

Computer Setup Guide

The Computer Setup Guide contains everything you need to set up a computer for VR experiences and project creation. Refer to the separate Rift Setup Guide for information on how to set up your Oculus Rift.

By the end of the guide, you'll learn about basic computer terms and technologies such as graphics cards and drivers.

Table of Contents

Your TechStart Computer	-----	2
Graphics Drivers	-----	5
VR Ready Computers (Optional)	-----	9
Computer Support (Optional)	-----	11



Let's get started!



Your TechStart Computer

Section Goal: Learn about and set up your TechStart computer.

Opening Your Computer

TechStart provides a “VR Ready” laptop, the Acer Helios 300 (Item Number: PH317-51-787B). To begin, obtain the box for your Acer Helios 300.



Acer Helios 300

The box should contain the following: Acer Helios 300 laptop, two cables which connect to form the laptop charger, an Acer envelope containing computer and support information.





Acer Helios 300 Box



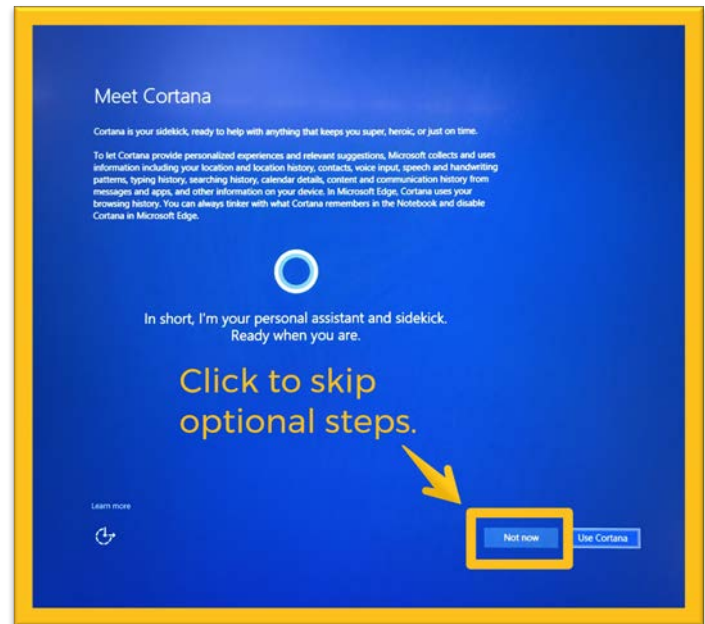
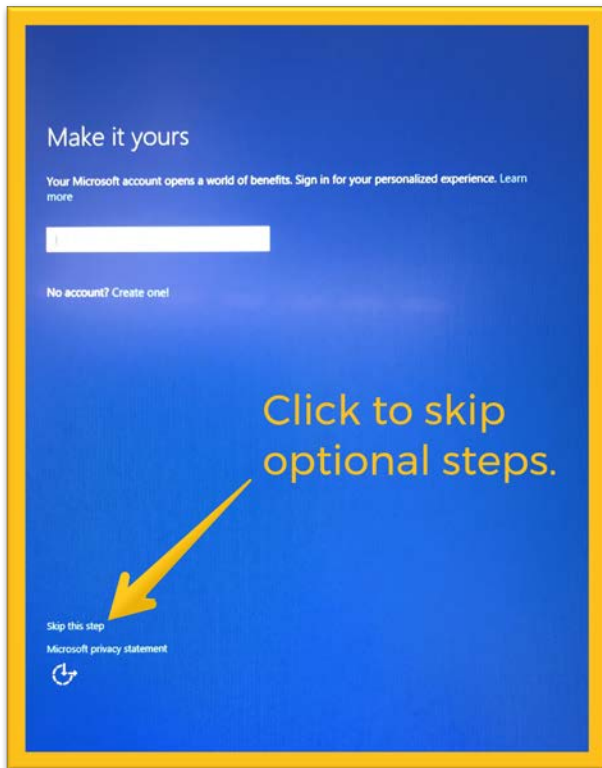
Content of the Acer Helios 300 Box

Setting Up Your Computer

Plug in your laptop charger and press the Power button on the top right of the keyboard. Follow the on-screen instructions to set up your computer. Important points to keep in mind during setup are listed on the next page.



