

Fix Errors with Task Manager

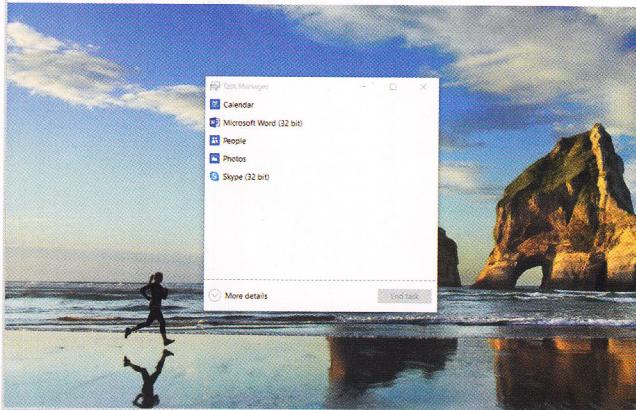
If you have a program that isn't working, want to control what starts up when your PC does or you want to see what's running on your PC, then Task Manager is the place to go. Access it via the Power Menu (right-click on Start) or by pressing Ctrl+Alt+Delete.

Manage Your PC

Task Manager is a lot more complex than it used to be and it now has useful insight into your PC and app performance. If you want to understand how your computer works, and how it manages tasks, check out our step-by-step guide.

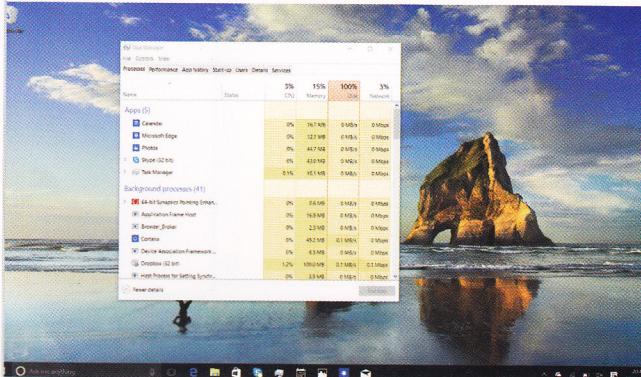
Step 1

Task Manager starts life as this fairly unassuming little window. If you have an app that is unresponsive, select it and click End Task. Beware that if you do this to an app with unsaved work in it, you will lose your work. Clicking the More Details button will expand the Task Manager window.



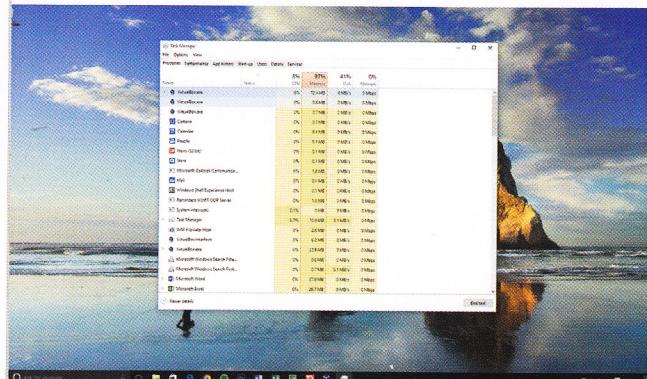
Step 2

This window is a little more complex, but the 'Apps' part of the window is essentially what we were looking at in Step 1. Now the apps have been joined by background processes. Your PC will most likely be running tens of these unless it's box-fresh. Here we've got 41. These are things such as Cortana, which runs in the background, and our trackpad software.



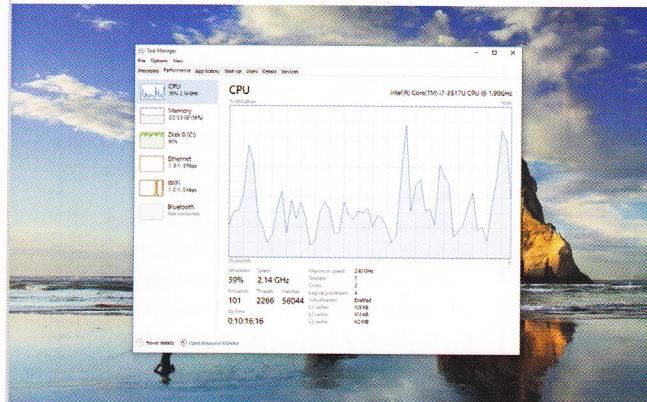
Step 3

You can see what system resources each app is using in each column. Here Excel is using around 74MB of memory, for example. Memory use is almost at its maximum, as you can see at the top of the column. Maxed out resources are no bad thing – after all your PC is there to be used – but when apps crash, they are usually using resources and not relinquishing them.



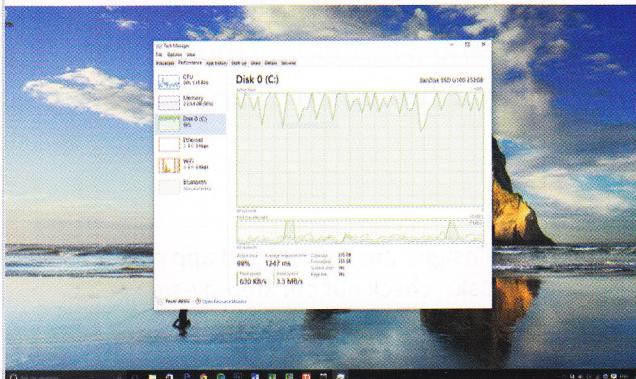
Step 4

If an app crashes, then you need to select it and click End Task as before. You should always try and give it time to recover (especially if you will lose work). Now we've clicked the Performance tab at the top of the window and we can see the usage of important elements of our PC.

