TYPES OF SOFTWARE PROGRAMS INSIDE A "WINDOWS.." COMPUTER

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Web location for this presentation:

http://aztcs.org

Click on “Meeting Notes”
TOPICS

• Four kinds of software application programs in a "Windows.." computer:
  ☐ "Desktop apps"
  ☐ "Universal Windows Platform" apps"
  ☐ "Portable apps"
  ☐ "Web apps"

• Uninstalling the above types of "apps"
FOUR KINDS OF SOFTWARE APPLICATION PROGRAMS IN "WINDOWS 10.." OR "WINDOWS 8.."

1. "desktop apps"
2. "portable apps"
3. "UWP apps"
   ("UWP" = "Universal Windows Platform")
4. Web apps (= "Software as a service")
DESKTOP APPS

- "Desktop apps" were formerly known as "desktop applications" but Microsoft started calling them "desktop apps" when they released "Windows 8" in October 2012
DESKTOP APPS

- "Desktop apps" in "Windows.." usually have a *.exe file that resides in
  C:\Program Files\<name of program>\ or
  C:\Program Files (x86)\<name of program>\
Prior to October 2012 "apps" usually meant "software programs that run in cell phones, BlackBerrys, and tablets".
"Desktop apps" in "Windows.." usually have a *.exe file that resides in C:\Program Files\<name of program>\ or C:\Program Files (x86)\<name of program>\ Some "Desktop apps" have *.exe files in both of these locations
"Desktop apps" in "Windows.." usually also install files into
C:\ProgramData\ and
C:\<your user name>\AppData
DESKTOP APPS (continued)

- The desktop-based "Microsoft Office.." suite of programs are "desktop apps":
  Microsoft Word..,
  Microsoft Excel..,
  Microsoft PowerPoint..,
  Microsoft Outlook..,
  Microsoft Publisher..,
  Microsoft Access..
are all "desktop apps".
DESKTOP APPS (continued)

- Obtaining "desktop apps": Some are bundled with the "Windows.." operating system. Others are obtained by downloading them from a Web site using a Web browser. Some are purchased as CDs or DVDs. Some are obtained from the "Windows Store" app in the "Start Menu"
UWP APPS

• "Universal Windows Platform" apps have gone through many overlapping name changes with different Microsoft employees using different names at any given point in time:
UWP APPS (continued)

- "Metro Style Apps" in "Windows 8" became
  "Windows Store Apps" in "Windows 8.1" became
  "Modern apps" in "Windows 8.1" became
  "Universal Apps" in "Windows 8.1" became
  "Windows apps" in "Windows 8.1" became
  "Universal Windows Platform" (UWP) Apps in "Windows 10"
UWP APPS (continued)

TIMELINE:
October 2012: "Metro-style Apps"
in "Windows 8"
October 2013: "Windows Store Apps"
in "Windows 8.1"
September 2014: "Modern Apps"
in Windows 8.1"
October 2012: "Universal Apps"
in "Windows 8.1"
March 2015: "Windows apps"
in "Windows 10"
July 2015: "Universal Windows Platform" Apps
in "Windows 10"
UWP APPS (continued)

- Most "UWP apps" tend to have simpler, less-cluttered user interfaces with hidden vertical and/or horizontal scroll bars, if any vertical and/or horizontal scroll bars exist at all
- Most "UWP apps" do not have a menu bar at the top of the application window
UWP APPS (continued)

• "UWP apps" do not show up in "Programs and Features" in the "Control Panel"
UWP APPS (continued)

• "UWP apps" are usually uninstalled from either a Start Menu sub-menu option or, in some cases, they are uninstalled from the pop-up menu that is displayed when you right-click on the tile of the "UWP app"
• Most "Universal Windows Platform" apps are only available for download and installation from the "Windows Store" icon which resides either in the "Start Menu" or as an icon that is "pinned" to the "Taskbar"
Like all "Universal Windows Platform" apps, "Mail" resides at C:\Program Files\WindowsApps\.

