

10 super fast ways to 'Show desktop' for Windows

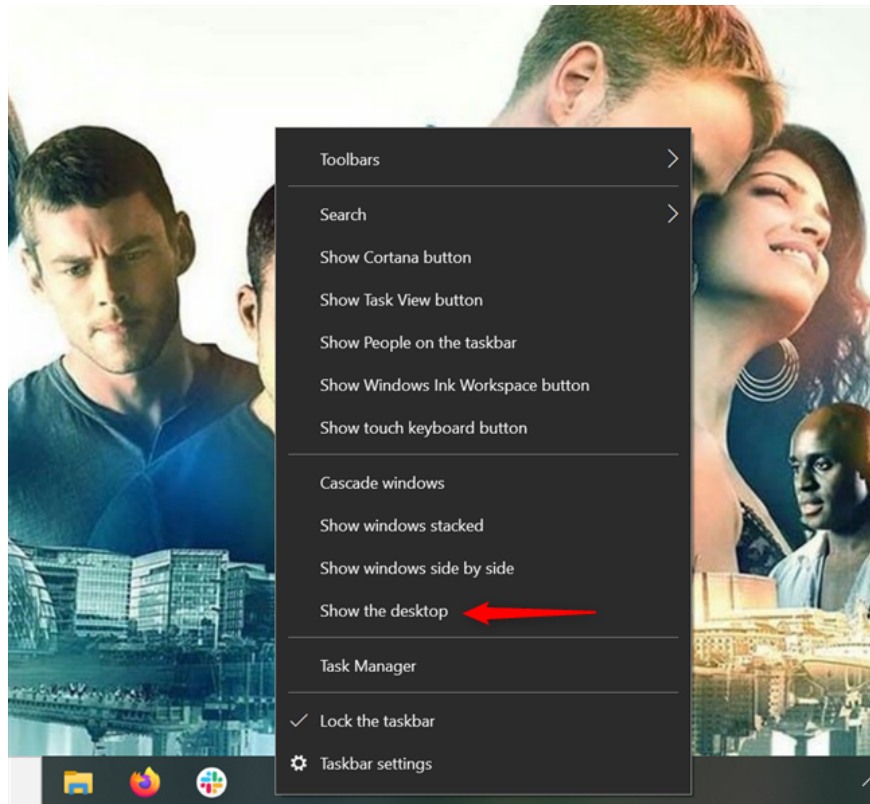
Many people don't know how to display the desktop quickly and have to minimize each window one by one. This method is very time consuming and frustrating for users. Therefore, this article will introduce to you five super-fast ways to 'show desktop' in Windows.

When working on a Windows computer, users sometimes have to return to the screen to launch another program from desktop shortcuts while editing documents or performing other tasks. Many people don't know how to display the desktop quickly and have to minimize each window one by one. This method is very time consuming and frustrating for users. Therefore, this article will introduce to you five super-fast ways to 'show desktop' in Windows.

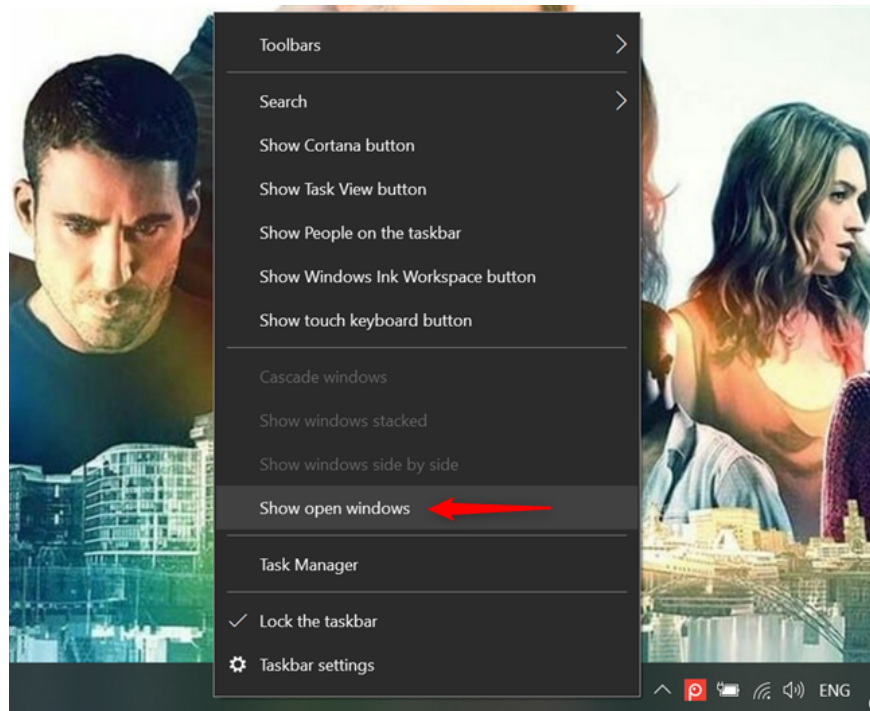
Note: Some of these may not work in earlier versions of Windows, but they have been tested on Windows 7, Windows 8.1, Windows 10, and Windows 11.

Method 1: Display the Show Desktop button on the Taskbar

The Taskbar provides an additional way to switch to the desktop. First, right-click on an empty area on the Taskbar to open the context menu. Then, click **Show the desktop** .

