



Various editions of Windows 7

(... and their relationship to Windows Vista and XP)

Windows 7	Windows Vista	Windows XP
Starter ¹	Starter	Starter
Home Basic	Basic	Home Edition
Home Premium	Home Premium	Media Center
Professional	Business	Professional
Enterprise ²	Enterprise	
Ultimate	Ultimate	

Editions of Windows 7 are a superset of one another unlike as with Windows Vista.

As an example, some business customers using Windows Vista Business wanted the Media Center functionality that is in Windows Vista Home Premium but didn't receive it in Business edition.

All retail editions of Windows 7 will ship with both the 32 & 64 bit DVDs. This is a huge improvement over Vista where users would need to order additional disks manually from Microsoft. Users who purchase Windows 7 digitally through the Microsoft store will be allowed to choose which version they want prior to starting the download.

Upgrading a 32 bit edition to 64 bit or downgrading a 64 bit install to 32 bit using the in-place approach is not supported. A clean install will be required.

¹The Starter edition of Windows 7 will be made available to OEMs only. For the consumer, that means Windows 7 Starter won't be available as a standalone software product on store shelves. Instead, it'll be available to system integrators and computer manufacturers for pre-installation on low-end systems such as netbooks.

²Available to Microsoft Software Assurance customers.

Edition Comparisons

	<i>Starter</i>	<i>Home Basic</i>	<i>Home Premium</i>	<i>Professional</i>	<i>Enterprise</i>	<i>Ultimate</i>
<i>64-bit version / Max Memory</i>	No	Yes/8GB	Yes/16GB	Yes/192GB	Yes/192GB	Yes/192GB
<i>Changeable Desktop Wallpaper</i>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Desktop Window Manager</i>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Fast user switching</i>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Multiple monitors</i>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Windows Mobility Center</i>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>HomeGroup</i>	Partial ¹	Partial ¹	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Windows Aero</i>	No	Partial ²	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>DVD Playback and Authoring</i>	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Internet Connection Sharing</i>	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Live Thumbnail Previews</i>	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Mobility Center</i>	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Multi-Touch</i>	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Premium Games Included</i>	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Remote Media Experience</i>	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Windows Media Center</i>	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Windows Touch</i>	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Backup and Restore Center</i>	Partial ³	Partial ³	Partial ³	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Encrypting File System</i>	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Group Policy</i>	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Join Domain</i>	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Location Aware Printing</i>	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Offline Folders</i>	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Presentation Mode</i>	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Remote Desktop Host</i>	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Windows XP Mode</i>	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>AppLocker⁴</i>	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
<i>BitLocker Drive Encryption⁵</i>	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
<i>BranchCache⁶</i>	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
<i>DirectAccess⁷</i>	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
<i>Enterprise Search⁸</i>	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
<i>MUI Pack⁹</i>	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
<i>Virtual Hard Disk Booting¹⁰</i>	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
<i>Virtual Desktop Interface¹¹</i>	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
<i>Subsystem for Unix-based Apps¹²</i>	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
<i>Unspecified Features</i>	No	No	No	No	No	Yes

¹ Can join a HomeGroup, but not create one.

² Aero Glass GUI along with instances of the Aero desktop evolution.

³ Manual, not scheduled, backup only and only to a local, not network, drive.

⁴**AppLocker**

Specify what software is allowed to run on a user's PCs through centrally managed but flexible Group Policies.

⁵**BitLocker and BitLocker To Go**

Help protect data on PCs and removable drives, with manageability to enforce encryption and backup of recovery keys.

⁶**BranchCache**

Decrease the time branch office users spend waiting to download files across the network.

⁷**DirectAccess**

Give mobile users seamless access to corporate networks without a need to VPN.

⁸**Enterprise Search**

Find information on network locations, including SharePoint sites, with a simple user interface.

⁹**Multilingual user interface (MUI)**

Create a single OS image for deployment to users worldwide.

¹⁰**Virtual Hard Disk Booting**

Run the operating system contained in a Virtual Hard Disk using the actual hardware instead of emulated hardware.

¹¹**Virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI)**

Improved user experience for VDI with multimon and microphone support, which have the ability to reuse virtual hard drive (VHD) images to boot a physical PC.

¹²**Subsystem for UNIX-based Applications**

Provides an operating system for Portable Operating System Interface (POSIX) processes. SUA, along with its package of support utilities (such as shells and a Telnet client), provides a complete UNIX environment and includes a comprehensive set of scripting utilities, and a software development kit (SDK).

SUA also supports case-sensitive file names, job control, compilation tools, and the use of over 300 UNIX commands, utilities, and shell scripts.

Because SUA is designed to run atop the Windows kernel, it offers true UNIX-based functionality without any emulation.



Availability and Pricing of Windows 7

Edition	Upgrade	Full
Starter	OEM	
Home Basic	Emerging Markets	
Home Premium	\$119 ^{.99}	\$199 ^{.99}
Professional	\$199 ^{.99}	\$299 ^{.99}
Enterprise	Volume Licensing	
Ultimate	\$219 ^{.99}	\$319 ^{.99}

You qualify for Windows 7 upgrade versions if you are running Windows Vista, Windows XP, or Windows 2000 on your PC.

If you have Windows Vista:

- You can purchase Windows 7 Upgrade versions.
- You can do a clean install or an in-place upgrade.

