

A Security Sheriff's Guide to the Global Permission Kill Switch

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What is it?

The [Global Permissions Kill Switch](#) (requires an @google.com account to access) allows you to essentially disable an entire Permissions API throughout Chrome. It works by automatically denying all requests for that permission. It is based on a Field Trial and so users need to restart their browsers before the effect takes place. It is currently available for the following permissions, and all new permissions added to Chrome should also integrate with the kill switch:

- Geolocation
- Notifications
- MIDI Sysex
- Durable Storage
- Push Messaging
- Camera/Mic
- Protected Media Identifier

When should it be enabled?

You would only enable the kill switch in the case of a Critical Severity security incident or vulnerability discovered in the API (see [here](#) for severity rating guidelines). It would most likely be used for new APIs as they roll out to stable.

What approvals do I need before enabling the kill switch?

Since this is a major change that will likely break many webpages for many users, you need to get approval before enabling the kill switch. You should get a sign off from Darin (darin@) or Rahul (rahulrc@), and additionally one person from Chrome PMO and one from Chrome Security from the following list

- Chrome PMO
 - laforge@
 - kerz@
- Chrome Security
 - awhalley@
 - felt@
 - aarya@

How do I enable the kill switch for a specific permission?

There should be a bug for the security incident you are responding to. If not, create a new bug and cc the people you got approval from in the previous section. Keep an audit trail of what you do in the bug, including the cl you submit to enable the kill switch. MAKE SURE TO ADD THE LABEL `Permission-Killswitch-Enabled` to the bug once you turn on the kill switch.

DON'T FORGET TO DISABLE THE KILL SWITCH WHEN THE INCIDENT IS OVER by reverting your cl. Once you've disabled the kill switch, you can remove the label from the bug. You will receive nagging emails from sheriffbot starting 2 weeks after you've enabled the kill switch, until the label is removed.

Enabling the kill switch requires a Google3 change. The details are outlined in the [Global Permissions Kill Switch Design Doc](#).