

# REMOVING UNWANTED SOFTWARE FROM A "WINDOWS.." COMPUTER

by Francis Chao  
fchao2@yahoo.com

**TuCS** COMPUTER  
Son  
OCIETY

**WINNERS**  
WINdows usERS



An International  
Association of Technology  
& Computer User Groups

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presentation:**

<http://aztcs.org>

Click on “Meeting  
Notes”

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

When you buy a "Windows.." computer from a retailer, it will usually arrived loaded with all sorts of software programs that should to be removed.

Then, as you use the computer, you will probably accumulate all sorts of additional software programs that need to removed.

Here are the details on how to remove unwanted software.

# SYNOPSIS

- To remove a "desktop app", use the free "Revo Uninstaller Portable."
- To remove a "Universal Windows Platform" app use either the "Apps & Features" screen in "Settings" or the "Uninstall" option in the "Start menu" (in Windows 8.1 and 10)
- To remove a "portable app", use "File Explorer"/"Windows Explorer"

# TOPICS

- Programs Inside a "Windows.." Computer
  - "Desktop Apps"
  - "Universal Windows Platform" (UWP) Apps
  - "Portable apps"
- "Universal Windows Platform" Apps
- Uninstalling "Desktop apps" in "Windows.."

# TOPICS (continued)

- Appendix 1:  
Making a Shortcut for a UWP App  
Like "Mail" in "Windows 10"

# PROGRAMS INSIDE A "WINDOWS.." COMPUTER

- Desktop apps
- Universal Windows Platform (UWP) apps (in Windows 8.1 and 10)
- Portable apps

# PROGRAMS INSIDE A "WINDOWS.." COMPUTER (continued)

- Two kinds of programs inside a "Windows 7" computer
  - Desktop apps
  - Portable apps



# PROGRAMS INSIDE A "WINDOWS.." COMPUTER

- Three kinds of programs inside a "Windows 10.." or "Windows 8.1" computer:
  - Desktop apps
  - Universal Windows Platform (UWP) apps
  - Portable 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

- "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>\

# 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".

# UWP APPS

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

# UWP 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"

# UWP 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"

## UWP 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



# UWP APPS (continued)

- "UWP apps" are designed to look the same in "Windows 10", "Windows phones" and "Windows" tablets
- "Programs and Features" in the "Control Panel" and "Revo Uninstaller Portable" and other "uninstaller" programs cannot remove "UWP apps"

## UWP APPS (continued)

- "UWP apps" do not show up in "Programs and Features" in the "Control Panel"
- "UWP apps" are usually uninstalled from either in 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"

