

8 extremely harmful shortcuts if accidentally pressed

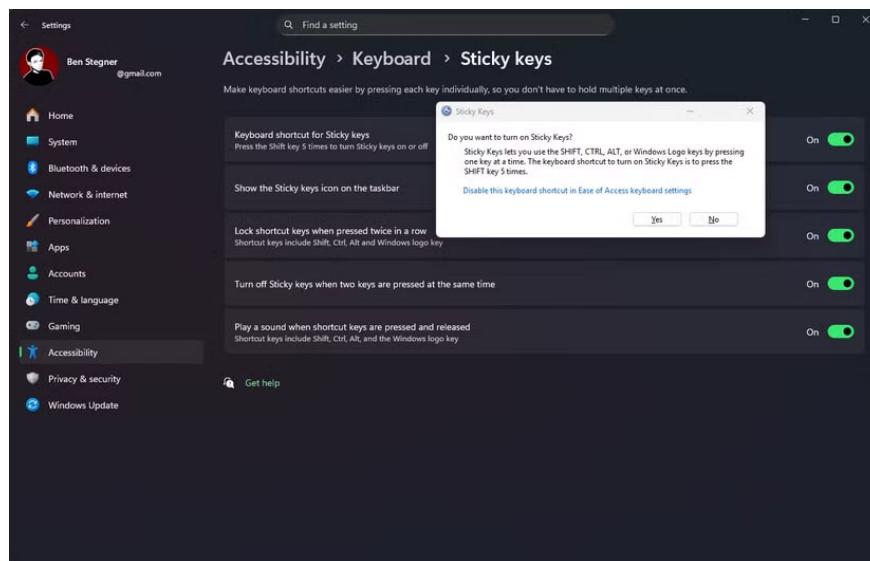
Keyboard shortcuts are designed to be useful. But with so many keyboard shortcuts on Windows 11, you're bound to accidentally trigger one.

Keyboard shortcuts are designed to be useful. But with so many keyboard shortcuts on Windows 11, you're bound to accidentally activate one. And many of these shortcuts cause big problems if you don't realize you've activated them or don't know how to reverse the change.

It's a good idea to familiarize yourself with potentially disruptive keyboard shortcuts so you know what they are when they appear. There are a few shortcuts that people see often, and luckily they're not difficult to reverse (or disable entirely).

Sticky keys

Multiple random shortcuts

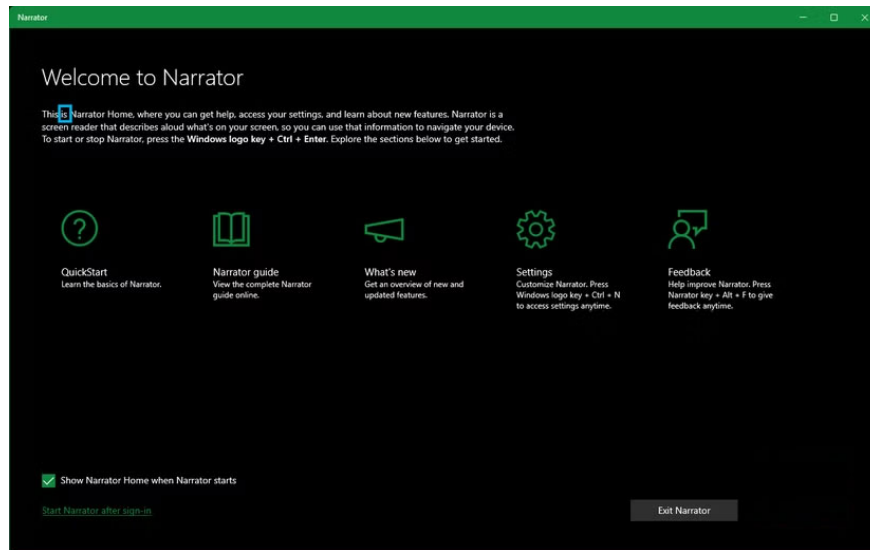


Sticky keys let you enter keystrokes one at a time, so you can press and release **Ctrl**, then press and release **C** to copy text. If you don't want it, random shortcuts will keep popping up and interrupt your work.

