

WHAT IS WINDOWS 7 ALL ABOUT?

In 2009, Microsoft redefined the standards for operating systems with the launch of the Windows 7 operating system. From faster speeds to exceptional reliability and management, an efficient yet user-friendly interface, to better security features and driver support, Windows 7 has it all!

Windows 7 has fixed most of the annoying issues of Windows Vista including unresponsive and stationary gadgets, poor networking, slower browsing and overall sub-par performance.

Better than Windows XP, Windows Vista or any of the earlier operating systems by Microsoft; Windows 7 is indeed 'Your PC simplified'. Not only is performance improvement one of the key reasons that more than 150 million copies of this operating system has been sold worldwide, but there are hundreds of new added features which are fun to learn, easy to apply and extremely beneficial for your everyday computing.

UPGRADING TO WINDOWS 7

If you have a PC, then say goodbye to the earlier Windows operating systems and start utilizing the maximum capabilities of your system with Windows 7. Most of the computers that are already running Windows Vista will meet the minimum system requirements for upgrading to Windows 7, for others; check to be sure that your system is ready.

Skim through the list to see if you are ready for the upgrade:

- 1 gigahertz (GHz) or faster 32-bit or 64-bit processor.
- 1 gigabyte (GB) RAM (32-bit) or 2 GB RAM (64-bit).
- 16 GB available hard disk space (32-bit) or 20 GB (64-bit).
- DirectX 9 graphics device with WDDM 1.0 or higher driver.

You can purchase Windows 7 to replace your OS, if you are not currently using a Windows operating system, or you can upgrade your current Windows operating system. While most users of Windows Vista and Windows XP will be able to upgrade without having to install Windows 7 from scratch, it is necessary to do so if you run any older version.

Whatever option you choose, there are three packages available.

Based on your needs, you can choose from:

1. Windows 7 Home Premium.
2. Windows 7 Professional.
3. Windows 7 Ultimate.

Windows 7 Professional and Windows 7 Ultimate have more features than Windows 7 Home Premium. Bear in mind, you can always upgrade to a more robust version at any time by purchasing the upgrade package available.

An important point to consider while purchasing or upgrading your operating system to Windows 7 is choosing the right type for your PC. Windows 7 comes in a 32 bit and a 64 bit version.

For most home applications, upgrading to Windows 7 Home Premium will revolutionize your PC experience. You can even upgrade (or if you are not eligible for an upgrade then purchase) the Windows 7 Family Pack for use on multiple computers at home. . For offices and corporate environments, Windows 7 Professional and Windows 7 Ultimate are the right choices.

A few tips to remember when upgrading.

It may take several hours to install.

Backup your computer first, preferably to an external hard drive. This is a good idea whenever making any big changes in hardware or software. Windows 7 as well as early versions of Window operating systems have back utilities, but are not available in all versions. A good alternative is Acronis, a backup software program, which can be purchased from computer retailers or at www.acronis.com.

Temporarily disable your security/anti-virus programs. They can interfere with installation. Be sure to turn them back on when you are done.

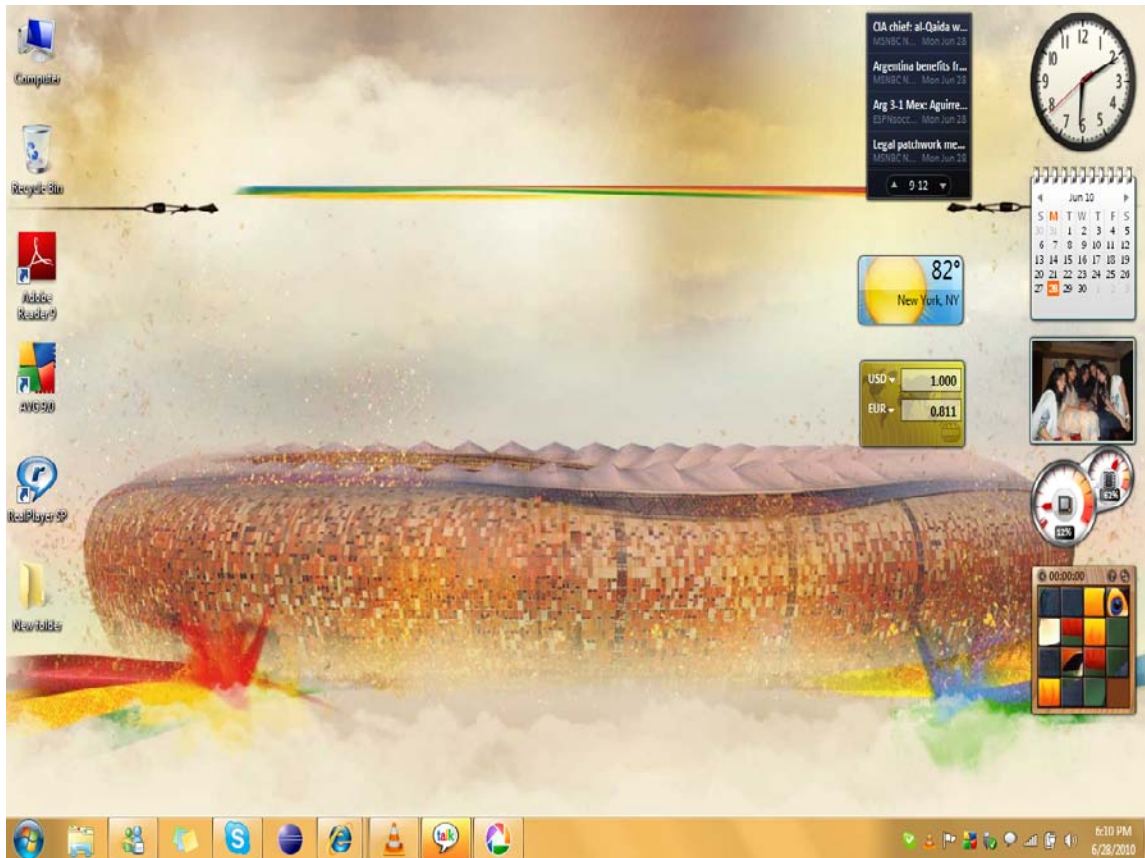
Be sure you are connected to the internet so Windows 7 can get any updates needed for installation.

