

# How to permanently display Windows 10 version on desktop

With a simple tweak to the Windows 10 Registry file, users and system administrators can see exactly which operating system version is installed on a particular PC just by looking at the desktop.

Microsoft has released updated versions of its Windows 10 operating system on a scheduled basis about twice a year. If you are a system administrator for dozens, hundreds, or even thousands of workstations, determining which version of Windows 10 is running on each computer can be very time consuming even in the best condition.

Of course, when troubleshooting a computer problem, determining which version of Windows 10 is running on your computer is a fairly simple matter to properly open the **System Configuration** screen . However, doing so many times can be frustrating, even for the most patient people.

With a simple tweak to the Windows 10 Registry file, users and system administrators can see exactly which operating system version is installed on a particular PC just by looking at the desktop.

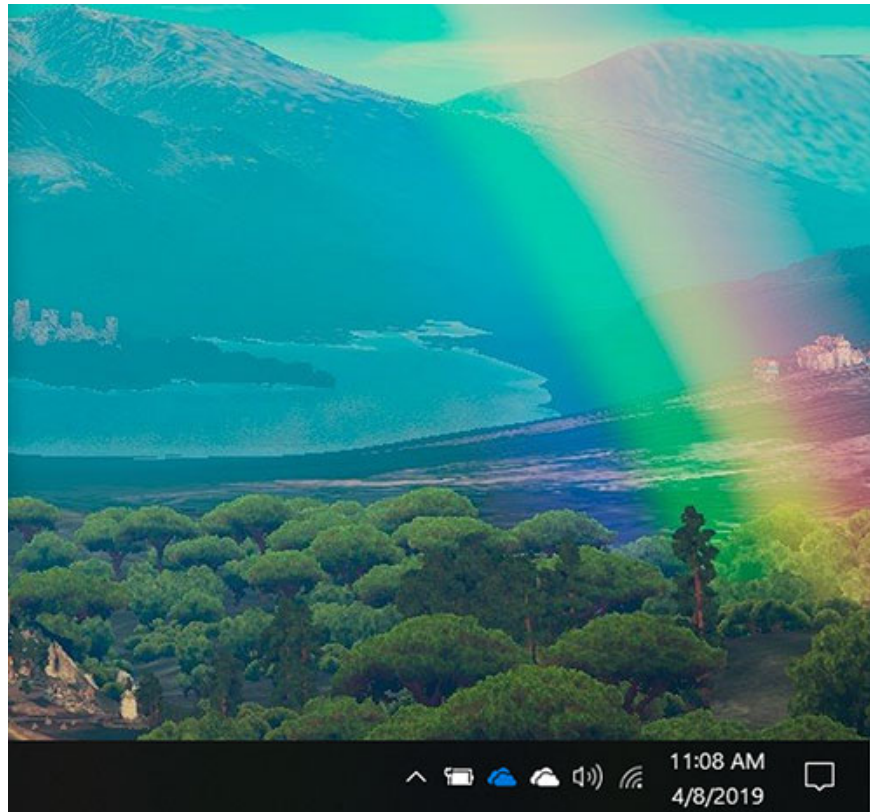
This guide will show you how to adjust the Registry file to display the current version of Windows 10 on the desktop all the time.

## Note before implementation

Editing the Windows Registry file is a serious job. A corrupted Windows Registry file can render your computer inoperable, require reinstalling the Windows 10 operating system, and may cause data loss. Back up the Registry file and create a Windows 10 restore point before you make any modifications.

