Top 20 Features Microsoft Windows 95

What's new in Microsoft Windows 95 - and what these new tools and components can mean to you.

Microsoft Windows 95 is the next major release of the standard desktop operating system for desktop and portable PCs. As the successor to Microsoft's MS-DOS, Windows 3.1 and Windows for Workgroups, this release offers something for everyone. Including a more intuitive way to work, new capabilities, better support for your current hardware and software, PLUS new features and capabilities for a new generation of hardware and software. Things like surfing the internet and better support for managing an installation with hundreds of PCs just begins to scratch the surface of what Windows 95 means to you.

These and other enhancements in Windows 95 will help make your computing experience faster and easier, expanding the possibilities of what you can do with your personal computer by making it more fun - and less frustrating - to work or play with your PC.

Following are 20 of our favorite new features, tools and components of Windows 95. While there are many more new features in Windows 95, we've narrowed these down to the top 20 that offer the most immediate benefit when you upgrade.

Whether you are a novice user, never used a system before, or a power user, you will get a top line overview of what to expect from this new operating system, to help you understand what Windows 95 can do for you.

1 Installation is easy. Windows 95 is easy to install. It doesn't matter if your currently running Windows, MS-DOS, or even OS/2, there is a Windows 95 product for you. During installation, the software walks you through the necessary steps, automatically detecting all common hardware, such as modems, CD-ROMS, sound cards, printers and more. Loading Windows 95 is about as easy as installing an upgrade to a Microsoft desktop application.

2 Works better with what you have. Many of the components in Windows 95 overcome the software and hardware limitations inherent in Windows 3.1 and MS-DOS. However these improvements do not come at the cost of compatibility with existing software or hardware. Windows 95 comes with built in support for over 1900 existing hardware devices today, plus Windows 95 has been tested for compatibility with over 3500 of today's existing software applications.

3 Works even better with new "Designed for Windows 95" devices. The built in support for today's devices adds 32-bit device drivers for today's hardware, this means your supported hardware will run faster and more efficiently under Windows 95. When Windows 95 ships this August, there will also be a new breed of devices available that are "Designed for Windows 95". When you add one of these new devices to your PC, they will automatically configure themselves under Windows 95. Adding hardware to your PC has never been easier. Just plug it into your system and turn it on. No more frustration with device drivers, jumpers, switches, and confusing techno-babble to add new devices to your hardware. It just works.

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4 **Improved User Interface.** The desktop in Windows 95 helps you focus on the task at hand. It has been redesigned to be clean and simple, with only a few graphical objects on the screen. **The start button** provides access to a majority of the most common things you'll want to do on your computer. If you have a favorite program or document you want quick access to, simply drag and drop it on the start button, and it will be right there along with all other things you need to start programs, open documents, get Help, change the systems settings and find items on your computer. The start button is always visible on your screen - no matter what you do, so all your important tasks are right at hand. **The task bar** shows all the programs you have running. Just like changing channels on a television, you click to change the program. **My Computer** makes it easy to browse what's on your computer - all of the files, folders and programs. **Network Neighborhood** makes it simple to see and use what's on your organizations network. **Recycle Bin** give you a place to temporally place files you want to later delete, or retrieve if you change your mind.

5 **Your computer works faster and more efficiently and you can too.** The 32-bit architecture in Windows 95 provides better system performance for printing, CD-ROM access, hard drive access. Video and audio playback will be smoother and more robust under Windows 95. With 32-bit multitasking, you can still work on your computer while it's busy processing other tasks. You don't have to wait for the computer to finish formatting a disk before you can download your electronic mail or search for files. Your computer helps you do it all at the same time. The things you want to do will be faster and multitasking will help you do be more efficient.

6 **Better MS-DOS support, without starting MS-DOS.** Unlike Windows 3.1 Windows 95 does not run "on top of" MS-DOS. Windows 95 is a tightly integrated operating system that starts up directly into the graphical user interface. No more cryptic MS-DOS command line or C:> prompt. At the same time Windows 95 provides backward compatibility with the MS-DOS operating systems, because built into Windows 95 is complete support for MS-DOS. The MS-DOS support is improved in Windows 95 to the point that all MS-DOS based applications and device drivers should run under Windows 95. In fact, Windows 95 provides better support for MS-DOS based applications that Windows 3.1, including applications that are hardware intensive. We have also added things like running MS-DOS applications in a Windows, scaleable MS-DOS windows with true type font support, cut and paste text and data between MS-DOS applications and Windows applications, and better command line support.

