

The Villages Computer Club will meet at 1 p.m. Friday Oct 26, 2012 at Lake Miona Recreation Center. The program will feature a presentation by John Campbell on Transferring music to PC and making CDs/DVDs.

Following the presentation will be refreshments, a 50/50 drawing, door prizes and a problem solving session.

If you have a computer problem you can't resolve, fill out the troubleshooting request form found at thevillagescomputerclub.com and bring it to the meeting.

Guests are always welcome. For information or to sign up to be on the VCC email list, visit the website or email Paul Rabenold at TVCC.Pres@gmail.com.

How Operating Systems Work

Click here: <http://computer.howstuffworks.com/operating-system2.htm>

Operating System Functions

At the simplest level, an operating system does two things:

1. It manages the hardware and software resources of the system. In a **desktop computer**, these resources include such things as the **processor**, **memory**, disk space and more (On a **cell phone**, they include the keypad, the screen, the address book, the phone dialer, the battery and the network connection).

2.

It provides a stable, consistent way for applications to deal with the hardware without having to know all the details of the hardware.

The latest Windows operating systems offered by Microsoft Win8 vs. Windows RT: What to know before you buy

By Woody Leonhard



During recent travels around the western U.S., I asked many computer salespeople about Windows 8 — and was truly *shocked* at inaccurate information provided about the new OS.

Few knew the key differences between versions, and almost all offered "advice" that was way off the mark.

On October 26, Microsoft will release two distinctly different versions of its latest OS — Windows 8 and Windows RT. Do you know the difference? Try tackling these seemingly simple, real-world questions. I'll provide the correct answers (they might surprise you) to these questions and others further below. They should help you make the right Windows choice — especially if you're interested in a new Windows-based tablet.

- Is it true I have to buy all apps for my new Surface tablet from Microsoft's Windows Store?
- Will all Windows Store apps work on the new Microsoft Surface tablets?
- I use LastPass to manage all my passwords. Will LastPass work with Lenovo's IdeaPad tablets and notebooks?
- Are there significant differences between Office 2013 and Office 2013 RT?
- My new Windows tablet came with Word 2013 preinstalled. Can I print documents from Word on my HP LaserJet?
- Can I sync SkyDrive files with my new Surface tablet?
- Can I run Outlook on the new Microsoft Surface tablets? How about Windows Live Mail or Windows Photo Gallery?

Significant differences separate RT and Win8

Back in August, I wrote a [Top Story](#) that delved into the ways Windows 8 differed from Windows RT. Here's how I summarized those differences:

"Windows RT is the version of Windows 8 that doesn't run Windows programs."

That's really the heart of the matter — and it's the source of ongoing confusion for consumers, sales clerks, and others who really should know what you can — and can't — do with the two OSes.

In a [July column](#), "Win8 + Windows RT + WinRT = mass confusion," I chided Microsoft for its extraordinarily poor choice of terminology. I urged the Redmondians to get the confusion sorted out so consumers can make an easily understood, informed decision about Win8 and Windows RT — on both traditional PCs and tablets. But as best I can tell, Microsoft has done virtually nothing to make the distinctions clear.

Soon, you'll be able to buy two fundamentally different kinds of computers that share the *Windows* name. And unlike the iPad, hardware won't define the version of OS installed. Desktop computers, laptops, tablets, and slates will all run Windows 8. It's unlikely you'll ever see Windows RT on a desktop, but it will be found on various ultralight laptops, tablets, and other mobile devices.

Unfortunately, with the two OSes sharing a similar name and appearance, many Windows 8 buyers might make a costly mistake — they'll have purchased a Windows RT-based device that's not up to their needs. Windows RT does look and run like Windows 8, but it does *not* run traditional Windows apps.

Although Microsoft has been extraordinarily coy about the details, it now appears that Windows RT computers will run look-alikes of standard, built-in Windows apps (such as Paint, WordPad, and Notepad). According to an [Office Next blog](#), there will be RT versions of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and OneNote — all with complete document compatibility. The first Windows RT devices shipped to customers in October will include *preview* versions of those apps that be updated automatically to *full* versions over the next three months.

Windows RT should spur a new generation of touch-centric software, but it also presents a high barrier for apps you've come to know. Coding for the Windows RT platform is completely different from coding for traditional Windows. Some third-party software companies might try to rewrite their existing Windows programs to work in the tiled Windows RT/Metro world — and will fail. Many developers won't bother; moving apps built for a mouse-and-keyboard environment to touch-and-swipe isn't worth the effort.

Because it runs on its own hardware platform (CPU and support chips), Windows RT doesn't support the vast catalog of existing Windows drivers. For example, none of the existing Win7 drivers will work on Windows RT. So hardware manufacturers are now saddled with creating, shipping, and supporting an entire new generation of hardware drivers for the new platform — and they're all "Version 1.0."

