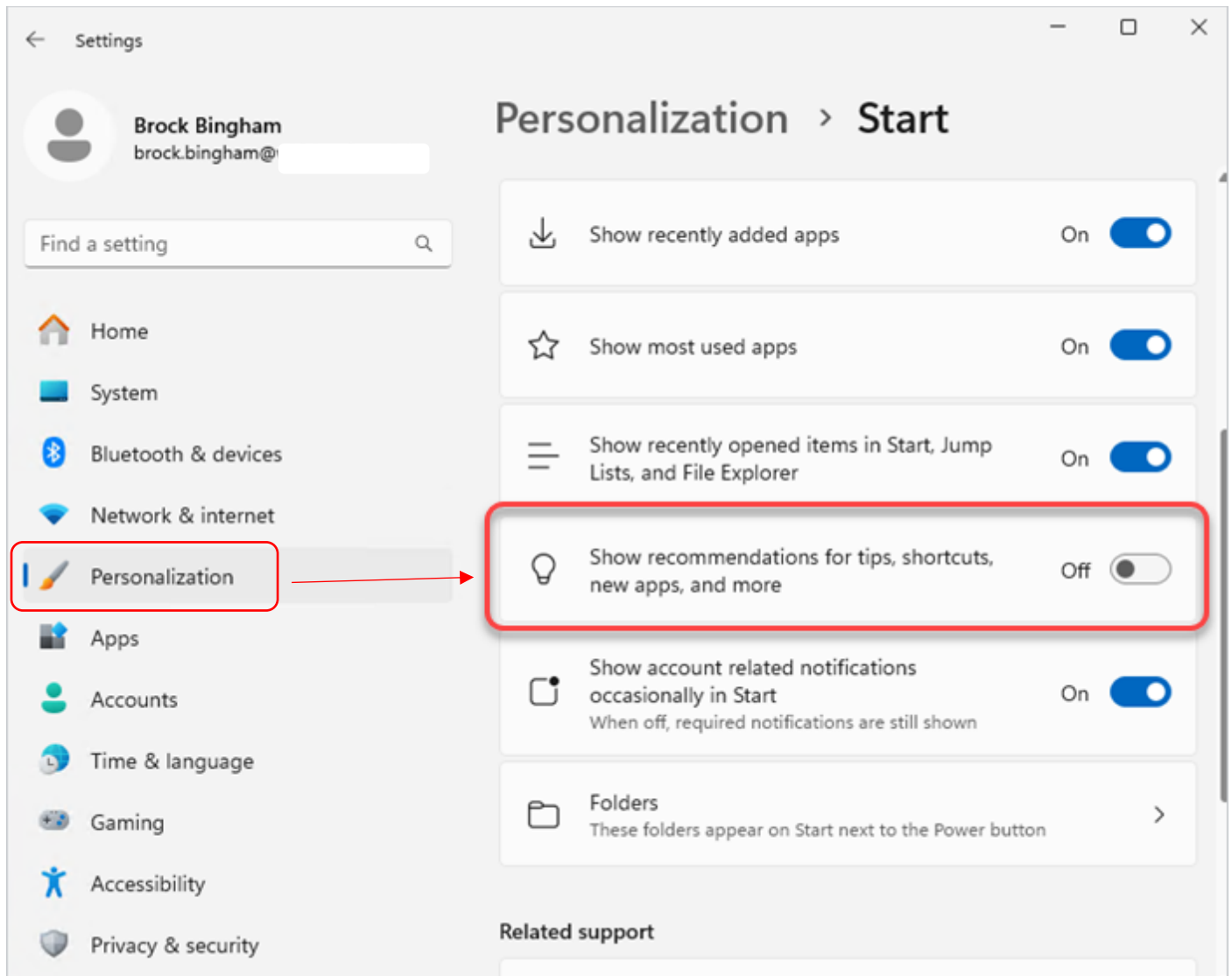# Disabling Microsoft Ads in Windows devices

Disable ads in the Windows 11 Start menu

1. Right-click on the **Start** button, then click **Settings**.

2. Click **Personalization**, then click **Start**.

3. Disable **Show recommendations for tips, shortcuts, new apps, and more**.

Disabling this setting should stop Microsoft recommended store apps from showing up in the Start menu.