The name of the folder where they reside is "WindowsApps" but you cannot get into it without special permission.
According to https://james-rankin.com/articles/how-to-remove-uwp-apps-on-windows-10-v1803/

UWP apps are divided into two categories – user (provisioned) apps, which are provisioned to the user from

%PROGRAMFILES%\WindowsApps, and system apps, which live in

%SYSTEMROOT%\SystemApps.
UWP APPS (continued)

• Obtaining "UWP apps":
  Go to the "Microsoft Store" in the "Start Menu"
PORTABLE APPS

• "Desktop apps" and "UWP apps" depend on the Windows "Registry". They have and put "keys", "values", and "data" into the Windows "Registry"

• In contrast, "portable apps" usually do not place information into the Windows "Registry"
PORTABLE APPS (continued)

• Most "portable apps" have the word "portable" in their name. However, some "portable apps" do not have the word "portable" in their name.
PORTABLE APPS (continued)

- "Portable apps" usually do not "install" files and folders into the C:\Programs Files\ or C:\Program Files (x32)\ locations of your Windows computer.
PORTABLE APPS (continued)

• "Portable apps" put no or very few files into the C: and other existing hard drives of your computer.
PORTABLE APPS (continued)

• "Portable apps" are better behaved relative to "desktop apps": "Portable apps" do not conflict with each other and "Portable apps" do not conflict with existing or subsequent installations of "desktop" apps
PORTABLE APPS (continued)

• "Portable apps" are not "installed" so they do not end up as the "default app" for specific type of file type

• If you want a certain app to be the "default app" for a specific type of file, you will have to install the "desktop app" version of that app
PORTABLE APPS (continued)

- Obtaining "portable apps": Use a Web browser to download them from Web sites such as https://portableapps.com
PORTABLE APPS (continued)

- "Portable apps" usually do not show up in the "Start Menu" of "Windows.." (unless you put a shortcut to a portable app inside the "Start Menu" of "Windows..") (which is usually not a recommended)
PORTABLE APPS (continued)

• "Portable apps" do not show up in "Programs and Features" inside the "Control Panel" of "Windows..
• "Portable apps" do not show up in "Apps" in the "Settings" screens of "Windows 10" and "Windows 8"
PORTABLE APPS (continued)

• "Portable apps" do not show up inside "Revo Uninstaller Portable"
• "Portable apps" do not show up inside "Geek Uninstaller"
PORTABLE APPS (continued)

• To remove a "portable app": delete the files and/or folders of the "portable app"
  - from inside "File Explorer" in "Windows 8.1" and "Windows 10"
  - from inside "Windows Explorer" in "Windows 7" and earlier
PORTABLE APPS (continued)

• To learn more about "portable apps", see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portable_application
IS A PROGRAM A "DESKTOP APP", A "UWP APP", OR A "PORTABLE APP"?

• To determine if an app is a "desktop app", "UWP app" or a "portable app", click on the "Start" button, locate the app in the Start Menu, right click on it, left click on "More", if "Open file location" exists then the app is a "Desktop app". If "Open file location does not exist then the app is a "UWP" app.
IS A PROGRAM A "DESKTOP APP", A "UWP APP", OR A "PORTABLE APP"?
(continued)

• If the app in question is a "portable app", it will not show up in the "Start Menu" of "Windows.." unless you have placed a shortcut for the app in the "Start Menu" of "Windows..". as explained in "Appendix 2"
IS A PROGRAM A "DESKTOP APP", A "UWP APP", OR A "PORTABLE APP"?
(continued)

• In "Windows 10", another way to determine if a program is a "desktop app", a "UWP app", or a "portable app" is from inside "Settings":
IS A PROGRAM A "DESKTOP APP", A "UWP APP", OR A "PORTABLE APP"?

(continued)

• In "Windows 10":
click on the "Settings" gear,
a "Windows Settings" window will be displayed,
click on "Apps",
double-click on the program in question:
If a "Move" button is displayed, the program is a "UWP app".
If a "Modify" button is displayed, the program is a "desktop app".  

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IS A PROGRAM A "DESKTOP APP", A "UWP APP", OR A "PORTABLE APP"?