Bottom line: If you have a modern piece of hardware from a well-known manufacturer, it might be supported in Windows RT — or maybe not.

Some answers to basic Win8/RT questions

Here are the answers — as best I know — to those questions above and a few more. They're certainly more accurate than what you'll likely get at the local computer retail store.

Q1: *Is it true I have to buy all apps for my new Surface tablet from Microsoft's Windows Store?*

A: Yes. All Windows RT apps will have to be purchased through the Windows Store. But don't feel too bad — Apple does the same thing with iPad and iPhone apps. Keep in mind that only RT apps will run on Windows RT devices. (The first MS Surface tablets will run only Windows RT. Surface tablets that run Windows 8 — and thus standard Win8 apps available everywhere — should appear in January.)

Q2: *Will all Windows Store apps work on the new Microsoft Surface tablets?*

A: No. This is another one of those bizarre gotchas that really make the Windows RT situation complicated. Some of the apps in the Windows Store will work only with Windows 8 machines — they won't work at all on Windows RT. Other Windows Store apps are designed to work with Windows 8 Phones, though it isn't certain whether a Windows Phone app will work on a Windows RT machine. Check before you buy.

Q3: *I use LastPass to manage all my passwords. Will LastPass work with Lenovo's IdeaPad tablets and notebooks?*

A: Depends. If you get a Windows 8 IdeaPad, you can install LastPass on the Win8 Desktop and it will work with Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, or Firefox. However, if you buy a Windows RT-based IdeaPad, you're up the ol' creek without a paddle. Windows RT includes the Metro version of Internet Explorer, but that browser, by design, doesn't support add-ons. (Now, try explaining that to your less-geeky family members.)

Q4: *Are there significant differences between Office 2013 and Office 2013 RT?*

A: Unknown. Microsoft has publicly shown only preview and beta copies of both. The final versions aren't expected until next year.

Q5: *Reportedly, new Windows tablets will come with Word 2013 preinstalled. Can I print documents from Word on my HP LaserJet?*

A: Possibly. If you bought a Windows RT tablet (some tablets will run Windows 8), Word 2013 RT is included. But printing support depends on the model of HP LaserJet you're using — some will work immediately with Windows RT, others won't. HP has a lengthy [list](#) of supported and unsupported printers on its website. (Be sure to read the footnotes at the bottom of the page.)

Anticipate similar problems with any peripheral you might want to use with a Windows RT machine. Although Windows 8 driver support is nearly universal (every Win7 driver and almost all Vista drivers will work with Win8), Windows RT-driver support will be hit-and-miss.

Q6: *Can I sync SkyDrive files with my new Surface tablet?*

A: No. You can retrieve files from SkyDrive using the Metro SkyDrive app, but you can't have the app automatically grab updated SkyDrive files and copy them onto your RT device (the way people commonly use SkyDrive on the Windows desktop). There are probably solid reasons why automatic sync isn't supported — its impact on battery life could be one. That said, some future version of the Metro SkyDrive app might give you the ability to sync manually. (Battery considerations probably preclude any sort of automatic synching.)

Q7: *Any problem with buying a handful of Windows RT tablets and using them in my small business?*

A: That's complicated. Currently, the *only* version of Office announced for Windows RT is Office Home & Student 2013 RT, which *does not* include Outlook. The other announced versions of Office 2013 won't run on Windows RT. The license for the standard Windows version of Office Home & Student doesn't allow for its use in a company, nonprofit, or organization of any kind. So it's highly likely that the license for the RT version of Office won't cover use in your business, either.

You can, on the other hand, purchase a tablet that runs Windows 8 (such as the MS Surface Pro, due out early next year) and run any standard Office version.

Q8: Can I run Outlook on the new Microsoft Surface tablets? How about Windows Live Mail or Windows Photo Gallery?

A: No, no, and no. Any Surface tablet that ships before January will be running Windows RT. As already noted, Outlook isn't among the Office Home & Student 2013 RT apps. Moreover, all Windows Essentials/Live Essentials programs are standard Windows apps; they won't run on Windows RT, either (as should be clear by now).

The one exception: You can use Internet Explorer 10, running in Windows RT, to access the Outlook Web App, assuming you're set up with Exchange Server and have OWA available. Try explaining that to your boss.

Q9: I own an iPad and sync it with my PC. Will I be able to sync my iPad with one of the new Windows Surface PCs from Microsoft?

A: No. At least not with the Windows RT versions of Surface. Because Windows RT doesn't run traditional Windows programs, you can't crank up iTunes and sync a Windows RT tablet with your iPad or PC. Apple might, however, eventually write a Metro-style version of iTunes (when pigs fly). Surface Pro, because it uses Windows 8, will run iTunes.