Disable ads in the Windows Settings app

Don't want to see suggested content in the Windows settings app? I don't blame you. Here's how to disable that.

1. Launch the **Settings** app (*right-click on the **Start*** button, *then click **Settings**,*) then click **Privacy & security**.

2. Click **General**.

3. Disable **Show me suggested content in the Settings app**.

4. While you're on this page, feel free to disable the other telemetry settings.
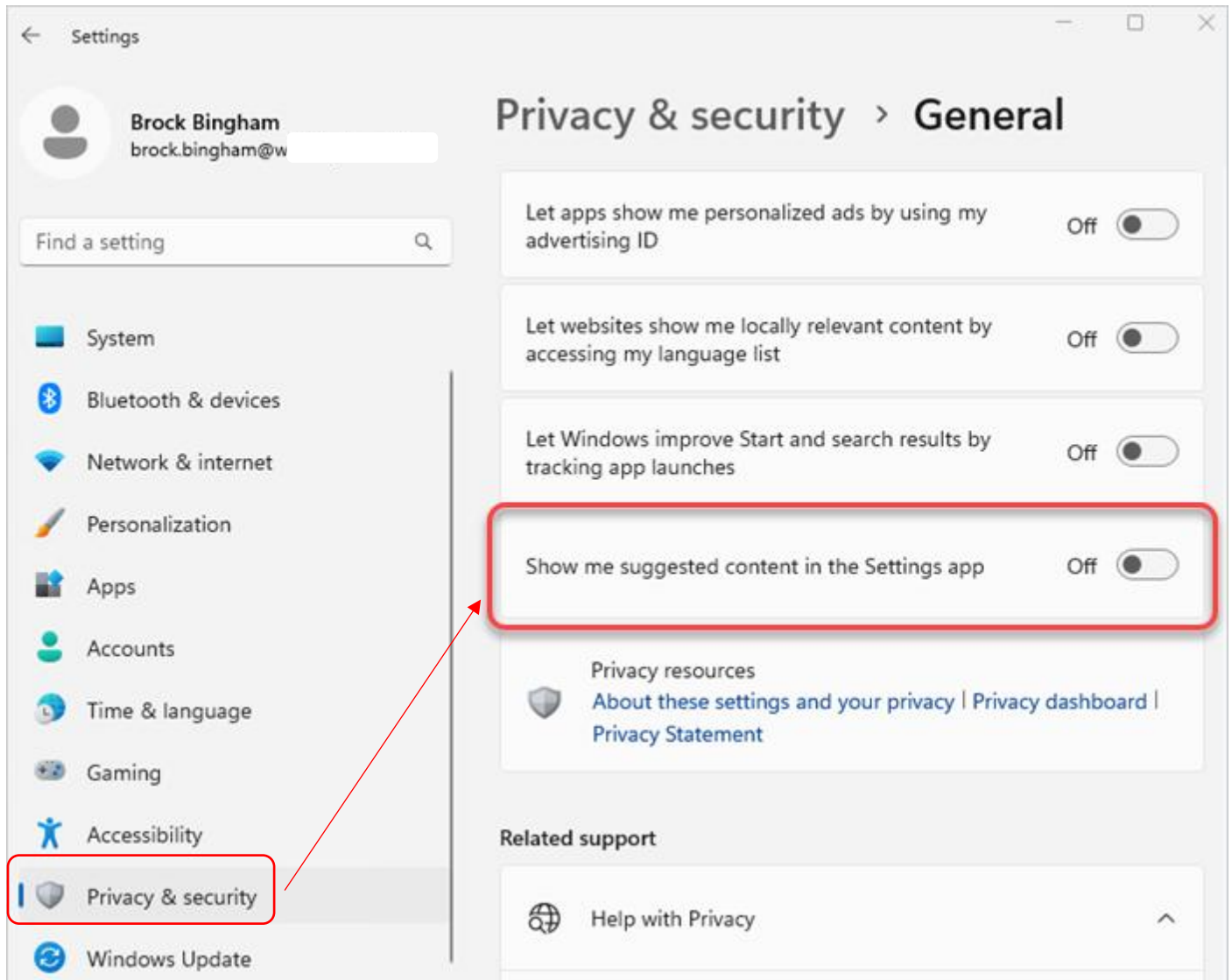
Disable lock screen notifications, suggestions, and tips