## UWP APPS (continued)

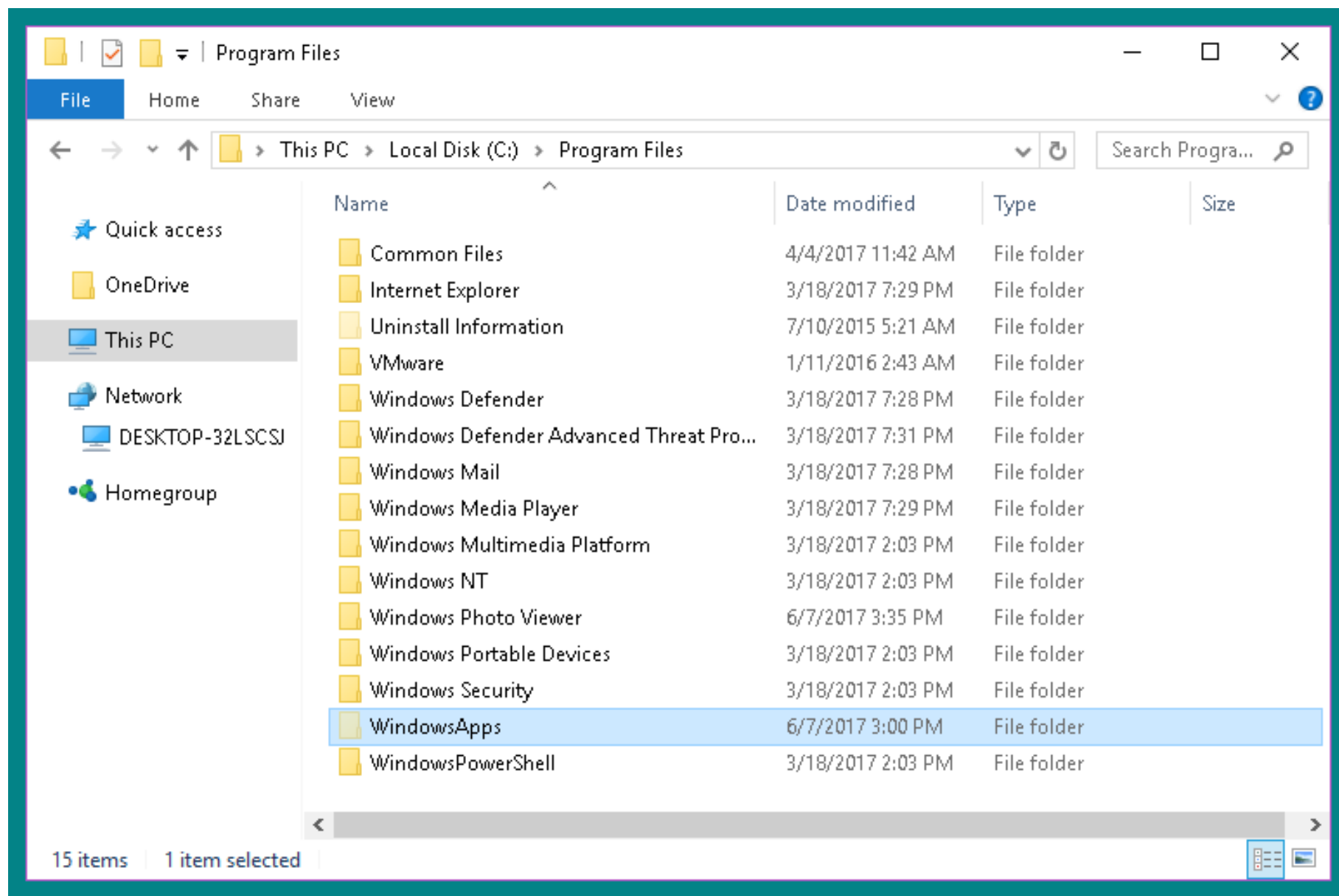
- Like all "Universal Windows Platform" apps, "Mail" is only available for download and installation from the white "Windows Store" icon:  
It is found in the "Windows Store" as "Mail and Calendar"

## UWP APPS (continued)

- If you need to re-install "Mail", you can install a fresh copy over your existing copy of "Mail" by going to the "Windows Store" since like all "Universal Windows Platform" apps, "Mail" is only available for download and re-installation from the "Windows Store" icon where it is available as "Mail and Calendar"

# UWP 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.



# UWP APPS (continued)

- "Skype 12" (with the blue "S") is a "Universal Windows Platform" app
- Windows Platform apps" can be found at  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal\\_Windows\\_Platform\\_apps](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_Windows_Platform_apps)

# IS A PROGRAM A UWP APP OR A DESKTOP APP?

- To determine if an app is a "UWP app" or a "desktop 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.

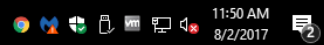


# IS A PROGRAM A UWP APP OR A DESKTOP APP? (continued)

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

# IS A PROGRAM A UWP APP OR A DESKTOP APP? (continued)

- In "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".