If you have Windows XP or Windows 2000:

- You can purchase Windows 7 Upgrade versions.
- But you must back up your files, perform a clean install, and reinstall your applications.

Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor

You can download from Microsoft a free program called Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor. This program will scan your PC to see if it's ready for Windows 7, and tells you about any known compatibility issues.

The following is an actual report produced by running Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor:

There are some issues you should take a look at before installing Windows 7.

System Requirements

✓ Upgrade	Available	You can do an in-place upgrade to 32-bit Windows 7 Home Premium or Ultimate. If you choose to upgrade to a different edition you will need to perform a clean installation. Go online to see detailed instructions about how to upgrade.
⚠ Windows Mail and Parental Controls	Download new programs	Windows Mail and Parental Controls (Web Filtering) are not included in Windows 7. You can get similar programs from other software manufacturers or go to the Microsoft website to learn more.
✓ CPU speed	3.33 GHz	Your CPU meets the 1 GHz minimum requirement.
✓ RAM	2.00 GB	Your system memory meets the 1 GB requirement for 32-bit Windows 7 and the 2 GB requirement for 64-bit Windows 7.
✓ Hard Drive Free Space	231.13 GB	Your hard disk meets the minimum requirement of 16 GB free space for 32-bit Windows 7 and 20 GB free space for 64-bit Windows 7.
✓ Windows Aero	Capable	Your system can run Windows Aero.

Devices

✓ Realtek High Definition Audio Realtek	Compatible	This device is compatible with Windows 7.
✓ NEC PCI to USB Open Host	Compatible	This device is compatible with Windows 7.

Controller

NEC

- ✓ **Realtek RTL8139/810x Family Fast Ethernet NIC** Compatible This device is compatible with Windows 7.
Realtek Semiconductor Corp.
- ✓ **NETGEAR 108 Mbps Wireless PCI Adapter WG311T** Compatible This device is compatible with Windows 7.
Atheros Communications Inc.
- ✓ **Intel(R) 82945G Express Chipset Family** Compatible This device is compatible with Windows 7.
Intel Corporation
- ✓ **Intel(R) 82801G (ICH7 Family) USB Universal Host Controller - 27C8** Compatible This device is compatible with Windows 7.
Intel
- ✓ **Intel(R) 82801G (ICH7 Family) USB Universal Host Controller - 27C9** Compatible This device is compatible with Windows 7.
Intel
- ✓ **Intel(R) 82801G (ICH7 Family) USB Universal Host Controller - 27CA** Compatible This device is compatible with Windows 7.
Intel
- ✓ **Intel(R) 82801G (ICH7 Family) USB Universal Host Controller - 27CB** Compatible This device is compatible with Windows 7.
Intel

- | | | |
|--|------------|---|
| ✓ Intel(R) 82801G (ICH7 Family) USB2 Enhanced Host Controller - 27CC
Intel | Compatible | This device is compatible with Windows 7. |
| ✓ Intel(R) 82801G (ICH7 Family) Ultra ATA Storage Controllers - 27DF
Intel | Compatible | This device is compatible with Windows 7. |
| ✓ USB Mass Storage Device
Compatible USB storage device | Compatible | This device is compatible with Windows 7. |

Programs

- ✓ No issues detected.**

Windows 7 What Is New Guide

You may find that a document is available to download from Microsoft titled “Windows 7 What Is New Guide”. This document covers many new and changed Windows 7 features of interest to IT professionals, including DirectAccess, BranchCache and other networking technologies, VHD boot and other deployment technologies, and AppLocker, Biometrics, and other security technologies.

The material covered in this document should be of interest only to IT professionals and not to home users.

The following is a summary of the documents contents:

- What's New for IT Pros in Windows 7 Release Candidate
- What's New in AppLocker
- What's New in Biometrics
- What's New in Certificates
- What's New in Deployment Tools
- What's New in Group Policy
- What's New in Handwriting Recognition
- What's New in Service Accounts
- What's New in Smart Cards
- What's New in User Account Control
- What's New in Virtual Hard Disks
- What's New in Windows PowerShell
- What's New in Windows Search, Browse, and Organization
- What's New in Windows Security Auditing

Installing Windows 7

I have installed both the 32-bit and the 64-bit versions of Windows 7 and each time it has taken about 26 minutes to install. Listed below are the screens that the installation process displays with the time-stamps taken from a digital camera during the process. Only those screens listed in bold required any user response.

- 6:46 Windows is loading files
- 6:50 Starting Windows
- 6:51 **Language; Time and Currency; Keyboard type**
- 6:51 **Install now**
- 6:51 Setup is starting ...
- 6:52 **License Agreement**
- 6:52 **Upgrade or Custom install**
- 6:52 **Select a disk partition**
- 6:52 Installing Windows...
 - Copying Windows files
 - Expanding Windows files
 - Installing features
 - Installing updates
 - Completing installation
- 7:08 Setup will continue after restarting your computer
- 7:08 Starting Windows
- 7:09 Setup is preparing your computer for first use
- 7:09 Setup is checking video performance
- 7:10 **Choose a user name and name your computer**
- 7:10 **Set a password for your account**
- 7:10 **Enter your Windows Product Key**
- 7:10 **Choose how to apply Windows updates**

- Important and Recommended updates
- Only Security and other Important updates
- Ask me later

