



Understanding the Task Manager

The Task Manager is a very useful tool but even if you have been using Windows for some time, you might never have looked at it before. The Task Manager contains information on PC performance, the number of running apps, how many processes are pulling power from the processor and much more.

Processes Tab

The Processes tab is the default tab when the Task Manager is opened. You can open the task manager by simply searching for it in the main search panel. Just as with any other app or piece of software in Windows 10, you can pin a shortcut to the Task Manager, to the taskbar or as a desktop icon.

Process List

With the Processes tab selected, a list of all processes is shown. Processes are bits of software that run in the background, either running or waiting to run when a corresponding action is taken. As you can see from the list here, things like Cortana and AVG are shown; these you would obviously want to leave.

Resource Usage

If you find your PC becoming slow and sluggish during normal use, you may have too many processes running. By looking at the resource usage chart, you can see exactly which apps are taking up the most processing power, physical memory, disk space and even network bandwidth. If something is particularly resource hungry, you can right-click and stop it.

Task Manager			
File Options View			
Processes Performance App history Start-up Users Details Services			
Name	Status	2% CPU	31% Memory
Apps (2)			
> AVG User Interface (32 bit)		0%	9.1 MB
> Task Manager		0.4%	15.5 MB
Background processes (68)			
Alps Pointing-device Driver		0%	0.4 MB
Alps Pointing-device Driver		0%	1.8 MB
Alps Pointing-device Driver for ...		0.2%	0.7 MB
ApMsgFwd		0.2%	0.5 MB
Application Frame Host		0%	9.4 MB
AVG E-mail Scanner		0%	0.7 MB
> AVG Identity Protection Service ...		0%	17.8 MB
AVG Online Shield Service		0%	16.4 MB
AVG Resident Shield Service		0%	10.7 MB
AVG Scanning Core Module - Se...		0%	34.2 MB
> AVG Watchdog Service (32 bit)		0%	10.6 MB
Calendar		0%	0.7 MB
Cortana		0%	59.5 MB
CTF Loader (32 bit)		0%	0.8 MB
Device Association Framework ...		0%	6.7 MB

Fewer details

VIEW OPTIONS

The View options at the top of the Task Manager window allows you to do several things. You can manually refresh the current tab and also change the automatic update speed. For example you can change how the processes are displayed. Either by grouping them by type, expanding or collapsing the list, or showing status values.

Disk	Network	
0%	0%	
1 MB/s	0 Mbps	

Performance Tab

Another useful tab in the Task Manager is Performance. This gives you a real time performance overview, allowing you to pinpoint exactly how well your hardware is coping with whatever you are doing at the time. If Task Manager is the only app open, the performance chart should be very stable but if you are running several apps, it will show any power spikes.

Fewer Details

You can view a limited version of the Task Manager by clicking on the "Fewer Details" button at the bottom of the window. This makes the window small enough that it can be left open, in the corner of your desktop for example, but still show relevant information. You can get more information at any time by clicking "More Details".

Start-up Tab

The Start-up tab contains a list of all the apps, programs and processes that are enabled every time you start your computer. If your computer is brand new, this list should be fairly small and filled with essential items. But as you install new apps and software, this start-up list can become bloated and slow down boot up. You can disable auto start-up here.

End task