

## Classic Start Menu for Windows 10

I finally installed Windows 10 on one of my computers, and I do not like the Start menu. I Googled it and found a \*Shell\* ( I think it was called) that will convert Windows 10 to the classic Windows Start menu. But then I saw an article saying that the Shell was easily hacked. Any comments or counsel will be appreciated.

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Shells can create issues. I suggest you treat it as an adjustment item, where you deal with it and probably won't notice the difference over time.

Darrell G. Stewart, Texas

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Anyone know of a website to review the "significant" changes that Windows 10 makes --- that is, changes that should concern the user in daily simple word-processing and internet browser operations? I have looked for an overall user guide -- - so that I don't do something wrong or stupid in my start with Windows 10. I haven't found a suitable site that provides a list of Windows 10 gotchas or Windows 10 significant features (that are different from windows 7). Yes, I just did make the change to Windows 10 and so far, it is not "bad" I hope.

Roberta Fay, California

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I can't stand Windows 10.... having used Windows 7 for years, I have yet to figure out how to go to my "computer" tab in my "D" drive and access my files. It is very hard to look for things imo. Not very user friendly at all.

Bobby Lott

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There are things that I dislike about Win10, and have had to just accept, like the way it insists on ordering the file structure. But for the Start Menu, I've been using Classic Shell [<http://www.classicshell.net/>] for a few years and prefer it. I haven't had an issue with hacking, maybe I've been lucky, but I do use common sense in browsing, and lots of security, including a tightly secured router, and antivirus.

Miriam N. Jacobson, Pennsylvania

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The "control panel" is inside the tab "Windows system"

There is no "windows update".

the label "this PC" inside the tab "Windows system" contains the info that was "computer" but it only contains some of what were front-and-center in windows 7. Why? The devices and drives do not include the Brother printer and scan sna that are attached to the pc as peripherals. Also my external storage device does not show up in the display. OneDrive is everywhere !\${}

I don't know how to "turn on" network discovery in Network and Sharing Center. What to do I don't know.

Roberta Fay

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Classic Shell has been renamed Open Shell. You should replace Classic Shell with Open Shell as there are some incompatibilities with certain Windows 10 Updates. Here's a home page for Open Shell:

<https://github.com/Open-Shell/Open-Shell-Menu/releases>

Here is a direct download link:

[https://github.com/Open-Shell/Open-Shell-Menu/releases/download/v4.4.142/OpenShellSetup\\_4\\_4\\_142.exe](https://github.com/Open-Shell/Open-Shell-Menu/releases/download/v4.4.142/OpenShellSetup_4_4_142.exe)

Mike Phillips, North Carolina

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think I looked at that with my recent new computer last month, and it looked too geeky to me, so I stuck with Classic Shell.

Miriam N. Jacobson

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As a high level user, I don't understand why are you even using the Start Menu at all. W10 can easily "pin" anything you want to the taskbar (just

open whatever it is; while open, right click the icon and you can "pin to taskbar". Or I think you can drag it there.) I have 15 things pinned there, from Office to Python to programs, folders, and services msc. You can even pin batch files. I even have room for another 8-10; I doubt most folks really need more. (If you care that much, you can make your taskbar twice as high and probably hold 50 things.)

Everything there is visible, accessible, and opens with a single click. In fact, for many programs (including Word, Acrobat Firefox, Excel, and more) you can even right-click the taskbar icon and see a list of recent files, and open a recent file directly from the taskbar.

In the very rare situation that I need something which isn't already on my taskbar, it's much faster to use the search box than the Start menu. If you're really picky, you can even make a folder full of your favorite rarely-used shortcuts, and pin THAT folder to the taskbar, at which point it works like a customized Start menu which only has the things you care about (click the folder and then double-click your preferred app.)

Erik Hammarlund, Massachusetts

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Don't be surprised when you get the warning that Classic Shell is no longer supported or compatible with Windows 10. Some Windows Updates have broken it on some computers.

The website is confusing. The program is the same code base. You should switch. Or you can wait until you have to.

Mike Phillips

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Can someone explain to me why it was necessary to change the Windows 7 interface. I understand the need to upgrade a program, but I don't believe it's necessary to change in interface we all got used to. When I'm in Windows 10, everything takes longer. I find myself making many adjustments and putting commands on my desktop. The paranoid part of me believes that all software manufacturers feel compelled to make new interfaces simply to support their claims of the need for new software. Can't let the 2020 Honda look like the 2018 Honda. My rant for the day.

