

What's coming in Windows 7



Unlike Vista, which introduced a large number of new features, Windows 7 is intended to be a more focused, incremental upgrade, with the goal of being fully compatible with applications and hardware.

Presentations given by Microsoft have focused on

- Performance improvements
- A redesigned Windows Shell with a new taskbar
- A home networking system called HomeGroup
- Multi-touch support

Some applications that have been included with prior releases of Microsoft Windows will, instead, be offered separately as part of the freeware Windows Live Essentials suite. These include:

- Windows Calendar
- Windows Mail
- Windows Movie Maker
- Windows Photo Gallery

Windows 7 includes a number of new features, such as

- Advances in touch and handwriting recognition
- Support for virtual hard disks
- Improved performance on multi-core processor
- Improved boot performance
- Kernel improvements

Windows 7 adds support for

- A redesigned Calculator with multiline capabilities including
 - Programmer and Statistics modes
 - Unit conversion
- Systems using multiple heterogeneous graphics cards from different vendors
- A new version of Windows Media Center
- Improved media features
- A Gadget for Windows Media Center
- The XPS Essentials Pack and Windows PowerShell
 - With the XPS Essentials Pack you can quickly begin reading and generating XPS Documents. It contains XPS Viewer EP to read XPS Documents and the Microsoft XPS Document Writer to output files to the XPS Document format.
 - Windows PowerShell is a command line scripting technology that provides IT administrators automation of system administration tasks.

Many new items have been added to the Control Panel, including

- ClearType Text Tuner
- Display Color Calibration Wizard
- Gadgets
- Recovery
- Troubleshooting
- Workspaces Center
- Location and Other Sensors
- Credential Manager
- Biometric Devices
- System Icons
- Display

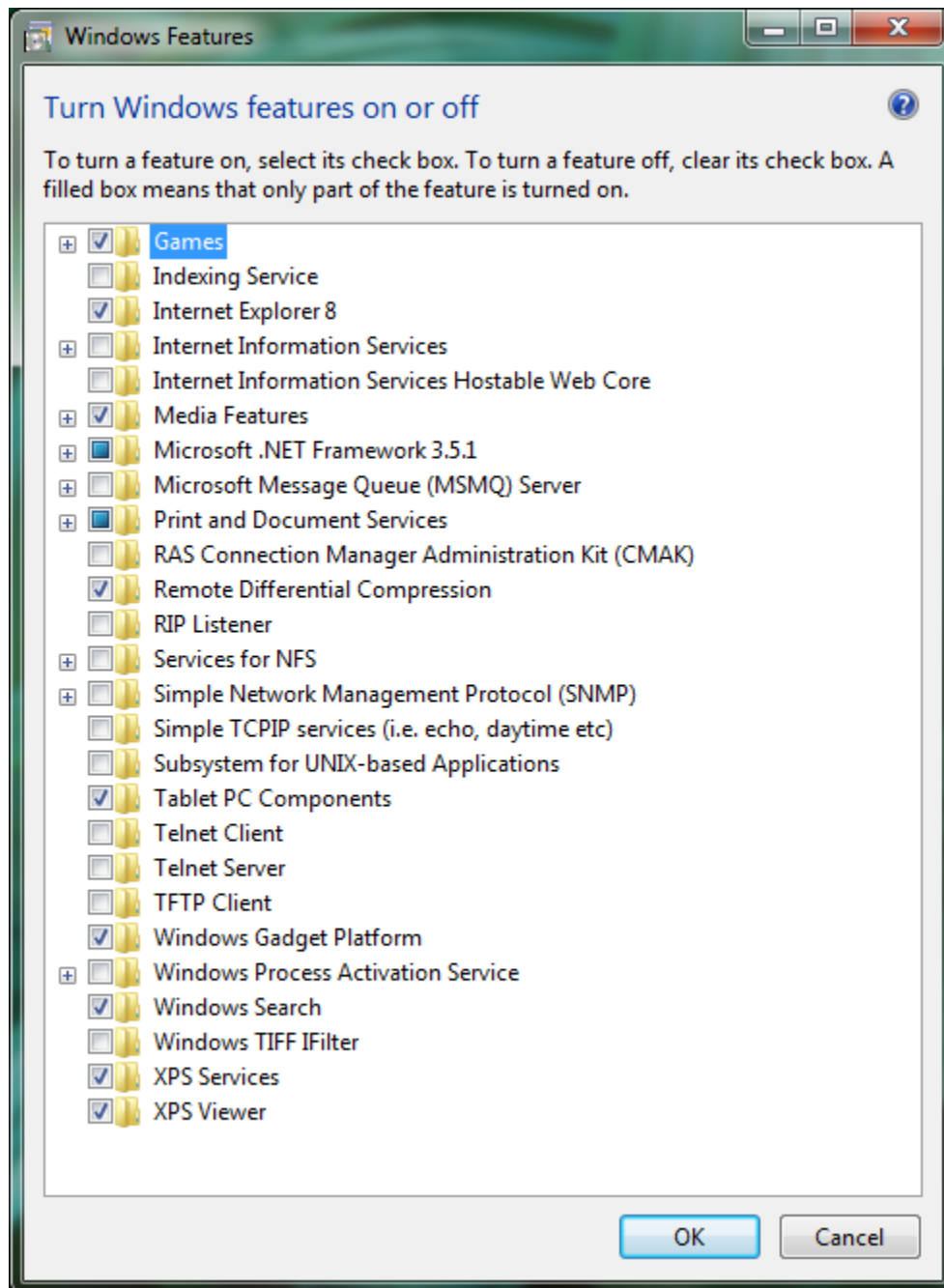
Windows Security Center has been renamed to Windows Action Center which encompasses both security and maintenance of the computer.

Internet Spades, Internet Backgammon, and Internet Checkers, which were removed from Windows Vista, were restored in Windows 7.

Users will also be able to disable many more Windows components than was possible in Windows Vista.

- Internet Explorer 8
- Windows Media Player
- Windows Media Center
- Windows Search
- Windows Gadget Platform

Go to **Control Panel** → **Programs and Features** and select “**Turn Windows features on or off**” to get the following choices:



Windows 7 includes 13 additional sound schemes

- Afternoon
- Calligraphy
- Characters
- Cityscape
- Delta
- Festival
- Garden
- Heritage
- Landscape
- Quirky
- Raga
- Savanna
- Sonata

A new version of Virtual PC, Windows Virtual PC, is available for Windows 7 Professional, Enterprise, and Ultimate editions.

It allows multiple Windows environments, including Windows XP Mode, to run on the same machine, requiring the use of Intel VT-x or AMD-V processors.

Windows XP Mode runs Windows XP in a virtual machine and redirects displayed applications running in Windows XP to the Windows 7 desktop.

Furthermore, Windows 7 supports mounting a virtual hard disk (VHD) as a normal data storage, and the boot loader delivered with Windows 7 can boot the Windows system from a VHD.

The Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) of Windows 7 is also enhanced to support real-time multimedia application including video playback and 3D games. That means the Direct X 10 can be used in a remote desktop environment.

The three application limit will be removed from Windows 7 Starter.

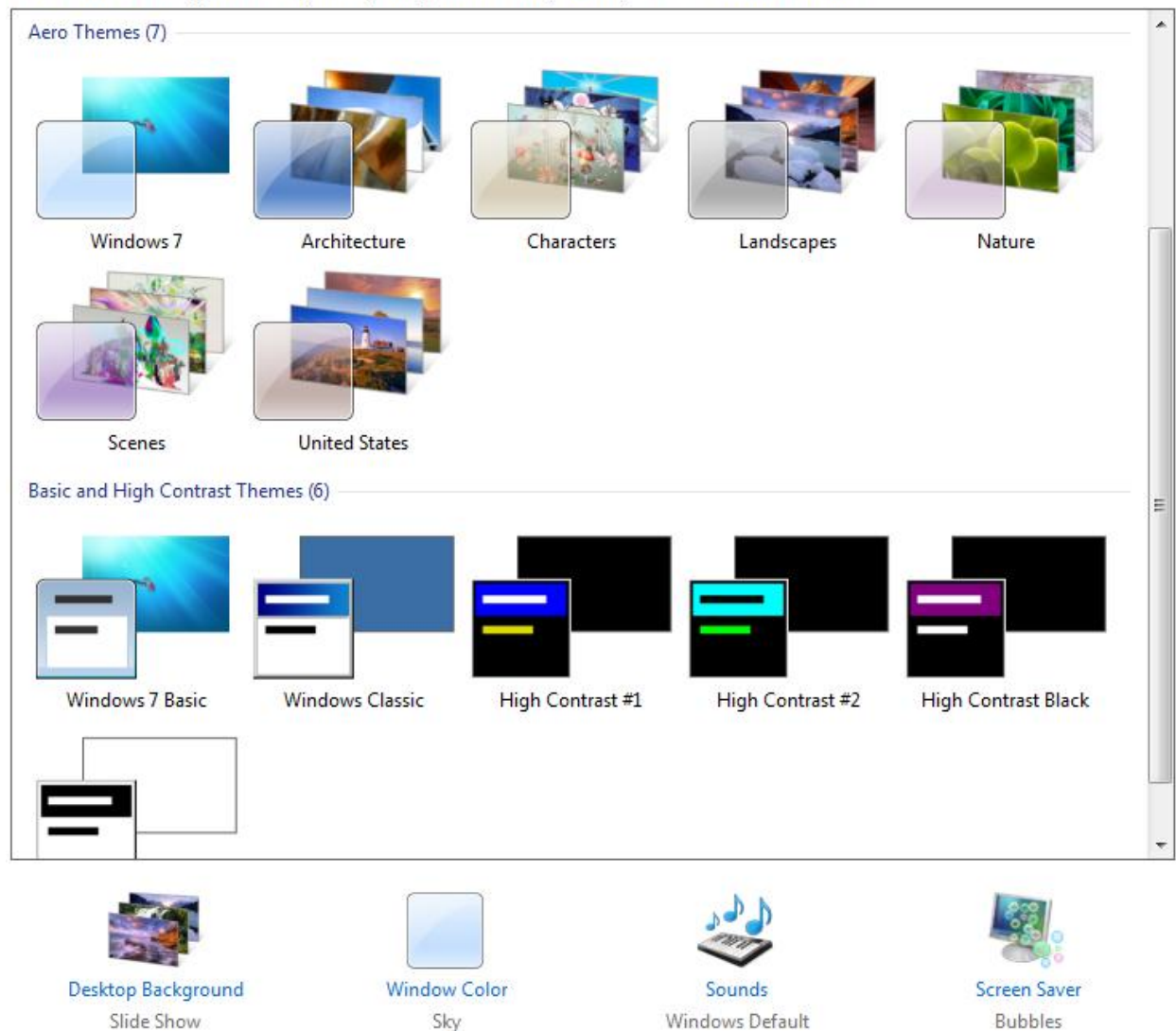
Theme packages reflect your style

With Windows 7, you start with a clean desktop and get to decide how it looks. Microsoft provides the templates, or themes, and you can choose the color or format.

New theme packages include rich backgrounds, 16 glass colors, sound schemes, and screensavers. You can download new themes and create your own to share with friends and family. There are plenty of choices to make it yours.

Change the visuals and sounds on your computer

Click a theme to change the desktop background, window color, sounds, and screen saver all at once.



























Spectacular new wallpapers


Windows 7 includes a slew of new desktop backgrounds—wallpapers—that range from sublime to silly. Or try the new desktop slide show, which displays a rotating series of pictures.

Choose your desktop background

Click a picture to make it your desktop background, or select more than one picture to create a slide show.

Picture location: Windows Desktop Backgrounds Browse... Select all Clear all

- Architecture (6)

- Characters (6)

- Landscapes (6)
    
- Nature (6)
    
- New folder (7)

Picture position:  Fit

Change picture every: 10 seconds Shuffle

[Change background color](#)

Locking a machine without a screensaver

It isn't uncommon for IT administrators to want their corporate machines to auto-lock after a certain amount of time. Windows 7 will allow this functionality even when no screensaver is specified.

I have been using Windows 7 mostly on a Celeron processor and have good performance even with numerous documents (Word, Excel, Notepad, WordPad, and Paint) and Web pages open simultaneously. At times, this has also included Windows Media Player.

The screenshot shows the 'Performance Information and Tools' window in Windows 7. It displays a summary of system components and their performance scores. A large blue icon with the number '3.2' is shown, indicating the overall system performance score, which is determined by the lowest subscore.

Component	Details	Subscore	Base score
Processor	Intel(R) Celeron(R) D CPU 3.33GHz	4.1	3.2 Determined by lowest subscore
Memory (RAM)	2.00 GB	4.6	
Graphics	Intel(R) 82945G Express Chipset Family (Microsoft Corporation - Prerelease WDDM 1.0)	3.2	
Gaming graphics	256 MB Total available graphics memory	3.2	
Primary hard disk	140GB Free (153GB Total)	5.5	

Windows 7 Ultimate

System

- Manufacturer: powerspec5.0a
- Model: psV100_3
- Total amount of system memory: 2.00 GB RAM
- System type: 32-bit operating system
- Number of processor cores: 1
- 64-bit capable: Yes

Storage

- Total size of hard disk(s): 153 GB
- Disk partition (C:): 140 GB Free (153 GB Total)
- Media drive (D:): CD/DVD

Graphics

- Display adapter type: Intel(R) 82945G Express Chipset Family (Microsoft Corporation - Prerelease WDDM 1.0)
- Total available graphics memory: 256 MB
 - Dedicated graphics memory: 0 MB
 - Dedicated system memory: 64 MB
 - Shared system memory: 192 MB
- Display adapter driver version: 8.15.10.1749
- Primary monitor resolution: 1280x1024
- DirectX version: DirectX 9.0 or better

Network

Improved taskbar and full-screen previews

The taskbar has seen the biggest visual changes.

- The new taskbar, or “superbar”, combines the features of what was the taskbar and the Quick Launch bar in previous versions of Windows.
- Previews let you easily see and control your open documents, Web pages, and even running video. Hover over a thumbnail, and it morphs into a full-screen preview.
- Pin favorite programs on the taskbar for easy access.
- Rearrange them any way you like by clicking and dragging.
- Taskbar scaling
- Open with
- Quick Launch Shortcuts
- New Alt-Tab Shortcut

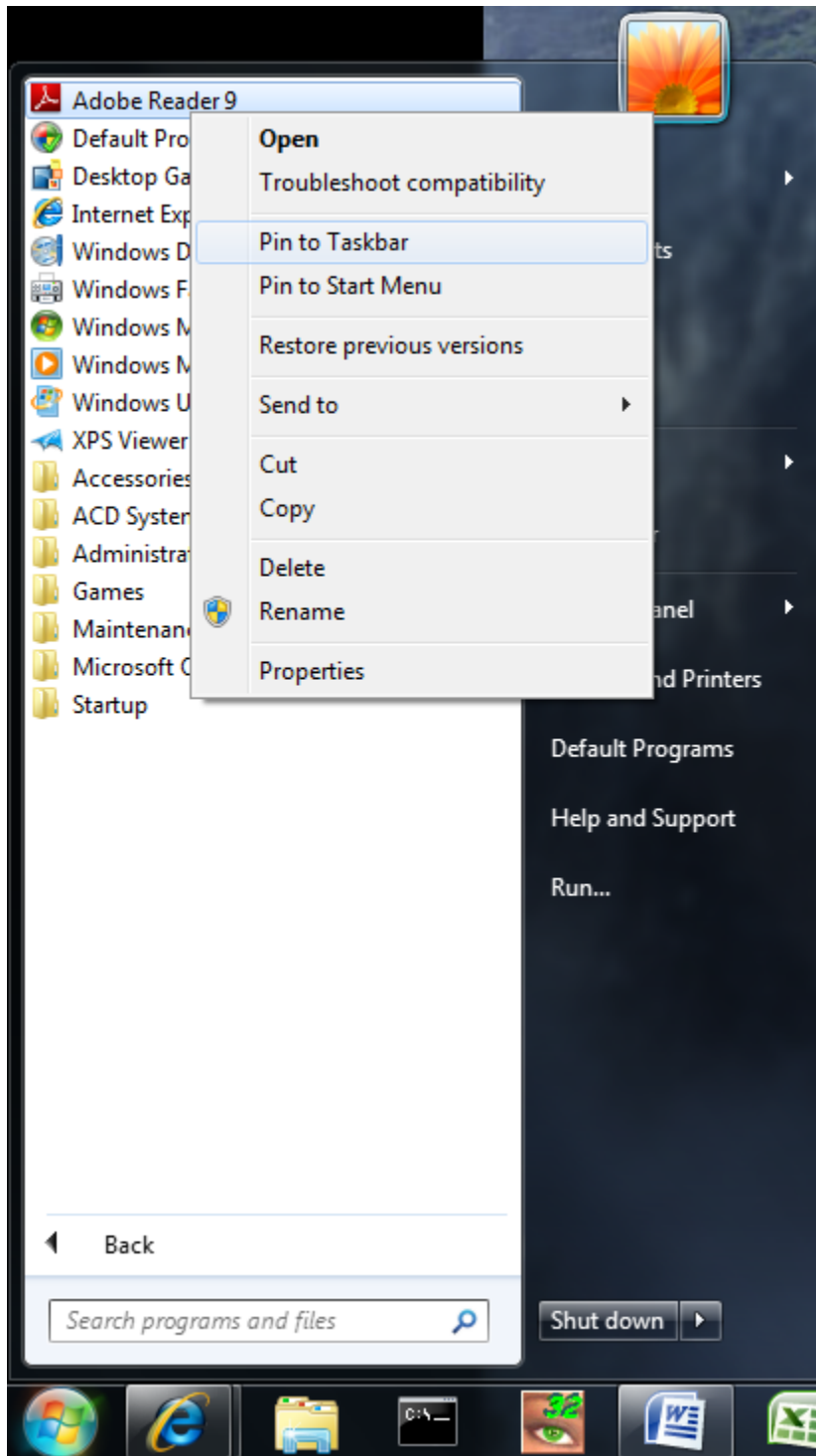
Initially, after Windows 7 is installed, the taskbar contains icons for only Internet Explorer 8, Windows Explorer, and Windows Media Player. Each of these may be unpinned from the task bar.