- A teacher or other person in charge of equipment should set up the computer.
- Keep track of the username and password. TechStart will not be able to help with lost usernames or passwords.
- On the page titled “Get going fast” select “Use Express settings.”
- Some steps contain an option to select “Skip this step” or “Not Now”. You can select these whenever they are presented.



Some steps can be skipped or configured later.

You'll know you're done when you see the Windows main screen.



If you see the Windows main screen, you're all done with set up!



Graphics Drivers

Section Goal: Learn how to install a critical component for VR and other high-end graphical experiences: a graphics driver.

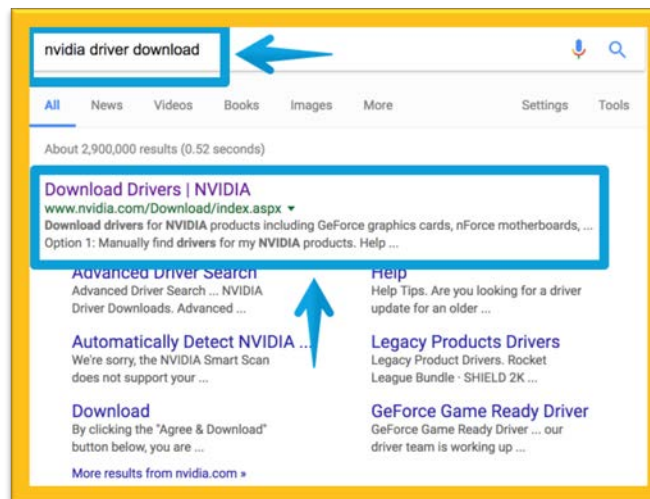
Installing a Graphics Driver

To unlock the power of the Rift, you'll need to install a "graphics driver."

In Case You Were Wondering

A graphics driver is software that controls the graphics card in your computer. Imagine the graphics card is a visual tool (like a paint brush) and the graphics driver controls the tool (like a painter). The graphics driver manages how the graphics card draws visuals on the screen and occasionally needs to be updated occasionally to work with new applications. You can learn more about graphics cards in later optional sections.

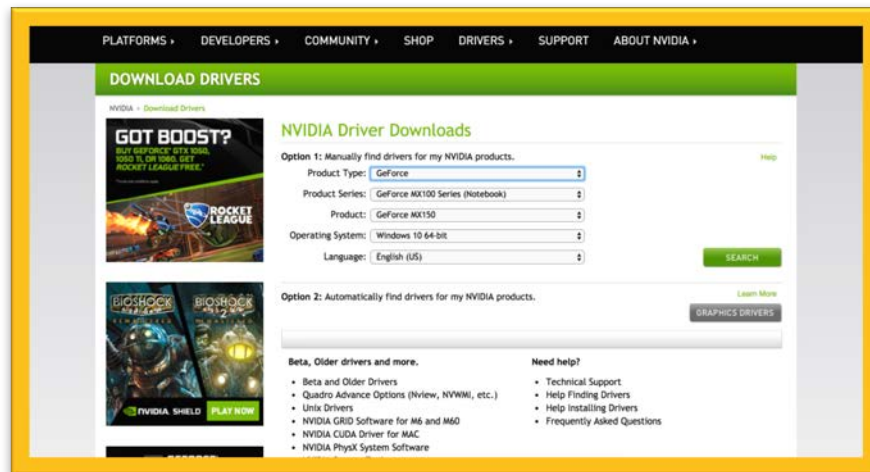
1. Visit the [NVIDIA Download Drivers](https://www.nvidia.com/Download/index.aspx) page online. You can find the page in one of two ways.
 - Enter the link in a web browser: [nvidia.com/Download/index.aspx](https://www.nvidia.com/Download/index.aspx)
 - Search for "nvidia driver download" online and select the "Download Drivers" result.



An online search will show a link to the Download Drivers page.



