

ThinkPad Twist Convertible



IT TWISTS. IT BENDS. IT FOLDS. IT SPINS.

The 12.5" Twist convertible is an

- Ultrabook/Laptop
- a tablet

Twist transforms into a laptop when you need to type and a tablet when you're on the go.

Other convenient modes let you share presentations and get up close for browsing.



ThinkPad Twist Convertible



Twist, fold, bend, spin -- 4 awesome modes, 1 incredible machine.



ThinkPad Twist Features

Multitouch Display

The latest in touch technology delivers effortless usability, featuring an extra bright 350 nit, HD IPS (in-plane switching) display for nearly 180-degree viewing angles.

Battery Life

Up to 6 hours.

Magnesium Alloy Construction With Corning® Gorilla® Glass

Slim Ultrabook design, built for durability yet only 20 mm thin.

ThinkVantage Active Protection System (APS)

An accelerometer detects movement and stops the drive when a fall or similar event is detected.

Rubber mounts are used for the hard disk drive (rather than rails) and the HDD connector is not rigidly attached to the board, so the connector absorbs shock and impact and protects against system damage.

SuperSpeed USB 3.0

Enables up to 10 times faster file transfer, allowing for lightning-fast copying of large media files, as well as seamless connections between audio- and video-related peripherals.

Dolby® Home Theater® v4

Increased audio clarity and maximized volume output without distortion — enjoy a crisp, clear immersive surround sound experience over built-in stereo speakers. Plus mini DisplayPort and mini HDMI enable quick and easy hook up to external monitor, TV, or projector.

Superior Web Conferencing

Low-light sensitive 720p HD webcam with wide-angle viewing and face-tracking, dual array microphones with configurations for crystal-clear private and conference mode VoIP meetings, and keyboard noise suppression technology.

Lenovo Cloud Storage

Protect your critical data, while also making access to information and file-sharing quick and convenient. Automatically back-up and synchronize data across the organization, while enabling access from multiple devices. Data is encrypted on transfer for an extra level of security.

Lenovo and Windows 8 / 8.1

Interact: touch, type, or click. Connect: anywhere, anytime. Discover: new uses & a world of apps.

Microsoft released Windows 8.1.

Windows 8 users can upgrade for free by visiting the Windows Store; if you have another operating system, the upgrade will cost you the same price as Windows 8 itself: \$120 for the normal version, or \$200 for Windows 8.1 Pro. Windows 8.1 is a fairly major update for both tablet and laptop/desktop users, providing a better experience both within the Metro interface on touchscreens and with the mouse and keyboard on the Desktop.

The Start button and menu, though *technically* reinstated, are not back in spirit.

Downloading and installing Windows 8.1

For the most part, installing Windows 8.1 is quick, painless, and risk-free, so you don't need to worry about backing up or other preparatory measures. Do make sure you have plenty of free hard drive space, though (20GB).

New features and major changes in Windows 8.1

As the name implies, Windows 8.1 is more of a revision to Windows 8 than a major update. The new Metro interface is still front and center, and still awful to use with a mouse and keyboard — but, as a concession to those without touchscreens, you can now configure Windows 8.1 to boot straight to the Desktop. The Start button also makes its illustrious return, but all it does is bring up the Metro interface. The Start button can be configured to bring up a rejigged All Apps view, which is kind of like a full-screen Start menu, but it's still a piggish to navigate with a mouse. If you make extensive use of the real Start menu in Windows XP/Vista/7, you will want to install a third-party Start menu replacement (which still works perfectly with Windows 8.1).

On the Metro side of things, there are extensive updates to configurability and usability. The Metro Control Panel ("PC Settings") can now be used to change most important settings.

You can now split-screen multiple apps, and you're not restricted to the size and location of the splits — apps can be any width, including 50/50. Multi-monitor support for Metro has improved, too, allowing you to have multiple apps split-screened on multiple monitors.

The Start screen is more configurable, the Lock screen is more functional (it now makes a great digital photo frame), and lots of stock apps have received much-needed updates.

The Windows Store has been tweaked, but it's still pretty rough.



Bridging the Metro and Desktop divide, Windows 8.1 brings built-in SkyDrive integration (to Metro and Libraries in Explorer),

Search has been significantly bolstered, especially when it comes to web-based search results. There's also a new option to show your Desktop wallpaper behind the Metro Start screen, which makes a surprisingly big difference when it comes to the jarring juxtaposition between the two interfaces.

Why did we have to wait two years for *this*?

