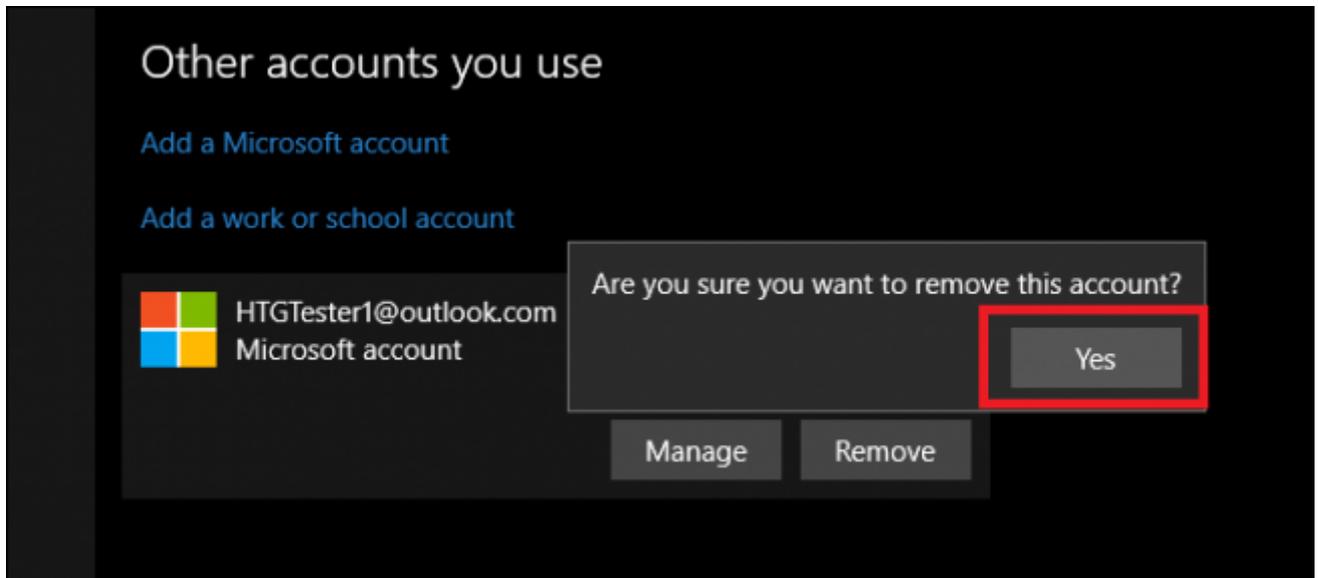


How to Completely Delete Your Microsoft Account



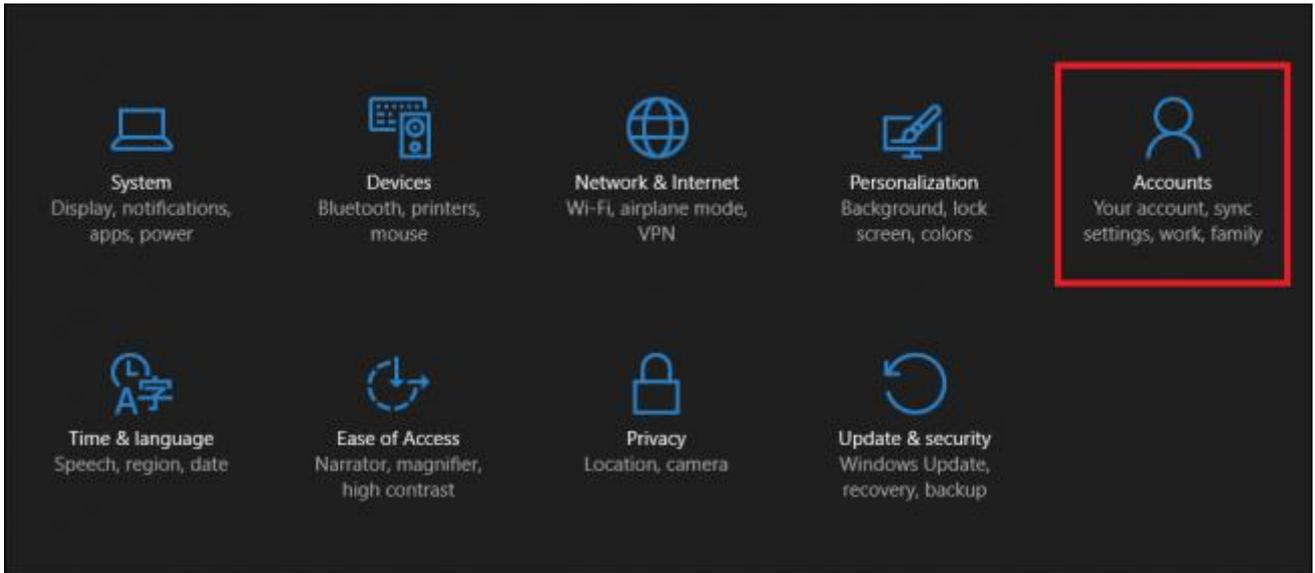
If you only pay attention to the headlines that Microsoft wants you to keep your eye on, you'd be forgiven for thinking that Windows 10 has been a universal success. So far, Redmond's latest OS has been installed on around 72 million systems around the globe, and for the most part, has been met with overwhelmingly positive reactions from both the press and the public. But what if Windows 10's [many