(continued)

- In "Windows 10", a "portable app" will never show up in the "Apps" list inside "Settings"
IS A PROGRAM A "DESKTOP APP", A "UWP APP", OR A "PORTABLE APP"?
(continued)

- Click on the "Settings" gear:
IS A PROGRAM A "DESKTOP APP", A "UWP APP", OR A "PORTABLE APP"?
(continued)

• A "Windows Settings" window will be displayed:
IS A PROGRAM A "DESKTOP APP", A "UWP APP", OR A "PORTABLE APP"?
(continued)

• Click on apps:
Apps
Uninstall, defaults, optional features
IS A PROGRAM A "DESKTOP APP", A "UWP APP", OR A "PORTABLE APP"?
(continued)

• Click on the program in question:
## Apps & features

### Installing apps

Choose where you can get apps from. Installing only apps from the Store helps protect your PC and keep it running smoothly.

Select `Allow apps from anywhere` to enable installing apps from sources other than the Store.

### Manage optional features

Search, sort, and filter by drive. If you would like to uninstall or move an app, select it from the list.

Search for apps in the list.

Sort by: Name  
Filter by: All drives

<table>
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<tr>
<th>App</th>
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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3D Builder</td>
<td>32.0 KB</td>
<td>5/17/2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alarms &amp; Clock</td>
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<td>7/31/2015</td>
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<td>Groove Music</td>
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<td>7/25/2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Microsoft Solitaire Collection</td>
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<td>7/25/2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IS A PROGRAM A "DESKTOP APP", A "UWP APP", OR A "PORTABLE APP"?

(continued)

• If, after you double-click on a program, a "Move" button is displayed, the program is a "UWP" app:
Microsoft Corporation

Mail and Calendar
Microsoft Corporation
Advanced options

30.6 MB
7/25/2017

Move
Uninstall
Apps & features

Microsoft Visual C++ 2010 x86 Redistributable... 14.7 MB
Microsoft Corporation 7/1/2015

Microsoft Wi-Fi 16.0 KB
Microsoft Corporation 8/3/2016

Money 3.25 MB
Microsoft Corporation 6/6/2017

Movies & TV 14.8 MB
Microsoft Corporation 7/25/2017

Mozilla Maintenance Service 261 KB
Mozilla 8/2/2017

Mozilla Thunderbird 52.2.1 (x86 en-US) 90.2 MB
Mozilla 8/2/2017

News 5.58 MB
Microsoft Corporation 6/8/2017

OneNote 16.0 KB
Microsoft Corporation 7/25/2017

Paid Wi-Fi & Cellular 16.0 KB
Microsoft Corporation 8/2/2017

Paint 3D 16.0 KB
Microsoft Corporation 7/25/2017

People 76.2 KB
Microsoft Corporation 6/8/2017
IS A PROGRAM A "DESKTOP APP", A "UWP APP", OR A "PORTABLE APP"?
(continued)

• If, after you click on a program, a "Modify" button is displayed, the program is a "desktop app".
Mozilla Thunderbird 52.2.1 (x86 en-US)
Mozilla

90.2 MB
8/2/2017
UNINSTALLING "APPS"

• To uninstall a "desktop app", use "Revo Uninstaller Portable"
• To uninstall a "UWP app", use "Revo Uninstaller Portable"
• To uninstall a "portable app", use the delete key in either the Desktop or "File Explorer"
UNINSTALLING "DESKTOP APPS" IN "WINDOWS.."

- If you use "Programs and Features" in the "Control Panel" or "Apps" in "Settings" to uninstall a "desktop app" in "Windows 10", you will leave a lot of unneeded and unwanted "digital junk" in the C: drive and in the Windows "Registry".
UNINSTALLING "DESKTOP APPS" IN "WINDOWS.."

