

Good and Bad Design

Person-Machine Interaction

Ricardo Margalhau - 62241
r.margalhau@campus.fct.unl.pt

1 Introduction

This document covers some bad aspects of the new **Windows 11** design, namely, the design of the taskbar and start menu.

The **Windows** taskbar and start menu have been left (mostly) unchanged during the course of this operating system, with the biggest change being made in the **Windows 8**, which was almost hated universally, due to its tablet-centric design.

However, after learning from its mistakes, the **Windows 10** returns to a more conservative approach to the taskbar and start menu.

In **Windows 11**, **Microsoft** tries to maintain the same approach, with a couple of modifications, that change the way the user interacts with the operating system, as described in section 2.

2 The Windows 11 Taskbar

When we first install **Windows 11**, the major modification that we can see right ahead is the new taskbar alignment, which is now centered, as figure 1 demonstrates.

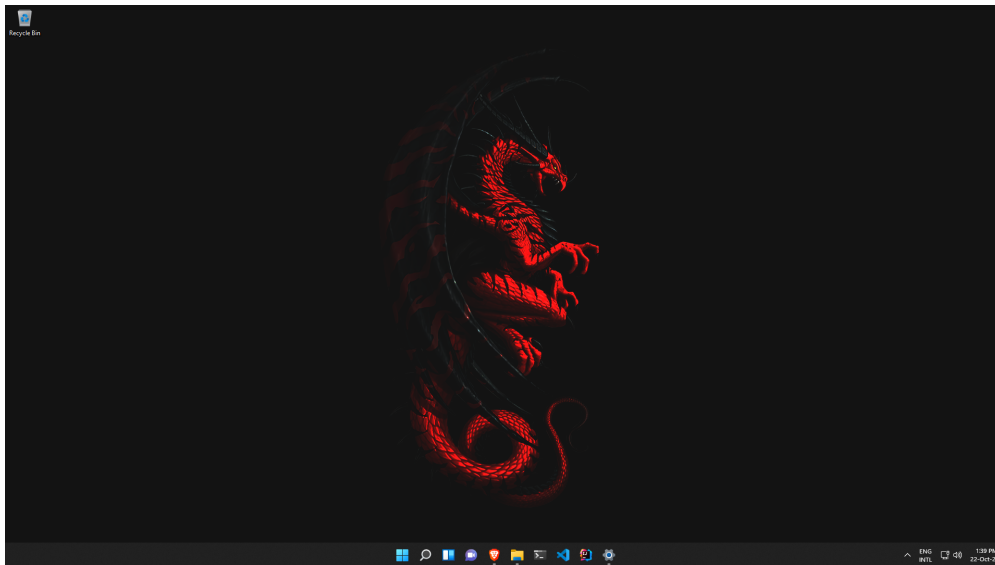


Figure 1: *The Windows 11 centered taskbar alignment*

This change seems quite radical, due to the fact that every windows up until now has had a taskbar with the shortcuts

left-aligned, thus users of previous **Windows** operating systems may take more time to get used to this new design. Gladly, it's possible to undo this change, by just going into the taskbar settings and setting the alignment to left, as shown in figure 2.