privacy violations](#), [annoying Start menu](#), and [bogus apps](#) are too much for you to bear?

Deleting your Microsoft account can be a great way to ensure that none of your data is used by the company without your consent, while also removing yourself from the Windows database so no information can be collected by an unapproved third-party source while you aren't looking.

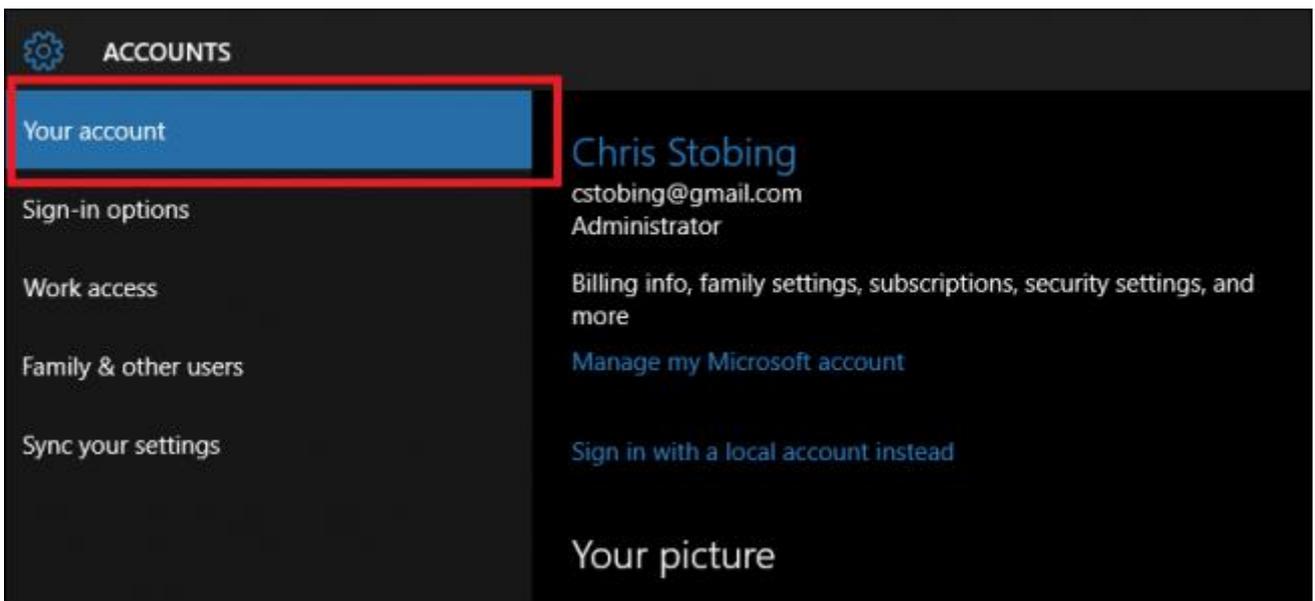
Delete the Account Locally

The first step in this process is to remove the Microsoft account from your local machine.