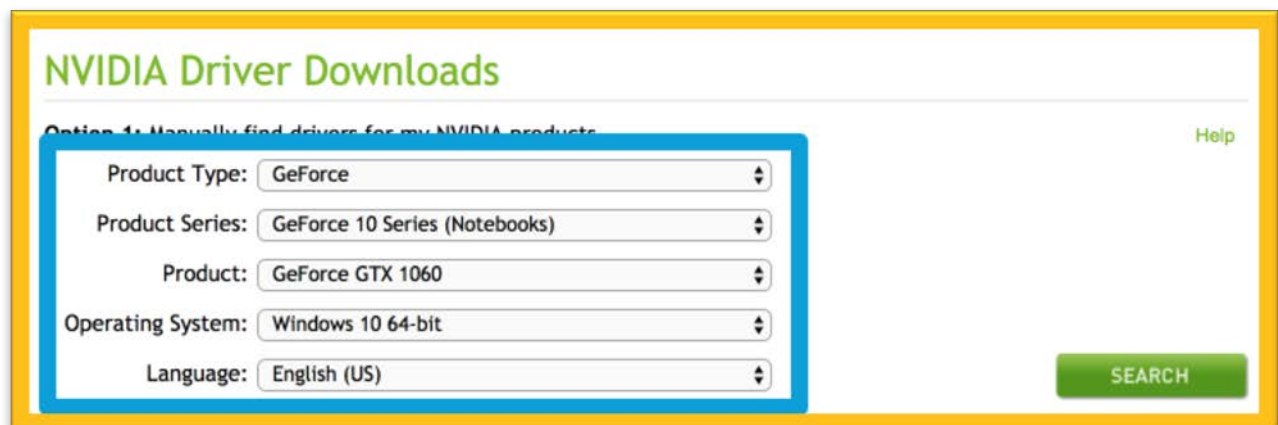
2. The correct page is shown below.



Download Drivers Page

3. Select the correct options (listed below) from the dropdown, then hit “Search.”

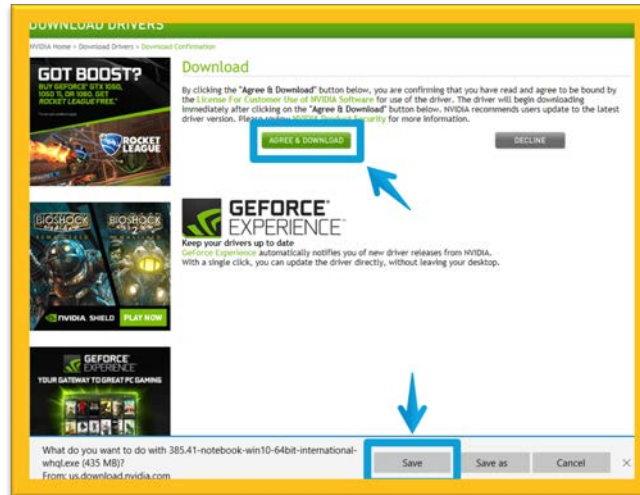
- Product Type: GeForce
- Product Series: GeForce 10 Series (Notebooks)
- Product: GeForce GTX 1060
- Operating System: Windows 10 64-bit
- Language: English (US)



Make sure you search for the correct graphics driver.

4. On the following pages of the website, select “Download” then “Agree & Download” then “Save” to start the download.





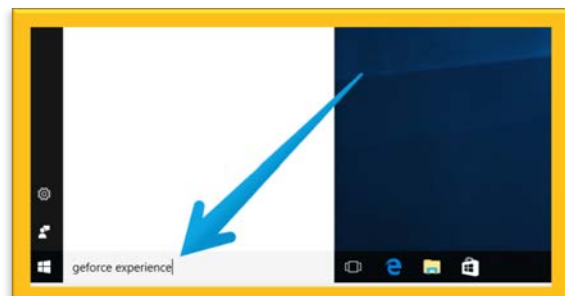
Select “Download” (not pictured) then “Agree & Download” then “Save” to start the download.

5. Select “Run” then follow the steps to install the graphics driver. When prompted, you can choose the “Express” installation option. Installation may take a few minutes and require you to restart your computer.

Installing a Graphics Driver

You just downloaded the most up-to-date graphics driver for your computer. Your computer may prompt you to make updates in the future or you may want to check for updates if something is not working properly. Let’s cover how to update your driver.