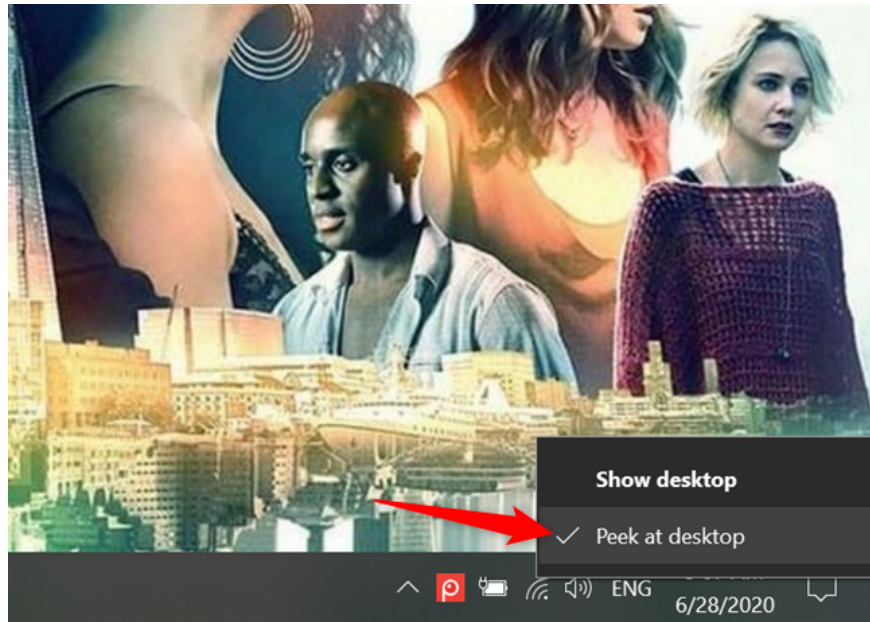


All open windows are minimized and you can see the desktop. To restore the application windows you were using, reopen the Taskbar menu by right-clicking on it. Then, click on the **Show open windows** option .

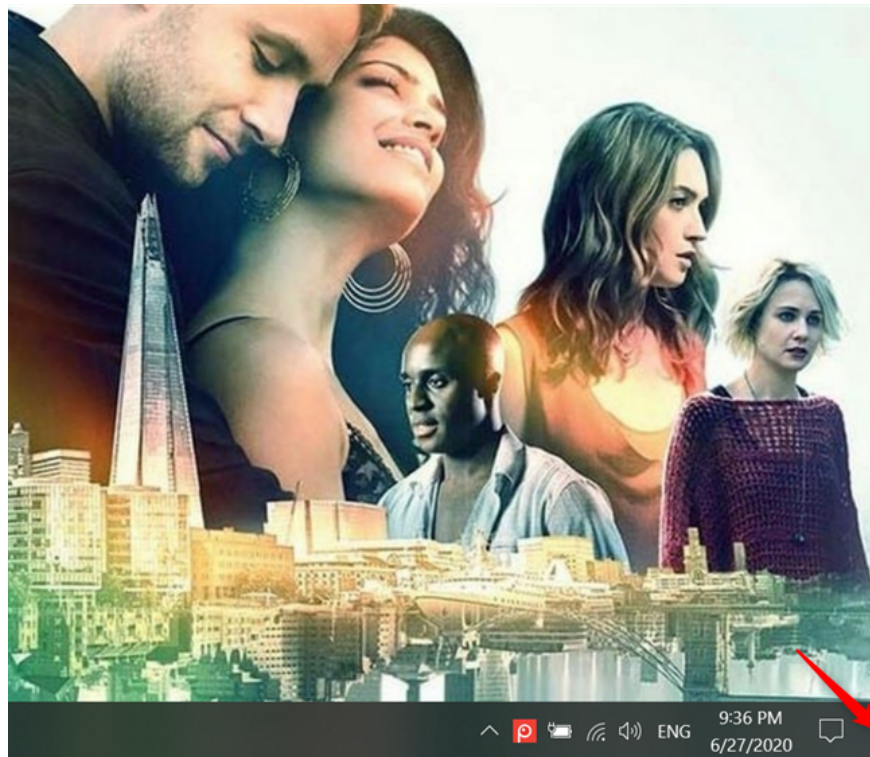


TIP : Except for the Minimize All shortcut in the following section, all other methods can be combined to quickly switch between your desktop and open windows. For example, click the **Show Desktop** button on the far right side of the Taskbar to display the Windows desktop, then use the **Windows + D** keyboard shortcut to bring your active application windows back to the screen.