### 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

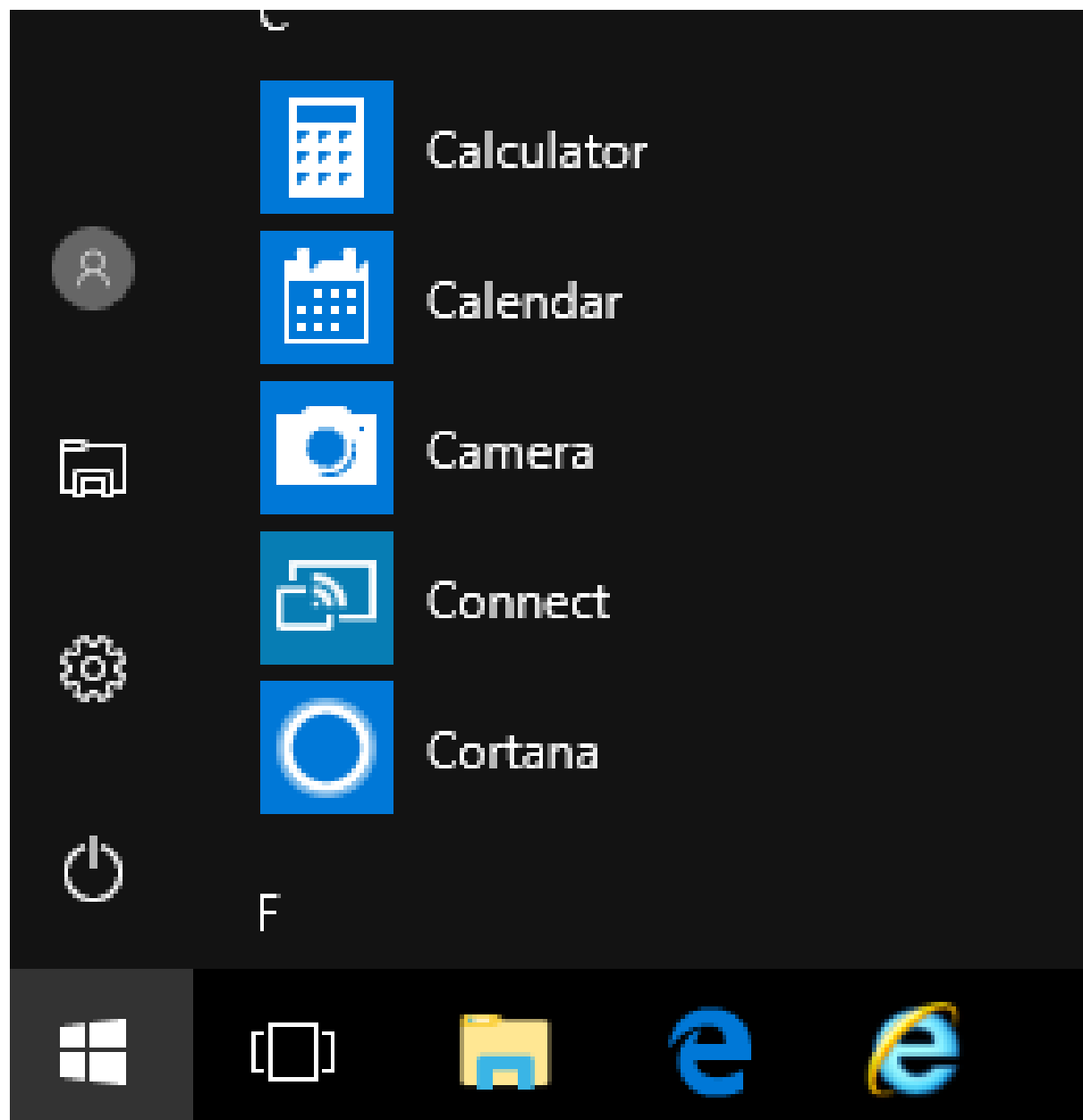


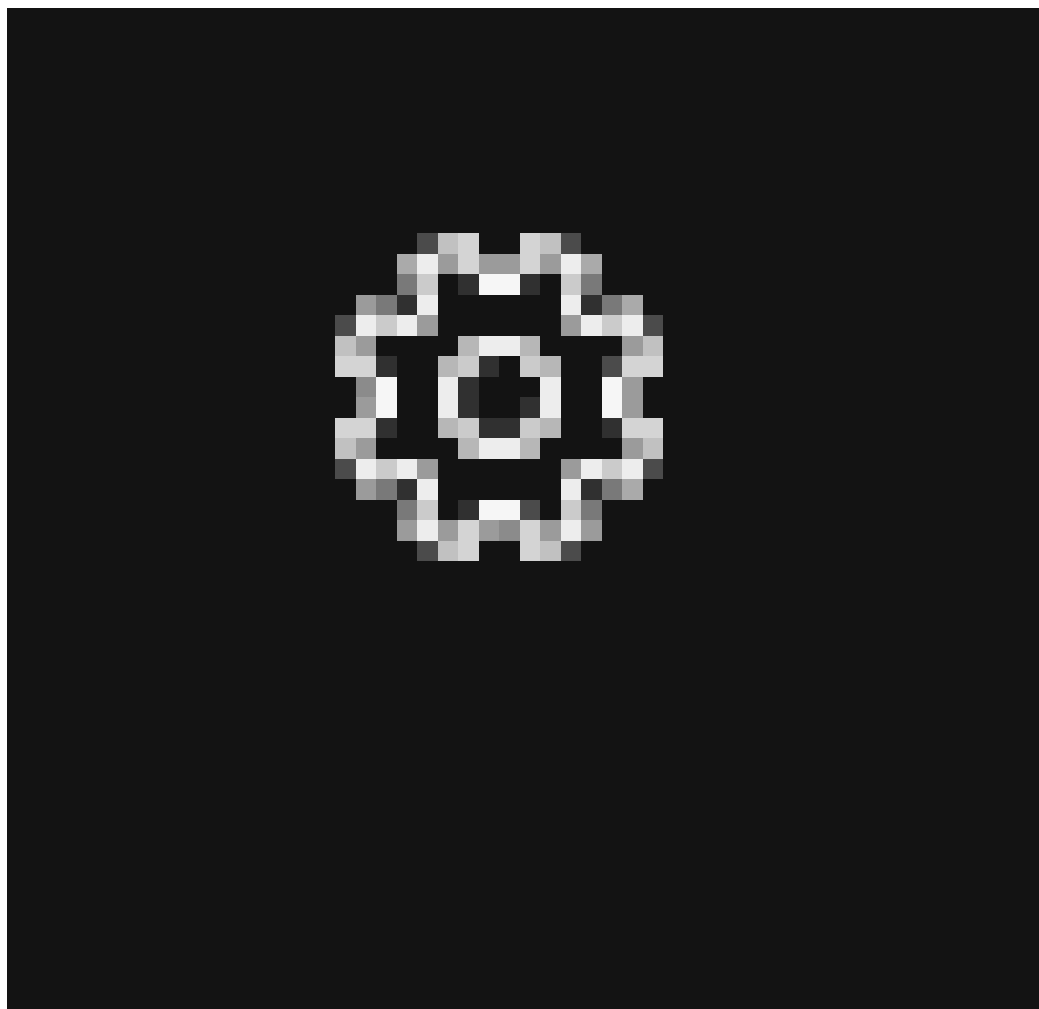
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# IS A PROGRAM A UWP APP OR A DESKTOP APP? (continued)

- Click on the "Settings" gear:





# IS A PROGRAM A UWP APP OR A DESKTOP APP? (continued)

- A "Windows Settings" window will be displayed:



## Windows Settings



## System

Display, notifications,  
power

## Devices

Bluetooth, printers, mouse



## Network &amp; Internet

Wi-Fi, airplane mode, VPN



## Personalization

Background, lock screen,  
colors

## Apps

Uninstall, defaults, optional  
features

## Accounts

Your accounts, email, sync,  
work, family

## Time &amp; language

Speech, region, date



## Gaming

Game bar, DVR,  
broadcasting, Game Mode

## Ease of Access

Narrator, magnifier, high  
contrast

## Privacy

Location, camera

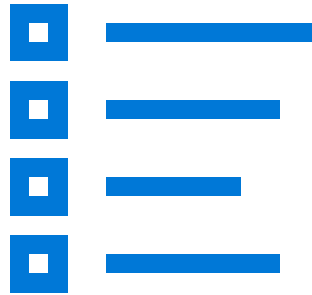


## Update &amp; security

Windows Update, recovery,  
backup

# IS A PROGRAM A UWP APP OR A DESKTOP APP? (continued)

- Click on apps:



## Apps

Uninstall, defaults, optional  
features

# IS A PROGRAM A UWP APP OR A DESKTOP APP? (continued)

- Double-click on the program in question:



Home



Apps



Apps &amp; 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 &amp; features