7:11 **Time Zone; Current Date and Time**

7:11 **Join a Wireless network**

7:11 **Select your current location**

- Home
- Work
- Public network

7:11 Windows is finalizing your settings

7:12 Welcome

7:12 Preparing your desktop

7:12 You are at your desktop ready to run

7:12 Windows prompts you to check for updates



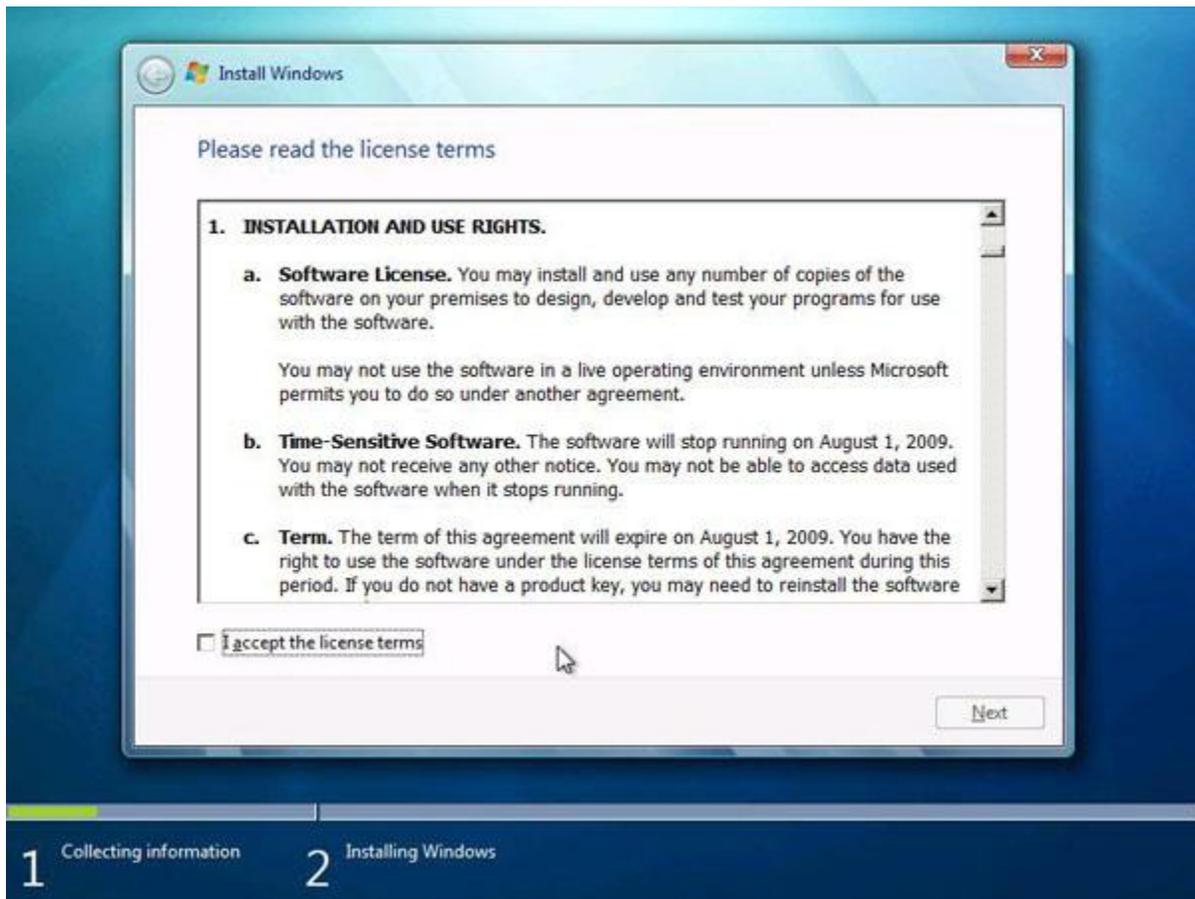
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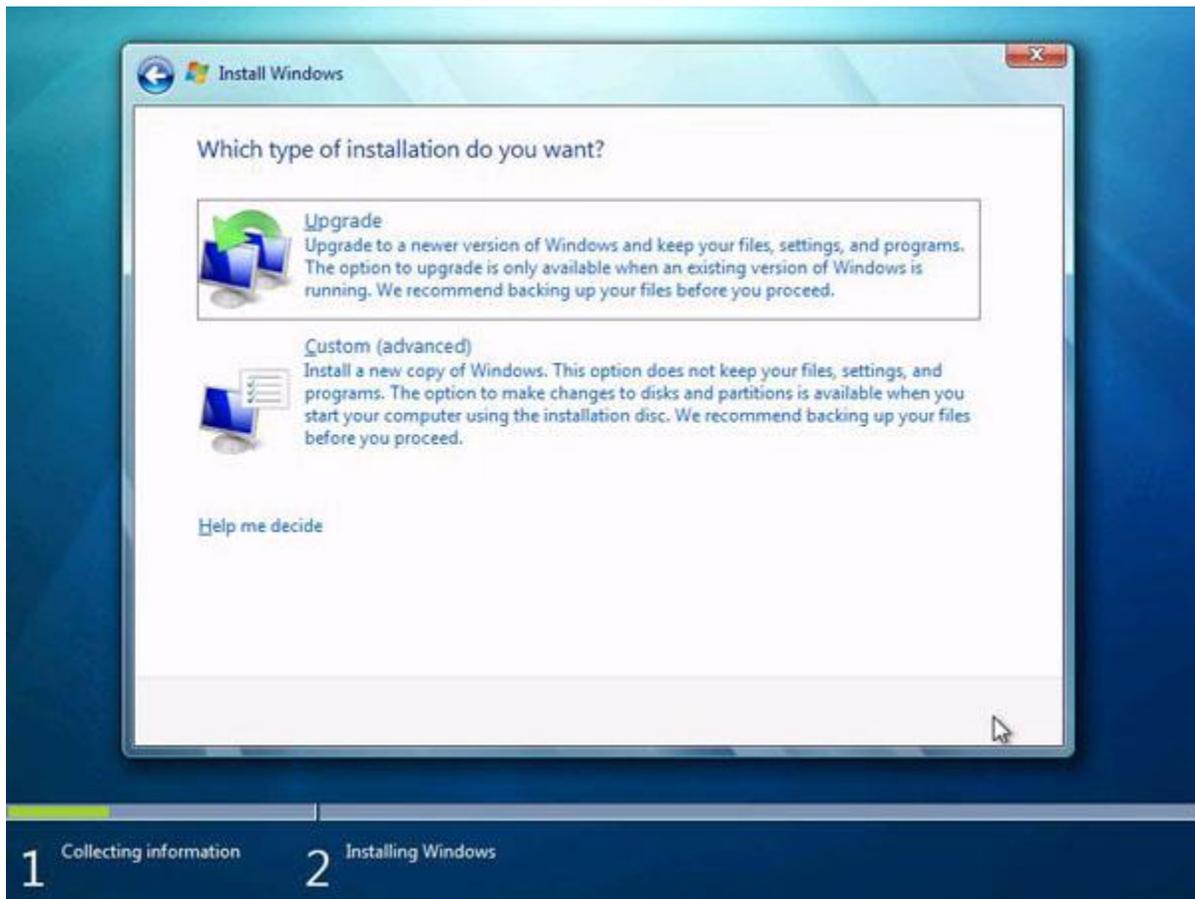


