ADD THE BELLS AND WHISTLES TO YOUR START MENU

To Display the Start Menu

- ✓ Click the Start button on the far left corner of the Windows Taskbar, or
- ✓ Press the Windows logo key ⊞ on the keyboard.

The extreme left column of the Start menu features the many options that are available to you. Each can be turned on or off, depending upon which options you wish to use. To control the options, use **Windows key + I**, then **Personalization**, then **Start**.

The main column of the Start menu lists all the applications, listed alphabetically, that are installed on the computer. A standard strategy for searching is to use the strolling bar to move up and down the list. A faster way to search is to click on any one of the alphabet boxes to bring up the entire alphabet. Simply click on the alpha block that houses your target app. If a letter is not highlighted, it simply means that no app is housed under that particular letter.

THE RIGHT-CLICK CONTEXT MENU PROVIDES SPECIAL OPTIONS JUST LIKE BEFORE.

Previously, when you right-clicked on an object on the Desktop, a vertical context menu would appear which gave you a choice of actions to take. In Windows 10, right-clicking the Start button produces an expanded and specialized set of menu items. (To access the same set of specialized options, press Windows + X.)

LOCK YOUR COMPUTER, CHANGE YOUR ACCOUNT, OR SIGN OUT

1. To lock your computer at any time, press Windows + L.
2. On the Start menu, select your user name/photo in the upper left side of the menu. From there, choose the option you want: Change account settings or Sign out.

ADD A SPLASH OF COLOR

Live Tiles bring the Start Menu to life, but it might not feel personalized to your tastes until you've given it a fresh coat of paint. By default, the Start Menu is set to ignore the color you chose when you set up your Windows 10 user account, so the first priority is to amend that option.

To do so, navigate to **Settings** > **Personalization** > **Colors**. First, turn off the *Automatically pick an accent color from my background.* Now, scroll down to the

toggle switch marked *Show color on Start, taskbar and action center* and make sure that it's set to On. You'll then be able to select from a variety of different swatches.

You can also opt to Make Start, taskbar and action center transparent with the appropriate toggle switch. These options cater to form, rather than function, so feel free to mix and match as you please until you find a setup that works for you.

CHOOSE YOUR APP MODE TO COMBAT EYE STRAIN
If you are concerned about eye strain while looking at a computer screen, consider using the Dark App Mode. Find and try it while you are at the bottom of the Colors page. **Settings** > **Personalization** > **Colors**