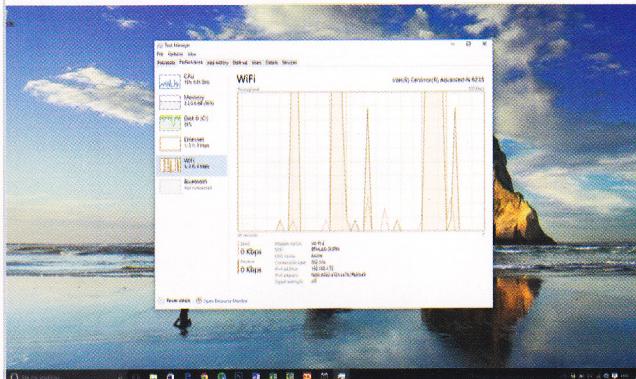


Step 5

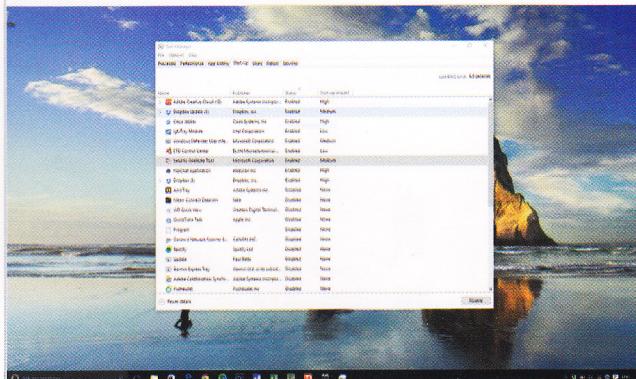
Here's our disk usage – as you can see it's pretty active! You will also have this if you have several big apps open (we've got Edge, Spotify, Word and Excel open in this example). In the previous step you could see our processor usage, and as you may have noticed, we've only been using around 40 per cent of its capability during the last minute.

**Step 6**

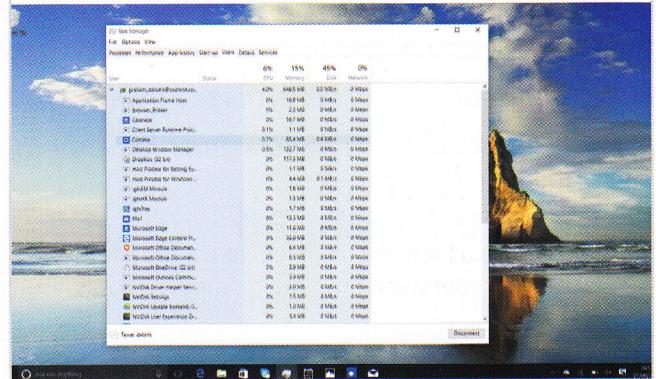
Wi-Fi usage (you can also see wired network usage if you use that to connect) is more sporadic as the network connection tends to be used intermittently – unless you're copying files or similar. Here we're streaming music, which appears to download in chunks. Notice there's no data being received or sent right at this moment.

**Step 7**

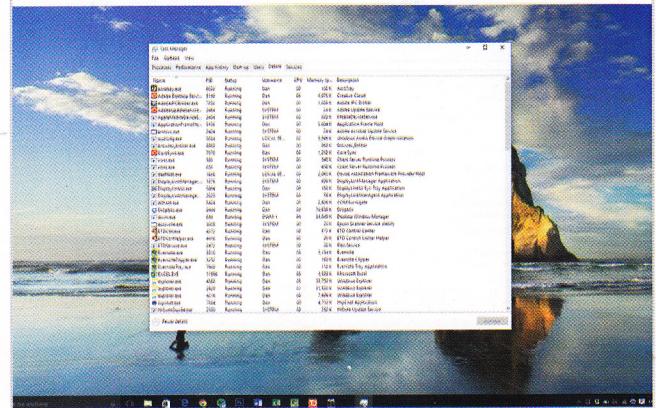
The Startup tab is one of the most important in Task Manager. While you can configure an app such as Skype to start up when Windows does and disable the same within the app, some applications are sneaky and enable themselves to start when Windows does. Here you can select the app and either enable or stop this from happening.

**Step 8**

Although it's of limited general use, the Users tab details what apps and processes are running on a per-user basis. This might be useful if your PC is running slowly and you want to see what resources someone else who is logged into the PC is hogging. They might have something wasteful running in the background, for example.

**Step 9**

The Details tab is really for pro users only and has full information on each running process and which user is responsible for it. You can also see how much resource the process is taking up as well as what is called a Process ID, or PID, that identifies the process on your machine.

**Step 10**

Services are programs that run in the background. The chances are your PC is running lots of them. For example Windows Defender, the built-in security software, runs in the background as a service. As well as viewing the active services in Task Manager, you can click the Open Services link to manage services on your PC.

