Windows 11

The Good, The Bad & The Ugly

By

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Windows 11: The Good, The Bad & The Ugly

ISBN: 9791220846813

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Published in the United States

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1. What's New in Windows 11

In this chapter I'll go first over the good features which are the major changes since the Windows 11 insider preview was released. This will be available as a free update to windows 10 users later this year, as long as you meet the system requirements. Now, these requirements could change as quite a few people have been upset about them, since they don't necessarily have all of these requirements but windows 10 runs just fine.

1.1 Windows 11 Requirements

If you meet the below listed minimum requirements, you should be good to go:

- 1 GHZ or faster CPU, dual-core on a compatible 64-bit processor.
- 4GB Ram.
- 64GB storage.
- Motherboard with UEFI and Secure Boot. So, windows 11 cannot be installed on a PC with a legacy bios.
- DirectX 12 compatible graphics.
- TPM 2.0 support (TPM stands for **T**rusted **P**latform **M**odule, a type of processor for preventing malicious attacks on your hardware and boot process).

Initially, Microsoft claimed that Windows 11 wouldn't work on a PC without a TPM 2.0 but it has now confirmed that you can upgrade to Windows 11 without needing TPM 2.0, and that the OS actually requires only the older, much more common **TPM 1.2** module. Microsoft said however that without a TPM 2.0 module you won't be getting the latest security fixes for your brand-new operating system, so you could be opening yourself up to a lot of risk.

Now let's look at what's new in Windows 11 from the custom-built PC that I made.

1.2 The Start Menu, Rounded Corners, Shadows & Power Menu

The first feature that's obviously a good change in Windows 11 is the Start menu. It's now in the middle of the display.

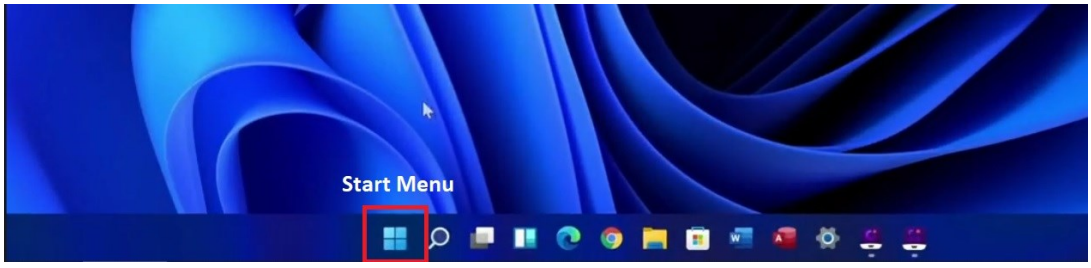

Fig. 1.2.1: The start menu

It can be customized or changed back to the left-hand side if you prefer, but it works great if you have an ultra-wide monitor for example.

They've also added rounded edges to everything. So, if we click on the start menu, for example, you'll see the corners are rounded. There's also some nice sort of shadowing going on behind to give some depth.