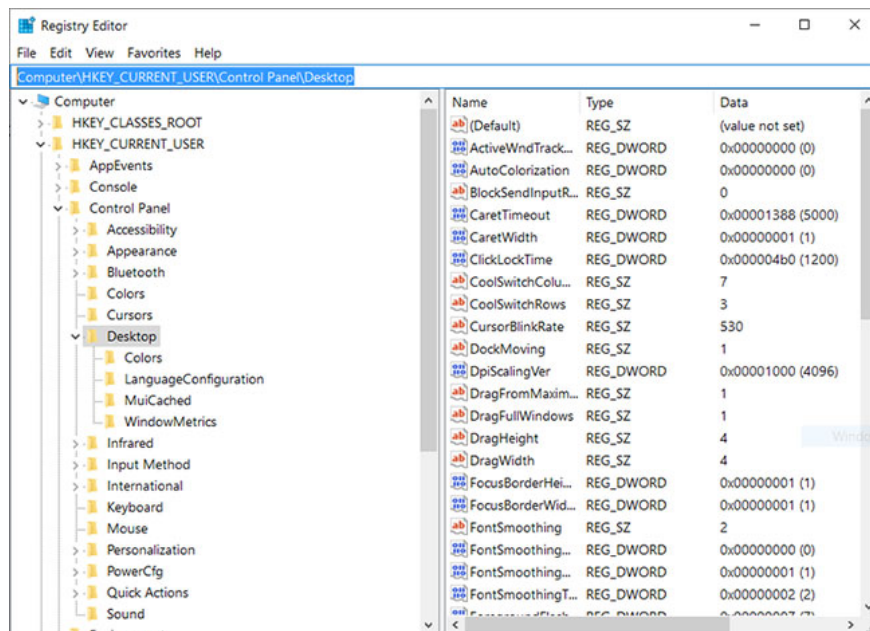
## Show Windows 10 version on desktop

The figure below shows the lower right corner of the typical Microsoft Windows 10 desktop - no version information is displayed. This tweak to the Registry file will change that.



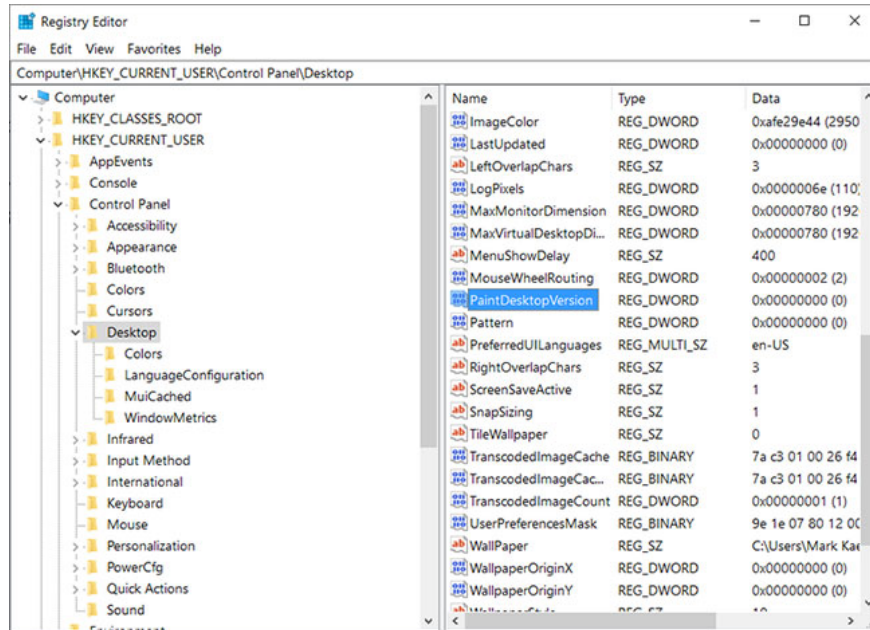
The typical Microsoft Windows 10 desktop has no version information displayed  
As is the case with any Registry tweak, start by typing "**regedit**" into the Cortana search box on the Windows 10 screen. Click that item in the search results to open the Registry Editor (regedit.exe). Once the application is open, navigate to this key:

Computer\HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\Control Panel\Desktop



