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## What is the Windows hotkey to minimise a single, currently active window?

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118



On Windows Vista, I'm familiar with  Win +  D to show the desktop but sometimes I just want to minimise two or three windows as they become active and not the whole lot.

What hotkey can I use to minimise only the currently active window?

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edited Oct 25 '16 at 18:34



3498DB

16.1k 11 48 63

asked Sep 16 '10 at 4:16



lonise

705 2 7 5

## 8 Answers



131



I've been using the shortcut **Alt** + **Space** followed by **N** for years. Works on any Windows version, all the way back to Windows 3.0! It should work with all keyboard layouts and probably even all Windows localizations.

**Alt** + **Space** opens the general windows menu. You can open it manually by left-clicking with the mouse on the top left window corner.

The menu contains the options to maximize, minimize, close the window, etc. It also underlines the key you need to press to select the appropriate option ("miNimize").

The **N** is not a general "hotkey" but an access key – a keyboard shortcut to an entry in a GUI menu that works **only if/after** the menu opens. The menu items texts differ across localizations (languages), which is why a different letter might be underlined and serve as the access key.

edited Sep 8 '17 at 13:30



Palec

271 4 15

answered Sep 16 '10 at 7:31

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- 1 This pauses alot of streaming audio sites (spacebar is culprit) – [gregg](#) Aug 21 '14 at 13:22
- 1 Does not work if current language/layout is not English. – [Dima Stefantsov](#) Oct 17 '14 at 14:50
- 8 Duh. Hit Alt+Space and see what the keyboard shortcut is in your language. – [Torben Gundtofte-Bruun](#) Oct 17 '14 at 15:38
- 3 They changed the hotkeys per language? Disturbing... – [Timo](#) Jan 15 '15 at 9:07
- 5 @Timo It's hard to press the N key if your keyboard [lacks an N key](#). Considering there is more than one keyboard layout in existence (and use), I would hope they do change hotkeys to fit the language or keyboard. – [8bittree](#) Oct 28 '15 at 19:48



In Windows 7 and later you can minimize the currently active window with: **Win** + **Down**.

78

(This may be an Aero feature that works with Vista as well.)



edited Jun 7 '14 at 8:00



[nixda](#)

**21.3k** 11 79 135

answered Sep 16 '10 at 5:35



[KrakenSoup](#)

**805** 5 2

- 5 Note that you have to have Aero Snap enabled for this to work. – [Sasha Chedygov](#) Sep 16 '10 at 5:54
- 2 Do you mean this: [aerosnap.de/index\\_eng.htm](http://aerosnap.de/index_eng.htm) ? Even with this on vista windows-down arrow only seems to work with about half the windows. alt-space n is a lot more reliable. – [lonise](#) Sep 17 '10 at 1:11

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- 
- 13 @Coxy It's a 2 step process if it's maximized or snapped. First stroke restores it to original form, second stroke minimizes it. Not very comfortable. – [user](#) Apr 11 '14 at 15:16
- 
- 13 @buffer Not only is it a 2-step process, but your window has also lost its maximized state when you go back to it. :( – [Timo](#) Jan 15 '15 at 9:06
- 



75



A small workaround is **Alt** + **Esc** – it doesn't minimize the active window but places it behind all other windows. The effect is similar however.

I know it's not precisely what the question asker wanted, but it's a built-in Windows one-step solution that works in a similar way.

edited Oct 25 '16 at 18:35



[3498DB](#)

**16.1k** 11 48 63

answered Oct 25 '16 at 18:25



[Velda](#)

**850** 6 4

- 
- 5 I like your solution the most because it requires the least amount of keystrokes and can be done with only the left hand! If all your windows are maximized, this achieves almost the same effect. – [goweon](#) Dec 27 '16 at 4:35
- 

One downside to this is not being able to Alt+Tab back to it. The ideal is likely to have a hotkey that brings the window just behind to the front. – [Andrew](#) Mar 11 at 15:47

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- 1 No it isn't. If you use Alt+Esc, you can get that window back with Alt+Tab as usual. At least for Windows 10 it is the case. – [Velda](#) Mar 11 at 18:06
- 

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When maximized:

- Windows key + press the down arrow twice.