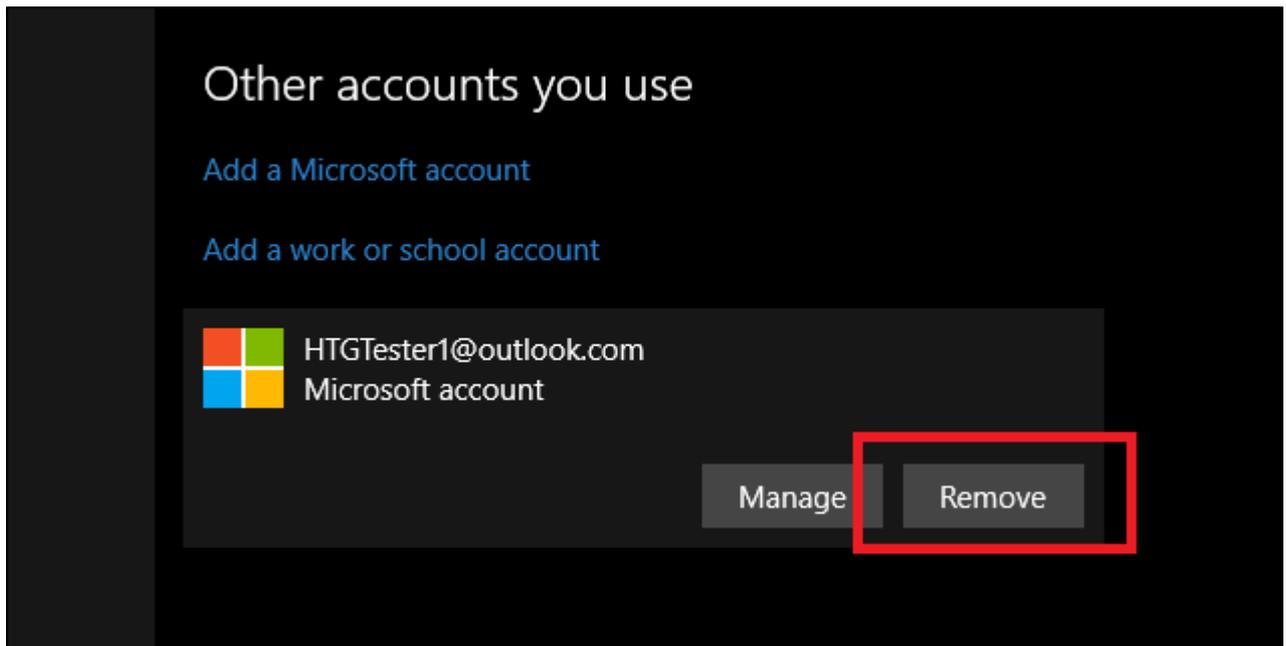
To do this, start by entering your Settings, and clicking into the "Accounts" section.



