

How to add media controls to the Taskbar in Windows

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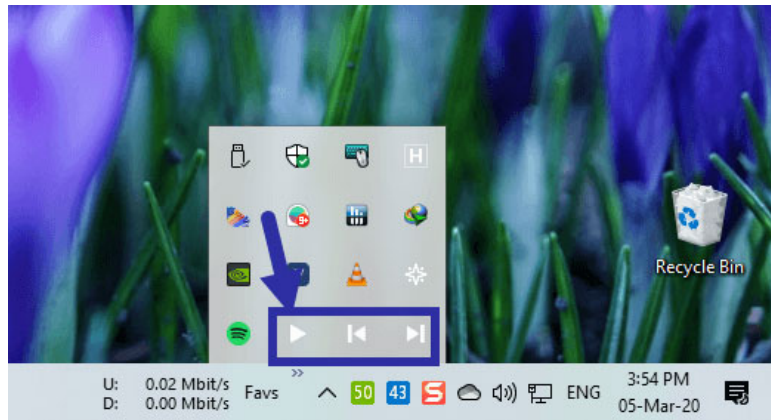
There is a lot you can do with the Taskbar. For example, you can add bandwidth monitoring, display CPU and GPU temperature, add quick launch toolbar, etc. Simply put, Taskbar is a very flexible place with lots of functions. . So why not add media controls like the Play and Pause buttons to the Taskbar?

Any media player has its own dedicated control options to control the content being played. In fact, Windows provides you with the media control functions right in the thumbnail on the taskbar. If the media player supports generic controls, you can even control it through the media keys on the keyboard. Generally, these options are sufficient for most people. However, if you don't like using keyboard shortcuts or opening background apps just to play or pause songs, you can add media controls directly to the Taskbar.

Add media controls to the Taskbar

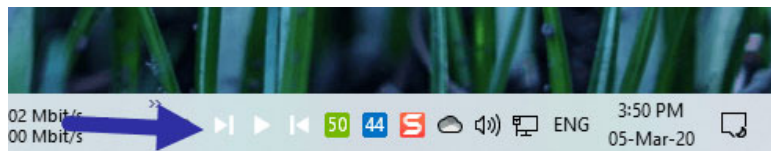
While Windows doesn't have built-in options for adding control functions like **Play**, **Pause**, **Next** and **Rewind** to the Taskbar, you can do that with a simple, lightweight, and free app called is Taskplay. As the name suggests, the application acts as a media driver and allows you to perform basic actions. So follow the steps below to add **Play and Pause** buttons to the taskbar.

1. First, visit the official Github page and download Taskplay. After downloading, execute the exe file and follow the wizard to install the application.
2. After installing the application, launch it from the "**Recently added**" section of the Start menu or by searching for "**Taskplay**".
3. As soon as you launch the application, it will add 3 control functions to the taskbar. They are the **Rewind**, **Play / Pause**, and **Next** buttons. By default, Windows may attempt to hide these new control functions. So if you can't see these controls, click the small up arrow icon on the taskbar.



3 control functions on the taskbar

4. Since we want easy access to the media controls, drag those icons onto the taskbar. When you do that, Windows will remember these locations and display them accordingly.



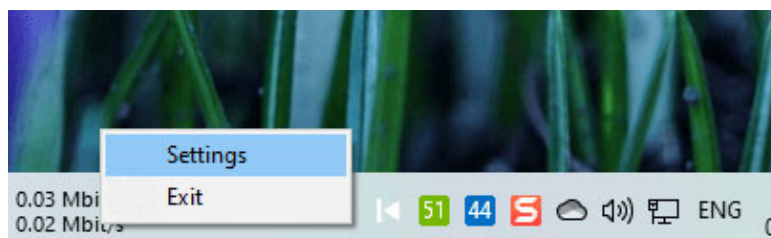
Drag those icons to the taskbar if they are hidden

From now on, whenever you want to play / pause or go to the next / previous song, click the corresponding icon. For example, if you want to play or pause a song or video, simply click on the **"Play / Pause"** icon (?).

Start Taskplay with Windows

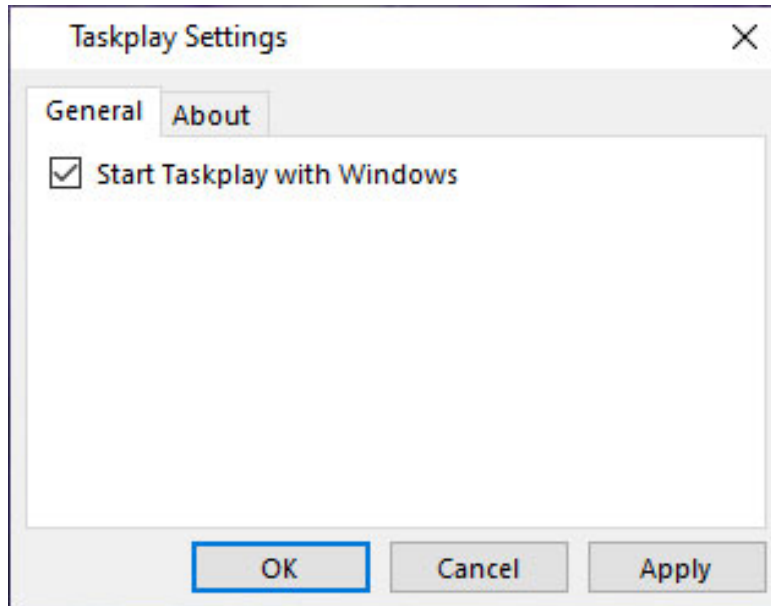
To make things easier, you can launch the Taskplay application with Windows. This ensures that you do not have to manually launch the application and have the media controls from the beginning.

To do that, right-click on the Taskplay icon on the taskbar and select the **"Settings"** option.



Select "Settings"

In the **Settings** window, select the **"Start Taskplay with Windows"** checkbox and click the **Apply** button > **OK** to save the changes.



Select the "Start Taskplay with Windows" checkbox

From now on, Taskplay will start up with Windows.

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