ADDING CUSTOM ITEMS TO THE "START MENU" IN "WINDOWS 10"

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

"Windows 10" has a new multiple column "Start menu". The left or middle column of the Windows 10 "Start menu" is the traditional "Windows 7"-style "Start menu". To create menu items in this column, you have run through the procedure that involves creating and dragging shortcuts.
TOPICS

• "Start menu" Complexities in "Windows 10"
• Inflexible Left or Center Column of the "Start Menu"
• Creating a Tile in "Windows 10"
• Creating a Custom "Start menu" Item in "Windows 10"
• Making Custom "Start menu" Items Display On The Top in "Windows 10"
START MENU COMPLEXITIES IN "WINDOWS 10"

- At the present time (September 7, 2016) some copies of "Windows 10" are running the "Fall Update" and some are running the "Anniversary Update".

- All copies of "Windows 10" will eventually get the "Fall Update" automatically through the "Windows Update" process.
The "Fall Update" for "Windows 10" was released in November 2015.

It is now known as "Version 1511" of "Windows 10".

The "Start Menu" in the "Fall Update" looks has two columns:
The left column of the "Start menu" of the "Fall Update" of "Windows 10" looks like the "Windows 7.." Start Menu:
START MENU COMPLEXITIES IN "WINDOWS 10"

- The right "column" of the "Fall Update" in the Fall Update" of "Windows 10" looks like the "Start screen" in "Windows 8" and Windows 8.1":
The "Anniversary Update" for "Windows 10" was released on August 2, 2016.

It is known as "Version 1607" of "Windows 10".

The "Start Menu" in the "Anniversary Update" has 3 columns:
START MENU COMPLEXITIES IN "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- The left-most column of the "Start menu" is one of the "improvements" that was or will be introduced by the "Fall Update".
The center column of the "Start menu" in the "Anniversary Update" looks like the "Start menu" of "Windows 7":
The "Fall Update" (= "Version 1511") of "Windows 10" has a 2-column "Start menu".

The "Anniversary Update" (= "Version 1607") of "Windows 10" has a 3-column "Start menu".
For any "version" of "Windows 10", you cannot add an executable file, a data file, a folder, an Internet shortcut, or a batch file directly to the center or left column of the "Start menu" in "Windows 10".
"Pin to start" means "Create a Tile" in the right-most column of the "Start menu" in "Windows 10".
"Pin to start" can be done with a right-mouse click to most items in "Windows 10". It makes a tile in the right-most "column" of the "Start Menu". Adding an item to the left-most or center column of the "Start Menu" is a bit more work:
Making Tiles by Putting Shortcuts in the "ProgramData" Folder, Etc.

One paragraph description: You can make a custom item for the "Start Menu" of "Windows 10.." by doing the following: From "File Explorer" or the "Desktop", use the RIGHT mouse button to drag and create a "shortcut" to the target photo, data file, or traditional software application. Then copy this shortcut to C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu
Making Tiles by Putting Shortcuts in "ProgramData" Folder, Etc. (continued)

• You cannot add an executable file, a data file, a folder, an Internet shortcut, or a batch file directly to the center or left column of the "Start menu" in "Windows 10".
However, you can add custom items that point to any of the above items to the center or left column in the "Start menu" screen of "Windows 8.." by putting shortcuts in the "ProgramData" folder.
Making Tiles by Putting Shortcuts in the "ProgramData" Folder, Etc. (continued)

Step 1:
Go to the "Desktop" of "Windows 10..":

Making Tiles by Putting Shortcuts in the "ProgramData" Folder, Etc. (continued)

Step 2:
Either
use the right mouse button to click on the Start button
or
press "Windows" key + x key on the keyboard.
Step 3:
A "Windows + x" menu will be displayed:
Making Tiles by Putting Shortcuts in the "ProgramData" Folder, Etc. (continued)

Step 4:
Click on "Control Panel":

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Step 5:
A "Control Panel" window will be displayed:
Adjust your computer's settings

**System and Security**
- Review your computer's status
- Save backup copies of your files with File History
- Backup and Restore (Windows 7)
- Find and fix problems

**Network and Internet**
- View network status and tasks
- Choose homegroup and sharing options

**Hardware and Sound**
- View devices and printers
- Add a device

**Programs**
- Uninstall a program

**User Accounts**
- Change account type

**Appearance and Personalization**
- Change the theme

**Clock, Language, and Region**
- Add a language
- Change input methods
- Change date, time, or number formats

**Ease of Access**
- Let Windows suggest settings
- Optimize visual display
Step 6:
If there is a "Appearance and Personalization" selection, click on it.
If "Appearance and Personalization" is now shown, go to "Step 7":

Making Tiles by Putting Shortcuts in the "ProgramData" Folder, Etc. (continued)
Appearance and Personalization
Change the theme
Step 7: Double-click on "File Explorer Options":
Step 8:
A "File Explorer Options" box will be displayed:
Making Tiles by Putting Shortcuts in the "ProgramData" Folder, Etc. (continued)

Step 9:
Click on the "View" tab of the "Folder Options" box:
Making Tiles by Putting Shortcuts in the "ProgramData" Folder, Etc. (continued)

Step 10:
The "View" tab of the "Folder Options" box will be displayed:
File Explorer Options

General View Search

Folder views
You can apply this view (such as Details or Icons) to all folders of this type.