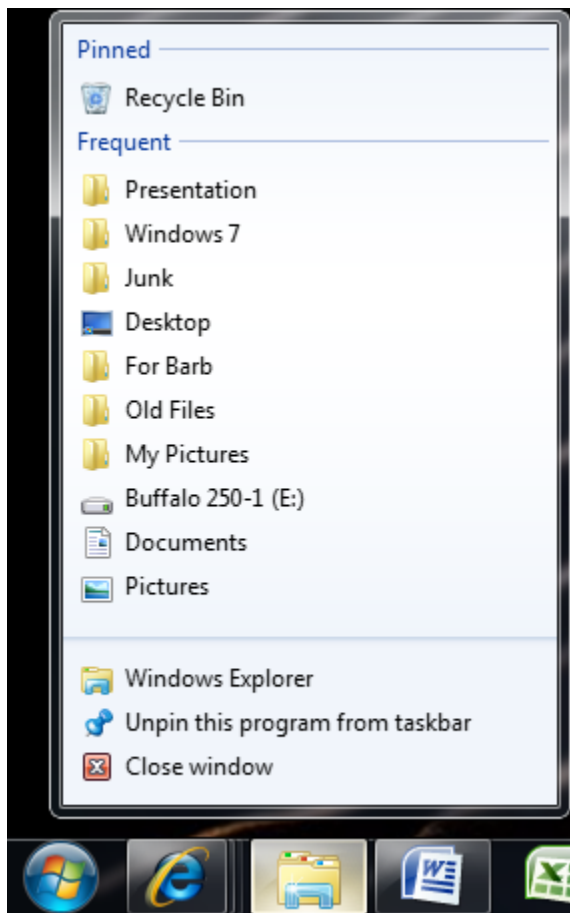
If you point at the icon on the taskbar of any running application, Windows 7 will display a preview of all the windows that application has open. These previews are significantly larger and more legible than what was provide in Windows Vista.



Just as you have been able to pin applications to the Start Menu, you can now also pin applications to the taskbar.



Also, you can pin the Recycle Bin to the Task Bar.



And while discussing pinning programs, programs cannot pin themselves to the taskbar when they are installed, this is a task expressly reserved for the user.
Yea!!!

You can rearrange the icons on the task bar by clicking and dragging.

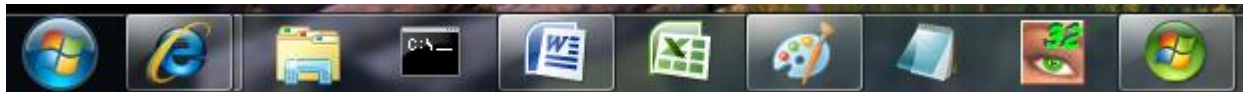
Before



During



After



Taskbar scaling means that space reclaimed on the taskbar by unifying Quick Launch Bar with the taskbar, by collapsing open windows, and by cleaning the notification area allows about 24-39% more icons to appear on the taskbar before the taskbar scrolls; depending upon resolution, icon size and assuming the default notification area.

Using a display with 1024 by 768 resolution, you can get fifteen large icons or twenty-two small icons displayed before the taskbar begins to schroll.

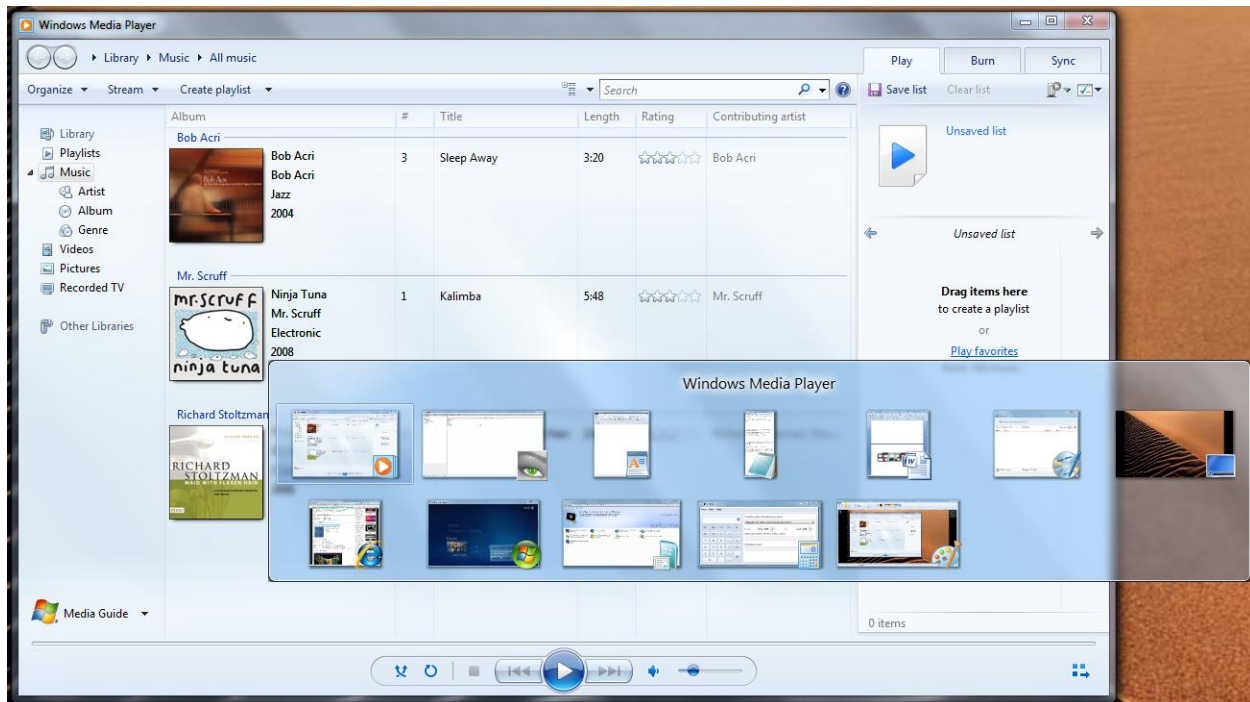
“Open with” allows you to click on a file’s icon while holding the shift key down and drag it to an application’s icon on the taskbar. This will open that file in that application.



Quick Launch Shortcuts enable you to launch any of the first ten applications on your taskbar by simply pressing both the Windows Logo key and any numeric key.

If any of those applications have any open windows, you can scroll through just those windows by repeatedly striking the appropriate numeric key while holding down the Windows Logo key.

The new Alt-Tab shortcut gives you a preview of each window as you cycle through the applications.



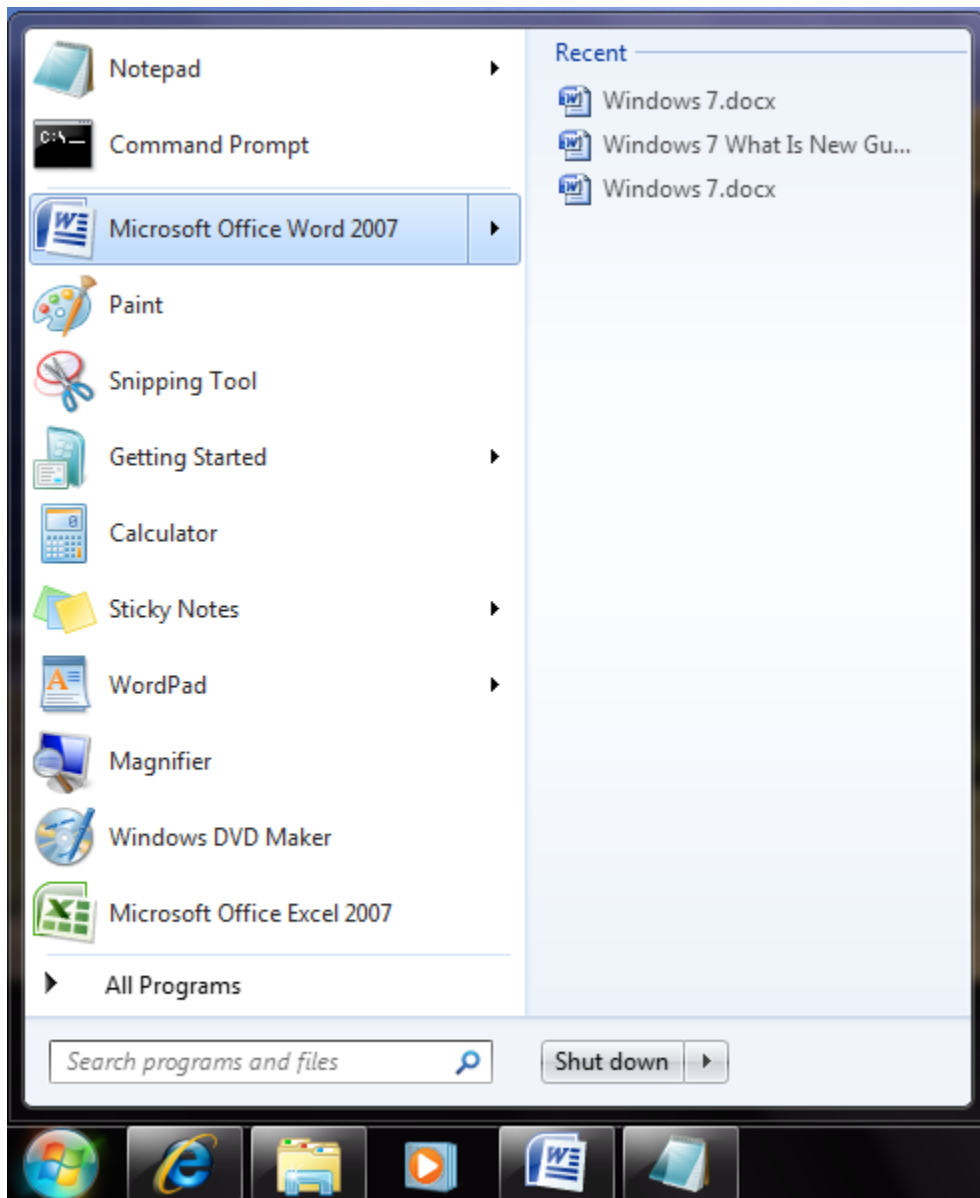
Jump Lists

If you have an application on your taskbar, you can quickly get to the files most recently opened with that application by right-clicking the application's taskbar icon. You'll see a list of recently opened files and you can also pin files that you want easy access to on a regular basis.

What appears in a Jump List depends entirely on the program. The Jump List for Internet Explorer 8 shows frequently-viewed websites. Windows Media Player 12 lists commonly-played tunes.

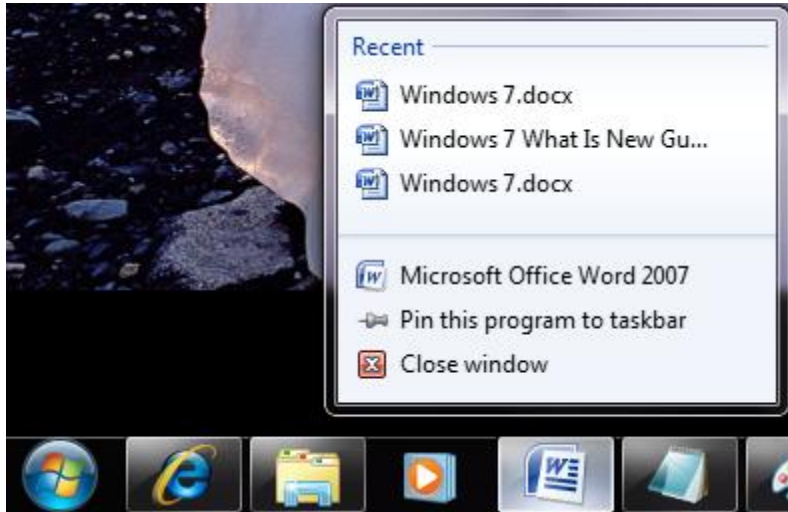
(Jump Lists) from the Start Menu

You can also access Jump Lists from the Start menu for any application with an arrow head (▶) to its right.



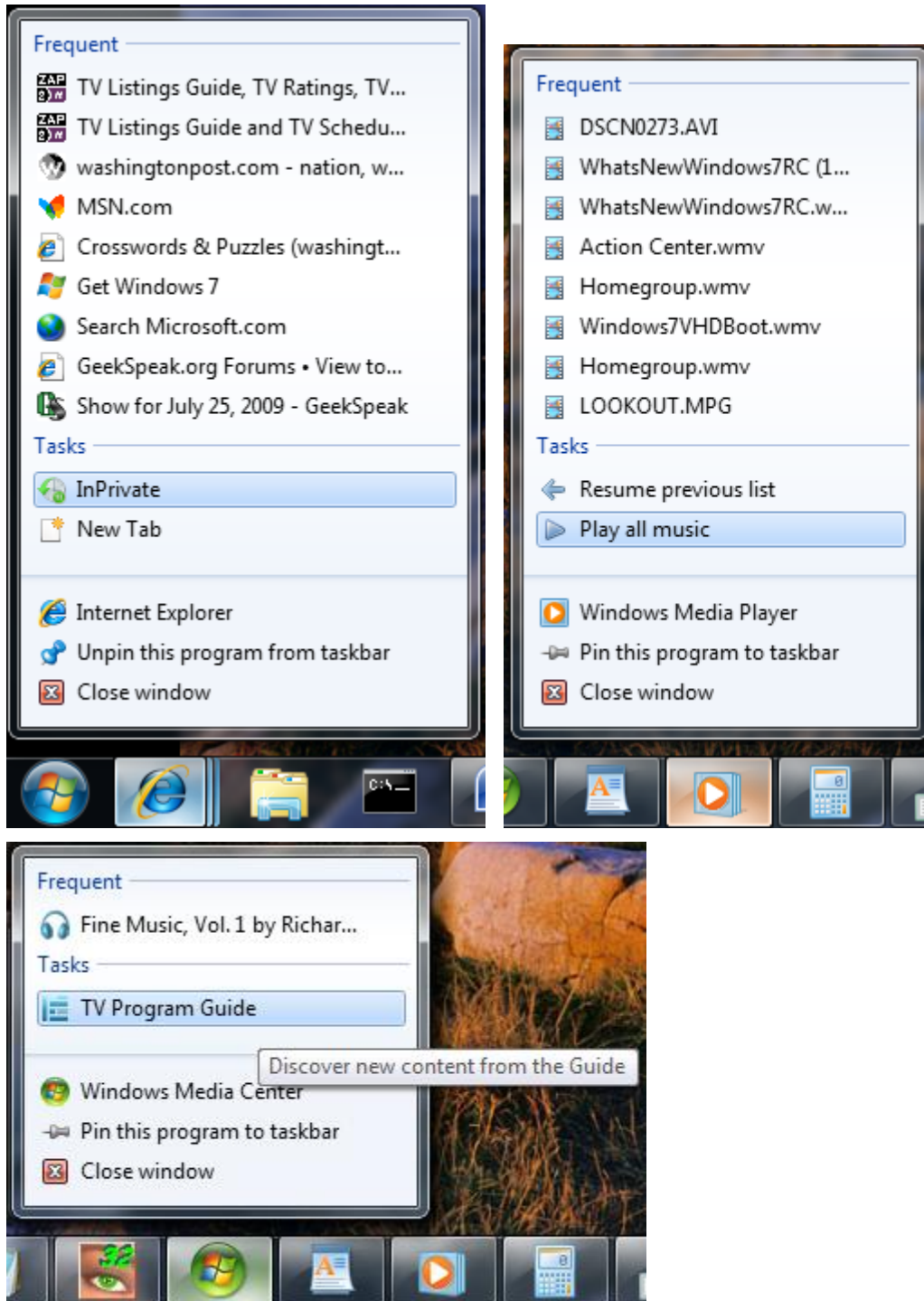
(Jump Lists) from the Taskbar

Jump Lists can be accessed from the Taskbar simply by right-clicking on the applications icon.



Tasks

In the same maner as Jump Lists are displayed, some applications provide shortcuts to tasks that application can preform.



Aero

The Aero desktop experience, available in the Home Premium, Professional, and Ultimate editions of Windows 7, mixes cool graphics with useful new ways to manage your desktop.

