

How to create a list of installed programs on Windows

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Two commands can produce a list of every app you've installed on Windows 10 or 11 – perfect if you're reinstalling the OS but don't want to forget anything

In recent years, a large hard drive or SSD has become the default on Windows devices. There's usually at least 128GB built into laptops, but this can go beyond 2TB if you're willing to pay extra. It's even easier on desktops, where the storage capacity can often be upgraded by the end user.

This is great, as it means you're less likely to ever run out of room. As you'll be aware, a device that's close to full capacity will be much slower and more sluggish than before.

But all this extra space means it's difficult to keep track of everything installed on your PC. Clearing up File Explorer is always worth doing, but that also includes programs and apps you've downloaded.

In Settings you'll find a list of everything installed, but this is no use if you're planning to reinstall the whole operating system. Rather than worrying about trying to remember everything, there's a much easier solution.

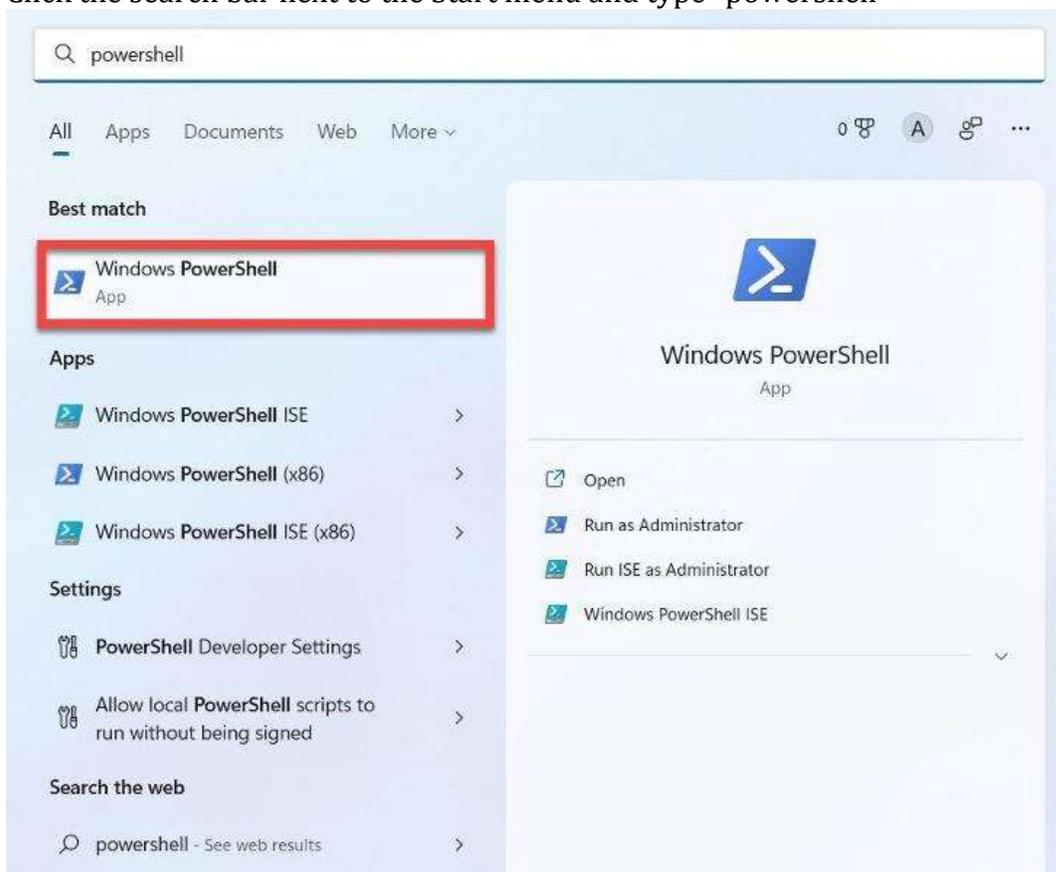
With one simple command, Windows can produce a text file containing all the programs you have installed. This can then be shared with another device, ensuring nothing important is forgotten.

The method below works for all recent versions of Windows, including Windows 10 and Windows 11.

How to create a list of everything you have installed on Windows 10 or 11

This tutorial uses the Windows PowerShell tool that's pre-installed on all devices. It can be used to make permanent changes to your device, but carefully following the steps below will avoid any harm being done. If you're planning to reinstall the operating system soon, there's nothing to worry about:

1. Click the search bar next to the Start menu and type "powershell"



2. Click Windows PowerShell to open it and you'll be presented with a window ready for your command
3. Copy and paste the following command exactly as you see it below, then hit Enter:

```
Get-ItemProperty
```

```
HKLM:\Software\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Uninstall\* | Select-Object DisplayName, DisplayVersion, Publisher, InstallDate | Format-Table -AutoSize
```

Windows PowerShell
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Install the latest PowerShell for new features and improvements! <https://aka.ms/PSWindows>
PS C:\Users\anyro> Get-ItemProperty HKLM:\Software\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Uninstall* | Select-Object DisplayName, DisplayVersion, Publisher, InstallDate | Format-Table -AutoSize

- 4.
5. The PowerShell window will now display every program you have installed, alongside the version, developer name and when it was first downloaded.

