

TYPES OF SOFTWARE PROGRAMS INSIDE A "WINDOWS.." COMPUTER

by Francis Chao
fchao2@yahoo.com

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An International
Association of Technology
& Computer User Groups

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"Meeting Notes"

TOPICS

- Four kinds of software application programs in a "Windows.." computer:
- Appendix 1: Making a shortcut for a "Windows App"
- Appendix 2: Placing a shortcut for a "Portable App" into the "Start Menu" of "Windows.."

FOUR KINDS OF SOFTWARE APPLICATION PROGRAMS IN "WINDOWS 11" OR "WINDOWS 10"

1. "desktop apps"
2. "Windows apps"
3. "portable apps"
4. "Web apps"

DESKTOP APPS

- "Desktop apps" were formerly known as "desktop applications" but Microsoft started calling them "desktop apps" when they released "Windows 8" in October 2012

DESKTOP APPS (continued)

- Prior to October 2012 "apps" usually meant "software programs that run in cell phones, BlackBerrys, and tablets".

DESKTOP APPS (continued)

- "Desktop apps" in "Windows.." usually have a *.exe file that resides in C:\Program Files\<name of program>\ or C:\Program Files (x86)\<name of program>\
- Some "Desktop apps" have *.exe files in both of these locations

DESKTOP APPS (continued)

- "Desktop apps" in "Windows.." usually also install files into
C:\ProgramData\
and
C:\<your user name>\AppData

DESKTOP APPS (continued)

- The desktop-based "Microsoft Office.." suite of programs are "desktop apps":
Microsoft Word..
Microsoft Excel..
Microsoft PowerPoint..
Microsoft Outlook..
Microsoft Publisher..
Microsoft Access..
are all "desktop apps".

DESKTOP APPS (continued)

- Obtaining "desktop apps":
Some are bundled with the "Windows.." operating system.
Others are obtained by downloading them from a Web site using a Web browser.
Some are purchased as CDs or DVDs.
Some are obtained from the "Windows Store" app in the "Start Menu"

"WINDOWS APPS"

- Two subcategories:
"UWP" apps
("UWP"
= "Universal Windows Platform")
and
"WinUI" apps
("WinUI"
= "Windows User Interface")

"WINDOWS APPS" (continued)

- "Universal Windows Platform" apps have gone through many overlapping name changes with different Microsoft employees using different names at any given point in time:

"WINDOWS APPS" (continued)

- "Metro Style Apps" in "Windows 8"
became
"Windows Store Apps" in "Windows 8.1"
became
"Modern apps" in "Windows 8.1"
became
"Universal Apps" in "Windows 8.1"
became
"Windows apps" in "Windows 8.1"
became
"Universal Windows Platform" (UWP) Apps
in "Windows 10"

"WINDOWS APPS" (continued)

TIMELINE:

October 2012: **"Metro-style Apps"**

in "Windows 8"

October 2013: **"Windows Store Apps"**

in "Windows 8.1"

September 2014: **"Modern Apps"**

in Windows 8.1"

October 2012: **"Universal Apps"**

in "Windows 8.1"

March 2015: **"Windows apps"**

in "Windows 10"

July 2015: **"Universal Windows Platform" Apps**

in "Windows 10"

"WINDOWS APPS" (continued)

- Most "UWP apps" tend to have simpler, less-cluttered user interfaces with hidden vertical and/or horizontal scroll bars, if any vertical and/or horizontal scroll bars exist at all
- Most "UWP apps" do not have a menu bar at the top of the application window

"WINDOWS APPS" (continued)

- "UWP apps" do not show up in "Programs and Features" in the "Control Panel"

"WINDOWS APPS" (continued)

- "UWP apps" are usually uninstalled from either a Start Menu sub-menu option or, in some cases, they are uninstalled from the pop-up menu that is displayed when you right-click on the tile of the "UWP app"

"WINDOWS APPS" (continued)

- Most "Universal Windows Platform" apps are only available for download and installation from the "Windows Store" icon which resides either in the "Start Menu" or as an icon that is "pinned" to the "Taskbar"

"WINDOWS APPS" (continued)

