

Super User is a question and answer site for computer enthusiasts and power users. Join them; it only takes a minute:

[Sign up](#)

Here's how it works:

Anybody can ask a question

Anybody can answer

The best answers are voted up
and rise to the top



[Home](#)

Questions

[Tags](#)

[Users](#)

[Unanswered](#)

How can I quickly close many Windows/Programs?

[Ask Question](#)

▲
20 My workflow includes many open windows. Sometimes I want to clean up and close around 10 of them (but not all). How can I achieve this fast and simple on Windows?

▼
★
3 **Edit:** "but not all" to me means "selectively", not grouped by program or name, and not always the same. During research phase, I usually have opened some diff tools, some console windows, some svn logs, some explorer windows and some plain text editors. I permanently have and keep opened a mail program, an IDE, the spreadsheet where I record my time spent and a browser. Opening huge projects in the IDE takes time so I don't want to a

manage projects in the IDE takes time, so I don't want to a killall or log-off-log-on procedure.

[windows-10](#)[window](#)


edited Apr 27 '17 at 10:11

asked Apr 25 '17 at 12:49



Sascha

779 1 7 13

-
- 1 I was going to say "Use a virtual desktop manager", but realized none of them that are able to close several windows at once are supported on windows 10. – [Dmitry Grigoryev](#) Apr 25 '17 at 15:34
-
- 1 If you always maximize your windows instead of having hundreds of windowed windows, then the close button is always in the same location. Alt+F4 is the old standby for closing a window on Windows. If you don't care about saving anything and always close the same set of windows, the absolute fastest way is to use `OpenProcess()/KillProcess()` in a command-line program/script. If you are closing windows to access the desktop, there are two faster ways: The little-known Desktop Toolbar you can enable from the taskbar (should be enabled by default, IMO) and Win+M / Win+Shift+M. – [CubicleSoft](#) Apr 26 '17 at 3:35
-
- 2 ^w very much depends on the applications. Many act in that fashion, especially software using MDI, but I would say caveat emptor – Alt+F4 is the platform standard "close program" shortcut and in my experience more reliable. (Although ^w is much more comfortable to type on QWERTlike keyboards.) – [Cornelius](#) Apr 26 '17 at 9:43
-
- 1 @Roy Ctrl-W sometimes works as Alt-F4, sometimes as Ctrl-F4 depending on the software (mind you, so does Alt-F4) – [Chris H](#) Apr 26 '17 at 13:33 
-
- 1 Step 1: Be fast. Step 2: Click on the red X for the apps you want to close? – [Andy Terra](#) Apr 27 '17 at 12:57
-

15 Answers



The fastest native solution seems to be `Win` + `Tab` and then middle-click the Apps to close them.

44



The best **3rd party solution** I found is 7+ Taskbar Tweaker. You can configure it to close Tasks by middle-click to the tasks entry immediately in the task bar. Unfortunately, Taskbar Tweaker seems to be tailor-fit very closely to Windows and broke with every major update (Anniversary, Creator). The maintainer each time fixed it within some weeks, but meanwhile everything defaults to the old behavior of opening new instances instead of closing old ones.

edited Apr 25 '17 at 20:31



jpaugh

1,064 7 16

answered Apr 25 '17 at 12:49



Sascha

779 1 7 13

2 Interesting. I always use `Alt+Tab` and the `X`. `Win+Tab` is a bit quicker since you do not have to hit exactly the small spot. Thanks for this. – [Michael S.](#) Apr 25 '17 at 14:43

7 You can also middle-click the app in the `Alt+Tab` view (though I'm not sure if it closes all windows of a given app). – [Cornelius](#) Apr 25 '17 at 16:59

2 7+ Taskbar Tweaker is great. And I've just realised why it's called that lol – [Lightness Races in Orbit](#) Apr 25 '17 at 20:32

2 Middle click on the taskbar is by default a command to open a new window of the target app, even if it's already running coz

some apps have an ability to show multiple windows. –

[user1306322](#) Apr 25 '17 at 22:41

- 2 If you hover over the Taskbar icons and show the thumbnails of the windows, you can middle click on the thumbnails to close that instance. – [Chloe](#) Apr 27 '17 at 0:24



9



In my case, I simply open the task manager, then in the tab Application , I select the Apps to close, then I click the End task button.

answered Apr 25 '17 at 14:45



[Yacine](#)

253 1 6

- 3 this is more drastic than closing and you may miss a chance to save your work or settings. – [Kate Gregory](#) Apr 26 '17 at 1:20

- 7 OP was asking for fast and simple, and this is it – [Denny](#) Apr 26 '17 at 7:43

- 2 @KateGregory I've just tested, and notepad gives a "save/don't save" prompt. On top of that is "[End Program - Untitled- Notepad] The system cannot end this program because it is waiting for a response from you...[End Now] [Cancel]". So it's not too much of a worry. (win7 btw) – [Chris H](#) Apr 26 '17 at 13:36

- 2 @ChrisH some apps will do that, and some won't. – [Kate Gregory](#) Apr 26 '17 at 14:03

@KateGregory most do but I'm wary enough to hit save then close in most things. Task manager appears to try to close gently at first so very similar to the application's own close function. This would be good for me having lots of calculator /picture viewer/Firefox/pdf viewer Windows open – [Chris H](#) Apr 26 '17 at 14:11

If they are windows of the same app, you can also right-

click the entry in the task bar and select "close all

8

Click the entry in the task bar and select "close all windows".

answered Apr 25 '17 at 16:58



Cornelius

406 1 4 10

4

If it is a known group of applications that you want to close each time you could use something like [AutoHotKey](#) to create a shortcut that closes just those windows.