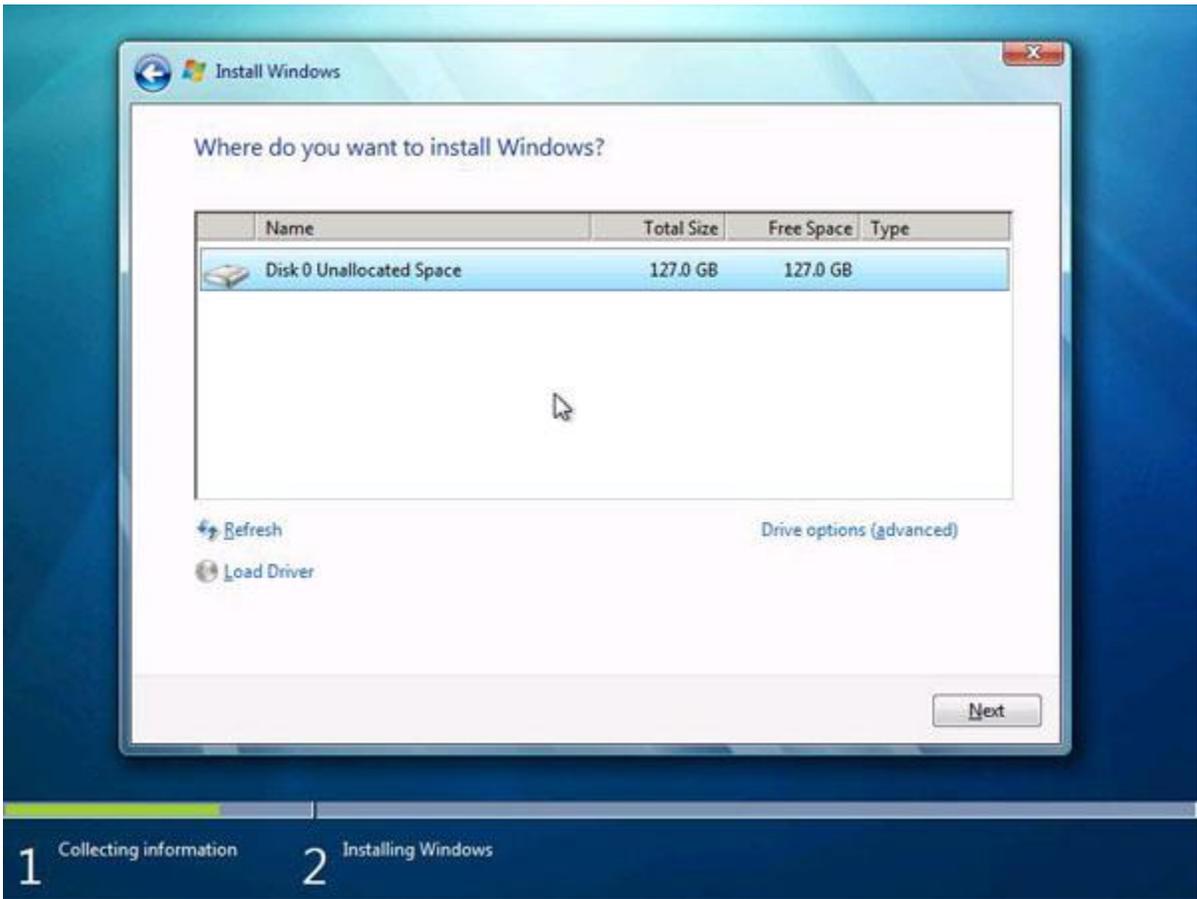


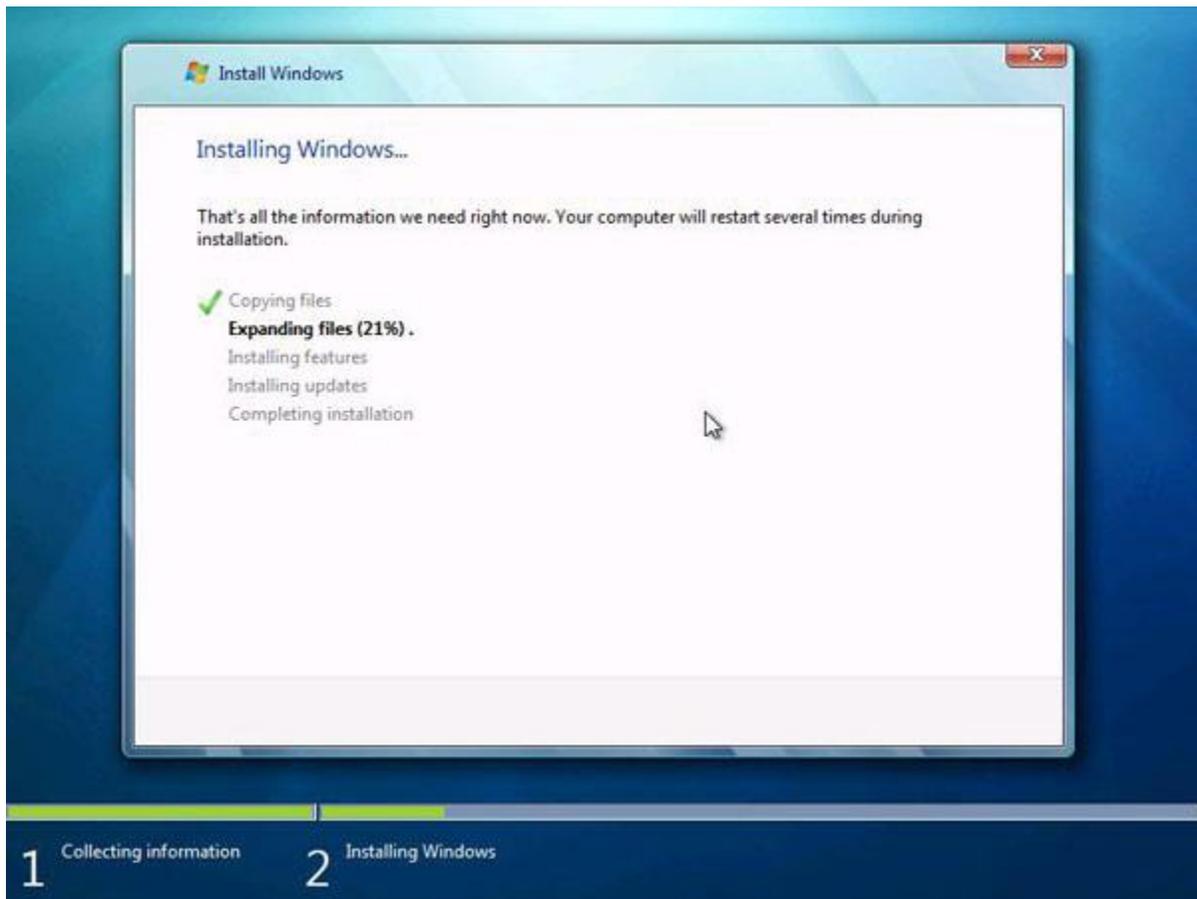


Setup is starting...