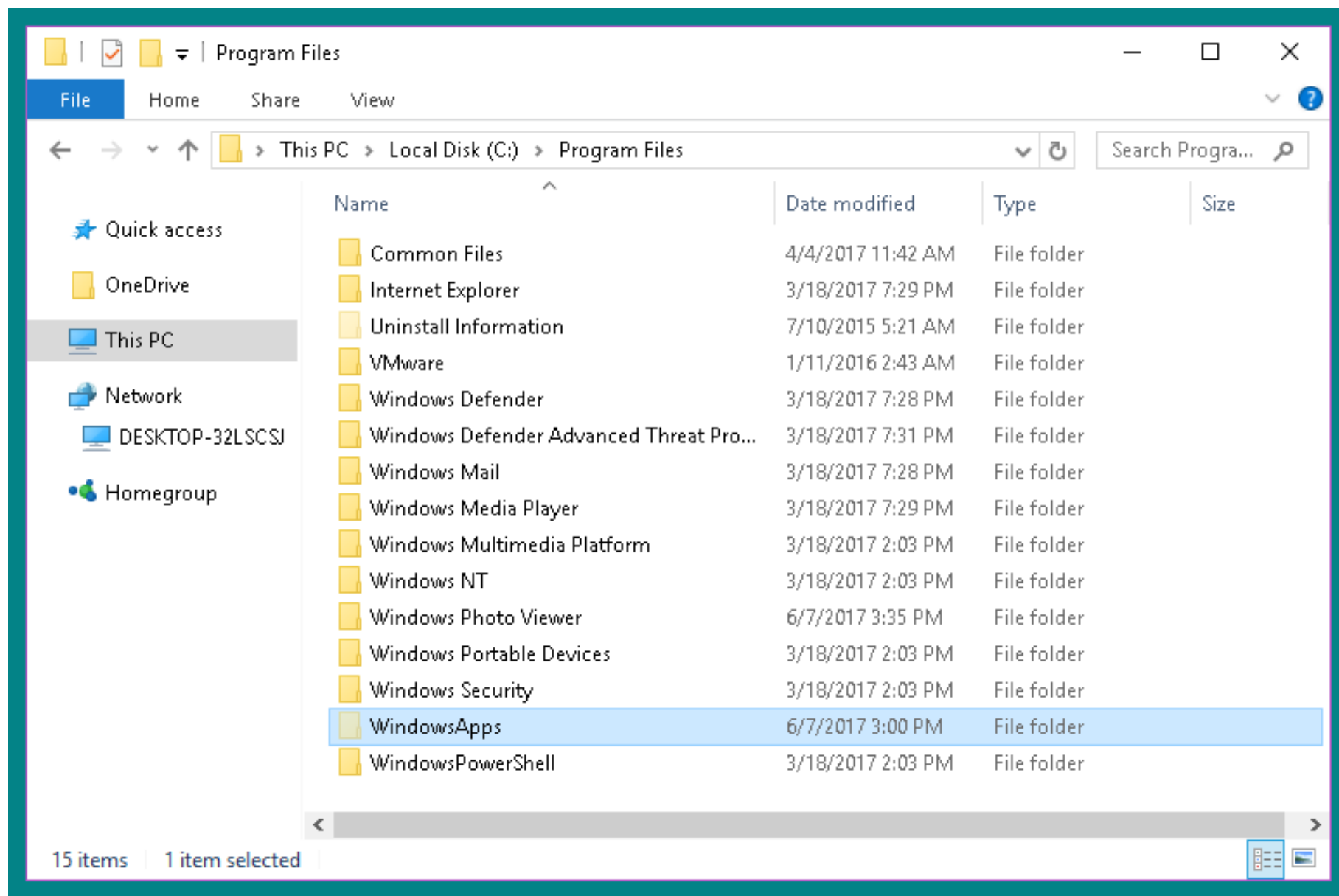
- Like all "Universal Windows Platform" apps, "Mail" resides at C:\Program Files\WindowsApps\
C:\Program Files\WindowsApps\
- The name of the folder where they reside is "WindowsApps" but you cannot get into it without special permission.

"WINDOWS APPS" (continued)

- According to <https://james-rankin.com/articles/how-to-remove-uwp-apps-on-windows-10-v1803/>
UWP apps are divided into two categories – user (provisioned) apps, which are provisioned to the user from
`%PROGRAMFILES%\WindowsApps`, and system apps, which live in
`%SYSTEMROOT%\SystemApps`.

"WINDOWS APPS" (continued)

- Obtaining "UWP apps":
Go to the "Microsoft Store" in the
"Start Menu"



"WINDOWS APPS" (continued)

- See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_Windows_Platform
- and
- <http://woshub.com/how-to-uninstall-modern-apps-in-windows-10/>

"PORTABLE APPS"

- "Desktop apps" and "Windows apps" depend on the Windows "Registry". They have and put "keys", "values", and "data" into the Windows "Registry"
- In contrast, "portable apps" usually do not place information into the Windows "Registry"

"PORTABLE APPS" (continued)

- Most "portable apps" have the word "portable" in their name.
However, some "portable apps" do not have the word "portable" in their name.

PORTABLE APPS (continued)

- "Portable apps" usually do not "install" files and folders into the C:\Programs Files\
or
C:\Program Files (x32)\
locations of your Windows
computer.

PORTABLE APPS (continued)

- "Portable apps" put no or very few files into the C: and other existing hard drives of your computer.

