

Windows 7 Requirements

What are the system requirements for Windows 7? They're very similar to those for Vista. According to Microsoft, here's what you need:

- 1GHz or faster 32-bit (x86) or 64-bit (x64) processor
- 1GB RAM (32-bit) or 2GB RAM (64-bit) (2GB recommended)
- 16GB available hard disk space (32-bit) or 20 GB (64-bit)
- DirectX 9 graphics device with WDDM 1.0 or higher driver
- Requires a DVD drive.

Additional requirements to use certain features:

- Internet access (fees may apply)
- Depending on resolution, video playback may require additional memory and advanced graphics hardware
- For some [Windows Media Center](#) functionality a TV tuner and additional hardware may be required
- [Windows Touch](#) and Tablet PCs require specific hardware
- [HomeGroup](#) requires a network and PCs running Windows 7
- DVD/CD authoring requires a compatible optical drive
- BitLocker requires Trusted Platform Module (TPM) 1.2
- BitLocker To Go requires a USB flash drive
- [Windows XP Mode](#) requires an additional 1 GB of RAM, an additional 15 GB of available hard disk space, and a processor capable of hardware virtualization with Intel VT or AMD-V turned on
- Music and sound require audio output

Take those with a grain of salt. Vista runs slowly on a PC with just 1GB of memory; Windows 7 may do better, but you're still likely to be disappointed.

How do I know if my XP machine can handle Windows 7? Run the "Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor," which as of July, was in beta.

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windows-7/get/upgrade-advisor.aspx>

What should I do before I start the upgrade? Tops on our list: Make a disk image of your XP machine *as it exists now* so that, if you later decide Windows 7 isn't worth the disc it's written to and you want to revert to the ancient XP, you can do so without a lot of hassle.

There are scads of free and for-a-fee backup programs for XP, some of which create a disk image, a bit-for-bit copy of the hard disk. Among the free choices are [Macrium Reflect](#) and [DriveImageXML](#), which run on XP and let you create an image on a

CD/DVD, external drive or flash drive. I personally like Karen's Replicator for backup software <http://www.karenware.com/powertools/ptreplicator.asp>

Additional information:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windows-7/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_7

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windows-7/get/system-requirements.aspx>

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/downloads/default.aspx>

Presentation for the Sequim PC Users Group
August 22, 2009
Steve S.