

Windows 10 1809 Update New Features

The Windows 10 October 2018 Update, also known as the 1809 update began rolling out at the end of October 2018. Due to some serious issues for some users it was pulled a few days later. Since then Microsoft fixed the major problems that were occurring, and it was re-released in late December of 2018. You may have received it by now, if not, you will be getting it soon. There are a lot of new features but many of them are “under the hood” things. This is an overview of some of the new features that may be of interest to users. (To see what version you are using go to Settings > System > About and scroll down to Windows Specifications. There you will see version. If you have the update it will say 1809. If you don't it will say 1803. If it says anything else ask for help on getting your system upgraded to the current version.

Start Menu Search Improvements

The start menu search (Cortana) will now show recent documents, tasks, a quick link to your timeline and improved appearance of your searches.

Snip and Sketch Tool

This is an upgrade to the snipping tool (which still exists). Press Windows logo key + Shift + S to open the tool or go to the start menu to open it. Once it is open select new and then click and drag over the area you want to copy. Release the mouse and the selected area will be added to the screen. You can now use the tools (touchscreen writing, ball point pen, pencil, highlighter, eraser, ruler and crop) to edit your clip. When you are done you can paste it, save it, share it or print it (not available in the snipping tool). You can also have multiple clips by just clicking new again.

Make Text Bigger

If you have poor eyesight or are using a high-resolution display and it's hard to see the text, you now have an easier way to make things bigger. Instead of digging through display settings and adjusting scaling, head to Settings > Ease of Access > Display, use the slider to adjust the size of the text, and hit Apply.

Your Phone App

If you have an Android phone you can link it to Windows 10. After linking your phone will automatically link texts and photos to your computer so you will no longer need to upload your photos to your PC.

Clipboard History

The Clipboard can now save your cut and copied items so you can access more than just one. To make sure it's enabled, head to Settings > System > Clipboard and toggle on Clipboard history. To see your clipboard history, hit Windows key + V and you will be able to paste in past items, pin them, or delete them. Pinning allows you to copy something you may use frequently and have it always available. Because this uses

cloud storage you can also turn on the ability to share clips across devices so something clipped on your laptop would be available on your desktop assuming you have used the same Microsoft I

Projecting to your PC

It is now possible to project to your PC from another device. From the Action Center choose connect and then Projecting to this PC. Make choices on how you want the projection to be handled. Then go to the device you wish to project from and turn on projection, then connect to your PC. This is handy if you want to watch something from your phone on a larger device.

Add emojis from your keyboard 🗨️

To add an emoji to what you are writing press Windows logo key + period (.) to open an emoji panel. Select the emoji you want, and it will be inserted. There are a number of emoji types and in most categories you can scroll down for more.

Data Usage

To see how much data you are using and set limits to protect yourself from overage fees (useful if you are using satellite or cell service), go to Settings > Network > Data and choose the network. From there you can see your usage for the past 30 days and set limits if necessary.

Windows 7 users take note. Microsoft support for Windows 7 will be ending in less than a year (January 14, 2020). This means you will no longer get any security updates as well as any new features. If you are not planning to get a new computer within that time frame you should consider updating your current computer to Windows 10. Officially the free update is no longer available, but many people have been able to get it anyway.