Tired of your lock screen being cluttered with a bunch of notifications, suggestions, and tips? Here's how to disable this:

1. In the *Settings* app, (*right-click on the **Start*** ⊞ *button, then click **Settings**,)* click **Personalization**.

2. Click **Lock screen**.

3. Change **Personalize your lock screen** from **Windows spotlight** to **Picture**, then uncheck **Get fun facts, tips, tricks, and more on your lock screen**.
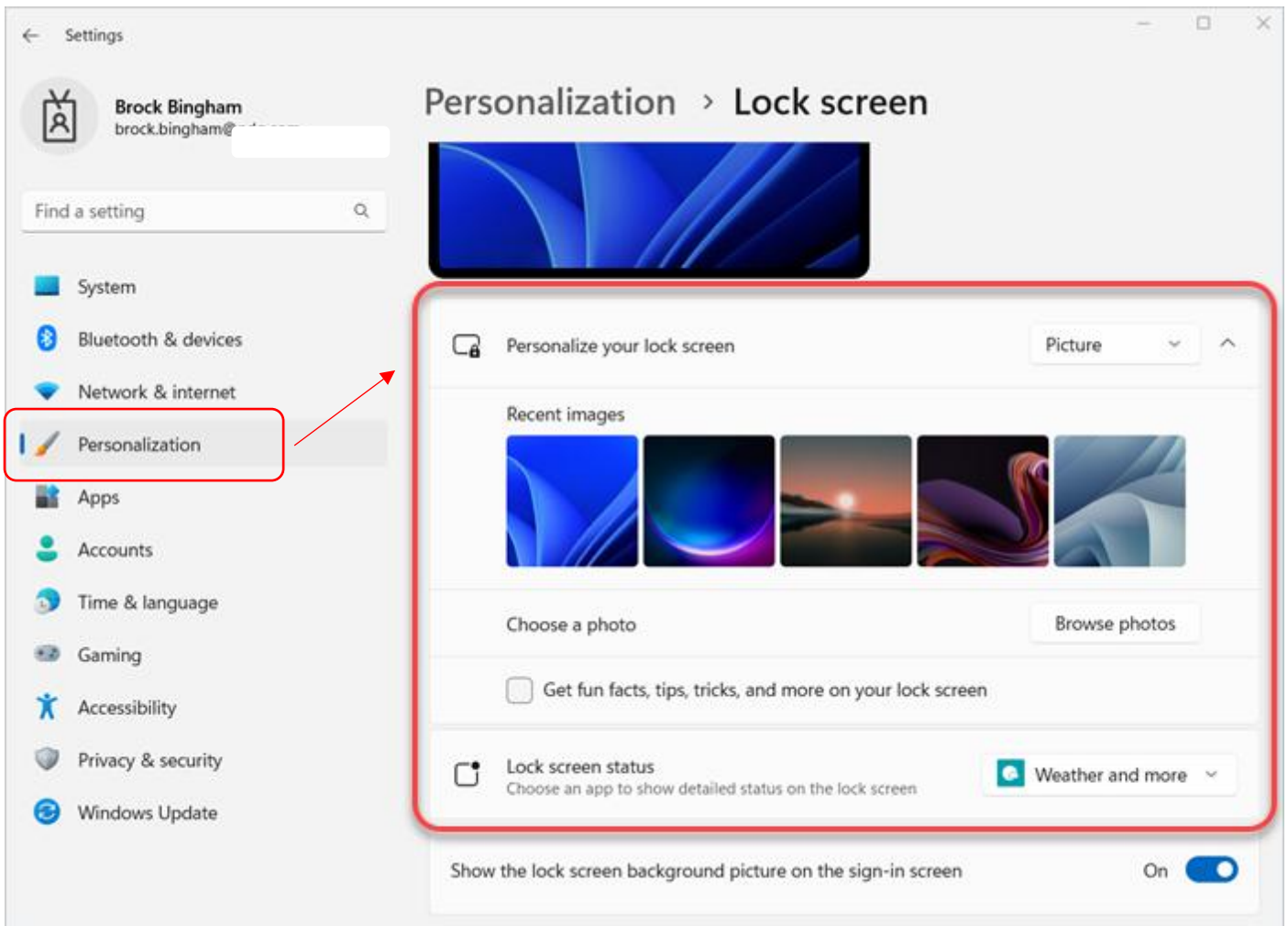