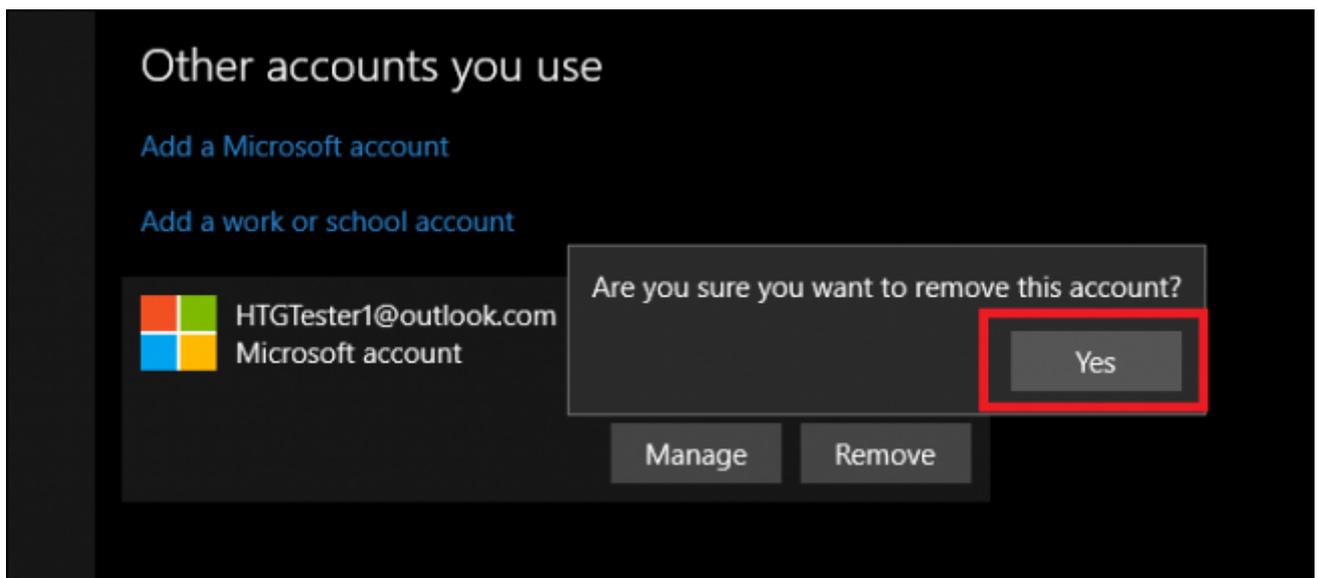
Once here, you can find the option to remove the Microsoft account at the bottom of the “Your account” tab, highlighted here.



Note that if you're currently signed in on the Microsoft account you want to delete, you won't be able to remove it while you're still signed in on that same account. You'll need to either [create a separate local account](#) and re-log in from there, or simply wipe your Windows 10 installation altogether if that's the route you're opting to take instead.



After you're logged in on a separate account, select the one you plan on deleting, and choose the "Remove" option once it pops up.



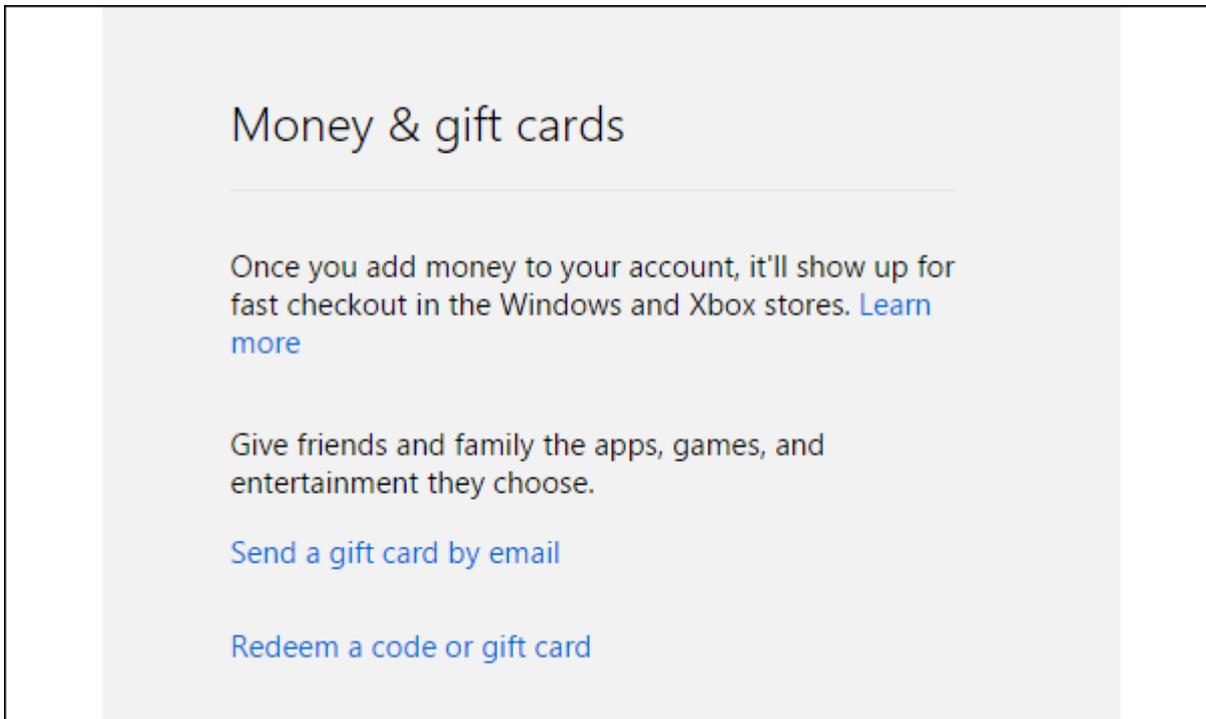
Don't get too hasty though, there's still one more step left to wipe the account clean from the face of the Internet.

