



Computer Tutor

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Personal Computer Tutor

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Windows 8

Fall is usually a very busy time in the tech world. Many new products and services are introduced ahead of the holiday shopping season. This year has been particularly active. Last month *Microsoft* released *Window 8*, three years after *Windows 7* was released. So the question always comes up "Should I upgrade my current computer to *Windows 8* if I am using an earlier version of *Windows*?" The answer is always a simple "No". Unlike *Apple's OS X* I never recommend upgrading a *Windows* computer to a new version of *Windows*. The results are always problematic. Lots of things go wrong like software programs that won't open, printers or scanners that no longer work. There is always a domino affect and other software/hardware that you use will have to be upgraded too (and might not even work at all, at least for a while until the software/hardware vendor releases an update too).

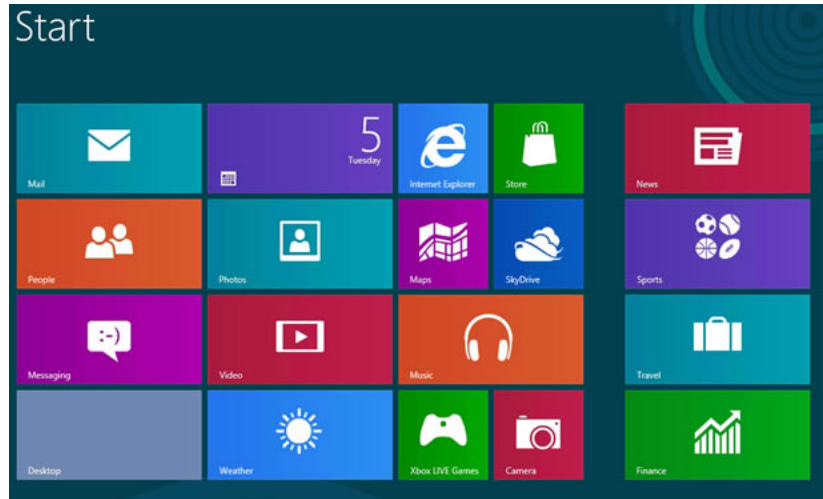
In my case here is what is not working after upgrading to *Windows 8*:

- *My Brother* all-in-one will print but not scan
- *My PaperPort* software will not open
- *My QuickBooks* accounting program will not email invoices

So needless to say I'm going back to *Windows 7*. Now I can do that sort of thing because "I'm in the business". But if you try *Windows 8* and don't like it, it would be a major expense for you to erase *Windows 8* and install *Windows 7* instead. It can be done but you are not going to like the bill I hand you :-).

Not to mention the new learning curve with *Windows 8*. The main difference between *Windows 8* and *Windows 7* is the emphasis on the touch screen and two Desktops. Many of the new features only work well if you have a touch screen computer. Many new computers, both desktops and laptops, are coming with touch screens, but almost none of the existing computers have touch screens. This is another reason it does not make sense to upgrade an existing computer to *Windows 8*. If you are in the market for a new computer then either consider a new touch screen computer with *Windows 8* (but you might want to let others work out the bugs) or a non-touch screen with *Windows 7*. We will be in the cross over period for a while now so you can still get *Windows*

7 with a new computer (*Windows 7* has been out for 3 years and is very stable) online, if not in stores.



Windows 8 Start Screen

So what does *Windows 8* do that *Windows 7* does not? It is all about touch screens and two Desktops. One Desktop is called *Start* and is all about "consuming" content with touch. You move things around and open things with your finger. The second Desktop is the familiar *Windows* Desktop where you "produce" work. *Windows 8* is trying to be more like tablets and smartphones where you use your fingers on the screen. Personally, I'm not looking forward to the smudges my fingers will leave on my computer screen. But tablets and smartphones are a different story. I like using my finger on my *iPad*. It works well. I'm just not so sure about swiping my finger around on my computer monitor, at least not yet.

If You Already Have *Windows 8*, Helpful Websites

So if you have already taken the plunge or are curious about *Windows 8* here are some useful articles that will help in your transition.

Microsoft's *Windows 8* website: <http://goo.gl/XmLwy>

Windows 8 Keyboard Shortcuts: <http://goo.gl/DMotD>

Delaying *Windows* Upgrades: Do You Feel Lucky? <http://goo.gl/LjIK7>

Add Admin Tools to Start Screen: <http://goo.gl/LOqZW>

How to bypass the *Windows 8* log-in screen: <http://goo.gl/O61pf>

How to get the classic Start menu back in *Windows 8*: <http://goo.gl/yx2ml>

How to create a shutdown and reboot tile in *Windows 8*: <http://goo.gl/kq3CT>

5 ways *Windows 8* (on a Tablet or Smartphone) beats iOS (on an iPhone or iPad): <http://goo.gl/8gNIF>

If you are still on the fence you might want to read "[Windows 8 is guaranteed to disappoint nearly everyone](#)".

New iPhone 5, iPad mini and full size iPad

Apple is not resting on its laurels for the holidays. In September Apple released the new iPhone 5 which now uses true 4G for Internet and has a larger screen. Last month they introduced the brand new iPad mini which is a smaller version of the very popular full size iPad. And to everyone's amazement only 6 months after introducing the last full size iPad they have upgraded it again with a faster A6X processor.



iPad mini vs. full size iPad



30-pin connector (top) vs. Lightning Connector

All 3 new devices (full size *iPad*, *iPad mini* and *iPhone 5*) change the 30-pin dock connector to a Lightning connector so any spare chargers or accessories you might have will not work). *Apple's* products are very polished now so if you are looking for a new phone or your first tablet, take the plunge!

Updates/Upgrades

[Click here](#) to see if you should do an update or upgrade.

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