

By Mark Kaelin

When it comes to Windows 7 keyboard shortcuts, 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 there are definitely opportunities for increased efficiency within the matrix of keyboard shortcuts.

One of the more powerful, and probably least used, sets of keyboard shortcuts relies on the Windows Logo key, which is common on most keyboards packaged with a Windows-based personal computer these days. The following list includes all the shortcuts that use the Windows Logo key and explains what each one does. Take a good look because one or two of these shortcuts may make your computing life just a little more efficient.

The shortcuts

Key combination	Action
Windows logo key	Open or close the Start menu
Windows logo key + Pause	Display the System Properties dialog box
Windows logo key + D	Display the desktop
Windows logo key + M	Minimize all windows
Windows logo key + Shift + M	Restore minimized windows to the desktop
Windows logo key + E	Open Computer
Windows logo key + F	Search for a file or folder
Ctrl + Windows logo key + F	Search for computers (if you're on a network)
Windows logo key + L	Lock your computer or switch users
Windows logo key + R	Open the Run dialog box
Windows logo key + T	Cycle through programs on the taskbar
Windows logo 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 + Windows logo key + number	Start a new instance of the program pinned to the taskbar in the position indicated by the number

The complete list of Windows 7 Logo key shortcuts

Ctrl + Windows logo key+ number	Switch to the last active window of the program pinned to the taskbar in the position indicated by the number
Alt + Windows logo key+ number	Open the Jump List for the program pinned to the taskbar in the position indicated by the number
Windows logo key + Tab	Cycle through programs on the taskbar by using Aero Flip 3-D
Ctrl+Windows logo key +Tab	Use the arrow keys to cycle through programs on the taskbar by using Aero Flip 3-D
Ctrl + Windows logo key + B	Switch to the program that displayed a message in the notification area
Windows logo key + Spacebar	Preview the desktop
Windows logo key + Up Arrow	Maximize the window
Windows logo key + Left Arrow	Maximize the window to the left side of the screen
Windows logo key + Right Arrow	Maximize the window to the right side of the screen
Windows logo key + Down Arrow	Minimize the window
Windows logo key + Home	Minimize all but the active window
Windows logo key + Shift + Up Arrow	Stretch the window to the top and bottom of the screen
Windows logo key + Shift + Left Arrow or Right Arrow	Move a window from one monitor to another
Windows logo key + P	Choose a presentation display mode
Windows logo key + G	Cycle through gadgets
Windows logo key + U	Open Ease of Access Center
Windows logo key + X	Open Windows Mobility Center

[Source: Microsoft](#)