Aero visual hallmarks include subtle animations and translucent glass windows, which you can personalize. Pick from the included color palette, or create your own custom tints with the color mixer.

There's more to Aero than style. Aero Shake and Aero Peek cut through desktop clutter by quickly closing open windows or turning them invisible.

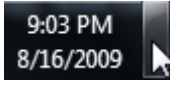
Unlike in Windows Vista, window borders and the taskbar do not turn opaque when a window is maximized with Windows Aero applied. Instead, they remain transparent.

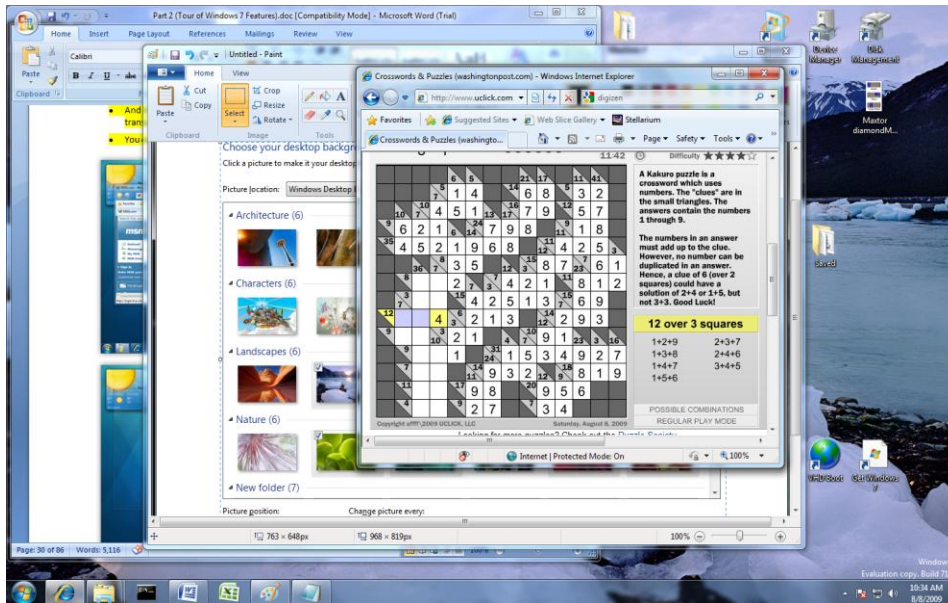
Aero Snap (New ways to work with windows)

It takes fewer motions to do basic things. And Windows 7 is smart about how you work with windows.

- Dragging a window to the top of your computer screen maximizes it automatically.
 - When a window that is maximized is moved, the window is restored to its previous state.
- Dragging a window to either side of the screen resizes it for easy side-by-side comparisons with other windows.
- Dragging the top or bottom edge of a window to the top or bottom of the screen expands the window to the entire height of the desktop. (The width of the window doesn't change.)
 - To return the window to its original size, drag the title bar away from the top of the desktop, or drag the bottom edge of the window away from the bottom of the desktop.

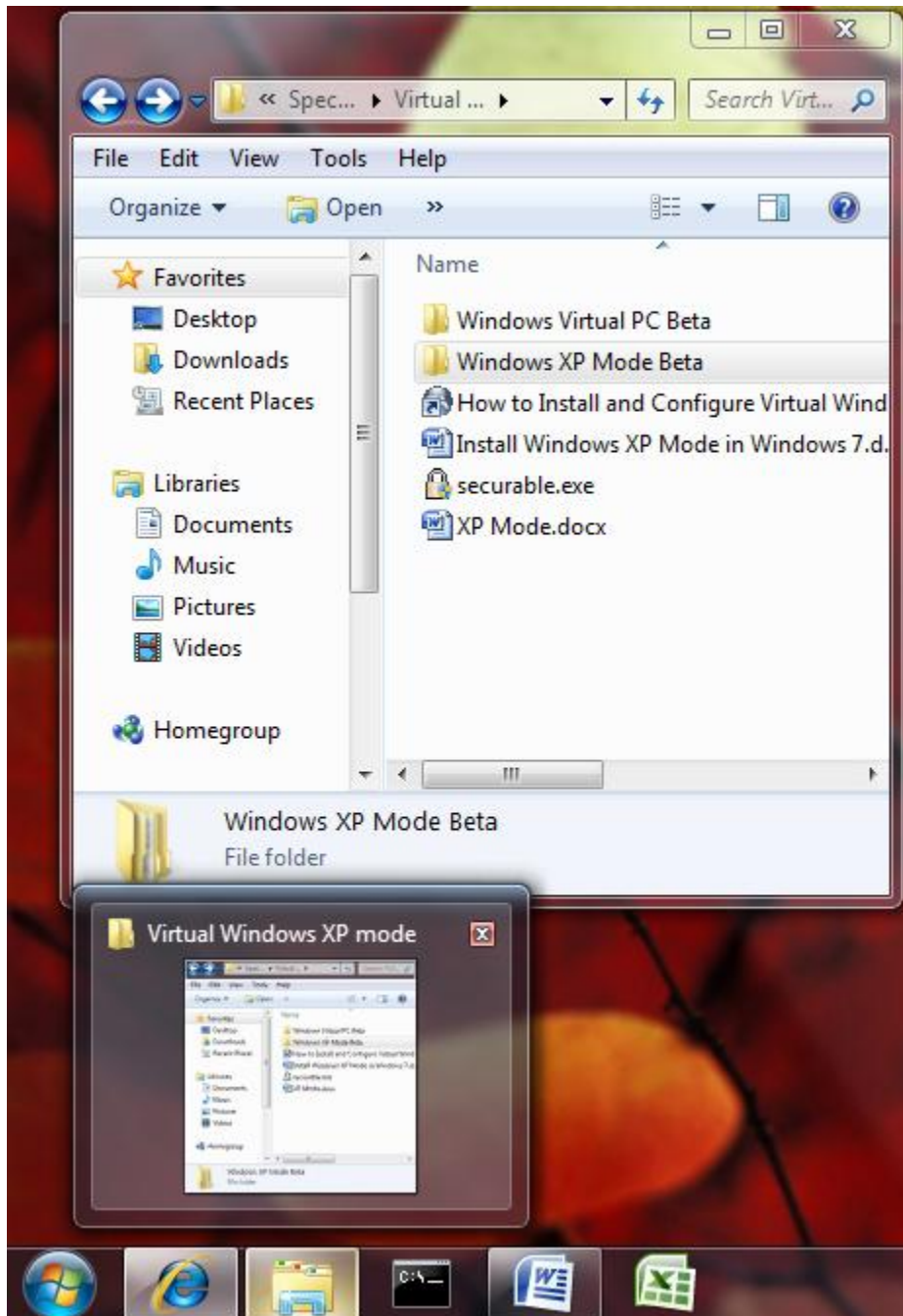
Aero Peek

Simply hover over the button at the right edge of the taskbar (to the right of the time/date display ) , and all open windows turn transparent, revealing all your hidden icons and gadgets. Clicking this button minimizes all windows, and clicking it again restores them.



To quickly reveal a buried window, point to its taskbar thumbnail. Now only that window shows on the desktop.

Peek is included in the Home Premium, Professional, and Ultimate editions of Windows 7.



Aero Shake

Ever need to cut through a cluttered desktop and quickly focus on a single window? Just click a pane and give your mouse a shake. Voila! Every open window except that one instantly disappears. Jiggle again—and your windows are back. (Who says the old mouse can't learn a new trick?)

Libraries

Libraries—new in Windows 7—make it easier to find, work with, and organize files scattered across your PC or network. A library brings your stuff together in one place—no matter where it's actually stored. The result? You get more done.

Say you're assembling a family album from snapshots stashed on an external hard drive, your spouse's PC, and your work laptop. In the past, hunting down specific shots would've been a chore. In Windows 7, you simply create a library, name it something (perhaps, "Family Photos"), and then tell Windows which far-flung folders your new library should include. Your photos are still physically located in three different spots—but now they show up in a single window.

Windows 7 comes with libraries for documents, music, pictures, and videos. But you can personalize these, or create your own, with just a few clicks. There's more. You can also quickly sort and shuffle your libraries—for example, documents by type, pictures by date taken, or music by genre. And easily share libraries with people on a home network (see HomeGroup).

Location-Aware Printing

Do you routinely print to multiple printers from your laptop? Now you don't have to manually switch printers when you go from, say, home to work. Windows 7 does it automatically.

The new feature, included in the Professional and Ultimate editions of Windows 7, works like this: Whenever you print, Windows 7 remembers which network and printer you're using. Next time you return to that spot, Windows automatically switches the default printer to match the one you last used. You can also manually pair printers and networks.

Windows Live

Windows Live helps synchronize all of the ways you communicate and share things online—by giving you one place to go to chat, e-mail, share photos and files you've created, and stay connected with the people and things that matter to you.

Starting with Windows 7, the Windows Live Mail, Windows Live Photo Gallery, and Windows Live Movie Maker programs will deliver e-mail, contacts, calendar, photo and movie making functionality for Windows. By delivering these programs and services online, it's easier to keep them up to date and deliver the latest, most innovative capabilities.

Windows Live will also continue to offer the core services at the hub of your online experience: E-mail accounts, online contact lists, instant messaging, file sharing, and calendars from any computer or web-enabled phone. You told us that you wanted to have your communication services together in one place and so we've made Home.live.com the place that helps you keep your life in sync and extends the reach of your Windows 7 PC.

Windows Live Essentials

Windows Live Essentials is free software that makes a PC running Windows 7 do more great things. Things like e-mail, instant messaging, photo editing, and blogging.

Windows Live Essentials is available from the Windows Live website. The free download includes:

Messenger

Chat instantly with friends and family on your PC or mobile phone.

Photo Gallery

Find, fix, and share your photos.

Mail

Manage multiple e-mail accounts (like Hotmail) in one place.

Writer

Compose your blog, add photos and video, and then post it on the web.

Movie Maker

Turn your photos and videos into great looking movies and slide shows.

Family Safety

Manage and monitor online activities so your kids stay safe.

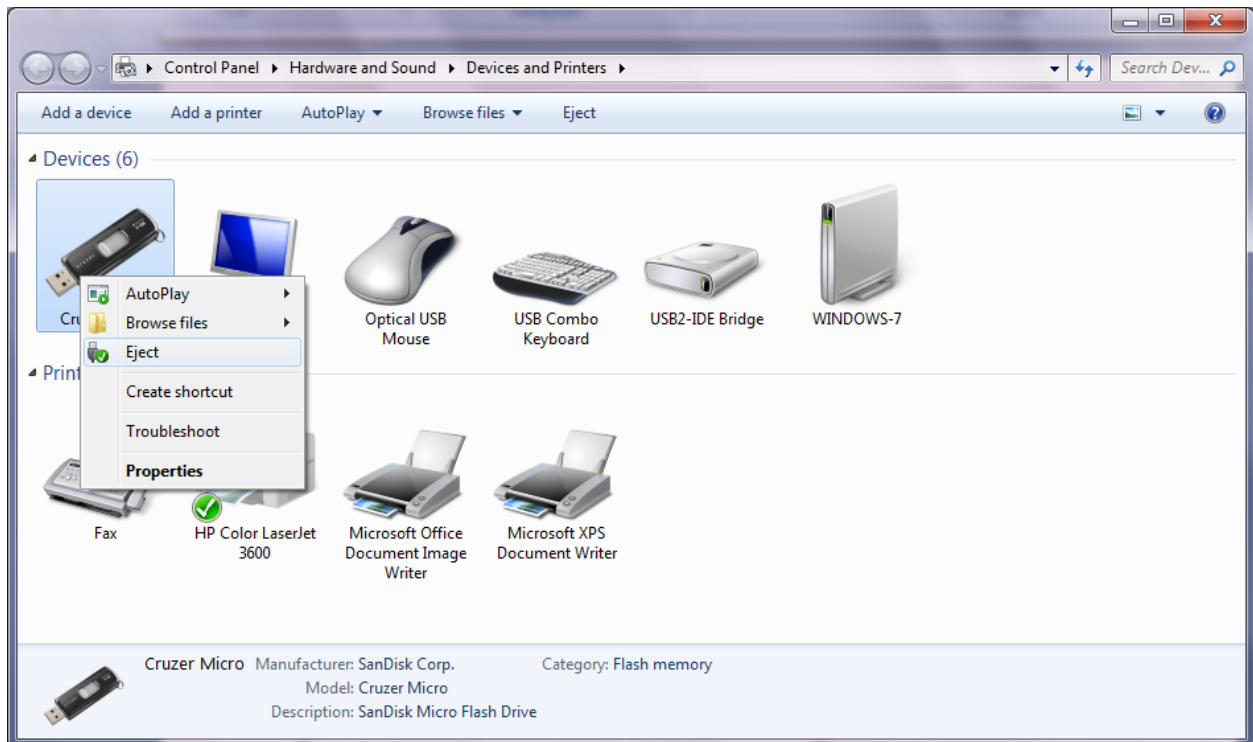
Toolbar

Search instantly from any webpage.

Devices and Printers

Access all of your connected and wireless devices from the single Devices and Printers screen. From here, you can work with your devices, browse files on them, or manage device settings.

When you plug in a device that supports Device Stage technology, Device Stage displays a single window that gives you access to common device tasks, such as synchronizing media and downloading ring tones.



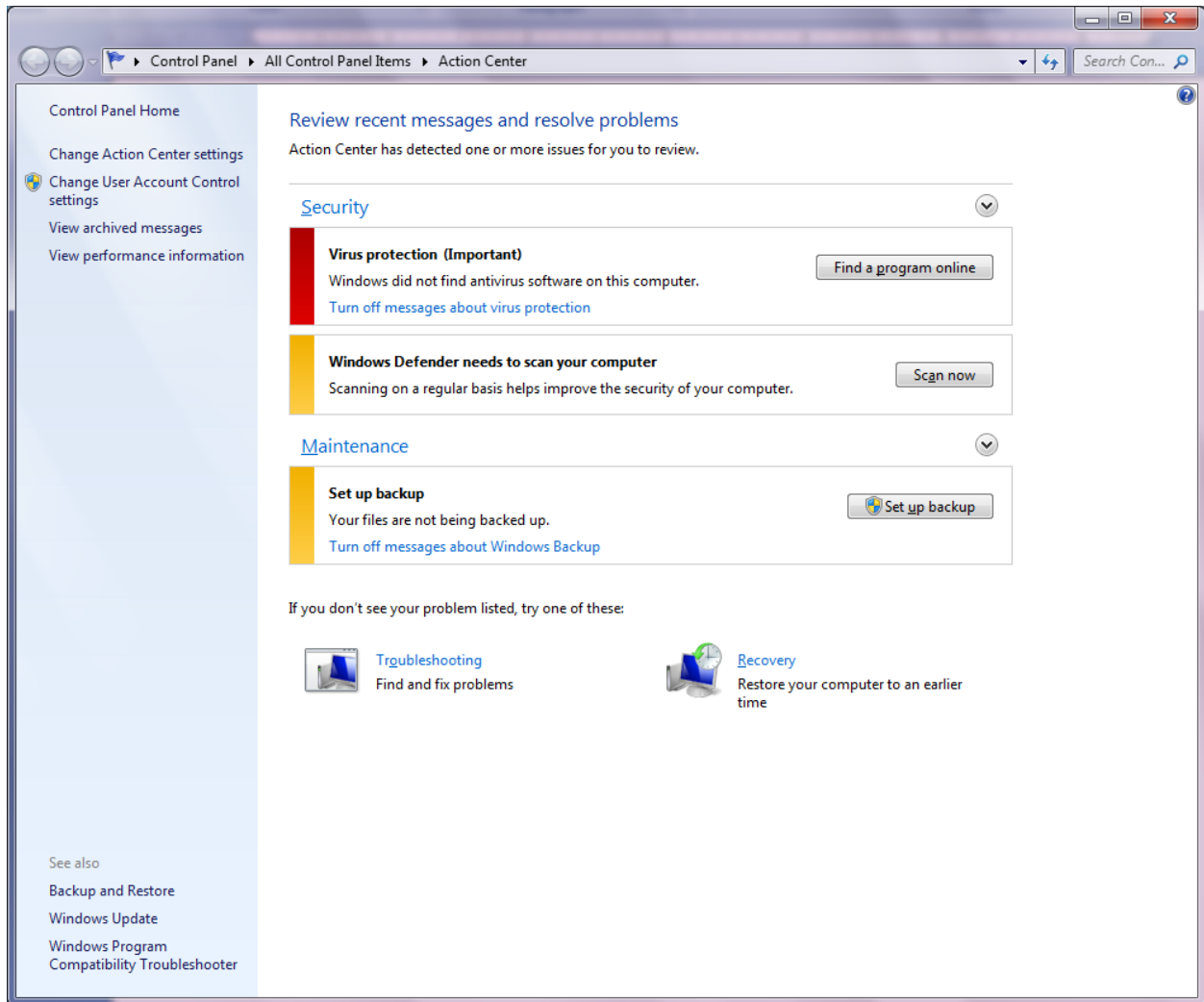
HomeGroup*

HomeGroup makes it easier to connect to other computers and devices on an existing home network, so you can share files, photos, music, and printers throughout your home. To experience it for yourself, you have to have at least two PCs running Windows 7. Once you've set up HomeGroup, you can use the Network and Sharing Center to choose what you share with other members in the HomeGroup.