Q10: What do I do if I bought the wrong kind of Windows tablet?

A: Depends. I expect to hear this question about a hundred thousand times in the next few months. I assume some of the retailers and manufacturers will be lenient and allow you to return your purchase — if you can explain why you got confused in the first place. But it's going to be painful to watch buyers explaining to store clerks that "Yes, there is a difference between Windows RT and Windows 8."

Perhaps taking a copy of this article with you when you ask for a refund might help!

Computer Slowdown Analysis

Check first to see if the anti-virus program is running it's scan. These will cause a slowdown. Set the time for these scans when you are not using the computer.

Cleanup your computer:

Doubleclick on MY COMPUTER and rightclick the C: drive and select Properties. Run Disk Cleanup. Then click Tools and run the error checking and next Defrag.

Now that your computer is clean, if it still seems slow, it could be a particular program that is in startup causing the slow down. Try this:

- 1.Click START.....RUN and type in msconfig and then click OK.**
- 2.Click the LOAD THESE STARTUP ITEMS to remove the green dot. Click Apply and OK and restart your computer.**

The computer will start up now without starting any of the programs that are usually started every time you start your computer.

3. Run your computer as you usually do and see if it seems to run faster....do not go online at this time as you're not using an anti-virus program and would not be protected from viruses or spyware. IF you find it's running better, you've got to determine which STARTUP program is causing the slow down. This is usually a problem with not having enough RAM to support the resources demanded by some programs.

4. Go back to msconfig as in step 1 above. Place the dot back in LOAD THESE STARTUP ITEMS.

5. Click the STARTUP tab. You will notice that all boxes are checked. The only programs that MUST have a check in their boxes is the anti-virus program and one anti-spyware program so you are protected.

To isolate the problem program:

Note: Click START...RUN and type in msconfig. First uncheck the box LOAD THESE ITEMS AT STARTUP. Click Apply and Ok and restart your computer. If the slowdown is gone, it's a pretty good clue that the slowdown program is one of those that starts up each time you start your computer.

So, go back to msconfig as shown above, this time put the check back into LOAD THESE ITEMS AT STARTUP and then Click the Startup tab. Proceed as instructed below.

a. uncheck half the boxes in Startup. Click Apply OK and restart the computer. IF the computer begins to show the same slowdown as before, you KNOW that the program causing the problem is one of those with the check in the box.

b. IF the slowdown occurs, uncheck half of those boxes still checked. Click Apply..Ok and restart the computer. IF the computer speeds up, you will KNOW that the problem program is one of those programs you unchecked.

c. Now you'll have to check each box of that last group of boxes, click apply and ok and restart the computer, until you locate the program box that when checked slows down the computer and when unchecked the computer speeds up.

Once you've isolated the program...and it's often the anti-virus program, you may elect to uninstall that program and reinstall it. IF that doesn't solve the problem, you may choose to uninstall that program and install a different one. OR if it's not the anti-virus program, you may elect to not have that problem program in your STARTUP. And click it's icon to start it only when you need it.

Note 1: IF you have recently added a RAM "hog" program and it's in your startup tray, it's possible it is draining off much needed resources causing a slowdown.

Note 2: If you only notice the slowdown when doing email, clean up your email folders. A huge pile of old email can cause a slowdown in the program. IF using AOL, after cleaning out all the old mail, sign offline, then click Mail on the top menu bar, select Mail Settings and click the Manage Mail button. Click Compact to compact the PFC to make the space left in the PFC by deleting old mail available again.

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This is absolutely beautiful!!! This video is about a song called "Angel Flight"... It is EXCELLENT!!

Listen to the words of the pilot and the tower.

You will understand why one of the singers said he would be glad to help with the song... if he could stop crying.

God bless our Veterans!

Click your mouse here: " [Angel Flight](#) "

You might find this useful. You can expand it and see anywhere in the Villages.

Village map of cart paths.

<http://cartingthevillages.com/index.php>

Jmax

Jmax's Website <http://www.jmaxbits.com/>

Jmax Bits Newsletter is now posted each Monday & Thursday on the website. You have the option for a .pdf or a .rtf file.

1. For help with a computer problem, put HELP in the subject line and give me info about the computer you're using, if you know it.

2. To view or print Jmax Bits Good Services List in the Villages area, click link www.jmaxbits.com

3. To sign up for the non-computer newsletter, send an email to VLGSClassifieds@aol.com. Put SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To send an Ad, place AD in the subject line.

4. The Villages Computer Club's web page: [Click here: Welcome To The Villages Computer Club](#)

To add your name to the VCC announcements list, send email to TheVCC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

5. Fred Benson's website www.thevillagescomputerbasics.com