4. Lastly, change the **Lock screen status** to **None**.
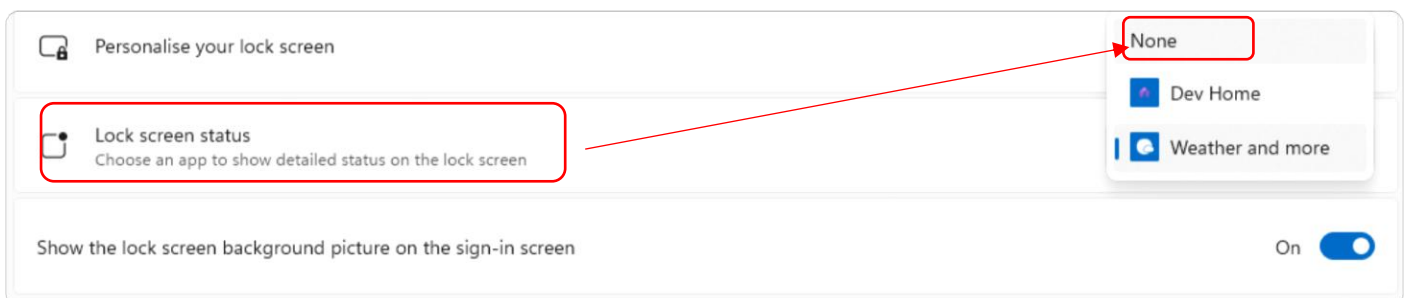
## Disable notification ads and device setup prompts

To disable useless notifications do the following:

1. In the *Settings* app, click **System** then **Notifications**.

2. Scroll down, and while you're scrolling, disable notifications from any apps you don't want to receive notifications from.

