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Windows 10 dark mode is here. Turn it on now

You don't have to be jealous of Mac and Android users. In Windows 10, you can turn on dark mode, too.



Clifford Colby

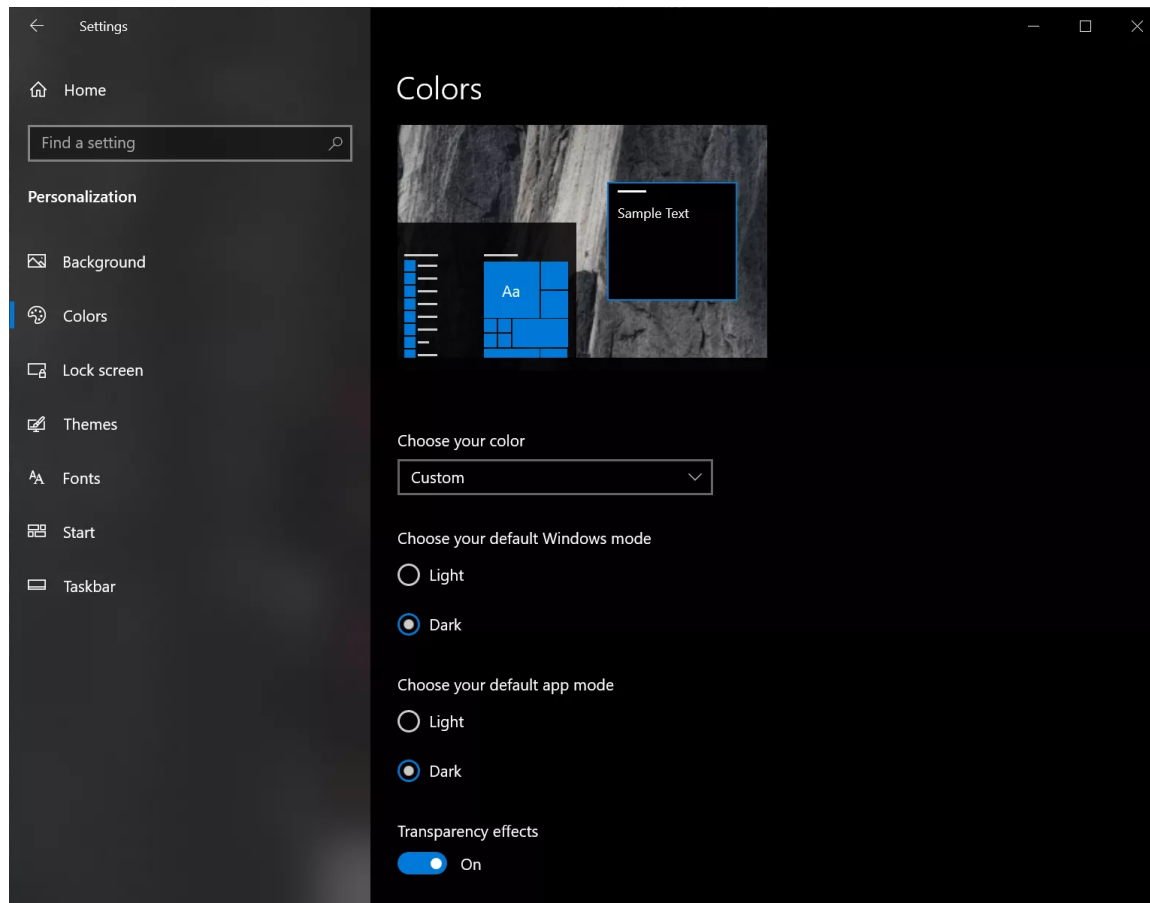
Feb. 15, 2020 5:35 a.m. PT

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Turn on dark mode in Windows 10.

Screenshot by Clifford Colby/CNET

MacOS got dark mode a few years ago in Mojave, allowing Mac users to apply a dark theme across apps. Android 10 got a systemwide dark mode setting last year, making it drop-dead easy to go dark in the latest version of Google's mobile OS. And iPhones and iPads got a dark theme in last year's iOS 13 and iPadOS.

You can dim the lights in Windows 10 as well, if you want [to conserve a bit of battery life](#) or lessen the strain on your eyes, or if you just like how a darker color palette looks on [Microsoft's](#) OS. (Though it turns out [shifting the colors on your screen](#) may not be so critical to good sleep hygiene, after all.)

You can make dark mode the default look of the Windows 10 operating system, as well as for many Windows apps. Some older Windows apps such as Task Manager, however, won't adopt the change to dark.

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Microsoft Edge is here for Windows 10 and MacOS. How to download the new browser now

If you want to apply dark mode across Windows 10 and its apps, here's how.

Turn on dark mode on Windows 10

Here's how to apply a dark theme to Windows 10.

1. From the Start menu,  windows10darkmodechoose.png
open **Settings**.

You can apply a dark theme in Windows 10.

Screenshot by Clifford Colby/CNET

2. Tap **Personalization**,
and then over in the
left navigation pane, tap **Colors**.

3. Under the label Choose your default Windows mode, turn on the **Dark** button.

You may need to choose **Custom** from the Choose your color menu to see the dark mode choice.

Turn on dark mode for Windows 10 apps

If you want to apply a darker color palette across Windows 10 apps, here's how.

1. From the Start menu again, open **Settings**.

2. Tap **Personalization**, and then over on the left tap **Colors**.

3. Under the label Choose your default app mode, turn on the **Dark** button.

Again, you may need to choose **Custom** from the Choose your color menu to see the dark mode choice.

And, if you want to apply the dark theme broadly -- across Windows 10 and its apps -- you can select **Dark** from the Choose your color menu.

Read more: [The best antivirus protection of 2020 for Windows 10](#)

Turn on dark mode in individual Windows 10 apps

If an app doesn't adopt the dark theme after you've turned it on in Windows 10 settings, you may need to adjust that app's individual preference for how it applies the Windows default theme.

1. Head to where the app keeps its appearance settings.

In the Mail app, for example, tap the Settings gear in the bottom left corner and then tap



Choose the System default theme to have the new Edge browser adopt Windows 10 dark mode.

Screenshot by Clifford Colby/CNET

Personalization over on the right. In the [new Edge browser](#), tap the three-dot menu to the right of the menu bar, tap **Settings**, and then tap **Appearance**.

2. Now, check that the app's appearance preference is set to adopt the Windows 10 default theme.

For example, In Mail's Personalization settings, tap **Use my Windows mode**. In Edge's Appearance settings, from the Theme menu, choose

System default.

For more, here are [six Windows 10 security settings to tweak](#) to protect your device and [13 Windows 10 settings to change](#) to customize Microsoft's OS.

Originally published last year.

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