

# **Getting Started with Windows 7**

## **In This Part**

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# Selecting the Right Version

Similar to Windows Vista, Microsoft decided to offer Windows 7 in a number of editions for different markets and users. Specifically: Starter, Home Basic, Home Premium, Professional, and Ultimate/Enterprise. Of the five versions of Windows 7, only Home Premium and Professional are promoted heavily to consumers. The remaining versions are available only to specific markets. Sorting out what version of Windows 7 you need and can buy in your market can be very confusing. There are significant differences among all versions, so selecting the correct version is critical to your Windows experience.

In this chapter, I explain the various versions of Windows 7 so you can make an informed decision about what version you need. Then I show you how to upgrade Windows 7 to a better version with Anytime Upgrade.

## Version Comparison

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Why are there so many versions of Windows 7? That is exactly the question I asked when Microsoft announced the version details, and I always got the same “one size does not fit all” explanation. With more than a billion Windows users worldwide and thousands of individual markets, Microsoft decided to offer a variety of versions tailored to different markets. For most

of the world, two main versions will be offered when you walk in to your local electronics store:

1. Windows 7 Home Premium
2. Windows 7 Professional

The remaining versions are for specific markets:

- Windows 7 Starter Edition is primarily for Netbooks
- Windows 7 Home Basic is for emerging markets
- Windows 7 Enterprise is for large enterprises
- Windows 7 Ultimate is for enthusiasts

In some countries some versions are not available. For example, in the United States, consumers can only purchase Home, Professional, and Ultimate versions. Starter Edition can only be purchased by computer manufacturers (OEMs) and Home Basic is not offered at all. Additionally, Enterprise requires enterprises to have a Volume License agreement with Microsoft to obtain that version.

Now that I have explained the different versions and what is available, it is important to understand the technical differences among the versions. Why should you buy Professional instead of Home? Do you really need Ultimate? These questions can be answered by looking at what features are offered in each version to match your needs. To help, look at the version matrix in Table 1-1 to see what features are in each version.

**Table 1-1:** Windows 7 Version Matrix

<b>FEATURES</b>	<b>STARTER</b>	<b>HOME BASIC</b>	<b>HOME PREMIUM</b>	<b>PROFES-SIONAL</b>	<b>ENTERPRISE AND ULTIMATE</b>
Max Processors	1	1	2	2	2
Max Cores	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Max Ram 32-Bit Version	4GB	4GB	4GB	4GB	4GB
Max Ram 64-Bit Version	8GB	8GB	16GB	192GB	192GB
Max Running Application	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Windows Search	X	X	X	X	X

**Table 1-1:** Windows 7 Version Matrix *(continued)*

FEATURES	STARTER	HOME BASIC	HOME PREMIUM	PROFES-SIONAL	ENTERPRISE AND ULTIMATE
Join a HomeGroup	X	X	X	X	X
Windows Media Player	X	X	X	X	X
Backup and Restore	X	X	X	X	X
Enhanced Media Playback	X	X	X	X	X
Action Center	X	X	X	X	X
Device Stage	X	X	X	X	X
Home Media Streaming	X	X	X	X	X
Bluetooth Support	X	X	X	X	X
Fax and Scan	X	X	X	X	X
Basic Games	X	X	X	X	X
Credential Manager	X	X	X	X	X
Live Taskbar Thumbnail Previews		X	X	X	X
Fast User Switching		X	X	X	X
Create ad-hoc Wireless Networks		X	X	X	X
Internet Connection Sharing		X	X	X	X
Multi-Monitor Support		X	X	X	X
Windows Mobility Center		X	X	X	X
Aero Glass			X	X	X

*Continued*

**Table 1-1:** Windows 7 Version Matrix *(continued)*

<b>FEATURES</b>	<b>STARTER</b>	<b>HOME BASIC</b>	<b>HOME PREMIUM</b>	<b>PROFES- SIONAL</b>	<b>ENTERPRISE AND ULTIMATE</b>
Advanced Windows Navigation			X	X	X
Windows Touch (Multi-Touch and Tablet Support)			X	X	X
Create a HomeGroup			X	X	X
Windows Media Center			X	X	X
Remote Media Streaming			X	X	X
DVD Playback			X	X	X
Premium Games			X	X	X
Snipping Tool			X	X	X
Sticky Notes			X	X	X
Windows Sideshow			X	X	X
Location Aware Printing				X	X
Domain Join and Group Policy Controls				X	X
Remote Desktop Host				X	X
Advanced Backup				X	X
Encrypted File System				X	X
Windows XP Mode				X	X
Windows Presentation Mode				X	X