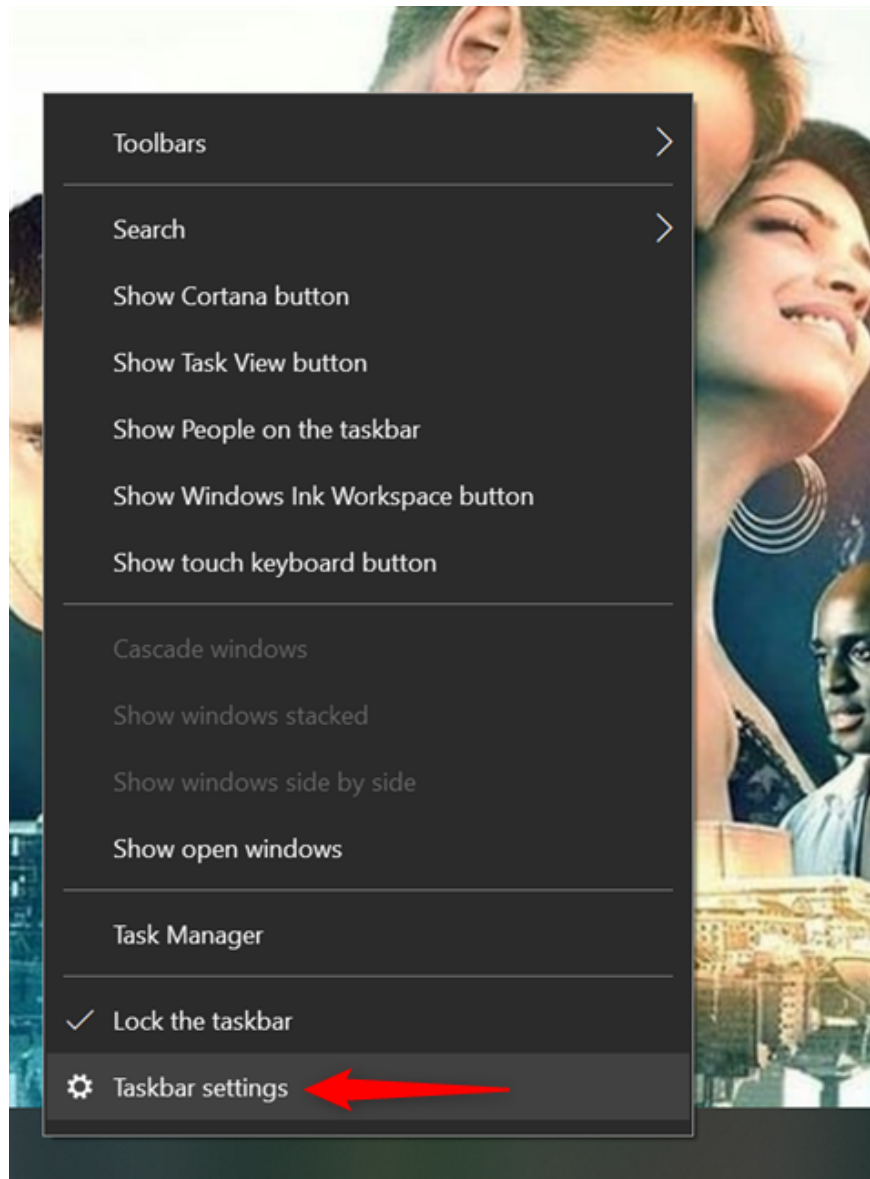
If you just want to check something out on your desktop without minimizing all open windows, you can use **Peek at Desktop** . This option allows you to hide the content on the screen without pressing anything. The easiest way to enable it is to right-click the **Show desktop** button at the bottom of the Taskbar. Clicking **Peek at desktop** will enable this option and add a check mark next to it.



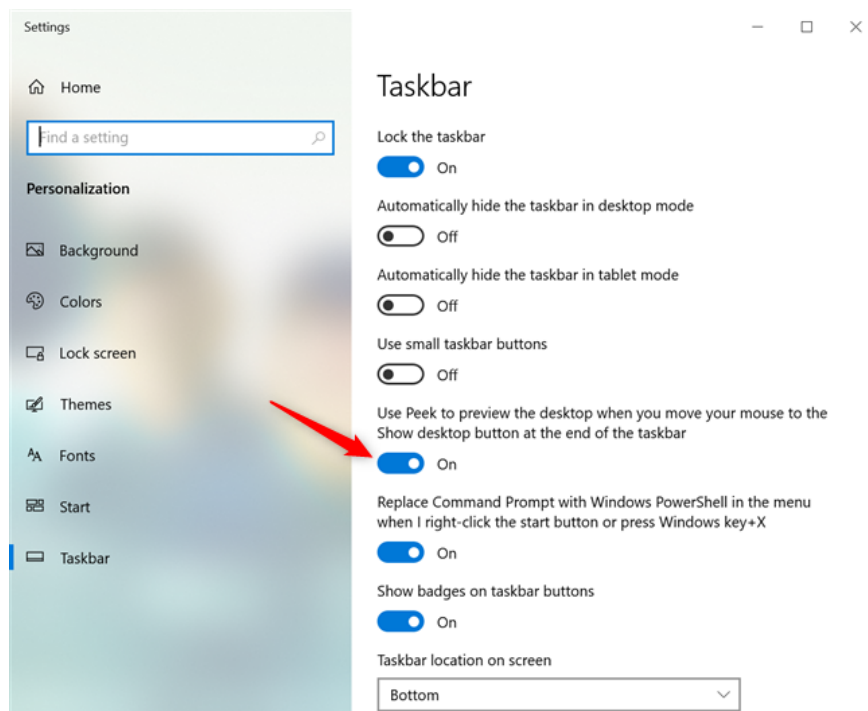
Once the option is enabled, you can hover your mouse pointer over the Show desktop button at the bottom of the Taskbar to display the desktop. Moving the cursor out of the area will return you to the open window to continue your activity.



Additionally, you can also enable **Peek at the Desktop** from the Settings app. Right-click on the Taskbar to access its menu, then click **Taskbar settings** .