In short, Windows 8.1 takes Windows 8 — which really was an abomination for mouse-and-keyboard Desktop users, and only slightly better on tablets — and makes it *usable*. The irony, though, is that almost all of the changes made to Windows 8.1 were originally pointed out *two years ago* by beta testers of the original Windows 8 Preview.



When you consider that Windows 8 and 8.1 have been in development for a grand total of five years, and Microsoft has been making operating systems for more than 20 years, and Windows 7 was one of the best OS's ever released, it's really hard to imagine why Microsoft made the original release of Windows 8 so difficult to use.

The main thing is that Windows 8.1 is finally usable. Better late than never; it will be interesting to note whether Windows 8.1 is strong enough on the tablet to unseat iOS and Android, and a big enough upgrade on the desktop to encourage Windows XP and 7 users to upgrade.

Windows 8.1

Microsoft's Windows 8.1 upgrade is way more than a service pack, even though it's a free update for [Windows 8](#) users through the Windows Store (available as a preview today). There are also plenty of new capabilities like built-in support for 3D printing, Miracast display sharing, and a new web radio feature in the included Xbox Music app.

Windows 8.1 brings literally hundreds of updates, fixes, and tweaks for both home and business users, as well as for form factors from small tablets to large screen workstations – more than is possible to cover even in a long-format review, let alone in a quick cheat sheet of top new features. That said, below are highlights the handful of new features that we think will affect the largest number of Windows 8 users.

Will this 0.1 update be enough to convince the doubters when it's finally released this autumn? Only time will tell, but this preview looks like a good start.

1. Start Button

This was a popular war-cry among those who lamented the interface changes in Windows 8. And yes, the desktop does now have a Start button, sporting the new Windows logo, but it doesn't do what the veteran power users probably wished for:

It launches the new-style Start page. But really, that's okay, since you can think of that as simply a full-screen start button panel – just start typing a program's name to launch it or look for a file or setting.

2. Boot to Desktop

Another vehement request of long-time Windows users was that you should be able to bypass the modern-style Start screen entirely, and with Windows 8.1 this becomes possible. So if you've got desktop icons for all the programs you ever use or have them pinned to the Taskbar, you'll never have to see that tiled screen again. Unless you mistakenly press the new Start button! To turn on boot-to-desktop, right click the Taskbar and choose Properties, and then Navigation. Finally, under Start screen, check the "Go to the desktop instead of Start when I sign in."

3. Search Heroes

Microsoft has done a lot of work on the operating system's built-in search with Windows 8.1. A highlight of search's new capabilities is what the company calls "Search Heroes," designed result pages that offer more than just app, file, or web results, but instead offer actions.

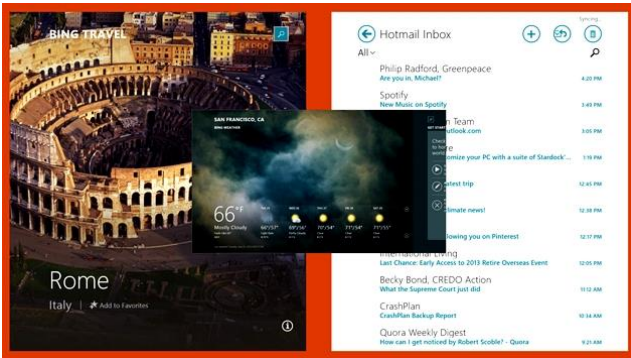


A couple of good examples of Search Heroes show up when you search for a popular musician or for a city. Searching "Rihanna" lets you immediately play the artist's top tracks and videos via Xbox Music, as well as see biographical and web info. Searching for "London" results in a page showing a map, the current weather, and top attractions of the city.

4. More windowing options for new-style apps

While the ability to show more than one app on the screen at a time was already unique among popular tablet operating systems, Windows 8.1 extends new-style app windowing options.

In Windows 8, you could only run a second app in a narrow sidebar window, but with 8.1 you can horizontally size the windows however you want, as long as the developer has allowed this for the app.



You can also display more than two apps – in fact, you can show up to four, as long as your display resolution is adequate. You can also have multiple apps showing on multiple monitors, so if you have a two monitor setup, you can view up to eight apps!

5. New Store

Not only has the Windows Store undergone a radical redesign that's a distinct improvement over its Windows 8 predecessor, but it benefits from some operational improvements as well. Apps are now automatically updated, so you'll never see the little number in the Store tile indicating how many of your apps need attention. You can also install purchased apps on as many PCs as you like, though remote monitoring by Microsoft will quash abuse.

