



Windows XP Editions

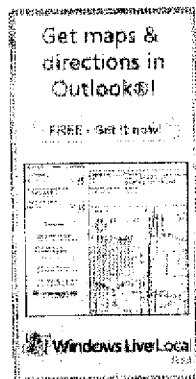
- Home Edition
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Using Windows XP

Get Your PC Ready for Windows XP SP2

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Are you ready to download Windows XP Service Pack 2 (SP2)? This page can help you get your computer ready for the service pack. You can also get quick tips for a successful installation and find out how to get more help. Get started now.

Before You Install SP2

Follow these three steps to prepare for downloading SP2.

Tip: For a printer-friendly version of this article, click on the link at the bottom of this page.

- 1. Check your computer for unwanted software.**
You can detect and remove unwanted software from your computer using a variety of tools available from other companies, including [Lavasoftware Ad-aware](#). (Note: Microsoft is not responsible for the quality, performance, or reliability of third-party tools.)
- 2. Get the latest PC manufacturer updates for SP2.**
As one of the steps to ensuring you have all of the support information you need to install SP2, we recommend that you visit your [PC manufacturer's Web site](#) first and search for any information about SP2 that might apply to your computer.
- 3. Protect your important personal files.**
We strongly suggest you back up or make a copy of your important and irreplaceable personal information, such as pictures, documents, music, and financial data.

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How Do I Know if My Computer Is Ready to Install SP2?

If your computer is not ready, or if you want to install SP2 from a CD, you should read the [minimum requirements](#) for the service pack.

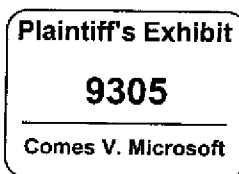
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How to Install SP2

When you finish downloading SP2, the **Welcome to Windows XP Service Pack 2 Setup Wizard** appears. Here's what to do during the installation:

1. Go to the [Microsoft Update Web site](#). Microsoft Update will scan your computer. If it lists Windows XP SP2 as an available update, then your computer is ready for SP2.
2. In the **Welcome to Windows XP Service Pack 2 Setup Wizard**, click **Next**.
Note: While updating your system, Windows checks your system to be sure it complies with the Service Pack 2 requirements. Then it archives the service pack files in case you want to remove SP2 later. Finally, it installs the service pack. This can take a few minutes, so please wait.

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Related Links

- [System Requirements](#)
- [How to Use the New Features in SP2](#)
- [How to Remove SP2](#)
- [Windows XP SP2 Support Center](#)

Get Windows XP SP2

Download SP2 from [Microsoft Update](#).

To install Service Pack 2 on more than one computer or over a network, see [Windows XP Service Pack 2 Resources for IT Professionals](#).

Quick Tips for Successful Installation

- **Is everyone logged off?** If you use *Fast User Switching*, be sure all other users are logged off before installing. For help on how to do this, go to the *Help and Support Center* on your computer by clicking *Start*, and then clicking *Help and Support*. Then search for "Fast User Switching."
- **Get the latest Windows updates.** Before you install SP2, get your version of Windows completely up-to-date with the latest performance and security updates. Go to the [Microsoft Update](#), click *Express Install*, and then install all high priority updates listed.
- **Give laptops enough power.** If you are installing SP2 on a laptop, make sure that you have the laptop plugged in to AC power.
- **To add yourself as an administrator,** you can either log on with the user name "Administrator" or use another account that has Administrator permissions. To determine which permissions you have, open the *Control Panel* and click *User Accounts*. The listings in the *Group* category will tell you what kind of access you have to your computer's settings.

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Need Help?

If you need help, visit the [Windows XP SP2 Support Center](#) to read articles and get chat and telephone support.

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