PORTABLE APPS (continued)

- "Portable apps" are better behaved relative to "desktop apps":
"Portable apps" do not conflict with each other
and
"Portable apps" do not conflict with existing or subsequent installations of "desktop" apps

PORTABLE APPS (continued)

- "Portable apps" are not "installed" so they do not end up as the "default app" for specific type of file type
- If you want a certain app to be the "default app" for a specific type of file, you will have to install the "desktop app" version of that app

PORTABLE APPS (continued)

- Obtaining "portable apps":
Use a Web browser to download them from Web sites such as <https://portableapps.com>

PORTABLE APPS (continued)

- "Portable apps" usually do not show up in the "Start Menu" of "Windows.." (unless you put a shortcut to a portable app inside the "Start Menu" of "Windows.." (which is usually not a recommended)

PORTABLE APPS (continued)

- "Portable apps" do not show up in "Programs and Features" inside the "Control Panel" of "Windows.."
- "Portable apps" do not show up in "Apps" in the "Settings" screens of "Windows 10" and "Windows 8"

PORTABLE APPS (continued)

- "Portable apps" do not show up inside "Revo Uninstaller Portable"
- "Portable apps" do not show up inside "Geek Uninstaller"

PORTABLE APPS (continued)

- To remove a "portable app":
 - delete the files and/or folders of the "portable app"
 - from inside "File Explorer" in "Windows 8.1" and "Windows 10"
 - from inside "Windows Explorer" in "Windows 7" and earlier

PORTABLE APPS (continued)

- To learn more about "portable apps", see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portable_application

"WEB APPS"

- "Web apps" are part of "cloud computing"
- Instead of using up RAM and CPU cycles in your local, when you use a "Web app", you use a Web browser access a Web site to perform tasks that you otherwise would perform with the other types of "apps"

"WEB APPS" (continued)

- Subcategories of "Web Apps":

See

<https://www.csschopper.com/blog/web-app-vs-progressive-web-app/>

and

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Progressive_web_app#:~:text=Progressive%20web%20apps%20are%20all,they%20would%20with%20native%20apps.

"WEB APPS" (continued)

- For example, instead of installing and running "Microsoft Word" (not free) or LibreOffice (free) on your computer, you could open up the "Google Chrome" Web browser to go to docs.google.com or office.live.com to edit or create .docx document files

"WEB APPS" (continued)

- When you use Web apps, you have to realize and consider the fact that the employees, contractors, and sub-contractors that maintain the server farms of the provider of the Web apps have access to the files that you create, edit, and store at the server farms of the Web app.

"WEB APPS" (continued)

- This unknown risk should be considered before you use a Web app to create, edit, or store a file that has private information such as credit card numbers.

IS A PROGRAM A "DESKTOP APP", A "WINDOWS APP", A "PORTABLE APP", OR A "WEB APP"?

- To determine if an app is a "desktop app", "UWP app", a "portable app", a "Web app", click on the "Start" button
locate the app in the Start Menu, right click on it, left click on "More", if "Open file location" exists then the app is a "Desktop app". If "Open file location" does not exist then the app is a "UWP" app.

IS A PROGRAM A "DESKTOP APP", A "WINDOWS APP", "PORTABLE APP", OR A "WEB APP"? (continued)

- If the app in question is a "portable app", it will not show up in the "Start Menu" of "Windows.." unless you have placed a shortcut for the app in the "Start Menu" of "Windows..". as explained in "Appendix 2"

IS A PROGRAM A "DESKTOP APP", A
"WINDOWS APP", A "PORTABLE APP",
OR "WEB APP"? (continued)

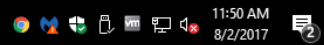
- In "Windows 11" or "Windows 10",
another way to determine if a
program is a "desktop app", a "UWP
app", or a "portable app" is from
inside "Settings":

IS A PROGRAM A "DESKTOP APP", A
"WINDOWS APP", A "PORTABLE APP", OR
A "WEB APP"? (continued)

- In "Windows 11" or "Windows 10":
click on the "Settings" gear,
a "Windows Settings" window will be
displayed,
click on "Apps",
double-click on the program in question:
If a "Move" button is displayed, the
program is a "UWP app".
If a "Modify" button is displayed, the
program is a "desktop app".

IS A PROGRAM A "DESKTOP APP", A
"WINDOWS APP", "PORTABLE APP", OR A
"WEB APP"? (continued)

- In "Windows 11" or "Windows 10", a
"portable app" will never show up in the
"Apps" list inside "Settings"