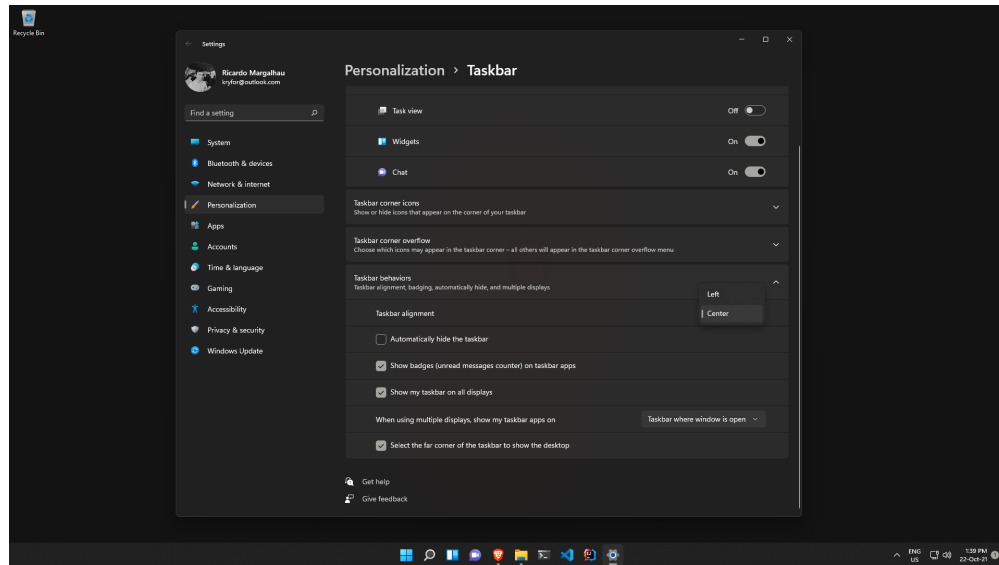


Figure 2: Taskbar settings, where we can set the taskbar alignment

By setting the alignment to left, we can now get a more **Windows** user-friendly experience, as presented in figure 3.

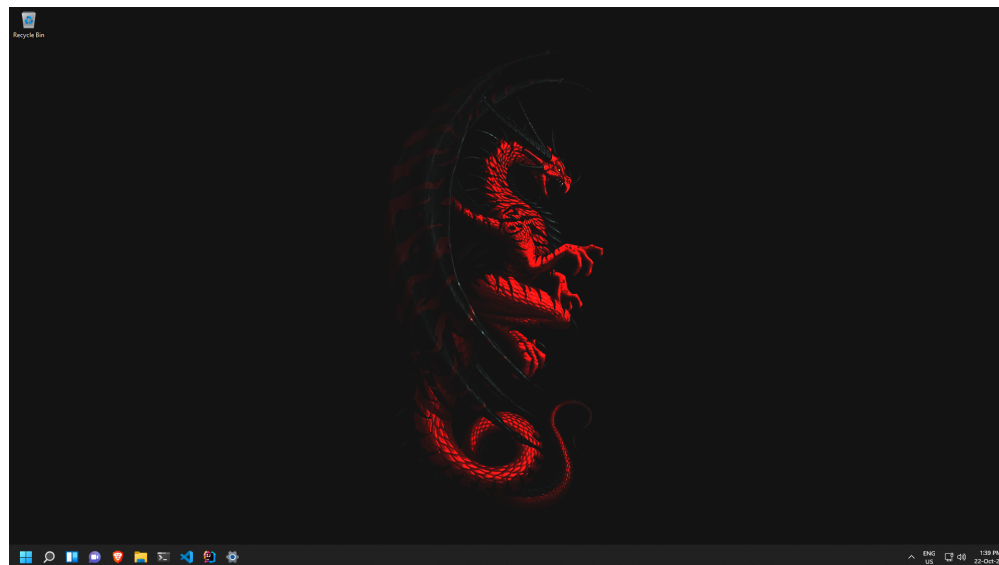


Figure 3: The taskbar with a left-alignment

Moreover, some advanced users, may have noticed a few things going away with **Windows 11**. One of those is the

ability to right-click the taskbar to have access to the task manager. To have access with the task manager in the new **Windows 11**, we need to right-click now on the start menu button, which is quite weird, as shown in figure 4.