Default apps



Offline maps



Apps for websites

## Apps & features



Microsoft Corporation

0/2/2011



Feedback Hub

Microsoft Corporation

16.0 KB

6/14/2017



Get Office

Microsoft Corporation

8.15 MB

7/25/2017



Google Chrome

Google Inc.

349 MB

7/31/2015



Groove Music

Microsoft Corporation

14.3 MB

7/25/2017



Mail and Calendar

Microsoft Corporation

30.6 MB

7/25/2017



Malwarebytes version 3.1.2.1733

Malwarebytes

199 MB

7/25/2017



Maps

Microsoft Corporation

16.0 KB

5/28/2017



Messaging

Microsoft Corporation

242 KB

4/13/2017



Microsoft OneDrive

Microsoft Corporation

106 MB

7/30/2017



Microsoft PowerPoint Viewer

Microsoft Corporation

446 MB

7/25/2017



Microsoft Solitaire Collection

Microsoft Studios

16.0 KB

7/25/2017



Mail and Calendar  
Microsoft Corporation

30.6 MB  
7/25/2017

# IS A PROGRAM A UWP APP OR A DESKTOP APP? (continued)

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





Microsoft Corporation

1/25/2017



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

30.6 MB

7/25/2017

Move

Uninstall



Home



Apps



Apps &amp; 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 &amp; 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 &amp; 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 UWP APP OR A DESKTOP APP? (continued)