Scrub the Account From Microsoft's Website

Even after you delete your Microsoft account from the local computer, all its data and the personal information stored inside will still be held on Microsoft's own servers. To get rid of it entirely, you'll need to use the tool on the Microsoft website itself.

Note, before you completely delete the account, be sure you've emptied out your digital wallet from the Windows Store, canceled any subscriptions that might be tied to the account, and backed up any documents, pictures, or personal data you want saved on a separate hard

drive from the one your OS is installed on. This way, you can be sure that even after the account is closed, you'll still have access to all your files in case you need them again at a later date.



Money & gift cards

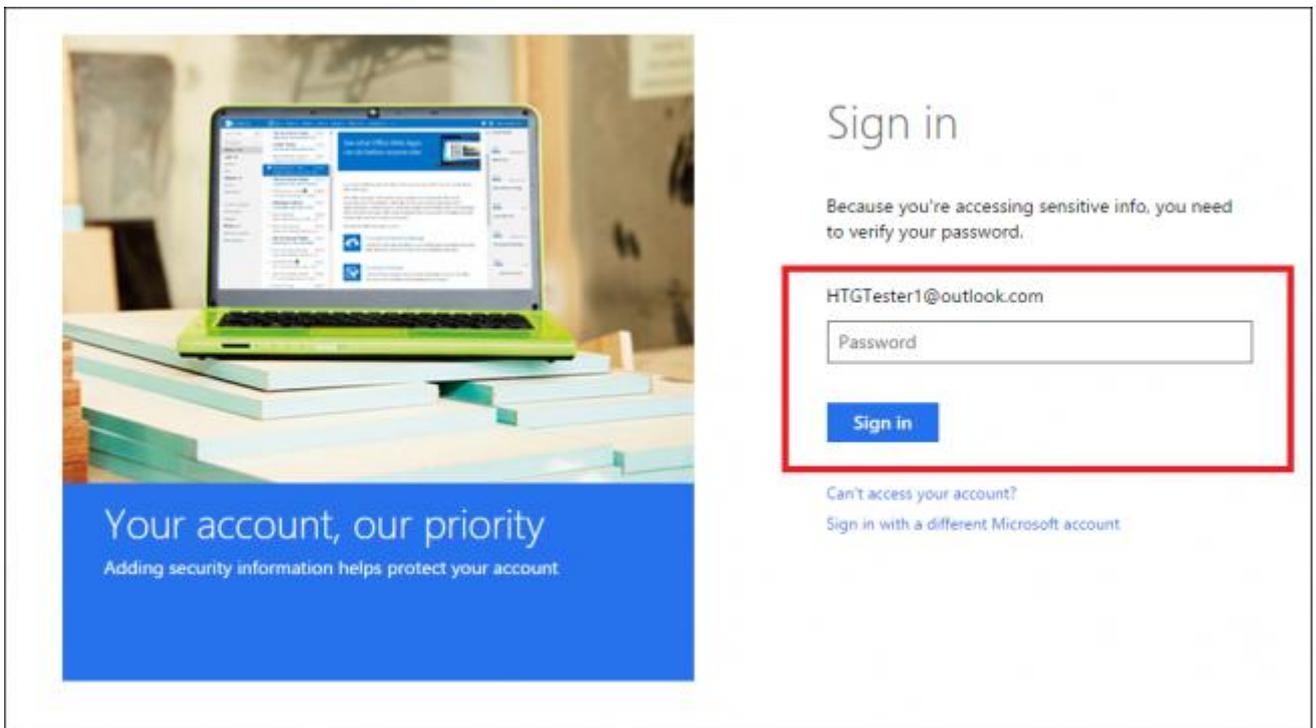
Once you add money to your account, it'll show up for fast checkout in the Windows and Xbox stores. [Learn more](#)

