providing gamers with an appliance-like experience while retaining the customization, hardware freedom, and software ecosystem traditionally associated with personal computers.

My personal comment is I wouldn't get one until they unfuckup their system because of this:
<https://www.tomshardware.com/video-games/console-gaming/brand-new-steam-machine-hit-with-red-line-of-death-gpu-failure-after-playing-no-mans-sky-for-just-five-minutes-console-bricked-itself-following-update-in-incident-eerily-reminiscent-of-xbox-360-launch>

DramaKing - July 24, 2026, 1:05 pm

(Jul 24, 2026 07:10 AM)Pr0m3th3us Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Yea i only use mine for gaming, web browsing, and plex. Still waiting for steam to make an OS for gamers over here.....
Uh, THEY DID!?

Pr0m3th3us - July 24, 2026, 1:34 pm

(Jul 24, 2026 01:05 PM)DramaKing Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Uh, THEY DID!?
idk did they????????!!!!!!!!! i dont keep up with every little thing that happens. Nobody has time for that. Iv been waiting 20 years so why would i check every day for it ? And even if they did its prob crap if it just came out. Ill wait.

Raijin - July 24, 2026, 2:34 pm

Windows was already unappealing to me.

DramaKing - July 24, 2026, 7:52 pm

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Steam Deck made some waves a few years ago. Steam OS 3.0 can now be installed on non-Valve hardware.

(Jul 24, 2026 10:11 AM)Tha Sneak Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) My personal comment is I wouldn't get one until they unfuckup their system because of this:
<https://www.tomshardware.com/video-games/console-gaming/brand-new-steam-machine-hit-with-red-line-of-death-gpu-failure-after-playing-no-mans-sky-for-just-five-minutes-console-bricked-itself-following-update-in-incident-eerily-reminiscent-of-xbox-360-launch>

I'm not saying that you should buy one, but that isolated issue was only a temporary memory training failure.

Tha Sneak - July 24, 2026, 8:00 pm

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I never followed up on what the actual issue was, but it definitely makes me skittish if I were to want one. I had an Xbox 360 White Original and still have it to this day and plan on using it for a JTAG tutorial on here that got RROD after 2 years of playing. It sucked ass waiting like a month for it to come back I remember I missed the Gears of War 2 and Call of Duty World at War releases by a week I was pissed. Things fail and things come straight from the factory and fuck up all the time so I'm not knocking it. You just never know what can happen.

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If you plan on fixing it, don't you need to resolder some contacts?

Tha Sneak - July 24, 2026, 8:09 pm

(Jul 24, 2026 08:05 PM)DramaKing Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) If you plan on fixing it, don't you need to resolder some contacts?

No, I guess I didn't specify it is fixed I sent it to Microsoft way back when to get fixed which is why I missed the releases of the two games at the time.

I have an Xbox 360 White that I will do full guides and tutorials for JTAG, mod tools, etc. and I also have an Xbox 360 Slim I plan on doing the same for RGH3 as well. I've been meaning to do it anyway for quite some time and the knowledge, resources, and tools are starting to disappear as more and more forums specifically gaming/modding forums are becoming extinct. TheTechGame just went out of business earlier this or last year if I recall.

DramaKing - July 24, 2026, 9:08 pm

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Cool. Yeah, things have changed.

7 - July 24, 2026, 9:49 pm

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crazy though best gaming handheld is linux and OSX being so shit with games but Linux and OSX are Unix.

DramaKing - July 25, 2026, 3:12 am

(Jul 24, 2026 09:49 PM)7 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) crazy though best gaming handheld is linux and OSX being so shit with games but Linux and OSX are Unix.

Careful saying that macOS (no longer OSX) is Unix. Darwin's XNU microkernel does stand for X is Not Unix, despite being derived from NeXTSTEP, which was a hybrid of BSD and Mach components. Yes, it did adopt a FreeBSD subsystem.

theen - July 25, 2026, 11:04 pm

(Jul 24, 2026 02:34 PM)Raijin Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Windows was already unappealing to me. just windows 7 was good :)

DramaKing - July 26, 2026, 4:36 am

(Jul 25, 2026 11:04 PM)theen Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) just windows 7 was good :)
So were XP and 95.

Tha Sneak - July 26, 2026, 4:56 am

(Jul 26, 2026 04:36 AM)DramaKing Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) So were XP and 95.

XP is my favorite operating system and I don't know why, but holy shit did malware really get wild back then lol.

- Virut
- Sality
- TDSS
- Sasser
- Vundo
- Conficker
- Stuxnet
- Rogue Antiviruses
- Beast RAT
- MyDoom
- Zlob
- Blackshades
- Zeus
- ZeroAccess/Max++ (Was a fucking bitch)

Quote:---- Processes - GMER 1.0.15 ----

```
Library \\?\globalroot\Device\__max++>\9675B89D.x86.dll (** hidden *) @
C:\Windows\system32\wininit.exe [576] 0x35670000
Library \\?\globalroot\Device\__max++>\9675B89D.x86.dll (** hidden *) @
C:\Windows\system32\services.exe [652] 0x35670000
Library \\?\globalroot\Device\__max++>\9675B89D.x86.dll (** hidden *) @ C:\Program
Files\Internet Explorer\iexplore.exe [856] 0x35670000
Library \\?\globalroot\Device\__max++>\9675B89D.x86.dll (** hidden *) @
C:\Windows\system32\svchost.exe [872] 0x35670000
Library \\?\globalroot\Device\__max++>\9675B89D.x86.dll (** hidden *) @
C:\Windows\System32\svchost.exe [1000] 0x35670000
Library \\?\globalroot\Device\__max++>\9675B89D.x86.dll (** hidden *) @
C:\Windows\system32\svchost.exe [1068] 0x35670000
```

---- EOF - GMER 1.0.15 ----

Quote:Running from: C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator.MATT\Desktop\Win32kDiag.exe

Log file at : C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator.MATT\Desktop\Win32kDiag.txt

WARNING: Could not get backup privileges!

