**Windows XP**

**Windows XP** is an [operating system](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operating_system) that was produced by [Microsoft](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft) for use on [personal computers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personal_computer), including home and business desktops, [laptops](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laptops), and [media centers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_theater_PC). It was first released to computer manufacturers on August 24, 2001, and is the most popular version of [Windows](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft_Windows), based on installed user base. The name "XP" is short for "eXPerience."

Windows XP was the successor to both [Windows 2000](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_2000) and [Windows Me](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_Me), and was the first consumer-oriented operating system produced by Microsoft to be built on the [Windows NT kernel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_NT_kernel) and [architecture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Architecture_of_the_Windows_NT_operating_system_line).

The most common editions of the operating system were Windows XP Home Edition, which was targeted at home users, and Windows XP Professional, which offered additional features such as support for [Windows Server domains](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_Server_domain) and [two physical processors](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symmetric_multiprocessing), and was targeted at [power users](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Power_user), business and enterprise clients. Windows XP was eventually released for two additional architectures, [Windows XP 64-bit Edition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_XP_64-bit_Edition) for [IA-64](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IA-64) ([Itanium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Itanium)) processors and [Windows XP Professional x64 Edition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft_Windows_XP_Professional_x64_Edition) for [x86-64](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X86-64). There is also [Windows XP Embedded](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_XP_Embedded), a component version of the Windows XP Professional, and editions for specific markets such as Windows XP Starter Edition.