Most used



File Explorer



Settings



Microsoft Edge



Google Chrome



Mail



Notepad

A



Alarms & Clock

C



Calculator



Calendar



Camera



Connect



Cortana

F

Life at a glance



People



News



OneNote



Store



Weather

Play and Explore



Groove Music



Movies & TV



Money



Sports



Tips



Recycle Bin

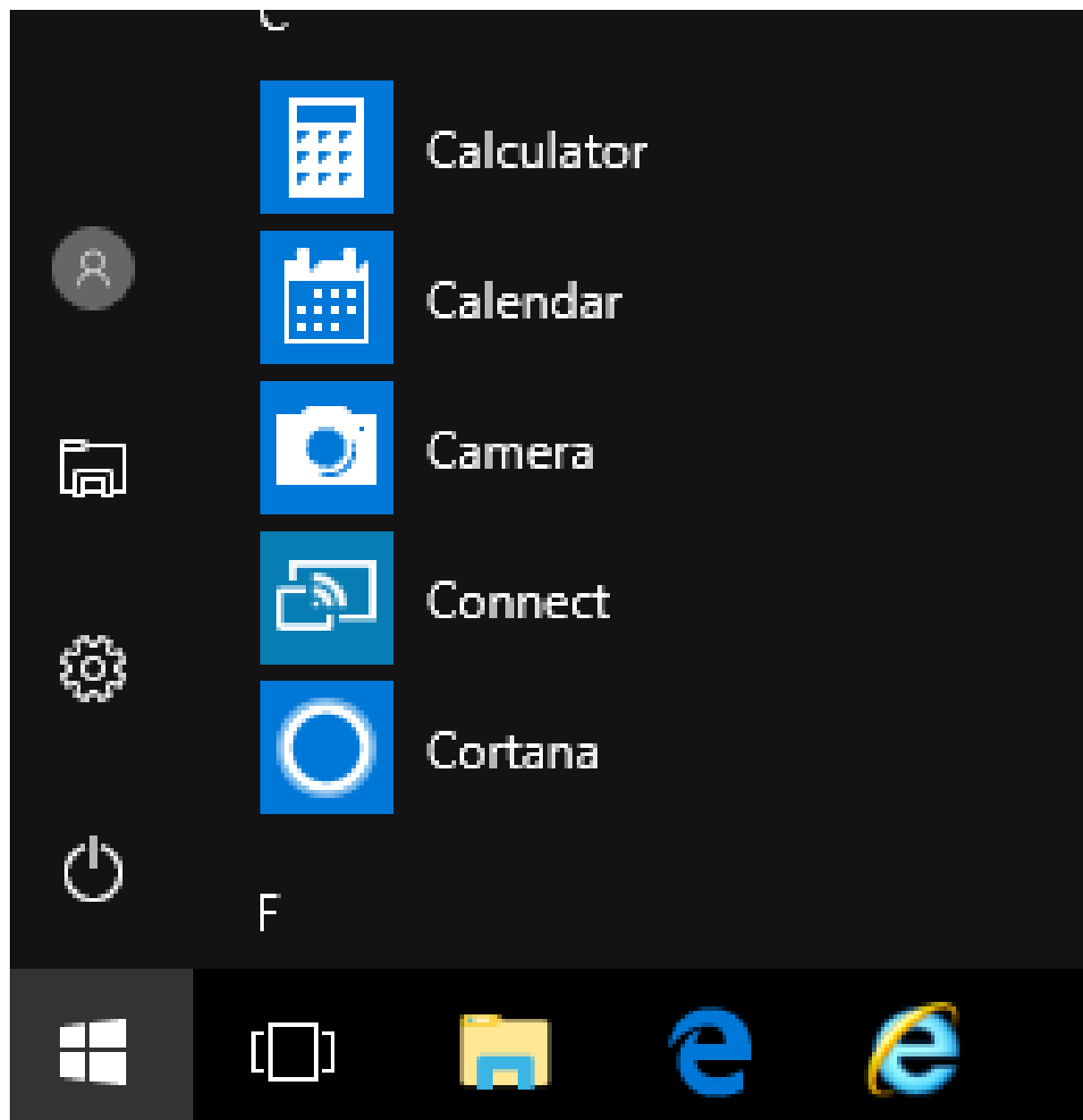


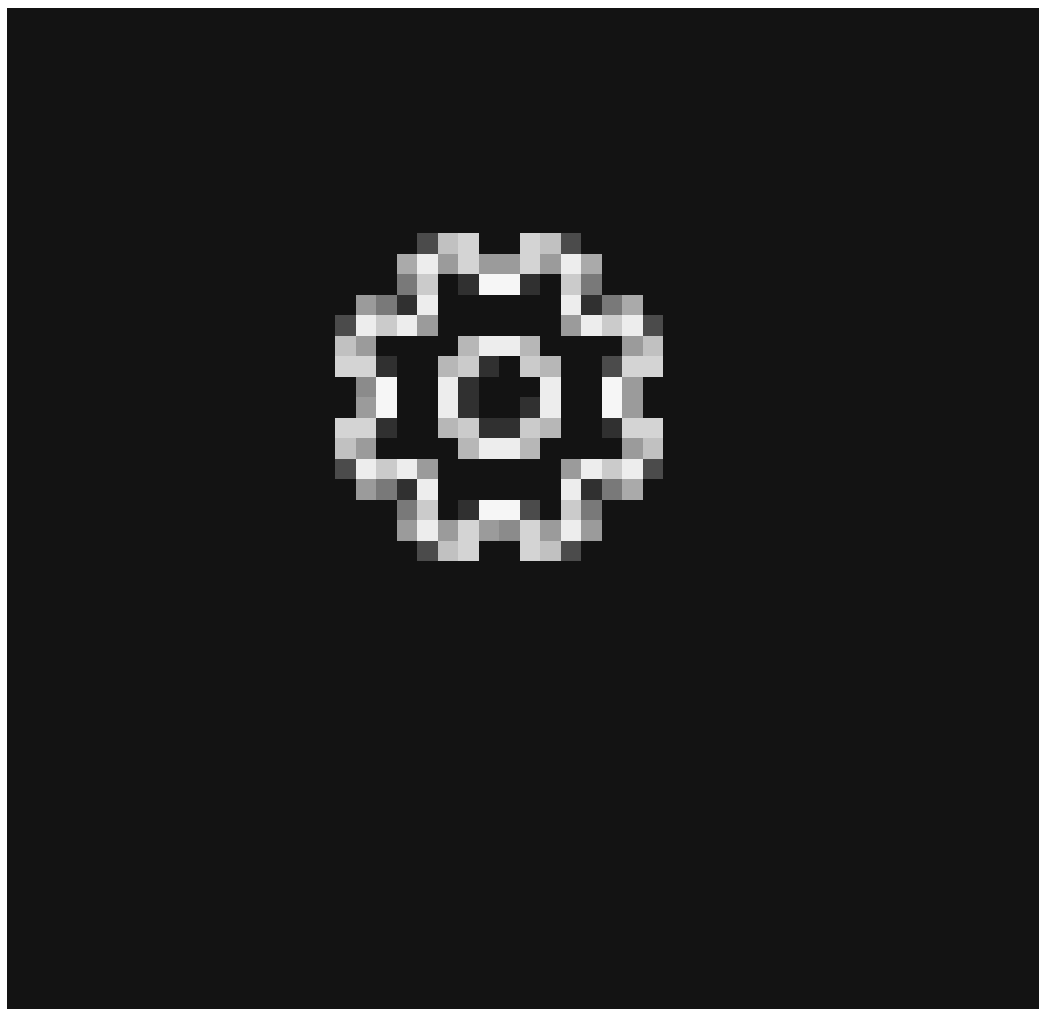
905Data-01 (G)



IS A PROGRAM A "DESKTOP APP", A
"UWP APP", A "PORTABLE APP", OR A
"WEB APP"? (continued)

- Click on the "Settings" gear:





IS A PROGRAM A "DESKTOP APP", A
"UWP APP", A "PORTABLE APP", OR A
"WEB APP"? (continued)

- A "Windows Settings" window will be displayed:

Windows Settings



System

Display, notifications,
power

Devices

Bluetooth, printers, mouse



Network & Internet

Wi-Fi, airplane mode, VPN



Personalization

Background, lock screen,
colors

Apps

Uninstall, defaults, optional
features

Accounts

Your accounts, email, sync,