You can join a HomeGroup in any edition of Windows 7, but you can only create one in Home Premium, Professional, or Ultimate.


Action Center*

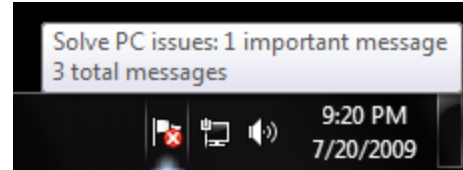
Action Center consolidates alerts from 10 Windows features, including Security Center and Windows Defender in a central place help keep Windows running smoothly.



Action Center lists important messages about security and maintenance settings that need your attention. Red indicates important items while yellow indicates suggested tasks.

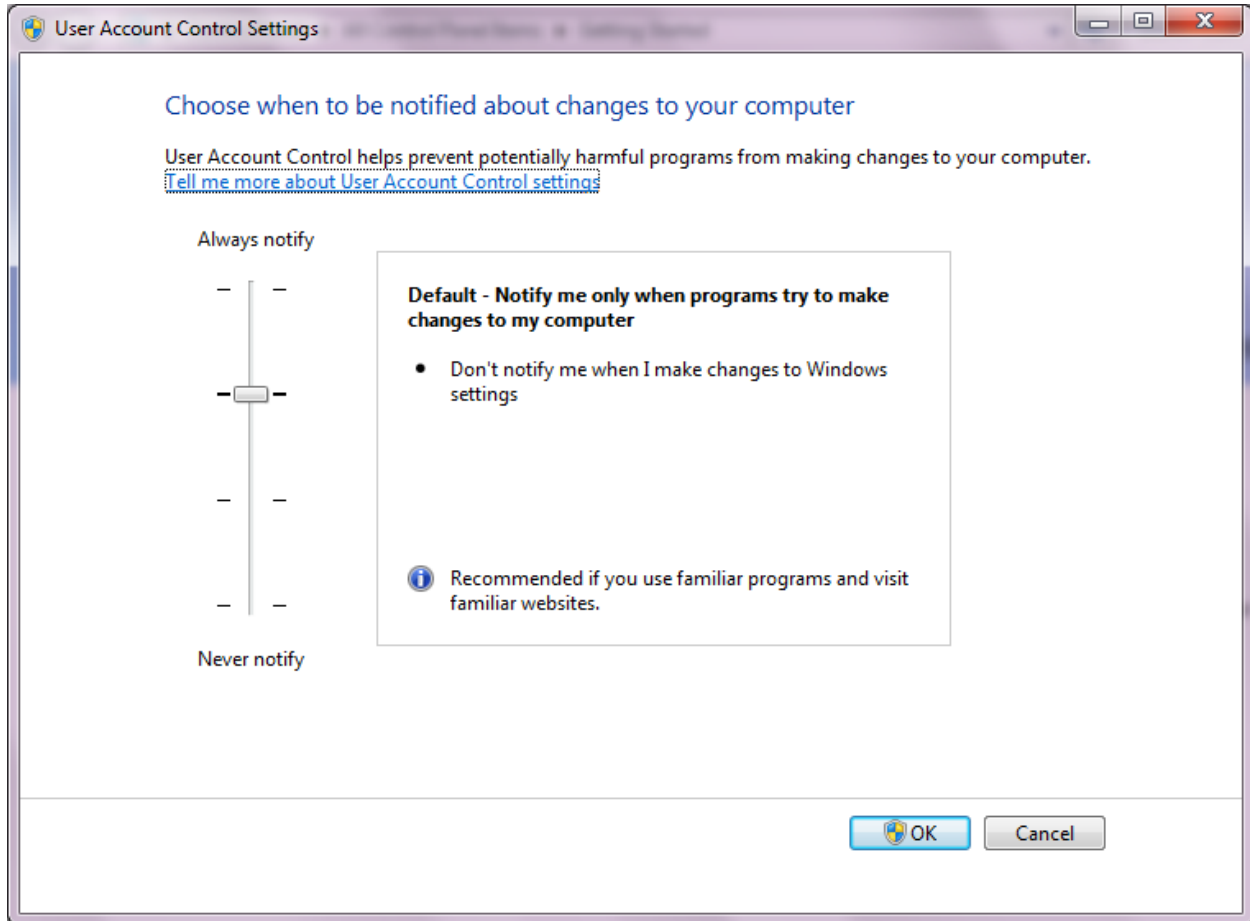
To view details about either Security or Maintenance, click the heading or the arrow next to the heading to expand the section. You can choose to hide types of messages that you don't want to see.

You can see whether there are any new messages in Action Center by placing your mouse over the Action Center icon  in the notification area on the taskbar. Click the icon to view more detail, and click a message to address the issue. Or, open Action Center to view the message in its entirety.



User Account Control

User Account Control (UAC) notifies you before changes are made to your computer that require administrator-level permission. The default UAC setting notifies you when programs try to make changes to your computer, but you can control how often you are notified by UAC by adjusting the settings.



Always notify

- You will be notified before programs make changes to your computer or to Windows settings that require the permissions of an administrator.
- When you're notified, your desktop will be dimmed, and you must either approve or deny the request. The dimming of your desktop is referred to as the secure desktop because other programs can't run while it's dimmed.

This is the most secure setting.

Default - Notify me only when programs try to make changes to my computer

- You will be notified before programs make changes to your computer that require the permissions of an administrator.
- You will not be notified if you try to make changes to Windows settings that require the permissions of an administrator.
- You will be notified if a program outside of Windows tries to make changes to a Windows setting.

It's usually safe to allow changes to be made to Windows settings without you being notified. However, certain programs that come with Windows can have commands or data passed to them, and malicious software can take advantage of this by using these programs to install files or change settings on your computer.

Notify me only when programs try to make changes to my computer (do not dim my desktop)

- You will be notified before programs make changes to your computer that require the permissions of an administrator.
- You will not be notified if you try to make changes to Windows settings that require the permissions of an administrator.
- You will be notified if a program outside of Windows tries to make changes to a Windows setting.

This setting is the same as "Notify only when programs try to make changes to my computer," but you are not notified on the secure desktop.

Because the UAC dialog box isn't on the secure desktop with this setting, other programs might be able to interfere with the dialog's visual appearance.

Never notify

- You will not be notified before any changes are made to your computer. If you are logged on as an administrator, programs can make changes to your computer without you knowing about it.
- If you are logged on as a standard user, any changes that require the permissions of an administrator will automatically be denied.
- If you select this setting, you will need to restart the computer to complete the process of turning off UAC. Once UAC is off, people that log on as administrator will always have the permissions of an administrator.

This is the least secure setting.

If you set UAC to never notify, you should be careful about which programs you run, because they will have the same access to the computer as you do.

This includes reading and making changes to

- protected system areas,
- your personal data,
- saved files, and
- anything else stored on the computer.

Programs will also be able to communicate and transfer information to and from anything your computer connects with, including the Internet.

Media sharing

We heard how much you'd like easier ways to share music, photos, and videos among the different PCs in a household. So, when you set up a HomeGroup or stream media from within Windows Media Player, your music, pictures, and videos are available on the other computers and devices in your home.

Play To

Play To, new in Windows 7, makes it easy to play your music on other PCs or devices around the house. Just right-click the tracks you'd like to hear and select Play To—now you're a DJ.

Play To works with other PCs running Windows 7 and devices compliant with the Digital Living Network Alliance (DLNA) media standard. Today, that includes popular products such as the Sonos Multi-Room Music System, Roku Soundbridge, and Xbox 360.

Windows Media Center

Watch, pause, and record live TV. Listen to your tunes. Show off your photo collection. Enjoy online entertainment. And do it all from your living-room couch. Is it any wonder critics call Media Center the hidden gem of Windows?

In Windows 7, we've made it even better—adding great new features (many suggested by you) and visual touch-ups. Windows Media Center is available in the Home Premium, Professional, and Ultimate editions of Windows 7.

More watching

Windows Media Center supports more global TV standards and tuners, including digital and HD. It also now plays more popular audio and video formats—including 3GP, AAC, AVCHD, DivX, MOV, and Xvid.

Easier media sharing

Enjoy recorded TV shows, music, and video—even when it's not stored on your PC. The new HomeGroup feature makes media available to any PC with Windows 7 in the house.

Windows Media Player 12

Designed by media lovers, for media lovers. Windows Media Player 12 plays more music and video than ever—including unprotected songs from your iTunes library! And, the player's window is also more kempt.

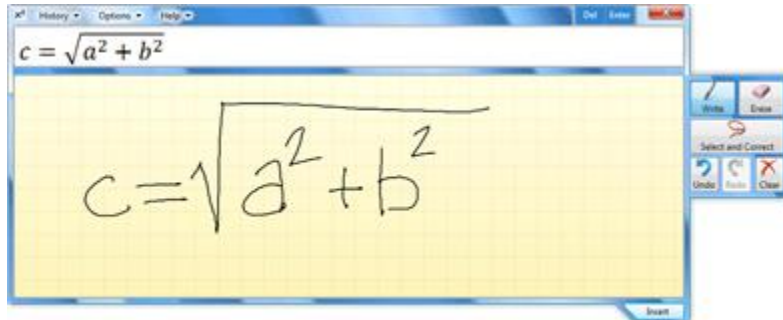
Windows Touch and Multi-touch

Touch your computer screen for a more direct and natural way to work. Use your fingers to scroll, resize windows, play media, and pan and zoom. Large touch areas on the Start menu and the taskbar make it easy to use.

You can even finger paint in Paint!

Handwriting recognition—new additions

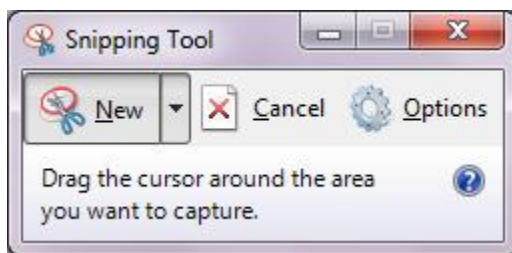
Handwriting recognition takes a big step in Windows 7. Beginning with greater accuracy and speed, Windows 7 improves pen input in several ways. You can write math expressions, create personalized custom dictionaries for handwriting recognition, and use the new languages supported in Windows 7. Of course, you can also use the pen to just draw a picture.



Snipping Tool

Snipping Tool captures a screen shot of anything on your desktop, like a picture or a section of webpage.

Snip a whole window, a rectangular section of the screen, or draw a freehand outline with your mouse or tablet pen. (Or your finger, if you're using a PC with a touch-screen.) Then you can annotate, save, or e-mail the image using buttons right in the Snipping Tool window. Snipping Tool is available only in the Home Premium, Professional, and Ultimate editions of Windows 7.



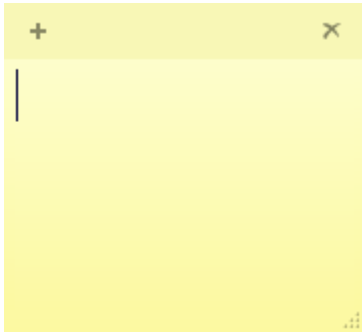
Magnifier

Magnifier is a help to people with low vision, but everyone will appreciate its ability to enlarge hard-to-see text and pictures. Full-screen mode magnifies the entire desktop, and lens mode zooms in on particular areas. Inside the Magnifier window, you can click buttons and input text as you normally would.

Sticky Notes

You can use Sticky Notes to write a to-do list, jot down a phone number, or do anything else that you'd use a pad of paper for. You can use Sticky Notes with a tablet pen or a standard keyboard.

- Windows 7 supports notes of different colors.
- You can place multiple notes lying all over your screen.
- Keep typing and your note will automatically increase in length.
- You can now simply drag and resize the note according to his wishes.
- The notes are readable via the taskbar previews.



Speech

Windows Speech Recognition now works better—and with more programs. So instead of using the keyboard, you can just tell your computer what to do. Start an e-mail by speaking the recipient's name, surf the web without a keyboard, or dictate your documents.

Narrator and visual notifications

Windows 7 can read on-screen text aloud and describe some events (like error messages), helping you use your computer without the display. With Audio Description, you can hear a narration of what's happening in a video. Windows can also replace sound alerts with visual cues like a screen flash, so system alerts are noticeable even when they're not heard.

Improved gadgets

Gadgets, the popular mini-programs introduced in Windows Vista, are now more flexible and fun. Microsoft has done away with the Sidebar, so you can stick your gadgets anywhere on the desktop.



Performance improvements

Sleep

Windows 7 is designed to sleep, resume, and reconnect to your wireless network more quickly.

Windows Search

When hunting for something, you want answers, not delays. In Windows 7, search results pop up faster. Sorting and grouping of search results is also significantly quicker. Results are now grouped by category and contain highlighted keywords and text snippets to make them easier to scan.

Windows 7 is also designed to search external hard drives, networked PCs, and libraries. You can instantly narrow them by date, file type, and other useful categories.

USB devices

When you plug in a portable flash drive or other USB device for the first time, Windows 7 can have it ready for you in seconds. If you've used it before, the wait's even shorter.

Leaner and less busy

Unlike its predecessors, Windows 7 is designed to run speed-sapping background services only when you need them. Not using a Bluetooth device? Then the Bluetooth service in Windows 7 stays off. Windows 7 is also less memory hungry than Windows Vista—another under-the-hood tune-up that can boost overall performance.

64-bit support

A 64-bit PC can handle larger amounts of information than a 32-bit system. Since it can use more RAM—4 GB and up—a 64-bit computer can be more responsive when you're running lots of programs at once.

If you tend to have a lot of programs open simultaneously or need to switch frequently between programs—or if you just want to be sure your PC can take advantage of the larger amounts of memory available today—64-bit is a great choice. If you run only one or two programs at a time or have older hardware and software that isn't supported by a 64-bit PC, a 32-bit system is a good choice.

Faster, more responsive performance

It starts up, shuts down, resumes from standby, and responds quicker. You'll have fewer interruptions and can recover more quickly from problems when they do occur because Windows 7 will help you fix them when you want.

Extends battery life with power-saving features

Windows 7 runs with fewer background activities so your PC processor doesn't work as hard and draws less power. Other innovations include less power-hungry DVD playback (handy on long flights), automatic screen dimming, powering off unused ports, and a more accurate battery-life indicator.

Networking

Windows 7 makes it a cinch to view and connect to networks on your laptop wherever you go. Just click the networking icon on the taskbar. View Available Networks displays all your wireless and wired options—Wi-Fi, mobile broadband, dial-up, or corporate VPN. One more click, and you're connected.



Windows XP Mode

It's the best of both worlds: The new Windows XP Mode lets you run older Windows XP business software right on your Windows 7 desktop.

The feature, designed primarily with small- and medium-sized businesses in mind, comes as a separate download and works only with Windows 7 Professional and Ultimate. Windows XP Mode also requires virtualization software such as Windows Virtual PC. Both are available free on the Microsoft website.

To download Windows XP Mode or learn about its system requirements, visit the Windows Virtual PC website.

BitLocker Drive Encryption

How can you help protect your data from loss, theft, or hackers? The answer: BitLocker.

Improved for Windows 7 and available in the Ultimate edition, BitLocker helps keep everything from documents to passwords safer by encrypting the entire drive that Windows and your data reside on. Once BitLocker is turned on, any file you save on that drive is encrypted automatically.

BitLocker To Go—a new feature of Windows 7—gives the lockdown treatment to easily-misplaced portable storage devices like USB flash drives and external hard drives.

Making DVDs and CDs

- Windows DVD maker to make video disks
- Windows Media Player to make audio (music) disks
- Windows Explorer to make data disks
 - (Windows Media Player has an option make data disks, but it will only include files that are multi-media. It will omit all other files.)
- Windows Disc Image Burner to burn .ISO disk images
 - (Double-click on an ISO image or right-click and choose Burn disc image)

Types of discs you can burn with Windows Media Player

Disc type	Description
Audio CD	<p>This is ideal for making custom music CDs that you can play using any car or home stereo.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content: Music only • Capacity: Up to 80 minutes • Playback devices: Almost any CD player, including those found in home stereos, car stereos, and computers.
Data CD	<p>This is a great option if you have lots of music and a car CD player that can play Windows Media Audio (WMA) files (the type of music file that most people have in their Player Library). It's also handy for backing up your media files.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content: Music, pictures, and videos • Capacity: About 700 megabytes (MB), or roughly 8 hours of music • Playback devices: Computers and some CD and DVD players. The device must support the file types that you add to the disc, such as WMA, MP3, JPEG, or Windows Media Video (WMV).
Data DVD	<p>Because of its larger capacity, this type of disc is used for all the same reasons you would use a data CD, but especially if you have a larger volume of files that won't fit on a single data CD.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content: Music, pictures, and videos • Capacity: About 4.7 gigabytes (GB), or roughly 54 hours of music • Playback devices: Computers and some DVD players. The device must support the file types that you add to the disc, such as WMA, MP3, JPEG, or WMV.