Apply to Folders
Reset Folders

Advanced settings:
Files and Folders
- Always show icons, never thumbnails
- Always show menus
- Display file icon on thumbnails
- Display file size information in folder tips
- Display the full path in the title bar
Hidden files and folders
- Don't show hidden files, folders, or drives
- Show hidden files, folders, and drives
- Hide empty drives
- Hide extensions for known file types
- Hide folder merge conflicts

Restore Defaults
OK Cancel Apply
Making Tiles by Putting Shortcuts in the "ProgramData" Folder, Etc. (continued)

Step 11:
You might have to scroll down or page down to get to the "Hidden files and folders" section:
### Advanced settings:

- **Files and Folders**
  - Always show icons, never thumbnails
  - Always show menus
  - Display file icon on thumbnails
  - Display file size information in folder tips
  - Display the full path in the title bar
  - Hidden files and folders
    - Don't show hidden files, folders, or drives
    - Show hidden files, folders, and drives
  - Hide empty drives
  - Hide extensions for known file types
  - Hide folder merge conflicts

- **Folder views**
  
  You can apply this view (such as Details or Icons) to all folders of this type.

- **Apply to Folders**
- **Reset Folders**
Step 12: Select the "Show hidden files, folders, and drives" radio option button:
Display the full path in the title bar

- Hidden files and folders
  - Don't show hidden files, folders, or drives
  - Show hidden files, folders, and drives
- Hide empty drives
Step 13:
If there is a check mark for "Hide extensions for known file types, remove the check mark:
Advanced settings:

- Files and Folders
  - Always show icons, never thumbnails
  - Always show menus
  - Display file icon on thumbnails
  - Display file size information in folder tips
  - Display the full path in the title bar
- Hidden files and folders
  - Don’t show hidden files, folders, or drives
  - Show hidden files, folders, and drives
- Hide empty drives
- Hide extensions for known file types
- Hide folder merge conflicts
Step 14:
Click on the "Apply" button:
Making Tiles by Putting Shortcuts in the "ProgramData" Folder, Etc. (continued)

Step 15:
Click on the "OK" button:
Step 16:
The "File Explorer Options" box will disappear.
Step 17: Close the "Control Panel" by clicking on the "x" button in its upper-right corner:
Step 18:
In this example, we found a photo (file) called MP900422854.JPG on the Desktop and we wish create an entry for it on the middle or left column of the "Start Menu" of "Windows 10":
Step 19: When we use the RIGHT mouse button to click on this photo, a popup context menu will be displayed:
Step 20:
We then clicked on "Open" in the popup context menu:
Step 21:
The photo (file) opened up in the "Photos" app of "Windows 10":
Step 22:
We then closed the "Windows Photo Viewer" window by clicking on the "x" button in its upper-right corner:
Step 23:
Use the RIGHT mouse button to drag the MP900422854.JPG file for at least 1/2 inch:
Making Tiles by Putting Shortcuts in the "ProgramData" Folder, Etc. (continued)

Step 24: Release the right mouse button and a popup context menu will be displayed:
Making Tiles by Putting Shortcuts in the "ProgramData" Folder, Etc. (continued)

Step 25:
Click on "Create shortcuts here" in the popup context menu:
Step 26:
A file called
MP900422854.JPG - Shortcut is created:
Step 27: Start "File Explorer" by double-clicking on its icon:
Step 28:
A "File Explorer" window will be displayed:
Step 29: Double-click on the C: drive. It can be found if you expand the "This PC" item on the left "tree" pane:
Making Tiles by Putting Shortcuts in the "ProgramData" Folder, Etc. (continued)

Step 30:
Double-click on the "ProgramData" folder inside the C: drive:
ProgramData
Step 31:
Double-click on the "Microsoft" folder:
Step 32: Double-click on the "Windows" folder:
Step 33: Double-click on the "Start Menu" folder:
Step 34:
Use the LEFT mouse button to drag the shortcut that you created in "Step 25" into the "Start Menu" folder:
Making Tiles by Putting Shortcuts in the "ProgramData" Folder, Etc. (continued)

Step 35:
A "Destination Folder Access Denied" dialog box will be displayed:
Destination Folder Access Denied

You'll need to provide administrator permission to move to this folder

Start Menu
Date created: 7/16/2016 4:47 AM

Continue  Skip  Cancel

More details
Making Tiles by Putting Shortcuts in the "ProgramData" Folder, Etc. (continued)

Step 36: Click on the "Continue" button of the "Destination Folder Access Denied" box:
You'll need to provide administrator permission to move to this folder.

Start Menu
Date created: 7/16/2016 4:47 AM

[Continue] [Skip] [Cancel]

More details
Step 37:
The shortcut will move into the "Start Menu" folder:
Step 38:
Close the "File Explorer" window by clicking on its "x" button in the upper-right corner:
Making Tiles by Putting Shortcuts in the "ProgramData" Folder, Etc. (continued)

Step 39:
The center or left-most column of the "Start Menu" of "Windows 10" now has an item called which points to the MP900422854.JPG photo file which is on the Desktop of my "Windows 10" computer:
Once you create an "item" in the Start Menu, it is locked in place in the center or left-most column almost forever:
The only thing that you can do to it is to delete the item by deleting the shortcut at the "Start Menu" folder.
If you want an item to show up at the top of the "Start Menu", rename the shortcut for the item with a 0_ prepended to the name of the shortcut and then drag item into the "Start Menu" folder.