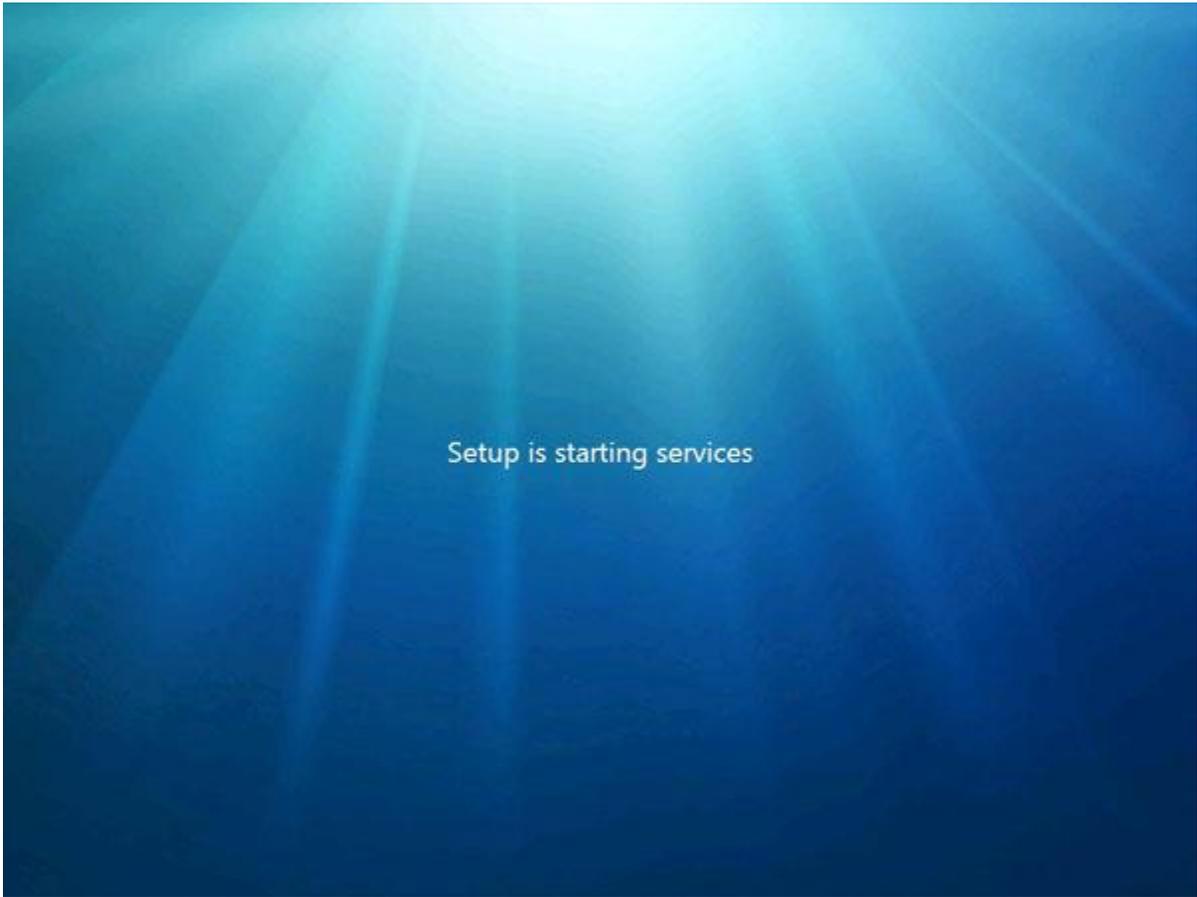


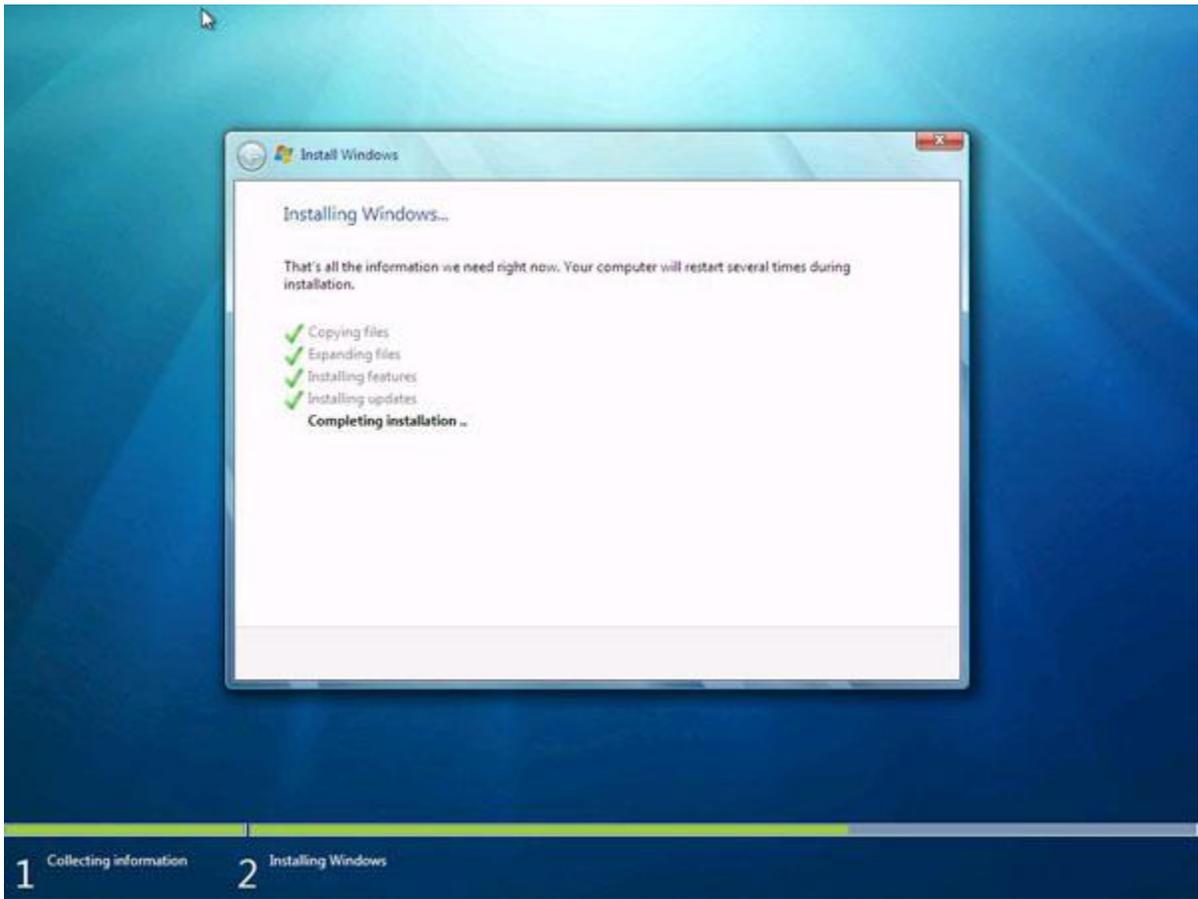




Setup is updating registry settings

