Introduction

In the last lesson we looked at why no one should be running Windows XP. In this lesson, and in the next two we're going to explore how Windows 10 differs from Windows 8.1 and Windows 7. There are a lot of significant changes but we just want to focus on the biggest ones so you can know what they are as you consider upgrading to Windows 10.

This is a three-part series: in this first part we're going to look at the four big ones and in the second part we'll look at the next three and then in the last part we'll wrap up with the last three. Let's get started.

When I got my first job, my employer handed me a Blackberry. Which I thought was pretty cool; I saw all the executives using them and it made me feel important.

The one thing I liked about it was that it did one thing and it did one thing really well. I could send and receive emails. I didn't have to worry about games, I didn't have to worry about videos, I didn't have to worry about all that other crap that's beleaguering smartphones and devices out there these days.

So I really enjoyed it. I got to know it really well, but then I moved on from that job to another one and my employer said "Hey, we don't have Blackberries for you. Go ahead and get another device"

So I had the option of either getting an iPhone or Android; I opted for the Android because my wife already had an iPhone and I didn't want to copy her and yeah, basically I'm trying to be a leader as a husband.

Anyway that didn't really work, but I got my Android and I was totally confounded everything; I didn't know how to do simple tasks like send and receive text messages; even placing phone calls required me to tap through

like five or six different screens. My Blackberry froze, this device did. I had to worry about the Google Play store; it was just a headache.

And my problem with the Android wasn't that I was technically incompetent; you know. I knew how to use smartphones, it's just that I wasn't conversant with the new Android interface. In the same way, you might feel that way when it comes to Windows 10.

Windows 10 is foreign. It's unlike anything we've ever seen before and the purpose of this lesson and the next three is to guide you through the biggest changes that you can become, not only comfortable, but also confident, navigating all the newest bells and whistles.

Let's jump right in.

In this lesson.

So in this lesson, we're going to look at a couple of things.

One, I'm going to show you exactly how Windows 7 differs from Windows 10. And then we're going to look at how it's different than Windows 8.1.

Some of the best new stuff

So let's talk about some of the best new stuff you can look forward too here. One is the new Start Menu. The Start Menu is really cool as you'll see. There are these things called tiles which you already knew about in Windows 8. It looks sort of like this. But the cool thing is in Windows 10 you can do all sorts of things to these tiles. You can disable them, you stretch them, I'll show you those in a little bit.

There are also Universal Apps which are similar to normal apps except they exist in the normal desktop environment. So if this is a regular program like notepad with the little X over here, you can have a Universal App, like the Weather App, actually open next to it just as if it were a normal program.

But it's not a normal program it's an app. And we'll talk about apps and what those differences are in a little bit as well.

Of course there's a Settings app which is the new Control Panel replacement and we're also going to look at the Windows Store app.

Hanging out with the new Start Menu

So hanging out with the new Start Menu, what do we get here? We'll first it is stretchable, flexible and resizable.

So it is malleable. You can do all sorts of cool stuff with it. You can also take tiles; that is those rectangle and square sized items on the Start Screen, or Start Menu, and you can change the size of them and you can also group them, you can group all these together, let's say these are all related to work and you can have like a separate group for other things like games.

That's kind of nice.

The other nice thing is that you can actually disable any annoying tiles and the ability to logout, reboot, lock your machine and sleep are all on this Start Menu. And of course you have All Apps and All Programs.

So All Apps is essentially the new version of All Programs.

This is Windows 7 and this is Windows 10.

So let's go ahead and dive into the program so I can show you exactly what I'm talking about here.

Here is our old friend Windows 7 and if I click the Start Menu, you've got all your familiar programs: Control Panel, Computer, Pictures that sort of thing. Nothing exciting there.

And in Windows 8.1, you have the Start button but if you click it you don't get a menu you get a screen with all your apps sort of splashed in your face like a glass of cold water.

Windows 10 is a little different. So in Windows 10, if I click the Start button, I get a menu and this menu is flexible.