Then, turn on the toggle next to the option **"Use Peek to preview the desktop when you move your mouse to the Show desktop button at the end of the taskbar"** .



To disable this option, uncheck **Peek at desktop from the Show desktop** button menu or turn off the toggle from **Taskbar settings**.

Method 2: Shortcut key Win + D

This shortcut performs the same function as the Show Desktop button mentioned above. Pressing this shortcut combination once will display the Windows screen, pressing it again all windows are restored as before.

Method 3: Hotkey Win + Space

This shortcut combination only displays the screen preview window, just like moving the mouse over the Desktop Peek button in the Taskbar as mentioned above.

Method 4: Hotkey Win + M

This shortcut will minimize all open windows to display the desktop. However, you cannot press this key combination to restore all minimized windows, you need to open each window one by one.

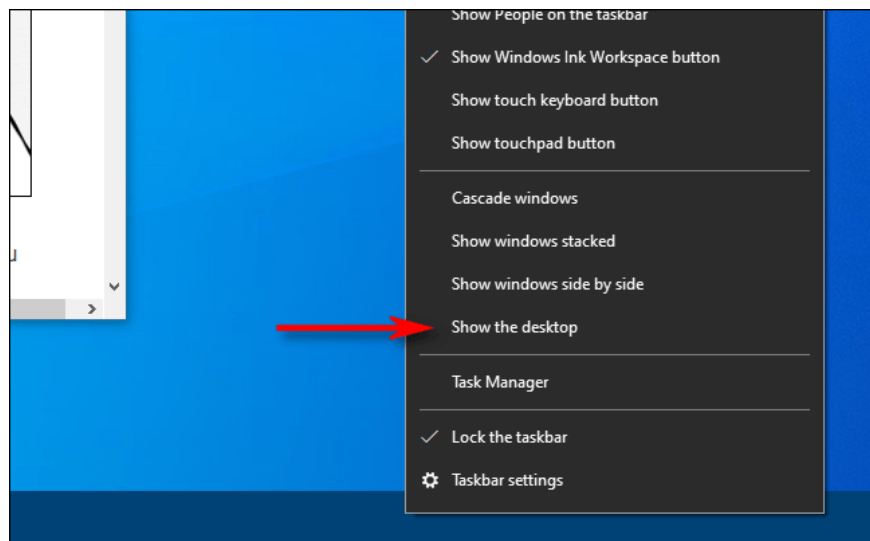


Method 5: Shortcut key Alt + Tab

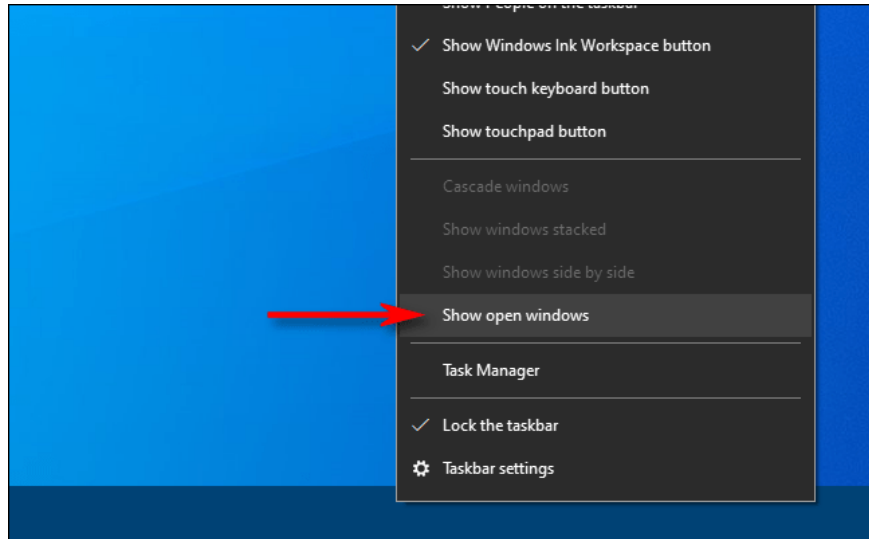
This is a well-known keyboard shortcut and is used to switch between open windows. Because the computer screen is also a window, you can use this keyboard shortcut to go to the desktop.

Method 6: Display the desktop by right-clicking on the Taskbar

You can also display the desktop quickly by right-clicking on the Taskbar. When a menu appears, select **Show The Desktop** .



As with the above methods, all application windows will be temporarily hidden. To bring them back, right-click on the Taskbar again. This time, select **Show Open Windows** and the application windows will return as before.