DisplayName	DisplayVersion	Publisher	InstallDate
Intel(R) Wireless Bluetooth(R)	22.10.0.2	Intel Corporation	202...
Futuremark SystemInfo	5.37.888.0	Futuremark	202...
Realtek USB Ethernet Controller All-In-One Windows Driver	10.39.518.2020	Realtek	202...
Microsoft Visual C++ 2013 Redistributable (x64) - 12.0.30501	12.0.30501.0	Microsoft Corporation	202...
Windows 11 Installation Assistant	1.4.19041.1285	Microsoft Corporation	202...
Microsoft Visual C++ 2013 x86 Minimum Runtime - 12.0.21005	12.0.21005	Microsoft Corporation	202...
Microsoft Visual C++ 2010 x86 Redistributable - 10.0.30319	10.0.30319	Microsoft Corporation	202...
Microsoft Visual C++ 2015-2019 Redistributable (x64) - 14.24.28127	14.24.28127.4	Microsoft Corporation	202...
Microsoft Visual C++ 2019 X86 Minimum Runtime - 14.24.28127	14.24.28127	Microsoft Corporation	202...
Samsung DPI Configuration	1.0.18	Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.	202...
Samsung DeX	1.0.2.26	Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.	202...
Intel(R) Dynamic Tuning	8.7.10401.16510	Intel Corporation	202...
Snagit 2021	21.4.3.11096	TechSmith Corporation	202...
PCMark 10	2.1.2508.0	UL	202...
Intel® Integrated Sensor Solution	3.10.100.4446	Intel Corporation	202...
3DMark	2.17.7137.0	UL	202...
Microsoft Visual C++ 2008 Redistributable - x86 9.0.30729.6161	9.0.30729.6161	Microsoft Corporation	202...
Intel(R) Chipset Device Software	10.1.18460.8229	Intel(R) Corporation	202...
Samsung DeX	1.0.2.26	Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.	202...
Intel Software Package	8.7.10401.16510	Intel	202...
Microsoft Visual C++ 2015-2019 Redistributable (x86) - 14.24.28127	14.24.28127.4	Microsoft Corporation	202...
Microsoft Visual C++ 2019 X86 Additional Runtime - 14.24.28127	14.24.28127	Microsoft Corporation	202...
Realtek Audio Driver	6.0.8996.1	Realtek Semiconductor Corp.	202...
Microsoft Visual C++ 2013 Redistributable (x86) - 12.0.30501	12.0.30501.0	Microsoft Corporation	202...
Microsoft Visual C++ 2013 x86 Additional Runtime - 12.0.21005	12.0.21005	Microsoft Corporation	202...

The final stage involves exporting to a text file. Scroll to the bottom of the list until you see 'PS C:\' followed by your username ('anyro' in the example below)

1. To the right of the > symbol, copy and paste the following:

```
Get-ItemProperty
```

```
HKLM:\Software\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Uninstall\* | Select-Object DisplayName, DisplayVersion, Publisher, InstallDate | Format-Table -AutoSize
```

```
> C:\Users\anyro\Documents\InstalledPrograms.txt
```

Just make sure you replace the file path and document name (italicised above) with details of

your own

```
Windows PowerShell
3DMark 2.17.7137.0 UL
Microsoft Visual C++ 2008 Redistributable - x86 9.0.30729.6161 9.0.30729.6161 Microsoft Corporation 202...
Intel(R) Chipset Device Software 10.1.18460.8229 Intel(R) Corporation
Samsung DeX 1.0.2.26 Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.
Intel Software Package 8.7.10401.16510 Intel
Microsoft Visual C++ 2015-2019 Redistributable (x86) - 14.24.28127 14.24.28127.4 Microsoft Corporation
Microsoft Visual C++ 2019 X86 Additional Runtime - 14.24.28127 14.24.28127 Microsoft Corporation 202...
Realtek Audio Driver 6.0.8996.1 Realtek Semiconductor Corp. 202...
Microsoft Visual C++ 2013 Redistributable (x86) - 12.0.30501 12.0.30501.0 Microsoft Corporation
Microsoft Visual C++ 2013 x86 Additional Runtime - 12.0.21005 12.0.21005 Microsoft Corporation 202...
PS C:\Users\anyro> Get-ItemProperty HKLM:\Software\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Uninstall\* | Select-Obje
ct DisplayName, DisplayVersion, Publisher, InstallDate | Format-Table -AutoSize > C:\Users\anyro\Documents\InstalledPro
grams.txt
```