If I move my mouse to the right edge of the menu I get a horizontal double arrow icon. If I click and drag I can drag in to make it smaller or drag out to the right to make it larger. Similarly, I can do the same for the top edge: dragging up and down accordingly.

You can also change these tiles. These items right here are called tiles. Now most of these are apps. Apps are like miniature programs that live only inside the Microsoft store.

So think of them kind of like a cross between what you would find on your phone and what you would traditionally find on a Windows machine. The main difference though is that they live in the Windows store, that's how you get them. Or they just come preinstalled on your computer like these right here.

So if I want to play with these apps to organize them, I can click and drag to move them around. I can also resize apps, or tiles, if I right click on a tile and go to resize, I can make it medium size. Or I can even make it wide or large accordingly.

Now the cool thing is you can group these tiles. So you see they're grouped; these different sections. If I double-click that I can name this whatever I want.

And you can easily drag tiles between different groups as so. Now if you want to disable some of these tiles because they're just annoying, right-click and you can Unpin from Start.

Now you might say, "We'll what if you later on want one of these tiles back". So let's say there's this tile here, and I resize it… let me show you a tile. Let's think of a good example of a tile we can disable but we want it back.

So let's say this tile right here is Skype. So we go ahead and Unpin from Start so it's gone. But then later we decide we really wanted it: how would we get it back? We'll, that's where this option box down here is all about.

You can actually type whatever you want. So I can say "Skype" and then I right-click the app and I choose Pin-to Start. And that will pin it to the Start Menu.

So now when I go back to the Start Menu, you'll see the app down here and I can move it back where ever I want it to be. Or I could just get rid of it. I could actually uninstall it as well if I wanted to. And I'll show you a trick later on the course on how to permanently uninstall some of these apps like some of the apps that don't have an uninstall function. For example, like this one, there's no uninstall button. There is a way to do it; it's kind of cool, but I'll show you that later.

You can also lock, logout, reboot and sleep your machine from here. So in the left section, you'll see there's a little power button. If I click that, this is where I can sleep, shutdown and restart my machine.

If I want to logout of the box instead, I would actually click my picture here and then I would click Sign out. This is also where I could lock the computer as well.

This locks the box as you can see. And then of course to get back into it, I would just, I can either click and drag up or I can just click it once and enter my top secret password – which happens to be the alphabet in reverse; I'm just kidding about that.

The last thing I want to show you is the All Apps vs All Programs.

So in Windows 7, we had All Programs and in Windows 10 we have… sorry about that… I'm click challenged as you can see.

Sometimes the Start Menu just doesn't want to work for me. But in Windows 10 we have this all Apps section which, if it were to open then it would show me, but of course - it's Microsoft we're dealing with here so it might not work.

There we go.

So you have All Apps which are right here. These are actually all your programs. You see they're sorted by letter, alphabetically. And it's actually by most used in the very top section right there.

The universe of Universal Apps

Now we want to move into the universe of Universal Apps and what a glorious universe it is. So the firs thing we're going to look at here, are Apps are mini-programs that live in the store. Now, I already mentioned that but I'm going to show you exactly what I mean by that. And I'm going to show you that there are several built-in apps that you can't easily remove.

And I'm going to show you those as well.

In Windows 7, everything was a program. So when I load the calculator program and the Windows Media Player programs, there's no real surprise here.

Windows 8.1 had the same kind of thing. The Windows Media Player program and the calculator program. But Windows 8.1 also had a few tricks up its sleeve and one of those, were apps.

If I go back here, and I type "calculator", notice two calculators appeared. Actually three and four; these are from the Windows Store.

But, this one, is the application; this is an app. How did I know that? Well, just because of trial-and-error and you can also kind of tell because the icon looks a little more modern. And if I click the calculator app, it opens full-screen in the Start Screen.

You can't really do anything with it. I mean, I can minimize it but then I can't have the app open side-by-side with my programs. So for example, if I go here, and I go to the video app, click that, again, I'm going full screen. It takes over my entire screen.

Nobody likes that; that's not very fun.

So in Windows 10, I still have the calculator program and I have the app, but they've been merged into one; which is why you don't see two different versions of it. And if I click this, it's a Universal App, meaning it opens in the normal desktop; side-by-side with my other programs like Microsoft Edge and all the other programs I have on my computer.

