

Windows 8.1 Upgrade ©

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- **PRE-REQUISITE UPDATES:** You will not be offered the Windows 8.1 update or be allowed to download it until all your Windows Updates are installed and up to date.
- **VERIFY WITH MANUFACTURER:** That your model PC supports the 8.1 upgrade.
- **WHERE DO YOU GET THE UPGRADE?** Go to the Metro (Tiles) screen and click on the “Store” Icon. *Note: The Windows 8.1 upgrade is NOT part of “Windows Update”.*
- **LOCAL USER ACCOUNT vs LIVE USER ACCOUNT:**
 - ✓ Do you have a Local Account or a Microsoft Live Account for your User Log-in? To find out, go to (Control Panel > User Accounts). It will tell you there.
 - ✓ During the upgrade, Microsoft wants you to log in to a “Live” Account. To keep your Local Account, click this link to see a tip to keep your “Local” Account:
<http://social.technet.microsoft.com/Forums/windows/en-US/882eaf9f-2456-4c7a-9a2e-e11de70d9123/skip-sign-in-to-your-microsoft-account-windows-81-setup?forum=w8itprogeneral>
- **CUSTOMIZE upgrade vs EXPRESS upgrade.** When asked during the setup, choose "Customize", and not "Express". Otherwise you will miss an opportunity to choose your privacy settings and other decisions that EXPRESS will make for you to benefit Microsoft and invade your privacy.
- **IMAGE BACKUP:** I strongly suggest you do a FULL Image backup before attempting the 8.1 upgrade. There is always the possibility that the upgrade will make your PC unbootable (bricked). Note: ACRONIS must be at the latest version of Acronis TI Home 2013 or Acronis TI Home 2014.
- **WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE UPDATE:** When you download the 8.1 upgrade, it will start installing on its own. It takes quite a while. Here are the steps I observed: 1) Downloading, 2) Getting the Update ready, 3) Applying changes, 4) Gathering info, 5) Preparing to restart, 6) PC needs to Restart (It will auto resart after 15 minutes or so, or you can click “Restart now”) The restart takes a long, long time and includes these messages, “Setting up, Getting Ready, Applying PC settings, Setting up a few more things”, 7) The “License Terms” screen requires that you click “I Accept”, 8) At the Log in screen, log in to your normal account, 9) At the “Settings” screen, choose CUSTOMIZE (not EXPRESS) and answer all the questions, 10) At the “Sign in” window, either log in to your Microsoft Live Account or if you have a Local Account, click Create new Account, then click Use Existing Account. *(Note: I may have these slightly out of order, but you get the idea. Step 7 is the first manual intervention.)*
- **DESKTOP WALLPAPER AND WINDOW COLOR SETTINGS.** Note: It seems like many Windows 8 wallpapers are missing from Windows 8.1 after the upgrade. If you have a wallpaper image or images that you like, you need to find its filename/s and save the files into the Pictures folder for use after the upgrade. *Most of the Windows 8 wallpapers seem to be missing from 8.1.*
- **STEP BY STEP INSTALL:**
 - 1) Make sure you are logged into an Administrator User Account (*and not Standard*).
 - 2) Make sure there is plenty of hard-disk space available.
 - 3) SYSTEM PROTECTION: Make sure the Max Usage is configured for 30 GB or greater.
 - 4) POWER ADAPTER: For laptops, make sure that the power adapter is plugged in.
 - 5) Make sure all Data Files are backed up in case things go wrong during the upgrade. *An IMAGE BACKUP is even better.*
 - 6) Make sure all Windows Updates; “Critical”, “Important”, and “Optional” (Drivers) are all installed.
 - 7) Run full scans of all available Anti-Malware programs.

- 8) Save all desired Wallpaper Image files for use after the upgrade or you will lose them.
 - 9) Temporarily disable the real-time protection of ALL Anti-Malware programs. *(To disable Defender, type "defender" in the search box, press <Enter>, then uncheck the box for real time protection)*
 - 10) CLASSIC SHELL / START8: **You should remove these programs now**, then re-install after the upgrade *(as the upgrade messes up some registry settings needed by the menu programs)*.
Note: Classic Shell must be at version 4.1 or higher and Start8 must be at version 1.40 or higher to support Win 8.1
 - 11) Verify that the "Power Options" are set so that the PC **NEVER** Hibernates or Sleeps.
 - 12) Determine if the current user account is a "Local User Account" or a "Live User Account". See above for details. _____Local _____Live
 - 13) Go to the Metro (Tiles) screen and select the "Store" Icon, then download the update. *The update should start installing itself automatically when it is done downloading. This all takes a very, very, very long time.*
 - 14) If asked, click the "Restart Now" button. *Note: If you leave it alone it will restart itself after about 15 minutes after the "Restart Now" message pops up.*
 - 15) Eventually after all the Restarts, you get the "License Terms" screen. Click "I accept".
 - 16) On the "Settings" screen, when asked "Express" or "Customize", Always select "Customize" and answer the questions as desired.
 - 17) At the "Log-in" screen, put in the password for the current User Account that is being used to install the update.
 - 18) You are next asked to sign in to your Microsoft (Live) account. If you are using a "Local User Account" instead, and not the "Microsoft Live Account", then click on "Create a new account", then (at the bottom left of the screen), click "Continue using my existing Account". You should end up back at the "Metro" screen.
 - 19) Re-enable the real-time protection in all Anti-Malware programs, and restore Power Options.
- **CLASSIC SHELL (v4.1 & up) or START8 (v1.31 & up) MENU PROGRAMS:**
 - 1) If it was removed in an earlier step, re-install the program now and set it up as desired.
 - 2) If it was not removed, try to start it. If it will not start or gets compatibility errors, manually remove the program and install the latest version, then set it up as desired.
 - **SECUNIA PSI:** May have to be removed and reinstalled after the upgrade.
 - **IE10/IE11:** If you were running IE10, the Windows 8.1 update included IE11. Go through the initialization and setup of IE11. Verify the security settings and that the WOT add-on is working.
 - **RESTORE THE WALLPAPER AND DISPLAY PERSONALIZATIONS:** The Windows 8.1 update will reset the desktop wallpaper and all display Personalizations. They must be restored manually to the settings recorder earlier. When done, be sure to save all the personalizations. *Note: It seems like many Windows8 wallpapers are missing from Windows8.1 after the upgrade. Similar wallpapers can be found online. I do not yet know how to save all the images from Win8 to use with Win8.1. See also <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/wallpaper>*
 - **WINDOWS UPDATES:**
 - Verify the settings are set to Auto-update and for "Windows and all Microsoft products".
 - Do a fresh "Check for updates" and install all available "Critical", "Important", and "Optional" (Drivers) updates.
 - Re-run the "Check for Updates" until no more show up.
 - *Check the install history and make sure that Win 8.1 Update 1 is installed: KB2919355*

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