The Complete List Of Windows Logo Keyboard Shortcuts

By Mark Kaelin

The Windows Logo key common on most keyboards these days can be a powerful tool if you know the right shortcuts.

When it comes to keyboard shortcuts in Microsoft Windows 7, I admit to being a bit of a novice. I fall back on the menu system or, now that it is available by default in Windows 7, I use the search box located on the Start Menu. But, as the following list shows us, there are definitely opportunities for increased efficiency within the matrix of keyboard shortcuts.

One of the more powerful, and probably least used, set of keyboard shortcuts involves the Windows Logo key which is common on most keyboards packaged with a Windows-based personal computer these days.

Table A lists the keyboard shortcut combinations associated with the Windows Logo key and what each combination will do. Take a good look, there may be a key combination or two you can use regularly that will make your computing life just a little more efficient.

Table A

Key combination	Action
⊞ key	Open or close the Start menu.
⊞ key + Pause	Display the System Properties dialogue box.
⊞ key + D	Display the desktop.
⊞ key + M	Minimise all windows.
⊞ key + Shift	Restore minimised windows to the desktop.

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⊞ key + E	Open Computer.
⊞ key + F	Search for a file or folder.
Ctrl + ⊞ key + F	Search for computers (if you're on a network).
⊞ key + L	Lock your computer or switch users.
⊞ key + R	Open the Run dialogue box.
⊞ key + T	Cycle through programs on the taskbar.
⊞ key + number	Start the program pinned to the taskbar in the position indicated by the number. If the program is already running, switch to that program.
Shift + ⊞ key + number	Start a new instance of the program pinned to the taskbar in the position indicated by the number.
Ctrl + ⊞ key + number	Switch to the last active window of the program pinned to the taskbar in the position indicated by the number.
Alt + ⊞ key + number	Open the Jump List for the program pinned to the taskbar in the position indicated by the number.
⊞ key + Tab	Cycle through programs on the taskbar by using Aero Flip 3-D.
Ctrl + ⊞ key + Tab	Use the arrow keys to cycle through programs on the taskbar by using Aero Flip 3-D.
Ctrl + ⊞ key + B	Switch to the program that displayed a message in the notification area.
⊞ key + Spacebar	Preview the desktop.
⊞ key + Up Arrow	Maximise the window.
⊞ key + Left Arrow	Maximise the window to the left side of the screen.
⊞ key + Right Arrow	Maximise the window to the right side of the screen.
⊞ key + Down Arrow	Minimise the window.
⊞ key + Home	Minimise all but the active window.
⊞ key + Shift + Up Arrow	Stretch the window to the top and bottom of the screen.
⊞ key + Shift + Left Arrow or Right Arrow	Move a window from one monitor to another.
⊞ key + P	Choose a presentation display mode.
⊞ key + G	Cycle through gadgets.
⊞ key + U	Open Ease of Access Centre.
⊞ key + X	Open Windows Mobility Centre.

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