Texas State and **Windows 8**

The Microsoft Windows 8 operating system is a major change in how people interact with applications and files. Technology Resources (TR) recommends that faculty and staff receive training prior to upgrading to Windows 8. E-learning via [lynda.com](http://lynda.com) offers a wide variety of Windows 8 training.

Unless there is a substantial business reason for using Windows 8, TR recommends that all Texas State-owned Windows computers continue to run the Windows 7 SP1 operating system. Computer Replacement Program (CRP) computers and TR’s standard software images will continue to be deployed with Windows 7 SP1.

**Windows 8 Features**

Windows 8 provides the full functionality of the Windows operating system with the ease of touch screen features for hand-held mobile and tablet devices. New features in Windows 8 focus on the personal consumer market (e.g., cloud computing and social networking). With Microsoft’s unified look and feel, the same user interface (UI) is displayed across multiple devices (e.g., desktops, laptops, tablets, and hand-held).

**Using Windows 8 Means Learning to Use the Modern UI**

With the Windows 8 Modern UI, tiles (static or dynamic) are displayed on the screen to represent each application, process, or file with the focus being on touch screen device use. For devices that do not have touchscreen capability, Windows 8 will require a commitment to learn to navigate the Modern UI using a mouse.

**Windows Store Apps**

Windows Store apps are another way to view and access applications in Windows 8. Windows Store apps require a minimum screen resolution of 1024x768. For full functionality, the screen resolution should be 1366x768 or higher. Below are some characteristics of Windows Store apps:

- One window supports multiple views
- Displays tiles rather than icons
- Best for touch screen or pen input

**Helpful Links**

- Windows 8 Features
- Learn about Windows 8
- [lynda.com e-learning for Windows 8](http://lynda.com)
- Quick Reference Guides (PDFs)
- Keyboard Shortcuts
- Modern UI Start Screen – How to Shutdown, Restart, or Sleep
- Win+X Menu Editor (Administrative Tools)
- Make Windows 8 Modern UI Web Links Open in Desktop IE

**Texas State Software and Possible Issues with Windows 8**

TR has tested Windows 8 with commonly used Texas State applications. While most run properly, the below software and hardware impact a significant portion of the Texas State community. For this reason, we do not advise that Texas State-owned computers be upgraded to Windows 8.

**SunGard Banner Applications (Student Information System or SIS)**

- Internet Native Banner (INB)
- Texas State Self-Service (Self-Service Banner or SSB)
- Banner Document Management System (BDMS)
Many Banner applications are accessible via Web browsers; however, there can be issues with Internet Explorer 10 which is part of Windows 8. For this reason, we recommend delaying an upgrade to Windows 8 until SunGard resolves these issues.

SAPGUI and the SAP Portal
Anyone who uses SAPGUI to perform job duties should not upgrade to Windows 8 until SAP is compatible with Windows 8 and Internet Explorer 10.

TexasStateWPA (Secure Wireless)
Not all access points on campus are compatible with Windows 8. Therefore, Windows 8 devices may not connect wirelessly in all areas of campus.

Other Texas State Applications that have issues with Windows 8 or Internet Explorer 10
- Juniper (IVE1) Virtual Private Network (VPN) remote connection
- SPSS Statistical Package
- Some Adobe Applications

Other External or Specialized Devices
Before you upgrade, make certain that specialized devices and third-party driver components will continue to work in Windows 8 or that a newer driver compatible with Windows 8 is available from the manufacturer. This includes printers, scanners, and other external devices. Visit each manufacturer’s website for updated driver information.

Hardware Requirements
Below are the hardware specifications for installing Windows 8.
- 1 GHz or faster processor
- 1 GB RAM (32-bit) or 2 GB RAM (64-bit)
- 16 GB available hard disk space (32-bit) or 20 GB (64-bit)
- DirectX 9 graphics device with WDDM 1.0 or higher driver
- Modern UI applications will require a screen resolution of at least 1024x768 (and 1366x768 for the snap feature).

Texas State Support
Due to identified issues with Windows 8, TR will continue to deploy and support the Windows 7 SP1 operating system on Texas State-owned computers. Some departments may have business reasons to use Windows 8 on Texas State-owned computers. TR will provide Windows 8 upgrade support to the department’s Technical Support Personnel (TSP) on a case-by-case basis. Additionally, TR will provide Windows 8 support for university business conducted on faculty, staff, and student personal devices.

Product and Licensing Information
- **Departmental Use – Faculty and Staff**
  - See Texas State Support section above.
- **Personal Use – Faculty, Staff, and Students**
  - Purchase directly from the Microsoft Store
  - Purchase at any major software retailer
  - Purchase through Texas State’s University Bookstore (512.245.2273)