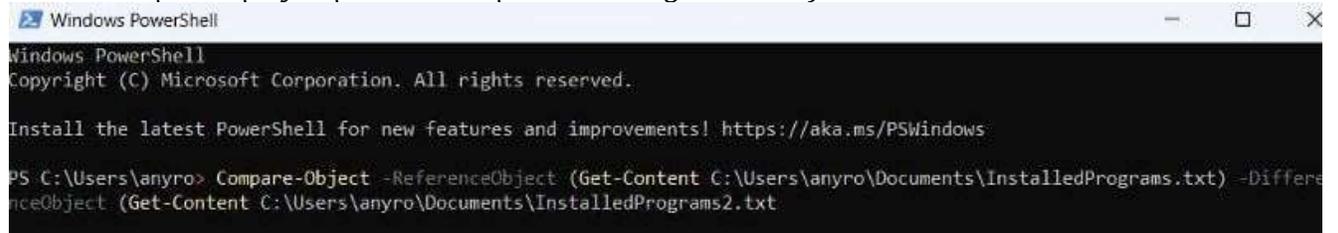
Navigate to the specified area of File Explorer and it should now be there. It'll open in the Notepad app by default, but you can share it just like any other file.

```
InstalledPrograms - Notepad
File Edit View
-----
DisplayName DisplayVersion Publisher InstallDate
-----
Intel(R) HID Event Filter 2.2.1.383 Intel Corporation
Geekbench 5
Google Chrome 100.0.4896.127 Google LLC 202...
Microsoft Edge 101.0.1210.39 Microsoft Corporation 202...
Microsoft Edge Update 1.3.161.35
Microsoft Edge WebView2 Runtime 101.0.1210.39 Microsoft Corporation 202...
SpyderXElite
Intel(R) Wireless Bluetooth(R) 22.10.0.2 Intel Corporation 202...
Futuremark SystemInfo 5.37.888.0 Futuremark 202...
Realtek USB Ethernet Controller All-In-One Windows Driver 10.39.518.2020 Realtek 202...
Microsoft Visual C++ 2013 Redistributable (x64) - 12.0.30501 12.0.30501.0 Microsoft Corporation
Windows 11 Installation Assistant 1.4.19041.1285 Microsoft Corporation
Microsoft Visual C++ 2013 x86 Minimum Runtime - 12.0.21005 12.0.21005 Microsoft Corporation 202...
Microsoft Visual C++ 2010 x86 Redistributable - 10.0.30319 10.0.30319 Microsoft Corporation 202...
Microsoft Visual C++ 2015-2019 Redistributable (x64) - 14.24.28127 14.24.28127.4 Microsoft Corporation
Microsoft Visual C++ 2019 X86 Minimum Runtime - 14.24.28127 14.24.28127 Microsoft Corporation 202...
Samsung DPI Configuration 1.0.18 Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. 202...
Samsung DeX 1.0.2.26 Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. 202...
Intel(R) Dynamic Tuning 8.7.10401.16510 Intel Corporation
Ln1: Col1 100% Windows (CRLF) UTF-16 LE
```

If you create a version of the file before and after you reinstall Windows on some devices, there's a way to compare the two side by side:

1. Open Windows PowerShell once more
2. Copy and paste the following command, replacing the information in the file paths (italicised below) with where your specific files are located and what they're called:
Compare-Object -ReferenceObject (Get-Content *C:\Users\anyro\Documents\InstalledPrograms.txt*) -DifferenceObject (Get-

Content C:\Users\anyro\Documents\InstalledPrograms2.txt)



```
Windows PowerShell
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PS C:\Users\anyro> Compare-Object -ReferenceObject (Get-Content C:\Users\anyro\Documents\InstalledPrograms.txt) -DifferenceObject (Get-Content C:\Users\anyro\Documents\InstalledPrograms2.txt)
```

3. Hit enter and you'll see a list of both, displayed next to each other. In the 'SideIndicator' column, => means it's installed on the second one but not the first and vice versa for <=. The = sign is displayed if installed on both

This doesn't work on all devices, but it's a useful way to ensure you haven't missed anything.

If you'd rather not execute commands in Windows PowerShell, there is another method.. Just download the free version of CCleaner and set it up. From the main home screen, choose 'Tools', then make sure the 'Uninstall' tab is selected. From there, just click 'Save to text file...' from the bottom-right corner.