That's the main difference there.

These are limited programs; they're only available through the Microsoft store. So if I go here, this is the Microsoft Store and think of it like Microsoft's version of iTunes.

So you can find different apps in the store. Some are free, some are paid. You can look at top apps, featured apps. And some of the stuff is actually worth investigating because it's pretty good.

VLC, for example, is also a pretty good program. I haven't tried the app but there is an app apparently.

And, you've got games, you've got music. There's lots of stuff in the Windows store; but that's where the apps live: they live here.

And that's pretty much it for the Universal Apps. Let's go ahead and move on: I want to show you the new Control Panel which is the Settings app.

The Settings App vs the Control Panel

Conveniently pressing the Windows Key + xp opens the Control Panel. I think that Microsoft even has some humor there. Let's take look at it.

The big news to Windows 7 and Windows 8.1 users is that the Control Panel lives on. So in Windows 7, you would just click Start and then you would go to the Control Panel. Bam.

Of course you could also just type "Control Panel" and press Enter and bring it up that way as well.

Similarly, in Windows 8.1, you could type "Control Panel" and click it that way, but of course you could also press Windows Key + x to bring up this super shortcut menu and then press P to bring up the Control Panel.

Now, Windows 8.1 introduced something new and it was called Settings, PC Settings, which was a full screen modern app, I guess you could call it.

And Windows 10, the Control Panel, is still there, and you can still use Windows Key + xp to bring up the Control Panel. But now Microsoft is trying to move everybody to the Settings app.

To get to that app, press the Windows Key, and either start typing Settings, and then you can press enter that way, or you can just click on the little gear down here and that will bring up the Settings app.

Now there's a lot of stuff you can do in here. One thing that I really like, is that you can just find what you want by just typing in here. So let's say I want to work on Updates.

I just type "Updates" and let's say I want to manage my updates. I can go in here and hey! I can choose how my updates are delivered and how they're installed. We're actually going to look at these settings in a future lesson, that's why I went here, but as you can see this Settings app is very robust; I mean there's a lot of stuff in here and it's grouped pretty logically.

And again, this is a Universal App, it's not a standard Modern app, or Metro App as you have in Windows 8.1 because it doesn't take up the entire screen; that's the main difference. But my point here is that this Settings app is very powerful and I would encourage you to click through some of the settings, just to become familiar with what you can do here, there's a lot here.

Okay, let's go ahead and move on.

The Store App

Now I know we already looked at the Store App but I just want to dig in a little deeper in this video so you can really appreciate it. Think of it of course like Microsoft's version of the iTunes store. And there about a million free and paid apps in this store. Let me show you something real quick.

So let's so shopping in the Microsoft Store.

So here you've got your popular apps, and we showed this earlier, but there's a couple that I think you should really look at.

The first one is Wunderlist. It's a great app for keeping track of different tasks. I think that you would really enjoy this because it helps you to stay organized and its 100% free. So that's definitely a good reason to use an app.

Another good app is the Reddit app which is also 100% free and it basically gives you a clean interface for all the Reddit articles if you're a Reddit reader; this is from reddit.com. And there are a few others; I suggest just going through here at least once just to see if you're interested in anything. Click it, if you don't like it, you can always uninstall it.

Bonus: Removing Built-in Apps

So I've got a bonus section for you. I want to show you how to remove the built-in apps that are in the app store; we want to get rid of all those apps. This is how you do it:

You open an elevated PowerShell prompt and then you type this cmdlet: Get-AppXPackage. What that does is it lists all the packages or apps installed on your computer.

Now you don't have to be a PowerShell power user in order to run this. What happens next is you just type, Get-AppXPackage space blah, where blah is the name of the app you want to remove and then you pipe that, meaning you hit the pie key, the pipe key is usually underneath the backspace key or above the enter key, it's just a vertical, single character. And then you pipe that into Remove-AppXPackage.

