

Windows missing volume control on Windows 7, 8 Fix / How to run volume control from command line

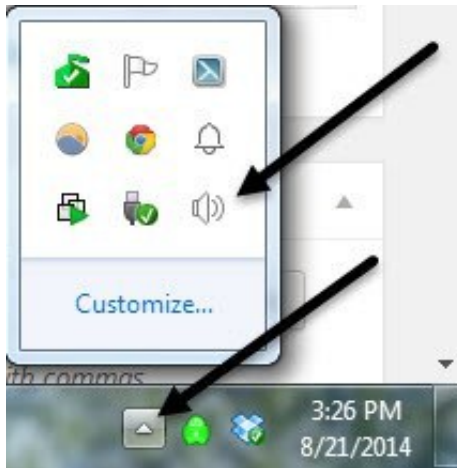
Author : admin



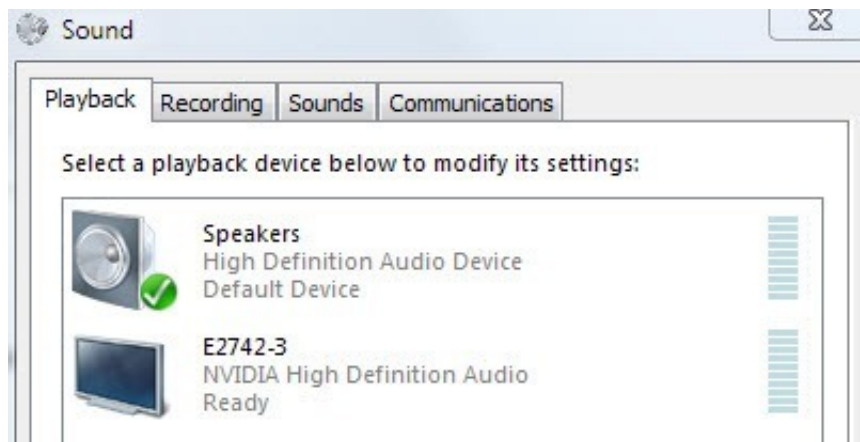
Windows 7/8 Volume Icon disappear from Taskbar?

If you are using Windows 7 or Windows 8 Operating System inside a corporate network and your notebook PC is inside domain controller controlled by some crazy administrators who for some reason decided to remove the Taskbar from your Taskbar tray you have come over to exactly same situation like I do here.

Actually some might have experienced an icon "combined" feature which gives the opportunity of some of the standard Tray icons we know since Windows 98 / XP onwards to not show full time in order to save you space. No doubt this feature is great one to use as it is distracting sometimes to have a tons of applications constantly keeping in the Taskbar (right down corner) however if the Active Domain admin did it without any notification and you're a kind of victim you might dislike especially since this behaviour is making you impossible to easily control your phone / headphones and mic.



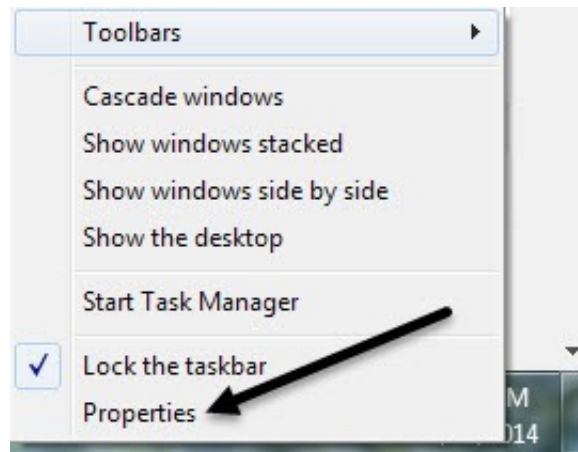
If you check in the **Control Panel** and click on **Sounds** menu in Windows 7/8, you don't see any checkbox for adding the icon back as I have assumed, , but instead all the audio there you can only see the inputs and outputs on your system general settings.



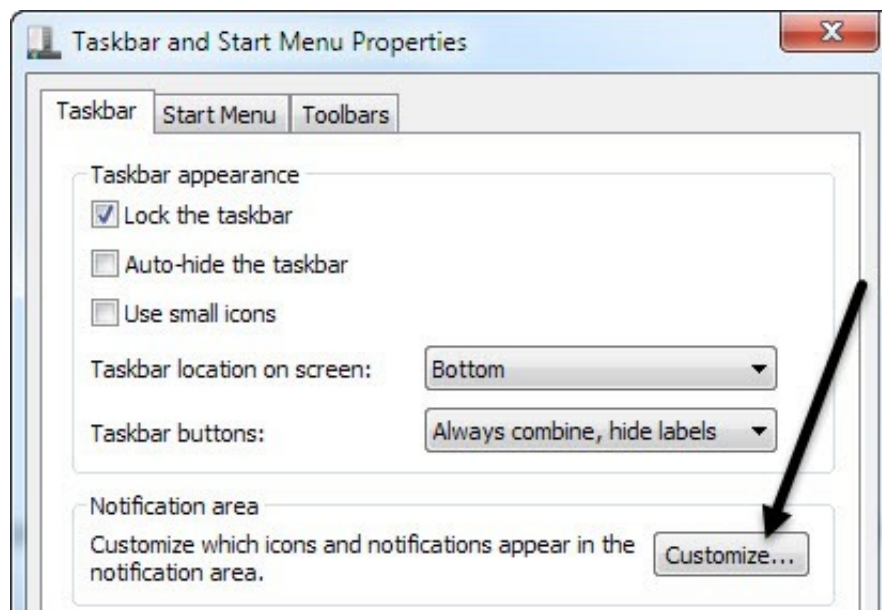
This behavior was made on purpose and makes sense cause the taskbar icons since Win XP (if not mistaken) has to be controlled by the taskbar settings pan.