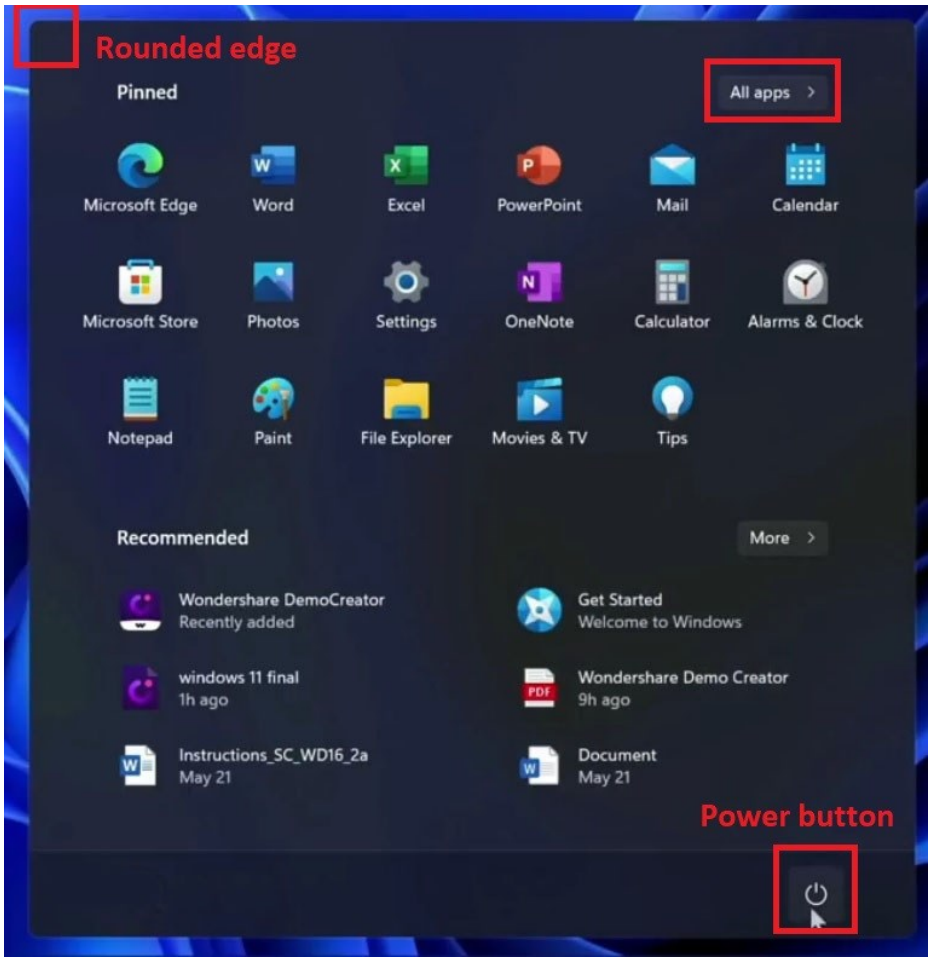

Fig. 1.2.2: The Start menu, rounded corners, shadows and Power menu

This looks more like an Android app because we have pinned apps with some new icon designs as well. If you want to see all of your apps, just click on **All apps**. Then you can scroll through all of your apps alphabetically. There are no more live tiles.

You also have the power menu/button in the lower right corner where you can restart or shut down.

1.3 The Desktop

Now on the desktop you can see we have a nice background and some new themes which I'll show you in a moment.

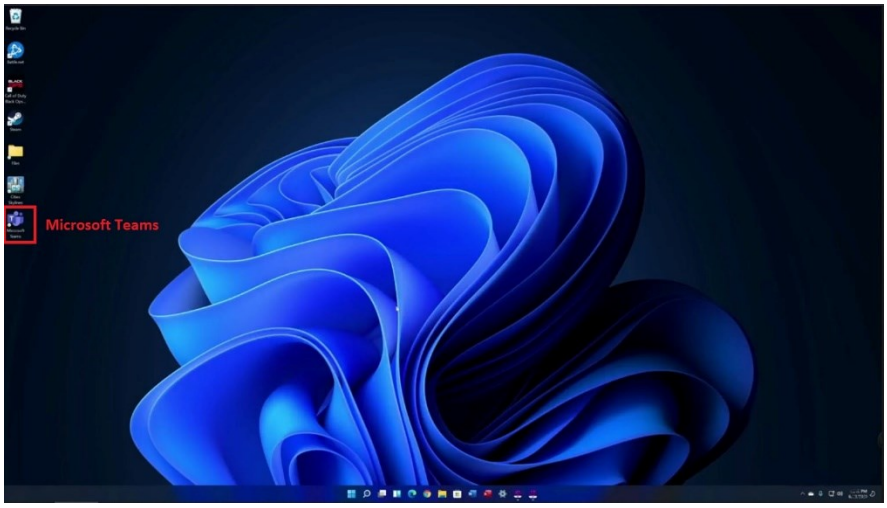

Fig. 1.3.1: The Desktop showing a few icons

If you right click on one of the icons, such as **Microsoft Teams** which is also new and installed on every Windows 11 PC, you'll see they are updated just a little bit. We have **Cut**, **Copy**, **Rename** and **Delete**.