Give friends and family the apps, games, and entertainment they choose.

[Send a gift card by email](#)

[Redeem a code or gift card](#)

Once all these precautions have been taken, go to the Microsoft website, and find the “Close your account” page [via this link](#). After this loads, the page will ask you to log in.



Your account, our priority
Adding security information helps protect your account.

Sign in

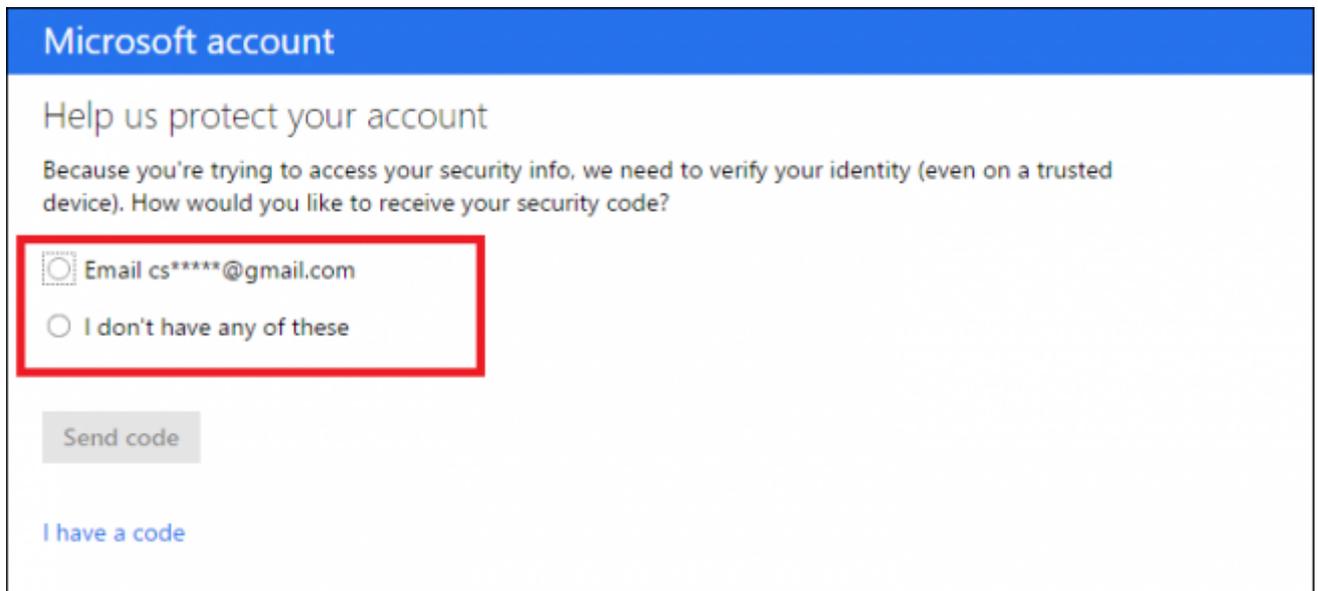
Because you're accessing sensitive info, you need to verify your password.