3

Use the Window Spy (included with AHK) to most easily get the details you'd need about the windows and then use IfWinExist and WinClose commands.

answered Apr 25 '17 at 17:42



Joshua Hunter

361 1 3

3

Alt + **F4** will close whatever window is in focus (and shut down windows if nothing is selected). You could combine this with **Alt** + **Tab** or **Win** + **Tab** to try to get to the desired windows quickly.

edited Apr 25 '17 at 18:26



Stephen Rauch

2,335 8 17 25

answered Apr 25 '17 at 18:13



Zaren

31 2

You are some how repeating another answer – [yass](#) Apr 25 '17 at 18:45



Simplest, all keyboard-bound: **Alt** + **Tab** , hit **Del** to close highlighted window.

Tested on Win 10. Played around and found this solution.

edited May 15 '17 at 14:40



Community ♦

1

answered Apr 26 '17 at 8:14



Rasmus Gustafsson

31 2



If they're the same processes each time (E.G. Notepad, Photoshop, and Chrome), you could write a simple batch script to close all of them at once. Then you would just need to run the script whenever you want to close them.

For example:

```
killmystuff.bat

taskkill /IM notepad.exe
taskkill /IM photoshop.exe
taskkill /IM chrome.exe
```

Note that this will *not* force close them - To do so, specify the `/F` flag. It will also kill all processes with that image name, so can't be used to close a specific group of Chrome tabs or similar.

You can also use filters to select groups of programs by username, window title, memory usage, etc - See `taskkill /?` for more details.

answered Apr 26 '17 at 6:10



Larkeith



246 2 3



I find that the fastest way to natively achieve this is like this:

1

1. Click on the desired program in your task bar



2. alt + F4

This is quicker because you close precisely the programs you wish to close where as alt + tab-ing through your programs forces you to step over unwanted programs causing you to endure more time.

answered Apr 25 '17 at 20:07

[MonkeyZeus](#)

4,861 3 17 36



If you don't have a long login time (i.e. lots of startup-specific programs), then logging out is a reasonable way to do it. Assuming you don't have anything to save, that Chrome keeps your tabs, etc.

1



answered Apr 25 '17 at 20:13



[Christopher Hostage](#)

3,835 12 29

2 I think the "(but not all)" in the question means this doesn't help. – [Chris H](#) Apr 26 '17 at 13:37

If you hover over the app in the taskbar, a preview will

appear just above it that includes an X. You can move your



1 appear just above it that includes an X. You can move your mouse a very small distance to that X, and click it. You don't have to switch back and forth between mouse and keyboard.

answered Apr 26 '17 at 1:22



Kate Gregory

606 3 8 21



1 The problem with just holding Alt + F4 is that it it sometimes will bring up the log off / shutdown / sleep menu.



I like to hold Alt + Esc to get all my windows in focus (by cycling through them) and then holding Alt+F4

answered Apr 26 '17 at 22:13



philn

11 2



0 In case the windows you mention are part of the same application (like a lot of separate files, opened by one single text editor), you might use Ctrl + F4



answered Apr 26 '17 at 8:26



Dominique

488 1 13 31



you can use:



0 1. **Taskmanager** to close windows. (The taskbar shows the currently running tasks)



i. Rightclick on taskbar

ii click on *start task manager*

ii.click on start task manager

iii.In windowsTaskbar window,in applications tab you can see the applications which are all opened.select the necessary applications to be closed using ctrl key

iv.click on endtask button.

2.You can also "alt+f4"..Actually it closes the current running window

answered Apr 26 '17 at 14:02



user722384

1

I've done something similar with auto-hotkey. Off the top of my head, I can't remember exactly what it was, but it was something with an F9 toggle like:

0

```
F9::Toggle
Loop, 100
{
    IfWinNotActive [, MadeUpWindowThatDoesn'tExist/Can'tBe
    Gosub, sub1

    sub1:
    IfWinActive [, WindowYouWouldWantToKeepOpen]
    Gosub, sub2
    Else
    Gosub, sub3

    sub2:
    SendInput !{Tab}

    sub3:
    SendInput ^w
}
return
```

Now again, off the top of my head, it's likely a little different than this. If you copy and paste this bit of AHK, it likely won't work and you'll have to tweak it but this is the core

won't work and you'll have to tweak it, but this is the core idea of what could work.

edited Apr 26 '17 at 22:52

answered Apr 26 '17 at 22:43



Shankensteinium

81 8



0



Because I have a multiple monitor setup at work, I found it sad that the Windows task-bar (by default) was* limited to one screen. I didn't like the various options to change this situation, so I made a tool of my own: [SideSwitch](#).

Warning: it's very tuned to my own way of working and may behave intrusive to your way of working if you're not used to it! When the mouse-cursor is at the edge of a screen - the center two quarters, not the corners - a list of windows is shown that are on *that* screen. Also " x " and " _ " is shown to respectively close or minimize that window. (The main reason for the application was also to have the "Switch" button to painlessly move maximized windows between monitors, but since Windows 7 that's possible by dragging the maximised window's caption bar.)

**: recent Windows versions have more options*

edited Apr 27 '17 at 8:20

answered Apr 26 '17 at 15:36



Stijn Sanders

1,436 3 19 25

1 FYI On windows 10 the task bar displays on whatever monitor the mouse pointer is on. – [chue x](#) Apr 26 '17 at 15:48

@chuex depends on the settings. You can make it visible on all monitors at any time(and stay visible) ! – [Felix D.](#) Apr 26 '17 at 21:02 