Jim Winiarski

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Planned obsolescence, the cornerstone of our way of life.

Robert Thomas Hayes Link, California

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I started in DOS and have been a heavy Windows user since 3.0. In retrospect, two things have generally been true:

- 1) I hated learning the new systems
- 2) Most of them were better than the old ones, for most purposes.

As for "why", the answer is simple: Why improve everything BUT the interface? Over time, not only do we have more time to see what works and what does not, but there are also continued developments in the entire field of designing interfaces. The next gen will probably be a bit better as well.

Erik Hammarlund

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Some of the changes were reportedly to support touch screens better.

Mike Phillips

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If you're experiencing slowness and problems in Win7, your computer may be too old to stick with at this point. Certainly, you should be worrying about security issues if you stick with Win7.

I just got a new all-in-one computer, and was warned to not get a touch screen, because those fail much faster than a non-touch screen.

I also agree with Erik Hammarlund's statements, and I've been around computers as long as he has, and have grown up through the various iterations of DOS, actually having started with CPM, one of its forerunners, and the various flavors of Windows. If you adopt them, not at the bleeding edge but a little after they've been introduced and get used to them, they're not as hard as when you wait 3 generations to jump in.

Miriam N. Jacobson

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I've grown up through the various iterations of DOS myself, and started learning computer programming in 1976, but feel differently. I have Windows 7 on my desktop computer, and Windows 10 on my laptop. Here is why I \*hate\* Windows 10, as opposed to 7:

- 1) I have had my information in c:\Data, and documents in c:\Data\Documents, forever. My files are quite well organized, and systematic. Windows 10 insists on changing "Documents" into "My Documents" (and "Photos" into "Pictures", etcetera) every damned time there is any sort of minor update. No way to tell the system that one wants the default folders to be named differently.
- 2) In Windows 7 I can do a search for a phrase and have all sorts of documents and photos pop up. Windows 10 downgrades that search by using Cortana, which preferentially shows Web results. If I wanted to search the Web, I would have done it from a Web browser.
- 3) Constant admonitions and programs trying to get one to commit all one's calendar and contacts information to Microsoft, especially OneDrive and the unreliable OneNote, which cannot be uninstalled or eliminated.
- 4) Plenty of other Microsoft programs that are uninstallable and unhideable.
- 5) Finally, I cannot think of one blessed thing that actually improved on Windows 7, as opposed to change for change's sake.

Yeah, I'm a fossil. Software is a pretty odd duck, when it comes to products, since, unlike clothes and cars and most other thing, it never wears out. I think most software pretty much hit its peak 15-20 years ago, and since then it has been a frantic rush to try to load things onto it to keep the revenue stream moving. Way back when, new editions of software actually added new and handy features, and made things

easier: I wouldn't want to have to go back to DOS and having Timeslips and Sidekick run as TSRs. But I have not run into anything (other than, of course, the Web and the information available thereon) that actually has made a difference in my practice - other than making things actually more difficult - for 20 years at least.

Michael A. Koenecke, Texas

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Part of it is actual design and use considerations, part of it is like your vehicle analogy, where a change is made to emphasize a new model, to my view. Treat it as a learning curve. I did, but did so when it was first out. After some time, you won't remember the old way. I don't generally, although I still have a Win 7 laptop I don't really use.

Darrell G. Stewart

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Adjusting to change in software requires time and training. Skipping training increases time, unless you have an intuitive understanding of the issues. Basically, it is a learning curve.

People learn different ways. There are a lot of YouTube videos. There are training classes. There are books. You can get certifications. All of it takes time.

Darrell G. Stewart

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Hopefully everyone has Windows 10 Pro, not the basic Windows Home. It was designed for business use.

There are settings that can be modified regarding communications back to Microsoft. Most of them are under privacy.

Windows explorer works approximately the same in both versions. I have Cortana basically shut down. It slows me down based on how I operate a computer.

Calendars and contacts can be adjusted as to which programs access them. I have the settings turned off. Same thing for microphone and video and a lot of other settings where I don't need them.

I have OneDrive turned off in AutoStart. I never activate it so it does not bug me.

I use a local account to sign on.

All of these are settings.

Darrell G. Stewart

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Perhaps that is the main problem, as Windows 10 Home came with my laptop. I have tried various settings to correct the issues, but perhaps most of those can be fixed in

the Business version. Even so, I do not think the interface and features improve on Windows 7 in any way.

