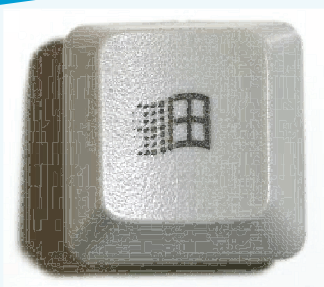


10 Helpful Windows Shortcuts



I am sure you have wondered why the windows key showed up on your keyboard one day. We all have.

There are a number of keyboard shortcuts that the windows key supplies. Some are quite handy and some ... well pretty much useless.

It can even be disabled if you never want to use that key.

I'll start with my favorites first...

1. Windows Key (by itself)

This launches your Start menu, instead of having to click the lower left-hand corner of your screen.

2. Windows Key + D

This minimizes all open programs/windows and shows your desktop screen. (Great as a "Boss" key – ditch the facebook when you hear someone coming) or lets you quickly get to your desktop icons.

3. Windows Key + D (again)

Now you're taken back to all opened programs, as before. (back to facebook when they leave)

4. Windows Key + E

This opens up your Windows Explorer program, which is a convenient way of looking at your computer's drives, folders and files.

5. Windows Key + F

This opens a Search application so you can find something on your computer.

6. Windows Key + L

In Windows XP or Windows Vista, this locks your computer by taking you to the Profile screen. You will need to enter your password to get back in. Great habit to get into when you leave your computer unattended.

7. Windows Key + R

This shortcut displays the Run command.

8. Windows Key + F1

This opens up the Windows Help file

9. Windows Key + Tab

This cycles through all open applications on your task bar: in some versions of Windows Vista this will show a cool 3-D Rolodex effect. While pretty, it is pretty useless. Using Alt + tab is much better. It will allow you to easily move between open programs.

10. Windows Key + Pause/Break

This shows the system information for your computer. Finally something to do with not one, but two seemingly useless keys on the keyboard. Mind you; how often do you need to check your system information?

Hope these shortcuts make a difference!

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