Windows 7 will include Internet Explorer 8 (except in Europe).

When you start Internet Explorer for the first time, you are given the option to use two new features—search suggestions and Accelerator previews.

Search suggestions displays a list of other possible search terms as you type your search term into the search box or Address bar. You can continue typing, or use your arrow keys or mouse to choose one of the suggested terms. Search suggestions are offered by many search providers, and can be turned on or off in Manage Add-ons.

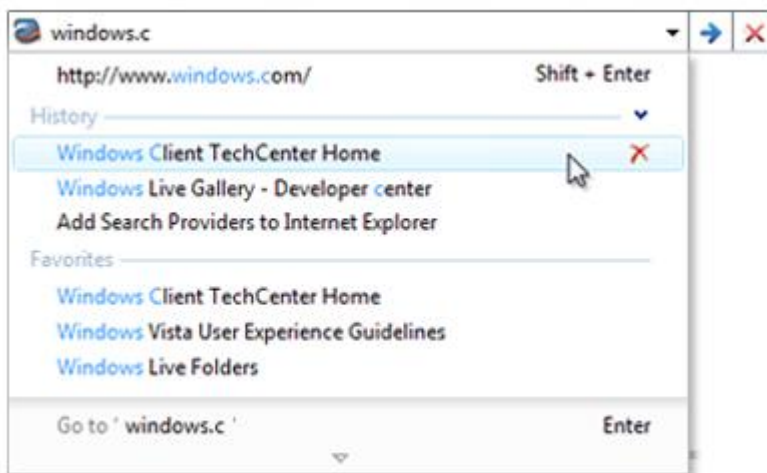
Accelerators use text that you select on a webpage to perform tasks such as opening a street address in a mapping website or looking up the dictionary definition for a word. Accelerator previews display information in a small window when you rest your mouse pointer on the Accelerator. The Accelerator gets the information by sending the text you've selected to the webpage or web service. In many cases the preview will show you the information you're looking for without requiring you to leave the webpage you're on. Not all Accelerators have previews or provide enough information, however, so you still might have to click the Accelerator to open the webpage or web service where you can perform your task. You can't turn off Accelerator previews separately, but you can choose not to use Accelerators.

Internet Explorer 8 Search

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/internet-explorer/welcome.aspx>

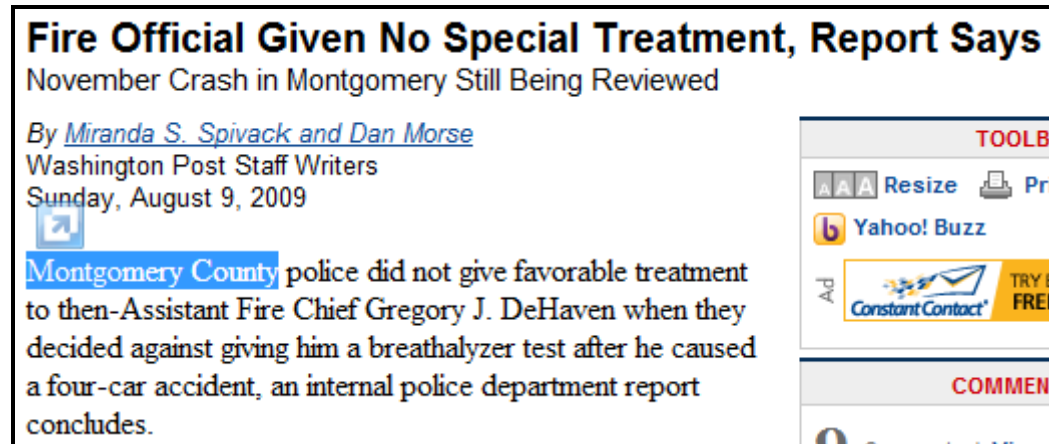
Available now, Internet Explorer 8 includes innovations to the Address bar, search, tabs, and the Favorites bar that help you efficiently surf the web. Internet Explorer 8 brings more information to you, with less effort.

Search is one of the most frequent and important things you do online. As you type a search term in the Internet Explorer 8 search box or Address bar, you can see relevant search suggestions from your chosen search provider and your browsing history. Click a suggestion and the search starts immediately so that you don't have to type the entire word or phrase.



Internet Explorer 8 Accelerators

Accelerators provide direct access to the online services you use everyday—from any web page. Just highlight some text and click the blue Accelerators icon. For example, if you're interested in the location of a business featured on a webpage, you can use the Live Maps Accelerator to get an in-place preview of a map displayed directly on the page.



Fire Official Given No Special Treatment, Report Says
November Crash in Montgomery Still Being Reviewed

By [Miranda S. Spivack and Dan Morse](#)
Washington Post Staff Writers
Sunday, August 9, 2009

Montgomery County police did not give favorable treatment to then-Assistant Fire Chief Gregory J. DeHaven when they decided against giving him a breathalyzer test after he caused a four-car accident, an internal police department report concludes.

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COMMENT



Fire Official Given No Special Treatment, Report Says
November Crash in Montgomery Still Being Reviewed

By [Miranda S. Spivack and Dan Morse](#)
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Sunday, August 9, 2009

Blog with Windows Live
E-mail with Windows Live
Map with Live Search
Search with Google
Translate with Live Search
All Accelerators

not give favorable treatment
ory J. DeHaven when they
halmer test after he caused

had a blood alcohol level twice the
he disputes.

The still-unfinished internal report, v
chief said he would not release publ
ranking police officers who converg
[Nov. 30 accident](#) handled the case
sobriety test on DeHaven by a serg
did not show signs of impairment. A

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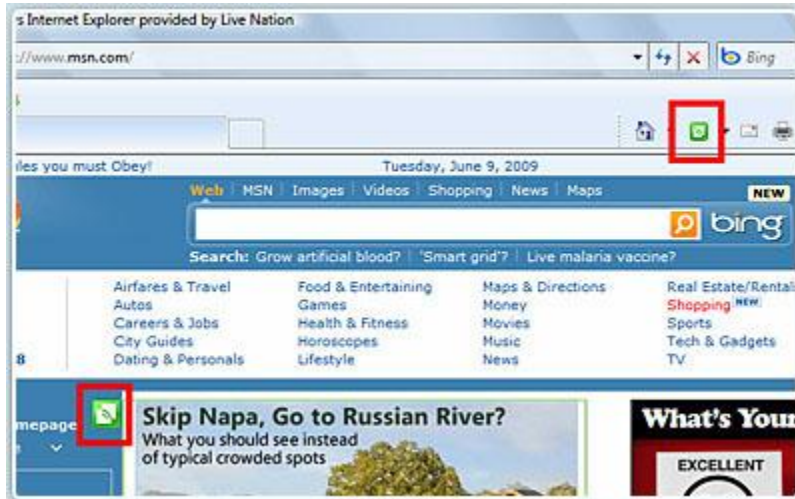
Internet Explorer 8 Web Slices


<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/internet-explorer/videos.aspx?mname=webslices>

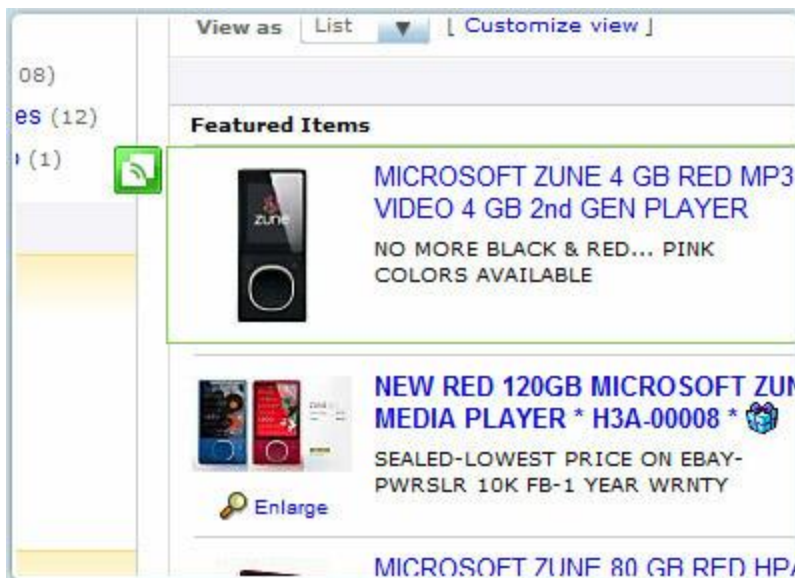
Web Slices let you instantly see changes on a website without going to it. You can subscribe to specific content within a page and monitor things like auction items, sports scores, entertainment columns, and weather reports. Internet Explorer 8 delivers updated information directly to a Web Slice in your Favorites bar, without leaving the page you're on.



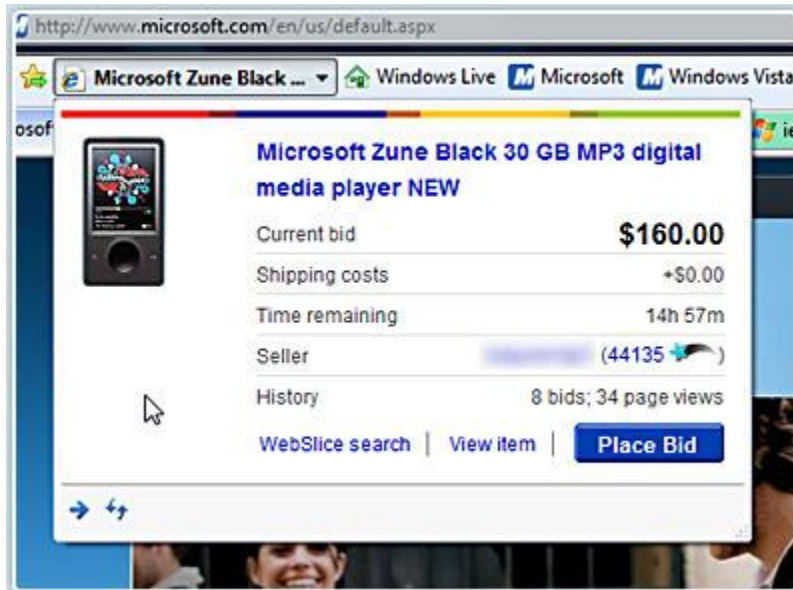
If a Web Slice is available on a page, a green Web Slices icon will appear in the Command Bar. Click on this icon to easily subscribe and add the Web Slices to the Favorites Bar so you can keep track of that "slice" of the web.



Or, hover your mouse over an item on a webpage. If that item incorporates Web Slice functionality, the Web Slice icon  will appear. Click on the icon to add this "slice" of the web to your Favorites Bar.

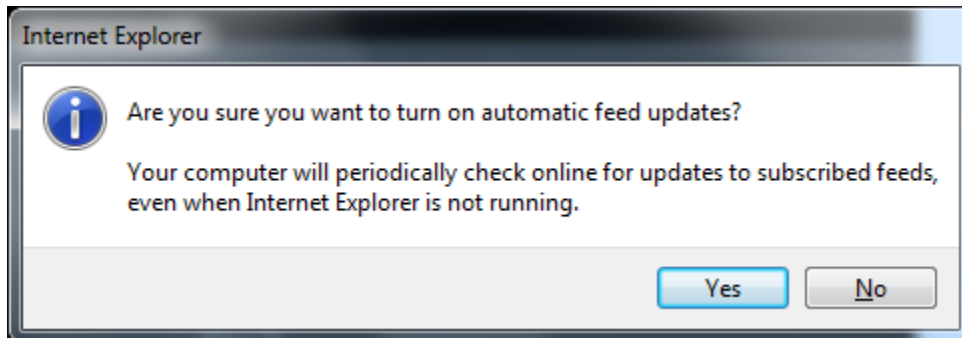


When new information becomes available, the Web Slice will become highlighted. When you click on the Web Slice in the Favorites Bar, it previews relevant information. Clicking on the preview takes you directly to the site for more information.



To delete, right-click on your Web Slice and click Delete.

However, in Internet Explorer 8 when I clicked on “Turn on subscribing to Web Slices”, the IE displayed the following:



Does this mean there will be a background process running that will take processor time from my running applications?

Internet Explorer 8 Compatibility View

If a webpage doesn't look right, just click the new Compatibility View button on the Address bar. The button corrects misaligned text or images on pages designed for older browsers.

Things I've noticed

Time AND Date

Windows XP and Vista, by default, would only display the current time in the system notification area, but not the current date.

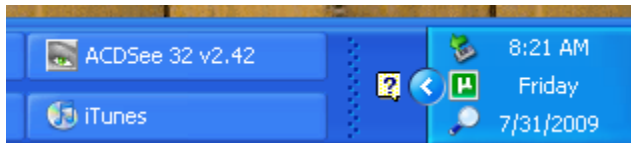
Windows XP



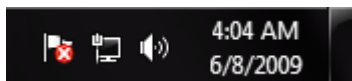
Windows Vista



To have Windows also display the current date, I often reconfigured the taskbar to double height.

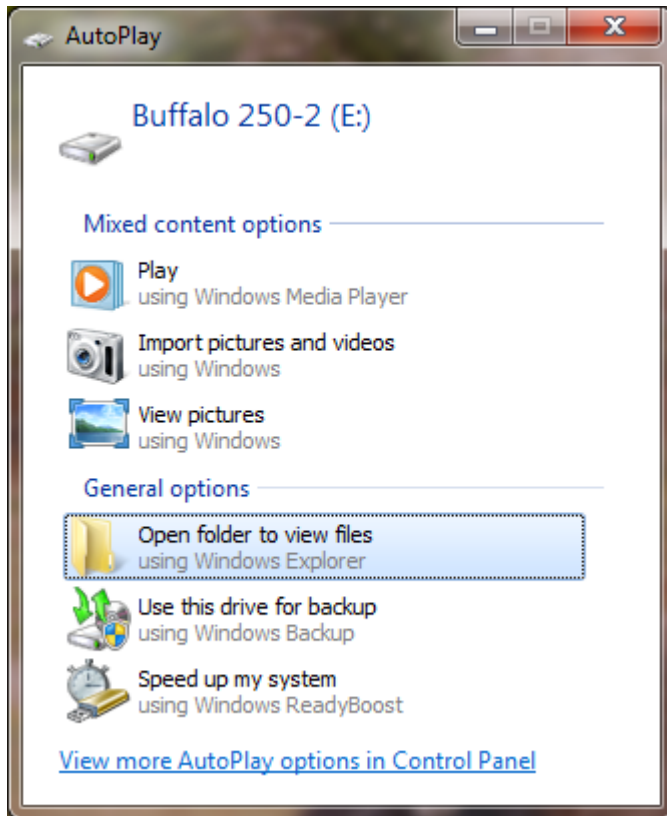


Windows 7, by default, display both the current time and date.



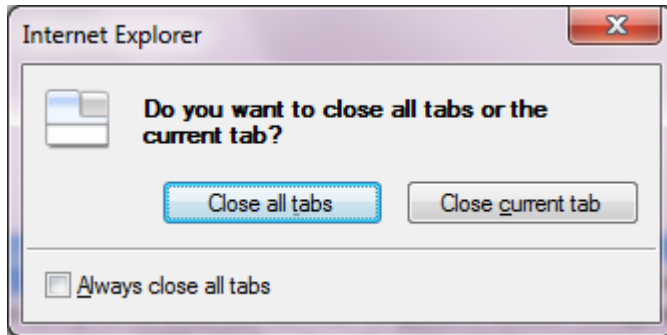
AutoPlay at Boot

When Windows 7 is booted with an external hard drive attached, the AutoPlay window for that device is opened.