7 **More Free Memory for those MS-DOS applications.** The memory requirements of running MS-DOS based applications with Windows 3.1 were often so great you had to exit Windows to run these applications. Windows 95 frees up more memory for these applications. If you take advantage of the 32-bit device drivers that are supplied with Windows 95 for common devices like CD-ROM drives, audio cards, networking SCSI cards, disk compression and more, Windows 95 can make as much as 260K of "MS-DOS conventional memory" available to MS-DOS applications. Windows 95 can pre-emptively multitask different MS-DOS applications, and you have customizable control over the properties of each MS-DOS application.

8 **Now use long file names.** In Windows 95 files are easier to find, because you can use up to 255 characters to name files anything you want. Still, filenames are backward compatible with existing applications because Windows 95 also keeps track of the traditional 8 character filename with the 3 character extension. This is all tracked automatically by Windows 95 so if you are still running old applications that don't support long file names, Windows 95 will support either format to give you access to the file.

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9 **You can do more with a single click.** Every thing under the start button and on the task bar are only a single click away, point at virtually any object in Windows 95, click the ***right*** mouse button, an up pops a list of things you can do with that object. The menu lets you copy, delete, rename, and see the properties of files and folders. To customize you computing, click on the ***right***-mouse button on an object and use the context sensitive menu to create a shortcut that improves your workflow. For example you can create a shortcut to any file or folder, even if it is on your network, by dragging and dropping the object onto you desktop with your right mouse button. Double click this icon will now take you directly to the document or folder.

10 **The Windows Explorer helps you navigate your computer.** By giving you a graphical view of everything on your computer, including your disk drives and network connections, the Windows Explorer gives you a single view of a world of information. You can view as much or as little information on your computer as you decide, and view the information in a format that you prefer. The Windows Explorer is a flexible and customizable tool designed to provide access to information in a way that is more intuitive and discoverable.

11 **MSN, The Microsoft Network** (use existing text)

12 **Microsoft Exchange: the Universal Inbox** Computers today have more access to different types of electronic mail systems, electronic fax systems, the internet, etc. than ever before. Microsoft Exchange provides Windows 95 users with a single interface to access these variety of different services. Out of you universal Inbox you can send and receive rich text email message from virtually any email system, including public networks like the internet, Compuserve and the Microsoft Network. Plus you have the ability to send faxes directly from the desktop and receive incoming faxes directly in Microsoft Exchange's universal Inbox. Also included with Windows 95 is a complete built in email system to quickly get workgroups up and running, including the Microsoft Mail Post Office. By featuring messaging application programming interface (MAPI) support, Windows 95 components can seamlessly connect mail enable application to connect to your various information services.

13 **Plumbing for the Internet.** Before you can connect to the internet, your operating system must have the support built in to provide the ability to access and connect to the internet. Windows 95 takes an integrated approach and has all the necessary "plumbing" built into the operating system, and provides you with all the necessary 32-bit drivers such as TCP/IP to access the net, dial up protocols such as Point to Point (PPP) and Serial Line Internet Protocol (SLIP). Windows 95 includes built in tools and utilities to make the basic connections, such as FTP and telnet. Now you can access the internet directly, through the Microsoft Network, or add WEB browsing capabilities by adding Microsoft Plus! to Windows 95.

14 **Point and Click Networking.** The easy to use Network neighborhood in Windows 95 makes it easier for you to perform common network operations, providing concurrent support for multiple network server types. Accessing information on the network is even easier, by using the Windows Explorer you can view the information and resources on the network using the same tools and views that you use to look at your own computer. The result is no more memorizing cryptic commands, or exiting Windows to get access to your network. You have a single, easy view to your network resources.