3. At the bottom of the page, click **Additional settings**.

4. Uncheck the **Show the Windows welcome experience...** and **Get tips and suggestions**... settings.
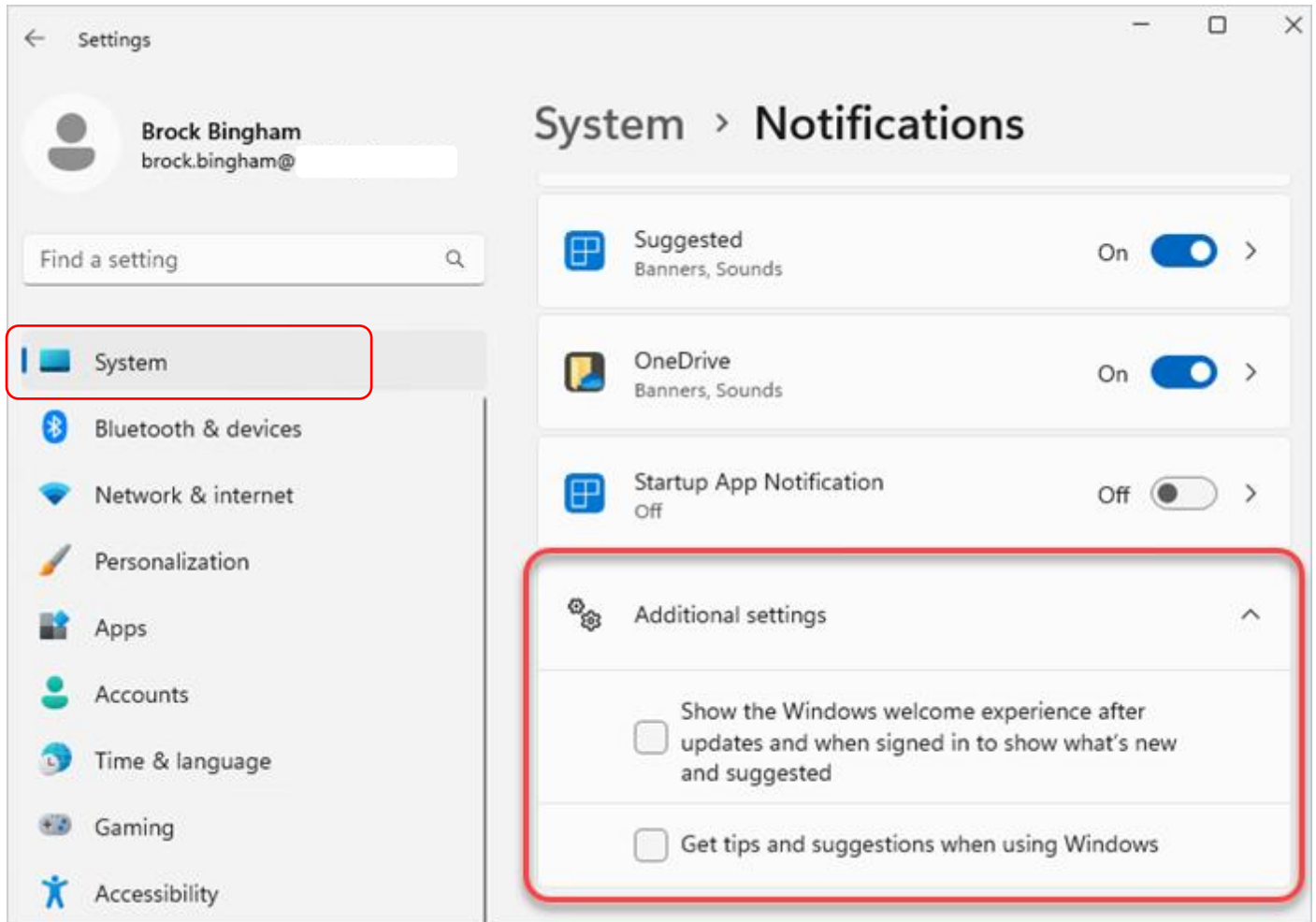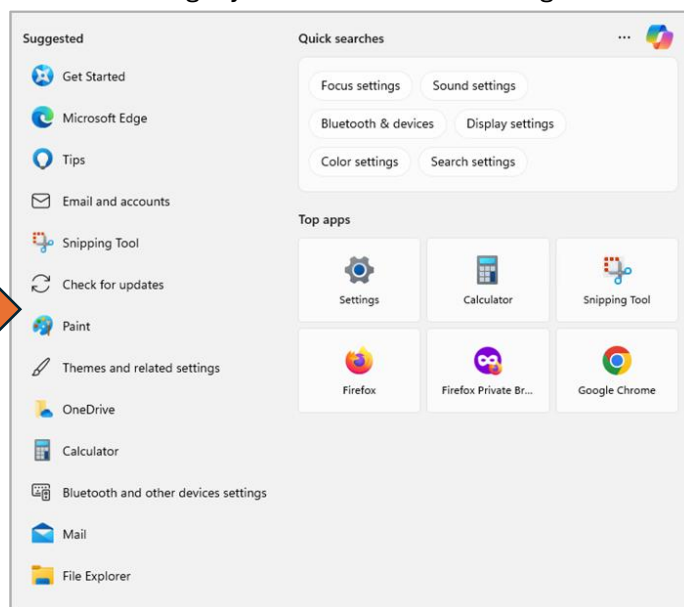
Disable ads and suggestions in your search menu