Closing IE

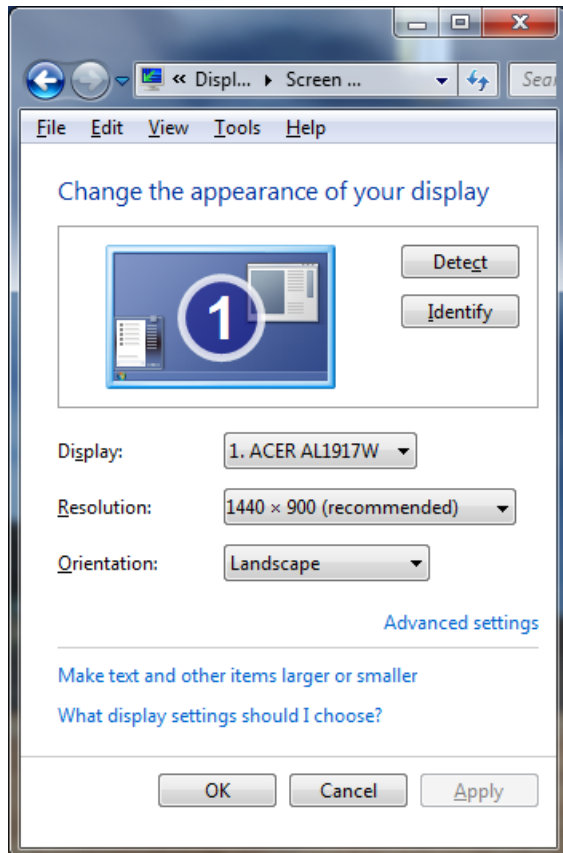
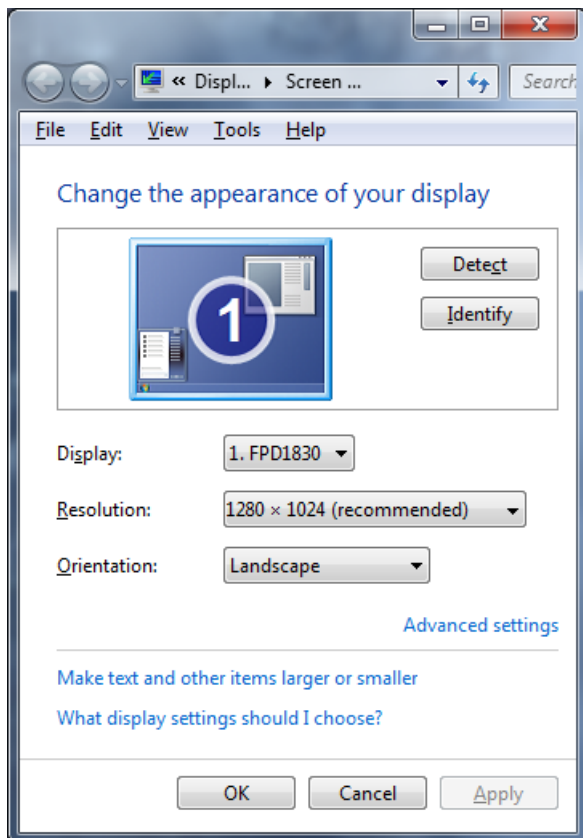
If you close IE with multiple tabs open, you get the following display:

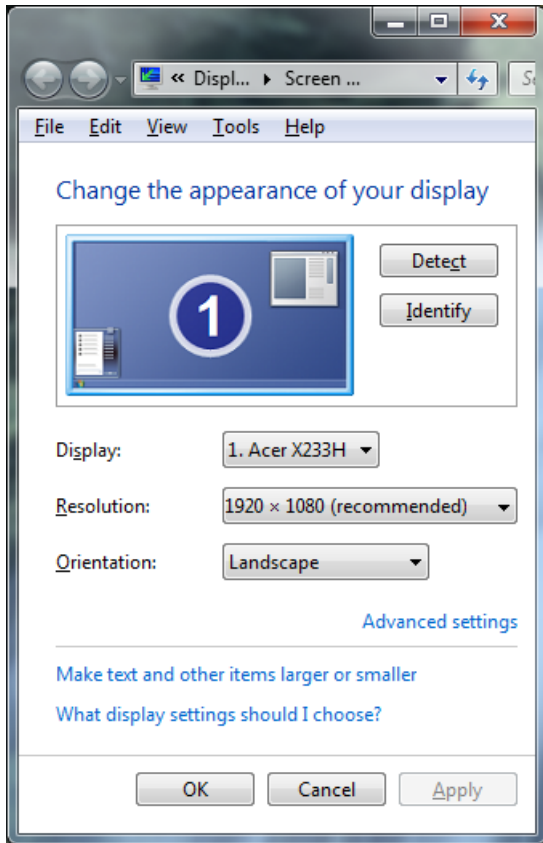


Automatic Settings of Display Resolution

Windows 7 will automatically detect a new display and set the display resolution to the optimal (recommended) settings.

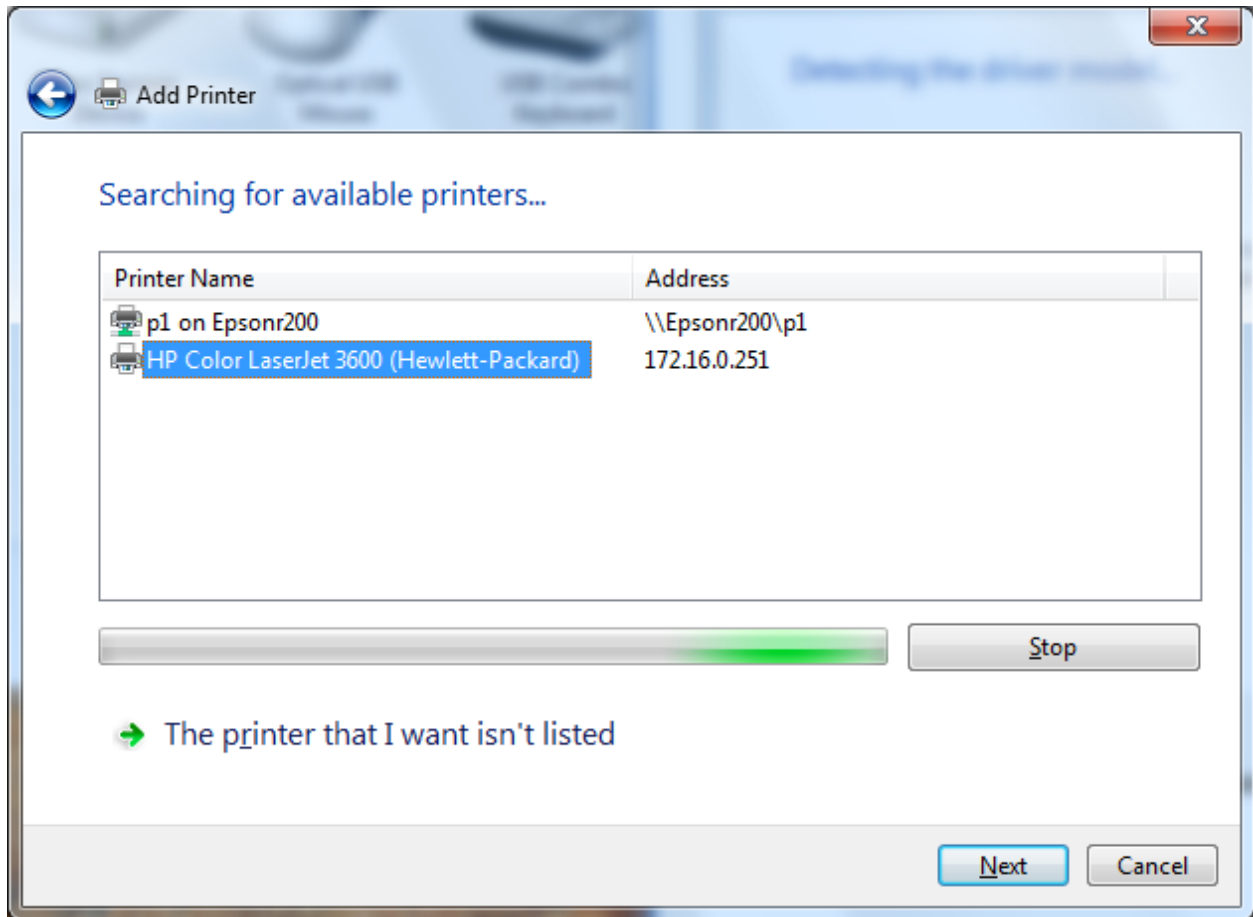
Notice that each time I connected a different display to the PC, Windows 7 made the adjustments in resolution automatically.





Installing a printer

When installing a network printer, Windows 7 will search the network for available printers.

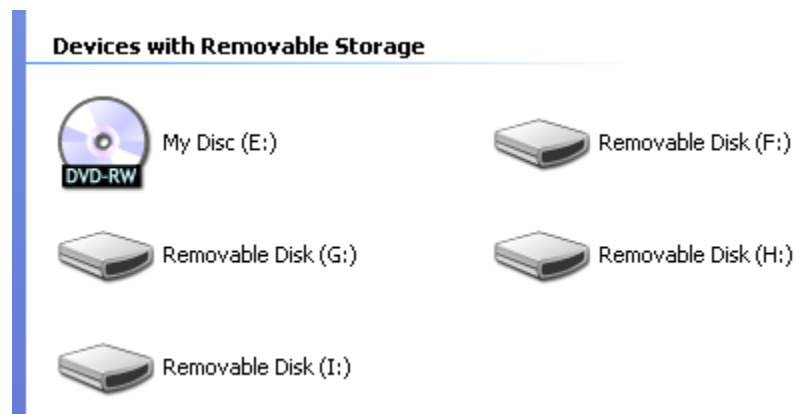


Vista, also, did this, but if you are moving to Windows 7 from XP, this is a new feature. With Windows XP, you had to specify the IP address of any printer being installed.

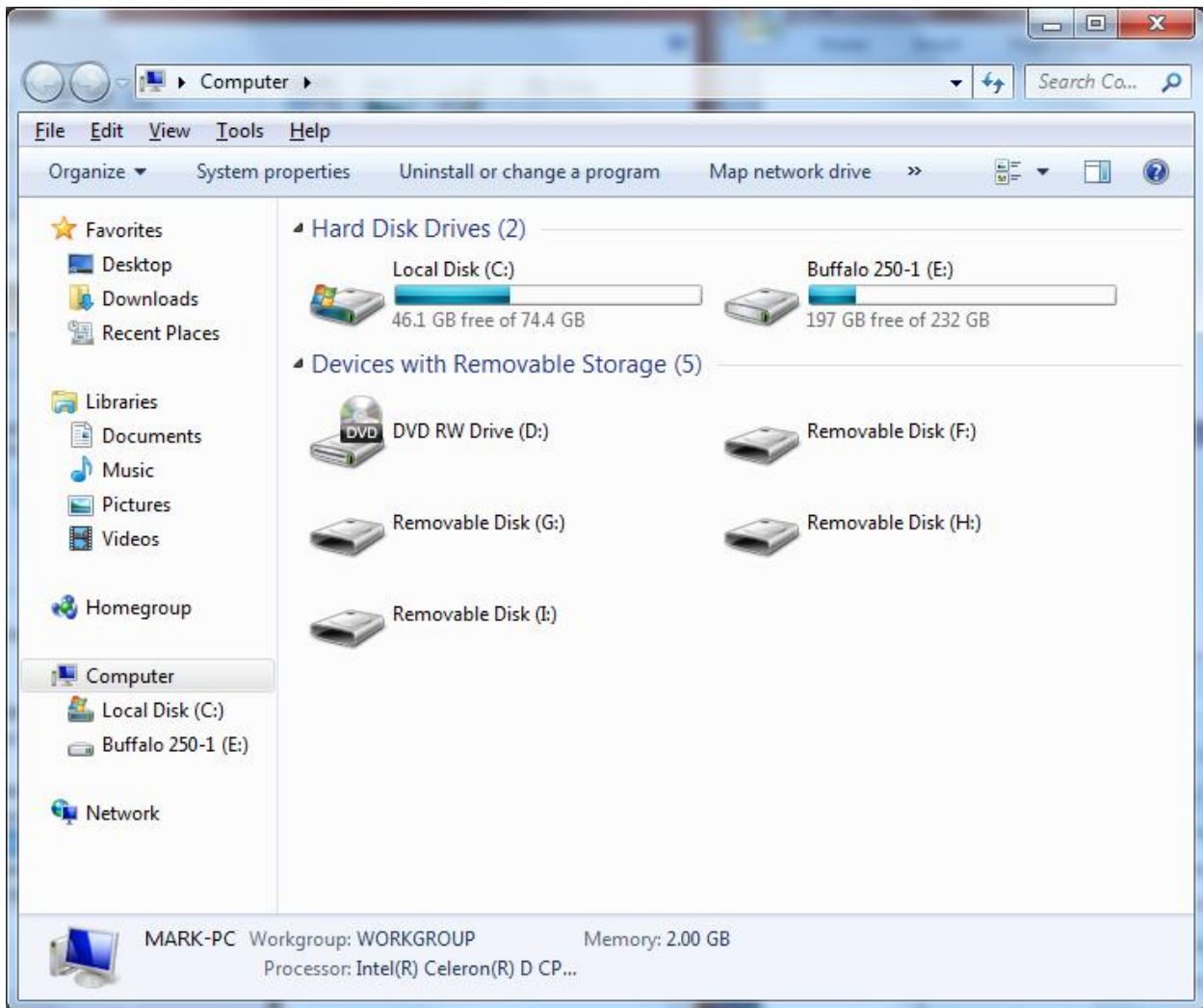
I also found that Windows 7 did not contain drivers for the printer I was installing, an HP Color LaserJet 3600, and HP did not have drivers listed for Windows 7 at that time. This, however, did not prove to a problem since Windows 7 uses the same drivers as does Vista.

Hide empty drives in Computer folder

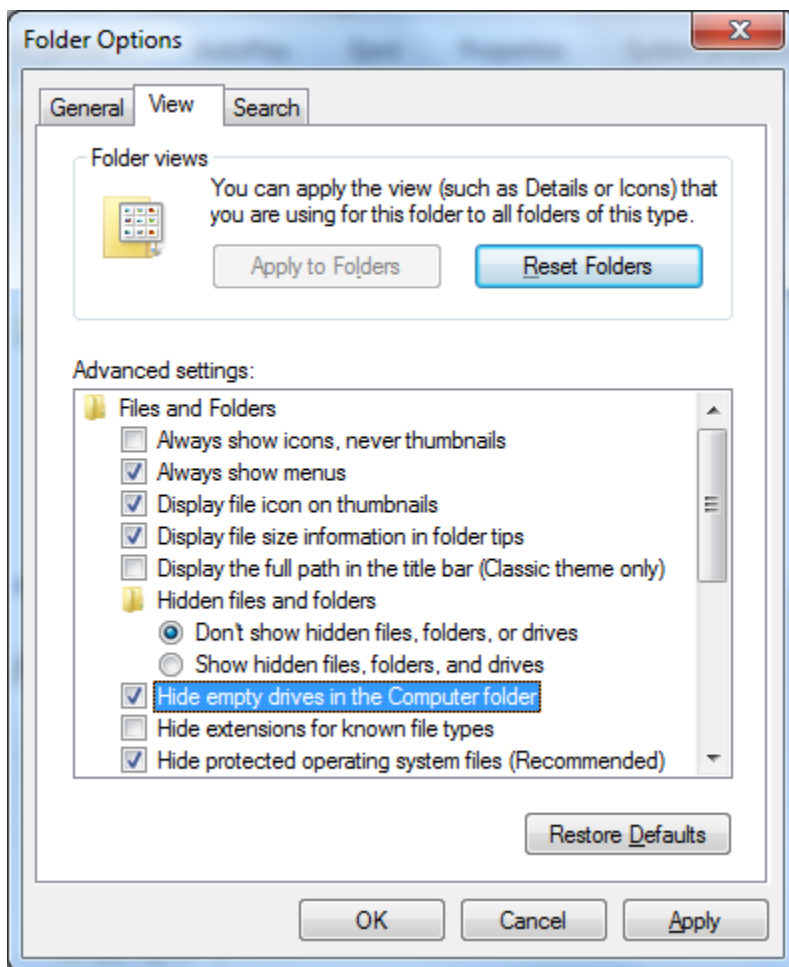
Using Windows XP, when you connect a “Universal Card Reader” to a USB port, you see a multitude of drives appear in the “My Computer” folder. Windows provides no assistance in guessing which drive contains your SD card (or CF card). (Yes, one of these drives does contain a card.)



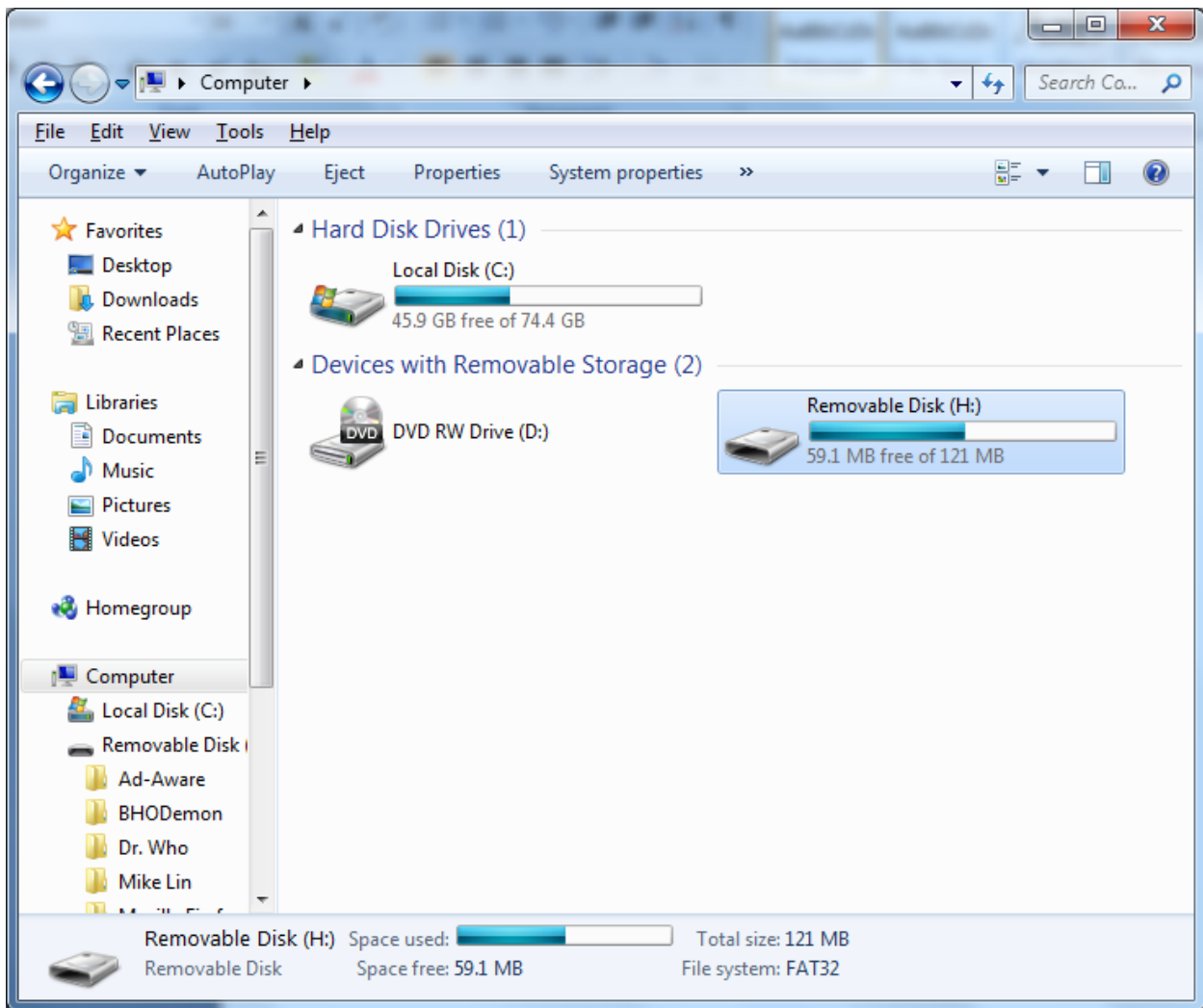
Windows 7, also, displays all drives (even those without media).