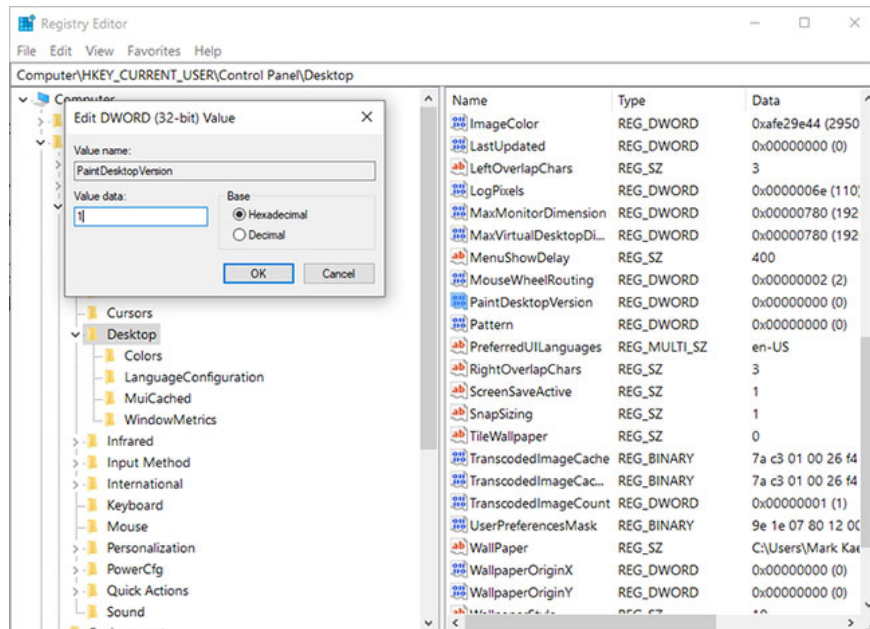
Navigate to the above key in Registry Editor

Click on the **Desktop** key and scroll down to the list of keys shown in the right window until you find an item labeled "**PaintDesktopVersion**".



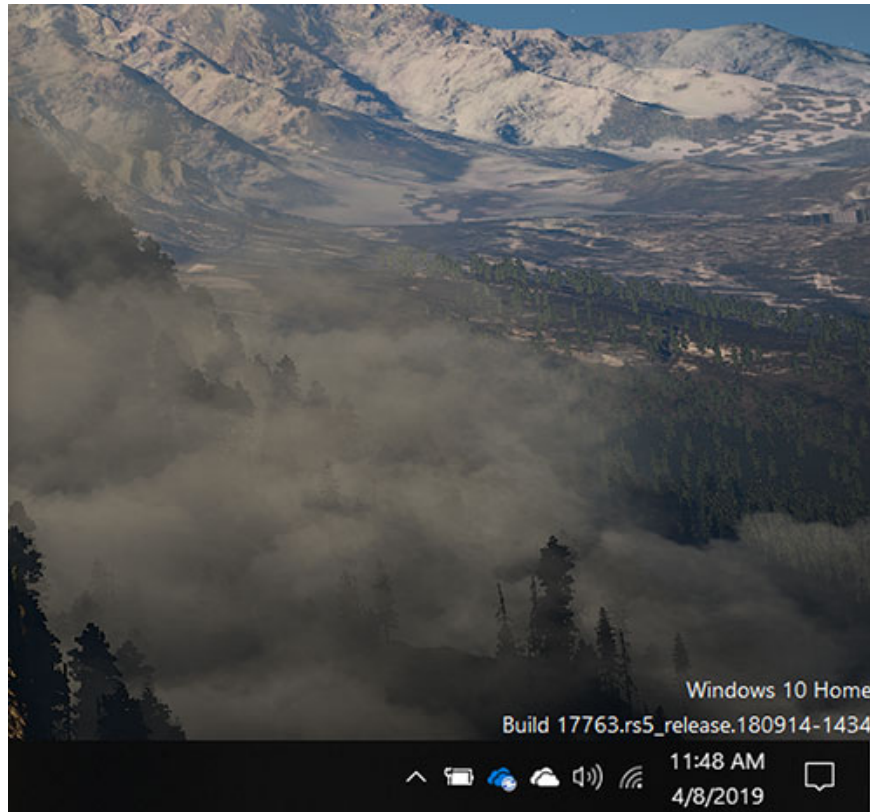
Find the item labeled "PaintDesktopVersion"

Double click the **PaintDesktopVersion** key and change the default value from "**0**" to "**1**". Click **OK** to complete the process.



Double click the PaintDesktopVersion key and change the default value from "0" to "1"

Click on the **File** section of Registry Editor and exit the application. For the new installation to take full effect, you may need to restart your Windows 10 computer. From this point on, you will see the version information displayed in the lower right corner of the screen.



Version information is displayed in the lower right corner of the screen

To remove the display version from the Windows 10 desktop, change the **PaintDesktopVersion** key value to **0** .

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