- To do a clean uninstall of a "desktop app", use the free "Revo Uninstaller Portable" as described in http://aztcs.org/meeting_notes/winhardsig/uninstaller/RevoUninstallerPortable.pdf
UNINSTALLING "UWP APPS"

- You cannot use "Programs and Features" in the "Control Panel" or "Revo Uninstaller Portable" to remove a "UWP App" from a "Windows" computer
UNINSTALLING "UWP APPS" (continued)

To uninstall some UWP apps:
Click on the "Start button".
The "Start menu" will be displayed.
Locate the UWP app.
Use the RIGHT button to click on it.
Click on the "Uninstall" option in the pop-up context menu.
Etc..
UNINSTALLING "UWP APPS" (continued)

To uninstall some UWP apps and to do a better job than the above-two methods that Microsoft provides:

Start up "Revo Uninstaller Portable". Click on the "Windows Apps" button in the top menu bar of "Revo Uninstaller Portable".
UNINSTALLING AN "UWP APP" THAT DOES NOT GIVE YOU AN "UNINSTALL" OPTION

• Sometimes you to uninstall a "UWP app" that does not give you an "Uninstall" option by using the free "Geek Uninstaller" portable app which can be obtained at [https://geekuninstaller.com](https://geekuninstaller.com)
WEB APPS

• "Web apps" are part of "cloud computing"
• Instead of using up RAM and CPU cycles in your local, when you use a "Web app", you use a Web browser access a Web site to perform tasks that you otherwise would perform with the other types of "apps"
WEB APPS (continued)

- "Web apps" do not need to be uninstalled when you no longer need them because they reside in someone else's computer(s) in a server farm out on the Internet somewhere
WEB APPS (continued)

• For example, instead of installing and running "Microsoft Word" (not free) or LibreOffice (free) on your computer, you could open up the "Google Chrome" Web browser to go to docs.google.com or office.live.com to edit or create .docx document files
When you use Web apps, you have to realize and consider the fact that the employees, contractors, and sub-contractors that maintain the server farms of the provider of the Web apps have access to the files that you create, edit, and store at the server farms of the Web app.
WEB APPS (continued)

• This unknown risk should be considered before you use a Web app to create, edit, or store a file that has private information such as credit card numbers.
APPENDIX 1
MAKING A SHORTCUT
FOR A "UWP APP"

○ For any "Universal Windows Platform" app in "Windows 10", you can make a shortcut by performing the following steps:
Step 1:
Use the RIGHT mouse button to click on the "Start" button of "Windows.."
Step 2: A "Power Users" menu will be displayed:
Step 3:
Use the left mouse button to click on "Run" in the "Power Users" menu:
APPENDIX 1 (continued)
MAKING A SHORTCUT FOR A "UWP APP" (continued)

- Step 4:
  Type `shell:appsfolder` into the "Run" box
Step 5:  
Use the left mouse button to click on the "OK" button of the "Run" box
Step 6: An "Applications" window will be displayed
Step 7:
You can make shortcuts to both "UWP apps" and "desktop apps" in this window by using the RIGHT mouse button click on an app and then clicking on "Create shortcut" in the pop-up context menu.
Step-by-step instructions and screenshots for making a shortcut for a "UWP app" are available at https://www.thurrott.com/windows/windows-10/5328/windows-10-tip-create-shortcuts-for-universal-apps
APPENDIX 2
PLACING A SHORTCUT FOR A "PORTABLE APP" INTO THE "START MENU" OF "WINDOWS.."

- See
APPENDIX E
PLACING A SHORTCUT FOR A "PORTABLE APP" INTO THE "START MENU" OF "WINDOWS.."

• or see
  https://www.windowscentral.com/add-app-shortcuts-start-menu-manually-windows-10
APPENDIX 2
PLACING A SHORTCUT FOR A "PORTABLE APP" INTO THE "START MENU" OF "WINDOWS.."

• In short, to create a shortcut for a "portable app" in the "Start Menu" of "Windows..", put a short-cut for the "portable app" at C:\Users\<your Windows user account>\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\
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<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>3/18/2019 9:52 PM</td>
<td>File folder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PyKaraoke</td>
<td>11/11/2019 4:46 PM</td>
<td>File folder</td>
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<td>File folder</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windows Accessories</td>
<td>6/8/2019 9:31 PM</td>
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<td>Windows Administrative Tools</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>File folder</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX 2
PLACING A SHORTCUT FOR A "PORTABLE APP" INTO THE "START MENU" OF "WINDOWS.."

• Use the RIGHT mouse button to drag the .EXE file of the "portable app" to the "Programs" window:
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<tr>
<td>LibreOfficeWriterPortable.exe</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Copy here

Move here

Create shortcuts here

Cancel