Searching 'C:\WINDOWS'...

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\addins\addins

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point :

C:\WINDOWS\assembly\NativeImages_v2.0.50727_32\Temp\ZAP183.tmp\ZAP183.tmp

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point :

C:\WINDOWS\assembly\NativeImages_v2.0.50727_32\Temp\ZAP1A5.tmp\ZAP1A5.tmp

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point :

C:\WINDOWS\assembly\NativeImages_v2.0.50727_32\Temp\ZAP1A6.tmp\ZAP1A6.tmp

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point :

C:\WINDOWS\assembly\NativeImages_v2.0.50727_32\Temp\ZAP1A7.tmp\ZAP1A7.tmp

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point :

C:\WINDOWS\assembly\NativeImages_v2.0.50727_32\Temp\ZAP1A8.tmp\ZAP1A8.tmp

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point :

C:\WINDOWS\assembly\NativeImages_v2.0.50727_32\Temp\ZAP267.tmp\ZAP267.tmp

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point :

C:\WINDOWS\assembly\NativeImages_v2.0.50727_32\Temp\ZAP28A.tmp\ZAP28A.tmp

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point :

C:\WINDOWS\assembly\NativeImages_v2.0.50727_32\Temp\ZAP33F.tmp\ZAP33F.tmp

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point :

C:\WINDOWS\assembly\NativeImages_v2.0.50727_32\Temp\ZAPE6.tmp\ZAPE6.tmp

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\assembly\temp\temp

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\assembly\tmp\tmp

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\Config\Config

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\Connection Wizard\Connection Wizard

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\Debug\UserMode\UserMode

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\Downloaded Installations\Downloaded Installations

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\ftpcache\ftpcache

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\ime\chsime\applets\applets

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\ime\CHTIME\Applets\Applets

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\ime\imejp\applets\applets

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\ime\imejp98\imejp98

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\ime\imjp8_1\applets\applets

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\ime\imkr6_1\applets\applets

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\ime\imkr6_1\dicts\dicts

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\ime\shared\res\res

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point :

C:\WINDOWS\Installer\\$\PatchCache\$\Managed\0DC1503A46F231838AD88BCDDC8E8F7C\3.2.30

729\3.2.30729

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point :

C:\WINDOWS\Installer\\$\PatchCache\$\Managed\DC3BF90CC0D3D2F398A9A6D1762F70F3\2.2.30729\2.2.30729

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\java\trustlib\trustlib

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\Microsoft.NET\Framework\v1.1.4322\Temporary ASP.NET Files\Bind Logs\Bind Logs

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\Microsoft.NET\Framework\v2.0.50727\Temporary ASP.NET Files\Temporary ASP.NET Files

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\msapps\msinfo\msinfo

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\mui\mui

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\PCHealth\ERRORREP\QHEADLES\QHEADLES

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\PCHealth\ERRORREP\QSIGNOFF\QSIGNOFF

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\PCHealth\HelpCtr\BATCH\BATCH

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\PCHealth\HelpCtr\Config\CheckPoint\CheckPoint

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\PCHealth\HelpCtr\HelpFiles\HelpFiles

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\PCHealth\HelpCtr\InstalledSKUs\InstalledSKUs

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\PCHealth\HelpCtr\System\DFS\DFS

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\PCHealth\HelpCtr\System_OEM\System_OEM

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\PCHealth\HelpCtr\Temp\Temp

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Found mount point : C:\WINDOWS\Registration\CRMLog\CRMLog

Mount point destination : \Device__max++>\^

Cannot access: C:\WINDOWS\ServicePackFiles\i386\avc.sys

[1] 2004-08-04 02:10:10 38912 C:\WINDOWS\ServicePackFiles\i386\avc.sys ()

If you ever saw this for Explorer.exe they were fucking toast:

<https://www.techspot.com/community/topics/not-curable-virut-need-serious-help.149065/post-898988>

The epitome of an annoying day back then.

Raijin - July 26, 2026, 9:29 am

(Jul 25, 2026 11:04 PM)theen Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) just windows 7 was good :)

(Jul 26, 2026 04:36 AM)DramaKing Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) So were XP and 95.

Yes. Windows 7, XP, and 95 were great.

Astaroth - July 27, 2026, 4:28 am

It baffles me that EU governments still rely on Microsoft Windows. If this isn't a wakeup call...

Not that I'm siding with the EU. ?

TooBuck - July 31, 2026, 9:52 pm

I haven't used wingay in years. Honestly what drove me away from Windows was the bloatware. Even high end machines with great specs ended up suffering. One moment you're booting up your machine and its silent. The next moment the fans are spinning so loudly you thought the Apollo 11 was taking off.

When I did use it, I experimented with an application called PeerBlock which was a software firewall which blocked a lot of the windows metadata endpoints. Helped stop their data exfiltration. Funny enough, speed and performances increased a slight bit. Not really surprising.

In any case, when I heard about this I wasn't surprised either. Seems very canonical for Microsoft.