Michael A. Koenecke

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\*1) I have had my information in c:\Data, and documents in c:\Data\Documents, forever. My files are quite well organized, and systematic. Windows 10 insists on changing "Documents" into "My Documents"

(and "Photos" into "Pictures", etcetera) every damned time there is any sort of minor update. No way to tell the system that one wants the default folders to be named differently.\*

I won't lie, this \*is\* annoying. You can always work around it if you'd like.

\*2) In Windows 7 I can do a search for a phrase and have all sorts of documents and photos pop up. Windows 10 downgrades that search by using Cortana, which preferentially shows Web results. If I wanted to search the Web, I would have done it from a Web browser.\*

I can't recall if there is a setting to disable Cortana web results. I think there has been one before. In any case, assume you have at least one folder pinned to your taskbar....? Searches from within a folder are limited to within that folder and any subfolders, which is a handy way to do things.

3) Constant admonitions and programs trying to get one to commit all one's calendar and contacts information to Microsoft, especially OneDrive and the unreliable OneNote, which cannot be uninstalled or eliminated.

I never get those notices, though then again I only use Windows 10 Pro.

4) Plenty of other Microsoft programs that are uninstallable and unhideable.

Again, the Pro version will often solve those issues.

5) Finally, I cannot think of one blessed thing that actually improved on Windows 7, as opposed to change for change's sake.

Well, security; tablet compatibility; better disk support; and a bunch of other stuff which in my mind makes it a better OS ;)

Frankly it sounds like you should get Pro. Then you can fix many of the things you don't like, either with special settings or GPE.

Erik Hammarlund

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Thanks for all these comments! My problem is that I bought my pc system at Costco and it was windows home premium and it worked fine. I just recently upgraded to windows 10 --- which I "guess" is the parallel system to "home premium" in windows 7. I would gladly upgrade to "pro" but the entire windows upgrading process is fraught with potential problems and aggravations. I will just settle with what is acceptable because I can't spend my time becoming an expert on the flaky windows 10 product. I literally sit with bated breath waiting to see if it "works." The guides and how-to info on the front pages are grossly inadequate and I have not found a good YouTube video.

Is it easy to switch to windows 10 pro from the home premium version? Is it worthwhile at this point in time?

Roberta Fay

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I feel like I've been having these conversations since early in the Win95 days, and am reminded of my remarks about planned obsolescence earlier today. Heroin is kinder than Windows.

Robert Thomas Hayes Link

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I just bought a new system from Lenovo that came with Windows Home. I upgraded to Pro through the Windows Store, as that was easiest. You buy it online and it updates automatically.

Instructions exist to do it other ways also. You pay Microsoft \$100 for the upgrade through the Windows Store. I thought it faster to do that than use alternate approaches (basically a time and money analysis).

Darrell G. Stewart

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Roberta:

If you are using a laptop, I think the biggest advantage to Windows 10 Pro is that it includes BitLocker so you can encrypt your laptop data without having to use a third

party program to do that. A couple of recent seminars I went to really stressed what a disaster it would be if a laptop with a bunch of client data is lost or stolen. This seemed to be a pretty good article comparing the versions if anything else catches your eye: <https://www.lifewire.com/windows-10-home-vs-pro-4177144>

Michael J. Polk, South Carolina

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About two weeks ago someone on our group provided a link to a \*free\* installation of Win 10. I used it to install Win 10 Pro on one PC. That link remained valid as of last weekend. I expect that you could do a Win 10 Pro installation over Win 10 Home if you wanted to. If you cannot find the string and the link, contact me off line and I will send it to you.

Curtis Drew, Arizona

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The Windows 10 free upgrade can be found by searching for "Media Creation Tool". It's been available all along. From what I'm told, it will only upgrade 10 to the same version you have on 7 or 8. It will not upgrade the version, say from Home to Pro.

Mike Phillips

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Windows 10 Pro question -- I upgraded from windows 7 home premium to windows 10. The speed has not degraded -- so far. If I upgrade to windows

10 pro (cost of \$100 in windows store) will that slow down my pc during ordinary usage? (I cannot find any definitive info about a possible pr slowdown if I make this switch. I like the extra seemingly protections that windows 10 pro lists.) Thanks for this thread!

Roberta Fay

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Win 10 Pro does not run slower than Win 10 Home, to my view. I have one laptop on Win 10 Home and I don't see a difference beyond the chip in it.

Darrell G. Stewart