work, family

Time & language

Speech, region, date



Gaming

Game bar, DVR,
broadcasting, Game Mode

Ease of Access

Narrator, magnifier, high
contrast

Privacy

Location, camera

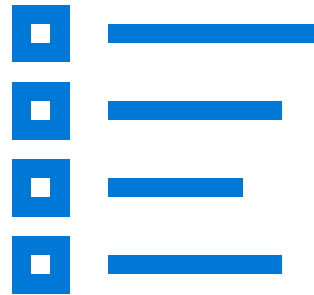


Update & security

Windows Update, recovery,
backup

IS A PROGRAM A "DESKTOP APP", A
"UWP APP", A "PORTABLE APP", OR A
"WEB APP"? (continued)

- Click on apps:



Apps

Uninstall, defaults, optional
features

IS A PROGRAM A "DESKTOP APP", A
"UWP APP", A "PORTABLE APP", OR A
"WEB APP" ? (continued)

- Click on the program in question:



Home



Apps



Apps & features



Default apps



Offline maps



Apps for websites

Apps & features

Installing apps

Choose where you can get apps from. Installing only apps from the Store helps protect your PC and keep it running smoothly.



Apps & features

[Manage optional features](#)

Search, sort, and filter by drive. If you would like to uninstall or move an app, select it from the list.