Thus in order to bring back the disappeared icon on Winblows 7 / Win 8 there is a taskbar properties feature enabling to to hide or view the various taskbar running apps in that number the Volume icon, hence to bring back your Volme Control speaker icon to taskbar you need to customize it.

To do so do a mouse **Right-click** anywhere on the taskbar and choose **Properties**.



Now, click on the **Customize** button under **Notification area**.

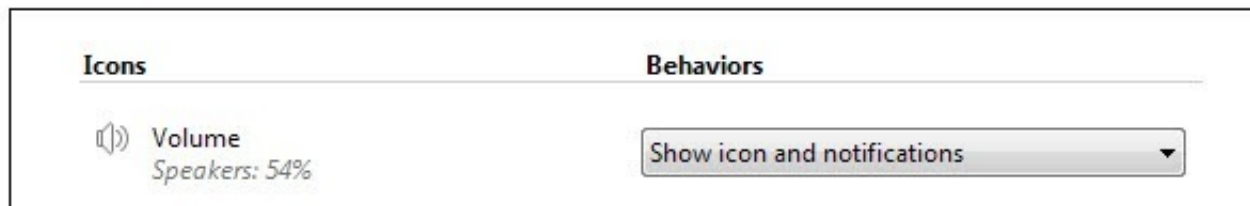


In **Notification Area Icons** dialog box, there is 2 ticks to check. Assure yourself the volume icon default behavior is set to

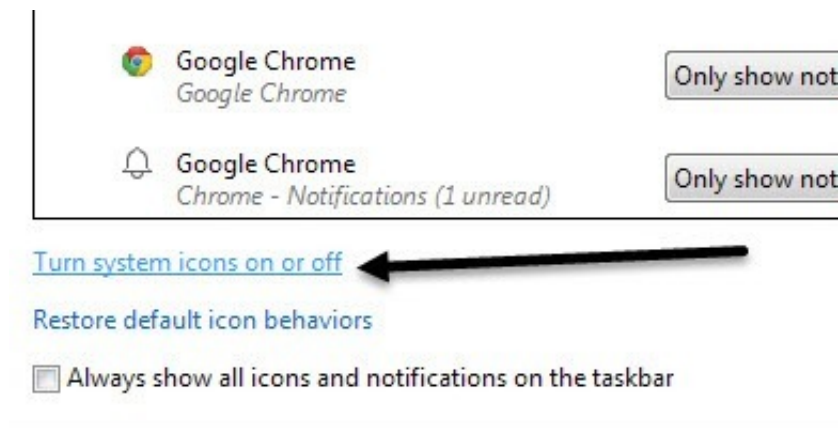
Show icon and notifications like in below screenshot

Select which icons and notifications appear on the taskbar

If you choose to hide icons and notifications, you won't be notified about changes or updates. To view hidden icons at any time, click the arrow next to the notification area on the taskbar.



To make the new behaviour active click on **Turn system icons on or off**.



One thing to note here is the volume icon should be set to **On** like in below| shot:

Turn system icons on or off

Turning off a system icon removes the icon and turns off notifications.



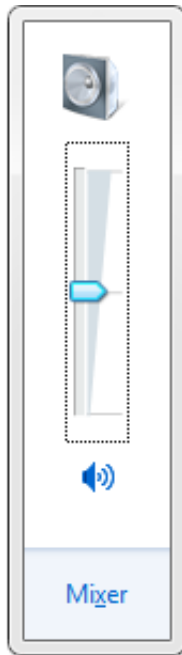
If the reason for the disappearance of the Volume controller in task is not due to Domain Controller policy it could happen due to late updates pushed by Microsoft if the PC needs a restart or after computer **Log off** operation.

Another reason for the casual disappearance of sound box could be also a buggy driver, so if the icon keeps disappearing over and over again, you better **try to update the driver for your sound card.**

However if you end up in a **Windows Domain Controller (AD) Policy that is prohibiting the Sound Volume to appear on your taskbar** like in my case all the above won't help you solve it, but luckily there is an easy way to invoke the Volume Control dialog box via

sndvol.exe

the command will bring up the Volume Control as in upper left corner of screen like in below screenshot:



If you to show it with a silder use **-f** flag

sndvol.exe -f

Running just

sndvol.exe

opens the volume mixer, as you noted.

On windows XP the respective command to open a missing Volume Control dialog in taskbar, use instead:

`sndvol32`

command from Windows Command Prompt:

Start -> Run -> *cmd.exe*

`sndvol32`

no params to display master volume window

`sndvol32 -x`

to display small master volume window

sndvol32 -t

to display volume control only (as per sound icon)

If you have the Volume Controller behavior to be hidden or you need to view any other taskbar hidden application icon it will be useful for you to use:

AutoHotKey Win+B to focus on the system tray, **Left (arrow)** to highlight the Volume Control icon



, and then Enter to bring up the popup.

A good tip you might be interested to use occasionally is **how to show the current Wireless networks via a command (if that's prohibited otherwise via GUI) so you can easily see the Connected Networks on Windows using cmd:**

```
rundll32 van.dll,RunVAN
```