If you don't like your search menu looking like this:
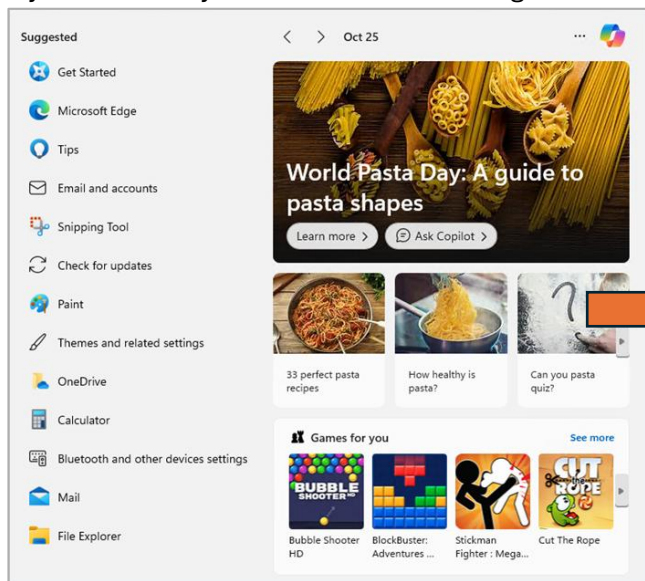
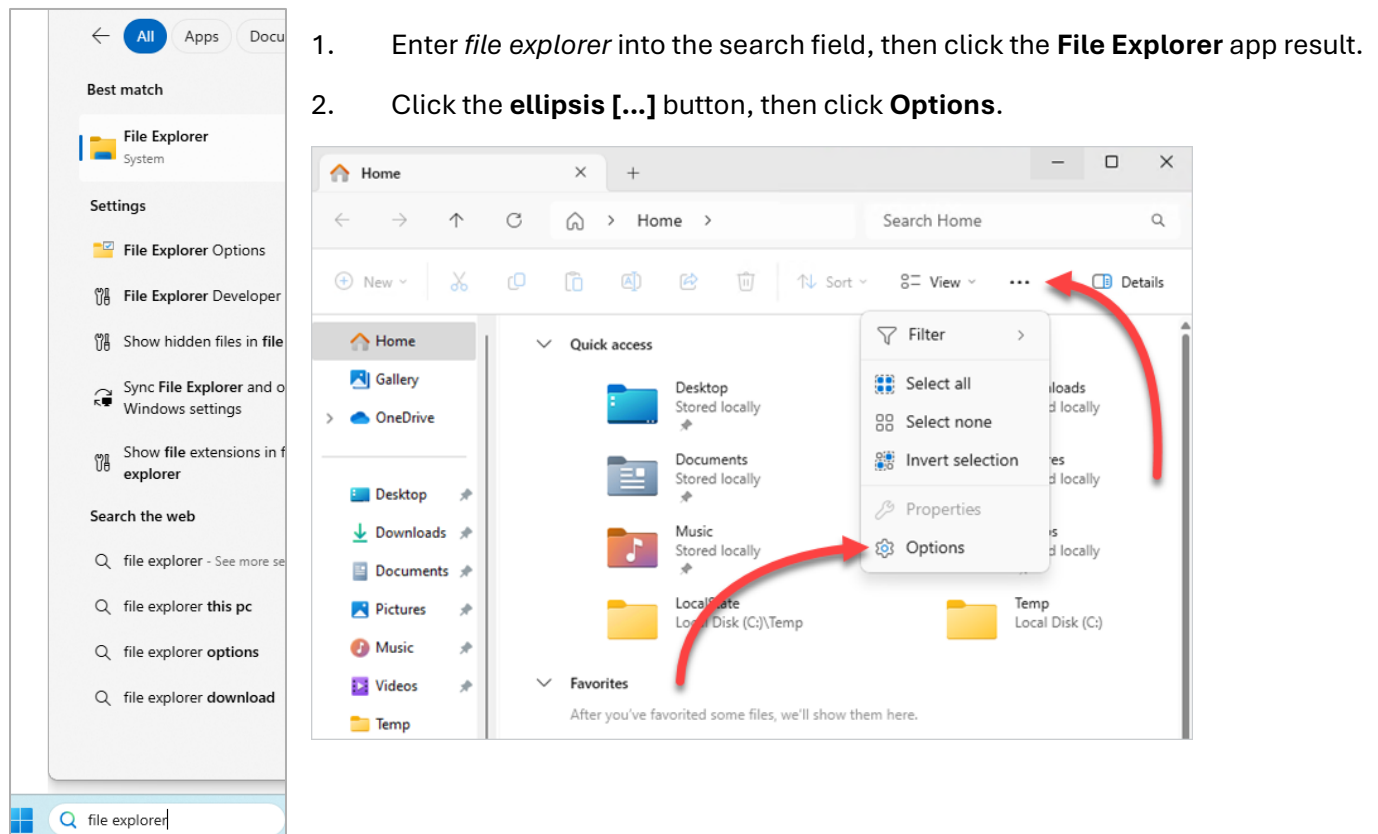Here's how to get your search menu looking like this:

To lose the adverts:

1. In the *Settings* app, click **Privacy & Security**.

2. Click **Search permissions**.

3. Disable **Show search highlights**.
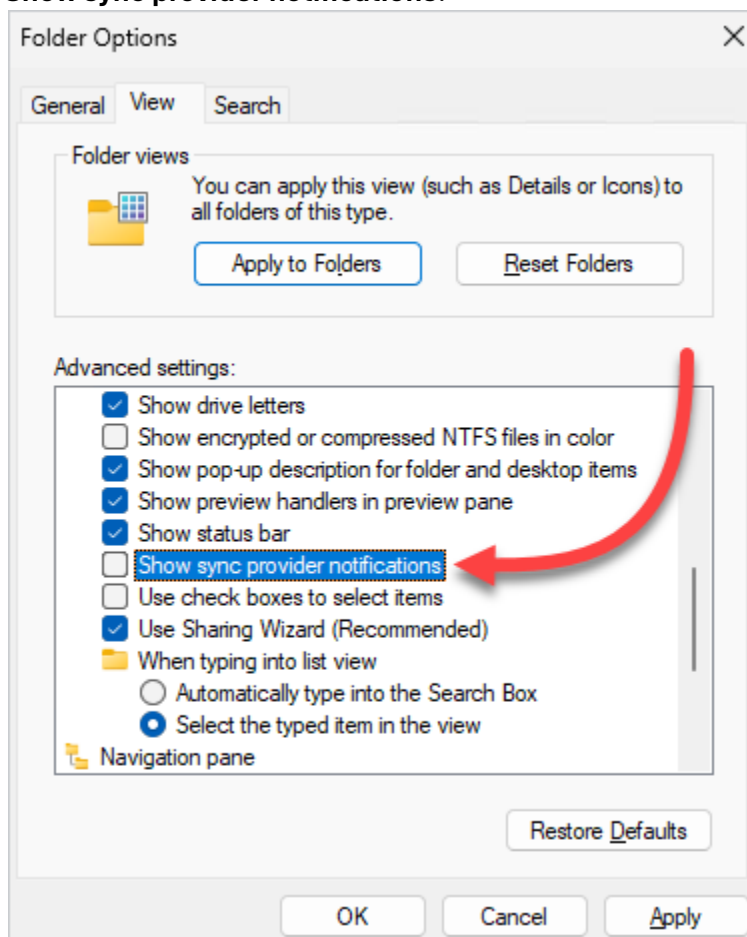
Remove unwanted ads from File Explorer

Here is how to make sure ads don't show up in File Explorer.