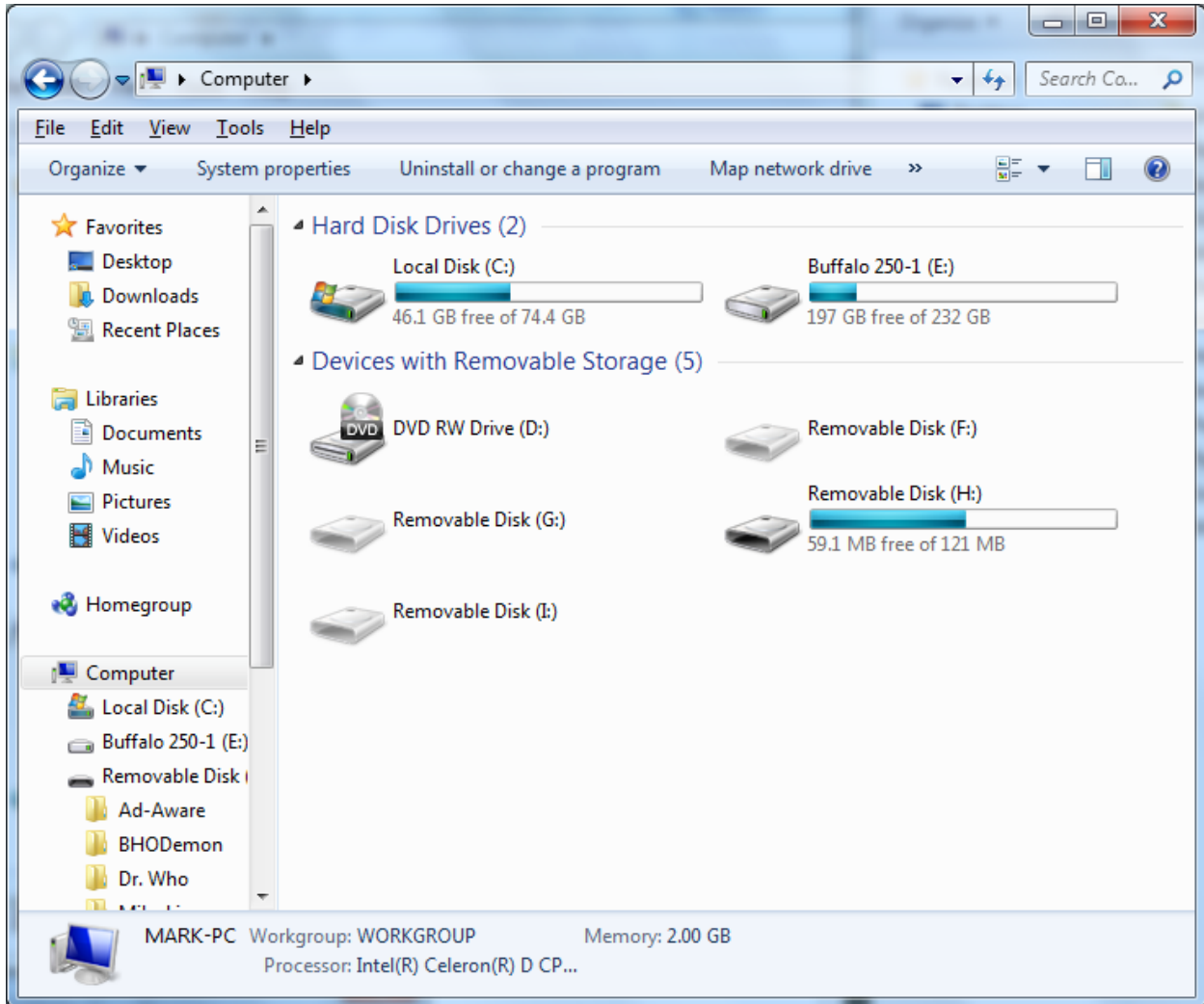
However, there's a new folder option, "Hide empty drives in Computer folder".



When enabled, only the drive containing the (SD) media appears,

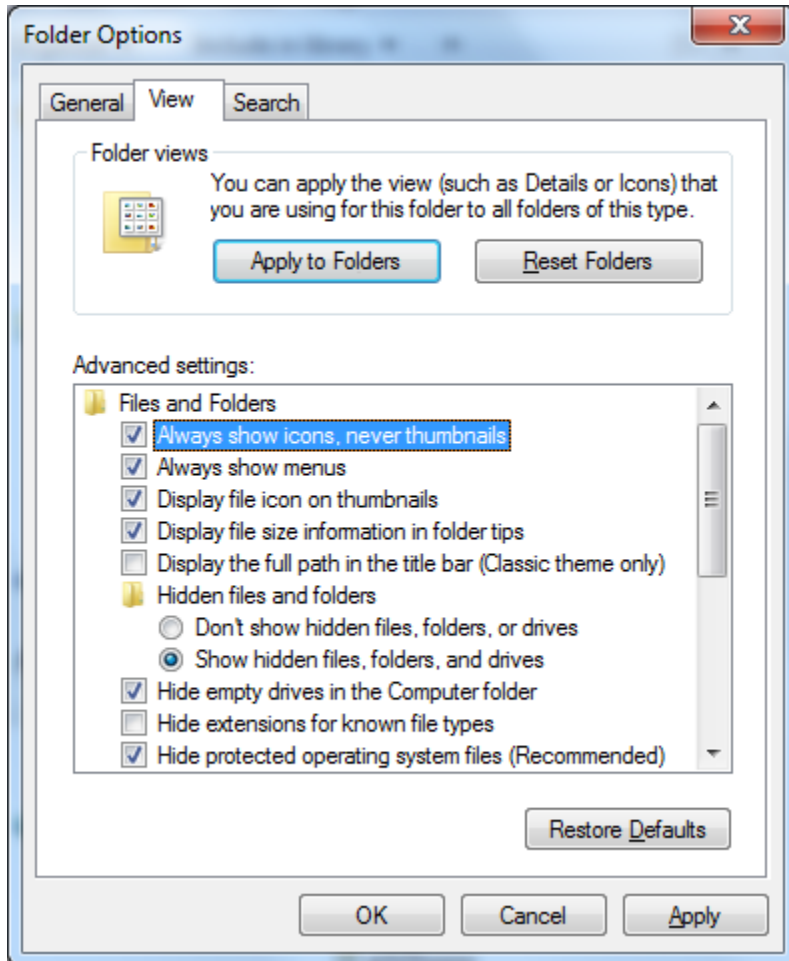


... unless you also have “Show hidden files, folders, and drives” enabled. Then, the empty drives appear, but are grayed out.



Always show icons

There's also a folder option to "Always show icons, never thumbnails".

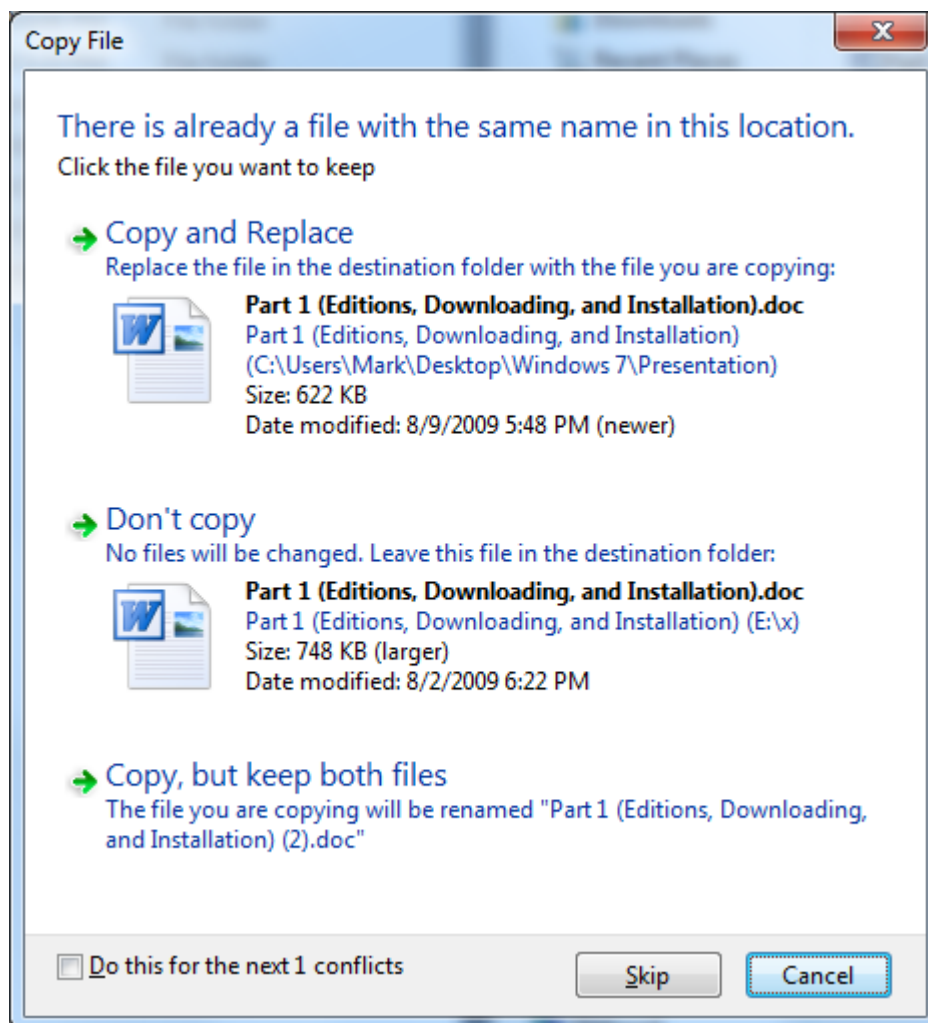


Copy and Replace

When there are duplicate files while copying (or moving) files to a new location, Windows 7 will identify which of the two files is newer.

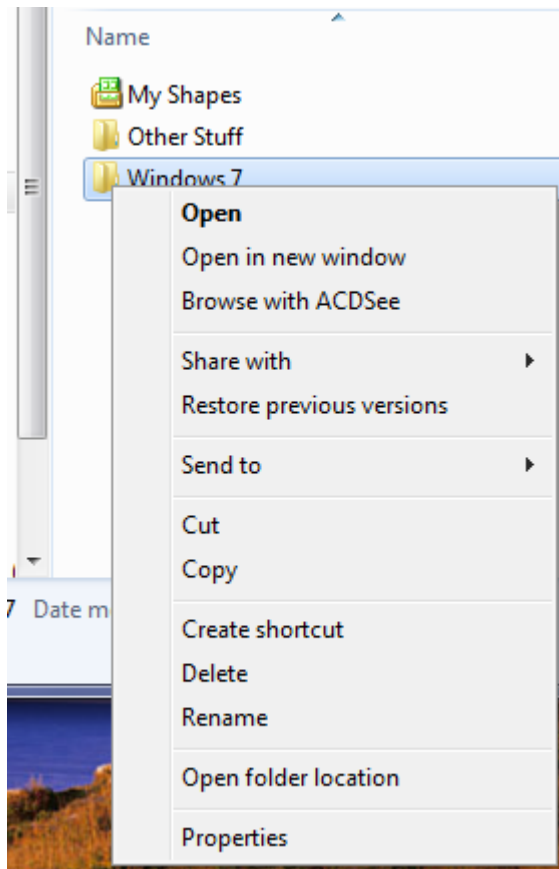
It also has an option to “do this for the next ## conflicts” which provides the equivalent of “yes to all” and “no to all”.

In prior versions of Windows (prior to Vista), there is a choice for “yes to all” but no choice for “no to all”. (Actually, you could effect a “no to all” action by holding down the shift key while you clicked “no”, but this was poorly documented.



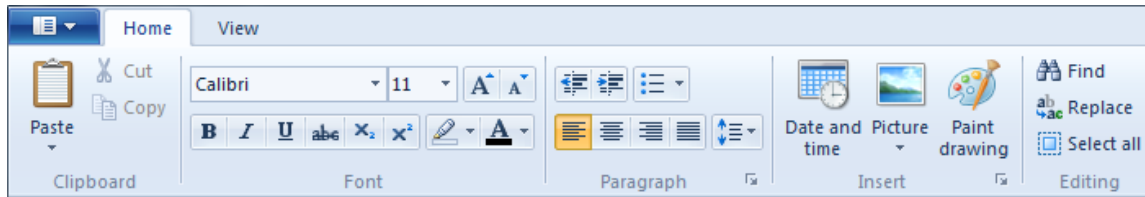
Open in New Window

When browsing through a drive with Windows Explorer, you can now choose to open a folder in the same windows or a new window. Previously, you had to make this choice in Control Panel → Folder Options. (In prior versions of Windows, you could accomplish this by holding the shift key while double-clicking the folder, but this was also poorly documented.)