If you are upgrading from Windows Vista, most installed software should work fine after upgrade. If you are upgrading from Windows XP, you may need to re-install software, even Microsoft Office products, so be sure you have the installation CDs and product keys handy.

THE WINDOWS 7 INTERFACE

Windows 7 has introduced a new and improved Graphical user interface that allows multitasking and desktop interaction exceeding previous operating systems. Hundreds of new gadgets have been added to enhance the usability of your desktop while improving the multitasking experience for everyday computing.

Below is the screenshot of what your desktop may look like after installing Windows7.



GADGETS IN WINDOWS 7

If you are switching from Windows Vista, you probably know what gadgets are but for users switching from other operating systems, gadgets are mini applications that can be spread throughout your desktop and come in very handy as an easy way to access essential information. Windows 7 has some really unique gadgets, which you can pin anywhere on your desktop, unlike Windows Vista where the available gadgets had to stay in the right hand corner of your screen.

To start using gadgets on your computer, right click anywhere on your desktop from the drop down menu, choose Gadgets. This is what your gadget option will return.



Some of the most popular gadgets include:

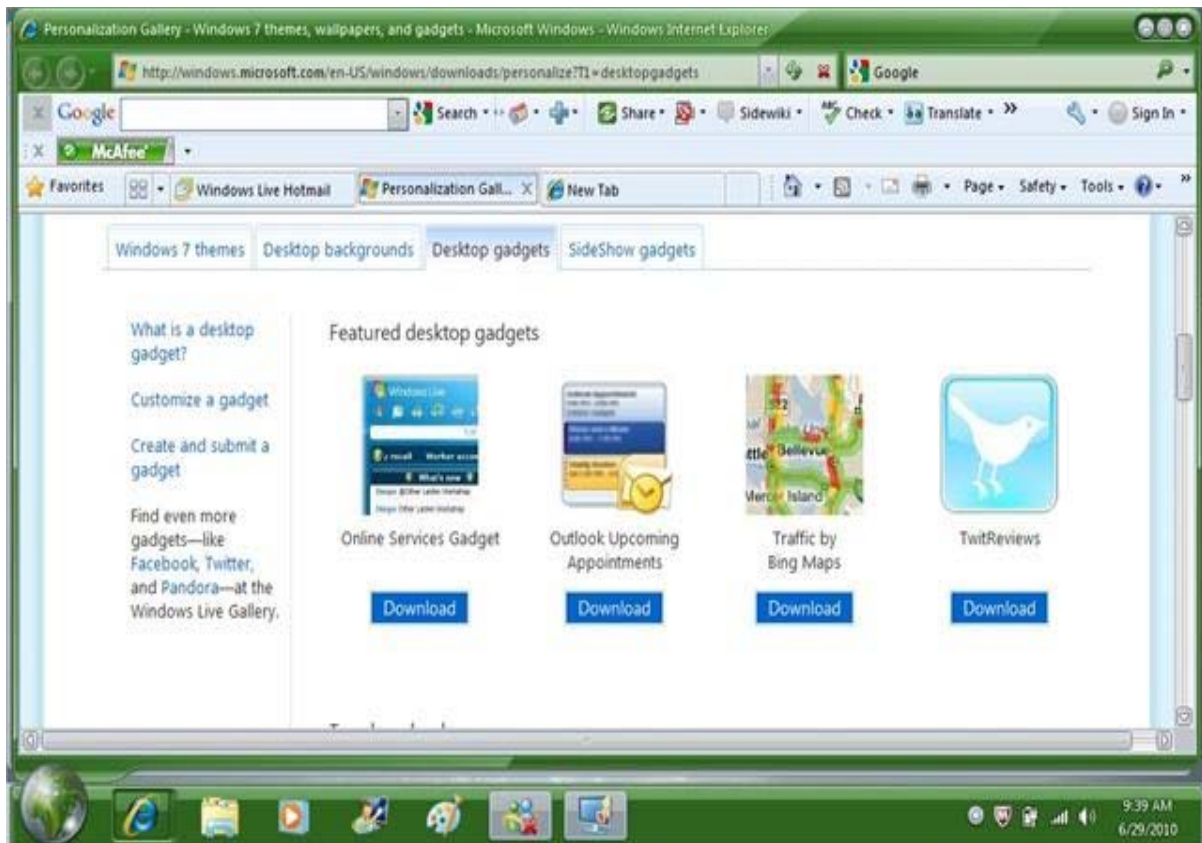
Clock: Lets you see the current time.

Weather: Check whether you need to wear a warm jacket or a raincoat before heading out the door with this very useful gadget.

Currency converter: Interested in comparing the currency rates of two countries? Currency converter is for you!

Slideshow: Choose a folder and enjoy a slideshow of all your favorite photographs while working. Cool, right?

There are thousands of new gadgets being added everyday and are available for download from Microsoft's website. From quick twitter posts, traffic updates, language translators, eBay auctions, google gadget to Piano, CPU performance and outlook appointment charts, the possibilities are endless! Click on '**get more gadgets online**' on the bottom right corner of your gadget screen and it will take you to Microsoft's website.



Browse hundreds of “Desktop gadgets” and download the ones most suitable to your lifestyle and needs!