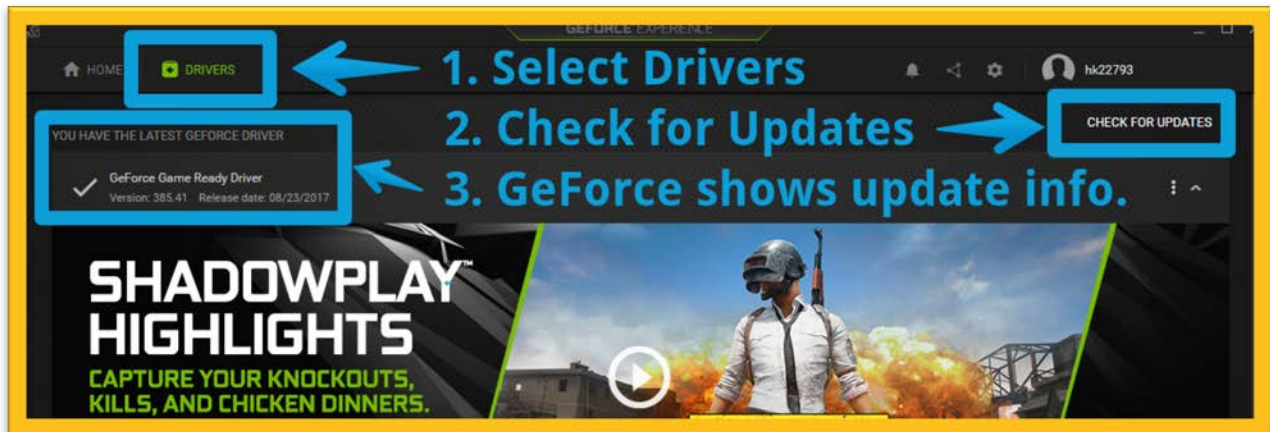
1. Open the NVIDIA GeForce Experience on your computer by clicking on the desktop icon or searching in the Windows search panel. The GeForce Experience was added to your computer by the download in the previous section.



To open the GeForce experience, click on the desktop icon or use the Windows search panel.



2. Log in using a profile of your choice. Then select “Drivers” and “Check for Updates.” GeForce will then show update information. You will either have the latest update or need to download a new update.



Select “DRIVERS” then hit “CHECK FOR UPDATES” for update information.



VR Ready Computers (Optional)

Section Goal: Understand what makes a computer capable of running VR experiences.

Minimum Specifications

What makes a VR Ready computer special? VR Ready computers satisfy the “min specs,” or minimum specifications, for a computer to work with the Oculus Rift. Most often, the **Graphics Card**, **Memory** and **USB Ports** are the most important specifications.

Graphics Card	NVIDIA GTX 1050 Ti / AMD Radeon RX 470 or greater
Alternative Graphics Card	NVIDIA GTX 960 4GB / AMD Radeon R9 290 or greater
CPU	Intel i3-6100 / AMD Ryzen 3 1200, FX4350 or greater
Memory	8GB+ RAM
Video Output	Compatible HDMI 1.3 video output
USB Ports	1x USB 3.0 port, plus 2x USB 2.0 ports
OS	Windows 8.1 or newer

In Case You Were Wondering

A computer's **graphics card** handles showing the visuals on the screen. Most computers have basic graphics cards (called “integrated graphics cards”). VR Ready computers instead contain graphics cards specialized to display high quality visuals. **RAM**, or random access memory, stores frequently used information. RAM is like your computer's note-taking system. Instead of looking up information from scratch, RAM is a shortcut. With more RAM, your computer is faster. 4GB of RAM is common – VR Ready computers need twice as much!





A graphics card, the NVIDIA GTX 1060.

Checking Minimum Specifications

TechStart provides VR Ready computers to eligible schools. If you want to check if other computers can work with the Oculus Rift:

1. Download the [Oculus Compatibility Tool](#).
 1. Link <https://ocul.us/compat-tool>.
2. Open the tool and click "Start." The tool will let you know if the computer is VR Ready.

You can use TechStart VR viewers to experience basic VR experiences on smartphones. Smartphones can only run basic and non-graphically intensive VR experiences for many reasons. For example, today's smartphones are too small for high-end graphics cards.



A VR Viewer, the TechStart Hackybot 1.0



Computer Support (Optional)

Section Goal: Understand resources to use if you run into computer issues.

Acer Information

The Acer envelope packaged with your Acer Predator Helios contains useful computer and support information.



Acer Envelope

The envelope contains two guides and a postcard. The guides provide support on setting up or using your computer if you get stuck.



Setup and Quick Guides



The postcard explains important support information. TechStart does not provide a warranty on the computer, so you will need to address any computer issues with Acer directly.



Acer Predator Postcard

General Support

Please note TechStart cannot support computer issues. If you run into computer issues (broken screen, computer will not turn on, computer is slow, etc.) please contact Acer (contact information is provided on the Acer Predator Postcard) or your school's technical support.

Please do not contact Oculus with computer issues.