Pressing **Shift** five times in a row will disable Sticky keys, but it's best to disable the shortcut entirely. Open Settings , then go to **Accessibility > Keyboard > Sticky keys** . Click it, then turn off **Keyboard shortcut for Sticky keys** . Now the feature won't be enabled unless you do so from this menu.

Windows Narrator

Robot voice reads out everything you do



The **Win + Ctrl + Enter** shortcut is easy to miss because the latter two keys are used to send messages in some apps. Like Sticky Keys, this same shortcut will also disable it, but you can turn it off to prevent this from happening again. Go to **Settings > Accessibility > Narrator** and disable **Keyboard shortcut for Narrator** .

Insert key

Text will be deleted as you type.

```
1 MakeUseOf Typing with insert mode on
2
3 MakeUseOf h overtyping mode on
```

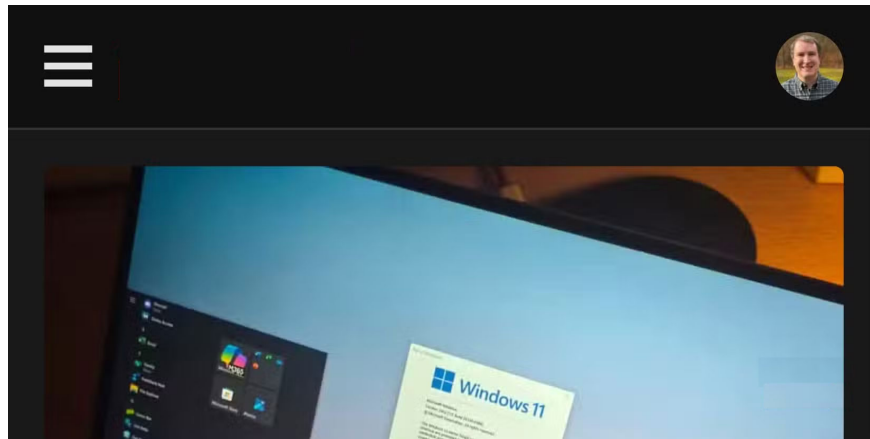
The **Insert** key on your keyboard switches input between two modes: Insert and Overwrite. The first mode is the one you're probably familiar with, where new text pushes any existing text to the front. With Overwrite mode, all input erases the existing text at that position.

While both are useful, many people prefer insert mode because it doesn't destroy what's already there. It's easy to accidentally press this key, plus there's no indication that you pressed it. Plus, many programs don't support overwrite mode, so you may not realize it's on until later.

The easiest way to avoid this is to use the Keyboard Manager utility, one of the many great tools in the PowerToys suite. Its **Remap a key** option lets you set **Insert** to **Disable** (or remap it to another key).

Zoom

Everything is getting bigger or smaller



Windows provides two ways to zoom, both of which are activated by holding down the **Ctrl** key . You can use the plus and minus buttons or scroll the mouse wheel. This is useful when you want to do this, but it can also be activated when you're trying to scroll normally.

In my experience, the biggest reason this feature accidentally activates is because of a stuck **Ctrl** key. **If your keyboard is dirty or old, the key may stay in the same position after you press it. Occasionally, you should firmly press the Win, Ctrl , and Alt keys to make sure they don't get stuck.** As we've seen, these modifier keys can cause all sorts of unwanted behavior during an unexpected activation.

Scroll Lock

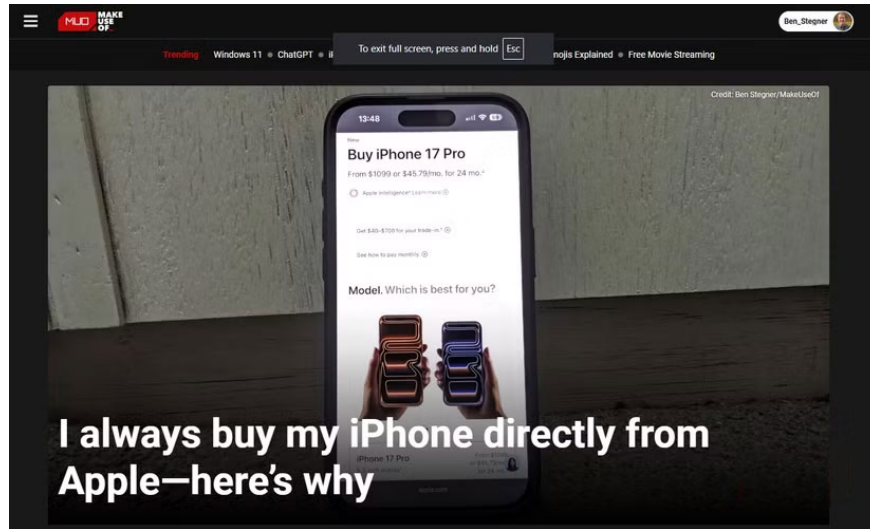
When the arrow keys scroll the worksheet