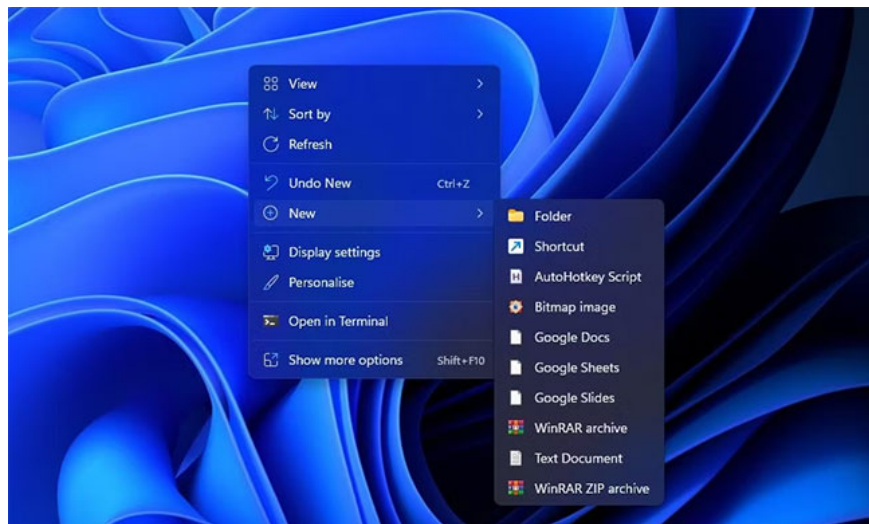


There are many different ways to 'show desktop' in Windows, some use the mouse, others use keyboard shortcuts. Please choose for yourself the most convenient way to display your desktop screen.

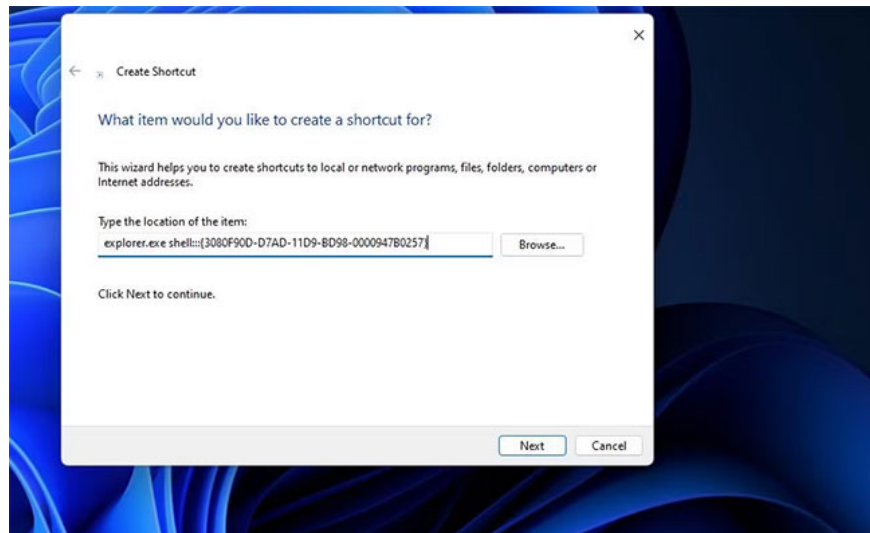
Method 7: Display the desktop with a custom Taskbar shortcut

The default **Show desktop** button is a bit small. Do you want a slightly larger alternative Taskbar button to quickly display the desktop? If so, you can set up a bigger and better custom Taskbar shortcut to quickly display the desktop like this:

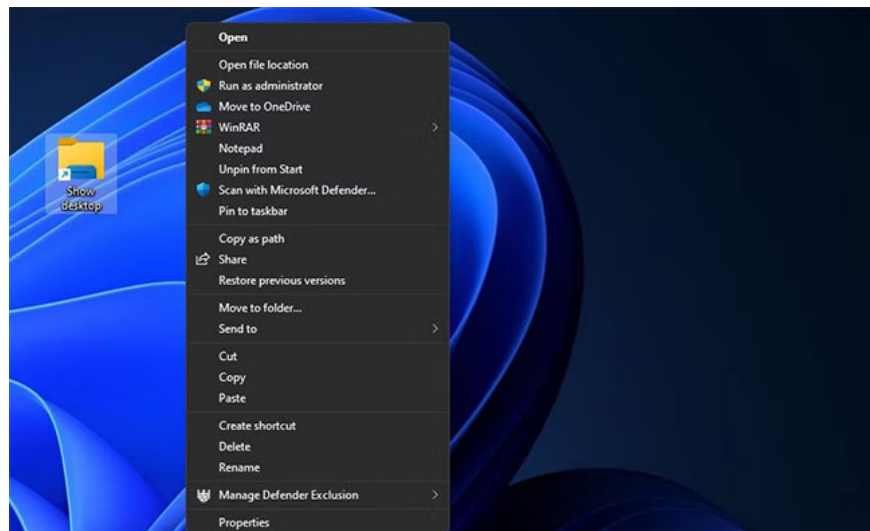
1. Right-click an area on the screen where there aren't any shortcuts and select **New**.
2. Select **Shortcut** on the New submenu .