HTGTester1@outlook.com

[Sign in](#)

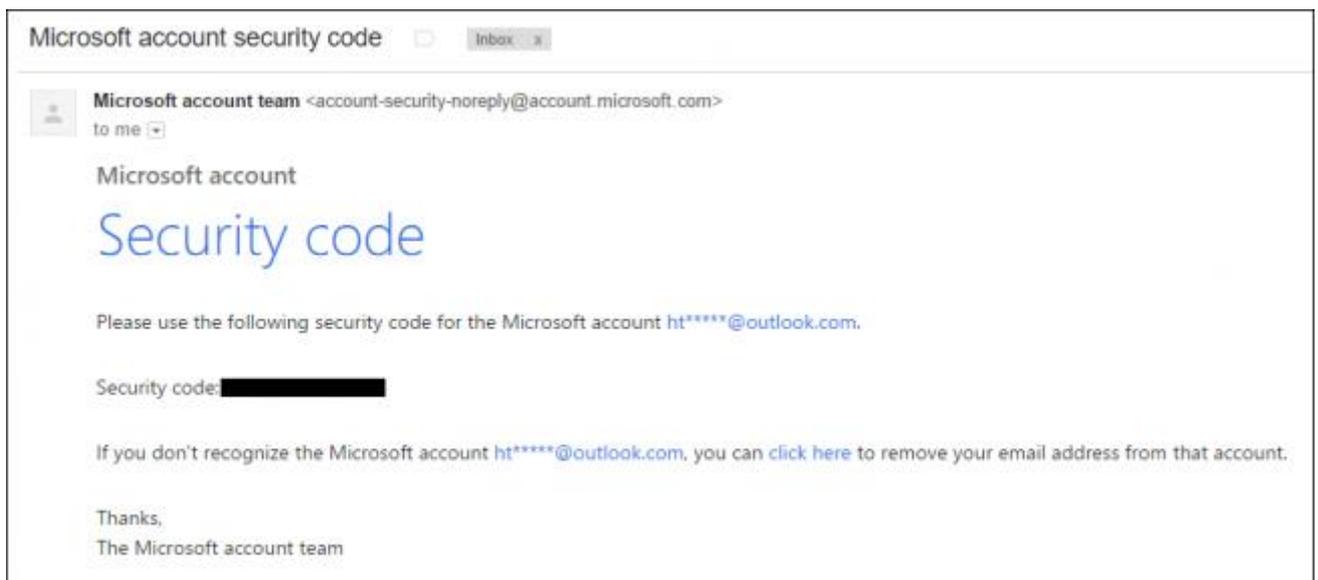
Can't access your account?
[Sign in with a different Microsoft account](#)

After you've done this, you'll be taken to the following page, which will attempt to verify you are who you say you are through either your backup email address, or linked phone number.



The screenshot shows a Microsoft account security verification page. At the top, there is a blue header with the text "Microsoft account". Below the header, the main heading is "Help us protect your account". Underneath, a message reads: "Because you're trying to access your security info, we need to verify your identity (even on a trusted device). How would you like to receive your security code?". There are two radio button options: "Email cs*****@gmail.com" and "I don't have any of these". The first option is selected and is enclosed in a red rectangular box. Below the options is a grey "Send code" button and a blue link "I have a code".

You'll be sent a code either through a text message or email that looks something like this:



The screenshot shows an email titled "Microsoft account security code" with a "Inbox" label. The sender is "Microsoft account team <account-security-noreply@account.microsoft.com>". The recipient is "to me". The email content includes the Microsoft logo and the heading "Security code". The main text says: "Please use the following security code for the Microsoft account ht*****@outlook.com." Below this, the security code is displayed as "Security code: [REDACTED]". A note at the bottom states: "If you don't recognize the Microsoft account ht*****@outlook.com, you can [click here](#) to remove your email address from that account." The email ends with "Thanks, The Microsoft account team".

Enter the code in the verification bar, and once this page is passed, Microsoft is going to make you click a *lot* of boxes to make sure you 100% understand the implications of closing your account.