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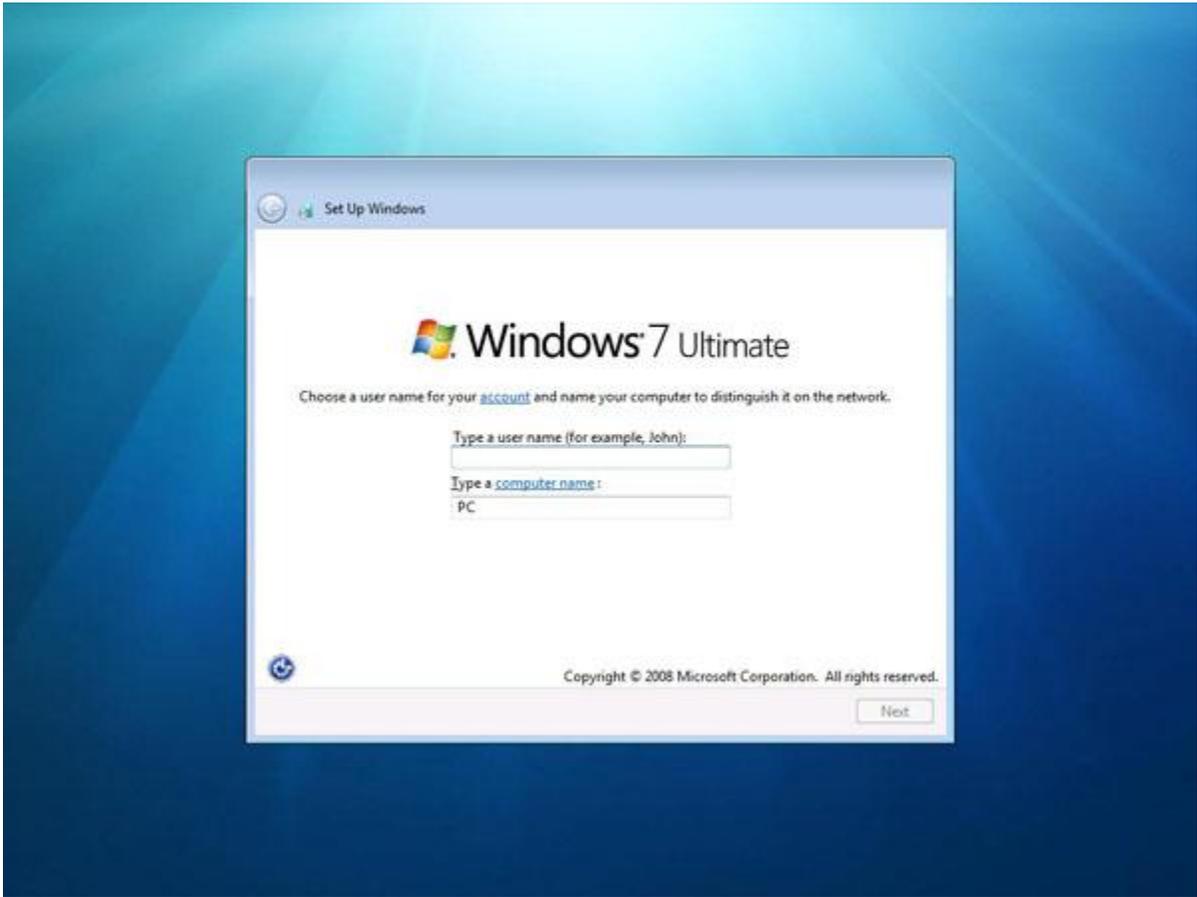