3. Enter `explorer.exe shell:::{3080F90D-D7AD-11D9-BD98-0000947B0257}` inside the **Type the location of item** box .

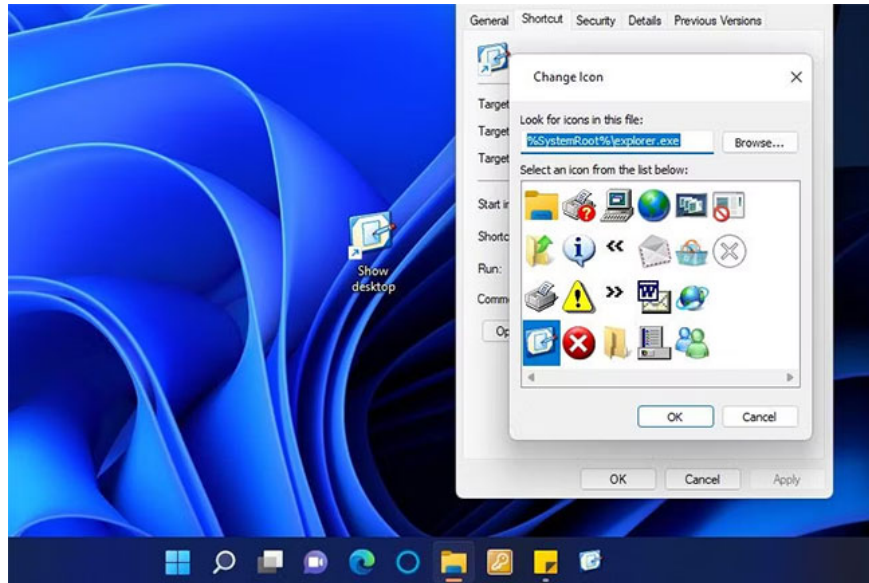


4. Click **Next** to continue with the final step of the wizard.
5. Delete the default explorer title and enter **Show desktop** in the **Type a name** box .
6. Select **Finish** to add the **Show desktop shortcut**.
7. Right-click the **Show desktop** shortcut to select **Show more options** > **Pin to taskbar** .



Now, you can click the larger **Show desktop** button to hide all open windows. The shortcut will have a default folder library icon that matches the File Explorer button. Therefore, you should change the icon for the **Show desktop** shortcut before pinning it to the Taskbar. Here's how you can add another icon to that shortcut:

1. **Right-click on the Show desktop** icon and select the **Properties** option for that shortcut.
2. Click **Change Icon** to display a window from which you can select icons.
3. Select the icon for the Windows XP **Show desktop** button shown directly below.



4. Click **OK** > **Apply** to add the icon.

5. Then, select **OK** to close the properties window and pin the shortcut to the Taskbar.

You can also pin a shortcut to display the desktop to the Start menu. Shows the classic context menu for the **Show desktop** shortcut . Then, select the **Pin to Start menu** option instead of the Taskbar option.

Method 8: Display desktop using touch/touchpad gestures (Windows 11)

Touch and touchpad gestures are finger swipes with which you can perform different actions in Windows 11. You can use such gestures on touchscreen and touchpad devices, integrated on many laptop keyboards (and some desktop keyboards). They're most useful on laptops and 2-in-1 tablets like those from the Microsoft Surface line.

You can quickly display the desktop with a touch/touchpad gesture. To do so, simultaneously swipe down your device's screen or touchpad with three fingers. You can then show all open windows again by swiping up the screen or trackpad with three fingers.

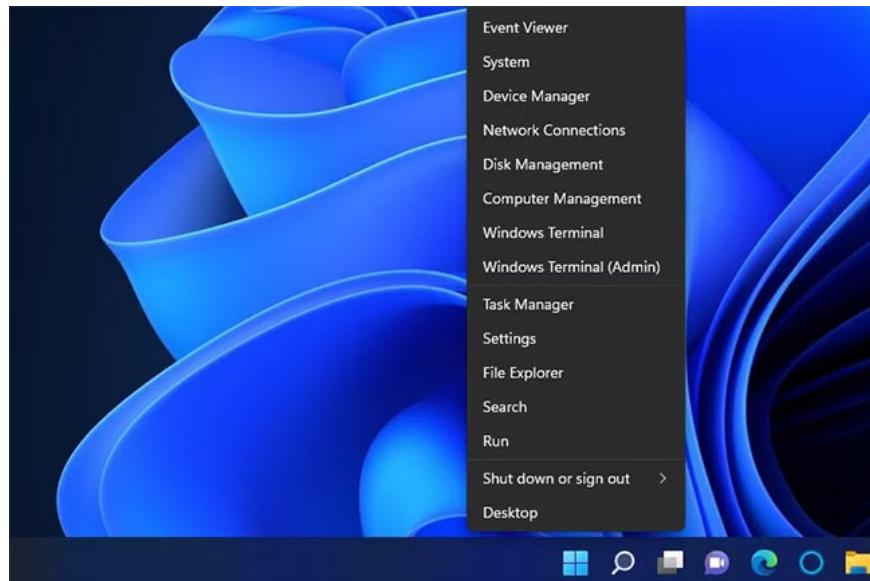
Note that touch/touchpad gestures need to be enabled in Windows 11 for you to use them. You can enable and configure gestures from the Touchpad and Touch sections of the Settings app, as outlined on Microsoft's 'Touch gestures for Windows' page. TipsMake's guide to touchpad gestures on Windows 11 also includes details on how you can enable touchpad gestures.

