

MAKE YOUR WINDOWS 10 COMPUTER BOOT FASTER

Windows 10 offers a startup application manager that any Windows user can use with confidence. It's integrated into the operating system and simple to understand — it even shows which programs are slowing down your computer's startup the most.

Windows computers tend to boot slower over time as you install more applications, many of which add themselves to startup and contribute automatically to the slow-down process. The Task Manager will help you trim down many of them that do not have to run at startup.

There are several ways to access the Task Manager. One way is to right-click the taskbar and select Task Manager. You can also press Ctrl + Shift + Escape to open the Task Manager directly, or press Ctrl + Alt + Delete and click Task Manager. An approach that was introduced in Windows 8.1 is to access the Task Manager by holding down the Windows key and X key at the same time, then press T.)

The Task Manager normally just shows a list of open programs, so you'll need to click "More details" after opening it. Then click the Startup tab after accessing the Task Manager's full view.

Disable Startup Programs (Just like in Windows 8.1)

You'll see the name of a program along with its application icon at the left, and the program's publisher name to the right.

You'll also see the "Startup impact" of each startup program — either Low, Medium, or High. If you see "Not measured," that's because it was recently added and Windows hasn't had a chance to observe the program's behavior yet. Reboot your computer and you'll see an impact statement appear.

To disable a program, click it and click the Disable button — or right-click it and click Disable.

The real challenge here is deciding what to disable. Some programs are obvious — for example, if you have Dropbox or Google Drive installed, they normally start when your computer starts up so they can sync files. You could disable them, but then they wouldn't automatically sync files in the background. You could disable a chat program like Skype here, but then you wouldn't be automatically logged in when you boot your computer.

Other programs will be less obvious, especially system utilities and driver-related software that came with your computer. Much of this manufacturer-installed bloatware is unnecessary, but you may want to do a bit of quick research so you understand what you're disabling.

For additional help, you can right-click a program and select "Search online." Windows will open a web search page with the name of the program and its .exe file, allowing you to determine exactly what the program is and what it's doing if you're not sure. The "Open file location" option will show you exactly which .exe file on your computer is starting at boot.