Sort by: Name



Filter by: All drives



3D Builder
Microsoft Corporation

32.0 KB
5/17/2017



Alarms & Clock
Microsoft Corporation

16.7 KB
6/14/2017



App connector
Microsoft Corporation

16.0 KB
8/3/2016



App Installer
Microsoft Corporation

16.0 KB
2/17/2017



Calculator

16.0 KB



Home



Apps



Apps & features



Default apps



Offline maps



Apps for websites

Apps & features



Microsoft Corporation

0/2/2011

Feedback Hub
Microsoft Corporation16.0 KB
6/14/2017Get Office
Microsoft Corporation8.15 MB
7/25/2017Google Chrome
Google Inc.349 MB
7/31/2015Groove Music
Microsoft Corporation14.3 MB
7/25/2017Mail and Calendar
Microsoft Corporation30.6 MB
7/25/2017Malwarebytes version 3.1.2.1733
Malwarebytes199 MB
7/25/2017Maps
Microsoft Corporation16.0 KB
5/28/2017Messaging
Microsoft Corporation242 KB
4/13/2017Microsoft OneDrive
Microsoft Corporation106 MB
7/30/2017Microsoft PowerPoint Viewer
Microsoft Corporation446 MB
7/25/2017Microsoft Solitaire Collection
Microsoft Studios16.0 KB
7/25/2017



Mail and Calendar
Microsoft Corporation

30.6 MB
7/25/2017

IS A PROGRAM A "DESKTOP APP", A
"UWP APP", OR A "PORTABLE APP"?
(continued)

- If, after you double-click on a program, a "Move" button is displayed, the program is a "UWP" app:



Microsoft Corporation

1/25/2017



Mail and Calendar
Microsoft Corporation
[Advanced options](#)

30.6 MB

7/25/2017

Move

Uninstall



Home



Apps



Apps & features



Default apps



Offline maps



Apps for websites

Apps & features



Microsoft Corporation

7/1/2015



Microsoft Visual C++ 2010 x86 Redistributable...

14.7 MB

Microsoft Corporation

7/1/2015



Microsoft Wi-Fi

16.0 KB

Microsoft Corporation

8/3/2016



Money

3.25 MB

Microsoft Corporation

6/6/2017



Movies & TV

14.8 MB

Microsoft Corporation

7/25/2017



Mozilla Maintenance Service

261 KB

Mozilla

8/2/2017



Mozilla Thunderbird 52.2.1 (x86 en-US)

90.2 MB

Mozilla

8/2/2017



News

5.58 MB

Microsoft Corporation

6/8/2017



OneNote

16.0 KB

Microsoft Corporation

7/25/2017



Paid Wi-Fi & Cellular

16.0 KB

Microsoft Corporation

8/2/2017



Paint 3D

16.0 KB

Microsoft Corporation

7/25/2017



People

76.2 KB

Microsoft Corporation

6/8/2017

IS A PROGRAM A "DESKTOP APP", A
"UWP APP", OR A "PORTABLE APP"?
(continued)

- If, after you click on a program, a "Modify" button is displayed, the program is a "desktop app".



Mozilla Thunderbird 52.2.1 (x86 en-US)
Mozilla

90.2 MB
8/2/2017



Mozilla Thunderbird 52.2.1 (x86 en-US)

Mozilla

52.2.1

90.2 MB

8/2/2017

Modify

Uninstall

UNINSTALLING "APPS" IN "WINDOWS.."

- To uninstall a "desktop app", use "Revo Uninstaller Portable"
- To uninstall a "Web App" app, use "Revo Uninstaller Portable, then click on "Windows Apps"
- To uninstall a "portable app", use the delete key in either the Desktop or "File Explorer"

UNINSTALLING APPS IN "WINDOWS.." (continued)

- If you use "Programs and Features" in the "Control Panel" or "Apps" in "Settings" to uninstall a "desktop app" in "Windows 11" or "Windows 10", you will leave a lot of unneeded and unwanted "digital junk" in the C: drive and in the Windows "Registry".

UNINSTALLING APPS IN "WINDOWS.."

(continued)

- To do a clean uninstall of a "desktop app" or a "Windows App", use the free "Revo Uninstaller Portable" as described in http://aztcs.org/meeting_notes/winhardsig/uninstaller/RevoUninstallerPortable.pdf

UNINSTALLING APPS IN "WINDOWS"

(continued)

- To uninstall "Web apps", follow the instructions at <https://browsertouse.com/blog/4555/remove-progressive-web-app-microsoft-edge/#:~:text=Step%201%3A%20Open%20the%20Start,hit%20Uninstall%20again%20to%20confirm.>



Recycle Bin



Recently added



Get Help



Print 3D



Recovery Drive

Expand ▾

Most used



Google Chrome



File Explorer



Outlook 2016



Settings



Mozilla Thunderbird



Microsoft Edge

Life at a glance

Wednesday

7



Mail



Microsoft Edge



Photos



Cortana

Rain

38°

46°
27°

Washington,...



Phone Compa...

@NintendoA...
Here's the first
concept art for
Tostarena! Ev...

Twitter



Microsoft...



