

# Hide Your Face: FBI Director Says Cover Laptop Webcams

By Henry T. Casey | September 15, 2016

Covering up your webcam to prevent creeps from peeping on your private life may be a hallmark of paranoia, but don't tell that to the feds. According to The Hill, FBI Director James Comey yesterday (Sept. 14) advised that putting pieces of tape over laptop cameras is one of the "sensible things" that ordinary Americans should be doing to protect their privacy.

Comey equated webcam stickers to more obvious security measures. "I hope people lock their cars. Lock your doors at night," he said during a panel discussion at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C. "If you have an alarm system, you should use it."

Comey first admitted that he taped over his laptop's camera in April, during a Q&A session at Kenyon College in Ohio. Back then, he acknowledged that he shares the public's anxiety about technological security. But given that he leads one of America's most important law-enforcement agencies and is hence a very high-profile target, it may be surprising that he advises everyone to take the same measure. "You do that so that people who don't have authority don't look at you," Comey said yesterday. "I think that's a good thing."

Laptop cameras are relatively easy to hack, and Comey's advice has merit. However, the average person's webcam is more likely to be hacked by a pervert who wants to see you naked rather than by a law-enforcement or intelligence agency.

## The Senior's Guide to Online Safety

Just recently published and available at [www.connectsafely.org/seniors](http://www.connectsafely.org/seniors)

## Window's 10 Quick Assist

Microsoft's Windows 10 Quick Assist feature allows you to view and control a remote PC, simply and easily.

If you're the unofficial "tech support" for your family, a new feature hidden deep within Windows 10's Anniversary Update should be welcome news. It's called Quick Assist.

For years, Microsoft added a [feature called Remote Desktop](#) to the Professional versions of Windows, and you could use either it, or a number of other third-party apps, to remotely control your PC. (Remote Desktop Connection is still part of Windows 10 Professional.) Windows Remote Assistance, which is what Quick Assist is based upon, has also appeared in previous versions of Windows.

With Quick Assist, you're not controlling your own PC from afar, but asking permission from another person to control *their* PC (or vice versa), and with the understanding that either party can disconnect the connection at any time. It can't solve any hardware problems, like a mouse that's out of batteries; however, it does allow a remote user to check if the mouse's Bluetooth settings are properly configured and the drivers are up to date.

Basically, Quick Assist lets you use your mouse and keyboard to remotely control a friend's PC, doing everything that you could otherwise do on your own machine.

### Get started with Quick Assist

One of the most challenging aspects of Quick Assist is just finding the darn thing. You can quickly launch Quick Assist by typing the app's name in the Cortana search box, or by scrolling to **Apps > Windows Accessories**.