

# What's New!

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## Crusta

If you've been looking for a case and holster for your iPhone 6, Crusta is one you will probably want.

When you open the package, you notice that there are four pieces to it: the screen protector, hard shell case, finish ring and belt clip holder.

The screen protector is not just some flimsy piece of plastic. No, it's made of tempered glass and is virtually indestructible. It is just as touch-sensitive as the iPhone itself, is crystal clear and covers the beveled edges of the iPhone's screen.



The hard shell case is made of toughened polycarbonate and has anti-fingerprint coating and comes in six different colors to satisfy those for whom color is important.

The finish ring has three layers for impact resistance and comes in six colors. It provides a textured look and feel with good gripping ability, important for a device like this.

The belt clip holster is black and attaches to your belt with a strong clip. When attached, the holster can be rotated 360° for your comfort. Your phone can be inserted facing either front or rear, whichever you prefer.

Crusta has been developed over many months, coordinating with users to achieve maximum desirability.

**About:** Crusta

**Vendor:** Amzer

[www.amzer.com/crusta](http://www.amzer.com/crusta)

**Price:** \$45

## CES

This annual show in Las Vegas just keeps getting bigger and more interesting! Actually, it's the Consumer Electronics industry that keeps growing, but the evidence is CES.

Attending it is just overwhelming! There is so much to see that it is just unlikely that anyone can, certainly not me.

There are some six big companies that offer just about everything you might want. Their biggest product is TV sets and these six keep enhancing the product each year. The six are LG, Samsung, Sharp, Panasonic and Sony.

This year, the 3-D craze has just about died out but the enhancement of flat and curved TV screens continues unabated. What's enhanced this year is the increase in number of pixels on screen. It's called 4K, because the number of pixels has been doubled both horizontally and vertically. This makes for a much sharper and more brilliant picture.

Another enhancement is to add a fourth type of pixel, in addition to red, green and blue. A yellow pixel added brings the number of colors that can be displayed to 66 million or so. This is called HD 4K Ultra.



Another big area for new products is in the field of the Internet of Things, or IoT. These products use your smartphone and the Internet to allow you to control almost anything in your home. Some examples are home security, door locks, lamps, refrigerators, stoves and more. This field is just beginning to show promise and is expected to expand dramatically.

3-D printers were hot last year, but many more companies exhibited in 2015. The possible uses of these machines are determined by the complexity of the machine. Some use many different sorts of materials to produce a product, but most use a thin plastic wire, melted and laid down in thin layers to construct an object. The result can be simply a toy or decoration or a complex object with moving parts.

Yet another area that was big at CES is that of wearable tech. These are commonly wristbands which measure various aspects of your body or your activities. The price range is usually \$100-200. Here, too, the capabilities will likely expand over time.

Another aspect of the smartphone and tablet industry is the need for accessories of various types such as cases, holsters, stands and more. A surprising number of companies have jumped into this by producing products to make your use of a smartphone or tablet more convenient and attractive.

CES is an experience that would be hard to duplicate. It happens only once a year, but that's probably enough. We couldn't take the intensity more often!

**About:** Consumer Electronics Show

[www.cesweb.org](http://www.cesweb.org)

Held the first full week of January each year  
in Las Vegas NV

## Refresh Your PC

My laptop had been running slower and slower. After trying several solutions without much impact, I decided to use one of the options in *Windows 8.1*: Refresh Your PC.

The description says, "If your PC isn't running well, you can refresh your PC without losing your files." That part is true, but there is more to the story: you will have to reinstall any applications that are not a part of *Windows*.

I backed up the laptop to an external hard drive and took the bold step.

The process is lengthy but runs pretty much by itself. You get a list of the applications you will have to reinstall before the process starts, so you have that to fall back on.

In my case, the "refresh" pretty much took my laptop back to the beginning. Many of the unwanted apps that I had removed reappeared and had to be removed again. That wasn't a big problem, just annoying.

The process involves many restarts. I believe these are to bring in all the updates that had been issued over the past 4 years. It seems that not all of them could be installed at the same time, but most had to be downloaded at once, a very lengthy process.

### Refresh your PC

Here's what will happen:

- Your files and personalization settings won't change.
- Your PC settings will be changed back to their defaults.
- Apps from Windows Store will be kept.
- Apps you installed from discs or websites will be removed.
- A list of removed apps will be saved on your desktop.

When you Reset your PC, Windows will remove everything. Think of this like doing a complete Windows reinstall and formatting your hard drive.

### Reset your PC

Here's what will happen:

- All your personal files and apps will be removed.
- Your PC settings will be changed back to their defaults.

One interesting part of the process was that *Windows 8.1* had to be separately downloaded and upgraded. This made a big difference in performance. Before that upgrade, performance was poor; better than before the refresh, but not what I had expected. After the upgrade performance was much improved.

One of the best parts of the refresh was that all the files and shortcuts remained intact. I had no problem with drivers, either. All the hardware worked properly. Surprisingly, my downloaded files all remained intact after the refresh.

As expected, I had to reinstall several programs like Microsoft *Office*, Adobe *Reader* and so on. It's important to be sure you have the necessary serial numbers or codes available for these reinstalls.

*Windows 8.1* has two other options available: Remove everything and start over, and Advanced Startup. The former resets the computer to what it was when you original bought it – then you have to update everything and install all your programs. The latter seems to be a reinstall of a disk copy, presumably from a past time when things were operating properly.

If you can't figure out how to fix problems that you have currently, you may consider Refresh.

**About:** Consumer Electronics Show

A *Windows 8.1* option