King



10:27 AM
2/7/2018





Recycle Bin



- New
- Money
New
- Movies & TV
New
- Mozilla Thunderbird
- My Office
New

N

- News
New

O

- OneDrive
- OneNote
New
- OneNote 2016
- Outlook 2016

P

Paint 3D

Life at a glance

Wednesday 7		Mail	
Microsoft Edge		Photos	Cortana
Rain 38° 46° 27° Washington,...		Phone Compa...	Twitter
Microsoft...		King	



Recycle Bin



- New
- Money
New
- Movies & TV
New
- Mozilla Thunderbird
- My Office
New

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- News
New

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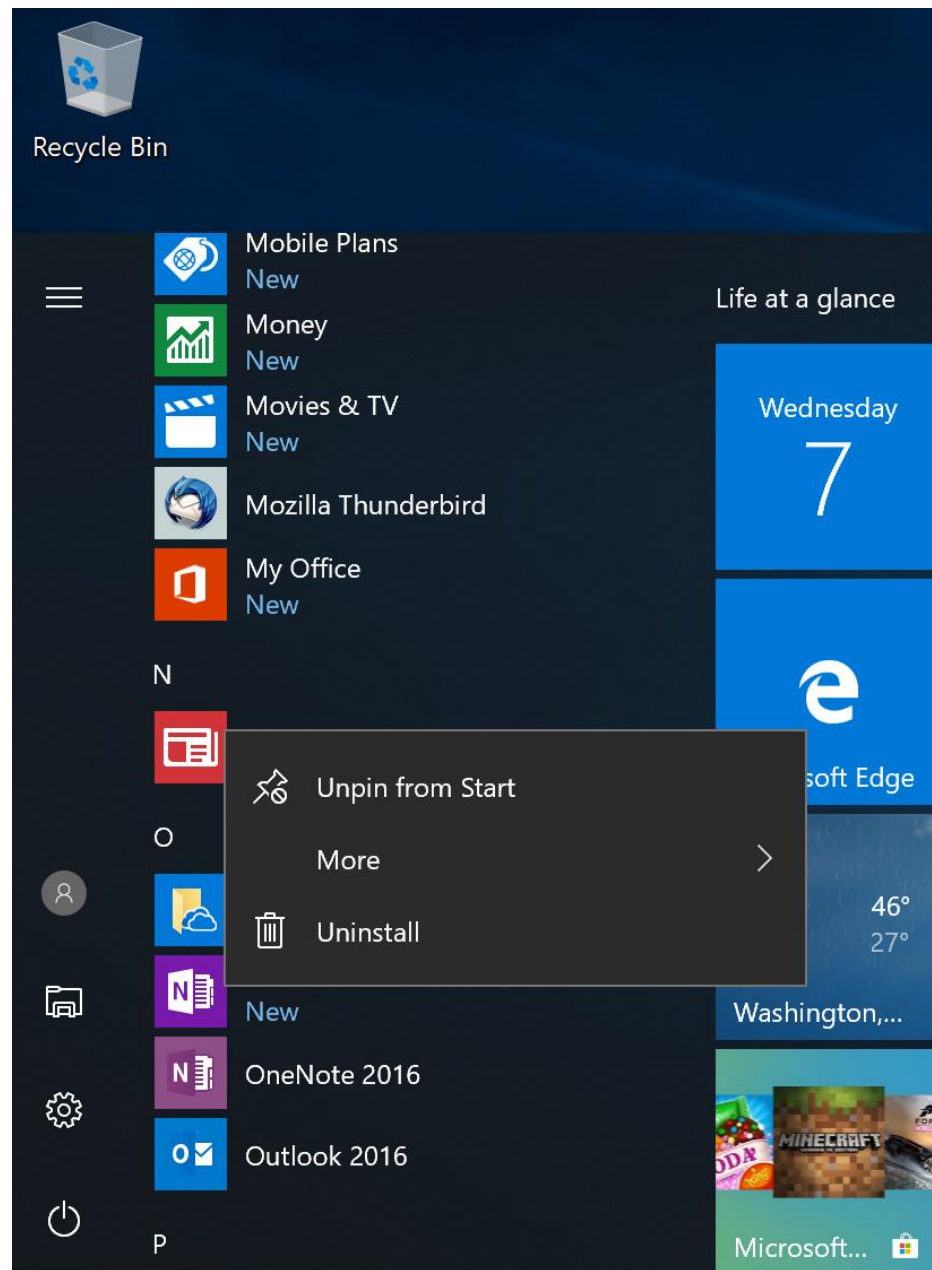
- OneDrive
- OneNote
New
- OneNote 2016
- Outlook 2016

P

Paint 3D

Life at a glance

Wednesday 7		Mail	
Microsoft Edge		Photos	Cortana
Rain 38° 46° 27° Washington,...		Phone Compa...	Twitter
Microsoft...		King	



APPENDIX 1

MAKING A SHORTCUT FOR A "WINDOWS APP"

- For any "Windows app" in "Windows 11" or "Windows 10", you can make a shortcut by performing the following steps:

APPENDIX 1 (continued)

MAKING A SHORTCUT

FOR A "WINDOWS APP" (continued)

- Step 1:
Use the RIGHT mouse button to click on the "Start" button of "Windows.."

