

How to Sign into Windows

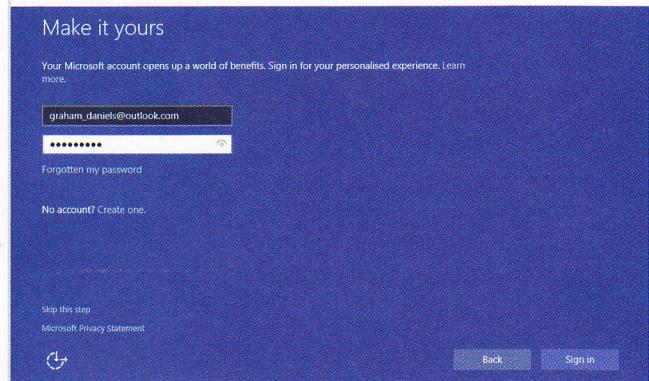
Whether you install Windows yourself or initialise it on a new PC, you'll want to sign into it using a Microsoft account. This means your settings can be synchronised across your PCs. One great use for this is wireless network settings.

Signing In Using Your Microsoft Account

We'll look at how you can sign in when you're installing Windows 10. And also how to register your details and add a Microsoft account if you're already using Windows 10. An essential, but unexciting part of the setup process.

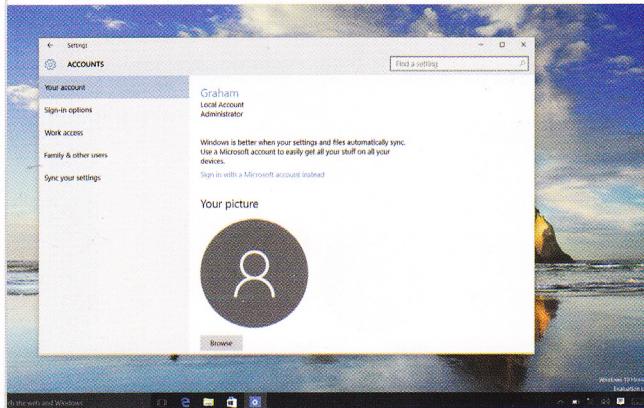
Make It Yours

During the Windows 10 installation process you'll be asked to sign into Windows. Now, you can skip this step should you wish to, but we'd recommend you don't. You'll need to use your Microsoft account to download apps and settings (such as new printers) and synchronise your network settings between PCs automatically.



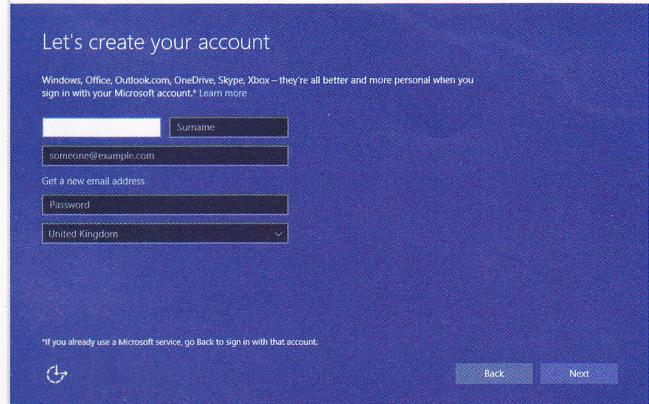
Make Changes

Your Microsoft account replaces the old way to sign into Windows, with a simple username (and possibly a password). You can still sign in that way - that's what we've done here to show you that it can be done - but it's not recommended. You can make changes in Settings > Accounts.



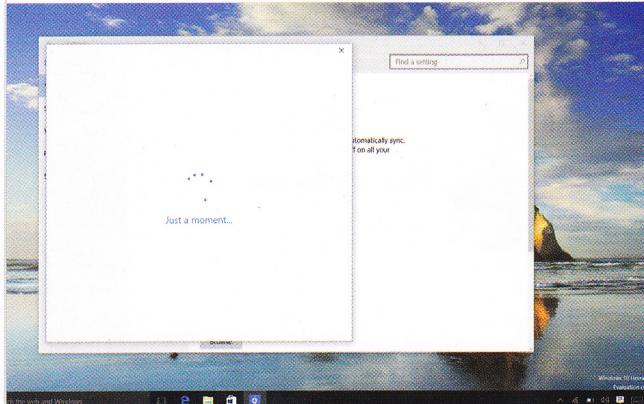
Sign Up

If you use Xbox or used Hotmail or Windows Live, you should be able to sign in with those details. During the Windows 10 installation you can sign up for a Microsoft account if you don't already have one. Just fill in your name, existing email address (you can sign up for a new Outlook.com one should you wish) as well as your location.



Signing In

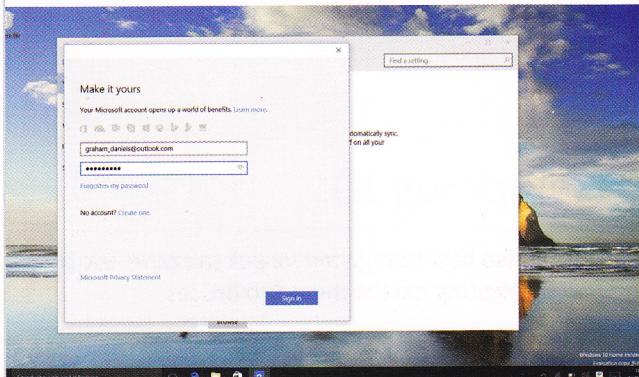
We're now going to show you how to replace the old-style sign-in process with your Microsoft account should you be using Windows in this way. Note we didn't have an account picture in the previous step. Now click Sign in with a Microsoft Account instead. You'll then see this window prompting you to wait a second.