Method 9: Display desktop using Power User menu (Windows 11)

The Power User menu can also be called Power User Task menu, Win+X menu, WinX menu, Power User Hotkey, Windows Tools menu. This is a pop-up menu containing shortcuts to commonly used tools, providing users with a convenient way to access programs and save a lot of time. And it first appeared in Windows 8 and continues to be present in Windows 10 and Windows 11. The Power User menu is available by default (not as a download) in Windows 11, Windows 10 and Windows 8. You can refer to Refer to: How to access the Power

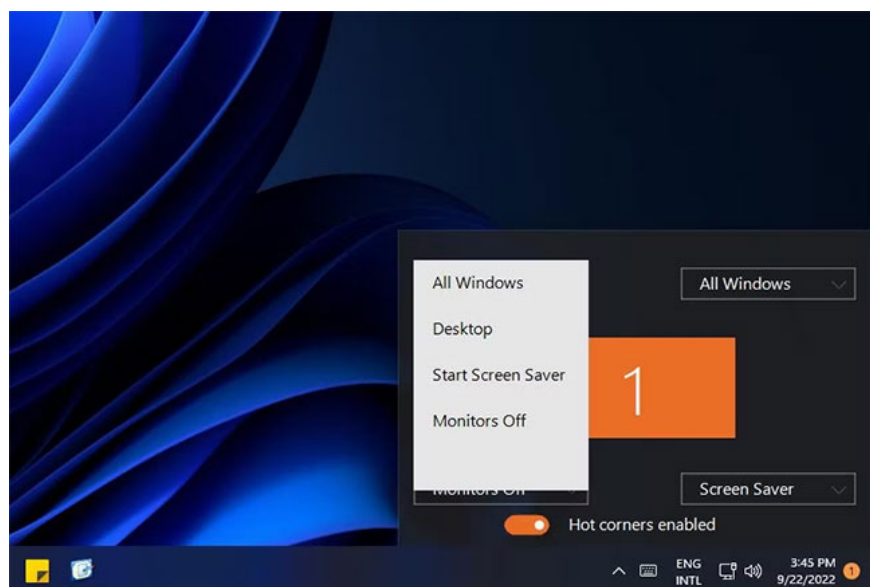
User menu on Windows 11 for more details.

The Power User menu includes many handy shortcuts to open Windows 11 tools. You can also choose to show the desktop from that menu. Press **Windows key + X** to see the Power User menu. Then select the **Desktop** option there to hide all open windows.



Method 10: Display desktop using Hot corners

Hot corners is a macOS feature where users can trigger actions by moving their cursor to the corners of the screen. You can add such a feature to Windows 11/10 using WinXCorners. With the software installed and running, you can set a corner of the screen to display the desktop when you move the cursor there.

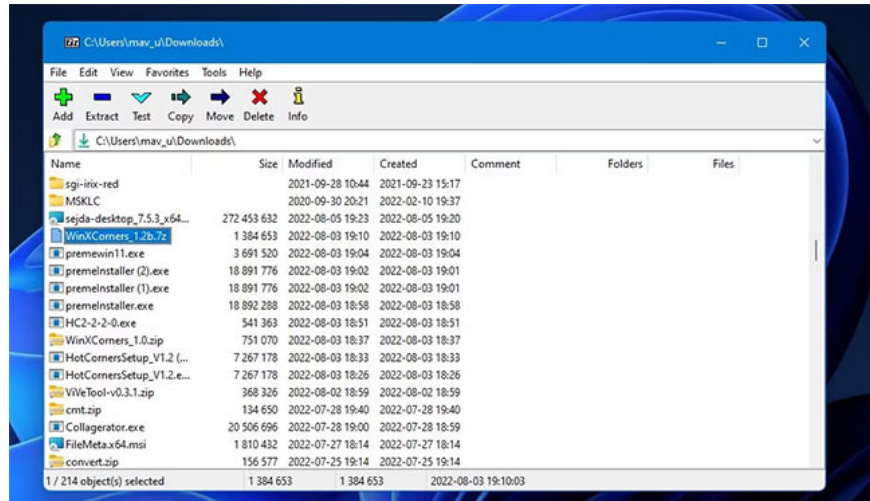


Using this WinXCorners tool, you can also set any of the 4 corners of the Windows screen to open Action Center, launch Task View mode (to preview all opened windows), hide applications background application and

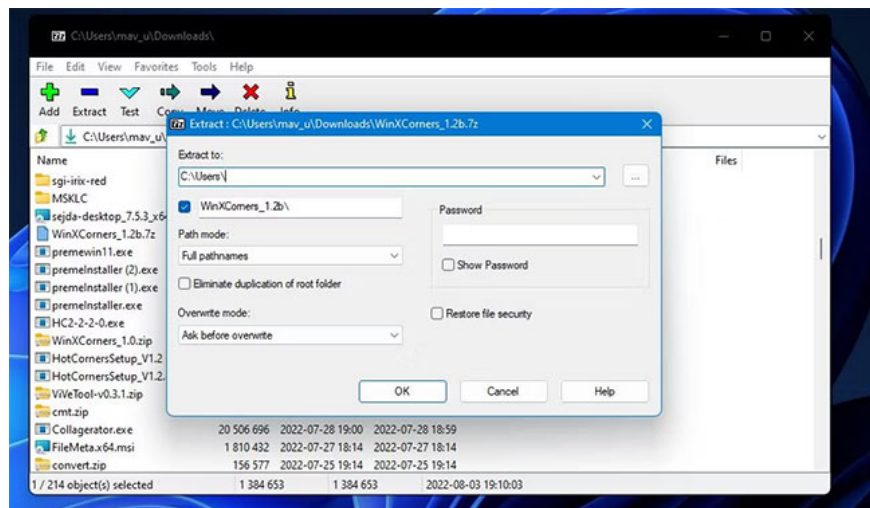
show only the foreground or active window, turn off the screen, launch Screen Saver, or turn off the laptop screen. You just need to configure this tool once and move the mouse cursor to any corner of the screen. The action you set will be triggered immediately.