APPENDIX 1 (continued)

MAKING A SHORTCUT

FOR A "WINDOWS APP" (continued)

- Step 2:
A "Power Users" menu will be displayed:

APPENDIX 1 (continued)

MAKING A SHORTCUT

FOR A "WINDOWS APP" (continued)

- Step 3:
Use the left mouse button to click on "Run" in the "Power Users" menu:

APPENDIX 1 (continued)

MAKING A SHORTCUT

FOR A "WINDOWS APP" (continued)

- Step 4:
Type
shell:appsfolder
into the "Run" box

APPENDIX 1 (continued)

MAKING A SHORTCUT

FOR A "WINDOWS APP" (continued)

- Step 5:
Use the left mouse button to click on the "OK" button of the "Run" box

APPENDIX 1 (continued)

MAKING A SHORTCUT

FOR A "WINDOWS APP" (continued)

- Step 6:
An "Applications" window will be displayed

APPENDIX 1 (continued)

MAKING A SHORTCUT

FOR A "WINDOWS APP" (continued)

- Step 7:
You can make shortcuts to both "UWP apps" and "desktop apps" in this window by using the RIGHT mouse button click on an app and then clicking on "Create shortcut" in the pop-up context menu

APPENDIX 1 (continued)

MAKING A SHORTCUT

FOR A "WINDOWS APP" (continued)

- Step-by-step instructions and screenshots for making a shortcut for a "UWP app" are available at <https://www.thurrott.com/windows/windows-10/5328/windows-10-tip-create-shortcuts-for-universal-apps>

APPENDIX 2

PLACING A SHORTCUT FOR A "PORTABLE APP" INTO THE "START MENU" OF "WINDOWS.."

- See <https://www.zdnet.com/article/windows-10-tip-add-custom-shortcuts-to-the-start-menu/>

PLACING A SHORTCUT FOR A "PORTABLE APP" INTO THE "START MENU" OF "WINDOWS.."

- or see
<https://www.windowcentral.com/add-app-shortcuts-start-menu-manually-windows-10>

APPENDIX 2

PLACING A SHORTCUT FOR A "PORTABLE APP" INTO THE "START MENU" OF "WINDOWS.."

- In short, to create a shortcut for a "portable app" in the "Start Menu" of "Windows..", put a short-cut for the "portable app" at
C:\Users\<your Windows user account>\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\



LibreOffice Por
table

Name



App



Data



Other



help.html



LibreOfficeBasePortable.exe



LibreOfficeCalcPortable.exe



LibreOfficeDrawPortable.exe



LibreOfficeImpressPortable.exe













LibreOfficeMathPortable.exe



LibreOfficePortable.exe



LibreOfficeWriterPortable.exe




 > testuser > AppData > Roaming > Microsoft > Windows > Start Menu > Programs			
Name	Date modified	Type	
 Maintenance	3/18/2019 9:52 PM	File folder	
 PyKaraoke	11/11/2019 4:46 PM	File folder	
 Startup	11/5/2019 8:09 PM	File folder	
 vanBasco's Karaoke Player	11/11/2019 1:44 AM	File folder	
 Windows Accessories	6/8/2019 9:31 PM	File folder	
 Windows Administrative Tools	11/5/2019 8:09 PM	File folder	
 Windows Ease of Access	3/18/2019 9:52 PM	File folder	
 Windows PowerShell	3/18/2019 9:53 PM	File folder	
 Windows System	3/18/2019 9:52 PM	File folder	

APPENDIX 2

PLACING A SHORTCUT FOR A "PORTABLE APP" INTO THE "START MENU" OF "WINDOWS.."

- Use the RIGHT mouse button to drag the .EXE file of the "portable app" to the "Programs" window:

testuser > AppData > Roaming > Microsoft > Windows > Start Menu > Programs

is	Name	Date modified	Type
✦	Maintenance	3/18/2019 9:52 PM	File folder
✦	PyKaraoke	11/11/2019 4:46 PM	File folder
✦	Startup	11/5/2019 8:09 PM	File folder
✦	vanBasco's Karaoke Player	11/11/2019 1:44 AM	File folder
✦	Windows Accessories	6/8/2019 9:31 PM	File folder
	Windows Administrative Tools	11/5/2019 8:09 PM	File folder
	Windows Ease of Access	3/18/2019 9:52 PM	File folder
	Windows PowerShell	3/18/2019 9:53 PM	File folder
	Windows System	3/18/2019 9:52 PM	File folder
			LibreOfficeMathPortable.exe
			LibreOfficePortable.exe
			LibreOfficeWriterPortable.exe

Copy here

Move here

Create shortcuts here

Cancel



