How does Windows decide whether your computer has limited or full Internet access?

November 15, 2022

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Windows lets you know when your computer's Internet connection is limited or absent entirely. What is this sorcery?

Windows attempts to download a file from a dedicated Web server. Depending on which version of Windows, it's `http://www.msftncsi.com/ncsi.txt` or `http://www.msftconnecttest.com/connecttest.txt`. If the download is successful and contains the correct contents, then Windows concludes that you have full Internet access.

If something goes wrong, Windows will report either limited or no Internet access, depending on what exactly went wrong.

You can read more details on docs.microsoft.com.

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