- If, after you double 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 AN UWP APP

- You cannot use "Revo Uninstaller Portable" or "Programs and Features" in the "Control Panel" to remove a "UWP App" from a "Windows" computer

# UNINSTALLING AN UWP APP (continued)

To uninstall some UWP apps:

Click on the "Start button".

The "Start menu" will be displayed.

Locate the UWP app.

Use the RIGHT button to click on it.

Click on the "Uninstall" option in the pop-up context menu.

Etc..



Recycle Bin



10:26 AM  
2/7/2018







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

N

- News  
New

O

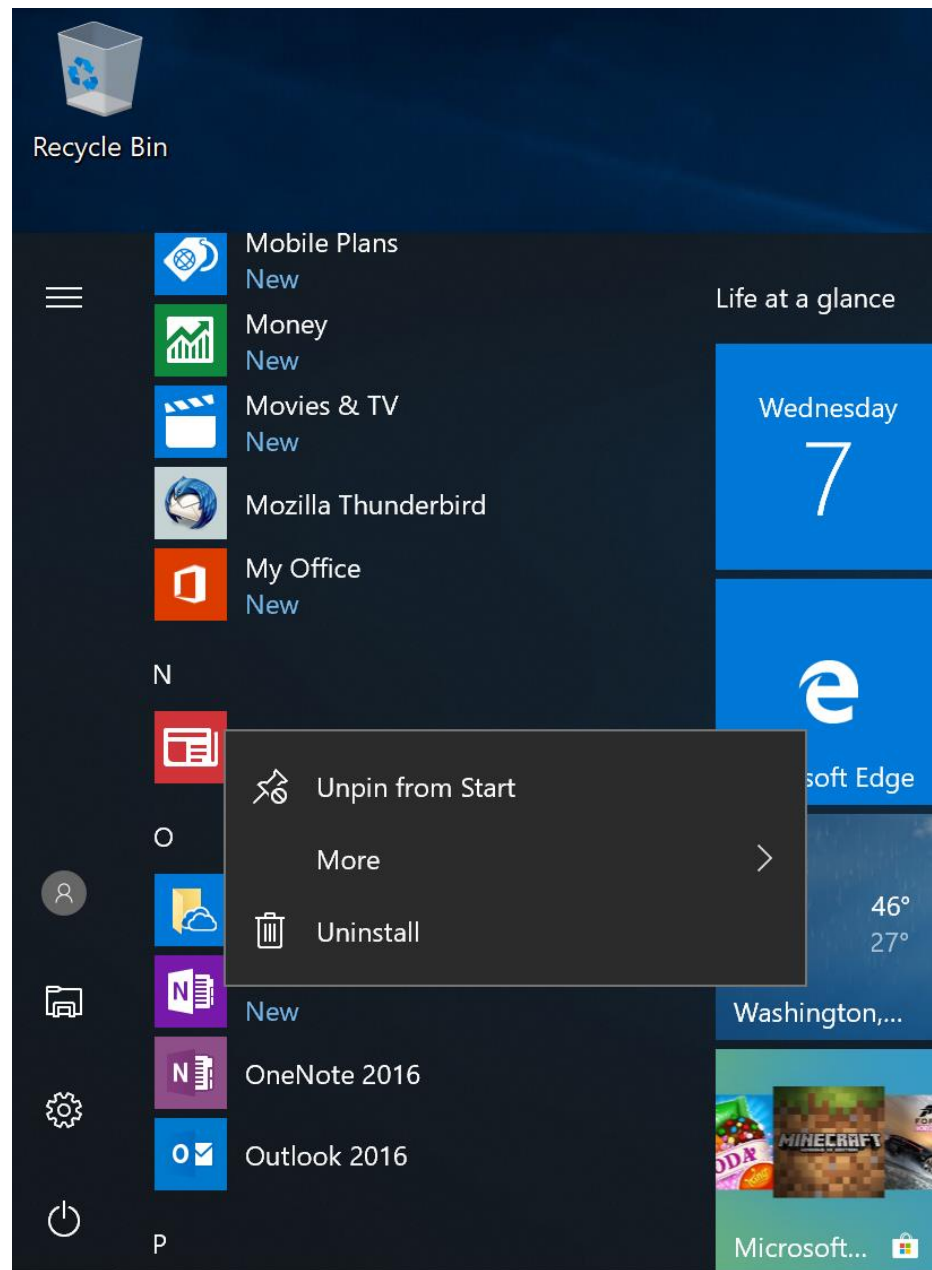
- OneDrive
- OneNote  
New
- OneNote 2016
- Outlook 2016