By default, the arrow keys change the currently selected cell in Microsoft Excel . However, when Scroll Lock is turned on, the arrow keys will scroll the entire document. Which one you prefer is up to you, and you may find yourself switching between them.

But with this archaic usage, you can safely disable or change the key using the same method as mentioned in the **Insert** section .

Full-Screen

You are stuck in the current application

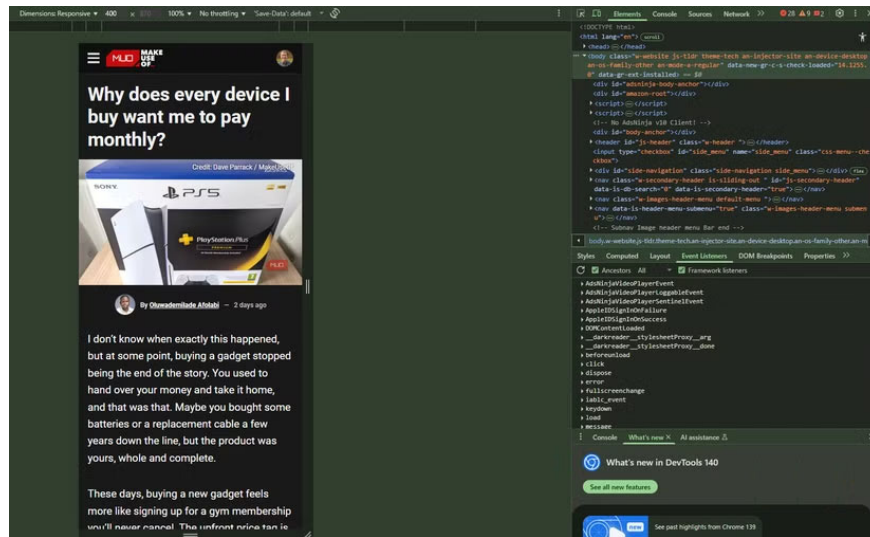


Every Windows user is familiar with the three window control buttons in the upper right corner and dragging the window bar to move it around. But what happens when these buttons disappear and you can't exit the current application?

This happens because of full-screen mode, which can be accessed with the **F11** keyboard shortcut. The title bars of full-screen apps will be hidden; you can bring them back to normal by pressing the same key. Depending on the app, hovering your mouse to the top of the screen may reveal a menu bar or an **X** to close it.

Developer Tools

Random code takes up space



This is a confusingly two-way tool: the Developer Tools browser console. In Chrome, Firefox, and Edge, pressing **Ctrl + Shift + I** or **F12** will open this console. As the name suggests, it's a collection of tools that let you inspect the code that makes up a page, monitor network activity, view console output, and more.

Another quick browser shortcut to keep in mind is **Ctrl + Shift + B**, which toggles the bookmarks bar below the address bar. If you use this key and it suddenly disappears, it can be a real pain.

Function keys

Be careful because they can cause a lot of problems.



Function keys, which can be found on laptops or gaming keyboards, need special attention because of the chaos they can cause.

First, you should know if your keyboard has a function lock option—it might be a light next to the **Caps Lock** and other keys, or a light on the **Fn** key itself. Common shortcuts include **Fn + Esc** and **Fn + F12**. With this feature enabled, pressing other keys will run their function shortcuts (like changing the volume, adjusting

brightness, or the like) even if you're not holding down the **Fn** key .

If not, you should know what functions this key can run.

Check your keyboard manufacturer's software to see what features are offered and what you can disable.

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