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MICROSOFT

WINDOWS MEDIA PLAYER 7 HANDBOOK



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Your one-stop guide to one-click digital media!

- Fine-tune your player for the best viewing and listening
- Find, record, and play back digital media from the Web
- Learn how to create your own skins and visualizations

Microsoft®

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Introduction

Playing music and video on your computer will be better than ever with the new Microsoft Windows Media Player 7. The latest features of the Player will make it even easier to get the entertainment you want when you want it. You can still play audio and video files like you did with previous versions of Windows Media Player, but now you can do so much more. You'll have more access to the Internet, more flexibility of files and formats, and you can even change the look and functionality of your Player. Here is a summary of the major new features in version 7:

Media Library

Windows Media Player now includes **Media Library**, which lets you create multiple playlists to organize all your audio and video files. You can also use it to search your computer or network drives for new audio and video to add to your collection.

Media Guide

The Player opens up a window to the Internet with its new **Media Guide**, which provides daily entertainment news, free downloads, and live, streaming audio and video.

CD Audio

The Player's new **CD Audio** feature lets you copy tracks from a CD and convert them to compressed Windows Media files, turning your computer into a giant jukebox. You can also make new CDs from music on your computer with just a few easy steps.

Skins

Windows Media Player's revolutionary new skin technology means that the user interface for the Player is now completely changeable. A skin is the Player's new customizable user interface that can change not only how the Player looks, but how it operates. You can create your own skin designs or choose from those available on the Internet or on this book's companion CD.

Visualizations

The Player will now entertain you with visual images that dance along with the music. This new feature is called visualizations, and their animated lights, colors, and shapes move in time to the tone and rhythm.

Radio Tuner

The new **Radio Tuner** can listen to Internet radio stations from around the globe 24 hours a day. There are hundreds of different stations that broadcast everything from news to talk shows to every imaginable style of music. Plus, the tuner lets you search for stations by category.

Getting Started

This chapter will introduce you to the basic features of Microsoft Windows Media Player 7. Detailed explanations of all the installation procedures are also provided, including how to install two new types of enhancements to the Player, skins and visualizations. In later chapters, you'll learn more about each feature, and how you can use them to customize the look and functionality of the Player.

What is Windows Media Player?

One of the best places to learn about new music and videos is through the Internet. A world of entertainment and education is out there, and Windows Media Player can help you navigate the Web to find exactly what you want. Then you can use the Player to download it, customize it, and play it on your computer or Pocket PC.

You're likely to have a CD-ROM drive in your computer. With it, Windows Media Player can play a music CD and let you choose your favorite songs. The Player can also copy music from your CDs to your computer, so you can file and play the music any way you want to.

After copying or downloading your audio and video files, you can keep track of what's stored on your computer. Windows Media Player has a media library that can help you organize all of your media selections. You can create specific playlists that combine your songs and movies however you like. Keep all your classical music in one playlist and your jazz in another. Or have a different playlist for every day of the week!

Basically, Windows Media Player is the computer equivalent of other media-playing devices such as radio, television, and CD players. The big difference is that Windows Media Player is a software product that makes it possible to see video and hear audio on your computer, but it's even more than that. The Player allows you to design your own entertainment experience. Not only can the Player read an assortment of live and recorded media formats, but it can organize your files, search for specific kinds of audio and video, copy