But the Store's new and improved interface is the real highlight here.

Instead of a lot of scrolling through categories, you now see one large highlighted app that alternates between a few choices:

Picks For You, Popular Now, and then the usual Top Paid and Top Free apps.

Also, individual app pages let you see the description, large screenshots, and reviews and comments without having to look behind tabs.

6. More robust settings in modern interface

In Windows 8, you could do a few things on the modern Settings page accessible from the Charms, but too often you had to head to the desktop mode's traditional Control Panel to make the adjustment you wanted.

With Windows 8.1, the number of options in the new-style Settings page has blossomed to nearly quadruple the number in Windows 8. Basic things like Display settings, Devices, mouse and keyboard, AutoPlay, and more are now readily accessible there. You can also see your PC info such as processor and memory without a trip to the desktop's Control Panel.

Read more: <http://www.itproportal.com/2013/06/28/top-6-new-features-microsoft-has-introduced-in-windows-81-preview/#ixzz2nWy3H8QJ>

Microsoft's Ballmer offers Windows 8.1 preview and admits past mistakes

Read more: <http://www.itproportal.com/2013/06/27/microsofts-ballmer-offers-windows-81-preview-and-admits-past-mistakes/#ixzz2nX13xTNU>

Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer has promised tighter product release cycles going forward as he unveiled a preview version of the first major Windows 8 update, as well as other new Microsoft products, at the company's Build developer conference.

"We are moving towards being an absolutely rapid-release cycle company. Rapid release, rapid release," Ballmer said during an opening keynote at San Francisco's Moscone Convention Center. "It's not a one-time thing. We're certainly going to show you Windows 8.1 today, but you can think of it as a new norm, what we're doing with our developers and partners, in products like Windows and Azure, and more."

Microsoft's Windows 8.1 update, often referred to by the internal code name "Blue", addresses some of the complaints generated by last year's much ballyhooed but critically panned Windows 8 release.

"We're bringing back the Start button," Ballmer said to applause from the audience.

"If you want to boot to the desktop, you can boot to the desktop."

Windows 8 was criticized by many for its radical departure from the traditional Windows interface. Microsoft, it seems, heard those complaints from long-time Windows loyalists and acted on them.

Indeed, Ballmer promised that 8.1 will deliver "a refined blend of our traditional desktop experience and our modern interface."

He also admitted that Windows 8, though celebrated by Redmond for its optimization for touch-based interfaces, didn't immediately result in as many touch-enabled PCs hitting the market as Microsoft had hoped.

"With Windows 8, we talked touch, touch, touch, but when you saw PCs in the store a lot of them didn't have touch," he said. That will change going forward as more and more PCs and hybrid tablet devices appear, Ballmer promised, adding that Microsoft's user research suggested Windows 8 users with touch-based laptops and all-in-one PCs were much happier with their systems than those with non-touch enabled PCs.

Microsoft is also touting smaller Windows tablets more so than the full-sized, 10in-and-above slates that appeared in the first wave following the operating system's 2012 release. Build attendees will get their hands on one such compact Windows tablet, [Acer's new, 8.1in Iconia](#).

"It's a perfect device for a student, a very small-and-light device, yet you can add a keyboard," Ballmer said of Acer's new tablet. "This small form factor is very important. I wouldn't call it a PC but you can touch it, feel it, it comes with Office and a full range of PC applications. You will see a lot of these small factor tablets with Windows."

The Microsoft CEO said more powerful "two-in-one" laptops that also serve as tablets will also be important for the company in 2013. He noted that Lenovo and other Microsoft partners are making powerful yet light two-in-one devices that utilize workhorse chips like Intel's Core i7 yet still offer "all-day battery life."

Ballmer touched on new developments for Windows Phone as well, running down recent Windows Phone handsets offered by key partners like Nokia while also announcing that Sprint has rolled out the first Windows Phones available on its 4G LTE network—the HTC 8XT and Samsung's Ativ S Neo.

Finally, Microsoft is tying Bing into its software platforms more tightly, Ballmer said. The company is "opening up Bing as application development platform" with the release of Windows 8.1, he announced.

"It's time to refine Bing. So with Windows 8.1, Bing is inside and our shell experience is powered by Bing," Ballmer said.

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Read more: <http://www.itproportal.com/2013/06/27/microsofts-ballmer-offers-windows-81-preview-and-admits-past-mistakes/#ixzz2nX1JNJns>
