

So you have upgraded to Windows 7 and can't find a thing on your computer? Here is a quick guide highlighting some of the differences between XP and Windows 7. Visit the official Windows 7 website for more detailed information:

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows7/help/getting-started>

1. Where's my stuff: Your personal files (documents, pictures, downloads, music etc.) are located in a User Folder called "your name" on it top left corner of the desktop. The folder is actually in the root directory of your system drive and this is a shortcut to it.
2. My Computer Folder has been replaced by "Computer"
3. Control Panel Changes: Add/Remove programs in XP has changed to "Programs and Features" so this is where you would go to uninstall something.
4. The Program Menu: This program menu is quite different from what you are used to in XP. When you click on "Start" you see arrow pointing to "All Programs" and above it are icons listed of the last programs used. These change with program usage just as in XP. Directly above are program shortcuts which you "Pin to the start menu". Typically you would pin shortcuts to programs that you use often but don't want cluttering your desktop. When you click on All Programs again, it changes to show all installed programs for that user account. Note the scrollbar on the right border of the program list. Newly installed programs are highlighted and you can use the scroll bar to visualize all the programs listed. But that is not all, to the right of the program list you see another list showing the major folders you often need to access. How those folders open, or what they show when you click on them can be highly customized.
5. Start menu can be customized by right clicking anywhere on an empty part of the menu and select "Customize". In this "Taskbar and Start Menu Properties" window you will be able to customize how your computer shuts down, the structure of your start menu, task-bar and toolbars. Don't be afraid to mess things up. You can always hit the cancel the operation or go back to the default menu.
6. Screensaver: To change your screensaver or desktop background, right click on an empty part of your desktop and select "Personalize" You will see a bunch of Aero Themes to apply as well as customization options for the screen and also your screen-saver. To change your power settings like when the computer goes to sleep or the screen turns off, click on the "Change Power Settings located in this window."
7. USER ACCOUNT CONTROL is the most important feature of Windows 7. It may be annoying to have to answer yes to anything that changes your system and critical files but we advise you to get used to it .
8. Making Restore Points: It is a good idea in all versions of Windows Operating Systems to make frequent and useful "Restore Points" in case your computer is not acting quite right; you can then go back a few days to a day when everything was working well and restore it to that point. It is located in the Computer icon on your desktop. Right click on it, select Properties and select System Protection.