When not maximized:

- Windows key + press the down arrow once.

edited Jun 28 '17 at 21:03



edmund0096

133 5

answered Sep 20 '13 at 20:00



Ricky

401 4 2

- 1 What's the difference between pressing once and twice?  
Pressing this once was already mentioned... – [slhck](#) Sep 20 '13 at 20:11

@slhck I don't think there is a difference. Pressing once minimizes the window that currently has focus, and moves the focus to another window. Pressing again simply minimizes that window, etc. etc. – [John Bensin](#) Sep 20 '13 at 20:16

- 11 Actually Ricky is (with condition) right. Pressing Win+Down when a window is maximized will not minimize it, but only restore it down. You have to press Win+Down once more in order to minimize it. – [Otiel](#) Dec 11 '13 at 12:53

For my Win10 computer it takes four down arrows – [J-Dizzle](#) Jun 11 '17 at 14:20

Simple as it should be – [Vadim](#) Mar 31 at 6:03



according to [microsoft support](#), there isn't one, but it is easily scripted in [autoit](#).

11

commented.

```
#include <WinApi.au3> ;include winAPI library

HotKeySet("!M",'_MinimizeActive') ;sets hotkey to Alt+Shif

While 1 ;loop to keep alive

WEnd

Func _MinimizeActive()
    Local $v_Wnd, $w_Wnd ;declare variables
    $v_Wnd = _WinAPI_GetFocus() ;get focused window
    $w_Wnd = WinGetHandle($v_Wnd) ;get handle of focused w
    WinSetState($w_Wnd,"",@SW_MINIMIZE) ;minimize focused
EndFunc
```

edited Sep 16 '10 at 5:08

answered Sep 16 '10 at 4:22



**MaQleod**

**12.3k** 4 31 56

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Thanks for the quick answer, the link the Microsoft hotkeys, and what looks like a free solution! – [lonise](#) Sep 16 '10 at 4:35

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just added a basic template for what you're looking for, coded in autoit. – [MaQleod](#) Sep 16 '10 at 5:09

- 
- 2 Why a downvote? It is a viable solution and also can be customized to do a lot more than just the focused window. In a lot of ways, this can be far superior to the accepted answer, depending on preferences of OP (such as selecting the topmost 3 windows and isolate out certain ones that he/she never wants minimized and minimize the rest). – [MaQleod](#) Nov 1 '12 at 19:44
-

11

If what you want is an easy way to open and minimize a window you use often, just pin it to the task bar and move it to one of the first positions. Then you can use Windows + 1 , 2 , 3 etc. to quickly toggle the window.

No more scrolling through loads of windows with 'Alt'+ 'Tab' to maximize it again either.

edited Mar 19 '15 at 16:13

answered Mar 19 '15 at 15:52



Hein A. Grønnestad

211 2 5

AutoHotKey script for Minimize:

4

```

;=====
; WINDOWS KEY + Alt + Down -- Minimizes Active window
;=====
; instead of "Restore Down" for Win+Down
#!Down::WinMinimize, A

```

Explanation:

```
[Key-Kombination]::[Action]
```

```
#!Down
```

```
-> will execute when Windows-Key (#), Alt-Key (!), Down-Ar
together
```

```
WinMinimize, A
```

```
-> will minimize (WinMinimize) the active (A) window
```

edited Aug 20 '17 at 18:45

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answered Mar 15 '16 at 9:57



Sam Hasler

341 1 7 19

1 I don't think you need the return because it's a single-line hotkey – [DLeh](#) Jun 25 '16 at 2:42

This doesn't work when I use the alt key. – [wizlog](#) Jun 27 '16 at 15:36

Could you please explain why the `, A` parameter, please? The **AutoHotKey Help** don't set it clear enough for me. – [Sopalajo de Arrierez](#) Apr 1 '17 at 11:01

@SopalajodeArrierez, If you look at the help for WinMinimize you'll see the first parameter is WinTitle. If you look at the help for WinTitle, you'll see in the Quick Reference table at the top of the page what "A" is. – [Sam Hasler](#) Apr 3 '17 at 15:52

Oh, yes, The Active Window, sorry. Too long without programming on AutoHotkey, so I was rather thinking about "A", instead of just A. – [Sopalajo de Arrierez](#) Apr 3 '17 at 20:29



Because windows doesn't have a shortcut key for it, you may use a 3rd party solution, like autoit to do that.

1



Below is a simple script for it. This first to set a hotkey (with [HotKeySet\(\)](#)), than minimize current window (with [WinSetState\(\)](#)).

```
#include <WinApi.au3>

HotKeySet("!M", 'MinimizeWin') ;Alt+Shift+m
```

```
...

```

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```
Func MinimizeWin()  
    WinSetState("[ACTIVE]", "", @SW_MINIMIZE)  
EndFunc
```

edited Sep 29 '17 at 10:07

answered Oct 28 '15 at 14:17



xxxbence

709 5 4

**protected** by [Community](#) ♦ Dec 17 '16 at 4:28

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