

GUIDE TO USING WINDOWS 8

Microsoft's newest operating system has a whole new interface and loads of new features. Here are CNET's best tips for getting up to speed quickly and getting the most out of Windows 8. by CNET staff



Microsoft's newest operating system has a whole new interface and loads of new features. Of course, learning a whole new operating system always takes a little time. Here are our tips for getting up to speed quickly and getting the most out of Windows 8.

Preparing for Windows 8

Check compatibility

Is the software and hardware on your PC compatible with Windows 8? It's easy to find out with the Windows 8 Upgrade Assistant.

Read: [Check your PC for Windows 8 readiness with upgrade assistant](#)

Get your PC ready

If you're planning to upgrade to Microsoft's latest OS, now might be a good time to begin preparing your PC.

Read: [How to prepare your PC for Windows 8](#)

Try it out -- sort of

You've probably heard about the new Metro interface in Windows 8, but how to know if you'll like it? Current Windows users can get a sneak peek into the look and feel of Metro with the free metro7 app.

Read: [How to try the Windows 8 Metro interface free](#)

Get Windows 8

Microsoft's biggest desire is to get you using Windows 8, and fast. Here's how to use that \$40 upgrade to flip older versions of Windows to Windows 8.

Read: [How to upgrade to Windows 8](#)

Skip the log-in

Users who don't need the security of a lock screen and a log-in screen can bypass both through a few simple steps.

Read: [How to bypass the Windows 8 log-in screen](#)

Get the start menu back

Three free utilities can replicate the classic Start button and menu in Windows 8.

Read: [How to get the classic Start menu back in Windows 8 RTM](#)

Going back to start

Clean and simple, Windows 8's Desktop mode also lacks any apparent ways to get back to Metro. Here's three tips on how to do just that.

Read: [How to return to the Windows 8 Start screen](#)

Use a picture as your password

[Tablet](#) and PC users alike can create a picture password in Windows 8 as a visual way of signing in. Here's how.

Read: [How to create a picture password in Windows 8](#)

Shut down with a tile

Shutting down or rebooting Windows 8 can be as easy as point, then click, if you want it to be.

Read: [How to create a shutdown and reboot tile in Windows 8](#)

Keyboard shortcuts

Windows 8 has some new keyboard shortcuts that will help you get around Microsoft's latest OS.

Read: [23 new keyboard shortcuts for Windows 8](#)

Set default programs

Windows 8 chooses its default players to run your music and video, but what if you want different programs to open your files? Here's how to change them.

Read: [How to change default programs in Windows 8](#)

Task Manager

The most neglected feature of Windows since it landed in 1995, Task Manager has finally received some love in Windows 8. Here's what's new.

Read: [How to use Windows 8 Task Manager](#)

Automatic backups

The new File History feature in Windows 8 can automatically back up your documents, music, pictures, and other personal files.

Read: [How to automatically back up your personal files in Windows 8](#)

Sync your devices

One of the best things about Windows 8 is that you can sync settings, apps, and more across multiple computers and tablets. Here's how you do it.

Read: [How to set up sync on Windows 8](#)

Printing

Printing from a Metro app in Windows 8 works differently than printing from a Desktop app. So, how do you print from a Metro app?

Read: [How to print from a Metro app in Windows 8](#)

Get Windows Media Center back

Windows Media Center isn't included with Windows 8, but for a limited time, you can get it free of charge.

Read: [How to add Windows Media Center to Windows 8 Pro for free](#)

Advanced tips

Run Windows 8 Desktop and Metro side by side

Not sure if you prefer Windows 8 in Desktop or Metro view? With an external monitor you can use both at the same time.

Read: [Run Windows 8 desktop on a second monitor](#)

Dual-boot with 7

Dual-booting your [Windows 7](#) PC with Windows 8 can help you ease into using Windows 8.

Read: [How to dual-boot Windows 7 with Windows 8](#)

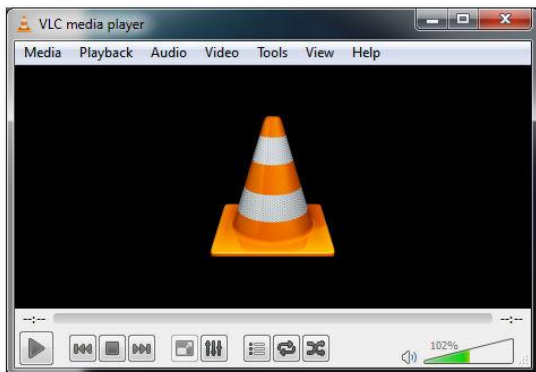
Make it kid-safe

Parental controls in Windows 8 are more configurable and robust than ever before. We'll show you how to use parental controls in Windows 8 to help keep kids safe while using a PC.

Read: [How to use parental controls in Windows 8](#)

13 useful VLC keyboard shortcuts

Frequent VLC user? You're missing out if you haven't memorized these keyboard shortcuts yet. by [Nicole Cozma](#) March 29, 2012 3:33 PM PDT



VLC media player. - If you're like me, you enjoy doing things faster. Using keyboard shortcuts can help you spend less time looking for buttons or menus, and more time enjoying music and videos. So take a moment to become a more efficient by reading over these VLC shortcuts:

Space: toggle pause/play

F: toggle full-screen (you can also use **Esc** to leave full-screen mode)

Z: change zoom mode

Ctrl + Up / Down: Adjust volume up/down (you can also use mouse scroll wheel for this)

M: toggle mute

T: display time remaining/elapsed

+ / -: play media faster/slower

S: stop play

Ctrl + H: toggle control display

E: watch video frame by frame

V: toggle subtitles

P: previous item in media que

N: next item in media que

Interested in trying something new with VLC? Check out [How to privately stream video](#), and don't forget to grab the [newest version of VLC](#) from Download.com.

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