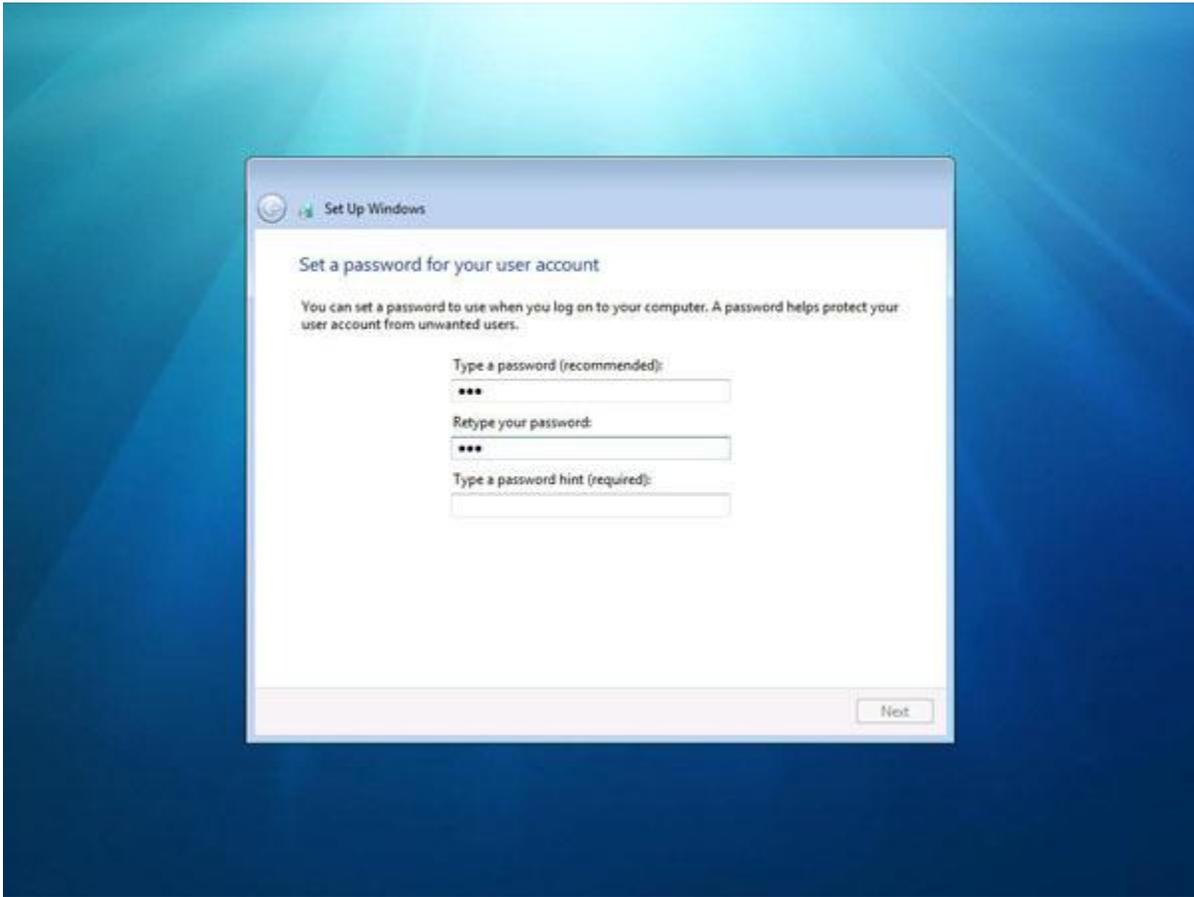


Setup will continue after restarting your computer

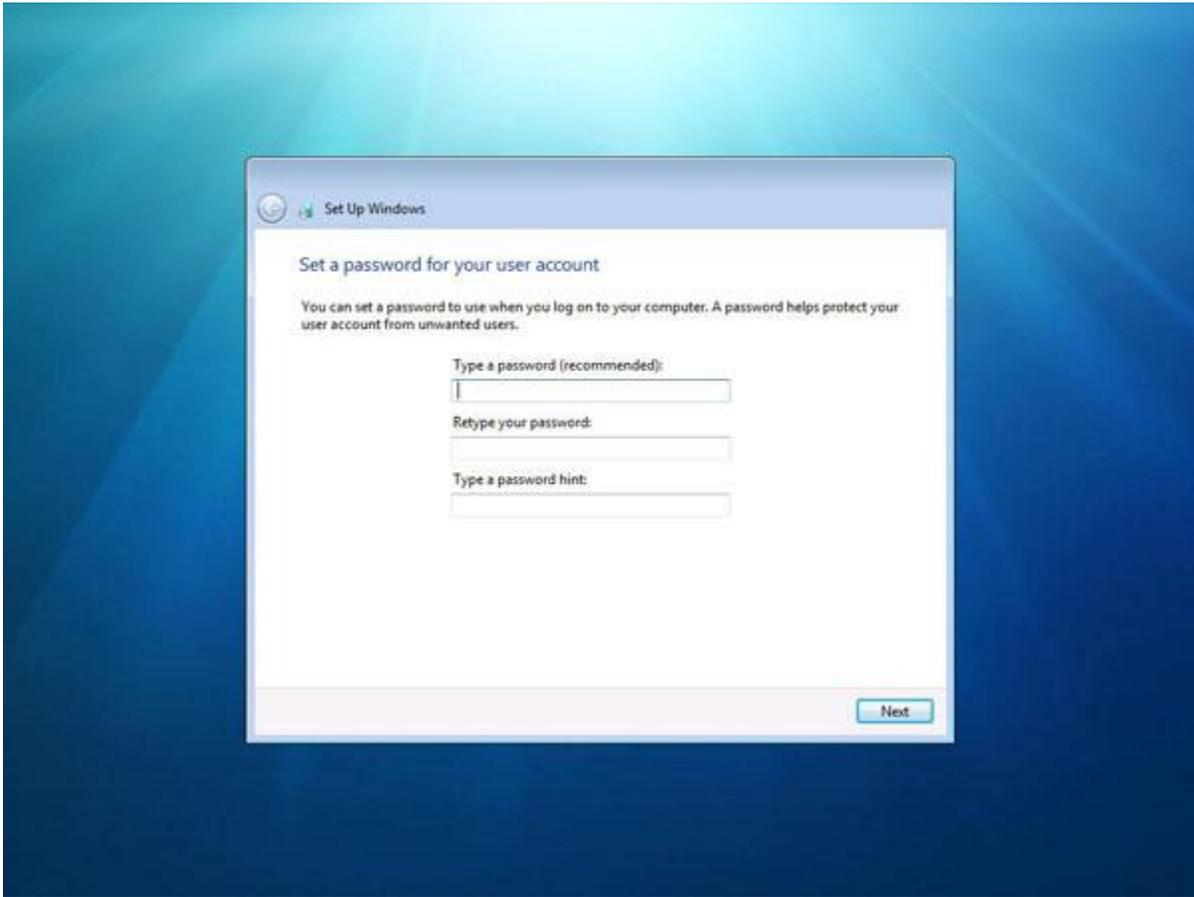
Setup is preparing your computer for first use







Notice that, if you create a password for your account, you are required to supply a password hint.



If you leave your password blank, no hint is required.