Enter Your Details

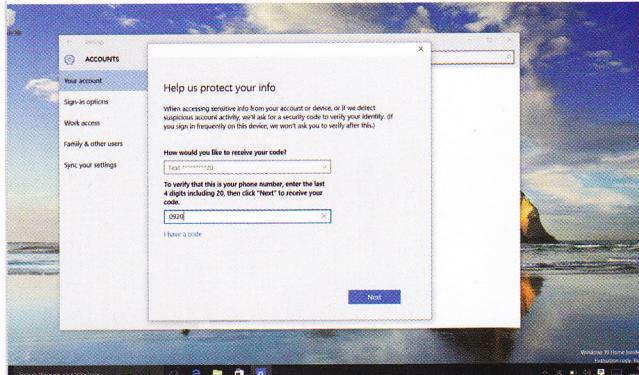
Enter your Microsoft account username and password here.

Much like during the Windows installation process, you can choose to create a new Microsoft account at this stage with any existing email address (once again, you can also sign up for a new Outlook.com one). Then click Sign in.



Authenticate Your Device

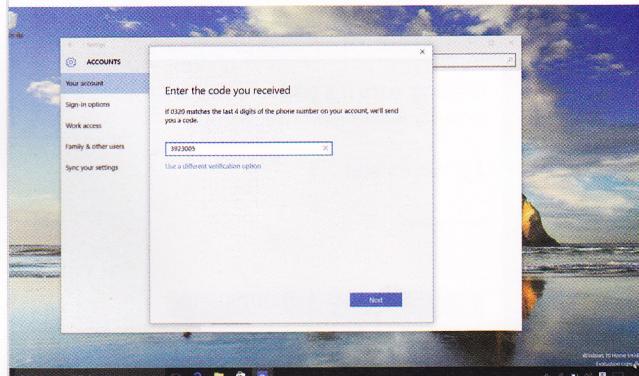
If you have a mobile number associated with your Microsoft account, you may see this security step. You'll firstly be asked to enter the last four digits of your mobile phone number. If you do this correctly, Microsoft will then text you a code. Click Next to move on.



Enter the Code

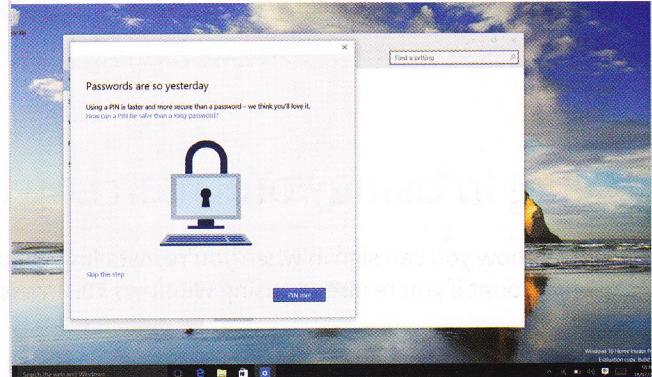
The code you receive by text will be unique to you – enter it here and click

Next. More companies are relying on our phones as a way to confirm identity; you can also do this with other major online account providers such as Google or Facebook. It's called two-step authentication.



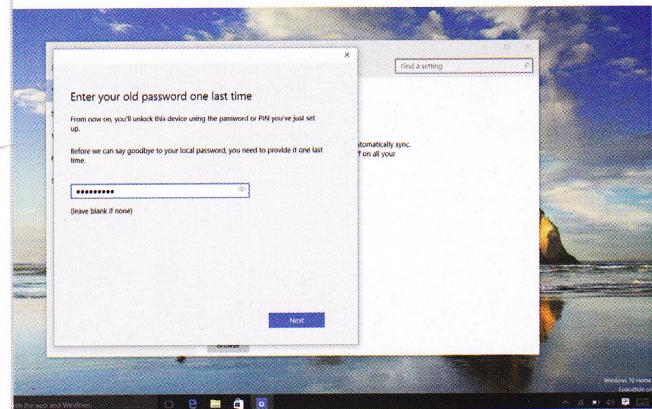
Beyond Passwords

Windows 10 also introduces some new ways to authenticate who you are and sign you into Windows. Expect to see facial recognition play more of a part in future, but for now, you'll be offered a PIN to sign into Windows rather than your Microsoft account password. Click PIN Me if you want to do this.



Confirm Your Password

The great advantage of using a PIN rather than a password is that it is usually a lot faster to type it in. It's also a lot better for touch devices. Before you choose your PIN you'll be asked to confirm your password again.



Choose Your PIN

Finally, choose your PIN. Windows wants to be more phone-like in terms of usability, and using a PIN is one way it's evolving along these lines. After all, many of us are already used to unlocking our mobile phones in this way.

