

Tips to Personalize Your Computer From AOL

Many of these tips apply to any window user whether or not they use AOL email.

In a [recent article](#), we discussed the imminent arrival of Web 3.0, which promises a more personalized search experience, custom-fit to better “understand” your search query. As the World Wide Web and computers continue to evolve, it’s important for users to personalize their computers to enhance overall ease of use.

There are several ways to customize your PC and [Windows](#) to make screen time more enjoyable:

Increasing Internet fonts: If you have difficulty reading content online because of the small print, you can easily increase font size by clicking the CTRL and + keys simultaneously. If the font is too large, you can decrease it by clicking the CTRL and - keys

Wallpaper and screensaver: This is computer eye candy. You can either leave the desktop background as is, or select particular photos and images, which you can then swap out whenever you want. Similar to the wallpaper, the screensaver is a decorative image that shows up when your system has been inactive. Instead of the standard black screen and Windows logo, you can select a different visual.

Screen resolution: According to the tech experts, the clarity of your computer monitor is linked to the resolution. As [Microsoft.com](#) explains, “At higher resolutions, items appear sharper. They also appear smaller, so more items fit on the screen.” Before adjusting the resolution, however, you need to distinguish what type of monitor you have.

Large keyboard: If your standard computer keyboard is too small, you can purchase specialized ones with much larger letters that are easier to read. The keys on such keyboards run up to 1 inch x 1 inch in size.

Start menu: You can even personalize the Start menu on your system and choose which programs to feature. If you wish to remove a particular program in, say, [Vista](#), just click Start, right-click the program you wish to remove from the menu (for example, Microsoft Excel), and click "Remove from This List."

Audio functions: How about enhancing your online experience with a little background noise? You can customize Windows to "sound off" whenever your computer performs certain functions, such as receiving new email. In [Windows 7](#), for example, you can switch sound schemes or a particular sound.

Managing folders, photos, downloads, etc.: If your photos, downloads and documents are scattered randomly on your computer in a state of disarray, it's time to organize them. Windows 7 offers a [Libraries](#) feature, where you can store your data in specialized folders. Another option is to de-clutter your hard drive by subscribing to web storage services, where you can store documents, photos, downloads and more and access your data from any location -- not only from your home or office computer, but even from your smart phone.