Top 5 Features of Windows 10

For organizations and their employees, Windows 10 may very well become Microsoft's greatest platform ever made. Windows 10 is not only more familiar from a user experience standpoint, but it also includes so much of what businesses need—including enterprise-grade security, identity and information protection features, which reduces complexity and proves a better experience for the modern needs of business.

Windows 10 is still a work in progress, as Microsoft continues to solicit feedback from the community and change parts of its operating system before it ships later in 2015. However, the new powerhouse platform will most certainly offer a host of new and advanced features; below are our top five:

1 | New Start Menu

Microsoft has brought back the Start Menu. Now, when you click on the Start button at the bottom left of the screen, you get two panels side by side, with the left column showing pinned, recently and most-used apps.

You also get a power button at the top for options such as Hibernate, Standby and Shutdown, while the right column features a selection of live tiles that you can customize, resize and reorganize. Plus, you can have the Start Menu expand to full screen whenever you want, eliminating the need for a Modern UI Start Screen.

2 | Cortana Integration

Windows 10 will bring Microsoft's voice-controlled digital assistant Cortana to desktop computers, to make it easier for you to interact with your device without lifting a finger. You will be able to search your hard drive for specific files, pull up photos from specific dates, or launch PowerPoint presentations just by telling your PC to do so. You can even get Cortana to send an email while you're working on a spreadsheet, making multi-tasking much easier.

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3   Spartan Web Browser

Internet Explorer will be replaced by the newly announced Project Spartan. New features include PDF support, reading mode that improves the layout of long articles, and a new note taking feature. Project Spartan will also feature Cortana support within the browser, so she can pull contextual information from the sites you're on to do things like navigate to a restaurant you're looking up or pull up an upcoming flight time without having to go into your email.

4   Virtual Desktops

Unless you have a multi-monitor setup it can be easy to run out of screen space. For that reason, Windows 10 provides multiple desktops that you can work in and quickly switch between. The virtual desktops feature in Windows 10 is called "Task View" and is located on the Taskbar. To add a new desktop, all you need to do is click the Plus sign. You create multiple desktops, and switching between them is just a matter of clicking the Task View button again and moving your mouse over the thumbnail of the one you want. Once the workspace is displayed above, click on it (or click the Task View button again) to start using it.

5   Universal Apps

To make the transition across devices more seamless, Microsoft is introducing a new category of software called Universal Apps, which use the same code but adapt their interface to the device in your hand. Microsoft is also bundling its own set of Universal apps with the OS, including Photos, Videos, Music, Maps, People & Messaging and Mail & Calendar, which all function the same way on tablets, phones and PCs. The content is stored and synced via Microsoft's cloud service OneDrive so you can pick up where you left off on another device.

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