1. Enter *file explorer* into the search field, then click the **File Explorer** app result.

2. Click the **ellipsis [...]** button, then click **Options**.

3. Click the **View** tab.

4. Uncheck **Show sync provider notifications**.

Disable the Windows widgets app

If you would like to get rid of the Windows Widgets app

1. In the *Settings* app (*right-click on the **Start** button, then click **Settings**,*) click **Personalization**.

2. Click **Taskbar**.

3. Disable the **Widgets** option.
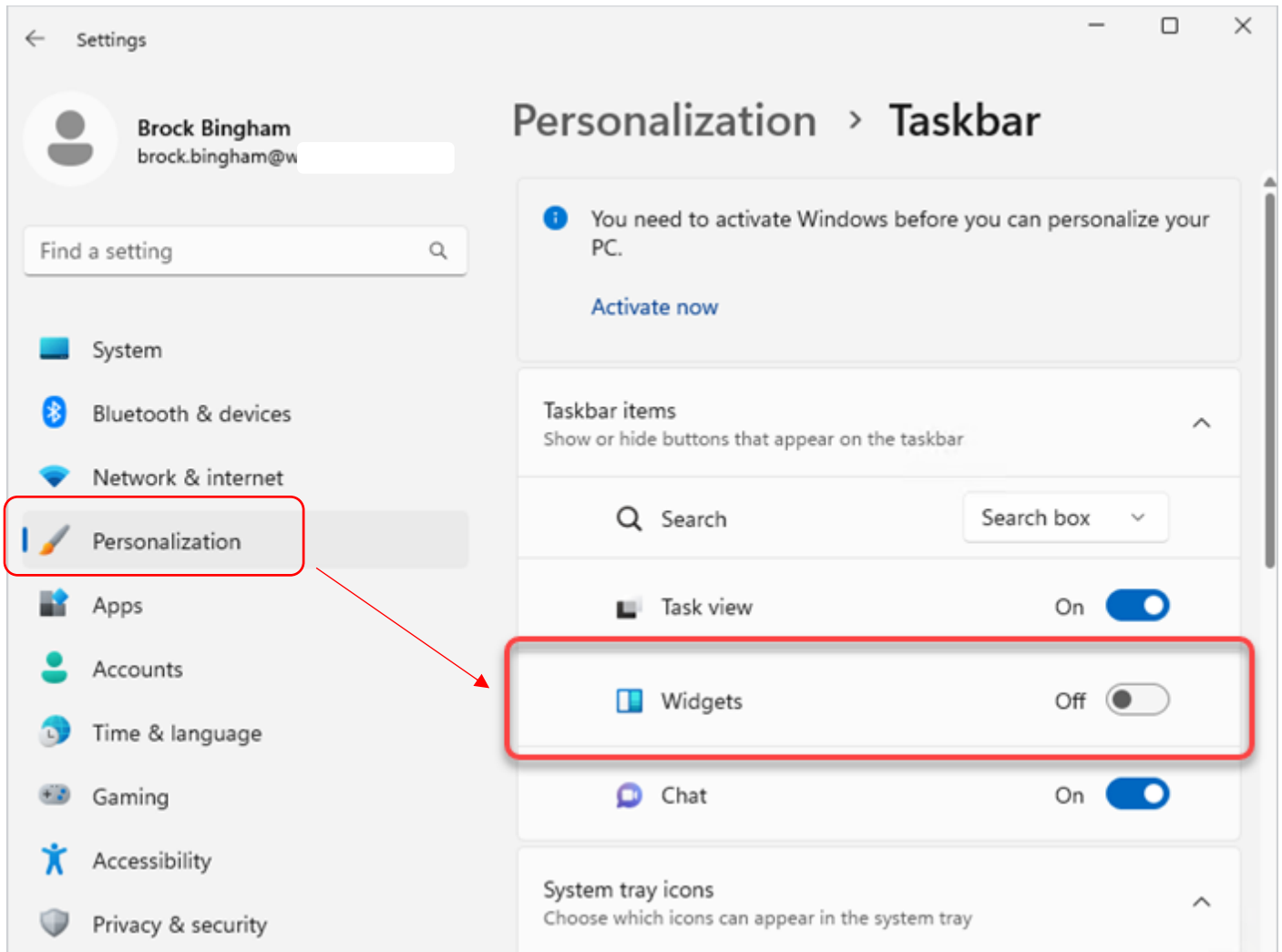
Adapted from: How to disable ads on Windows OS | PDQ
https://www.pdq.com/blog/how-to-disable-ads-on-windows/

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