



Your Short Cut to Knowledge

Using Microsoft® Windows Media® Player 11

Michael Miller



CONTENTS AT A GLANCE

- Introducing Windows Media Player
- Important Changes to Windows Media Player 11
- Understanding Digital Media
- Comparing Digital Audio Formats
- Mastering the Windows Media Player Interface
- Skin Mode and the Mini Player
- Playing Music with Windows Media Player
- Managing Your Media Library
- Creating and Editing Playlists
- Burning Your Own Music CDs
- Syncing Music (and Other Files) to a Portable Audio Player
- Purchasing and Downloading Music from URGE
- Viewing DVDs, Videos, and Recorded TV Programs
- Managing and Viewing Digital Photos
- Enhancing Audio and Video Playback
- Adding More Functionality with Plug-Ins
- Configuring Windows Media Player

Introducing Windows Media Player

These days, a personal computer does more than just browse the Web and help you organize your finances. Many people are using their PCs as digital media players—to store, play back, and even record music and movies. You can use your PC to listen to your favorite compact discs, tune in to radio broadcasts from around the world, watch movies on DVD, and record your own custom music collections.

You can perform all these digital media functions with a single program—Windows Media Player (WMP). Windows Media Player is an all-in-one playback and recording program that lets you play CDs and DVDs, rip CD tracks to your hard disk, burn CDs from music stored on your hard disk, play back music you’ve ripped or downloaded from the Internet, even copy music to your portable music player.

The latest version of WMP, Windows Media Player 11, is now available, and it’s the best version yet. In fact, many critics consider WMP 11 to be the single best media player program available today. Read on to find out why—and how to use it.

Important Changes to Windows Media Player 11

Windows Media Player 11 is available for both Windows XP and the upcoming Windows Vista operating system. (In fact, Windows Vista comes with WMP 11 built in.) The program is functionally identical in both versions; the difference is only in the use of the Vista Aero glass interface.

If you’re still using an older version of Windows Media Player, you can download the latest version, for free, from Microsoft’s website. Just go to www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/player/11/ and follow the instructions there.

The History of Windows Media Player

Windows Media Player started life as Media Player (no Windows prefix), a simple media player utility built in to the Windows operating system. This initial version of Media Player was released in 1991, as part of then-new Windows 3.0.

Various permutations of Media Player found their way into subsequent versions of Windows, but it wasn’t until 1998, and the release of Windows 98, that Media Player became a freestanding application—and gained the title Windows Media Player. This

Using Microsoft Windows Media Player 11 (Digital Short Cut)

Table of Contents

Contents at a Glance
Introducing Windows Media Player
Important Changes to Windows Media Player 11
Understanding Digital Media
Comparing Digital Audio Formats
Mastering the Windows Media Player Interface
Skin Mode and the Mini Player
Playing Music with Windows Media Player
Managing Your Media Library
Creating and Editing Playlists
Burning Your Own Music CDs
Syncing Music (and Other Files) to a Portable Audio Player
Purchasing and Downloading Music from URGE
Viewing DVDs, Videos, and Recorded TV Programs
Managing and Viewing Digital Photos
Enhancing Audio and Video Playback

Table of Contents

Adding More Functionality with Plug-Ins

Configuring Windows Media Player

Index