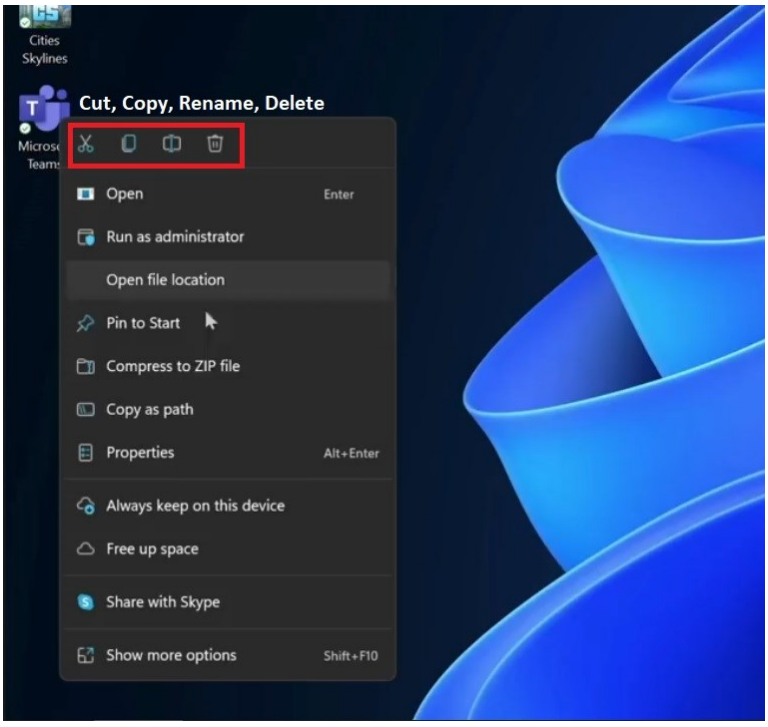

*Fig. 1.3.2: The selection window for Microsoft Teams icon, showing the new **Cut**, **Copy**, **Rename** and **Delete** buttons*

So, just like you would expect, the desktop hasn't changed much. It's just the visual overhaul.

1.4 The Search

The next icon (on the right of the Start menu shown in Fig. 1.2.1) is the **Search**. If you click on search, you'll see a search bar with *Type here to search* inside, as shown in Fig. 1.4.1.

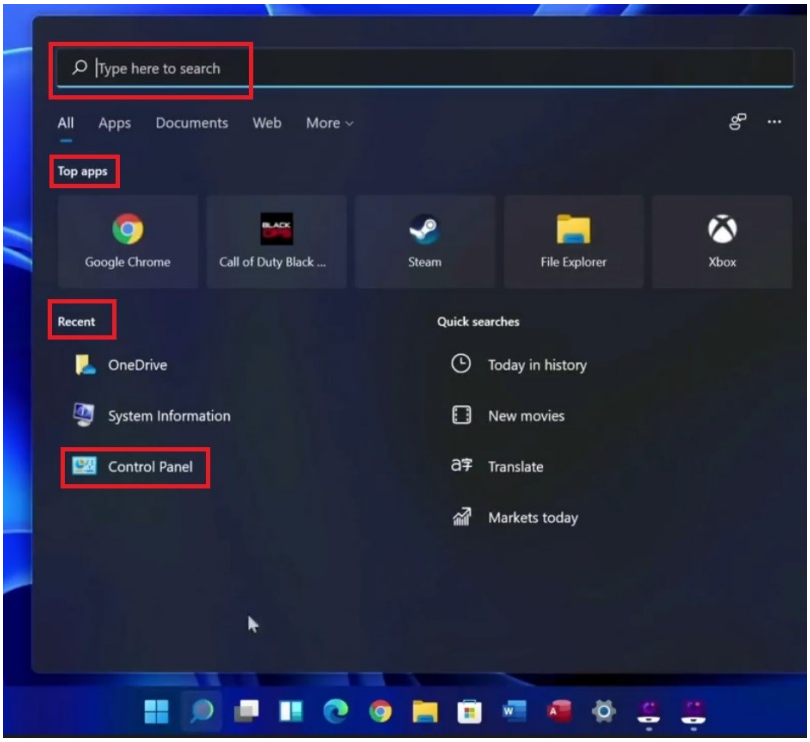

Fig. 1.4.1: The Search box showing top apps, recent apps and quick searches

You will also see your **Top apps**, **Recent** and things like that. So, just like you would expect, these are your recent searches or things you've opened before. We also have the **Control Panel**. If you click it, you'll see that all of the old ways to manage your Windows computer are still there. See Fig. 1.4.2.