The specific way to do it is as follows:

1. Open the WinXCorners website and click the WinXCorners 1.2b download link on that website.
2. Open the 7-Zip decompression utility.
3. Select the WinXCorners_1.2b archive in 7-Zip.



4. Click **Extract** to display the window shown immediately below.

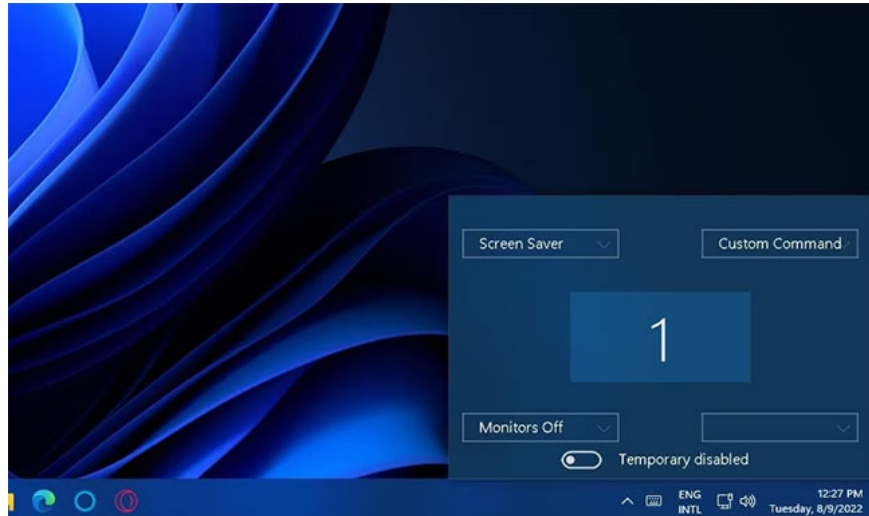


5. Press the ellipse button.
6. Select a folder to put the extracted WinXCorners_1.2b folder into and click **OK** to select.
7. Click **OK** in the Extract window .

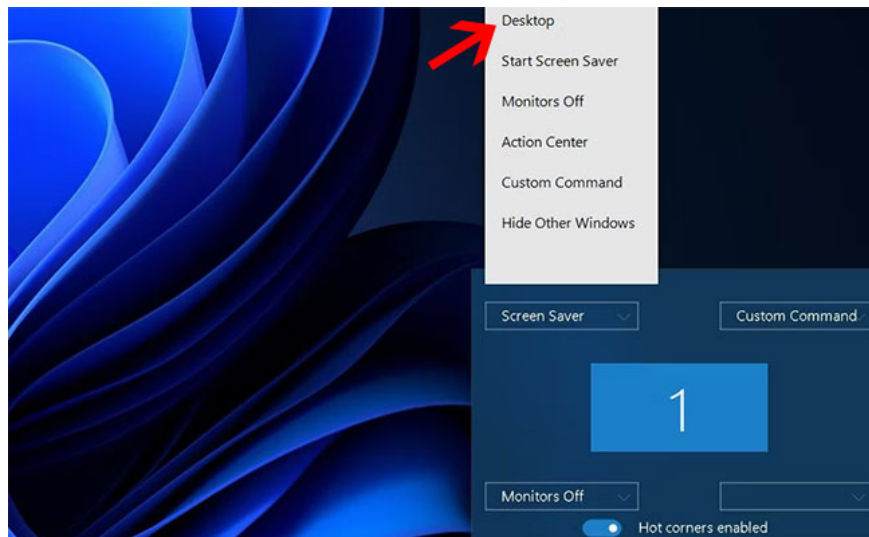
8. Open the extracted WinXCorners_1.2b folder.

9. Double click WinXCorners.exe to run the software.

10. If the software is disabled, click the **Temporarily disabled** toggle switch in WinXCorners to enable hot corners.



When the application is running, you can select actions in the corner of the screen by clicking the drop-down menu to select the desired options. You can assign most of the available default actions to the 4 corners. In this case, **Desktop** to display the desktop screen.



From this point on, moving the cursor to the set corner will trigger any show desktop action you have assigned to it, as long as WinXCorners is running in the background. To configure WinXCorners to start automatically on boot, right-click its system tray icon and select **Start with Windows**.

Note : This tool is not supported for multiple monitors. Therefore, you should only use it on a single screen device.

Some frequently asked questions

1. What is the keyboard shortcut to show desktop in Windows?

The keyboard shortcut to quickly display the desktop in Windows is **Windows key + D**.

2. Is the Show Desktop button enabled by default in Windows 11?

Yes, the Show desktop button is usually enabled by default in Windows 11.

3. How to quickly display the desktop in Windows?

Click the **Show desktop** button at the right end of the Taskbar to quickly display the desktop in Windows.

4. Does Windows 10 have a Show Desktop button?

Yes, the Windows 10 operating system has a **Show desktop button**.

5. How to enable Show Desktop button in Windows 11?

a) Right-click any empty space on the Windows 11 Taskbar, then select **Taskbar settings**.

b) Then, select **Taskbar behaviors** in the right pane of the **Settings window**.

c) Finally, check the box **Select the far corner of the taskbar to show the desktop** under **Taskbar behaviors** .

All the above methods allow you to display the Windows desktop at a glance whenever needed. They are certainly much more convenient ways to display the screen than manually minimizing all open windows. So feel free to choose whichever method you like best.

See more:

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