Mark htgtester1@outlook.com for closure

After 60 days, this account will be unrecoverable, and will lose access to any service where it's used to sign in. You might use your account for more than you're thinking of right now; the most common effects of closure are listed below, but we recommend you [read more about account closure](#).

Select the check boxes to acknowledge you've read each item below. Once this account is closed, 60 days from now:

- You might lose any account balances and will lose access to subscription services such as Office365, Xbox, and OneDrive.
Note - Don't close this account until you have verified that it has no subscriptions or outstanding balances.
- You will lose access to Outlook.com, Hotmail, and OneDrive.
You'll no longer have access to any mail, documents, or photos you've stored using these Microsoft services.

They'll pester you with reminders of obvious facts like how you won't be able to log in on the account anymore, that your Xbox "may not work the way you expect it to", and that your email access will be shut down in either Outlook or Hotmail. Anyone who's ever tried to discontinue their Xbox Live subscription will recognize this familiar scent of desperation as Microsoft tries every means necessary to prevent you from leaving the nest.

- You'll lose access to data you've stored anywhere you use this account to sign in. Information you've managed using family settings, HealthVault, MSN Money, and Messenger contacts added to Skype will be lost.
- Your devices with Reset Protection enabled could become unusable. Reset Protection prevents your phone from being easily reset or reused by an unauthorized person. If you want to continue to use Reset Protection, do not close your account. Otherwise, [be sure to disable Reset Protection here](#).

Still want to close this account? We're sorry to see you go. Before you do so, please tell us why you're leaving.

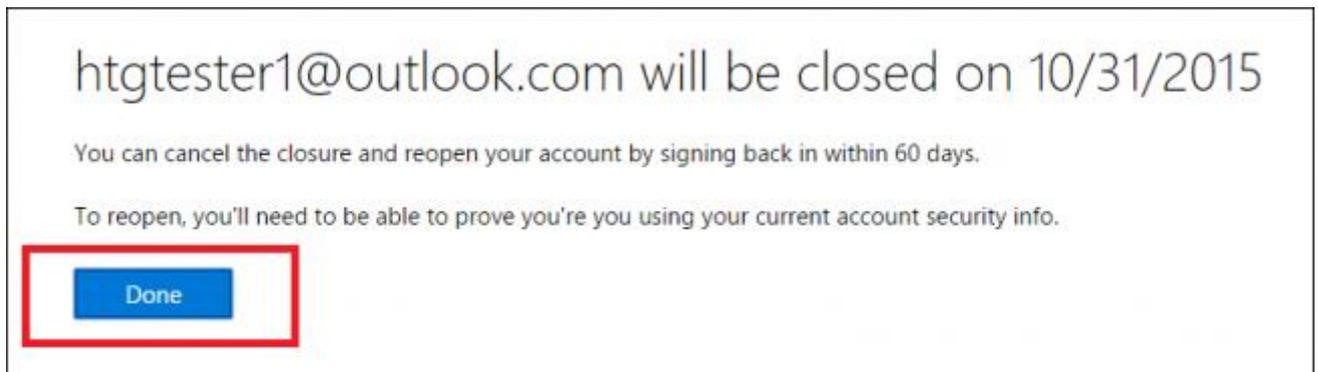
I no longer want any Microsoft account

By clicking **Mark account for closure**, I confirm that I understand I will lose access to sites, services and data associated with this Microsoft account. I have reviewed [the effects of closing an account](#).

Mark account for closure

Cancel

After you've clicked through all of these, Microsoft will ask why you're choosing to remove the account. Give the reason, and click "Mark account for closure".



But, just in case you aren't totally, 100% sure you really wanted to close your account for good, Microsoft will do you the favor of keeping the account open for another 60 days; just in case you muster up the courage to come back.

Ever since the launch of Windows 10, more and more users are beginning to realize that simply owning a Microsoft account online could open you up to all sorts of privacy woes you never could have expected.

If you value keeping your information out of the hands of the Big-M, deleting your account with the company completely is the only way to be sure your data won't be used for anything else but your own personal records.