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15 **Dial Up Networking.** The dial up networking client in Windows 95 makes access to your network a breeze when you are on the road, or dialing in from home. Windows 95 has built in support for multiple dial up providers, including Windows NT RAS servers and Netware. It also includes several protocols including NetBEUI, IPX/SPX, and TCP/IP via Point to Point protocol (PPP) and SLIP. You can also add the capability to receive PPP calls on your computer by adding Microsoft Plus! your system. With the built in plug and play capabilities adding and using a modem have never been easier, build in setup wizards help you quickly set up your modem and get configured for dialing another computer with just a few clicks and a telephone number.

16 **Synchronize your files.** With the briefcase, if you take files on the road, or just to work on at home, simply drag and drop a copy of the files you want to work on into your briefcase. Your brief case can be on your laptop, or even on a floppy. When you reconnect your portable to the network, or open the briefcase on your floppy, the briefcase will update the unmodified source files.

17 **Mobile computing is easier with Windows 95. Local connections** with a special serial or parallel cable you can connect two PCs together, and transfer files of synchronize files with the briefcase. You can even access a printer or other resources on a locally connected computer. **Document viewers** allow you to look at the contents of files without actually having the application loaded, this saves a tremendous amount of disk space for mobile systems. Windows 95 support over 30 of the most popular application data types. **Deferred printing** allows you to print from any application when your printer is not available. So go ahead and print out the things you want to look at later, when you reconnect to a printer, Windows 95 will remember everything you asked it to print, and print it out for you.

18 **AutoPlay your CD titles.** Windows 95 provides software developers a feature for CD-ROM utles called AutoPlay. When you put a CD title in your drive Windows 95 looks for a file called AUTORUN.INF, opens it and follows the instructions in this file. This means that a well written CD title will automatically install itself and run without you having to go through a cryptic or time consuming setup utility. This feature makes running CD titles as simple as inserting the CD and closing the tray. It just works.

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19 **CD+ support.** Windows 95 is the first operating system to announce support for the new Sony / Phillips CD+ format, which enables audio CD players and multimedia PCs to easily play the same compact discs. This new format allows both audio and data to be integrated on the same CD in a way that solves the problem with audio CD players seeing the data on the first track as "garbage" thus playing the data at "static" noise and possibly causing speaker damage to your stereo. Windows 95 will accommodate all compatible implementations of this technology.

20 **New & improved applications and utilities.** Windows 95 includes a set of applications and utilities designed to take advantage of the new design and features of Windows 95. These application and utilities have been completely redesigned, or developed from scratch so that you will find these tools easy and productive. **WordPad** is a 32-bit editor that replaces both the Write and Notepad Applications provided with Windows 3.1. Although not a full blown word processor, WordPad makes creating documents and memos easy for users. **Paint**, like WordPad, is a new 32-bit Windows 95 application. It replaces Windows 3.1 Paintbrush. Paint is an OLE application, so pictures created can be embedded or linked into other documents. **Backup** is a new 32-bit application that makes it easy for users to back up the information stored on their computer to another storage medium, such as floppy disk or magnetic tape. **HyperTerminal** is another new 32-bit application that provides connectivity to host computers, such as on-line services or other PCs. **DriveSpace** is the disk utility to compress the data on your hard drive, plus a **Disk Defragmenter** and **ScanDisk** have both been redesigned to be Windows 95 applications that can be run in the background. If you have installed Microsoft Plus!, you can use the system agent to run these and other utilities during time your PC is idle.

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Windows 95. If all you do it upgrade to Windows 95 without changing any other components in your system, your every day common tasks will become easier and faster, you will be more efficient and productive, your computer will be more fun and less frustrating to use. You will *unlock* the power and the promise of your PC. Windows 95 improves on all features, tools, utilities, and tasks that you probably are using under MS-DOS and Windows, and also adds new features and functionality to help raise the PC platform to new levels of usability and help you be more productive. By adding new hardware and software that carries the "Designed for Windows 95" logo, you will have products that take full advantage of the new features and technologies in Windows 95 and move you to a higher level of computing. At the same time, Windows 95 maintains backward compatibility with your existing hardware and software.

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