What this is does is it says okay: "Hey, Windows, get me this package named blah. And hey, when you get it, instead of just listing it, send it into the RemoveAppXPackage cmdlet" so you can get rid of it and that gets rid of it for you.

Let me show you what that looks like.

Click Start, we've got this Mail app. You see there's no uninstall feature.

So now we need to open up an elevated PowerShell prompt and the easiest way to do that is just to press Windows Key + x and then "a" to open up an elevated command prompt.

Click show details if you want but go ahead and click "OK" to open an elevated command prompt.

And then here you would type "powershell".

Now, in order to remove the app we need to know which command to type: so we can say "Get-Command" all the commands that have the word "app" in it, star app star.

There's a couple that come back but if you scroll up you'll see there's one that says Get-AppXPackage, that's the one we want. Let's go down here.

We'll type Get-AppXPackage and we'll want to find the one that has something related to mail.

That didn't come up, so we can just say "Get-AppXPackage" and list them all and try to read through the ones we don't like. For example, you could look and see the name the SkypeApp. You know this is OneNote.

But if you did this, you would find out that the Mail app isn't actually called mail; it's under a different term. It's under Microsoft.WindowsCommunications and the way to remove it is just to go ahead and type this and then pipe it into the RemoveAppXPackage.

So to find that command you could type "Get-Command", gcm, it's just an alias. So you could type gcm app and let's see if there's a remove.

Yes, there's a remove dash AppXPackage. Scroll down, press the up arrow: Remove dash AppXPackage.

And this should remove the package. Alright, that's it.

Now if we go back to the Start Menu, you'll notice the app is gone. Now let's say you want to get the app back... is there a way to do that?

Why Yes! There is!

So to get the app back, we go back into PowerShell and if we type this long command, which I know I did that kind of fast, but what it does is it actually resets all he apps, it deploys all the apps back on to your computer, back to the defaults.

And that command that I typed I'll show you in a moment what it is. It could take some time because it's going through each and every one of the apps on your machine and It's going to try to restore them. But once it's done everything will be back to the way it was.

As you can see it just finished and this is the command that I typed. I'll provide this in the notes for you but if we go down to the Start Menu now, you might say: "Wait a second, wait a second Vonnie it's not here! Where's that Mail app?"

That's just because it's not pinned to the Start Menu.

To get it back you just click Mail, right-click, Pin-to-Start. Now when we go back to the Start Menu, you'll see it hiding down here, put it back where it was before and you can make it look sort-of similar to what it was looking like before.

And there you go.

The Bottom Line

Alright, so you made it to the end of the lesson. The bottom line here is that the Start Menu is nimble. Right, you can stretch it, you can flex it, you can do all kinds of cool stuff with it – things we couldn't do in prior versions of Windows.

Also, Universal Apps, they are sort of hybrid apps right. They're hybrid programs; they're part program and part app. And by app, I just mean that it's a miniature program that can only be purchased from the Windows Store.

The Settings App, that's the new Control Panel. You know, instead of going to the old Control Panel with the X and all of our little windows, we now have the Settings app, which is Microsoft's new version of that. And I highly

suggest that you explore that. There's a lot of things in there that you should be familiar with.

And then the Store App of course is where you get all your toys. That's where you get all the gifts. That's my sad attempt at making a gift box. You can get free apps and paid apps there; it's sort of like Microsoft's version of iTunes.

Coming up

So in the next lesson, we're going to dive into the Notification Center. Have you noticed it? Because I have and when you check it out it's going to be pretty cool. Also, Cortana.

I'm going to show you how to court Cortana or how to get the most out of her so she can help you in her life.

And then finally we will tackle TaskView. Instead of using Alt+Tab to switch through different applications in one desktop, we can use TaskView to switch through entire desktops.

Entire desktops that might have their own applications in each one. So this might be word, this might be PowerPoint, this might be outlook, and this is desktop 1, this is desktop 2 and this is something completely different.

This might have Chrome. This might have Microsoft Edge, which is Microsoft's new browser which we'll look at later. And this might be Youtube and then you could have a third desktop that just has some video that you're watching on Hulu.

So we'll look at all that in the next video; I cannot wait to get started.