

THE COMPUTER CORNER

No. 244: What Version of Windows Are You Running?

Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR 715 N. Dries Street Saukville, WI 53080-1664
(262) 268-1949 wb9rqr@att.net

The version of Windows you are using is always a question, unless you look it up or have arranged it to be part of your desktop display. The version is especially critical now that the latest Windows 10 Upgrade has arrived. If you have more than one computer, having the version on screen can confirm that you are up to date, anytime the desktop is visible. Here is how to do it. But, use care! You will be messing with the Registry, and if you make an intentional or unintentional error, it can screw up your computer royally. You only need to change a zero to a one, but make sure you make that change in the correct place. Here are the steps.

1. Right-click the Windows icon in the leftmost position on your tray. A list of stuff will come up. Right-click RUN. A Run box will come up. In the Open: box, type the word regedit (the case of the letters does not matter) and click the OK box. Select Yes if a User Account Control box comes up asking you if you want to allow this app to make changes to your device (computer).
2. OK, you are in the Registry Editor. You can see that your computer has 5 groups of entries, all beginning with HKEY. The one you are interested in is the second one in the list, HKEY_CURRENT_USER. Left-click the right arrow symbol (>) next to it. That will expand the sub-categories to about a dozen. The one you are interested in is Control Panel.
3. Left-click the > symbol next to Control Panel. That will expand the sub-categories to about 15. This time you are interested in Desktop.
4. DON'T click the > symbol this time. Rather click the word Desktop or the little folder symbol next to it. This will expand the listings on the right (Name/Type/Data) to over 40.
5. Scroll down the listings to PaintDesktopVersion, right click PaintDesktopVersion and select Modify (the first entry in the drop-down list).
6. In the box that comes up ("Edit DWORD (32-bit) Value"), the Value Data box has a zero in it. Change that zero to a one (change 0 to 1). This is the ONLY data change you will have made during this entire process.
7. Now, click OK and exit the Registry Editor. Reboot.
8. If all went well, the version should be showing in the lower right corner of your screen. This is what shows on mine:

Windows 10 Home
Build 17134.rs4_release.180410-1804

While you are perusing the Registry in the steps above, there is no danger. The only change is in step 6 above, when you change a zero to a one. If you exit the Registry Editor before step 6, no changes will be kept. So, be sure to follow the instructions exactly, especially step 6 and 7. If you are "twitchy" (very unsure of yourself), find out how to back up your Registry before you take the steps outlined above, so that you can restore the original version. Or, perhaps you can convince me to make the changes for you, while you watch, in my computer workshop.

There you have it. Information you need on occasion, now always on hand, but not in the way. Happy Computing!