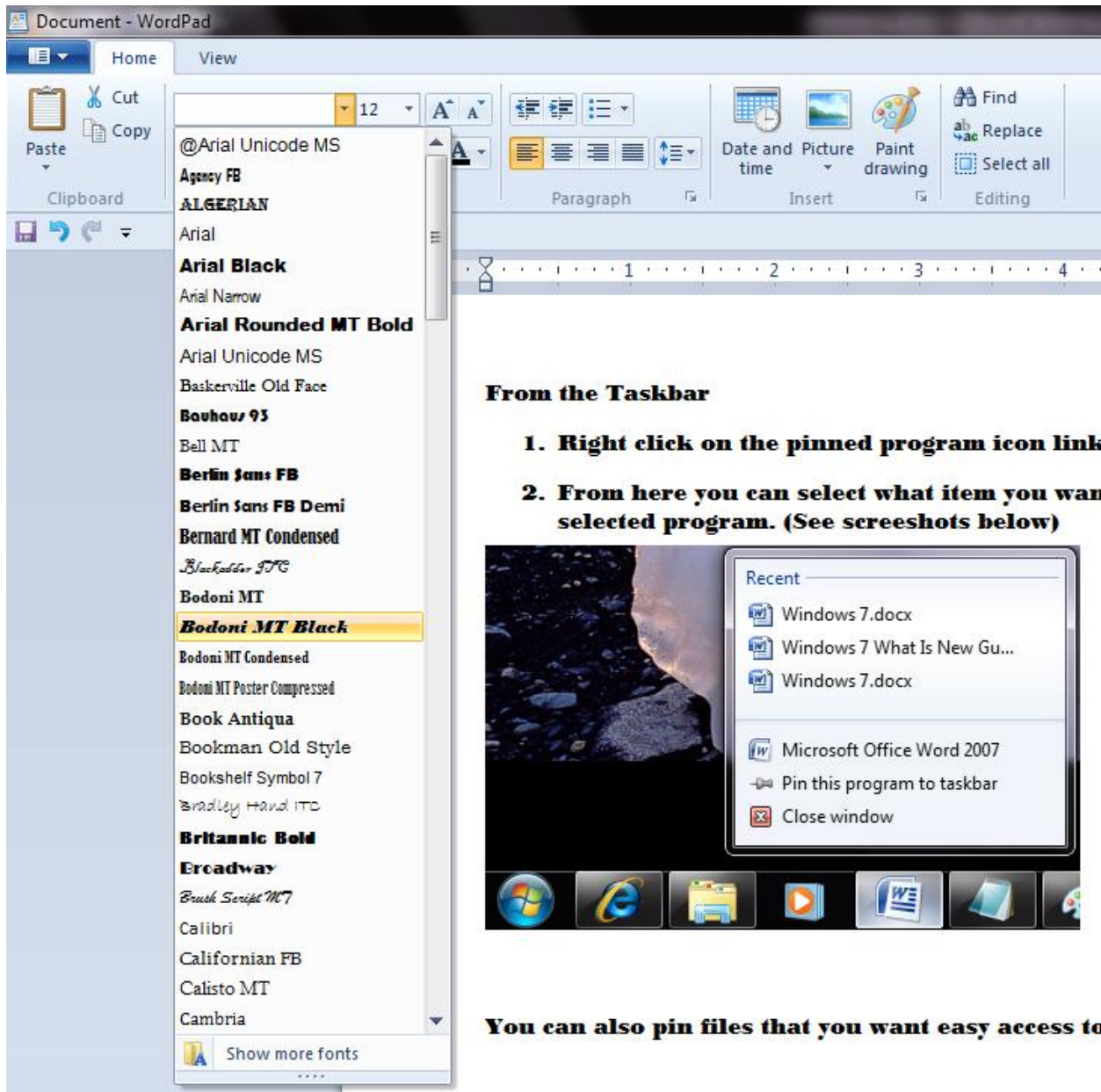
WordPad

WordPad now has a ribbon like the Office 2007 applications,



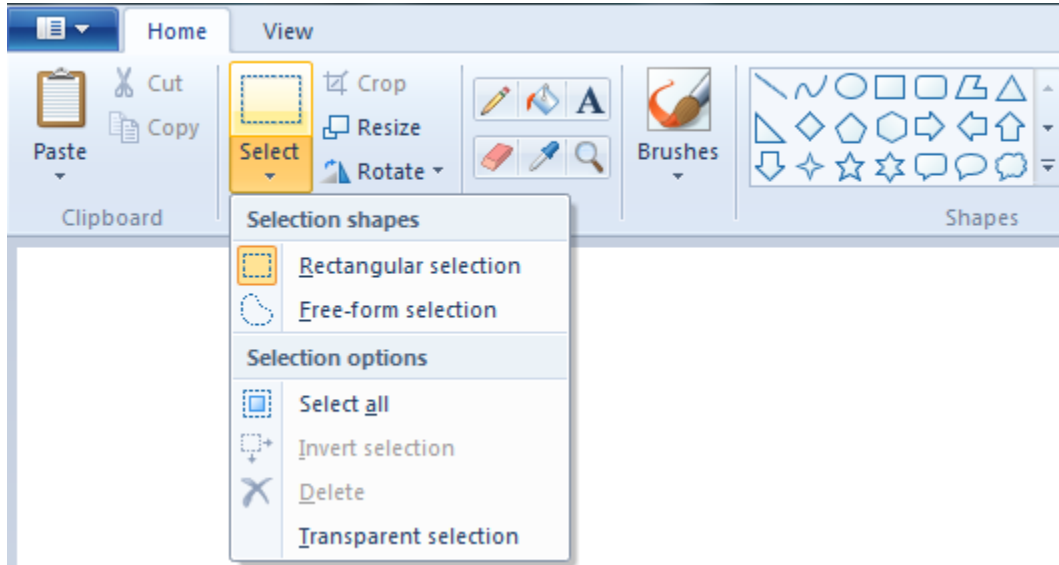
... and also has Increase Indent and "Full Justification" of text.

WordPad, like Word 2007, will show you a preview of a change of type-face or font-size before it is applied.



Paint

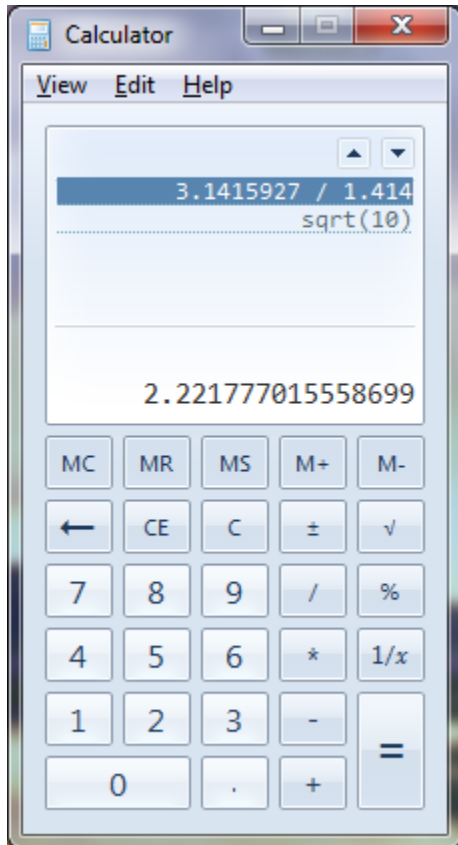
Paint, also, has a ribbon;



... plus Crop, Free-form Selection, Transparent Selection, and Ready-made Shapes.

Calculator

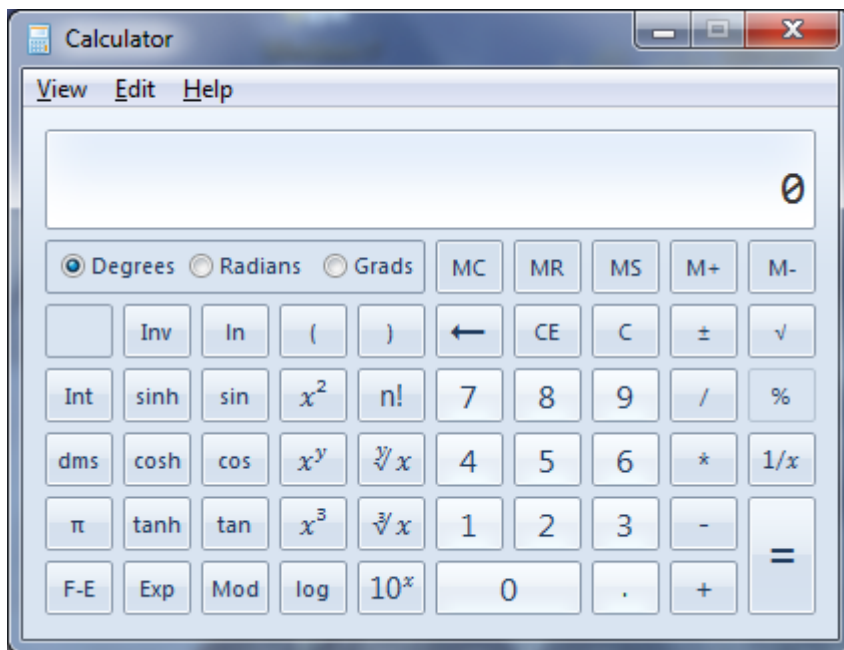
Calculator will now let you view a history of your calculations.



The history can be edited or copied to the clip-board.

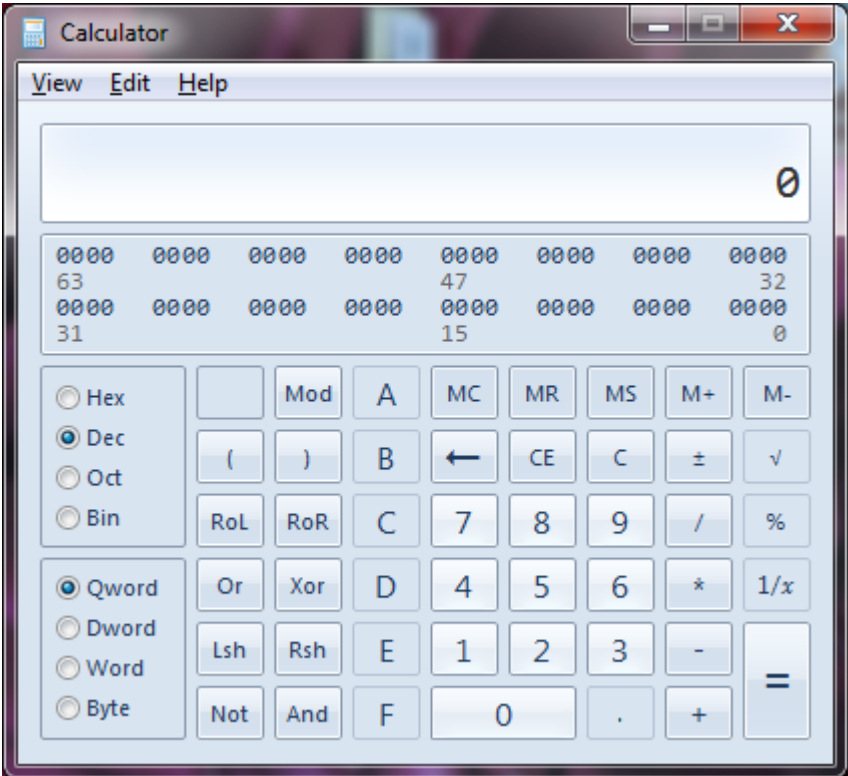


The Scientific mode has some additional mathematical functions.

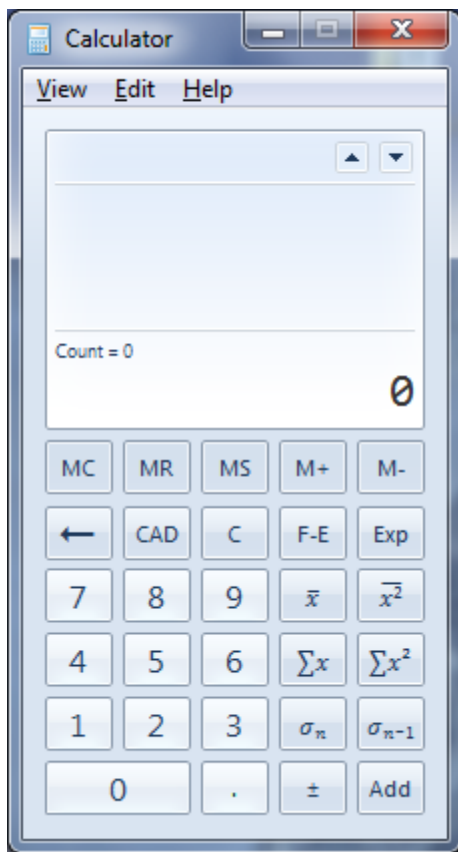


Besides the Standard and Scientific modes, Calculator not has two additional modes:

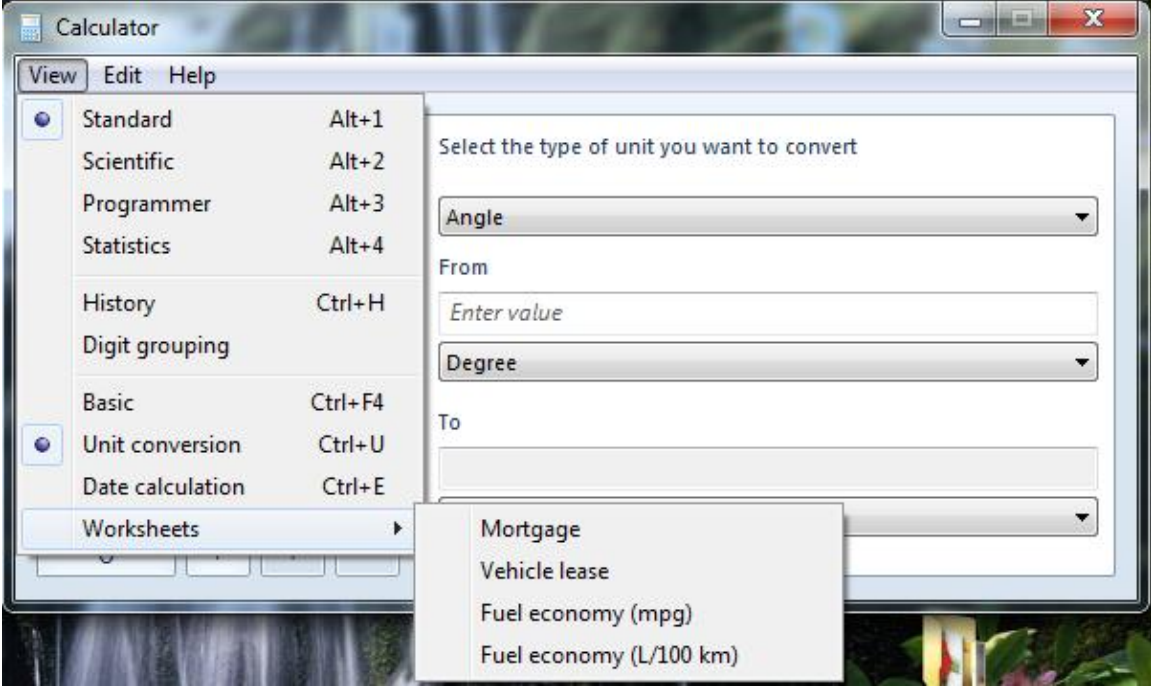
Programmer



... and Statistics

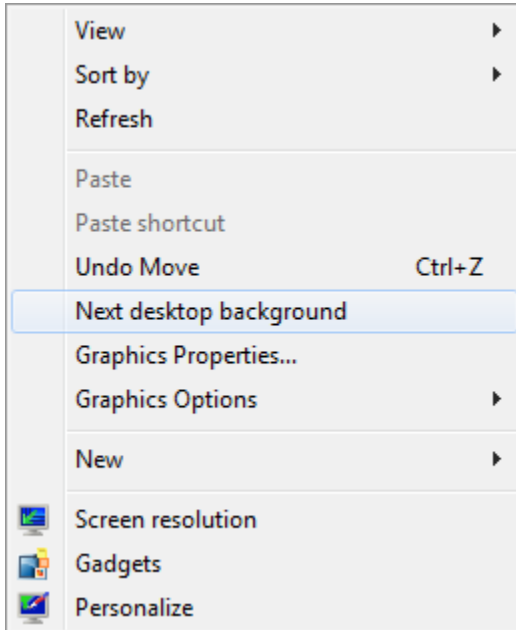


Each of these four modes can be augmented with worksheets for Unit conversion, Date calculation, Mortgage, Vehicle lease, or Fuel economy.



Things I Found Missing

When you right-click on the desktop background, you get the following choices:

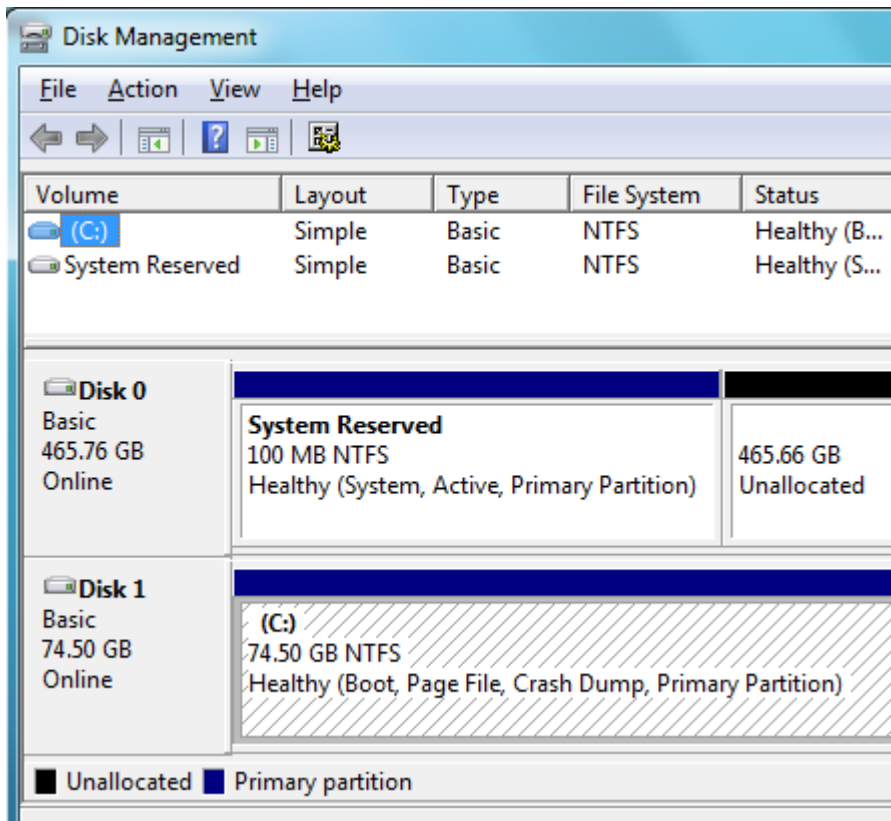


Wouldn't it be nice if you had an option to delete the current background from the slide show?

Things I Wonder About

Windows 7 Installed on Multiple Drives

Finally, I noticed that when I installed Windows 7 on a computer with two hard drives, each with no partitions allocated, that Windows created the C: drive on the second physical drive by default.



In summary

So, that's a peek at just some of the features you'll be seeing in Windows 7. There's a lot more to come, so get ready to see even more of what you asked for as we continue our work on Windows 7. Watch for more details. If you try early versions of Windows 7, thanks in advance for your interest and help in making it the best version of Windows yet. We hope you'll see your fingerprints all over it.

(The Gospel according to Microsoft.)

Information about Windows 7 is preliminary and subject to change.