P

Paint 3D

Life at a glance

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









# UNINSTALLING AN UWP APP THAT DOES NOT GIVE YOU AN "UNINSTALL" OPTION

- There is two ways for you to uninstall a "UWP app" that does not give you an "Uninstall" option.

Let's use the "Mail" app as an example:



# UNINSTALLING THE "MAIL" UWP APP

- "Mail" is bundled with "Windows 10" and cannot be uninstalled by a right click on it in the Start Menu.

# UNINSTALLING THE "MAIL" UWP APP (continued)

- If you want to uninstall "Mail" in "Windows 10", either use Powershell or a third-party program as described in <http://www.intowindows.com/how-to-reinstall-the-mail-app-in-windows-10/>

# UNINSTALLING "DESKTOP APPS" IN "WINDOWS.."

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

# UNINSTALLING "DESKTOP APPS" IN "WINDOWS.."

- To do a clean uninstall of a "desktop app", use the free "Revo Uninstaller Portable" as described in [http://aztcs.org/meeting\\_notes/winhardsig/uninstaller/RevoUninstallerPortable.pdf](http://aztcs.org/meeting_notes/winhardsig/uninstaller/RevoUninstallerPortable.pdf)

# PORTABLE APPS

- "Desktop apps" and "UWP apps" depend on the Windows Registry. They have and put "keys", "values", and "data" into the Windows Registry
- "Portable apps" do not place information into the Windows "Registry"

## PORTABLE APPS (continued)

- "Portable apps" do not "install" into the C: hard drive of your Windows computer. They run from a flash/thumb drive, an external hard drive, or a CD/DVD disc and they do not put none or very few files into the existing hard drives of your computer.

# PORTABLE APPS (continued)

- To learn more about "portable apps", see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portable\\_application](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portable_application)

# PORTABLE APPS (continued)

- To remove a "portable app":
  - Use "Windows Explorer" in "Windows 7" and earlier
  - Use "File Explorer" in "Windows 8.1" and "Windows 10"



## PORTABLE APPS (continued)

- "Revo Uninstaller Free" is very good "portable app" for cleanly removing "desktop apps".

See

[http://aztcs.org/meeting\\_notes/winhardsig/uninstaller/RevoUninstallerPortable.pdf](http://aztcs.org/meeting_notes/winhardsig/uninstaller/RevoUninstallerPortable.pdf)

# A MORE EXTREME VIEW OF "SHOVELWARE"

- <https://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2477704,00.asp>
- <https://www.technorms.com/44794/remove-bloatware-from-laptop>

# A MORE EXTREME VIEW OF "SHOVELWARE" (continued)

- <https://www.pcrisk.com/computer-technician-blog/windows/12022-how-to-get-rid-of-bloatware-in-windows-10>

# A MORE EXTREME VIEW OF "SHOVELWARE" (continued)

- <https://www.thestar.com.my/tech/tech-news/2017/03/16/speed-up-your-computer-by-getting-rid-of-bloatware/>

# A MORE EXTREME VIEW OF "SHOVELWARE" (continued)

- <http://www.itprotoday.com/windows-10/clean-new-windows-10-machine-bloatware>

# APPENDIX 1

## MAKING A SHORTCUT FOR A "UWP APP" LIKE "MAIL"

- For any "Universal Windows Platform" app like "Mail" in "Windows 10", you can make a shortcut by following the step-by-step instructions at <https://www.thurrott.com/windows/windows-10/5328/windows-10-tip-create-shortcuts-for-universal-apps>

# APPENDIX 1

## MAKING A SHORTCUT

### FOR A "UWP APP" LIKE "MAIL"

- Type  
shell:appsfolder  
at a Run box or a command prompt  
in "Windows 10"
- An "Applications" window will be  
displayed:  
You can make shortcuts to both  
"UWP apps" and "desktop apps" in  
this window