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Windows 8 (Quick Study)

World's #1 Quick Reference Software Guide

Windows 8

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Contents

- Pg. 1 Introduction
- Pg. 2 Introduction (continued): Windows Store Apps, Charms Bar
- Pg. 3 Charms Bar (continued): Charms Bar
- Pg. 4 Charms Bar (continued): Account
- Pg. 5 Microsoft Account (continued): The Address Bar, Apps, The Use It, Keyboard Navigation & Tips, Internet Explorer 10, Editions, Hardware Requirements
- Pg. 6 Upgrade Options: Using the Windows Desktop, Keyboard Shortcuts

Introduction

With Windows 8, Microsoft has redesigned the user interface (UI) from scratch. It is a radical redesign, similar to when Windows 95 was released. The entire UI looks different and works in a new way. Many of these changes will be described in this guide, but one of the biggest changes is that there are now two kinds of applications: traditional applications (those used with Windows 95 and later) continue to run as they did previously, though they only run on x86 and x64 versions, not the ARM version used in many tablets. A new application type, the Windows Store app (formerly "Metro app"), has been introduced, and this type of app runs on all platforms. Another major change is touch support integrated throughout the OS, this is of primary interest to tablet users and those with touch-enabled displays. This guide focuses on traditional PCs without touch screens, so touch and gestures will not be described in this guide. Let's begin with a quick overview of the first three screens you'll see after installation.

Lock Screen

The Lock screen is seen before you log in and any time you lock the screen (press the power). The Lock screen and any data displayed on it is customizable (see Customizing the Desktop, p. 3, for details).



1. Background image
2. Current time and date
3. Indicate the network is connected and Internet access is available
4. Battery level of the device (this screen data may differ from a desktop computer, and so the battery level is not shown)

The following options are only available if the screen is locked and the user who locked it is logged in with a Microsoft account:

5. Current temperature (for location-based apps)
6. Configured location for weather data (only for when your current location of Windows is allowed to access that information, or a static location)
7. Today's forecast
8. Number of unread emails

These options are customizable and can display Twitter feeds, reminders about upcoming appointments, etc. Third-party apps can display information here, too (if they are designed with this capability in mind).

Login Screen

This screen is where you are prompted to log in. To display it, press the standard **Ctrl + Shift + Windows** keyboard used in previous versions or click the Lock screen.



Start Screen



1. **Background:** Background color and optional "buttons," which are colorful icons on the standard background, can be set (the initial color is set during installation but can be changed anytime).
2. **Windows Store apps with Live Tiles:** Many Windows Store apps will display related information (e.g., social media in Mail, stock values in Finance, appointments in Calendar, and current weather conditions in Weather) on the Start screen and rotate through various values; some apps will do this automatically, others require some kind of configuration before they display this data.
3. **People:** Displays a unified contact list from your email accounts, LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, etc., automatically combining duplicates in various sources into a single contact (without changing the data in any source). Contacts can then be managed, status synchronized, etc. This app is integrated with the Share functionality, making it simple to share photos, URLs, etc. from any Windows Store app that supports this feature.
4. **Calendar:** Displays calendar entries from the sources configured for the People and Mail apps with reminders if desired. Calendar sources can be color-coded.
5. **Photos:** Displays photos stored locally, on SkyDrive, Facebook, Flickr, etc., based on the sources configured, in a single place. Photos can be viewed individually, in a slide show, or click to show thumbnails of many photos.
6. **Store:** The Microsoft app store, which is similar to Apple's app store and the Google Play store, provides a simple way to find, install, in some cases, buy, but many are free and install Windows Store apps and is also the location to update all installed Windows Store apps.

The **Taskbar** displays worldwide destinations with the ability to book local and international. Current and historical weather, one, attractions, etc., are also available; click any option for more details.



Synopsis

As an upgrade to the Windows 7 operating system, Windows 8 includes an array of new features designed to enhance oneâ€™s computing experience. This guide will help end-users navigate through this cutting-edge operating system with our jam-packed, three-panel guide. Each Windows 8 feature is described in detail. In addition, screen captures and icons on every page highlight particular components of the operating system. The perfect resource for any Windows enthusiast!

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Customer Reviews

It seems there are two different laminated Windows guides on the market from two different publishers. We ordered both to see which one we liked better. The other one is nice and has four black and white pages with no illustrations. This one has six pages along with some color illustrations, is easier to read due to coloring and has a lot more information in it. It is easy to use so that is why we think this is the best laminated Windows guide. You will not be sorry.

Standard quality Bar Chard (Great) but I wish it were available in Windows 8.1 which seems to be the defacto OS these days. Windows 8.1 is not nearly as intimidating as people told me it would be. I am 66 and it has only taken me a short time to adapt. Of course I have 3 Windows 7 computers around here so my mind has to be able to jump back and forth.

This durable learning aid is very helpful for ascending the Windows 8 learning curve. Win 8 is "shortcut key city" and it is certainly difficult. This guide has some of the shortcuts but there are many more. I may wish I had shopped for a Win 7 machine but Microsoft promises an upgrade soon.

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