**Table 1-1:** Windows 7 Version Matrix *(continued)*

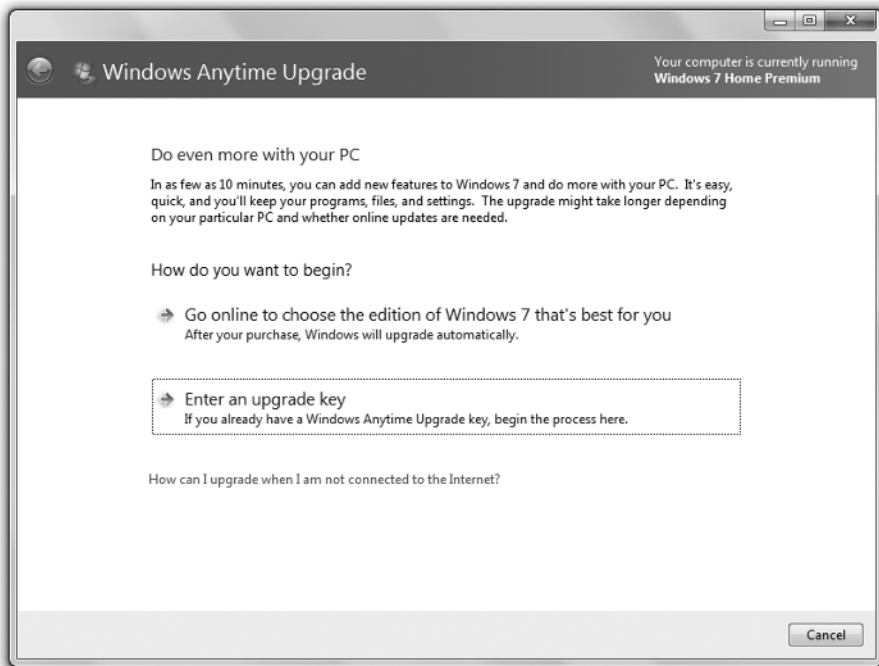
FEATURES	STARTER	HOME BASIC	HOME PREMIUM	PROFES-SIONAL	ENTERPRISE AND ULTIMATE
Offline Folders				X	X
BitLocker Drive Encryption					X
BitLocker To Go					X
AppLocker					X
DirectAccess					X
BranchCache					X
MUI Language Packs					X
Enterprise Search Scopes					X
VDI Enhancements					X
Boot from VHD					X

## Windows Anytime Upgrade

In Windows 7, users have the option to upgrade to a higher version at any time thanks to a feature called Anytime Upgrade. Users can move up from Home to Professional or even all the way to Ultimate. Did your Netbook come preinstalled with Starter? Any time Upgrade allows you to upgrade to Ultimate, just run the Windows Anytime Upgrade application and pay the upgrade fee and Windows will automatically unlock the new features without a reinstall. You don't even need your Windows 7 install DVD because all the files are already on your computer.

You have two options to purchase the upgrade to a higher version. Some local electronics stores sell upgrade keys in a box that looks similar to but smaller than the normal Windows 7 retail DVD box. You can also buy the upgrade directly from Microsoft through the Windows Anytime Upgrade application.

Upgrading is very simple. Just click the Start button, type in Windows Anytime Upgrade, and hit Enter. Then, follow the onscreen directions as shown in Figure 1-1. In less than 20 minutes your computer will be upgraded.



**Figure 1-1:** Windows Anytime Upgrade

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## Summary

This chapter was about clarifying the confusion around the various versions of Windows 7. As I mentioned in the preface, this book is written for all the features included in Enterprise/Ultimate so it is important to know what features are in each version. If a specific topic and feature covered in this book is not in your version, you can always upgrade with Windows Anytime Upgrade. In Chapter 2, I show you how to install Windows 7 a number of ways including complex installations such as dual booting.