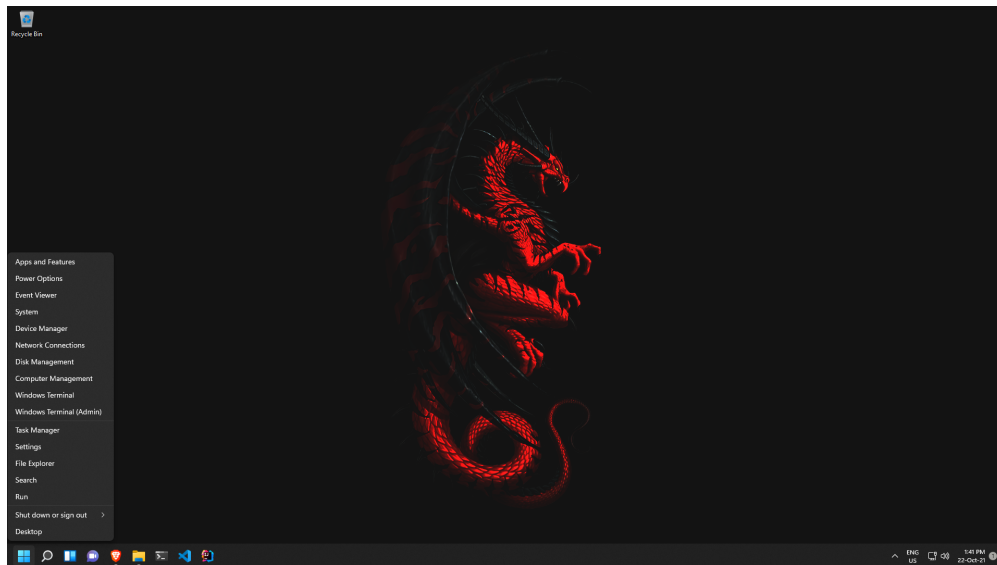


Figure 4: *The new way to access the task manager*

Note that the keyboard shortcut to access the task manager is (fortunately) still the same.

Additionally, a highly useful feature for multiscreen users was the ability to have the **Windows** clock showing on the multiple screens, which proves useful when watching online content or playing games in fullscreen mode, by allowing the user to track time. In **Windows 11** this feature was removed, without any reason to do so.

However, it's not all bad. **Windows 11** made significantly good changes to the look of the start menu, by getting rid of the **Windows 10** start menu ads, and showing the applications in a more user-friendly manner, as demonstrated in figure 5.

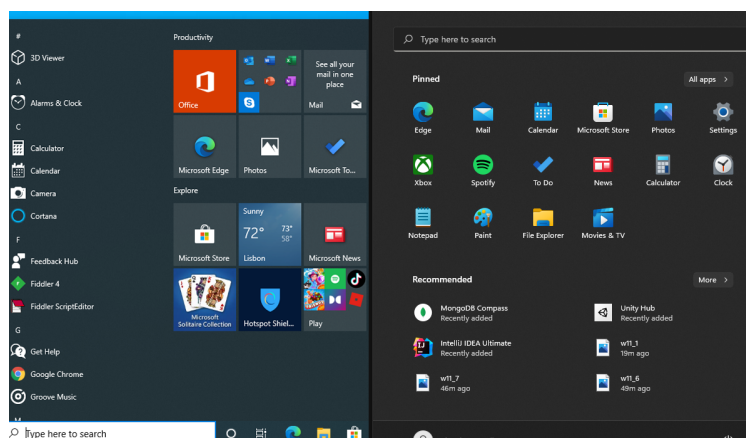


Figure 5: *Windows 10 vs Windows 11 start menu*

3 Conclusions

The new **Windows 11** tries to follow a more conservative approach, while trying to improve the design of the operating system as well. However, it also removes a lot of features such as the taskbar context menu (where we could access the task manager), or the dual-screen clock.

This removal of features and addition of useless design properties, such as the taskbar shortcuts alignment, may leave users thinking if changing right now to **Windows 11** is whether a good idea or not.

However, despite all bad things, the new **Windows 11** managed to improve the **Windows 10** start menu, by finally removing the ads, improving the user-experience with the interface.