

THE WINDOWS STORE

Microsoft has cracked down on what it considers low-quality apps coming from the Windows Store. It follows criticism that many apps in the Windows Store were of low quality. This reflects badly on Microsoft because it is effectively promoting the apps, while also taking a cut of any sale price.

The decision affects applications that can be downloaded and installed directly from the Windows Store. It doesn't affect applications which users get elsewhere and install manually, in the same way with all software in Windows 7 and earlier. Instead, Windows Store apps are displayed prominently in the Windows 8 and 10 user interface, and on Windows mobile devices.

As of late 2015, the Windows Store's inventory of apps had been culled to 669,000 titles.

A couple nice features of downloading an app from the Microsoft Store: 1) If an app is updated from the producer, it will be automatically updated on your computer; 2) If an app becomes corrupted on your computer, you will be invited to return to the store for a working copy.

HOW TO ACCESS THE STORE

Select **Store** from Start or the taskbar. (You'll need an Internet connection and a Microsoft account to download an app for which there is a fee. Free apps can be downloaded from a local account.) Search for the application you want, or check out top applications, categories, and collections, and Microsoft's latest featured applications and games.

If you want to **purchase** applications from the Store, you will need to have a Microsoft account. This is no big deal. All you need is a username and password of your choosing. If you have a Hotmail or Outlook account, you already have a Microsoft account with a username and password. If you don't have a Hotmail or Outlook account or you have forgotten the "username/password code" just establish a new account. In addition, you can establish a Microsoft account by using your Cox or Gmail email address and password, for example. Many Computer Club members have found that a Gmail account is a convenient and easily remembered tool for gaining access to the Store. If you are just "window shopping" while in the Store, that is, not making a purchase, but rather walking out with a free app, you don't need to have your Microsoft account handy.

You can access the Microsoft Store by clicking the *Store* app located either in the Start Menu, the Desktop, or in the *Apps* section. Navigating the Store is similar to navigating the Start Menu. If you are looking for a particular application, simply type its name in the search for apps box in the upper right corner while in the Windows Store and all the possible selections will appear.

As was mentioned earlier, when the Microsoft Store was first “opened”, not all of the thousands of applications were properly vetted. Therefore, you will probably want to use the “buyer beware” approach when you are considering an application download from the Store.

When you’re ready to grab an app from the store, select **Buy** or **Try** if it’s a paid app, or **Install** if it’s free.

After you buy it, you can install it on any PC you sign in to with your Microsoft account.

App updates are free, and Windows will download them automatically whenever they’re available. (Change this setting at any time in the Windows Store.)

INSTALL AN APPLICATION FROM THE MICROSOFT STORE

To find apps to install from the Windows Store, click **Store** on the Start Menu or your desktop taskbar. You need to be connected to the Internet to open the Store and you’ll need to sign in using a **Microsoft account** when you want to make a purchase.

Once you're in the Windows Store, there are a few different ways to look for apps:

Browse featured apps and lists. If you're not sure what kind of app you want, a good place to start is the featured apps in the Store. Start scrolling to view lists of popular apps, new releases, top paid or free apps. (To see all the apps in a specific list, click the name of the list.) You'll also see personalized app recommendations in **Picks for you**, based on apps you own and apps you've rated.

Explore categories. If you’re looking for a certain type of app (like an entertainment app or a game), you can explore the different categories in the Store. Click **Categories**, and then click the category you want.

Search for an app. If you know the name of the app you want or are looking for apps by a specific publisher, enter the name into the search box in the upper-right corner of the Store. You'll see results for apps that match your search.

Use the menu at the top of the Windows Store to view lists of apps, categories, your account info, or back Home to the main page of the Store.

PINNING APPS

After an app is installed from the Store, you'll find it listed in the All Apps area of the Start menu with all the other apps on your PC. With a right-click, you can pin the app to your Start Menu or your desktop taskbar, so it's easier for you to find and use later. You can also drag it to your Desktop where it will become a shortcut icon.

Here's a couple of free applications to install if you want to practice

Multimedia8 is a competent and polished application that is available free. It does what you might expect a native app to do, which is to enable you to enjoy media content from any source on your computer or the cloud.

Solitaire. Microsoft stripped basic solitaire from Windows 8. But now, there are 464 versions of solitaire (most are free) that you can install on your computer from the Windows Store.

Here are some more apps that are interesting to view:

Burger recipes

Best sandwich recipes

Dessert mania

Cookie monster and lovers

Adobe Photoshop Express

Police Radio Scanner

Network Speed Test